



# 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)

**Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

**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/Gibson/Brandon areas**

(held the second Friday each month)

**Friday, May 8, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

**The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce**

330 Pauls Drive, Brandon, Florida 33511

Please call Linda Delk at 813-661-0680  
for directions or information.

### Regular Monthly PLANT CITY Meeting

(held the fourth Thursday each month)

**Thursday, May 28, 7:00 to 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:

Note: Millie Nohren, author of *Hope Sandwich* will be a guest speaker at our monthly support meeting in May (next month) Sunday Night at St. Joseph Hospital, MAB. Try not to miss this opportunity to learn more about finding Hope!



<http://www.hopesandwich.com/index.html>

*A special gift will be given  
to each Mom and  
Grandmother  
at our May meetings in honor  
of  
Mother's Day!*

### Angel of Hope monthly planning meeting

First Monday of every month!

Please call Beverley Hurley 813-832-3175 for info!

### Engraved Memorial Bricks

The deadline to order your engraved memorial bricks so they will be ready and included for our dedication ceremony has been extended to May 31, 2009! Visit our website and click on "Order Memorial Bricks" then you can click on the link and print out your form. It can take time to decide about the wording so that it will fit on the lines, so the sooner you do this the better.

## May 2009

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

*Joseph Martinez*

*Taylor Pike*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>MAY 2009</b>						
3	4	5	6	7	1 8	2 9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	<b>MAY 2009</b>					

## Please Let Me Mourn

*by Author Unknown*

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

I've never lost a child before, and I don't understand all these emotions I am feeling.

Will you try to understand and help me?

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

I may act and appear together, but I am not. Often it hurts so much I can hardly bear it.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

Don't expect too much from me. I will try to help you know what I can and cannot handle.

Sometimes I am not always sure.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

Let me talk about my child. I need to talk, it's part of the healing. Don't pretend nothing has happened, it hurts terribly when you do.

I love my child very much, and my memories are all I have now. They are very precious to me.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

Sometimes I cry and act differently, but it's all part of grieving. My tears are necessary and needed and should not be held back. It even helps when you cry with me.

Please don't fear my tears.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

What I need most is your friendship, your sympathy, your prayers, your support, and your understanding love.

I am not the same person I was before my child died and I never will be again.

Hopefully we can all grow from this tragedy.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

God gives me the strength to face each day and the hope that I will survive with His help and yours. Time will heal some of the pain, but there will always be an empty place in my heart.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

And Thank You for helping me through the most difficult time of my life.

## Chapter News



### **ANGEL OF HOPE UPDATE**

[www.angelofhopetampabay.com](http://www.angelofhopetampabay.com)

#### **Angel of Hope monthly meeting**

Please call Beverley Hurley 813-832-3175 for info! Next meeting May 4 and June 1.

### **Angel of Hope Annual Spring Tea**

**Saturday, May 25, 2009!**

This year, our Fifth Annual Spring Tea helped us to finally reach the amount needed for our financial goal! The day was filled with beautiful decorations which turned our room into a beautiful garden. The table themes created by our hostesses were outstanding. More than 100 raffles items were superb with gift certificates, angel and butterfly items. Our extravagant silent auction offered something for everyone's budget from fancy purses and home décor to portrait sessions from Cason's Studio.



Lisette Campos, from WFTS Channel 11, was an excellent celebrity MC. We had the talented and beautiful voice of Talesha Hogan, and a young lady named Brittany Lajoyce. Millie Nohren was an inspiring speaker and gave a wonderful recipe to build a "Hope Sandwich" in any circumstance that comes in our direction. The McGinley Academy of Irish dancers had all of the little girls and the attendees in awe of the performances.

We are grateful for Millie Nohren in donating the profits earned from her books sold the day of the tea to the Angel of Hope.

We also want to thank Talesha Hogan, Greg Clifton, and Gary Bosko, for heading up a campaign single music C.D. that supports the Angel of Hope! The cost is only \$5 and the songs are soothing and uplifting to the soul. All proceeds benefit our Angel of Hope garden. C.D.'s are available at BP/USA meetings.

We thank all of you who came, and we encourage those who did not, to plan on attending next year on the last Saturday in April 2010!

