



Tampa Bay Chapter

P.O. Box 3226
Tampa, Florida
33601-3226
www.bpusatampabay.com

February 2011

*This month's newsletter lovingly sponsored by
the family of:
Michael Schlechty*

MEETING INFORMATION

Regular Monthly SUNDAY Meeting

(held the second Sunday of the month)
February 13 , 6:30 p.m. See below for a
scheduled special program
*St. Joseph's Hospital
Medical Arts Building, Auditorium
3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Call Beverley Hurley at 813-832-3175
for directions or information.*

Regular Monthly DAYTIME Meeting

Riverview/Gibson/Brandon areas
(held the second Friday each month)
Friday, February 10
11:00 a.m. to Noon
The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce
330 Pauls Drive, Brandon, Florida 33511
Please call Linda Delk at 813-661-0680
for directions or information.

Regular Monthly PLANT CITY Meeting

(Normally held the fourth Monday each month)
Monday, January 28, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
South Florida Baptist Hospital
301 N. Alexander Street, Plant City
in the Community Conference Room
Call Janice Falcon at 813-779-9353
for directions or information.

UPCOMING EVENTS YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS!!



Special Presentation by guest speakers

**“How Men and Women Mourn
the Death of a Child ”**

**Sunday, February 13, St. Joseph Meeting
6:30 p.m. sharp!**

Special refreshments will be served!

Come alone or with your spouse for this
very insightful special presentation. We are
very fortunate to have Dave and Sue
Alexander come to Tampa to present this
for us as they have presented this
program nationally.

Another Special Presentation by a guest speaker Dr. Kim Lockwood

Sunday, March 13, 6:30 p.m. Sharp!

St. Joseph Hospital MAB

“Small Steps that lead to Recovery”

Dr. Lockwood has presented his mini workshop
nationally and we are fortunate to have him come
to Tampa to do this for our Chapter.
Special refreshments will be served!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					
FEBRUARY 2011						

Support Groups – A Healing Experience

By: Vera Fish

If people suggest that you go to a support group, but you are afraid to be around strangers, here are a few things you can think about.

Grief crosses all boundaries. When you are with others who have suffered the death of a loved one, the walls you have put around you can come down. To spend an hour or two with others who share a similar loss, to learn from others about the process of grief and how you might make your life less troubled or painful, is a great gift. Other survivors who have been going through this have knowledge, support, comfort to share, and you can breathe easier by opening up and letting them help ease your pain.

If you're worried or scared about attending a support group, you can make a deal with yourself: I will try it, and if I don't like it, I won't go again. But the chances are, if you attend a few times, you will begin making connections and becoming friends with others who truly know how you feel – people who won't judge you, and will truly listen to what you say. You can feel some type of relief in knowing that there are others who are willing to travel the journey of healing you are working on.

*We learn to rise above our own
grief by reaching out and
lessening the grief of others.*

Chapter News



ANGEL OF HOPE UPDATE

www.angelofhopetampabay.com

Located at :

Riverside Park

201 Riverhills Drive, Temple Terrace

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 2573

Lutz, FL 33548

813.495.7539

Angel of Hope Annual Spring Tea Saturday, April 30, 2011

*9 a.m. - Noon - *Doors open at 8:30am.*

Wyndham at Westshore (formerly Quorum Hotel)

700 N. Westshore Blvd. in Tampa.

*Join us for a celebrity MC, fun entertainment,
great food & fantastic raffles!*

Seats are \$35 per person.

Table of eight may be hosted for \$280.

Corporate Sponsorships (table of 8)

Silver Tea Set Sponsor- \$3,000; Fine China Tea Set

Sponsor- \$2,000; Crystal Tea Set Sponsor- \$1,000;

Linens Sponsor- \$350.

*Please contact Lourdes Arenas to register in
advance and before April 9th (813) 416-2536*

Hurry and get your tickets!!

Call Gina Casal (813) 495-7539 to donate raffle items!

Tickets may be purchased on line at

www.angelofhopetampabay.org

We now accept Paypal on line!

Love Gifts

Donated by Teresa Farmer

In loving memory of her son

Ty Kristan Robertson

2/4/1979 - 3/29/2003

Donated by Tammy Hill

In loving memory of her son

Tyler Wade Head

2/21/1995 - 7/15/2004

Donated by Mike & Pam Harris

In loving memory of their son

Eric Michael Harris

2/4/1984 - 9/12/2003

Donated by George & Jackie Loadholtz

In loving memory of their son

Glenn Edward Loadholtz

11/25/1969 - 2/15/2005

Love Gifts-A Thoughtful Way to Remember

Love Gifts are a beautiful and loving way to remember a loved one. Through Love Gifts, we are able to reach out to others with our brochures and newsletters as well as obtain books and other information for our library. We truly appreciate every Love Gift, donation and sponsorship. Our Chapter work is done by volunteers and these donations help us reach out in many ways, including the preparation and mailing of the newsletter.

