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Association for Death Education and Counseling®  
The Thanatology Association®

# Connects

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## ADEC President's Message



Dear Lisa:

I hope this New Year brings you peace, joy and prosperity. January went by like a flash of lightning and we are fast approaching our annual conference in April 2018 in Pittsburgh. The conference registration is open and I encourage you to renew your membership while you sign up for the conference.

I know that I eagerly look forward to the conference for a chance to connect with my ADEC community of scholars, practitioners, students and all attendees – to see familiar faces and meet new kindred spirits. To me, and I suspect to many of you, the conference is more than a quick catch up on the latest research and best practices; it is also about the deep meaningful dialogue with friends and colleagues who we may not see daily. It is an opportunity to feed the soul of the thanatologist, see the people who know the path we tread and the things we bear witness to, and the power of transformation. The people who we can talk about death with openly and with it, be able to have meaningful dialogue about the meaning of life.

In other news, ADEC and our management company, Management HQ, are currently actively involved in a recruitment search to find our long-term Executive Director. If you know someone who you think is made for ADEC please direct them to contact Kevin Ward through our ADEC office.

I hope to see you all in a few short months. I encourage you to share the invitation widely and hopefully we'll see you and your colleagues in Pittsburgh.

Travel safe and see in you Pittsburgh!

Dr. Ramona Fernandez  
ADEC President

## ADEC's 40th Annual Conference

**Preliminary Program Now Available!**



By Jon K. Reid  
Conference Planning Committee Chair

ADEC's 40th Annual Conference will be in historic Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania April 25-28. Pittsburgh offers the modern and the historic. ADEC's Annual Conferences offer rich experiences through cutting edge presentations and opportunities to network with professionals in a variety of fields related to thanatology.

Enjoy a leisurely walk through an exhibit hall! Our Exhibit Hall features exhibit booths filled with resources and more resources with appeal to a wide variety of attendees. Whether you work in hospice, hospitals, funeral homes, counseling centers, or university settings, you will find the latest resources to enhance your work.

Looking for like-minded colleagues? Year after year, conference evaluations highlight the most valued aspect of our annual conference for a majority of attendees, and that is networking. Attendees have numerous opportunities to meet and greet authors, practitioners, and scholars.

Feeling stressed? Yoga instructor Antonio Sausys of "Yoga for Grief Relief" will offer yoga sessions each morning of the conference to help get your day started.

Artistic, creative, or like to get paint on your hands? A new feature of the 2018 conference is an Artful Grief Studio, open for two days for attendees to drop-in and stay as long as desired while creating

hands-on artistic creations. The Artful Grief Studio was made possible by a generous donation from the Kristin Rita Strouse Foundation.

Looking for 15 minutes of fame? Well, maybe not 15 actual minutes, but Open to Hope will return this year to tape interviews of attendees who can share about their work and interest in the field of thanatology. Look for their booth in the Exhibit Hall.

Can't make it to Pittsburgh? For those who are unable to attend this year's conference, ADEC also offers both synchronous and asynchronous delivery of selected sessions.

Looking forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh!



## Keynote Speakers



Interested in end-of-life care? Our keynote speaker Carl Becker, PhD, DLitt from the School of Medicine at Kyoto University (Japan) will bring insights from his 40 years working in Japan, with a focus on Japanese spiritual practices related to elder care and bereavement. Dr. Becker has



Interested in clinical practice? Our keynote speaker, Allison Salloum, PhD, LCSW will share practical applications of her research on bereaved and traumatized children and adolescents. Dr. Salloum has authored numerous publications on grief and trauma in children and is a faculty member in the



Interested in the intersection of memorialization with the digital era? Anne Balsamo, PhD will share the latest information on the Design of Digital Memorial Experiences, with a particular focus on the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Dr. Balsamo is the author of *Designing Culture: The Technological Imagination* at

authored numerous publications on life and death, social work, end-of-life, ethics, and comparative religion.

School of Social Work at the University of South Florida.

Work (2011) and the Dean of the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication at the University of Texas at Dallas.

