



June 2011 – July 2011

## A Journey Together: Hinsdale Chapter - Bereaved Parents of the USA

[www.bpusahinsdale.org](http://www.bpusahinsdale.org)

### Bereaved Parents of the USA Mission:

We, as bereaved parents, help grieving parents and families rebuild their lives following the death of a child.

*Meetings are generally held the first Friday of every month. Doors open at 7:00 PM for greeting and fellowship.  
Redeemer Lutheran Church, 139 East First Street, Hinsdale, Illinois  
(One block east of Garfield Street & one block south of the railroad tracks)  
Donna Corrigan, Chapter Leader 630-279-6148 or 630-841-7056 (cell)*

## Why Do I Attend Bereaved Parents Meetings?

*by Donna Corrigan*

I first attended Bereaved Parents support meetings because my son had died and I felt like I had died too.

I attended meetings because there were other parents there who seemed as devastated as I was.

I attended meetings because I saw and heard parents talk and cry and share their feelings, without embarrassment.

I attended meetings because I saw survivors; parents who were somehow managing to find a reason to keep on living.

I attended meetings because I felt validated, I could actually tell stories about my child who had died.

I attended meetings because I was learning how to find my place in my new world.

I attended meetings because another mother said how my words at an earlier encounter had given her hope.

And now, I attend meetings because all these things are still true but I can give back... 🙏

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

**Friday, June 3 - Monthly Chapter Meeting:** 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM - Balloon Release. We will also be decorating 6 x 8" hearts for the Gathering display. Bring a copy of your child's photo and/or any special artifacts you would like to add.

**Wednesday, June 8 - Men's Group:** - Meet at Kappy's in Villa Park at 6:30 PM

**Friday, July 8 (note date change) - Monthly Chapter Meeting:** 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM - "Grieving to Live or Living to Grieve" (DVD) - Kay Bevington, founder of *Alive Alone*, a support group for parents who have no surviving children

**Wednesday, July 13 - Ladies' Night Out: (Another NEW LOCATION)** - Meet at Emmy's Family Dining, 209 W. Ogden in Westmont (3 blocks West of Cass) at 6:30 PM

**Thursday, July 28 through Sunday July 31 - BP/USA National Gathering** - Reston Sheraton Hotel, Reston, VA. Visit [www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org)

**Friday, August 5- Monthly Chapter Meeting** - 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM - "What everyone should know about grieving people"

**Sunday, August 21- Butterfly Release & Family Picnic** - Katherine Legge Memorial Park, 60<sup>th</sup> & County Line Rd, Hinsdale (North Pavillion) - PLEASE RSVP

♥ ♥ ♥ Love Gifts ♥ ♥ ♥

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A Love Gift is a donation to the chapter in memory of your child, grandchild or sibling. A financial contribution in any amount is appreciated. All Love Gifts are gratefully acknowledged in the newsletter accompanied by wording exactly as the donor submits. BP/USA is a national non-profit organization therefore; all donations to the chapter are tax deductible as allowed by law.

When mailing in a love gift, **please include your child's name, your address** and any other info you would like in your love gift message. Make your check payable to: **BP/USA Hinsdale** and **mail it to arrive by the 10<sup>th</sup>** of the month prior to the upcoming newsletter. The newsletter is published every other month. Mail your check to:

**BP/USA Hinsdale Chapter  
PO Box 703  
Hinsdale IL 60522**

It is also recommended that you email your love gift message to the newsletter editor, **celeste\_hardy@hotmail.com**.



***In loving memory of our Grandson  
Robbie Funston  
May 30, 1990 until June 22, 2008***

Robbie, you are one of our greatest joys and one of our greatest sorrows! We love you and miss you more every day. We hope God's promises are true. You have lots of company "Up There"—we can't believe how many young people joined you this year alone

Love,  
Gramma & Pop  
Fran & Bob Funston

*"In my opinion, after a sudden, unexpected death nature gives us a giant shot of Novocain together with the rush of adrenaline. As we approach our 3<sup>rd</sup> year anniversary all of that protection is gone and we really begin to deal with the indescribable huge hole in our hearts and huge void in our lives." ~ Fran Funston*



***In loving memory of  
Renée Michelle Saban  
January 7, 1964 until April 5, 1985***

Our love is with you always.

