

The Dead Beat



The Caregiver's Soapbox



Dedicated to providing information about the people and places involved in the funeral industry

Volume 15

www.thedead-beat.com

Issue 3

Leesman Funeral Home's New Facility



Leesman Funeral Homes opened their new facility on December 18, 2015.

It is 5,400 square feet with garage space for livery cars, office space, crematory, viewing room

if a family chooses to watch their loved one go into the retort or

just for identification purposes, walk-in cooler and embalming room.



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Amy Howard Art Gallery



The editor's daughter Amy, who was mentioned in our previous issues, was quite the artist and we've decided to display some of her artwork every issue in her memory.



Amy Howard

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To Brighten Your Day





Mortuary Muse By Lowell

My sometimes faulty memory tells me it was about 20-25 years ago that the funeral service missionaries returned from down under with great news. The salvation of the traditional funeral service had been discovered.

The folks in New Zealand and Australia were no longer trapped in the downward spiral of bland, non-personalized, cookie-cutter funeral services. No longer would the direct cremation rate continue to rise. The Funeral Celebrant had been discovered.

In a short time articles were published, seminars and curriculum established and certifications offered. Many within and alongside the profession have obtained the coveted Celebrant certification.

Based on a few convention seminars and journal articles I assume that a practicing funeral director/arrangement counselor should have the ability to gather and organize all of the personal information. If she or he has no public speaking experience and has not been paying attention at the funeral they were conducting—they might need a little training. I really don't see any difference between a celebrant and a eulogist.

Several celebrants have written about their experiences and how pleased the families were to have a truly personalized service. It was reflected with gratitude and a very substantial

honorarium. Which brings these questions to mind: "If the celebrant is a funeral home staff member—is being a celebrant part of the job description? Who sets the fee?" I'd like to hear from funeral home management or celebrants. Also has offering a celebrant increased the number of services with a casket and viewing or increased cremation with memorial services over direct cremation?

Somewhat in the same train of thought about services without viewing—What is the primary reasoning for not selecting embalming? A trade embalmer writing in one of the funeral industry publications thinks the profession does not adequately emphasize embalming with cremation. He quoted a colleague as asserting there are plenty of brochures on cremation, but none on embalming.

This statement is not correct. We have had three embalming brochures in our information display for years. They are: "Embalming- Ancient Art/Modern Science," by the Embalming Chemicals Manufacturing Association; "Embalming" by Thanos Institute; "Embalming," by National Funeral Directors Association, Inc. The information is out there whether or not arrangement counselors use it may be another matter.

From the consumer point of view some funeral homes may have priced embalming out of the market as compared to

(Continued on page 23)

About the Author: Lowell Pugh has had funeral director and embalmer licenses in Missouri and Texas and continues the operation of the family funeral home which started in 1904. He is publisher of **The Dead Beat** which began in 1999. He can be contacted at **The Dead Beat** address.

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Memorial Funeral Home Donates \$10,000 to The Laurie P. Andrews Paws Center



Memorial Funeral Home of San Juan and Edinburg, Texas presented The Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center with a contribu-

tion of \$10,000 towards their capital campaign and are proud sponsors of the Fire Hydrant Statue where rescue stories will be featured. Located at 2451 N. U.S. Expressway 281 in Edinburg, PAWS is a one of a kind animal welfare facility with state of the art kennels, public dog parks, an in-house spay and neuter clinic, and an education smart room.

Baue Funeral Home's 4th of July Float St. Charles, MO



Nancy D. Conley's Obituary

Nancy wrote this obituary before she died and it deserves to be printed in it's entirety. After reading this I'm so sorry I never met her but Heaven has another great person.

Nancy D. (As In Dog) Conley
March 31, 1961 - May 14, 2016



Nancy D. Conley, waited patiently for the Lord. He inclined and heard her cry. She's living like it's her last night on earth; found what she was looking for; ran like a river ran to the sea; she is running to stand still; walked on; you don't see her but you will; she'll see you again when the stars fall from the sky and the moon has turned red; she's packing a suitcase for a place, none of us has been, a place that has to be believed, to be seen. It's a beautiful day, don't let it slip away, ceased to breathe, will no longer be singing songs that pop into her head, and can finally stay focused. She will no longer have to get up

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Velma Sue De Leon Presented with "WOMEN OF DISTINCTION" Award

Former Texas Funeral Directors Association President Velma Sue De Leon, CFSP, was recently honored by the Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce with the "Women of Distinction" award. This award recognizes and honors the accomplishments and contributions of outstanding women of the Rio Grande Valley. Velma was selected to receive this award in the Entrepreneur category as she has excelled and gone above and beyond in her profession. She is the owner of Memorial Funeral Home of San Juan and Edinburg, Memorial Event Center, Floral Designs by Memorial, Memorial Cremation Center and Memorial Pet Passages.



Have you had an OPEN HOUSE, built a NEW ADDITION to your funeral home, developed a new PROGRAM FOR GRIEVING CLIENTS, RECEIVED AN HONOR from your community, have an interesting HOBBY or DONE SOMETHING THAT WAS JUST PLAIN FUN? If so, tell us about it. We want to tell your story (WE LOVE PICTURES, TOO) call us 800-575-2611, fax us 417-537-4797 or e-mail us: editor@thedeat-beat.com.



Behind the Back Fence

By Lowell

Are we destined to have our armed forces fighting somewhere until doomsday? So it would appear. We certainly need to continue to try to improve veteran's care before another generation comes home from war. I personally have had no problems, but it is tragic to see the average age of men and women decreasing in the VA clinics waiting rooms.

Stories about veteran's problems adjusting to civilian life likely will continue.

There have been some uplifting news about philanthropists funding various group activities that seem to be beneficial to some veterans—both physically and emotionally..

An ongoing program for veterans patterned after the popular and successful Americorps program could be a winner. An Ameri-Vets organization could provide returning veterans with the opportunity to transition to civilian life while getting civilian skills as they complete community projects. If they are kept together as a team that might help the separation anxieties or survivor's guilt that is often felt after

being separated from your comrades. This might also be a way to provide close patient monitoring.

Veterans that enter the program could have the option to remain for up to two or three years and would be paid at the same pay grade as they were on active stateside duty.

Another tax payer supported program? Yes, but the benefits to our communities and above all to our well-deserving veterans could be enormous.

What, you may ask, does the preceding commentary have to do with funeral service? Very little—until some heroic veteran with PTSD relapses with fatal consequences. If we must, in defense of our liberty, send our children off to become trained killers, then we must provide the best in medical and social rehabilitation.

As my friend Frank Oberly, a world class nature photographer, told me, "When I returned from Vietnam, I learned that there were no job openings for a side-door machine gunner."

About the Author:

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PLPA

(Pet Loss Professional Alliance)
**Hosts 6th Annual
 College in Chicago, IL**

The 6th Annual Pet Loss Professional Alliance (PLPA) College will take place August 25-27, 2016 at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center in Chicago, Illinois. This event will host current and future members of the pet loss industry and will be filled with content focused on expanding the profession and creating innovative ways to reach new families.

