

## Your Weekend Organizers and Presenters:

**Brenda Stewart** is a Wiccan Minister and serves her religious community as a death midwife along with emotional & energetic support for loved ones. Her teaching includes subjects such as life cycles and passages and her deep passion for gathering the information for green burials is a natural extension of her ministry.

**Charlene Elderkin** is a co-founder of the Threshold Care Circle of Viroqua WI. Formed in 2006, TCC's mission is to provide educational materials and support for those individuals and families who wish to care for their dead at home and carry out a home or family-directed funeral.

**Gene Delcourt** teaches at Malcolm Shabazz High School and works with young people. He also serves community in ways that support spirituality and interfaith.

**Mary Kateada** provides death midwifery services through Simple Wisdom Sanctuary ([www.simplewisdomsanctuary.com](http://www.simplewisdomsanctuary.com)). She received her training from JerriGrace Lyons ([www.finalpassages.org](http://www.finalpassages.org)). She is also a Celebrant, trained and certified to perform funerals and ceremonies for healing by the Celebrant USA Foundation and Institute ([www.celebrantusa.org](http://www.celebrantusa.org)).

**Math Heinzl** has degrees in education, social studies, forestry and environmental studies. He has studied permaculture, sustainability in both forestry and agriculture, landscape ecology, gardening, intentional community, group process, physics/chaos theory/mathematics, and most things computer related.

**Rae Atira-Soncea** is an artist and organizer who has worked and played in community positions, non-profit jobs, grassroots movements and home based reclamations, exploring how people can empower themselves to changes their lives, and ultimately our communities by reclaiming, unlearning and relearning. Rae has served on many boards, and organized many events, conferences, exhibitions, and workshops.

**Rain Gaia** is an ordained Wiccan minister who comes to this work thru her service to the women's community. She specializes in rites of passage following the cycles of the earth. In addition, she studies sacred art and altars, organic gardening and herbalism

**The Other Participants** – in a workshop on death, dying and internment, we are all experts. Each person attending has been touched/impacted by death and will offer their knowledge and expertise to the group. We will make time for story sharing along with the hard core learning and skill enhancement that this workshop will offer. Each of us will also have some time for self reflection on why we want to gain more knowledge in this area and as a group we'll explore strategies to help us move forward in this work in a healthy and positive way.

*There is a place for everyone at this workshop; bring your experiences, philosophies and beliefs with you. Come prepared to share, encourage and inspire and to be informed, empowered and inspired.*

## Natural Passings: Reclaiming the End of Life March 27th, 28th, and 29th, 2009

Pre-Registration due by March 21, 2009

Please copy and complete a pre-registration for each person attending

**Yes!** I will be attending this grassroots weekend workshop on Death, Dying and Burial, I plan to come prepared to be informed, empowered and inspired and hope to share, encourage and inspire others as well.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Your Food Choices:

Vegan  Lacto/ovo  Poultry/Fish

My allergies or concerns related to food are:

My interest in attending this workshop is:

The entire weekend, includes 4 meals, will cost **\$60.00**

Make Checks Payable to: Simple Wisdom Sanctuary  
3529 Lucia Crest, Madison WI 53705

Please pay in full with this pre-registration form.

Every attempt has been made to keep this workshop affordable. If you cannot afford to attend, please contact the organizers.

Registration fees cover materials, printing, food, site and equipment costs. The panelists, facilitators and presenters, have generously donated their time and expertise. We wish to thank the Trust for Natural Legacies, UW Arboretum, and Cress Funeral and Cremation Services for their help.

**The Saturday Evening Panel is free & open to the public.**

**Yes!** Please send info regarding the Dust to Dust Workshop.

Registration is limited, please register early.

## Natural Passings: Reclaiming the End of Life

March 27th, 28th, and 29th, 2009

A grassroots look at Death, Dying and Burial, this weekend workshop will introduce participants to green burials, ethical wills, home funerals, options for funeral ceremonies and alternative ways of interring our loved ones.

Families and caregivers deserve meaningful participation in and support for handling the end of life. We will be looking at ways of reclaiming our rightful place in this most final of passages. We will provide a dusting off of some of the old ways and an introduction to some new ways to embrace and take personal responsibility for death's details.

