



PEARL COLLECTIVE



A SACRED PASSING

Community Voices

January 2021 | Issue 9

¿Quieres recibir el boletín en español? [Regístrate para la versión en español](#)

PEARL COLLECTIVE EVENT CALENDAR

See what's happening **this month**.

overflow.

give yourself permission to change
and try things that will help you overflow.

[adrian michael](#)



Photo by [Clay Banks](#)

Navigate Daily Life One Practice at a Time

This is one of the practices in Real World Mindfulness for Beginners, a short meditation focused on journaling. These mindful reflection questions are especially geared towards those who are regularly in service, caregiving, and helping others, whether personally or professionally.

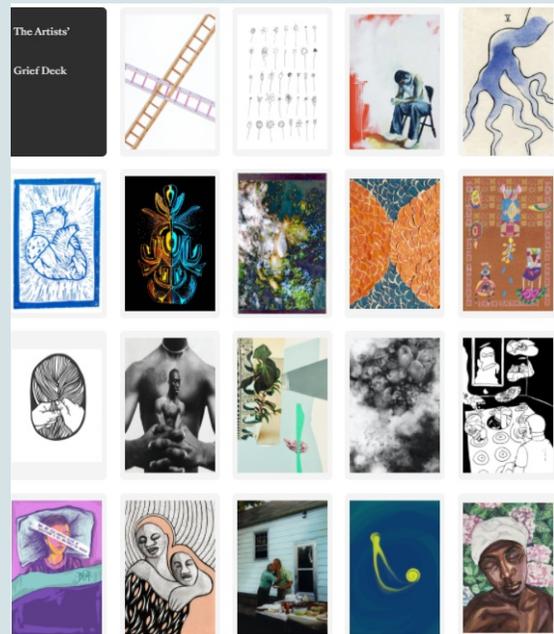
bit.ly/RealWorldMindfulness



The Artists' Grief Deck

This website has caught my eye this month, and I am so grateful to the contributions of artists and caregivers who contributed to making this creative resource. Many of the contributors are experienced with supporting people in processing loss, and the deck was created to support those who have lost someone or something and who may not be able to safely grieve in community with others

Thank you for the submission, Summer!



Read and Discuss

Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM PST – 7:30 PM PST



Celebrating Excellence through Obituaries
In honor of Toni Morrison's Life and Memory, her birthday is February 18th.

Read: Toni Morrison, Seminal Author Who Stirringly Chronicled the Black American Experience, Dies at 88

Read: Celebrating Toni Morrison On the Anniversary of Her Death (And Every Day)

Reflection Questions:

- What stood out to you about Toni Morrison's Obituary in Time? In Cambridge?
- What is the purpose of an Obituary?
- Who are some of the people who in their life made a significant impact in your community and those around you? Do they have an Obituary?

Group Exercise - *If there is time following the discussion, attendees will be prompted to participate in an **Obituary Exercise**.*

[Syllabus & Reading List](#)
[Register Here](#)



Kelly Hayes talks with author and organizer Cindy Milstein about reclaiming collective grief and resisting fascism (May, 2020).

<https://truthout.org/audio/in-the-era-of-covid-19-collective-grief-is-rebellion/>

Artwork created by Erin Johnson for #WeGrieveTogether, a social-media event honoring people who have been lost to COVID-19.

Whose land are you on?

7 Musings on December

Madeline Bakewell

- It is the female reindeer who maintain their antlers all year, while the males lose theirs in winter. Donner deserves a re-christening as Donna.
- Although I have never explained Santa to him, my three-year-old son knows of and believes in Santa and eagerly anticipates a visit down the chimney.
- December is such a month for deaths – numerous human and animal deaths in my network occur between December 18 and 29, so near the solstice.
- The Christmas tree, an old pagan tradition, is topped with a star, harkening back to the star that marked a special birth in a tradition from the Middle East that has been in my lineage for approximately a thousand years, a religion rejected one generation before me.
- When I teach my child to leave out a bowl of porridge for the Tomten, he accepts the existence of benevolent little beings in red hats that live in our shed, as easily as he does Santa. I just read about the Tomten a week ago. Apparently a handful of generations ago, our ancestors had a relationship with Tomten.
- I attempt to find meaning in a lineage that is hybridized, colonized, and colonizing. I feel guilt that when I sit my child down by the fireside, I don't have any beautiful myths ready to spell out for him, to tell him their truth in every way that matters. I look some up on the internet. I try to act in harmony with rightness.
- The Deer Mother that bears the sun in her antlers and flies across the southern sky at the winter solstice – the one who sacrifices her body to bring light back to the world – should I set her loose to fly here, through this land of mossy forests and clear waterfalls with their own stories interwoven, stories that are not mine, and that I've never heard?

