**Waitt Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Morganville, New Jersey**

*Old Bridge Funeral Home, Old Bridge, New Jersey; Silverton Memorial Funeral Home, Toms River, New Jersey*

**A Revolutionary Presentation: Michael Grandi Introduces the Urn Ark to SCAN Members**

On June 26, 2025, Michael Grandi delivered a groundbreaking presentation to 60 members of SCAN (Senior Citizens Activities Network) at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Ocean, New Jersey. This wasn’t just another educational seminar — it marked the first live demonstration in SCAN’s history, making it a memorable and engaging experience for all attendees. The seminar, titled “URN ARK: What Are They and How Have They Revolutionized Cremation,” offered attendees a fresh perspective on modern memorial practices and transformed the way many thought about cremation services.

Michael began his presentation with an air of mystery, unveiling a covered item only later in the session. Under the cover sat an actual Urn Ark — a beautifully crafted ceremonial carrier used to honor and display cremated remains with the same dignity traditionally reserved for caskets. What made the setup particularly unique was Michael’s use of an ordinary Yeti coffee mug to represent an urn. In doing so, he emphasized how a basic everyday item placed in an Urn Ark transforms even the simplest vessel into something ceremonial, elegant, and deeply respectful.

This clever use of the coffee mug resonated with the audience and drove home the point: the presentation isn’t about the urn itself, but about how we choose to honor and memorialize a loved one. When the urn was placed inside the Urn Ark, the transformation was both visual and emotional — elevating a personal item into a sacred tribute. It also demonstrated the alternative uses and accessories that allow for displaying of photos or other personal mementos.

Adding further impact, Michael invited four volunteers from the audience to come forward and participate in a live demonstration. The volunteers practiced carrying the Urn Ark as it would be during an actual service. This hands-on component brought the concept to life and allowed the audience to witness the grace and dignity of this emerging tradition.

Perhaps the most telling moment came when Michael polled the audience. While 50% of attendees (30 out of 60) had previously attended a memorial service, only 3 had ever seen an Urn Ark used. This staggering contrast underscored the need for more public education and awareness about evolving cremation practices.

The feedback following the session was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees praised Michael’s engaging delivery, his innovative approach, and the clarity he brought to a topic often misunderstood or overlooked. Many expressed gratitude for being introduced to something so meaningful and transformative.

In the end, Michael Grandi didn’t just educate the SCAN audience — he sparked a new conversation about how we celebrate life and remember loved ones. The success of the event set a new standard for future SCAN presentations and opened the door for more dynamic, interactive sessions in the years to come.