Topics will be:

- ◆ **Pet Death Care Providers: Caregivers with Heart (But You Still Have to Balance the Books)** - Jeff Habreson
- ◆ **Guerilla Marketing: Telling Your Story & Standing Out in Your Market**—Linda Wasche
- ◆ **The Power of Color & Design and Your Pet Funeral Home**—Leslie Reid
- ◆ **Financially Sound, Secure, and Safe! Understanding the Financial Aspect of a Pet Loss Business from COGs to Metrics You Need to Know**—Nick Padlo
- ◆ **Self-Leadership Workshop** –Bill Dickinson

The event will end with a day trip to the Hinsdale Animal Cemetery and Crematory in Willowbrook, IL.

Registration is \$525 for PLPA members and \$675 for non-members with breakfasts, lunches included.

Register or more information at: www.iccfa.com/groups/pet-loss-professionals-alliance/Events or www.myplpa.org.

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After-Thoughts *By Joanne Howard*

Well, I guess some explanation is required why I continually mention things dealing with my life and my girls. Some people had mentioned that I would never get over their losses. That's very true, but exactly when do you forget about your children, whether living or dead? Not until your mind goes or you are dead and with them.



Remember you never really know or understand what is going on with someone unless you have walked in their shoes. That goes especially when you make assumptions about what someone should or shouldn't do when they have lost a loved one. Sometimes I think God lets us share our feelings because maybe it might help someone else going through the same thing. Or it gives insight to people who haven't experienced the exact situation.

I guess I better get off my soapbox and end with just be understanding, we all go through different things in life good and bad. Let us share and be thoughtful no matter what.

Speaking of losses, I love to watch movies on Hallmark. Yes, I am a sucker for a happy ending in the ro-

mances. But lately I seem to get very nostalgic when the main characters are able to turn to their mothers or fathers. I am of the age when both of my parents and in-laws are all gone. So when watching the movies I feel sad I can't turn to my mother. Of course, I hadn't been able to turn to my mother several years before she died due to dementia, but seeing it in movies still makes me a bit sad. We just never know what will trigger times when our lost ones will be missed. Thank goodness we usually have spouses or friends we can talk with for comfort.



Another interesting thing I came across in reading my daily devotions. Have you ever heard of a "sin eater?" The person in the devotional was watching a 17th century re-enactment of a typical funeral in a historic home in New York.

The sin-eater, a very poor person, often an outcast, would come in and for a small fee (eat stale bread and flat beer for a small amount of money) and they would eat and take the deceased person's sins away when they ate the bread and drank the beer and then

chased out of town. This may have been a take-off of the Jews giving food to the goat which was to take the sins away as it was chased into the desert (scapegoat).

I don't know about you, but this doesn't happen in our funerals nowadays, so this is another example of how things have changed in funeral services.

We wonder about all the changes in services due to cremations, but shouldn't we be glad that people do some sort of acknowledgement after a person dies. Whether it is with a body present, an urn of ashes or maybe just a picture, that person is being acknowledged.

May we hope that some sort of service is done and glad that we don't have to arrange for a sin-eater, even though most people die with some sins. But as the devotional person implied Jesus was our ultimate sin-eater and I am thankful!



About the author: Joanne Howard is the editor of **The Dead Beat**. She has been a licensed funeral director since 1992 with Pugh Funeral Home in Golden City, MO and also the aftercare coordinator. Much of her writing in this column is influenced by her loss of her two daughters Laura at age 10 in 1997 and Amy at age 19 in 2003. Any comments or questions can be directed to 417-537-4412, P.O. Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748 or email: jfhoward53@yahoo.com

Heavenly Points??



A man dies and meets St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter says to the man, "Here's how it works. You need to have one hundred points to get into heaven. You tell me about the good things you've done. They are all worth a certain number of points. If your total is one hundred or more you can come in."

"Well, says the man, "I was happily married to the same woman for 52 years. I never looked at another woman. I was attentive and loved her dearly."

"That's great," says St. Peter. "That'll be two points."

"Hmm," says the man. "This is going to be harder than I thought. Well, I attended church regularly, volunteered my time and tithed faithfully."

"Wonderful," says St. Peter, "That's worth another point."

"One point!" says the man. "Okay, okay. I was involved in a prison ministry for 25 years. I went into the prison, at least monthly, and shared Jesus with them."

"Wow!" says St. Peter. "That's another two points."

"Only two points!" says the man. "At this rate, it'll be only by the grace of God that'll I'll ever get into this place."

"Bingo!" says St. Peter. "That's one hundred points! Come on in."

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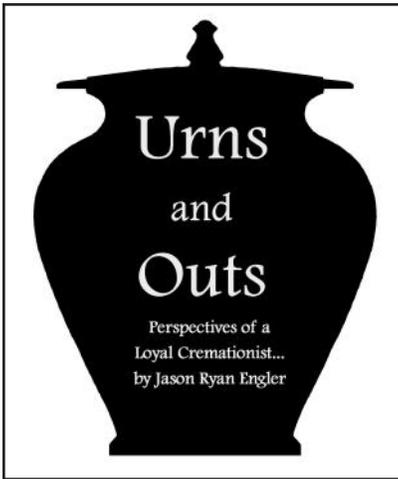
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A perspective of the early cremation process, from an 1889 article from the Cincinnati Cremation Company: "A beautiful rosy light envelops the body, and it seems to be transfigured in an aurora of benignant splendor. The pallid cheek of death is made to blush, and grief gathers color, and hope

stands dressed with ruby light to prophesy the radiant life beyond. The relic ash, pure as powdered pearl, may be more sentimentally preserved in the columbarium, or crypt of a church, than in the cold, dark grave or tomb. In this ash, that has survived the heated retort, may linger that human seed, unabsorbed by the elements, undevoured by the hunger of plants and animals from which the glorified may spring when the reveille of the Resurrection is sounded by the trumpet of the Archangel of Immortality."

That's my perspective, too...



Jason Ryan Engler is a funeral director and "The Cremation Historian" who serves as the official historian for the Cremation Association of North America. He is Secretary/Treasurer of the Northwest Arkansas Funeral Directors Association and serves as an officer on the board of the Arkansas Funeral Directors Association. He is a frequent contributor to deathcare publications and often speaks about cremation and its history to funeral, cemetery and cremation trade associations. He resides in Northwest Arkansas with his

miniature dachshund, Otto.

Check his blog at <http://urnsandouts.blogspot.com>

He can be reached at cremationhistorian@hotmail.com

Love is....

From 4—8 year olds sharing their views. Despite their young and innocent minds, kids have a simple but deep grasp of that four-letter word.

- ◆ "Love is when someone hurts you. And you get so mad but you don't yell at him because you know it would hurt his feelings."
- ◆ "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired."
- ◆ "Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My mommy and daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss but they look happy and sometimes they dance in the kitchen while kissing."
- ◆ "Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."
- ◆ "Love is hugging. Love is kissing. Love is saying no."
- ◆ "When you tell someone something bad about yourself and you're scared they won't love you anymore. But then you get surprised because not only do they still love you, they love you even more."
- ◆ "During my piano recital, I was on a stage and scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore."
- ◆ "My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night."
- ◆ "Love is when mommy gives daddy the best piece of chicken."
- ◆ "When you're born and see your mommy for the first time. That's love."
- ◆ "Love is what makes people hide in the dark corners of movie theaters."
- ◆ "I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones."

