



CREATIVE CHOICES

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Winter 2012

The Newsletter of the Austin Memorial and Burial Information Society (AMBIS)

Fundraising Kudos for AMBIS Members

Nancy Walker, Vice President, AMBIS Governing Council

Dear AMBIS Family and Friends,

In our Fall newsletter, I kicked off the annual fall fundraiser by telling you about a good friend of mine who offered us a matching challenge donation after taking a look at our website. What made this generous gift even more special was the fact that she lives in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina ... far away from the AMBIS service area. But she could SEE we are doing our best to educate, to advocate, and to spread the word about a topic that many people don't even want to discuss. Bolstered by her belief in our mission, I asked you to donate what you could; and, realizing that 11-11 was on the close horizon, I encouraged you – especially if you had never donated to AMBIS – to send in \$11.11 in the spirit of the season.

I am delighted – actually overjoyed! – to report that many, many of you stepped up ... in most wonderful and sometimes playful ways! We received a steady stream of checks for \$11.11 ... and a noteworthy collection of checks for \$22.22. Over a five-week period, one donor sent five separate checks for \$11.11. One sent a bundle of good will with a check for \$111.11. Imaginative donors sent checks for intriguing amounts like \$36.11, which seemed to say, “I was planning to send \$25.00 but the \$11.11 possibility was appealing, too.” Other donors sent checks for \$25, \$35, \$50, \$100, and occasionally even more.

Together, **you** met the challenge and made this an extra special season of Thanksgiving for AMBIS!

No **words** can adequately express the gratitude of each and every AMBIS volunteer for your generous and big-hearted support, which helped us meet the donor challenge. We **can**, however, do our best to serve you in any way we are able, so – please – call us, email us, ask us ... and we will respond! Encourage those you care

about to call, email, and ask us, too. One by one, or in groups of any size, we're here to listen and to share what we know in ways that suit you best. Ω

AMBIS Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 19, 2012
2 to 4 p.m.

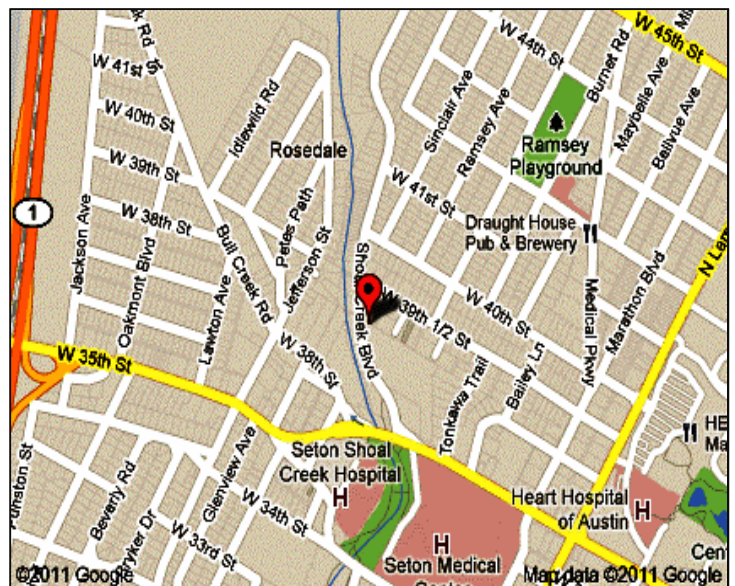
at Congregation Beth Israel
3901 Shoal Creek Blvd., Austin

Keynote Speaker: Sandy Norwood
transplant recipient, author of
“Breathing Easy ... a Journey to Transplant”

Directions to Congregation Beth Israel

1. From West 38th Street, turn north on Shoal Creek Blvd.
2. Turn into the **second** Congregation Beth Israel parking lot.

Ample parking available in second lot.



User-Friendly Enhancements to Annual Funeral Home Survey

Thanks to the recommendations of the Funeral Home Survey Evaluation Committee, the 2012 survey has some changes to its content and format.

This year, savings tips and information to help you understand the data in the survey chart **precede** the chart.

The chart itself lists all **50** funeral homes in our service area. Smithville and Luling have been added.

