



*Offering support,  
understanding, encouragement  
and hope.*

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**“You don’t have to see the whole staircase, to take the first step.”  
Martin Luther King Jr.**

Here we are... It’s a new year, 2025, a new calendar year. How can it be that we are marking the beginning of a new year without our children? It’s another step along the way to dealing with the unbelievable loss and trying to find hope for the future. Our community of bereaved parents is here to support you along the way.  
We are all climbing this staircase.

Some of you have only taken a few steps up the staircase... too exhausted and emotionally drained to proceed. Others may be on a landing between levels and have found a respite from the struggle of confronting your grief. And still others may have climbed several flights. Along the way it’s almost sure that you will slip back a step or two or three, maybe a whole flight. When this happens, you can count on someone in our community of bereaved parents to catch you and help you continue upward. And then sometimes you may feel like you are on the Grand Staircase in Hogwarts, aka the Moving Staircase. You think you are heading in one direction and suddenly something changes and you have to adapt along your journey.

But remember, you are not alone in this challenge to move forward.

I encourage you to attend the meetings, whether in-person and/or virtual. Share stories of your children and your pain of loss. Read our newsletter. Browse our website. Search the internet for other grief sites and podcasts. Find the path and take the steps that give you the support and comfort you need.

Carol Tomaszewski, Newsletter Editor

“What’s coming will come, and we’ll meet it when it does!”

- Hagrid

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## REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN      JANUARY

*Cathryn Christiana Martha-Marie Tsu*  
*May 27, 1997 - January 18, 2017*



"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access [by faith] to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

"Don't Look Back, Daddy!"

*Nick Delaney*  
*12/29/1981 - 1/19/2016*



It is now nine years since you left us and not a day passes that you are not remembered. The entire family recently gathered to commemorate your birthday. Everyone told stories about you. There were smiles, laughter, and tears. Your niece and nephew (who know you only from the stories) listened intently and asked questions that prompted more stories.

We don't all get together as much as we used to, but when we do, no matter how celebratory the occasion, there is always the feeling that we are not whole, not complete. Your absence is felt and the pain is deep. Yet we go on, believing that somehow, someday, you are still a part of us and with us, though just on the other side of the veil that separates the physical world from eternity.

There will be more get-togethers and celebrations, and your shadow will be there. When a small unplanned incident makes us laugh, someone will say, "That was Nick." And there will be another round of smiles and tears.

Keep watching over us, and we'll keep watching for you.

Love, Mom & Dad

William P. Anthony Jr.  
 Son of Bill and Linda Anthony  
 6/1/1965 - 1/2/1999

Melanie Suzanne Berkow  
 Daughter of Sandra Winans  
 1/2/1956 - 3/23/2012

Gabrielle Alexis Berryman  
 Daughter of Patricia Rogers  
 1/20/2010 - 11/26/2017

Emily Ann Blazejewski  
 Daughter of Lee Ann and Doug Blazejewski  
 1/27/1997 - 1/2/2004

Charlotte O'Brien Boone  
 Daughter of Eve Boone  
 7/23/2006 - 1/19/2015

Wes Paul Boone  
 Son of Eve Boone  
 10/9/2008 - 1/19/2015

Taylor Brannon  
 Granddaughter of Larry and Linda Brannon  
 1/27/1995 - 3/29/1995

Thomas Ryan Broderick Jr  
 Grandson of Mary Jo and Ed Broderick  
 1/6/2018 - 1/6/2018

Paul John Burash  
 Son of Robert and Sandra Burash  
 1/18/1972 - 8/8/1992

Andrew Leland Carlson  
 Son of Eric and Lois Carlson  
 1/14/1991 - 7/14/2016

Emily Christina Davidson  
 Daughter of Fran Smith  
 7/24/1972 - 1/13/2011

Nicholas Delaney  
 Son of Tina and Tom Delaney  
 12/29/1981 - 1/19/2016

Steven Joseph Eagney  
 Son of Beth Eagney  
 7/27/1994 - 1/9/2022

Jason T. Easter  
 Son of Janice and Chris Kunkel  
 1/30/1973 - 9/9/1999

John "EL" Ferraro  
 Brother of Aurelia Ferraro  
 1/30/1951 - 5/10/2022

Jackie Cheyenne Foy  
 Daughter of Mike and Cat Foy  
 1/21/1999 - 12/24/2008

Edward Allen Funkhouser  
 Son of Sam and Maureen Funkhouser  
 9/3/1971 - 1/23/2018

Thomas Henri Groves  
 Son of Matthew and Melaine Groves  
 June 7, 1999 - January 13, 2011

Lila McKenzie Henry-Starr  
 Daughter of Zac Starr and Eva Farina-Henry  
 1/8/2022 - 3/14/2022

Stuart Livingstone, Jr  
 Son of Stuart Livingstone  
 12/20/1992 - 1/25/2018

Stuart Livingstone, Jr  
 Son of Lori Livingstone  
 12/20/1992 - 1/25/2018

Walter H. Maynard IV  
 Son of Rose Marie Carnes and  
 Walter Maynard III  
 1/2/1965 - 4/14/2006