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Loss After Loss

By Ken Doka

"I do not understand it," Mayetta stated, "I lost him years ago—there came a point, maybe four years ago, where he no longer remembered me. Why do I hurt so much now?"

It was easy to understand Mayetta's point. The man she had loved, the man she had married over fifty years ago, had developed Alzheimer's disease six years prior to his death. She had been with him for those six years, watching that slow descent. For the past few years, Mayetta described Ed as a shell of his previous self; he barely communicated. Once open and engaging, he now seemed guarded, even scared. He no longer recognized her and their children. "Beyond his appearance, there was nothing left of the man I married," she told me.

She grieved all those losses along the way. She cried bitterly the first day that he asked who she was. She grieved when they went to a department store and Ed wondered if any of the photographs displayed in the picture frames were their children. She felt every moment of his decline.

It was more than just feelings; she grieved all the ways her life had changed. She mourned the loss of companionship and intimacy. She missed the meaningful walks they would take together. Mayetta no longer enjoyed those wonderful times watching her husband play with the grandchildren. She grieved all of those losses.

Now she grieved Ed's death.

That surprised her. She had always felt that when he finally died, she would feel a burden lifted. She thought it would be a relief from the constant demands of care.

She was surprised at how complex her responses were. She did feel some of that relief; yet there were other reactions as well. She felt guilty, remembering all the times she had lost patience with Ed, upset over lapses of memory that he could not control. She also felt a sense of gratitude for the better memories that bound them throughout their long years of marriage. She experienced anger. Some of it was spiritual; why did this good, sweet, smart man have to die in such a way? There was resentment at some of the comments after his death. So many people told her she was now better off; that seemed to her that she had lost a wart not a husband. These comments complicated her guilt and grief.

There was the loneliness, and the time; that surprised her. She missed Ed's company and she did not know how to fill the time. "I did so much for Ed when he was alive; I never seemed to have enough time. Now the hours seem to drag endlessly."

All these responses confused Mayetta. Yet, all are normal and expected in long chronic illnesses, especially with dementia. We grieve all the losses along the way, each change or deterioration. Each loss has to be acknowledged and grieved.

Others can help by listening, supporting, and respecting those losses.

This article was originally printed in *Journeys: A Newsletter to Help in Bereavement*, published by Hospice Foundation of America. More information about *Journeys* can be found at www.hospicefoundation.org or by calling 800-854-3402 and is published monthly by the Hospice Foundation of America, 1710 Rhode Island Ave, NW Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036. Annual subscription-\$25.00.



Kenneth J. Doka, Ph.D., is a Professor of Gerontology at the College of New Rochelle. Dr. Doka's books include:

Disenfranchised Grief; Living with Life Threatening Illness; Living with Grief: After Sudden Loss; Death and Spirituality; Living With Grief: When Illness is Prolonged; Living with Grief: Who We Are, How We Grieve; AIDS, Fear & Society; Aging and Developmental Disabilities; and Children Mourning, Mourning Children. In addition to these books, he has published over 60 articles and chapters. Dr. Doka is the associate editor of the journal **Omega** and editor of *Journeys*, a newsletter of the bereaved. Dr. Doka has served as a consultant to medical, nursing, hospice organizations, as well as businesses, educational and social service agencies. As Senior Consultant to the Hospice Foundation of America, he assists in planning, and participates in their annual Teleconference. In 1998, the Association for Death Education and Counseling honored him by presenting him an Award for Outstanding Contributions to the field of death education. In March 1993, he was elected President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling. Dr. Doka was elected in 1995 to the Board of the International Work Group on Dying, Death and Bereavement and elected Chair in 1997. Dr. Doka is an ordained Lutheran Clergyman. (And a heck of a nice guy—Editor & Publisher)

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Chuckles

Editor Note: My apologies if anyone has been offended by jokes in this column

A funeral service is being held in a church for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pallbearers carrying the casket accidentally bump into a wall jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually alive. She lives 10 more years and then dies. A ceremony is again held at the same church and at the end the pallbearers are again carrying the casket out. As the husband calls out, "Watch out for the wall!"

An exhausted looking blonde dragged himself in to the doctor's office. "Doctor, there are dogs all over my neighborhood. They bark all day and all night and I can't get a wink of sleep" "I have good news for you," the doctor answered, rummaging through a drawer full of sample medications. "Here are some new sleeping pills that work like a dream. A few of these and your trouble will be over." "Great," the blonde answered, "I'll try anything. Let's give it a shot." A few weeks later the blonde returned, looking worse than ever. "Doc, your plan is no good. I'm more tired than before!" "I don't understand how that could be," the doctor, shaking his head. "Those are the strongest pills on the market!" "That may be true," answered the blonde wearily, "but I'm still up all night chasing those dogs and when I finally catch one it's hard getting him to swallow the pill!"

Three bodies turn up at a mortuary all with very big smiles on their faces and the police call on the coroner to investigate. "First body," says the coroner. "Pierre Dubois, Frenchman, 70, died of heart failure while making love to his 20-year-old mistress. Hence the Smile." says the coroner. "Second body is Gregory Campbell, Scotsman, 25, won 50,000 pounds on the Lottery. Spent it all on whiskey. Died of alcohol poisoning, hence the Smile." he says. The Police Inspector asked, "So what about this third body?" "Ah," says the coroner, "this is the most unusual one. Paddy Murphy, Irish, 30, struck by lightning." "Why the broad grin, then?" inquires the Inspector. "He thought he was having his picture taken."



When I Say I'm Broke—I'm Broke

A little old lady answered a knock on the door one day; to be confronted by a well-dressed young man carrying a vacuum cleaner. "Good morning," said the young man. "If I could take a couple minutes of your time. I would like to demonstrate the very latest in high-powered vacuum cleaners..." "Go



Comments

"Thank you for such an interesting publication."
Funeral Director & Embalmer, West Columbia, TX

"I first want to say I really enjoy your publication, I am not in the business, but my late girlfriend, Nancy Conley was and she would always bring home The Dead Beat for me to read. It is always very interesting, informative, and you have a great sense of humor."

Kevin Cullen, Kansas City, MO

Feel free to share comments and thoughts to the editor at editor@thedead-beat.com or mail to The Dead Beat, PO Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748.

away!" said the old lady, "I'm broke and haven't got any money!" and she proceeded to close the door. Quick as a flash, the young man wedged his foot in the door and pushed it wide open.... "Don't be too hasty!" he said. "Not until you have at least seen my demonstration." And with that, he emptied a bucket of horse manure onto her hallway carpet. "Now, if this vacuum cleaner does not remove all traces of the horse manure from your carpet, Madam, I will personally eat the remainder." The old lady stepped back and said, "Well, let me get you a fork, 'cause they cut off my electricity this morning."

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah." The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."



Letter to The Tide Company

"I am writing to say what an excellent product you have! I've used it all of my married life, as my Mom always told me it was the best. Now that I am in my fifties I find it even better! In fact, about a month ago, I spilled some red wine on my new white blouse. My inconsiderate and uncaring husband started to belittle me about how clumsy I was and generally started becoming a pain in the neck. One thing led to another and somehow I ended up with his blood on my new white blouse! I grabbed my bottle of Tide with bleach alternative, and to my surprise and satisfaction, all of the stains came out! In fact, the stains came out so well the detectives who came

(Continued on page 11)

Chuckles (Cont.)

by yesterday told me that the DNA tests on my blouse were negative and then my attorney called and said that I was no longer considered a suspect in the disappearance of my husband. What a relief! Going through menopause is bad enough without being a murder suspect! I thank you, once again, for have a great product. Well, gotta go, have to write to the Hefty bag people.”