Refreshments

Some of us like to remember our child's birthday or the anniversary of his or her death by bringing a cake or cookies to the meeting that month. We would appreciate having you bring a special treat to any meeting. You may also want to bring and share a picture of your child. Thank you!

Chapter Library Books

If you have finished reading a BP/USA Library book, please, **please** return it to our library. There is no time limit for how long you can have a book, but the longer you borrow a book, the less opportunities other bereaved parents have to read it. We also gladly accept book donations.

Contact Tommy or Barbara Dietrich at (813) 234-4705 or visit one of our three monthly sharing meetings to return a book, arrange a donation or inquire about an available title.

Sponsor A Newsletter Page

Anyone can sponsor a page in this newsletter in memory of their child. The price for a full page is \$55 which includes one black and white scan of one photograph and your tribute to your child, which can include poems, stories or whatever you like. Your contribution supports the chapter and helps pay for the printing of the newsletter.

To sponsor a newsletter page, contact Beverley Hurley at (813) 832-3175 (email bee.hurley@gte.net). Please note that sponsorship pages are **due by the 15th of the month BEFORE the publication month.**

Electronic Newsletter

The Newsletter is available electronically. To receive it by Email, send your name and email address to: bee.hurley@gte.net and indicate your desire to switch from regular "snail" mail to email. Email recipients will also receive additional news and information, while helping our chapter save costs. We very much appreciate your cooperation by helping us out this way!

Address Change

If you have an address change, the Postal Service will NOT forward! They return to us—FOR A FEE, SO **PLEASE** LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A NEW ADDRESS.

Telephone Friends

Need to talk? Having a bad day? Call one of our Telephone Friends. They're here to lend a knowing ear because they've been there. Don't hesitate to call, we understand.

Linda Delk (General Information)	(813) 661-0680
Sue Bowditch (Adult Child)	(813) 390-9734
Theresa Farmer (Homicide)	(813) 994-0707
Traci Cooley (Drowning)	(813) 464-4525
Ron Ellington (Suicide/Grandparent)	(727) 410-2308
Charles L'Homme (Accidental Death)	(813) 335-7628
Debbie Nemitz (Long Term Illness)	(813) 907-1441
Barbara or Tommy Dietrich (Death of an Only Child)	(813) 340-9120
Serena Graves (Sibling Contact)	(813) 810-7169
Violeta "Cookie" Fernandez (Se Habla Espano)	(813) 996-4281
CRISIS CENTER	211

Bereaved Parents/USA National Office
Post Office Box 95, Park Forest, IL 60466
Phone/Fax: (708) 748-7866
www.bereavedparentsusa.org



Our Children . . . Remembered

So long as we live, they too shall live ... For they are a part of us as we remember them.

