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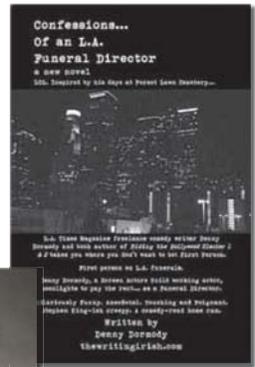
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## Denny Dormody publishes memoir "Confessions of an L.A. Funeral Director"

LOS ANGELES, CA— "It's rainy. The oncoming headlights are blinding me. I have to stay awake. It's 2:00 A.M. and less than two feet behind me is the body of a woman scheduled for burial in about six hours..." Funeral director

and comedy writer Denny Dormody is an actor who moonlights as a funeral director to pay the rent. He recently published a memoir, *Confessions of an L.A. Funeral Director*. Self-described as "Actor. Writer. Dad." Denny

Dormody is also a graduate of Ohio University and a veteran. His latest book, *Confessions of an L.A. Funeral Director* is a comic and often touching look at his role as perhaps the only active member of the Screen Actors Guild



Denny Dormody

that is also a real-life funeral director. Dormody has appeared in numerous movies and television shows, and is the comedy author of *Riding the Hollywood Glacier*.

The book is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

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## Random Musings

By Nancy Weil

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes.  
 How do you measure,  
 Measure a year?  
 In daylight?  
 In sunsets?  
 In midnights?  
 In cups of coffee?  
 In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife?

Perhaps you recognize these lyrics as the opening number in the Broadway musical *Rent*. This is the time of year where we are looking back at the year that just closed and looking ahead to a blank slate of twelve months with no way to know what exactly will transpire.

Perhaps we can tweak the lyrics a bit to:  
**How do you measure a year?**

In cremation counts?  
 In church services?  
 In military honor guards?  
 In pre-need contracts?  
 In driving in snowy weather?  
 In hurricanes?  
 In google reviews?  
 In staff turnover?  
 In unpaid accounts?

Or we can also shift our focus to:  
**How do you measure a year?**

In tears that flowed?  
 In hugs that were given?  
 In hearts that were comforted?  
 In memories that were shared?  
 In laughs that erupted?  
 In appreciation for a job well done shared?

As we conclude our year end accounts, our statistics and our reports, it gives us time to allow our left brain to determine if the year was a "good one" or a "bad one." As the saying goes, "figures won't lie." So we set new budget goals for 2019, we speculate on what our cremation percentage will be and we determine what projects will be completed as the year unfolds.

Yet it is our right brain that keeps us connected to why we do what we do. *Simon Sinek* famously speaks on the fact that in order to be successful you must start with "why." It is within the second list above that I believe our "why" is contained. It is what inspired us to work in a funeral home or cemetery in the first place. It is in believing that what we do leaves an impact and makes a positive difference.

Of course, if we did not run our business successfully, then there would be no funeral home to show up to and

no families to support. If we did not run our business successfully, then our cemeteries would be taken over by our town and we would be relegated to the sidelines. We must do our facts and figures. It is imperative that we know where we have been in order to predict where we are going.

So wrap up 2018 and look ahead to 2019, but keep in mind the wisdom of Mr. Sinek who advises us to, *"Imagine a world in which the vast majority of us wake up inspired, feel safe at work and return home fulfilled at the end of the day."*

I wish you that kind of year. May it be so for all of us.

Serving as Member Resources Director at the International Order of the Golden Rule, Nancy Weil brings her years of experience working in the funeral industry to funeral directors across the globe. Her professional experience includes serving as Director of Grief Support and Community Outreach at Veterans Funeral Care in Clearwater, FL and at eleven cemeteries in Western New York.

Nancy travels throughout the country offering presentations on how to reduce stress, combat compassion fatigue and offer support for those who are grieving through her company, The Laugh Academy.

With certifications as a Grief Services Provider and Grief Management Specialist, Funeral Celebrant, Soul Injury Ambassador and Laughter Leader, Nancy is uniquely qualified to bring new perspectives into how to best meet the needs of the families you serve. For more information on how Nancy can help you and your company grow, visit her website: [www.TheLaughAcademy.com](http://www.TheLaughAcademy.com) or e-mail Nancy@TheLaughAcademy.com.

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