

# Planning a Life Story<sup>TM</sup>

## Gathering & Ceremony



This booklet belongs to

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## They lived, we loved, so tell their story ~

*When someone dies, they leave so much with us. The memories of them fill us and our love for them never goes away. It is so important to tell their stories.*

*We strive to help you to have those essential times of remembrance for your loved ones who have passed. We've spent a lot of time nurturing and growing what we call the Life Story™ Experience. By evidence of its name, it's all about sharing the most poignant moments and personal items that really show who that person was in their life. We have developed a system that creates a flow, and alleviates the harder edges of planning a life celebration. The result is vibrant displays and harmonized services that best depict the life of your loved one, bringing you fulfillment.*

*Our goal is to always improve, making a time of grief as meaningful as possible, taking away the stress of details and bringing you more peace of mind. We appreciate your trust in allowing us to take care of and help honor your loved ones.*







# Life Story™

## WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

We all have a story. It is important when spiritual life begins, that we re-tell that story, re-emphasizing who an individual was and how their life had meaning. The story often brings tears as well as great joy to those we leave behind. It ultimately will remind us of our personal connection to the individual being celebrated, and helps to build the foundation of a spiritual relationship.

In the following pages, take some thoughtful time to write your own life story or the story of a loved one. Think about the full spectrum of this memoir and include details from all eras. The provided outline on the following pages will help guide you, just fill in the blanks. You are welcome to write a biography to be shared or if you need help we have writers on staff that can produce one from your completed Life Story™ questionnaire. Details will nourish, and make the memories even more special when the story is told.

# Life Story™ Experience

You may have heard “A Life Remembered, or A Life Celebrated, Lives On.” These phrases are an integral part of our brand. We hold on to a very strong philosophy that every life deserves to be celebrated. There may be tears in remembering, but it is a cathartic part of the grief journey. It gives us time to envelop in the intimacies and joys of a human life and transition to a spiritual relationship.

Take some time to reflect and appreciate, use the prompts below to help you illuminate the details, narrative and moments that matter.

## The Story of

**Era ONE** | Birthplace • Childhood • Family/Siblings • Hobbies/Interests • Stories

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Items to display \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Era TWO** | Teenager • School years • Accomplishments • Hobbies/Interests • Stories

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Items to display \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*church • sports • favorite movie • clubs/organizations • favorite traditions • holidays*



**Era THREE** | Young Adult • Military • College/Schooling • Accomplishments  
Travel • Hobbies/Interests • Stories

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Items to display \_\_\_\_\_

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**Era FOUR** | Adult • Marriage • Relationships • Children • Travel • Accomplishments  
Hobbies/Interests • Stories

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Items to display \_\_\_\_\_

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**Era FIVE** | Older Adult • Grandchildren • Travel • Accomplishments  
Hobbies/Interests • Stories

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Items to display \_\_\_\_\_

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*pets • memorable day • favorite music • favorite sayings • special characteristics*

# Final Resting Place

## P E A C E F U L   S A N C T U A R Y

Some people have thought about their final resting place far in advance of their end of life. For the majority, it's not necessarily lingering at the forefront of your thoughts. It can be an uncomfortable thought! Whether you feel empowered to make that decision ahead of time or you are making this choice as a loving survivor, it is a choice to make carefully.

Wherever the final resting place might be, it is smart to review any choice that you are considering. Full burials are still popular and require a little homework in deciding on a cemetery. Green Burial is important to some and becoming an option at some of our local cemeteries. Another favorable option is cremation. With cremation there are some things to consider: Does it coincide with religious beliefs? Where should the cremains final resting place be and where can you legally put them? In some cases, do all the family members agree on cremation?

Please know we are always here to answer your questions and have many resources to help you make educated decisions. You also may find many of the answers you are looking for on our websites.

[bartolomeo.com](http://bartolomeo.com)

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[walkerbrothersfh.com](http://walkerbrothersfh.com)

## O T H E R   H E L P F U L   L I N K S

[tiny.cc/FinalRestingPlace](http://tiny.cc/FinalRestingPlace)

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[tiny.cc/GreenBurial](http://tiny.cc/GreenBurial)



# Final Resting Place

Location \_\_\_\_\_

If property is secured,  
cemetery plot location: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Casket      ☐ Urn

Special Requests \_\_\_\_\_

## HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

*traditional burial, scattering garden, green burial*

2461 Lake Avenue, Rochester • 585-458-4110

[www.holysepulchre.org/](http://www.holysepulchre.org/)

