



December 2011 – January 2012

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

Another View of the Holidays

*by Jim Hobbs, Jesse's Father, Denton, TX
From "Where are All the Butterflies?"*

Every time I sit down to write my remarks, I like to believe that I'm a wizened old soul who knows other's pain and how to soften it. That's what I'd like to believe; but in truth, I'm only half right. I am an old soul who knows other's pain. With the anticipation of the approaching holidays in mind, pain may become much greater for bereaved families. Having survived two of the holiday seasons since my son Jesse's death, I can tell you that in my case, the anticipation was the worst part. When Christmas day ended last year, my wife and I were amazed that it had not been nearly as dreadful as we had imagined that it would be. Jesse has not been with us physically these past two years, but his memory will always be sharing our Christmases.

A part of my Christmas will be spent remembering. Memories certainly don't erase the pain or make up for the physical absence, but one line from the play Steel Magnolias, was "I'd rather have thirty minutes of wonderful, than a lifetime of nothing special." That line reminds me that I have three whole really wonderful Christmas days to remember as long as I live, wherever I go. ❀

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Friday, December 2 - Monthly Chapter Meeting: 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM - Love Never Dies. We will discuss how as grieving parents we can love our children and our families during the holidays. You are invited to bring unwrapped gifts, purchased in memory of your child (purely voluntary). These gifts are donated to needy children.

Sunday, December 11 - Candlelighting: - 7:00 PM at Redeemer Lutheran. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Please RSVP. See details in this newsletter.

Wednesday, December 14 - Men's Night Out: - Meet at Kappy's in Villa Park at 6:30 PM. Contact Jerry Schulman 630-205-4552.

Friday, January 6 - Monthly Chapter Meeting: 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM - Small Group Discussion

Thursday, January 12 - Ladies' Night Out: Meet at Cafe Amano, 105 South York Road, Elmhurst at 6:30 PM

Friday, February 3 - Monthly Chapter Meeting: 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Our Christmas Candles

*by Shirley C. Ottman, Teri's mom
Bereaved Parents of North Texas*

*Let us ignite our candles,
and let the flames proclaim
to everyone the living fire
of love which lights our way.
And let these candles be henceforth
symbolic of enduring love
which death cannot destroy.*

♥ ♥ ♥ Love Gifts ♥ ♥ ♥

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ Love Gifts ♥ ♥ ♥

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 10th** 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
Elizabeth Anne Barrett
December 29, 1976 until June 29, 1992*

Happy Birthday Sweet Girl
You are in our hearts and prayers always

Love,
Mom and Dad
Kay & Phil Barrett



*In loving memory of
Patrick Vincent DeMauro
January 28, 1982 until August 29, 2001*

To our beautiful & precious son, brother, & uncle,

Happy 30th Birthday in Heaven. We wonder what you would be doing today, wish you were here celebrating with us.

Love always,
Mom, Dad,
Melissa, Joe, Tyler, Nicolette, & Anthony, Therese
Adalina & Lincoln
Debbie & Vincent DeMauro



*In loving memory of
Heather Runge
November 21, 1989 until January 4, 1990*

Happy Birthday angel Heather!!! What a celebration it would have been for you to turn 22!! I know you and your sister, Lauryn, would have been partying this glorious day!

Though you have been gone what seems like an eternity, your loving spirit continues to touch our lives in extraordinary ways and we feel abundantly blessed! Know we miss you so much and as your mom, can't help but wonder what your interests and educational pursuits would have been as you'd be nearing graduation from college!!!!!!

I pray your love will continue to embrace our hearts!

Love forever,
Mom and Lauryn
Sandy Runge-Sand



*In loving memory of
Jeffrey Anderson
January 28, 1981 until May 25, 1998*

Jeff, this will be the 14th Christmas we will be without you. Needless to say, nothing has changed, we miss you as much now, as we missed you the first Christmas we had to spend without you. Not a day goes by that we don't mention you and relish the time we did have with you.

