



February 2011 – March 2011

## 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)*

## The Rabbit Hole

by Donna Corrigan

Viewing a movie like “The Rabbit Hole” is not exactly date night entertainment. I knew what to expect, I had seen the Pulitzer Prize winning play a few years ago and I was hoping that it would be a positive step in the education of the non-bereaved. I fear that it probably reinforced many common misunderstandings about our world as bereaved parents.

The story opens only 8 months after a “perfect couple,” had their lives destroyed. Their 4 year old son ran after the family dog and was killed by a teenage driver. It was clearly an accident. They are beyond hope.

The emptiness of their new life was painful to watch. I remember those days. Each parent, totally immersed in their own pain, hoping to exist without hurting the other one. The early days of grief can be very self-centered. We frequently parrot, “Everyone grieves in their own way.” Of course that means everyone except our spouse and we want them to do it our way! This couple was no exception; their coping methods were quite different.

They try attending a support group, which is unfortunately portrayed in a very negative light. She is completely turned off by the self-righteous comment, “God needed another angel,” Neither one of them can believe that they might still be grieving after 8 years like another couple in the group that tries, unsuccessfully, to relate to them.. Very little about this assembly would encourage anyone to return, let alone find comfort or hope.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

**Friday, February 4 - Monthly Chapter Meeting:** 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM - Music/Poetry Book Night Bring a favorite selection you would like to share. It might be from your child’s service or just something that has brought you comfort. A CD player will be available.

**Wednesday, February 9 - Men’s Group:** 6:30 PM RSVP to Jerry Schulman 630-205-4552 if you plan to attend. We will meet at Kappy’s Restaurant in Villa Park.

**Friday, March 4 - Monthly Chapter Meeting:** 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM - Anger & Guilt, Common Elements of Grief - Guest Speaker Erika Coull-Parenty, BA, MA, LPC

**Wednesday, March 9 - Ladies’ Night Out:**  
Meet at Bailey’s in Westmont at 6:30 PM

**Monday, March 21 - Steering Committee Meeting:**  
Redeemer Lutheran at 6:00 PM

**Friday, April 1 - Monthly Chapter Meeting -** 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM - Stress & Grief

Each of them stumbles through their own grief journey. Do we display his belongings? Do we sell the house? Can we befriend the young man who was the driver? Can the death of her heroin addicted brother be compared to the loss of 4 year old Danny? Do we reach out to those friends who have abandoned us?

This is Hollywood though and the first two years of grief are wrapped up in less than two hours.

As bereaved parents we know that peace in our new normal is possible but it takes lots of time and work to emerge from the rabbit hole.##

## Love Gifts

A Love Gift is a donation to the chapter in memory of your child, grandchild or sibling. 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, [celeste\\_hardy@hotmail.com](mailto:celeste_hardy@hotmail.com).

**Thank You for your continued support of  
Bereaved Parents of the 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.

## Love Gifts



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

Matt,

We miss you so much. Time passes and you are not here to celebrate the holidays, birthdays; all the special times we'd planned to spend together. We think about you every day. We will always remember the wonderful times we all spent together.

We love you always,  
Mom, Dad & Laura  
Keith & Jean Swett



## Love Gifts



*In loving memory of  
Douglas McCallum  
September 23, 1980 until February 21, 2000*

We love you, miss you and think of you every day.

Love,  
Mom & Dad  
Reg & Marcia McCallum



*In loving memory of grandsons,  
Noah Cichorski  
June 24, 2001 until December 16, 2003  
&  
Justin Fritz  
January 23, 1991 until January 9, 2005*

Love you and miss you.

Love,  
Grandma  
Barbara Snell



*In loving memory of  
Justin Fritz  
January 23, 1991 until January 9, 2005*

Love you and miss you.

Love,  
Dad  
John Fritz



*In loving memory of  
Joe Ross  
June 9, 1985 until February 5, 2009*

We miss you.

Love,  
Mom & Jon  
Pat Ross



*Love Gifts ... continued on next page*

♥♥♥♥ Love Gifts (continued) ♥♥♥♥



*In loving memory of  
Glenn Patrick Beach  
November 7, 1960 until February 16, 1992*

In honor of our son who, along with his girlfriend, was murdered in our backyard on February 16, 1992.

Love,  
Mom & Dad  
John & Grace Beach



## Welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new attendees at our recent meetings. We hope you were able to take home at least a small glimmer of hope.

