



Tampa Bay Chapter

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

www.bpusatampabay.org

November 2006

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

Janna Marie Snyder

MEETING INFORMATION

Regular Monthly SUNDAY Meeting Sunday, November 12, 6:30 to 8:30

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

St. Joseph's Hospital
Medical Arts Building, Auditorium
3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

(Note: Park in hospital garage or in small lot
adjacent to circle drive next to MAB.)

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, November 10, 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, November 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 each month)

Thursday, November 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

Gift Night-November Meetings



At our November Meetings, Plan to share a special Christmas story or memory about your child and if you can handle it, purchase a gift that you would have bought for your child - please purchase gifts fitting for ages from infant to 15 years old. All gifts will be donated to a local children's charity.

(This is strictly voluntary-please do not wrap gifts!)



2006 Candle Light Ceremony

December 10, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Arts Building.

(Please page 6 for details)



Thanksgiving Prayer

I'm thankful this Thanksgiving
That my grief is not so new.
Last year it was so painful
To think of losing you.

Death can't claim my love for you
Tho we are far apart,
Sweet memories will always be
Engraved upon my heart.

Time can never bring you back
But it can help me be
Thankful for the years of joy
You brought our family.

To all the parents with grief so new
I share your loss and sorrow.
I pray you find with faith and time
The blessings of each tomorrow.

*by Charlotte Irick
Idaho Falls, ID*



IT'S BETTER NOW

How I wish I had known someone, anyone, I could have turned to back in 1978 as I approached the first Thanksgiving after my son's death who could have told me **IT WILL BE BETTER!** Unfortunately, there was no support group in Atlanta at that time, so I anticipated my first Thanksgiving with fear and trepidation, thinking it would be that painful for as long as I lived.

Those of us who have had several years to make our adjustment can do nothing of greater importance than to pass on to you the message that you will learn how to handle the holidays. I don't know of any shortcuts. If I had I would have used them back there. It takes experiencing a few Thanksgivings and Christmases before you come to know what you need to do to handle those days.

If you're new at surviving, do whatever it is that you need to do to get through these first special times, but do them knowing that it won't always be this painful. Please believe me when I tell you, **it really is better now.**

By Mary Cleckley,
Atlanta, GA

Chapter News

ANGEL OF HOPE UPDATE

www.angelofhopetampabay.org

We agreed to have a monthly committee meeting (unless a holiday weekend)! Please be a part of this important planning in memory of all of our children!



If you are interested in attending, please call Beverley Hurley at 832-3175.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE & CRAFT SALE

We want to thank the co chairs Barbara and Tommy Dietrich and Gina and Santiago Casal for all their hard work in making all the arrangements for this wonderful event. We look forward to next year!

SPRING TEA

We have reserved a date for our 2007 Spring Tea so mark your calendars for Saturday, April 28, Comfort Inn, I-275 and Busch Blvd.

Chapter Library Book Reminder

Have you got a Bereaved Parent of the USA Library book at home? If you have finished reading it, please return it to our library so other bereaved parents can benefit from its words and wisdom. While there is no time limit for how long you can have a book — the longer you borrow a book, the less opportunities other bereaved parents have to read it. Because of our limited budget, it is normal to only have one copy of any one title, so its important to have the books returned promptly.

We also accept any book donations. We all know how important reading about bereavement is to the newly bereaved, so why not give the gift of hope.

Contact Dave or Kathy Simone at (813) 653-1717 to return a book, arrange a donation or inquire about an available title. Or, visit the Sunday monthly meeting where the library is always set up at these meetings.

