

Tampa Bay Chapter

P.O. Box 7034
Brandon, Florida
33508
www.bpusatampabay.com

MEETING INFORMATION

Regular Monthly SUNDAY Meeting
(held the second Sunday of the month)
Sundays January 11 and February 8, 2015
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
St. Joseph's Hospital
Medical Arts Building, Auditorium
3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Tampa, FL
Call Lori Scragg at 813-361-2946
for directions or information.

Regular Monthly <u>DAYTIME</u> Meeting
Riverview/Gibsonton/Brandon areas
(held the second Friday each month)
Fridays, January 9 and February 13, 2015
10:00 AM to Noon
First United Methodist Church Office Bldg

120 N Knights Ave, Brandon, FL Call Debbie Nemitz at 813-501-9567 for directions or information.

Regular Monthly NIGHTIME Meeting
Riverview/Gibsonton/Brandon areas
(held the last Thursday each month)
Thursdays January 29 and February 26, 2015
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
First United Methodist Church Office Bldg

120 N Knights Ave, Brandon, FL Call Charles L'Homme at 813-335-7628 for directions or information.

This months' newsletter is lovingly sponsored by the family of:

Larry Daniel Garcia

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Hopefully you have had a good holiday season. The new year is upon us, and it is my hope for all of you that the coming year will be a good one for each of you. Living without your child will never be an easy task, but as the years pass, hopefully you will learn new coping skills to help you to move forward. Our children wouldn't want us to stop living just because they have....we need to keep moving on and try to somehow keep their memories alive also.

Debbie

Chapter News

Angel of Hope Information

www.angelofhopetampabay.com

Located at:

Riverside Park

201 Riverhills Drive,

Temple Terrace

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 2573, Lutz, FL 33548

813.495.7539



www.angelofhopetampabay.com/index.html

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.

Debbie Nemitz (General Information

and Long Term Illness)	(813)	501-9567
Sue Bowditch (Adult Child)	(813)	390-9734
Theresa Farmer (Homicide)	(813)	994-0707
Sandy Boehning (Grandparent)	(813)	989-3255
Charles L'Homme (Accidental Death)	(813)	335-7628
Barbara or Tommy Dietrich (Death of	(813)	340-9120
an Only Child)		
Julie Woofter (Suicide)	(813)	754-4848
Serena Graves (Sibling Contact)	(813)	810-7169
Rita Zvada (Se Habla Espanol)	(813)	961-1011
Crisis Center	211	



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.

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PRICE ADJUSTMENT TO Sponsor A Newsletter Page

Since we no longer print the newsletter, we have decided to reduce the costs of the memorial pages. Anyone can sponsor a page in this newsletter in memory of their child. The price for a full page is \$30 which includes photographs and your tribute to your child (poems, stories or whatever you like). You may also choose a half page for \$15. Your contribution supports the chapter.

As an incentive to have more help to run the chapter, we are giving all of the steering committee members one free page each year.

To sponsor a newsletter page, contact Debbie Nemitz @ 813-501-9567 or at debbie.bpnews@gmail.com. Please note that sponsorship pages are <u>due by the 25th of the month BEFORE the</u> publication month. We publish every 2 months.

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.

Newletter Articles or Contributions

Have you written a poem or article about your bereavement process? Would you like to share it in the newsletter? We are looking for article submissions every month from members of our chapter. Articles will be edited if needed. Please contact Debbie Nemitz @813-501-9567 or debbie.bpnews@gmail.com if you have any questions. We wish to thank **all of you** who came to the Candle Lighting this year. It was a very nice ceremony. Thank you to the following for providing the pointsettias for our decorations:

Pete & Libby Rucys Barbara & Tom Dietrich

In memory of their son Elliott Joseph Rucys

In memory of their daughter Jamie Rachel Dietrich

Barbara & Bob Riches Kelly & Jim Gallagher

In memory of their son Anthony Joe Mack
In memory of their son Matthew Cory Gallagher

Yolanda & Ozzie Patino Julie & Steve Woofter

In memory of their son **Brando J Mosquera**In memory of their daughter **Kimberly Ann "Kimie"**

Chrisine Daws Charles L'Homme

In memory of her daughter Catherine Novak Lane In memory of his son Ryan Charles L'Homme

Rita Zvalda Lori & Richard Scragg

In memory of her son Capt Christopher Cash

In memory of their son Keith Joseph Scragg

Patricia Velazquez Debbie Nemitz

In memory of her son Val Velazquez

In memory of her daughter Robyn Michelle Nemitz

Jackie & George Loadholtz

In memory of their son Glenn Edward Loadholtz

We would like to give credit to the following who also helped make the evening special.

