



The Compassionate Friends Newsletter
c/o Anne Rinaldi-Nonamaker
168 Lake Point Lane
Naples, Florida 34112

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: IAgree2b@comcast.net On the subject line insert "TCF Email"

TCF meets every first Monday of the month through September
Upcoming Monday Meetings: August 6, 2007
September 3, 2007

Wednesday meetings will begin in October
October 3rd and 17th / November 7th and 21st / December 5th and 19th

*****Welcome and Sharing Begins @ 7:30 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)

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.



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

Surviving . . . By Andrea Morello

Andrea answered our call for help last month to fill Sherri's position of mailing the newsletters. After several emails back and forth and a phone conversation or two, Andrea was gracious enough to write two articles for our newsletter. Andrea is a local resident, a neighbor, someone you may pass in your local Publix. This is her story . . .

It has been 15 years since my son Andrew died. Did I ever think I would make it to 15 years? Not on your life. I didn't even think I would make it to 15 days. As all of you who are reading this, there is a physical as well as emotional devastation that happens to you. I know we all grieve different but we all grieve for a child. My story has a few added stabs at the heart. First of all, Andrew did not die from a car accident or a sickness or as a hero in a war. He was 16, foolish and hanging out with the wrong friends. He was shot by an off duty police officer. He was in the car while his friend was stealing something. One shot into the car and it hit Andrew right into his heart. Now I know that some of you will say to yourselves, that he deserved it and back then, I received many anonymous letters and phone calls that said the same thing. I first went to the POMC meetings. (Parents of Murdered Children) but never felt like I belonged. Even at my first Compassionate Friends meeting I felt like someone in that room felt like other people did. Explaining to my other children, why he was wrong but should not have been killed doing what he did was not an easy task. Going through an inquest, hiring of lawyers and 3 years of waiting for our day in court was draining to say the least. We never did get our day in court. The police officer said she was in fear for her life and after 3 years, the judge just dismissed it on those grounds. I have survived and I am still here 15 years later. I no longer hold any anger towards any of those "anonymous people" or to the police officer who killed him. What good would that do for me or anyone else? *But sharing your experience with other parents helps so much for your soul. You are not alone, no matter what the circumstances of your child's death. There are compassionate people out there willing to listen and help. See you at the next meeting.*

- ▶ **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 grievers 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.



Our Children, Loved and Remembered



<i>Birthdates</i>		<i>Anniversary Dates</i>	
Jeffrey Basso Son of Kate & Joe Madigan	8/1/1965	Barry Belyea Son of Sue Bernier	8/3/2000
Michael McSorley Son of Marcie Spencer	8/5/1955	James Michael Perkowski Son of Anita Opp	8/4/2003
Veronica Babineau Daughter of Rita Babineau	8/7/1936	Jean Marie Sullivan Daughter of Margaret Sullivan	8/4/1974
Sarah Anne Kithcart Daughter of Anne & Herb Kithcart	8/17/1987	Michele Daidone Daughter of Harriet & Bruce Cole	8/10/2002
David Paul Plamondon Son of Janet & Tim Plamondon	8/25/1982	Chad Collier Son of Cindy Jones	8/17/2002
Edward John Barone Son of Viv Barone	8/30/1969	Zackary Robert Finch Son of Keith Finch	8/30/2002
Graham Edward Woody Son of Sid & Barbara Finkelstein	8/30/1969		
Jack Leben Son of Jeff & Pam Leben	8/30/1999		
Chad Collier Son of Cindy Jones	8/31/1982		