Column 1: Funeral homes are listed alphabetically with **the name of the city in bold font**.

Column 2: Direct Cremation: As in previous years, the cost includes an alternate container and the crematory fee.

Column 3: Immediate Burial: No changes.

Column 4: Non-declinable Fee: The narrative preceding the chart explains what this is.

Column 5: Full Service Funeral: This year, the cost shown does **not** include **the cost of a casket** because many smart consumers are purchasing caskets from a variety of sources.

Column 6: The lowest cost 20 gauge and 18 gauge metal caskets available at each funeral home are now in **one** column. These prices give you a basis for comparing prices of comparable 18 and 20 gauge caskets sold elsewhere.

Column 7: Embalming **Option:** “Option” has been added to remind readers that embalming is **not** required by law.

Column 8: Refrigeration: The narrative preceding the chart explains what this is.

Text **following** the survey chart explains how the data was collected and compiled.



PRINTING THE SURVEY ...

This year, the survey is available in a printer-friendly 8 1/2" x 11" multi-page format on the AMBIS website at <http://fcaambis.org>.

The narrative, chart, and figures provide the **same information** that you'll find on the large, single-page version.

This printer-friendly version of the survey not only makes it easily accessible for you but will help AMBIS reduce costs associated with printing and mailing the 11" x 25 1/2" single-page survey, which is still available to anyone who requests it. Ω

Update on Funeral Home Agreements

Effective February 29, 2012, AMBIS will no longer have written agreements with any funeral homes in our service area. The Governing Council made this decision at their November 17, 2011, meeting based on a variety of factors.

The funeral market in our service area has become increasingly competitive due, at least in part, to the information provided by our annual funeral home survey. For example, the prices for direct cremation have continued to go down – so much so that the funeral homes with whom we have had 15% discount agreements for AMBIS members have not been matching the lowest prices available.

Even though the funeral home agreements specified that participating funeral homes were to report to us the names of AMBIS members served, not all of the funeral homes were providing this information in a regular or timely manner. Without these reports, AMBIS had little opportunity to follow up with family members to see if they were satisfied with the funeral home and to work with the funeral home, as needed, to improve service to our members.

For several years now, AMBIS has not had a volunteer funeral home liaison to consistently and conscientiously monitor participating funeral homes to ensure that they are compliant with funeral industry rules and regulations, treating our members well, and not urging them to purchase unnecessary goods and services.

On January 19, 2012, the Governing Council sent notification letters to the owners of these participating funeral homes:

- All Faiths Funerals and Cremations
- Beck Funeral Homes
- Elgin Funeral Home
- Harrell Funeral Home
- King-Tears Mortuary
- Wrench Funeral Home & Cremations

The Council advised them that the funeral discount program is being reassessed and that AMBIS appreciates the service they have provided to our members. Ω

REMINDER ...

Just as with other major purchases, you can often negotiate price in a competitive market. Remember, too, that by law you have the right to purchase caskets and urns from a variety of sources, locally and on the internet.

From the President –

Here are a few good-news, real-life 2011 stories of how I helped others, thanks to AMBIS:

- 1) *David* was **wrongly** told he needed a permit from every county between Tyler and the DFW VA cemetery to personally transport his step-father's body, and that he needed a licensed funeral director in order to have a service at that VA cemetery. He called me, I made a call to the VA; he got what he wanted and saved thousands.
- 2) Living on a fixed income and struggling to pay \$247 each month for their pre-need funeral insurance policy, I told *Martin* that he could change it and maybe get a refund on that policy. After visiting with his family, they decided on a cremation instead, got back \$9,000 and now pay no monthly \$247.
- 3) *Alice* had tears of joy when she learned how she could be buried and have her son's ashes spread on top on her own VA grave – a thought she had never considered until she attended our 7-session series "to get her ducks in order while she could still quack."
- 4) *Gil's* wife was diagnosed with cancer; I told him about a 15% discount from the funeral home they wanted to use. He saved \$1,200.
- 5) *My dentist* and his young staff learned ideas from a 30-minute talk about AMBIS; they were grateful for the information!

