

3-21-2000

## Friends and Family to Gather to Tell Stories, Celebrate the Comic Spirit of Erma Bombeck

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### Recommended Citation

"Friends and Family to Gather to Tell Stories, Celebrate the Comic Spirit of Erma Bombeck" (2000). *News Releases*. 8922.  
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News Release

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO GATHER TO TELL STORIES,  
CELEBRATE THE COMIC SPIRIT OF ERMA BOMBECK**

DAYTON, Ohio — They're coming to Dayton because they loved Erma Bombeck.

The people who knew Erma best — her family and friends — will tell stories and laugh as they reminisce about the writer's wit, wisdom, compassion and humor. We're all invited to eavesdrop.

The reunion is called "An Evening with Erma's Friends," and it takes place at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 31, in the Boll Theatre in Kennedy Union on the University of Dayton campus.

WHIO-TV anchor Donna Jordan will moderate the free-flowing, bound-to-be lively conversation.

The cast includes:

- Bill Bombeck, the straight man who provided his wife with plenty of humorous material during 46 years of marriage;
- Matt Bombeck, the youngest of the three Bombeck children who grew up to become a television and film writer in Los Angeles;
- Liz Carpenter, former press secretary for Lady Bird Johnson who traveled around the country with Erma for more than five years trying to get the Equal Rights Amendment passed;
- Bil Keane, "Family Circus" cartoonist and neighbor who co-wrote a book with Erma, *Just Wait Till You Have Children of Your Own!*;
- John McMeel, chairman of Andrews McMeel Universal, publisher of Erma's books;
- Aaron Priest, Erma's literary agent;
- Lee Salem, executive vice president and editor of Universal Press Syndicate, which syndicated Erma's columns; and

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- D.L. Stewart, *Dayton Daily News* columnist who writes about family life from a father's point of view.

"This is intended to be a nostalgic, lighthearted reunion of Erma's friends," said Glenn Walters, media executive in residence at the University of Dayton, who's serving as executive producer. "It will be an evening of storytelling, a celebration of Erma's comic spirit."

The presentation will be edited into a half-hour special that will air at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 8, on WHIO-TV and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 9, on Miami Valley Channel (Channel 44). It is expected to air later this spring on public television station Think<sup>TV</sup>. It will be broadcast live over Flyer TV on campus.

The presentation is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. For free tickets, call Kirstin Bayley at (937) 229-3264 or send her an e-mail at bayleyk@udayton.edu.

"An Evening with Erma's Friends" caps off a day that will feature a writers' workshop and the presentation of Erma Bombeck's papers to the University of Dayton, where they will reside in the library's archives. It's one highlight of the March 29-April 1 Erma Bombeck Conference on Popular American Humor, which also includes a writing competition, a dinner and keynote speech featuring Art Buchwald, an academic symposium and a series of book signings and on-line chats with writers and cartoonists. For information about any of the events, call (937) 229-3241 or visit [www.ActiveDayton.com/entertainment/erma/](http://www.ActiveDayton.com/entertainment/erma/).

The conference is sponsored by UD's National Alumni Association in conjunction with ActiveDayton.com, Books & Co., *Dayton Daily News*, News-Talk 1290 WHIO, SoundForce, Suburban Newspapers of Dayton, Think<sup>TV</sup> Network, Washington-Centerville Public Library, WHIO-TV and WYSO-Radio.

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For media interviews, contact **Glenn Walters** at (937) 229-2058. Since the program is being taped for a future television production, no cameras are permitted in the theater.