

Help For Organizing the End of Life

By Cathy Tyson



Terry Ann Black

Photo provided

It all started with a safe deposit key found after her father-in-law's death. There was no information as to the bank or what was inside. That motivated Lafayette resident Terry Ann Black to start her own business, Caring Is Not Enough, giving speeches to community groups and writing a book to document last wishes and personal records. Her goal is, "to offer a simple and efficient way to prepare crucial information before the end of life. The book makes vital information conveniently available when a person dies."

She wants families to achieve peace of mind, including Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT). To that end, she has a LGBT

edition with specific questions suited to their unique needs. There are also Spanish and Chinese editions available.

As a registered Nurse for more than 40 years she saw many life and death experiences when she was working in the Emergency Room. Ms. Black has upcoming speaking engagements at Aegis in Moraga and On Lok in San Francisco.

The booklet makes it easy, with a fill in the blank format with 120 specific questions about the obvious, wills and funeral wishes, to the not so obvious like where is the pink slip to your vehicle and what is the password to your voicemail? It's these details that can drive an executor crazy.

That's where Ms. Black's colleague comes in. Cari Hays owns and operates Executor Consulting Services (ECS). With a Masters Degree in Project Management and experience in social work and mental health, she helps executors deal with the non-legal aspects of resolving an estate. Especially when family members are out of state, she offers a unique service to help sort through a lifetime's worth of stuff and give the executor guidance and support.

Together Ms. Black and Ms. Hays goal is to approach communities and organizations as a team to discuss end of life issues. Although their companies are separate entities, they feel that together they can offer a synergy of ideas and talents.

For more information, please contact Terry Ann Black of Caring Is Not Enough through her website, www.caringisnotenough.net. Cari Hays of Executor Consulting Services can be reached through her website, www.executorconsulting.com.

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