



***Funeral Consumers Alliance***  
*of*  
***Champaign County***

(formerly Champaign County Memorial Society)

<http://ilabs.inquiry.uiuc.edu/ilab/fcacc> or through a link at [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org)

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Monday, April 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Provena Covenant Medical Center Auditorium**

**1400 W. Park Street, Urbana**

*(plenty of free parking!)*

**What You Don't Know Can Cost You!**

**Current Trends in the Funeral Industry**

**Josh Slocum**

*Executive Director*

*Funeral Consumers Alliance*

*A brief business meeting will precede the discussion.*

*Guests are welcome*

**Nominations to the Board of Trustees**

The nominating committee (Allen Avner, David Eisenman and Janice Wilson)

proposes, with their consent,

**Mary Ann Alexander, 3-year term**

**Constance Solberg, 3-year term**

**Janice Wilson, 3-year term**

**Robert Espeseth, 1 year** (replacing Peter Dyck's unexpired term)

Current Board members are:

Tom Eaton, President ('10); Steve Shoemaker, Vice President ('08);

Sandy Volk, Secretary ('10); Richard Jerrard, Treasurer ('09);

Allen Avner ('09); Chuck Dold ('10); Peter Dyck ('09)

Dan Eaton ('08); Gay Roberts ('08)

The following members have been appointed to the 2009 nominating committee:

Allen Avner, convener; Dan Eaton and David Eisenman

membership co-chairs: Hiram and Jean Paley; audit committee: Ruth Romig and Bob Spitze

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

There have been several interesting developments in the chapter this year, not least of which was my election to the presidency of this organization, a mistake that the Board of Trustees is not likely to repeat. In the meantime I will keep a grip on power not unlike rigor mortis. But enough about me.

The most exciting news is that the Director of the national Funeral Consumers Alliance, Joshua Slocum, agreed to come speak at our annual meeting this year. You can read more about his presentation elsewhere in this newsletter. Needless to say the Board was delighted that Mr. Slocum was willing to appear and not even charge an honorarium, which keeps our Treasurer Dick Jerrard very happy and our finances healthy. Mr. Slocum will also appear on Steve Shoemaker's radio show, "**Keepin' the Faith**", on WILL AM 580 on April 13 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, for those who may not be able to come to the annual meeting to hear him in person.

The Board has updated the survey of local funeral home and cemetery prices. The most recent information we were able to obtain is printed in this issue, and is always available at our website. Our local website can be accessed through a link from the national FCA website at [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org) or directly at <http://ilabs.inquiry.uiuc.edu/ilab/fcacc>

We have several members of the Board retiring this year. The three-year terms have expired for Gay Roberts, Steve Shoemaker, and Dan Eaton, and they are not seeking re-election. Peter Dyck, whose

term was to expire in 2009, has decided to resign due to other obligations. On behalf of the rest of the Board I wish to thank all four members for their service and to give a special thanks to Peter for coming up with the idea of having Joshua Slocum speak to our chapter and doing the initial contact work to bring him here.

Many of you may recall the speech given by the Campbells at last year's annual meeting about the "natural" or "green" cemetery they run in South Carolina. The Board of Trustees decided to form a subcommittee to investigate the issues involved and interest in having such a cemetery here in Champaign County. After some initial fact gathering, the work of the subcommittee was largely put on hold in order to devote more time to the issues surrounding Joshua Slocum's speech. However, anyone who would like more information about natural or green burials may contact the Board. It is the intent of the Board that when the subcommittee has finished its work, an informational paper be drafted that will be available for our members.

These are the primary issues the Board has been dealing with over the past year. I'm certain that next year will bring new challenges. Remember that the Board works for you, the members, and if there are any questions about the funeral or cemetery industries or practices you feel our membership should be aware of, do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the Board.

--Tom Eaton

### **Retiring Board Members**

Our FCA-CC board members all serve as volunteers to you the membership of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Champaign County. They are elected for three year terms and are eligible to be elected for an additional term if willing. Our out-going board members this year are Dan Eaton, Gay Roberts and Steve Shoemaker. Also, Peter Dyck has resigned from the board a year early. We thank them all for their service to our organization.

