



Tampa Bay Chapter

P.O. Box 3226
Tampa, Florida
33601-3226

www.bpusatampabay.org

February 2007



MEETING INFORMATION

Regular Monthly SUNDAY Meeting

Sunday, February 11, 6:30 to 8:30

(We normally have short separate break out sessions for Fathers and Mothers)

St. Joseph's Hospital

Medical Arts Building, Auditorium

3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Call Linda Delk at 813-661-0680

for directions or information.

Regular Monthly DAYTIME Meeting

Riverview/Gibson/Brandon areas

(held the second Friday each month)

Friday, February 9, 10:00 a.m. to noon

First United Methodist Church of Brandon

In the Office Building, Koinonia Room

120 North Knights Avenue, Brandon

Call Kathy Simone at 813-653-1717

for directions or information.

Regular Monthly BRADENTON Meeting

(held the third Monday each month)

Monday, February 19, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Braden River Baptist Church, 5412 SR 64

I-75 to SR 64 (Exit 220)

Melissa Coxwell at 941-708-7052

Regular Monthly PLANT CITY Meeting

(held the fourth Thursday of the month)

Thursday, February 22, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

South Florida Baptist Hospital

301 N. Alexander Street, Plant City

in the Community Conference Room

Call Sue Bowditch at 813-661-9334

for directions or information.

We understand how difficult it is to attend your first meeting. Feelings can be overwhelming; we have all experienced them and know how important it is to take the first step. Our stories may be different, but we are alike in that we all hurt deeply. We can not take your pain away, but we can offer friendship and support. Bring a friend or relative to lean on if you wish! We need not grieve alone! See you next month.

Upcoming Events

Free

A special FREE performance by Alan Pedersen

"Angels Are Forever Tour"

Saturday, March 3, 2007, Tampa, Florida

(See Page 4 details)

Angel of Hope meeting, Monday, February 5, 7:00 p.m.,

NEW LOCATION—I-HOP Restaurant,

11710 Morris Bridge Road,

Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Angel of Hope, Crop for Hope

Saturday, March 10

(See details Page 2)

Angel of Hope, Spring Tea

Saturday, April 18

(See details Page 2)

You are invited!

There are countless ways to help bereaved parents survive their grief. This event will be through music.

The Tampa Chapter of the Bereaved Parents of the USA Cordially invites you to a Free Special Presentation

by

Alan Pedersen

"Angels Are Forever Tour"

Saturday, March 3, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Tampa, Florida

*St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Arts Bldg.
(New Parking Garage is OPEN!)*

This is a FREE event and a light refreshment reception will follow so you can talk to Alan!

{See Page 4 for more information about Alan Pedersen}

Free

Please RSVP!

Free

If you are planning on attending the free Alan Pedersen Performance, please call 813-832-3175 or 813-335-9218, and leave a message with your name and how many family and friends will be attending in your party.

We want to be sure to have enough seating and refreshments for all that attend!

Thank you!

Chapter News

ANGEL OF HOPE UPDATE www.angelofhopetampabay.org

Efforts to bring an Angel of Hope Memorial Garden to the Tampa Bay Area were announced at the 2003 BP/USA Annual Candle Light. We agreed to have a monthly committee meeting (unless a holiday weekend)! Please call Beverley Hurley for more information 813-832-3175. We are still working on fund raisers!



SPRING TEA

Our annual Spring Tea will be held **Saturday, April 28, 2007**, at the Comfort Inn at 275 and Busch Blvd. Plan now to reserve a table for you and your friends. We will have a guest speaker, entertainment, door prizes and a raffle! More information to follow!

*Please join us at our next **Crop for Hope:***

Saturday, March 17th, 2007

10 am.- 2 pm

Children's Board of Hillsborough County

(Historic Ybor- Corner of Nebraska & Palm Ave.)

1002 E. Palm Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605

This is a great opportunity to start a hobby in scrap booking or work on completing current album projects. Plus, you can help support the Angel of Hope Memorial Garden!! Bring your friends and look forward to getting great ideas and motivation.

