

Hospice Friends
 401 E. Mtn. View Ave.
 Suite 3
 Ellensburg, WA 98926
 friends@eburg.com
 (509) 962-7379
 www.hospicefriends.net

Hospice News

Providing Peace, Comfort, & Care to the People of Kittitas County

“I don’t think I have words enough to say what a blessing it was.”
 Ruby Harris

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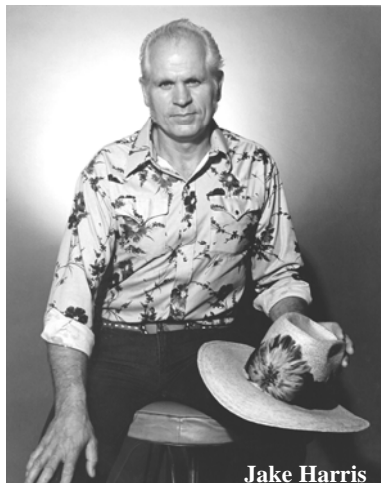
“Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?”

“It is the hardest thing that ever happened to me,” Ruby says. “I never questioned ‘Why me?’, but I did ask, ‘Why Jake?’” After 57 years of marriage Ruby Harris lost her husband, Jake, on March 21, 2007. “Jake was a kind, gentle, and forgiving person. He was always the first person to ask for forgiveness when we had a problem....He was such a peach of a fellow.”

Jake and Ruby began dating when they were just teenagers and married in 1950 shortly after graduating from high school. The amazing love they had for one another is easy to see in the way Ruby talks about Jake. With the pride of first love she still talks about how good he looked in western wear and how he loved to sing to her. “He would often wake up in the mornings and start singing ‘Have I told you lately that I love you?’” she says.

When Jake’s health started to decline Ruby took on the responsibility of being his sole care provider. This was not her first experience caring for a loved one. Ruby cared for her mom during the last 5 years of her life and, being from a family of 11 children, she often cared for her younger brothers and sisters growing up. But as Jake’s health continued to decline she became worried about how she would be able to care for him. They talked about keeping him at home, but didn’t think that he would be eligi-

ble for hospice services. Carol, one of their three children, investigated further into the matter and found out that Jake would qualify for hospice. “The fears we had were gone when hospice first came into our home,” says Ruby. “They were so helpful the first visit and supplied everything he needed. He was able to ask the hospice workers direct questions and they listened to him, even laughed and joked with him. When they came, they always made his day better. I don’t think I have the words enough to say what a blessing it was.”



Jake Harris

“The hardest thing since Jake’s death,” says Ruby, “is simply being alone. When I need advice, he isn’t there to give it and there are times when I really want to share things with him, but can’t.” Ruby is extremely thankful for the overwhelming support she has received from her family, friends, and church. “I’m not sure that I would have wanted to go on living if it hadn’t been for my family and my church family,” she says. Her three

children all call her on a daily basis since Jake died, and she has several close friends from church that check up on her on a regular basis. “If for some reason I don’t show up for a church event, I get 2-3 calls asking me how I am doing,” she adds.

Since Jake’s death, Ruby has found it increasingly important to focus on day to day tasks. “I find it important

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If you know of someone like Ruby that has lost a loved one, please invite them to one of the Tree of Love Ceremonies and/or put them in contact with Hospice Friends to see what additional bereavement support we can offer.



Hospice Friends is a United Way of Kittitas County Partner Agency

Hospice Friends can now accept online donations using a credit card!

Quilt Drawing

Mary Kay McPhillips has graciously created and donated another quilt to be raffled off this holiday season. Donations for tickets will be \$5.00 apiece or six for \$25.00. Don't miss out on this chance to win an exquisite new quilt from an award-winning quilt maker. This year's quilt is a pieced and appliquéd 52" x 52" wall hanging or table topper with a "Pick a Posey" pat-

tern done in brights and 1930s prints on a white background. Buy your tickets now by calling 509-962-7379 or emailing hospicefriends@eburg.com. The drawing will be held at the Hospice Friends office on February 28 at noon. The quilt will be on display at both Tree of Love events and on our website: www.hospicefriends.net.