### **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
Sue Bowditch (Adult Child)	(813) 661-9334
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
<b>CRISIS CENTER</b>	<b>211</b>

**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

Nancy Schlechty  
 In loving memory of her son

**Michael Schlechty**  
 2/5/1959-12/4/2001

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

James Roy and Elaine M. Rogers  
 In loving memory of their son  
**Jason Rogers**  
 1/08/1978-03/21/1990

### **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.

### **Refreshments**



Some of us like to remember our child's birthday or the anniversary of his or her death by bringing a cake or cookies to the meeting that month. We would appreciate having you bring a special treat to any meeting. You may also want to bring and share a picture of your child. Thank you!

### **Chapter Library Books**

If you have finished reading a BP/USA Library book, please, please return it to our library. The longer you borrow a book, the less opportunities other bereaved parents have to read it. We also gladly accept book donations.

Contact Tommy or Barbara Dietrich at (813) 234-4705 or visit one of our three monthly sharing meetings to return a book, arrange a donation or inquire about an available title.

### **Sponsor A Newsletter Page**

Anyone can sponsor a page in this newsletter in memory of their child. The price for a full page is \$60 which includes one black and white scan of one photograph and your tribute to your child, which can include poems, stories or whatever you like. Your contribution supports the chapter and helps pay for the printing of the newsletter.

To sponsor a newsletter page, contact Beverley Hurley at (813) 832-3175 (email [bee.hurley@gte.net](mailto:bee.hurley@gte.net)). Please note that sponsorship pages are **due by the 15th of the month BEFORE the publication month.**

### **Electronic Newsletter**

The Newsletter is available electronically. To receive it by Email, send your name and email address to: [bee.hurley@gte.net](mailto:bee.hurley@gte.net) and indicate your desire to switch from regular "snail" mail to email. Email recipients will also receive additional news and information, while helping our chapter save costs. We very much appreciate your cooperation by helping us out this way!



## Our Children . . . Remembered

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

### May Birthdays

Boyd, Anastasia "Nicole"  
5/4/1998 - 7/8/2004  
P-Anita Boyd & Jerry Webb

Bracewell, Madisyn Nevaeh  
5/8/2002 - 5/8/2002  
P-Jessica & Joshua Bracewell  
GP-Mark & Pamela Leonhard

Collum, Brian H.  
5/11/1965 - 3/7/2005  
M-Diana Reams  
B-Reid Collum

Delp, Jeff  
5/15/1972 - 5/30/2001  
M - Karen Kornman

Engel, Drew  
5/7/2005-4/22/2008  
P-Mike & Lindsey Engel  
GM-Vicki Engel

Holton, John William  
05/20/52 - 08/10/94  
M - Ann Holton



Keithly, DeAnne  
5/24/1976 - 5/12/1993  
P-John & Peggy Keithly  
S-Dawn & Karen  
B-Dustin & Kevin  
GP-Clark & Frances Keithly and  
Alice Pugh

Makowski, Anthony  
5/20/1983 - 4/24/2005  
M-Cathy Makowski

McKaughan, Michael  
5/19/1989-11/3/2000  
P-Darlene & Michael Lack  
B-Andrew McKaughan  
S-Lauren Lack  
GM-Virginia Dusy

Metallo, Armando  
5/3/1984 - 9/15/2005  
P-Angelo & Luisa Metallo  
S-Ana, Angelo, Luisa, & Joe Metallo  
GP-Armando & Ana Metallo and  
Graciela & Dorotheo Martinez

Morrow, Mark  
5/19/1978-12/7/2005  
P-John & Joan Morrow

Pfister, Megan Lynn  
5/2/1990 - 3/3/1999  
P - Frank & Stephanie Pfister

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

Rademacher, Rhonda Marie  
5/19/1977 - 1/26/1999  
P - Doris & John Rademacher  
B - Ronald & Jeremy Rademacher  
S - Cherry & Carrie Rademacher

Roberts, J. Michael  
5/31/1963 - 9/25/2002  
M-Ann Roberts Mitchel  
GP Merle H. Brunson

