



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, February 14, 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, February 12, 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, February 22, 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tampa Bay Chapter Steering Committee Meeting **We need you!**

Please call and learn more about how you can help
plan meetings and events.

Call Beverley for information 813-832-3175



Volunteers Needed

Sunday, February 28, 2010

Please help us to pass out water and Gatorade to the runners in the Gasparilla Classic Marathon and help earn a nice donation for our Chapter. These funds help our chapter to print and mail our newsletters, pay for P.O. Box fee, postage, library books and brochures to help the newly bereaved in our community by educating them about their grief journey.

Please call **Charles L'Homme after 5 p.m. at 813-689-2215** to volunteer and receive a Free Gasparilla Marathon Tee Shirt and get front row seats for the race!!

February 2010

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

Kimberly Ann "Kimie"

Michael Schlechty

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 2010						

Silk Roses for Susan

by Ginger Elwood, Knoxville, TN



I took silk roses to your grave today. Valentine's Day is coming and you loved red roses.

I sat there awhile and remembered your last Valentine's Day. I kissed you and gave you candy with money stuck in the top. You tilted your head in that certain way you had and smiled, pleased at the gift.

Sweet daughter, I miss you so. There was still much of life to share. Nineteen is way too young for dying. I would buy fresh roses for you every-day if I could have you back. But I can't change the ending. So I took silk roses to your grave today, And cried fresh tears instead.

He Never Gave Us A Valentine

By Kathy Slief, Tulsa, OK

He never gave us a valentine,
He never learned how to write.
He never gave us a valentine,
Although some day, I thought that he might.
No long-stemmed roses in a white florist box,
But some freshly picked dandelions and a fistful of rocks!
No heart-shaped package of chocolate-covered candies,
But a mud pie offered with little hands all sandy.
No pearls for me, no necktie for Dad,
But the bear hugs he gave were the best to be had.
He never gave us a valentine
On a red paper doily with crayoned art.
He never gave us a valentine.
He merely gave us his heart!

Chapter News



ANGEL OF HOPE NEWS
www.angelofhopetampabay.com

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

Memorial Bricks
Engraved memorial bricks still available.
Please see our website for brick order form. Dedication of
newly ordered engraved bricks will be held periodically.

Annual Spring Tea—Saturday, April 24, 2010
The 2010 Tea is schedule for the last Saturday in April.
Mark your calendars as more information will be forthcoming! We would greatly appreciate raffle and silent auction
items donated.

Riverside Park Playground and AOH Memorial Garden
Although this is the location the committee decided on,
we are grateful that the Temple Terrace City Council is
allowing us to use their City property for our garden.
Please know that we are honored and privileged to use
this space even to the delight of having small children
playing in the playground curious as to what the Angel of
Hope is all about. Please be courteous and explain our
purpose, because with knowledge people usually will be
more respectful. Please show kindness and respect to all.

Refreshments



Some of us like to remember our child’s birthday or the
anniversary of his or her death by bringing a cake or cook-
ies 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!

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

Candlelight Donations



Our special thanks to those sending dona-
tions to help make our Candle Light Re-
membrance Service a special evening for
our children:



In Remembrance of **Michael V. Schlechty**
Donated by Nancy Schlechty

In Remembrance of **Eric Harris**
Donated by Mike and Pam Harris

In Remembrance of **Geoffrey Ware Rayburn**
Donated by Sue Moss

In Remembrance of **Brendolyn Joyce Baker**
Donated by Rebeckah Mitchell

In Remembrance of **Jozsef Varga**
Donated by Carmen Varga

Love Gifts

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 dona-
tions help us reach out in many ways, including the preparation and mail-
ing of the newsletter.

