

# FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER



## It's time for the Cleveland Memorial Society's Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 27  
2:00 - 4:00

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland  
21600 Shaker Blvd.

Guest Speaker: Josh Slocum,  
Executive Director of the National Funeral Consumers Alliance

Important business requires your presence:  
Election of Officers and Trustees (see pg. 3)

*Josh Slocum is Executive Director of the National Funeral Consumers Alliance and a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College. He worked as a newspaper reporter in Virginia before joining FCA in 2002. He earned several statewide awards for business and financial writing and for coverage of law and justice issues. He is now the recognized expert on funeral issues in the national media and has testified before Congress. His articles have appeared in The New York Times, CNN, AARP*

*The "Meet Our Donors" section that usually appears in the fall issue of the newsletter will instead be featured in the Spring edition. We are so grateful to each and every donor and want to make sure they are recognized for their support!*

*New in 2020!*  
**Spring Annual Meeting  
Potluck & Personalities**

Through the few discussions about death and dying we held last year we came to realize many of you would like to get more information and meet more than once a year. Face it, getting old isn't easy and navigating through vast documents and legal-speak and medical lingo is as confusing as mud.

We're adding a get-together for all CMS members to share food, ask questions, get answers. While we're tentatively looking at late April, we'll be able to supply specifics in the Spring 2020 CMS newsletter.

What I need from YOU now are your questions and suggestions so we can tailor a panel of experts to address topics most important to you. Please call the CMS office (216-751-5555).

*Three friends die in a car accident and they go to an orientation in heaven. They are all asked, "When you are in your casket and friends and family are mourning you, what would you like to hear them say about you?"*

*The first guy says, "I would like to hear them say that I was a great doctor of my time, and a great family man."  
The second guy says, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher which made a huge difference in our children of tomorrow."*

*The last guy replies, "I would like to hear them say ... 'Look, he's moving!'"*

The nominating committee has recommended the following slate:

**Officers**

President - Kate Smith  
Vice President - Mark Binnig  
Secretary - Jackie Stimpert  
Treasurer - Don Stimpert

**Trustees**

*Terms to expire in 2022*

Kate Smith  
Mark Binnig  
Don Stimpert  
Jackie Stimpert  
Bill McCullam

Continuing in office are Chip Joseph (2020); Mary Dietzen (2021); Jill Koch-Johnston (2020); Doreen Kelleher (2021); and Jan Glasser (2021). Please see page 2 for Jan and Doreen's salutations.

Jan and Doreen were appointed to the Board by a unanimous vote of the Board on July 23, 2019. We thank resigning Board member John Barber for his thoughtful participation and guardianship of the CMS Facebook page during his tenure.

*Hospice vs. Palliative Care*

**Hospice care** is reserved for terminally ill patients when treatment is no longer curative during the last 6 months of life, assuming the disease takes its normal course.

**Palliative care** can be employed while the patient is continuing active treatment through different phases of their life limiting condition. <https://www.hospicesect.org/hospice-and-palliative-care>



*We regret to inform you ~~*

We are very sorry to report the death of our former president and very long-time board member, Jane McCullam. Jane had a lifelong interest in the mission of the Memorial Society as her grandmother was a founding member. She was also actively involved in the preservation of the Geauga County Metroparks. She is sorely missed by her husband Bill, her family, our Board, and many others who were lucky enough to have her in their lives.

### Ch- Ch- Ch- Changes.....

#### Office Staff

*Christine Kozlevcar* resigned her position as our Office Manager in April. We thank her for seven years of dedication to the Society. Included in her secretarial duties were many hours spent on the phone, helping those who had questions or problems. She was always ready and willing to help or simply offer a listening ear. We wish her the best in her future endeavors!

We welcome *Cynthia Lehman* as our new keeper of the office keys. She comes to us from Buffalo where she spent 14 years teaching English to refugees. Cynthia spends her days with her four-year old granddaughter as she helps out her son and daughter-in-law with childcare. She also has a strong interest in and commitment to social justice, and participates in several organizations.

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### Our newly-appointed Board members

My name is Doreen Vincent Kelleher. I live in Cleveland Heights with my second husband, Dan. I have two children, Rachel (University Heights) and Ben (Pittsburgh), and have been retired from my position as an Orange School District teacher since 2008.

My first husband, Harry, and I joined the Memorial Society in 1978. He had kidney disease and we were all-too-aware of the uncertainty of life. Harry died in 2005 after years of medical issues, and I'm so grateful we had joined CMS and talked about and planned for the end of life. Making arrangements with Fioritto Funeral Home was simple and straightforward.

I am honored to be asked to serve on the Board.

My name is Jan Glasser, and I live in Novelty with my husband David and our four-legged kids. I am very involved with the Geauga Humane Society's Rescue Village, and have worn a wide variety of hats over many years: working events, fundraising, walking the dogs, arranging transports and driving many of those transports, and serving on many committees. I am currently serving on their Board of Trustees.

I worked at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for eight years in their Membership department. I am excited to be joining the Cleveland Memorial Society Board, and I look forward to working with you all!





