



# Tampa Bay Chapter

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

## MEETING INFORMATION

### *Regular Monthly SUNDAY Meeting* Sunday, July 8 and August 12, 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 Beverley Hurley at 813-832-3175  
for directions or information.

### *Regular Monthly DAYTIME Meeting* Riverview/Gibsonton/Brandon areas (held the second Friday each month)

**Friday, July 13 and August 10, 10:00 a.m. to noon**  
**NEW Location The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce (new building)**  
330 Pauls Drive, Ste. 100 (TECO Board Room)  
Brandon, Florida 33511  
**PLEASE CALL** Linda Delk at 813-661-0680  
for directions or information.

### *Regular Monthly BRADENTON Meeting* (held the third Monday each month)

**Monday, July 16 and August 20, 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, July 26 and August 23, 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.

### Upcoming Events

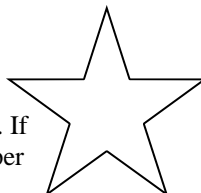
**Angel of Hope monthly meeting,**  
Held the first Monday of the month,  
August 6 and September 3, 7:00 p.m.  
I-HOP Restaurant,  
11710 Morris Bridge Road,  
Temple Terrace, FL 33617

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

Call Beverley at 813-832-3175 for information.

#### July 8th St. Joe Meeting

We will be decorating our children's "shining star" for the National BP/USA Gathering during a portion of the meeting. If you have any crafty things to decorate paper with, please bring them to the meeting to share. A small photo and decorations is all you need.



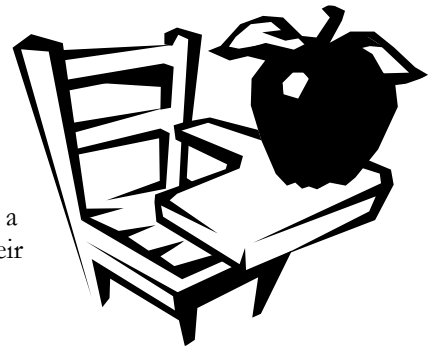
## July/August 2007

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			<b>JULY</b>	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>AUGUST</b>			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	

## The First Day of School


**M**y heart ached for any parent whose child would have started school today. I looked around at the mothers and fathers TOO eager to drop their kids off, and I wondered if somewhere near a parent was crying because their child was not attending.



**I**t has taken me many years to overcome the sadness of the first day of school. I never thought the overwhelming pain would ease. The "what-ifs" still linger in my mind but I can fade them out with happy thoughts of the day.

**I** am still aware that today Nadine would be skipping off to her grade one classroom and I can't help wondering which teacher she would have had. But, my heart does not ache for me as it did most other Septembers ...today I ache for the parent who has just begun their journey; the parent experiencing the first day of school without their child.

*By Shannon Stevens,  
Powell River, British Columbia*

A rose may lose it's bloom,  
But still the fragrance lingers long.   
A bird may fly away,  
Yet we can still recall it's song.  
So when someone whom we love  
departs to join the Lord above,  
They will live and laugh and be with us  
in memories of love.

*Author Unknown*

## Chapter News

### ANGEL OF HOPE UPDATE

Please check out our new website at [www.angelofhopetampabay.com](http://www.angelofhopetampabay.com)



### LOCATION

We are so pleased to add Temple Terrace to the elite list of the 72 other city locations across the nation that have an Angel of Hope memorial! This centrally located memorial will be for all of Hillsborough County and surrounding communities including Clearwater/Largo, to South Shore/Bradenton and Lakeland!

Now that we have confirmed a beautiful location on River Hills Drive and 56<sup>th</sup> street closest to the beautiful Hillsborough River, we can move forward with more publicity and construction plans. Next we will plan a ground breaking and I will let you know when that will be so you will be able to plan on attending and sharing in this most exciting moment!

Don't forget that we already have memorial bricks available to order that will be placed in loving memory of your loved ones on the surrounding patio around the Angel. Order forms are available on the website or by calling Beverley at 813-832-3175!

Thank you for your continued support and interest!

