



Bereaved Parents of the USA Anne Arundel County Chapter

May 2008

www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org



My Mom is a Survivor

*Dedicated to the mothers
Who have lost a child
And have somehow survived.*

My mom is a survivor, or so I've heard it said.
But I 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 forever more.
But 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!

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Kaye welcomes your emails at kdezamo@camtel.net

Hope and Healing Conference

Saturday, May 17, 2008

7:30 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.

**Calvary United Methodist Church
301 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland**



For more general information, please call our message line at 443.572.8726 or go to our Chapter website. Please contact Conference organizer Debi Wilson-Smith at 410.757.8280 if you have any further questions.

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The printing and mailing of this newsletter has been donated
in memory of
Christine Elaine Bramhall
and by **Ken Smith** in memory of his niece
Tracy Ann Fotino



**Anne Arundel County Chapter
Bereaved Parents of the USA**

P.O. Box 6280

Annapolis, Maryland 21401-0280

Website: www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org

24 hour Message Line: 443.572.7872

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Editor

Carole Gilmour

410.544.4774

bpaaeditor@comcast.net

Chapter Leader

Dave Alexander

410.544.3634

dralex@sdaalex.com

Correspondence:

Barbara Bessling

Treasurer:

Fran Palmer

Hospitality:

Carol Tomaszewski

Librarian:

Kathy Franklin

Programs:

Paul Balasic and Jane Schindler

Newsletter Assistant:

Debbie Elliott



**Submissions for June newsletter
due by May 2**

We are a non-denominational, self-help support organization that is dedicated to assisting parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and grandparents toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child. We also aim to provide information and education to extended family, friends and coworkers desirous of being supportive to our Chapter members. We gather to listen, to care, and to understand the process of grieving as we start our recovery process and attempt to heal. Our greatest strength as bereaved families is the unity we find in shared experiences which can lead us out of isolation, give us a place to "belong", and offer us hope that together -- we can make it.



Telephone Friends: Sometimes we may have the need to talk to someone who can understand our pain. If you feel the need to talk, have questions to ask, or just had a difficult day, these people will welcome your call and are willing to listen to you.

Bob Bramhall 410.867.4956 Daughter (19), drunk driver; men's grief.

Marie Dyke Daughter (17), single parent, only child; car accident.

Sandy Platts 410.721.6457 Infant death.

Tia Stinnett 410.360.1341 Miscarriages and infant death.

Janet Tyler 410.969.7597 Daughter (5) and brother (33); car accident.

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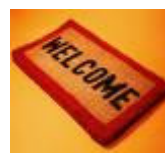
MEETING INFORMATION

Next Meeting: May 1, 2008

**Doors open at 7:15 P.M.
Meeting begins at 7:30 P.M.**

Calvary United Methodist Church*
301 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, MD 21401

****Please park in lower lot behind church***



Meetings are usually held on the **first Thursday of every month**. We meet on the lower level of the building in the assembly room which is accessible from the rear entrance. There is no cost to attend our monthly meetings.

Refreshments at our monthly meetings are donated by Chapter members. To make a contribution, please see the sign-up sheet on the refreshment table (drinks, ice, and paper products are provided). For information please contact Carol Tomaszewski at 410.519.8448.



At every monthly meeting we display materials from our **lending library** that are offered to help you understand and deal with your grief. Most of our materials have been donated in memory of a child. You are welcome to borrow them and when you are finished, please return them at our next **monthly meeting** or mail them to our **post office box** listed above.

Inclement weather on a meeting night? Please check our Chapter's website or call our Message Line for information on possible cancellations.



By any chance, do you have one of our Chapter library's lost treasures? Please look around your home, office or car, and if you find you're finished with an item you can return it by either bringing it with you to our next **monthly meeting** or by mailing it to our **post office box** listed above.

