



# FCACO

Funeral Consumers Alliance  
of Central Ohio

*A Memorial Society  
"as defined by the FTC"*

P.O. Box 14835  
Columbus, Ohio 43214

[www.funeralsohio.org](http://www.funeralsohio.org) • 614.263.4632

# News

## FCACO Mission Statement

- To promote end-of-life planning and preparation
- To outline practical steps to be taken before death
- To inform and instruct the public concerning the funeral industry
- To offer reasonably priced options for dealing with remains at death
- To monitor the funeral industry on a local and statewide level
- To maintain public awareness and wariness through action, education and publications

## Funeral Advice You Can Trust

Founded in 1953, FCACO is one of more than 75 similar alliances across the country working in conjunction with the national Funeral Consumers Alliance. We are run by volunteers and have no connection with the funeral industry, or any religious group. Membership is open to all in our service area that includes Columbus, Springfield, Yellow Springs, Dayton and outlying areas.

FCACO invites your inquiries. Call (614) 263-4632 or visit us at [www.funeralsohio.org](http://www.funeralsohio.org).

## 2015-2016 Board Members

*Past President:* Alice Faryna

*President:* Vivian Fiscus

*Treasurer:* Celia Elkins

*Secretary:* Su Ann Farnlacher

*Membership Secretary:* Cathy Elkins

*Directors:* Pat Hoffman,  
Frank Timmons and  
Marylou MacDonald

## FCACO—Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

# Save the Date: May 21, 2016 FCACO Annual Membership Meeting

by Vivian Fiscus

I know you will want to attend our noon, Saturday, May 21 annual meeting at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus. This year, our featured speaker will be the Reverend Bill Gupton. He will be talking about the benefits as well as the restrictions on home funerals.

Many of you will remember Rev. Gupton from his time at the Columbus First Unitarian Universalist Church. He lives in Cincinnati with his wife, Jennifer Sanders, and is the minister of the Heritage Unitarian Universalist Church in Cincinnati. Rev. Gupton, a member of the Cincinnati Funeral Consumers Alliance, has studied, preached about and promoted green burial. He has led Death Cafes and has been active in the Death Positive movement for many years.

Having just finished the book, 'Grave Matters: a journey through the modern funeral industry to natu-

ral way of burial' by Mark Harris, I am definitely looking forward to what Rev. Gupton has to say on this topic. Harris took me on a detailed tour of all the possible options and what they entailed physically and financially for the deceased person as well as the survivors. Until I read this book, I honestly had a 'who cares' attitude about body disposal, except for saying no one was going to look at my dead body and that I preferred cremation. Now, I realize this is a decision that requires some real thought. It isn't just time, money and space. There is the environment to consider and maybe cremation isn't the quick easy answer. I am looking forward to Rev. Gupton adding to our knowledge about the options.

*Please find registration information for the Annual Meeting on page 2 along with the slate of candidates and a synopsis of Rev. Gupton's topic.*



Visit  
Funeral Consumers  
Alliance of Central  
Ohio on Facebook.

FCACO attempts to verify all information in this newsletter, but cannot guarantee all. Legal questions should be directed to your attorney.



## Home Funerals in Central Ohio

by Cathy Elkins

In Central Ohio Ann Harr (annmharr@gmail.com), a former board member of FCACO, has worked with many families on arranging home funerals. She stressed the importance of preplanning and communication between family members. It is important to designate a person who can become educated about the process. This person will have to work with the local health department. Identifying an ally is invaluable. Many of the documents will originate there and will need to be returned there. These offices are closed on weekends and holidays. There are many ways to have a home funeral. The family can do everything, or can engage a funeral home to help with some aspects.

Ann mentioned a poignant home funeral she was involved with. All was planned ahead of time. The family had their mother reclining on a chaise lounge in her bedroom. She was made up beautifully and was wearing one of her lovely gowns. This room was just off of a sun porch where visitors could circulate, visit the deceased and each other, and share refreshments. It was a natural and beautiful ending to a life well lived.

Columbus Public Health Department of Vital Statistics has a "No Funeral Home Packet" that will take a person through the process. This can be obtained by calling (614) 645-7417.

## Register Now for the Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday May 21, 2016

Place: 93 W Weisheimer Road, Columbus OH 43214

Directions: Turn west from High street onto Weisheimer Rd, which is located between Henderson Road and Morse Road.

Time: Lunch starts at noon followed by a short business meeting and elections. There is no fee for registration, but please call (614) 263-4632 by May 15 to tell us your name and how many are attending. Donations at the door to defray costs will be gratefully accepted.