*Please note when reading the Funeral Home Expense Information which follows: A full service funeral includes visitation, funeral, use of facilities and staff services, professional fees, transfer of remains, hearse, casket and embalming. The prices DO NOT include cemetery costs of interment; price of grave space, ground opening and closing fee, price of grave liner or vault, or fee for placing a liner in the grave. For these costs, see cemetery survey. There is no sales tax on services. All prices are subject to change without notice, so it is wise to ask for a copy of the current General Price List from Funeral Homes. Federal law requires Funeral homes to provide a General price List to anyone who asks and to answer specific questions about prices when asked by phone.*

*The month and year of latest price verification appears in the cell containing the name and address of the funeral home or cemetery.*

## FUNERAL HOME EXPENSE INFORMATION\* SPRING 2008

Funeral Homes Answering FCA—CC Survey	Immediate Burial <i>Lowest price casket No visitation, embalming, or church/graveside service.</i>	Minimum Full Service Funeral <i>Lowest price casket, one hour visitation, no church/graveside service.</i>	Direct Cremation <i>Includes lowest crematory charge, but no urn for ashes.</i>	Delivery to Anatomical Gift Association 2240 W. Fillmore Chicago IL 60612
<b>Freese Funeral Home</b> (1/08) 407 N. Bourne St. Tolono IL 61880 217 485-7555 (also in Sydney & St.Joseph)	\$2,663	\$3,023	\$2,600	\$1,273
<b>Hambrick &amp; Miller Funeral Home</b> (6/07) 1203 N. Market Champaign IL 61820 217 351-8115	\$1,900	\$3,200	\$1,400	N/A
<b>Heath &amp; Vaughn</b> (2/08) 201 N. Elm St. Champaign IL 61820 217 239-1212	\$2,100 <i>Offers discount to FCA-CC members</i>	\$4,295 <i>Offers discount to FCA-CC members</i>	\$1,795 <i>Offers discount to FCA-CC members</i>	\$2,950 <i>Offers discount to FCA-CC members</i>
<b>Lux Memorial Chapel</b> (2/08) 1551 E.Grove Rantoul IL 61866 217 892-9644	\$2,490	\$3,260	\$2,280	\$1,840
<b>Melker Bluit Parker Mortuary</b> (1/08) 704 N. Fourth Street Champaign IL 61820 217 359-5530	\$1,775	\$4,045	\$1,485	\$1,800
<b>Mittendorf-Calvert Funeral Home</b> (1/08) 611 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Champaign IL 61820 217 352-4004	\$2,290	\$4,225 <i>includes visitation plus service next day</i>	\$1,895	<i>Check with Funeral Home for current cost</i>
<b>Morgan Memorial Home</b> 1304 Regency Drive W. Savoy IL 61874 217 356-5858 (3/08)	\$2,300	\$5,050	\$2,085	\$1,525 <i>plus mileage \$2.25/mile</i>
<b>Owens Funeral Home</b> (1/08) 101 N. Elm St. Champaign IL 61820 217 352-4231 (also Blair-Owens, Mahomet)	\$1,695	\$5,845	\$1,831	\$1,810 <i>plus mileage \$2.25/mile</i>
<b>Renner Wikoff Chapel</b> (1/08) 1900 Philo Road Urbana IL 61802 217 367-1122	\$2,800	\$5,100	\$1,850 <i>includes refrigeration, crematory on premises</i>	\$1,425
<b>Twin City Memorial Chapel</b> 110 W. Vine (4/06) Champaign IL 61820 217 351-8119	\$1,000	\$2,900	\$1,300	\$700