Robinson, Ashley Lauren  
05/20/94 - 01/16/96  
P - Sara & Tim Robinson  
S - Morgan Ashley Robinson

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

Thompson, Kimberly Karlin  
5/5/1976 - 12/6/1999  
P - Sam & Ingrid Thompson

Thompson, Phillip John "P.J."  
5/26/1966 - 2/7/1993  
M-Mary Thompson

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

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

Wells, Aaron  
05/11/81 - 02/11/87  
P-Paul & Carol Wells  
B-Steven Wells  
S-Teresa Amundrud & Jessica Minnick

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

### May Anniversaries

Bracewell, Madisyn Nevaeh  
5/8/2002 - 5/8/2002  
P-Jessica & Joshua Bracewell  
GP-Mark & Pamela Leonhard

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

Buchanan, Sierra Lan  
03/07/96 - 05/25/96  
P - Klm & Bryan Buchanan  
S - May Linh Buchanan

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

Cloer, Terry "T.C." Jr.  
03/28/74 - 05/24/91  
P - Nadine & Terry Cloer, Sr.  
S - Judy Cloer

Colla, Aaron Dante  
11/15/01 - 05/24/02  
P - Amanda Colla  
GP - Jana & Frank Colla  
A - Danielle

Delp, Jeff  
5/15/1972 - 5/30/2001  
M - Karen Kornman

Dixon, Austin Ryan  
03/18/97 - 05/18/98  
P - Carrie & Robert Dixon  
S-Sara Ryan Dixon

Ellington, Timothy  
03/06/62 - 05/25/91  
F - Ron Ellington

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

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

Harless, Jessica Nicole  
11/15/1988 - 5/10/2000  
M - Heather Harless

Hassler, Andy  
1/16/1981-5/14/2008  
F-Denny Hassler

Holdren, Steven "Scott" Jr.  
4/10/1986-5/31/2007  
P-Bill & Donna Henry and Steven  
Scott Holdren, Sr.  
GP-Jos & Catherine Washington, Geo  
Wayne and Mary Jo Holdren

Howard, Christopher L.  
3/27/1975 - 5/18/2000  
M-Cay Pelaez

Hughes, Jessica Alexis  
1/13/86 - 5/11/02  
F - Michael Hughes

Husk, Stacy  
03/10/70 - 05/02/90  
F - Michael Husk

Keithly, DeAnne  
5/24/1976 - 5/12/1993  
P-John & Peggy Keithly  
S-Dawn & Karen  
B-Dustin & Kevin  
GP-Clark & Frances Keithly and  
Alice Pugh

Knight, Arleen Diane  
10/16/1947 - 5/4/2004  
P-Arthur & Ethel Fernandez  
S-Elaine Rogers  
Daughters-Trina Fuller, Amy  
Diaz, Katie Tuclula  
Partner-Darryl Fiorilla

Odom, Randell  
12/14/62 - 5/27/00  
M - Barbara Hendrix

Pike, Taylor  
11/8/1985-5/14/2007  
M-Connie Pike

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

Sluder, Keith  
4/25/1964-5/11/2006  
P-Tom & Judy Sluder  
Children-Keith II & Miranda  
GD-Kalie & Ella Mae  
B-Thomas Sluder  
S-Kathryn and Theresa Sluder  
N/N-Israel, Brandon & Brandy

Stoeltzing, William (Bill) W.  
01/02/57 - 05/09/02  
P - Bill & Elvira Stoeltzing  
S - Cecille Parido  
Father to Eaton & Brent

Thomson, Scott  
2/18/1985-5/12/2005  
M-Martha Thompson

*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.*



### Memorial Day

*For each grave  
where a soldier lies at his rest  
For each prayer that is  
said today out of love  
For each sigh of remembering  
someone who died  
Let us also give thought to  
the mothers and fathers  
the brothers and sisters  
the friends  
and the lovers whom  
death left behind.*

*Sasha*

## Godspeed

*Song By Talesha Hogan © 1998  
In loving memory of Kristin Marie Hogan  
See [Music CD Offer message](#)  
[www.taleshahogan.com](http://www.taleshahogan.com)*

I woke again last night without you in my arms  
It don't seem right with no one here to see  
As the tears slip down my face, it's just me