Love,  
Mom, Dad & brothers Brad, Kevin, twin Rick, Joey  
Jackie & Joe Saban



***In loving memory of  
Frank P. Amelio  
April 25, 1980 until September 13, 2007***

Only has been 4 years since I last saw you, but it feels like forever. Miss you so very much.

Love you,  
Mom  
Helen Amelio



***In memory of  
Linda Horn and Dorothy Carpenter***

We met both Linda and Dorothy 29 years ago—Linda and Bob and I were newly bereaved. Dorothy led the group we sat in on at our first meeting.

Our son, Rob, died from cardiopulmonary arrest in July 1981 and we attended our first meeting a year later in 1982. It was 26 years later that Linda drove to Naperville to console us at our Grandson's wake. How compassionate is that!

Fran and Bob Funston



**Thank You for your continued support of  
Bereaved Parents of the USA - Hinsdale Chapter.**

♥♥ Love Gifts (continued) ♥♥



*In loving memory of  
Thomas A. Walsh Jr.  
October 16, 1970 until July 20, 2003*

Dear Tom Tom,  
You are in our hearts, minds and souls everyday we ache for you. We miss you more each and everyday. How I wish we could turn back time just to see you one more time.

Tom you were robbed of your life and so were we. I'll never give up on your murder. Justice will come like in *Tombstone*.

May the angels in the heavenly lights give you a big hug and kiss for me to you.  
Please keep sending me signs.

Love and miss you everyday,  
Mom, Tracy, Lauren, Riley Dim and Grandma Dolly  
Karen Richards



*In loving memory of  
Carole "Suzie" Pavett  
June 3, 1953 until August 20, 2009*

Happy birthday my dear daughter. June 3<sup>rd</sup> would have been your birthday. I miss you so because you were not only my daughter, but my best friend. You were a caring and very special person and always there for me.

Until we are together again. You are forever in my heart.

I love you  
MOM  
Audrey Stolfa



*In loving memory of  
Susan Gayle Gabrielsen  
April 18, 1963 until October 14, 1994*

Forever In My Heart

Love Always,  
Mom  
Patricia Jacobi

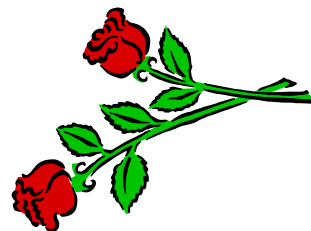


Thank You

♥ Mother's Day red roses in memory of our dear friend Linda Horn who now rests next to her son David

♥ Father's Day gift in memory of Matt Corrigan

♥ Balloons for the June meeting in memory of Nick Martino-Krueger



Bewilderment

*by Paula Lucore, BP/USA, Springfield, IL*

Get the coffee ready  
Empty the dishwasher  
Feed the cats, the dog, the turtle  
Make the beds  
But not *his* bed

Check the calendar  
Make the shopping list  
Think about what to make for dinner  
Eight hours from now  
But not *his* dinner

Water the plants  
Answer the phone  
Glance at the paper  
Gather the scattered socks  
The forgotten toys  
But not *his* toys

Get in the car  
Take one child to karate  
Pick up another at piano  
Buy some stamps  
Drawn to the cemetery  
To kneel at his grave

Buy the groceries  
Unload the car  
Pull some weeds  
Recycle the junk mail  
Wonder why  
I'm not screaming

*Our Children, Loved Missed and Remembered - Anniversaries and birthdays are difficult for bereaved parents and families. In the days ahead, may we lovingly remember these children and send our prayers, love and support to their parents and families*