February Birthdays

Baker, Holly K. 02/11/84 - 11/15/96 M - Evonne M. Baker	Carter, Cassandra D. "Casie" 2/22/1982 - 9/28/1999 P-Ted & Gayle Carter B-Justin Carter GP-Luna Carter	Hernandez, Rebecca 02/10/89 - 01/28/91 P - Regla & Pedro Hernandez	St. Peter, Alexis (Gibson) 2/2/1980-4/28/2008 P-Karyl St.Peter
Blanchard, Eric Anthony 2/19/1976 - 8/3/1998 P - Barbara & Wayne Blanchard S - Lisa, Tammy, Dawn B - Chris & Michael Daughter - Samantha	Feanny, Jonathan 2/22/2005-2/22/2005 M-Elham Feanny	Jackson Soraya 2/26/1997-8/17/2006 M-Catherine Green	Schlechty, Michael 2/5/59 - 12/4/01 P - Nancy & Vernon Schlechty Children - Michael Leann & Morgan Lynn B - Mark and Julie S - Amy
Blazowich, Anthony "Tony" Michael 2/20/1984-4/5/2006 M-Marianne & Daniel Sr. Blazowich B-Daniel, Jr. S-Jennifer	Gochenaur, Laci 02/15/91 - 03/23/98 P - Kelli & Chris Gochenaur S - Jacee & Riley Gochenaur GP - Ronald & Clarine Barton M - Pat Dukes	Kelley, Emmanuel 2/27-10/25/2006 M-Cynthia Kelley Aunt-Deitra Luropler Cousin -Angel Kelley	Stallard, Judy Lynn 02/28/1981 - 04/24/1981 M-Patricia (Stallard) Bass F-Joe Stallard
Brown, Joshua Aaron 2/3/1982-5/8/2008 M-Tami Porter	Hafford, Lauren Elizabeth 2/17/1977 - 4/13/1999 P - Gwen & John Hafford S - Lindsay & Lesley Hafford	Kenefick, Aaron Michael 2/5/1979-9/8/2009 M-Susan Price B-Jacque & Jade GM-Carol Price	Thompson, Scott 2/18/1985-5/12/2006 M-Martha Thompson
Burger, Jeffrey Robin 02/05/61 - 04/20/97 M - Cecelia Burger B - Hal & Curt Burger	Harris, Eric Michael 2/4/1984 - 9/12/2003 P-Mike & Pam Harris B-Mark GM-Joan Matthews & Verna Harris	Kowall, Spec. Corey J. 2/1/1989-9/20/2009 M-Kelly Kowall Sibs-Kyla Tackett & Kristen Kowall GP-Marshall & Marty Schoeff	Widoff, Craig 2/2/1951-4/27/2002 M-Lucille Widoff Child-Andrea Widoff Sibs-Preston & Pamela
Caldwell-Faught, Thomas 2/9/1997 - 5/24/2003 M-Shannon Caldwell	Head, Tyler Wade 2/21/1995 - 7/15/2004 M-Tammy Hill F-Jerry Toloff GF-German Toloff	Robertson, Ty Kristan 2/4/1979 - 3/29/2003 P-Jim & Teresa Farmer S-Toni-Danielle Robertson B-Chris Farmer GM-Wanda Warren Children-Taylor Morris, Trystan & Jordan Robertson	Wisner, James R. 2/20/1982 - 2/24/1999 P - Wayne & Sharen Wisner S - Crystal Wisner
			Woofter, Kimberly Ann "Kimie" 2/24/1970 - 12/25/2006 P-Julie & Steve Woofter S-Angela Huntley

February Anniversaries

Asci, Jason 8/19/1979-2/7/2008 F-Brian Asci Children-AJ & Adriana	Harris, Charlotte Marie 1/23/2004 - 2/3/2004 P-Tony & Debra Harris	Nadir, Peter 4/6/1971 - 2/8/2003 M-Barbar Nadir S-Sue McFowan	Short, Kimberley 10/21/1969 - 2/11/1993 P - Terrance & Sue Short
Castellano, Lina 9/15/1966 - 2/20/2004 P-Sam & Jean Castellano	Jacobson, Nathan 11/8/1994-2/16/2008 P-Amy & Pete Jacobson	Owens, Kenny Dwayne 6/27/1961 - 2/25/2005 P-Jimmy & Sylvia Mingo S-Tina Jernigan & Donna	Supple, Bart Patrick 07/25/59 - 02/14/94 P - Bart & Toni Supple
Engdahl, Andrew 07/15/87 - 02/05/94 P - Rick & Vicky Engdahl S - Stephanie Engdahl B - Joey Engdahl	Lane, Matthew Alexander 6/22/2001 - 2/13/2003 M-Mary Ann Muschick S-Nikol B-Devvin GP-Hieu & David Muschick	Parrish, Randy 08/22/57 - 02/10/97 M - Juanita Bodiford B - Dough Parrish	Thomas, Carol 12/16/1955-2/16/2003 M-Betty Thatcher S-Deb Waldfoge, Ellen Williams, Fran Thatcher, Gerri Huston
Feanny, Jonathan 2/22/2005-2/22/2005 M-Elham Feanny	Loadholtz, Glenn Edward 11/25/1969 - 2/15/2005 P-George & Jackie Loadholtz S-Gwen Walkowiak	Pittman, Cynthia Marie 1/25/1978 - 2/23/2003 P-Charles & Joan Pittman	Willis, Melody 8/10/1971-2/27/2010 F-Martin Willis
Hadley, Katrina 11/17/1961 - 2/4/2006 M-Grace Therman	Murphy, Mark Lawrence 12/22/1968 - 2/21/2000 M - Rosalie Baum B - John Murphy	Shemela, Kenneth 6/24/1964 - 2/19/2009 P-Bill & Barbara Shemela B-Bill Shemela, Jr.	Wisner, James R. 2/20/1982 - 2/24/1999 P - Wayne & Sharen Wisner S - Crystal Wisner

If we have omitted your child, misspelled your child's name, or listed incorrect dates, please accept our apologies and call Beverley Hurley at (813) 832-3175 to correct the information. Call any of our telephone friends if you are having a hard time on these days. We truly understand your pain; for we, too, remember our own children.

They say, "memories are golden" and maybe that is true. But, we never wanted memories, we only wanted you.

