



The Compassionate Friends
Manhattan Chapter
 Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Our next meetings...
Apr 12 & 26
May 10 & 24
Jun 14 & 28
Jul 12 & 26

Manhattan Chapter Newsletter **April 2022**

Three Faces

by Marie Levine, 2004

I've heard it said that within a lifetime we have three faces. When we are born and as we mature we have the face our parents gave us. In our middle years and through our prime we have the face that we ourselves gave us. And finally, in the last third of our lives, we have the face that life gives us. Today, when I look in the mirror, I see my whole life reflected there.

When Peter died in 1993, he still wore the face that we had given him. It was a lovely face with so much promise, so many unrealized hopes and dreams. It is a face that continues to stare out at me from every picture frame. It is an indelible, worry-free face and now, years later, I agonize that I cannot know what face he would have created for himself.

I have tried unsuccessfully to rationalize his abruptly cancelled life. Though he will know no successes, he will also never know failure. He will never know triumph, nor will he know tragedy. He will never know pleasure, nor will he know pain. Can I take comfort in that?

I think of what I expected life to be like for me by now. As we travel through the continuum of life, those who accompany us as peers go through life's passages in similar time. The kids we are kids with grow as we grow into adults. Within a cluster of years we all marry, then we have our own kids and share the experiences as our kids grow up and we grow old. Our kids all go through their life's passages as we all look on, comparing notes and experiences. They go through college together, they begin their careers together, they marry and they have children – our grandchildren – all within the same cluster of years.

(con't on page 2)

Thoughts on Mary Todd Lincoln

by Mary LaTour

Abraham Lincoln has always been my most admired and respected figure in the history of our country. After standing in front of his statue at the Lincoln Memorial, no one could ever forget the terrible, marked sadness in his face, his forlorn and melancholy attitude.

I have been picking up, from other chapter newsletters, the many pieces of prose and poetry attributed to Lincoln which speak so poignantly of grief, and I have researched the Lincoln life. It is for his wife, Mary, for whom I cringe now when I read how life dealt with her. Washington gossip circles referred to her "mental state," and that she was "deranged" and "eccentric."

The Lincolns had four sons. Edward, their second son, died in February 1850 when nearly four. Their third son, Willie, was born in December of that year and died in February 1862 at the age of 11. Then, the tragedy of tragedies...In April 1865, President Lincoln was assassinated in front of his wife's eyes. Her grief must have been worse than inconsolable.

How could life deal such a terrible fate to one woman? How could any one of us deal with such multiple tragedies? We know how easy it is to feel as if we are "going crazy," and how common that feeling is. To share that feeling in Compassionate Friends is more than wonderful... to be assured that it is common, to learn and understand from other bereaved parents why we feel that way, and that it will pass, helps immeasurably.

But tragedy stalked Mary Lincoln's footsteps, for not quite six years later Tad was killed at age 18 in January 1871. History books do not say, but I pray that Mrs. Lincoln had one compassionate friend who understood her grief over the death of her three sons and her husband. One friend wrote of her: "Poor Mrs. Lincoln. She's been a deranged person".

Yes, of that I am sure. And I am thankful for The Compassionate Friends.

TELEPHONE FRIENDS: When you are having the kind of day you feel only another bereaved parent or sibling can understand, we are willing to listen and share with you. Don't hesitate to call our Manhattan Chapter phone for meeting information **(917) 300 3706**. To speak with someone please call one of the following volunteers; Jacquie Mitchell (eves) (347) 414-1780 jacquienytcf@gmail.com and for siblings, Jordon Ferber (917) 837-7752, beatniknudnik@yahoo.com

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 Newsletter Editor: **Marie Levine** marielevine2@verizon.net

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS MEETINGS are always the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month
WE MEET USING ZOOM AT 7:00pm—sign on at 6:45pm
 As soon as possible, we hope to return in person to the
 Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
 55th Street and Fifth Ave (enter at 7 West 55th St.)

The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance self-help organization offering friendship and understanding to bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings. We are a group seeking support in our grief or are able to give it. Among us your religion, your race, your politics, your job or social standing are not important. We care about your grief—the tragedy that each of us have shared—and how we can grow through it, not back to the person we were, but to the person we can become.

