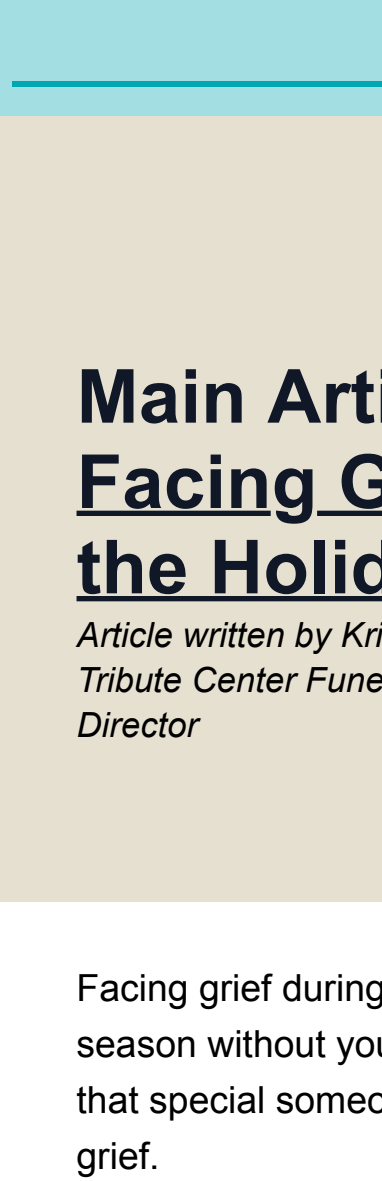




Hughes Family Tribute Center Newsletter

December 2025

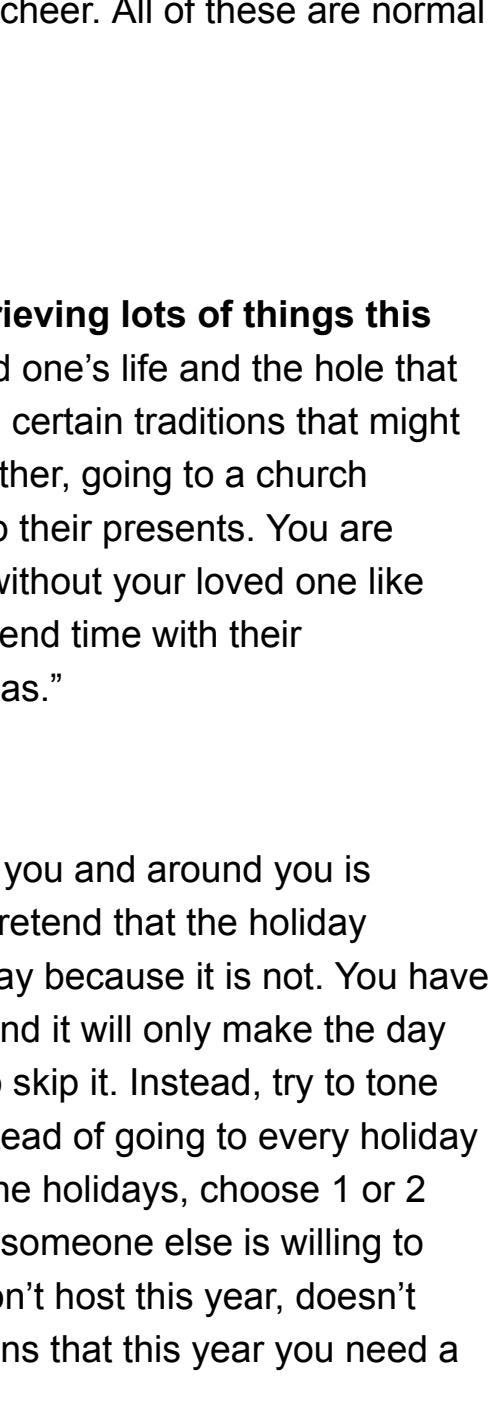
Check out what is in our newsletter!



- Main Article: Facing Grief During the Holiday Season
- Community Events: Candlelight Service Invitation
- Staff Highlight: Celebrating our Newest Celebrant
- Star's Storytime: What Does a Dog Do at Conventions?
- Pre-Planning Perfection: Exciting Things to Expect in 2026

Main Article: Facing Grief During the Holiday Season

Article written by Kristine Hughes, Hughes Family Tribute Center Funeral Director & Creativity Director



Facing grief during the holidays can be difficult. Whether this is your first holiday season without your loved one or you have faced many, many holidays without that special someone in your life—holiday grief hits you differently than normal grief.