## Elections and Voting - Slate of Candidates

- President Elect.....Marylou MacDonald
- President .....Vivian Fiscus
- Treasurer .....Celia Elkins
- Recording Secretary .....Su Ann Farnlacher
- Membership Secretary....Cathy Elkins
- Director At Large .....Marian Garcia (Term expiring 2019)



## Featured Speaker: Reverend Bill Gupton

**Synopsis of Topic:** The National Home Funeral Alliance provides support, information and resources for families and friends who seek to care for a deceased loved one themselves, thus bypassing the funeral home and the American funeral industry. The NHFA is part of a growing movement to reclaim traditional death practices such as dying at home, caring for the body at home, visitations and memorial services in the home, and natural or "green" burial. Its mission in-

cludes advocacy for the rights of the dying and their loved ones, and education (most Americans, for example, do not know that it is PERFECTLY LEGAL to take care of and prepare a loved one's body for burial or cremation). A "home fu" was the only type of memorial for the dead prior to the "professionalizing" of death services in recent generations. Today, such home- and community-based rituals are more meaningful and moving, help with healthy grieving, and are both far less expensive and far less harmful to the environment than current funeral practices. Learn more at [homefuneralalliance.org](http://homefuneralalliance.org).

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**Are You Moving?** Please let us know your new address. Call the office at (614) 263-4632, or send a message to [info@funeralsohio.org](mailto:info@funeralsohio.org).

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## Thanks to our wonderful 2015-2016 donors!

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## Funeral or Cremation Jewelry

by Marylou MacDonald

Imagine a pinch of cremains for a keepsake in one of hundreds of designs of rings, bracelets, earrings, pendants, photo engraved items, key chains, even pet mementoes. Items may be made of stainless steel, titanium, glass, wood, precious metals of gold and silver and, all, consumers are told, are to symbolize continuing love, to enable one to cope more easily, to hold in hand a source of comfort and to find peace in the heart.

Popular in England during the Victorian Era and in the United States during the Civil War, a resurgence of the centuries-old "mourning" jewelry came about in 1992. Hair was the first keepsake as cremation was rarely done. Hair art, an ancient practice, creates wreaths, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, bonnets and other decorative

**continued on back page...**

## Become a Member

Return this form with a donation of \$40 per applicant. Mail to: FCACO PO Box 14835, Columbus OH 43214. You will receive a member card, pre-planning forms and a list of discounted services from a local funeral home.

*Enroll me/us in Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio:* (Please Print)

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dependent children under 18 are included without charge. List names and year of birth below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio  
P.O. Box 14835  
Columbus OH 43214-0835

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Non-profit organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Columbus, Ohio  
Permit No. 1541

### **FCACO Resources**

(Please keep this in a handy place)

Body Donation at OSU

**(614) 292-4832**

for forms:

<http://go.osu.edu/bodydonation>

LOOP

(Lifeline of Ohio Organ Procurement)

(includes cornea donations)

**(877) 223-6667** • [www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org)

Franklin County Probate Court  
advanced directives including

“Funeral Agent” form

[www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate)

Funeral Consumers Alliance  
of Central Ohio (FCACO)

**(614) 263-4632** • [www.funeralsohio.org](http://www.funeralsohio.org)

(planning forms, copies of old  
newsletters, funeral home surveys  
and other information)

FCACO contracted providers for  
discounted services:

Cook and Son–Pallay Funeral Home  
(in Columbus) **(614) 444-7861**

Conroy Funeral Home  
(in Springfield) **(937) 324-4973**

### **Funeral and Cremation Jewelry continued from page 3...**

accessories entirely from human hair. The pieces resemble intricate crochet work.

Cremation jewelry contains a concealed urn which allows for a tiny amount of ashes. The economically minded, do-it-yourselfers, can order a “standard” piece (starting at \$29.95) which includes a kit of instructions, a funnel and adhesive with which to fill and seal the urn. Custom pieces are made by adding ashes to glass beads and pendants. Top-of-the-line products could be diamonds and crystals made out of ashes. If there is psychological discomfort in wearing any personal remains, photo engraved jewelry provides an option.

Consumers may find jewelry for sale at funeral homes or troll the many websites for price comparisons. As always, FCACO suggests shopping at one’s own risk.

## **Facing Death With Music**

### **Bill Cohen in Concert**

**Sunday, July, 24th at 7 pm. • 93 W. Weisheimer Rd, Columbus OH**

Join us for an evening of songs by a local folk singer and musician who has created a program of inspiring quotes & songs about how once we accept that we will all someday die, we can feel free to live our lives more fully.