



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
LEXINGTON - BLUEGRASS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
207 RINEY B WAY
NICHOLASVILLE, KY 40356

MARCH, APRIL & MAY 2007

CHAPTER CO-LEADERS:

JIM SIMS & STEPHANIE MAYBERRY

Meeting Facilitators:

Monique Podgorski

Mary Camp

Treasurer and Newsletter Mailings:

Janie & David Fields

Newsletter Editor:

Brandi Koenig



WELCOME

The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance self-help organization offering friendship and understanding to bereaved parents and siblings. The primary purpose is to assist them in the positive resolution of the grief experience upon the death of a child and to support their efforts to achieve physical and emotional health. The secondary purpose is to provide information and education about bereaved parents and siblings. The objective is to help those in their community, including family, friends, employers, and co-workers and professionals, to be supportive.

MEETING INFORMATION

Every 3rd Monday—6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

HOSPICE OF THE BLUEGRASS ▪ 2321 Alexandria Drive ▪ Lexington, Kentucky

MEETING FORMAT

6:00 p.m.—Doors Open. This is a good time to visit with old friends and acknowledge new ones. Be sure to check out the library.

6:30 p.m.—Meeting begins.

Meeting Topics

April—Mary Camp: *Stages of Grief*

Coming Up

May—Jim Sims: *What We've Learned About Grief*

Telephone Friends—Sometimes it helps to just be able to talk to someone who understands. The following bereaved parents are willing to provide support and comfort:

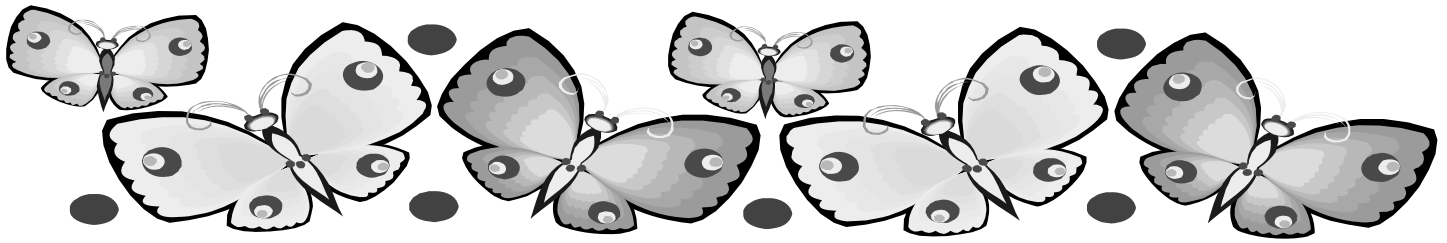
JIM SIMS: (859) 858-8288 or (859) 797-2168

ANNE AND BOB McDONNELL: (859) 278-8965

MONIQUE PODGORSKI: (859) 381-8256

CONNIE KOTZBAUER: (859) 273-3645

Bluegrass Chapter of The Compassionate Friends Regional Coordinator: Karen Cantrell — (502) 320-6438
The Compassionate Friends National Office ▪ P.O. Box 3696 ▪ Oak Brook, IL 60522 ▪ (877) 969-0010



FROM THE DESK OF OUR CHAPTER LEADER JIM SIMS

Our Bluegrass chapter has been blessed with a few hard working individuals that have had their positions for a long time and deserve a rest. After asking each if they want to continue, I found that they would be happy to give someone else that opportunity. I've been very pleased to find other outstanding individuals willing to take on those responsibilities and happy to announce the following changes:

I welcome Stephanie Mayberry as she becomes a co-leader. Stephanie is taking over for Connie Katzbauer who generously agreed to join me when Becky needed someone to lead the group following Cindi's death. Connie has found that the press of her other commitments doesn't leave enough time for yet another job. Thanks Connie, I'm grateful to you for undertaking this.

For many years, Sharon Johnson has quietly done a wonderful job of being treasurer mailing the newsletter. Sharon, a simple thank you doesn't adequately convey our appreciation but please accept one as a small token.

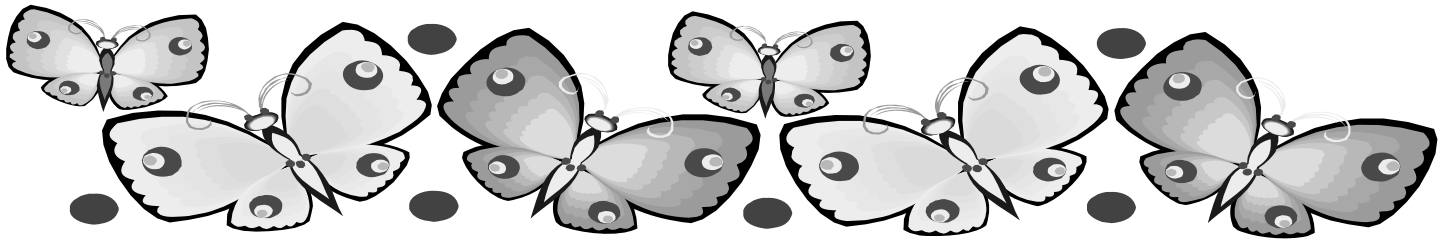
David Fields has volunteered to take over the treasurer function. His address is listed with gifts and donations information. Janie Fields will maintain the mailing list and coordinate newsletter mailing. Thanks David and Janie.

