Distance Funerals, Complicated Grief:
Gathering to grieve during COVID19

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Hosted by the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab
Moderated by Zac Willette MDiv BCC, Allay Care Services
Human language: 40,000 years ago

Ritual burial: 100,000 years ago

Before we had words for our grief, we had ritual to help it.

Source: http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/behavior/burial/qafzeh-oldest-intentional-burial
COVID-19 could be the primary cause of death for 100,000 to 240,000 lives in the US alone.

It is likely that all who die in a hospital will die alone.

We gather:

1. to mourn the death
2. to remember/honor the life
3. and to support one another as community

Each of these is momentously – but not unprecedentedly – complicated by COVID19.

Source: Final Blessings Minnesota
Alua supports people as they answer the question 'What must I do to be at peace with myself so that I may live presently and die peacefully?' She is a death doula, attorney, and the founder of an end of life planning organization called Going with Grace.
Glenda is the CEO of InSight Books publishing company, a licensed funeral director/embalmer, a mortuary school professor, creator and lead trainer for InSight Institute Certified Funeral Celebrants program.
Perla serves families who have experienced loss at the border — building solidarity, community, and a movement. She is the Family Network Director of the Colibrí Center for Human Rights and a former Case Manager for the Office of Refugee Resettlement with the US Department of Health & Human Services.
Casper works to create a culture of belonging and becoming as the co-founder of Sacred Design Lab. A Ministry Innovation Fellow at Harvard Divinity School, he co-hosts the award-winning podcast Harry Potter and the Sacred Text and is author of *The Power of Ritual: Turning Everyday Activities into Soulful Practices*. 
Rabbi Kay is a congregational organizational consultant and coach in Denver, CO. He also serves the American Red Cross as the Spiritual Care Advisor for Colorado/Wyoming.
Please type your questions and we’ll triage them for the panelists to answer
Our physical presence may be restricted for now, but our imagination and the love we hold for each other is limitless.

— The Order of the Good Death

And I saw the river over which every soul must pass... and the name of that river is Suffering.

And I saw the boat which carries each soul across the river... and the name of that boat is Love.

— St John of the Cross

As translated by poet Daniel Ladinsky
Thank you.

Recording and resources available at

https://chaplaincyinnovation.org/resources/webinars