A lady about 8 months pregnant got on a bus she noticed the man opposite her was smiling at her. She immediately moved to another seat. This time the smile turned into a grin, so she moved again.

The man seemed more amused. When on the fourth move, the man burst out laughing, she complained to the driver and he had the man arrested. The case came up in court. The judge asked the man (about 20 years old) what he had to say for himself! The young man replied, “Well, Your Honor, it was like this: When the lady got on the bus, I couldn’t help but notice her condition. She sat down under a sign that said, “The Double Mint Twins are coming,” and I grinned. Then she moved and sat under a sign that said, “Logan’s Liniment will reduce the swelling,” and I had to smile. The she placed herself under a deodorant sign that said, “William’s Big Stick Did the Trick,” and I could hardly contain myself. BUT, Your Honor, when she moved the fourth time and sat under a sign that said, “Goodyear Rubber could have prevented this Accident,” I just lost it.” “CASE DISMISSED!!”

The frantic-looking lady came rushing out of her house into the street and cried, “Help! Help! My young son has swallowed a coin and is choking. I don’t know what to do!” Everyone looked the other way, except for a middle-aged gentleman who rushed into the lady’s house, found her young son, turned him upside down and shook him until the coin fell out of his mouth. “Oh, thank you!” cried the lady. “Are you a doctor? “ No, madam,” replied the middle-aged man. “ I’m from the Income Tax Department.”

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Ole and Lena were having dinner one night. When it came time for dessert, Lena took the biggest piece of cake. Ole looked surprised and said, “Vell, Lena, dat sure vasn’t very polite! Yew took da biggest piece of cake.” “Vell, what would yew have done?” asked Lena, annoyed. “Vell, I would haf been polite and taken da smaller vun,” replied Ole. “Vell, den what are yew complaining about. Dats what you got!” said Lena.

There once was a milkman in a village. He was very shy but always very honest. He was always very meticulous about giving a person the exact amount of milk they wanted. So you could imagine the milkman’s surprise when he found a court summons waiting for him at his house. He was very nervous as he had never brushed up against the law before. So, when the court day came he put on his best suit, brushed his hair, and went on his way. When he stepped into the court, he saw the baker in the plaintiff’s bench. The milkman went into the defendant’s bench and waited for the judge to speak. “Baker, what is your complaint?” asked the judge. “Well, here’s the situation. Everyday I order a pound of milk. But, whenever I go to weigh it, it’s always less than a pound. I want to be compensated for all the money that was stolen from me by that filthy milkman!” “Not guilty, your honor.” “Is it possible that your scale you use to weigh is not correct?” asked the judge. “Well, your honor, I am not the richest man so I can’t afford the most expensive scale. But I am positive that what I use is satisfactory.” The judge thought for a moment and then asked, “Is it possible that the stones you use as the counterbalance on the scale are slightly off?” “I don’t use stones.” The milkman said plainly. “So what do you use?” The judge asked, exasperated. “I use the pound of bread I get from the baker as the counterbalance.





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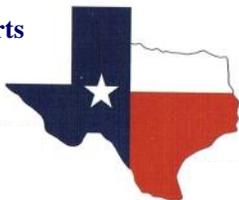
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Death Notices of Fellow Funeral Service Colleagues

ARKANSAS



Brother Pete Sims Jr., 91, of El Dorado, died April 16, 2016. He was the owner and funeral director of Sims Mortuary, Inc. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the European Theatre. He attended Atlanta College of Mortuary Science. He and a friend established Sims and Shaw Mortuary and Burial Association in 1951. His services were directed by the Sims Mortuary staff.



KANSAS



Mark Paul Elliott, 59, of Harper, passed away May 26, 2016. He received his Mortuary Science Degree from Johnson County Community College. He served his funeral director and embalmer apprenticeship in Kansas City before going to work for Downing and Lahey in Wichita. Before retiring from the funeral business, he worked for Elliott Funeral Homes in Anthony and Harper. His services were handled by Prairie Rose Funeral Home in Anthony.



Marion Sue Kunkel, 74, of Olathe, formerly of Moran and Chanute, passed away May 23, 2016. She was the wife of Glenn Kunkel and a licensed funeral director and co-owner of Kunkel Funeral Chapel in Moran, KS. In 1984 they expanded their business to the Humboldt Funeral Chapel. She retired in 2005. Her services were directed by Bruce Funeral Home in Gardner.



John Gregory "Greg" Mathena, 64, of Topeka, died June 16, 2016. He received his Master Funeral Director's License and practiced in the funeral profession for over 35 years. He was a funeral director and manager of Chapel Funeral Home in Salina from 1974-1977. He worked as the Assistant to the President of Kansas Wesleyan University from 1977-1980. In 1980 he became the managing partner of the Brennan's of Topeka Funeral Home. In 1994 Greg and wife Donna bought out their partners and renamed the funeral home to Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home. He retired from funeral service in 2007. His services were under the arrangements of Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home in Topeka.

MISSOURI



Grace Gibson, 84, of Harlingen, TX, formerly of Fulton, MO, passed away June 23, 2016. She was the mother of MFDEA Past President John Pautz. Her services were under the direction of Cotrell Funeral Service Chapel in Poplar Bluff, MO.



David Joseph Glowczewski, 44, of Fredericktown, died June 21, 2016. He is the son of Larry and Fran Whitchurch and they are managers of Wilson Funeral Home in Fredericktown. Services were arranged by Wilson Funeral Home.

MISSOURI



Dickey Ray Mizell, 72, of Granite City, IL died June 11, 2016. He served his country from 1960-1962 in the United States Air Force. He worked many years for the Mercer-Thomas Mortuaries in Granite City and served as a Madison County Deputy Coroner. He is the father of Don Mizell of Mizell Funeral Home in Cuba, MO. Arrangements under the direction of Mizell Funeral Home and Irwin Chapel in Granite City, IL.



Beverly Lee "Kitty" Moore, 86, of Potosi, died June 28, 2016. She is the mother of John Moore, owner of Moore Funeral Homes in Potosi who handled the services.

TEXAS



Ronald Thomas Adams, 81, of Austin, died July 20, 2016. He was the husband of Alice Adams, editor of the Texas Director Magazine for the Texas Funeral Directors Association. His arrangements were under the direction of Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home in Austin.



Dr. Jane Bratton Betz, 93, of Memphis, Tennessee, died on July 10, 2016. She is the mother of Kirk Betz, a funeral director and embalmer with Baker Funeral Home in West Columbia, TX. Arrangements were directed by Memphis Funeral Home in Memphis, TN.



Viola Giese, 97, of Brenham, died July 2, 2016. She is the mother of Wayne Giese, Past President and current board member of TFDA. She is also the Grandmother of Erin C. Giese of Memorial Oaks Chapel who handled the arrangements.