Through A Mother's Eyes



The most unimaginable words that can ever be said to a mother are – “Your child has died”. Whether the words come from a doctor who has treated the child through a long and painful illness; from a policeman who announces that an accident has claimed another life; or from a

relative who utters the terrible news, the words pierce through the heart.

Many mothers say that with the death of a child, they suffered an amputation of the heart -- a part of them was gone. Many explain that the mind wants to comprehend what has happened, but there is a part of the brain and the soul that simply cannot accept this terrible fact of life which is death.

There is tremendous confusion and there is still that expectation that the child will walk through the front door, spend hours on the telephone, raid the refrigerator, and do all of the things that were a part of that young life. There is anger that this has happened to one so young, one with such potential. It seems that all of the hopes and dreams for tomorrow have suddenly been shattered and there is a great sense of depression that is entrenched in every hour -- waking and sleeping.

There is guilt. Mothers often feel they are responsible for the child in every way and death is a bitter pronouncement that they have failed in not being able to save the child. Mothers say that death is so powerful there is loss, not just for the future, but of the present when the child should be happy and a part of family life. The memory of the past must be embraced and protected, and this too can be very difficult.

Many mothers find they need to talk to others who have been down that lonely path and learn how they have coped and met this grief head-on. It isn't easy trying to talk to the rest of the world. Neighbors, friends, acquaintances, business associates, and even relatives are reluctant to mention the child's name, afraid that this could unleash a rush of tears that would be difficult to stem.

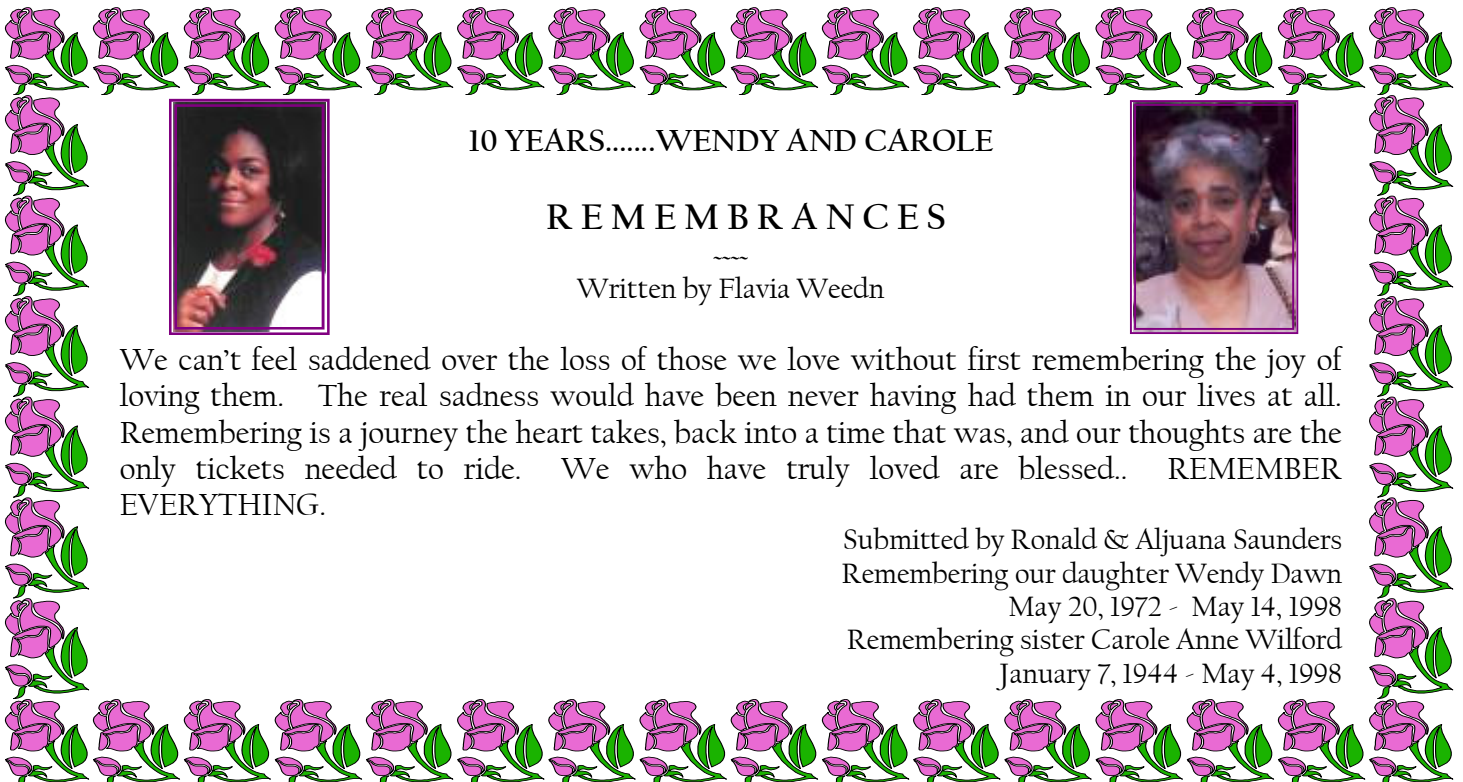
Women grieve differently from men and this can become a source of irritation in some marriages. Cultural differences can make it very difficult in families if one parent has customs that differ from another. Personalities are at odds and one parent may find that talking helps while another may feel that there must be time for silence.


