

Who we are

Thresholds is a forward-thinking, socially responsible licensed funeral establishment that empowers individuals, providing them more control over the funeral experience. The only establishment of its kind in California, the Thresholds funeral establishment was founded in 2004 by Barbara Kernan, dec., a Registered Nurse and licensed Funeral Director who had become frustrated by the expense, excess, environmental degradation, and isolation of the modern funeral industry. Today, Thresholds is working to continue Barbara's legacy and transform the industry into one that supports society on a grand scale, returning the rites and practices of death to their proper place: the family.

Through service in a variety of cultural, economic, and spiritual traditions, Thresholds is a resource for pre-planning and consultation, information and referral, patient and consumer advocacy, and community education.



Cari C. Leverage, BS
Director
FDR 3427



Eric W. Putt, MBA
Director
FDR 2173

Did you know?

- A body may lie in honor and be cared for at home; there is no legal requirement that the body of a loved one be held at a mortuary.
- Embalming and refrigeration are optional practices that are not required by law.
- Legal documents may be prepared by family members or other agents, and do not need to be handled by a funeral director.
- Families may transport the body of their loved one to the crematory or cemetery directly, and do not need to rely upon the services of a mortuary.
- Each year in the United States we currently bury approximately 827,000 gallons of embalming fluid, 30 million board feet of hardwood caskets, 2,700 tons of copper and bronze, and 1,636,000 tons of concrete vaults. (Source: Mary Woodsen of the Pre-Posthumous Society of New York, 2003)

Thresholds

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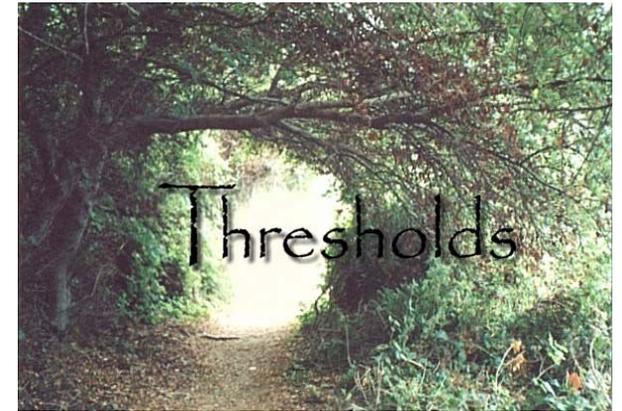
Serving San Diego Communities

Phone: 619-414-2651

E-mail: info@Thresholds.US

www.Thresholds.US

A traditional,
compassionate
alternative to modern
funeral practices



Threshold n. 1. An entrance or doorway.
2. A place or point of beginning; the onset.

Reclaiming the
Sanctity of Death

Thresholds...

...is a socially and environmentally responsible nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering society, families, and friends to reclaim the sanctity of death through compassionate end-of-life care, education, guidance, and funeral service.

We believe...

... that death is a sacred event equal in importance to the act of birth, which should be marked with reverence.

... in an alternative to the modern impersonal and profit-driven funeral practices currently institutionalized in the United States.

... that compassion can be restored to the rituals of death, through a return to long-held traditions, practices and principles.

... in the use of environmentally sound products and techniques, and encourage the use of local artists, services, and resources.

... that empowering individuals and families to make their own personal choices regarding end-of-life and after-life-care ensures dignified and sensible funeral practices.

... that people always come before profits.

Thresholds operates with three guiding principles.

Compassion By working together to keep loved ones at

home and directing meaningful and compassionate personal rituals, Thresholds encourages families to participate, to show loving attention and kindness which fosters a healthy grieving process and strengthens the community of family and friends. We offer guidance regarding how to bathe and dress the body as well as other celebratory rituals that can be shaped by the family.

Thresholds is a conscientious organization and is not profit driven.

Costs are held to a bare minimum with purpose and intention. The average funeral in the United States currently costs between \$6000 and \$8000*, but by integrating a family's existing resources, the average home funeral costs averages between \$1260 and \$2620. By choosing wood or corrugated caskets, families can inexpensively celebrate and honor the life of their loved one. Our focus is upon ritual and ceremony, versus material items, of benefit to all who participate in the process.

Conservation The supplies used by Thresholds are biodegradable, with less hardware and glues than standard materials. Because embalming chemicals are not used, we release fewer pollutants and residues into the earth and air. Information regarding green burials is available.

*Source: American Association of Retired Persons, 2005

“...when I reflect back on the care, the understanding, the tenderness, the expertise, and the wisdom that you both consistently demonstrated during and after the service you provided, it brings me much comfort.”

- Sam Euston

Our services

- Facilitated in-home funerals, personalized to families' preferences. Thresholds will assist with in-home after-death care, the creation of sacred space, and the development of personal and significant ritual and ceremony. Preparation of legal documents is provided.
- Religious or traditional ceremonies, at locations as designated or requested by family and friends.
- Full-service in-home funerals, using our own expertise and materials to create a sacred space and meaningful ceremony.
- “Blessings for Our Little Ones,” in-home ceremonies for infants or children.



- Direct cremation, with or without ceremony.
- Direct burial, with or without ceremony.

Barbara Kernan honors Marcia Bowman, who facilitated her in-home funeral prior to her death.