## Specialty Workshops

Enhance your [2018 ADEC Conference](#) experience by arriving early on Wednesday, April 25 to participate in one of the [Specialty Workshops](#). These specially designed courses provide an in-depth look at the topics and issues in the field of dying, death, and bereavement. Two full-day and four half-day workshops are open for registration.

- *Contemporary Neuroscience and Attachment Theory: Implications for an Attachment Informed Approach to Grief Therapy*, with Phyllis Kosminsky, PhD, LCSW and John R. (Jack) Jordan, PhD. – 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
- *Catching Your Breath in Grief: Lessons for the Bereaved, Thinkers, and Caregivers*, presented by Thomas Attig, PhD – 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
- *Nuts and Bolts of Setting Up and Maintaining Bereavement Support Groups in Urban and Rural Settings* with Ben Wolfe, MEd, LICSW, FT – 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- *How To Survive Such Horror and Splendor?* presented by Rob Zucker, MA, LCSW, FT – 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- *Beyond Burnout—Finding Balance, Transforming Stress* with Dale Larson, Ph. D – 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM
- *Creating Inclusion and Well-being for Grieving Children in Today's World*, presented by Linda Goldman, MS, LCPC, FT



### The Artful Grief: Open Art Studio

Thursday and Friday: 9 AM – 5 PM Lawrence Room

Sharon Strouse, MA, ATR-BC, LCPAT

#### **The Artful Grief: Open Art Studio will serve two functions:**

**First as an educational resource:** Four specific art therapy techniques will be presented, that are appropriate for use with clients who have experienced traumatic loss. There will be case presentations, articles, displays of client art work and opportunities for hands on exploration of: Collage, Dreamscaping, Handmade Books and Healing Sticks.

**Second as a richly appointed "art making" sanctuary:** All are welcome, from novices curious about grief and the expressive arts to seasoned "artists" longing to relax into a creative process, for

pure delight and self soothing. You are invited to spend a few minutes or a few hours...“a picture is worth a thousand words!

To view workshop and presentation offerings [click here.](#)

## March Webinar

### Mine, Yours, and Ours: Exploring Organizational Ethics and Auditing in End-of-Life Care

Continuing education in ethics is a requirement for many professionals in a variety of disciplines. While ethical dilemmas and individual ethical responses are critical to good practice, macro organizational issues can facilitate or impede individual ethical behavior. This atypical ethics webinar examines the interfaces of individual and organizational ethics and reviews one organizational ethics audit as applied to end-of-life care.



We will explore together ways to avoid the “yea, yea I know” and the “oh dear” ethics discussions responses and intervene in our agencies to maximize ethical behavior.

**Presenter:** Helen Harris, EdD, LCSW

**Date:** March 14, 2018

**Time:** 12 – 1:30pm CST

[Click Here for More Information & to Register](#)

## Student Profile

So that the ADEC community can get to know its students, Connects will continue to feature stories on ADEC students as well as scholarship recipients.

### Kaili van Waveren



An alumnus of Johns Hopkins University, Kaili van Waveren is working on a Master's in Thanatology at Hood College, where she is a research assistant in the psychology department, serves as an officer of Psi Chi, works as assistant to the Director of the Thanatology and Gerontology Departments, and maintains a 4.0 GPA. Although she currently works for a hospice, her interest is in suicidology and she is particularly committed to researching suicide in vulnerable and underserved populations. Kaili recently completed a large body of research titled "Charting the Labyrinth: An Exploration of Suicide Among 5-to 24-year-olds in America," which she

presented at the University of Rhode Island in April. She is presently beginning two new research projects: one on the correlation between early pubertal development and suicidality among 5-to 14-year-olds; and another on suicide risk and crisis intervention for the deaf and hearing impaired.