While many people want to help the bereaved, sometimes the words are inappropriate. It may be that an arm around the shoulder and a quiet word will be much better received than platitudes or suggestions that one knows how a mother feels -- unless one has been through the loss of a child, those words can be devastating.

Healing has its own timetable and it cannot be bent, stapled, or forced. It may come though with the help of others and certainly through Bereaved Families of Ontario, Metropolitan Toronto, it can happen. By meeting with other mothers who have heard those terrible words, “Your child has died”, the struggle can be lessened. Eventually, with help, there can be a time when a quiet sweetness and joy will return to life.

Living with a child's death is not easy work, and for a mother it is a time to remember.

Barbara Klich
Toronto, Canada/BFO






10 YEARS.....WENDY AND CAROLE

REMEMBRANCES

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Written by Flavia Weedn



We can't feel saddened over the loss of those we love without first remembering the joy of loving them. The real sadness would have been never having had them in our lives at all. Remembering is a journey the heart takes, back into a time that was, and our thoughts are the only tickets needed to ride. We who have truly loved are blessed.. REMEMBER EVERYTHING.

Submitted by Ronald & Aljuana Saunders

Remembering our daughter Wendy Dawn  
May 20, 1972 - May 14, 1998

Remembering sister Carole Anne Wilford  
January 7, 1944 - May 4, 1998





## LOOKING FOR MATTHEW

Where were you, little one,  
 when the earth was bursting with new life?  
 When the colors and fragrances were fresh and new?  
 When I longed to take you outside  
 and let the warm breeze kiss your cheek?  
 Where were you, little one,  
 when the days grew long and hot?  
 When we should have lain under the tree  
 And looked up in wonder at the swaying leaves?  
 When I hoped to dip your toes  
 in this chilly water and hear you squeal?  
 Where were you, little one,  
 when the leaves turned to gold  
 and the wind could bring color to your cheeks?  
 When I would have tickled your nose with a leaf  
 and watched your chubby fingers grab it?  
 Where were you, little one,  
 when the days grew short and the air turned cold?  
 When the first white flakes began to fall  
 and I could let you touch them and laugh with delight?  
 Where were you, little one,  
 when my arms were empty and aching for you?  
 You were where you have always been,  
 and will always be,  
 in my heart.

Love,  
 Mommy

Donna Miles  
 for Matthew David  
 March 24, 2000—April 7, 2000  
 Anne Arundel County Chapter/BPUSA

## Graduation Day



Today is Graduation Day - a day when children don the cloak of adulthood. They leave the structure of their home to find the structure of their lives. They scatter in many directions - each to the beat of his own drum, each to follow his own heart.

