



An International Community of Lesbian Elders

Resources List for Old Lesbians on Death and Dying with Dignity

Recommended Books and Articles

* Indicates Lesbian experience

** already on [OLOC website](#)

Advice for Future Corpses: A Practical Perspective on Death and Dying, Sallie Tisdale, Gallery Books, 2018.

“Preparing a Death Plan” is Appendix 1, pp 211-228. This is a concise, practical list of details that, if addressed before we are actually dying, brings peace of mind to ourselves and is a compassionate help to our loved ones, to those nearest to us who will be left, quite literally, holding our possessions and legacy when we do die. The document includes items ranging from a list of Emergency Contacts, Primary Care Providers, and Specialist Doctors through End-of-life wishes to wishes for giving away special possessions to special loved ones.

** *The Advocate*: End-of-Life Care for an Aging LGBT Population
advocate.com/health/2013/12/27/end-life-care-aging-lgbt-population

The Art of Dying Well: A Practical Guide to a Good End of Life, Katy Butler, Simon & Schuster, 2020.

A Beginner's Guide to the End: Practical Advice for Living Life and Facing Death, BJ Miller and Shoshana Berger, Simon and Schuster, 2020.

Especially useful is Chapter 1, pp. 3-12: “Don’t Leave a Mess.”

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End, Atul Gawande, Metropolitan Books, 2014.

Final Rights: Reclaiming the American Way of Death, Lisa Carlson and Joshua Slocum, Upper Access, 2011.

Finish Strong: Putting YOUR Priorities First at Life's End, Barbara Coombs and Halder Warraich, Compassion and Choices, 2018.

Grave Matters: A Journey through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial, Mark Harris, Scribner, 2008.

This Resources List was compiled by Mev Miller with recommendations from several experienced OLOC members: Becky Bohan, Nancy Manahan, Ruth Debra, Sue Reamer, Zoom Chat comments, and links from the OLOC website.

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"It's Ok to Die." Monica Williams-Murphy and Kristian Murphy, MKN, LLC, 2011.

**A Light on Altered Land* (Lesbian Fiction), Becky Bohan, Nanbec Books, 2020.

**Living Consciously, Dying Gracefully: A Journey with Cancer and Beyond*, Nancy Manahan and Becky Bohan, Nanbec Books, 2007.

Reimagining Death: Stories and Practical Wisdom for Home Funerals and Green Burials, Lucinda Herring, North Atlantic Books, 2019.

**Staying True: Musings of an Odd-duck Quaker Lesbian Approaching Death*, (A Lesbian memoir that includes her end-of-life story), Lynn Waddington, Plain Speech Press, 2012.

**Willing Up and Keeling Over: A Lesbian Handbook on Death Rights and Rituals*, Sinister Wisdom #80, Summer 2010.

<http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/sites/default/files/Sinister%20Wisdom%2080.pdf>.



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ONLINE RESOURCES

** taken from [OLOC website](#)

** Aging with Dignity & Five Wishes

agingwithdignity.org/ and Agingwithdignity.org/five-wishes

The Five Wishes advance care planning program has helped improve end-of-life care for millions. The Five Wishes form is available for \$5 and functions as an Advance Directive that uses more ordinary language and focuses more on personal and spiritual priorities.

Aquamation

aquamationinfo.com/

Aquamation is a gentle process that uses water instead of fire to return a body back to Mother Nature.

Conversation Project

theconversationproject.org

Helps people talk about their wishes for care through the end of life so those wishes can be understood and respected.

Communicating End-of-Life Care Wishes With Clinicians and Family

online.nursing.georgetown.edu/blog/talking-about-end-of-life-care/

Georgetown University School of Nursing, Communicating End-of-Life Care Wishes with Clinicians and Family.

** Compassion and Choices

compassionandchoices.org

Compassion and Choices is an organization that promotes physician-assisted “right-to-die” legislation and helps people plan well during a serious illness or for the end of life. It empowers people to get the care they want during a serious illness or at the end of life by offering excellent resources such as an End-of-life Decisions Guide and Toolkit and a Covid-19 Toolkit, in addition to advocating for right-to-die legislation. Currently medical aid in dying is authorized in ten states: Oregon, Washington, Montana, Vermont, California, Colorado, Washington DC, Hawaii, New Jersey, and Maine.



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Death Café

Deathcafe.com

Death Cafés are local gatherings—formerly in coffee shops and now on Zoom—whereby participants can discuss all aspects of death and dying, to explore feelings about death and dying. This movement was started in England in about 2011 and is now worldwide. One can search on the website for a nearby death café.

Die\$mart

diesmart.com/sayinggoodbye/body-organ-donation

Whether you are planning a funeral in advance or for a loved one who has just passed away, a few of the first decisions to be made are related to disposition of the body.

Everplans.com

This website has a free, comprehensive Important Documents Checklist you can download of essential documents, accounts, and types of information you should organize. Page six of this checklist is a one-page list for “Legacy/After I’m Gone” items.

Exit International

www.exitinternational.net/

A non-profit for voluntary assisted dying.

Funeral Consumers Alliance

funerals.org

**** Funeralwise**

funeralwise.com/customs/home-funerals-burials

An Overview of Home Funerals and Burials.

Green Burial Council

greenburialcouncil.org

“Our mission is to inspire and advocate for environmentally sustainable, natural death care through education and certification.”



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This is a nationwide website to learn more about green burial and how to find certified cemetery stewards, funeral professionals, and funerary product sellers who share the commitment to create more sustainable after-death options for you, your community, and the planet.

This website has two maps giving you quick and easy access to locate providers near you in North America. The two maps show **Green Burial Council-Certified Cemeteries and Products** and **Certified Funeral Homes Across North America**.

**** MedCure**

medcure.org

Whole body donation to medical research

Minnesota Threshold Network

mnthresholdnetwork.wordpress.com/

Becky Bohan and Nancy Manahan, OLOC members, are co-founders of this group.

**** National Home Funeral Alliance**

www.homefuneralalliance.org/

Educating families and communities to care for their own loved ones after death.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

www.caringinfo.org/

This organization provides free advance directives—a form in which you explain what you want done to save or prolong your life (or not) if you are unable to make decisions for yourself—and instructions for each state on its website. The directive is intended to advise your treating doctors and representatives in making appropriate choices for you when you cannot. It protects health care professionals and your representative from charges of neglect or mistreatment if they follow your wishes.

**** Natural Burial, the Ultimate Back-to-the-Land Movement**

beatree.com/



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Recompose

recompose.life/

Become soil when you die—Recompose connects the end of life to the natural world.

Threshold Choir

thresholdchoir.org/

Singing for those at the thresholds of life.

U.S. Funerals: Green Burial Sites

us-funerals.com/funeral-articles/directory-of-green-burial-sites-in-the-united-states.html