You are in a season where Lifetime Movies, television commercials, and greeting cards tell you to find comfort and joy, have warm blessings, and be holy and jolly. Except you don't feel like that. You feel like you have a hole in your heart that someone once filled. You might feel numb, and it is not from the cold. You put a smile on your face, but you feel like you are crying on the inside. You might even feel like the Grinch and be angry at all of this holiday cheer. All of these are normal feelings when facing the holidays and grief.

Here are some tips to help face the holiday grief:

- **Acknowledge and recognize that you are grieving lots of things this season.** You are grieving the loss of your loved one's life and the hole that they leave when they passed. You are grieving certain traditions that might look like watching a certain holiday movie together, going to a church service together, or watching your child unwrap their presents. You are grieving the future holidays that you will have without your loved one like grandchildren growing up and not getting to spend time with their grandfather reading "The Night Before Christmas."

- **Don't try to "skip" the holiday.** Everything in you and around you is anticipating the holiday coming up. You can't pretend that the holiday doesn't exist for this year or that it is another day because it is not. You have spent your whole life celebrating this holiday, and it will only make the day feel even more strange and foreign if you try to skip it. Instead, try to tone down the holiday if you feel like it will help. Instead of going to every holiday function and having the whole family over for the holidays, choose 1 or 2 events to participate in and maybe even see if someone else is willing to host the holiday this year. Just because you don't host this year, doesn't mean that you won't host next year; it just means that this year you need a break.

- **Do something special in memory of your loved one.** Just because your loved one has passed does not mean that their legacy and memory have passed as well. Take a moment at the dinner table to tell a story about your loved one. Make a donation to a child's charity in honor of your own child. Attend a special holiday service especially for families that are grieving like our Candlelight Service of Remembrance. All of these special events or moments can make all the difference if you are grieving your loved one. You may realize that you are not the only one grieving—others might be putting on a strong face for you while internally grieving.

- **Talk with a grief counselor if you are struggling with grief this holiday season.** Did you know that Hughes Family Tribute Center can get you in touch with a certified grief counselor that can answer your calls 24/7 at no cost to you through Caring Voices. The call can be anonymous, and you can relay your feelings, your grief, your anger, and your depression to a counselor and receive a listening ear and feedback if you would like. To access Caring Voices, please call at the toll-free helpline (866) 269-0680 and give them the special Care Code of CV-00123.

Remember that just like the holiday season, grief won't last forever. One day the pain that you feel within your heart will turn more into a warm remembrance and even thankfulness that you had the time you did with your loved one.

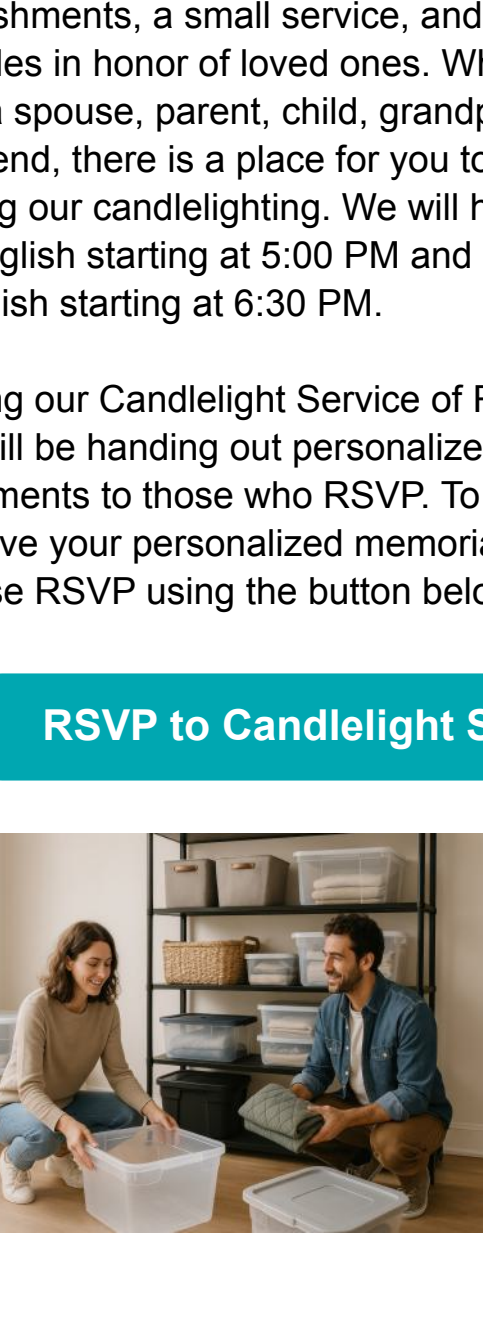
For more information on grief and resources to help with grief, click the button below.

