

FCA-KC

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Kern County

(Formerly Kern Memorial Society)

P. O. Box 1202 Bakersfield, CA 93302-1202

Email: fca-kc@live.com

Website: www.fca-kern-county.com

Affiliated with the national Funeral Consumers Alliance, Inc. and member of Funeral Consumers Alliance of California

FCA-KC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013

2013 ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 11:30 A.M.

Special Presentation: "The Affordable Care Act and what it means to You"

Speaker: David E. Womack, FACHE, Executive Director, Kern County

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan & Hospitals

Location: Harvest Room, Hodel's Country Dining

5917 Knudsen Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308 - Cost: \$18

Topic: In 2010, Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (dubbed by some "ObamaCare"). The 2010-act, 900+ page plan is being phased in beginning this year. David Womack from his perspective as a health plan and hospital administrator will share his views of what the Affordable Care Act will mean to us and our quality of life in America.

David Womack serves as the executive director of Kern County's Kaiser health plans and hospitals which have served more than 100,000 local members for over 25 years. He held executive positions at both civilian hospitals and served as a health administrator in the US Air Force. Mr. Womack holds a Master of Strategy degree from the US Air Force War College and a Master of Health Administration degree from Baylor University. He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

The Board invites all members, their family, friends, neighbors and the public at large. Come and meet your board volunteers who are doing a job that no other organization addresses – protecting your right to choose a meaningful, dignified and affordable funeral.

Come to learn, have fun and enjoy a delicious buffet meal. Pick up informative free pamphlets on end of life issues and take part in a fund-raising raffle. The annual business meeting will follow the presentation.

Please make your check payable to FCA-KC for \$18 per person (includes tax & tip). Information: 661-324-5323. Mail to FCA-KC, PO Box 1202, Bakersfield CA 93302. (Postmark by March 2)

Date sent _____ Amount _____ Check # _____

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Reservation for FCA-KC Annual Meeting & Luncheon, Saturday, March 9, 2013

Names of people in your party:

Number of people attending _____ x \$18 per person = Total \$ _____ Check payable to "FCA-KC."

I cannot attend, but my gift of \$ _____ is enclosed to support the work of FCA-KC

Please mail postmarked by Saturday, March 2 to FCA-KC, PO Box 1202, Bakersfield CA 93302-1202

Treasurer's Report

Year Ended December 31, 2012
Beginning Cash Balance January 1, 2012 - \$2,352.20

Receipts:
Gifts - \$892.62
Memberships - 420.00
Total Receipts - \$1,312.62

Disbursements:
Annual Meeting (receipts) - \$(512.00)
Annual Meeting (expenses) - \$656.24
State & National Dues - 235.00
Newsletter - Printing/Folding, etc. - 393.18
Office Expenses - 420.15
Total Disbursements - \$1,192.57
Excess Receipts (Disbursements) - 120.05

Ending Cash Balance December 31, 2012 \$2,472.25

Gifts gratefully received in 2012:

Phil Neufeld
Garratt, Diane
Newman, Betty
Vanzant, Dean
Morgan, James & Lenore
Lind, Judy
Williams, Ann
Kaplan, Inge
Herring, Melisse
Huckins, Jo Anne
Fraser, Betty
Ross, Sheila

ESPAÑOL

By the way, if you need information about your federal funeral consumer rights in Spanish, the Federal Trade Commission has available "Funerales: Guía para el Consumidor /Funerals: A Consumer Guide"

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/spro19.shtm>

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/spro19.pdf> (PDF of the booklet)

Please also note that now there are many web browser widgets (such as Google's) that can translate the text of a web site among 65 major languages.

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2013 Nominating Report: The nominating committee of Iva Fendrick, "Bugs" Fontine, and Gil Gia is pleased to recommend the following for election to FCA-KC Board of Directors – New Nominee: Michael Monji; Incumbent candidates: Melisse Herring, T. Ken Ishida, Inge Kaplan, Kitty Pierce, Sheila Ross.

BALLOT FOR 2013-15 BOARD MEMBERS

_____ Initial here if you wish to vote for all candidates proposed by Nominating Committee – OR –
You may vote with a ✓ or husband's/wife's initials for up to eight directors including write-in candidates.

New Nominee Bio for MICHAEL MONJI



Michael Monji – The Monji family is known for landscape excellence. Michael, a long-time FCA-KC member, has a passion for landscaping. He wrote the book, *Does It Pay To Die?*, a lawyer-approved do-it-yourself living trust workbook. Michael's Dad died with an estate worth \$285,000 and after four years of probate, Michael received \$200.00.

Incumbents willing to serve another term:

Melisse Herring _____
Sheila Ross _____

T. Ken Ishida _____
Inge Kaplan _____

Kitty Pierce _____

Write-in Candidate (with that person's approval) _____

You may cast your ballot by mail (envelope enclosed) or at the March 9 Annual Meeting.

Valentine's Day: Whisper "I love you" even after death!

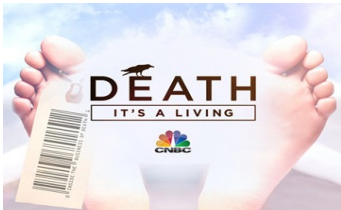
Valentine's Day is February 14. This is the day Americans devote to celebrating love and couples. Phrases such as "love always," "my love," and "until death do us part" help express our love and devotion to that special someone. And when death finally does part a couple, Valentine's Day can be especially painful for the one left behind.

