



**THE LOS ANGELES
FUNERAL SOCIETY**

The Nonprofit, Nonpressure Alternative Since 1957

“PRE-PLAN, DON'T PRE-PAY”

Fall

2012

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2012

2:00 - 5:30 P.M.

(Followed by a light meal)

SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Hartzell Memorial Hall

695 Sierra Madre Blvd. • Sierra Madre, CA 91024

(Corner of Michillinda & Sierra Madre Blvds. – enter from parking lot)



TOPIC:

**HOW TO PLAN AND PERSONALIZE
A FUNERAL OR
MEMORIAL CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

Rev. Leon Strand, Rev. David Solis &
Ms. Heather Kobler



Free Parking

For directions and information, please call:

(626) 836-3545

Website: www.losanglesfuneral.org

P.O. Box 92313 • Pasadena, CA 91109-2313 • Office: (626) 836-3545

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall Greetings to all Los Angeles Funeral Society members and friends!

We are so fortunate to have a new office space in such a desirable location. Our office is in Sierra House just north of Hartzell Memorial Hall the site of our annual meeting. Marge is enjoying the large, well-equipped space that is easily accessible to those of us who had difficulty getting up the stairs of our old, expensive office.

We are very pleased to have two of our board members who have the experience of officiating at numerous funerals and memorials, present information on conducting a funeral service, or a celebration of life/memorial service as part of our Fall meeting program. Reverend Leon Strand is a retired Methodist Minister who is largely responsible for acquiring our new office. Reverend David Solis brings his language skills and knowledge of Catholic services and policies to our board. He is a bilingual officiate for Amor Weddings and will join Rev. Strand and Heather Kobler in answering any questions you may have about conducting a service, or memorial for your loved one.

Heather Kobler brings to our meeting her years of experience working with grieving family members who are unprepared to deal with their loss of a loved one. She will share her experiences working as a volunteer at the Casket and Monument Company in Whittier, as well as describe the memorial/celebration of life she planned when her husband, Sig, died less than two years ago.

We now have several cooperating mortuaries in the East Los Angeles area. So we are fortunate to have bilingual services available to families served by these mortuaries. Again, we stress the importance of preplanning instead of prepaying. When you make important end-of-life decisions joining the Los Angeles Funeral Society (\$50.00 membership fee and \$20.00 dues per year), you also relieve your family members of making those difficult decisions after you're gone. It also gives

you the opportunity to communicate your wishes to your loved ones. These discussions should also include such information as setting up a trust so your family receives the greatest benefit from your estate. We can pay a heavy price for avoiding any discussion of what if? When I die? Plans for the future without me? Preplanning is the greatest gift you can give your family, regardless of your age.

It is important that we don't delay in expressing thanks and telling friends, and family how much they are loved.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our annual meeting on October 20, 2012.

Ruby J. Trow

President, Los Angeles Funeral Society



Just Desserts

Life had come to an end for a group of blind mice who found themselves in Heaven. They were lost and uncomfortable in its vast domain. It took them forever to get anyplace.

God forbade that there be any unhappiness in Heaven and promptly formed a committee to help them. They were provided with minute skates that the mice learned to use easily and with much pleasure due to their low centers of gravity and their quick coordination.

Some elderly cats who had used up their nine lives arrived in Heaven. They found the surroundings very much to their liking. They said they could stroll unhindered wherever they wished, morning or afternoon, and that they especially enjoyed the meals on wheels.

*If you stay uninvolved in life,
how will you know when you're dead?*

Your dues and other financial help are urgently requested. The move was expensive and we don't want to be forced to close our doors from lack of funds!

Your past support has been great and we look forward to a long future!



THIS IS YOUR LEGACY . . . LEAVE YOUR MARK

Planned gifts play a critical role in the survival of the Los Angeles Funeral Society: Beneficiary Designation – an important way to make an impact is to name the Los Angeles Funeral Society as a beneficiary of a living trust, retirement, or life insurance policy. We will recognize your gifts and memorials in our annual newsletter.

