

Celebration and Remembrance

Create Meaningful Celebrations of Life to Remember

MEMORIAL VENUES, OFFICIANTS, CATERING, FLOWERS, WELL-BEING & SELF CARE

“One characteristic that makes us human is awareness of our mortality. It would seem that death has much to teach us. It touches every one of us in a number of different ways: we all will die and most of us will be mourners. Living in community, we will all have opportunities to receive and offer help at times of loss. When we brush up against death, we are reminded to value the gift of life. Awareness of death can enrich our daily lives by binding us closer to each other and to the continuum of our ancient past and unknown future...”

TREASURE EACH DAY: THE CHEVRA KADISHA,
TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL, EUGENE, OREGON.

Celebrations Of Life

For as long as we've been recording our lives, rituals at the ends of them have played a part. With the advent of cremation, immediate services are no longer required, and with the scattering of family far and wide, the timing between the death and the gathering can stretch to serve convenience over necessity. Gatherings with the body present are called “funerals”, while “memorials” are usually held after the cremation or burial is complete. Funerals can be held at the home, the church or the funeral facility, while memorials or “celebrations of life” can take place in a wider range of venues. “Wakes” can span several days and are held in the home – usually after the death, although some folks enjoy them before – and the body is generally present. No matter the choice, all of these variants honor the deceased and provide comfort to the bereaved, and our community is filled with the people and places to help.

WELL-BEING, SPIRITUAL AND SELF-CARE

Caring for mind, body and spirit

Tools for Peace of Mind in Life and Death

1374 Willamette in Eugene
alan@stargateeugene.com
“Life is what you celebrate. All of it. Even its end.”
Joanne Harris, Chocolat

CEREMONY OFFICIANTS

Everyone’s death is unique. Historically, solace and assistance while burying our dead has been the province of religious and spiritual groups. Ritual and ceremony – the funeral’s “how-to” manual – has faded over time in increasingly secular societies as people disconnect from formal religion, but death often brings even the non-practicing person back to their spiritual roots, and seeking guidance for a ceremony is natural. Churches and temples can often recommend officiants within their congregations, and many will provide services for non-members, depending upon the circumstances. Funeral directors take on the role

when spiritual facilitation is absent, and many funeral directors work directly with the religious group. Officiants and Funeral Celebrants are perfect for do-it-yourselfers that may not belong to a congregation but want assistance in crafting a ceremony that honors someone’s memory and brings closure to those that remain. Officiants work directly with individuals and families to plan and conduct personalized Memorial and Celebration of Life services, lending their guidance and perspectives to help deepen the experience for all. Fees vary depending upon the type and length of ceremony, and honaria for services provided by a non-profit are customary.

Barb Ryan, Officiant
Memorials & Celebrations of Life
All beliefs/traditions welcome
541-345-5058
<https://tinyurl.com/BarbRyanCel>

Buddah Eye
Zen Community Temple
<https://www.buddhaeye.org/>
The Way is Right Under Your Feet
541-302-4576

Celebrant Institute
Locate a Life-Cycle Celebrant in Oregon
www.celebrantinstitute.org

MEMORIAL VENUES

For a more traditional atmosphere, local funeral home chapels and churches are often available, and many will rent out their facilities upon request. Many clubs, hotels, and even theaters have private-party rental rates, with an ambience that can lend itself to a bit more celebration, while Grange and fraternal organization halls (Elks, Oddfellows, VFWs, etc.) can provide that small-town family-friendly vibe. Set up a corner table with photos and memorabilia, order their favorite foods and drinks, compile a great music list, and make sure you’ve set up a microphone for sharing stories, poetry and songs.