### GOLF OUTING!

Save the date of Monday, November 5, 2007, Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club, 200 Inverness Ave., Temple Terrace, FL 33617! We need sponsors, workers and golfers! Please call Gina Casal at 813-813-746-4796 for more information!

### 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.

### A new Magnet Available

Angel of Hope has a new supply of the ribbon magnet "In Loving Memory of". You can write your loved one's name and date on the magnet with a permanent marker.

Please call Beverley at 813-832-3175 to Order your magnets!



### 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) 300-6877

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

Serena Graves (Sibling Contact) (813) 810-7169

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](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org)

## Love Gifts

Tammy Bracewell  
In loving memory of all children

Rebeckah Mitchell  
In loving memory of her daughter  
**Brendolyn Joyce Butterfly Baker**  
1/1/1948—11/9/1990

Nancy W. Milam  
In loving memory of her son  
**Perry Edward Milam**  
11/4/1974-10/1/1994

Kathy and Dave Simone  
In loving memory of their son  
**Benjamin Arthur Simone**  
3/29/1975—10/10/1997  
And for all that they have done for BP/USA in the past  
in memory of all of our children.

### **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.

### MONTHLY MEETING TOPICS

**July-What is "Normal" now?**

**August-When does this end?**

**September-How do men & women grieve differently?**

**October-Surviving the Holidays!**

**November-Gift donations!**

**December-Candle Light Service**

We want to thank Bonnie McClelland from the Suncoast Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program for coming to our Sunday evening meeting. 727-394-8222, [www.suncoastyr.org](http://www.suncoastyr.org)  
When Bonnie's son Timothy died by suicide he left a suicide note and wrote "p.s. Learn from this and help each other." Bonnie has poured her heart into helping others prevent suicide and families who have had a death by suicide.

### OTHER LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS

#### **LifePath Hospice and Palliative Care:**

Grupos De Apoyo Nuevos Comienzos Para Adultos  
Para mas informacion, llame al (813) 877-2200, ext. 10671

#### **Kathy's Place—A Center for Grieving Children.**

813.875.0728 <http://www.aplace4hope.org/>

**The Life Center:** Dedicated to providing counseling to people who have experienced (or are coping with) the death of a love one.

813.237.3114 <http://www.lifecenteroftampa.org/index.htm>

#### **Suncoast Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program:**

(727) 394-8222 [www.suncoastyr.org](http://www.suncoastyr.org)

#### **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:**

1-800-273-TALK (8255) [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**August 2-5 is the Parents of Murdered Children National Conference, Angels Forever, in Houston, Texas. For information call 1-800-996-3426 or 281-875-2222.**



# Our Children . . . Remembered

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

## July Birthdays

Banda, Selena  
7/6/2002 - 3/4/2004  
P-Richard & Susan Banda

Brown, Michael  
7/20/2006  
P-Heather & Darrell Brown

Butler, Mark Anthony  
7/7/1977 - 11/24/2001  
P-Ray & Chris Butler  
GM-Alice Butler

Corbett, Shaun  
7/8/1985 - 4/23/2003  
M-Ellen Corbett

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

Finchum, Tommy  
07/10/75 - 05/06/94  
P - Pete & Joyce Finchum  
B - John Finchum

Henry, Sumara Raquel  
07/12/88 - 09/18/93  
P - Louis & Cindy Henry  
GP-James & Ruby Reese  
& Bernice Henry

Knox, Patricia Lynn  
7/27/1964 - 10/21/1997  
M - Shelby Jean McClure

Lalis, Timothy  
07/29/1996 - 07/11/2001  
P - Gregg & Elisabeth Lalis  
B - Andrew & Klaus

Leyde, Darek  
7/17/1967 - 4/23/2003  
P-Vern & Julie Leyde  
S-Traci Gainforth

McMillion, James Christopher  
7/26/1984 - 9/26/2003  
GP-Ralph & Martha Hamilton

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

Russo-Afeld, Angela  
7/10/1969-7/21/1996  
P-Lillian Wiebeld & Dick Russo  
B-Rick & Nelson Russo

Shelton, Emma Victoria  
7/8/2003 - 5/8/2005  
M-John & Jennifer Shelton  
Sibs-Jacob & Hannah  
GP-Peg & Jim Bishop, Tom Musolin,  
Art & Sam White, Rober & Judy

Slaven, Minnie Leona  
7/10/1972 - 8/11/2000  
M-Della LaGrone  
P-Delbert & Catherine Slaven  
S-Charlotte, Della, Betty, Lynn,  
Amelia & Sue  
B-Ronnie, Jack, Del, & Delbert Jr.