New attendees:

♥ Polly Myers, mother of Athena

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

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Jim & Alesha Weiberg (Josiah's parents) on the birth of their daughter Journee Marie on January 13<sup>th</sup>. ☙☙

## "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/>

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## BP/USA Hinsdale Steering Committee

Our chapter is run by a volunteer steering committee that meets periodically during the year to discuss future meeting programs, fund raising, member involvement, our library and other pertinent issues. Interested in sharing your time and talent? ....contact a member listed below:

<b>Chapter Leader</b>	Donna Corrigan	(630) 279-6148
	Cell:	(630) 841-7056
<b>Database Administrator</b>	Angelo Tomasello	(630) 420-1649
<b>Hospitality</b>	Sally Yarberry	(708) 560-0393
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jerry Schulman	(630) 205-4552
<b>Librarian</b>		
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Celeste Hardy	(630) 963-0096
<b>Members at Large</b>	Eleanor Byrne	(708) 485-6160
	Linda Horn	(630) 325-2816
	Ruth Juergensen	
	Rose Martino-Krueger	(847) 208-5620
	George Ragusa	(630) 637-1548
	Linda Tomasello	(630) 420-1649

## 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.**

## 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

*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*

**Alyssa Dabrowski - 22**  
May 20, 1979 - Feb 03, 2002  
Car Accident - Hit & Run  
Allen & Rosemary Dabrowski

**Daniel Meyer - 7**  
Feb 21, 1977 - Sep 21, 1984  
Hit by Car  
Kenneth & Olivia Meyer

**Deborah Gilligan Main - 35**  
Mar 18, 1965 - Feb 13, 2001  
Melanoma  
Margaret Gilligan

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

**Dennis Rich - 37**  
Feb 11, 1971 - Apr 01, 2008  
Cancer  
Karen Rich

**Donna Hark - 48**  
Oct 28, 1961 - Feb 08, 2010  
Pulmonary Hypertension  
Geraldine Ploskonka

**Douglas McCallum - 19**  
Sep 23, 1980 - Feb 21, 2000  
Accident  
Reg & Marcia McCallum

**Emily Rose Ford -**  
Feb 23, 2010 - Feb 24, 2010  
Prematurity  
Jeremy & Jaime Ford



**Evan Holmes - 20**  
Feb 09, 1990 - Apr 02, 2010  
Unknown  
Mason Holmes

**Evan Holmes - 20**  
Feb 09, 1990 - Apr 02, 2010  
Unknown  
Irene Gangemi

**Foly Phillips - 26**  
Feb 18, 1982 - Feb 26, 2008  
Sickness  
Yinka & Grace Phillips

**Gerrick Davies - 18**  
Jan 21, 1986 - Feb 09, 2004  
Murdered  
Diane Davies

**Glenn Patrick Beach - 31**  
Nov 07, 1960 - Feb 16, 1992  
Murdered  
John & Grace Beach

**Henry J Ford -**  
Feb 25, 2010 - Feb 26, 2010  
Prematurity  
Jeremy & Jaime Ford

**Ian McDonald-Shumaker - 17**  
Feb 06, 1989 - May 11, 2006  
Suicide  
Stacia McDonald-Shumaker

**Jamie Mitchell - 31**  
Feb 28, 1978 - Sep 19, 2009  
Suicide  
Lance & Kristie Mitchell

**Joseph Ross - 23**  
Jun 09, 1985 - Feb 05, 2009  
Asthma  
Pat Ross

**Kate Pranno - 24**  
May 19, 1977 - Feb 22, 2002  
Liver Failure from Drugs & Alcohol  
Suzi Scott

**Kimberly Ann Olson - 15**  
Feb 14, 1983 - Aug 20, 1998  
Histicytic Disorder  
Larry & Danita Olson

**Matthew Frank - 17**  
Nov 09, 1989 - Feb 11, 2007  
Auto Accident  
Scott & Donna Dwyer

**Melissa Juergensen - 19**  
Feb 24, 1989 - May 03, 2008  
Auto Accident  
Ruth Juergensen

**Melissa Juergensen - 19**  
Feb 24, 1989 - May 03, 2008  
Auto Accident  
Sarah Brewer

**Michael Patrick Gordon - 30**  
Feb 20, 1974 - Aug 08, 2004  
Killed by Drunk Driver  
Robert & Carol Gordon

**Mike Seaney - 44**  
Feb 24, 1951 - Sep 23, 1995  
Medical Misdiagnosis  
Vernadene Tolman

**Nadia Chowdhury - 20**  
May 14, 1983 - Feb 21, 2004  
Hit & Killed by Drunk Drivers  
Nasrin & Shamsul Chowdhury

**Nancy R. Lyell (Sue's Sister) - 35**  
Feb 14, 1961 - Sep 10, 1996  
Cancer  
Sue & Garry Fink

*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*

**Roseanne Strick - 22**

Feb 27, 1969 - Oct 14, 1991  
Brain Aneurysm/Heart Attack/Car  
Accident  
Ilse Strick