Three Faces

(con't from page 1)

With similar expectations, we all continue on life's path as our parents did. By now though, life may be complicated by the trials of caring for aging parents, or our own personal struggles. But in our children we can be assured that whatever our disappointments or difficulties, the continuum of life and of hope goes on. Through our children we watch our own lives renewed in their daily discovery of what we all experienced so many years ago – as our parents watched us and celebrated our own little victories. Like Bolero, the same musical phrase, repeated and repeated with an ongoing steadily increasing rhythm – so our lives continue on in the steady predictable pace history has proscribed.

Unless, of course, some cosmic calamity causes a monumental shift in the natural order of things and some of us are left late in life to figure out how to navigate unprepared through a totally unexpected life. I say this now, writing from the perspective of the 21st century, a most complicated time. I remember my own parents ruminating on a “simpler” time when they spoke of their own youth. Though theirs was a youth impacted by depression and war, it seemed to them a less complicated time looking back with their families intact. I think too, that our earlier life was a simpler time and probably those who come after us will think the same thing about their early years. Life, to the young, is quite simply, less complicated.

So what is it that makes this a more complicated or difficult time? Could it be that enormous, incalculable, unrelenting loss – the kind of loss that leaves its indelible mark on your soul – the loss of a child – is what defines the time? For me, I suspect that may be the case. As world events define a decade, so do life events define a life. Despite my attempts to reinvent myself, to fill my life with as much love as I can collect among the caring friends, both old and new, who enrich my life, I am still defined by the one, life altering experience that has no equal. I am a bereaved parent. And even more, I am bereft of my only child. It is a void nothing – no one – can fill. It is a loss that is written all over my face.

But enough. It is Spring. I can see. I can feel. I can dance. I can hope. The trees are sprouting, the garden is returning. The babies are growing. The music is playing and the sun is shining.

Life continues. And so do I .

~ Marie Levine, 2004

The 45th TCF National Conference August 5-7, 2022 in Houston, TX.

We are very pleased to welcome back TCF's annual national conference, this year in person! This eagerly anticipated event for those bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings who attend seeking renewed hope, ways of coping with their grief, and friendships made with those who truly understand the painful loss of a child, sibling, or grandchild. With inspirational keynote speakers, numerous workshops including a wide variety of topics, and the always memorable candle lighting program on Saturday evening, culminating with the popular Walk to Remember on Sunday morning, and so much more, the TCF 45th National Conference is a much-needed gift that we give to ourselves. Conference registration will open in mid-March.

This year's conference will be held at the Marriott Marquis Houston. Reservations can now be made [online](#) at TCF's dedicated reservation link. TCF's discounted room rate with Marriott is \$149 per night plus tax. Please note that each attendee will only be able to reserve two rooms. Since the conference begins early on Friday and pre-conference activities are offered on Thursday evening, attendees usually find it beneficial to arrive on Thursday.

45TH TCF NATIONAL CONFERENCE

LOVE SOARS THROUGH CLOUDS OF HOPE

Friday-Sunday, August 5-7, 2022 Houston, TX

[Click here for more information](#)

Gifts of Love

A Love Gift is a donation given in memory of a child who has died, or sometimes a memorial to a relative or friend. It can be in honor of a happy event that you would like to acknowledge, or simply a gift from someone who wants to help in the work of our chapter.

All TCF chapters are totally dependent on funds from our families. We DO NOT receive funds from our National Office. Everything we need to operate our local chapters is paid directly from our local resources and our local family contributions. Thank you to all who can contribute and support this chapter. Please see 'Making a Contribution' below:

Passing the Basket – During normal times, we raise needed funds at each meeting by passing a basket for voluntary contributions. In this time without in person meetings, the Manhattan Chapter is going without the resources we usually get from the basket passed during our meetings. We are so glad to be able to hold the online meetings, and if you are able to, once a month or whenever you can, please help and make a 'Basket' contribution to help our organization.

Making a contribution –

Easiest way – online – use a credit card securely with Paypal – Click this link: [Please donate here](#)

Or you may mail a check to The Compassionate Friends, c/o Sally Petrick, 945 West End Ave Apt 2B, New York, NY 10025. Please make your check payable to The Compassionate Friends – Manhattan Chapter. We need and appreciate your support.

