



Bereaved Parents of the USA

Anne Arundel County Chapter

September 2007

www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org

We hope you were able to attend our Chapter picnic on August 19. Knowing it can be hard for many of us to think about social functions after the death of our child, we are thankful to Janet Tyler, Lisa Beall and their families for again organizing this summer event. You may feel the need to have a "safe" place to go, as you try to enjoy some of the pleasures of summer among new and caring friends. What better place to talk about all of our children freely - especially the ones we miss?

Our upcoming meeting on September 6 covers an important topic — "Making it Through the Holidays (After the Death of a Child)". Many Chapter members develop ideas that over the years have helped them cope with those difficult days we face on the calendar. Perhaps you have some ideas of your own you'd like to share with other members? A key thing I learned at my first Bereaved Parent's meeting was to make a plan for those days. Even if your idea is to stay in bed, plan to do it and let others know that is what you will be doing on that day. So please, mark your calendar and plan to join us for this usually well-attended discussion (with sharing groups to follow).

September can be a difficult time for many of us as we grieve the loss of our child or sibling. Another school year begins, days begin to shorten, temperatures begin to fall, summer distractions that may have sustained you for a time are now at an end. But, despite our loss, we can find beauty in some of these seasonal changes, so please try to go outside and experience them. Touch the comfort of a warm sweater that was tucked away in your closet. Smell the crisp, clean autumn air. Look at the deep, rich colors of the trees as they begin to change. Listen to the crackle made by fallen leaves on the ground as you walk over them. Most of all, feel the love you have for your child in everything with every step you take.

Carole Gilmour
BPUA, Anne Arundel County Chapter

GOALS OF BEREAVED PARENTS OF THE USA

- to educate families about the grief process and all its complexities as it applies to the death of a child at any age and from any cause.
- to aid and support those who are suffering such a loss, regardless of race, creed or financial situation.
- to provide a library at each meeting place where members may borrow books with up-to-date information about the grief process.
- to supply the telephone numbers of other bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are able to offer support to other more newly bereaved families.
- to inform and educate members of the helping professions who interact with bereaved parents as to the nature and duration of parent/sibling/grandparent bereavement.
- to provide monthly meetings with sharing groups and occasional informative programs.

*The printing and mailing of this newsletter has been donated
By Janice and Chris Kunkel in memory of their son
Jason J. Easter*



**Anne Arundel County Chapter
Bereaved Parents of the USA
P.O. Box 6280
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-0280
443-572-7872**

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Programs: Paul Balasic
Jane Schindler

It is our sincere hope that you will find comfort somewhere in this newsletter. It is our intention to offer you hope in knowing that you are not alone. We encourage you to write about your feelings and to share your feelings with others who understand. Material to be printed "in memory of" must be sent to the editor 6-8 weeks in advance of the newsletter in which you wish the item to be printed.

OCTOBER SUBMISSIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 8

Library: Our lending library is available to help you understand and deal with your grief. Most of our materials have been donated in memory of a child. When you have finished with them, please return them at our monthly meeting or mail them to the post office box listed above.

Refreshments at our meetings: A sign-up sheet is on the refreshment table at the meeting. Drinks, ice, and paper products are provided by the chapter. For information contact Carol Tomaszewski at 410 519-8448.



REPRINT POLICY: Material in this Newsletter of the Anne Arundel County Chapter/ BPUSA, may be copied only 1) if the article is copied in its entirety, 2) if the person writing the article is identified as noted in the Newsletter 3) if it is clearly stated that it was taken from the Newsletter of the Anne Arundel County Chapter/ BPUSA, and 4) if our website, is cited in the credits. This material is to be used and given to help persons with the grieving process and may not be sold or become a part of something being sold for profit unless first obtaining the permission of the author of the article and/or the editor of this Newsletter. The editor of the newsletter is Carole Gilmour, PO Box 6280, Annapolis, MD 21401-0280.

MEETING INFORMATION

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

Doors open at 7:15 p.m; meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
(Meetings usually held on 1st Thursday of each month)

Calvary United Methodist Church
301 Rowe Blvd., Annapolis, Maryland
Please park in the lot behind the church

Telephone Friends:



Sometimes we feel the need to talk to someone who understands the pain we feel. When you feel the need to talk, have questions to ask, or have just had a difficult day, these people welcome your call and are willing to listen to you.