This is why I volunteer and give to AMBIS. I'm glad Daesene introduced me to AMBIS. Being equipped with AMBIS information **enables you too** to help others in similar ways. We inform and enable; we do not direct anyone's choice. You may learn that both your eyes can be donated to help 18 people to see better, and still choose not to donate. And that's okay, but if you come to our annual meeting, you will hear the inspirational story of a double lung transplant recipient.

On January 13, 2012, a short article in the *Austin American-Statesman* told about a grieving family seeking \$8,700 to help pay for their 17-year old son's funeral. Sadly, the young man was murdered. How **doubly sad** that they did not know how they could have saved thousands of dollars and had a

better experience. Who expects the death of a 17-year-old? **Our mission: "Be prepared!"**

Rodger Ericson,

President, AMBIS Governing Council

Come Meet Sandy Norwood at This Year's Annual Gathering



Imagine that you are a Certified Tissue Bank Specialist teaching others about organ and tissue donation.

Now imagine learning that you yourself need not just **one** organ transplant, but **two**. Imagine hoping and waiting for the day when you can set aside your oxygen

tank and walk away from your wheelchair.

Thanks to Sandy Norwood, our keynote speaker at this year's annual AMBIS meeting, you won't have to rely on your own imagination. Sandy will share with us her remarkable journey, which led to a bilateral lung transplant on August 16, 2009 – 61 days after her name was added to a transplant waiting list.

Sandy will also tell us about the courageous mother who honored her 26-year old daughter's wishes to be an organ donor.

For those of you who would like to share an inspirational story with family and friends, Sandy's book, *Breathing Easy: A Journey to Transplant*, will be available at our meeting.

If you would like to read it before you meet Sandy, you can purchase it online at www.lulu.com.

AMBIS Bylaws Updated

At our February 19 annual meeting, members will vote on the 2012 revisions to the AMBIS Bylaws. The proposed revisions were recommended by Maxine Barkan and Frances Allen, based on their many years of leadership experience on nonprofit boards. The revisions were carefully reviewed by the Governing Council Officers on October 26 and approved by the AMBIS Council on January 19, 2012.

Essentially, the revisions reorder Articles more logically, and have added topic headers under each Article for ease of reading. The actual **content** of the Bylaws has not been significantly changed, nor has wording affecting AMBIS' legal standing been altered.

The Bylaws were last updated in 2007.

AMBIS thanks our 2011 Donors ...

Without your help, we could not do the work we do!

Thank you for donating your time ...

staffing our office, answering after-hours calls, making presentations, planning events, translating written materials, collecting general price lists, and more:

Frances Allen	Jerry Buttrey	Don Harris	Gary Lichtenstein	Anneliese Rosea
Beverly Allen	Alana Carpenter-Moore	Harriett Harrow	Ellen Macdonald	Jo Schneider
Tom Arbuckle	Dick Dahlke	Carole Hawkins	Eileen Moe	Gary Seghi
Arnold Ashburn	Phyllis Dahlke	George Hawkins	Jim Moss	Donna Terpack
Chauncey Ashburn	Rita DeBellis	June Hankins	Ed Nichols	Barbara Tuttle
Maxine Barkan	Ellie Erchinger	Lamar Hankins	Leo Osterhaus	Tom Twiss
Donna Belk	Ralph Erchinger	Clint Henderson	Doug Pauley	Maria-Luisa Urdaneta
Sandy Booth	Marge Ericson	Janice King	Amy Praskac	Nancy Walker
Helen Burnette	Frances Gibich	Virginia Kniesner	Kelly Ramsey	Daesene Willmann

Thank you for serving on our Governing Council:

Jill Arechiga	Karen Larson	Donna Terpack
Kristi Curry	Leo Osterhaus	Nancy Walker
Rodger Ericson	Amy Praskac	John Yeaman

Thank you for donating library items, office equipment, supplies and other needed items:

Arnold Ashburn	Carole Hawkins	Clint Henderson	Nancy Walker
Chauncey Ashburn	George Hawkins	Josh Slocum & Lisa Carlson	Daesene Willmann

Thank you for donating items for our Gone for Good fundraiser:

