



Bereaved Parents of the USA

Anne Arundel County Chapter

December 2006

www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org

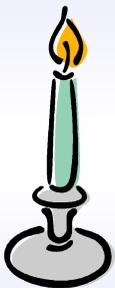
HOLIDAYS...For those who think that Christmas and Hanukkah are just nice days to give and get presents, bereaved parents have another message. Mixed with joy is the knowledge of sadness. With the hope of birth comes the threat of death. We should not try to cover up our sadness in front of other people, for we have a lesson to teach them. But the holidays have a lesson for us, too. Yes, there is death. Yes, there is great bitterness in life. There is darkness. But there is hope. There is birth...There is light.

In a society which works so hard to deny death, perhaps only bereaved parents and a few others can truly understand the depths of these holidays.

Dennis Klass
BPUSA St. Louis, MO

GOALS OF BEREAVED PARENTS OF THE USA

- to educate families about the grief process and all its complexities as it applies to the death of a child at any age and from any cause.
- to aid and support those who are suffering such a loss, regardless of race, creed or financial situation.
- to provide a library at each meeting place where members may borrow books with up-to-date information about the grief process.
- to supply the telephone numbers of other bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are able to offer support to other more newly bereaved families.
- to inform and educate members of the helping professions who interact with bereaved parents as to the nature and duration of parent/sibling/grandparent bereavement.
- to provide monthly meetings with sharing groups and occasional informative programs.



*The printing of this newsletter has been donated by
Ed & Sherry Miller in memory of their son
Joshua Taggart Miller*

*The mailing of this newsletter has been donated by
Diane & Bob Royer in memory of their son
Aaron Sebastian Royer*



**Bereaved Parents of the USA
Anne Arundel County Chapter
P.O. Box 6280
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-0280**

This newsletter is published monthly
Copyright 2006 All Rights Reserved

Editor	Chapter Leader
Rick Tomaszewski 410-519-8448 akuahi@aol.com	Dave Alexander 410-544-3634 dralex@sdalex.com

Mailing and Thank you notes: Barbara Bessling
Treasurer: Fran Palmer - **Hospitality:** Carol Tomaszewski
Mailing List: Dave Alexander - **Programs:** VACANT
***note - as you can see we have several vacancies... we hope someone will consider helping!**

It is our sincere hope that you will find comfort somewhere in this newsletter. It is our intention to offer you hope in knowing that you are not alone. We encourage you to write about your feelings and to share your feelings with others who understand.

Material to be printed "in memory of" must be sent to the editor 6-8 weeks in advance of the newsletter in which you wish the item to be printed.

January submissions are due by December 13.

Library:

Our lending library is available to help you understand and deal with your grief. Most of our materials have been donated in memory of a child. When you have finished with them, please return them at our monthly meeting or mail them to the  post office box listed above. Thank you.

Refreshments at our monthly meetings:

A sign-up sheet is on the refreshment table at the meeting. Drinks, ice, and paper products are provided by the chapter. For information, contact Carol Tomaszewski at 410 519-8448.



MEETING INFORMATION

Next meeting: December 7, 2006

Doors open at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

(Meetings usually held on first Thursday of month)

Calvary United Methodist Church

301 Rowe Blvd., Annapolis

Please park in the lot behind the church

TELEPHONE FRIENDS:



Sometimes we feel the need to talk to someone who understands the pain we feel and will listen to us. When you have questions to ask, a need to talk, or have a difficult day, these people welcome your call.

Marie Dyke, single parent, daughter, 17, only child, car accident.

Janet Tyler, daughter, 5 and brother, 33, car accident. 410-969-7597

Tia Stinnett, miscarriages and infant death. 410-360-1341

Sandy Platts, infant death. 410-721-6457

New Chapter Answer Line:

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a new Telephone Message Line for our Chapter. The number is:

443-57-BPUSA or 443-572-7872

Information about Chapter activities such as meeting time and locations, our website, monthly meeting topics, upcoming special activities and meeting cancellation announcements is provided by the service. You can also leave a message and someone from the Chapter will get back with you to discuss any issues or concerns you may have.