Steen, Donald Kenneth  
7/25/1960 - 7/26/1960  
M-Nancy Holdren  
B-Richard, David & Michael

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

Tarez, Kami  
7/1/1980 - 3/1/2006  
M-Leigh Tarez

Vallee, Scott Gerard  
7/4/1974 - 7/10/2004  
P-Gerry & Louise Vallee  
S-Kama Vallee  
GP-Roy & Mabel Parsons  
Spouse-Jessica Vallee

Webb, Eric Richard  
7/1/1985 - 4/2/1999  
P - William & Kathleen Webb  
B - David Webb

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

Young, Billy  
7/14/2003 - 4/17/2006  
P-Bill & Sandy Young

Zorn, Wayne  
7/15/1964 - 12/30/2006  
M-Charlotte Zorn

## AUGUST

Bishop, Krystal Lee  
8/1/1988 - 12/24/2001  
P-Pam & Rick Bishop  
S-Angie Valente & Missy Bishop  
B-Greg Bishop  
GM-Marylynn Eddy

Darrigo, Anthony & Domenic  
08/11/94 - 08/11/94  
P - Sam & Vanessa Darrigo

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

Ferrera, Alex  
8/1/1977 - 10/4/1997  
Ferrera, Crista J.  
8/23/1975 - 03/11/1997  
P - Nelson & Guisela Ferrera  
B - Paolo Ferrera  
GM - Magda Alvarez  
Aunt - Mirta Diaz  
Uncle - John Ferrera

Gallian, John Charles  
8/8/1963 - 3/21/1998  
M-Virgian Gallian  
S-Paige Mask

## August Birthdays

Goldman, Ariel Nicole Rothschild  
8/30/1989 - 5/15/2001  
P - Steve and Lynn Goldman

Graves, Matthew Regan  
8/8/1979 - 8/31/2000  
M - Linda Graves  
S - Serena Graves  
B-Dutch & Allen Jr.  
GF-Wilson Harmison

Harrington, Zachary Michael Evans  
8/4/1992 - 8/7/1992  
P - William & Barbara  
Evans-Harrington  
GP Wm. & Barbara Evans

Harrison, Leigh Ann  
08/11/84 - 08/11/84  
P-Trudy & Tim Harrison  
GP-Bobbie & Jerry Meeks

Hoskins, Lauren Grace  
8/18/2004 - 8/18/2004  
M-Kim Hoskins

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

Hubbard, Shelby Janeen  
08/03/91 - 01/19/95  
P - Robin & Gordon Hubbard  
B - Stephen & Scott Hubbard

McCraire, Clarissa  
8/1/1971-1/5/2007  
F-Carlos Nogueira

Marchetti, Katie  
8/4/1989 - 3/4/2006  
P-Vin & Laura Marchetti  
B-Andrew Marchetti

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

Muse, Jennifer Lee  
08/07/71 - 04/04/92  
M - Gretchen Muse  
F - Robert Muse, Jr.  
GP - Bob & Gladys Muse  
GM - Dorothy Deisch

O'Brien, Toby Lee  
8/10/1966-5/16/2006  
M- Bonnie O'Brien

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

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

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

Parrish, Tyler Stephen  
8/6/1991 - 10/24/1991  
P - June & Terry Parrish

Peel, Lee Anna Campbell  
8/5/1972 - 9/9/1992  
M - Patricia Campbell  
S - Beth Biggs  
B - Eddy Biggs  
GP - Estelle & James Carleton