## Champaign County Cemetery Survey

Spring 2007

NOTE: ALL CEMETERIES REQUIRE GRAVE  
LINER OR VAULT FOR COFFIN BURIAL

Minimum cost, installed, is approximately \$800

<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Interment Space</u>	<u>Grave Opening/Closing</u>	<u>Markers, Installation, etc.</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
<b>Bailey Memorial Cemetery</b> c/o Mr. Michael Freese Freese Funeral Home 407 N. Bourne St, Tolono IL 61880 217 485-7555 (4/07)	\$400/space	\$425/full grave \$225/child \$225/cremated remains	no response given	
<b>Craw Cemetery Association</b> c/o Mr. John Hadden P.O. Box 72 Sadorus IL 61872 217 598-2950 (4/07)	\$1,600/full lot (8 spaces) \$800/half lot (4 spaces) \$500/quarter lot (2 spaces) Single spaces not available	Contact Rodger Musson, 217 369-2383 for arrangement.		We do not do grave openings or marker installation.
<b>East Lawn Cemetery</b> 802 N. Cunningham, Urbana c/o Louis "Bud" Mesker, Pres. P.O. Box 141 Urbana IL 61803 217 328-1543 (3/08)	\$750/space \$1,400/2 plots \$450 infant/cremated remains	\$785 Monday-Friday \$945 Saturday \$1,145 Sunday & Holidays \$545 infant/cremated remains	Contact Kelley Monument or Adams Memorials	
<b>G.A.R. Cemetery</b> (1/08) c/o Brad I. Mohr, Trustee P.O. Box 134 Homer IL 61849 217 896-2749	\$300/space	\$300 \$100 burial of cremated remains	Arrangements are made by family to monument company of choice.	G.A.R. Cemetery is owned and operated by American Legion Post 290.
<b>Grandview Memorial Gardens</b> (1/08) 4112 W. Bloomington Road Champaign IL 61821 217 356-6332	\$995-\$1,495 (\$400 discount for pre-need purchases)	M-F until 3:00 p.m. \$765 Sat. until noon \$915; after noon \$1,015 Burial of cremated remains: \$415-\$615	Markers are available from Grandview.	Caskets: \$1,805-\$3,190 Vaults: \$1,038-\$1,273
<b>Mahomet Twp. Cemeteries</b> c/o Paul Christie P.O. Box 492 Mahomet IL 61853 217 202-1909 (3/08)	\$1,100--township resident \$2,200--non-resident	\$375 \$165 burial of cremated remains	Consultation for placing of a marker--\$10	Income from sale of spaces goes to Mahomet Township Cemetery Endowment Fund.

**Champaign County Cemetery Survey**

Spring 2007 continued

NOTE: ALL CEMETERIES REQUIRE GRAVE LINER OR VAULT FOR COFFIN BURIAL

Minimum cost, installed, is approximately \$800

<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Interment Space</u>	<u>Grave Opening/Closing</u>	<u>Markers, Installation, etc.</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
<p><b>Mt. Hope Mausoleum &amp; Cemetery, Roselawn Cemetery, Woodlawn Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial Gardens</b> Office: 611 E. Pennsylvania Champaign IL 61820 217 384-7002</p> <p>(1/08)</p>	<p>Mt. Hope: \$895-\$995/space Roselawn: \$995-\$1095 Woodlawn \$595-\$995 Lincoln \$595-\$695</p>	<p><b>Graves*    Infants or Cremains</b> Weekdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$950        \$500 Saturdays 9 a.m.-1p.m. \$1,140      \$600 Sat. 1 p.m.-3 p.m. \$1,900      \$1,000 *Sun./Holiday 9a.m.-3 p.m. \$3,325      \$1,750 *see note on right</p>	<p>Monument or flush memorials permitted in most gardens.</p>	<p>Crypt Entombment, Crypt Cremation, and Niche Inurnment available Chapel rental \$400 Tent fee \$250 Vaults \$600-\$3,898 *Saturday opening and closing rates apply if a Sunday burial is required for religious reasons.</p>
<p><b>Mt. Olive Cemetery</b> (1/08) c/o Ms Tami Fruhling-Voges P.O. Box 945 St. Joseph IL 61873 217 469-7218</p>	<p>\$450/space \$500/space HillsideAdd. \$200/ ½ space for ashes in Block 17</p>	<p>Adults: Weekdays \$400 Saturdays \$450 Sundays/Holidays \$475 Cremated remains \$150</p>	<p><i>no response given</i></p>	<p>We are a not for profit cemetery.</p>
<p><b>St. Boniface Cemetery</b> (1/08) c/o Mr. Larry Hardiman 410 County Road, 1100 N Seymour IL 61875 217 687-2622</p>	<p>Four grave lots: \$500 in parish \$1,000 out of parish</p>	<p>To be arranged by your funeral provider.</p>	<p><i>no response given</i></p>	<p><i>no response given</i></p>
<p><b>St. Mary's Cemetery</b> (4/07) St. Mary's Road, Urbana Contact: Father Tom Royer St. Mary's Catholic Church 612 E. Park Avenue Champaign IL 61820 217 352-8364</p>	<p>\$500/space</p>	<p>\$500  grave liner and vault are not required</p>	<p>Marker or monument</p>	<p>An annual notice in the church bulletin solicits funds for upkeep of the cemetery.</p>
<p><b>Shiloh and Naylor Cemeteries</b> (2/08) Township Supervisor, Newcomb Township 355 County Road, 2770 N Mahomet IL 61853 217 897-1167</p>	<p><i>Township Resident:</i> \$600/ 6 spaces <i>Non-Resident:</i> \$3,000/ 6 spaces Spaces may be purchased in multiples of two.</p>	<p>\$375 by a recommended independent service.</p>	<p>Foundation needs to be approved before installed.</p>	<p>Sexton Joel Moore cell: 217 202-6361</p>