Craig Steven Nelson  
 Son of Karen Coulson  
 4/2/1974 - 1/31/1995

Robert Adam "Robby" Ostrowski  
 Son of Denise Crouse  
 1/30/1995 - 9/11/2010

Nicholas Grant Poe  
 Son of Karen and Michael Willey  
 11/9/1982 - 1/23/2002

Daniel Maurice Rothman  
 Son of Juliet and Leonard Rothman  
 1/20/1971 - 9/17/1992

Thomas Jeffrey Schall  
 Son of Tom and Joyce Schall  
 1/16/1963 - 1/7/2002

Emily Ann Schindler  
 Daughter of Charles and Jane Schindler  
 7/27/1985 - 1/27/2004

Gregory Robert Sears  
 Son of Rob and Marilyn Sears  
 12/11/1975 - 1/6/2012

Daniel John Sohovich II  
Son of Vera Sohovich  
1/26/1988 – 6/9/2011

Matthew Ryan Stangle  
Son of Scott and Jeanette Stangle  
4/5/1989 - 1/14/2017

Cathryn Christiana Tsu  
Daughter of Horace and Cynthia Tsu  
5/27/1997 - 1/18/2017

Michael Shane Wheeler  
Son of Lita L. Ciaccio  
6/22/1976 - 1/11/1997

Nariyah Gabrielle Wheeler  
Daughter of Tarica Carpenter  
12/26/2006 - 1/2/2007

Carole Anne Wilford  
Sister of Aljuana Saunders  
1/7/1944 - 5/4/1998

Matthew Tyler Williams  
Son of Marta and Chuck Williams  
5/8/1986 - 1/13/2011



## REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN FEBRUARY

*David William Tomaszewski*  
*September 4, 1974 - February 6, 2001*



Dave,

February 6 marks 24 years since you have gone to join our Lord. Over those years we have, primarily because of our involvement and support from the Anne Arundel Chapter members, learned to face each day and each year with hope for the future.

We miss you every day, even after all these years. You were full of life one day, and never woke up the next day. There's so much we would have liked to talk over with you. And so much we would have liked to hear from you.

We love you. We miss you. And know we will see you again.

Love always, Mom, Dad, Beth, Lara and Josh

### Just If

If tomorrow, I should never wake up, I wanted to say I'm sorry.

I'm sorry for what I've done, and what I haven't done. I could have done more. I should have done more.

If I harmed you, yelled at you, ignored you, or didn't care... I'm sorry.

If tomorrow, I should never wake up, I wanted to say..... Thank you.

If me and you were the best of friends, thank you... for always being there.

If me and you only talked once and a while, and didn't go to the same parties and were... not good friends... thank you for humbling me. You are not perfect, but I am not either, but thank you for having a part in my life.

If tomorrow, I should never wake up, I wanted to say everything I never had time to.

- Anonymous

*Bethany Anne Balasic*  
*February 13, 1981 - April 5, 1996*



Happy Birthday Bethany Anne!!!

Our Bethany Anne's Birthday is February 13, 1981. This year she would have been 44. Almost inconceivable. We wrote the following poem on the 10th Anniversary of her passing. We think it still reflects our feelings on this journey we call grief!

Again, Happy Birthday Bethany Anne!!!

We Love you and Miss You!!!

You were a Gift and a Blessing!!!

XOXO

Mom and Dad

The pain of missing you is finally bearable  
It is our burden which we embrace

Sometimes we can't stop thinking about you  
Sometimes we can't start

Sometimes we cry when we think of you  
Sometimes we smile when we think of you

Sometimes it makes us crazy  
Sometimes it makes us very crazy

We missed you then  
We miss you now  
We'll miss you always

We loved you then  
We love you now  
We'll love you always

It's been a long journey  
but we can now think of you  
and breath  
and smile

You were a gift

You still are

XOXOXO

Mom & Dad

**10 Years Without Our Baby  
4-5-96 to 4-5-06**

It seems like a long time  
It seems like yesterday

Nothing has changed  
Everything has changed

The memories are painful  
The memories are sweet

We see your smile and sparkling eyes  
We can't remember your sweet voice or touch

The road had been rough  
The road has been long  
The road has had many twists and turns

The hills are steep  
The valleys deep  
The detours were many

We haven't moved at all  
Yet we are far along

The pain of missing you is terrible

Bethany Anne Balasic  
Daughter of Paul and Claudia Balasic  
2/13/1981 - 4/5/1996

Christopher Ryan Boslet  
Grandson of Carol N. Boslet  
10/23/1985 - 2/20/2003

Amber Marie Calistro  
Daughter of Patti DiMiceli  
2/28/1976 - 10/30/1980

Chrystal Marie Clifford  
Fiance of son of Marilyn Mabe  
7/16/1978 - 2/17/2001

John Mario DeMichiei Jr.  
Son of John and Linda DeMichiei  
2/24/1979 - 10/23/2008

Zachary Lee Dukes  
Son of Cindy Dukes  
2/12/1989 - 3/31/2010

Jenna Leigh Erickson  
Daughter of June and Jed Erickson  
2/12/1988 - 2/5/2011

Thomas Dash Ertter  
Son of Helen Akerley  
12/25/1985 - 2/10/2021

Manuel Junior Esparza  
Son of Dianna McKinnon  
3/20/1987 - 2/14/2012

Triniti Marquelle Fleming  
Daughter of Brittany Boone and  
Marcus Fleming  
2/12/2020 - 10/17/2020