Check it out and let us know what you think! Hopefully you will find this an easy way to keep in touch with "What's Happening" with the Chapter.

CHAPTER NEWS AND NOTES

Sponsor Our Monthly Newsletter or Website

You can help underwrite the costs of our newsletter or our website by sponsoring a monthly issue of the newsletter or by sponsoring a month of the website. To sponsor either one, contact Dave (dralex@sdaalex.com). **For the Newsletter**, in 2007 full sponsorship of an issue of the newsletter is \$200.00. Up to two people or families can sponsor an issue, and the cost will be divided equally - \$100 each. If someone has already signed up for full sponsorship of a month, and another member would like to share in that month, they will be allowed to do so. Where there are more than two members or families wishing to sponsor an issue, preference will be given to members who did not sponsor an issue the previous year, otherwise it will be on a "first-come-first-serve" basis.

For the Website, sponsorship is \$25.00 each month.

MEETING TOPICS NOTE:

Each of our monthly meetings follow the same basic format. We first have a general session attended by everyone. During this first one-half hour we usually have a speaker or panel addressing a topic of interest and value to families mourning the death of a child. Following the general session, we break up into sharing groups. We always have the sharing groups, and the topics they discuss -- particularly for the newly bereaved groups -- do not necessarily focus on the program topic unless it is relevant to the members in the sharing group. We try to cover a range of topics in the programs we schedule, so that over the year we will have covered many topics which are of value to a broad range of members.

MEETING TOPICS

December 7: Introducing Our Children

The focus of this evening will be on our deceased children, and giving us a better sense of who these children were. There will not be a "Presenter"; the sharing groups are the focus. For the non-newly bereaved sharing group, each person brings a picture or some memento of his/her lost child; each person holds the picture or memento facing the rest of the group and "introduces" his/her child, describing what the child was like, etc.

Note: We also invite you to bring a gift in memory of your child to be distributed to a needy child.

January 4: Happy New Year! — Revisiting the Grief Process Again

The January meeting will focus on looking ahead to the new year as we continue to deal with the loss

DO YOU USE AMAZON.COM?

If you use Amazon.com, perhaps you could use the Chapter's website to make the connection and purchase. We have a link to Amazon.com on the home page of our website. Amazon.com gives our chapter a commission of 5% of any purchases which are made *through* that link. Using the link does not increase the cost to the purchaser. Alert your friends, relatives, and colleagues to the link and suggest they use it as well.

You can access the site at:

www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org

click on the butterflies on the welcome page to enter our site, and then scroll down the first page to the bottom. On the bottom left corner is the Amazon.com graphic. Clicking on the graphic takes you to Amazon.com's site. When it does so, it links information relevant to our chapter to the visit to the site. If a purchase is made, it will be credited to our site. Purchases made without going through that link do not get credited.

Since our chapter is a not-for-profit organization and has no dues or fees, we are dependent on donations and fund raisers. These commissions help fund some of our community outreach activities.

Donations: THANK YOU!

Donations may be made to offset the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, the Chapter website, the annual Remembrance Service, the annual Conference of Hope and Healing, and books and other materials for the Chapter Library.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations made in the last month:

General:

Susan Alexander in memory of her nephew Jamie Alexander, "in loving memory of Jamie Alexander and in recognition of his birthday, October 12 and the anniversary of his death eight years ago on October 26."

