



Jesse Arreguín
Councilmember, District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 23, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Jesse Arreguín
Subject: City Sponsorship of the Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit

RECOMMENDATION:

Cosponsor the 2009 Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit to be held on Saturday, November 7th, 2009 at the Grace North Church.

BACKGROUND:

The Grace North Church will host the Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit on Saturday, November 7th, 2009. Grace North Church, located at 2138 Cedar Street, is an inclusive and progressive Christian church that welcomes everyone in the community, regardless of faith tradition, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or legal status.

The Grace North Church was designed by architect James W. Plachek and constructed in 1914; Plachek also designed other notable buildings in Berkeley, including the Martin Luther King Junior Civic Center, the main section of the Downtown Berkeley Library, and the North Branch Library. The redwood-lined sanctuary of the Grace North Church received landmark building status from the City of Berkeley in 1995.

The Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit will raise much-needed funds for building repairs to the Grace North Church by hosting a thought-provoking, educational, and entertaining community event that will attract a variety of sponsors.

Planned to coincide with Halloween, Día de los Muertos, All Saints Day and the de Young Museum's Tutankhamen & The Golden Age of the Pharaohs exhibit in San Francisco, The Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit will be a unique and upbeat event that will help the community confront, in a meaningful and celebratory way, the taboo topic of departure from this life.

The Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit will feature a forum on the historical and social aspects of death, dying, and funeral rituals to better equip attendees to offer their dearly departed a fonder, more meaningful farewell.

Additionally, the community will be able to enjoy a free walk-through concert by local musicians in the sanctuary, enjoy free samples of traditional funeral foods and peruse local purveyors of “green” funeral services, caterers, casket makers, chaplains, and other related craft and wares.

As a prelude to the Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit, the Grace North Church will also host a Fond Farewell Speaker Series to promote reflection, solace, and spiritual healing.

The Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit will be free and open to the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE.

CONTACT PERSON:

Jesse Arreguín, Councilmember, District 4

981-7140

Attachment 1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO.–N.S.

CITY OF BERKELEY CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2009
FOND FAREWELL FUNERAL FAIR BENEFIT

WHEREAS, the Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit will be held on Saturday, November 7th, 2009, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Grace North Church, located at 2138 Cedar Street; and

WHEREAS, the Grace North Church is an inclusive and progressive Christian church that welcomes everyone in the community, regardless of faith tradition, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or legal status; and

WHEREAS, the Grace North Church was designed by architect James W. Plachek and constructed in 1914; Plachek also designed the Martin Luther King Junior Civic Center, the main section of the Downtown Berkeley Library, and the North Branch Library; and

WHEREAS, the redwood-lined sanctuary of the Grace North Church received landmark building status from the City of Berkeley in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit will raise much-needed funds for building repairs to the Grace North Church by hosting a thought-provoking, educational, and entertaining community event that will attract a variety of sponsors; and

WHEREAS, the Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit will be a unique and upbeat event that will help the community confront, in a meaningful and celebratory way, the taboo topic of departure from this life; and

WHEREAS, the Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit will feature a forum on the historical and social aspects of death, dying, and funeral rituals to educate attendees about the bittersweet art of offering their dearly departed; and

WHEREAS, the community will be able to enjoy a concert by local musicians in the sanctuary, enjoy samples of traditional funeral foods and peruse local purveyors of “green” funeral services, caterers, casket makers, chaplaincy services, and other related crafts; and

WHEREAS, as a prelude to the Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit, the Grace North Church will host a Fond Farewell Speaker Series to promote reflection, solace, and spiritual healing; and

WHEREAS, the Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit will be free and open to the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City of Berkeley will be a co-sponsor of the November 7th Fond Farewell Funeral Fair Benefit at the Grace North Church.