Melissa Ireland Frainie  
Daughter of Kathy and George Ireland  
12/12/1971 - 2/12/2007

Katie Fritz  
Daughter of Carol Fritz  
10/29/1977 - 2/27/1993

Suzanne Boyer Hyatt  
Daughter of Jenni Lucke  
2/23/1982 - 11/6/2017

Richard Arland Jackson  
Son of Margaret Jackson  
2/9/1990 - 10/22/2010

Lemuel Andrew Kane  
Son of Grace Marie Watkins  
2/22/1966 - 8/3/2017

Carlester Wilmore Kane  
Son of Grace Marie Watkins  
2/22/1964 - 12/18/1998

Adam Marcus Ladny  
Son of Lois and Marcus Ladny  
7/20/1984 - 2/24/2020

Timothy Jarrett Mabe  
Son of Marilyn Mabe  
10/29/1977 - 2/18/2001

Jolene Dawn McKenna  
Daughter of Charlene Kvech  
2/8/1967 - 11/22/1971

John David "JD" Openshaw  
Son of David and Lily Openshaw  
11/9/1994 - 2/21/1997

Brian James Para  
Son of Joan Para  
2/19/1970 - 3/19/1991

Marco Pena  
Nephew of Dianna McKinnon  
11/28/1989 - 2/14/2012

Sienna Monet Potter  
Daughter of Trisha Potter  
7/23/2002 - 2/27/2021

Thomas H Redmiles  
Son of Mary and Joe Redmiles  
2/22/1985 - 3/14/2011

Tanager Rú Ricci  
Son of Kathy Franklin  
10/19/1977 - 2/16/2004

David C. Schmier  
Son of Gordon and Virginia Schmier  
6/26/1964 - 2/10/1992

Michelle Inez Scott  
Daughter of Charlotte and Donald Scott  
2/1/1969 - 5/1/1987

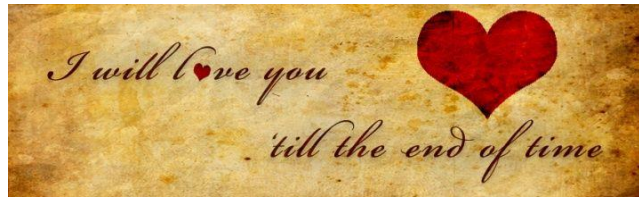
Andrew Graham Stough  
Son of Susan and Louis Stough  
9/5/1990 - 2/23/2022

David William Tomaszewski  
Son of Richard and Carol Tomaszewski  
9/4/1974 - 2/6/2001

Vincenzo Turazzo  
Son of Tracey Turazzo  
2/22/1999 - 10/7/2021

Timothy Allen Umbel  
Son of Richard and Mary Ann Umbel  
2/16/1982 - 9/15/2002

Evyn Bryce Wygal  
Son of Pam and Bill Wygal  
2/15/1991 - 2/24/1994



## REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN MARCH

**Thomas H. Redmiles**  
**February 22, 1985 - March 14, 2011**



The following poem brings me joy Tommy, to think of you receiving this welcome to your Heavenly home, so painfully earned and well deserved.

Missing you every second of every day.

Until we meet again,

Mom & Dad.

### The Homecoming

by Jessica Powers

The spirit, newly freed from earth,  
is all amazed at the surprise  
of his belonging suddenly  
as native to eternity  
to see himself, to realize  
the heritage that lets him be  
at home where all the glory lies.

By naught foretold could he have guessed  
such welcome home: the robe, the ring,  
music and endless banqueting,  
these people his, this place of rest  
known, as of long remembering  
himself a child of God and pressed  
with warm endearment to His breast.

James William Aikin  
Grandson of Elizabeth and Barry Aikin  
6/5/1982 - 3/18/2008

Melanie Suzanne Berkow  
Daughter of Sandra Winans  
1/2/1956 - 3/23/2012

Richard Allen Bessling  
Son of Robert and Barbara Bessling

3/18/1982 - 3/15/1995

Taylor Brannon  
Granddaughter of Larry and Linda Brannon  
1/27/1995 - 3/29/1995

Lakia Chimere Brown  
Daughter of Patricia Watkins  
3/20/2001 - 7/16/2021

De'Andre Castro



Son of Dalia and Victor Vega  
5/3/1998 - 3/9/2022

Ryan Corr  
Son of Pam Corr  
3/2/2003 - 6/4/2011

Robert "Bo" William DePaola  
Son of Jill and John DePaola  
3/22/1995 - 5/23/2015

Michael J. Dickens Jr.  
Son of Marla and Michael Dickens Sr.  
7/7/1968 - 3/29/1996

Zachary Lee Dukes  
Son of Cindy Dukes  
2/12/1989 - 3/31/2010

Jeffrey Arthur Elder, Jr.  
Son of Kymn and Brendan Burns McFetridge  
5/17/1986 - 3/22/2018

Manuel Junior Esparza  
Son of Dianna McKinnon  
3/20/1987 - 2/14/2012

Cynthia Lynn Ferguson  
Daughter of Doris and Charles Clair  
9/4/1952 - 3/28/2010