Donated by Tom and Judy Sluder
In loving memory of their children
Kathryn Elizabeth Sluder
8/31/1966-3/16/2002
Keith Joseph Sluder
4/25/1964-5/11/2006
Theresa Elaine Sluder
10/14/1961-11/17/2008

Donated by Teresa Farmer
In loving memory of her son
Ty Kristan Robertson
2/4/1979 - 3/29/2003

Donated by George & Jackie Loadholtz
In loving memory of their son
Glenn Loadholtz
11/25/1969 - 2/15/2005

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

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
my at 813-832-3175 or bee.hurley@gte.net.

I want to personally THANK our volunteer librarians:
Tommy & Barbara Dietrich, Sunday Evening Group
Janice Falcon, Plant City Group
Lori Scragg, Daytime Group



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	Feanny, Jonathan 2/22/2005 M-Elham Feanny	Kowall, Spc. Corey 2/1/1989-9/20/2009 M-Kelly Speight S-Kayla Tackett & Kristen Kowall GM-Marty & Marshall Schoeff	Smith, Dominique 2/26/1999 - 2/26/1999 P - Troy and Latanya Smith
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	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	Stallard, Judy Lynn 02/28/1981 - 04/24/1981 M-Patricia (Stallard) Bass F-Joe Stallard
Blazowich, Tony 2/20/1985-4/5/2006 P-Dan & Marianne Blazowich	Hafford, Lauren Elizabeth 2/17/1977 - 4/13/1999 P - Gwen & John Hafford S - Lindsay & Lesley Hafford	St. Peter, Alexis 2/2/1980-4/28/2008 P-Karyl St. Peter	Thompson, Scott 2/18/1985-5/12/2006 M-Martha Thompson
Bridgmon, Matt 2/11/1978-11/4/2006 M-Jean Bridgmon	Harris, Eric Michael 2/4/1984 - 9/12/2003 P-Mike & Pam Harris B-Mark GM-Joan & Verna Harris	Schlechty, Michael 2/5/59 - 12/4/01 P - Nancy & Vernon Schlechty Children - Michael Leann & Morgan Lynn B - Mark and Julie S - Amy	Wisner, James R. 2/20/1982 - 2/24/1999 P - Wayne & Sharen Wisner S - Crystal Wisner
Brown, Joshua Aaron 2/3/1982-5/8/2008 M-Tami Porter	Head, Tyler Wade 2/21/1995 - 7/15/2004 M-Tammy Hill F-Jerry Toloff GF-German Toloff	Woofter, Kimberly Ann "Kimie" 2/24/1970 - 12/25/2006 P-Julie & Steve Woofter S-Angela Huntley & Donny B-Donny Killian Children—Michael & Dystin	
Burger, Jeffrey Robin 02/05/61 - 04/20/97 M - Cecelia Burger B - Hal & Curt Burger	Hernandez, Rebecca 02/10/89 - 01/28/91 P - Regla & Pedro Hernandez		
Caldwell-Faught, Thomas E. 2/9/1997 - 5/24/2003 M-Shannon Caldwell	Kenefick, Gunnery Sgt. Aaron Michael 2/5/1978-9/8/2009 M-Susan Price Sibs-Jacque & Jade GM- Carol Price		
Carter, Cassandra D. "Casie" 2/22/1982 - 9/28/1999 P-Ted & Gayle Carter B-Justin Carter GP-Luna Carter	Kelly, Emmanuel Maurice 2/27/1987-10/25/2006 M-Cynthia Aunt-Deitra Luropier Cousin-Angel Kelly		
Coxwell, Kasey 2/15/1996-2/17/1996 P-Any & Melissa Coxwell			



Sometimes our light goes out, but is blown into flame by an encounter with another human being. Each of us owes the deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this inner light.

