

May 2018

Invitation & Notice

FAMS 61st Annual General Meeting

will be held on Sunday, May 27, 2018 at 2:00 pm

at the Deer Park Library, 40 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Second Floor Meeting Room

Annual General Meeting Location

The meeting location is the same as last year's - at the Deer Park Library across from the St. Clair Subway Station, one short block East of Yonge Street in Toronto.

The Annual General Meeting is being called to report to members, to review the Financial Statement of the previous year and to conduct necessary business.

A number of amendments to FAMS' by-laws are being proposed by the Board of Trustees to reflect the broadened membership of the Society and the changed means of communication in today's society (please see separate sheet).

After FAMS' business meeting, we are pleased to announce that Ms. Shannon Calvert of the Funeral Consumer's Advocacy of London and Windsor - a memorial society, will give a talk on

What Is a Death Doula?

Shannon tells us that "a Death Doula supports those who are dying and their families. In the past, this work was part of the fabric of community life. Family and experienced community members supported the dying through their death process and assisted with the care of the body, which was usually kept at home until burial. In more recent generations, much of that knowledge and skill have been lost.

Currently, there are many ways to name and do this work. The most common term is Death Doula, but other names are End-of-Life Doula, Death Midwife, Thanadoula, Death Educator, Home Funeral Consultant, Community Death Care Practitioner and End of Life Navigator.

Commonly, Death Doulas offer many supportive services, ranging from practical planning and preparation to death vigilling. Some people using the death doula title specialize in particular aspects such as death education or home funeral consultation. The name, therefore, reflects a general area of interest and not the services offered.

There is also a burgeoning grassroots movement of community death care that endeavours to reclaim the care of our own dying, deceased and bereaved to whatever extent we are comfortable with. To many, the skills and knowledge that Death Doulas bring to the community are a step toward helping the community access and practice more intimate deathcare. The growing popularity the death doula is probably best viewed as a reflection of the desire in our culture to view death differently, which ultimately means approaching life differently."

Directions to the AGM:

The Deer Park Library is located at 40 St. Clair Avenue East (East of Yonge Street across the street from the St. Clair Subway Station).

The St. Clair Streetcar also goes into the St. Clair Subway Station..

Paid Parking is available North of the Deer Park Library.

Federation Of Ontario Memorial Societies - Funeral Consumers Alliance (FOOMS-FCA)

FOOMS-FCA continues to represent the memorial society viewpoint in its role as Consumer Advocate, with regular meetings and consultations with the Registrar of The Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) in respect of developments in the after death care sector. Our input is requested and valued.

During the past year the Federation has commented on the Structure of the BAO Advisory Committees, recommended a Code of Ethics for the death care sector and commented on a proposed Discipline and Appeals Committee. We received the Registrar's assurance that families retain the right to look after their own final arrangements. The Registrar has commenced a study of the process of Alkaline Hydrolysis for the disposition of human bodies in order to better understand the

ecological effects. The use of embalming is diminishing and the rate of cremation continues to rise to over 60% use in arrangements. There is continuing interest in greener burials.

The last annual meeting of FOOMS-FCA was held in May 2017 at the Scarborough Mission Centre in Toronto, where it had been held for numerous years. Carey Smith, Registrar of the BAO, was the guest speaker and societies were updated on activities in the bereavement sector. The 2018 annual meeting will be held at the Crieff Retreat and Conference Centre in Puslinch, Ontario.

May 2018 update

First Black Funeral Home in Canada

Covenant Funeral Homes is owned by Luann Jones, who has been in the funeral industry for 22 years.

"I researched it and there's there's never been a Black funeral home in our country, in history, Jones says, "So, I'm like the Harriet Tubman of funeral services."

Ms. Jones was told, "You'll never get in," when she tried for the funeral services program at Humber College in 1997. The College gets 800 applicants, accepts 200 and graduates fewer than 150. "Persistent I am. I did get in on the first try."

Race was never an issue for Luann. Not until she graduated from the course did she feel the sting of exclusion..... She had done well in the course with the help of supportive instructors, but didn't get a placement for months. And even when she did, her bosses would carefully script which clients she would serve - reserving her for Black families or social-service burials or children. Now Jones does all races, all clients, indigent funerals, unclaimed bodies.

"It was just me, my funeral guys and the cemetery workers. I do give them a dignified committal. This is what I was called to do." - her covenant.

Excerpted from a Toronto Star article by Royson James.

Report of the Vice President, Green Burials, Judith Wouk

The Green Burial Society of Ontario, <http://www.greenburialcanada.ca/>, at its recent AGM, reported on the steady increase in Canada of natural burial grounds, both stand-alone and as part of larger cemeteries or conservation areas. There are now 26 green burial grounds, 3 fully operational and 23 close or well on the way but needing, for example, changes to existing cemetery by-laws. While many of these are in British Columbia, the movement is growing in Ontario. The Union Cemetery in Cobourg became the first cemetery in Ontario to open a dedicated "green" section, in 2009. Fairview Cemetery in Niagara Falls is now offering an eco-friendly alternative.

The Kitchener-Waterloo based Good Green Death project, <http://goodgreendeadthproject.ca/> lists four more, in Jordan, Brampton, Pickering, and Roseneath. Ottawa is slowly lurching forward, with meetings planned over the next few months.