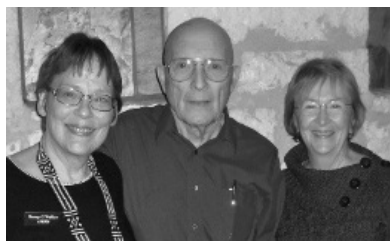
Majorie Abell	Alice Garth	Amy Praskac
Maxine Barkan	Karen Larson	Donna Terpack
Bill Collier	Ruth Ann McGarry	Maria-Luisa Urdaneta
Rodger Ericson	Ed Nichols	Nancy Walker

Thank you for your financial support:

Peggy Adams & Margaret Schmucker	James Bayliss	Jimmy Buehring	Katheryn Clark
Consuelo Akin	Arthur & Yoshiko Beckman	Edward & Dolores Burke	Jeanmarie Coale
Willis & Angelika Albarado	David & Ruth Beer	Aileen Butler	Jimmy & Ronald Coburn
Vaughn Alexander	Nancy Bené	Jerry & Barbara Buttrey	Ralph & Flora Cochran
Beverly Allen	Neva & Bill Biggs	JoAnne Cage & Karen Rayburn	John & Ann Cogdell
Frances Allen	Dorothy Billman	Gelya & Tom Camp	Judy Coker
Anonymous	James Bippus	Alana Carpenter-Moore & William Moore	Lela Coleman
Ernest & Shirley Applegate	Matt & Mary Blackstock	Henry & Joan Carroll	Mary Lee Comer
Thomas Arbuckle	Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Blankenship	Dennis Caruso	Janice Connor
Arnold & Chauncey Ashburn	Joan Bogdanski	Cecil & Edna Chandler	Carol Cook
Angela & Robert Baker	Kent & Joan Bohls	Wilbur & Rita Chapman	Priscilla Crosson
Miguel & Kathleen Bamberger	Thomas & Diane Bohman	David Chasis & Bonita Griffith	Frank & Beverly Crump
Maxine Barkan	Jim & Betty Bowie	Edgar & Lenna Chew	John & Dana Crutchfield
Victor & Rosemarie Barnett	Don & Sharon Brown	Eva Church	Richard & Phyllis Dahlke
Alvin & Marion Bates	James Brown		Gene Davis
Robert Baumgardner	Janet & William Brown		Nola Davis
	Richard & Maryleeann Bryan		Pennington Davis

