
COMPASSIONATE NEIGHBORS

Aftercare Newsletter

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Knowing Your Professional

Article Written By John Belvill, FDIC/Owner

Knowing the people you turn to in time of need is very important; whether it is your doctor, dentist, minister, or funeral director. Have they dedicated their lives to the service of people in their chosen profession or is it just an investment to them?

All of these professions are callings. If a person enters these careers for any other reason than service, you can generally tell through their actions. Unless you spend the time and effort to educate and improve your professional skills to serve the public in a manner that will leave a lasting positive impact, you are not fulfilling your duties as a professional.

One should never select any of these professionals solely on friendship. They should be selected based upon experience and their contribution to their profession through service.

We here at Koenig & Strickland Funeral Home have 153 years of professional funeral experience.

Memorial Day Ceremony

The 3rd Annual Memorial Day Ceremony was held at Koenig & Strickland Funeral Home on May 31, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. One hundred and twelve people attended the ceremony, with John Belvill as Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Sid Roden gave the Invocation, Dan Mueller (Justice of Peace Precinct 4) was the Key Note Speaker, Calvin Kuehn read the names of all veterans who passed away and were buried through Koenig & Strickland Funeral Home since the last ceremony was held, Leon Humphreys led the Pledge of Allegiance and Gus Lindemann played Taps. The Marine Corps League placed the Memorial Wreath that was donated by Precious Petals Florist of La Grange, stated John Belvill owner of Koenig and Strickland Funeral Home. The colors were retired and new colors were presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5254, American Legion Post 102, Vietnam Veterans, and two active members of the US Army Lindsey (Loehr) Degef and Andrew Degef. Also in attendance was the Round Top American Legion Post 338. There was a Moment of Silence observed by those in attendance for the millions of veterans around the world. Everyone was invited to have ice cream sundaes at Koenig & Strickland after the ceremony added Mr. Belvill.



Outreach Program

Article Written By Rowena Belvill

As mentioned in our last issue of Compassionate Neighbors, our Outreach Program has been scheduled and invitations should be received by the third week in June.

The Outreach Program has been developed to bring together families that have lost loved ones and to help in the many obstacles that can confront a family during the grieving period. Our program will be informative, answer questions, and at the same time bring together people who are dealing with the same types of feelings and worries that can confront families who have lost loved ones. It will develop a fellowship with people who can relate to your everyday life without your loved one.

The first Outreach Program will be held on Wednesday, July 14 at Brisket & Brew, located at 3932 North Hwy 77 in La Grange. The program will begin at 4 P.M. with guest speaker Niki Powell of the Gardenia E. Janssen Animal Shelter. After the presentation, everyone is welcome to stay, socialize and have dinner.

For anyone that does not have a mode of transportation, please call the funeral home at 968-3121 to reserve a place in our van. We will pick you up and bring you back home after the program.

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The Coming Season of Joy

Article Written By Deacon Mike Meisner

Springtime is the season many of us look forward to with anticipation and excitement, probably more so than at any other time of year. Spring is when many of us begin thinking of family outings, vacations and activities in which we can spend time together with those we love. This may include our children, the grandkids, siblings or our parents. These times of special enjoyment are intensified and increased by including and sharing them with meaningful others. It's been said, "Sorrow shared is sorrow diminished, likewise, joy shared is joy increased." It's important not to isolate or wall ourselves off from those we love.

These special family times could be a family fishing trip, maybe of a few hours, maybe a few days. They may be a weekend camping, or shopping and exploring a neighboring city. It may even be a beach vacation or a trip to Las Vegas. Just don't leave anyone (except the dog) at home, and build family bonding.

Too often we think of bonding as something done by young people, done in our formative years. But bonding never really stops; our attachments to each other needs patching and repair even into our mature years.

Unfortunately there are those of us who are alone, they just have no family. Yet if they reach out to their extended family, they too can soar. They have a church family, neighbors and friends, even morning coffee buddies qualify.

The seagull is an amazing subject for photography and many people who vacation at the seashore end up with some kind of souvenir with a seagull on it. It's easy to see why people like the seagull. He is the picture of freedom. When flying alone, he thrusts his wings back and climbs higher and higher, and then swoops down in astounding loops and circles.

In a flock though, the gull is a different bird. Sharing and friendship do not seem to exist among the gulls. They are so fiercely competitive and jealous that if you tie a ribbon around the leg of a gull, making him unique or different, you sentence him to death. The others in his flock will attack him with claws and beaks until he becomes a bloody heap.