Jonathan Matthew Goff  
Son of Erica Sivils  
3/21/1993 - 8/16/2016

Duane Heard  
Son of Euwanna and Clayton Heard  
3/12/1976 - 5/23/2016

Traci Jeanne Heincelman  
Niece of Terre and John Belt  
10/6/1980 - 3/10/2002

Brian Michael Hendricks  
Son of Jeannine Hendricks  
3/4/1991 - 4/22/2012

Lila McKenzie Henry-Starr  
Daughter of Zac Starr and Eva Farina-Henry  
1/8/2022 - 3/14/2022

Carlos Enrique Heredia  
Son of Rodolfo and Patricia Beltran  
5/23/1996 - 3/29/2016

Charles "Chip" Marshall Hodges

Son of Betty and John Hodges  
10/24/1954 - 3/14/2005

Andrew Scott Hoffman  
Son of Donna and Bryan Hoffman  
3/6/1986 - 10/27/2013

Emilio Juan Honesto  
Son of Alexandra Honesto  
6/29/2010 - 3/26/2011

Dustin Alan Jones  
Son of Sandy Jones  
11/28/1985 - 3/16/2019

Quintin Andrew Kane  
Son of Grace Marie Watkins  
3/18/1965 - 3/1/1988

Bryan Adam Krouse  
Son of James and Judy Krouse  
3/11/1965 - 6/29/2007

Tanner Glen Henry Lenox  
Son of Lynn and Mark Lenox  
7/3/2006 - 3/13/2018

Jerry Mason Jr.  
Son of Mary and Jerry Mason  
5/6/1968 - 3/23/2005

John T McCormick  
Son of Elvira and Tom McCormick  
3/5/1981 - 8/9/2016

Edwin Brandon Molina Jr.  
Son of Carole and Edwin Molina  
7/6/2005 - 3/3/2007

Kevin Michael Morris  
Son of Gayle and David Morris  
10/7/1982 - 3/30/2007

Katherine Sarah Morris  
Daughter of Marguerite Morris  
3/11/1990 - 5/6/2012

David M Murnane  
Son of Jennifer Murnane  
3/7/1987 - 12/9/2008

Brian James Para  
Son of Joan Para  
2/19/1970 - 3/19/1991

Sydney Elaine Patronik

Daughter of Holly and Michael Patronik  
3/26/2002 - 5/11/2002

Thomas H Redmiles  
Son of Mary and Joe Redmiles  
2/22/1985 - 3/14/2011

Zachary Daniel Robertson  
Son of Mary Ellen and Jim Young  
3/3/1978 - 10/26/2006

Hailey Anne Shipe  
Daughter of Kristen and Mike Dickenson  
3/18/2002 - 6/25/2022

Kurtis Joseph Sigler  
Son of Barbara and Rich Sigler  
3/24/1996 - 11/14/2019

Michael Elliott Simms  
Son of Molly Simms  
11/12/1996 - 3/29/2016

Abigail Helen "Abbey" Skuletich  
Daughter of John and Glenda Skuletich  
3/9/1984 - 5/12/1992

Mark Edward Smeltzer  
Son of Peggy Smeltzer  
12/11/1969 - 3/15/1997

Christopher John Smith

Son of Debi Wilson-Smith  
3/27/1981 - 6/30/2000

Joseph Claude Smith  
Son of Gary and Desirae Smith  
3/19/2005 - 7/11/2006

Izayik Makeen Somerville  
Son of Emily Gibson and Marcellis Somerville  
3/21/2022 - 3/29/2022

Edward Charles Sousa  
Brother of Jessica Arcoraci  
12/25/1978 - 3/4/2022

Jacob Stephen Sutton  
Son of Janet Sutton  
2/1/2009 - 3/1/2009

Christopher Thomas Trachy  
Son of Tom and Chrys Trachy  
9/3/1986 - 3/3/2016

Owen Jacob Wevodau  
Son of Robert Wevodau  
3/2/2010 - 3/14/2023



**An Old Celtic Blessing**

May the blessing of light be on you... light without and light within. May the blessed sunlight shine on you and warm your heart till it glows like a great peat fire!

## How I Moved From Surviving the Loss of My Child to Mindful Living

<https://whatsyourgrief.com/>

Published with permission of What's Your Grief

*Today's guest author is Katja Faber. We were lucky to 'meet' Katja online through our grief photo challenges on Instagram. She was no stranger to grief, having suffered numerous losses in a five-year stretch, including the devastating homicide of her son, Alex. We have always been deeply moved by her writing and tireless advocacy to break the taboo of homicide loss and child loss grief. We're thrilled to share one of her articles here. In addition to her writing, Katja is a certified Compassionate Bereavement Care® counselor and runs her own fruit farm in southern Spain*

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In the first years following the death of my son, I would talk about surviving the death of my child. I was learning to cope with daily life following the catastrophic loss and the use of the word 'survive' pretty much summed up my grey, anguished existence.

I'd somehow managed — through agonizing pain and suffering — to slowly patch together a shattered self. As the months turned to years, I felt stronger and more resilient. I'd been on my knees, and now this new me could also stand up. I'd comfort myself with the thought that even though I wasn't sure who this new self was, at least she was functioning.