Sandi and Bob Burash in memory of their son Paul John Burash

Ethel and Thomas Cleary in memory of their grandson Scott Thomas Palmer and their nephew O. Steven Cooper

Juliet and Leonard Rothman in memory of their son Daniel Maurice Rothman

Ken Smith in memory of his niece Tracy Ann Fotino

Memory Walk

Becky Aiken in memory of Timmy Umbel
Lauren Alderson, Aerotek, in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Dave and Sue Alexander in memory of Jamie Alexander
Allegis Group Foundation in memory of Stephen William Killian
Rick Anderson in memory of Ricky Bessling
Betty Bell in memory of Mark Hardesty
Terre, John, and Eryn Belt in memory of Cortney Belt and Traci Heincelman
Gerardine Berman in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Kendra Berry in memory of Timmy Umbel
Wayne and Wanda Bessling in memory of Ricky Bessling
Robert and Barbara Bessling in memory of Ricky Bessling and Ronnie Lark
Lora Bittinger in memory of Ricky Bessling
John Blatchley in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Wendell Blaylock in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Judy Bolly in memory of Wendy Bolly
Christine Bonds in memory of Mark Hardesty
Patricia Brightwell in memory of Raymond Joseph Day Jr.
Robert and Sandi Burash in memory of Paul J. Burash
Mr. and Mrs. Carson in memory of Faith and Hope Williams
Donald Carter in memory of Mark Hardesty
Stephen Cauuno in memory of Ricky Bessling
Hazel Christoffersen in memory of Ricky Bessling
Carol Cipollone in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Sharon Clark in memory of Ricky Bessling
Diane Clawson in memory of Ricky Bessling
Donna Cline in memory of Dennis Cline
Lynn Coburn in memory of Timmy Umbel
Linda Collins in memory of Ricky Bessling
Venetta Costly in memory of Carolyn Bailey
Karen Coulson in memory of Craig S. Nelson
Sheila Crafton in memory of Mark Hardesty
Marilyn Creek in memory of Mark Hardesty
Steve DeLane in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Maureen Dempsey in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Anne and Andre Denault in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Jennifer, Pat, Morgank, Tucker, and Jack Denault in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Nathan Desimone in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Marla Dickens in memory of Mike J. Dickens
Karen and Doe D'Isidoro in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Colleen Donahue in memory of Mark Hardesty

Lynne Dorsey in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Bonnie Douglas in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Marion Elliott in memory of Ricky Bessling
Holly Evans in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Terri and Pat Farley in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Ellen Fineran in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Donna Fink in memory of Midchael W. Fink
Shirley Fisher in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fleming in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Ann Frantz in memory of Jennifer Frantz
Ben Freedman in memory of Allen Freedman
Steve Freedman in memory of Ricky Bessling
Brenda Gawthrop in memory of Andrew "Drew" Gawthrop
Sue Gay in memory of Mark Hardesty
Sharl Gill in memory of Carolyn Bailey
Kathleen Gilmore in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Benito Gonzalez Jr. in memory of B, and G. Gonzales
M. Grahe in memory of Mark Hardesty
Peggy Haines in memory of Matthew Haines
Andi Hartmann in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Dawn Harvey in memory of Mark Hardesty
Karen Hebb-Pilipauskis in memory of Mark Hardesty
Megan Henderson in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Ms. Byrl Hendler in memory of Ricky Bessling
Robin Hoch in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Nancy L. Hoffman in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Suzanne Hornick in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Jean Huber in memory of Ricky Bessling and Tom Huber
Edith Hunt in memory of Ricky Bessling
Mary and Jim Jacquette in memory of Mark Hardesty
Karen Jarek in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Shannon, Tim, Catherine and Isabelle and ToJo Jarek in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Beverly Johnson in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Kimberly Johnson in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Terri Johnson in memory of JC Jaecklein
Robert Katz in memory of Matthew Katz
Jay, Debbie, Courtney, and Wade Kilian in memory of Stephen William Kilian

NOTE: The remainder of the donations made as part of the Memory Walk will be listed in the January issue of the newsletter



SIBLING PAGE



Do whatever it is you do to get through your own grieving of your loved one...

The Forgotten Mourners

In an instant life can change. When a sibling dies, the world, as we know it changes in a heartbeat. Often times when a sibling dies, others fail to recognize the emotional battles that the surviving sibling faces. Surviving siblings are often referred to as “forgotten mourners”. Why? Because the grief that a sibling suffers is often overshadowed by the grief of more immediate family members, such as parents, spouses, and children. Attention and words of comfort are often aimed at these immediate family members. However, losing a sibling at any point in life is a significant and painful event.