**Do you have a mentor/role model who has significantly affected your career path in thanatology? Tell us why you chose this career path.**

I have been incredibly fortunate to study under Dr. Terry Martin, whose expansive knowledge, experience, and passion redirected my aim from upward mobility within my preexisting career to a lateral shift toward something about which I am fiercely passionate – namely, suicide research. Similarly, I would be remiss not to mention my gratitude to Lisa Dinhofer, who has inspired and encouraged me to pursue my passion for research; and who has provided a superlative model of how to forge a career in thanatology of your own design through verve, determination, and ingenuity. Without flourish: I want to do suicide research because I have known too many people to complete suicide or be bereaved by it. It is painful to lose anyone you love, but losing someone to suicide is its own unique agony. If my work can contribute in any way to a deeper understanding of suicidality and the prevention of needless death and grief, then that is what I want to spend my life doing.

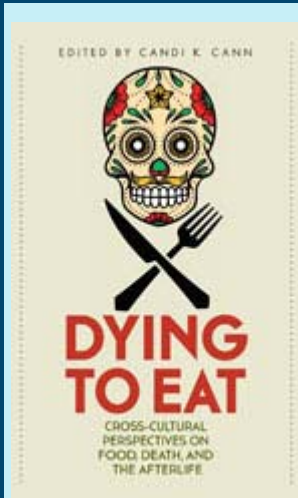
**What advice would you offer a more junior professional in the field on growing their career or keeping their work fresh?**

I scarcely feel there could be a more junior professional than me, and, frankly, I am still trying to figure out how to grow my career and keep my work fresh. I suppose I would share with them the “advice” I try to heed: be humble, keep your mind open, don’t make assumptions. Embrace that there is, and will always be, a lot to learn. Be willing to follow the research into directions you didn’t expect, or want, it to go. Recognize that your experience is yours alone and don’t project your own beliefs, stigmas, or fears onto the experiences of others, or let them guide your exploration and interpretation of data.

**What do you think the future holds for your work and that of others like you? How will that impact what you do?**

Suicide is more prevalent now than it has ever been. According to data released by the CDC in April of 2016, between 1999 and 2014 the suicide rate in the United States increased by 24 percent, with the pace of increase dramatically accelerating after 2006. Increased rates occurred in every age demographic under 74, but were especially pronounced among children, adolescents, and young adults; particularly those between the ages of 10 and 14. Furthermore, while the number of suicides among 5-to 9-year-olds is so small as to be considered statistically insignificant, my own research revealed a 39 percent increase between the years of 2006 and 2014. To me, the need for research on this epidemic is evident – not only for children and adolescents, but for our population as a whole; and in particular the groups we know to be especially vulnerable, such as LGBTQIA youth, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and our veterans.

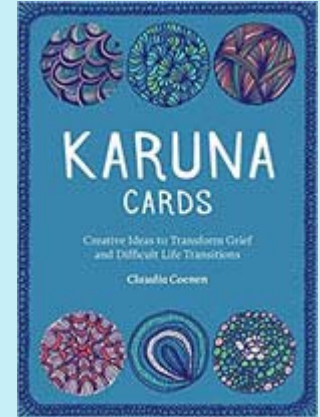
# What's New: New Books from ADEC Members



**Cann, Candi K.,** editor. *Dying to Eat: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Food, Death, and the Afterlife.* Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-8131-7469-3. Hardcover, 198 pages.

Cann has edited a remarkable cross-cultural study of the role food plays in mediating the human experience of death and the profoundly human response of mourning. Joined by eight other authors, the chapters are grouped into two parts: Part I, "Dining with the Dead," and Part II, "Eating After: Food and Drink in Bereavement and Remembrance." Her focus stays on food and death, not dying and death though she notes the important consideration of nutrition and dying for a different book. The cross-cultural perspective of this book is substantial, spanning the USA, Mexico, China, Korea and South Africa as well as many distinctive regional and multi-faith traditions. This book even includes a few recipes, an unusual bonus for a grief book. But its most important ingredient is the wide and insightful perspective it offers to thanatologists across many cultures about the meaningful links between food, death and bereavement.

**Coenen, Claudia.** *Karuna Cards. Creative Ideas to Transform Grief and Difficult Life Transitions.* Philadelphia, PA: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-78592-780-5.