**Anthony Neri - 21**

Jul 03, 1973 - Jun 24, 1995  
Accidental Drug Overdose  
Diane Neri

**Athena Marie Myers - 11 Months**

Jun 03, 2001 - May 27, 2002  
Car Accident  
Polly Myers

**Carole "Suzie" Pavett - 56**

Jun 03, 1953 - Aug 20, 2009  
Heart Attack  
Audrey Stolfa

**Challing Eugene Albert LeBlanc - 4**

Apr 11, 1997 - Jun 02, 2001  
Boating Accident  
Liz & Stephen LeBlanc

**Cole Exner - 22**

Jun 09, 1983 - May 21, 2006  
Automobile Accident  
Scott & Janie Exner

**Daniel Stoothoff - 34**

Jun 03, 1970 - Dec 07, 2004  
Car Crash  
Sally Stoothoff

**Elizabeth Anne Barrett - 15 1/2**

Dec 29, 1976 - Jun 29, 1992  
Hit by Van  
Kay & Phil Barrett

**Eric Fitzpatrick Bucholz - 19**

Jun 26, 1974 - Dec 24, 1993  
Electrocution  
Sue Bucholz

**Eric J. Munzenmay - 12**

May 07, 1969 - Jun 28, 1981  
Pneumonia  
Eric & Lillian Munzenmay

**Jason Matthew Bill - 13**

Aug 17, 1981 - Jun 14, 1995  
Water Sport Accident  
Nancy Stein

**Jeffrey James & Natalie June Snyder -  
2-1/2**

Jul 14, 1986 - Jun 23, 1989  
Auto/Dump Truck Accident  
Don & Leslie Snyder

**Jill Kathleen Ebert - 6**

Jun 24, 1984 - Sep 03, 1990  
Brain Tumor  
Michael P Ebert

**Jimmy Lekas - 18**

Sep 10, 1969 - Jun 14, 1988  
Cancer  
Stephanie Lekas

**Joseph Ross - 23**

Jun 09, 1985 - Feb 05, 2009  
Asthma  
Pat Ross

**Lt Adam Philip Kass - 25**

May 29, 1977 - Jun 25, 2002  
Motorcycle Accident on Military Duty  
Cindy & Dave Kass

**Martin K. Adams - 42**

May 13, 1905 - Jun 25, 1905  
Marge & Bill Adams

**Matthew Davis - 33**

Dec 28, 1976 - Jun 10, 2010  
Unknown  
Gloria Smolek

**Nicholas Martino-Krueger - 10**

Jun 23, 1995 - Apr 15, 2006  
Hit by Train  
Jim Krueger & Rose Martino-Krueger

**Noah James Farley -**

Jun 07, 2006 - Jun 08, 2006  
Prenatal Decision Due to Severe Fetal  
Anomalies  
Kelly Farley

**Noah Michael Cichorski - 2 1/2**

Jun 24, 2001 - Dec 16, 2003  
Head Injury (Cause Unknown)  
Jeannine Cichorski

**Paul Moore - 10**

Nov 04, 1982 - Jun 08, 1994  
Drunk Driver  
Don & Julie Moore

**Robbie Funston - 18**

May 30, 1990 - Jun 22, 2008  
Accidental Drowning  
Ric Funston

**Russel Witek - 14**

Jun 16, 1994 - Mar 29, 2009  
Leukemia/Brain Tumor  
Dan & Helen Dennett

**Ryan A. Minor - 30**

May 04, 1980 - Jun 19, 2010  
Overdose  
Betsy Minor

*Our Children, Loved Missed and Remembered (continued) - Anniversaries and birthdays are difficult for bereaved parents and families. In the days ahead, may we lovingly remember these children and send our prayers, love and support to their parents and families*

**William E. Barth - 20 ½**  
Sep 23, 1965 - Jun 05, 1986  
Suicide  
Karen Barth

**Brendon Anderson - 22**  
Jul 18, 1976 - Mar 16, 1998  
Murdered  
Rob Anderson

**Bryce Stack - 30**  
Jan 26, 1979 - Jul 24, 2009  
Accidental Overdose  
Trish DeBauche

**Adam Schar - 33**  
Nov 23, 1976 - Jul 18, 2010  
Accidental Death  
Janet Schar

**Aidan Samuel Wood - 4**  
Jul 17, 2003 - Nov 30, 2007  
House Fire  
Michelle & Ian Wood

**Amy Elizabeth Gales - 19**  
Jul 18, 1975 - Mar 08, 1995  
Auto Accident  
Ron & Sandy Gales

**Carl Alan Vuillaume - 16**  
Mar 14, 1989 - Jul 21, 2005  
Accidental Drowning  
Rob & Char Vuillaume

**Elizabeth Nelson - 23**  
Jul 27, 1980 - May 31, 2004  
Car Accident  
Tom & Kathy Nelson

**James G. Frale - 13**  
Jul 11, 1967 - Sep 13, 1981  
Electrocution  
John & JoAnn Frale

**Jamie Lee Hoebble - 21**  
Jul 26, 1983 - Sep 23, 2004  
Karen & John Pech

**Jeffrey James & Natalie June Snyder -  
2-1/2**  
Jul 14, 1986 - Jun 23, 1989  
Auto/Dump Truck Accident  
Don & Leslie Snyder