The Beauty of Death, Part 3

by Kahlil Gibran

Photo by [Julietta Watson](#)



The Remains

Unwrap me from this white linen shroud and clothe me
With leaves of jasmine and lilies;
Take my body from the ivory casket and let it rest
Upon pillows of orange blossoms.
Lament me not, but sing songs of youth and joy;
shed not tears upon me, but sing of harvest and the winepress;
Utter no sigh of agony, but draw upon my face with your
Finger the symbol of Love and Joy.
Disturb not the air's tranquility with chanting and requiems,
But let your hearts sing with me the song of Eternal Life;
Mourn me not with apparel of black,
But dress in color and rejoice with me;
Talk not of my departure with sighs in your hearts; close
Your eyes and you will see me with you forevermore.

Place me upon clusters of leaves and
Carry my upon your friendly shoulders and
Walk slowly to the deserted forest.
Take me not to the crowded burying ground lest my slumber
Be disrupted by the rattling of bones and skulls.
Carry me to the cypress woods and dig my grave where violets
And poppies grow not in the other's shadow;
Let my grave be deep so that the flood will not
Carry my bones to the open valley;
Let my grace be wide, so that the twilight shadows
Will come and sit by me.

Take from me all earthly raiment and place me deep in my
Mother Earth; and place me with care upon my mother's breast.
Cover me with soft earth, and let each handful be mixed
With seeds of jasmine, lilies and myrtle; and when they
Grow above me, and thrive on my body's element they will
Breathe the fragrance of my heart into space;
And reveal even to the sun the secret of my peace;
And sail with the breeze and comfort the wayfarer.

Leave me then, friends - leave me and depart on mute feet,
As the silence walks in the deserted valley;
Leave me to God and disperse yourselves slowly, as the almond
And apple blossoms disperse under the vibration of Nissan's breeze.

Go back to the joy of your dwellings and you will find there
That which Death cannot remove from you and me.
Leave with place, for what you see here is far away in meaning
From the earthly world. Leave me.



A Place to Die: Help us create access

Do you have a space to offer? We are looking to grow this network across Washington state. If you have space, it's needed.

Please click the link below to Offer a Place, Seek a Place, or Volunteer to Support a Place.

[More information here](#)

Black Hair and Skin Care for Non-Ethnic Funeral Professionals

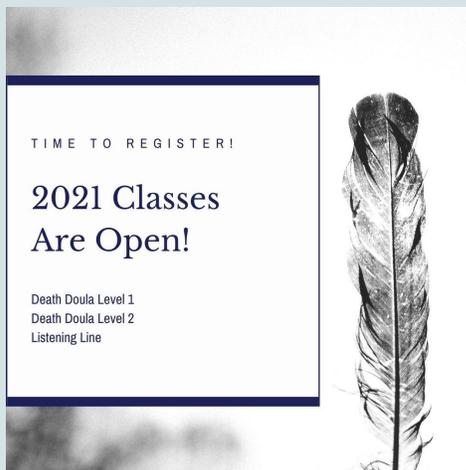
This course has been designed to educate and empower death care professionals from all backgrounds, experiences, and skill levels.

Topics of discussion will include:

- A Black Hair History
- African American Hair in Culture & Society
- Religious and Spiritual Observances
- Hair Textures and Types (suggested treatment)
- Natural vs Chemically Treated Hair (suggested treatment)
- Hair Replacements and Accessories
- Grooming Suggestions for Black Men
- Tools and Products
- Communication, Language, and Terminology & Open Discussion
- Black Skin & Cosmetic Care Basics & Open Discussion
- Q&A



www.thegravewoman.com



Please join our Slack channels to keep in touch, learn, and grow with folx in the A Sacred Passing and Pearl Collective communities.

[A Sacred Passing Slack](#)

[Pearl Collective Slack](#)



end of life WASHINGTON

Your life. Your death. Your choice.

We have two openings!

Communications Manager - FT, Exempt. Salary: \$55,000-\$63,000 DOE

The ideal candidate will be a motivated, collaborative, results-oriented community-builder with a positive, can-do attitude and a commitment to amplifying the need for equitable, diverse, and inclusive end-of-life choices.

Administrative & Provider Coordinator - PT (30 hrs/week: \$21.63 - \$24.05 / hour

The ideal candidate will be a motivated and collaborative organization- and technology-savvy professional with a positive can-do attitude, an exceptional eye for detail, and a talent for creating order out of ambiguity.

Both candidates need to live in WA state when they start.

Full listings can be found **HERE**

Submit pieces to our next newsletter: pearlcollective2018@gmail.com.

Pearl Collective | Website
A Sacred Passing | Website

