July 2025

Informed Final Choices Crestone End of Life Project

Issue #9

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

News From the Board

- CEOLP facilitated a cremation for Curtis Scheib on June 25th and a natural burial for Adam Deh on July 12th. Gratitude to the many volunteers who make it possible to honor local residents with a deeply beautiful, unique, and meaningful ceremony.
- The guest speaker at our July open meeting was Nic Main, host and founder of Last Words podcast, a free service created to serve as a podium for the dying — a space where individuals facing the end of life can share their stories and leave behind living legacies. Learn more about Nic's mission by visiting www.lastwordspodcast.org.

Importance of Advance Directives

We all know we'll die, but we don't know when. Advance directives are legal documents that allow you to convey your wishes about end-of-life care ahead of time. Not just for the terminally ill or elderly, advance directives can be prepared by anyone over the age of 18.

The forms are free and can be found on the Documents page of our IFC website: https://informedfinalchoices.org/resources/documents/

Sign Up Before You Sign Out

We hope this catchy new slogan will motivate Saguache County residents who desire CEOLP services to make sure they are fully registered and up to date with their wishes.

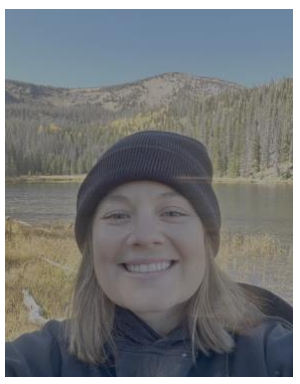
Over the years our required registration form has changed to reflect new options (natural burial) and state legal requirements. Please reach out to Blake Walton, CEOLP Registrar, to update your form at: blake.luminousjewel@gmail.com

We're happy to announce that our June 28th registration party was well attended: 28 people signed in, with 19 of those completing the paperwork.

CEOLP/IFC Open Meeting

- The next quarterly meeting will be hybrid --in person and on zoom -- and will take place **Wednesday, October 8th, 2025,** at 7 p.m. Mountain Time at the Little Shepherd fellowship hall in Crestone. We hope to see you then!

Volunteer Spotlight: Goldie Mariola-Gill



1. What volunteer role(s) do you take part in with CEOLP?

   I have helped with hosting, site prep and juniper. I am also on the board and have helped with registration and Death Cafe.

2. About how long have you been volunteering?

   I have been involved for about one year now.

3. What first motivated you to become involved?

   Since I was a young adult, I have been interested in how we, as a society, handle death and the dying process. I trained to be a death doula many years ago before moving to Crestone. I knew the time would come to get involved with CEOLP and it happened very organically last year when there was room for another board member.

4. What's most important and meaningful to you about it?

   I am so grateful to those who had the vision for the pyre and all that CEOLP does and who made it a reality. We are so fortunate to have the option for open air cremation and natural burial. I think it's important to protect those options and steward the entire process with reverence so that we may continue to serve our community in this way. I think that what CELOP offers is an example of what is possible and by practicing what we do, we make it more likely that other communities might someday have the same options.

5. What do you enjoy about it?

   I have enjoyed learning the history of the Crestone End of Life Project and how everything came to be how it is. I love seeing each person step into their roles and share their offerings. It's really incredible how much time and energy are volunteered to make each cremation and burial happen. I think that celebration of life and death is something that brings us closer as a community and I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of it.

6. Is there anything that has challenged you about it, and if so, how that's helped you know yourself better or grow?

   The challenge of being around death and funerals is also the gift. I find that being involved in the after-death process helps me remember to live more fully, to not take life for granted. Being involved in cremations reminds me to be grateful for life every day.