

Introduction to

Losing a Spouse or Partner: Tools for the “New Normal” Journey 2011 Conference

What: Weekend conference with over 25 professional speakers for those who lost a spouse or partner

When: October 28-30, 2011 (Friday evening to Sunday Noon)

Where: Arizona State University, Memorial Union Building, Tempe, Arizona

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Phyllis Silverman, researcher, teacher, and author of *Widow to Widow, A Parent’s Guide to Grieving Children, Continuing Bonds, Never Too Young to Know, and Living With Dying*.

Background: The initiative for this conference started with Jim Schwartz, Certified Financial Planner™ practitioner and financial advisor who realized that nearly half his clients were widowed and few had spoken of attending grief support groups or working with professional counselors. When trying to find local resources for his clients who recently lost a spouse or partner, Jim realized there might be a need for a multi-day conference where attendees can do the following:

- Commune with fellow widows and widowers: hear each other’s stories, make new friends, and meet old friends.
- Learn about loss and grief, setting goals, parenting grieving children, dating and new relationships, and dealing with the holidays.
- Learn how to buy and maintain a car, the basics of home maintenance, and how to find a reliable handyman, plumber, or electrician.
- Learn the basics of shopping and cooking for one.
- Learn the importance of estate planning and updating legal documents.
- Learn how to get organized financially, build a spending plan, and understand the basics of money management and answer that most important question, “Will I be OK, financially?”
- Learn about local resources including grief support groups, grief counselors, and other organizations offering assistance to those who lost a spouse or partner.

Vision: This conference will be offered annually in the Phoenix area. Reserved event space for 2011 will hold up to 400 attendees and offer up to four concurrent breakout sessions. Plans already exist to expand future conferences from the present 1 ½ days to 2 ½ or 3 days. In addition, an extra day might be added to offer professionals and those working with the bereaved community the opportunity to obtain Continuing Education credits as needed for their respective licenses and certifications.

Contact: Jim can be reached on his cell phone at (480) 209-0564. Email is Info@WidowedCommunity.org. Mailing address is Jim Schwartz, P.O. Box 13203, Chandler, AZ 85248. Web: www.WidowedCommunity.org.

Sincerely,



James D. Schwartz, CFP®



PRESENTER REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

SUBMISSION FORM and CHECKLIST

2011 Conference

Losing a Spouse or Partner: Tools for the “New Normal” Journey

October 28 - 30, 2011

Memorial Union Building, Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2011

Submit to: Info@WidowedCommunity.org, or fax to (480) 522-1798, or snail mail to:

Widowed Community Education and Support Services, Inc.
ATTN: Jim Schwartz
P.O. Box 13203
Chandler, AZ 85248
(480) 209-0564

Questions: contact Jim Schwartz at Info@WidowedCommunity.org or (480) 209-0564

Facility Info: The facilities at ASU will have computer projectors and screens and we will provide a laptop loaded with PowerPoint in each room. The Main room will hold up to 400 attendees and be setup with round tables seating 8 or 10 attendees at each table. Breakout rooms can hold up to 150 attendees and will normally be setup with either a theater or classroom format but may be able to be organized in a different format time permitting.

Please submit the following information for consideration:

- 1. Primary Speaker** (All conference presentations are limited to three speakers)

Name	Mailing address
Credentials	Telephone
Title	Cell Phone
Organization	Email
- 2. Speaker Bio (50 – 100 words)**
- 3. Curriculum Vitae or Resume for each speaker** - Must include description of professional experience or areas of expertise, which contribute to involvement. This might include your educational background, publications or experience.
- 4. Description of your Presentation**
 - a. Presentation Title
 - b. General Outline
 - c. Presentation Description

- d. Length of Presentation (40 minutes to 1.5 hours including discussion/questions)
5. **Identify Teaching Methods, Strategies, Material and Resources** - i.e. lecture, power-point, discussion, role-play, video, experiential, hands on or support group.
6. **Identify your Target Audience** - Bereaved spouse or partner, Bereaved spouse or partner with grieving children, Bereaved Men, member of GLBT community, and so on.
7. **Summary** - Briefly write a 2 to 3 sentence summary to be used for the conference brochure.

When preparing your workshop, please keep the following in mind:

- We recommend that your workshop be limited to no more than three (3) presenters to ensure that each speaker has adequate time to speak.
- Whenever possible, use visual aids.
- If possible, provide vignettes in your presentation or research supporting your presentation
- If you are presenting in PowerPoint, we suggest that you expand your comments beyond simply reading your slides.
- Presenters accepted for presentation will be notified by **June 15, 2011**.
- ***Presenters are responsible for travel, hotel, and related costs.***

We are seeking proposals for workshops on the remaining topics:

Growing through your grief: facing the mourning helps you help others
Empowerment through adversity
LGBT community issues
Traumatic unexpected loss
Post traumatic growth
Family issues - dealing with in-laws, parents, siblings, and adult children
How psychological and social needs change over time
Old social networks may no longer work; new networks may be needed
Learning to live alone
Loss of defined roles; gain of new roles
Assertiveness training - how to take charge
Counseling and mental health, when is professional help needed
Cooking for one; Basics of cooking for those with limited experience
Spirituality in grief
Loss of spouse while deployed or in the military
Bankruptcy, foreclosures, shortsales, walking away from your home
Mortgages, refinancing, reverse mortgages
Maintaining your home. Plumbing and electrical systems.