The steering committee members who work hard all year and especially during the planning stages for the Candle Lighting.

All of our members who came early to get things set up for the event.

Dan & Karen Price who provided carnations in memory of their daughter Karissa Danielle Price.

Lori Scragg who provided a tree with decorations for each of us in attendance in memory of her son **Keith Joseph Scragg**.

Wes Schaaf owner of 2113AD, LLC for doing our video and picture presentation.

All of those who supplied food to make our reception so lovely.

Thanks to the following for their donations:

Tom & Judy Sluder Mary Ellen Holmberg

In memory of their children: In memory of her son **Michael D. Holmberg**

Katherine Elizabeth Sluder, Keith Joseph Sluder and

Keith Joseph Sluder and Consuelo Rios

Theresa Elaine Sluder In memory of her son Larry Daniel Garcia

Angel & Maria Rodriguez In memory of their son

Jaytee Rodriguez

All attendees who made cash donations



Our Children . . . Remembered

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

January Birthdays

Baker, Holly K. 02/11/84 - 11/15/96 M - Evonne M. Baker

Blanchard, Eric Anthony 2/19/1976 - 8/3/1998 P - Barbara & Wayne Blanchard S - Lisa, Tammy, Dawn B - Chris & Michael Daughter - Samantha

Blazowich, Anthony "Tony" Michael 2/20/1984 - 4/5/2006 M-Marianne & Daniel Sr. Blazowich B-Daniel, Jr. S-Jennifer

Matt Bridgmon 2/11/1978 - 11/4/1996 M- Jean Bridgmon

Brown, Joshua Aaron 2/3/1982 - 5/8/2008 M-Tami Porter

Burger, Jeffrey Robin 02/05/61 - 04/20/97 M - Cecelia Burger B - Hal & Curt Burger

Caldwell - Faught, Thomas 2/9/1997 - 5/24/2003 M-Shannon Caldwell

Feanny, Jonathan 2/22/2005-2/22/2005 M-Elham Feanny

Ferlita, Vincent 02/25/2011—08/23/2011 P-Russ & Lisa Ferlita Gochenaur, Laci
02/15/91 - 03/23/98
P - Kelli & Chris Gochenaur
S - Jacee & Riley Gochenaur
GP - Ronald & Clarine Barton
M - Pat Dukes

Hafford, Lauren Elizabeth 2/17/1977 - 4/13/1999 P - Gwen & John Hafford S - Lindsay & Lesley Hafford

Harris, Eric Michael 2/4/1984 - 9/12/2003 P-Mike & Pam Harris B-Mark GM-Joan Matthews & Verna Harris

Head, Tyler Wade 2/21/1995 - 7/15/2004 M-Tammy Hill F-Jerry Toloff GF - German Toloff

Hernandez, Rebecca 02/10/89 - 01/28/91 P - Regla & Pedro Hernandez

Jackson Soraya 2/26/1997-8/17/2006 M-Catherine Creen

Kelley, Emmanuel 2/27-10/25/2006 M-Cynthia Kelley Aunt-Deitra Luropler Cousin -Angel Kelley Kenefick, Aaron Michael 2/5/1979-9/8/2009 M-Susan Price B-Jacque & Jade GM-Carol Price

Kowall, Spec. Corey J. 2/1/1989-9/20/2009 M-Kelly Kowall Sibs-Kyla Tackett & Kristen Kowall GP-Marshall & Marty Schoeff

Lakhani, Nadeem 2/9/76 - 7/21/14 F - Ameer Lakhani

Petrelis, Marcle 02/28/09-11/02/2010 P-Matthew & Shavonn Petrelis

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

St. Peter, Alexis (Gibson) 2/2/1980-4/28/2008 P-Karyl St.Peter

Schlechty, Michael 2/5/59 - 12/4/01 P - Nancy & Vernon Schlechty Children - Michael Leann & Morgan Lynn B - Mark and Julie S - Amy

Stallard, Judy Lynn 02/28/1981 - 04/24/1981 M-Patricia (Stallard) Bass F-Joe Stallard

