

SAN DIEGO MEMORIAL SOCIETY
4885 RONSON CT., STE. J, SAN DIEGO, CA, 92111
Phone: (858)874-7921
SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, April 5, 2009 will be our 51st Annual Meeting. It will be held in the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego located at 4190 Front St in Hillcrest. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm and there will be free parking in the church parking lot. All members are encouraged to attend.

We will have a short business meeting first where members of the Board of Directors will be introduced and approval of the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting will be done. The Treasurer's report will be read and elections to replace Board Members whose terms of office have expired will be held. The Society needs new board members. We would like people who are interested in serving on the board and are willing to spend time strengthening the Society.

This years focus will be on the new Mortuary price survey that was prepared by a group of member volunteers. Despite being time consuming, the survey is an excellent tool to share with the community. It will give a clear picture of the range of prices for funeral and cremation services in San Diego County.

The survey will be available at the Annual Meeting. The price surveys and the new participating mortuaries price structures are also posted on our web site.

We hope to see representatives from our participating mortuaries in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

The San Diego Memorial Society has a long history of providing information and cost savings to consumers for simple, dignified and inexpensive cremation and burial services.

Please join us in celebrating our 51st Annual Meeting.

LATEST CHANGES AND UPDATES

We have dropped two Mortuaries and added four new ones. We are no longer affiliated with American Cremation or Threshold. We have added Accu-Care Cremation Center in Carlsbad, California Cremation & Burial Chapel with Chapels on El Cajon Blvd. in San Diego and Highland Ave. in National City, Cremation Services, Inc. in Vista, California Funeral Alternatives with facilities in both Escondido and Poway. There have also been many price changes effective Jan. 1st, 2009. Our website: www.sdmsonline.com has all of these changes under Publications and in the pamphlet area you would click on Participating Mortuaries to bring up the new form with all of the information and current prices. We no longer offer a Plan 3. The old Plan 4 is now Plan 3 and the old Plan 5 is now Plan 4. These can also be found on the website under Plans Offered.

All of these changes are valid thru the end of 2009.

If you don't have a computer and wish to have the latest Participating Mortuary information mailed to you, please call the office.

If you have already prepaid one of the Participating Mortuaries that are no longer affiliated with San Diego Memorial Society they will continue to honor your prepaid end-of-life contract.

All of our long-time members who are signed with Humphreys Mortuary need do nothing. Humphreys is still servicing all of our members who signed with them prior to 2007.

REMINDER

At time of death DO NOT call the Society. You are required to call the Participating Mortuary that you chose. The Society does not pick up bodies. The mortuary of your choice has someone on call 24/7 to pick up the body of the deceased.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS!!!!

To all of you who opened your hearts and check books, we cannot begin to express our thanks for your support. We had responses from approximately 300 of our 10,000 plus members and the contributions were greatly appreciated. They are keeping us afloat for the time being. Unfortunately, we need your support year round. Remember, it is not the size of the contribution that counts. It is the idea that you are willing to sponsor the commitment of the Society to inform citizens of their rights regarding funeral

services and keeping the final costs as low as possible.

THE BIG "OOPS" IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER.

I am sure that many of you discovered the error in the phone number in the Winter Newsletter. It is our desire to make phoning the Society easy and appropriate. The office manager is very good about answering the phone when she is in the office. The correct phone number is (858)874-7921. The office is open Monday thru Thursday from 9 to noon. Our apologies to anyone who was inconvenienced.

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT MAGGIE

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I wish you a very happy new year and a prosperous one. May your life be filled with love, joy and peace.

Please plan to attend our 51st Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 5, 2009 beginning at 2:00 p.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m. You will have an opportunity to meet your Board of Directors, your new Office Manager and other members of the Society.

During the Annual Meeting I would hope that members will seek me out and volunteer to consider becoming a member of the Board of Directors. We could use two or three good active members who enjoy volunteering where needed.

If any of you have any questions or any thoughts or suggestions for us, please call us at the office, write to us or ask at the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

MYTH ABOUT HOSPICE

MYTH – Medicare provides only six months of hospice care, so enrollment should be delayed as long as possible.

FACT – Medicare law does not time-limit the hospice benefit. Patients have access to the Medicare Hospice Benefits as long as the patient’s physician and the hospice medical director certify that the patient’s illness is still considered terminal, with an estimated life-expectancy of six months or less.

ANOTHER REMINDER

It is very important that you notify the Society when you change your address, phone number or name. It is costly for the Society to mail out Newsletters, and other information. The only way we maintain correct information is by your telling us of any changes. If you move and do not send us a change of address, you will no longer receive our Newsletters and will miss all of the changes that are inevitable at the Society. It only takes a phone call and, if the Office Manager is not in, the office answering machine will pick up the information.

We are still in need of the help of an Attorney who is well versed on lease contracts. If you have that knowledge or know anyone that does, please call the office.

MORTUARY PRICE SURVEY

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the latest Mortuary price list survey, please call the office. We are having a limited

number of copies printed, due to the expense, so will not be mailing it with our newsletter. It will be available on our website: www.sdmonline.com.

FYI:

One of our Director’s (Paul Marsh) has been burning the midnight oil for several months now filling out the required forms to change our status from a 501C4a to 501C3a exempt organization. When this is approved by the IRS all contributions, including membership fees, will be tax deductible plus it will also save the Society money on postage.

This has been in the discussion stage for several years but the Society finally found a volunteer who was willing to obtain all of the information and take on the thankless task of doing all of the time consuming work to make this a possibility.

Hopefully, when we publish our next newsletter we will have a good idea if this is going to happen and when.

UP-TO-DATE LIST OF THE PARTICIPATING MORTUARIES AND PLANS OFFERED:

- Accu-Care Cremation Center – Carlsbad (Plans 1 thru 3)
- California Cremation & Burial Chapel – San Diego and National City – (Plans 1 thru 4)
- California Funeral Alternatives – Escondido and Poway – (Plans 1 thru 3)
- Community Mortuary – Chula Vista (Plans 1 thru 3)
- Cremation Services, Inc. – Vista (Plans 1 thru 3)
- Featheringill Mortuary – San Diego (Plans 1 & 2)
- Oceanside Mortuary – Oceanside (Plans 1 & 2) call for info on 3 & 4

PLANS OFFERED – continued.
Preferred Cremation and Burial – San Diego
(Plans 1 thru 4)

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Margaret (Maggie) Moody - President
Paul Ward - Vice President
Gerald Newall – Secretary
Russell Armstead – Treasurer
Ken Barnett – Director
Anne-Louise Clinton – Director
Paul Marsh – Director
Phyllis McGrath – Director
Allen Rosencranz – Director
Dean Smith - Director

51st ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, April 5, 2 to 4 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego,
4190 Front St. in Hillcrest
Looking forward to seeing you there!!

Thanks again for all of your donations and keep them coming. We always have speakers available for any of your clubs, churches, Senior living facilities, etc. And there is never a charge. We can't stress enough times how important it is for our membership to continue to grow. We help that many more people and it brings in that much more money to keep is in operation.