I woke again last night without you in my arms  
It don't seem right I'm holding all your things  
Then I put them back away, just memories  
God speed

I hear you in the whispers of the angel's wings  
In dreams, I watch you slumber in my arms  
Until we meet, wait for me, Godspeed

I woke again last night without you in my arms  
It don't seem right to wake up from this dream  
Loving you, is bitter sweet

I know someday I'll sleep cradled in God's arms,  
I'll wake with you in mine and all my sorrow is gone  
In due time, I'll write this song  
Godspeed

I feel you in the brush of angel's wings  
In dreams, I see you on the other side  
Remember me, remember me, Godspeed  
Godspeed

I hear you in the whispers of the Angel's wings  
In dreams, I watch you slumber in my arms  
Until we meet, wait for me, Godspeed

Godspeed, I'm gonna hold you in my arms  
Wait for me

As I turn out the light  
We're taking flight, good night, Godspeed

## Bereaved Parents of the USA 2009 National Gathering *Light My Way*

**Friday through Sunday, July 10,11,12, 2009**

**At Crowne Plaza LaGuardia Airport Hotel**  
104-04 Ditmars Blvd., E. Elmhurst, New York

**Hotel Reservations** 1-888-233-9527 or  
website [www.cplaguardia.com](http://www.cplaguardia.com)  
The Crowne Plaza LaGuardia Airport Hotel, New York has given BP/USA a generously discounted daily room rate of \$115, w/tax \$133.88 that will be honored July 7-15, 2009, three days before and after the Gathering. Please make your own reservations directly with the hotel at 1-888-233-9527.

**Deadline to register at this discounted rate is June 16 – don't miss out!**

Be sure to tell them you are attending the BP/USA Gathering! The hotel provides a Complimentary Shuttle to LaGuardia Airport, Queens Mall, and the 7 Train (minutes to Manhattan).

### MUSIC C.D. OFFER

Please consider supporting the music C.D. campaign offered by **Talesha Hogan, Greg Clifton, and Gary Bosko** and purchase some for yourself and friends at only \$5 each. They make great gifts and are a wonderful tool to help spread hope in the lives of people you hold dear to your heart! You can purchase C.D's at any of our BP/USA support meetings or call Julie Leyde at (813) 784-6929 [vleyde1@verizon.net](mailto:vleyde1@verizon.net). All proceeds benefit the Angel of Hope Memorial Garden. Thank you for your support!

### HEAVEN'S CHILDREN

Do you suppose they meet like us  
To lend support and love?  
As we assemble, do they gather too,  
Watching from above?

Do you suppose they ask our God  
To care for parents here?  
Just as we beseech Him  
To hold our children dear?

Do you suppose, among themselves,  
They comfort one another?  
When they see deep grief consume  
Their Father or their Mother?

Do you suppose, together,  
They wipe away our tears?  
Holding hands, as we do  
To cleanse away our fears?

Do you suppose they listen  
To the breaking hearts we share?  
As we tell our stories  
Our tragedies laid bare?

And, do you suppose they know the Truth,  
These children whom we adore?  
Knowing fully that God's Love  
In abundance He will outpour?

And, do you suppose they understand  
Far better than we mortals?  
That peace and joy and soul's content  
Await us at the Portals?

And, do you suppose until the day  
They see us face to face  
They're tugging on God's heartstrings  
To keep us in His Grace?

by Sue Smith

**Gathering Registration**—On Line Registration is available.

**Workshop and Speaker's Bios** are posted as well. Check it out!

**For more information, please see BP/USA National Website at [www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org)**



## My Mom Is A Survivor

My Mom is a survivor,  
or so I've heard it said.  
But I can hear her crying at night  
when all others are in bed.

I watch her lay awake at night  
and go to hold her hand.  
She doesn't know I'm with her  
to help her understand.

But like the sands on the beach  
that never wash away...  
I watch over my surviving mom,  
who thinks of me each day.

She wears a smile for others...  
a smile of disguise!  
But through Heaven's door I see  
tears flowing from her eyes.

My mom tries to cope with death  
to keep my memory alive.  
But anyone who knows her knows  
it is her way to survive.