## **Four-Step Funeral Planning:**

### **Where to Start When you Don't Know How to Start**

*Reprinted with permission from the Funeral Consumers Alliance pamphlet.*

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**~ Funeral Shopping: The Basics** So, you've never planned a funeral before? You might be daunted by the choices, intimidated by the commercial funeral industry, unsure of the "right" thing to do. Like many, you might not even know where to begin, or what questions to ask. The multi-billion dollar American funeral industry has worked hard to confuse us and lay expensive obstacles in our path, but honoring our dead doesn't have to be complicated or costly. It's your choice whether to have a very simple disposition or a more elaborate funeral. Your taste, beliefs, and budget should dictate the type of funeral you arrange. You have no obligation to satisfy anyone else's idea of what's right or proper. The following steps will help you plan a funeral for yourself or for someone else. You'll get the most from this brochure if you use it to plan in advance of death.

#### **STEP 1: Funeral Planning Is a Family Matter.**

Funeral planning starts at home. Just as most families discuss weddings, home-buying, college, and other major life issues, so should they discuss funerals. Death will come to each of us, no matter how long we put off discussing it. Avoiding the topic won't stave off death, but it will make the funeral more difficult, and likely more expensive, for survivors. Families who make funeral planning a normal part of life tell us that conversation made a painful time easier to bear. Many people say they found great meaning and peace carrying out thoughtful funeral plans that honored their family members in an appropriate and affordable way. There are as many ways to honor the dead as there are cultures, religions and budgets. Your personal philosophy or faith should guide your choices. No religion or philosophy dictates how much money should be spent on a funeral, and no belief system encourages burdensome spending. Families can choose simple arrangements, such as a cremation with no ceremony, or more elaborate ones, such as a long wake before a funeral. They can use no coffin at all, or they can choose a handcrafted oak casket. They can keep the body at home for a very private visitation, or they can hold a public viewing at a funeral home. Whatever you choose, be sure it's based on what's meaningful to you, not on what you think "the community" expects you to do. No amount of money, great or small, can express how we feel about those who have died. Taking an active role in our family's funeral arrangements - whether that means carrying out the whole process without a funeral home, or just preparing and delivering the eulogy - is more meaningful than the money we spend.

#### **STEP 2 What Are My Options?**

Most people are confused about what they can and can't do. While the American funeral industry usually pushes what it calls a "traditional funeral" - embalming, fancy casket, open-casket wake, funeral ceremony, procession, and graveside service - this type of funeral is a relatively recent commercial invention rarely practiced outside the U.S. and Canada. Do not be swayed by funeral home salesmanship, or exhortations to "do what's traditional." The typical American funeral has no roots in Christianity, Judaism, Islam, or any other religion. In Israel and the Islamic Middle East, for example, burial in a shroud without a coffin is still the predominant burial method, as it has been for thousands of years. If a typical American funeral brings you comfort and you can afford it, then by all means arrange one. But every family should know it has the right to care for its dead in any way the family sees fit within the law. Here are some types of funerals families around the country have told us about:

- One family didn't want a public viewing of the body, but they did want a place where friends and family could gather. For them, a funeral home was the most convenient choice. They chose a closed casket visitation and welcomed family and friends to the calling hours at the funeral home. They were especially pleased to find a funeral home willing to help them have food and drinks brought in for a more comfortable gathering. Afterward, they brought the casket to church for a traditional Mass.
- One woman in her 90s had lived in a nursing home for many years. When she died, she had few friends left to attend a conventional funeral. Her daughters decided to cremate her body and place her ashes in a cookie jar, as a tribute to her legendary baking skills. They held a memorial service at the nursing home - complete with Mom's bake-off ribbons - where her housemates remembered her with laughter and tears.
- Beth lost her 7-year-old daughter in a car accident. Because she had cared for Alison in every way a mother could, Beth couldn't bear to give her daughter's body to a funeral home. Beth dressed Alison at home, and laid her in her bed with her favorite stuffed animals. She invited Alison's friends, siblings, and schoolmates to come to the home to say goodbye to the little girl in a very private setting. Alison's friends spent time with her in her own bedroom, and talked with their parents about the mystery and pain of her death. As difficult as it was, Beth says Alison's brothers and sisters came to terms with her death in a natural, family-centered way that no commercial funeral could have provided.

