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# **Q1 2024 Membership Newsletter**



#### Hello Members!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! We hope you have all arrived in 2024 happy, healthy and safe. We have big plans for GAELO in 2024 and hope to grow our membership, gain IRS tax-exempt status, begin accepting monetary

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As always, we sincerely thank you for your support. We are here for youplease do not hesitate to reach out for more information about our available resources or how you can become more involved with GAELO. Contact info at the bottom of this newsletter.

### **Death Cafes!**



GAELO's first in-person event was a Death Cafe on November 2, 2023 in Atlanta. Death Cafe's are informal, honest, candid conversations about death related topics. During the session, 30 attendees shared their thoughts on five different prompts. GAELO extends a huge thank you to Dr. Lisa Oliver for facilitating the event (read more about Dr. Oliver below). Normalizing conversations about death is a key precursor to advancing our cause. Visit the <a href="Death Cafe site">Death Cafe site</a> to check out upcoming events, or if you are interested in hosting a Death Cafe with GAELO, please reach out via the contact info at the bottom of the newsletter!

# **Advisor Spotlight- Christine Banks**

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have more on this in our next newsletter, but in the meantime, we wanted to highlight Christine Banks, a GAELO advisor and licensed Funeral Director.

Christine has long had a passion for caretaking and in 2007 became a licensed Funeral Director & Embalmer. She also earned her life insurance license last year, which is required to participate in advanced funeral planning. Her experience in these roles, accompanied with personal experience with the passing of loved ones has driven her towards becoming more involved with both advance care planning and medical aid in dying advocacy. Christine marvels at innovation in modern medicine, nutrition and lifestyles that allow people to live the way that they choose. Mirroring this, she is firm in the belief that more planning and choices should be available for those at the end of their lives. Christine has been with GAELO since it was formed in August 2021.

### We Have 3 New Members on our Board of Directors

In 2023 we added Kaffie McCullough, Dr. Lisa Oliver & Kevin Tom to our Board of Directors! Some quick info about each:

- Kaffie's journey is nothing short of inspiring with experience as a high school teacher, Psychotherapist, and Non-Profit Executive combatting sex trafficking's of minors. Kaffie's advocacy for MAiD stems from the death of her husband. Kaffie has been involved with GAELO as a steering committee member since it was founded in 2021 and brings a wealth of knowledge to the organization.
- Lisa holds a PhD in Adult Education, is a licensed Chaplain and has been leading conversations about death related topics since 2017. She became involved with GAELO recently, when she helped us host our first Death Cafe (though it was Lisa's 40th)! We are ecsatatic to continue this partnership with Lisa officially on our board.
- Kevin was inspired to get involved with advanced care planning after years of experience as a hospice companion and EMT. Kevin has been leading GAELO's Volunteer Engagement & Development workstream since January 2023. We are excited to have him even more involved!

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# Interested in getting involved with GAELO?

We are seeking individuals who are dedicated to our causes to join our team. If you or someone you know is interested in contributing to any of the roles/teams below, please don't hesitate to reach out to us by emailing <a href="mailto:admin@gaelo.org">admin@gaelo.org</a>!

- A permanent executive director to drive strategy & execution of GAELO's key initiatives
- <u>Social media contributors</u> to help create and post content to our followers
- <u>Volunteer contacts</u> who can meet virtually with Georgian's seeking guidance on advance care planning
- <u>Anything else!</u> If you think you can help out in a different way- don't hesitate to reach out. We are growing everyday and always have room on the team for those who are passionate about MAiD and advance care planning.



For any inquires, comments or to unsubscribe, please email: <a href="mailto:admin@gaelo.org">admin@gaelo.org</a>



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