Finally, we're going to have a new newsletter editor. Karla has been doing a super job of preparing the newsletter but she too is ready to take a break. Instead, she wants to focus on leading our hospitality efforts. She is looking for others to assist her so if you're interested, talk to her. I'm very pleased that she wants to continue in an active leadership role. Replacing Karla as editor will be Brandi Koenig. Welcome Brandi, and thanks Karla.

Our group has been fortunate to have many wonderful people provide strong leadership. We're very thankful for all that they've done. I believe our new group of leaders will continue that outstanding standard of excellence.

Finally, I'd like to encourage the many of you that no longer regularly attend our meetings to return occasionally. We'd be happy to see you and your presence provides hope and inspiration to those that are less experienced by showing that we all can truly "survive" this ordeal.

Thanks,
Jim Sims



NATIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

NATIONAL CONFERENCE—Registration is now open for The Compassionate Friends **30th National Conference** in Oklahoma City July 20-22. The theme of this year's conference is **Trails of Tears to Healing Hearts**.

Keynote speakers are: Simon Stephens, the father of TCF, making a rare appearance in the United States from his home in Russia, 39 years after conceiving the idea that has grown today to include TCF national organizations in some 30 countries surrounding the globe; Elizabeth Edwards, bereaved parent, author of the current bestseller *Saving Graces*, lawyer, teacher, and wife of declared presidential candidate John Edwards; Bill Hancock, journalist, author of *Riding the Blue Moth*, and rated by the St. Louis Dispatch as one of the "50 most influential people in college basketball," whose son died in the 2001 crash of the airplane carrying members and staff of the Oklahoma University men's basketball team; and Bud Welch whose daughter was among the 167 who died in the 1999 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building.

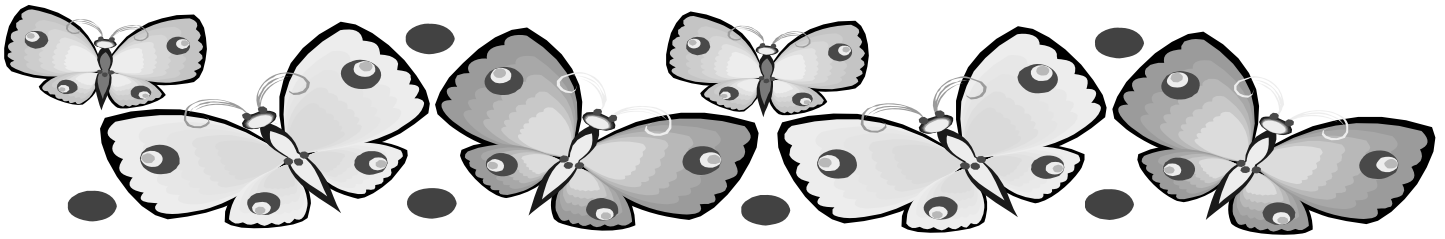
Besides interesting keynote speakers, the conference includes more than 100 workshops covering most areas of grief following the death of a child, and even has a track for parents with no surviving children, as well as a complete sibling program. There will be a pre-conference Professional Outreach Day on Thursday, July 21 and all who are interested in learning more following the death of a child are invited. The conference is capped by Sunday morning's popular two-mile Walk to Remember where as many as 1500 are expected to walk in remembrance of their beloved children.

You'll also find separate parent and sibling hospitality rooms, the quiet peace of the Reflection Room, the Butterfly Boutique, and a complete bookstore run by Centering Corporation, the nation's largest supplier of grief related materials.

The conference is being held in the Cox Convention Center and special rates have been arranged for those attending the conference at two hotels, one with a covered walkway direct to the convention center, and the other across the street.

To learn more about plans for this special event and to register online for the conference, the pre-conference Professional Outreach Day, and/or the Walk to Remember, visit **www.compassionatefriends.org** and click on "National Conference Information." You can also call toll-free 877-969-0010 to receive a copy of the registration brochure. Those wishing to reserve hotel accommodations online can do so via a link from the conference information page.

AMAZON.COM—When making a purchase from **Amazon.com**, enter through the link on the home page of The Compassionate Friends national Web site, and a **portion (5%) of the purchase price** will be donated to further the mission of TCF. This donation applies to all purchases, not just books, made from the Amazon.com site. The TCF national Web site address is **www.compassionatefriends.org**.



LOCAL NEWS AND NOTES

SPACE BETWEEN BREATHS—“Space Between Breaths” is a documentary produced by Rosemary and Luther Smith. It is premiering **7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 31** at the **Kentucky Theatre**, 214 E. Main St., Lexington. There is free parking downtown after 6:00 p.m. in the City Annex garage next to the Fayette County Clerk’s Office. Admission is free also, but you must R.S.V.P. to Rosemary Smith by mail, email, or phone. Her contact information is: P. O. Box 346, Beattyville, KY 41311, childrenofdome@cs.com, (606) 464-3901. Go to the website for more information: <http://www.spacebetweenbreaths.com/>.