Helen Dennis shares these thoughts: Prepare ourselves and others for our death. Greet passing with poise, dignity and peace. Advanced planning is a given.

Dealing with unfinished business and creating a legacy are part of the preparation. Plant the seeds that will bloom for others in springs we will never see. This may be the ultimate purpose in life.



WHOLE BODY DONATIONS

Donating your body to Research for Life, an organization serving Southern California, where it will be used for research and education costing you and family nothing. This also can relieve you and your family from the expense of a funeral, or cremation. Call (800) 229-3244 or go to:

www.research-for-life.org



SAY 'YES' TO ORGAN, TISSUE DONATION

There is one word that can make the difference of life and death, and that anyone can say at any time. That word is **yes** to become an organ and tissue donor.

For nearly 100,000 people awaiting a life-saving organ transplant in this country, saying "yes" to donation means a chance to live or face certain death.

The wait for an organ transplant can be nerve-racking. Today, while this newsletter is being circulated, 18 of those waiting will die because not enough people said **yes** when they had the chance. A single organ donor can save up to eight lives; a tissue donor can improve the lives of 50 others.

Virtually everyone can be an organ and tissue donor. Think you are too old or too frail? Think again. One-third of donors are older than 50. Those who are aged 60 and older are considered optional for tissue donation.

All it takes is a minute to say **yes** to donation at your local Department of Motor Vehicles; or signing onto your state's donor registry. Millions have made the decision to say **yes** and millions more are needed.



ONE WAY TO PLAN AHEAD

Here is how the LOS ANGELES FUNERAL SOCIETY can help. When you join LAFS, by returning the application with payment and your choice of mortuary, an 'Instructions to Mortuary' form is sent back along with helpful material about funeral planning. On the instructions form you indicate the preferred funeral plan and any other instructions. After you return this form to LAFS our office supplies a copy to the selected mortuary and that copy is placed in a file with the mortuary. Our office maintains a record of the mortuary which you have selected. You may change your mortuary information or your mortuary at any time.

Members can protect their families by informing them clearly about the pre-need arrangements.

BE SURE TO NOTE: With each annual newsletter, we will continue to list additions and deletions to our list of cooperating mortuaries. This is part of our ongoing commitment to you of constant vigilance of the mortuaries with whom we are associated. New mortuaries are investigated before we negotiate a new contract. We are proud of our record and our mortuaries.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING YOURSELF BEFORE

YOU NEED TO PLAN A FUNERAL

I have been volunteering for the past seven years at a tiny little casket store in Whittier and I know one thing for sure – this little shop is the best kept (underground) secret in the Los Angeles area!

I have learned a lot about the funeral industry working here and one thing I know for sure is this; there is a stigma attached to discussing the inevitability of our own deaths and those of family members; even those who have a family member in Hospice Care are ill prepared for what they must deal with emotionally and financially when someone in the family dies. There is life after death for the surviving family members, but if the family over spends on goods and services, the quality of life for their family members can be lessened dramatically. Denial is expensive both emotionally and financially. It costs NOTHING to have a plan and goods and services can be paid for at the time of need.

Educating yourself to the choices and costs associated with planning a funeral can be done ahead of time at no cost to anyone. If you plan before a loss, the decisions are made ahead of time. You will avoid going on an emotional roller coaster ride because you have a plan! When death occurs, you make one phone call and everything is taken care of. You can spend time with your family instead of running around checking out different options etc. People shouldn't be driving their cars and shopping for funeral services after a loss, they should be at home reminiscing and spending time with family and friends.

Please remember this, we are all terminal, we just don't know our expiration dates.

HEATHER KOBLER CASKET & MONUMENT CO.
13131 E. Whittier Blvd. • Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 698-4890



Spanish Speaking Members may contact David Solis at: tdhsolis@hotmail.com for Spanish help or contact Marge at the office to leave a call back number for Mr. Solis to reach you.



Remember:

Grieving families who don't know their legal rights are often vulnerable to sales pressure, manipulation and over spending when it comes time to plan a funeral.