Today is Graduation Day - and I am sad. My child will not be among his classmates as they are handed their diplomas. My child will not participate in the proms and excitement of this time. My child will not be there. Is he forgotten? Does not one mind remember him or one heart feel his presence. Please Lord, let him be a part of this day even if I don't know it. Let one person for one second think of him and say, "I wish Jim were here today." For today is Graduation Day - for everyone else's children but not for mine - not for mine. I could be philosophical and say that he has already graduated - that he has made the most important step of all. But this doesn't help the ache in my heart or fill the hole left there. On other days, I can sometimes feel okay that he is in heaven, but, today, I want him here. I want him to go to the prom and wear the cap and gown, and receive his diploma. I want to see his smile and take his picture and rent his tux. I want him going to college and choosing his courses and deciding what his future will be. I want - it does no good to want or to wish. These things can never be. I must face this day as I've faced thousand of others - with longing, with pain, and with strength - God's strength. This is what keeps me from crumbling into a ball of despair - this is what keeps me from giving up and giving in - this is what keeps me from looking down in abject helplessness and lets me look up with new hope. The strength from God gives me the strength to live - and the strength to love - and the strength to continue.

Today is Graduation Day - I think I can live through it - I think I can overcome what it brings with it - I know I can find my way once again through the longing, through the darkness, through the pain 'til once again I see the light of tomorrow.

Yesterday was Graduation Day - and I'm still here.

Susan Abbott  
 in loving memory of Jim Abbott  
 Quincy, IL/BPUSA

We remember our fallen servicemen and women  
 and their families who mourn them  
**Memorial Day — Monday, May 26, 2008**

Your silent tents of green  
 We deck with fragrant flowers;



Yours has the suffering been,  
 The memory shall be ours.

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

# SIBLING PAGE



*From (The Best of) Ask Dr. Paulson*

**Q. It is coming up to my sister's first death anniversary. My family and a few friends would like to do something special in remembrance of her. On the year date, we would like to honor who she was in her life here on earth. We are unsure of what we can do. I'd greatly appreciate any suggestions you might have.**

**A.** The first anniversary is usually very difficult. I think it is terrific that you and your family and friends are wanting to do something special to celebrate your sister. Some families have taken family vacations on the anniversary to step away from the hubbub of daily life to remember their loved one, celebrate their life, and acknowledge their loss. Others have held candle light vigils or a fund-raising event for a local charity. I would encourage you to talk with your family and friends and discuss what would bring you comfort on that day. It could be a quiet evening of

looking at photographs and videos, or it could be completing a project that was important to your sister. Whatever you decide, being with a group of people who all love your sister, who are sharing her loss, and who celebrate her life will be wonderful way to remember her on that day.

Mary Paulson  
from *We Need Not Walk Alone*  
the national magazine of The Compassionate Friends  
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*(Mary A. Paulson, PhD, is a bereaved sibling as well as a child and adolescent psychologist at Harding Hospital in Worthington, Ohio. Her question and answer column, aimed at bereaved siblings and the family that loves them, appears in the quarterly TCF national magazine, We Need Not Walk Alone.)*



## MY FIRST FIVE YEARS AS AN ONLY CHILD

I've been without my brother for five years. I guess the hard part is over now. Sometimes I think I've aged thirty years in the past five. In a strange way, these past five years have been the best and worst years of my life. I've

accomplished the many things of a typical young adult: learning to drive, graduating from high school, going to college, and starting a career. Every one of my accomplishments has been clouded by the fact that my brother, George, is not here to share each milestone and is not achieving any more milestones for himself. He was cheated of so many things. He will never graduate, get married, have children or travel. He will never grow old, and I will never have a brother to grow old with. I will never have nieces and nephews. The sibling relationship, usually the longest relationship of one's life, has been cut short for us. In these past five years, although I've learned to accept that he's not coming back, the difficult part is dealing with it -- day by day.