**Sean Howard Anderson - 17**

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

**Steven Glosky - 23**

Feb 16, 1972 - Nov 13, 1995  
Suicide  
Judy & Danny Glosky

**Thomas (Tommy John) Adams - 35**

Feb 01, 1966 - Nov 01, 2001  
Marge & Bill Adams

**Tim Schiefelbein - 18**

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

**Timmy Ciametti - 5**

Feb 12, 1985 - Mar 18, 1990  
Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome  
Vince & Gloria Ciametti

**Amanda Coughlin - 10**

May 11, 1991 - Mar 15, 2002  
Cathy Coughlin

**Amy Elizabeth Gales - 19**

Jul 18, 1975 - Mar 08, 1995  
Auto Accident  
Ron & Sandy Gales

**Brendon Anderson - 22**

Jul 18, 1976 - Mar 16, 1998  
Murdered  
Rob Anderson

**Carl Alan Vuillaume - 16**

Mar 14, 1989 - Jul 21, 2005  
Accidental Drowning  
Rob & Char Vuillaume

**Daryle J. "DJ" Hall - 22**

Mar 10, 1984 - Sep 11, 2006  
Accidental Drug Overdose  
Bob and Sherry Hall

**Emily Nylec - 9**

Mar 14, 1995 - Nov 14, 2004  
Single Engine Plane Crash  
Jena Nylec

**Frank Knapczyk, Jr. - 25**

Mar 28, 1967 - Oct 24, 1992  
Electrocution  
Barbara & Frank Knapczyk

**Garrett Joel Zaagman - 7**

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

**Gina -**

Mar 07, 1968 -  
Fred & Carol Renzetti

**Jennifer Lynn Kirwan - 17**

Mar 10, 1981 - Sep 20, 1998  
Auto Accident  
Linda Kelley

**Jessica Louise Lang - 23**

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

**Kevin Jon Ryczek - 8**

Mar 29, 1972 - Apr 15, 1980  
Lung Ailment  
Jack & Karen Ryczek

**Matthew Lane - 27**

Mar 08, 1978 - Oct 10, 2005  
Car Accident  
Joylin Lane

**Michael Werth - 24**

Mar 18, 1978 - Mar 22, 2002  
Janey Reed

**Natalie Anne Ragusa - 27**

Oct 24, 1975 - Mar 04, 2003  
Car Accident  
George Ragusa

**Nicholas Palumbo - 21**

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

**Robert Joseph Gentilini, Jr. - 25**

Mar 20, 1964 - May 18, 1989  
Brain Infection  
Bob & Mary Gentilini

*Our Children ... continued on next page*

*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*

**Ron Buccieri - 42**  
Mar 22, 1961 - Aug 31, 2003  
Unknown  
Carol Polich

**Russel Witek - 14**  
Jun 16, 1994 - Mar 29, 2009  
Leukemia/Brain Tumor  
Dan & Helen Dennett

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

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

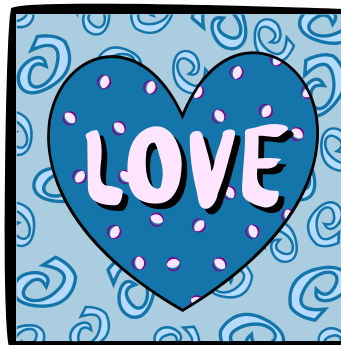
**Timothy Kuzmicki - 16**  
Mar 07, 1986 - Nov 13, 2002  
Motorcycle/Auto Collision  
Kathy Kuzmicki



## That Old Blue Cup

*by Mary S. Cleckley, from "I Walked a Mile With Sorrow", p. 127*

It sits there on the shelf, stained from years of holding early morning coffee. It was my son's cup and he always drank from it. Now, every morning I drink my coffee from that same blue cup. Not a thing of beauty, but certainly a thing of value. It is special, as he was, and it makes the coffee taste special as well. Some of the warmth that comes from that cup is from the heat of the coffee, but mostly the warmth is from the memories it holds. Valuable things, memories. I hold them tightly for they are really all I have left of my son. I cherish them, as I do that old blue cup. #