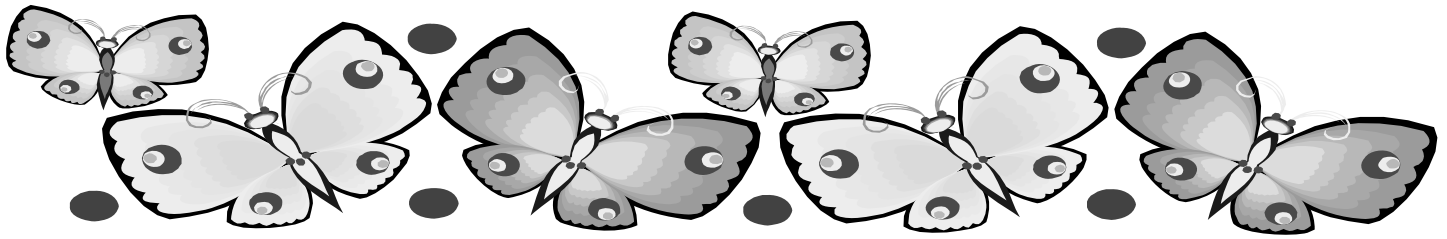
J.I.M.’S CONFERENCE—J.I.M.’s (Joining In Memory) Conference is **Friday, June 1** at the **Lexington Civic Center**, 432 West Vine St. It will be from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, in the **Thoroughbred Room**. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hyatt Regency May 30 to June 2. The address is 401 West High St. Call (859) 253-1234 if you want to reserve a room for the group rate of \$89/night, and let them know you are with “Documentary Premiere/J.I.M.’s Conference” group. Bring an extra picture of your child(ren)’s face for the Candle Lighting Service. Go to <http://www.ucumberland.edu/lamentations/> for more information.

WE WELCOME YOU WITH COMPASSION, LOVE, & HOPE

It is always difficult to say “welcome” to people coming to our meetings for the first time because we are so very sorry for the reason they came. For some, the first meeting or two can be rather overwhelming, especially if they are newly bereaved. We hope that anyone feeling that way will return to at least a couple more of our meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, regardless of the age at which their child died or the length of time that has passed since that day.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Helen Banks, whose son, **Steven “Marcus” Banks**, died on July 15, 2004
 Kelli Cooper, whose daughter, **Kaylee Norton**, died on April 21, 2006
 Jimmy & Beth Blankenship, whose son, **Lucas Owen Blankenship**, died on October 21, 2006
 Joan & Paul Stansbury, whose son, **Drew Stansbury**, died on November 11, 2006
 Teresa & Ron Zilli, whose grandson, **Maclean Robert Feldman**, died on January 1, 2007
 Suzie McDonald, whose son, **James “Jamie” Earl Flynt**, died on February 5, 2007
 Terri Noble, whose son, **Zachary Sean Noble**, died on January 16, 2007
 Richard and Paulette Neal, whose son, **Richard Dewayne Neal**, died on May 22, 2003
 Richard and Paulette Neal, whose daughter, **Kierra Dawn Neal**, died on October 25, 2006



LOVE GIFTS

LOVE GIFTS—There are no dues or fees to belong to The Compassionate Friends. Some parents remember a birthday or anniversary date of their child, or a holiday with a love gift. The “Love Gifts” help with the mailing of the newsletter, maintaining and updating our library and meeting costs. The following love gifts have been donated to our chapter in memory of the following children:

Given in loving memory of **Zack Camp** by his mother, **Mary Camp**
 Given in loving memory of **Mark Wills** by his parents, **John & Patricia Wills**
 Given in loving memory of **Jeff Sims** by his parents, **Sharon & Jim Sims**
 Given in loving memory of **Cindi Crim-Reynolds** by **Phyllis & Douglas Alexander**
 Given in loving memory of **Joe Frank Banks** by his mother, **Barbara Kinne**
 Given in loving memory of **Jonathan Mayberry** by his parents, **Stephanie & Jay Mayberry**

Please send **love gifts** to **David Fields, 207 Riney B Way, Nicholasville, KY 40356**. Please remember, if given in memory of your child, to include his/her full name. If the love gift is in memory of a special date, take into consideration that this is a quarterly newsletter, so send it early. If, for some reason, your love gift has not been listed, call Brandi Koenig at (859) 229-8297.



SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE



Our hearts and prayers go out to the parents, family, and friends of the victims of the Virginia Tech shooting.

With Deepest Sympathy

Our hearts are heavy with grief as we join Keith and Becky to mourn the death of Nathan Crim (24), Becky's youngest son and their only living child. While they had hardly begun to grieve Cindi's death in August, they have now another heavy burden. Our words of sympathy help, but they also need all of their Compassionate Friends to support them with caring thoughts, prayers of hope and gifts of support that will encircle and uplift them while they cope with this unspeakable tragedy.