January 28th, 2012 you would be 31 years of age and a young man. We wonder all of the time what you would be doing with your life, and where you would be. We know in our hearts you would be working with the Whales that you loved.

Love Forever
Mom & Dad
Irene & John Anderson



Love Gifts continued on the next page

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ Love Gifts ♥ ♥ ♥
(continued)



In loving memory of
Ryan James Moravcik
January 7, 1980 until December 31, 2001

Our Loving Son.....

Dear Ryan,

It has been 10 years since you left us seems like just yesterday when our world was shattered and this long journey began. Not a day goes by that you are not a part of our thought process as we move forward. We hold on to all the good memories and knowing you are forever young, as we get older we move closer to you, that moment when we will re-unite in paradise. Ryan until then you are always in our hearts!

Love
Mom & Dad
Lucille & James Moravcik



In loving memory of
Matthew John Swett
January 7, 1979 until January 25, 2003

Matt –

We miss you so much. You're in our thoughts every day. It's really hard to believe it's been nine years since we last saw your beautiful, smiling face. Love never dies. We love you now and always.

Love
Mom, Dad & Laura
Jean & Keith Swett



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

Welcome

Bereaved Parents Hinsdale Chapter extends a warm welcome to the new attendees at our recent meetings. We know it is difficult to come to your first meeting.

New attendees:

- ♥ Helen Bapes-Crider, mom of **John Crider**
- ♥ Elaine Schlacks, mom of **Danny Schlacks**
- ♥ Joyce Chow, mother of **Richie Chow**
- ♥ Mary Saville, mother of **Scott Saville**

We are very sorry for the reason you are here, but we are glad that you found us. ☙☙

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 |
| Marilyn Cocogliato (only child/all children) | (630) 510-1665 |

The Meaning of the Holidays

by Denis Klass Former Professional Adviser to BPI/USA

For those who think that Christmas and Chanukah are just nice days to give and get presents, bereaved parents have another message. Mixed with the joy is the knowledge of sadness. With the hope of birth comes the threat of death. We should not try to cover up our sadness in front of people, for we have a lesson to teach them.

But the holidays have a lesson for us too. Yes, there is death. Yes, there is great bitterness in life. There is darkness. But there is hope. There is birth. There is light.

In a society which works so hard to deny death, perhaps only bereaved parents and a few others can truly understand the depths of these holidays. ☙☙

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

Alan Schroeder - 22
Oct 11, 1985 - Dec 04, 2007
Joan & John Schroeder

Brandon Hardy - 22
Aug 13, 1980 - Dec 28, 2002
Auto Accident
Don & Celeste Hardy

Chris Marie Longo - 18
Dec 21, 1951 - Sep 26, 1970
Brain Aneurysm
Anthony & Margery Longo

Daniel M. Schedler - 23
Dec 16, 1969 - Apr 06, 1993
Auto Accident
Tom & Judeen Schedler

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

Frank Gianfortune Jr - 19
Aug 01, 1968 - Dec 06, 1987
Auto Accident
Ms. Adel Gianfortune

Garrett Joel Zaagman - 7
Mar 04, 1976 - Dec 09, 1983
Spinal Meningitis
Dirk & Florence Zaagman

Jessica Louise Lang - 23
Mar 03, 1980 - Dec 12, 2003
Heroin Overdose
Kristine Lang

Josiah Weiberg - 10 Months
Jan 16, 2009 - Dec 03, 2009
SMA Type 1
Jim & Alesha Weiberg

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

Marty Sobanski (Brother) - 28
Dec 08, 1961 - Sep 05, 1990
Seizure Disorder
Helen Sobanski-Hennessey

Matthew Davis - 33
Dec 28, 1976 - Jun 10, 2010
Unknown
Gloria Smolek

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

Noah Michael Cichorski - 2 1/2
Jun 24, 2001 - Dec 16, 2003
Head Injury (Cause Unknown)
Jeannine Cichorski