Marie Dyke. Single parent, daughter, 17, only child, car accident.

Janet Tyler 410-969-7597. Daughter, 5, and brother, 33, car accident.

Tia Stinnett 410-360-1341. Miscarriages and infant death.

Sandy Platts 410-721-6457. Infant death.

Other Resources:

Bereaved Parents of the USA (BPUSA)
National number (708) 748-7866

Stephanie Roper Committee
Anne Arundel County Chapter
For victims of violent crime
contact representative James Donnelly
410-544-1473

Survivors of Suicide Group (SOS)
Meets 1st Tuesday of every month
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Severna Park United Methodist Church
731 Benfield Road, Severna Park, Maryland
410-987-2129

M.A.D.D. Maryland — "Family Forever"
Weekly support group
For family and friends of homicide victims;
victims of drunk driving accidents
Meets every Monday at 7:30 p.m
Contact Jan Withers at 301-627-1743

CHAPTER NEWS AND NOTES

Sponsor our Newsletter or Website

A wonderful way to remember your child and help our Chapter defray costs is to sponsor our monthly newsletter or website (or both). **For the newsletter**, full sponsorship for a monthly issue is **\$200.00**, which includes printing and postage expenses. Up to two people or groups can sponsor an issue and the cost will be divided equally between the sponsors (**\$100.00** each). If someone has already signed up for full sponsorship of a month and another member would like to share in that month, this is allowable. However, preference will be given to new sponsors when there are more than two members or families wishing to sponsor an issue. Sponsorships are welcomed on a "first-come, first-served" basis. **For the website**, the cost is **\$25.00** for the entire month. Please contact Dave Alexander at 410-544-3634 with any questions or requests.

AMAZON.COM gives back!

Did you know you can go through our Chapter's website when you want to shop at **Amazon.com**? By using their link found on our homepage, we receive a 5% commission on any purchases that are made without increasing the cost to the purchaser. Go to our site, www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org, and click on the butterflies found on the Welcome page. Then scroll down to the bottom of the following page, click on the **Amazon.com** icon (bottom left corner of your screen) and you will be linked to their site. Please pass this information along to your family, friends and colleagues to give them an easy way to help our Chapter when shopping on the Internet.

Upcoming Meeting Topics & Events

September 6: Making It Through Holidays and Special Days. The holidays, particularly those in November and December, can be very difficult for bereaved parents. A panel of our members will discuss these issues and offer suggestions on preparing for and dealing with holidays and significant dates such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chanukah, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day, the birthdate of the child, the deathdate of the child, the day the child would have first gone to school, etc.

October 4: No program scheduled (Sharing Groups)

October 6: Memory Walk (See below)

MEETING TOPICS NOTE:

Basic format: In the first half-hour we begin with a general group session (attended by all) usually for a scheduled speaker or panel. We always try to address a topic of interest and value to families mourning the death of a child. Following the talk, we break up into sharing groups. We always have sharing groups, and the topics discussed — particularly for the newly bereaved groups — do not necessarily focus on the night's program (unless it is relevant to the members in the sharing group). We appreciate your feedback and suggestions for future topics. Please contact Paul Balasic or Jane Schindler.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEMORY WALK PLANNED — We need you



We hope you will join us for our Chapter's 5th Annual Memory Walk in honor of our children who have died too soon. This year it will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2007 (rain or shine) in Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, Maryland. (There will be no park admittance fee charged to walk attendees.) There are many opportunities to help as we begin to plan for this event. Please look through the following list of jobs and maybe there is something you can do, big or small, to help make the walk a success. If not, your donations to help offset our costs are greatly appreciated but not mandatory. If you can volunteer and/or work with others on any of these tasks, please contact organizers Barbara Bessling at 410-761-9017, email: thebesslings@cablespeed.com; or Aimée Kilian at 301-674-7872, email: aimee.kilian@yahoo.com. They'd love to hear from you.