MARCH BIRTH DATES

3/1/69	John Martin Fay	(Died) 8/6/92	Son of Mary Ann Fay
3/1/71	Ryan Jason Ross	(Died) 7/31/95	Son of Mitzi and Rick Holbrook
3/4/68	Barclay (Bart) Knafel	(Died) 7/3/89	Son of Karen and John Knafel
3/8/80	Robby Meeks	(Died) 8/00	Son of Cindy and Rusty Meeks
3/10/58	Andy Jones	(Died) 4/10/87	Son of Jean and Cal Jones
3/10/36	Victor Paul Basil	(Died) 12/2/98	Son of Lorena Basil
3/11/75	Mark A. Romond	(Died) 5/22/82	Son of Ed and Jan Romond
3/12/95	Laura Ann Lemieux	(Died) 3/28/02	Daughter of Vincent and Jackie Lemieux
3/14/76	Eric Ritchey	(Died) 1/1/96	Son of Lynn and Harley Ritchey
3/16/76	Matthew Charles Estes	(Died) 7/17/98	Son of Barry and Cheri Catron
3/16/69	Edward Charles Campherl	(Died) 6/27/96	Son of Martha E. Stone
3/16/70	Jack Charles Bahm II	(Died) 2/18/88	Son of Jack Bahm
3/19/72	Doug Steinkuhl	(Died) 7/3/91	Son of Gary and Barb Steinkuhl
3/20/92	Matthew Patterson	(Died) 3/29/94	Son of John and Ann Patterson
3/21/72	Jackie Peel	(Died) 7/30/90	Son of Carl and Pansy Peel
3/28/88	David Ryan Goldey	(Died) 1/7/97	Son of George and Julia Goldey
3/28/75	Chip Cheek	(Died) 9/29/91	Son of Betty Milton and Ercel Cheek
3/29/60	Andy McLaughlin	(Died) 7/6/79	Son of Iris McLaughlin
3/30/88	Joshua Montgomery	(Died) 3/24/91	Son of Jo Barnes and Eddie Montgomery
3/31/61	Michael Wallace	(Died) 8/9/87	Son of Jack and Carolyn Wallace
3/31/92	Davey Allison Dunavant	(Died) 6/28/01	Son of Anita and J. C. Harris
3/31/73	Brandon Lee Lorance	(Died) 2/21/02	Son of Callie Lorance



MARCH ANGEL DATES

3/1/94	Donald Ray Bingham, Jr.	(Born) 6/11/93	Son of Barbara Bingham
3/2/95	Patrick McDonnell	(Born) 11/11/77	Son of Anne and Bob McDonnell
3/2/90	Jonathan Derek Perdue	(Born) 9/25/72	Son of Donna and Chris Perdue
3/6/00	Grant Casey Blethen	(Born) 3/3/81	Son of Casey Grant Blethen
3/6/04	Rachel Elaine Sutherland	(Born) 8/16/85	Daughter of Elly and Alan Sutherland
3/7/95	Stephen Booher	(Born) 5/23/78	Son of Mary McCormick
3/7/04	Zack Camp	(Born) 12/13/89	Son of Mary Camp
3/7/02	Brenna Jiwon Kihlman	(Born) 4/22/75	Daughter of Dale and Shan Kihlman
3/9/91	Robin Lemaster Ratliff	(Born) 12/26/57	Daughter of Jesse and Betty Lemaster
3/11/99	Randy Blake Johnson	(Born) 11/8/69	Son of Randy and Doris Johnson
3/12/06	Mitchell Allen Jaquish	(Born) 5/6/57	Son of Ellie and Thomas Jaquish
3/13/91	Glenn Cope	(Born) 2/8/75	Son of Sheila Cope
3/13/05	Charles Hayden "Chip" Lampe	(Born) 7/25/82	Son of Betsy Lampe
3/13/97	Benton (Ben) Warner Blanton, III	(Born) 12/19/70	Son of B. W. Blanton, Jr.
3/13/97	Brian Philpot		Son of Mitch and Dee Philpot
3/13/86	Cole Brian Gilliam	(Born) 1/15/65	Son of Joan B. Gilliam
3/15/91	Amy Jeanine Click	(Born) 5/18/79	Daughter of Kathy and Steven Click
3/17/99	Darius Xavier Jerome Young	(Born) 6/28/80	Son of Deborah Young
3/20/03	Lauren Elizabeth Stokley	(Born) 9/7/92	Daughter of Jackie Webb
3/20/91	Robert (Robbie) Lewis Byrd II	(Born) 12/14/71	Son of Beverly and Bobby Byrd
3/21/91	Amanda Williams	(Born) 11/23/82	Daughter of Donna Riley
3/21/05	Bobby Sherman Parsons	(Born) 2/17/76	Son of Anna McKinney
3/23/02	Scott Carter Jeffers	(Born) 7/3/78	Son of Susan Jeffers



MARCH ANGEL DATES (continued)