Patsy De Luna	Jerry Hunt	George & Elizabeth Mosley	Constance Sherley
Gary & Nancy Decker	Glee Ingram	James Moss	David Sherrill
Christine Delmas	Raymond & Barbara James	Frederick & Helen Mueller	Diane Silver
Michael & Jean DeLong	Coleman & Lola Jennings	Alex & Patti Munson	Ellen Sims
Barbara & George Denny	J. W. Jennings	William & Judith Munyon	Gail & Kenneth Smith
Frank & Barbara Dewhurst	Nicholas & Dorothy Juried	Kathleen Murphy & Sara Barker	John L. Smith
Richard Dietz	Mary & Harold Kaplan	Donald & Nancy Naeve	Richard & Marsha Smith
Mrs. Meijer Drees	Brooks & William Kasson	Herbert & Dora Nauert	Robert & Ada Lou Smith
Russell Eskew	Robert & Gloria Kelly	Patricia Newton	Robert & Viola Snider
Hazel Evans	Marjorie Kemp	Nancy Nickerson	James Southard
Richard Evans	Alvy King	Vivian O'Daniel	Helen Spear
Rita Ewing	Joan Kirk	Richard & Virga Oliver	Henry & Delores Spillar
Vilvia Falck	Virginia Kniesner	Sharon & Charles O'Neil	Tommye & Richard Sprotte
Mark Filip & Kenneth Clements	Peter & Carol Knight	Richard Orton	James Steele
Norbert & Adora Firmhaber	Dale & Chris Kosewick	Leo & Edna Osterhaus	Bruce & Joanne Stege
Edward Fisher	Dorothy Kull	Guenther Oswald	Annette & Gordon Stokes
Duane & Mildred Flink	Mary Kurio	Ruth Bell Pais	D. Orval & Betty Strong
Duane & Mary Lee	O. J. & Ron Lafevres	Marilee & Gary Parsons	David Strong
Florschuetz	Dorothy Lambdin & Larry Abraham	Robert & Camilla Patton	John & Barbara Swardstrom
Alice Floyd	Marilyn Lamping	Joe & Sue Pearce	Patricia Taylor
William & Bernice Flynn	Stephanie Langenkamp & Phillip Hicks	Warren & Yvonne Pederson	William Taylor
Gilbert Franklin	David & Karen Larson	Dorothy Pereira	Donald Teich
Robert & Sarah Frasca	Leon & Elaine Lebowitz	Kendra Peters	Martin & Myra Tenney
Juanita & John French	Mark Lee	Charlotte & Robert Petersen	Donna Terpack
Anna & C.A. Gatti	Carey Legett	Wendee Peterson-Clark	Virginia Tipton
Augusta Gelfand	Sybil & Merrick Leler	Anne Peticolas	Jacqueline Treptow
Stanley & Peggy Gibson	John & Betty Lindell	Mary Pharis	Ronald Turner
Donald Giller	James & Nancy Lloyd	William & Gay Phillips	Thomas Twiss
Gerald & Wilhelmina Gilligan	Linda Look	Suzanne Pilgrim	Lois Urelius
Charlotte Gilman	Henrietta Loudat	Jean & Benita Pinette	Johan & Maria Varenbrink
Glad Tidings Church	Patricia Ann Lewis	Amy Prskac	Jose & Carmen Vargas
Patsy Golgert	Betty Luedecke	Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Price	Carol & Carl Vaughn
Joanne & Martin Grantham	Ruth Lumbra	Francis Raffalovich & Georgia Strickland	Martha Victory
Elizabeth Gray & Eugene Balaguer	Frank & Poullette MacDougal	Tommy Rand & Leslie Tull	Laura Vlasman & Gonzalo Jimenez
Lawrence & Joanna Green	Katherine Mack	Jessie Reich	Barbara Von Merz
Lawrence Hall	Edward & Rita Macomber	Pat & Dick Richardson	Joan Walden
Daphne Hamilton	Mesco & Lucy Macy	Philip Richardson & Michael Jones	Nancy G Walker
Clara Hammond	William & Lorraine Marten	Charles Richey	Wayne Walker
Carl & Genell Happel	Laurel & William Martin	Nancy Richter	Mary Nell Wall
Dell & Jolly Harkins	Pat McCarthy	Sue & Warden Rimel	Margaret Walter
Doris Harrel	Daryl & Margie McCloskey	Richard Roberson	W. D. Warren & H. A. Warren-Norman
Clifford & Margaret Harrington	Mrs. D. E. McCollum	Betty & Carl Rogers	Barbara White
Lana Harris & Scott Duff	Jean McDermott	Anneliese Rosea	Stuart Whiteside
Don and Anita Harris	Constance & Thomas McDonnell	Fred & Sharon Rothert	Kunda Lee Wicce
Harriett Harrow & Paul Maclean	Fred & Karin McDowell	Stanley Roux & Pat. J. Victor	Bernard Williams
Helen Hatton	Ruth Ann McGarry	Farrell & Sally Rowe	Daesene Willmann
Charlies & Rosemarie Hawkins	Myrna & Edward McKee	Rhoda Winter Russell	John & Joyce Wilson
Earnest & Nancy Haynes	Mack McNally	Stephen & Jamie Russell	Myra Winfield
Douglas & Rosa Helms	Bart & Joan Meharg	Waldine Rust	Robert & Margaret Wommack
Clinton Henderson	J. W. Meli	Chris Sampson	Billy & Catherine Wright
Joan & Hammond Hendrix	Barbara Merello	Carol Schauf	Mary & John Wyatt
Nancy & Louis Herlin	Deborah Ann Meyer	Jo Schneider	Jean Wyllys
Lisa & Chris Hines	Mickey Michaels	Valeria Schroeter	Michael Yarber & Jackie Ray Hires
Donna Holden	Robert & Karol Middleton	Mary & Eugene Schubeck	John Yeaman
Suzanne & David Huff	Stanley & Joan Miller	Robert & Dianne Schultz	Alyce & Anthony Zacco
	Paul & Carole Moore	Sallie L. Scott	
	Geraldine Mosher		