In coping with daily challenges, I grew a grief muscle that helped me carry the weight of my loss. By saying I'd 'survived' I was acknowledging that I was now 'living' what tentatively resembled a normal life. But this 'normal' life was a far cry from what I'd known as life before my son was killed. The sadness was indescribable; the hurt ran so deep that it dragged me down no matter the time of day. Hope had no space in my grief. From the outside, my life looked OK but inside my heart, my life was reduced to a monochrome existence.

At times I wondered whether this post-loss life could be experienced as more than just survival. It seemed an impossibility. I couldn't imagine a future where light warmed my days and laughter was received with an open heart. Was it even possible to do anything other than exist when your child had died? Add to that, I was so lost and hurt that I wasn't even sure I wanted the hope of a future. It felt like a betrayal of my boy, my grief and my love.

I also needed my grief space around me — real life in the real world was too brash and unkind to face without my 'survival' shield. I truly believed I was too broken to do anything else other than continue trudging through life in hard-earned survival mode.

The idea that healing was possible struck me as illusionary and at times, when in the troughs of despair, utterly bewildering and even wrong. Yet I knew that what I was doing was little more than putting one foot in front of the other. And that, I understood, was not a life.

But how do we, the catastrophically broken, carry the weight of grief in a way that doesn't make us buckle and yet allows for joy as we tentatively open our hearts again?

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### How do we move from surviving to mindful living?

There's no road map for this. We're all so different that what one person finds helpful may not be true for another. Add to that, our stories of loss are unique.

But I do believe there are pointers on the horizon that we can look towards if we manage to lift up our weary heads. Through our tears, we may be able to keep these pointers in view. And if we can do that, it probably means that we're open to moving beyond our constant state of survival and on to a mindful life in grief.

I don't know if my horizon pointers will help other loss parents to look beyond their today. I share them in the hope that perhaps you too may discern a future where the pain of loss can reside in the same space as love, joy, and compassion.

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## My Horizon Pointers

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### Believe Healing Is Possible:

When we're surviving, we cannot imagine a future where we experience peace and connection. Our grief is imbued with constant, grating sorrow and it's all we can do to keep going. It's as if grief negates the possibility of these positive feelings.

Yet these emotions can and do co-exist when we allow our hearts to heal. I have learned that it IS possible to feel love and joy even as I hold space for my sadness and practice self-compassion. To believe healing is possible is key because it's the first mindful step we take when purposefully integrating our grief into our future.

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### Let Go Of Your Old Self:

Allow yourself to become a new you. Putting together the old, pre-loss you is not going to work in the long term. Too many pieces are missing. Something else is going to have to fill the spaces where the old you died. And that something is going to grow out of the love that's held inside your grief. It's the grief that's going to show you how to re-imagine yourself and allow for growth and transformation. Grief is love, and it's our greatest teacher.

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### There Are No Time Limits:

When my son Alex was killed, the part of me that was not immediately eradicated in that first, violent blow was quite soon crushed by the weight of my grief in the weeks thereafter. My body became a husk, my mind crazed like a computer reboot gone frighteningly wrong.

Learning to survive took A LONG TIME.

Equally, learning to let go of my survival mode, TOOK EVEN LONGER.

Try not to measure your journey in grief within a linear time frame. Emotions don't work like that and neither does healing. Leave the stop-watch at the door, and step over your fear of the unknown with no expectations as to how long this is going to take.

A lifetime is a pretty good guess, so time is irrelevant. No one traveling this road needs the added stress of other people's expectations regarding time limits, and you certainly don't need to put pressure on yourself. Ignore those who tell you that you should be 'over it by now' — your journey, your loss, your healing.

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### **Katja Faber with her son, Alex**

*In 2014, her eldest son, Alex, was brutally murdered in Switzerland by someone he knew. She has worked tirelessly for justice for her son as a means of channelling her grief and to ensure that the killer was put behind bars. Her fight through the law courts took nine long arduous years.*

*Today, Katja writes about grief and is a certified Compassionate Bereavement Care® counselor. She hopes to inspire others in seeking justice for their loved ones and through her writing and advocacy break the taboo of homicide loss and*

*child loss grief. She runs her own fruit farm in southern Spain, a magical place where she regularly welcomes those in need of support and healing.*

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- At [www.KatjaFaber.com](http://www.KatjaFaber.com)
- On Facebook: [Katja Faber](#)
- On Instagram: [Katja Faber](#)

## Stepping Aside

Six years ago, I had the honor to become the chapter leader for a wonderful group of people brought together by the cruelest of events that could happen to a parent – the death of your child. As we enter 2025, I will be stepping aside. I will continue to be active in the chapter, but to a much lesser extent. I have been a bereaved father for 32 years and without our chapter – *the people who are the chapter* - I do not know what I would have done to survive Paul's death. Over the years, I have heard many bereaved parents echo that the chapter has been a life saver, and they do not know how they could have managed without the folks in the chapter. I have had the privilege of meeting and working with bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents who are the most compassionate, loving, and caring people I have ever met. Your resilience to find hope, and to help others is a testament to who you are. With your support, and especially that of the core group, we have been able to help many bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents. We offer hope for the future. As our credo states, "We are not alone. We walk together with hope in our hearts!"