Rose, Kailyn Dyann  
8/22/2000 - 3/4/2003  
M-Evelyn E. Rose

Sampson, Charles Roy  
8/29/1998 - 8/29/1998  
P - Paul & Susan Sampson  
GP - Margaret & Clayton Sampson and  
Shirley & Charles Osborne

Shearer, Shane  
08/03/73 - 12/05/89  
M - Linda Shearer  
SF - Keith Gregory

Smith, Aiden Christopher  
8/17/2006-8/17/2006  
P-Cody & Amber Smith

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

Thornton, Jeremiah  
8/29/84 - 4/13/01  
M - Tim & Sue Thornton  
B - Jason  
S - Amanda

Waldrop, Caleb  
8/4/1977 - 6/4/1999  
F - Randy Waldrop  
Children - Charlene & Devin

## July Anniversaries

Boyd, Anastasia "Nicole"  
5/4/1998 - 7/8/2004  
P-Anita & Thomas Boyd  
Siblings-Alan, Mike & Tara Boyd  
GP-Huey & Marie McDonald, Angus &  
Jewell Grace  
GP-(Preceded in Death) Arthur & Vivian  
Boyd

Brown, Michael  
7/20/2006  
P-Heather & Darrell Brow

Burger, Teresa  
10/26/58 - 07/10/87  
M - Cecelia Burger  
B - Hal & Curt Burger

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

Dukes, Steven  
12/15/1957 - 7/16/1998  
P-C.W. & Betty Dukes

Gonzalez, Miriam  
12/10/1948 - 7/26/1995  
P-Fernando & Paula Lespier  
S-Maria & Aida

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

Heath, Austin Noah  
4/6/2000 - 7/4/2000  
P - Isaac Heath & Regina Jacobs  
GM - Gigi Schools

Hester, Debbie  
10/14/61 - 07/15/98  
P - Buddy & Sue Butler

Hidalgo, Christopher  
12/14/1989 - 7/5/2004  
M-Tammy Hidalgo

Kelly, Amanda Jean  
11/15/1986 - 7/7/1987  
P-John & Brenda Kelly  
S-Matthew & Ryan  
GP-John Keller & Elizabeth Kelly

Lalis, Timothy  
07/29/1996 - 07/11/2001  
P - Gregg & Elisabeth Lalis  
B - Andrew & Klaus

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

Pegram, Jodi E.  
04/06/70 - 07/22/01  
P - Earl & Susan Pegram  
S - Robin Sue Pegram  
B - Scooter & Craig Pegram  
GM-Betty Jennings

Pitts, Joseph David  
12/8/1971 - 7/16/1998  
P - Ruth & Richard Pitts

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

Powers, Geoffrey A.  
1/23/1983 - 7/1/2005  
M-Diane Tower  
Sisters-Lana & Nikki Powers

Robertson, Kristi Lee  
12/15/1969 - 7/29/1994  
M - Janice & Joe Robertson  
S - Kathy Sanchez & Karen Demeria  
GM-Mildred Trigg

Rodriguez, Edwin (Eddy) Jr.  
1/11/1971 - 7/28/1993  
M-Bertha Dominquez

Rusnack, Tamara  
4/6/1972 - 7/23/2004  
M-Donna Johnson

Russo-Afeld, Angela  
7/10/1969-7/21/1996  
P-Lillian Wiebeld & Dick Russo  
B-Rick & Nelson Russo

Rutkowski, Eric John  
4/11/1981 - 7/16/2003  
P-Linda & Ron Rutkowski  
GP-Ray & Doris Pomorski

St. Martin-Hamm, Sydney Chanel  
1/9/1997 - 7/21/2003  
M-Joy St. Martin & the late Rusty Hamm  
GP-Ramon & Rita Hamm

Steen, Donald Kenneth  
7/25/1960 - 7/26/1960  
M-Nancy Holdren  
B-Richard, David & Michael

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

Turner, Devon  
5/2/1986 - 7/28/2005  
M-Marie Lawson

Vallee, Scott Gerard  
7/4/1974 - 7/10/2004  
P-Gerry & Louise Vallee  
S-Kama Vallee  
GP-Roy & Mabel Parsons  
Spouse-Jessica Vallee