The Vet’s Club
1626 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 967401
541-338-4074
www.vmaeugene.com

Wildish Community Theater
630 Main Street
Springfield, Oregon
541-868-0689
www.wildishtheater.com

Venue 252
252 Lawrence Street
Eugene, Oregon
877-901-7128
www.thevenue252.com

Cowfish Café & Club
62 W. Broadway 541-683-6319
Dance room, Pool, Bar, and Video
Private Parties Welcome
www.cowfishclub.com

CATERING & CELEBRATION FOOD

Catering for a Celebration of Life, whether in home or out, makes sense in the press of a memorial when so many other things may need to get done. Local foods, organic foods, and foods prepared with caring and love can express the health and community oriented values that were lived in life. Co-creating a feast with a professional collaborator who will use your preferred ingredients keeps you in the driver’s seat without having to do all of the work. Buying beer, wine, juice or natural goodies in bulk can save you money, and having it delivered is handy, too.

Mac’s Eugene Catering
Because the Details Matter!
www.MacsEugeneCatering.com
541-344-8600

Red Barn Natural Grocery
Celebrate Naturally – in Bulk!
BEVERAGE CASE-LOTS – 10% OFF
(Special Orders only – 541-342-7503)
redbarngrocery@aol.com
Eat well ‘til you can’t eat no more”

FLOWERS

Sympathy flowers provide beauty and comfort, helping to soften a difficult time. While “in lieu of flowers” requests are increasingly common, there are times when flowers offer the perfect touch, especially when they’re chosen with the environment in mind. Unlike their plastic counterparts, real flowers can be composted (and sustainably managed cemeteries compost their grave tributes!) so keep it natural whenever you can. Talk to your florist about biodegradable floral display parts, returnable stands and containers, locally sourced in-season arrangements, live plant tributes, and other ways to minimize the environmental impacts of these special gifts.

Rhythm & Blooms
Celebration & Sympathy Flowers
541-485-4659 • eugenefavoriteflorist.com

Dandelions Flowers & Gifts
Family Owned-541-485-1261
www.dandelionsflowers.com

LEGACY AND REMEMBRANCE

Memories resonate long after the funeral and celebration of life are complete. Photo albums, DVD compilations and professionally compiled personal history books are some of the ways a life story is told. Household altars and shrines carve out a personal spot for urns, keepsakes, photographs, and personal mementos. Monuments do it in stone – and they don’t have to be in the cemetery, either. Consider a quiet corner of the yard, or even a traveled pathway – burying ashes on personal property is fine, and a sapling tree or shrub planted on the spot will absorb them all over time. Get creative, and enjoy the process of remembering.

Backyard Shrines
Engraved Basalt Columns
Stone Birdbaths
Traditional Monuments in North American Stone
Call Oak Hill Cemetery • 541-689-7800
Home & Cemetery installation

Celebration of Life Videos
Memorial DVDs
David Ray - 541-953-1851 • lane-media.com

Trena Cleland
What is your life story?
Personalized Legacy Books • www.TrenaCleland.com

Where Love is Remembered

Cemeteries are an unsung community treasure. They’re the perfect green-space – permanently zoned, and already beloved by generations of families. A growing number of landscape architects and cemetery planners are incorporating natural burial into the designs they create for cemeteries – designs that include planning for natural elements like habitat improvement, sustainable land management, and bioremediation – and helping communities to reclaim and repurpose these special historic places. Check out the cemeteries listed on the Natural End Map (www.naturalendmap.com), the Green Burial Council (www.greenburialcouncil.org) and other online guides to natural burial for places all over the country that are bringing life back to the Cemetery.

Many people already have a cemetery that they’re attached to, where family members are already buried. Only a decade ago, it was nearly impossible to find a cemetery that offers natural burial (burial in a biodegradable coffin without an outer burial container), but today cemetery boards and management across the country have natural burial on their agendas, and are working hard to figure out how to accommodate this trend. Historic cemeteries already have plenty of natural burials, because that’s how we did it a long time ago. And most active cemeteries – especially rural ones run by fraternal organizations and townships – already permit vault-free natural burials but just don’t advertise it. Sometimes it’s just a matter of contacting your cemetery and letting them know you want it. When cemeteries experience the demand, they change. Check out our listings of local cemeteries that have signed the Natural End Pledge.