

FUNERAL CONSUMER ALLIANCE OF STANISLAUS MERCED NEWSLETTER 2019

WHAT OTHERS SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Annual Meeting Saturday, October 19, 2 p.m. at the Stanislaus County Main Library

Surveys and studies show that over 85% of the public thinks advance planning for end of life is important, yet fewer than 25% have done so.

While creating a plan for the conclusion of a good life may sound a bit morbid, its creation will save your loved ones incalculable time, money and suffering.

This year's Annual Meeting of The FCA of Stanislaus Merced, is scheduled for **Saturday, October 19**, 2 p.m., at the Stanislaus County Main Library, 1500 I Street, Modesto. The program will explore the importance of advance planning to remove the burden and uncertainty from your family and loved ones and makes clear your values and beliefs.

Local Attorney and FCA Board Member Julie Richardson will explore the options to consider in end of life planning and preparation. Julie, a graduate of UC Berkeley Law School with 17 years of experience, knows how confusing it can be



to contemplate making end of life plans and invites you to bring your questions. A brief business meeting will follow the program. The public is welcome and light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please call the FCASMC answering line at (209)480-8575, send an email to support@fcasmc.org, or go to our web site: www.fcasmc.org.

Founded in 1968 as The Stanislaus Memorial Society, we are an all-volunteer membership nonprofit organization dedicated to your right to choose meaningful, dignified and affordable final arrangements. You can support our mission by recruiting friends and family as members. We also depend on annual member donations in any amount to help us expand public awareness of and access to affordable life-end services in our area. And we are always looking for board members to support and expand our reach. Please indicate how you can help by completing and returning the enclosed envelope. **(over, please)**

WHY THE FUNERAL CONSUMER ALLIANCE?

- *A membership-based nonprofit*
- *Objective information without sales pressure*
- *Significant savings on cremations and burials*
- *Planning forms and suggestions*
- *Advocacy on behalf of funeral consumers*
- *Part of a national network of advocacy groups*
- *Focus is pre-planning, not pre-paying*

One Foot In...

- "Life is a near-death experience."
George Carlin.
- The Funeral Consumer Alliance of Stanislaus Merced Counties is an affiliate of the national Funeral Consumer Alliance whose website (www.funerals.org) offers a variety of downloadable resources, including brochures on Green Burial, How to Choose a Funeral Home, How to Pay for a Funeral, How to Read a Funeral Home Price List, Common Funeral Myths, Death Away From Home, Should You Prepay for Your Funeral?, Veterans Burial Benefits and Organ and Body Donations. Many of these brochures are also available in Spanish.
- You will find a number of valuable resources at The Funeral Consumer Alliance of Stanislaus County's website www.fcasmc.org, including useful planning forms that you can download and a price list from our 2017 survey of local providers for cremation and basic burial services.
- When Jason Rosenthal's wife knew she was dying, she published a Modern Love essay, entitled "You May Want to Marry My Husband". In doing so, she gave her blessing to his remarriage. He received numerous responses from women who offered to take his wife's spot.
- California now has five ways to deal with human remains: whole body earth burial, cremation, whole body burial at sea, whole body donation and now (legal and soon to be available alkaline hydrolysis ("water cremation")). Washington State has gotten one step closer to adding yet another option: composting or "natural organic reduction." The process turns a body into compostable material in a few months, yielding a cubic yard of product, enough to fill two large wheelbarrows.
- "No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And yet death is a destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new." Steve Jobs.
- "Before I Go, You Should Know" is an invaluable workbook from the Funeral Consumer Alliance to record everything your survivors will need to know to handle your estate and carry out your wishes. Copies will be available at the Annual Meeting for \$15, or can be ordered or downloaded (\$9.95) from www.funerals.org/bookstore.