My relationship with George ended just as we had started to become friends. The childish fights and annoyances of having a big brother were changing to real conversations and to having an occasional ally. I'm angry about all of the things that will never be. And I guess I always will be. Five years heals a lot of wounds, but the hurt will always be there, no matter how many years pass. In these past five years, I've been forced into a new outlook on life. I've felt lonely and alone. I now realize that I will never be the same person as before. That person is locked away and gone forever.

Maybe I'm a better person now because of what I've been through. Five years ago, I never thought I'd survive, but I'm still here, dealing with it every day. I don't know what the next five years will bring, but at least I've made it this far.

Kristin Steiner  
Winnipeg Chapter/TCF

## Our Children Remembered

Please remember the following families this month.

Jalen H. Alleyne  
Son of Jewel and Derrick Alleyne  
April 21, 2007 - May 21, 2007

Jordan Edward Ambrozewicz  
Son of Steven and Beverly Ambrozewicz  
May 27, 1993 - May 10, 1995

Veronica "Ronnie" Anne Arata  
Daughter of Rick Arata  
June 12, 1968 - May 25, 2000

Matthew Stephen Auer  
Son of Carol and Steve Auer  
December 11, 1982 - May 4, 2004

George Alfred Bold IV  
Son of Brenda and George Bold  
May 23, 1969 - May 17, 2005

Christopher Lewis Borngesser  
Son of Diane Borngesser  
December 21, 1961 - May 28, 2001

Christine Elaine Bramhall  
Daughter of Robert and Patricia Bramhall  
December 21, 1961 - May 9, 1981

Paul Shane Brough  
Son of Theresa and Steve Bleemke  
May 18, 1982 - April 4, 2003

Darius JoVan Brown  
Son of Victoria and Robert Brown  
February 1, 1992 - May 30, 2004

Michael Eugene Burke  
Son of Joyce Pasquella  
May 15, 1965 - May 6, 2007

Brenda Leeann Costello  
Daughter of Tana and David Duley  
August 29, 1983 - May 28, 2002

Kathleen "Tink" Yvette Denevan  
Daughter of Gregory J. Denevan  
August 10, 1970 - May 13, 1971

Ian Walden Denny  
Son of Dawn and Richard Denny  
November 16, 1997 - May 13, 1998

Michelle Marie Dyke  
Daughter of Marie Dyke  
May 19, 1975 - November 10, 1992

Mary Senier Egan  
Daughter of Mary M. Senier  
Sister of Terri Hayden-Molton  
May 8, 1951 - June 24, 1993

Joseph Fredrick Errichiello Jr.  
Son of Susan and Joe Errichiello  
April 6, 1979 - May 29, 2004

R. Daniel Ferrer  
Son of Anna Ferrer Severn  
May 25, 1972 - August 26, 1986

Tracy Ann Fotino  
Daughter of Martha Murphy  
Niece of Kenneth Smith  
May 14, 1971 - August 25, 2000

Andrew Thomas "Drew" Gawthrop  
Son of Brenda Gawthrop  
May 25, 1990 - August 12, 2002

John Joseph Goetz Sr.  
Son of John and Mary Goetz  
May 6, 1958 - July 21, 1996

Matthew Gordon Haines  
Son of Gordon and Peggy Haines  
May 3, 1977 - July 4, 1996

Devin Arthur Hall  
Son of Cyndia Hall  
November 10, 1985 - May 17, 1990

Sidney Mark Hardesty Jr.  
Son of Dawn Watkinson  
March 10, 1979 - May 17, 2003

Todd Stafford Henschen  
Son of Linda Stafford  
May 16, 1970 - August 31, 1988

Thomas "Tommy" Michael Howard  
Son of Thomas and Donna Howard  
May 27, 1984 - February 10, 2000