Surviving the Guilt

Posted on March 17, 2022 by Christina Tracy

When you go to bed at night, you are (hopefully) easing into being content that the day is over. Everyone is home, tucked in their beds, you've accomplished what needed to be done and drifting off to sleep, satisfied. All is quiet and your family is safe.

That was how I felt when I went to bed the night Andrew died. My daughter was out with friends but my two sweet boys were safe and secure enclosed in the warm walls of our home. I went to sleep knowing that I had had a successful day of organizing a closet and taking down holiday decorations. All was right in the world.

An hour later, nothing was right. My world was turned upside down. My life, as I knew it, forever changed. I was inspired to write this after reading an article posted on Facebook, by Angela Miller, author and creator of A Bed For My Heart, an online community for child loss.

'I Wasn't Sure If I Could Survive': What It's Like to Lose a Child struck a cord with me. Particularly, this quote:

"One of the unique features about losing a child is that there is always a sense of guilt there," she explains. "The role of being a parent is to keep your child present and on this earth and healthy and well, so regardless of the circumstances, mothers often feel like they failed. It's such a huge burden to carry."

-Cadmona A. Hall, PhD

I have had extreme guilt since losing Andrew. I couldn't understand it...he was home. He was safe at home, in his room. I was 20 ft down the hall from him. I was right there. I had checked on him before retiring to my room. By all accounts, in my mind, I failed him. Failed to do the most basic part of being a mother...keeping him alive.

(con't in next column)

You Must Believe in Spring.

For all of us who often suffer through the initial taunting of Spring and it's reminder of rebirth and renewal of everything but our kids....

Michel Legrand's musical score for Jacques Lemy's film "Les Demoiselles de Rochfort" includes the song "Chanson de Maxence", beautifully translated with lyrics in English by the incomparable duo Alan & Marilyn Bergman into

"You Must Believe in Spring":

"When lonely feelings chill the meadows of your mind,
Just think if winter comes, can spring be far behind?
Beneath the deepest snows, the secret of a rose
Is merely that it knows you must believe in spring!

Just as a tree is sure its leaves will reappear;
It knows its emptiness is just a time of year.
The frozen mountain dreams Of April's melting streams,
How crystal clear it seems, you must believe in spring!

You must believe in love and trust it's on its way,
Just as the sleeping rose awaits the kiss of May.
So in a world of snow, Of things that come and go,
Where what you think you know, you can't be certain of,
You must believe in spring and love."

Thank you Margaret, Michel, Alan & Marilyn. And snow and spring...

Surviving the Guilt

(con't from left column)

I've carried this immense guilt inside of me. Guilt that I could not keep my child alive. Guilt knowing that while I was asleep, he was literally dying 20 feet from me and I didn't know. How could I not have woken up? Why didn't my motherly instinct naturally kick in and stir me to get up. Why didn't I know something was not right. Something was wrong. Why couldn't I save my child's life. Why didn't I run into his room and revive him. Why was I content and at peace in my bed because I organized a fucking closet!

Why. Why. Why.

It has taken me a very long time to understand that I will never be able to understand that night. I know I did not do anything wrong. Andrew's death was the most freak accident. It was not my fault. However, carrying the guilt and surviving the guilt is something I face every day. It is etched into my soul. The basic instinct of protecting my child was robbed from me.

"I began to see my writing journey as another way to honor Hudson's memory; I also say often that the only thing that brings me any consolation after her death is knowing that her life can still have meaning, that she can still have an impact on others and the world even though she is no longer physically here. So if sharing my story helps someone else, I feel like that is the greatest way to honor her and to comfort myself."

-Mandy Hitchcock

While I fight these demons inside, I push through, for Andrew. For his life. For his memory. Speaking his name. Sharing his story. Being there for others who have children with ADHD. Supporting them. Advocating. Anything I can do to honor Andrew.

Everything I do is honoring Andrew's memory. Making sure to live a life that he is proud of. And that includes, surviving the guilt.

Andrews Angel's

<https://andrewangels.org/blog/>

Nature's Rainbows

We held them in our parent arms
for days or weeks or years.
Now we hold them in our hearts
and cry the darkest tears.

The cord attached to children,
eternally fine and strong.
We never leave the missing;
It holds us all life long.

