

**The Best of the Best**  
**Ballard-Durand Funeral & Cremation Services**  
**Matthew J. Fiorillo**  
**(914) 949-0566**

**Memorial Service & Dove Release**

Ballard-Durand Funeral & Cremation Services noticed a void in our community where those who have experienced a loss could gather again to remember their loved ones. Society often has widow, widowers, and surviving children suppress outward feelings of loss. With this in mind we created and held our first Annual Memorial Service & Dove Release.

Honoring the deceased and caring for the family has always been our motto, however this year on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we took that saying to another level. All of the families we have served were sent a personal invitation to attend and participate by sharing photos and memorabilia of their loved ones. These photos were then shown on a DVD as you enter the funeral home in the lobby. As well as invitations being sent out to area families, a posting on our website and also on our unique Facebook fan page was created.

Funeral home staff members accepted the reservations and recorded the name of the deceased person(s) the family would like to remember. With a confirmed reservation we reserved a dove for the family to release at a point nearing the end of the service. Graceful Doves of Highland, New Jersey was on hand to answer questions about the homing pigeons and to coordinate the simultaneous dove release.

Close to 100 people were in attendance at the funeral home that afternoon. Representatives from Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester were on hand to speak about grief and to lend support to the attendees. After a brief introduction and welcome from funeral home owner Matthew Fiorillo the Reverend Chris Monturo from St. Anthony of Padua Church in West Harrison, NY along with Rabbi Andrew Sklarz from Greenwich Reform Temple in Greenwich, CT spoke some words of comfort. Afterwards we all moved to the back lawn of the building and each family was given a basket that contained a single white dove. As each dove was released they all joined one another in the sky before flying home. Refreshments were served following the conclusion of the day.

It remains an honor to be chosen to serve the people of Westchester. The Memorial Service & Dove Release will continue to be an important addition of our service to the families of this community.