Tina Delaney and Sherrie Smith will be our next Chapter Co-leaders. Tina and Tom lost their son Nick in 2016. Sherrie lost her son, Andrew, in 2021. Please welcome them and help them transition into their leadership role by volunteering to lend a helping hand to support our monthly meetings, annual memory walk, Service of Remembrance, and other activities. Most tasks require little of your time and can be learned on-the-job. Do not be reluctant to offer help to others who are traveling along their grief journey. A kind word, an ear to listen to their story, or a hug are a huge support to those in grief.

With my greatest respect to all bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents.  
Bob

## A Note of Thanks

Words fall short, but on behalf of the Anne Arundel Chapter of Bereaved Parents, we thank Bob and Sandi Burash for their six years of leadership. Not only have they guided us on our bereavement journeys, but they also kept us meeting through the Covid pandemic. From that experience, we now have a separate group that meets via Zoom. Their diligent work and attention to detail are duly noted, as well as their kindness, warmth, and compassion.

We wish them all the best, as they can hopefully relax a bit now.  
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, Bob and Sandi!

Tina, Sherrie and every member of our Chapter

**Chapter Co-Leader: Tina Delaney, 410-794-6688, [aabereavedparents@gmail.com](mailto:aabereavedparents@gmail.com)**  
**Chapter Co-Leader: Sherrie Smith, 410-353-6992, [aabereavedparents@gmail.com](mailto:aabereavedparents@gmail.com)**

## 2025 At a Glance

**Monthly Gatherings** In-person gatherings are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM at Calvary United Methodist Church, 301 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis, MD 21401. The ZOOM Virtual Gatherings have been scheduled at the same time, but plans are to hold the virtual ZOOM meetings on the THIRD THURSDAY of each month. Watch for updates in email and future newsletters.

**For more information** on our Chapter Gatherings, and/or to participate via ZOOM, please contact our Chapter Co-Leaders, Tina Delaney 410-794-6688, or Sherrie Smith, 410-353-6992, at [aabereavedparents@gmail.com](mailto:aabereavedparents@gmail.com) or visit our website home page at

<https://www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org/HTML/Home.htm>

Our proposed in-person schedule for 2025 looks like this:

Jan 2	Jul 10 (This is the second Thursday)
Feb 6	Aug 7
Mar 6	Sep 4
Apr 3	Oct 2
May 1	Nov 6
Jun 5	Dec 4

**Core group quarterly meetings.** A virtual ZOOM meeting held the 2nd Tuesday of the month, **starting at 7:00 PM**. Anyone interested in participating, contact Tina Delaney, 410-794-6688 or Sherrie Smith, 410-353-6992 at [aabereavedparents@gmail.com](mailto:aabereavedparents@gmail.com) to be included on the email invitation. We discuss finances, upcoming activities, plan the annual walk, and service of remembrance, suggest programs for the monthly gatherings, and address any number of issues that may come before the group.

***Please join us. We welcome new Core Group Members.***

January 14, April 8, July 8, October 14

**BPUSA National Gathering, July 27– 29, 2025**

Pittsburgh Airport Marriott, 777 Aten Road, Coraopolis, PA

For information go to <https://bereavedparentsusa.org/2025-national-gathering/>

**Annual Memory Walk** October 4, 8:30 AM  
Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis

**Service of Remembrance** December 7, at 3 PM

St Martins in-the-Field Episcopal Church  
Benfield Blvd, Severna Park

**DONATIONS**

**may be made in memory of your child**

***to offset the costs of our local chapter's events and communications.***

***Your donations provide the core resource for our Chapter.***

**Digital Donations can now be made through ZELLE.**

Add our Chapter as a RECIPIENT by using the Chapter email [aabereavedparents@gmail.com](mailto:aabereavedparents@gmail.com).

***Thank you for your thoughtful generosity.***

If you need a 2024 donation receipt for tax purposes, please email us at [aabereavedparents@gmail.com](mailto:aabereavedparents@gmail.com).

**General Donations**

Cyndia Earp in memory of Devin Hall  
Janice K Kennedy

**Newsletter & Website Sponsor Donations**

Sherrie Smith in memory of Andrew Smith  
Jody Seyfferth in memory of Donny Seyfferth  
Tom and Tina Delaney in memory of Nick Delaney  
Patricia Rogers in memory of Gabby Berryman  
Horace Tsu in memory of Cathryn Christiana Tsu  
Carol and Rick Tomaszewski in memory of Dave Tomaszewski  
Mary and Joe Redmiles in memory of Tommy Redmiles

**Service of Remembrance Donations**

Steven & Beverly Ambrozewicz in memory of Jordan Edward Ambrozewicz  
Madeline & Phil Ammon in memory of Christopher Thomas Ammon  
Paul & Claudia Balasic in memory of Bethany Ann Balasic  
John & Terre Belt in memory of Cortney Michele Belt & Traci Jeanne Heincelman  
Robert & Barbara Bessling in memory of Richard Allen Bessling & James Edward Bessling  
Doug Blazejewski in memory of Emily Ann Blazejewski  
Judy & Louie Bolly in memory of Wendy Jean Bolly  
Larry & Linda Brannon in memory of Sean J Brannon & Taylor Nicole Brannon  
Marsha Diane Brown in memory of Roger Shane Brown  
Bob & Sandi Burash in memory of Paul John Burash  
John & Cathi Campbell in memory of Hannah Lindley Campbell & Faith Campbell  
Joan & George Caperones in memory of Chris William Caperones  
Rose Marie Carnes in memory of Walter H Maynard IV  
Dot Carter in memory of William Frederick Carter Jr  
Noel & Ann Castiglia in memory of Tria Marie Castiglia  
Karen & Don Coulson in memory of Craig Steven Nelson  
Michelle & Jason Crawford in memory of Jason Tyler Crawford  
Denise Crouse in memory of "Robby" Robert Adam Ostrowski

