

**Threshold** ★ *Caring for Your Own Dead*  
200 Appleton Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

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## ***What is a Memorial Society?***

More than fifty years ago, memorial societies were founded as educational cooperatives to assist consumers in planning simple, dignified arrangements at affordable prices. Today there are over 150 Societies in the U. S. and Canada. In this country they are affiliated as the Funeral Consumers Alliance. Most are staffed by volunteers; all are nonprofit. The website for the national headquarters is [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org).

### ***Personalizing. . .***

*what has been depersonalized*

### ***Honoring. . .***

*death as a spiritual transition*

### ***Reconnecting. . .***

*society with the cycle of life*

Nancy Accola, Board Member

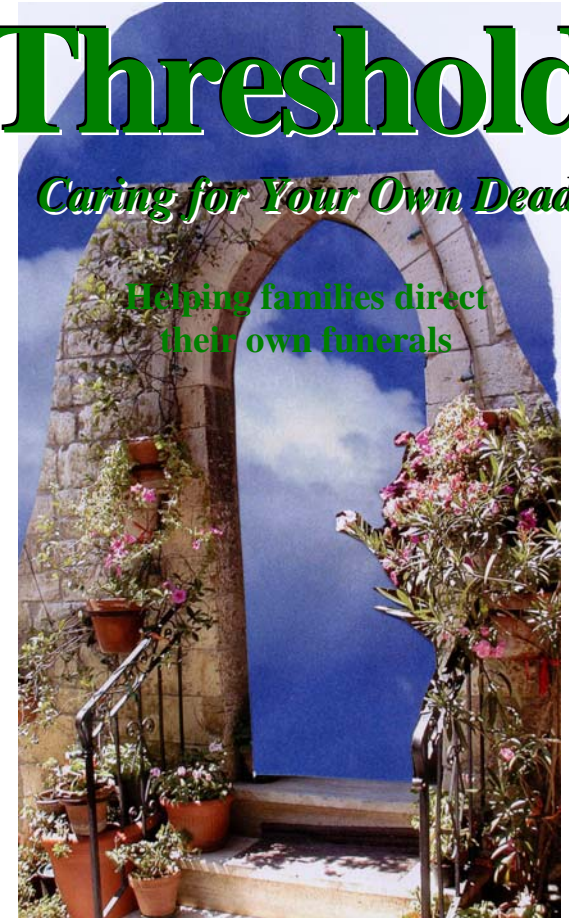
**Funeral Consumers Alliance of  
Eastern Massachusetts**

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# **Threshold**

***Caring for Your Own Dead***

**Helping families direct  
their own funerals**



**Funeral Consumers Alliance  
of Eastern Massachusetts**

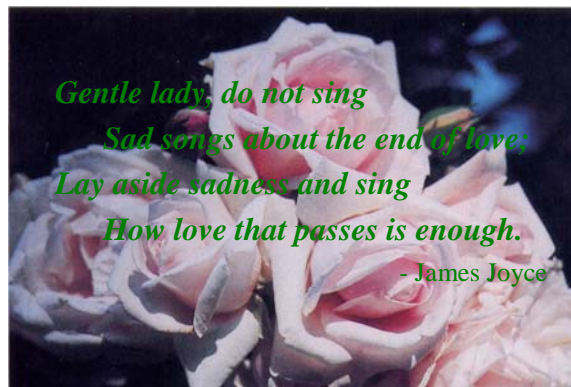
**(The Memorial Society, Inc.)**

## *Did you know . . .*

- ★ Family members can serve as their own funeral director when a loved one dies.
- ★ It is legal to keep the deceased at home (1 to 3 days is usual).
- ★ You can fill out all of the necessary legal paper work yourself.
- ★ Embalming is not required by law in Massachusetts.
- ★ The deceased can be transported in the vehicle of a family member or friend.
- ★ The cost of a conventional funeral with body burial, using a licensed funeral director, can be over \$10,000.
- ★ You can select from the multiple professional services offered by the funeral industry, only those services which fit your preferences.
- ★ You can create your own spiritual ritual, from a tradition that is meaningful to you.

## *Our values . . .*

- ★ Educating families regarding their choices in after-death care.
- ★ Empowering families to reclaim caring for their departed.
- ★ Re-introducing the home as the place for one of life's great transitions.
- ★ Giving family and friends time and privacy to say goodbye.
- ★ Encourage healthy grieving through the creation of meaningful ritual.
- ★ Promoting economical and environmentally responsible death care.



## *Services offered . . .*

- ★ Advice on the care of the body.
- ★ Assistance with legal requirements.
- ★ Advice concerning cremation arrangements.
- ★ Information on reasonably priced and ecological caskets.
- ★ Workshops on the practical, legal, psychological, and spiritual aspects of caring for your own dead.
- ★ Telephone consultations.

Nancy Accola, Board Member

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