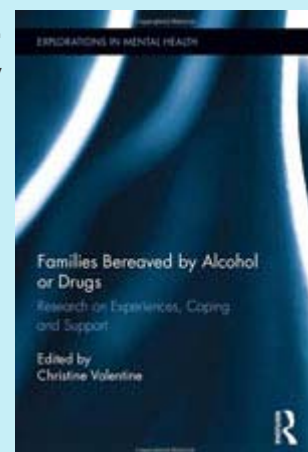
Coenen has created a set of 52 attractive 3½" x 5" flip-cards that offer interesting and novel questions, suggestions and invitations to reflection and action for those in the midst of loss and transition. Karuna, a Sanskrit word, references "compassion for all" and invites an empathic response to suffering. These sturdy cards can be used often by an individual seeking solace and direction or can be useful to bereavement group leaders or other professional caregivers to supplement more traditional talk therapy interventions for grief and loss.

**Miller, Wendy L.,  
Cohen, Gene D.,  
and Barker, Teresa  
H.** Sky Above  
Clouds: Finding Our  
Way through  
Creativity, Aging, and  
Illness. New York,  
NY: Oxford University  
Press, 2016. ISBN  
978-0-19-937141-9.  
Paper, 316 pages.



Miller draws upon her experience and insight as an expressive arts therapist and spouse in facing aging and illness to write a profound reflection on the role of creativity, growth and care in the midst of infirmity and even death. Her book interweaves the writings of her husband, Gene D. Cohen, M.D., the distinguished geriatric psychiatrist, with her own considerable expertise in the arts, creativity and health care. The “sky above clouds” title references the painting series of Georgia O’Keeffe who captured the beauty that exists beyond the clouds of life. Miller’s fifteen chapters in five sections combine innumerable areas of expertise, personal memoir, photos of Miller’s intriguing art, and rich glimpses into the truth that creativity always brings healing, if not cure.

**Valentine, Christine.**  
Families Bereaved by  
Alcohol or Drugs.  
Research on  
Experiences, Coping  
and Support. New  
York, NY: Routledge,  
2017. ISBN: 978-1-  
138-94708-5.  
Hardcover, 190  
pages.



Valentine, joined by eight other researchers and authors, offers a significant qualitative research study into the grief processes and bereavement needs of adults coping with a substance related death. Focused on populations in England and Scotland, the book will be useful to bereavement and research professionals in the USA and elsewhere since both commonalities and contrasts across cultures are illuminative. Part I (“Coping”) includes five chapters covering the common patterns, stigmas and shame that shape substance abuse related losses. Part II (“Services”) offers three chapters that explore the particularities of services in the United Kingdom. But here, too, the key messages and guidelines that evolved from the large qualitative study upon which this book is based will find relevance across national borders as professionals seek to improve the care of griever following a substance related death.





**Williams. Jane.** Mysterious Moments. Thoughts That Transform Grief. Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 2017. ISBN:978-1-61846-029-5. Paper, 127 pages.

Williams draws on her 25 years of observations as a hospital clinical psychologist to recognize that a specific thought or sudden insight can turn a grief process in a favorable direction. Ten of these transformative trajectories are detailed in this short but engaging book of stories focused on a diverse selection (a mother, a granddaughter, a sister, a son, etc.) of grievers. It is Williams' purpose that these stories will "decrease...isolation, encourage the sense of survival, and provide a spark to lighten another's path" (p. 8). Clinicians as well as persons actively grieving will find these narratives informative, inspiring and encouraging.

## "What's New"



What's New offers a brief review of educational materials written or produced by ADEC members. Each review is run once and is intended to showcase the contributions of our membership to the death, dying, and bereavement field. Send a review copy (not just an announcement) of recent material (2016 to present) to:

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## Contact Connects

*Connects* is interested in your thoughts and work. Please reach out to us with content submissions, suggestions or ideas.

**For consideration in the April 2018 issue of *Connects* please submit your ideas/content by Wednesday, March 28.**

**Contact Us**



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