[Click Here for Grief Support](#)

Community Events

Candlelight Service of Remembrance & More!

Here are our upcoming events:



Paint & Plan Class

Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Join us for our Paint & Plan class where a talented staff member will be guiding attendees on how to paint a personalized ornament on canvas. While attendees paint, a funeral director will discuss the importance of pre-planning in a very laid-back, informal setting. This is a free "test" class of a program that we plan to bring out in full force in 2026. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP using the button below.

[RSVP to Paint & Plan](#)



Candlelight Service of Remembrance

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 5:00 PM (English) and 6:30 PM (Spanish)

Join us as we honor our loved ones while coming together as a community of people who understand the pain and emptiness you may feel in the holiday season.

On Sunday, December 7, 2025, families can expect to find comfort through music, light refreshments, a small service, and the lighting of candles in honor of loved ones. Whether you have lost a spouse, parent, child, grandparent, sibling, or friend, there is a place for you to find warmth during our candlelighting. We will have a service in English starting at 5:00 PM and a service in Spanish starting at 6:30 PM.

During our Candlelight Service of Remembrance, we will be handing out personalized memorial ornaments to those who RSVP. To RSVP and reserve your personalized memorial ornament, please RSVP using the button below.

[RSVP to Candlelight Service](#)



Pre-Planning Seminar: Getting Organized

Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Do you feel like life is a bit crazy? Organizing can help with that! Organize your house, life, and funeral planning all in one session with our Pre-Planning Seminar: Getting Organized.

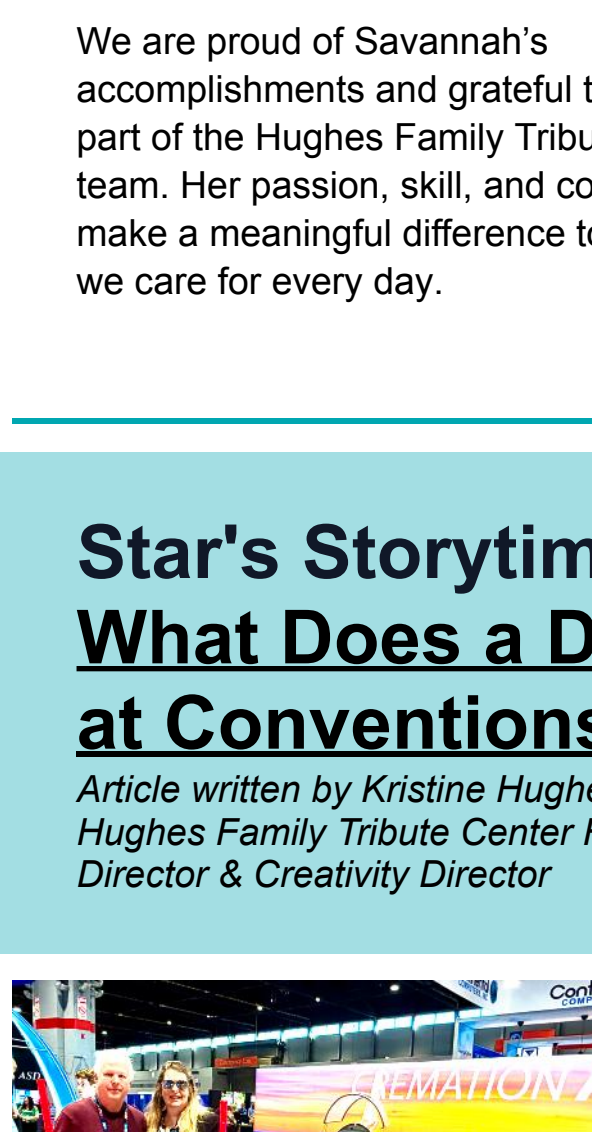
The seminar will be led by a professional organizer and manager of Hughes Family Tribute Center, Stephanie Hughes.

Light refreshments will be served in this laid-back session where questions and comments are welcome!

This Pre-Planning Seminar will be held at Hughes Family Tribute Center which is located at 9700 Webb Chapel Rd., Dallas, TX 75220.

