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December

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Dates To Remember

December 7 is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

December 8 is Bodhi Day in the Buddhist calendar, celebrating Buddha's enlightenment; it's celebrated in a way that's similar to how Christians celebrate Christmas to honor Jesus Christ.

December 14 marks the beginning of Hanukkah this year, the 8-day Jewish festival of lights.

December 21 is the Winter Solstice—the astronomical day when the hemisphere is tilted as far away from the Sun as possible. Starting in ancient times, people celebrated the rebirth of the Sun event through Yule.

December 25 is Christmas Day, a Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.

December 26 is the first day of Kwanzaa.


December 31 is New Years Eve

FULL COLD MOON

DECEMBER'S FULL MOON, THE FULL COLD MOON, APPEARS ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, REACHING PEAK ILLUMINATION AT 6:14 A.M. EST

GEMINID METEOR SHOWER

LOOK SKYWARD ON THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 13 AFTER 9 P.M. FOR A CHANCE TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE GEMINID METEORS. THE GEMINID METEOR SHOWER IS THE MOST ACTIVE SHOWER OF THE YEAR.



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From the Board Room

Board of Directors – Year-End Message **“Out With the Old, In With the New”**

As we bring this year to a close, the Board extends heartfelt appreciation to the members, firms, and community members who continue to support our mission. This is a time to reflect on what we have accomplished and to look forward with purpose.

As we step into the new year, we are excited to focus on:

- Growing our Association through the addition of new members
- Building strong relationships with partners and vendors within the funeral service profession
- Providing continuing education courses featuring relevant, timely, and innovative topics - we are always welcoming your suggestions/wishes!
- Encouraging your participation in Association events, picnics, etc. and joining your family into the larger extended family of the Association.

We strongly encourage you to attend the general membership meetings, continuing education courses, and to get involved in the Association if you are watching from a distance. Lastly, if you have not done so already, join our Facebook page to see all the updated information and events in real time.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to supporting excellence, strengthening our network, and preparing professionals for the evolving needs of the families we serve.

Thank you for your dedication, trust, and involvement. May the coming year bring peace, connection, and meaningful progress for all.

Happy Holidays and Blessings in the New Year!

With appreciation,
The ACFDA Board of Trustees
Emily Lowe

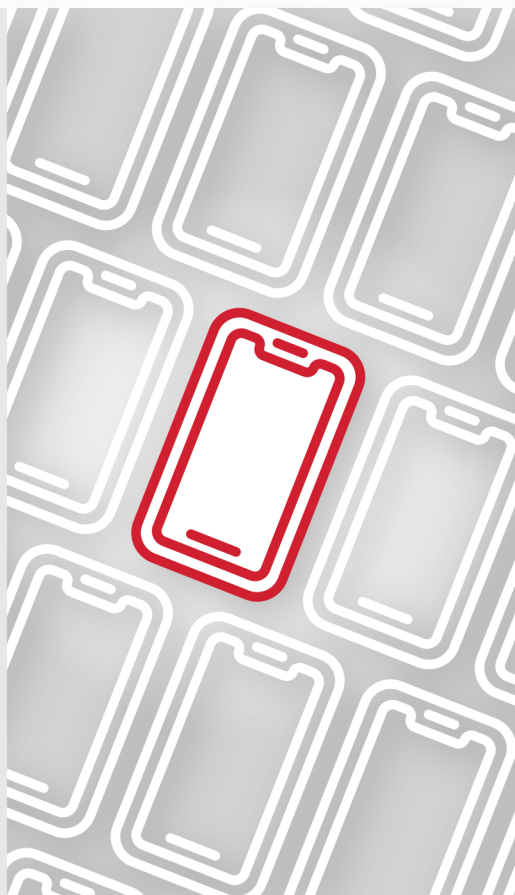


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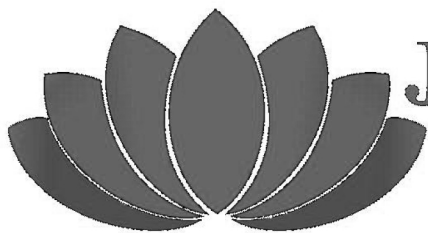
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Happy Birthday to the following ACFDA members
Enjoy your day

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Amanda M. Ergler
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Lori J. Gracan
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Robert Schellhaas
Dena Simms
J. Fred Slater
Stephen D. Slater
Thomas J. Somma
Lynn Teck
William A. Yanicko
William F. Young III

The Allegheny County Funeral Directors Association is proud to highlight this year’s fund drive recipient during the 2025 Holiday Social. Below is more information about Emmas Footprints.

Walking side by side with
Pregnancy and Infant Loss Families



When the unthinkable happens, the loss of a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death, Emma’s Footprints is here to walk families through their grief journey. We provide financial support for funeral costs, as well as emotional support through group meetings and one-on-one connections with our Care Team. Our goal is to sustain loss parents and their families through the fog of grief and care for them in every stage of healing and hope after loss.

In 2024, Emma’s Footprints served 381 families and spent \$262,956 on mission expenses.

- Burial/Cremations: \$134,581
- Headstones/Urn: \$34,150
- Counseling Sessions: \$65,368
- Care Packages: \$15,415
- Couples Retreat: \$13,442



SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 19 & 20, 2026



2026 **PFDA**
Mid Winter
CONFERENCE

THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Date: January 21st , 2026

Location: : *The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science*
5808 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Course: “Technology-Providing a More Convenient Experience to the Funeral Consumer”

Course Start Time: 5:00 pm

Presenter: Adam Shaffer

Credit Hours: 1.5

Course: “ Funeral Director Burnout”

Course Start Time: 6:30 pm

Presenter: Shelby Ogozaly

Credit Hours: 1.5

Light refreshments and an open bar will be available beginning at 4:00pm. The courses will begin after a short memorial service with **Bishop Eckman** followed by the installation of oncoming board members.

The State Board of Funeral Directors has approved each program for 1.5 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 412-678-3434.

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*Wishing you all the joys of the season and happiness
throughout the New Year*

*Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
Happy Kwanzaa*

The ACFDA Board of Trustees



*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year*

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