



Tampa Bay Chapter

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

MEETING INFORMATION

Regular Monthly SUNDAY Meeting

(held the second Sunday of the month)

St. Joseph's Hospital
Medical Arts Building, Auditorium
Sunday, June 13, 6:30 p.m. for regular meeting.
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, June 11, 10:00 a.m. to Noon
The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce
330 Pauls Drive, Brandon, Florida 33511
Please call Debbie Nemitz 813-907-1441
for directions or information.



Regular Monthly PLANT CITY Meeting

(Held the fourth **MONDAY** each)

Monday, June 28, 7:00-9:00 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.

"When the veteran bereaved parent comes to a meeting, he is the hope for the newly bereaved because he has survived."

Unknown Author

UPCOMING EVENTS

All June Meetings We will be decorating Diamond cut outs in memory of our children (aka Special Gems) to be on display at the upcoming BP/USA National Gathering in Little Rock. Even if you are not attending, your child can be represented by having a Diamond on display.

The Bereaved Parents of the USA
2010 National Gathering
"Rock of Hope, River of Healing"

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 9-11, 2010
Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center
Little Rock, Arkansas

Those who attend find the support and grief information that will help on their grief journey. We have several folks from our chapter attending. It will be an experience you will not forget..

(See Page 5!)

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

Michael Gerard Martini

June 2010

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	29	30	31		
				JUNE 2010		

NEW—Suicide Support Group

Suncoast Yellow Ribbon in conjunction with PEMHS will be hosting a suicide bereavement meeting. This is a support group for family and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide. Grieving a death by suicide is a long journey that can be shared by others who have felt the same pain and can relate to what you may be feeling.

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month beginning May 18, 2010.

Meetings start at 7:00pm

Where: PEMHS Main Campus
Activities Cntr. (also known as Bldg #1)
11254 58 Street North,
Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2213

This is an open group. You are welcome to join at any time. Please contact [Bonnie McClelland](mailto:bonnie@suncoastyr.org) at 737-394-8222 or [Matthew Cook](mailto:mcook@pemhs.org) at 727-545-6477 ext 435 for details.

*Those who die young
Are frozen in time
Never to age
Never to change
Framed in our memories
In the sweetness of youth.*

S. Kramer

Chapter News

ANGEL OF HOPE NEWS

www.angelofhopetampabay.com

P.O. Box 2573

Lutz, Florida 33548

Angel of Hope Memorial Garden located at Riverside Park, 201 S. Riverhills Drive, Temple Terrace



Memorial Bricks Dedication

The next engraved memorial brick dedication will be held Saturday, June 26. If you recently ordered an engraved brick, you will receive an invitation to this event.

Angel of Hope Pins

We have available our specially designed **Angel of Hope** pins. You have a choice of a pair of angels with boy and girl with a heart and butterfly and the words **Hope**, or a lapel pin with angel wings, a heart, a butterfly and the word **Hope**.

Size of boy and girl pin - Wing span to wing span is 2 inches, top to bottom about 1 1/4 inches - **\$20.00**



Size of angel wing lapel pin - Wing span to wing span is 1 1/4 inches, top to bottom about 3/4 inches - **\$10.00**



Please call Julie Leyde to order at 813-784-6929 or use our new **PayPal** payment plan on line at www.angelofhopetampabay.com

LifePath Hospice Bereavement Program:
 GRUPOS DE APOYO NUEVOS COMIENZOS PARA ADULTOS- Para Mas informacion, llam al 813-877-2200, Ext. 10671

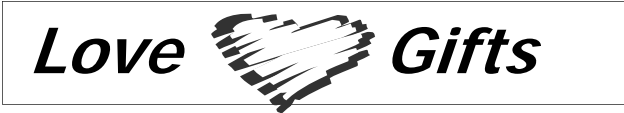
Telephone Friends

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
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) 234-4705
Serena Graves (Sibling Contact)	(813) 810-7169
Violeta "Cookie" Fernandez (Se Habla Espano)	(813) 996-4281
Sandy Boehning (Grandparent Grief)	(813) 989-3255

CRISIS CENTER 211

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



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.

Donated by Debbie Nemitz
 In loving memory of her daughter
Robyn Michelle Nemitz
 12/28/82 - 06/16/98

We Can Always Use the Help!