**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 IAgree2b@comcast.net to make an immediate correction.

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

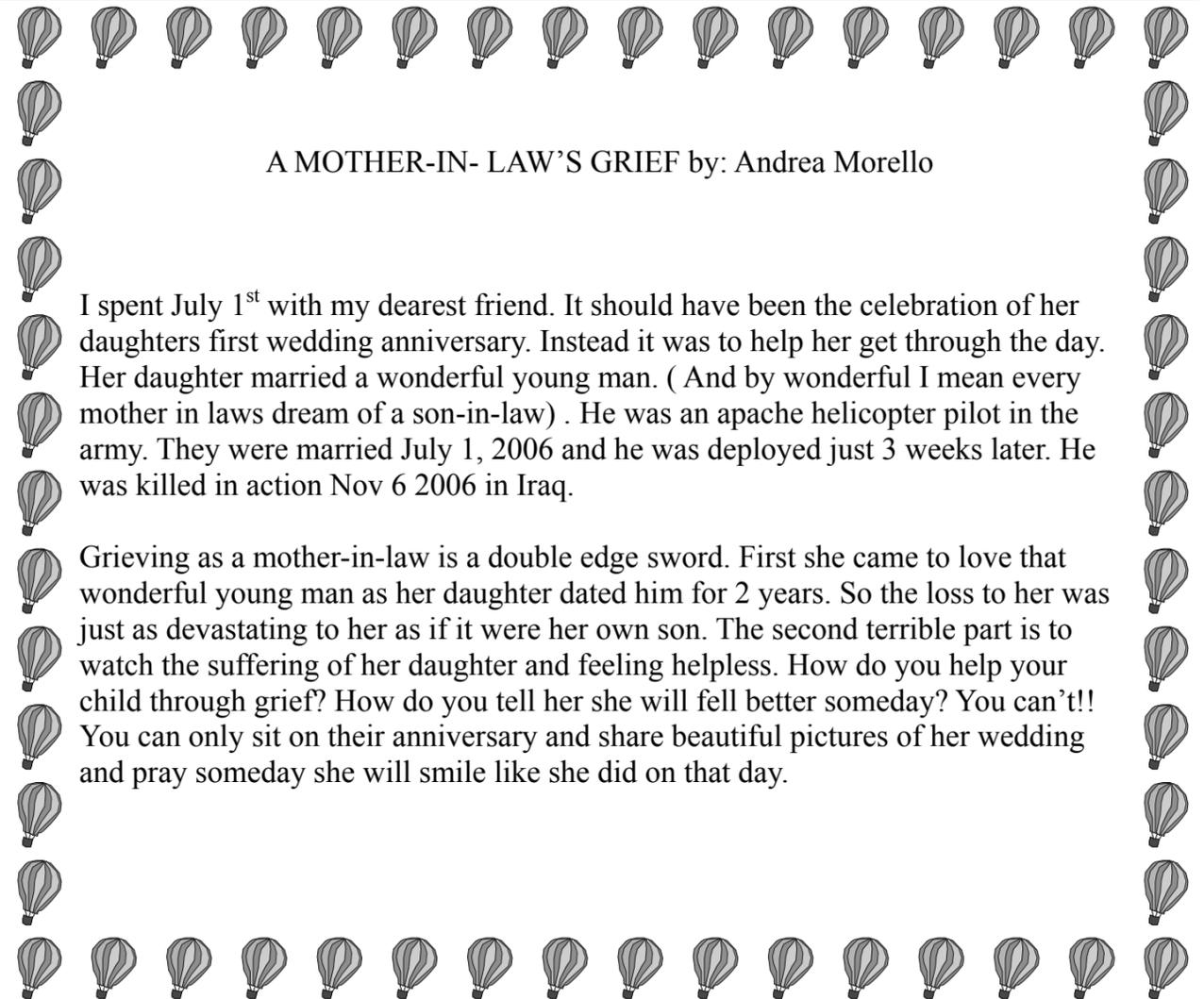
Thank you for your Gifts of Love

All donations are gratefully accepted & assist the chapter's mission to help bereaved families following the loss of a child.

Diane Kepley in loving memory of **Charity Kepley**
Kate & Joe Madigan in loving memory of **Jeffery Basso**

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

Naples Chapter Newsletter area of local recognition, submissions, and news



A MOTHER-IN- LAW'S GRIEF by: Andrea Morello

I spent July 1st with my dearest friend. It should have been the celebration of her daughters first wedding anniversary. Instead it was to help her get through the day. Her daughter married a wonderful young man. (And by wonderful I mean every mother in laws dream of a son-in-law) . He was an apache helicopter pilot in the army. They were married July 1, 2006 and he was deployed just 3 weeks later. He was killed in action Nov 6 2006 in Iraq.

Grieving as a mother-in-law is a double edge sword. First she came to love that wonderful young man as her daughter dated him for 2 years. So the loss to her was just as devastating to her as if it were her own son. The second terrible part is to watch the suffering of her daughter and feeling helpless. How do you help your child through grief? How do you tell her she will fell better someday? You can't!! You can only sit on their anniversary and share beautiful pictures of her wedding and pray someday she will smile like she did on that day.

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