Tina & Tom Delaney in memory of Nicholas Delaney & Jackson Tate King  
Marla & Michael Dickens in memory of Michael James Dickens Jr  
George Durr in memory of Christopher Lewis Durr  
Elizabeth Eagney in memory of Kyle Paul Eagney & Stephen Joseph Eagney  
Holly & Alli Enders in memory of Christine Kelly Enders  
Aurelia Ferraro in memory of Dora Baldwin, Jeff Baldwin & John "El" Ferraro  
Ellen Foxwell in memory of Michael Dwayne Nokes  
Kathy Franklin in memory of Tanager Ru Ricci  
Rhonda & Norman French in memory of Brandon Robert French  
Carol Fritz in memory of Katie Fritz  
Sam & Maureen Funkhouser in memory of Edward Allen "Dwardo" Funkhouser  
John & Linda Grimm in memory of Jeffrey Andrew Grimm  
Melanie & Matthew Groves in memory of Thomas Henry Groves  
Virginia Howard in memory of Emily Hamilton  
Sandra Jones in memory of Dustin Alan Jones  
Leroy & Jeanne Jones in memory of Brian Keith Jones, Jeremy Scott Jones, & Roger W Johnson  
Leona & Bob Karl in memory of Ryan John Karl  
Yoosef & Linda Khadem in memory of William Mirza Khadem  
Steve & Irene Knott in memory of Stephen Michael Knott  
Janice & Chris Kunkel in memory of Jason Todd Easter  
Cathy & Deke Logan in memory of Dulaney Covington "Trip" Logan III  
Cheryl Long in memory of Sean Donald Long Sr  
Elvira & Tom McCormick in memory of John Thomas "Tommy" McCormick III  
Kathleen McGlew in memory of Kara Anne Hamilton  
Caroline & Steve Miller in memory of Charlie S Miller  
Donna Morgan in memory of Elizabeth Ann Morgan  
Barbara Orndorf in memory of David Brian Clutter Sr & Vincent Howard "Buzzy" Chronister  
Frances Palmer in memory of Scott Thomas Palmer & O. Steven Cooper  
Mary & Joe Redmiles in memory of Thomas Hubert Redmiles  
Bill Regan in memory of William "Kyle" Regan  
Suzzette Reid in memory of Kenneth "Chuckie" Jones  
Bobbi Remines in memory of Joseph "Joey" Remines, Stefanie Remines & Romana Alice Hale  
Paul L Robinson Sr in memory of Paul Lawrence Robinson Jr  
Patricia Rogers in memory of Gabrielle Alexis "Gabby" Berryman  
Kathleen Savage in memory of Robert M White  
Joyce K Schall in memory of Thomas Jeffrey Schall  
Jody Seyfferth in memory of Donny Seyfferth Jr  
Molly Simms in memory of Michael Elliott Simms & Ji'Aire Donnell Lee  
Ben & Sharon Skarzynski in memory of Jason Edward Skarzynski  
Diana & Matthew Skube in memory of Matthew Albert Skube  
John & Glenda Skuletich in memory of Abigail "Abbey" Helen Skuletich  
Sherrie Smith in memory of Andrew Burton Smith  
Lewis & Peggy Strader in memory of Christopher Lewis Strader  
Clare Sugrowe in memory of Eric Matthew Sugrowe  
Rick & Carol Tomaszewski in memory of David William Tomaszewski  
Jose Rodrigues & Vanya Torres in memory of Solymar Rodrigues-Torres  
Horace & Cynthia Tsu in memory of Cathryn Christiana Tsu  
Dan & Janet Tyler in memory of Brittany Nicole Tyler, William F Carter & Olivia Lynn Lee Grainger



Mary Tyson in memory of Kevin W Tyson & Brandon Lee Richmond  
 Janis Willard-Robinson in memory of Justice LaFayette Robinson  
 Debi Wilson-Smith in memory of Christopher John Smith & Grace Lily Swanek  
 N. Lee Wolff-Silver in memory of Ariel Carmen Silver  
 Mary Ellen Young in memory of Zachary Daniel Robertson



## Keeping Hope Alive

### Our Children Remembered

Here is the link to the December 8, 2024, Annual Service of Remembrance.

If interested, you can view the service with this link.

<https://youtube.com/live/FvW-zhQvScU>

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:** *I encourage you to become a contributor.* Writing, blogging, journaling has a way of cleansing your soul and helping you heal. Or when you come across a graphic, proverb or saying, that touches your heart, please forward them to me. Let me know what topics you would like to see addressed in our newsletter. *This newsletter is published for you, so I ask you to make it your own. Whatever you are feeling or thinking will be useful to someone else.* Please consider submitting an article, letter, poem or graphic for inclusion in the newsletter.