Although you might not have had constant contact with the sibling, you feel a deep loss for the person who was a constant presence in your life. A sibling is someone with whom you share your family history, memories, and connections since childhood. You share a unique bond. The sibling bond grows out of a shared collection of unique traits and experiences. Nothing in life can replace that bond once it is broken. When a sibling dies these shared bonds are shattered. There are now memories of growing up that can no longer be shared. This is especially true in many of today’s families where many children only have one sibling, which leaves them a sole survivor if their sibling dies. The child they grew up with, lived their childhood with, their witness, is...gone. Not only have you lost the actual person and relationship with them, but also you have lost the part they would play in your future. You go on to marry, have children, buy a house, succeed or fail, and each event underlines the terrible reality that your brother or sister is not there. Forever after, all events, no matter how wonderful have a bittersweet flavor. The sharing of life’s unique and special events will never again take place.

A sibling relationship will be one of the longest relationships we have, longer than child-parent and marriage relationships. Usually, only a few years separate siblings in age. When someone has been a part of your life since birth, your identity is based on having him or her there. They form an essential part of your life. They make up part of the unbroken wholeness that defines who you are. When the first child is born, he or she develops certain characteristics and talents. Other siblings will most likely develop other characteristics in order to differentiate themselves from each other. The siblings support each other by their differences. In doing so, siblings actually loan each other their strengths, and when one of the siblings die, that strength is lost, and part of the survivor’s identity goes too. It is almost as if you have to learn to live your life again. You have to develop those characteristics that you depended on your sibling for. Surviving siblings have to redefine their roles in the absence of this special relationship.

unknown

MY BROTHER, MY FRIEND



Rest my brother, now you have peace.
The wars within you all have ceased.
And with the rising sun each day,
Upon that day we meet again,
Know I love you,
My Brother, My Friend.



Sandra Evans, Kearsarge, NH TCF

OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

Please remember the following families this month.

Cito Arán
Son of Sandra Aran
December 2, 1978 - July 11, 2000

David Sheridan Astle
Son of John and Jayne Astle
October 21, 1974 - December 6, 1997

Christopher Lewis Borngesser
Son of Diane Borngesser
December 21, 1961 - May 28, 2001

Nicholas Allen Bowling
Grandson of Jack and Audrey Bagby
December 27, 1979 - July 31, 1985

Herbert John Buzby
Son of Gerlinda and Clark Coleman
December 31, 1961 - December 19, 2003

Gary Lee Downey Jr.
Son of Pat and Gary Downey
Brother of Melissa Barnhart
October 30, 1980 - December 24, 2005

Tyler A. Dudley
Son of Julie Cremen
Grandson of Sharon and Edward Cremen
December 29, 2000 - February 23, 2001

Rebecca Lynn Faires
Daughter of Georgia Nelsen
March 16, 1985 - December 18, 2003

Christina Ann Fisher
Daughter of Rick and Carol Wilson
December 17, 1985 - June 30, 2001

Phillip Wayne Gray Jr.
Son of Joan Gray
July 8, 1970 - December 22, 1986

Michael Thompson Heany
Son of Frank and Jean Heany
February 7, 1973 - December 23, 2004

Mallory Heffernan
Daughter of Dianne and Edmund Heffernan
December 19, 1985 - April 18, 2003

Kurt Willard Johnson
Son of Willard and Marian Johnson
December 9, 1963 - August 11, 2003

Gary Wayne Keats
Son of Delores Shuey
December 3, 1964 - March 8, 2004



Logan Robert Kugler
Son of Sherry Kugler
December 10, 2000 - December 10, 2000

Michael Robert Leger
Son of Daryl and Elizabeth Leger
July 11, 1986 - December 29, 2000

John F. Marinelli
Son of William and Annette Marinelli
May 30, 1964 - December 19, 1986

Joseph A. Miller
Son of Mary J. Miller
Brother of Marlene Miller
December 13, 1956 - May 12, 1977

