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October

2025

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October 1 marks the start of Yom Kippur at sundown.

October 13 is a busy day, with three holidays packed into it:

- Canadian Thanksgiving shares many similarities with its American equivalent.
Columbus Day (U.S.), a federal holiday, is observed on the second Monday in October. It was on October 12, 1492, that Christopher Columbus landed on a small island in the Bahamas, convinced that he had reached Asia.
- Indigenous Peoples' Day (U.S.) celebrates the history and cultures of indigenous peoples native to what is today the United States.

October 20 is Diwali, the Indian "Festival of Lights."

October 24 is United Nations Day, which aims to bring awareness to the work of the United Nations worldwide.

October 31 is Halloween (All Hallows' Eve)!

THE FULL HARVEST MOON

October's full Moon, known as the Harvest Moon, arrives on Monday, October 6. The Harvest Moon is closely tied to the autumnal equinox.



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From the Board Room

The Eureka Moment: Finding or Re-defining Your Purpose

As my fellow mentee Christopher M. Boggs shared in a recent NFDA article, he mentioned that there are defining moments in our careers that shape who we are and what we become. He emphasized that these moments experienced become touch stones for our future. For me, that eureka or touch stone moment came during the Meet the Mentors Program and Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C. with the NFDA this past April.

I used to believe my only purpose as a Funeral Director was to serve grieving families. While that principle remains central throughout my everyday work, I have come to the realization that our profession offers more than just that. As funeral professionals, it is our primary goal to serve our families, but we often forget about the defining moments within our career that shape who we are as people and our future selves. As professionals, we spend so much time taking care of others that we often forget our purpose in why we do what we do. Remembering your purpose is important as it allows you to look beyond yourself and your own needs to a bigger picture. My experience through Meet the Mentors and Advocacy Summit taught me that our purpose can evolve over time and that our perceived purpose is not permanent as there will be many more touch stones in our profession that will leave an impact on our servant hearts.

At the Meet the Mentors event, three incredible mentors helped me uncover a deeper professional identity, which allowed me to re-define my purpose as a young, up and coming Funeral Director. Dr. Camelia Clarke taught us how to build our personal brand and define who we are beyond our job titles. Lori Greenlaw Sheeler reminded us that difficult days don't define us—we must keep swimming. Tim Schramm shared how powerful real-life experiences can shape our paths and strengthen our resolve.

From the Board Room

What truly made this experience meaningful was the camaraderie among fellow young and seasoned funeral professionals. I walked away with lasting friendships, shared insights, and a renewed passion for the profession. It was refreshing to be around people who shared the same passion as me.

During the Advocacy Summit, I joined two hundred Funeral Directors at the U.S. Capitol to advocate for funeral service legislation and the rights of veterans and families. Meeting with lawmakers gave me a strong sense of purpose—my voice mattered, and I was contributing to real change for our state and respective communities that we serve in Allegheny County.

The most defining moment came when Lori Sheeler pulled me aside during the advocacy summit. Lori noted that throughout the week, she had observed my interactions and communications with colleagues. Based on her observations, she expressed that I demonstrated the qualities of being a strong and knowledgeable emerging professional. She further emphasized her belief in my potential as a future leader in the funeral service industry, highlighting my commitment to advancing and improving our profession. Her words affirmed what I had begun to feel: I had found my purpose—not just in service, but in action, connection, and advocacy.

This experience overall taught me that our work is not just about the families we serve. It is also about mentoring future generations of Funeral Directors, staying connected, and standing up for what we believe in.

We all have the ability to find or re-define our purpose—and it's never too late to do so. Your possibilities to do this is endless...if I found my purpose through a eureka moment you can find yours too!

Shelby Ogozaly
ACFDA Board Member



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Date: October 15th , 2025

Location: : *The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science
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Course: "Pennsylvania State Police – Ceremonial Unit: Its role in
Department Ceremonies, Funeral Protocol & Etiquette"

Course Start Time: 4:30 pm

Presenter: Tpr. Gregory L. Brown

Credit Hours: 1

Course: " Succession Planning: Ready, Set, Go"

Course Start Time: 5:30 pm

Presenter: Frank Perman

Credit Hours: 1

Light refreshments and an open bar will be available beginning at
4:00pm.

The State Board of Funeral Directors has approved each program for 1
PACE credit. The entire meeting must be attended to receive your
certificate for this CEU. ACFDA members are free. Non-members
will be charged \$100.00.

Please register with Ashley at acfda2020@gmail.com or call
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Member Spotlight

ANNA ZVIRMAN-NESBIT

- Licensed Funeral Director, Co-Owner: 17 years
- ACDFA Board Trustee, Public Relations
- Works at: Soxman Funeral Homes, Ltd.
- Best Concert: Weezer or Aerosmith
- Favorite Dessert: Creme Brulee
- Dream Vacation: a very long trip to the Carribean
- Best part of Funeral Service: Helping people through the funeral process, especially when they are unsure that they can manage any of it.
- If not Funeral Service: I'm not sure- something with people, probably in business.
- Favorite Book: I love to read, hard to pick just one.
- Can't miss TV show: The Office
- Primaunt's??? fries on the side

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