



Ferncliff Cemetery, Arboretum & Crematory Newsletter

**Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM,
Saturday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
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*The life of the dead
is placed on the
memories of the
living.*

*– Marcus Tullius
Cicero*



House of Reflections – GRAND OPENING

On Saturday, November 18, 2017, the House of Reflections was opened to the public with a Grand Opening celebration. Members of the community had an opportunity to tour the house, and many said how glad they were that the house was once again in use. Previously built in 1890 for the Superintendent of the Cemetery, the historic home on Plum Street has been fully renovated. In its new role, the building contains 368 indoor niches in a choice of glass fronted or granite. In addition to the memorialization of loved ones, the House also contains a beautiful conference room to meet with families, office space and a nice display room to view products offered at Ferncliff.



Superintendent, Stan Spitler joins with Springfield Cemetery Association Board members (l. to r.) Darell Kitchen, Deborah Hill- Grimes, Dale Miller, Gus Geil, and Chet Walthall, president.

Two of our visitors that day were Mike and Dick Hatfield, whose father, Joseph D. Hatfield was the Assistant Superintendent of the cemetery from 1949 – 1965. The family moved into the home in 1952. They were able to share many memories of their childhood growing up in the house.



A Holiday Open House was also held for the public on Thursday evening, December 14, with light refreshment and an opportunity to talk with Ferncliff staff. An additional open house may be held in the spring, but anyone is invited to stop by our offices any time and we will be happy to show you the house and all it has to offer.

*For it is in giving
that we receive.*

-Francis of Assisi



*For life and death
are one, even as
the river and
the sea are one.
– Khalil Gibran*

Ferncliff volunteers during the holidays

In December, members of the Ferncliff staff volunteered in our community, responding to the needs of those in our area, as well as enjoying some time together outside the office. One such opportunity was working at the Salvation Army toy distribution center at the Clark County Fairgrounds. Additionally, some of us visited residents at Oakwood Village and appreciated sharing this holiday season with them.



Coming in Spring 2018 . . . Pet Cemetery

Opening sometime this spring, Ferncliff will be developing a new section in the south part of the grounds, near Buck Creek, for the interment of pets and animals. Offering both full body burial (up to 200 lbs.) or the burial of cremated remains (for any size animal). We will also be offering cremation services, including pick-up either at your Vet's office or your home. The burial package for full body burial will include a space as well as the opening and closing of the grave. The cremation package includes the space, opening and closing, as well as cremation and urn. Services can be held graveside. We can also assist in custom design of a wide variety of monuments and markers to memorialize these special members of our families.



For further details or questions, please give us a call at 937-207-0309.

Winter Grounds Hours

Ferncliff Cemetery grounds will be open the following hours: Main Gate 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM, Side Gates 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM. The only reason that the gates may close earlier is due to inclement weather. We feel the safety of our families comes first. Gates will remain closed until staff are able to clear roadways within the cemetery.

Spring Clean-up start date set for March 19, 2018

Spring Clean-up of the grounds will begin March 19, 2018 to remove any winter decorations left on site. Winter Lot Decoration Policy allows for the placement of flowers, wreaths and grave blankets, but these must be removed prior to mowing season commencing. Items not permitted at any time, including lights, toys, photos, mulch, rocks, pinwheels, etc., may be removed at any time. If you have any questions regarding the Lot Decoration policies, please feel free to contact us.

Community Presentations Scheduled

Clark County Library

A presentation with slideshow entitled Ferncliff – History and Evolution, will be held at the main library at 201 S. Fountain Ave on Tuesday, January 9, at 2:00 pm. Sharing a pictorial history as well as the newest developments and options at Ferncliff will be Cemetery Sales Manager, Marilyn Knize and Funeral Director, Erin Moser.



United Senior Services Center

United Senior Services, formerly Elderly United, located at 125 W. Main St, will also be hosting a Lunch and Learn with Ferncliff presentation, on Thursday, January 11, 2018, at noon. Attendees must register through the Center at 937-323-4948 and **reservations are required.**

Watch for announcements about other community presentations coming soon.

A Few Thoughts from the Ferncliff Funeral Home Staff:

If you have lost a loved one in the last year we wish to express our condolences to you.

We would like to borrow some philosophy from Darcie D. Sims. She says **take heart** because right now, you may feel like the scattered pieces of a broken puzzle. Honor that feeling, but also take comfort in knowing that the pieces of the puzzle can be reshuffled, rearranged, and pieced together to form a new picture. As you learn to create a new reality for yourself, temper your expectations with compassion and gentleness. You will heal, but only as you allow yourself to experience the full range of emotion on your journey through grief.

We know the pain of moving through the holidays after the death of a loved one. But slowly, gently, if you try to focus on our loved one's life, that will make all the difference.

May love be what you, too, remember the most.

Here are seven grief strategies for 2018:

1. Write yourself a comforting and encouraging letter.

What would you tell a friend to comfort them in a sympathy card? Write nice things to yourself and believe them like you hope your friend does when you send the message to them. Read it and put it away a few days, then read it again.

2. Buy a big calendar, and use it.

You may feel like one day drags into the next and this allows you to look forward to something. Write in appointments but remember to pen in valuable "self-time". The simple act of reserving time for yourself empowers you to breath & reflect as the New Year unfolds. Examples: "Movie with Me" or "journaling with me".