3/24/91	<i>Joshua Montgomery</i>	(Born) 3/30/88	Son of Jo Barnes and Eddie Montgomery
3/29/94	<i>Matthew Patterson</i>	(Born) 3/20/92	Son of John and Ann Patterson
3/30/99	<i>Victor M. Martina</i>	(Born) 6/3/74	Son of Don and Judy Martina
3/30/05	<i>Erica "Shi" Richie</i>	(Born) 12/30/88	Daughter of Carol Scott
3/30/84	<i>Kimberly Varney</i>	(Born) 5/10/68	Daughter of Judy and Lewis Varney

APRIL BIRTH DATES

4/5/75	<i>Kelly Renee Powell</i>	7/15/88 (Died)	Daughter of Cecil and Barbara Powell
4/8/74	<i>Annemarie Timm</i>	10/28/90 (Died)	Daughter of Helen and Charles Timm
4/11/84	<i>Sean Robert Wright</i>	9/3/05 (Died)	Son of Sherry Conway & Mark Wright
4/13/62	<i>Tony R. Applegate</i>	2/27/91 (Died)	Son of Dolly Wallace Bellemey
4/13/76	<i>Jason Davis</i>	5/1/93 (Died)	Son of Curt Davis
4/15/00	<i>Colin Spencer</i>	6/7/00 (Died)	Son of Stephanie Spencer
4/15/94	<i>Jeonna McDaniel</i>	11/2/95 (Died)	Daughter of Jennifer Sebastian
4/22/75	<i>Brenna Jiwon Kihlman</i>	3/7/02 (Died)	Daughter of Dale and Shan Kihlman
4/24/79	<i>James Edward Auberry</i>	2/8/04 (Died)	Son of James Auberry
4/24/71	<i>Glenn Ray Carter</i>	11/30/85 (Died)	Son of Angela Carter
4/28/89	<i>Katie Lynn Brandenburg</i>	10/5/01 (Died)	Daughter of Michael & Gennie Brandenburg
4/29/85	<i>Bridget Elizabeth Kolles</i>	5/1/85 (Died)	Daughter of Greg & Mary Ellen Kolles
4/29/85	<i>Christina Leigh Kolles</i>	5/1/85 (Died)	Daughter of Greg & Mary Ellen Kolles
4/30/77	<i>Kevin Wayne Gardner</i>	12/2/97 (Died)	Son of Doug and Vicky Gardner



APRIL ANGEL DATES

4/1/03	<i>Ash Valic Coffey</i>	11/2/99 (Born)	Son of Stacy M. Coffey
4/2/05	<i>Cody McClure Speer</i>	12/1/91 (Born)	Son of Lin and Mark Simmons
4/10/87	<i>Andy Jones</i>	3/10/58 (Born)	Son of Jean and Cal Jones
4/14/99	<i>Michelle Cecile Martin</i>	5/25/73 (Born)	Son of Doug and Cecile Martin
4/15/91	<i>Jennifer Podgorski</i>	10/31/70 (Born)	Daughter of Monique Podgorski
4/15/94	<i>Bill Varney</i>	2/15/71 (Born)	Son of Judy Varney
4/16/95	<i>Daryl Clinton Barnes</i>	11/1/76 (Born)	Son of Vada and Mike Barnes
4/16/85	<i>Deana Mari Sea</i>	1/22/69 (Born)	Daughter of Darrell and Jean Sea
4/19/03	<i>Kara Elizabeth Horton</i>	12/21/79 (Born)	Daughter of Carole Mull
4/19/99	<i>A. Daniel Morris</i>	1/1/76 (Born)	Son of James and Marie Morris
4/18/00	<i>James Michael Farris</i>	2/18/56 (Born)	Son of Hulda Farris
4/19/94	<i>John Andy Girdler</i>	1/3/71 (Born)	Son of Ella Girdler
4/20/99	<i>Madeline Violet Benton</i>	4/20/99 (Born)	Daughter of Amy & Tony Benton
4/21/86	<i>Shari Eldot</i>	9/25/62 (Born)	Daughter of Roz Eldot
4/22/85	<i>Ron Jones</i>	4/3/49 (Born)	Son of Mel and Jeanette Jones
4/23/03	<i>Weston "Ashe" Marlowe</i>	1/27/99 (Born)	Son of Brandi & Wesley Marlowe
4/24/02	<i>Trista Erin Lane Hail</i>	2/27/74 (Born)	Daughter of Bill and Debbie Lane
4/25/93	<i>Robin Ricci Kuniff</i>	/11/65 (Born)	Daughter of Norma Forston
4/26/98	<i>John Thomas Parks</i>	11/24/82 (Born)	Son of Rosemary Parks
4/27/99	<i>Joshua Scott Barker</i>	2/28/81 (Born)	Son of Deborah Barker



APRIL ANGEL DATES (continued)

4/27/98	<i>Lisa Jean Johnson</i>	5/16/62 (Born)	Daughter of Sam and Doris Strader
4/28/02	<i>Mark Robert Bartella</i>	5/7/77 (Born)	Son of John and Brenda Peterson