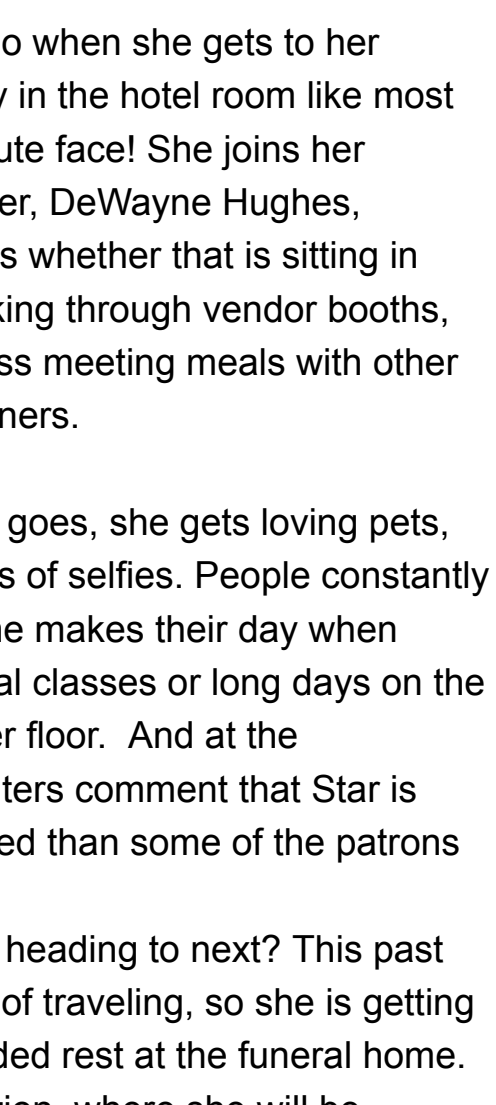
If you would like to learn more about Pre-Planning Seminars or would like to RSVP, please click on the button below.

[RSVP to Pre-Planning Seminar](#)



Staff Highlights: Celebrating Our Newest Celebrant

Article written by Stephanie Hughes, Owner & Manager of Hughes Family Tribute Center



Please join us in congratulating Savannah Huffman on becoming a **Certified Celebrant** last month. It is a special milestone that reflects her commitment to help families find healing through personalized services. Savannah traveled to the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) convention, where she completed three intensive days of training on how to craft and deliver meaningful, customized funeral services. The program focused on honoring each unique life while helping families begin a healthy path toward healing. As a celebrant, she is now trained to conduct and lead personalized services and ceremonies that can have religious or secular aspects—depending upon what the loved one would have wanted or what the family needs.

Savannah recently led her very first celebrant service, and it was a tremendous success. The ceremony beautifully reflected the loved one's story, and the family shared how deeply they appreciated Savannah's care, compassion, and thoughtful approach.

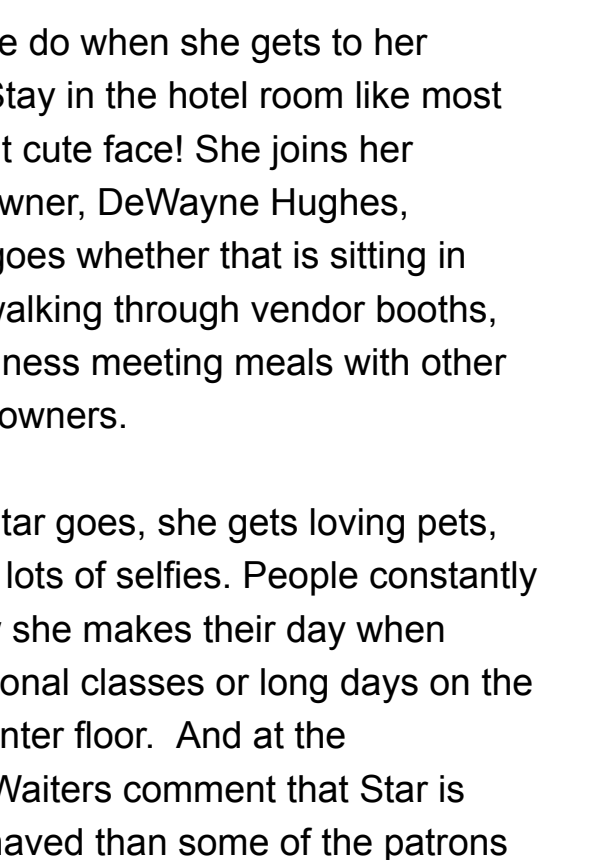
Savannah has completed her apprenticeship with Hughes Family Tribute Center and earned her funeral director and embalming license in the last six months. Families consistently rave about her warm nature, her ability to listen deeply, and her talent for creating uplifting Life Celebrations that feel personal, genuine, and memorable.