Jeri Loftus Harper, 74, of Fort Worth, died July 14, 2016. He graduated from Mortuary School in San Antonio and joined the family business of Robertson Mueller Harper Funeral Directors. He also had been the president of the Ray Crowder Funeral Home and Paramed Systems. Robertson Mueller Harper Funeral Directors handled his service arrangements.



Thomas Eugene Smith, 85, of Mineola, died June 28, 2016. He was father-in-law of Ken Whittaker, active TFDA Member and longtime instructor and Dean of Students of Dallas Institute of Funeral Service and founder of Whittaker Funeral Support Services and husband of Virginia Smith of Mineola.



Bobbye S. Taylor, 86, of Bay City, died June 7, 2016. She was owner of Taylor Bros. Funeral Home and Roselawn Memorial Park in Bay City. She was married to Don Jean Taylor, who preceded her in death. Her arrangements were under the direction of Taylor Bros. Funeral Home.

If you know of a fellow funeral service colleague that has died that we have not included, please send the information and picture if available (The Dead Beat, P.O. Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748) or fax it to us (417-537-4797) or E-Mail to Editor@thedead-beat.com



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Test Answers

These comments come from test papers and essays submitted to science and health teachers by elementary, junior high, high school, and college students and compiled at the NEA Life Sciences Symposium, Kansas City, Kansas. As the originator noted, "It is truly astonishing what weird science our young scholars can create under the pressures of time and grades. Please note that the original spelling has been left intact. (Editor: This study was back in 2000, hopefully they'd do better, but who knows?)

- ◆ "The body consists of three parts –branium, the borax and the abominable cavity. The branium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abominable cavity contains the bowels, of which there are five—A, E, I, O, and U."
- ◆ "Nitrogen is not found in Ireland because it is not found in a free state."
- ◆ "H2O is hot water, and CO2 is cold water."
- ◆ "To collect fumes of sulphur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube."
- ◆ "When you smell an odorless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide."
- ◆ "Water is composed of two gins, Oxygen and Hydrogin. Oxygen is pure gin. Hydrogin is gin and water."
- ◆ "Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes and caterpillars."
- ◆ "Blood flows down one leg and up the other."
- ◆ "Respiration is composed of two acts, first inspiration and then expectoration."
- ◆ "The moon is a planet just like earth, only it is even deader."
- ◆ "Artificial insemination is when the farmer does it to the cow instead of the bull."
- ◆ "Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines down on them and makes them perspire."
- ◆ "Mushrooms always grow in damp places and so they look like umbrellas."
- ◆ "The pistol of a flower is its only protections agents insects."
- ◆ "Germinate: To become a naturalized German."
- ◆ "Rhubard: A kind of celery gone bloodshot."
- ◆ "To keep milk from turning sour: Keep it in the cow."



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Man and His Ostrich

A man walks up to the bar with an ostrich behind him. As he sits down, the bartender comes over and asks for their order. The man says, "I'll have a beer." He turns to the ostrich and asks, "What's yours?" "I'll have a beer, too," says the ostrich.



The bartender pours the beer and says, "That will be \$3.40 please."

The man reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact change for payment.

The next day, the man and the ostrich come in again, and the man says, "I'll have a beer," and the ostrich says, "I'll have the same." Once again the man reaches into his pocket and pays with the exact change.

This becomes a routine until, late one evening, the two enter again. "The usual?" asks the bartender.

"Well, it's close to last call, so I'll have a large scotch," says the man.

"Same for me," says the ostrich.

"That will be \$7.20," says the bartender. Once again, the man pulls exact change out of his pocket and places it on the bar.

The bartender can't hold back his curiosity any longer. "Excuse me sir. How do you manage to always come up with the exact change out of your pocket every time? The bartender asks.

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"Well," says the man. "Several years ago I was cleaning the attic and found an old lamp. When I rubbed it a Genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I every had to pay for anything, I just put my hand in my pocket, and the right amount of money will always be there."

"That's brilliant!" says the bartender, "Most people would wish for a million dollars or something, but you'll always be as rich as you want for as long as you live!"

"That's right! Whether it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the exact money is always there," says the man.

The bartender asks, "One other thing, sir, what's with the ostrich?"

The man replies, "My second wish was for a chick with really long legs."

Moral: Watch what you wish for.....



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Remembering A Friend

By Carl Singer

The diagnosis of acute kidney failure answered my question, but didn't make my decision any easier. Her age and rapidly deteriorating physical condition could not be ignored, so my call for the vet really was to verify what I knew; our old bay mare, Foxy had reached the end of her trail that had covered 25 years. All nine of our grandchildren had petted, played with and learned riding skills on Foxy. In her latter years, as a fixture on the family farm, she never complained when grandchildren chose a Jeep ride through the wildflower meadows instead of going horseback. I think their choice was wrong, but to the young, mechanical things held more intrigue than history.

This spring and summer as Foxy sighted the end of her trail, she spent more and more time under the apple tree where she and her long departed equine friends had enjoyed



Foxy & Friends

fall feasts. But for Foxy, the fall apple harvest was too far away and her trail ended a few weeks short.

I remember one fall when a three-year-old grandson made it his job to gather fallen apples to feed Foxy and her friends. He discovered the chore could be more fun when he threw each apple at a selected horse. When it was Foxy's turn, he delivered a fast-pitched apple that smacked her between her eyes. In less than a heartbeat, she bared her teeth and leaned forward to defend herself. Had I not stepped between them, I am certain she would have nipped him on the rump even as her mother had nipped her when she misbehaved as a colt.

I hope the grandchildren have remembered the many lessons from Foxy including the one that says, "Even fallen apples should be delivered with kindness."

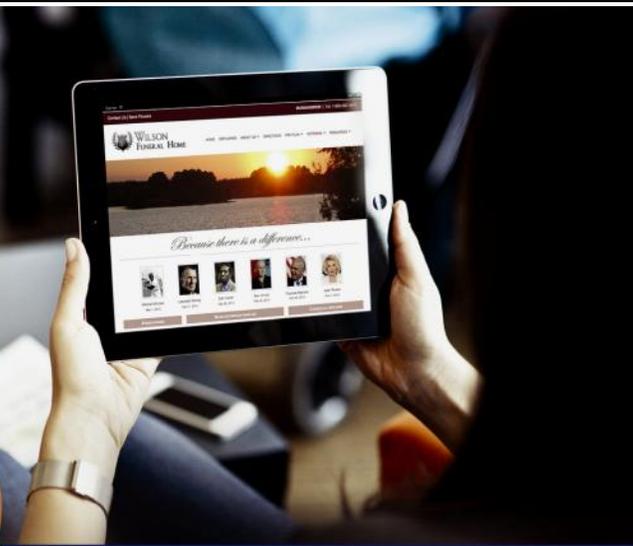


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Nancy Conley's Obituary (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

early, do laundry, clean, remember to get her dry cleaning, or do the dishes, won't be yelling squirrel. Nancy had the longest game of Space Invaders with cancer and cancer had the high score. She kept her faith, remained positive, goofy and a dork until the very last breath.