Rachel Krueger - 21
Dec 29, 1986 - Sep 23, 2008
Pulmonary Embolism
Jim Krueger & Rose Martino-Krueger

Ryan James Moravcik - 21
Jan 07, 1980 - Dec 31, 2001
Suicide
James & Lucille Moravcik

Sarah Lynn Moore - 5
Dec 18, 1998 - Mar 31, 2004
Surgical Complications
Susan Moore

Scott Wesolowski - 18
Dec 13, 1984 - Apr 08, 2003
Drug Overdose
Sue Berger

Sean Howard Anderson - 17
Feb 22, 1983 - Dec 05, 2000
Suicide
Maureen & Russ Anderson

Stevie Brow - 8
Dec 13, 1964 - May 18, 1973
Gunshot
Roberta Brow

Tim Schiefelbein - 18
Dec 07, 1989 - Feb 24, 2007
Car Accident
Diane Grabowski

William "Bill" Collins - 24
Nov 15, 1965 - Dec 24, 1989
Auto Accident, Hit & Run
Sue Collins

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

Dana Samuel - 32
Apr 07, 1970 - Jan 23, 2003
Asphyxiation
Lana Samuel

Denise Dubois - 38
Feb 12, 1960 - Jan 02, 1999
Cancer/Suicide
Janet & Bernie Finnigan

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

Gerrick Davies – 18

Jan 21, 1986 - Feb 09, 2004
Murdered
Diane Davies

Heather Runge - 6 Wks.

Nov 21, 1989 - Jan 04, 1990
Neuroblastoma
Sandy Sand

Jeffrey Anderson - 17

Jan 28, 1981 - May 25, 1998
Asphyxiation
John & Irene Anderson

Jeffrey Scott Caccavari - 34

Jan 16, 1967 - May 10, 2001
Unknown
Dominic & Karen Caccavari

**Matthew Swett - 25**

Jan 07, 1979 - Jan 25, 2003
Accident
Keith & Jean Swett

Patrick Vincent DeMauro - 19

Jan 28, 1982 - Aug 29, 2001
Auto Accident
Vincent & Debbie DeMauro

Renee Michelle Saban - 21

Jan 07, 1964 - Apr 05, 1985
Suicide
Jackie & Joe Saban

Ryan Vesely - 17

Oct 03, 1974 - Jan 18, 1992
Auto Accident
Stan & Val Vesely



Gifts, Garlands And Grief

by *Sandy Goodman*, Author of "Love Never Dies" A Mother's Journey from Loss to Love, published by the Jodere Group in 2002.

I remember our first Christmas after. It began the first week of November in 1997, three short months into our worst nightmare, but a lifetime into missing our child of eighteen years. He had died suddenly, one of those "in the wrong place at the wrong time" things, and he took our hearts with him when he left. Summer screeched to a halt and autumn came and went without our participation.

Still standing in confusion at the threshold of grief, we were stunned when the stores replaced the gloomy ghosts and goblins with sparkling ornaments and cheerful decorations. Neighbors strung lights on their houses, friends sent cards wishing us joy filled holidays, and not one person mentioned Jason's name. Closing our drapes, we huddled in our cocoon, waiting for his return.

Thanksgiving passed. I recall the empty chair, the unbroken wishbone, and more turkey than three of us could eat. There was an unwatched football game and a failed attempt at gratitude. That was our day, and it was good enough. It was inconceivable that we would ever enjoy another holiday, much less be thankful for it.

Snow fell, carols rang out, lights twinkled, church bells pealed. Our thoughts were of Jason, fixed more acutely on his departure than on his arrival eighteen years before. Memories of prior Decembers pervaded our present. Jason ice fishing. Jason sledding. Jason's birthday. Jason opening gifts, Jason throwing tinsel on the tree, on his brothers and on the dog. Every memory brought tears but every tear brought Jason closer to

Continued on the next page

Gifts, Garlands and Grief continued from page 5

us. We found him in the pain, the only place we knew how to get to. I believe that first Christmas had to be that way. Showing up was the best we could do.