**Jennifer Erin Morris - 16**  
Jul 15, 1982 - Aug 10, 1998  
Auto Accident  
Wendy & Dan Morris

**Katie Satkamp - 7**  
Jul 12, 1974 - May 12, 1982  
School Bus Accident  
Ronda & Steve Satkamp

**Maria Elena Nudell - 14**  
Apr 17, 1981 - Jul 07, 1995  
Horseback Riding Accident  
Marilyn Cocogliato

**Mariana Tunstall - 8**  
Dec 29, 1999 - Jul 16, 2008  
E-Coli  
Keith & Kristena Tunstall

**Matthew Corrigan - 14**  
Jul 04, 1977 - Aug 12, 1991  
Auto Accident  
Donna & Mike Corrigan

**Nicholas Carl Pica - 21**  
Dec 12, 1984 - Jul 13, 2006  
Sudden Cardiac Death  
Jane & Jerry Pica

**Nicholas Palumbo - 21**  
Jul 10, 1981 - Mar 05, 2003  
Snowmobile Accident  
Debbie Palumbo

**Rob Funston - 25**  
Aug 22, 1955 - Jul 30, 1981  
Pneumonia  
Bob & Fran Funston

**Ryan Paul - 15 1/2**  
Jul 06, 1988 - Mar 09, 2004  
Hit by Car  
Roy & Melody Paul

**Sarah Marie Fink - 3 1/2 Months**  
Jul 11, 1977 - Nov 02, 1977  
SIDS  
Sue & Garry Fink

**Tamaron "Tami" Racky - 21**  
Jul 08, 1975 - Sep 12, 1996  
Accidental Drug Overdose  
John & Debbie Racky

**Thomas A Walsh Jr - 32**  
Oct 16, 1970 - Jul 20, 2003  
Unknown  
Karen Richards

**Trudy Boskey - 47**  
Jul 06, 1953 - Aug 03, 2000  
Cancer  
Rose Conway

**William Kavanaugh - 3**  
May 24, 1992 - Jul 04, 1995  
Hit by a Van  
Maribeth Kavanaugh

**Zachary "Zach" Pfingston - 13**  
Sep 20, 1996 - Jul 31, 2009  
Seizure  
Manjula & Jack Pfingston

## Attending My First National Gathering

My husband, my daughter, and I have decided we are going to attend the Bereaved Parents National Gathering. We've never gone to one before so I will sit down now and look over the **Registration Packet**. I like the convenience of being able to do this right at [www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org) and pay-pal is very easy to do. There are some people who still like to do these things snail mail, not me!

First, I will make my airline reservations, I have never been to Washington D.C; I think we will stay an extra day or two and do some sightseeing. The hotel is in Reston. Virginia, the Sheraton has a free shuttle to a transportation hub; from there I can take public transportation into D.C... That taken care of, now the **Registration Form**, I need to fill one out for each attendee. Do we want all of the **Meals**? Yes, I guess so. Although there is seating to hear the speakers after each meal, I think the camaraderie at the table will be important.

There are so many **Workshops** scheduled, I wonder if I will recognize any of the names of presenters at the **Gathering**? I am going to send a picture for the **Video Presentation** on Saturday night also. I'm not sure if I want to make a donation to the **Program Book**. It would be nice to have his picture in there with a little poem. I think I will do it, I know that's a nice **Fundraising** project for the Gathering. I am also going to donate a **Centerpiece** and **Sponsor a Workshop**. This will be our way of helping with the costs. The check is written and ready to mail along with the **Heart** template that I've decorated for the memory board. I think I am going to make some **Butterfly Bookmarks** and provide them as **Table Favors** at one of the meals. Of course I want to preorder some **T-Shirts**.