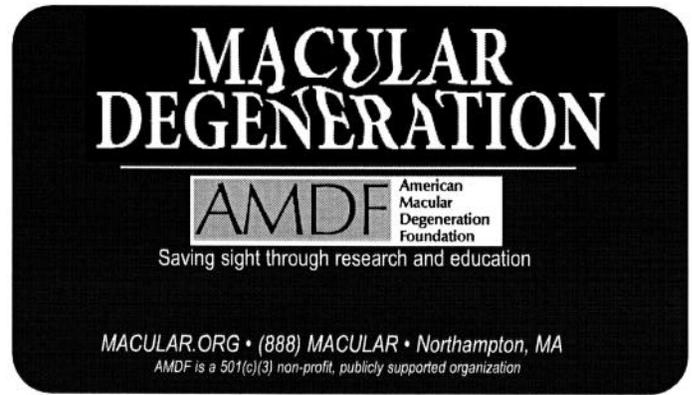
Nancy was born March 31, 1961 in Kansas City, MO to Paul Alfred Conley and Mary Joan (McDonald), she passed on May 14, 2016. A reception and gathering honoring her family and friends (her life wouldn't have been anything without them) will be held Thursday, May 19th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at McGilley State Line Chapel. Yes, you will have to listen to some of the CD's she made of her most favorite songs during this time..... (It will be more than U2 people.) Mass of Christian Burial will be held, Friday, May 20th, 11:00 a.m., at Cure of Ars Catholic Church, 9401 Mission Road, Leawood, KS 66206. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to our National Parks System, Little Sisters of the Poor, or your local liquor store. If by chance you know all the quoted U2 songs in this, check with Kevin and you will win Nancy's life time collection of all things U2 and the totes are included. Pick up only, sorry no delivery.

She loved; family, friends, life, nature, National and State parks (okay all parks) pets, animals, a mole digging in a hole, birds, zoos, music, camping, bike riding and sitting by the fire with Kevin. Being an all around amateur naturalist and geek. She loved the light-brite she got for Christmas but never got her Udo. Be thankful that she didn't, if she had all of you would have gotten a bunch of stupid silk screened crap from her. She hated gum smacking, when someone didn't use their turn signals while driving, male urinals, and cabinet doors being left open.

She is preceded in death by Theodore Roosevelt, Alfred Hitchcock, Rod Sterling, Richard Nixon, Johnny Cash and anyone not breathing. Survivors include everyone still breathing; her man friend, love of her life, best friend, the person who always made her smile, and who was always there for her, Kevin Cullen (who will be having the biggest garage sale ever to get rid of all her stuff). No worries, every

sale will include a tote to take your new crap home in). Her favorite siblings; Gary (Esther), Bruce (Patti), Carol (Mike), Diane (Mac), Paula, Barry (Kardi); her aunt and uncle George and Rosalie Schweiger; way too many favorite nieces and nephews to mention and even more favorite cousins.

If there is anything you take away from this, please let it be a sense of humor. Life is too short. Work hard, but play hard too! Never miss an opportunity to be nice, pay it forward! Tell the people you love that you love them. Know when you go to bed at night that you have no regrets from the day, because it could be your last. Famous last words "It's a Cookbook!"



NFDA Creates Recognition Program for International Members

Brookfield, Wis. - To recognize the achievements of funeral directors from outside of the United States who have fulfilled specific professional development criteria, the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) has created the International Professional Achievement Certificate program.

"NFDA's international members continue to impress me with their dedication to learning and growing as funeral directors," said NFDA President Bob Arrington, CCO. "They recognize that ongoing education ultimately benefits the families they serve. I am happy that we have our new International Professional Achievement Certificate to commend our members outside of the U.S. for their commitment to the profession."

To earn the International Professional Achievement Certificate, the funeral director must be an NFDA member in good-standing. After paying a declaration of intent fee, they have 18 months to complete a one-hour online NFDA ethics course plus 20 additional hours of education. The 20 hours may be comprised of any combination of NFDA distance learning courses (i.e., online, home study, live webinars and teleconferences) or NFDA face-to-face events (i.e., International Convention & Expo, Business Conference, Professional Women's Conference, Cremation Retreat, Arranger Training, Certified Crematory Operator seminar, Certified Preplanning Consultant seminar, biennial Asia Funeral Expo).

International Professional Achievement Certificate program participants may complete up to three hours of education in funeral service from a non-NFDA provider with prior approval.

Upon completion of the Program requirements, funeral directors will receive a certificate of achievement, a logo that can be used on marketing materials, and a press release template to announce their achievement to their local community.

NFDA member funeral directors from outside of the United States who are interested in learning more about the International Professional Achievement Certificate should contact NFDA at +1-262-789-1880 or visit www.nfda.org <<http://www.nfda.org>> (in the "Membership" link at the top of the page, select "Recognition Programs").

From My Purview— “Uncle Santa Took Me By Surprise”
By Rev. Janice Hoffman

When I received a call from a mortuary to officiate a memorial service, I call the next of kin and schedule a convenient time to get together so I can ask questions and learn about their loved one, as well as put together a service designed to bring comfort and offer healing to all those in attendance.

Once in awhile I am taken by surprise and experience a deeply moving and personal experience. Recently, I met one of those families whose loved one greatly impacted how I observe children who are grieving.

The gentleman who passed was never married, never had children. He was an uncle to children he was related to as well as those he was not. He loved to laugh, pull a good prank, and was always up for a horsey-ride. His service seemed pretty straight forward, nothing remarkable or unusual. No reason for me to think this would be one of those life-changing services in terms of how I perceive relationships.

When I was growing up, parents would typically leave their children at home and not bring them to a funeral, believing they would not be able to understand death and dying. Even today, I do not see many children at memorial or funeral services I officiate.

As a minister, I am only a few feet from those sitting in the front. I am the only person in church facing the family, sitting in the front rows of the church. At the memorial service for Uncle Santa,

as I like to call him, there were many children. Out of the 70 in attendance, a good fourth of the room was young children ranging from age 6 to 10 years old.

These young children’s love for Uncle Santa was something I have never witnessed before. The outpouring of grief and sound of children crying lasted the length of the service. A solid hour of watching children cry. One eight-year-old tried over and over to nestle himself under his mother’s arms, never getting comfortable and all the while crying crocodile tears.

I felt completely helpless watching so many children cry from the depths of their little souls for this man. It broke my heart that in their grief and tears, I could not comfort them. As the minister I am expected to behave in a professional manner. So I did, with my heart breaking the entire time.

Was it the right thing to do to bring children to Uncle Santa’s service? I believe it was. Whether they are old enough or their brain is developed enough to understand death is not a reason to stay home and avoid the cycle of life. Children’s souls are more connected because of their young age. They may not understand the complexities of life and death, but they are all old enough to understand what it feels like to love someone. Pure and simple. Nothing added. No fear, just pure love. Children love just because

they can’t help but love. What great and powerful teachers our children are, giving us a look at the world through their eyes.

What a great role model Uncle Santa was to these children. What incredible lessons he taught them about life and love. I think there is a little of Uncle or Auntie Santa in all of us. When we connect that part of ourselves with a child, we tap into our own innocence, and from this perspective, we are all children in the eyes of God.