## March 4 Meeting – Anger & Guilt

Come to our March 4 meeting when the topic will be, Anger and Guilt, Common Elements of Grief. Erika Coull-Parenty, BA, MA, LPC, presently employed at Plymouth Place CCRC in LaGrange Park, Illinois, will be our speaker. Although not a bereaved parent, Erika was an intern at St Thomas Hospice and has had extensive experience in the bereavement community. She has a BA in Psychology from Eastern Illinois University and a MA in Professional Counseling from Argosy University. In 2005 she received her License for Professional Counseling (LPC). She was also awarded the Hospice Community Service Award that same year.

## One Word.....Courage

*by Rob Anderson, Brendon's dad*

I will not tell you that you are strong. I know you don't feel strong. A single word could bring you to your knees. I will not tell you that I admire you. I know you don't feel admirable. More like confused and hurting; falling down a deep, dark hole.

What I will tell you though, is that you have courage. Courage you may not have recognized in yourself. Whenever you open a book on grief, read a magazine article on grief, attend a support group or talk about your grief, you have courage. Whenever you positively express your suffering, you have courage. When you got out of bed but didn't want to, got dressed, went to work or took care of other children and then made it to the end of your day, you found courage. Courage that you probably thought you never had. Courage that you never wanted to know you had; but courage that you now have.

Courage is not easy to find, let alone keep. But it can be found; it can be kept. During those horrible days when you may think you're going to die, keep courage firmly in front of you. When your pain is overwhelming, keep courage firmly in your heart. Courage is where your healing lives.

The opportunities to find courage are many, if we pay attention. When you went to the grocery store, even if you collapsed on the floor at the sight of your child's favorite food, but made it back home, you found courage. When you looked through photo albums of your child and cried and cried, you found courage. When you spoke their name, told their story and allowed yourself to grieve, you found courage. Courage born can never die. Courage found can never be lost.

It can be difficult to wake up every day and find courage. The devastation from our child's death is like nothing we've ever experienced. Words like happy, smiles, laughter, meaning and joy are concepts in a distant reality we think we will never know again. So when you hear a bereaved parent talk about the return of their smile, or how they've found meaning again, let that give rise to your courage. Try and have an attitude that says, "If it can happen for them, maybe, just maybe, it can happen for me." It's true, it can happen for you, it's happened for thousands of parents who did their work and didn't let death win. Bring courage into your life and it will bring along its partners of hope, a positive attitude and the desire for a better day.

Death's not as powerful as it thinks it is if we don't let it be. Death took our children's bodies. That's huge, but that one thing is all death took. Death can never take their life force, our memories or our love. Those three things all belong to their lives. Our kids win, three to one. Death did not take all. Always remember that for our children to have died, they first had to have lived, no matter how long that was. If we focus on their living and let go of their dying, it's possible to bury their death and give birth to their life. Our kids can live again, not like we want them to live, but in the best way we let them live.

It's very hard, it takes great courage, to let go of parts of our past. We all want one more hug, one more kiss and one more chance to talk to our children. We all want tomorrow with them. Sadly, those are unchangeable events. Letting go of those desires, that part of our past is where we can find our greatest healing. It takes time to find that release and it takes courage to search for it. Don't stop searching.

Hope is one of courage's greatest allies. Hope is why we get out of bed each day. Hope tells us that our lives can improve. If we pay attention, hope can be found in many places and in many ways. It takes courage to allow ourselves to take hope in, to let it heal us, to let us find a better day. Here's my acronym for hope. **H.O.P.E.** - **H**ealing **O**pportunities are **P**ossible **E**veryday. Hope can be found in the smallest of things like seeing the sun shine when we raise our blinds in the morning. Hope can be found in the grandest

*One Word.....Courage ... continued on next page*

*“One Word.....Courage” ... continued from previous page*

of things like the wonderful memories of our children. Those memories are of living, laughing, loving children. They are not memories of a dead child; they are memories of a living child.

A belief that our lives will (not just can) get better, is called a positive attitude. An attitude that says, “I want to feel better, I believe I can feel better and I’ll do my work to make that happen.” To maintain a positive attitude in my life I’ve written morning and evening affirmations. They remind me that even though a horrible thing has happened to me and my son, not all of life is horrible. There are many good things, good people and good opportunities in my life. It’s important to my healing for me to keep in mind that I’m a blessed father for the time I had with my son in my arms, and for the time I will always have him in my life and in my heart.