Brian Keith Jones  
Son of LeRoy and Jeanne Jones  
May 22, 1974 - May 22, 1974

Traykia Melisa Jones  
Daughter of Rochelle Kennedy  
February 19, 1988 - May 11, 2004

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

Scott E. Klima  
Brother of Kristy Klima-Flower  
July 20, 1984 - May 19, 2007

Stephen Aaron Luck  
Son of Paul and Charlette Koehler  
August 2, 1966 - May 27, 1985

John F. Marinelli  
Son of William and Annette Marinelli  
May 30, 1964 - December 19, 1986

Kyle Patrick McDonough  
Son of Judy McDonough  
February 25, 1982 - May 15, 2005

## Our Children Remembered

Please remember the following families this month.

Graham Kendall Miller  
Son of Ken and Abby Miller  
February 3, 1981 - May 4, 1999

Joseph A. Miller  
Son of Mary J. Miller  
Brother of Marlene Miller  
December 13, 1956 - May 12, 1977

Daniel "Dan" Michael Milord  
Son of Mike Milord  
July 15, 1982 - May 5, 2004

Emily Marie Parker  
Daughter of Valerie Nowak and Brian Parker  
May 9, 2002 - July 18, 2002

Sydney Elaine Patronik  
Daughter of Holly and Michael Patronik  
March 26, 2002 - May 11, 2002

Wendy Dawn Saunders  
Daughter of Ronald and Aljuana Saunders  
May 20, 1972 - May 14, 1998

Stanley "Jerry" Schisler  
Son of Stan and Pam Schisler  
May 31, 1980 - May 9, 2001

Donald "Donny" Lee Seyfferth Jr.  
Son of Jody Seyfferth  
December 16, 1977 - May 8, 2000

Ryan Michael Sheahy  
Son of Deborah Sheahy  
May 4, 1977 - March 16, 2001

Rachel Beth Showacre  
Daughter of Daynie Showacre  
May 7, 1980 - October 30, 2002

Donna Jean Shrodes  
Daughter of Lydia Shrodes  
February 5, 1974 - May 23, 2002

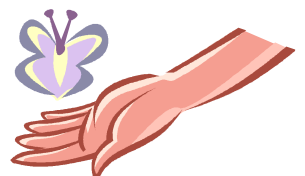
Christopher Lewis Strader  
Son of Lewis and Peggy Strader  
May 27, 1979 - June 21, 1997

Russell "Rusty" Joseph Tarr  
Son of Lorraine A. Tarr  
December 22, 1963 - May 12, 1994

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

Carole Anne Wilford  
Sister of Aljuana Saunders  
January 7, 1944 - May 4, 1998

*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](mailto:dralex@sdalex.com)*



## The Bereaved Gardener

Spring will soon be bursting out all around our yard because I have planted and planted and planted. Do I have a green thumb? Absolutely not! Do I have a garden in all areas around the house? No! What got me started? *"One day when I was not at home and he was there and all alone, the angels came..."*

My world fell apart when my son died in July 1981. The following spring, as I looked out my favorite look-out windows, I was still going over the events following that unbelievable phone call. As I looked down there was a small garden area with a few straggly perennials outside

Rob's bedroom window. I said to my husband, "Let's plant a special garden." He was very agreeable especially since it was the first positive thing I wanted to do.

I knew it was almost a year, and people were after me to go and do things they thought would be good for me. But I did not want to go anywhere, I did not feel sociable, and yet, I knew I had to do something. Now it was spring and as I looked out that window, I felt the need to see something pleasant and bright outside.

Bleeding hearts were the first plants I put in. I didn't know – but how appropriate they are in full bloom on Mother's Day. Roses came next, from the catalog. As we planted them and I continue to care for them I take time to think and to grieve. I chose roses with special names:

- ☐ *Love* – I miss you Rob, but love goes on forever
- ☐ *Promise* – "He who believes in me shall never die." Are God's promises true?
- ☐ *Peace* – Are you at peace, Rob? I hope so!
- ☐ *Tribute* – The 1983 Rose of the Year. I had to plant one because this garden is a tribute to you.

