

PEOPLE'S MEMORIAL™

Newsletter 2010

Envisioning a future where all of us have information about and access to death care options that reflect our personal values and resources

Author of Crow Planet to Speak

Essential Wisdom From the Urban Wilderness



Lyanda Lynn Haupt

Noted Seattle author Lyanda Lynn Haupt will speak at the annual meeting on April 17th. She will talk about the wisdom of our urban wildlife, including the grief rituals of the common crow. One can't help but come away with a renewed appreciation for the nature in our midst and how it shapes our lives. Her most recent book, *Crow Planet*, was an LA and Seattle Times Best Book of 2009.

Haupt is known for her profound observations of urban creatures, our relationship with them and the uncanny similarities we share. While she admits that crows are not her favorite bird, Haupt has come to the conclusion that we can learn a lot from these common birds. "Everyone has a crow story," she says. Haupt has written two other books, the first of which, *Rare Encounters with Ordinary Birds*, was published in 2001. It won the Washington State Book Award.



Funeral Industry Opposes Consumer Rights

People's Memorial recently worked with Senator Ken Jacobsen and Representative Eileen Cody to introduce legislation to strengthen the rights of funeral consumers. A key provision of HB 2705 and SB 6394 would allow Washington state residents to name a designated agent to handle their funeral arrangements. This would work like a power of attorney for funeral arrangements.

Under current law, state residents may complete a disposition authorization directing their cremation or burial, but may not designate an individual to see that their wishes are carried out. It's kind of like being allowed to execute a living will stating your wishes for end-of-life care without being able to also name a health care power of attorney who can assure that those wishes are honored. The majority of states already have designated agent laws on the books.

The legislation had hearings in the Judiciary committees of both the House and Senate. Representatives from both the Washington State Funeral Director's Association and the Washington Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association expressed their blanket opposition to the bills. Nonetheless, they failed to articulate a rational argument why the bills should not become law.

People's Memorial will work with legislators again next year to introduce similar legislation. We will continue to advocate for rights of all funeral consumers in Washington state.

PEOPLE'S MEMORIAL™

Annual Meeting
Saturday April 17th, 10 am to 12 Noon

University Unitarian Church
6556 35th Ave NE Seattle, WA 98115

Doors Open at 9 am Door Prizes

To receive annual meeting materials in advance, contact the office at info@peoplesmemorial.org or 206-325-0489

www.peoplesmemorial.org

People's Memorial™ Continues Statewide Growth

People's Memorial continues to expand its reach statewide. In the past year, we have added six new funeral homes to our network of contracted providers. These include several areas which were previously underserved, including Snohomish (Everett) and Thurston (Olympia) Counties, East King County and Vashon Island. This brings People's Memorial to a total of 23 conventional funeral home locations, a home funeral provider, a traditional cemetery, a green cemetery and a monument company. We continue to search for quality, independent providers to expand the services and improve the convenience for our members. A complete list of our funeral homes is posted on the back of the newsletter.

To simplify the process for reaching the contracted funeral home in your area, we have added a new time of death phone line. Now, there is just one phone number to call when a death occurs, and it will direct you to the PMA-contracted funeral home of your choice: 1-888-PMA-2-PMA or 1-888-762-2762.

As one of the largest providers of funeral services in the state of Washington, People's Memorial has also been developing a comprehensive disaster plan. Thanks to a \$4,000 grant from United Way of King County, People's Memorial has been working with consultants from the Executive Service Corps. It is our goal to be as prepared as possible to serve our members statewide at all times.

WASHINGTON STATE LIVING WILL REGISTRY



What happens if you end up in a hospital emergency room--will you have your living will with you? What if you're unconscious and unable to tell them who your emergency contacts are?

As a resident of Washington state, you are fortunate to have access to a unique, free service that enables you to file your health care directives in a secure Department of Health database. This enables healthcare providers statewide to access your information, in case of emergency. It also means its much more likely your wishes will be honored.

To file your health care directives with the Living Will Registry or for more information call 360-236-4365 or visit www.doh.wa.gov/livingwill.