We’re all experiencing the greatest challenge we will probably ever know. The death of our children is an event like no other. But as deep as our pain has been, or still is, we cannot let death win. We cannot let our child’s death overshadow their life; death cannot have all of our children.

In our greatest adversity we find our greatest strength; in that strength we find our greatest healing. We will forever grieve the death of our kids, but it doesn’t mean we have to lead a grief stricken life. Courage tells us that. #



## A New Decade

by Shirley C. Ottman, “Where Are All The Butterflies?”, p. 30-31

This year marks the beginning of a new decade. For bereaved parents and siblings, the new year presents us with a clean slate on which nothing is written. We may face many slings and arrows of outrageous fortune in this new year, but we will also have many opportunities to serve our families, our friends, and our communities with love and devotion.

For each bereaved parent and sibling, choosing to go forward in search of hope when one feels hopeless, in search of love when one feels bereft, in search of new life when one feels barren, are courageous choices, especially when one feels devastated, bewildered, and inert. Perhaps we all can resolve this new year to pick up the telephone to call an empathetic friend when we find ourselves hip-deep in despair—or call when something nice has happened.

If we do so when we are depressed, we might find at least a little relief. If we do so when something good has entered our lives, we might even brighten the day of another bereaved parent. We can help each other by displaying our concern for each other.

By reaching out to others who walk the same road, we can make the journey a little less difficult for ourselves as well as for others. #



## Candlelight ~ Thank You

On Sunday, December 12th we experienced a very special evening at our Annual Candlelighting. Our program started off with beautiful music, including a solo, "There Is A Place", by Maureen Anderson (Sean's mom) accompanied by Chris Schindler on piano. We felt the unity of our children's memories kept alive by our love throughout the ceremony, from the readings and viewing their pictures on screen to the closing when we joined our hands in a circle.

A sincere **thank you** to all who made this evening possible, including:

Linda & Angelo Tomasello  
Bob & Carol Gordon  
Donna Corrigan  
Maureen Anderson  
Rose Krueger  
Sally Yarberry  
Ruth Juergensen  
Carol Zimmerman  
Marilyn Cocogliato

### *Monetary Contributors:*

Nasrin & Shamsul Chowdhury, in memory of **Nadia Chowdhury**  
Robert & Frances Funston, in memory of **Rob & Robbie Funston**  
Anthony & Margery Longo, in memory of **Chris Marie Longo**  
Susan Berger, in memory of **Scott Wesolowski**  
James & Lucille Moravcik, In memory of **Ryan James Moravcik**  
Joe & Eleanor Byrne, in memory of **Eric Byrne**  
John & Irene Anderson, in memory of **Jeffrey Anderson**  
John & Teresa Fritz  
Angelo & Linda Tomasello, in memory of **Celeste Tomasello**  
Ruth Juergensen, in memory of **Melissa Juergensen**  
William & Marguerite Adams, in memory of **Thomas (Tommy John) & Martin K Adams**  
Karen Pech  
David & Cynthia Kass, in memory of **Lt Adam Philip Kass**

Many, many thanks! ☘☘

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

Every once in a while we hear a story that instills hope. With saddened hearts my husband and I attended a memorial for one of my younger cousins who died from cancer in December. At the memorial his sister retold stories from his last days that I will keep in my heart as reminders of the hope that is there for us. My cousin Bob had been on hospice about a month when he called his sister at work and said that there were angels in his room with him. She left work and rushed to his house and again he said, "There is someone in the room watching over us.... angels." Several days later he was in his final hours and he called out, "Mom!" (His mom died in the late 1970s while Bob was still in high school.) Finally, as he was dying, the last words he said were, "It's amazing!"

Bob loved the outdoors, lived simply and was a kind soul. Because of this I wholeheartedly believe that he was giving his sister, and now us, insight into the beauty of the hereafter. His surviving sibling, my cousin Mary, by sharing this story has given us a gift. I have heard others tell that our loved ones are there to meet us when we die, but having this story told in my family makes it even more personal and real to me.

I live in hope of my son waiting for me with open arms when it is my time. I also believe heaven will be "amazing". Thank you, Bob, for opening up the veil between here and there to fill our lives with hope!