Williams, Alec Michael  
5/17/1996 - 7/27/1996  
P - Kathy & Michael Williams  
B - Chad & Chase  
G - Frank & Robbie Edwards  
G - Dwight & Melvalene Williams

## August Anniversaries

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

Cash, Christopher  
9/13/1977 - 8/23/2004  
M-Rita & Thomas Zvada  
P-Charles & Mika Cash  
Child-Leah Cash  
B-Charles Cash II  
S-Colleen & M ??  
GP-Gustavo & Ida Arencibia

Darrigo, Anthony & Domenic  
08/11/94 - 08/11/94  
P - Sam & Vanessa Darrigo

Fernandez, Karen Irene  
03/08/68 - 08/23/88  
M - Violeta "Cookie" Fernandez  
B-Rik Fernandez

Gilliam, Hayden Charles  
6/20/1999 - 8/4/2001  
P - Sean & Marion Gilliam  
S - Sara  
B - Cole

Graves, Matthew Regan  
8/8/1979 - 8/31/2000  
M - Linda Graves  
S - Serena Graves  
B-Dutch & Allen Jr.  
GF-Wilson Harmison

Harrington, Zachary Michael Evans  
8/4/1992 - 8/7/1992  
P - William & Barbara Ev-  
ans-Harrington  
GP Wm. & Barbara Evans

Harrison, Leigh Ann  
08/11/84 - 08/11/84  
P-Trudy & Tim Harrison  
GP-Bobbie & Jerry Meeks

Holton, John William  
05/20/52 - 08/10/94  
M - Ann Holton  
Hoskins, Lauren Grace  
8/18/2004 - 8/18/2004  
M-Kim Hoskins

Mohammed, Ian Roger  
04/19/73 - 08/02/92  
P - Judy & Rick Mohammed  
S - Alison Mohammed  
B - Cameron Mohammed

O'Brien, Toby Lee  
8/10/1966-5/16/2006  
M-Bonnie O'Brien

Price, Jacob  
3/4/2002 - 8/15/2002  
M-Charlann Price

Roark, Kelli Colin  
4/30/1990 - 8/30/1998  
P - Joe & Angel Roark  
B - Kyle & Kaleb Roark  
GF - Ron Ellington

Sampson, Charles Roy  
8/29/1998 - 8/29/1998  
P - Paul & Susan Sampson  
GP - Margaret & Clayton Sampson and  
Shirley & Charles Osborne

Shye, John David  
05/27/1964 - 08/07/1994  
P - Betty Jean & Charles Shye  
S - Lydia and Mary Shye  
B - Chuck Shye  
Father of J.D. and Justin Shye

Slaven, Minnie Leona  
7/10/1972 - 8/11/2000  
M-Della LaGrone  
P-Delbert & Catherine Slaven  
S-Charlotte, Della, Betty, Lynn, Amelia & Sue  
B-Ronnie, Jack, Del, & Delbert Jr.

Sluder, Kathryn  
8/31/1966-3/17/2002  
P-Tom & Judy Sluder  
S-Theresa  
B-Thomas, III & Keith  
Child-Isreal

Smith, Aiden Christopher  
8/17/2006-8/17/2006  
P-Cody & Amber Smith

Townsend, Chris  
10/8/1978 - 8/18/2000  
P - Walter & Carol Townsend  
B - Brian

Ward, Richard Alan  
4/25/1964 - 8/7/1996  
P - Homer & Imogene Ward  
B - Mike & Jeff Ward

Welch, Kimberly Michelle  
10/24/1971 - 8/28/2003  
M-Nancy Welch

## MEMORIES OF LOVED ONES

*By Roy Peterson  
A Dear Friend of BP/USA*

Absolutely nothing can be as painful as the death of a loved one and our journeys through the valley of the shadow of death leave us little room to do anything other than mourn.

However, somehow we do reach that plateau, that point, that place in time where we resolve to renew our lives, to seek to put everything into perspective. Marlo Thomas (when remembering her father, Danny) said, "it's just not enough to survive—you have to thrive! It doesn't matter whether you are freshly bereaved or whether it happened years ago and you are just coming to terms with the death."

