

September 2007



The Compassionate Friends

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Siblings chat: Wednesdays, 9 p.m. EST: www.compassionatefriends.org/Chat/chatentrance.html

The Annual Candle Lighting Event is upon us

Held annually the second Sunday in December, this year December 9, The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting unites family and friends around the globe as they light candles for one hour to honor and remember children who have died at any age from any cause. As candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time, hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate and honor children in a way that transcends all ethnic, cultural, religious, and political boundaries.

Believed to be the largest mass candle lighting on the globe, the Worldwide Candle Lighting creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone. Hundreds of formal candle lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle lightings are conducted in homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

The Worldwide Candle Lighting started in the United States in 1997 as a small Internet observance but has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance. A memorial message board is available during the event at TCF's USA website www.compassionatefriends.org. Hundreds upon hundreds of postings are received each year from all over the United States, as well as dozens of other countries. Some messages are in foreign languages.

Here in the United States, publicity about the event is widespread, being featured in the past in *Parade Magazine*, Ann Landers column, *Guideposts* magazine, *Annie's Mailbox*, and literally hundreds of U.S. newspapers, dozens of television stations, and numerous websites. Information on the Worldwide Candle Lighting and planned memorial candle lighting services is posted on the TCF website at www.compassionatefriends.org each year as the event nears.

The United States Senate has, for many of the 10 years of the Worldwide Candle Lighting, joined in the remembrance by unanimously passing resolutions declaring the second Sunday in December of each year National Children's Memorial Day to coincide with The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting.

**Mark your
calendars!**



**...that their
light may
always shine.**

Light a candle for all children who have died.

**Sunday, December 9, 2007
7 PM Around the Globe**

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS WORLDWIDE CANDLE LIGHTING

**Please consider
joining the Can-
dle-Lighting
Committee .
We need your
help!**

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



Birthdates		Anniversary Dates	
Kenneth Priem Son of Merle Holoubek	9/5/1957	Michael "Skip" Mauri Son of Grace Mauri	9/2/1990
Jean Marie Sullivan Daughter of Margaret Sullivan	9/6/1958	David Anthony Anderson Son of David Anderson	9/3/2003
Casey Addison Connie Addison and David Pease	9/9/1977	Shannon Renee' Alldaffer Daughter of Shelly Dollar	9/06/2005
Joshua Widick Son of Janice Widick	9/10/1974	Casey Addison Connie Addison and David Pease	9/10/2001
Davie Addison Son of Connie Addison and David Pease	9/17/1973	Connie Ann Hablutzal Daughter of Mary Alice Mainini	9/14/2002
Jennifer Lynn Taylor Daughter of Helen Taylor	9/19/1962	Betsy Perry Daughter of Ruth H. Sanders	9/14/1996
Stephanie Lynn Barnett Daughter of Chris & Bill Barnett	9/22/1974	Kirk Reed Son of Marilyn Reed	9/15/1990
David X. Nonamaker Son of Anne Nonamaker	9/22/1980	Eddie Nelson Son of Marie Nelson	9/21/2006
Ryan H. G. Chieffi Son of Mary & Tim Smith	9/23/1982	Matthew Burks Son of Bernadette & Ken Burks	9/22/199
Melanie Babineau Daughter of Rita Babineau	9/29/1955	Lee Roberts Son of Leah Stirrat	9/22/1989
		Stephanie Lynn Barnett Daughter of Chris & Bill Barnett	9/25/1994
		Mitchell McSorley Son of Marcie Spencer	9/26/1964
<p>**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.</p>		Larry Priem Son of Merle Holoubek	9/27/1995

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.

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

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

What will I say

I won't say I know how you feel – because I don't.

I've lost parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends. But I've never lost a child. I came close, once. I had a miscarriage, but it's not the same. So how can I say I know how you feel?

I won't say you'll get over it – because you won't.

Life will have to go on. The washing, the ironing, the cooking, the cleaning, the common round. These chores will take your mind off your loved one, but the hurt will still be there. A small corner of your heart will grieve forever. Life carries on, but it will never be quite the same. I won't say "Never mind, your other children will be a comfort to you – because they may not be." Many mothers I've talked to say that they easily lose their temper with their remaining children. Some even feel resentful that they're alive and healthy, when the other child is not. Children can be cruel too. They may not understand death.

I won't say "Never mind, you're young enough to have another baby" – because that won't help. A new baby cannot replace the one you've lost. A new baby will fill your hours, keep you busy, and give you sleepless nights. But it will not be the one you've lost. And you mustn't try to pretend it will.

You may hear all these and other platitudes from your friends and relatives. They think they are helping. They don't know what else to say. You will find out who are your true friends at this time. Many will avoid you because they can't face you. They'll cross the road to avoid talking to you. Others will make the effort to talk to you. They'll talk about the weather, the holidays, the school concert, but never about your child - never about you and how you are coping.

So what will I say?

I will say I'm here. I care. Any time. Anywhere.

I'll cry with you if need be.

I'll talk about your loved one.

I won't mind how long you grieve.

I won't tell you to pull yourself together.

I'll sit with you during birthdays and anniversaries.

No, I don't know how you feel – but with sharing perhaps I will learn a little of what you are going through. And perhaps you will feel comfortable with me, and find your burden has eased.

Try me.

(This was written by a nurse, Linda Swaley, from the UK in 1988 who worked with many bereaved parents)

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



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: 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)

TRAVEL ABOUT 1 MILE AND THE CHURCH IS ON THE RIGHT

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.

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