Albert Schweitzer

February Anniversaries

Asci, Jason 8/19/1979-2/7/2008 F-Brian Asci	Murphy, Mark Lawrence 12/22/1968 - 2/21/2000 M - Rosalie Baum B - John Murphy	<div>There's A Reason</div> <div>For every pain that we must bear, For every burden, every care, There's a Reason. For every grief that bows the head, For every teardrop that is shed, There's a Reason. For every hurt, for every plight, For every lonely pain racked night, There's a Reason. But if we trust God as we should It all will work out for our good. "He Knows The Reason"</div>
Castellano, Lina 9/15/1966 - 2/20/2004 P-Sam & Jean Castellano	Nadir, Peter 4/6/1971 - 2/8/2003 M-Barbar Nadir S-Sue McFowan	
Coxwell, Kasey 2/15/1996-2/17/1996 P-Any & Melissa Coxwell	Owens, Kenny Dwayne 6/27/1961-2/25/2005 P-Jimmy & Sylvia Mingo S-Tina Jernigan & Donna	
Engdahl, Andrew 07/15/87 - 02/05/94 P - Rick & Vicky Engdahl S - Stephanie Engdahl B - Joey Engdahl	Parrish, Randy 08/22/57 - 02/10/97 M - Juanita Bodiford B - Dough Parrish	
Feanny, Jonathan 2/22/2005 M-Elham Feanny	Pittman, Cynthia Marie 1/25/1978 - 2/23/2003 P-Charles & Joan Pittman	<div>Three red hearts with arrows pointing right.</div>
Hadley, Katrina 11/17/1961 - 2/4/2006 M-Grace Therman	Schmedlen Nathan 10/27/1968-2/2/1990 M-Rose Schmedlen	
Harris, Charlotte Marie 1/23/2004 - 2/3/2004 P-Tony & Debra Harris	Short, Kimberley 10/21/1969 - 2/11/1993 P - Terrance & Sue Short	
Jacobson, Nathan 11/9/1994-2/16/2008 P-Amy and Pete Jacobson	Supple, Bart Patrick 07/25/59 - 02/14/94 P - Bart & Toni Supple	
Lane, Matthew Alexander 6/22/2001 - 2/13/2003 M-Mary Ann Muschick S-Nikol B-Devin GP-Hieu & David Muschick	Wisner, James R. 2/20/1982 - 2/24/1999 P - Wayne & Sharen Wisner S - Crystal Wisner	<div>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.</div>
Loadholtz, Glenn 11/25/1969 - 2/15/2005 P-George & Jackie Loadholtz S-Gwen Walkowlak		

Gregg Lalis spoke this year at our annul Candle Light Ceremony and this is what he shared*(Amended as follows for inclusion in the BPUSA Newsletter.)***"I feel this much better Timmy!"**

I wrote an email to family and friends on July 12th 2001. I wrote five paragraphs about who my 'almost' 5 yr old son was – who he (Timmy!) was before he died on July 11th 2001. The five paragraphs caused a waterfall of tears when written and eight years later the same waterfall of tears came when shared at the candle lighting ceremony this past month. To get or feel a 'glimpse' of my pain I include a single thought from that email:

"His last task on Sunday July 8th (even though he was feeling a little sick) was to deliver his birthday party invitations to his neighborhood friends. He asked us at least ten times: How long until my birthday Mommy? How long is three weeks daddy?"

Well Timmy, let me tell you where I am at today:

I've felt excruciating pain that never did I think imaginable. This thing, the grief process, I agree is many steps - and often it is two steps forward, one step backward. I've taken hundreds of these over 8 years. Can I tell others now what I think you would say to them?

"Thank you to the Bereaved Parents Tampa Bay Chapter for reaching out and helping my parents through a time of extreme pain. Continue the hard work to help all the Moms and Dads that come your way. My Mommy and Daddy remember me!"

Timmy, you know the hundreds of steps I've taken, I can only talk now of the big steps. I've survived, I'm still standing – I can earn a living, two big steps forward. I accomplished this by keeping expectations low.

I got divorced, a painful, sad, and interesting huge step backward.