Kim Jonathan Nixon
Son of Stephen and Carolyn Tew
December 5, 1957 - December 16, 1984

David Joseph Novak
Son of Arleen and Rudy Novak
December 29, 1960 - November 14, 1988

Michael Henry O'Malley
Son of Margie and John O'Malley
August 25, 1971 - December 7, 1991

Phillip "PJ" Bernard Riek Jr.
Son of Pamela and Tracy Peterson
December 29, 1989 - January 17, 2000

Aaron Sebastian Royer
Son of Diane and Robert Royer
December 21, 1982 - July 5, 2001

Gary Lee Ryon Jr.
Son of Betty Ryon
August 24, 1989 - December 1, 2002

Timothy A. Scaggs
Son of Bette and Tim Scaggs
December 29, 1996 - March 23, 2005

Donald "Donnie" L. Severe Jr.
Son of Chuck and Issy Mattis
August 23, 1956 - December 13, 1984

Donald "Donny" Lee Seyffferth Jr.
Son of Jody Seyffferth
December 16, 1977 - May 8, 2000

Phillip David Sharrow
Son of Sandra Sharrow
December 8, 1976 - November 17, 1995



OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED (continued)

Victoria Shimonkevitz
Granddaughter of Jim and Margaret Williford
December 9, 1993 - December 12, 1993

Jason Edward Skarzynski
Son of Benjamin and Sharon Skarzynski
December 19, 1977 - December 14, 1995

Mark Edward Smeltzer
Son of Peggy Smeltzer
December 11, 1969 - March 15, 1997

Russell "Rusty" J. Tarr
Son of Lorraine A. Tarr
December 22, 1963 - May 12, 1994

Marie Rose Trehey
Daughter of Greg and Chere Trehey
December 21, 2000 - December 21, 2000

Richard C. Watts
Son of Tom and Fran Cease
December 28, 1966 - October 28, 1998

Miriam Luby Wolfe
Daughter of Larry and Rosemary Mild
September 26, 1968 - December 21, 1988



Note: If your child's name appears in the printed version of our newsletter but does not appear in this online version, it is because we have not received explicit permission from you to list it online. If you would like your child's name to also appear in future online editions of the newsletter, please send an email to dralex@sdalex.com



Because of you, I love a little more,
Because of you, I take time
To give an extra kiss goodbye.
Because of you, I have a new favorite song.
Because of you, there may be dust
On the window sill,
And I don't care.

Because of you, I live today,
Before I worry about tomorrow.
Because of you, I don't give up
Quite as fast.
Because of you, now I can help or
Listen more.
Because of you, today, I am me.

Eileen Wemsman, Loving Arms Newsletter

WHAT I NEED

A lot of time!
A little space,
A kind of quiet
Resting place,
Are what I need
At times like these
A special spot
Where I can grieve.



Beth Pinion
Andulsia, AL TCF

Grief is the price we pay for love.
We did not lose our children.
They died, taking with them our hopes
And dreams for the future, but never,
Never taking away their love.
Hold it tight, the love our children gave us.
Hold it tight through storms of grief
And bring it with you into today.
LOVE NEVER GOES AWAY.

Darcie Sims

LITTLE BABY

Little Baby who was not to be,
You were a person - at least to me.
Would your eyes be blue?
Or hazel and dark?
Would you caw like a crow?
Or sing like a lark?

Would you have ten little fingers
And ten tiny toes?
A rosebud mouth?
Or turned up nose?

Would you be laughing and happy,
Or somber and quiet
Would you run and jump
Or rather be still?
Would you like to read,
Or prefer to play?



None of my questions will have an answer.
Your chance to live will never be.
The only thing I truly know -
Little Baby,
We would have loved you so!

