

Hello again, Friends,

The July meeting saw about 14 people in attendance, not bad for a hot, summer day. Many people are on vacation and up north, so the summer meetings are usually smaller. This month marked the 2nd anniversary of Suddenly One. Several members have been with us since the first meeting. We continue to have enough people to make it a worthwhile endeavor, and I thank all of you for your continued support. We had no first-time members at this meeting.

There was no formal agenda or program for this meeting. The group discussed a range of topics:

- Bunny brought up the possibility of hosting a seminar-type event with various organizations geared toward widows/widowers. This would be a city-wide event, with representation from organizations such as counsellors, grief groups (faith-based and secular) and others to provide information about services available to us now that we are trying to organize and define our lives without our loved ones. Details will be developed and shared if and when this comes about.
- There was some discussion about estate planning and the need to have wills and medical directives in place. One of the members brought up the Lady Bird Trust, which is a legal device in Florida to name your heirs as beneficiaries and avoid your estate going into probate. Naming beneficiaries, or having someone on your bank accounts, means the funds will go directly to those people, and will not have to be probated. Likewise for your home. You may want to consider naming a beneficiary or having someone on the deed with you. If you think this could be beneficial to you, please research this and/or contact your attorney. And be sure you fully trust the person you name as beneficiary or co-owner. You don't have to have a lot of money to take advantage of this option. If you are currently using any property tax exemptions, please be sure that what you do will not adversely affect these benefits.
- Another member questioned if any of us has received a check in the spouse's name long after death. If you have taken your spouse's name off your bank account, you will probably not be able to cash or deposit any checks in their name. Please consider this before removing their name from any accounts. You can leave their name on the account but print checks and deposit tickets with only your name if you desire.

The **next group lunch will be Friday, July 28th at Elevation 89**, located in the Airport on 60th. If you want to go, please let me know by the 26th so I can give the restaurant an accurate count.

The **next meeting is August 11th at 10:30** in the Card Room.

Until next time,

Shelley

www.suddenlyone.com

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