

Selected Useful Resources

A. Comprehensive Guide for Funeral and Cremation Services:

Last Rituals for the Indian American Community: A Resource Guide

<http://www.thedesaifoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/last-rituals-guide.pdf> (From the Desai Foundation, MA)

B. Advance Planning:

https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/publiced/practical/books/wills/chapter_11.authcheckdam.pdf

https://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/word_and_pdf_documents/publications/1800s/1874-affairsinorder.pdf

C. Funeral and Cremation Homes Used Most Often by Our Community:

1. **Gordon C. Emerick Funeral Home**, 1550 Route 9, Clifton Park, NY 12065
Phone: 518-371-5454; <http://gordoncemerickfuneralhome.com/77/Contact-Us.html>

2. **New Comer Funeral Home**, 343 New Karner Road, Colonie, NY 12205 ;
Phone: 518-456-4442; <http://www.newcomeralbany.com/ContactUs>

3. **Oakwood Crematory**. Most funeral homes in the Albany area use Oakwood Crematory located at 101Street, Troy, NY 12180. Phone: 518-272-7520;
http://www.oakwoodcemetery.org/cemetery_services_cremation.html

D. Writing an Obituary:

<http://www.remembranceprocess.com/capturing-a-life-in-words/guide-to-writing-an-obituary/> words/guide-to-writing-an-obituary/provides a step-by-step guide.

E. Hindu Religious Services:

<https://www.funeralwise.com/customs/hindu/>

F. Planning Memorial Services:

<http://warren.simplertimes.com/memorial-service-checklist.html>



Hindu Temple Society Of Capital District, NY Inc.

450 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211 Phone: 518-459-7272

Bereavement Support Committee



This brochure has been created by the Albany Hindu Temple society for use by our temple community. The brochure is based on the *Bereavement Support Guide* compiled by Dr. Ram Chugh. The complete Guide and this brochure are on the temple's webpage and can be accessed using this link:

<http://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/BereavementSupportGuide.pdf>



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Bereavement Support Committee(BSC)

Introduction:

The Hindu Temple Society has created a Bereavement Support Committee to provide comprehensive guidance and support to a family whose member is at the end of life or passed away. When a death occurs, the family finds itself in utmost grief and experiences a sense of irreplaceable personal loss. At this time of grief, the family is also required to make many decisions and choices with respect to the funeral and cremation arrangements and other tasks for meeting the legal requirements within the prescribed time frame.

Most often the bereaved families feel overwhelmed and experience much anguish and pain because the network of support available in India is not available here. This committee members will provide support to them as needed.

Bereavement Support Committee:

The Bereavement Support Committee (BSC) is designed to provide timely assistance to bereaved families. It is composed of individuals who have been long time residents in this area and are familiar with the community. They are aware of the kind of support and assistance a family would need. The members come from different regional groups and are aware of the regional diversities in such matters. They were selected for their knowledge, experience, and willingness to help.

Proposed Members:

- Arjun Patel - Co-Chair (518-852-4142)
- Rohit Dagli - Co-Chair (518-859-2384)
- Balakrishna - Vice Chair (518-542-8678)
- Rita Ajmera (518-371-3737)
- Niraja Allena (518-221-1107)
- Dr. Sudershan Bhatia (319-594-7861)
- Sneh Chaudhry (518-785-3126)
- Shyam Dubey (518-439-2503)
- Ashok Gupta (518-466-7152)
- Kodi Kothandan (518-466-5631)
- C.S. Rao (518-956-3433)
- Dr. Gattu Rao (518-449-5391)
- Guryam Singh (518-225-1516)
- Dr. Voleti Venkateswararao (518-466-6765)

Temple Priests:

- Pt. Sridhara Acharya (518-867-6998)
- Pt. Ghanashyam Sarmah (518-313-2380)
- Pt. Srinivasa Sharma (518-867-6720)

Resource Persons:

- Ram Chugh (518-786-9008)
- Rasik Shah (518-396-0142)

What can the Bereavement Support Committee do?

The members can provide valuable assistance to the bereaved family. They can help the family in many ways, such as: informing the near and dear ones and the local Indian community organizations about the death and in preparing the obituary; making arrangements for transporting people coming from outside Albany; making funeral and cremation arrangements; organizing the memorial services/shanti path at a place chosen by the family; and, above all, in providing emotional support to the family. The committee can reach out to others in the community for help.

Seeking Assistance from the Bereavement Support Committee:

It is important for someone from the bereaved family to contact the chair or any committee member for seeking assistance. Contact information for each committee member is given against their names. As a courtesy to the bereaved family, it is strongly suggested that someone from this committee (preferably the chair) would take the initiative of calling the family to enquire whether it needed any assistance.

Every family deals with the death in its own way. Some families wish to be left alone and have their own support network and would like to take care of various funeral and other arrangements by themselves. The Bereavement Support Committee respects the wishes of each family and offer assistance when requested.

Things a Bereaved Family Would Normally Need:

- Informing the near and dear ones about the death of the person
- Making funeral and cremation arrangements
- Making arrangements for religious services at the funeral and cremation site
- Preparing obituary and making announcement in the local newspaper and community newsletters
- Announcing the date, time and location of the funeral services
- Food arrangements for the family during those difficult days
- Picking up relatives and friends (arriving from outside the area) from the airport/bus stop/train station
- Arrangements for holding memorial services at a place chosen by the bereaved family.
- Arrangements for storage and safekeeping of ashes.
- Other tasks depending upon the circumstances

Notes:

1. BSC worked with the funeral homes to arrange reduced prices for the services provided by them.
2. Costs associated with any services provided through 3rd parties are not the responsibility of the temple or the members.