

Modern Widows Club Honors Dr. Mary-Frances O'Connor & Philanthropist Angelica Berrie at 2026 Legacy & Leadership Awards

Nonprofit honors two leaders in grief research and philanthropy while raising support for widowed women.

JERSEY CITY, NJ, UNITED STATES, August 10, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Modern Widows Club®](https://www.modernwidowsclub.com) (MWC), The Movement for Widow Care®, will host its 2026 Legacy & Leadership Awards Dinner on Tuesday, October 20, at Liberty House in Jersey City, New Jersey. The evening will honor Dr. Mary-Frances O'Connor, author, neuroscientist and researcher on the science of grief, and Angelica Berrie, NJ philanthropist and business leader, for their contributions to how the world understands loss, personal growth, resilience, advocacy and leadership.



The Movement for Widow Care

Modern Widows Club Logo

“

Empowering widowed women remains one of the most overlooked populations in philanthropy, this evening exists to change that — to honor two extraordinary honorees and to fuel the work of MWC”

Carolyn Moor

The 7th Annual Legacy & Leadership Awards Event will bring together community leaders, donors, and members from around the country to celebrate how their work has shaped the national conversation around grief and recovery. Proceeds from the event support MWC's Hope, Heal, Grow, and Lead® Healthy Widowhood Pathway programs, a structured support model empowering widowed women.

O'Connor, a leading researcher on the neuroscience and psychology of grief, has helped redefine grief as a process

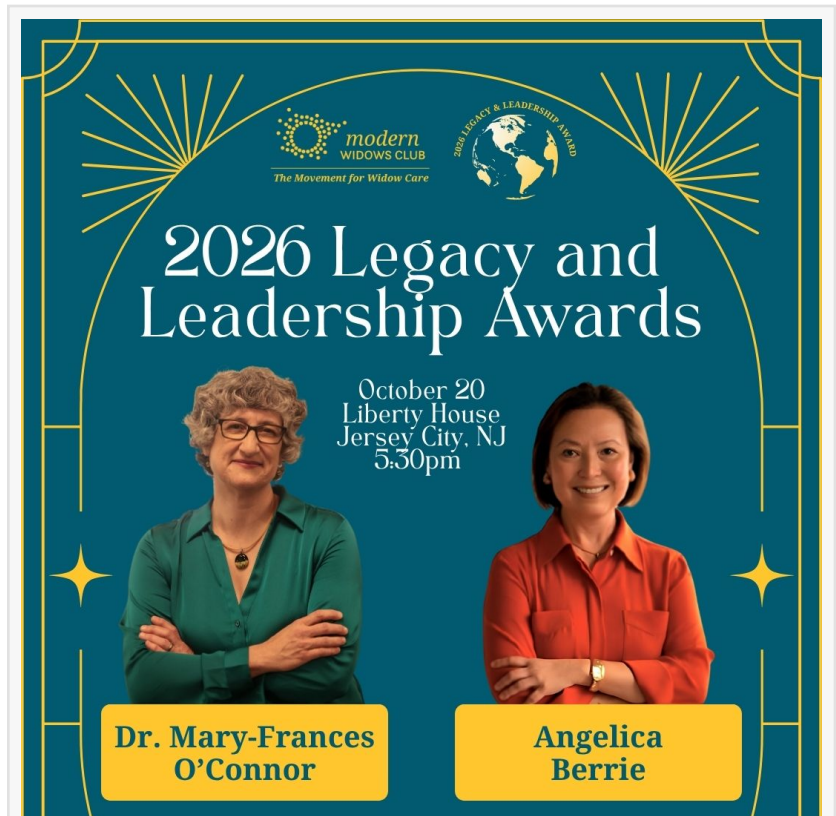
of learning rather than a linear stage-based experience. Her NYTimes best sellers, *The Grieving Brain* and *The Grieving Body*, have elevated bereavement care insights and research.

Berrie has spent decades in business leadership and philanthropy with New Jersey based Russell Berrie Foundation and Russ Berrie & Company. She has helped to direct resources toward

causes that strengthen families and communities in the area of diabetes care, interfaith bridge making, entrepreneurial leadership, and social investment philanthropy, with a focus on identifying visionaries, institutions and unsung heroes doing groundbreaking work. She states, "Widowhood is a Master Class in Leadership." She is co-author of *A Passion for Giving: Tools and Inspiration for Creating a Charitable Foundation*.

Both honorees were selected for their sustained impact on how loss, healing, personal growth and resilience are understood and supported.

"Empowering widowed women remains one of the most overlooked populations in philanthropy," says Carolyn Moor, founder and executive director of Modern Widows Club. "This evening exists to change that — to honor two extraordinary women and to fuel the work of supporting women from crisis to community and leadership." Moor founded Modern Widows Club in 2011 after being widowed herself. She built the organization from a small local support circle in her home into a global movement now supporting to empower widowed women globally.



Legacy and Leadership Honorees



Modern Widows Club Program

Sponsorship opportunities for the 2026 Legacy & Leadership Awards Dinner range from table sponsorships to title co-sponsorship, with individual and group tickets also available. Sponsorship and ticket information is available at <https://modernwidowsclub.org/fundraising-events>

Key event sponsorship through investment philanthropic partnership of [New York Life Foundation](https://www.newyorklife.com/foundation). <https://www.newyorklife.com/foundation>

About Modern Widows Club®
Founded in 2011 in Winter Park,
Florida, Modern Widows Club® — The
Movement for Widow Care® — is a
national nonprofit organization
providing comprehensive, stage-based
support to empower widowed women
through community, advocacy, and
structured programming. MWC's Hope,
Heal, Grow, and Lead® Healthy
Widowhood Pathway addresses the
financial, emotional, social, relational,
spiritual and leadership needs of
widows, rebuilding their lives from
crisis toward long-term stability and
purpose. Learn more at
<https://modernwidowsclub.org>.

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