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 (Se Habla Espanol)	(813) 996-4281
Crisis Center	211

Bereaved Parents/USA National Office

Post Office Box 95, Park Forest, IL 60466

Phone: (708) 748-7866

www.bereavedparentsusa.org

Love Gifts

Robbie & Frank Edwards
In loving memory of their grandson
Alec Michael Williams
5/19/1996-7/21/1996

Sandra Boehning
In loving memory of her granddaughter
Caylee Marie Cepero
9/3/2000-3/8/2005

Buddy & Sue Butler
In loving memory of their daughter
Debbie Hester
10/14/1961-7/25/1998

Henry & Eloisa Valenzuela
In loving memory of their grandson
Anthony Joseph Montagano
12/2/1991-1/2/2001

James Roy & Elaine Rogers
In loving memory of their son
Jason Roy Rogers
1/8/1978-3/21/1990

Betty Jean Shye
In loving memory of her son
John David Shye
5/27/1964-8/7/1994

Alicia Ellis West
In loving memory of her son
Douglas William Ellis
1/9/1962-12/12/1983

Helen Ramirez
In loving memory of her son
Arthur Ramirez, Jr.
6/10/1951-12/30/1997

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.

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. We limit monthly sponsorship pages to four (4) a month so as to limit our printing costs and still have room for articles and poems. Your contribution supports the chapter and helps pay for the printing of the newsletter.

Additionally, sponsorship pages will be posted on our Website for one (1) year. Simply click on "How we remember."

To sponsor a newsletter page, contact Beverley Hurley at (813) 832-3175 (email address: bee.hurley@gte.net). Please note that sponsorship pages are **due by the 15th of the month BEFORE the publication month**. So please get your sponsorships in early and by the 15th of the month BEFORE the publication month so you will not be disappointed if there is not room left for your page in memory of your child.



Our Children . . . Remembered

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

November Birthdays

Bray, Debbie (Hurley)
11/14/1967 - 6/1/1990
M - Beverley (Bray) Hurley
S - Kimberly Gonzalez

Buzbee-Reeves, Devon Michael
11/16/1994 - 11/19/1994
M - Celeste Buzbee
F - Mike Reeves
B-Tristan Alan Buzbee-Reeves

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

Decosta, Brittany
11/19/87 - 04/07/91
M - Kay Decosta

Delk, Melissa Ann
11/13/72 - 12/09/77
M - Linda Delk
B - Louis Delk
S - Meronda Brown

Dietrich, Jamie Rachel
11/17/1977 - 11/20/2004
P-Tommy & Barbara Dietrich

Dixon Jr., Anthony Howard
11/27/1978 - 4/1/1996
M - Brenda & Toney Dixon
B - David Dixon

Douglas, Christopher
11/4/1977 - 12/22/1997
M - Laren & Michael
S - Stacy & Leigh
B - Clinton

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

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

Hinchey, Ronald
11/17/1974 - 12/10/1999
P - Ronald & Donna Hinchey
S - Tracy Foster

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

Kettlety, Daniel S.
11/7/1978 - 11/10/1997
P-Wayne & Sherry Kettlety

Lind, Joshua Richard
11/9/1983 - 11/14/1999
F - Richard Lind

Loadholtz, Glenn
11/25/1969 - 2/15/2005
M-George & Jackie Loadholtz
S-Gwen Walkowlak

Milam, Perry
11/4/1974 - 10/01/1994
M - Nancy Milam

Nichols, Melissa
11/9/1982 - 9/4/2002
M-Terrena Nichols
F-Shannon Nichols
S-Brandy Nichols
B-Shannon Nichols,Jr.

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

Robles-Greene, Brodie Shane
11/15/1996 - 11/29/1996
M - Denise Robles
F - Ronnie Greene
B - Shane

Russell, Melody
11/25/1985 - 11/25/1985
M-Karron Russell
GP - Ben & Sue Bowditch
S/B - Brytani and Derak
Aunts - Catherine and Roben