Joan D Schmidt
Spotswood, NJ - TCF

The Death of the Young

People ask: "Why do children or young people die, when they have lived so little?" How do you know that they have lived so little? This crude measure of yours is time, but life is not measured in time. This is just the same as to say, "Why is this saying, this poem, this picture, this piece of music so short? How was it broken off and not drawn out to the size of the longest speech or piece of music, or the largest picture?" As the measure of length is inapplicable to the meaning (or greatness) of productions of wisdom or poetry, so – even more evidently – it is inapplicable to life. How do you know what inner growth this soul accomplished in its short span, and what influence it had on others?

Tolstoy
From Spiritual Life Cannot Be Measured



From an article in
Bereavement Magazine
Nov/Dec 1988
By Dorothy Hanley

The candles can be reminders that, as time passes, what began as a view of a frighteningly dark future may finally be seen in the light of your own personal growth toward adjustment to the death of your loved one. Just as the rain passes and a single ray of sunlight at first illuminates only a tiny spot in the dark landscape, life will return to your life, bit by bit.

Take heart and try not to be too afraid of the dark. Look for the candles along the way to give you hope for a brighter new year.

ANNIVERSARY DATE IN HEAVEN

Your anniversary date in Heaven
is growing near,
And I miss you so much
with each passing year.
I think of you
and my heart constricts in pain,
And I question whether
I'll ever be whole again.
I wonder if you count the time as I do.
Since you left us for Heaven -
is it still new to you?
Or does time count in Heaven
like it does for us here?
Do we seem far away to you? -
or do we feel near?
So many questions arise in my mind.
Questions like:
Do you miss us since you left
us behind?
Is it possible for you to be sad? -
for you to feel pain?
Do you question why this happened?
Do you feel the same?
The answers to my questions
will be mine someday.

As I cross to where you are -
through Heaven's pearly gates.
Then I will know the joy
that you experience there,
And we will be together,
Forever in Heaven so fair!
Oh, how I wished God had made a plan,
where loved ones in Heaven
could reach down to man.
Just one simple word -
Just one gentle touch -
But who am I fooling?
Once would never be enough!
There are no words to
describe the unspeakable pain,
Of losing a child -
Our loss is God's gain!
So, Happy anniversary in Heaven,
my precious child, so dear.
I'm glad you're there with God -
If I can't have you here.

By Faye McCord, NL ED Jackson, MS TCF

VACANT CHAIR

We shall meet but we shall miss him,
There will be one vacant chair,
We shall linger to caress him,
While we breathe our evening prayer,
When a year ago we gathered,
Joy was in his mild blue eyes
But a golden cord is severed,
And our hopes in ruin lie.
We shall meet but we shall miss him,
There will be one vacant chair,
We shall linger to caress him
When we breathe our evening prayer.
By Henry J. Washburn, 1861

All of us, newly bereaved or not, will endure as we
Draw from out inner strength and strive to find
New meaning in life with a vacant chair.
Libbyrose Clark TCF, Deep East Texas Chapter



I look around the table and see those
who mean the most to me.
So why are my eyes filled with tears?
Because I see those who are not there.

Lovingly Lifted from TCF of L.A. CA
11/97

Bereaved Parents of the USA

Anne Arundel County Chapter

P.O. Box 6280

Annapolis, MD 21401-0280

www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL



Bereaved Parents of the USA

CREDO

We are the parents whose children have died. We are the grandparents who have buried grandchildren. We are the siblings whose brothers and sisters no longer walk with us through life. We come together as Bereaved Parents of the USA to provide a haven where all bereaved families can meet and share our long and arduous grief journeys. We attend monthly gatherings whenever we can and for as long as we believe necessary. We share our fears, confusion, anger, guilt, frustrations, emptiness and feelings of hopelessness so that hope can be found anew. As we accept, support, comfort, and encourage each other, we demonstrate to each other that survival is possible. Together we celebrate the lives of our children, share the joys and triumphs as well as the love that will never fade. Together we learn how little it matters where we live, what our color or our affluence is or what faith we uphold as we confront the tragedies of our children's deaths. Together, strengthened by the bonds we forge at our gatherings, we offer what we have learned to each other and to every more recently bereaved family. We are the Bereaved Parents of the USA.

We welcome you.