There are dozens of tasks that go into running our chapter and our special events, from helping set up the meeting room, to finding potential articles & poems for the newsletter, to working on public relations. We can always use the help. If you feel you are now in a place in your grief journey where you can help and give back to the chapter in little or large ways, please contact Beverley Hurley 813-832-3175 or bee.hurley@gte.net. Most of us find that when we reach a point of giving back to those who come after us, we gain far more than we give.

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!

A special thank you goes to Rita Zvada for being such a wonderful refreshment provider at our Sunday evening meetings in loving memory of her son Christopher Cash!

Chapter Library

We maintain a large lending library of books and tapes of interest to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents, at all three of our support group meetings. These resources are available to check out at each meeting to be returned at the following meeting, if possible. Donations of books are always gratefully accepted, and acknowledged in the newsletter. If you are no longer attending meetings regularly and come across a book at home that belongs to our library, please mail it to us at the reduced "media rate" to: BP/USA, PO Box 3226, Tampa, FL 33601-3226. You can contact me at 813-832-3175 or bee.hurley@gte.net.

Electronic Newsletter

The Newsletter is now available electronically. To receive it by e-mail, send your name and e-mail address to: bee.hurley@gte.net and indicate your desire to switch from regular "snail" mail to e-mail.

E-mail 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!



Our Children . . . Remembered

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

June Birthdays

Brown, Alex Marie
6/6/1995 - 6/6/1995
P - Jane Ann & Thomas Brown

Carlan, Robert Hope
06/02/78 - 07/25/99
P - Arnold & Linda Carlan

Eggly, Keiran Catherine
6/4/2004 - 6/4/2004
M-Elizabeth Eggly

Gilliam, Hayden Charles
6/20/1999 - 8/4/2001
P - Sean & Marion Gilliam
Sibs - Sara & Cole Gilliam
GP-Joe & Nancy Gilliam, and RoseMarie
Presbrey
GGP-Mary Gilliam & Lora Flowers

Hayes, Douglas
6/3/1969 - 6/3/1969
P-Martha & Michael Hayes
Sibs-Cheri Hayes Knapp & Travis Hayes
GM-Mary Neeld

Johnson, Georgina
6/10/2003 - 6/10/2003
P-Laurie & Goerge Johnson

Lane, Matthew Alexander
6/22/2001 - 2/13/2003
M-Mary Ann Muschick
S-Nikol
B-Devin
GP-Hieu & David Muschick

Martin, Brian James
06/09/1979 - 07/18/1993
P - Stan & Adrienne Martin
B - Christopher Martin
GM - Evelyn Golding

Martini, Michael Gerard
6/18/1964-1/26/2009
M-Dianne Ezell
S-Pamela Martini
Niece-Destiny Martini

Mattea, Geri
6/19/1969-12/2/2004
M-Geri Mattea

Owens, Kenny Dwayne
6/27/1961-2/25/2005
P-Jimmy & Sylvia Mingo
S-Tina Jernigan & Donna

Panico, Ryder
6/22/2004-4/27/2005
M-Kristen Panico

Photos, LaDanyce
5/2/2009-6/9/2008
P-Trent Photos & Lisa RamirezP

Ponder, Manda Lynn
06/13/1995 - 07/03/1995
P - Marilyn & William Ponder
B - Travis & Mike Ponder
S - Amanda Ponder
GM-Grace Ponder

Ramirez, Arthur, Jr.
6/10/1951 - 12/30/1997
M-Helen & the late Arthur Ramirez

Schulman, Adam J.
6/7/1971 - 9/26/2004
M-Pat Schulman
Freddie Kelly Jr. and Kenny Schulman

Schorne, Lee
3/11/1970-6/7/2007
M-Juanita Schorne

Sorrells, Blake Austin
06/03/1998 - 06/03/1998
P - John & Monica Sorrells
S - Cassidy Sorrells

Shemela, Kenneth
6/24/1964-2/19/2009
Bill & Barbara Shemela
B-Bill Shemela, Jr.

Szczepanek, Daniel
6/21/1988 - 11/10/2006
M-Debra Szczepanek

Timothy, Joshua
6/29/2004 - 7/18/2005
P-Doug & Kerri Timothy
GM-Mary Ann Negrete

Valdez, Joseph Martin
6/3/1974 - 4/24/2007
M-Carolyn Aviles

Varga, Jozsef
6/11/1988 - 8/4/2007
M-Carmen Varga
B-Kiel & Bruce Senra
GP-Dorothy & Gerald Senra

Weber, Barbara Jean
6/4/1953 - 12/14/1994
P - Weldon & Jean Weber
S - Kristi, Teresa, & Pamela



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
tears 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.