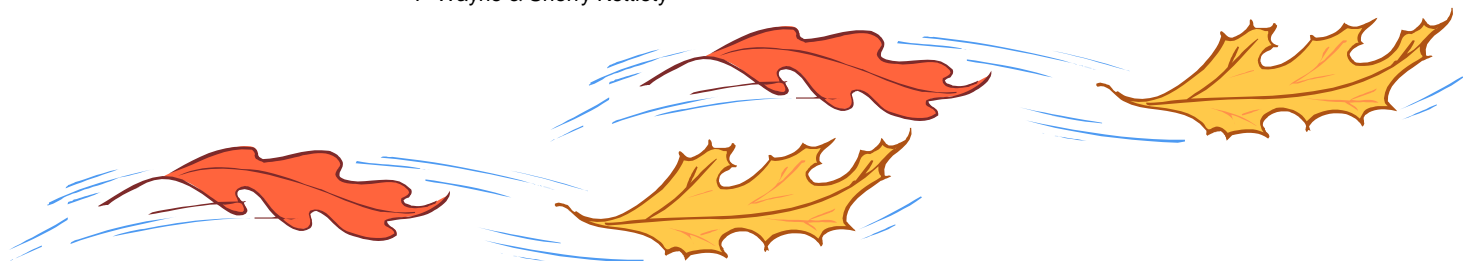
Shockey, Ann
11/08/56 - 04/26/70
P - Dick & Connie Shockey

Torres, Angel Luv
11/19/1982 - 11/2/1994
P-Aida & Angel Torres
B-Nicolas Torres

Walker, Johnny
11/10/1964 - 11/04/1998
M - Evelyn Cline

Walker, Nick
11/12/1983 - 1/11/2001
M - Denise Walker
GM - Shirley Walker

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



November Anniversaries

Baker, Brendolyn Joyce Butterfly
1/1/1948 - 11/9/1990
M - Rebeckah Mitchell
SF - Daniel Mitchell
B - Daniel Leroy Mitchell
S - Sharolyn Mitchell, Rhondolyn
Shedrick, Lerolyn Capehart, and
Angelyn Capehart

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

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

Buzbee-Reeves, Devon Michael
11/16/1994 - 11/19/1994
M - Celeste Buzbee
F - Mike Reeves
B-Tristan Alan Buzbee-Reeves

Chilson, Candice
10/24/83 - 11/10/01
M - Wendy Chilson

Dietrich, Jamie Rachel
11/17/1977 - 11/20/2004
P-Tommy & Barbara Dietrich

Gladen, Renee Rose
4/21/1961-11/17/1999
S-Doama G;adem
Gray, Jay
09/07/70 - 11/09/01
M - Dee Gray

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

Hines, Heather
4/28/1975 - 11/25/1998
M - Sue Hines

Kettlety, Daniel S.
11/7/1978 - 11/10/1997
P-Wayne & Sherry Kettlety

Lind, Joshua Richard
11/9/1983 - 11/14/1999
F - Richard Lind

Moore, Vanessa
9/3/1980-11/11/2005
M-Pat Moore

Robles-Greene, Brodie Shane
11/15/1996 - 11/29/1996
M - Denise Robles
F - Ronnie Greene
B - Shane

Rogers, Dayna
Andrew

3/12/1973 - 11/27/1994
M - Linda Heatherly
S - Misty Walker & Amber Roger

Ruiz, Marcus Nelson
12/29/1996 - 11/12/2000
P - Aleida & Nelson Ruiz
S - Illana

Russell, Melody
11/25/1985 - 11/25/1985
M-Karron Russell
GP - Ben & Sue Bowditch
S/B - Brytani and Derak
Aunts - Catherine and Roben