Hours: Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Saturday 9:00 a.m. to Noon

## WHITE HAVEN MEMORIAL PARK

*traditional burial, scattering garden, green burial*

210 Marsh Road, Pittsford • 585-586-5250

[www.whitehavenmemorialpark.com](http://www.whitehavenmemorialpark.com)

Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM • Saturday: 9:00 AM – Noon

## MT. HOPE CEMETERY

*traditional burial, scattering garden, green burial*

1133 Mount Hope Ave. Rochester • 585-428-7999

[www.cityofrochester.gov/mounthope/](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/mounthope/)

Hours: Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. • Sat 9 a.m. to noon

## RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

*traditional burial, scattering garden*

2650 Lake Ave. Rochester • 585-428-7775

[www.cityofrochester.gov/Riverside/](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/Riverside/)

Hours: Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (except federal holidays)

## FALLS CEMETERY

*traditional burial*

1941 West Ridge Rd (at Latona Rd.), Greece • 208-733-6370

## M<sup>C</sup>GEE MONUMENTS

*grave markers, engraving*

508 State St, Rochester • (585) 546-4602

Hours: Mon - Fri 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Sat - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. • Sun 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



# Life Story™ Ceremony

## A TIME TO BEGIN HEALING

The following is a excerpt taken from Alan Creedy's blog,  
"The Creedy Commentary" on Collaborative Healing.

*"My friend Karl Jennings of the Acute Loss Center observed a frequent and common behavior in major catastrophes and celebrity deaths. In these events, humans display a visceral need to participate in mutual and common behaviors. The strongest of these is the need to gather, honor and interact physically with others. What made this observation so vivid for Karl, and anyone who understands his theory, is that the need is no less strong in those who don't even know the affected parties.*

*I have come to believe that human psyche is wired to respond to human suffering in a certain way and that way involves collaborative healing. Funerals, ceremonies, ritual, parties...whatever you want to call it...function for that purpose. In our far-flung, post-industrial world funeral homes function to organize, orchestrate and focus this need."*

It's intriguing that cultural transformation has not changed the need to gather and honor. It is innate to gather and support in times of need. Churches are usually the first go-to for setting up a funeral ceremony, but not everyone has a religious affiliation or are fully connected with any church. If a meaningful service is important to you and your family, a Celebrant Service that can be performed right in the funeral home is another alternative.

A Celebrant is a certified professional, trained to help fulfill your personal and spiritual needs in your time of loss. Because of our commitment to providing this option, all of our funeral directors are Certified Celebrants, trained at the In-Sight Institute. We will help guide you in creating a personalized tribute service that reflects the personality and lifestyle of the person being honored.

Helpful Link: [tiny.cc/WhyHaveLifeCelebration](https://tiny.cc/WhyHaveLifeCelebration)

# Life Story™ Ceremony Worksheet - pg1

-Logistical Data-

## ► CEREMONY CHOICES

- |   |                                       |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral Service  | <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral Mass | <input type="checkbox"/> Graveside Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Private      |  |

## ► RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred presider: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None       | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Denominational Celebrant Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interested | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Interested                       |

## ► PREFERRED PLACE FOR CEREMONY \_\_\_\_\_

Special notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ► PALLBEARERS

- |   |                                       |                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family and friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional | <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Life Story™ Ceremony Worksheet - pg2

## -Elements of a Service

### ► MUSIC

Musical selections performed by a specific artist can bring us back to special times in our lives. The words in a specific song can touch our emotions. Though music is subjective, we encourage you to keep in mind what is appropriate for the life celebration.

☐ live music \_\_\_\_\_

☐ pre-recorded \_\_\_\_\_

### ► PARTICIPANTS

There are numerous ways to get our core of family & friends involved in a funeral service.  
Pallbearers • Readings • Eulogy • Remembering • Music

participants/role

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### ► READINGS

- Religious verses may be relevant if the person we are celebrating was connected to a faith.
- Poems can be more spiritual in their nature. Some can be funny, and this can be appropriate.
- Verses will help to bring out the philosophies of how the person lived their life.

What readings are fitting for your loved one, who will be asked to read them?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### ► REMEMBERING

Remembering is an informal time for family and friends to share memories of the deceased. Do you wish for family and friends to offer stories they recall of shared times? If so, whom?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### ► EULOGY

The eulogy is typically an overview of your loved one's life. It is usually prepared by family or closest friends. It is more formal in design. Great eulogies last between 3-5 minutes. They gloss over the surface leaving the opportunity for more intimate story telling shared among family and friends at a later time. Will there be a eulogy? ☐ Yes ☐ No If so, who will give it?



