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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"East Lawn Takes Steps Toward BEA-reavement Awareness!"

Several months ago I had the privilege of meeting with a remarkable local author by the name of Bea Bailey. It turns out she's a neighbor of past East Lawn president Don Hart and he saw a flyer of hers. She had just completed a book addressing grief entitled, **"Farewell My Friend."** Bea learned by first hand experience many lessons associated with grief as she walked with her husband, Richard James Bailey, through the final chapters of his life.



Bea pictured with her husband James Bailey.

Like so many of the families we serve each day at East Lawn, she went through many alternating periods of panic, pain and peace as she faced her loss. In spending time with Bea,

I have been fascinated with her great sense of humor, her no-nonsense approach to death, and her common sense awareness of be-reavement. While acknowledging that grief is very much an individual matter, she shares tips in dealing with everything from recurring fears to unending forms.

After both reading her book and hearing her story, I have concluded that Bea's message and its educational relevance to our community (and our mission statement) is very important and needs to be shared. I invited Bea to attend an East Lawn Advisory Board meeting and share her story. After I was appointed to the Interfaith Service Bureau (ISB) Board of Directors earlier this year, which is an organization bringing together area religions and cultures, I invited Bea to attend their meeting and

share her story. She did so wonderfully. The ISB also owns and operates a television studio and produces religious programming on cable.

As a result of these connections, the vague concept of a weekly show hosted by Bea and produced by East Lawn, during which she would interview faith leaders, chaplains, hospice workers, and others – exploring **"cultures, rites and traditions"**, became a reality. The program will begin airing on cable this fall. We're privileged as a company to have many partners in our community who are helping us to realize our East Lawn Mission Statement. People like Bea Bailey help us to better "respect all cultures, rites and traditions" and also preserve "individual, family and community heritage".



-Alan

Special points of Interest:

- 6/21/09—Father's Day
- 6/30/09—Albert Brown Mortuary Advisory Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.
- 7/4/09 Independence Day 🇺🇸 🎉
- 7/25/09—Alzheimers 5k Run/Walk 8:00 a.m. ELMP

Win a prize! Look for the hidden Mission Statement Phrase on pages 2-4 in this Newsletter; Win a prize if you are the first five employees to e-mail or call Mike Solton. Please do not respond with your answer until Wednesday, 06/24/09, after 9:00 a.m.