



Compassionate Friends Web Address: www.compassionatefriends.org
Regional coordinator: Sally Migliaccio (561)747-2691

Dear Friends: To receive this newsletter by email, which will help us save on the cost of printing and postage, please send an email to me at: anne.rinaldi@comcast.net. On the subject line insert "TCF Email"

TCF meets every first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted

Upcoming Meetings: April 2, 2007

May 7, 2007, June 4, 2007, July 2, 2007, August 6, 2007

Welcome and Sharing Begins @ 7:00 PM

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

(in the PLC building behind the church)

625 111th Ave. North, North Naples, FL 34108

At the Immokalee and 41 intersection turn on 111th Ave. (travel toward the beach)
TRAVEL ABOUT 1 MILE AND THE CHURCH IS ON THE RIGHT

April 2007



The Compassionate Friends

The Compassionate Friends, Inc. National Headquarters: P.O. Box 3696, Oak Brook, IL 60622
Phone (877) 969-0010 Fax: (630)990-0246. Email: nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org
Web site: www.compassionatefriends.org
Siblings chat: Wednesdays, 9 p.m. EST: www.compassionatefriends.org/Chat/chatentrance.html

The Legend of the Tear Jar

The Compassionate Friends: Bridgewater Newsletter: April 2006

In the dry climate of ancient Greece, water was prized above all.

Giving up water from one's own body, when crying tears for the dead, was considered a sacrifice.

They caught their precious tears in tiny pitchers of "tear jars" like the one shown here.



These captured tears were considered to be "holy" water and were sprinkled on doorways to keep out evil, or used to cool the brow of a sick child. The tear jars themselves were kept unpainted until the owner had experienced the death of a parent, sibling, child, or spouse. After that, the grieving person decorated the tear jar with intricate designs, and examples of these can still be seen throughout modern Greece.

This ancient custom symbolizes the transformation that takes place in people who have grieved deeply. They have not "gotten over" their grief, but rather "grown through" it. They appreciate relationships more. They appreciate life more. They find meaning in little things. Those whom grief has transformed are not threatened by the grief of other people in pain. They have been in the depths of pain themselves, and returned.



Our Children, Loved and Remembered



<i>Birthdates</i>		<i>Anniversary Dates</i>	
Perry Bracuti Son of Norman & Elaine Planer	4/3/1957	Max Krumm Son of Laura and Terry Krumm	4/4/2006
Kirk Reed Son of Marilyn Reed	4/5/1973	Sean Terry Son of Wendy Terry	4/8/1995
Stephanie Ann Reeve Daughter of Mary Reeve	4/13/1988	Michael McSorley Son of Marcie Spencer	4/11/2003
Tom Scott Son of Bob & Judi Scott	4/26/1972	Ashley Erin Kelly Daughter of Sherri and Tom Kelly	4/12/2005
Nathaniel "Nate" Ketcham Son of Deborah Ketcham	4/26/1994	Brad L. Corder Son of Mark & Pam Corder	4/14/2002
Richard Earl Marquis (Richie) Son of Linda Belyea Spurlock and Grandson of Sue Bernier	4/28/1983	Gary Tepe Son of Dennis & Jan Tepe	4/14/2003
		Bill Bishop Son of Robert & JoAnn Bishop	4/22/2002
		Karen Brewster Daughter of Kate Gamble	4/24/1993
		Phillip Scott Starling Son of Lynn Connor	4/26/2003

**If we inadvertently missed your child's Birthday, Anniversary Date, or any errors, please accept our deepest apologies. Call us at 287-5968 or email anne.rinaldi@comcast.net to make an immediate correction.

Why Butterflies?

Since early times, the butterfly has symbolized renewed life. The caterpillar signifies life here on earth; the cocoon, death; and the butterfly, the emergence of the dead into a new, beautiful and freer existence. Frequently, the butterfly is seen with the word "Nika" which means victory. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross movingly tells of seeing butterflies drawn all over the walls of the children's dormitories in the World War II concentration camps. Since Elisabeth believes in the innate intuitiveness of children, she concludes that these children knew their fate and were leaving us a message. Many members of The Compassionate Friends embrace the butterfly, a symbol—a sign of hope to them, that their children are living in another dimension with greater beauty and freedom—a comforting thought to many.

Thank you for your Gifts of Love

All donations are gratefully accepted and assist the chapter in its mission to help bereaved families following the loss of a child.

Joseph & Catherine Madigan in memory of **Jeffery Basso**

Lloyd & Judy Williams in memory of **Gerg Williams**

Joseph Carullii Hair Salon in memory of **Phillip Carulli**

Please mail to: Teresa Mitchell 11081 Longshore Way
West, Naples, FL 34119



We are pleased to have partnered with *Basket of Kindness* for fundraising. We receive 15% of your purchase!

Loving Listeners:

For those times when you need to speak to someone who will listen with understanding and who can offer hope and support from their own process of healing in grief please call us:

Annette Carruli 250-4071

Teresa Walker 353-3215

Anne Rinaldi-Nonamaker 287-5968

Members Area: Southwest Florida Compassionate Friends:

A Chapter Update from the AnneOur Chapter needs Renewal!!

Our very own and very devoted Anne Kithcart has accepted a new position in Birmingham, Alabama as of March 19th. I'm sure I can speak on behalf of our chapter in wishing her and her family the very best in their journey and new venture. Also, our President, Patti Moran has officially stepped down due to her daughter being extremely ill and needing her mother at her side. Please keep Patti and her family in your hearts.

We need to fill some positions. Annette has been standing in for Patti for the last year or so but she needs some assistance. Please consider volunteering your precious time and talents to our chapter. We need so much help to keep our chapter going. Last month we had 6 new family members attend our meeting and only 2 current members in attendance. I know we are a seasonal location but we really need your help and presence.

I wonder if Mondays is a good day and if 7:00 PM is a good time? I'd appreciate some feedback on that question. Annette and I have discussed that our Chapter actually needs us to increase our meetings to twice a month, but we need some commitments from some of our members that have been coming to the meetings for a few years.

This is what our wish list looks like:

More volunteers committed to our meetings for:

Hospitality for Set up/Clean up

Resource Person

Community Liaison for public relations

Our chapter to have some formal speakers and events

A web site!

A Candle lighting Ceremony Committee

More Loving Listeners

Someone to mail out our packets to family's that make new requests

Thanking all of you in advance for your consideration, Anne

For those of you who would like to share your ideas, growth, insight, stories or poems, please submit your material for the newsletter by the 20th of the month. You may email it or, if you prefer, mail it to my address: 168 Lake Point Lane, Naples, FL 34112. Sincerely, Anne Rinaldi-Nonamaker: 239-287-5968

Our Mission: The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age, and to provide information to help others to be supportive.

The Compassionate Friends is a national nonprofit, self-help support organization that offers friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings. There is no religious affiliation and there are no membership dues or fees.

The secret of TCF's success is simple: As seasoned griever reach out to the newly bereaved, energy that has been directed inward begins to flow outward and both are helped to heal. Please come, bring your hope and energy, and be a Compassionate Friend to another.