But now it is six trees, six silent nights, and six collectable ornaments later. I've learned a few things about this path I'm on and found a few crutches for when the road gets too rough. Holidays can be disabling for those who grieve. I'd like to share some things that might help:

- Believe that your loved one is with you. Include them in your celebrations and in your sadness. Include them when you talk with others about old times and holidays past. If you don't mention them, no one else will.
- Talk to THEM. They hear your thoughts...and if you listen, you can hear their replies.
- Light candles. For six years now I have lit a special candle for my son. This year I will light five, one for each of us, living or not. Why perpetuate the myth of separation? Jason is still a part of this family.
- Do good things in celebration of your loved one's life. Random Acts of Kindness bring smiles to everyone involved. Buy anonymous gifts, scoop snow from a stranger's sidewalk, or light candles at unmarked graves.
- Connect with your loved one who has died. Buy yourself a holiday wreath to take to the cemetery. Or take a meditation class; create a special place to go to where you can feel their presence.
- Call a newly bereaved friend or neighbor and invite them to reminisce with you. Cry with them, listen to them, share your journey.
- Give to an organization that your loved one supported.
- Make a memory tree. Buy a small tree and decorate it with tokens of their life.
- Don't worry about what others will think. You are solely in charge of this journey. It's all yours.

Love someone who is grieving? Lost as far as how to help them through this upcoming season? Any of the above suggestions can be adapted (i.e., give money in celebration of their loved one's life and tell them about it, make them a memory tree, etc.) to fit your needs. However, there are two gifts that you can give to a person deep in

the pit of grief that will mean more than anything else:

1. Undivided attention
2. Unconditional acceptance of their journey, wherever it leads them.

I won't end this article with a wish that you have your merriest Christmas ever. I know that, for some of you, that is not possible or even desirable. Instead, my wish for you is this: That you find a quiet moment during the sometimes magical but often horrendous season upon us and relax. That you take a few deep breaths, close your eyes and envision your child, sibling, or grandchild. That you accept that dead doesn't mean GONE. That you send out a "Merry Christmas" and "I love you" and then BELIEVE when you hear his or her whispered reply of "I love you too, Merry Christmas." ❀

For My Brother

by *Kari Bauman*, for her brother Kurt
Bereaved Parents of North Texas

The time, it passes quickly
but the pain still hangs around.
The hurt, it still consumes me
while peace cannot be found.
I've longed for your presence
since the day you left from here.
My days are filled with memories,
but my eyes are filled with tears.
If only I had one more chance
to tell you how I feel,
I'd wrap my arms around you
to show my love is real.
If only I could talk to you
and receive some reply,
if only just to sit with you
and look into your eyes.
I realize you were chosen beyond
reasons I can understand,
but I do know God took the best man
and led him by the hand.
He took you up to heaven
where there you'll feel no pain.
And left here on earth, with love,
in our memories you'll remain.



Bereaved Parents of the USA
Hinsdale Chapter
Cordially invites you to attend our
**Annual Candlelight Observance of
National Children's Memorial Day**

Sunday, December 11, 2011
Redeemer Lutheran Church
First & Park Streets, Hinsdale, IL



Program 7:00 p.m. ♥ Doors open 6:30 p.m.

This invitation is extended to parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members who wish to join in honoring the memory of a beloved child at this special time of the year.

During this observance, the name of each child will be read out loud. In addition, for those wishing to submit a photo (5x7 or smaller), their child's picture will be shown as his or her name is read aloud. **If you have submitted a photo in the past, you must give us your permission to have the photo shown again this year.**

Kindly fill out and return the attached registration form. This will help us to plan for seating, refreshments, candles and reading of the names. If you are unable to attend, but wish to have your child's name read aloud, please indicate on the return form.