June Anniversaries

Alvarez, Dean
4/28/1965 - 6/12/2000
M-Diana Stenglein
B-Nadie Alvarez
S-Athena & Lynette Alvarez

Bray, Debbie (Hurley)
11/14/1967 - 6/1/1990
M - Beverley (Bray) Hurley
S - Kimberly Gonzalez

Brown, Alex Marie
6/6/1995 - 6/6/1995
P - Jane Ann & Thomas Brown

Combs, Phillip J.
3/24/1986-6/12/2004
P-Lisa Pyche' & Phil Combs
B-Travis Combs
GP-Thomas & Sharon Pyche'

Cowen, Chad
3/31/1973 - 6/7/1997
P - Mary "Pete" & Mike Cowen
S - Tiffany Larson

Durazzo, Richard
12/5/1971-6/8/2006
P-Diane & Paul Durazzo
S-Jill (Deceased)

Eggly, Keiran Catherine
6/4/2004 - 6/4/2004
M-Elizabeth Eggly

Faber, Nicholas (Nicky) Paul
08/13/89 - 06/08/95
P - Paul & Kathy Faber
S - Danielle Faber
GP - Esther Kubler and Anna & Bobby
Banks

Frederick, Hunter Mark
6/10/1998-6/26/2004
M-Becky Frederick

Funk, Benjamin
9/9/1976 - 6/25/2001
P - Mr & Mrs Funk

Harrill, Jason
1/23/1984 - 6/12/2006
P-Bonnie & David Harrill
S-Michelle "MiMi"

Hayes, Douglas
6/3/1969 - 6/3/1969
P-Martha & Michael Hayes
Sibs-Cheri Hayes Knapp & Travis Hayes
GM-Mary Neeld

Howard, Steven T.
8/11/70 - 6/30/1999
M-Cay Pelaez

Johnson, Georgina
6/10/2003 - 6/10/2003
P-Laurie & Goerge Johnson

Kellogg, Benjamin
- 6/7/2002
P-John & Barbara Kellogg

Landrum, Mark
03/03/79 - 06/24/94
M - Joan Landrum Adams-Hilliard
F - Steve Landrum
B - John Landrum

Mercer, Bret
10/5/1988 - 6/25/1992
P - Eddie & Darlene Mercer
S - Lindy, Crystal & Kaley
GP-Loren & Christine Mercer
GP-Beverly Jaudon Quincannon

Nemitz, Robyn Michelle
12/28/82 - 06/16/98
P - Debbie & Bill Nemitz
B - John Nemitz
GP - Laura Nemitz

Noriega, Aiden
4/4/2001 - 6/18/2001
P - Rick & Ethal Noriega

Orsi, Kristen McCall
8/5/1980 - 6/27/2002
P-Kimberly & Leo Orsi
GP-Wm. & Jeanne Armiger and Stephanie
& Rich Orashen

Patet, Nathan Gabriel
12/18/88 - 06/10/90
P - Maritza & Jeff Patet
S - Mallory Patet & Gina Patet
GP-Gus & Lourdes Arenas and Don
the late Betty Patet

Prescott, Alexandria
3/25/1990 - 6/28/2017
Stephanie & Tracy Knox

Rayburn, Geoffrey W.
3/2/1970-6/2/1995
GP-Richard & Jeannette Roberson

Roberson, Richard Joseph
07/23/1959 - 06/02/1997
P-Richard & Jeannette Roberson
S-Sue & Shelfy
B-Randy

Sorrells, Blake Austin
06/03/1998 - 06/03/1998
P - John & Monica Sorrells
S - Cassidy Sorrells

Steen, Michael Anthony
8/4/1956 - 6/20/2003
M-Nancy Holdren
B-Rick, David & Donald
Father to Jessica, Christine & Michelle
Married to Doreen

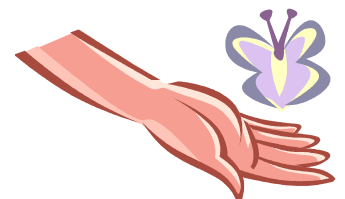
Stock, Jessica
9/21/1978-6/6/2004
M-Rose Stock