"Pre-plan, Don't Pre-pay"

PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL:

- ❖ Lets you choose the type of funeral you desire
- ❖ Saves your survivors from having to make choices during the stress of bereavement
- ❖ Lets you comparison shop among mortuaries and make knowledgeable decisions
- ❖ Stimulates family discussion, sharing, and decision-making

PRE-PAYING

FOR YOUR FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS:

- ❖ Ties up money now which you might need later for other expenses.
- ❖ Gambles your money on a funeral Provider who may not be in business when you die.
- ❖ Risks losing all or part of your money if you move to another area, change your mind, fail to make installment payments, or if your survivors aren't aware that you pre-paid.

There are a few situations where prepaying might be useful, but be careful. Visit our website or call the office for information on alternative ways to set aside money for funeral expenses.

COOPERATING MORTUARIES 9/2012

Cooperating Mortuaries and Their Basic Charges *	Telephone	Cremation	Direct Burial	Burial & Service
ABBOTT & HAST 315 Silver Lake Blvd., Los Angeles 90026	323/661-1111	\$790	\$1,095	\$1,695
ANGELENO MORTUARY ¹ 5948 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys 91401	818/778-1788	\$895	\$1,145	\$1,915
ANGELENO VALLEY ¹ 5423 Tujunga Ave., North Hollywood 91601	818/753-7880 888/495-5888	\$895	\$1,145	\$1,915
ARMSTRONG FAMILY MALLOY-MITTEN 931 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles 90015	213/747-9121 800/286-6789	\$665	\$922	\$1,500
CONTINENTAL FUNERAL HOME 5353 E. Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles 90022	323/728-6222 800/604-4590	\$645	\$940	\$1,320
CREMATION SOCIETY OF ORANGE COAST 12425 Lewis St., Suite 102, Garden Grove 92840	800/678-0669	\$650	\$945	\$1,250
DOUGLASS 500 E. Imperial, El Segundo 90245	310/640-9325	\$875	\$1,195	\$1,695
DOUGLASS & DUNAWAY 4286 W. Broadway, Hawthorne 90250	310/676-2271	\$875	\$1,195	\$1,695
DOUGLASS FAMILY 3363 Imperial Highway, Lynwood 90262	310/632-1171	\$875	\$1,195	\$1,695
9434 Long Beach Blvd., South Gate 90280	323/567-2175	\$795	\$995	\$1,395
GATES KINGSLEY & GATES SMITH SALSBURY 4220 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City 90230	310/837-7121	\$1,145	\$1,595	\$2,295
HOME OF PEACE MORTUARY 4334 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles 90023	310/261-6135 800/300-0223	\$654	\$1,011	\$1,511
ROSE FAMILY FUNERAL HOME 4444 Cochran St., Simi Valley 93063	805/581-3800	\$875	\$1,195	\$2,295

* Prices subject to change. Call LAFS office for current list.

¹Will go to Palmdale/Lancaster area for an additional charge of \$120 per trip

 **LOS ANGELES
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P. O. BOX 92313
PASADENA, CA 91109-2313

Send to: **LOS ANGELES FUNERAL SOCIETY, INC.**

P.O. Box 92313, Pasadena, CA 91109-2313

I'm not a member yet, please send info.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____ @ _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: CA Zip: _____ - _____

Enclosed you will find \$ _____ for the following:

1. Annual Dues— \$20

2. Contributing Supporter Gift in the amount of \$ _____ .

3. Memorial Gift in Memory of: _____

Please notify: _____ Address: _____

4. Health Care Directive — FREE

About the Los Angeles Funeral Society, LAFS was organized in 1957 by members of the Hollywood Consumer Cooperative, following the pattern set by a number of consumer and church groups across the country concerned about the lack of consumer awareness and protection related to high-cost funerals. Not a business, the nonprofit, educational society has contracted with local undertakers who will allow members to plan — not pay — in advance the kind of funerals they wish. At the time of death, survivors are spared costly financial and emotional burdens.

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