MAY BIRTH DATES

5/6/57	<i>Mitchell Allen Jaquish</i>	(Died) 3/12/06	Son of Ellie and Thomas Jaquish
5/7/77	<i>Mark Robert Bartella</i>	(Died) 4/28/02	Son of John and Brenda Peterson
5/8/03	<i>Michael Patrick Randall Morgeson</i>	(Died) 7/18/05	Grandson of Carl & Phyllis Hardin
5/9/04	<i>Riley London Clark</i>	(Died) 9/20/04	Son of Jordan and Sherrie Clark
5/10/74	<i>Lori Em Kotzbauer</i>	(Died) 8/1/99	Daughter of Bob and Connie Kotzbauer
5/10/65	<i>Steven Roberts</i>	(Died) 8/14/84	Son of Elizabeth Roberts
5/10/68	<i>Kim Varney</i>	(Died) 3/30/84	Daughter of Judy Varney
5/12/82	<i>Mitch Baber</i>	(Died) 1/9/00	Son of Steve and Kim Baber
5/12/73	<i>Margaret Angela Hunt</i>	(Died) 7/29/04	Daughter of Linda & James Litzinger
5/14/66	<i>Jayne Ann Smith</i>	(Died) 5/7/95	Daughter of Jeanette McGee
5/14/71	<i>Michael Bransford Burns</i>	(Died) 7/14/91	Son of Emily and Mike Burns
5/14/80	<i>Robin Lee Webb</i>	(Died) 2/22/97	Daughter of Ricky and Sharon Blakeman
5/15/99	<i>Olivia Faith Higgs</i>	(Died) 12/27/01	Daughter of Wesley and Beverly Higgs
5/15/99	<i>Parker Blair</i>	(Died) 5/15/99	Son of Bill and Jennifer Blair
5/15/99	<i>Samantha Blair</i>	(Died) 5/15/99	Daughter of Bill and Jennifer Blair
5/16/62	<i>Lisa Jean Johnson</i>	(Died) 4/27/98	Daughter of Sam and Doris Strader
5/18/94	<i>Christopher Frederick Lenz</i>	(Died) 5/18/94	Son of Mark and Karen Lenz
5/19/69	<i>Denise Brantigan Engdahl</i>	(Died) 5/29/99	Daughter of Maureen & Richard Brantigan
5/19/62	<i>Terry Hayes</i>	(Died) 7/27/82	Son of Patricia Morgan
5/19/95	<i>Dillon Andrew Scott Waldrige</i>	(Died) 8/14/96	Son of Meredith Waldrige
5/21/85	<i>Colby Giles</i>	(Died) 5/12/06	Son of Debbie and Robert Giles
5/23/03	<i>Michael Patrick Randall Morgeson</i>	(Died) 7/30/05	Son of Stacy & Michael Morgeson
5/23/72	<i>John Martin Robinson</i>	(Died) 1/17/99	Son of Pat and Jim Robinson
5/23/74	<i>Howard "Jay" Joseph Crim</i>	(Died) 1/17/99	Son of Becky & Keith LaVey & Howard Crim
5/23/78	<i>Stephen Booher</i>	(Died) 3/7/95	Son of Mary McCormick
5/24/67	<i>Tracey Lynn VanHoose</i>	(Died) 9/14/84	Daughter of Karolyn and Sam Guy
5/25/95	<i>Nathan Charles Stamper</i>	(Died) 2/24/02	Son of Charlie and Missy Stamper
5/25/73	<i>Michelle Cecile Martin</i>	(Died) 4/14/99	Daughter of Dough and Cecile Martin
5/27/82	<i>P. J. Phillip Duncan</i>	(Died) 2/25/93	Son of Donna Breeze
5/27/74	<i>Keich Allen Newby</i>	(Died) 10/18/86	Son of Sharon Newby
5/31/65	<i>Scarlett Lynn Miller</i>	(Died) 7/17/85	Daughter of Ronald and Ruby Miller
5/31/79	<i>Matthew "Beau" Salsman</i>	(Died) 9/27/01	Son of Ray and Vicki Salsman



MAY ANGEL DATES

5/1/93	<i>Jason Davis</i>	(Born) 4/13/76	Son of Curt Davis
5/1/85	<i>Bridget Elizabeth Kolles</i>	(Born) 4/29/85	Daughter of Greg and Mary Kolles
5/1/85	<i>Christina Leigh Kolles</i>	(Born) 4/29/85	Daughter of Greg and Mary Kolles
5/4/04	<i>William Elliott Sommer</i>	(Born) 9/24/80	Son of Tim and Rita Sommer
5/4/02	<i>Stan Caudill</i>	(Born) 2/21/75	Son of Tom and Patricia Tschop



MAY ANGEL DATES (continued)