Please send your \$15 registration fee to:

3815 Olde Lanark Dr.; Land O' Lakes FL 34638

*no later than: **Saturday, March 10th***

*(Checks should be written to **Angel of Hope**)*

Please contact Gina Casal if you have any questions :

H. (813)746-4796 C. (813)495-7539

GinaCasal15@tampabay.rr.com

www.mycmsite.com/ginacasal

We hope to see you there!!!

Cartridge Buy Back Program to benefit the Angel of Hope!

Please bring your empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges to any of our Angel of Hope or BP/USA meetings. Barbara Dietrich has volunteered to collect these and turn them in for a refund to benefit the Angel of Hope or call her at 813-340-9120.

Telephone Friends

Need to talk? 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) 654-1381

Ron Ellington (Suicide/Grandparent) (727) 410-2308

Serena Graves (Sibling Contact) (727) 239-2471

Violeta "Cookie" Fernandez (813) 996-4281
(Se Habla Espano)

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

Candlelight Donations

Tommy & Barbara Dietrich
In loving memory of their daughter
Jamie Rachel Dietrich
11/20/1977-11/17/2004

Patricia Stallard Bass
In loving memory of her daughter
Judy Lynn Stallard
2/28/1981-4/24/1981

Jeanne O'Neil
In Loving memory of her son
Clark O'Neil
9/1/1962-10/24/2004

Jeff & Maritza Patet
In loving memory of their son
Nathan Garbriel Patet
12/18/1988-6/10/1990

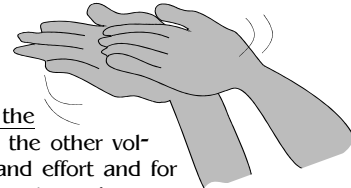
Love Gifts-A Thoughtful Way to Remember

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.



Thank you!!

As Chairperson of our local Tampa Bay Chapter, I want to personally **THANK** all of the steering committee members and the other volunteers for their hard work, time and effort and for their unending "labor or love" all year long in memory of their own children, grandchildren and brothers and sisters. We would not have a Chapter here in Tampa, a newsletter, website, library, facilitators at our meetings, or outreach to the community if it was not for these dedicated people!



Beverley Hurley
Linda Delk
Bill Schneider
Ron Ellington

Kathy Simone
Dave Simone
Charles L'Homme
Sue Bowditch

Thanks to all of You!!!



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	Coxwell, Kasey 2/15/1996-2/17/1996 Melissa & Andy Coxwell	Jackson, April Dawn 02/16/77 - 01/28/96 P - Dan Jackson	Stallard, Judy Lynn 02/28/1981 - 04/24/1981 M-Patricia (Stallard) Bass F-Joe Stallard
Beatty, Christopher Ray 02/08/80 - 02/10/80 M - Dana Baker	Feanny, Jonathan 2/22/2005 M-Elham Feanny	Owens, Kenny Dwayne 6/27/1961-2/25/2005 P-Jimmy & Sylvia Mingo S-Tina Jernigan & Donna	Stone, Casey Taylor 02/07/94 - 03/08/94 P - Lynn & Todd Stone S - Haley Stone
Blanchard, Eric Anthony 2/19/1976 - 8/3/1998 P - Barbara & Wayne Blanchard S - Lisa, Tammy, Dawn B - Chris & Michael Daughter - Samantha	Gochenaur, Laci 02/15/91 - 03/23/98 P - Kelli & Chris Gochenaur S - Jacee & Riley Gochenaur GP - Ronald & Clarine Barton M - Pat Dukes	Parker Richard Wm. 2/5/81 - 2/5/81 P - James & Kim Parker B - James D. Parker II	Swaffor, Kim 2/24/1970-12/25/2006 M-Julie Woffter
Blazowich, Tony 2/20/1984-4/5/2006 P-Marianne & Dan Blazowich	Hafford, Lauren Elizabeth 2/17/1977 - 4/13/1999 P - Gwen & John Hafford S - Lindsay & Lesley Hafford	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	Victa, April Melody 2/20/1976 - 9/17/1998 P-Ron & Suzie Giles
Burger, Jeffrey Robin 02/05/61 - 04/20/97 M - Cecelia Burger B - Hal & Curt Burger	Harris, Eric 2/4/1984 - 9/12/2003 P-Mike & Pam Harris B-Mark	Schlechty, Michael 2/5/59 - 12/4/01 P - Nancy & Vernon Schlechty Children - Michael Leann & Morgan Lynn B - Mark and Julie S - Amy	Widoff, Craig 2/2/1951 - 4/27/2002 M-Lucille Widoff Daughter-Andrea Widoff B-Preston Widoff S-Pamela Saxon
Caldwell-Faught, Thomas E. 2/9/1997 - 5/24/2003 M-Shannon Caldwell	Head, Tyler Wade 2/21/1995 - 7/15/2004 M-Tammy Hill GF-German Toloff	Smith, Dominique 2/26/1999 - 2/26/1999 P - Troy and Latanya Smith	Wisner, James R. 2/20/1982 - 2/24/1999 P - Wayne & Sharen Wisner S - Crystal Wisner
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		Wolf, Jacqueline Deanne 2/15/1984 - 3/16/2000 P- David & Debbie Wolf



