

**Funeral Education Foundation  
& Funeral Consumers Alliance**

# **In Touch**



A nonprofit organization educating consumers in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties

463 College Avenue, P.O. Box 60448, Palo Alto, CA 94306

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March 2005

## **Annual Meeting**

**Funeral Consumers Alliance of San Mateo & Santa Clara Counties**

**Sunday, April 3, 2005**

**Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Ave., Palo Alto**

**Open to the Public - Bring Your Friends & Relatives**

**Agenda:**

2:30 Registration, refreshments, browse the free brochures

2:50 Welcome by President Harry Anisgard

Business Meeting: Annual Report, 2005 Budget, Election of Officers, Awards

3:20 Program:

### **Body and Organ Donations: End-of-Life Options**

Featuring

**John Dolph**

**Retired Director, Stanford University Willed Body Program**

and

**Gil and Donna Warren**

**Calif. Transplant Donor Network Volunteers**

4:15 Entertainment

*by The Raging Grannies*



4:30 Closing

**How to get to Unitarian Church:** *From Rt. 101*, take San Antonio Rd. west to Charleston, turn right. The church will be on your right, just past Middlefield Ave. *From Rt. 280*, turn east on Page Mill Road. Turn right on El Camino Real until you reach Charleston. Turn left (east) and go past the railroad tracks and Alma St. 505 E. Charleston will be on your left.

### Annual Meeting to Highlight Body & Organ Donations

The 53rd annual meeting of the Funeral Consumers Alliance will take place Sunday, April 3, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto. Come join us for refreshments and registration at 2:30 p.m., and we will sit down at 2:50.

Members and guests are advised that there will be a short business meeting, a program on body and organ donations, and a special performance by the Raging Grannies singing group.

The retired director of the Stanford University Willed Body Program,

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#### 2004-5 FEF Officers

Marjorie Bridges, President  
 Harry Anisgard, Vice President  
 Patricia Levin, Secretary  
 Katoko Sax, Treasurer

#### 2004-5 FCA Officers

Harry Anisgard, President  
 Marjorie Bridges, Vice President  
 Patricia Levin, Secretary  
 Rev. Richard Roe, Treasurer

#### Board for FCA & FEF

Allan Behr,  
 Sybil Florant, Lou Gado,  
 Rev. Penny V. Phillips,  
 Lois Salo, Ann Vollmer

Office Mgr.—Susan Wriggins  
 Office open M-Th from 10 to 1 p.m.

#### Advisory Council:

Joan Dammann      Joan Buell  
 Dr. Robert Glaser      Doris Hawks  
 Jack Wallace      Henry Mayer, MD  
 Barbara Hultgren

John Dolph, together with Gil and Donna Warren of Palo Alto, volunteers with California Transplant Donor Network, will tell us how their programs operate and the requirements for donating. The Warrens have a special involvement because members of their family have been both recipients and donors through the CTDN.

FCA President Harry Anisgard will tell what FCA and FEF have accomplished in the past year, and what they hope to do this year. Two new board members need to be elected to replace Maya Escudero, who recently resigned due to health, and Ann Vollmer, who is finishing her last year on the Board. Nominees are Barbara Hultgren of Stanford (a former President and Board member) and Janet Brewer, Palo Alto attorney who is a certified specialist in estate planning, probate, wills, and trusts. The proposed budget at the right will be presented for approval, also.