Next is the **Hotel** reservation... that goes directly to the hotel and I can put this on my credit card. The rate is sure reasonable and I see that it is a lovely facility... We are going to be the only large group at the hotel; I like that.

All taken care of... I am looking forward to

spending time with members from our chapter but I hear there will be people from all over the country. Will it be overwhelming to be in such a huge group of grieving people? Hope they have lots of Kleenex!

It's Thursday afternoon... We check in to the hotel and the 1<sup>st</sup> thing we see is a giant "**Bereaved Parents USA**" **Welcome Sign**. We approach the **Registration Table** and are greeted and checked in. We get a very nice **Souvenir Bag** it has our **Program Book** and a few little extras (**notebook, pen etc.**) It is very relaxing to have dinner at the **Thursday Night Buffet** and then join others at the **Thursday Evening Movie and Concert**... There we meet the Gathering Chairs and the National Board of Directors. They want to make us feel comfortable and we do... There is time to introduce ourselves and meet a number of the other bereaved parents. We stop at the **Hospitality Suite** for a snack and look over our program books, deciding which workshops we will attend tomorrow isn't going to be easy. There are so many choices; I can't believe the unique areas of grief they address. Our daughter is hanging out with some friends she met at the **Sibling Group**.

Friday breakfast is early and we are officially welcomed; making us feel comfortable seems to be a priority! We hear the keynote **Speaker**, we're already glad we came.

The **Workshops** begin and then lunch and another speaker, then dinner and another speaker. There have been some really interesting **Table Gifts** by our place settings at some of the meals. Parents donated these in memory of their children, they think of such loving ways to remember our kids. I am a little overwhelmed but I want to go to a **Sharing Session** tonight also. I stop in the **Bookstore** first; I want to make sure I get the book the **Speakers** have referred to. I also want to buy a handful of **Raffle Tickets** (it is fundraising remember!).

Saturday morning and we start all over again. It's even better than yesterday. Meals and speakers and workshops...after lunch I'm going to get some fresh air and then sit by the pool. Its wonderful being here, but so intense... I am listening to the advice though, "take care of yourself." After a little nap, I shop in the **Butterfly Boutique** and pick up some cute angel ornaments another Mom made. There were a few **Gathering T-Shirts** left so I bought some to take home to some of my friends who couldn't attend this year.

The **Annual Meeting of BP/USA** took place this

*Continued on next page*

*Attending My First Gathering ... Continued from page 6*

afternoon. Open to all members, this is the first one I have ever attended and I really appreciated being included in the business end of BP/USA. The newly elected Board was introduced and there was an opportunity for members to express ideas and to ask questions.

Tonight, after dinner was the **Video Presentation**. Seeing all the children's pictures, the candles, the music; it was really beautiful. I think now would be a good time to go to the **Reflection Room**; I just need a little time to think and be alone.

I can't believe its Sunday morning already, the **Closing Ceremony** was very serene and peaceful. A good way to say good bye to the strangers who had so quickly become friends.

What a wonderful weekend, I am exhausted and I can't wait until the next **Gathering**. 🌿

## Got an Idea for a Meeting?

Do you have a suggestion for a grief topic you would like to see presented at our Chapter meeting? The Steering Committee tries to address a variety of topics throughout the year but maybe there's a specific area you are interested in. Please contact any member of the Steering Committee with your suggestion; we will seriously consider your idea.

## Chapter Library

We maintain a large lending library of books and tapes of interest to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents. These resources are available to check out at each meeting to be returned at the following meeting, if possible. If you come across a book at home that belongs to our library, please **mail it** to us at the reduced "**media rate**" to: **PO Box 703, Hinsdale IL 60522-0703**.

## Go Digital & Save Chapter \$

Did you remember that each issue of *A Journey Together: Hinsdale Chapter of the Bereaved Parents of the USA* is available on our website? [www.bpusahinsdale.org](http://www.bpusahinsdale.org). If you would like to read and/or download the newsletter from our site in lieu of receiving it by U.S. Mail, send an email to [silks6@aol.com](mailto:silks6@aol.com) and you will be removed from our mailing list. You will then begin receiving emails letting you know when it is available online.