Therault, George L.
10/13/1951 - 6/1/1996
P - Mae Therault

Waller, Albert Marcus
5/2/1994 - 6/16/2000
P - Marc & Charlotte Waller

Wenzel, Brian
12/16/1980-6/28/2009
M-Lisa Wenzel
S-Amanda Moore

Wright, Travis
7/16/1973 - 6/15/2001
M - Joan Wright



*If we have omitted your child,
misspelled your child's name, or
listed incorrect dates, please accept
our apologies and call
Beverly 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.*

Michael Gerard Martini

June 18, 1964 to January 26, 2009



My brother Michael (Maddog) Gerard Martini was born on June 18th 1964.

He decided to take his own life on Jan 26, 2009. What a loss, but what wonderful memories left behind. A great son, brother, father and a great friend to many. And a master at chili cooking !!!

His 46th birthday is coming up and as my gift to him I want to say a few words to our mother and his precious children, words that I know he would want me to say for him. "Words I know he would say himself. " We talked often and had a brother/sister bond. There were many times when we sensed a call was needed from each other. He lived in Texas and I live in Florida. From our regular phone conversations I know how he loved his family.

Mommy, I know I hurt you so much and for that I am so very sorry. I always wanted you to be proud of me and my accomplishments. I wanted to be your best son. I looked forward to our morning chats even if we both got a little crazy. I loved you so much and am so glad you are my mother. I need you to know that I am happy in heaven and I know you know that. My pain and troubles are over. I only wish I could be there to comfort you from your pain. Continue to pray and believe and your heart will feel joy for me knowing I walk with God but continue to be with you for eternity. Love your son, Michael.

Mikey and Lucky, My two boys. You two guys are amazing people. You brought so much joy into my life I can never explain. Watching you grow and learn has been an amazing experience. I am so very sorry that I hurt you and I hope one day you find it in your heart to truly forgive me. Please know that this is not the answer to any problem. I know that now. Through God you will always find the strength to live and fight. I am so proud to have been your dad. Remember to believe in angels and know that I am with you always. Grow up and be the best you can be. Remember to pray and keep me in your heart. I love you both so much. Dad

Michael you were truly a one of a kind brother. I think about you often. You always told me I was your best sister (even though I was your only sister) and I will cherish that forever. I know how much you loved me and Destiny and I thank you so much for letting us know. I miss you and have an ache in my heart as I'm sure everyone else that knew you does. Our memories of each other will live forever. I love you. Your best sister, Pamela



Please attend.....

The Bereaved Parents of the USA 2010 National Gathering

"Rock of Hope, River of Healing"

in the Natural State of Arkansas this July 9-11, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas



Start making plans NOW to attend! Gathering details/registration information are on the

BP/USA National website:

www.bereavedparentsusa.org

Accommodations:

The Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center in Little Rock

3201 Bankhead Drive, Little Rock, AR 72206

Phone: 501-490-1000 or 800-HOL-IDAY

Hotel Website: www.hilittlerockairport.com

This beautiful hotel is offering a discounted room rate of \$99.23 per night (tax is included) which applies from July 5th to July 14th, before and after our event for staying over and sightseeing. Make your reservations directly with the hotel by calling 1-888-HOL-IDAY. Be sure to ask for the BP/USA Gathering rate. The hotel provides free shuttle service to and from the Little Rock National Airport and other downtown attractions.

Early Registration discount rate is \$25 per person, maximum \$75 per family, if received June 1, 2010. After June 1, registration is \$35 per person, maximum \$85 per family. Please register as early as possible.

Food: The meal plan will be approximately \$132 per adult which includes 7 meals, (Friday morning thru Sunday morning). A child's meal plan is available for age 12 and under for \$78.00. See registration form for individual meal prices.

The Bereaved Parent "Gatherings" are a unique time of inspiration and healing. You will find yourself surrounded by old and new friends in a comfortable setting as we remember and celebrate our children's lives we lost too soon.

Informative Speakers and Inspiring Workshops all day Friday and Saturday plus special music, good southern food and fellowship. A complete bookstore hosted by the Centering Corp.

Enjoy our Butterfly Boutique gift shop, Silent Auction and Raffles.

The Saturday night *Candlelight Ceremony* featuring our beautiful children in photos is always a highlight of the event!