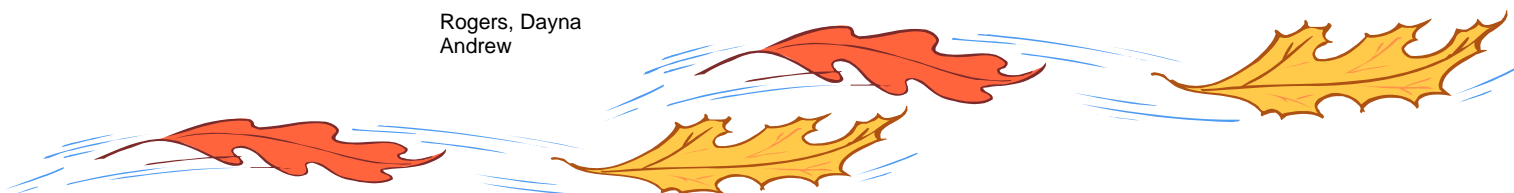
Shank, Jamie
11/3/1972-10/26/2003
M-Joan Schank

Snyder, Janna Marie
10/21/1978 - 11/11/1995
GP Marian & Paul Bullard
P - Dana & Connie Snyder
B - Jeff Snyder

Torres, Angel Luv
11/19/1982 - 11/2/1994
P-Aida & Angel Torres
B-Nicolas Torres

Walker, Johnny
11/10/1964 - 11/04/1998
M - Evelyn Cline

*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. We
truly understand your pain;
for we, too, remember our
own children.*



In loving Memory of
Janna Marie Snyder
October 21, 1978 to November 11, 1995



OUR SPECIAL VETERANS DAY "ANGEL"

WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH AND WILL
ALWAYS HOLD YOU IN OUR HEARTS

MOM AND DAD
BROTHER JEFFREY
GRANDMA

AUNTS AND UNCLES
COUSINS
FRIENDS

2006 Candlelight Ceremony Participation Form

(Please return by November 20 to have your child's name appear in the Program)

To: BP/USA, P.O. Box 3226, Tampa, FL 33601

- I (family) will be attending the service on December 10, and will light a candle in remembrance of my child/children

Number of people attending _____

- I will be unable to attend the service but would like to have a candle lit in memory of my child/children. NOTE: Due to time restraints, only picture for parents attending the Ceremony will be shown.. Thank you for your understanding.
- I have enclosed a picture for the Presentation. Please use the picture from last year Presentation.

Child's name:

Date of Birth:

Death Date:

Type of Death:

Son or Daughter of:

Sister or Brother of:

Grandson or Granddaughter of:

- I would like to furnish _____ for the reception. NOTE: Please try to furnish food (sandwiches, salads, deviled eggs, etc.) since we seem to have an abundance of desserts.
- I am enclosing a donation in the amount of \$ _____ in honor of my child/children.

Your Name:

Address/Zip

Telephone Number:

Email Address



2006 Candle Lighting Remembrance Ceremony



Bereaved Parents of the USA, Tampa Bay Chapter will hold its annual Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 10. The ceremony will be held in The Medical Arts Building (MAB) Auditorium at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa.

lease join us in this beautiful tribute to our children. Any bereaved parent or family member and friends are invited to participate. For those of you who are newly bereaved, we encourage you to attend. This service can make handling the holiday season a little easier.

KEEPSAKE VOTIVE

Each family who attends will light a candle in honor of their child and take the candle home to light throughout the holidays. We will be using a new keepsake votive candle this year.

RECEPTION

We will have a reception following the ceremony and we invite you to bring, if possible, your child's favorite food (i.e. dessert, snack, sandwiches, etc.) to share with others.

PICTURE PRESENTATION

A Special Slide Presentation of our beautiful Children! If you are planning to attend our Candle Light Ceremony, mail a picture of your child, and include their full name as you want it displayed on the slide presentation and also the birth and death dates, to:

Dave & Kathy Simone
1230 Carrie Wood Drive,
Valrico, FL 33594

NOTE: Due to time restraints, only picture of children whose parents are attending the Ceremony will be shown.. Thank you for your understanding.

Picture should be of your deceased child only. If your child's picture was included last year or in any of the National Gathering closing ceremonies or Chapter Newsletters and you want to use the same photo, just let Dave and Kathy know that. Pictures mailed in will be returned to you at the Candle Light Service-please pick them up at the registration desk. You can scan the picture yourself and email to Dave Simone at : davesimone@verizon.net

Any questions please call Dave or Kathy Simone at 653-1717.