## BP/USA Hinsdale Chapter

**Bereaved Parents of the USA** is a self-help support group which is run entirely by volunteers who are also bereaved parents. The volunteers are a little further down the road in their grief and can give back to the chapter by helping with the many jobs it takes to keep the chapter running. This makes it possible for new bereaved parents to see survival and hope when they walk through the door of their first meeting.

The steering committee meets periodically during the year to discuss future meeting programs, fund raising, member involvement, our library and other pertinent issues. Contact a member below if you would like to get involved

HINSDALE BP/USA STEERING COMMITTEE		
Chapter Leader	Donna Corrigan	(630) 279-6148
	Cell:	(630) 841-7056
Database Administrator	Angelo Tomasello	(630) 420-1649
Hospitality	Sally Yarberry	(708) 560-0393
Treasurer	George Ragusa	(630) 637-1548
Librarian		
Newsletter Editor	Celeste Hardy	(630) 963-0096
Members at Large	Eleanor Byrne	(708) 485-6160
	Ruth Juergensen	
	Rose Martino-Krueger	(847) 208-5620
	Jerry Schulman	(630) 205-4552
	Linda Tomasello	(630) 420-1649

## New Treasurer

Thank you to Jerry Schulman who has served as our Chapter Treasurer for the last 3 years. George Ragusa is assuming the treasurer position at this time.

## Telephone Friends

When you have a need to talk to another bereaved parent, these members are available to listen:

Val Vesely	(630) 469-9584
Donna Corrigan	(630) 279-6148
Marge Humbert	(815) 609-4151
Jim Moravcik (suicide)	(630) 904-9094

## To Vacation or Not To Vacation

by Shirley Cognard Ottman, "The Slender Thread"

Summer is often the time of family reunions, vacation, family outings at nearby lakes or other places of recreation. Such occasions may be difficult for bereaved families especially those recently bereaved. Sometimes one asks *why take a vacation when I really cannot enjoy it? Or if we go on vacation for the sake of our surviving children, how can I be certain that that is the best decision for us to make? Or if we attend our family reunion, will the rest of my family make me uncomfortable if I cry or if they deliberately refuse to use my child's name?* Unfortunately there is no one answer to any of these questions. It is a gamble whatever decision one makes. But my personal experience, one's worst fears are seldom realized.

If you really do not want to leave home, then don't. Use your vacation time to work in your yard, to go to a movie every day if you want to do so, to redecorate a room or two, to curl up with several good books, to begin some project your son or daughter once mentioned if you would like to do it for him or her, or to write down feelings and perceptions about your grief to assist your own healing. Some persons benefit from returning to a favorite vacation spot, while others find release for their pain in new and different surroundings they have never before visited.

Still others may look forward to family reunions to garner support and love from other family members whom they do not see often. Some, however want to avoid extended family members until they themselves have regained their equilibrium. To some, familiar haunts at beaches, lake-side cottages, or mountain cabins are tied to beautiful memories of their children which they seek repeatedly while others avoid such places because the memories are too overwhelming until the intensity of their grief has subsided.

The point is that each of us is different. What helps one bereaved family member may not be helpful to another. To find the best path for your family, discuss alternatives with your spouse and your surviving children. If each family member expresses his or her desires and apprehensions about the customary summer family activities, they share the decision-making process and discover truly creative ways to help each other.

Those who live alone with their grief may find friends to be valuable listeners. Such friends may, even

unwittingly sometimes, help one to find the better path. In any event, be kind to yourself. Choose well for yourself. Remember, too, that it is all right to change your mind at any time. Next summer will be less difficult, you can count on that. I have been there, I know. 🌿

### Amend to Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 to Include the Death of a Child

It is my opinion that the death of a child is the worst experience that anyone can endure. However, many employers only allow 2-3 days of bereavement leave. Employees are expected to use their available vacation time after the 2-3 days of bereavement leave have been expended. If the employee exhausts both of these benefits and still requires additional time off the employer has grounds to terminate the employee.

I find it unacceptable that the death of a child is not included as a protected reason to qualify for 12 weeks of unpaid leave as part of the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993. Even people that have not lost a child can see the benefit in adding this to the already established Family Medical Leave Act.