If we instead, model ourselves on the wild goose, we have a different story. The V-formation they use in flying enables them to fly with more ease and speed. The lead position is the most difficult because of wind resistance, so the geese rotate this position every few minutes. The easiest flight is experienced in the two rear sections of the formation, and the stronger geese permit the young, the weak or the older birds to take these places. And the constant honking of the geese encourages the weaker ones.

The goose teaches us to fly as a "family." We can fly further, with more ease and joy with our family, even an extended family than we could ever fly alone—and, as we fly, our efforts constantly help others in our family circle.

Facts About Funerals

Article from Facts about Funerals brochure provided by Texas Funeral Service Commission

Legal requirements when a death occurs:

1. Contact local law enforcement official if death was unattended.
2. A determination of death must be made by a coroner, Justice of the Peace, or attending physician.
3. When a death occurs out of state or county, it is recommended a funeral director in your local area be contacted who will know the requirements that must be met if a body is to be shipped to another location.
4. There are legal limitations regarding solicitation by a funeral director at or near the time of death. Solicitation means any direct or indirect contact with the family, next of kin, or one who has custody of a person who is deceased or near death for the purpose of securing the right to provide funeral services or merchandise for the deceased or person near death.

What to do when a death occurs:

1. Contact relatives.
2. Locate deceased's letter of direction, prepaid funeral contract, insurance policy and/or Will.

Father's Day

A poem by Mary Frances Bogle

Over the years
As we grow old,
We remember our father
So brave and bold.

In the garden,
Leaning on the plow,
He would listen to me;
I see him now.

He would give advice
And understand;
He was always there
To lend a hand.

God made fathers
Strong and firm,
For he knew our lives
Would have great concerns.

So he gave us fathers
To teach us to pray,
And guide our lives,
And show us the way.

So on his day
Let's take the time
To say "Thanks, dad."
I'm glad you're mine."

Crock-Pot Enchiladas

- 1 ½ lbs. hamburger meat
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 can cheddar cheese soup
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can golden mushroom soup
- 1 can enchilada sauce
- 1 small can chopped green chilies
- 12 corn tortillas

Brown the hamburger meat and onion. Add the next five ingredients. Mix well in crock-pot. Cook for four hours on high or eight hours on low. Tear tortillas into bite size pieces and add to above mixture before serving.

Recipe provided by Doris Rinn



Meet Doris Rinn

Article Written By Doris Rinn

I am Doris Rinn. My husband, L.J. and I live near Industry. That has been home for the last fifty years. Our family circle includes a daughter, Judy Tiemann, and son, Bradley Rinn, along with their spouses, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

We live on a farm and do hay bailing for a hobby. (You may as well call it a hobby, because you can't charge enough to make a living.) L.J. and I stay very busy, but we do make enough time to go fishing at Seadrift, Texas, and hunting at Junction, Texas. We love to fish and hunt with our family members.

I enjoy working for John and Rowena Belvill and all the other folks at Koenig & Strickland Funeral Home.

Trees

Find and circle all of the Trees that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message—a Greek Proverb.

Apple	B G O L D E N R A I N A S O B C M L E	Larch
Apricot	I I D T T E E T S C Y T G L U R O P H	Linden
Ash	W S R O G U R R A P U E E A T T I H S	LondonPlane
Aspen	W H B C O E N T T L R Z N L T N O E A	Maple
Arborvitae	P L A I H W A L I R A U O D E M N M Y	Nectarine
Bald Cypress	O E L R N L X P E H E N C H R P A L R	Oak
Beech	P L D P P H T O H Z D B C E N A C O R	Palm
Birch	L N C A T R I C B O A E B T U T E C E	Peach
Boxwood	A C Y A E N T C N R E H E U T R P K H	Pear
Buckeye	R E P E R I E P K B E S D N R W I H C	Pecan
Butternut	O D R P W B L D O O W N O T T O C F R	Plum
Catalpa	S A E E E A A O S N E R H O S H A D E E	Pine
Cedar	P R S T N L H R R I K Y W E E C D Y T	Poplar
Cherry	L K S E N O M O V A L W W H T B A U H	Redbud
Chestnut	U E E L P A M Y O I S H O C U P N E A	Rubber Tree
Cottonwood	M E N I R A T C E N T L L D P L L N P	Sequoia
Elm	P E A R C O G K N I G A L L A S P E N	Spruce
Fir	E V E Y W I L L O W R S E W L A R C H	Sycamore
Ginkgo	I T S S E Q U O I A I E Y E K C U B N	Tuliptree
Goldenrain		Walnut
Hazelnut		Witchhazel
Hemlock		Willow
Hickory		Yellowwood

Puzzle from LivevirePuzzles



Women in Funeral Service?