Other flowers and special mementos were added:

- ☐ *Snapdragons* – Remember how I used to pinch your nose when you were little?
- ☐ *Driftwood* – We found a piece of driftwood that, with a stretch of the imagination, looks like American Sign Language for "I love you."
- ☐ *Bunny* – Remember the live bunny we gave you for Easter and how mad Dad was when Bobby poured black paint on it?
- ☐ *Rock* – It's white and sparkles in the sun. I called him my "rock" because, although he wasn't home much as he grew older, he always happened to be there whenever I needed him.

☐ *Strawberry pots* – I have them in three different sizes.

They're planted with moss roses so there is always a show of color. I also suddenly found myself drawn to the color red, although I had never liked red before. I know it is a sign of the "Spirit". I can't help but wonder if that is a sign. (Is it, Rob? I'm asking you because I'm still mad at Him.)



As I look out that window, I can see our large patio. We bought two clay pots for red geraniums, which do beautifully there because they have full sun. Before the first frost we bring them into the windowsill in Rob's room. Sitting on our patio soaking up the sun and admiring the beauty of the flowers gave me such a good feeling that I decided to continue planting around the house. Now, I see brightness everywhere I turn. Where there is just a sidewalk or cement, I have planted a clay pot. If it's a sunny spot, I plant moss roses, red and white petunias, or geraniums. If it's a shady spot, I plant red and white impatiens.

I was saddened in the late summer when everything was flowering down. So we put in mums for fall color plus 250 tulip and 100 crocus bulbs (some at the cemetery, too) so I'd have something to get me through the winter.

So I did start going – to the garden centers. And I did start doing – I started gardening, which was something I do alone. The hour or so it takes me each day to water is my "special" time. That special time seems to free me to go on with daily responsibilities. My daughter sometimes has trouble finding me around the yard. She said, "Mom, you never did this before, you never even went outside."

I said, "Well, I could come out and see Rob's bedroom window and cry, or I can come out and see some beauty, too."

Today happens to be a cold, gray, winter day. In fact, we are having a blizzard. I'm waiting for the washer to turn off and I just walked into Rob's room. Guess what? I'm seeing red. The geraniums are blooming. *It must be a sign!*

Fran Funston  
Hinsdale, IL/BPUSA

How beautiful the world would be  
If all loved one another  
As a mother loves her own.  
— John Gray



### We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:



Rose Marie Carnes in memory of her son Walter H. Maynard IV  
 Virginia Potts and Karen Brown in memory of their grandson and nephew Russell Joseph Calo Jr.  
 Charlotte and Don Scott in memory of their daughter Michelle Inez Scott  
 Ken Smith in memory of his niece Tracy Ann Fotino

Donations are gratefully accepted to offset the costs of our Chapter's events and communications.  
 Please contact Chapter leader Dave Alexander for more information (see page 2).



## 2008 NATIONAL CONFERENCES:



### The Compassionate Friends 31st National Conference

“Volunteers for Healing, Friends for the Future”  
 July 18-20, 2008 (pre-conference programs on July 17)  
 Sheraton Music City Hotel  
 777 McGavick Pike  
 Nashville, Tennessee

For hotel reservations call 888.627.7060  
 Refer to TCF Conference for discounted rate (offer ends 6/20)

For more conference information call (toll free) 877.969.0010  
 Website: [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

### Bereaved Parents of the USA National Gathering

“Seeds of Hope”  
 July 11-13, 2008  
 Crowne Plaza Hotel at St. Louis Airport  
 11228 Lone Eagle Drive  
 St. Louis, Missouri

For hotel reservations call 314.291.6700  
 Refer to BPUSA Gathering for discounted room rate  
 (offer ends 6/15)

For more conference information call BPUSA Gathering  
 Chairman Martha Honn after 7:00 P.M. EST at 618.244.1203  
 Website: [www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org)

## OTHER RESOURCES

**Bereaved Parents of the USA (National headquarters)**  
 708.748.7866, [www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org)

**Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.**  
**(formerly known as The Stephanie Roper Committee for Victims of Violent Crime)**

For more information please call 410.234.9885 or go to their website, [www.mdcrimevictims.org](http://www.mdcrimevictims.org). Located at 14750 Main Street, Suite 1B in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20772.