People's Memorial *Rights & Responsibilities of Membership:*

Your membership entitles you to:

- Information and educational materials about cremation and burial options
- Planning documents to authorize your choice of final arrangements (*Disposition Authorization* and *Putting My House in Order* forms)
- Discounted prices at any People's Memorial contracted funeral home, cemetery or monument company
- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Freedom from sales pressure at any People's Memorial provider
- Participate in the democratic process of the organization, by attending and voting at our annual meeting

You have a responsibility to:

- Educate yourself about end-of-life options and how to make cremation or burial arrangements
- Choose the type of funeral arrangements you would like and legally authorize them by completing the *Disposition Authorization* form
- Put your detailed information in writing by completing the *Putting My House In Order* form
- Discuss your wishes with your family or survivors and make sure that they understand what actions to take at the time of your death
- Inform your survivors if there are any funds set aside for your funeral expenses; Membership in People's Memorial is not a prepaid funeral plan
- Inform People's Memorial if you move or change your name
- Promote and support the work of People's Memorial so that it may be available for future generations

Sensible Shoes At Annual Meeting



Sensible Shoes, the small vocal ensemble from the Seattle Women's Chorus, will entertain us with their light-hearted music at this year's annual meeting. Don't let the name confuse you--the "Shoes" are not so much sensible as they are full of fun and nonsense. You won't want to miss them.

PMA Statewide Events

Join us for coffee and cookies with staff and board members. Learn more about what's happening at People's Memorial and tips on how to get your affairs in order. The general public is welcome.

Spokane

Sunday April 25th 1:30 pm
Heritage Funeral Home
508 N Government Way

Wenatchee

Saturday April 24th 1:30 pm
Wenatchee Valley Senior Activity Center
1312 Maple Street

2010 Board Nominees

Board of Directors (3 year term):

Barbara Van Droof is currently President of People's Memorial. She is a retired nurse educator and is active with the King County Nurses Association.



Todd Smith completes a one-year term on the Board and is Chair of the Crematory Task Force. He is Vice President of HAR-BRO General Contractors.

Kathryn Jans is the Executive Director of the FaithTrust Institute. She has a background in public policy, economic justice and cultural and multi-faith issues.



Board Alternates (1 year term):



Pam Kiesel is running for a second term as Alternate, and is active on the PMA Strategic Goals Task Force. Pam is retired from a career in information technology.

David N. James is a local custom residential design architect. He volunteers with the GAR Cemetery Park on Capitol Hill and the St. Mary's Food Bank.



Nominating Committee (1 year term):



Jeanette Merki has served as Alternate to the Board and wishes to continue her service to PMA on the Nominating Committee. She is retired from a career in human resources.

Gil Price is returning for a third term on the Nominating Committee. Most recently he served as Executive Director of a boutique law firm in downtown Seattle.



Time of Death Phone Line:

1-888-PMA-2PMA
(1-888-762-2762)

Just 1 phone number at time of death to reach any PMA-contracted funeral home statewide.

PEOPLE'S MEMORIAL™

1801 12th Ave Suite A
Seattle, WA 98122-2474

Membership Office: 206-325-0489 1-866-325-0489
www.peoplesmemorial.org info@peoplesmemorial.org

Time of Death: 1-888-762-2762

Co-op Funeral Home: 206-529-3800
www.funerals.coop info@funerals.coop

Executive Director: John Eric Rolfstad
Office Manager: Paul Deischer

Board of Directors:

Barbara Van Droof, President
Rod Stout, Vice President
Lori Rath, Secretary
Karen Gwilym, Treasurer
Anna Rudd
Nora Cedarwind Young
Larry Haight
David Newman
Todd Smith

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People's Memorial™ envisions a future where all of us have information about and access to death care options that reflect our personal values and resources.

PMA Contracted Funeral Homes

At Time of Death, just one number to reach any of these locations

1-888-PMA-2PMA

1-888-762-2762

Seattle: People's Memorial™ Funeral Cooperative

Seattle: Howden Kennedy Funeral Home

Vashon: Island Funeral Service

Auburn: Klontz Funeral Home & Cremation

Sumner: Curnow Funeral Home & Cremation

Spokane: Heritage Funeral Home

Port Townsend: Linde Family Funeral Service

Sequim: Linde Family Funeral Service

Bellingham: Moles Bayview Chapel

Pasco: Hillcrest Bruce Lee Memorial Center

Omak: Legacy Memorial Funeral Home

Everett: A Sacred Moment Funeral Home

Bellevue: Curnow Funeral Home

Kent: Cady Cremation & Funeral Home

Lakewood: Linde Family Funeral Service

Lacey: Funeral Alternatives of Washington

Winlock: Cattermole Funeral Home

Bremerton: Linde Family Funeral Service

Lynden: Moles Funeral Home

Ferndale: Moles Greenacres Chapel

Ferndale: Moles Funeral Home

Brewster: Legacy Memorial Funeral Home

Home Funerals: A Sacred Moment

Also serving these areas with in-home arrangements:

Chelan & Douglas Counties: Legacy Memorial Funeral Home

Mason & Lewis Counties: Funeral Alternatives of Washington

Visit www.peoplesmemorial.org for the most up-to-date info on PMA Funeral Homes