



THE GIFT : An Exploration of End-of-Life Conversations and Concerns

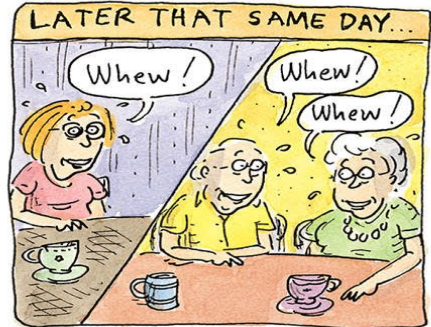
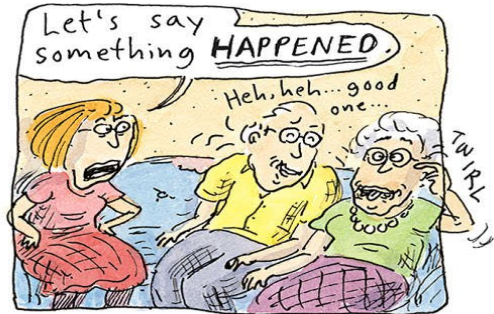
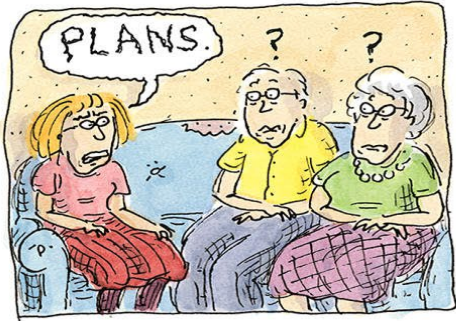
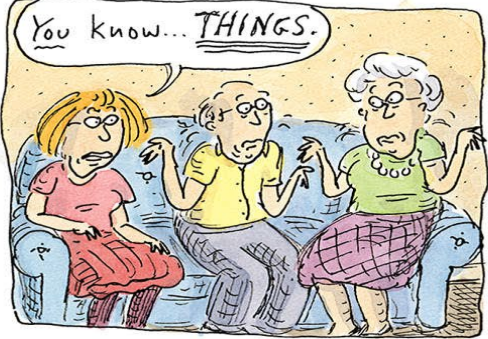
Judith Redwing Keyssar, RN, Author, Director of Education

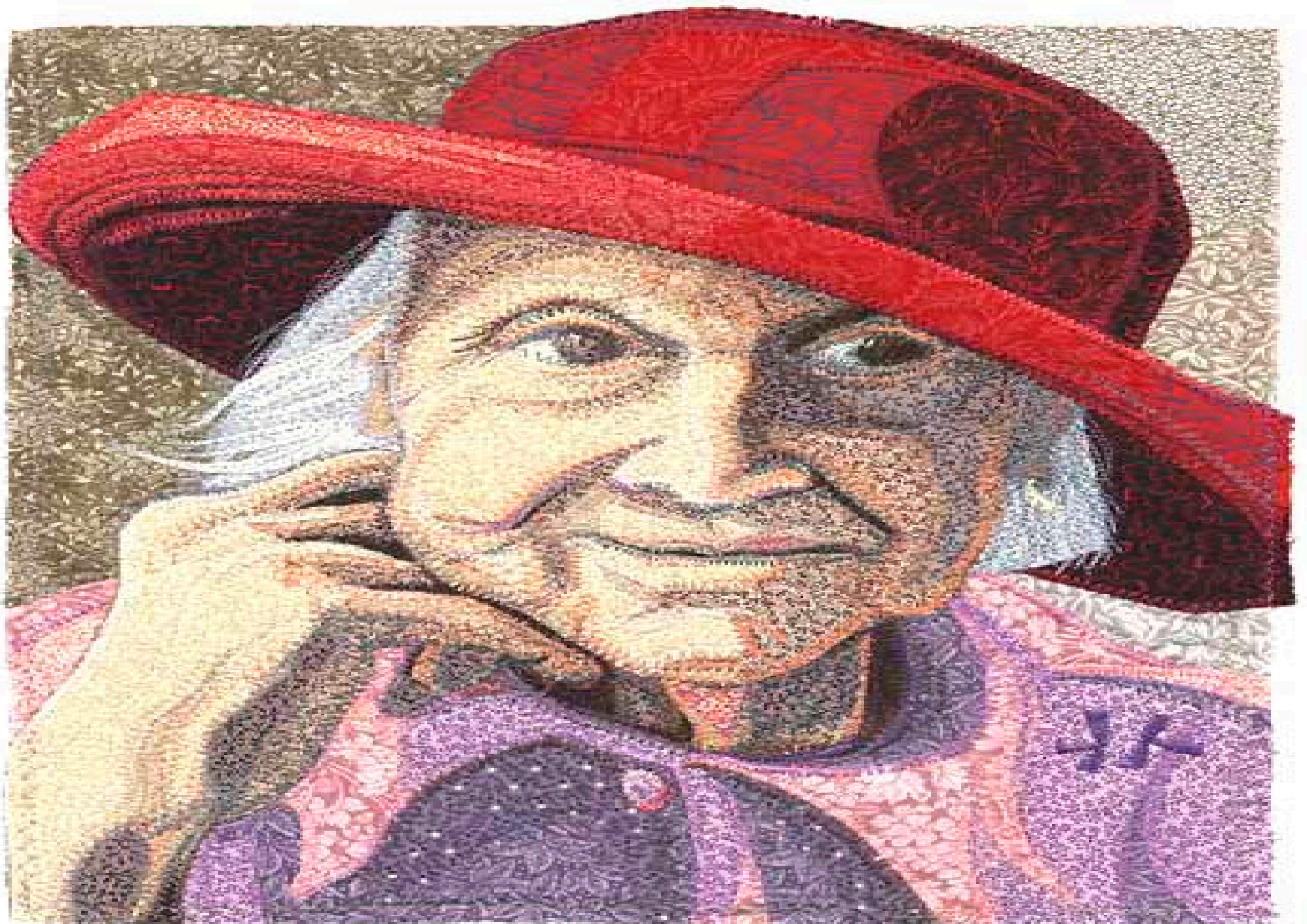
The MERI Center for Education in Palliative Care at UCSF