About the Author:

Ordnained in 1999 as a non-denominational Christian Minister, **Reverend Janice Hoffman’s** ministry

has included facilitating a Course In Miracles, leading an Attitudinal Healing support group, and hosting a guided meditation for a group that met weekly for over 13 years. Rev. Hoffman’s work with mortuaries and families began in 2008. After the first funeral service Rev. Janice officiated, she had a deep awareness that honoring the life of a family’s loved one was where she wanted to focus her ministry. Beginning with meeting with the family for an intake, Janice writes a custom service bringing comfort to families in shock and grief. None of us are promised tomorrow and bringing that awareness to others, fosters appreciation for those in our lives and the time we spend with them.

Some Christian One-Liners

- ◆ Don’t let your worries get the best of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- ◆ Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.
- ◆ Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.
- ◆ It is easier to preach ten sermons that it is to live one.

- ◆ The good Lord didn’t create anything without purpose, but mosquitoes come close.
- ◆ When you get to your wit’s end, you’ll find God lives there.

- ◆ People are funny: they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
- ◆ Opportunity may knock only once, but temptation bangs on the front door forever.
- ◆ Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn’t belong.
- ◆ If a church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

Mortuary Muse (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

direct cremation. Today (7/29/2016) a colleague told me a client family brought in a hospice card with a direct cremation price written on it of \$695. What would you do about charging the customer?

Nashville, Tennessee— Will Be the Home of the 2017 ICCFA Annual Convention & Expo

The International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association has announced the new location for the 2017 Annual Convention & Expo. The Convention is being relocated to Nashville, Tennessee, one of the top convention destinations in the nation and will be held at the Music City Center.

The new location also means new dates for the Annual Convention: April 5-8, 2017. The host hotels for the convention will be the Renaissance Nashville and the Omni Nashville, both within a half-mile of the Music City Center.

The ICCFA Convention offers general sessions, breakout sessions and multiple networking events. The three-day Expo is an opportunity to meet face-to-face with supplier representatives and see the latest products and services on the market.

Visit www.iccfaconvention.com to see updates on the convention program, hotel information, and registration.

Operating Your Business More Efficiently... and Profitably

By Richard S. Lee

It is time for funeral home owners to get serious and take control of their businesses – from more efficient operation to productive (and inexpensive) marketing solutions. Unfortunately, the goodwill of families continuing to use a certain funeral home has been dwindling and is being replaced by telephone and internet price shopping. The generation that is making the buying decision seems to be more concerned on price and convenience and less on continued goodwill and supporting “the funeral home that they have used for years”.

There have been big changes occurring in the funeral industry over the last 5 years such as the rise of cremation and its effect on the revenue and cash flow of a business to the trend of families downgrading from full traditional funerals to same day services.

The days of being able to run your business without a plan are over. Every owner today has to be aware of what their current mix of business will be and what the projected revenue stream will be and then operate in a much leaner capacity in order that a reasonable profit can be achieved. The attention should be placed on what the profit margin will be on that particular service - what enhancements can be made and/or if a change in the merchandise being offered could result in a better margin.

Having an industry expert analyze your business and make recommendations as to changes or procedures that could be implemented is important. It's easy for an owner to get complacent and continue operating as they have for the last twenty to thirty years, but with the consumer attitude changing quickly, you definitely want to be proactive rather than being forced into a reactive position because once that occurs, it may be too late and your business has already suffered.

A simple, well-prepared and professional plan could be the best investment you make in your future.



Richard S. Lee is the President of Lee & Associates, a firm that represents funeral home owners in the sale and transfer of their funeral business. Since 1987, they have been involved in over 160

transactions all over the United States. The scope of their work also includes business valuations, accounting solutions and general consulting services. He also is President of Lee Funeral Funding, a company that provides financing to families for at-need funeral costs. **Richard is always available for questions and can be reached at 407-257-5024 or email him at Leebros@aol.com.**

Do you have a proposal that you think would be helpful to others in the funeral, cremation and cemetery profession? ICCFA is looking for presentations for the 2017 Annual Conven-

tion & Expo. Proposals are due to ICCFA by July 5, 2016. For proposal guidelines and for more information, contact Kirsten Kase at kase@iccfa.com.

TWO SIMPLE TIPS FOR DELIVERING A SPEECH

By Joe Weigel

It's often said that death is the only fear greater than being forced to speak in public. Fortunately, most people only die once, but you may face multiple occasions in your funeral service career, such as to service clubs in which you belong, where you're asked to get up and speak.

There are many folk remedies for reducing the anxiety associated with speaking. Some recommend that you pretend your audience failed to dress themselves. My Midwestern upbringing means the thought of speaking to a large group of naked people only makes me more nervous, so I had to find a better way to overcome those fears. And I did, using just two simple steps.

The first is called preparation. Being prepared for a public speech does more than simply keep those butterflies down to a quiet flapping. It dramatically increases your ability to capture the audience's attention and deliver the message you want them to absorb.

Preparation doesn't have to be complicated. First, take the time to write out your speech. Yes, I know some experts recommend that you use notes, bullet points, or just give it your best shot, but writing your entire speech provides two benefits. It helps you think through and organize everything you want to say, and it offers a life preserver when your mind goes blank as you're standing at the podium. Type it in a large font with at least double-spacing. Triple-spaced is even better.

Second, rehearse your speech. Not once or twice, but nine or ten times in the days before your presentation. You don't need an audience — just a quiet room where you won't be disturbed. You'll find that each rehearsal will make you more comfortable with the material. And, by the time you're actually presenting it to an audience, you'll know it so well that it will seem natural.

Sure, you can go to the Internet and find people offering six steps to a successful speech or ten tips for an effective presentation. However, for my money, they make delivering a speech far too complicated.

Getting up and talking in public takes a lot of courage and like most things in life the more you do it the better you become. So what are you waiting for?



Joe Weigel is the owner of Weigel Strategic Marketing, a communications firm focused on the funeral profession that delivers expertise and results across three interrelated marketing disciplines: strategy, branding and communications. For more information, you can visit

his website at

weigelstrategicmarketing.webs.com.

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There were three men on an airplane somewhere above the Atlantic Ocean.

Suddenly Death appears on the plane. He says, "Before I take you all with me. I'll give you a chance to survive. Each one of you will throw something in the ocean and if I find it you will die."

The first one throws a needle. Death goes down to the ocean searching for it. After a couple of minutes he comes back with the needle.

The second one throws a hair. Death goes down and after ten minutes he comes back with the hair.

The third one throws quickly something and Death goes down again. About an hour later he comes back and says to the guy, "Ok, you win, I'll let you live. But tell me what did you throw?"

The guy says, "An effervescent tablet."



Cyber-Crime is Scary and Expensive

Business owners today understand the tremendous benefits of using the Internet, computers, and technology in their everyday operations. Unfortunately, all that technology can open the door to some very serious cyber threats. Every business that is “plugged in” is a target for criminals to steal, spy, and cause major disruption.

Cyber threats can be a major blow to a company’s financial and operational well-being. They can also expose businesses to non-criminal risks, such as privacy requirements, damage to technology assets, and liability for damages caused by inadvertent injury to others. These cyber risks can be just as severe as the typical property, liability, business auto, and workers compensation exposures.

Could something like this happen to you?