Tree of Love - A Night To Remember

At this special time of the year our thoughts turn to our loved ones. Enclosed you will find a personal invitation to this year's Tree of Love Ceremony and Reception. Hospice Friends has held this event every year since 1996 to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones who have passed away. A short tree lighting

ceremony will take place outside followed by an indoor reception with food, music, and a time to share with others. With two locations (see invitation for dates, times, and location) we hope everyone will be able to attend. If you do not have transportation, please let us know.

A Chance to Honor & Remember

Tree of Love is also the signature fundraising event for Hospice Friends. By sending a donation in memory or honor of a loved one, you will ensure the continuation of Hospice Friends services for those in need for years to come. Suggested donations of \$10.00 or more per person remembered or honored will go a long way in providing the needed supplies, equipment, and friendship for the elderly and those facing a life-threatening illness. Please use the enclosed remittance envelope to indicate whomever you wish to honor or remember with your contribution. For the first time ever, **Hospice Friends can now accept online donations using a credit card.** To make a donation online go to the Hospice Friends website at

www.hospicefriends.net and click on the "Donate Now" button. All donations are funneled to Hospice Friends through a secure nonprofit organization called Groundspring.org.



Those donating \$50.00 or more in any one person's name will receive a beautiful hand blown glass ornament. Each ornament is unique and hand-crafted by the family-operated Leone Glass Studio of Cedar, Michigan, using old world glass blowing techniques. We only have a limited number of ornaments; thus send your donations in soon to receive one of these special gifts from Hospice Friends. Glass ornaments and receipts for donations will be given out at each Tree of Love event and/or mailed after Tree of Love for those not able to pick them up.

Send Us Photos of Your Loved Ones

Like last year, we want to make the Tree of Love Ceremony special by having a picture slide show of honored loved ones who are no longer with us. If you have pictures that you are willing to share with us, please let us know.

Email photos to hospicefriends@eburg.com or you can bring photos by the office and we will scan them into the computer and return them to you. Please submit your photos before November 23rd.

Grief During The Holidays

“Coping with Grief During the Holidays” will be the subject of two free workshops in Ellensburg and one in Cle Elum. The holidays can be a difficult time for people grieving the loss of a loved one. The sessions will offer practical coping strategies and provide



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a time for individual sharing and questions. The workshops are open to anyone who is experiencing grief. Individuals may attend one or all of the sessions. For additional information, call Hospice Friends at (509) 962-7379.

From the Director

It is with a heavy heart that I tell you I will be leaving Hospice Friends in January of 2008. This has not been an easy decision for me. I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 4 ½ years working for this amazing organization. I am leaving because Jen, my wife, and I have decided to spend some time traveling and volunteering in South America. This has been a dream of ours for quite some time, and we feel that now

is the right time to act upon it. It has been a true honor to work for an organization that has such overwhelming community support. There are not many organizations that can say they have been supported almost exclusively by the local community for their entire history (25 years as of 2008). Thank you for your ongoing generosity. I pray that you will continue to show it in the years to come.

“Have I Told You” ...continued from page 1

to keep busy,” she said. “The church youth group offered to come and do yard work for me, but I decided I needed that responsibility for myself. It is my therapy.” There are many things to do around the house that Jake used to do that Ruby has had to either learn how to do by herself or ask for assistance from her son. She has also found comfort and healing by reaching out to others in need. “I have tried to give back what I have received to some people that I knew needed help,” she says. She was

able to give away several of Jake’s possessions to people that could use them, and she has been able to offer her time and resources to neighbors and others in need.

Ruby’s pain and grief have not magically gone away with time, but thanks to the support of those around her she has been able to remain optimistic about her life. “I don’t know what God has for me in the future, but when He lets me know I will be open and willing to do it,” she says.

