

MEANWHILE

Green Burials: At the End of Life, Thinking Outside the Coffin

They offer lower costs, fewer chemicals and a quicker route to being reborn — in one sense, anyway.

By Wendy MacNaughton

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"THESE DAYS, EVERYONE WANTS
TO BE A TREE."



→ GREEN BURIALS

ARE MOVING in ON THE

16 BILLION DOLLAR

FUNERAL HOME
INDUSTRY

MEDIAN COST OF TRADITIONAL BURIAL	\$8,755.
AVERAGE COST OF GREEN BURIAL	\$1,000.- 4000.

in A GREEN BURIAL
EVERYTHING THAT GOES
in THE GROUND MUST BE
AS BIODEGRADABLE AS A BODY.

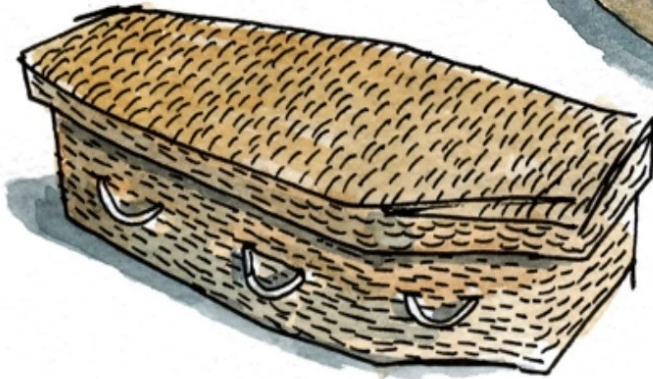
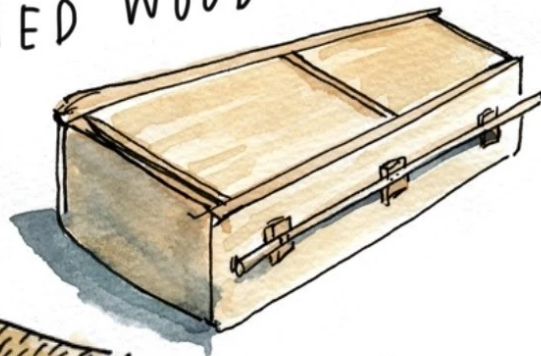
YOU CAN BE WRAPPED in AN
ORGANIC SHROUD, or PLACED in
A NATURAL CASKET.

OR BE CREMATED*
and PUT in A NATURAL URN.

THEN PLACED in A
HAND-DUG GRAVE &
MARKED by A SIMPLE
ROCK or G.P.S.

CASKETS CAN BE
UNFINISHED WOOD -

OAK & PINE



OR A
WICKER
BASKET.

COMPOSTABLE URNS
ARE CRAFTED FROM PINK
HIMALAYAN ANCIENT SEA SALT





Decorative
Gourds

and

PAPIER
MACHÉ



*

TURNS OUT CREMATION ISN'T SO GREEN.
CREMATING ONE BODY USES
AS MUCH FUEL AS A 500+ MILE ROAD TRIP



ALL NATURAL
ORGANIC SHROUDS
(RELIGIOUS & SECULAR) ARE
AVAILABLE in A
VARIETY of MATERIALS,
COLORS and STYLES.



GOLDEN
SILK



NATURAL
BAMBOO



ROYAL
BLUE
COTTON



ELVIS
BLANKET

I SPOKE with ALICIA JACKSON and
CINDY BARATH from FERNWOOD CEMETERY
in MILL VALLEY, CA.

" [The ELVIS BLANKET WAS]

QUITE POSSIBLY NOT ALL NATURAL,
BUT THIS WOMAN ASKED
to BE BURIED with IT,

SO WE WRAPPED IT
AROUND The SHROUD.

IT WAS AN EXCEPTION...

ONE Guy WANTED to BE
BURIED in A BURLAP BAG.

I SAID, 'BURLAP, OKAY. BUT

NO BAG. THIS ISN'T A
MAFIA HIT.'

and

ONE WOMAN WANTED to BE
A REDWOOD. SO WE
BURIED HER NEAR A
REDWOOD SAPLING.

she's right over there..."



Wendy MacNaughton is a graphic journalist based in San Francisco. You can find her via website and Instagram.

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Wendy MacNaughton’s illustrated column about the big implications of seemingly small thing