Refreshments and fellowship will follow the candlelight observance. You are welcome to bring your child's favorite treat to share. Feel free to bring a picture or remembrance of your child to display.

If you submitted a photo to be shown during the candle lighting, you may pick it up at the end of the evening.

**Send photos to: Bob & Carol Gordon, 7717 Williams St., Darien, IL 60561-4429 (630) 971-9472
or e-mail photos to: FLASH22504@comcast.net**

Deadline for photos, 5x7 or smaller: Friday, Dec. 2, 2011

Return Form for Children's Memorial Day Candlelight Observance

Please respond by Friday, December 2, 2011

Return to: Bereaved Parents USA c/o Bob & Carol Gordon, 7717 Williams St., Darien, IL 60561-4429

First Name of Child(ren) _____

Last Name of Child(ren) _____

First & Last Names of Parent(s) _____

How many people will attend _____ Of those, how many bereaved siblings _____

I have enclosed a picture _____ I will send a picture _____ I will e-mail a picture _____

I give permission to use a photo I previously submitted _____

Donations to help defray costs are gratefully appreciated

Bereaved Parents Survey

As a chapter of Bereaved Parents of the USA, we seek to help grieving parents and families rebuild their lives following the death of a child. This survey can help us assess our impact and plan for the future. Please take a moment to fill out this survey. You may email your response to silks6@aol.com or snail mail it to us at BP/USA Hinsdale, PO Box 703, Hinsdale, IL 60522.

Chapter Functions

	Have you attended, participated, or used this function?	Has this helped you rebuild your life since the death of your child?
Chapter Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welcome Package & Remembrance Candle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet Meeting Reminder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ladies' Night Out	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men's Night Out	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Love Gifts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant Exchange (Inaugural Meeting 2010)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Balloon Release	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Butterfly Release And Family Picnic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donating School Supplies In Memory Of Our Children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemetery Visiting Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holiday Cards Sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
November Pot Luck Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donating Holiday Gifts In Memory Of Our Children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter Blues Buster (Inaugural Meeting In 2010)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candle Lighting Ceremony	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Suggestions

	Would you attend, participate, or use this function?	Would this help you rebuild your life after the death of your child?
Different Night For Monthly Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alternate Meeting Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter available thru Internet only	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter Name Not Based On Monthly Meeting Location	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Meetings On Weekdays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Meetings On Weekends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Topics for future meetings / other suggestions:		

29th Annual Sale
HOLIDAY CARDS for 2011

ORDER FORM

<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____ Pkgs.	Holiday Cards (20 cards/pkg)	\$13.00	\$ _____
NOTE:	10% discount for orders of <u>10 or more</u> packages	Discount	- \$ _____
NOTE:	15% discount for orders of <u>15 or more</u> packages paid for with a <u>check from a non-profit group</u>	Discount	- \$ _____
Postage and Handling: \$5.00 for the first package		Postage***	\$ _____
	.50 each additional package		
		TOTAL	\$ _____

*** Note: We can not ship cards without the correct postage. Take only one discount.

Make check payable to : Bereaved Parents of the USA

Charge my order to: VISA or MC (circle one) Acct# _____

Name on credit card (print clearly)

Exp. Date

SHIP ORDER TO

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/State _____ **Zip Code** _____

PHONE Area code () _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SEND ORDERS TO:

BP/USA · P.O. BOX 703 · HINSDALE, IL 60522-0703

BP WEBSITE: www.bpusahinsdale.org/

For more information, call Rose Krueger at 847-208-5620 or email rainbows67@sbcglobal.net

ALL ORDERS WILL BE SHIPPED PROMPTLY VIA U.S. POTAL SERVICE or UPS
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2011 Holiday Card

This year's cards feature an assorted package of previous favorites including a wreath, an ornament, a bell, and an angel. The butterfly, our symbol of hope, is uniquely featured on each of the 20 cards.

