

The Bridging Project

Between Life and Death from Soul to Soul

August 10, 2016- 7:15pm CST (8:15pm EST)

The Central Regional Council of the Anthroposophical Society in America facilitated a conversation with special guest **Maureen Tolman Flannery**.

Maureen talked about her Threshold Work experience and shared some of her own poems about caring for the dead, connecting with Dr. Steiner's indications about what the living can provide to assist the dead.

Here is an excerpt from Maureen's talk:

Maureen spoke about her work as a Home Funeral Guide. She gave us some history of the Home Funeral movement and a branch of its roots in the work of the Christian Community and the Threefold Community in Spring Valley, New York. She clarified for us that Home Funeral Guides do not replace licensed Funeral Directors, but merely inform and empower families to understand that they have a right to care for their own loved ones after death.

Embalming and the use of cements vaults are not required by law anywhere in the US. She cautioned us to know the specific law of each state with regard to various limitations on family rights. In Illinois, for example, a family must employ a licensed Funeral Director to fill out the legal documents and transport the body.

Maureen gave us clear delineations between the three organizations which are mutually supportive and work in cooperation to help families care for their dead in the most economic, ecologically sound, and spiritually-conscious manner.

National Home Funeral Alliance educates and empowers families to care for their own.

<http://homefuneralalliance.org/>

Green Burial Council promotes environmentally sustainable death care.

<https://greenburialcouncil.org/>

And the Funeral Consumer's Alliance provides legal and financial information to help families avoid unnecessary costs associated with burial or cremation.

<https://www.funerals.org/>

Maureen reminded individuals caring for the dying that calling 911 after a death can involve a family in unnecessary attempts at resuscitation and a morass of often-unwanted red tape. She spoke of the spiritual and healing rewards—both for the dead and for the mourners—of vigils and care of the dead. Maureen framed her presentation with poems she had written about care of the dead.