Today I am stepping forward, expectations are high again. I am taking risks knowing that there will be reward or some pain (I can handle pain today – I think) when my small attempts to make my life better fail. **I feel for the first time just this year that I have the right to be happy again.** This year has been a great year. Feelings wise – I have been richly rewarded. At times, I can say I've never felt happier moments in my life than those I have experienced this year. My year has been awesome. You know for me that a worst fear happened when I lost you and now my biggest fear is that you will be forgotten.

The Candle Lighting ceremony for me, much like during the recent Angel of Hope Park ceremony, I remember you as though it was just yesterday, I am taking right now a treasured and highly emotional step back into the past.

Your Mommy said the following 4 years ago when she spoke during a Candle Lighting ceremony, I will repeat it. You loved trains and as such one of my favorite movies is the Polar Express. Towards the end of the movie, the train conductor says to the boy after the journey is complete "One thing about Trains ... It doesn't matter where they are going ... what matters is deciding to get on!"

When you came out of an incoherent state, the last thing you said to me was "I feel this much better Daddy" with a smile on your face and arms/hands spread as far apart as possible. I didn't realize it then – maybe that was God sending me the message – have faith, I will watch over your child. All I could do then and for the past eight years was ask God to give you back to me. Is this another big step Timmy ??? I am asking God today to watch over you. I am just beginning to think to ask God to help me have some faith in this and in everything I do.

Well Timmy, even these are happy tears today. "I'm feeling this much Better too", with a smile on my face and arms/hands spread as far apart as possible.



There is light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering, too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.

Mother Teresa

YOU'RE GONNA MISS THIS

By Trace Adkins

She was staring out the window of their SUV
Complaining, saying "I can't wait to turn 18"
She said "I'll make my own money,
and I'll make my own rules"
Mamma put the car in park out there
In front of the school
Then she kissed her head and said
"I was just like you"

You're gonna miss this
You're gonna want this back
You're gonna wish these days
hadn't gone by so fast
These are some good times
So take a good look around
You may not know it now
But you're gonna miss this

Before she knows it she's a brand new bride
In a one-bedroom apartment,
and her daddy stops by
He tells her "It's a nice place"
She says "It'll do for now"
Starts talking about babies and buying a house
Daddy shakes his head and says "Baby,
just slow down"

'Cause you're gonna miss this
You're gonna want this back
You're gonna wish these days
hadn't gone by so fast
These are some good times
So take a good look around
You may not know it now
But you're gonna miss this

Five years later there's a plumber
workin' on the water heater
Dog's barkin', phone's ringin'
One kid's cryin', one kid's screamin'
And she keeps apologizin'
He says "They don't bother me.
I've got 2 babies of my own.
One's 36, one's 23.
Huh, it's hard to believe, but...

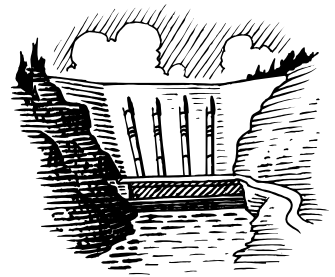
You're gonna miss this
You're gonna want this back
You're gonna wish these days
hadn't gone by so fast
These are some good times
So take a good look around
You may not know it now
But you're gonna miss this"
(repeat)

<http://www.cmt.com/videos/trace-adkins/217378/youre-gonna-miss-this.jhtml>

These lyrics were submitted by Jena Nylec to the BP/USA Hinsdale Chapter, Illinois, in loving memory of her daughters, Anna, Diane, Joanna, and Emily with the following note: *"I don't know about you but I can sure relate to the following song lyrics. What I wouldn't do to have our little home back, to be excited for a new baby coming, for a broken water heater in my very own home that I don't have anymore, for crying children, for long slow days...all with my now deceased 9 year old daughter Emily and her deceased father. I was 30 when we lost our triplet daughters to prematurity, 36 when I lost Emily, and 38 when I lost my ex-husband, whom I still loved and wish I could reminisce with. And I'm only 40 now. Yes, I'm gonna miss this."*

A River Runs Through It

by Margaret Brownley



Grief has a way of damming up inside and cutting us off from everything and everyone we care about until we can no longer receive or give joy. We block out the good in our lives and focus solely on the bad. We stop reaching out to others, and eventually they stop reaching out to us. Once the river of humanity stops flowing through our lives, we stagnate in depression.