**STEP 3: Shopping Around** A funeral can be simple or elaborate, inexpensive or costly. But unless you plan well in advance and shop around, you're likely to pay top dollar. Consumer surveys show that most people don't shop around for a funeral - they pick the funeral home closest to them, or the one their family has always used. Neither of these criteria tell you whether you're getting a good value. If you've never checked another funeral home for its prices and services, you may have been paying the highest rate in town for three generations. By federal regulation, funeral homes must give you price quotes over the phone. In addition, they must give you printed, itemized price lists when you show up in person to discuss funeral arrangements. That means you have

the right to stop in to any funeral home and request a General Price List (GPL), no questions asked. It's a good idea to visit several funeral homes to pick up price lists and take them home for comparison at your own kitchen table. Share them with your family. Compare the cost of the items among funeral homes. You'll likely find a variation in price, sometimes quite substantial. See our pamphlet *How to Read a General Price List* to understand your rights and options.

The best place to start shopping is your local funeral consumer group. A nationwide directory of our nonprofit information organizations can be found here. These volunteer groups can often recommend reasonably priced funeral homes and crematories. Some of our groups have contracted for substantial discounts for our members, too.

When shopping on your own, the Yellow Pages are a good place to start. You can get numbers for funeral homes and crematories online, too, through websites. Look for listings under "funerals" and "cremation." Don't forget [Google](#) to search for businesses in your area.

#### **STEP 4**

##### ***Putting It All Together***

Once you've found a funeral home you want to use, or a list of good choices, what then? Again, bring those likely to survive you in on the conversation. Tell them what you've found, share your wishes with them, and show them what a funeral home price list looks like. Share this brochure with them. If your plans go awry, or your death occurs away from home, they'll need the skills you've developed to negotiate the funeral for themselves.

***Most importantly, put your plans in writing, in as much detail as necessary. FCA offers a funeral planning kit that comes with a 16-page fill-in-the-blanks booklet for your funeral plans, the locations of your important papers, your computer passwords, and more. The "Before I Go, You Should Know" planning kit also comes with state-specific advance medical directives. Kits are \$10 each from the national FCA, but check with your local FCA group to see if they supply them. Whether you buy a planning kit, or draft your plans on your own stationery, the most important thing is to copy them and distribute them to those who will be handling your funeral arrangements.***



### **Ideas for People Who Prefer to Limit the Amount of Money Spent on Final Arrangements**

*Reprinted with permission from the Funeral Consumers Alliance fall, 2007 newsletter.*

- Remind yourself that the amount of money spent on final arrangements is not a reflection of the amount of love toward the deceased. There are many ways to memorialize a loved one that do not require thousands of dollars of final arrangements.
- With that in mind, review at least three local funeral home General Price Lists before making decisions.
- If you decide on immediate burial, direct cremations, forwarding or receiving the remains, you can hire a funeral home as far as an hour away, and that may help to lower your costs.
- Choose a low-cost casket or cremation container. Most funeral homes can get any casket or container a family would like within a day or so. Even if they do not have a low-cost casket on the premises, they can order one. If you don't like the looks of the casket/container, toss a hand-made quilt over it for the public viewing and service.
- Consider not using a casket at all. No state law requires the use of a casket.
- If the cemetery requires an outer burial container select a cement liner rather than a vault and save hundreds if not thousands of dollars.
- Consider donating the body to science at a local medical or dental school. It is best to investigate this option well in advance of the need, as there may be some paperwork required. Some body donation programs pay for the cost of transporting the body to the medical center; others do not pay those costs.

Remember that there is no hurry to decide on the grave marker. Take your time. Shop around.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Come to the FCA-CC Annual Meeting on Monday, April 28, 2008 at Provena Covenant Medical Center Auditorium, 1400 W. Park Street, Urbana at 7:00 p.m. There is plenty of free parking and guests are welcome.

Look for useful pamphlets and brochures at the annual meeting!

Tune in to AM Radio 580-WILL at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 13, 2008 to hear Josh Slocum on "Keepin' the Faith" with host Steve Shoemaker. Mr. Slocum, (our Annual Meeting Speaker), is the Executive Director of the Funeral Consumers Alliance.

Call in with your questions and comments.

If you no longer wish to receive the FCA-CC newsletters, please contact our president, Tom Eaton at [tomeaton1999@yahoo.com](mailto:tomeaton1999@yahoo.com) or 217 351-0938 afternoons/evenings.

FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
309 West Green Street  
Urbana IL 61801

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

† I/We wish to make a contribution for a new membership in the  
Funeral Consumers Alliance of Champaign County.

† I/We already have joined the Funeral Consumers Alliance.

Here is a contribution for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help defray ongoing expenses.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Champaign County  
and mail to: 309 West Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801.*