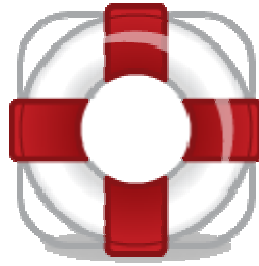
As I watch over my surviving mom  
through Heaven's open door...  
I try to tell her that angels  
protect me forevermore.

I know that doesn't help her...  
or ease the burden she bears.  
So if you get a chance, go visit her...  
and show her that you care.

For no matter what she says...  
no matter what she feels.  
My surviving mom has a broken heart  
that time won't ever heal.

(By [Kaye Des'Ormeaux](#)  
October 15, 1998

*Dedicated to the mothers who have  
lost a child & have somehow survived.)*



## To All Parents

by **Guest, Edgar**

I'll lend you for a little time  
A child of Mine, He said,  
For you to love the while he lives  
And mourn when he is dead.

It may be six or seven years,  
Or twenty-two or three,  
But will you, till I call him back,  
Take care of him for Me?

He'll bring his charms to gladden you  
And should his stay be brief,  
You'll have his lovely memories  
As solace for your grief.

I cannot promise he will stay  
Since all from earth return,  
But there are lessons taught down there  
I want this child to learn.

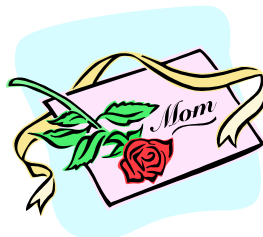
I've looked the wide world over  
In My search for teachers true,  
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes  
I have selected you.

Now will you give him all your love  
Nor think the labor vain,  
Nor hate Me when I come to call  
To take him back again?

I fancied that I heard them say  
Dear Lord, Thy will be done.  
For all the joy Thy child shall bring  
The risk of grief we'll run.

We'll shelter him with tenderness,  
We'll love him while we may,  
And for the happiness we've known  
Forever grateful stay.

But should the angels call for him  
Much sooner than we'd planned,  
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes  
And try to understand.

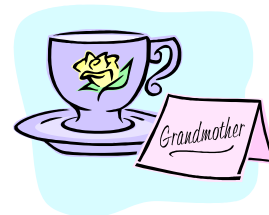


## Mother's Day Bouquet

I think that up in Heaven  
There's a Mother's Day bouquet  
Hand-picked by garden angels  
In a colorful array  
Our family and friends  
Each represent a flower  
That may be plucked from earthly fields  
At any given hour  
Some picked as tiny buds  
While some are in full bloom  
We need not worry who's picked first  
We'll all be gathered soon  
And as each flower's chosen  
God plants a few more seeds  
It's up to us to help them grow  
And let them not be weeds

Talesha Hogan © 1998

[www.taleshahogan.com](http://www.taleshahogan.com)



## Mother's Love



A mother's love is like a circle,  
it has no beginning and no ending.  
It keeps going around and around ever expanding,  
touching everyone who comes in contact with it.  
Engulfing them like the morning's mist,  
warming them like the noontime sun,  
and covering them like a blanket of evening stars.  
A mother's love is like a circle,  
it has no beginning and no ending.  
Happy Mother's Day Mom,  
With lots of love!

*Joseph D. Martinez*

*May 23, 1972 to October 13, 2007*



*Since you've been gone, there is not a day that goes by  
that we are not reminded of you.*

*You would have been thirty-seven years old this year,  
way too young to have left us.*

*We miss your smile and your laugh and the way you were always  
there for us anytime we needed someone to help out.*

*We could feel the way you loved us even if you could not always tell  
us.*

*We miss the fun times we had together, so short and not often enough.*

*Our lives are just not the same anymore without you.*

*We will never get over you not being here anymore,  
but we also know that you are in a better place now.*

*We know that one day we will be together again.*

*That's what keeps us going in this world.*

*We also know that you are near us in spirit and loving us,  
helping us just as you always did.*

*Our love for you is always and forever.*

*One day we will leave this world and we know that you will  
be there waiting with open arms to see us.*

*We don't know when that will be, but we do know it will happen.*

*We will then be together again and in the presence of God,  
giving praise and glory throughout eternity.*

*We miss you and love you.*

*Your loving family,*

*Mom, Patty, Mike, Brittany,*

*Michael & Allison*

## ***Taylor Keith Pike—We celebrate your life on earth***

***November 9, 1985 — May 14, 2007***

Our dear son, we don't understand why you had to go so soon. We miss your daily presence in our lives and it is so strange, this new normal. As we watch your friends graduating from college, getting engaged, finding jobs, traveling...we can't help but wonder where you would be today.