How do we get things flowing again? It's not easy, because it requires that we give up something, maybe even a part of ourselves.

Having already suffered a tremendous loss, who can blame us for not wanting to give up something more? Yet, giving up and giving back is the first step to unblocking the dam keeping us from the good things in life.

For me, this meant turning my son's bedroom into a guestroom. It was a painful decision, but the room was tearing me apart. Sometimes, I would leave the door ajar, trying to pretend everything was okay. At other times, I slammed the door shut, unable to stand the empty silence.

Though it was difficult to strip the walls and furnishings from the room and start afresh, it was a necessary part of the healing process.

Our newly decorated guestroom has since provided comfort to a young mother nursing a sick son, sheltered a troubled friend, and nurtured various family members in need of special care.

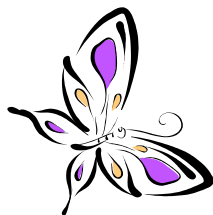
The flow of humanity is a much more fitting tribute to my son than an empty room, for he loved people, and would have been the first to give up his room to a friend in need.

Where are the dams in your life? What are you holding on to? Is it the pain? The loneliness? Are you holding on to your loved one's possessions? Let go of the anger and bitterness; Let the river flow.

You gain strength,
courage and confidence
by every experience
in which you really stop to look fear
in the face. You are able to say to yourself,
"I have lived through the horror. I can take the
next thing that comes along." You must do the
thing you think you cannot do.

Eleanor Roosevelt

To Celebrate the Life of
“Kimie”
February 24, 1970 to December 25, 2006



“If There Was a Way”

If there was a way I could come back and tell you,
 I am sorry for all your grief and pain,
 If there was a way I could change what I did,
 to stop your tears from falling like rain,
 If there was a way I could undo the hurt
 I've caused you to suffer through,
 I would do it in an instant...
 because I really do love you.

But I can't...I took my life because,
 at the time, I was unable to cope,
 I felt empty... void of all emotions.
 No anger... no fear... no hope.
 Depression was the killer,
 not you or what you did or didn't do,
 it wasn't anyone's fault except my own.
 You need to believe that part is true.

You were loving...you were stern,
 you were just...at times... unjust as well.
 You were right... you were wrong...
 that's human nature...I was victimized
 by a Depression sent from hell.
 You couldn't see the signs, if you could,
 the choice wouldn't have been mine.
 So I had to keep my feelings from you.
 That's how suicide is designed.
 I had faith and trusted in you,
 I only wish I would have trusted more in God.
 Then maybe I wouldn't have felt so hopeless.
 Maybe I would have beaten the odds.

Still... I want you to know our Father above,
 is far more forgiving than I had hoped,
 because He took me into His home,
 where I finally learned to cope.
 It's beautiful here with Him,
 so much peace and tranquility,
 it's a life I look forward to sharing with you
FOR ALL ETERNITY!

written by Carolann V. Jerkovic

Her sons Michael & Dustyn
 Her mother & stepfather Steve
 Her brother Donny, her sister Angela
 and many great friends
 Love you more!

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.

*When everything seems to be going against you,
remember:
The airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.*
Henry Ford

May Your Memories Be A Comfort To You

*Although at such a time as this
Your many friends will say
That time will ease your sorrow
And take your grief away.*

*What is truer and more comforting
Is this for you to know, deep in your heart,
That in cherished thought and memory
Loved ones never really part.*

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



We'll have information at our meetings or go to:

www.bereavedparentsusa.org



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

February 2010
POSTMASTER - Dated Material
Please do not delay.