Locally I have met with Congresswoman Judy Biggert and the issue has been featured on the front page of the Daily Herald (3/30/11). Nationally we have collected over 5,000 signatures and over 11,000 petition letters have sent to elected officials in Washington DC.

We need all the help we can get to continue bringing awareness to this issue. If you are interested in supporting this amendment, I ask you to do two things: 1) Visit [www.FarleyKluger.com](http://www.FarleyKluger.com) and sign the e-petition and 2) Share this link with people you know through email, Facebook and Twitter. Let's see if we can get someone's attention on this issue.

Thanks for your help.

Kelly Farley  
 Founder of The Grieving Dads Project  
 (630) 561-5989  
 E-Mail: [Kelly@GrievingDads.com](mailto:Kelly@GrievingDads.com)  
 Blog: [www.GrievingDads.wordpress.com](http://www.GrievingDads.wordpress.com)  
 Website: [www.GrievingDads.com](http://www.GrievingDads.com)  
 Facebook: "GrievingDads.com Project"  
 Twitter: [Twitter.com/GrievingDads](https://twitter.com/GrievingDads)



## BUTTERFLY RELEASE & FAMILY PICNIC



**Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> 12:00 Noon**

Katherine Legge Memorial Park ~ North Pavilion  
60<sup>th</sup> and County Line Road ~ Hinsdale

Donation: \$10 per individual; \$20 per family

Chicken, Beverages, Utensils provided

A - H Bring dessert (for 12)

I - Z Bring side dish/salad (for 12)

RSVP by August 7<sup>th</sup> to:

BP/USA Hinsdale

PO Box 703

Hinsdale, IL 60521

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BP/USA Hinsdale Chapter - August 21, 2011 - Picnic RSVP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## PANACHÉ

April 20, 2011

by Keith Swett

The Egyptians thought that saying a loved one's name aloud ensured immortality. Whether we build any pyramids or not, that concept is important. None of us remembers a dead child. The child whose stories we share is alive. The moment we capture is immortal. The joy we create pushes back the darkness and ushers in the light.

I've only met Donny through his parents, but I know all about how he loved fishing. More than that, I know when Bill takes his grandson fishing there are three fishermen, not two. No matter where Donny is or what he is doing, Bill can spend time with Donny by fishing or telling Donny's fishing stories.

I know Bethany and Paul played guitar together. Now strumming that old acoustic guitar and singing to bereaved parents, invites Bethany into the room. A whole new group of people meet Bethany, share her delight, laugh with her joy, and learn to love her.

I write and Matt sits on my shoulder offering suggestions. Then when I read to a group of bereaved parents, they meet Matt. His laugh echoes in mine. His wisdom is borrowed again and again. His optimism is shared. His passion continues to grow.

John Donne wrote that we should never ask, "for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee." No man is an island. We are all part of the group.

Our children exist now. I can both see Matt learning to walk and walking down the aisle with his bride. I can bathe in Matt's smile, snuggle tightly against his chest, feel the heat pouring off of him. His laugh echoes endless across time and space.

Our children are not dead. Their bodies are gone, but their essence never leaves us. They live and laugh and love through us.

By embracing life, we promise that life is worth the pain, the struggle, the fear. By choosing to celebrate our children, we return to the living ourselves. In an effort to keep our children alive, we capture all that is holy about life.

So Paul and Bill, it is almost time. The gathering approaches and the kids draw near. It is time to meet new friends, embrace new kids, share our lives. I can see Matt waving us down. "There's always room for one more. Come on! Come on! There is more to see." #



## Bring Copies of Photos to our June Meeting

At the June meeting we will be decorating 6 x 8" hearts for the *Monumental Journey of the Heart Gathering* display. Bring copies of your child's photo, stickers, and/or special artifacts that you would like to paste on this construction paper heart in memory of your child.

We will also have the button-making machine at the meeting and we can make buttons you can wear with your child's picture on it. Bring extra pictures if you want to make a button.