Thompson, Scott 2/18/1985-5/12/2006 M-Martha Thompson

Widoff, Craig 2/2/1951-4/27/2002 M-Lucille Widoff Child-Andrea Widoff Sibs-Preston & Pamela

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 B-Donny Killian



January Anniversaries

Brady, Mark A.
09/27/57 - 01/03/89
M - Margaret Brady
S -Margaret J. Bruner
B - Hayward L. "Bubba"
Brady, Jr.
GP-Wallace & Josephine

Bagley & Wm. & Cinderalla Brady

DeRoche, Cameron Gaines 04/11/89 - 01/25/95 P - Peggy & Karl DeRoche S - Mary Amber DeRoche

Diaz, Alexandra 01/28/98 - 01/28/98 P - Llz & Joaquin Diaz Feierstadt, Keith 01/13/75 - 01/16/94 P - Donna & Sy Feierstadt B - Robert Feierstadt

Garcia, Larry D. 11/8/1983 - 1/10/2007 M-Consuelo Rios

Harris, Joshua 1/22/2004 P-Charles & Debra Harris

Hernandez, Rebecca 02/10/89 - 01/28/91 P - Regla & Pedro Hernandez Horton, Ryan 12/21/1980 - 1/23/2005 M-Sue Horton

Jakenbowski, John 4/18/1968-1/15/2008 M-Marsha Shemela B-Jason Jakenbowski

Kent, Jesse David 1/6/1981-1/7/2001 P-Bonita & Greg Kent Child-Zoe Sibs-Lali & Daniele

GP-Mimi& Grandpa Jim & Grandma Susie

Lane, Jim 9/7/1966 - 1/2/2005 M-Carol Lane

Martini, Michael Gerard 6/18/1964 - 1/26/2009 P-Dianne Ezell & Michael B-Pamela Martini Niece - Destiny Martin

May, Philip 8/1/1975 - 1/1/2000 P-Deryl & Jennifer May

January Anniversaries cont'd

Montagano, Anthony J. "Tony" 12/02/91 - 01/02/01 P-Luli and Jim Montagano S-Alessandra Montagano GP-Henry and Eloisa Valenzuela

Parrish, Scott Douglas 8/9/79 - 1/1/02 P - Doug Parrish and P - Karla & Rick Brown S-Sabbrina Lee Shannon GP - Juanita Bodiford & Ada Smith

Rivera, Damian Elijah 11/19/2001 - 01/10/2002 M-Nicole Rivera

Robinson, Ashley Lauren 05/20/94 - 01/16/96 P - Sara & Tim Robinson S - Morgan Ashley Robinson Rucys, Elliott Joseph 12/19/2007-1/18/2008 P-Pete & Libbie Rucys S-Sydney & Aiden Rucys GP-Wynn,Cheryl,Jodi Elliott and Joe & Sandra Rucys, Nancy Alvis

Sampson, Lois Kathleen 5/4/01 -1/24/14 P - Cindy & Brad Sampson GP - Lucy Sampson, Earl & Darlene Coleman, Irma Harris, & Meemaw "Yvonne"Hendrix U - Wally Stewart

Thompson, Timothy A. 10/27/70 - 01/07/93 P- Bettie & Richard Thompson Walker, Nick 11/12/1983 - 1/11/2001 M - Denise Walker GM - Shirley Walker

Wheeler, Clifford Denmark 11/1/1979 - 1 /18/1996 M-Donna Wheeler B-John, James & Duane GP-Lynn & Marcel Baker



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Ferlita, Vincent 02/25/2011—08/23/2011 P-Russ & Lisa Ferlita Gochenaur, Laci 02/15/91 - 03/23/98 P - Kelli & Chris Gochenaur S - Jacee & Riley Gochenaur GP - Ronald & Clarine Barton M - Pat Dukes

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Woofter, Kimberly Ann "Kimie 2/24/1970 -12/25/2006 P-Julie & Steve Woofter S-Angela Huntley B-Donny Killian



S - Amy

February Anniversaries

Asci, Jason 8/19/1979 - 2/7/2008 F - Brian Asci Children - AJ & Adriana

Castellano, Lina 9/15/1966 - 2/20/2004 P - Sam & Jean Castellano

Engdahl, Andrew 07/15/87 - 02/05/94 P - Rick & Vicky Engdahl S - Stephanie Engdahl B - Joey Engdahl