"When that first Valentine's Day rolls around after the death of a spouse or partner, when retail stores are featuring cards for lovers, and talk shows are suggesting wonderful ways to say, 'You're Mine,' the loss can seem almost insurmountable," says Josh Slocum, executive director of Funeral Consumers Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting a consumer's right to choose a meaningful, dignified, affordable funeral. "And while the death of a loved one is always excruciating, talking about it beforehand and planning a little in advance may help make an inevitably painful time just a little bit less hard to bear."

Slocum is co-author of *Final Rights: Reclaiming the American Way of Death*, the most comprehensive book available today on funeral and burial purchases. He says when couples don't plan for their funerals to some degree, the one left behind is forced to guess what the other might have wanted and this can lead to worry long after the funeral is over. "It's guilt over wondering if the right decisions were made and this sometimes intensifies the grief," says Slocum.

Choose a time to sit down and talk about what kind of funeral service you'd like. Where will it be held? Who will officiate? One of the biggest questions for those who don't plan is what kind of casket would he or she have wanted? Steel? Wood? Pricey? Inexpensive? Talk about burial options: Cremation? In-ground or above-ground burial? Where? Think about establishing payable-on-death account at your local bank. Just a simple savings account or CD that remains in your name is all you need. They are portable and earn interest. Choose a trusted beneficiary. This is a perfect time to make a list of important passwords to on-line accounts that will need to be accessed after death. Also, gather important papers, make copies and give them to your family, then put the originals in a safe place. Make sure you each know required information for death certificates such as name of both parents including mothers' maiden names; place of birth and even possibly parents' place of birth. This Valentine's Day, remember that helping the person you cherish most to deal with your death is a great gift of love.

Josh Slocum has appeared on 60 Minutes, NPR, and CNN. Funeral Consumers Alliance is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to protecting the rights of funeral consumers. For more information on this or other funeral issues, please visit <http://www.funerals.org>.



"It's a 24/7, fiercely competitive business that everyone will eventually confront but few understand: the \$17 billion-a-year 'death care' industry." CNBC's Tyler Mathisen profiles the professionals who deal in the rituals of death, and profit as they help ease the way from here ... to the hereafter. CNBC goes behind the scenes at a funeral home as it explores the steady rise in cremation and uncovers some unconventional ways to say goodbye. Can this industry reinvent itself for a Boomer generation that's demanding new ways to deal with the departed and celebrate their lives?

Airing dates:

Sunday, February 17 9P ET

Monday, February 18th 11 a.m. ET | 4 p.m. ET

See trailer and extra features at: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/100307316>

The national FCA office has issued the inaugural publication *The Grim Reader*. It contains consumer information on topics such as "the five ways to fail at funeral planning, and "Four -step funeral planning. You can download this issue at www.funerals.org/newsandblogsmenu/blogdailydirge/2661-grimreader122012

FCA-KC has a website which contains important information and documents needed to become a member or to keep you and your family informed. You can access our current newsletter, Membership Application, Mortuary Price Survey or the Survivor Instructions and Mortuary Information (SIMI) form which provides areas to choose mortuaries, methods of bodily disposal and collects information required for a death certificate.

Visit us at www.fca-kern-county.com and share this information with a friend.



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formerly Kern Memorial Society
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2012-2013 Board of Directors

T. Ken Ishida - *President*
Inge Kaplan - *Vice-President*
Sheila Ross - *Treasurer*
Kitty Pierce - *Secretary*

Directors

Melisse Herring
Betty Newman
Phil Neufeld

Volunteer

Merridith Warren,
Newsletter Editor
Membership Administrator
Website Administrator
Honorary Board Member

GETTING THE WORD OUT

In October, Funeral Consumers Alliance of Kern County board members Inge Kaplan and Lorraine Unger staffed a table at the Healthy Harvest Senior Resource Fair sponsored by the Office of Kern County Aging and Adult Services. We handed out many brochures and our recent price list. The price list was extremely popular. In the spring we will again appear at another location in the eastern part of Bakersfield. Let us know if you would like to help get the word out or if you have some group or occasion where you would like us to educate the public on their consumer rights regarding funeral services. Remember our "hot line" is 661-496-9959.



RECONSTRUCTING OUR ARCHIVES

The Funeral Consumer Alliance of Kern County, formerly known as the Kern Memorial Society, is over 50 years old. Our earliest reports are from the Ridgecrest area from 1961 to 1979. Then there was an eight-year gap of information before it was reestablished in Bakersfield in 1987. The next two big gaps of board minutes and treasurer reports are from 1991 to 1999 and 2002 to 2006. It would be so helpful if you would go through your own personal FCA/KC or Memorial Society files to see if you have pertinent information of these last two periods of time (1991-99 and 2002-06). If you want to retain this information, copies can be made for our permanent files and the original documents returned. Please, give this chore careful consideration as we need to make our historical files as complete as possible. At the same time we want to provide easy accessible and secure information to all our members. At the present time (as a work in progress) it is at the home of Betty Newman – 5900 Burke Way , Bakersfield, CA 93309 – 661-834-1778 - bobandbetty45@atginternet.com. Please contact her if you have any possible missing information or if you have comments or questions.