Memories are part of our awesome job of survival and part of healing and restoring ourselves. Our loved ones Have died and our lives have been changed—in ways we hardly ever imagined as possible. "Why?," people ask! "Why do you bring back painful memories? For what purpose? Wouldn't it be better to avoid confusion and forego any need to understand why?"

Am I never again to acknowledge the life and death of someone so precious, so much a part of my waking and sleeping life? How could I not remember? And, even though remembering is disruptive, a loss without memories cannot be possible.

Each month, each week and each day brings us the chance to put that loss in perspective. We need to grab each chance to build memories to help relieve the pain, or at least to change its level of intensity. We believe that whatever pain we bring to gatherings is pain that we share, just as we share with each other our love for our children. Memorial services are such emotional and satisfying activities because they allow us to face and remember our losses; even bittersweet memories can help us to reorder our lives. The healing that occurs is an important aspect of the restoration of our inner selves.

Eventually it is possible to realize that our loved ones were normal. They were good, indifferent, full of mischief, ambitious or on the road to success or failure. In realizing that they were normal, we start down memory lane. We discover memories lost in the fog of our grief. We unearth long buried treasures.

How awful it must be to be robbed of memories! Not to recall our loved ones as they were would be life's worst blow. Somehow we must reach a place where our love and memories are liberated from the painful emotions linked with the deaths of our loved ones. It is in that liberation that we find an awakening to new possibilities, to new understandings and to growth. As we acknowledge that healing and restoration are occurring, a path out of the depths of despair opens. It is then that we can say "even though our loved ones died—our love for and memories of them will never go away."

Editor's Note: Roy was an inspiration to us all and he and Juanita were a great help to BP/USA, helping chapters get started, providing workshops at Gatherings and just caring for and about individuals. Our special award for those who have served BP/USA on the chapter and national level is named for them and they were the first recipients. These older writings by Roy seemed a good thing to adapt and put in this Newsletter. Juanita will be with us at the 2007 Gathering to present the award to the person/persons chosen to receive it for 2007. We remember Roy and to paraphrase his last words above, our love for and memories of him will never go away.



## ***And now... I am home***

...supremely happy, in a "place" of profound and unspeakable beauty. A place where all are bathed in showers of unconditional LOVE. I am home, and before long, you will be too, and we will be together always. But until we embrace again, let me also share this with you... so that you can better understand those things that may trouble you the most:

I now know that the love I feel here was at all times on earth too, and all one must do in order to feel it, is to KNOW it is there. This love that shines on you now is there to comfort and console, to heal and restore, and to bring laughter and joy. You have set lofty goals for yourself and the challenges you've chosen are admirable, but with this love and the faith that you can do all things, even these noble callings will one day soon be little more than baby steps in your march to gaining dominion over every time-space illusion. You will prevail. Your dreams, as well as the obstacles placed on your path, are gifts given you so that you might sooner see this Light that now surrounds you. Of these gifts, my parting was one.

You need not be sad, for even now I am with you - though you must close your eyes to see me. The illusion of death presses one on to greater understandings, for only when faced with darkness can you begin to properly seek the light. A light that will reveal that there can be no endings, goodbyes, or sadness, without beginnings, reunions, and happiness, and that you and I are unlimited Beings of Light adventuring throughout creation so that we may rediscover the magnificence of our own divinity. We are Gods rolling like thunder through the heavenly landscapes of eternity, where there are only miracles, there is only love, and Everything is holy.

Before you on earth there remain infinite possibilities for the most fulfilling time of your life, in a universe conspiring on your behalf. The world is indeed your oyster, though your "work" is not yet done, and you will be happiest if you cling not too tightly to the past. But if you must, take solace in your times of sorrow by knowing that I am always there, that I will be at your triumphant homecoming, and that I too have prepared a place for you in a blissful celebration that is only just beginning.

I love you so. I am happy. God speed.

