

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio  
P.O. Box 14835  
Columbus OH 43214-8035

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**FCACO**  
Funeral Consumers Alliance  
of Central Ohio  
P.O. Box 14835  
Columbus OH 43214  
(614) 263-4632  
[www.funeralsohio.org](http://www.funeralsohio.org)

# News

Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

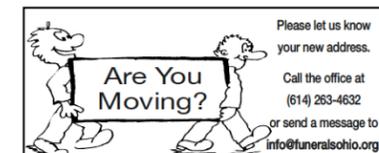
## From the President's Desk Marylou MacDonald

Group discussions can inspire candid dialogues about previously shrouded matters of mortality. A special invitation is extended to you to attend our Annual Meeting and experience a Death Café, especially if you have never encountered one before. A Death Café is a get-together scheduled by a nonprofit group for the purpose of talking over food and drink about death. The goal is to educate and help others become more familiar with one's end of life.

The idea originated in 2004 with Swiss sociologist and anthropologist, Bernard Crettaz, to help people make the most of their finite lives. Crettaz wanted to revive the pagan tradition of the funeral feast, wherein the living would renew their bonds while letting go of what weighed on their hearts. The overbearing secrecy surrounding the topic of death is a thing of the past. It is said that there is a need among people to open the closet into which death, the last taboo, has been placed to reduce fear and enable people to live more fully.

In 2011, Death Cafe founder Jon Underwood held the first Death Café based on Crettaz's ideas at his home in London. At that time he stated that we have lost control of one of the most significant events we ever have to face.

The first American event was held in 2012 by a Columbus, Ohio, hospice worker, Lizzy Miles. Worldwide, over 8,000 have been held just since this past mid-March. Lizzy still holds periodic and well-attended Death Cafes. Clintonville Community Resource Center hosted one this past March. Our annual meeting will host an interactive Death Café. Come and bring a friend or two. Details are printed on page 4.



Spring 2019

### ANNUAL FCACO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, May 18, 2019 at the First UU Church  
93 W. Weisheimer Rd, Columbus OH 43214  
Lunch served at noon.

Business meeting at 1 PM

Death Café, facilitated by Board Director Jef Gamblee at 1:30 PM

**Call 614 263-4632 to reserve lunch for yourself and guests**

No fee is charged. (Donations welcome)

### SLATE OF OFFICERS 2019-2020

PRESIDENT: Su Farnlacher

TREASURER: Celia Elkins

SECRETARY: Michel Coconis

MEMBERSHIP SEC'Y: Cathy Elkins

DIRECTOR: Phyllis Byard

DIRECTOR: Sheila Fox

### SAVE THE DATE!

**A fundraising concert by folk  
singer Bill Cohen on Saturday  
June 29, 2019, at 7 PM  
93 W. Weisheimer Rd in  
Columbus**



#### FCACO Mission Statement

- To promote end-of-life planning and preparation
- To outline practical steps to take 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 local and statewide levels
- To maintain public awareness through action, education and publications

#### Funeral Advice You Can Trust

Founded in 1953, FCACO is a 501(c)3 organization run entirely by volunteers who have no connection to the funeral industry or any religious group. Our service area for members includes Columbus and surrounding counties, serving Springfield, Urbana, Yellow Springs, and Dayton.

FCACO is an affiliate of the national organization: Funeral Consumers Alliance, which is actively involved in improving regulations of the funeral industry through the Federal Trade Commission. Many useful resources may be found on its website, [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org).

#### 2017-2018 Board Members:

President: Marylou MacDonald

Past President: Vivian Fiscus

President Elect: Su Ann Farnlacher

Treasurer: Celia Elkins

Recording Secretary: Vivian Fiscus

Membership Secretary: Cathy Elkins

Director: Sharon Oliver

Director: Michel Coconis

Director: Nancy Alonzo

Director: Jef Gamblee

## TID BITS FROM HERE AND THERE

By Cathy Elkins, Membership Secretary

The People's Memorial Association of Seattle, Washington Alliance announced in their October 2018 newsletter that their Co-op Funeral Home is now offering Aquamation, also known as Alkaline Hydrolysis as an alternative to cremation. This process uses water and lye to reduce a body to bone fragments and an inert liquid. It produces less carbon dioxide and pollutants and utilizes 87.5% less energy than cremation. In terms of saving the environment, cremation is like driving a diesel truck, and aquamation, like driving a Prius. A "Green Burial Survey" conducted in June 2018 received 1,750 responses with 78% choosing cremation as their preferred disposition, 15% preferred Green Burial and only 2% specifying traditional burial.

The Funeral Consumers Alliance advises individuals to plan ahead for funerals and burials and to make their wishes known to family and friends. A unique way of conveying a wish to family and friends appeared in the New York Times, June 15, 2018. When Jason Rosenthal's wife, knew she was dying, she published a Modern Love essay, entitled, "You May Want to Marry My Husband". In so doing, she gave her blessing to his remarriage. He received numerous responses from women who wanted to fill his wife's spot. As you think of your own wishes for a funeral and burial, Rosenthal suggests that you "talk with your mate, your children and other loved ones about what you want for them when you are gone".

## USEFUL DOCUMENTS

From our website:

**www.funeralsohio.org:**

1. Survivors Checklist
2. Ohio Disposition Form (to designate a person to arrange disposition of your remains)
3. What To Do When Death Occurs

From the national website:

**www.funerals.org**

1. Green Burial
2. Should You Prepay Your Funeral?
3. Death Away From Home
4. Embalming Explained
5. Cremation Explained



THANK YOU TO  
OUR  
WONDERFUL  
DONORS!

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Joan Ackerman  
Steven Ackley  
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& Jack Groom  
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David Williams  
Stephen Woltz  
The Sek Keystone  
Preservation Trust

### Resources for Your Planning Folder

#### Body Donation

OSU: (614) 292-4831: <http://go.osu.edu/bodydonation>

WSU: Boonshoft School of Medicine, Dayton OH  
(937) 775-3066: [www.med.wright.edu/agp](http://www.med.wright.edu/agp)

#### Organ Donation

LOOP (Lifeline of Ohio Organ Procurement) (877) 223-6667  
[www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org)

**Advanced Directives Forms:** Franklin County Probate Court:  
<https://probate.franklincountyohio.gov/forms/advance-directives>

**Funeral Consumers Alliance:** [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org)

**Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio:** [www.funeralsohio.org](http://www.funeralsohio.org)  
(Planning forms, newsletters, membership application, donations, etc.)

**FCACO contracted providers for discounted services to members:**

Columbus Area: Cook & Son-Pallay (614) 444-7861

Dayton/Springfield area: Conroy Funeral Home; (937) 324-4973



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FCACO Website QR code:  
[www.funeralsohio.org](http://www.funeralsohio.org)