### FCA and FEF BUDGETS

	2004 Actual	2005 Budget
<b>Revenues-FCA</b>		
Membership	5,160	5,600
Transfers-in	110	100
Contributions	10,415	12,000
Literature	72	0
Interest.& eScrip	276	300
<b>Total FCA</b>	<b>16,033</b>	<b>18,000</b>
<b>Revenues-FEF</b>		
Donations	11,217	12,400
Interest	27	0
<b>Total FEF</b>	<b>11,245</b>	<b>12,400</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>27,278</b>	<b>30,400</b>
<b>Disbursements-Combined</b>		
Advertising	2,412	2,600
Insurance	500	500
Office Supplies	1,669	1,800
Educ. Material	295	300
Computer	204	200
Postage	2,883	3,000
Printing	569	600
Rent	1,200	1,200
Salaries	9,578	10,500
Payroll Taxes	887	1,000
Telephone	1,040	1,100
Mailing Service.	4,843	5,000
Misc.	85	100
Bank Charge Fees	695	700
Cal-Hi FCA	200	200
FCA National	900	900
Annual Meeting	0	200
Seminars, Conferences	50	100
Total Expense	28,015	30,000
<b>Bank Balances 12/31/2004:</b>		
<b>FCA - 7,714</b>		<b>FEF - 6,845</b>
<b>TOTAL 14,559</b>		

### New Information for My File (I Already Have a "Planning Form" in My File)

Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Memb. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Old Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Old City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 New City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Mortuary \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Next of Kin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kin's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kin's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(A new wallet card will be automatically sent to you with changes of kin or mortuary.)

- I (we) now desire
- C1—Direct Cremation
  - C2—Cremation & Scattering at Sea
  - B1—Direct Burial
  - B2—Direct Burial with Graveside Services
  - B3—Traditional Funeral with Simple Casket

Signed #1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed #2 \_\_\_\_\_

## The Last Journey

By Marjorie Bridges, FEF President  
With Gary Trovinger, President of  
Scatterings

What happens when you ask for your ashes to be scattered from an airplane over a scenic area? I was curious enough to take Gary Trovinger up on his offer to accompany him on such a mission. The remains to be scattered were those of a Funeral Consumers Alliance member, and Trovinger was selected with guidance from Byrgan and Company, funeral directors.

We met at Palo Alto airport where Trovinger keeps his Piper single-engine plane. He got us both seated securely and then confirmed the box of cremated remains to double-check the instructions and destination. This woman had asked to be scattered in the water off Santa Cruz. Then he went through the take-off ritual of instructions, got clearance from the control tower, and we were off over the Baylands. Soon we turned westward over Palo Alto and Stanford, heading for Rt.17 and the Lexington Reservoir. It was interesting to see the hundreds of big estates with swimming pools and tennis courts situated in the foothills. The cement plant stood out, as well as a huge pit being dug out in layers. I never knew that a sand mining pit was in the hills.

In short order we were over Santa Cruz. Gary explained that he wanted to release the remains beyond the lighthouse, to give her relatives a recognizable point of reference. However, a boat was passing by, and we circled until it moved on.

Then Gary was in motion. He carefully removed the inner plastic sack from the brown plastic urn box, and emptied the ashes into a clear plastic container leading to a tube under the plane. The ashes were immediately drawn down and

out. I was surprised, since I thought that he would empty them out the window. Gary explained that he devised this method to avoid any ash residue from coming back into the cabin.

He then got out a jug of water and rinsed down the clear plastic container to ensure all the cremated remains went through. He noted the longitude and latitude (from an instrument panel) to put on the three official certificates that will be sent to next of kin, Registrar of the county nearest the shoreline where the remains were scattered, and Registrar of the county where the person died. Gary telephones or emails the family following the scattering flight, to be followed by a mailed certificate with copies of the forms required by the state.

If desired, flower petals could be scattered before or after the cremains are distributed.

Other popular scattering sites are off Marin or San Francisco shorelines near the Golden Gate Bridge, Open Space District in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the Sierra Nevada, Monterey Bay, and by the Pigeon Point Lighthouse. In returning to Palo Alto we flew over Año Nuevo island and Pigeon Point lighthouse and across San Mateo County.

Gary's main job is as an Alaskan Airlines 737 Captain. He has long flown his

Piper plane for recreation and began thinking of modifying and using it for cremains scattering when his mother made a request for him to scatter her ashes off Catalina Island. (She is still going strong at age 72.)