Consider a vacation in the Natural State! Check out

www.Arkansas.com

For more information, questions or to volunteer to help, contact Gathering Chairs

Mike and Diane Rima at 501-627-8585 or email mdrima007@hotmail.com

For Registration questions contact Debby Hunsaker at 501-847-4102 or kevdeb91@aol.com

Father's Day is Coming Up

By Dr's. Gloria & Heidi

www.thegriefblog.com

We know for some dads this will be a difficult day. We know for many there might be feelings of loss and sadness. Dads are people who like to fix things and losing a loved one cannot be fixed. As with any holiday we would suggest that you plan your day. You might want to plan a project like planting a tree or writing a letter to your child on this special day. Remember that if you have other children in the family they will be excited about honoring their dad so take in the love that they have for you. If your only child died remember you are and will always be a father. As you work through your feelings of grief and loss those happy memories of your child's life will become brighter.

*The bittersweet grief work
after a child has died is the
truest and most undeniable
act of love.
~ Joanne Cacciatore*

Balcony and Basement People

By: Traci Cooley
Bereaved Mother, Tampa, Florida

Shortly after my daughter Malena died, I started a home based business to keep busy. During the course of this business venture, I was able to attend the company's annual convention. These conventions are geared toward encouraging and motivating the sales teams to sell, sell, and sell. There are workshops and motivational speakers all pushing you into "expanding your business". As I sat through many of these speakers, most of what they said I related to surviving the death of my precious daughter rather than expanding my business.

Three years later, one of the workshops I attended that weekend keeps popping into my head as my grief process extends past what the world finds "comfortable". The workshop was called "Balcony People and Basement People". I have spent days and weeks applying this to the people I have encountered during my bereavement. I continually seek Balcony people and I avoid those I consider Basement people.

Basement people are people who constantly pull you down or discourage you. Basement people in our grieving process can and do cause us much hurt and distraction. Basement people are the people who do not wish to hear about your child, they do not want to talk about your hurt or actively help you go through the grief process. Basement people are also people who say ugly or uneducated things about your loss such as "Aren't you over that by now?" Basement people criticize your bereavement or question every method you chose in dealing with your loss. Basement people make everything about them and their feelings; disregarding the fact that it is your child who died. Basement people can cause a lot of hurt (often, unintended) to you during your bereavement process.

Balcony people are the people who pull you forward and along the road of grief. Balcony people come beside you and cry with you, spend time listening to you talk of your child and tell you stories they remember, too. Balcony people encourage you to seek ways to heal and process your loss. They understand that the way you chose to deal with the death of your beloved child may not be their way but it is what is good for you. Balcony people understand when you do not want them around but stand by just in case you change your mind. Balcony people cook or clean for you because you just do not have the energy or they do not comment when the house is a little (or a lot) messier than it used to be. Balcony people understand that you will never be the "old" you and help you to find the "new" you who will emerge through the grief and loss you have sustained.

Take the time to identify the Balcony people and Basement people in your life. Spend most of your time with the Balcony people and try to limit the time with Basement people; if possible. Balcony people pull you up, cheer you on, encourage you and take care of you when you most need it. Basement people pull you down, criticize and find fault in what you do. Balcony people and Basement people; we all have them in our lives. It is our choice of who we allow to be part of our bereavement process and our lives. I choose my Balcony people.

Special Days

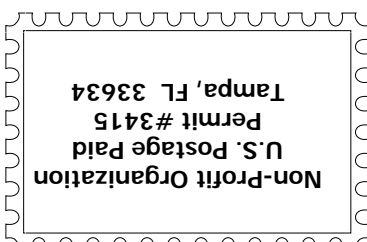
Spring comes and with it the uneasy awareness of difficult days ahead. For those who are still going through all the "firsts" without their child, we want to share with you some of the ways parents have coped and managed.

Mother's Day... Father's Day... graduation... vacations... these are special family times which often catch us unaware and bring unexpected tears and painful memories of young lives cut short. You can make these special days easier with some planning and with encouragement from those who have already been there.

Which ever days lie ahead for your family, try to focus on doing something meaningful and tangible in remembrance of your child. Share thoughts and suggestions about the possibilities: planting a tree, starting a garden, donating a book to the library, lighting a candle, putting flowers on the altar, or taking a long talked-of vacation. Remember, tears and moments of sadness are expressions of love. ~ Unknown



POSTMASTER - Dated Material
Please do not delay.
June 2010



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

