January brings news of our 2020 educational initiative!

The NHFA goal is to help build and support the development of at least 20 new Community Care Groups in 2020 with educational material, webinars & networking opportunities. Watch the video below and sign up [here](#) to stay informed.
NHF President Dani LaVoire launches our 2020 Initiative. Watch the video to learn more!

Stay Informed!

Become a Monthly Donor

Heidi Boucher on Mentorship

_In honor of National Mentoring Month, we asked one of the founders of the home funeral movement to share a story about her mentor. Heidi Boucher sent us this story about her first home funeral experience with her mentor, Nancy Jewel Poer._

It was early morning on December 17th 1987 when Nancy Jewel Poer telephoned needing my help with an elderly and beloved community member who had passed away during the night. It was still dark out and the day of my daughter’s first birthday. I have no recollection of how my two young children were cared for that morning, I just recall driving the short distance to the house where the body lay, feeling honored that Nancy would reach out. I was 23 years old and not thinking about a career guiding families or caring for the dead. It’s just what our community did and still does today. Read on...

Notes From the Field

_Earlier this month, board member Shelby McBride had a conversation with members Willow Kelly & Rev. Kate Adamson about their newly formed Community Care Group._

End of Life Doula, Willow Kelly and Interfaith Minister, Rev. Kate Adamson of Central Virginia came together in June of 2019 to brainstorm ways they could collaborate in death care. Partially inspired by the recent unexpected passing of Kate’s stepson, and the beautiful home funeral experience that followed, they both felt called to explore ways to deepen their involvement in this work together. More...

News from the NHFA Podcast
On January 17th, the NHFA podcast, A Path Home received notice that we have reached the 2000 plays mark! We’re super excited that these stories are reaching so many listeners. We have posted 11 unique episodes (every other Friday) since launching A Path Home at the conference in October. According to the stats listed on our podcast hosting platform, at this point we have approximately 310 listeners. The average number of plays per episode is 194. For those of you who are listening, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Please spread the word to your family and friends. If you have a moment to rate and review the podcast, we would greatly appreciate it! It’s as simple as tapping a star from 1-5 (5 is nice!) and if you are so inclined, writing a short sentence or two in appreciation of the stories. This helps to move us up in the search engines so we can reach new listeners with the important message of reclaiming the tradition of caring for our own dead in personal and natural ways.

**Would you be willing to share your story?**

If so, please reach out to podcast host, Sarah Crews at our A Path Home email address: podcast@homefuneralalliance.org. Stories are recorded using an on-line meeting platform called Zoom. Zoom is very user-friendly. It can be accessed through your computer (we’ll provide the link) and there is a call-in number. We recently recorded a conversation with someone who called in on their landline. Our format is casual and conversational, not a formal interview. A Path Home provides a comfortable and supportive place where we can share the challenges and/or transformations gained through meaningful participation in the care of our dead, and begin to normalize this traditional practice in our communities through the sharing of experiences. We would love to hear from you!

**Apple Listeners**

**Spotify Listeners**

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**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE HOME FUNERAL WORLD?**
It's one of our most important goals: to let other members and the public know what events you have upcoming. Whether it's a 30-minute library talk or extending home funeral training, we want to know! We'll share them in our periodic events newsletters, and on Facebook too. Please be sure to include a link to your event. Send your event information to sarahhines@homefuneralalliance.org