February Anniversaries

Beatty, Christopher Ray 02/08/80 - 02/10/80 M - Dana Baker	Hutchcraft, Sharon 8/21/1935 - 2/12/1997 M-Lois Hutchcraft	Parrish, Randy 08/22/57 - 02/10/97 M - Juanita Bodiford B - Dough Parrish	Smith, Dominique 2/26/1999 - 2/26/1999 P - Troy and Latanya Smith
Burney, Trevin Sean 06/04/78 - 02/04/97 M - Georgia Burney F - Willie Burney S - Renae & Janae Burney B - Arkiva Burney N - Robbie & Marquiz Burney	Lane, Matthew Alexander 6/22/2001 - 2/13/2003 M-Mary Ann Muschick S-Nikol B-Devvin GP-Hieu & David Muschick	Pittman, Cynthia Marie 1/25/1978 - 2/23/2003 P-Charles & Joan Pittman	Supple, Bart Patrick 07/25/59 - 02/14/94 P - Bart & Toni Supple
Castellano, Lina 9/15/1966 - 2/20/2004 P-Sam & Jean Castellano	Loadholtz, Glenn 11/25/1969 - 2/15/2005 P-George & Jackie Loadholtz S-Gwen Walkowlak	Quincannon, Mark Milton 10/5/1981 - 2/17/1996 P - Alana & Joe Quincannon S - Emi I y & Shannon GP - Walter Milton GM - Margaret Quincannon	Thompson, Phillip John "P.J." 5/26/1966 - 2/7/1993 M-Mary Thompson
Engdahl, Andrew 07/15/87 - 02/05/94 P - Rick & Vicky Engdahl S - Stephanie Engdahl B - Joey Engdahl	Murphy, Mark Lawrence 12/22/1968 - 2/21/2000 M - Rosalie Baum B - John Murphy	Raynaud, Jamisen Liberty 12/11/1980-2/19/2005 P-Fred & jan Raynaud S-Nicole Raynaud GP-Jim & Janet DePorre	Wells, Aaron 05/11/81 - 02/11/87 P-Paul & Carol Wells B-Sтивен Wells S-Teresa Amundrud & Jes- sica Minnick
Hadley, Katrina 11/17/1961 - 2/4/2006 M-Grace Therman	Nadir, Peter 4/6/1971 - 2/8/2003 M-Barbar Nadir S-Sue McFowan	Schmedlen, Nathan 10/27/1968-2/2/1990 M-Rose Schmedlen	Wisner, James R. 2/20/1982 - 2/24/1999 P - Wayne & Sharen Wisner S - Crystal Wisner
Harris, Charlotte Marie 1/23/2004 - 2/3/2004 P-Tony & Debra Harris	Parker Richard Wm. 2/5/81 - 2/5/81 P - James & Kim Parker B - James D. Parker II	Short, Kimberley 10/21/1969 - 2/11/1993 P - Terrance & Sue Short	