Things to be considered when we talk of reclaiming the end of life are taking responsibility to make plans for your own death (creating ethical and living wills), planning your own funeral, planning a funeral for and caring for the body of a loved one, and choosing a way of interring a body that fit within your own values. What rights do we have?

In order to make these choices we need information. What are our options - spiritually, emotionally, physically, and legally? What can we do? The short answer is, a great deal. This workshop will highlight some of the ways you can reclaim this often-challenging aspect of life passages. Topics to be covered may include:

- Living and ethical wills

- Easing someone's death:

  - From Music to Touch, what can you do?

- Someone has died - what now:

  - Legalities & rights

  - Care and keeping of a body

  - Ensuring your final wishes

  - Creating ceremony

  - Consumer rights

  - Casket alternatives

  - Interment options -

    - family/funeral home relations

    - green burials

    - cremation

Death is an auspicious time in which to weave tradition and meaning into the fabric of our lives. Moreover, we can reclaim this time, in any number of great and small ways, when we become informed, empowered and inspired.

Registration Is Limited

## Weekend Schedule

### Friday March 27, 2009 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Registration

Introduction - Share experiences, skills and concern

Opening Sessions -to establish basis for Saturday sessions

*Light snacks and drinks*

### Saturday March 28, 2009 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Continental Breakfast - Fruit, Cereals, Breads, and Drinks

9:00 - 12:30 AM Sessions

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch provided on site

1:30 - 5:00 Pm Sessions

5:00 to 7:00 Supper on your own. There are many restaurants in the area. Please return for the panel.

### 7:00 - 9:00 Natural Passings: Greening the End of Life

A panel discussion on the green choices available to us.

### Sunday March 29th, 2009 9:00 - 3:00

9:00 - 10:00 Continental Breakfast & conversation

10:00 - 2:00 Full service experience including lunch

2:00 - 3:00 Closing & Clean-up

Sunday Lunch will be a version of a traditional midwest funeral potluck meal, each participant is requested to bring a dish reflecting your traditions to share (taking into account suitable dishes for those of you who are traveling).

*Registration is limited; we request that you pre-register for the weekend. For additional information, contact Rae at 608.516.6969 or [workshops@simplewisdomsanctuary.com](mailto:workshops@simplewisdomsanctuary.com)*

All events will take place at :  
UW Arboretum Visitor Center  
1207 Seminole Hwy  
Madison, WI

**This Panel is free and open to the public.  
Natural Passings: Greening the End of Life  
Saturday March 28th, 2009  
7:00pm to 9:00pm**

A Panel Discussion on the ethical choices we may each be called upon to make during our lifetime, for ourselves or those we love.

Join **Kevin W. Corrado**, LCSW, of the Trust for Natural Legacies. Kevin has been a medical social worker for over 27 years, and works with many families in end of life situations, in an intensive care unit. Before Kevin dies, he wants to participate in the creation of the first green cemetery in Wisconsin. He will speak of the Trust for Natural Legacies (TNL) mission to advance the local Green Burial movement, present the history behind conventional burials in the U.S. and TNL's vision for a more sustainable and spiritually-fulfilling option that honors the true cycles of life and death.

**AND**

**Amanda Conway**, of Cress Funeral Home and Cremation Society, will discuss their progress in integrating a green emphasis with Cress' family-friendly suite of services, which honor traditions of all faiths, denominations, and ethnic groups. Cress is committed to the funeral profession and to the community. Behind that commitment is a passion to learn, to inform, and to collaborate with other community services to work towards strong relationships, an understanding of community needs, and ways to contribute to society. Cress has spacious, comfortable funeral homes in seven convenient locations, many offer unique features such as community rooms, kitchens, children's rooms, and resource libraries.

**AND**

**The Natural Passings Collective** - a grassroots organization dedicated to re-educating ourselves and our community on our legal right to care for a loved one when they die. Our mission is to provide information and support for those in our community who wish to care for their dead at home and/or want a home or family directed funeral. As a group we have no religious affiliation. We are here to assist any and all who are interested, regardless of cultural, economic, religious or spiritual perspective. On this evening's panel, members of the collective will provide information on your legal rights and a brief primer on the care and keeping of a body.