**Bereaved Parents USA National Gathering**  
July 28-31, 2011 Reston, Virginia

- ▶ *The Sheraton Reston Hotel is located just 25 minutes from downtown Washington, DC near Dulles International Airport. Free shuttle service from the airport.*
- ▶ *Hotel rate is \$99 per room (plus taxes), up to 4 people per room. Rate honored 3 days before and 3 days after the Gathering. Call 1-800-561-9186 to make your reservation or visit [www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/BereavedParents](http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/BereavedParents)*
- ▶ *Thursday night "Kick Off" Program, plan to come early, you don't want to miss this exciting event!*
- ▶ *Outstanding Speakers and Workshops: Speakers are Darcie Sims, Rosemary Smith, Mitch Carmody, Drs. Gloria & Heidi Horsley, Ron Villano, Dave Roberts, Becky Greer*
- ▶ *Sibling Program*
- ▶ *Meal Package only \$149.00 for seven meals.*

Take advantage of the "Early Bird" registration discount. Registration and Information online now at [www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org). Highlights of this year's Gathering include:

"Kick-Off" Program: Concert by Singer, songwriter & Bereaved Parent, Cindy Bullens.  
Award Winning Documentary "Space Between Breaths" presented by Rosemary Smith  
Visit [www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org) to see complete listing of the Featured Speakers and all Gathering Highlights.

Looking forward to meeting you at this year's Gathering,  
Lee Ann Hutson  
Secretary BP/USA

### *From your editor....*

In honor of Father's Day I "interviewed" my husband to see what he would say about Father's Days since our son died.

He recalled a particular Father's Day experience from either the first or second year after our son's death. We had just finished a good family dinner of steaks on the grill. But, of course, someone was missing. Don said "Well, it's been a nice day, but I was really hoping for a sign from Brandon." Within minutes after he said that, our dog, a pudgy beagle, ran to the door and started barking wildly and loudly. We looked outside and did not see or hear anything or anybody. Our dog Sammy sensed something because he continued to pace and bark loudly in a way that is out of character for him.

At that moment we all looked at each other and knew that Brandon was around us. I believe that my husband got the "Happy Father's Day - Dad" sign he asked for.

As the years since our son's death pass by, the occurrences of "signs" have grown fewer. My husband is more intuitive to these signs and I treasure this aspect of him. It is like a little extra connection to our son. We re-tell our stories of past signs to each other all the time. These stories are especially good on long drives or sleepless nights. And they are a welcome alternative to re-telling the horrible story of his accident.

*Celeste*

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."  
— Matthew 7,7 (NAB)

## "A Journey Together: Hinsdale Chapter BP/USA"

The Hinsdale Chapter newsletter is compiled, stamped and mailed by volunteers, in loving memory of our children. There is no charge to receive it. Please send **address changes** to Angelo Tomasello at [angelotomasello@comcast.net](mailto:angelotomasello@comcast.net).

The newsletter is published and retained in its entirety on the Hinsdale Chapter website at: <http://www.bpusahinsdale.org/>

<b>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</b>	
<b>June</b>	
June 3	<b>Monthly Meeting:</b> 7:30 PM – Balloon Release & decorate your child’s Gathering heart template (Bring pictures!)
June 8	<b>Men’s Group:</b> 6:30 PM – Meet at Kappy’s in Villa Park
<b>July</b>	
July 8	<b>Monthly Meeting:</b> 7:30 PM - Listen to DVD of speaker Kay Bevington, “Grieving to Live or Living to Grieve”
July 13	<b>Ladies Night Out:</b> 6:30 PM – <b>Another NEW LOCATION</b> - Meet at Emmy’s Family Dining, 209 W. Ogden, Westmont (3 blocks West of Cass)
July 28-31	<b>BP/USA National Gathering:</b> Reston, VA
<b>August</b>	
August 5	<b>Monthly Meeting:</b> 7:30 PM – What everyone should know about grieving people
August 21	<b>Butterfly Release &amp; Family Picnic:</b> KLM Park, 60 <sup>th</sup> & County Line Rd, Hinsdale



## A Father’s Feelings

*by Don Center, Abilene, TX*

The wind never blew so cold  
(though it was summertime)  
as it did that day.

And I swayed, and I stumbled,  
and I nearly fell.  
But unseen hands caught me  
and supported me,  
and gave me comfort.

But, as God is my witness,  
I never knew I had so many tears.

**BP/USA Hinsdale on the Web:**  
<http://www.bpusahinsdale.org/>

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