Feanny, Jonathan 2/22/2005 - 2/22/2005 M - Elham Feanny

Hadley, Katrina 11/17/1961 - 2/4/2006 M - Grace Therman

Harris, Charlotte Marie 1/23/2004 - 2/3/2004 P - Tony & Debra Harris Jacobson, Nathan 11/8/1994 - 2/16/2008 P - Amy & Pete Jacobson

Joseph III, Andrew 3/30/99 - 2/7/14 P - Deanna & Andrew Joseph Jr

Lane, Matthew Alexander 6/22/2001 - 2/13/2003 M - Mary Ann Muschick

S - Nikol

GP - Hieu & David Muschick

Loadholtz, Glenn Edward 11/25/1969 - 2/15/2005 P - George & Jackie Loadholtz S - Gwen Walkowiak

Murphy, Mark Lawrence 12/22/1968 - 2/21/2000 M - Rosalie Baum B - John Murphy Nadir, Peter 4/6/1971 - 2/8/2003 M - Barbar Nadir S - Sue McFowan

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

Parrish, Randy 08/22/57 - 02/10/97 M - Juanita Bodiford B - Dough Parrish

Pittman, Cynthia Marie 1/25/1978 - 2/23/2003 P - Charles & Joan Pittman

Rodriguez, Jaytee 8/25/78 - 2/27/14 P - Angel & Maria Rodriguez



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

Short, Kimberley 10/21/1969 - 2/11/1993 P - Terrance & Sue Short

Supple, Bart Patrick 07/25/59 - 02/14/94 P - Bart & Toni Supple

Thomas, Carol 12/16/1955 - 2/16/2003 M - Betty Thatcher S - Deb Waldfoge, Ellen Williams, Fran Thatcher, Gerri Huston

Willis, Melody 8/10/1971 - 2/27/2010 F - Martin Willis

Wisner, James R. 2/20/1982 - 2/24/1999 P - Wayne & Sharen Wisner S - Crystal Wisner

MYTHCONCEPTIONS

By David Hurley Copied from January 2004 newsletter

Over the past several years I have heard several people make ridiculous and shocking statements regarding parental grief. Most of the time they think they can help, and usually they are well meaning folks. They are comfortable in their ignorance of the realities associated with the loss of a child. Many of the statements have been heard from more than one source so they are common "knowledge." Those inexperienced in this loss have accepted this conventional "wisdom." They want to share it with everyone because it somehow seems logical.

I call these beliefs "*myth*conceptions." They are myths in the truest sense. Passed along from many sources they become part of the fabric of grief to the uninitiated. They are almost misconceptions since people seem to internalize them before they pass them on.

I will share some *myth*conceptions here with a few tasteful (hopefully) comments:

"I didn't want to say anything because I was afraid I would remind you of (fill in the name)." That's really considerate of you. I almost forgot. Ten more minutes... Yeah!!! Right!!! Whatever makes anyone think we could ever forget? They have no idea how long it is before a day begins without the thought of a missing child. The thought is there quickly, but it NEVER goes away.

"I know just how you feel. My dog died last year." Whatever you do, DO NOT SAY THE FIRST THING THAT COMES INTO YOUR MIND. Take a deep breath and explain that you too had dogs and cats (maybe even some fish and birds). Have buried several, and that it does **not** even come close in the level of pain or the lasting feeling of emptiness that accompanies the death of a child.

"Isn't it time you just moved on?" Move on to where? We have moved. You should have seen us the first moment/hour/day/week /month/ year. We are dealing with the grief, but it will never be gone completely. No one completely gets over the death of any loved one. The biggest problem a bereaved parent faces is that this is so backwards. We are supposed to bury our parents. We may bury siblings and many friends. Our children are supposed to bury us. Our brain was never prepared for this possibility.