5/7/95	<i>Jayne Ann Smith</i>	(Born) 5/14/66	Daughter of Jeanette McGee
5/9/04	<i>Missy Fields</i>	(Born) 2/25/82	Daughter of David and Janie Fields
5/10/91	<i>John Harold Putman</i>	(Born) 7/4/64	Son of John and Harriet Putman
5/11/90	<i>Janene Carpenter</i>	(Born) 8/9/72	Daughter of Linda Carpenter
5/11/91	<i>Bill Mahan III</i>	(Born) 7/22/69	Son of Bill and the late Susie Mahan
5/11/97	<i>Jacob Scott Harrod</i>	(Born) 1/22/97	Son of Mike and Cindy Harrod
5/12/06	<i>Colby Giles</i>	(Born) 5/21/85	Son of Debbie and Robert Giles
5/14/95	<i>Brian Paul Staats</i>		Son of Juanita and Paul Staats
5/14/05	<i>Eugenia L. Morton</i>	(Born) 2/15/69	Daughter of Eugene & Joyce Morton
5/18/92	<i>Heidi Allen Hunt</i>	(Born) 7/12/70	Daughter of Judy B. Horne
5/19/99	<i>Robert Patrick Dehner</i>	(Born) 9/15/79	Son of Tim and Connie Dehner
5/20/03	<i>Tyler Benjamin Johnston</i>	(Born) 1/2/86	Son of Joe and Andi Johnston
5/22/82	<i>Mark Romond</i>	(Born) 3/11/75	Son of Jan and Ed Romond
5/23/97	<i>Kimberly Ann Holder</i>	(Born) 11/1/78	Daughter of David and Sondra Holder
5/26/92	<i>Erin Renee Glass</i>	(Born) 6/14/79	Daughter of Martha and Wesley Glass
5/28/94	<i>Garrett Witt</i>	(Born) 9/16/84	Son of David and Linda Witt
5/28/04	<i>Timothy Ray Elkin</i>	(Born) 6/22/70	Son of Betty and the late Billy Elkin
5/29/99	<i>Denise Brantigan Engdahl</i>	(Born) 5/19/69	Daughter of Maureen & Richard Brantigan
5/29/06	<i>Jonathan Brewer</i>	(Born) 7/23/85	Son of Teresa and Don Bush

WITH LOVE, HOPE AND JOY WE REMEMBER THESE CHILDREN

If there was mistake on your child's anniversary date, please call Brandi Koenig at (859) 229-8297.

Circle

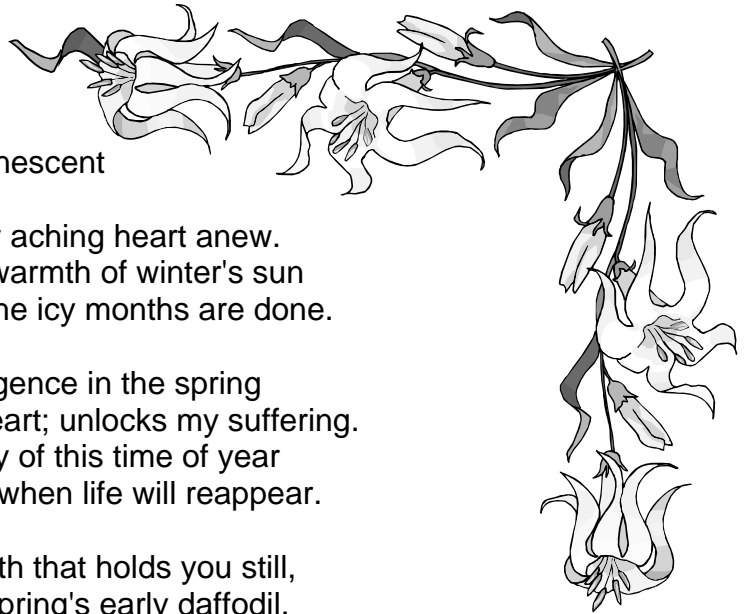
How do you bear it all?
 The cry came from a mother
 Whose son had died only weeks before.
 We were in a circle, looking at her,
 Looking around, looking away,
 Tears in our hearts, in our eyes.
 How do we bear it?
 I don't know,
 But the circle helps.

... by Eva Lager, TCF/Western
 Australia (Eve's daughter Milya
 Claudia Lager died by suicide on 4
 March 1990.)



SPRING'S TEARS

By Sally Migliaccio ~ TCF, Babylon NY



When the sun's sharp brilliance echoes in the luminescent
blue

A grim, oppressive darkness stabs my aching heart anew.
Its golden glow upon my face, the warmth of winter's sun
Holds the promise of renewal when the icy months are done.

It is this vow of nature's of resurgence in the spring
That bows my head, and breaks my heart; unlocks my suffering.
For you will miss again the beauty of this time of year
The growing warmth, the sunny days when life will reappear.

For nature has no power over death that holds you still,
And though I know, I still resent spring's early daffodil.
Oh, would that I could speak to Mother Nature face to face!

To beg she work her magic on your lonely resting place.
Why can't it be YOUR rebirth when the gray, cold days are done?
Why mightn't YOU not live again to see spring's fresh new dawn
and feel the warmth of sunshine
relish in the greening earth...
to open arms, embracing life
why can't it be YOUR birth?

You were so young, your life so new when death crept in the door,
And in my grief, beloved child, I'll ask forever more
The reason why the earth's renewed when spring comes 'round each year
Yet in your grave you're silent still,
and I
condemned
am here.

by Sally Migliaccio, remembering
Tracey, always

Second Sunday of May

Many happy memories
Linger in our hearts this day
As we each remember our child
Who has left this earthly plane.
The day is bittersweet for us,
The mothers who have lost so much,
For to remove all pain could well
Erase the precious life we touched.