<https://meri.ucsf.edu>

CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING MORE PLEASANT?

My parents and I never discussed **DEATH...**







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World Death Rate Holding Steady At 100 Percent

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND—World Health Organization officials expressed disappointment Sunday over the group's finding that, despite the enormous efforts of doctors, rescue workers, and other medical professionals worldwide, the global death rate remains at 100 percent.

Death, a metabolic affliction causing shutdown of all life functions, has long been considered humanity's number-one health concern. Responsible for 100 percent of all recorded

fatalities worldwide, the condition has no cure.

"I was really hoping, what with all those new radiology treatments, rescue helicopters, cardiovascular-exercise machines, and what have you, that we might at least make a dent in it this year," WHO Director General Dr. Ernst Wessell said. "Unfortunately, it would appear that the death rate remains constant, as it has since the dawn of time."

Many suggest that the high mortali-

ty rate represents a massive failure on the part of the planet's healthcare workers.

"The inability of doctors and scientists to address and confront this issue of death is nothing less than a scandal," concerned parent Marcia Grella said. "Do you have any idea what a full-blown case of death looks like? I do, and believe me, it's not pretty. In prolonged cases, total decomposition of the corpse is the re-

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WHAT IS PALLIATIVE CARE?

- Palliative Care is both a philosophy and a model of care
- Palliative Care seeks to provide support to people with serious illness at any stage of disease, whether their suffering is physical, emotional or spiritual. This is in concert with whatever medical treatments a person is pursuing.
- Palliative Care provides pain and symptom management, all the while focusing on the “whole person” and providing a safe space in which to explore the essential questions that face people who are facing mortality: **What gives my life meaning? What matters most?**
- Palliative Care not only addresses medical, psycho-social and emotional/spiritual needs of the patient/client, but of the family, friends and loved ones as well



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- 76 million “baby boomers” are getting older
- Palliative Care is critical in order to build communities of people who are addressing serious illness and end-of-life issues, both in the public and professional sectors
- Palliative Care is a bridge between acute medical care and Hospice
- It allows for dialogue among clients, families, and healthcare teams





DENIAL OF DEATH

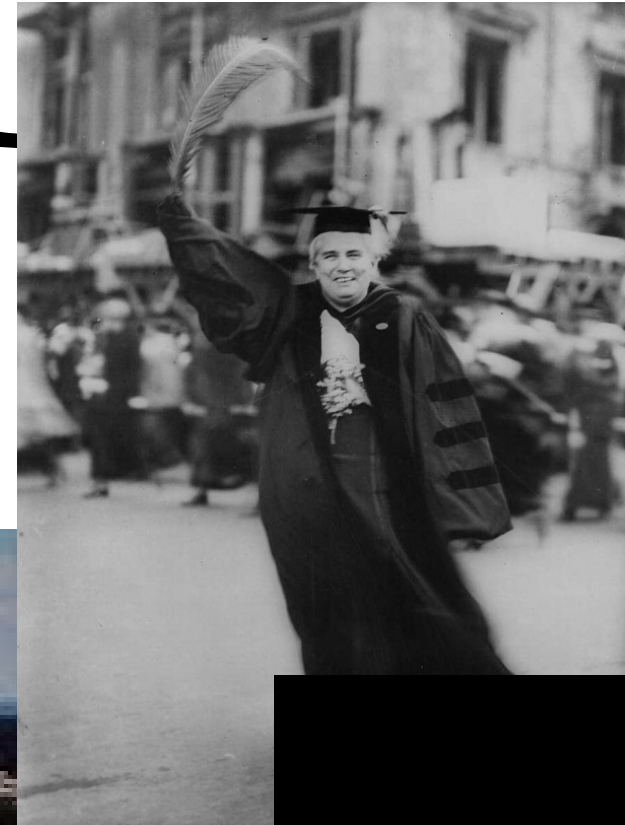
"I'm not afraid to die. I just don't want to be around when it happens."