Outstanding Candidates Recommended for AMBIS Governing Council



2012 Nominating Committee:
Nancy Walker, Chair; Tom Twiss and
Eileen Moe, members at large

The AMBIS Nominating Committee and the AMBIS Governing Council enthusiastically recommend to our membership the following candidates to fill **four** vacancies on the AMBIS Governing Council:

- Rita DeBellis (2012-2015)
- Ovelio Fernandez (2012–2014, replacing Council Member Donna Terpack)
- Don Harris (2012-2015)
- Mickey Michaels (2012-2015)



RITA DeBELLIS

Rita DeBellis has been a Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse with Hospice Austin since 2008.

Rita was drawn to AMBIS because our work is not limited to final arrangement information but includes many aspects of end-of-life education and preparedness.

Rita has made AMBIS presentations to Hospice Austin social work teams. She also served on AMBIS' Funeral Home Survey Committee in 2011.

As a board member, she would like to increase the visibility of AMBIS in Austin and forge mutually beneficial partnerships with other community organizations—all with an eye toward building our membership.



DON HARRIS

Don Harris and his wife, Anita, joined AMBIS in 1991 after attending an AMBIS presentation.

As an AMBIS volunteer, Don has worked on the WEB Site Committee and collected data for the funeral home pricing survey. As a member of the AMBIS Board, Don plans to spread the word about the work we do and the rewards of being an active AMBIS member. He would like to see us advertise, as our budget permits, in area publications for seniors. He would also like to find ways to encourage members to hand out AMBIS brochures to their friends and neighbors. He is excited about being a team player on the board.



OVELIO FERNANDEZ

Ovelio Fernandez, a native of Maracaibo, Venezuela, brings to AMBIS a great deal of helpful experience as a Human Resources professional and a bilingual teacher. He is eager to help us extend our offerings to the Hispanic community, not only by talking about AMBIS but also by

working collaboratively with other bilingual AMBIS members to translate our materials into Spanish.

Both Ovelio and his wife, Annette, are members of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association. Ovelio especially enjoys translating from English to Spanish, while Annette specializes in translating from Spanish to English.



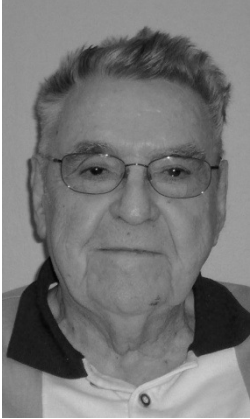
MICKEY MICHAELS

Mickey has been active in Toastmasters for twelve years, achieving their Distinguished Toastmaster award, which attests to her speaking experience and leadership skills.

In addition to her experience with other nonprofits, Mickey has been a member and active supporter of AMBIS for over 10 years. If asked to explain why, she would tell you, "Money should be spent on the living, not the dead."

Mickey's primary goal as an AMBIS board member would be to expand the speakers' program. Also, as a published writer, she would be willing to apply these skills where they are needed.

Volunteer in the Spotlight



LEO OSTERHAUS

Leo's service to AMBIS and our membership has, literally, spanned more than thirty years! Leo and his wife, Edna, became AMBIS members in 1981. Leo was elected to the Governing Council in July, 1987. During his eight three-year terms on the Council, Leo has served as President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Director. Currently he is Chair of the Council's Finance and Investments Committee. He has also worked in the AMBIS office and made follow-up welcome calls to many new members. Along with Beverly Allen, another knowledgeable AMBIS volunteer, Leo is the voice of AMBIS when people call us for assistance during non-office hours.

Leo will be sorely missed when he retires from the Council on February 19, not only because he has been the Council's "historian in residence" but also because he will be taking with him all the knowledge that goes with being a Professor at St. Edwards University School of Business Administration (1985-2009) and the SBA's Dean (1970-1980).