Memory Walk Needs: advertising (publicity, flyers, notices); registration table; decorations and paper goods (napkins, tablecloths, etc.); tree donation and planting; butterfly tags and markers; placement of walk directions and signs; assistance with opening and closing ceremonies; refreshments (coffee, water, breakfast food, etc.); coolers and ice.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:



Rachel Hand in memory of her son **Adrian Bernard Andrew Ortega**

Jan and Leo Hylan in memory of their daughter **Alison Marie Hylan**

Ken Smith in memory of his niece **Tracy Ann Fotino**

Donations are gratefully accepted to offset the cost of: printing and mailing our Chapter's monthly newsletter; maintenance of our website; our annual events - Memory Walk, Remembrance Service, Conference of Hope and Healing; as well as books and other materials for our Chapter's library.

A final note of thanks to our outgoing editor, Rick and Carol Tomaszewski

.. for your years of working on this newsletter which serves as a lifeline to so many of us as we grieve for our deceased children. The time you have lovingly spent finding and writing items to include on these pages was done, I know, as a tribute to your son, David. This monthly newsletter is the one piece of mail I have needed to receive the most since we lost our son in 2003. For me, on a deep level, the fact that I have volunteered to take on this important job for our Chapter marks a positive sign in my grief journey. It is an honor to have been accepted as the new Editor and, with your support, I look forward to creating future editions in memory of our cherished son and beloved brother, Christopher. I truly hope I can help all who read this newsletter as they mourn the loss of their precious child.

Carole Gilmour
BPUSA, Anne Arundel County Chapter



Some suggested materials that you may want to explore. I welcome your feedback. — Editor

BOOKS:

Saving Graces by Elizabeth Edwards (Broadway Books, 2006) Partly explores the death of her son, killed in a tragic car accident.
Songbird - Eva Cassidy, Her Story By Those Who Knew Her by Rob Burley, Jonathan Maitland & Elana Rhodes Byrd (Gotham Books; 2001, 2003). Biography of native Annapolis singer who achieved posthumous fame after succumbing to melanoma at age 33; co-authored by her mother.

MOVIES:

An Unfinished Life (PG-13, 2005) Explores a widowed, bereaved father's struggle to accept his daughter-in-law after a tragic car accident claims the life of his adult son.

In America (PG-13, 2002) Seeking a better life, a modern day Irish family moves to America after the loss of their only young son.. In turn, the two young daughters try to help their anguished parents find hope and magic in their new unfamiliar home.

Awkward Silence

I wish that someone would say his name.
I know my feelings they're trying to spare,
And so we go through the charade, the game.

Of dancing around the ghost that is there,
Trying to avoid the evoking a tear,
Of stirring emotions too painful to bear.

That he be forgotten is what I fear,
That no one will even his presence miss,
As if there were no trace that he was here.

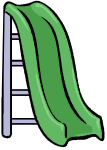
By referring to him, my purpose is
Not to stir pity or keep things the same.
But my heart will simply break if his

Memory will die like a flickering flame.
I just wish someone would say his name.

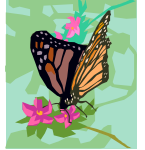


Richard A. Dew
from his book **Rachel's Cry -**
A Journey Through Grief

Tennessee Valley Publishers, Copyright 1996



SIBLING PAGE



My Song

My days were forever changed
after that dreaded phone call,
Christmas Eve is now just another day.
I wish this was some horrible nightmare
But no, I have to deal with losing my brother
somehow, some way.

There are days that I cry, scream,
and sometimes just be by myself in silence
There are walls I have built to keep people out
Then come other days when I can smile and laugh
and remember my brother
as I know he would want me to.

Each day I push through,
Some come easy and others aren't so easy,
but I've come to learn
that this is what the road of grieving is for me
at this point in my life.

Tomorrows are not certain,
this I know because I woke up one tomorrow
and my brother was not there.
He walks with me now in my heart
and "our" butterfly shows me he's near.

I still have his cell phone number
from his last phone call he made to me
the night before he died
saved on my caller ID,
I just can't seem to erase it.

Though it's been 19 months with him gone,
it still seems like yesterday when he was here
and I hope that feeling will last forever.

Many people don't understand why I am the way I am
now,
why I do the things I do.
I simply say,
Don't tell me who to grieve,
don't tell me what to believe,
life after a sibling death is one I'd rather not be living.

But there are many of you out there that do understand
and to know that when I write about my grief
and read the newsletters,
it makes my heart feel a little bit better.



Gary – day by day we're on our way...