**Panel to be held at:**

McKay Center Auditorium  
UW Arboretum  
1207 Seminole Hwy  
Madison, WI

For additional info, contact Mary at 608.442.0054 or  
workshops@simplewisdomsanctuary.com

**COMING LATER THIS SPRING**

**From Dust to Dust: Green Coffins, Containers into  
Nature  
May 8, 9, and 10, 2009**

This is a very hands on project, building one or more simple coffins or containers for holding human (or animal) remains, with a concentration on tools and materials that are readily available to most casual craftsfolk.

There will be a presentation relating the diversity of materials and methods, funeral customs, and alternatives, and sharing of materials, methods and resources for further development. Some topics covered will be design, measurements, strength and reinforcement, hardware, and embellishments. Your personally built coffin can be beautiful, functional, and eco-friendly.

**Presenters:**

**Brenda Stewart** is an engineer by trade who includes woodworking, gardening and the care of Mother Earth among her favorite activities. She grew up in a country farm community where she was first exposed to home funerals and natural burials. She watched her grandfather build caskets for friends and neighbors with tender loving care.

**Gene Delcourt** has been working with wood since 1992. He carves, designs, works with chainsaws, makes containers, drums, sculptures, installations, yurts, etc. He is expanding his expertise to include coffins and burial containers. After retirement he plans to become a luthier specializing in violins, mandolins and other string instruments.

**Math Heinzl** works with sustainability, landscape ecology, permaculture, environment and community issues...He built and restored fine furniture in the Amana Colonies in Iowa, Much of his time these days is spent working with computers and designing a green built home. Math currently serves on Trust for Natural Legacy board of Directors.

**Rae Atira-Soncea** is a sculptor working primarily in wood and textiles. She works with various spiritual communities by teaching, ministry, exploring the many passages of life.

**Rain Gaia** is an ordained Wiccan minister who comes to this work thru her service to the women's community. She specializes in rites of passage following the cycles of the earth. In addition, she studies sacred art and altars, organic gardening and herbalism"

Other Craftfolk, Artists, and Grassroots community members may be adding to the experience as well.

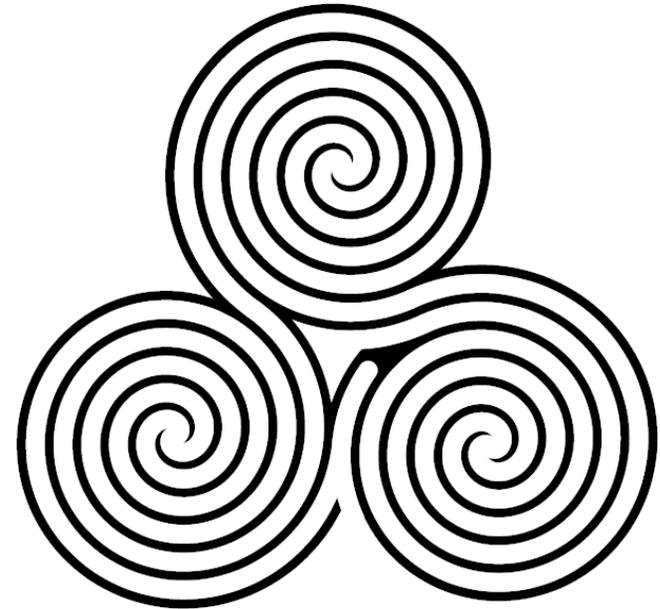
**Please indicate your interest in this event on the enclosed registration form, even if you are not coming to the March event.**

**Registration will be limited.**

**Natural Passings Workshop  
Simple Wisdom Sanctuary  
3529 Lucia Crest  
Madison WI 53705**

Come prepared to be informed, empowered, and inspired.

**Natural Passings:  
Reclaiming the End of Life  
An ongoing conversation  
March 27th, 28th and 29th, 2009**



A grassroots look at Death, Dying and Burial, in a weekend workshop that will introduce participants to: green burials, consumer rights, ethical wills, home funerals, options for funeral ceremonies and alternative ways of interring our loved ones. Families and caregivers deserve meaningful participation in and support for handling the end of life. Come join the conversation.

Come prepared to be informed, empowered and inspired.

Held at: McKay Center Auditorium  
UW Arboretum  
1207 Seminole Hwy  
Madison, WI