*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.*

Alan Pedersen has been performing for more than 25 years. An accomplished singer and award winning songwriter, he spent several years writing and recording music in Nashville, Tennessee. Alan has had several songs recorded by other artists. His writing has not been limited to music, he has written commercials, radio news copy, and collaborations for television shows and other comedy projects. His performing credits are numerous as well. Alan has worked as an actor, stand-up comedian, keynote speaker/emcee, and in radio as a network news and sports reporter for Westwood One Communications. Currently living in Englewood, Colorado, Alan is the father of two teenage boys and an angel.

In August of 2001 Alan's life took a tragic turn. His 18-year-old and only daughter Ashley was killed in an automobile accident. This tragedy would take his life in a direction he never imagined. Struggling for months to find answers and trying to cope with tremendous pain and anger, he entered a spiritually based grief program in Denver. He credits this program with saving his life, and inspiring him to honor his daughter's life by helping others. In July of 2003, Alan released a CD of songs he has written about his walk through the valley of grief, titled Ashley's Songbook. Alan now helps others by sharing his story of faith and hope. His message is simple; grief and loss offer the opportunity for ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. He believes that healing begins when we once again give of ourselves by helping others. Alan speaks and plays his music for churches and grief organizations around the country. In 2005 he is planning the release of a new music CD, A Little Farther Down The Road, and a book titled Growing Through Grief. Alan speaks and plays his music for churches and grief organization around the country and on Saturday, March 3, 2007, he will be in Tampa performing his music for us! Location to be announced at a later date!

EverAshley Music

<http://www.everashleymusic.com/>

LISTEN WITH YOUR HEART

By Helen Steiner Rice

Memories are a treasure
Time cannot take away...
So may you be surrounded
By happy ones today.
May all the love and tenderness
Of golden years well spent
Come back today to fill your heart
With beauty and content...
And may you walk down Memory Lane
And meet the child you love.
For while you cannot see them
They'll be watching from above...
And if you trust your dreaming
Your faith will make it true...
And if you listen with your heart...
They'll come and talk with you.
So for their sake be happy
And show them that their love...
Has proven strong and big enough
to reach down from above.
And you will never walk alone
When memory's door swings wide
For you'll find that your beloved child
IS ALWAYS AT YOUR SIDE.

*"The less we have, the more
we give. Seems absurd, but
it's the logic of love."*

Mother Teresa

I KNOW YOU BY HEART

*Written By Alan Pedersen
Copyright 2002*

There's time and space between where we are and
where we've been

I grieve for what I cannot have or ever hold again
Just when I think I'm all alone cause you're so far
away

It suddenly occurs to me I see you everyday

You're that hint of inspiration urging me to carry on
A boost of needed energy when all my strength is
gone

You're a single shining ray of hope when faith is
hard to find

And twenty-twenty vision when grief has left me
blind

You're a lonely roads companion when it's hard to
find a friend

A much needed reminder that good-bye is not the
end

You're calm and reassurance when I scream for
answers, why

A gentle voice that whispers daddy it's okay to cry

You're part of everything I am and all I'll ever be
The one who when I'm at my worst still sees the
best in me

And though you're just outside my reach we are
never far apart

I recognize you everywhere child I know you by
heart.

Remembered Valentines

*Little hands, dimpled and fair,
you're pasting lace on chair and hair
and everything else within your reach.
But oh, the smile that lights your face
when you bring your valentine and place
it in my hands: Look, Mom; for you.*

You pause to watch for my delight.

*I'll never know as fair a sight
as seeing love shine in your eyes.*

I hope as age creeps up on me

*I'll never lose my memory,
for that's where I still play with you.*

It's not just that you're grown; you're gone!