Written by Melissa Barnhart
in memory of my brother
Gary Lee Downey, Jr.
October 30, 1980 – December 24, 2005
BPUSA, Anne Arundel County Chapter

It's hard sometimes to concentrate on homework. Even the subjects that used to be easy are really hard now. I am always forgetting what I am trying to do. I can't keep my mind on what I am doing. The other day the teacher called on me, and I didn't know what she was talking about. It wouldn't have been so bad except that I thought I was paying attention. Homework is even worse. I can't seem to get anything done at home. I feel so sad, knowing that she isn't there and that she's not coming home.



Christine O'Keefe Lafser
from the book Longing For My Child
Reflections for Parents and Siblings after a Child's Death
Loyola Press, Copyright 2002

OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

Please remember the following families this month.

Jon Russell Aikin
Son of Susan Eisel
Grandson of Elizabeth and Barry Aikin
September 4, 1983 - November 19, 2001

Joseph Benjamin Antonelli
Son of Carole Antonelli
November 6, 1961 - September 9, 2003

Elizabeth Sinton Archard
Daughter of Barbara Hale
September 25, 1964 - August 27, 1978

Patrick John Bennett Jr.
Son of Patrick and Deborah Bennett
September 27, 1975 - April 15, 1999

Jamie Bessling
Son of Judy and Ed Bessling
October 23, 1974 - September 23, 2002

Alex Blake
Son of Bob and Veronica Blake
February 1, 1982 - September 25, 2004

Traci Lynn Boone
Daughter of Bonita Boone-Adamecz
September 17, 1964 - August 17, 1986

Preston Leon Bromley
Son of Sandy and Leon Bromley
March 30, 1982 - September 2, 2003

Scott Eric Caplan
Son of Nancy Caplan
September 20, 1986 - January 6, 2006

Mary Kathleen Carmody
Daughter of Mary Carmody
August 24, 1958 - September 17, 1998

O. Steven Cooper
Nephew of Thomas and Ethel Cleary
Cousin of Frances Palmer
July 5, 1954 - September 26, 1998

David Michael Cutter
Son of Jim and Anne Marie Cutter
September 16, 2002 - January 2, 2003

Alexandra "Allie" Ann Denevan
Daughter of Gregory J. Denevan
September 18, 1985 - August 21, 2002

Alexandra DiLego
Daughter of Tom and Mary Sue DiLego
September 20, 1999 - September 20, 1999

Andrew Thomas DiLego
Son of Tom and Mary Sue DiLego
September 20, 1999 - September 20, 1999

Jason T. Easter
Son of Janice and Chris Kunkel
January 30, 1973 - September 9, 1999

Ronald Wesley Farley
Son of Dorothy and Donald Farley
September 15, 1955 - June 28, 2000

David Jonathan Frame
Son of Carol Brothers
April 12, 1967 - September 11, 2001

Lauryn Beth Grapski
Daughter of Kathleen Grapski
September 17, 1980 - November 17, 2000

Sarah McSweeney Gray
Daughter of Kathy and Bob Gray
November 12, 1983 - September 21, 2003

Jeffrey Andrew Grimm
Son of John and Linda Grimm
November 25, 1973 - September 28, 1989

McKayla Raeanne Hall
Daughter of Tammey Decker
Granddaughter of Mike and Julie Hall
July 22, 2000 - September 20, 2003

Ronald Michael Hall III
Son of Mike and Julie Hall
May 17, 1980 - September 20, 2003

Eric Paul Haynal
Son of Nancy Doherty
March 7, 1969 - September 13, 2005

OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED (continued)

Daniel Embert Hinton Jr.
Son of Dan and Pam Hinton
September 23, 1970 - March 7, 2003

Jeffrey Cecil "JC" Jaecklein
Son of Terri Johnson
September 4, 1977 - March 16, 2006

Matthew James Katz
Son of Bob and Sue Katz
March 13, 1982 - September 7, 2003

Mark Edward Keefe
Son of Debra and Mark Keefe
September 13, 1974 - January 8, 1991

Brice Charles Kelley
Son of Hannah and Chris Kelley
September 24, 2002 - May 31, 2004

Kevin Murray Kerr
Son of Debra and Richard Kerr
January 19, 1980 - September 4, 2001

Troy Matthew Kotsol
Son of Kathy and Bill Boob
March 2, 1971 - September 3, 2005

Nicholas Paul Liberatore
Son of Larry and Pat Liberatore
September 27, 1980 - June 9, 1997