The Green Burial Society of Ontario is self-regulating. The criteria have just been posted on the GB Canada website. To be listed, a cemetery, depending on its size, must conform to 5 principles: no embalming, direct earth burial, ecological restoration and conservation, communal memorialization, and optimize land use.

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US Funeral Consumers Alliance's Biennial Conference, Rochester, N.Y., June 21 - 24, 2018 for information: <https://funerals.org/fca-conference-2018>.

Report of the Chair

Significant change has happened to The Funeral Advisory and Memorial Society since we have joined and embraced the electronic age. Your Board has been meeting on Zoom, an online meeting programme which allows us to see, hear and speak to each other on our home computers. Trustees from Hamilton, Thunder Bay, Ancaster, Ottawa, Kitchener-Waterloo and Toronto have met, exchanged ideas while saving time and money on meeting room costs (travel costs would have been unthinkable!). We have tried to exchange ideas prior to meetings through an email group, again, a new idea which we hope to use more as time goes on.

FAMS members join in thanking those fellow members who have sent in donations to help with the work of the Society. Since hard copies of our newsletters were discontinued (except for those who sent in \$5), donations have gone down significantly. FAMS is grateful to those who still remember us at donation time.

We report with sadness the death of Albert Tucker, who served as Chair, Treasurer, Board member and a volunteer of FAMS for approximately 20 years. He served FAMS with wisdom and grace.

Pearl Davie, President, Federation of Ontario Memorial Societies-Funeral Consumers Alliance, has continued to promote the importance of the voice of the general secular consumer to our government's regulator, the Bereavement Authority of Ontario. Please see page 2 for her report on this year's activities.

The Funeral Information Society of Ottawa announced the sad news of its closure last year. FISO had a distinguished history and background and many outstanding memorial society volunteers. However, FAMS has benefited in gaining transfers from FISO including their President who has joined our Board - Judith Wouk is Vice President, Green Burials. You will find a report in this newsletter from her on current developments in Green Burials, a subject of growing interest in Canada.

FAMS members are now located in many communities in Southern and Eastern Ontario. To reflect this change your Board recommends changes to the Society's by-laws, which will be presented for ratification at FAMS' 61st Annual General Meeting (Please note separate sheet on the amendments).

Once again, we would appreciate hearing from members to volunteer for FAMS. Please contact me through info@fams.ca and let us know how your talents can help promote FAMS and its activities.

Margaret Adamson
Chair
Board of Trustees.

The Funeral Advisory and Memorial Society (Southern and Eastern Ontario)

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Board of Trustees

Chair: Margaret Adamson

Chair: Government Relations Pearl Davie

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Volunteers

Telephone Coordinator: Shirley Zinman

Mondays and email: Margaret Adamson

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: Shirley Zinman

Wednesdays: Lieslotte (Lisa) Gayk

Messages left on voicemail or at info@fams.ca will be returned by the volunteer on duty, Monday to Friday, 9 to 5

Newsletter Editor

Margaret Adamson

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper

Allan E. Rodrigo

Cost of Death Notices as of April 2018

Globe and Mail: \$13.50/line 1-day rate,
special rate for 2 - 3 days

Hamilton Spectator: \$160 - 30 lines w/o photo

National Post: 1 day obituary notice - \$92.70

Toronto Star: \$9.50/per line per day

IMPORTANT - If you do not have an email address

To receive the 2019 FAMS Newsletter in printed form, please send your name, address and Membership No. plus a cheque in the amount of \$5 to

**FAMS,
P. O. Box 65, Station F
Toronto, ON M4Y 2L4**

Death Notice

It would be a great help if you would note on your pre-arrangement form that your death notice should acknowledge membership in The Funeral Advisory and Memorial Society.

FAMS VOLUNTEER & ORDER FORMS

We urge members to give serious consideration to volunteering with FAMS.

Please email us at *info@fams.ca*, call us at 416-241-6274, or complete the form below and return to FAMS.

Yes, I'd like to work with FAMS

- By serving on the Board Name: _____
- Doing promotional work Email: _____
- Other Telephone Number: _____

- | | |
|---|------|
| <input type="radio"/> Replacement member card (members only) | Free |
| <input type="radio"/> Price list of Participating Funeral Homes (members only) | Free |
| <input type="radio"/> Copy of FAMS brochure to give to prospective members | Free |
| <input type="radio"/> What to do when death occurs | Free |
| <input type="radio"/> Financial statement | Free |
| <input type="radio"/> Information on the <i>Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act (2002) and Regulations</i> | Free |
| <input type="radio"/> Member's Handbook | \$10 |
| <input type="radio"/> Replacement Funeral Prearrangement Form (one set per member) | \$10 |

I enclose \$100 \$50 \$35 Other \$ _____ Total of above: _____
as a donation to the society.

Plus donation: _____

Regretfully, receipts are not tax deductible.

Total enclosed: _____

Please make your cheque payable to:

The Funeral Advisory and Memorial Society, PO Box 65, Station F, Toronto ON M4Y 2L4

Name: _____ Membership #: _____ (see address label)

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____ FAMS does not rent or sell members' contact information