- "God only gives you what you can bear." Maybe He has me confused with someone much stronger. In fact, if He gave this to me, I have a serious problem with Him. Help through this is welcome, the **need** for the help is not.
- "At least you have other children so it won't hurt as bad." To this I want to respond: "Which of your children are you ready to sacrifice?" People who actually say this have missed the latest dose of oxygen needed for brain function. While we love each of our children differently, we love each of them unconditionally. They do not share our heart in pieces, each one fills our heart completely.
 - "At least they were older so you had enough time with them." Enough time? How much is 'enough' time? As my children age, I realize that I am in a different stage of being a parent, but a parent none the less. I will never have enough time with my children. They are busy (I guess I know where they learned that) and it is often difficult for us to find time to get together.
 - "At least he (or she) was just a baby so you did not get the chance to get attached to them." Once again, this is an obvious lack of oxygen to the brain. We are attached to our children before they are even born. We plan, hope, prepare nurseries, and pick out names, dream of the future together. Early death crushes us beneath the weight of grief.
 - "At least you are young enough to have more children." That classic causes as much hurt as any. When someone says that it would be appropriate to say: "You are also young enough, so give us one of yours and YOU have another one!" Even if we are young enough (I am not) we cannot replace the child that died. If they could be replaced so easily they would all be the same. I know from experience that each child in the house is different and fills the heart in a way no other can.
 - "At least they won't grow up to be on drugs (or in other trouble.)" Well, that certainly makes me feel better. I am sure I would have been such a terrible parent and they would have faced such terrible outside influences that life would have been unbearable. Guess again. I would give anything to have the opportunity to face all of those problems with my child. What we are talking about here is <u>HOPE</u>.
 - "At least they are in a better place." That helped a lot. We try to provide the best place possible and make reservations for that better place for a much later date. The date for that reservation should be a long time after they bury us.

You may notice the last six *myth*conceptions begin with "At least." I think it is safe to say that whenever someone begins a comment with "At least", you can expect that it will hurt more than help. "At least" minimizes the facts and puts you on the defensive if you allow it.

I am certain I have missed a few *myth*conceptions. Awareness is the best defense against these comments. Education of the folks making these comments should be done with care and understanding because their ignorance is truly bliss. We can truly hope they are never "one of us."

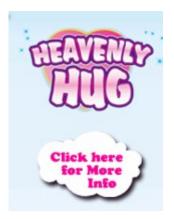
Little Angels

When God calls little children to dwell with Him above, We mortals sometimes question the wisdom of His love. For no heartache compares with the death of one small child, Who does so much to make our world seem wonderful and mild. Perhaps God tires of calling the aged to His fold, So He picks a rosebud before it can grow old. God knows how much we need them, so He takes but few, To make the land of Heaven more beautiful to view. Believing this is difficult – still somehow we must try, The saddest word mankind knows will always be "Good-Bye". So when a little child departs, we who are left behind, Must realize God loves children – angels are hard to find. Author Unknown

ONGOING FUNDRAISERS

We have added a new page to our website and to our newsletter. It will be for ongoing fund raisers. There are already a couple of companies who have an ad and will be making a donation to Bereaved Parents when their items are purchased. If any of you have businesses and would like to advertise, please get in touch with Debbie by calling 813-501-9567 or emailing debbie.bpnews@gmail.com.

Please check out the first two companies who are participating. There is more information on our site.



Please check this page out. The link on our website will take you to their website where you can order one of these very well made, soft, beautiful angels with long arms and a Velcro closure so they can actually hug you. Be sure to go through the link on our webpage so that Bereaved Parents gets the generous amount being donated with each purchase.

Thanks to those who have ordered from Heavenly Hug. We appreciate your support.

http://www.bpusatampabay.com/



You can get to Deb's Soy Candles, Cards and More through the BP website. You can also go directly to www.debssoycandles.com . Candles make a great gift and with the holidays approaching, consider ordering custom soy candles. You choose the container, color and fragrance.



Listen to "Hope, Healing & Help" every Saturday from 11:00 til noon Pacific Time on KFIA 710AM Sacramento or www.kfia.com. Can't listen in at that time? All of their programs are available to listen to on their website, www.hopehealinghelp.com.

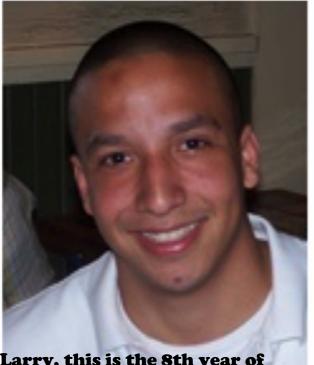














Larry, this is the 8th year of missing you... you will be alive eternally in the memories of those who love you.





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.

His memory is as dear today as in the hour he passed away.

Unknown

Address Correction Requested

October - Movember 2013 POSTMASTER - <u>Dated Material</u> Please do not delay.

The Bereaved Parents of the USA Parents of the USA Posteriors.

Brandon, FL 33508