~author unknown~

Rosalie Baker, Rochester, NY
Published in *Caring and Sharing News*,
February 2007

February has fewer days than most months, and that may be of a special significance to us, as our children had fewer days than most. When we think of this month, the most outstanding day, perhaps, is Valentine's Day. It is a time for love. When we were school-aged, we had a special chance to give and receive cards in those decorated boxes in our primary classrooms. Perhaps it is the one holiday that children can really do something for everyone. Addressing a card to each and every classmate made you think of how you felt about each one and wonder about how they felt about you.

Love is found in every day of every year, but February and Valentine's Day are very special. I wish I could remember just how it felt to get a "nicer" Valentine from someone I had sent a "nicer" one to. It is so long ago, and there have been so many, much more significant happenings in my life. But sometimes, I'd like to remember just how it felt.

I am sending along this Valentine's Love Note to each of you right now and hope that you know it is one of the "nicer" ones, because each of you is very special to me. Somehow I don't wonder how you feel, somehow I know.

As we grieve the loss of our children and one another's, we begin to find a different kind of love than we ever expected to experience.

Monumental Journey of the Heart

July 29-31, 2011

*Sheraton Reston Hotel,
Reston, Virginia*



Located just 25 minutes from downtown Washington, DC near Dulles Hotel rate \$99 per room (plus taxes), up to 4 people per room. Rate honored 3 days before and 3 days after the Gathering. Call 1-800-561-9186 to make your reservation or visit www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/BereavedParents.

Thursday night "Kick Off" Program, plan to come early, you don't want to miss this exciting event!

Outstanding Speakers and Workshops, Sibling Program! Meal Package only \$149.00 for seven meals.

Donations are being sought from individuals and chapters for the Butterfly Boutique, Raffles, Silent Auction and Table Favors. Contact Jodi Norman at bpusa.nova@yahoo.com if you are able to help.

If you are interested in presenting a workshop fill out the on-line application www.bereavedparentsusa.org or print out an application and mail to:

P.O. Box 7675, Woodbridge, VA 22192.

Deadline for workshop applications is March 15, 2011.

For more information contact Jodi Norman, Gathering Chair at 703-910-6277 or e-mail: bpusa.nova@yahoo.com.

The Little Things

By Ann Tyler, Sacramento, CA

Often even the simple tasks of everyday living seem to drain every ounce of one's energy. Remember going to the grocery store even month's after your child's death and the feelings you had as you passed by his or her favorite cereal? Or watching another child the same age as yours in a restaurant and trying to swallow your food - you probably didn't even taste it. Or hearing a certain song in public and fighting back the tears? Sometimes even getting through the day in your own home makes you feel like you've run a marathon and leaves you in worse shape. You probably never dreamed that doing the laundry could make you cry or getting a piece of mail in your child's name could such your breath away. Even the best of friends and family can't possibly know the strength you must summon day after day. We shouldn't expect them to understand completely, but it does get lonely. Perhaps this quote puts it in a nutshell: One sad thing about this world is that the acts that take the most out of you are usually the ones that other people will never know about.



Love

By Darcie Sims

*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.*

*Though death comes, love will never go away.
Hold it tight, the love our children gave us.
Hold it tight through the storms of grief
and bring it with you into today.*

Love never goes away.

Our 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 tears, 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, our color, our affluence, 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.

FOR THE NEW YEAR

~ Ruth Eiseman

Where there is pain,
Let there be softening.
Where there is bitterness,
Let there be acceptance.
Where there is silence,
Let there be communication.
Where there is loneliness,
Let there be friendships.
Where there is despair,
Let there be hope.

“Getting on with living doesn't mean parents have to feel disloyal to their child's memory. Recovering doesn't mean you have to forget. You will always remember. So “why not remember the good things in your child's life.”

Katherine Donnelly



THERE WILL COME A DAY

There will come a day when the tears of sorrow will softly flow into tears of remembrance...and your heart will begin to heal itself....and grieving will be interrupted by episodes of joy....and you will hear the whisper of hope.

There will come a day when you will welcome the tear of remembrance....as a sunflower of the soul....a turning of the tide...a promise of peace.

There will come a day when you will....risk loving....go on believing....and treasure the tears of remembering.

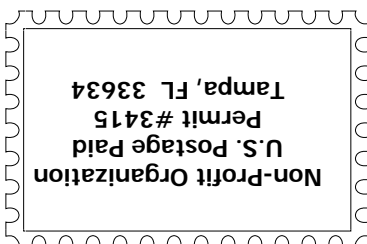
~author unknown~

Address Correction Requested



POSTMASTER - Dated Material
Please do not delay.

February 2011



The Bereaved Parents of the USA
3805 San Juan Street
Tampa, FL 33629