He is the registered owner of Scatterings, P.O. Box 490, Los Gatos, which has a helpful website that may answer your questions at [www.scatteringbyair.com](http://www.scatteringbyair.com). The phone is 408-858-1205 and email is [gary@scatteringbyair.com](mailto:gary@scatteringbyair.com). He is a Certified Remains Disposer #685 in the state of California.

For your convenience, we are listing two scattering firms on our Mortuary Price List this year. Both offer discounts to FCA members. In addition of Scatterings, we list A Wing and A Prayer, which is owned by Arthur L. Adams, CRD license #384. They fly out of Petaluma, San Carlos, and Truckee, and will do coastal or Sierra mountain flights. Adams has 25 years flying experience, 15 as a scatterer. Check the firm out at [www.wingandaprayer.net](http://www.wingandaprayer.net) or phone 1-888-568-9464. Mailing address is 2153 Caulfield Lane, Petaluma, CA 94954.

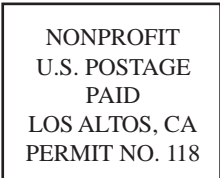
As a Funeral Consumer Alliance member you have chosen your funeral plans to clarify your wishes for your family. It is also appropriate to specify where you want your remains to finally rest.

The airborne release of cremated remains offers closure in a dignified manner, over a location that is scenic or holds special significance. This is a popular option among local FCA members.

Images of the California coast, a lighthouse, the golf courses of Pebble Beach, or the Golden Gate Bridge invoke memories of the person who was scattered nearby. Each sunset becomes an ongoing memorial, no matter where you are when the sunset is observed, the pilot pointed out.



*Gary Trovinger, pilot, with brown urn. Note the tube under the plane, where ashes are released.*



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**INSIDE**  
**Annual Meeting April 3**  
**New Mortuary Price List**  
**An Air Scattering Experience**

**Volunteers Needed to Carry on Programs**

Through attrition, our supply of volunteers has dwindled down to just a few. If you have time, FCA and FEF badly need:

1. Most of all--future board members who can meet first Monday morning of each month in Palo Alto.
2. Office help for Susan Wriggins—especially twice a year right after the newsletter goes out. The mail is enormous and she needs assistance taking care of requests and address changes. No special skills required. We are on the second floor at 463 College Ave., Palo Alto.
3. Unfortunately, Warren Riley has stepped down from the Speakers Bureau after serving as chair for over seven years. He is greatly missed. Barbara Hultgren has since volunteered to cover the speaking requests, but needs others to help speak. You will learn more about FCA/FEF before going alone.

4. Coordinator of brochure distribution. Someone needs to get this important position organized to make sure all distribution sites are covered. Help be a distributor. At the annual meeting, pick up a pile of membership brochures to place in your nearby senior center, library, church, or other public place.

4. Education committee needs computer-adept person with PowerPoint or a layout program, brochure writers, and a person with video camera to produce a 10-minute video about FCA and FEF.

Mark your remit envelope or phone the office at 650-321-2109 if you can find time to help.

**Fund Drive Results**

Thank you, thank you for the generous support of our funding appeal last fall. FEF treasury gained \$7,866 and the FCA was enriched by another \$8,106 by Jan. 31. We couldn't continue without this yearly boost.

***New Bureau Chief Adds More Inspectors***

The Cemetery and Funeral Bureau in the California Department of Consumer Affairs gained a new Bureau Chief last fall. G.V. Ayers stepped down, replaced by Sherrie Moffet-Bell.

Ms. Bell has hired five people to oversee pre-need accounts (instead of one for the whole state), and the funeral home inspection staff is up to 14, so they now ought to be able to keep on top of the complaints. Funds for this staffing come out of the \$8.50 tax that has been collected for each death over the past few years.

Three members of California-Hawaii FCA had an interview with Ms. Bell last December and acquainted her with our literature and viewpoints on prepayment for funerals. Ms. Bell previously headed up the 80-person Bureau of Security and Investigative Services in Sacramento.