William A. Miller
Son of Mary J. Miller
Brother of Marlene Miller
September 1, 1964 - January 18, 2004

Chad William Muehlhauser
Son of Paula and Bill Muehlhauser
October 3, 1983 - September 16, 1992

Eric Richard Munz
Son of Barbara and Richard Munz
September 21, 1963 - August 14, 2002

Kathleen "Katie" O'Connor
Daughter of Anne and Jim O'Connor
September 21, 1986 - July 11, 2003

Scott Thomas Palmer
Son of Frances Palmer
Grandson of Thomas and Ethel Cleary
August 3, 1983 - September 1, 1996

Sarah Elizabeth Patterson
Daughter of Cindy Patterson
June 28, 1987 - September 19, 2006

John Christopher Poe
Son of Sharon and Ben Poe
October 12, 1967 - September 24, 2001

Jayla Monet Powell
Daughter of Dorie Powell
September 26, 1998 - October 22, 2005

Robert William Rey II
Friend of Peggy Smeltzer
September 14, 1965 - October 2, 2003

James Ryan Rohrbaugh
Son of Doug and Donna Rohrbaugh
August 30, 1983 - September 5, 1983

David John Rose
Son of Carol Rose McAuliffe
October 21, 1969 - September 1, 1988

Daniel Maurice Rothman
Son of Juliet and Leonard Rothman
January 20, 1971 - September 17, 1992

Thomas "Tommy" Richard Short
Son of Karen Short
September 25, 1997 - October 16, 1997

Deonte Joseph Simms
Grandson of Deborah Simms
October 1, 1981 - September 8, 2001

Jami Jami Leigh Smith
Daughter of Deannie and Gerry Smith
October 19, 1977 - September 30, 1987

Heather M. Spindler
Daughter of Becky Spindler and Rich Suess
Sister of Amber Faul
August 7, 1985 - September 3, 2006

Roderick "Rod" William Stallings
Son of Robin Stallings
February 7, 1967 - September 14, 1996

Deon J. Summers
Son of John E. Summers
June 5, 1989 - September 2, 2003

OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED (continued)

Shonto Taylor
Grandson of Stephen and Carolyn Tew
September 7, 1979 - November 7, 1994

David William Tomaszewski
Son of Richard and Carol Tomaszewski
September 4, 1974 - February 6, 2001

Timothy Allen Umbel
Son of Richard and Mary Ann Umbel
Brother of Christina and Dawn Umbel
February 16, 1982 - September 15, 2002

Renetra "Nee" Lotrice Wallace-Connor
Daughter of Pamela Davis and Vernon Wallace
December 22, 1972 - September 22, 2006

John Leroy Waters Jr.
Son of Stella and Roy Waters
September 19, 1970 - May 23, 2000

Kevin Michael Wengert
Son of Debbie and David Wengert
October 2, 1987 - September 3, 2005

Faith Jordan Williams
Daughter of Nicole Hawkins
September 26, 1998 - January 11, 1999

Hope Marie Williams
Daughter of Nicole Hawkins
September 26, 1998 - October 6, 1998

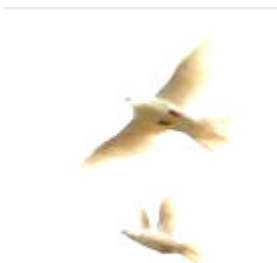
Jeffrey Kevin Withers
Son of Jan Withers
July 30, 1975 - September 28, 1975

Miriam Luby Wolfe
Daughter of Larry and Rosemary Mild
September 26, 1968 - December 21, 1988

Eryn Noel Wright
Daughter of Vincent and JoAnn Wright
September 24, 1982 - July 5, 2001

Note: If your child's name appears in the printed version of our newsletter but does not appear in this online version, it is because we have not received explicit permission from you to list it online. If you would like your child's name to also appear in future online editions of the newsletter, please send an email to dralex@sdalex.com

Always Remember the Strength Within You



Tomorrow might seem
As if it will never come
When your difficulties
Continue to absorb
All of your efforts.
But there is hope
That a better tomorrow is near;
There is strength within you
That will help you bear
All the burdens of today.