Tears will trace the memories of
Other, happier Mother's Days,
As we dwell in a quiet reverie
This Second Sunday of May

*Annette Mennen Baldwin
In Memory of my son, Todd Mennen
May 2006
TCF, Katy, TX*

Thoughts about Mother's Day

As I think about Mother's Day this year I become very nostalgic. Every spring during my elementary school days, I looked forward to the day the order form for our plants for Mother's Day came from our local florist. I always ordered pansies for my mom, the ones with purple and yellow or yellow and brown. I could hardly wait for the delivery day to come, so that I could present them to my mother. She always received them with much surprise and appreciation, as if it were a gift she had never received before or even expected.

As a child, Mother's Day was an important occasion to my family. My dad always insisted we wear the traditional carnations: white if one's mother was deceased, red if still living. He would make a special trip to the florist to purchase them. We would attend church, then drive to a nearby city for lunch.

I remember clearly my first Mother's Day being "the mom." Our Anna was only about three weeks old, so I had a very limited idea of what it really meant to be "the mom." But I do remember being treated like a queen and enjoying every minute of it.

Over the next several years as we raised our two daughters, my husband continued to affirm the women of our family. On Mother's Day he always bought roses for each of his girls. Anna would get a yellow one. Debbie would get a peach-colored one. The red roses were for me. When the girls were young I would receive and treasure their hand-made cards. As they grew into young adults, their choices in purchased cards were just as significant. Every year as Mother's Day approached, we looked forward again to spending the day together as a family. We would attend church, go out for my favorite brunch, have lots of conversation, fill our bellies to the max, laugh until we cried, be silly, make memories... That was before...

Then the unthinkable happened. Our daughter, Anna, died. How could those special days of love and togetherness, laughter and fun become among the most dreaded days a mother must face? How could those days that we had once anticipated with joy and excitement bring such unbelievable heartache and confusion, loneliness and tears?

During those first few years we were simply lost. This was new, undesired, and certainly not requested, territory that we had been forced to enter. What were we supposed to do? How were we supposed to act? I just wanted to run away or stay in bed with the sheets over my head. The traditions we had come to love and enjoy became intensely painful. It became an impossible task to attend church services or go out for brunch. Seeing families enjoying their togetherness pierced my heart with an endless ache. My tear-filled eyes burned at the thought of being surrounded by "intact" families. Feelings of anger and resentment overwhelmed my heart. On the inside I wanted to lash out at all those mothers and fathers who were surrounded by all of their children and those sisters and brothers who had no clue what it would be like to lose a sibling. As the day drew to a close I felt tremendous relief that it was over. Exhausted, I would lay silently with my head on my pillow as quiet tears lulled me to sleep.

The feelings that I have shared are not uncommon in the early years of grief with those who have experienced the death of a child, grandchild or sibling. If you or someone you care about has experienced the death of a child, I offer some suggestions from those who have been there to help you do to make it through this time.

- Realize this day is full of potential for a multitude of feelings to sneak up on you and catch you by surprise.
- Especially during those early years, do whatever works for you. This may be a time of being in "survival mode." Trying to please everyone else can cause undo stress.
- If you have surviving children who want to honor you, communicate your feelings to them. Let them know that while you are grieving the death of their brother or sister, you still love them.
- Try to keep things simple and uncomplicated.
- Visit the cemetery.
- You may choose to pretend the day just does not exist and do something completely unrelated to Mother's Day. Clean the house, take a nap, get out of town. One of my Compassionate Friends spends Mother's Day at Home Depot. No one bothers her there or mentions Mother's Day.

(continued)

- Have a good cry. If you have trouble crying, just stop by a card shop and read a card or two. Maybe even buy the card that you believe your child would give you.
- Go to the recycle bin and break glass into the proper receptacle.
- Know that the days before the holiday may be worse than the actual day.

As with all holidays, be reassured that what you do this year does not have to be what you do next year. As my Compassionate Friends and I have found, with proper grief work over time, the intensity of our feelings has softened. This will happen for you, as well. In the meantime, be gentle with yourself. And remember, "you need not walk alone."

Paula Funk
TCF Safe Harbor Chapter
Petoskey, MI

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CREDO

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends.
We reach out to each with love, with understanding and with hope.
Our children have died at all ages and from many different causes,
But our love for our children unites us.

Your pain becomes my pain, just as your hope becomes my hope.
We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances.
We are a unique family because we represent many races and creeds.
We are young and we are old.

Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief
so fresh and so intensely painful that we feel helpless and see no hope.

Some of us found our faith to be a source of strength;

Some of us are struggling to find the answers.

Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in a deep depression;
others radiate an inner peace.

But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of the Compassionate Friends,
it is the pain that we will share just as we share with each other our love for our children.

We are seeking and struggling to build that future for ourselves, but we are committed to building that future together as we reach out to each other in love and share the faith as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts and help each other grieve as well as grow.

WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE. WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS.



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

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