

Fall, 2006

## Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge

### Board of Trustees

#### 2008 Term

Marcia Bailey  
Gary Schroeder  
Jenny Schwanke

#### 2009 Term

Harriett Cooper  
Dick/ & Cynthia Luke  
Crosby Houston

#### 2010 Term

Alan Bayer  
Darrel Clowes  
Bob Youngs

#### Officers

President: Marcia Bailey  
V. President: Alan Bayer  
Secretary: Harriett Cooper  
Treasurer: Darrel Clowes

### Find out more

Report summary 2  
Movies to check out 3  
Executive officers 4

## Virginia Tech Library Archives adds FCAVBR files

The Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge papers are available as a manuscript collection in the Newman Library of Virginia Tech. The catalog listing can be found at <http://addison.vt.edu/record=b2278454>

Both the newsletters and the manuscript collection of our pamphlets and other materials are housed in the Special Collections Department on the first floor of Newman Library. They do not circulate but they

are available for use in the Reading Room.

University Archivist, Tamara Kennelly states, "We are grateful to the Funeral Consumers Alliance for generously sharing these materials with the University Libraries. As we receive updates to the collection, they will be added. Thanks so much."

## Annual meeting elects board members

Local poet, **Clyde Kessler**, read his poetry at the annual meeting. His selections focused on death and loss. Kessler was presented with a gift membership in the FCAVBR.

**Alan Bayer** and **Darrel Clowes** were re-elected to three year terms on the Board. They are joined by **Bob Youngs**, who brings new ideas and enthusiasm.

Attendees took home a new refrigerator magnet with our phone number and other information. The magnet, designed by member **Franklyn Moreno**, states, "Think Outside This Box."

Franklyn also donated a handcrafted bird house attractive to wrens and chickadees as the door prize, which went to Annette Price of Newport.

## Annual Report presented at meeting

**THINK OUTSIDE  
THIS BOX!**



FUNERAL CONSUMERS  
ALLIANCE OF THE  
VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE

**540-953-5589**

[www.funerals.org/feavbr](http://www.funerals.org/feavbr)

Highlights of our activities during the year were presented by Secretary Isabel Berney.

Take a few moments to look over the report summary (attached to the [annual meeting report](#)). This year the Board made a commitment to extend our outreach efforts, and we are pleased to report that the effort has resulted in presenting more and varied programs during the year to diverse groups including a religious service. We tailor our programs according to the group and to the requests we receive. Our speakers bureau has programs, but we are flexible enough to accommodate specific interests. Whenever we do a program, we make new contacts and let more people hear our message: e.g. the religious service led to a

request for our presentation to the Radford University Nursing Class.

Staffing booths at health fairs and senior expos is another good way to be known. Approximately 650 people attended the Roanoke Expo for Seniors and most of them stopped by our table. Sitting with a board member and telling people about various options is an easy way to volunteer if that appeals to you. It usually takes two hours and is a good way to get to know your Board members.

We continue to get many requests from around the country for information. Since that is our primary mission, we have been happy to satisfy nearly all requests. Your generous contributions allow us to maintain our website and our business telephone line, the two main ways people can communicate with us.

## Transporting a body

Legally, it is possible for a survivor to transport a body from Virginia to another state. You must obtain a transit permit from your local Health Department when the death certificate is filed. The form can be faxed or mailed to you. You may be able to provide the information over the phone. There is no charge for the transit permit. No permit (except the death certificate)

is required for transporting a body within Virginia.

Make sure that the casket or suitable container will fit in the vehicle carrying the body.

If there is no viewing, there is no need for embalming. Make arrangements with a funeral home and/or the cemetery at the

*See transport, page 3*



## Transport, from page 2

destination before you embark. Considerable savings can result if you transport the body yourself.

For more information on what you may do, check out our latest pamphlet, [Death Outside the Box](#). We have tried to simplify the laws

as they relate to death in Virginia and what people can do for themselves if they so choose.

Most people want to engage the services of a funeral home, but this is not a requirement and often a funeral home is willing to partner with a family.



---

*If you are going to be present at the burial you might just as well take the body with you.*

## Movies examining end-of-life issues

We are collecting titles of movies with themes that relate to end-of-life issues. We have in our own library ***Strangers in Good Company***. This is a film about a busload of women who become stranded in an isolated part of the Canadian countryside. As they await rescue, they reflect on their lives through a mostly ad-libbed script. We have used this successfully as a program that generates discussion about our services and information we have to offer.

Here are some other titles we find provocative:

***Mar Adentro*** or ***The Sea Within*** is the real-life story of Spaniard Ramon Sampedro, who fought a 30 year campaign in favor of euthanasia and his own right to die.

***Around the Bend*** is about four generations of men who haven't seen each other in years and are suddenly brought together by the chance to uncover the truth about

their family's past. It's a journey that takes them out on the road to a world full of surprises - some comic, some dramatic, and all of them personal.

***Undertaking Betty*** is an English comedy where love finds new life and death is something to laugh about.

***Tuesdays with Morrie***. Mitch is caught up with his career as a sports commentator and journalist. Morrie was one of Mitch's professors in college and a famous scholar. One day Mitch sees Morrie giving an interview on TV stating that he is dying of Lou Gehrig's disease or ALS.

***Terms of Endearment***. Aurora and Emma are mother and daughter who march to different drummers. The movie covers several years of their lives as each finds different reasons to go on living and find joy even as the daughter is dying.



---

*Good movies spark good discussions.*

**Funeral Consumers  
Alliance of the  
Virginia Blue Ridge**

PO Box 10082  
Blacksburg VA 24062

PHONE:  
54-953-5589

E-MAIL:  
[fcavbr@bev.net](mailto:fcavbr@bev.net)

[www.funerals.org/fcavbr](http://www.funerals.org/fcavbr)

---

Affiliated with **Funeral  
Consumers Alliance**

<http://www.funerals.org/>

## Executive Board elects officers

Executive officers elected at the October board meeting are **Marcia Bailey**, President; **Alan Bayer**, Vice President; **Harriett Cooper**, secretary; and **Darrel Clowes**, Treasurer. The Board appointed **Isabel Berney** as Executive Director to handle administration of the office.

## Highest cemetery is chilling

According to a recent issue of *Mortuary Management*, Mount Everest is the highest graveyard in the world. As of 2005, 186 people have died in the attempt to scale it. At least 41 bodies are lying on the northern face. Maurice Wilson was entombed in the Rongbuk Glacier in 1934. These deaths send out a chilling warning to climbers.