*When you were
born, you cried
and the world
rejoiced. Live
your life so that
when you die,
the world cries
and you rejoice.*

**- Cherokee
Expression**



I don't want to have lived in vain like most people. I want to be useful or bring enjoyment to all people, even those I've never met. I want to go on living even after my death! - Anne Frank

3. Move your body, move your mind.

Pick short, achievable goals, like a short hike, a walk around the block, a bike ride in the park. Keep these jaunts short and you will have not only the physical benefit but also the psychological benefit of your body which is encountering grief.

4. Realize that you do not need to "understand" your grief right now.

Just remember bereaved people may take a few days, a month or even a year to integrate their experience into the rest of their outlook on life. So, don't feel anxiety about fully grasping what has happened to you. Time will help clear your mind, and eventually be able to address your loss, the pain it has brought you, and the changes your life has endured.

5. Decide that in the New Year, you will begin to focus a bit more on others, as a part of your loved one's legacy.

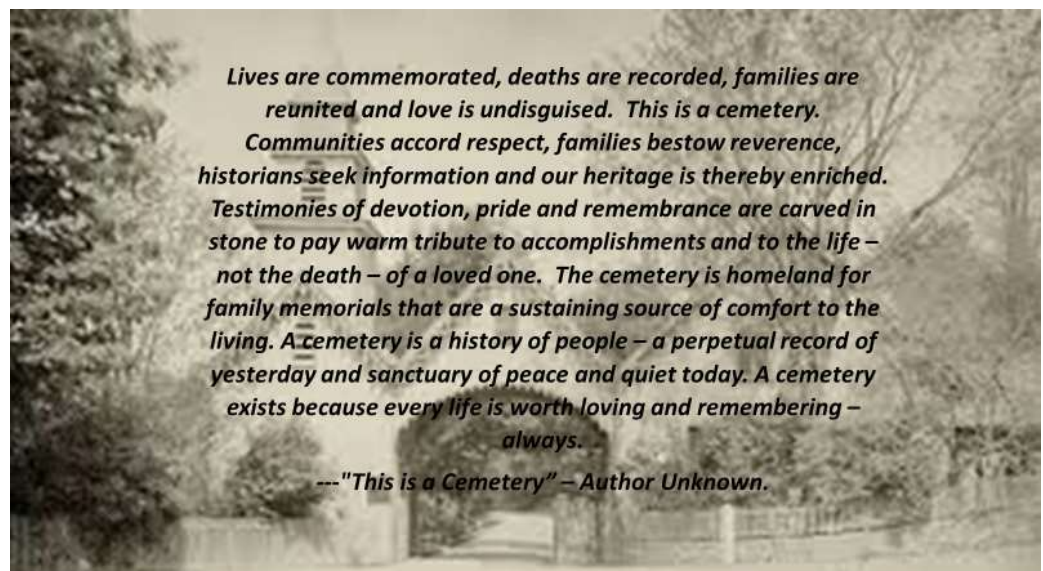
This is a valuable change you can make in your life. We all need to get out of ourselves and focus on other people and their problems. Sometimes, this helps us gain a fresh perspective on our own life. You will begin to talk with new people and this may give you the opportunity to tell them about your loved one who has died. You may feel more comfortable talking about your loved one with people who didn't know him or her, and it is valuable to begin to talk out loud-in- the past tense about your loved one.

6. Listen to the Music

A recent study asserted that sad people who listen to their favorite music that matches their mood report feeling better. Music is therapeutic and soothing. Make a short list of some songs of different types that you have always liked. Make a playlist and get it playing. Let your mind take you where it will, and after a while you should feel relaxed and even renewed.

7. Wishing you well.

As the new year begins, write down what your loved one would want for you in the new year. Trouble imagining what that might be? It's probably the same you would wish for your loved one, had you been the one that died. Make a list of a few states of mind, attitudes or commodities that your loved one would want for you to attain as you move forward without them. We need to be able to face our sorrow, calmly, carefully thinking about what we can do to help integrate our sorrow into our larger life, we can contribute to forging our new identity. And this is a powerful choice to make as you embrace the New Year in 2018.



New Website Launched

Our new website was launched at the end of December and includes updated information on the Cemetery and Funeral Home. You can visit our new site at www.ferncliffcemetery.org. There you will find answers to questions you may have regarding the broad range of products and services we now offer, as well as the latest news and events. You can find information on planning ahead, read obituaries, search a burial location, learn where to turn at time of loss, and view many photos and history of Ferncliff. Take a look around. And as always, if you have any questions, please give us call.

One section of our new website lists some of the notable people interred at Ferncliff. Check out this sampling:



George & Sarah Gammon

George 1803 – 1904

Sarah 1808 – 1902

Section F

Activists in the Underground Railroad – owners of the Gammon House – a noted safehouse.



Gary Adam Geis

1943 – 2016

Section U

Dance teacher and founder of the Gary Geis School of Dance and Company.



Richard Kuss

1923 – 2010

Section O

Community leader and philanthropist.



We cannot stop the winter or the summer from coming. We cannot stop the spring or the fall or make them other than they are. They are gifts from the universe that we cannot refuse. But we can choose what we will contribute to life when each arrives. - Gary Zukav



Ferncliff Cemetery
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