# Interaction with Spouses

**B**ereavement is a lonely place, even within a close marriage. No two people are alike. Each of us grieves in a unique manner. We often seek support from our spouse, the other person bearing a burden equal to our own. We often feel anger and abandonment when that support is not forthcoming. We sometimes feel our spouse is not even grieving or did not love the child as we did. This situation can become extremely stressful for both partners and the marriage.

In light of failed marriage statistics among bereaved couples, grief is a time to be nonjudgmental toward our spouses. It is extremely important for each to give the other "permission" to grieve in his or her own way, regardless of how it may differ from our own.

It is wise to remember that we love our spouses, but considerable recovery time may be needed for each to grieve in a private and unique way. Judgments do not help when dealing with another person whose battered emotions are as frail as our own.

## Do you wish to continue to receive the newsletter? This could be your last newsletter!

(This does not pertain to BP or TCF Chapters, other support groups, hospitals, churches, social workers, PHD's, funeral homes!)

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Check your mailing label to see if it is marked "LAST NEWSLETTER". If it is, we need to hear from you if you wish to continue receiving the newsletter. Bulk mail is not forwarded or returned. We are required to keep our mailing list accurate and to check every address at least once a year. The process for choosing labels to mark is automatic and is based on your level of participation. If you attend meetings you are current. We don't want to delete anyone. To avoid missing any newsletters, please respond quickly. You can call the chapter phone at 813-661-0680 e-mail bee.hurley@gte.net or send in the return reply form below to P.O. BOX 3226, TAMPA, FL 33601-3226.

Please do not remove the attached label) If we don't hear from you by August 1st, you won't be receiving this newsletter any longer. Please respond now!

If you prefer, you can receive your newsletter by email and save our chapter postage charges! Just let us know you wish to receive the newsletter by email! \*\* YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

-----RETURN REPLY FORM-----

Zip plus four: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_ DOD \_\_\_\_\_

Cause \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Brother(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Sister(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

BP does not charge dues or a subscription fee but depends on donations or love gifts to pay for the expense of printing and mailing of our newsletter to you. Our newsletter is a big expense, but one that reaches hundreds of people every month. Any and all donations are very much appreciated and will be acknowledged in our newsletter.

Enclosed is a donation/love gift to help defray the cost of printing and postage of the BP/USA, Tampa Bay Chapter Newsletter!

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ donated in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

# 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.

# A Word About Approval

We are a society that live by approval. Others must approve of our actions, our behavior and sometimes, even our thoughts. If we don't meet the approval of society, we are cast out. We even turn that lack of approval inside and say to ourselves: "If I don't conform, I must be different or wrong." If we are concerned with meeting another's approval, we surrender our individuality — our real selves. If we are to grow from the experience of losing our child, if we are to successfully resolve our grief, we must stop looking to others for approval of what we do. We must have personal confidence that how WE handle our grief is good and right. Since WE are experiencing OUR grief, WE are suffering OUR pain, WE are working toward OUR recovery, we must do it OUR way. Just as no one can live our lives, no one can live our grief and no one can tell us how to grieve. See yourself as knowing what is best for you. Don't let others take that right from you by succumbing to their disapproval.

*by Margaret Gerner  
St. Louis, Missouri*



What do you call a woman whose husband dies?  
A widow

What do you call a man whose wife dies?  
A widower

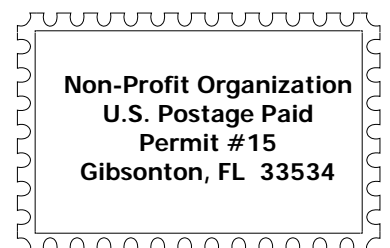
What do you call a child whose parents die?  
An orphan

What do you call a parent whose child dies?  
There is no word to describe it!

***An old Indian legend about butterflies says, "If anyone desires a wish to come true, they must capture a butterfly and whisper a wish to it. Since they make no sound, they can't tell the wish to anyone but the Great Spirit. Whisper your wish to a butterfly and release it. The whispering wings will relay your wish to the one who may grant it."***



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



**July/August 2007**  
POSTMASTER - Dated Material  
Please do not delay.



Please see page 5 for a message about updating your mailing information!

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED!**