We certainly feel your presence often. I know you are with us in spirit and that love never dies. We try very hard to cherish the memories of our 21 years with you and not focus on your death and absence. There are times of sadness, but also room for joy in those memories. We can be thankful for all the fun we had and the experiences we shared. Fly free my son, until we meet again. We're taking good care of Kitty. We love you, Mom, Dad and Megan



**Portraits from Ashes by Raven**

# 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.

**Sue Bowditch** has been a beacon of hope to so many. She is always willing to help in any way necessary because she has a heart of gold. I am sorry for the reason that we got to know each other, but, I thank God for bringing her into my life.

Sue will be moving from our area and therefore will have to give up her position with the BP/USA Tampa Bay Chapter. Sue has been on our Steering Committee, meeting facilitator for the Day-time Group and also the Plant City Group. She has also been an active member on our Angel of Hope committee. She gladly helped whenever asked and she played a big part in planning our annual Candlelight ceremony and boutique.

Sue always went above and beyond to help others and this chapter. I respect her input and advice and she has been my dearest support and sounding board. I know I speak for all those folks that had the privilege to meet Sue or work with her. Sue, you will be sorely missed but we wish you and Ben our very best in this new *season* in your lives.

God bless you both!

## MY JOURNEY WITH THE TAMPA BAY CHAPTER OF BP/USA

Ben and I look forward to another new journey in our life. Most people move from Maine to Florida but we have to be different. I am going to move to Maine and drive slowly.....just kidding.

Gosh where to begin.....almost nine years ago, I began my journey of grief after our 33 year old daughter, Karron died. I shudder to think where I would have been if not for this wonderful organization. I had no idea where this journey would take me or what would happen to me as I traveled down this road.

I have learned so much, met so many wonderful people and have been blessed with being able to share my grief, my knowledge and my love. People who never knew Karron, now know about her, and the children I had never met in real life, I have now gotten to know. What a privilege for me that has been.

I want to thank the people who were there for me when I was first "newly" bereaved and those that held my hand and stood by my side and cried with me.

I want to thank those who have allowed me to hold their hands and walk by them. It has been such a wonderful journey for me. You think, wonderful journey, well yes it has been. I have seen myself and others transformed from someone who had no idea if they could survive all this pain into someone who not only has survived, but have gone on to help each other in the process. Not many people get a front row seat to that. I was up close and personal with all of this. It's like watching a garden grow and watching the flower buds unfold and start a new beginning.

Keep these groups going because unfortunately there will always be someone who needs you to reach out and help them. Don't lose the ability to remember what you were like when you were "newly" bereaved. If you lose that, you will lose your compassion and they need to know you truly understand.

To everyone who I have laughed with, talked with and cried with, I will miss you more than you can imagine. Some of you have become like family to me and so it's hard to move on and not want to take you with me. You will always be in my heart.

Thank you for allowing me to share some of your darkest days and deepest pain. I hope that my being there gave you hope, strength, and the ability to know that you can get through this and see the light again. You all have honored me as no one else has. Thank you for the love you have shared with me and given to me. I am the most blessed person in the world.

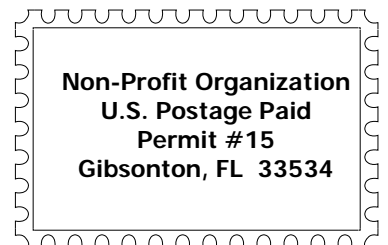
We hope to be back in the next year or so and build on our property so you aren't rid of me yet.

My love and best wishes to you all,

Sue



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



**May 2009**  
POSTMASTER - Dated Material  
Please do not delay.