Outside of her work, Savannah is the devoted mother of two daughters—her greatest joys in life. She is also an exceptional baker and cook, and brings the same creativity and heart to her kitchen that she brings to every family she serves.

We are proud of Savannah's accomplishments and grateful to have her as part of the Hughes Family Tribute Center team. Her passion, skill, and compassion make a meaningful difference to the families we care for every day.

Star's Storytime: What Does a Dog Do at Conventions?

Article written by Kristine Hughes, Hughes Family Tribute Center Funeral Director & Creativity Director



Star is a dog that gets around. She has been to workshops and conventions across the nation including in states like Louisiana, Florida, Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Nevada, California, and Colorado...and maybe more. Needless to say, she is probably better traveled than most of us might be in our lifetimes.

What does she do when she gets to her destination? Stay in the hotel room like most dogs? Not that cute face! She joins her handler and owner, DeWayne Hughes, wherever he goes whether that is sitting in classrooms, walking through vendor booths, or having business meeting meals with other funeral home owners.

Everywhere Star goes, she gets loving pets, attention, and lots of selfies. People constantly comment how she makes their day when facing educational classes or long days on the convention center floor. And at the restaurants? Waiters comment that Star is more well-behaved than some of the patrons they serve.

So where is Star heading to next? This past fall has been full of traveling, so she is getting some much-needed rest at the funeral home. Her next destination, where she will be attending the International Cemetery, Cremation & Funeral Association (ICCFA) convention, is nice and close to home at Ft. Worth, Texas. Afterwards, who knows where her journeys will take her!



Pre-Planning Perfection: Exciting Things to Expect in 2026

Everyone will eventually need a funeral, so why not create a pre-planned funeral with one of our laid-back, informal pre-planning sessions in 2026?

As 2025 draws to a close, we are looking forward to starting 2 new pre-planning programs in 2026!

Pre-Planning Seminars

2025 is drawing to a close, we are looking forward to starting 2 new pre-planning programs in 2026!

The first is our **Pre-Planning Seminars** which will be held once a month. These seminars will not only talk about the importance of pre-planning but also discuss other important topics. Some of these topics will include the following:

- Decluttering and why it is important to do so now rather than leave it for loved ones to handle down the road
- Cremation and its benefits
- How to save money

Stress Management and its importance in daily life

How to make a plan for your pet if you were to pass away

- A funeral planning class just for men
- How to set up a power of attorney and medical power of attorney

And so much more!

These seminars will be held at various locations from restaurants, to breweries, to our Life Celebration center, and more! Keep an eye on our newsletters to get the latest on dates and topics for our Pre-Planning Seminars! You can also go to our website, www.HughesETC.com/pre-planning-seminars to see the latest schedule.

If you are interested in signing up for a seminar, please RSVP to help us get a headcount for food and seating reservations. You can RSVP using the button below!

[RSVP for Pre-Planning Seminar](#)



Paint & Plan

The second program is our **Paint & Plan** class where a talented member of our staff will guide you through how to paint a special painting with limited breaks where a funeral director will talk about pre-planning. We have done a few "test" classes in 2025, and the response has been great! It is a special time to get creative with family members and friends while learning about pre-planning in a very informal, laid-back setting. Each Paint & Plan class is free to attend; we just ask that you RSVP because space and supplies are limited.

We have 6 Paint & Plan classes planned for 2026! Here is a tentative list of our painting classes:

February 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM: A couples painting of two entwining trees making a heart or a singles painting of two trees either making a heart. This is a fun time to do an early Valentine's event or a Galentine event with your friends!

April 2, 2026, at 6:00 PM: A fun painting of bluebonnets just in time for the bluebonnets to bloom across Texas!

June 4, 2026, at 6:00 PM: A mix-media painting of a beach with paint, sand, and seashells. It is a great project to get in the mood for summer!

August 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM: A charming painting of fireflies glowing in a night sky. It definitely will bring back memories of catching fireflies as kids!

October 1, 2026, at 6:00 PM: A painting of a calavera, or sugar skull, as we get ready for our Celebración del Día de Muertos. We have already had this class, and the results were fantastic!

December 3, 2026, at 6:00 PM: A personalized painting of an ornament to get you ready for the holidays! We are also doing this painting on December 4, 2025, at 6:00 PM. If you are interested, please RSVP.

If you are interested in participating in any of these Paint & Plan classes, please RSVP using the button below.

[RSVP for Paint & Plan](#)