### Green burial in Ohio by Mark Binnig

You probably already know that green burial is burial in the soil either without a casket or with a biodegradable casket so that the natural process of decomposition is not inhibited. Cemeteries that are either entirely natural or that have areas for green burials are increasingly common. They can be found in 41 states and a couple of national veterans cemeteries allow green burials. The Green Burial Council certifies cemeteries and lists them on their website.

Ohio has seven certified cemeteries. Six are completely natural and one is a “hybrid” – a traditional cemetery that also accepts green burials. Only one of these cemeteries is in northeast Ohio: Foxfield Preserve. Unfortunately, it is in Wilmot, almost two hours away from Cleveland.

Foxfield Preserve is a nature preserve, operated by the Wilderness Center, a non-profit nature center and land conservancy. The preserve is being restored by planting native grasses, wildflowers and trees. The graves are scattered along meandering

paths and grave markers must be natural, unpolished stone. The cost of burial space at Foxfield is higher than average: a burial space costs \$3,200 if purchased in advance. However green burials do not have the \$1000-\$2000 expense of a concrete vault which is required in traditional cemeteries.

There is a closer alternative for Roman Catholics in northeast Ohio. All Souls Cemetery in Chardon has set aside Section 35 as what they call a natural burial area. The graves are sited along a curved path that goes through a grassy area and a woods. Natural or polished grave markers can be placed at the grave. This area could not be certified by the Green Burial Council area because the graves must have a cement cover or grave liner. The grave liner is open at the bottom so that the body or casket has contact with the ground. Caskets are not required, but if used they should be made of a biodegradable material. The cost of a grave site in the grassy area is \$1800 and \$2500 in the wooded area.

For more information go to the following websites:

Foxfield Preserve:  
[www.foxfieldpreserve.org](http://www.foxfieldpreserve.org)  
All Souls  
[www.clecem.org](http://www.clecem.org)  
Green Burial  
[www.greenburialcouncil.org](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org)

*Sources: Andrej Lah, Director of the Catholic Cemetery Association; Sara Brink, Manager, Foxfield Preserve.*

Please use the envelope included with this newsletter or fill out and send in the form below.

MY SPECIAL GIFT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED

Name (as you would like it to appear)

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

My group would like to have a Memorial Society speaker. Call me  
at \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your donation and this tear-off slip to:

**Cleveland Memorial  
Society  
21600 Shaker Blvd.  
Cleveland, OH 44122**

## Donations

Without your generous donations and assistance, we could not go forward with our work! We are reluctant to ask you again for a contribution, but since we do not have any annual dues, we must rely on your generosity. An envelope is included for your convenience and thank you for your continuing support.

## If You Move

PLEASE let us know if you move. Whether it is moving in with your son or daughter, across town, into assisted living, or out-of-state, we do not want to lose touch with you! Did you know that if you move to another area you can transfer your Memorial Society membership to your new locale, usually for free? We'll help you do that if only you tell us where you are going! Help us help you – and your family!



## Let's save some trees together!

Would you rather receive your CMS bi-annual newsletter electronically? Do you sometimes forget to recycle the paper copy delivered by the Post Office?

**Let us know and help us reduce our footprint.**

**Either send us an email at**

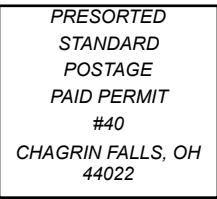
**[info@clevelandmemorialsociety.org](mailto:info@clevelandmemorialsociety.org)**

**or call us at 216-751-5515.**

Please share the name(s) of the members and the mailing address (in case we have more than one member with the same name) as well as a phone number, should we have any questions.

Cleveland Memorial Society  
21600 Shaker Boulevard  
Cleveland, OH 44122

Phone: 216-751-5515  
[www.clevememorialsociety.org](http://www.clevememorialsociety.org)



**DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY**

**These funeral directors are our contracted participating firms**

**Best Funeral Home**  
15809 Madison Road  
Middlefield, OH 44062  
(440) 632-0818

**Busch-Boswell-Jones-Deck  
Mortuary**  
4334 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, OH 44109  
216-459-2660

**Corrigan Funeral Services**  
27099 Miles Road  
Orange Village, OH 44022  
440-349-1900

**Cummings & Davis Funeral  
Home**  
13201 Euclid Avenue  
East Cleveland, OH 44112  
216-541-1111

**Dicken Funeral Home**  
323 Middle Avenue  
Elyria, OH 44035  
440-322-3224

**Fioritto Funeral Home**  
5236 Mayfield Road  
Lyndhurst, OH 44124  
440-442-5900

**Maher-Melbourne Funeral  
Home**  
5236 Mayfield Road  
Lyndhurst, OH 44124  
216-382-4500

**Malloy Memorial Service**  
1575 W. 117th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44107  
216-221-3380

**Shapiro Funeral Services**  
27099 Miles Road  
Orange Village, OH  
44022-2130  
440-498-1993

**Thompson, Smith,  
Nesbitt Funeral Home**  
345 Main Street  
Conneaut, OH 44030  
440-599-8106

**Vitantonio & Son Funeral  
Home**  
6330 Center Street  
Mentor, OH 44060  
440-255-1655