BUTTONS

We have the equipment to make picture buttons. Bring a picture no smaller than 3" x 5". Buttons are round and measure approximately 2.25" in diameter. Cost per button is only \$2.00

BOUTIQUE

There will be an Angel/Butterfly Boutique to purchase holiday items or gifts. All items are donated and all proceeds benefit your local BP/USA Chapter. To donate items, please call Beverley Hurley 813-832-3175!

PARTICIPATION FORM

For planning purposes, or to ensure your child's name appears in our candle lighting program, or if you wish to have a candle lit for your child in your absence, please complete and submit the Form above and send it in before November 20 to:

BP/USA Tampa Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 3226
Tampa, FL 33601-3226

THE FIRST IS THE WORST

They say the first is the worst.
 I know the pain of not having my child.
 I know the pain of not being able to hold her.
 I know the pain I went through to have her.
 I know the pain of burying my child.
 I know the pain every time I go to the grave.
 But no one said how the pain would increase when
 the ...
 First Valentines Day came
 First Easter came
 First Mother's Day came
 First Father's Day came
 First Birthday came.

All the holidays that come during the first year are
 really very hard after your child dies.
 I know the pain of those "First's."

You will get through them.
 Believe me — I know.
 I'm halfway there —
 Then I'll have to the "Two's."

*By Michelle Ramsey
 Tampa, FL*

Now Childless Gathering Scottsdale, AZ

Please notify Sandy Fox IF you want another Now Childless Gathering. There will NOT be a gathering if you fail to take the time to let her know you are interested. Sandy would like to know how many would be interested in another gathering for now childless parents in either Scottsdale or nearby. We were wondering if near the end of March would be a better time. It is beautiful weather in Scottsdale at that time of year. Before she and her committee begin to make plans we would like to know how much interest there would be in attending this event. We try to avoid summer as two other major national conferences are always held at this time. Please email Sandy at sfoxaz@hotmail.com or write to her at Sandy Fox 7407 E. Pasaro Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85262. Scottsdale is a BEAUTIFUL city with many interesting things to see and do. It is a wonderful late winter break and interesting city to visit.



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

November 2006

POSTMASTER - Dated Material

Please do not delay.



Return Service Requested

Is it Grief Love?

At a recent grief seminar, "*The Courage to Grieve and Grow*," I heard what were for me some rather shocking intellectual pronouncements from the featured speaker, Judy Tatelbaum. She bravely declared, "Grief is not a particularly great testimonial to dead people. Grief is not love." She clarified this by explaining that grief is a process, a natural healing that occurs when we suffer a loss, but one that we should ultimately grow beyond, as we proceed toward a time of acceptance and internal peace. Grief is not love. Could I ever confuse the two? Yes, I think I could. As much as I loved my son while he was alive and still love him now that he is gone, my grief could possibly overshadow that love if I allowed this to happen. The pain has been so intense, and even now, after two years, can be so unexpectedly piercing. Yet my heart recognizes the truth in the statement that grief is not love, even as my mind balks and rebels at this stark knowledge.

For me this was not yet another "head" experience but a gripping, visceral revelation. My grief, my pain, my sorrow at losing my child are as real as anything could be, and often seem to be out of my control. The feelings come and go, sometimes strong, sometimes not. Yet the feelings of love are equally present, and now I know that they can be sorted out from the grief, and I realize that the love can go on even as the grief dissipates. There is a certain freedom and joy in knowing this, and for that I am very grateful.

Head knowledge and heart knowledge. Sometimes we bounce back and forth between the two. Sometimes one grows large and threatens to outweigh the other. In the best of time we have a blend and balance of the two. As Compassionate Friends (Bereaved Parents of the USA), we grope for meaning even as we console one another; sometimes, for the moment at least, that's all there is.

*By Jon Pederson
 Fresno, CA.*