### S.O.S. (Survivors of Suicide)

Meets first Tuesday of each month at Severna Park Methodist Church located at 731 Benfield Road in Severna Park, Maryland 21146. For more information call 410.987.2129.

### G.R.A.S.P. (Grief Recovery After A Substance Passing)

Provides help, compassion and understanding for families or individuals who have had a loved one die as a result of drugs. Website: [www.grasphelp.com](http://www.grasphelp.com) or contact founders Pat or Russ Wittberger at 843.705.2217. Email is [mom@jennysjourney.org](mailto:mom@jennysjourney.org)

### T.A.P.S. (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors)

Non-profit Veteran Service Organization offering hope, healing, comfort and care to American Armed Forces families

facing the death of a loved one. Magazine; grief camps for kids; online forums, chats. Website: [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org) or call (800) 858-TAPS.

### Hospice of the Chesapeake

Serving Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties. Provides help for adults, teenagers, children who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Counseling; support group sessions; weekend camps for children, teens (summer) and adults (fall). Website: [www.hospicechesapeake.org](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org) or call 410.987.2003.

### MIS (Miscarriage, Infant Death, Stillbirth) Support Group

For those who have experienced loss through miscarriage, infant death or stillbirth. Meets first Monday of every month from 7 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 4 Wallace Manor Road, Edgewater, MD. For more information contact Ann O'Sullivan, R.N. at 443.481.6114.

### Subsequent Pregnancy Support Group

For those who have experienced a previous loss and are now pregnant. To find out locations, dates and times, call a Class Educator at Anne Arundel Medical Center's "askAAMC" Helpline at 443.481.4000, Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.

# Bereaved Parents of the USA Anne Arundel County Chapter

P.O. Box 6280

Annapolis, MD 21401-0280

www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org

***NEXT MEETING MAY 1, 2008***

***ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAY 17, 2008***



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

DATED MATERIAL



## **UPCOMING MEETING TOPICS for 2008:**

**Thursday, May 1, 7:30 P.M.**

Program to be announced.

**Annual Hope and Healing Conference**

**Saturday, May 17, 7:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.**

**Thursday, June 5, 7:30 P.M.**

Program to be announced.

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We appreciate feedback on our Chapter meetings. If you have suggestions for future topics of discussion, please contact one of our Program coordinators: Paul Balasic at [pjbspmd@gmail.com](mailto:pjbspmd@gmail.com) or 443.566.0193; Jane Schindler at [cwschind@cablespeed.com](mailto:cwschind@cablespeed.com).



## **WHAT TO EXPECT AT OUR CHAPTER MEETINGS**

Our Chapter gathers one evening a month to address topics and offer support to those who are mourning the death of a child. Our meetings last for approximately 2 hours. At the beginning of our meeting, we regularly schedule a 30 minute presentation to address a topic that we hope is of interest and value to many of our Chapter members. When the speaker or panel has concluded their presentation, you will be invited to introduce yourself and then say your child's name - but only if you are able to participate in this manner. We then take a short break before dividing into sharing groups.

These sharing groups are facilitated by fellow Chapter members and are completely confidential. During this time the issues that are discussed - particularly for the newly bereaved - do not necessarily have to focus on the evening's topic, unless it is relevant to the group.

Please see page 2 of this newsletter for more details including our meeting location and other helpful information. If you have questions please contact our Chapter leader Dave Alexander (410.544.3634 or [dralex@sdalex.com](mailto:dralex@sdalex.com)).