Article Written by Courtney Hambricht

Hi, let me introduce myself, I am Courtney Hambricht, funeral director/embalmer for Koenig & Strickland Funeral Home and it is my privilege to have been asked to be a part of this newsletter. I hope that I am not only able to give you some good information, but give you something good to think about as well.

I am proud to say I am the only female funeral director in Fayette County. You might be asking yourself, are there many female funeral directors? The answer is yes and the number is growing every year. Currently in the United States, women make up almost fifty percent of the students in mortuary schools and that number is going up. The myth that women have not traditionally been in funeral service is just not so. Women have played a vital role in the care of the dead for centuries. For example, ancient Greek, Hebrews, and Christians all left many of the duties of caring for dead to women. These duties included washing the body, guarding the body, and anointing the body with oils or herbs. In some cases, these duties were left to women because culturally these were seen as dirty or unfit duties for priests, holy men, or surgeons.

The fact is, women have been widely accepted in the funeral industry in some cases much better than other predominately male oriented fields such as medicine, law, or aviation. However, because women have traditionally done the often unseen part of funeral service, whether it is body preparation or administrative work, they have consequently gone unnoticed. Yes, it is true that often unless a woman was born into a funeral service family, it was not typical to see women playing an active role in the industry or as a pursued profession. It has been the last twenty-five years that this image has changed. Just as we now have come to expect to see women doctors, lawyers, and pilots, we as a society are seeing these changes in funeral service. The industry as a whole has seen the unique role women bring to the arrangement conference or the service itself. Women are seen as caregivers and designated nurturers; two roles that fit funeral directing well. It has been said to me a number of times that it is possible to actually see the comfort on families faces when they realize they are meeting with a female director.

I am often told, "But, that's not what I expected," when I tell people what I do. I always say, "Well, I get that a lot," and then say, "But, you know I am a nice, honest, caring person who is here to help someone through a difficult time and give their loved one the utmost care and respect." Am I not just the person you would like to have that responsibility?

I am thankful to have been given this opportunity and I hope you have learned a little something. I look forward to up coming chances to address other topics of funeral service.

Quote of the Month:

“Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy.” *Eskimo Proverb*

Things to Plant in June

Article from Central Texas Gardener

Flower Plants: Ajuga, Balsam, Wax Begonia, Blue Daze, Boltonia, Chocolate Plant, Chrysanthemum, Cockscomb, Copper Plant, Cosmos Sulphureus, Gomphrena, Hibiscus, Periwinkle, Portulaca, Purslane, Gloriosa Daisy (*Rudbeckia Hirta*), Salvia, Sedum, Stokes' Aster, Wishbone Flower (*Torenia*), and Zinnia

Flower Seeds: Balsam, Blue Lace Flower, Castor Bean, Celosia, Cleome, Cockscomb, Coleus, Cosmos, Cypress Vine, Dahlia (Dwarf), Feverfew, Four-o'clock, Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia*), Impatiens, Marigold, Moonflower, Morning Glory, Periwinkle, Portulaca, Sunflower, Tithonia, Torenia, Vinca, and Zinnia

Bulbs: Amaryllis, Canna, Crinum, Ginger, Daylily, Liriope, Monkey Grass, and Rain Lily

Vegetables: Malabar Spinach, Okra, Southern Pea, Sweet Potato, Peanut, and Pumpkin

Start transplants indoors for fall tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

June Gardening “To Do” List

Article from www.backyardgardener.com

Zone 8

- ◆ Pinch off flower buds to promote leafier basil plants
- ◆ Fertilize vegetable plants as they begin to bloom
- ◆ Lightly prune tips of blackberries and pinch flowers off young grapevines to form and train growth of new canes
- ◆ Take cuttings from your favorite shrubs when the branch wood hardens slightly
- ◆ Plant seedlings of heat-loving vegetables such as melons, peppers and pumpkins for fall harvests
- ◆ Set out seedlings of late-summer flowering annuals
- ◆ Add a layer of mulch (2-3 inches) around newly planted trees and shrubs
- ◆ Cut back and thin out diseased or spindly branches of spring-flowering shrubs
- ◆ Prune once-blooming roses after they've flowered this month
- ◆ Fill flower garden gaps with larger sizes of summer-blooming annuals
- ◆ Replace mulch and aerate soil in permanent potted gardens
- ◆ Plant fall-blooming perennials now