*May you all hear stories of hope that make life here on earth more bearable....*

*Celeste*



***As always, this newsletter is compiled in loving memory of our precious children. Thank you to everyone who helps make BPUSA Hinsdale chapter possible.***



## Love Never Dies

*Following is a heartfelt thank you from the principal of the school where children receive the gifts donated by parents at our December meeting....*

\*\*\*\*\*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELEMENTARY  
3545 S 61<sup>ST</sup> Avenue  
Cicero, Illinois 60804  
708 652 8889  
Fax 708 780 4454

December 15, 2010

Bereaved Parents of the USA  
Hinsdale Chapter  
PO Box 703  
Hinsdale, IL 60522

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your very generous toy donations during the holiday season.

With the help of the teachers, families who are struggling financially are identified. These families then receive a basket of food, as well as toys, to use as Christmas gifts for the children of the household. We also are using some of the toys for rewards for perfect attendance during the first semester of school.

Without the help of your donation, this effort would not be as successful. Your generosity is truly appreciated. You brightened the holidays for many families!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sue Kleinmeyer  
Principal



**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.*

Donations are being sought from individuals and chapters for the Butterfly Boutique, Raffles, Silent Auction and Table Favors. Contact Jodi Norman at [bpusa.nova@yahoo.com](mailto:bpusa.nova@yahoo.com) if you are able to help.

If you are interested in presenting a workshop go to [www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org) and fill out the on-line application or print out an application and mail to P.O. Box 7675, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Deadline for workshop applications is March 15, 2011.

For full information and registration materials visit [WWW.BEREAVEDPARENTSUSA.ORG](http://WWW.BEREAVEDPARENTSUSA.ORG)

## Who am I Now?

*By: Traci Morlock, BPI/USA Bereaved Sibling  
St. Louis, MO*

Who am I now that my sibling has died? I have asked myself that question many times over the last four years. When I think of my brother, Sean, I think of how things used to be. I also think of all the things that he will miss. For example, my husband or my children will never know Sean. Sean will never have children. There are just so many things that he will miss.

I began to question who I was about a month after Sean died. He and I shared a great love of music. When I think of music, I think of Sean. As first, every song I heard made me cry. After a while though, I began to try to find a deeper meaning in the songs. I know that a lot of teenagers and young adults identify important times in their lives by music. I am one of those people. Now I am trying to figure out what place the music has in my life. After Sean died, music took on new meaning for me. The music I sing and listen to is my special connection to my brother. The song, "Because You Loved Me" by Celine Dion was especially powerful for me.

I came to realize that through simply loving and supporting me, my brother had helped to shape the person that I was becoming and who I want to become. I have realized now that my life's direction has taken a slight detour. I have had to reroute my image of myself. When I see music, I see my brother and I hope that will never change. When I saw myself in the past, I saw Sean by my side. That picture has now been altered. The biggest part of the question, "Who am I now?" is also "Am I still a sister?" The answer to that is a simple yes! Sean will always be my brother and I will be his sister. Forever. ❧

*Reprinted with permission from the Bereaved Parents of the USA website,  
[www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org)*

***In the night of death, hope sees a star, and  
listening love can hear the rustle of a wing.***

***~Robert Ingersoll***

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February

February 4	<b>Monthly Meeting:</b> 7:30 PM – Music/Poetry Book Night Bring a favorite selection you would like to share. A CD player will be available.
February 9	<b>Men's Group:</b> 6:30 PM - Meet at Kappy's in Villa Park

### March

March 4	<b>Monthly Meeting:</b> 7:30 PM - Anger & Guilt - Guest Speaker, Erika Coull-Parenty, BA, MA, LPC
March 9	<b>Ladies Night Out:</b> 6:30 PM - Meet at Bailey's in Westmont
March 21	<b>Steering Committee Meeting:</b> 6:00 PM – at Redeemer Lutheran

### April

April 1	<b>Monthly Meeting:</b> 7:30 PM – Stress & Grief
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**BP/USA Hinsdale on the Web:**  
<http://www.bpusahinsdale.org/>



## Building the Bridge

by Karen Howard, 2000, "Handling the Holidays", p. 25

Come friend, and walk with me awhile.  
Your load is heavy and my back is strong.  
I see your tears and hear your plaintive cry,  
come sit with me, and I will share my song.

Come friend, and we can talk of days gone by,  
I'll listen as your heart reveals its sorrow.  
I will not judge the things that bring you comfort.  
My friend, I'll walk with you until you can face  
tomorrow.

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



February 2011 – March 2011