*Words that are meaningful to you will also be meaningful to others.*

Provide this to Carol at [ctomaszewski74@gmail.com](mailto:ctomaszewski74@gmail.com) by **March 15 for the Apr/May/June 2025 newsletter**

**SPONSORSHIP OF NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE:** *This is a wonderful way to honor your child's memory and share them with all of us, while at the same time contribute to our Chapter.* The suggested donation for sponsoring the newsletter is \$75.00 and the website is \$25.00. Either sign up at a meeting or contact Mary Redmiles, Sponsorship Coordinator, at 301-704-8086 or [mary.redmiles@gmail.com](mailto:mary.redmiles@gmail.com)

- For the newsletter, submit a photograph and a short memorial to [ctomaszewski74@gmail.com](mailto:ctomaszewski74@gmail.com) to be included in the newsletter, by **March 15 for the Apr/May/June 2025 newsletter**
- For the website, a sponsor's link will be put on the home page that will open your child's photo from the Our Children section of the website, if you have given permission to include a photo on our website. If no photo is available, your child's name will still be included on the website home page.
- **Make check payable to Anne Arundel County Chapter, BPUSA.**  
**And mail to PO Box 6280, Annapolis MD 21401.**  
**Or use ZELLE through your bank to [aabereavedparents@gmail.com](mailto:aabereavedparents@gmail.com)**

**Newsletter Update:** Our Newsletter will be published quarterly during 2025, a small change that may affect sponsorship scheduling requests, and timely information provided on meetings and events.

*We are also looking for a new Newsletter Editor. Please consider filling this position.*

*Our newsletter is often a lifeline to our members and we want to continue this resource.*

### **CHAPTER CONTACTS:**

**Chapter Co-Leader: Tina Delaney, 410-794-6688, [aabereavedparents@gmail.com](mailto:aabereavedparents@gmail.com)**

**Chapter Co-Leader: Sherrie Smith, 410-353-6992, [aabereavedparents@gmail.com](mailto:aabereavedparents@gmail.com)**

**Virtual Meetings Coordinator: Jody Seyfferth**

**Treasurer: Janet Tyler**

**Librarian: Beth Mucciariaro**

**Hospitality: Sandi Burash 410-551-5774**

**Programs/Sponsorships: Mary Redmiles 301-704-8086, [mary.redmiles@gmail.com](mailto:mary.redmiles@gmail.com)**

**Newsletter: Carol and Rick Tomaszewski, 410-519-8448, [ctomaszewski74@gmail.com](mailto:ctomaszewski74@gmail.com)**

**Sibling Coordinator: Amanda Halbach Hughes, 443-994-3855, [alrhalbach@gmail.com](mailto:alrhalbach@gmail.com)**

**Facebook Administrators: June Erickson [juneerickson@aol.com](mailto:juneerickson@aol.com),**

**Tawny Lopez [torismom444@gmail.com](mailto:torismom444@gmail.com)**

**Spanish Speaking Support: Irene Belcher, 443-824-2638, [Belcherirene@yahoo.com](mailto:Belcherirene@yahoo.com) .**

**Special Greeting Cards: Linda Khadem, [lindakhadem@icloud.com](mailto:lindakhadem@icloud.com)**

Our Anne Arundel County Chapter, Bereaved Parents USA, is always here for you. Do not hesitate to call one of our phone friends, email someone, or go on Facebook.

***Phone friends to call if you need to talk:***

Barbara Bessling (410) 761-9017, [bebessling@aol.com](mailto:bebessling@aol.com),

Mary Redmiles (301) 704-8086

Noel Castiglia (410) 974 1626

Ann Castiglia (410) 757-5129

Paul Balasic (443) 566 0193

**Email: [aabereavedparents@gmail.com](mailto:aabereavedparents@gmail.com)**

On **Facebook:** search for “Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Bereaved Parents of the USA”  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BPUSAAAC/>

Browse our website <https://www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org/HTML/Home.htm> to find information about our meetings, resources, and view the link to Our Children which gives their names and some photos.

Other sites to browse:

<https://bereavedparentsusa.org/>  
<https://www.compassionatefriends.org/>  
<https://www.opentohope.com/>  
<https://whatsyourgrief.com/>

## CREDO

### OF THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE BEREAVED PARENTS OF THE USA

We are not alone.

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 are the aunts and uncles whose cherished nieces and nephews are gone.

We are here to support and care for each other.

We are united by the love we share for our children.

We have learned that children die at any age and from many causes.

Just as our children died at all ages, we too are all ages.

We share our pain, our lost dreams and our hopes for the future.

We are a diverse family.

We realize death does not discriminate against race, creed, color, income or social standing

We are at many stages of recovery, and sometimes fluctuate among them.

Some of us have a deep religious faith, some of us have lost our faith, while some of us are still adrift.

The emotions we share are anger, guilt and a deep abiding sadness.

But regardless of the emotions we bring to our meetings,

it is the sharing of grief and love for our children that helps us to

be better today than we were yesterday.


We reach for that inner peace as we touch each other's lives and place our handprint on each other's hearts.

Our hope for today is to survive the day;

Our dream for tomorrow is gentle memories and perhaps to smile.

**We are not alone.**

**We walk together with hope in our hearts**



No person has the right to  
condemn you on how you  
repair your heart or how  
long you choose to grieve,  
because no one knows how  
much you're hurting.  
Recovering takes time, and  
everyone heals at his or her  
own pace.

Lessons Learned In Life