*Except in memories and dreams at dawn
of you and us and happy times*

*by Shirley Ottman
BP/USA North Texas
From "The Slender Thread"*

AND WHEN WE HAVE
REMEMBERED EVERYTHING,
WE GROW AFRAID OF
WHAT WE MAY FORGET.
A FACE, A VOICE, A SMILE?
A BIRTHDAY? ANNIVERSARY?
NO NEED TO FEAR
FORGETTING BECAUSE --
THE HEART REMEMBERS
ALWAYS.

~ SASCHA WAGNER

VALENTINE'S DAY

DID YOU KNOW:
WHEN YOU TRULY LISTEN
TO EACH OTHER,
YOU SAY
I LOVE YOU.

SASCHA WAGNER

I'M THERE INSIDE YOUR HEART

Author Unknown

Right now I'm in a different place,
And though we seem apart,
I'm closer than I ever was...
I'm there inside your heart.

I'm with you when you greet each day
And while the sun shines bright,
I'm there to share the sunsets, too...
I'm with you every night.

I'm with you when the times are good
To share a laugh or two,
And if a tear should start to fall...
I'll still be there for you.

And when that day arrives
That we no longer are apart,
I'll smile and hold you close to me...
Forever in my heart.



Time does restore to us
our quiet joy in the
spiritual presence of those
we love, so that we learn to
remember without pain,
and to speak without chok-
ing up with tears. But all
our lives we will be subject
to the sudden small re-
minders that will bring all
the old loss back over-
whelmingly.

~ Elizabeth Watson



"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 wel-
come the tears of remembrance... as a
sunshower 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



THE SPACE BETWEEN THOUGHTS

You are no longer in my thoughts constantly.
You are now dwelling in the space between thoughts,
a part of my every moment,
whether joyful or sad or in between,
or both simultaneously.
I walk, talk, work, play, and you surround me.
You are in the sparkle of my smile
and the wisdom in my thinking,
the rainbow circles in my life.
As I breathe and live, you breathe and live.
As I learn, you are teaching,
not only me, but all those who are in my life today.
You are a blessing, Dear Child, for all you were,
and all you are,
and all you forever will be.

~Genessee Bourdeau Gentry



Together By: Emery Nester

A man was walking in the wilderness. He became lost and was unable to find his way out. Another man met him. "Sir, I am lost, can you show me the way out of this wilderness?"

"No," said the stranger, "I cannot show you the way out of the wilderness, but maybe if I walk with you, we can find it together."

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.



Volunteers Needed

Sunday, February 18, 2007

Please join us to start off the Gasparilla Classic Marathon and help earn a donation for our Chapter. These funds help our chapter to print and mail our newsletters, P.O. Box fee, postage, and library books and brochures to help the newly bereaved by educating them about their grief journey.

Please call Beverley Hurley at 813-832-3175 to volunteer and receive a Free Gasparilla Marathon Tee Shirt!!



The Bereaved Parents of the USA
P.O. Box 156
Gibsonton, FL 33534

February 2007

POSTMASTER - Dated Material

Please do not delay.



2007 National BP/USA Gathering July 13, 14 and 15, 2007



Please join us for the 12th Annual BP/USA National Gathering July 13 to 15, 2007 being held in Downer's Grove, Illinois at The Doubletree Hotel (620 971 2000) just a taxi ride from either Chicago airport (approx \$35 PER taxi). We have reasonable room rates of \$89 for 2, \$99 for 3 or more at the hotel, with free parking. All rooms are suites. Meal package available, which is not-dividable, is \$118. The hotel provides a free shuttle to the commuter trains which makes sightseeing in the city very manageable. Registration forms will be available by the end of February; in the meantime, call the hotel and make your room reservations and be sure to tell them you are with the BEREAVED PARENTS OF THE USA GATHERING.

If you have questions about the BP/USA Gathering, please call 630 279 6148 or email Donna Corrigan, Gathering Chairperson at Bpwindsofhealing@aol.com There will be more information available including registration forms on the BP/USA National website at www.bereavedparentsusa.org Thank you!