This is a general holiday greeting card with special meaning for bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents, as well as those who support them.

Printed on high-quality paper, the actual size of the card is 4" x 6". The card comes in packages of 20 assorted cards with matching envelopes.

The message printed on the inside bottom front of the card:

In Memory of Our Children

The message printed on the inside of the card:

*Wishing you
a season filled with peaceful memories
carried forever in your heart.*

The acknowledgement printed on the back of the card:

Proceeds from the sale of this card benefit
Bereaved Parents of the USA/Hinsdale Chapter
(a nationwide support group for bereaved
parents, siblings, and grandparents)
PO Box 703, Hinsdale, IL 60522-070.

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		
Librarian		
Newsletter Editor	Celeste Hardy	(630) 963-0096
	Eleanor Byrne	(708) 485-6160
Members at Large	Ruth Juergensen	(815) 325-4132
	Rose Martino-Krueger	(847) 208-5620
	Jerry Schulman	(630) 205-4552
	Linda Tomasello	(630) 420-1649

“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.

The newsletter is published on the Hinsdale Chapter website at:

<http://www.bpusahinsdale.org/>

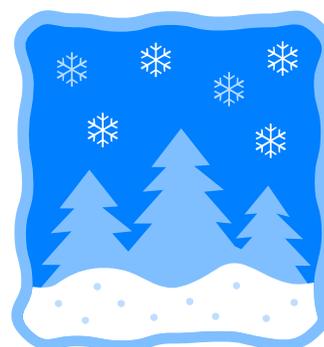
From your editor....

In Sandy Goodman’s article on pages 5-6, she says “Talk to THEM”. I do that. They are not long conversations. How could they be? For example, if I am driving to the gym and see Brandon’s baseball number on a license plate or hear a song that he liked I say out loud, “OK, Brandon, you can come with me to the gym!” If I am desperately searching for something in the house sometimes I say, “Brandon, help me find it!” I have actually found a few items that I had given up for lost. I talk to Brandon in my thoughts and ask him to help his brothers.

I pray for Brandon and his long-time girlfriend Sarah who died alongside him in the car crash. I also ask God to let them help us. Since I believe in life after death I put those requests out there and believe that whatever positive energy is allowed to pass between the thin veil that separates us will be for our own good.

Belief and hope in what we cannot see can help sustain us. Communicating in our own way with our children who have died reinforces that bond of love that never dies.

Celeste



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.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

December 2	Monthly Meeting: 7:30 PM - Love Never Dies - talk about how we can love our children & our families during the holidays. Bring an unwrapped gift in memory of your child (optional)
December 11	Candlelighting: 7:00 PM - Doors open at 6:30 PM Please RSVP
December 14	Men's Night Out: 6:30 PM - Meet at Kappy's in Villa Park

January

January 6	Monthly Meeting: 7:30 PM - Small Group Discussion
January 12	Thursday, January 12 - Ladies' Night Out: - Meet at Cafe Amano, 105 South York Road, Elmhurst at 6:30 PM

February

February 3	Monthly Meeting: 7:30 PM
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BP/USA Hinsdale on the Web:

<http://www.bpusahinsdale.org/>



Carrying Memories Into the New Year

by Alice Wisler, Daniel's mother, Durham, NC

With the church bell's ringing the New Year enters
echoing the days of yesteryear.
Memories of happiness the smiles of our children, the
sunlight within each face.
Who will remember these dear ones far from our
yearning arms?
Who remembers all they were, the way she danced,
the hat he wore?
With the old year gone will they no longer be known?
We will remember them, each one.
We will hold them in our hearts as we carry memories
into this New Year.
We will allow the memories to make us laugh, to
make us sing.
Their lives will fill the air as the church bells ring.

Bereaved Parents of the USA
Hinsdale Chapter
P.O. Box 703
Hinsdale, IL 60522-0703



December 2011 - January 2012