Thank you, Leo, for all you have done and given to AMBIS since the early days when nine Council members gathered at someone's home to fold newsletters while discussing Council business. Thank you for your wisdom and guidance as AMBIS grew to become one of the largest, most active funeral consumer alliances in the country. []NGW

Fundraiser with *Gone for Good* Postponed

The exploratory fundraising committee, chaired by AMBIS Treasurer Amy Praskac, determined we would need many more volunteers to put on a good fundraiser. We also were challenged in finding a suitable, yet affordable, venue for the event. Items originally held back for an AMBIS fundraising event are now being sold by *Gone for Good*. See photos of items and learn more about *Gone for Good* at www.goneforgood.net or visit the *Gone for Good* booth at the Antique Marketplace at the

southwest corner of Burnet Rd. and Koenig Lane (by HEB).

We hope you will continue to donate items that will benefit AMBIS. They should have a minimum value of \$50 each.

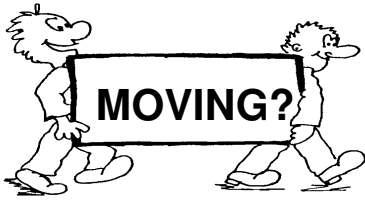
To arrange for item pickup, contact Retta Van Auken at 657-7210 or Gail Miller at 297-6302. *Gone For Good* is a fiscal sponsorship fund administered through the Austin Community Foundation 74-1934031.

Farewell to a Founder and Friend of AMBIS

Hazel Robertson Evans, 85, one of the original Governing Council members of AMBIS, died on November 11, 2011, in Austin. Hazel and Roy Evans were on the first Governing Council after AMBIS was formed in 1964. Roy, who was the former President of the Texas AFL-CIO in the 1960s, died in 2004.

Hazel was born in Gilmer, Texas, on December 12, 1925. She graduated from nursing school in Dallas and worked as an RN until 1955, when she took 20 years off to raise four sons. After returning to nursing, she retired in the mid-90s.

Hazel was the only original Governing Council member to speak at the AMBIS 40th anniversary meeting in 2004. Two other original Governing Council members, Bob and Tutta Barton, live in Kyle.



Email <AMBIS@grandecom.net>, call the AMBIS office at 512-480-0555, or mail this form to our office.

My new or corrected address is:

Name

Street or P. O. Box

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email address

Help me transfer my membership to an FCA outside the AMBIS service area.

**Austin Memorial & Burial
Information Society
A Funeral Consumers Alliance
3710 Cedar Street, Box 13
Austin, TX 78705-1449**

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Winter 2012



CREATIVE CHOICES is published quarterly by the Austin Memorial and Burial Information Society, a nonprofit, nonsectarian consumer and educational organization formed in 1964 to protect a consumer's right to choose a meaningful, dignified, and affordable funeral.

AMBIS is a member of the Funeral Consumers Alliance, a federation of nearly one hundred similar consumer groups operating throughout the United States.

The ideas expressed in **CREATIVE CHOICES** are those of the authors and editor and not necessarily those of AMBIS.

Address changes, editorial items, letters, and inquiries about the benefits of membership should be directed to:



**AMBIS
3710 Cedar Street, Mailbox 13
Austin, TX 78705-1449**

Telephone inquiries to **512-480-0555**

Email: <AMBIS@grandecom.net>

AMBIS Mission Statement: AMBIS, a member of the national Funeral Consumers Alliance, is a nonprofit, nonsectarian educational consumer organization that encourages and assists Central Texans in making informed, practical end-of-life decisions

AMBIS GOVERNING COUNCIL:

- Rodger Ericson, President (260-2445, Cedar Park)
- Nancy G. Walker, Vice-president (480-0251, Austin)
- Amy Praskac, Treasurer (371-3624, Austin)
- Jill Arechiga, Director (419-0141, Austin)
- Kristi Curry, Director (771-8530, Austin)
- Karen Larson, Director (328-9813, Austin)
- Leo Osterhaus, Director (836-8104, Austin)
- John F. Yeaman, Director (653-1101, Austin)

Leon Lebowitz, President Emeritus

Daesene Willmann, Coordinator of Volunteers
(459-6703, Austin)

Nancy G. Walker, Volunteer Newsletter Editor