Grief Groups

ELLENSBURG

Hospitality House
1403 N. Vista
Ellensburg

Thursday,
November 15th
7-8:30pm
&
Thursday,
December 13th
7-8:30pm

CLE ELUM
Upper County
Senior Center
(719 E. 3rd
Street)

Date TBA
Please Call if
Interested

Application packets for the Executive Director position are available at the Hospice Friends office.

Cruisin' For Hospice - At Its Best

Hospice Friends would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for sponsoring the 8th Annual Cruisin' for Hospice Car Show. Their generosity made this year's show the most successful ever, raising \$6,500 for Hospice Friends.

Chrome Sponsor - \$1,000-\$2,500
Helen Ockwig

Big Block Sponsor - \$500-\$1000
Coldwell Banker/Kittitas Valley Realty

Hot Rod Sponsors - \$250-\$500
Arnold's Ranch & Home
Central Washington Truss
University Place Properties

Road Trip Sponsors - \$100-\$250
Crossfire Farms
CV Autoworks
Ellensburg Cement Products
Fairway Properties
Family Eye Clinic
First American Title Company of Kittitas County

Fred Meyer
Joyner Construction
Kittitas Valley Cruisers
Luft Trailers
McDonalds
McIntosh's Auto Body
Medical Associates Of Yakima L L C
Oak Rail Tavern
Reecer Creek Golf & Country Club
Smith Excavating Inc.

Classic Car Sponsors - \$25-\$100

Affordable Funeral Care
American Legion Post 8
AmeriTitle
Blue Ridge Insurance
Bob's Cabinet Shop -Bob & Alice Greenman
Brad & Burke
Copper Kettle
D&M Motors & Towing
Dave's Ellensburg Exhaust
Don's Heating, Cooling & Refrigeration
Peter & Sally Eberle
Ellensburg Tire Center
Ellis & Susan Flaaen
Farmers Insurance- Jerry Lael
Dan & Jan Farrell
Hungry Hippo Sub Shop
Independent Auto Repair
Instant Cash
Johnson's Auto Glass
David & Laurie Johnson

Les Schwab
Don & Donna Morris
Napa Auto Parts
Jeff & Betty Nolls

A special thank you to the Ketzenberg Family and Kittitas Valley Cruisers for their work in organizing the car show as a benefit for Hospice Friends.

Quiznos Sub Shop
R&M Carpentry
R & R Auto Body
Tom & Eloise Russel
Shaw's Furniture
Keith & Sharon Shoemaker
The Copy Shop
Thunderbird Motel
Valley Clinic
Valley Mist Farms
Wally & Clo Dillon

Pit Crew Sponsors (In-Kind Donations)
ABATE – American Bikers
Aimed Towards Education
ABC Donuts
AutoZone
Ron & Merrily Braucht

Buzz Inn
Car Care Solutions
Carquest Auto Parts
City of Ellensburg
City of Ellensburg - Parks & Rec. Dept.
D&M Coffee
Dairy Queen
Dakota Cafe
Dry Creek Retirement Center
Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce
Ellensburg Golf Club & Country Club
Entertainment Plus
Fairpoint Communications
First Impressions
Grant's Pizza Place
Jerro's Book & Supply Co.
Kelleher Motor Co.
Knudson Lumber
Gene & Sandy Ketzenberg KXLE
Papa Murphy's
Perkins Restaurant
Pizza Hut
Safeway Food and Drug
Schucks Auto Supply
Seven-Eleven
Sign Dog
Smitty's Exspresso
Starlight Lounge
Steward & Williams
Subway
University Auto Center
UPS Store of Ellensburg
Ed & Darlene West

Hospice Friends has a website!! Check us out at www.hospicefriends.net

Hospice Friends is a non-profit charitable organization that provides peace, comfort, and care to the elderly, bereaved, and anyone facing a life-threatening illness in Kittitas County. We work in coordination with Home Health & Hospice of Kittitas Valley, a department of Kittitas Valley Community Hospital, to provide quality care in the home, nursing home, or hospital in a professional, empathetic, and confidential manner. Hospice Friends promotes a caring community without affiliation to any specific religious orientation or political view. All of our services are free of charge.

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