# Obituary Worksheet

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_  
Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_  
Out of town newspaper(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Photo ☐ Yes ☐ No Flag/Other Symbol \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-deceased by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Surviving Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Surviving Children (w/spouse) ▶

1. _____	4. _____
2. _____	5. _____
3. _____	6. _____

# of Grandchildren (w/spouse) \_\_\_\_\_ or names for paper ▶

1. _____	4. _____
2. _____	5. _____
3. _____	6. _____

# of Great Grandchildren (w/spouse): \_\_\_\_\_ or names for paper ▶

\_\_\_\_\_

Surviving Parents \_\_\_\_\_ Surviving In-Laws \_\_\_\_\_

Brothers & Sisters (w/spouse) ▶

1. _____	4. _____
2. _____	5. _____
3. _____	6. _____

Brothers-in-Law & Sisters-in-Law (w/spouse) ▶

1. _____	4. _____
2. _____	5. _____
3. _____	6. _____

Misc/Survivors \_\_\_\_\_

In Lieu of Flowers ☐ Yes ☐ No Donations to what charity? \_\_\_\_\_

Donations Address \_\_\_\_\_

Biography notes \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Day/Time of Calling \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Day/Time of Church \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Burial ☐ Mausoleum ☐ Private

# Life Story™ Gathering

G I V I N G   R E S P E C T   &   S U P P O R T

## Why have calling hours?

People will undoubtedly learn of someone's passing... It's never easy to say goodbye to our loved ones, but feeling support from caring family and friends helps, and will extend to your surviving circle of love.

Receiving condolences is a natural step on this journey. Some may wish to not have a gathering, but it's likely that the people will still desire to express condolences. It can happen in public places where surviving family and friends are not prepared to have their emotions resurrected. A Life Story™ gathering allows people to pay respects in a planned setting.

It is also an opportunity to tell a life story through personalization. A sports enthusiast, a musician, they liked to fish or play golf, the list can go on and on. You have the freedom to not only share photos that tell a story, but also actual personal possessions that can be brought in to accentuate the story. We offer the exclusive Life Story™ Experience which outlines a simple but thoughtful system of illustrating the eras of a person's life that effectively shows *who* they were.

*We are pleased to offer full color  
framed photo displays depicting  
each era of life, along  
with a Life Story™ Panel that  
represents an entire lifetime of your  
cherished loved one.*



Helpful link

<http://tiny.cc/Personalization>

# Life Story™ Gathering Worksheet

## ► CALLING HOURS ♦ GATHERING

☐ For family & friends    ☐ Family ONLY    ☐ NO Gathering

☐ at Funeral Home    ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If there will be a casket:    ☐ Open    ☐ Closed

Urn present: ☐ Yes    ☐ No

Special setup:    ☐ Military    ☐ Masonic Apron    ☐ Flag

## ► FLOWERS

☐ Family will take care of    ☐ Assisted by funeral home

☐ In lieu of, donations to \_\_\_\_\_

► PERSONALIZATION, refer back to the notes taken in the Life Story™ biography section of this booklet. This may help in deciding what items should be brought in for display.

► PERSONAL ITEMS you wish to have displayed that will help tell the life story

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## ► SPECIAL NOTES

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# Talking about Mortality

IT'S NOT EASY





# Why would I want to pre-plan my Life Story™ Experience?

- **SAVES MONEY.**

Funerals are an inevitable expense and can be a financial hardship when your family is not expecting the cost. Many funeral homes offer discounts or payment plans to participants who pre-plan their funeral. Paying off the cost of the funeral over the course of time is often more financially feasible and something worth considering.

- **YOU HAVE A SAY.**

Your family will work their hardest to honor you in your memorial service or funeral, but only you know exactly what you want. When you pre-plan your funeral, you are making the decisions for yourself.

- **TAKE AWAY THE FINANCIAL BURDEN.**

Funerals are not cheap. There are a multitude of items, some of them quite costly, that can add up quickly. When you pre-plan, you can pay for your own funeral and remove the burden from your family members.

- **YOUR TIME AT YOUR SPEED.**

Most funerals are arranged in a week or less, sometimes inducing hasty decisions. Giving yourself the opportunity to be more methodical about the process happens when you plan ahead.