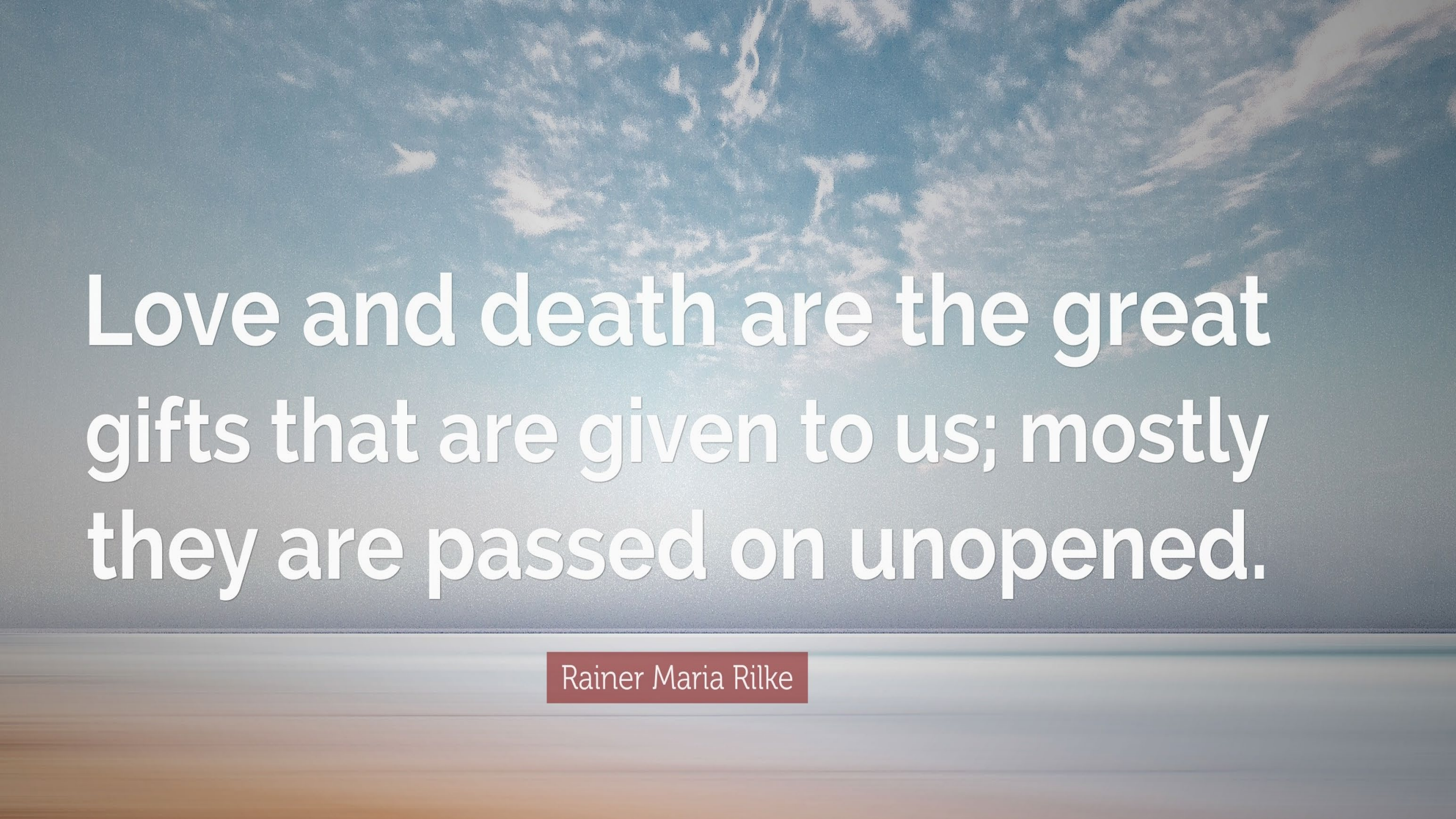


DEMAND CREATES CAPACITY—COMMUNITY BASED PALLIATIVE CARE AS THE NEXT GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT



MARCH FOR MORTALITY... YOU ARE HERE!!!!





Love and death are the great
gifts that are given to us; mostly
they are passed on unopened.

Rainer Maria Rilke