Jodi Mae
from the book Life Can Be Hard Sometimes...
but it's going to Be Okay - A Collection of Poems
edited by Susan Polis Schutz
Blue Mountain Press, Copyright 1990, 2000

My Rain Barrel

I grew up in the hills of Western Pennsylvania on a very small farm, where my parents raised a few chickens and pigs, and had a large vegetable garden. Much of our summers were spent tending the garden, picking, canning and freezing vegetables. To this day, nothing tastes as good as a tomato picked fresh from the garden... strawberries and raspberries you picked yourself...or fresh corn on the cob.

Water was a very precious commodity. Our well would sometimes go dry during the hot spells of summer. My father always had several rain barrels set up by the garage and barn to catch the spring and summer rains. I can remember my sister and I splashing and playing in the rain barrels...and of course getting an earful afterwards! That water was needed for the garden.

I listened to the summer storm last night... thunder and lightning followed by a total downpour... and thought of how my life mirrors the storm, and the water in those rain barrels. My son died six years ago. On that day, my emotional storms were horrendous...and for long afterward, that rain barrel of emotions continued to flow over. I tried getting a bigger barrel...it still overflowed! I couldn't control it no matter how hard I tried.

As we travel our life's journey, our "emotional rain barrel" fills and empties in response to the events and stressors in our lives. You've probably heard the platitudes about good stress and bad stress, and getting control of stress. Well, in my opinion, when you lose a child, the level of emotional stress in your life explodes like a hurricane. And who can control a hurricane? I think we just have to wait out the hurricane... wait out the storm.

After a while, I was able to find ways to deal with the other stressors in my life... work, family, finances, etc, to smooth those storms so they would only be a light summer shower. And even begin to find ways to reduce my emotional stress levels ... my virtual trips to the beach. Then when the storms of grief came, there would be more room in my rain barrel.

But believe me, that rain barrel still overflows quite often!

And I wouldn't have it any other way. Sometimes I want to feel the storms of grief; hear the thunder, see the lightning, and feel the downpour. I want to remember my son and cry for our loss ...and then play and splash in my rain barrel.

Written by Carol Tomaszewski
in loving memory of our son
Dave Tomaszewski
September 4, 1974 - February 6, 2001
BPUSA, Anne Arundel County Chapter



Stepping Stones

Come, take my hand, the road is long. We must travel by stepping stones. No, you're not alone. I'll go with you. I know the road well. I've been there. Don't fear the darkness. I'll be with you. We must take one step at a time. But remember we may have to stop a while. It is a long way to the other side and there are many obstacles.

We have many stones to cross. Some are bigger than others...SHOCK, DENIAL and ANGER to start. Then comes GUILT, DESPAIR and LONELINESS. It's a hard road to travel but it must be done. It's the only way to reach the other side.

Come, slip your hand in mine. What? Oh yes, it's strong. I've held so many hands like yours. Yes, mine was one time small and weak like yours. Once, you see, I had to take someone's hand in order to take the first step. Oops! You stumbled. Go ahead and cry. Don't be ashamed, I understand. Let's wait here a while and get your breath. When you're stronger we'll go on, one step at a time. There's no need to hurry.

Say, it's nice to hear you laugh. Yes, I agree, the memories you shared are good. Look, we're half way there now; I can see the other side. It looks so warm and sunny. Oh, have you noticed? We're nearing the last stone and, you're standing alone. And look, your hands, you've let go of mine, and we've reached the other side.

But wait. Look back. Someone is standing there. They are alone and want to cross the stepping stones. I better go; they need my help. What? Are you sure? Why yes, I'll wait. You know the way — you've been there. Yes, I agree—it's your turn, my friend—to help someone else cross the stepping stones.

Barbara Williams
in memory of her daughter Dawn and son Randy
in honor of her children Linda, Cyndi, John, Vincent and Krissi
from the book, I Wasn't Ready
by John Munday with Frances Wohlenhaus-Munday
Skipjack Press, Inc., Copyright 1991

Save the Date:

Bereaved Parents of Anne Arundel County
5th Annual Memory Walk
Quiet Waters Park
Annapolis, Maryland

Saturday October 6, 2007
Rain or Shine



Bereaved Parents of the USA

Anne Arundel County Chapter

P.O. Box 6280

Annapolis, MD 21401-0280

www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2007



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL



Bereaved Parents of the USA 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 fears, 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, what our color or our affluence is 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.