- **System hack** – Hackers install card skimmers onto your business’s payment card system, allowing them to collect debit and credit card numbers for as long as the skimmers remain undiscovered. You must investigate and provide the required notification to the affected individuals, which could number in the hundreds or thousands.
- **Virus infection** – A virus infection corrupts data and causes your computer system to stop functioning properly. You lose revenue, and incur the cost of hiring an information technology firm to remove the virus and reinstall your software.

Unfortunately, these are just two examples of constantly evolving cyber-attacks that could affect your business. Hackers are opportunists. If there’s a hole in your defense against these types of crimes, they’ll take advantage if given the chance. What you do to protect your business from technology disruptions could mean the difference between business as usual, and no business at all.

There are many ways to lessen the financial impact these broad, complex hazards present. When your insurance professional discusses data compromise and cyber coverages with you, ask what options and limits are covered, excluded, or available for your unique exposures.

Federated Insurance offers data compromise and cyber coverages to help you recover in the event of a data breach, and risk management recommendations that could help you block the criminals. To find out which coverages are available in your state, contact your local Federated Marketing Representative or call 1-800-533-0472.

*2015 Cost of Data Breach Study – United States; Ponemon Institute® LLC and IBM®; May 2015; complete report can be found at www.ibm.com/security/data-breach

Examples for illustration only; coverage for actual claims will be determined solely by the terms set forth in the policy, if approved for issue. Contact your local Federated representative to learn when these coverages will be available in your state.

This article is intended to provide general information and recommendations regarding risk prevention only. There is no guarantee that following these guidelines will result in reduced losses or eliminate any risks. This information may be subject to regulations and restrictions in your state and should not be considered legal advice. Qualified counsel should be sought regarding questions specific to your circumstances and applicable state laws. All rights reserved.

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“Dear Counselor....”

By Bill Stalter

Dear Counselor

We are assisting a family in a spend down situation where one child has a durable power of attorney and another child has a power of attorney for health care decisions. The children haven't yet agreed on the on whether the preneed contract should be for a funeral or for a cremation. Does one child have a superior right to direct their mother's prearrangements?

You should first determine if the mother has a written Designation of Right of Sepulcher. While most states have a law that allows an individual to use a power of attorney to designate an agent to make decisions regarding the disposition of their body, your state law may also provide a method for designating the right of sepulcher. The right of sepulcher is a special power to direct who you want to carry out your burial plans, and whether to include specific instructions. In Missouri, a durable power of attorney form can be used to designate the attorney in fact as the agent for the right of sepulcher if specific language is included. In Kansas, the health care power of attorney form can be used to designate an agent for the right of sepulcher. But, care must be used to make sure the right form and the appropriate language is

used. “Stock” durable power of attorney forms typically do not include the language you will need.

In 2012, a Missouri woman obtained a power of attorney form from a health clinic where she was being treated for cancer. The woman used the form to designate a niece with the right of sepulcher. Four days later, the woman was killed in a car accident. The niece got into a dispute with the woman's daughters over the final arrangements. The niece planned to have her aunt cremated. The daughters wanted to have their mother buried in a family plot. After a long, expensive legal battle, the courts found that the health care power of attorney form never went into effect because the woman had died instantly in the car crash. Health care POAs typically include language that precludes them from going into effect until two doctors determine the person is incapacitated.

In Missouri, the financial durable power of attorney form, rather than the health care POA, is the more appropriate form to designate the right of sepulcher. But, ‘stock’ power of attorney forms are intended for financial powers rather than the designation of agent for the right of sepulcher. So, first see if the mother has a Designation of Right of Sepulcher, and if not, determine whether either of the dueling forms has language that grants powers to control the disposition of the body.

We need some questions for the “Dear Counselor....” column. Please send your questions to Bill's e-mail or The Dead Beat's and we will get some answers in future issues. Email: wastal@swbell.net



Bill Stalter answers our questions for educational purposes only. It is *The Dead Beat's* intent to give the reader general information about legal issues, not to provide legal advice. If a reader needs legal advice, he or she should hire an attorney. Reading *The Dead Beat* should not be used as a substitute for legal advice from an attorney. When Bill provides legal advice he does so for Stalter Legal Services in Overland Park, Kansas. Bill also provides consulting services through Preneed Resource Consultants, which can be found at www.prenneedresource.com.

Household Hints

Things only Martha Stewart would know:

- ◆ Stuff a miniature marshmallow in the bottom of a sugar cone to prevent ice cream drips.
- ◆ Use a meat baster to “squeeze” your pancake batter onto the hot griddle and you’ll get perfectly shaped pancakes every time.
- ◆ To keep potatoes from budding, place an apple in the bag with the potatoes.
- ◆ To prevent egg shells from cracking, add a pinch of salt to the water before hard-boiling.
- ◆ Run your hands under cold water before pressing Rice Krispies treats in the pan and the marshmallow won’t stick to your fingers.
- ◆ To get the most juice out of fresh lemons, bring them to room temperature and roll them under your palm again the kitchen counter before squeezing.
- ◆ To easily remove burnt on food from your skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap and enough water to cover bottom of pan, and bring to a boil on stovetop.
- ◆ Spray your Tupperware with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato-based sauces and there won’t be any stains.
- ◆ When a cake recipe calls for flouring the baking pan, use a bit of the dry cake mix instead and there won’t be any white mess on the outside of the cake.
- ◆ If you accidentally over-salt a dish while it’s still cooking, drop in a peeled potato and it will absorb the excess salt for an instant “fix-me-up.”
- ◆ Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.
- ◆ Brush some beaten egg white over piecrust before baking to yield a beautiful glossy finish.
- ◆ Place a slice of apple in hardened brown sugar to soften it.
- ◆ When boiling corn on the cob, add a pinch of sugar to help bring out the corn’s natural sweetness.
- ◆ To determine whether an egg is fresh, immerse it in a pan of cool, salted water. If it sinks, it is fresh, but if it rises to the surface, throw it away.
- ◆ Cure for headaches; Take a lime, cut it in half and rub it on your forehead. The throbbing will go away.
- ◆ Don’t throw out all that leftover wine; Freeze it into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces.
- ◆ If you have a problem opening jars; Try using latex dishwashing gloves. They give a non-slip grip



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that makes opening jars easy.

- ◆ Potatoes will take food stains off your fingers. Just slice and rub raw potato on the stains and rinse with water.
- ◆ To get rid of itch from mosquito bites, try applying soap on the area and you will experience instant relief.
- ◆ Ants, ants, ants everywhere... Well, they are said to never cross a chalk line. So get your chalk out and draw a line on the floor or wherever ants tend to march. See for yourself.
- ◆ Use air-freshener to clean mirrors. It does a good job and better still, leaves a lovely smell to the shine.
- ◆ When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily.
- ◆ Look what Alka Seltzer can do: Clean a toilet. Drop tablets and wait 20 minutes, then brush and flush. Need to clean bottom of vase-fill with water and drop 2 tablets in. Polish jewelry with water 2 tablets and wait 2 minutes. Don’t forget thermos bottles— clean with 4 tablets and bottle filled with water and wait hour or more. Finally unclog a drain. Clear by dropping 3 tablets followed by a cup of white vinegar. Wait, flush with hot water.






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Leesman Funeral Homes (Cont.)



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turned out and how well business has been since they opened it. They did 300 cremations in their first 6 months which doubled what they had hoped for.

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