

October 2007



The Compassionate Friends

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

SAINTS AND SINNERS by: Veda Ponikvar

When some fellow yields to temptation
And breaks a conventional law,
We look for no good in his make-up
But God! how we look for a flaw!
No one will ask, "How tempted?"
Nor allow for the battles he's fought;
His name becomes food for the jackals --
For us who have never been caught. "He has sinned!" we shout from the house-tops,
We forget the good he has done,
We center on one lost battle,
And forget the times he has won.
"Come, gaze at the sinner!" we thunder,
"And by his example be taught,
That his footsteps lead to destruction,"
Cry we who have never been caught.

I'm a sinner, O Lord, and I know it,
I'm weak, I blunder, I fail.
I'm tossed on life's stormy ocean
Like ships embroiled in a gale.
I'm willing to trust in Thy mercy,
To keep the commandments Thou'st taught,
But deliver me, Lord, from the judgement
Of saints who have never been caught

**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	
Keala Howard Daughter of Robert Howard	10/1/1992	Tyler A. Thompson Son of Robert & Jill Thompson	10/3/1998
Ashley Erin Kelly Daughter of Sherri & Tom Kelly	10/4/1985	Tanya Ranee Mitchell Daughter of Teresa & Dennis Mitchell	10/15/1991
Kevin Edward Branning Son of MaryAnn Branning-Johnson	10/6/1959	Brandon Graner Son of Barbara Garner	10/17/06
Heidi Schmidt Daughter of Dick & Elda Schmidt	10/9/1968	Justin Taylor Son of Donna Taylor	10/27/1999
Erika Rose Addison Daughter of Deborah C. Addison	10/18/1982	Jennifer Lynn Taylor Daughter of Helen Taylor	10/27/2001
Clint Beatty Son of Karen Lutgen-Beatty	10/22/1979	Caitlyn Landers Daughter of Don & Sandy Landers	10/25/1998
Melissa Heinly Daughter of Sharon Matson	10/24/1990	Brianna N. Dwyer Daughter of Karen Dwyer	10/30/1999
Zackary Robert Finch Son of Keith Finch	10/31/1977	Richard Earl Marquis (Richie) Son of Linda Belyea Spurlock Grandson of Sue Bernier	10/31/2006
Damian A. Holliday Son of Arlene Holliday	10/31/1973		
<i>~He that conceals his grief finds no remedy for it~</i>		Turkish Proverb	

**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.

Bill and Chris Barnett in loving memory of their daughter, Stephanie Barnett

Leah Stirrat in memory of her dearest son, Lee Robert

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

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

THIS IS MY STORY by: Carla Chodkowski, Naples, FL

Our son John (Izzo) died January 2nd, 2004. It was a nightmare when Jack, our other son, had to call to tell us John had died. I didn't want to believe him. It felt like our hearts were ripped out. John is my best friend. There is nothing worse than losing a child.

Losing a child puts a strain on your relationship between you and your spouse. Luckily, my husband, Mike, knew what to say and when to say it to comfort me. My advice is to stick together, you both grieve differently.

You can't do it alone. The right therapist will help you tremendously. You need to let out all your feeling. Going to Compassionate Friends meetings is a god send. Everyone there is going through the same emotions and you can learn about the different feelings (anger, sorrow, hate) you will be going through. Time doesn't heal your loss, it makes you cope better. I have filled my house with pictures of John. That just made cry every time I looked at him. I found just a few pictures were better. I also put some candles around his urn on my desk. I also make a butterfly garden in my yard where I can sit and meditate. Some butterflies land on my hand and sit until I set them back on the bushes. Another thing we started was a web site for friends and relatives to write about their feelings. It was a success. Over 4000 people visited many leaving notes for John. They got to see lots of John's pictures on the web site

It has been almost four years and I still cry every day. I feel like John is still with me in the shadows. Last week I had guests over including John's name sake, 1 year old 2nd cousin.

While I stood at my bedroom door, my phone rang 3 times. I answered but no one was there. It rang another 3 times and everyone heard it. No one answered because the phone was not connected to phone or electric. It was just sitting on my dresser. I believe someone was trying to say hi. Tell yourself whatever you need to cope for the moment.

Defiantly find help. Do not try this alone. Our feelings are too hurt to understand at this time. Remember losing a family member cannot prepare you when lose a child. We need each others help.



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 Wednesday Meetings: October 3, 2007

THE OCTOBER 17TH MEETING WILL BE A SPECIAL CANDLE-LIGHTING PLANNING MEETING. THERE ARE MANY SMALL TASKS. PLEASE HELP!!

Wednesday meetings 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.

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