- **GET THE FINE POINTS RIGHT.**

Some details are important to you and may be missed if your funeral is planned by someone else. Planning your funeral the way you intend, can make it easier down the line.

- **SHOP AROUND.**

You shop around for other big ticket items; why not for the right funeral home? When you take the time to plan your funeral, you can feel more confident that you have found the right funeral home for you.

- **ASK THE QUESTIONS YOU WANT.**

When you pre-plan your funeral, you are present and able to ask all the questions that are important to you. You also determine whether or not the answers work for you.

- **MAKE YOUR FINAL REQUESTS KNOWN.**

For instance, if you choose to be cremated, you can arrange for this before death. Any special requests and wishes can be noted in your funeral plan.

- **FIND THE RIGHT PEOPLE.**

The way things feel between a family and the funeral director can be so crucial. Pre-planning gives you the opportunity to choose the right funeral director(s) that you are confident will do the best job making your family comfortable and still keep true to your requests.



## PRE-PLANNING YOUR LIFE STORY™ EXPERIENCE

*"I don't know why I waited...  
I'm so glad I finally made the decision to  
pre-plan my life celebration. Once I got over my initial fears,  
it really wasn't a big deal. And the peace I feel, knowing it's done and that  
my family won't have to worry about many of the details is great."*

We hear this kind of response from a lot of people who have pre-planned. It's one more thing to check off the list of things to do. Don't you always feel good when you get something accomplished that you've been shelving for too long?

Congratulations on taking this step, it was a hard one, and we are here to help.

The following Pre-Planning worksheet as well as the previous Life Story™ worksheets will help us, help you. The more information you prepare now, the less that your family will have to come up with later. Please complete the Pre-Planning Worksheet and return it to us via email prior to the pre-plan meeting.

No worries. Let's get started –

# Planning Worksheet

## VITAL DATA

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ male ☐ female

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_

Armed Forces: ☐ N ☐ Y Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Education Level Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Usual Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Kind of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

## LIFE STORY™ EXPERIENCE - INFORMANT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL NOTES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_







# Pre-Funding Your Life Story™ Experience

There are two options available for pre-funding your arrangements:

## REVOCABLE

Your arrangements may be funded in a federally insured burial trust account. These funds accrue interest at a very competitive rate and can be withdrawn at any time by the account owner.

## IRREVOCABLE

Much confusion surrounds the burial trust that is setup when a loved one enters a nursing home. An irrevocable trust can be established prior to the exhaustion of personal funds on the cost of nursing home care and may include all funeral-related expenses. Although these funds cannot be withdrawn by the owner until death, they are transferable from funeral home to funeral home. Irrevocable accounts are only required for Medicaid recipients.



# Life Story™ Experience PLAN

*(to be filled out by a Life Story™ Experience Specialist)*

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# Checklist

*You have done a lot of work planning a Life Story™ celebration. Well done.*

Below is the list of items to collect and bring with you for your pre-planning appointment. These items simply round out and complete the preparation for the Life Story™ celebration. Whatever you bring with you now are things your family/friends will not have to worry about later:

## ITEMS TO BRING to your PRE-PLAN APPOINTMENT

- ☐ OBITUARY & PRINTED MATERIALS PHOTO (newspaper, signage, prayer cards...etc.)  
Good quality, clear, head & shoulder, front view photo, preferably a solo shot.
- ☐ PHOTOS FOR VIDEO TRIBUTE (max. 60)
- ☐ PHOTOS for LIFE STORY™ DISPLAY (max. 20 for each era of life)
- ☐ Completed LIFE STORY™ PLANNING WORKSHEETS

If applicable:

- ☐ PHOTO – for hairstyling
- ☐ CEMETERY INFORMATION – Deed/Location
- ☐ POWER OF ATTORNEY DOCUMENT
- ☐ MILITARY DISCHARGE DOCUMENT, DD214 FORM
- ☐ INSURANCE DOCUMENTS

**PHOTO SUBMISSION** (all hard copy photos will be scanned & returned)

You may submit, hard copy photos, flash drive (jpeg format, high resolution) or ask for a link to upload photos to our internet portal





Here to guide you  
every step of the way.



**Bartolomeo & Perotto**  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

*A Life Remembered, Lives On.*

1411 Vintage Lane  
Rochester, NY 14626  
585.720.6000  
[www.bartolomeo.com](http://www.bartolomeo.com)



**Walker Brothers**  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

*A Life Celebrated, Lives On.*

15 West Avenue, Spencerport, NY 14559  
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