

Jule Kucera, Funeral Instructions

This letter documents my intentions with regard to what to do with my body, now that I am done using it.

I do not want a funeral. (I find them depressing.)

However, I believe that grief is a necessary part of processing death for the living and sharing that grief with others can be healing. Therefore, if you would like to do something to mark the fact that I have passed out of this life into the next, please get together with some people you care about and share a meal. I would hope the food would be whatever you find comforting, like mac and cheese, or spaghetti and meatballs, or ice cream (Graeter's Black Raspberry Chocolate Chip is my favorite).

As for my body, I do not want it buried or donated to science. I would like it burned up, but that then leaves the challenge of what to do with the ashes. But I have an idea!

The Cincinnati Parks Department has a commemorative tree program. I would like a commemorative tree planted in my honor in one of the parks I used to frequent—International Friendship Park (my friend Kelly Kolar was behind much of the design of this park—ask her about the grass mound hands.) or Sawyer Point Park. If neither park is an option, then any Cincinnati park will do. The arborist makes the final decision on tree selection, but the requestor is allowed to specify up to three preferences. My three preferences, in no particular order are: Sweetgum, Sassafras and Serviceberry.

Now we come back to my ashes. If possible, I would like to be planted in the hole dug for the commemorative tree. That way I can grow into a tree and I can help the tree grow. If the arborist says this is a bad idea or the Cincinnati Parks board says this is not allowed, then please take my ashes to 392 Shields Road in Falmouth, Kentucky. The ground is clay and miserable digging, so don't even try to bury my dust. Please scatter the ashes on the hill somewhere the morning sun will reach me.

Jule Kucera

Notary Public