Our children now inside us –
our souls tattooed with gold,
their love, their words, caresses,
are hugs that we still hold.

If we open to the knowledge,
that they aren't completely gone,
we will sometimes feel their touching,
sometimes soft and sometimes strong.

When they show us nature's rainbows,
we can feel their proud delight,
sending signs to show they're living,
only far beyond our sight.

~ Genesse Gentry, from "Stars in the Deepest Night"

Siblings...

If you told me I'd be in group therapy someday, I would have laughed at you. Before Russell died, it wasn't even a possibility. Me? Talking about my feelings in a group setting like that? Never. Well, life has a way of presenting cruel ironies sometimes, because I honestly don't know how I'd be doing if it weren't for the supportive environment TCF provides.

I remember reading early on a list of stupid things people say. It was comforting to know that it wasn't just the people in my life who didn't now what to say. It's kind of funny even to think that some people are so confounded and uncomfortable with what to say that they end up saying something stupid and uninformed just to say ANYthing. I can't remember the entire list that I came across, but I have come up with my own top three most insensitive and/or ignorant statements that I've been confronted with:

1. I know EXACTLY how you feel. My grandmother/goldfish/friend of a friend just died."
2. "That's awful. How's your mother taking it?"
3. "Ya know, its probably about time you put that behind you and get on with your life."

While all three of these statements anger me, I know that the people who say these things to me mean well, but just have no idea how they make me feel by imposing these ideas on me. At the very least, I know that they are more uncomfortable than I am in dealing with how I feel.

People who apologize for bringing up the subject of Russell, or just of siblings in general do so because it makes them uncomfortable. Personally, I feel like he's on my mind all the time. I don't really need an excuse to start talking about him. I know some people don't know how to respond when you tell them you lost your brother. They'd rather not have brought it up. They apologize as if it's upsetting for me to talk about it. The thing is, it's upsetting PERIOD. Upsetting to think about, upsetting to talk about, but even more upsetting to be alone in dealing with the feelings.

This is why I'm grateful for the forum that Compassionate Friends provides. There is no explanation needed, and no awkward dancing around the subject. If only the rest of the world understood that I don't need them to analyze it, or figure it out for me. All I really need is someone to listen to what I have to say.

~ **Jordon Ferber**, TCF Manhattan Chapter Sibling Leader
2006

TUESDAYS

TUESDAYS AT 7:00PM

With Jordon Ferber - Sibling Leader

Siblings in the Manhattan Chapter meet every Tuesday of the month and more.

Sign up to get our siblings schedule emails

[Click here for exclusive sibling emails](#)

And access our regular Chapter website for the parent/sibling meetings and activities.

www.compassionatefriends.nyc

MY SILENT COMPANION

I see you in my dreams—
Laughing happily, free from sorrow
And safe from life's misfortune.
The joy that lights your eyes fills me with comfort,
And I know that every step I make,
You also take.
Guiding me down life's path,
through obstacles in my way—
You are my silent companion.

When God took you back— it changed our lives,
And our perspective.
We now see the vibrant glow
That lives in every one of His creations,
And that reminds us of you.
I hear your laugh in the crashing surf
And feel warmed by your hugs in the soaking sun.
You are everywhere—
You are my silent companion.

Though I want to reach out to you
And hold you tightly in my sorrow,
I know you can feel my tears on your shoulder
As you surround me in your soul.
You sprinkle my life with tokens and treasures,
Reminders and reassurances of how much you love me.
I know you'll live inside my heart
And walk with me until I can join you—
Forever as my silent companion.

~ **Jennifer Forrest**, TCF Orange Coast, CA

The Compassionate Friends Sibling Credo

*We are the surviving siblings of The Compassionate Friends
We are brought together by the deaths of our brothers and sisters*

Open your hearts to us, but have patience with us.

Sometimes we need our families to be there.

*Sometimes we must walk alone, taking our memories with us,
to become the individuals we want to be.*

We cannot be our dead brother or sister; however a special part of them lives on with us.

When our brothers and sisters died, our lives changed.

We are living a life very different from what we envisioned and we feel a responsibility to be strong even when we feel weak.

Yet we can go on because we understand better than many the value of family and the precious gift of life.

Our goal is not to be the forgotten mourners that we are, but to walk together to face tomorrow as the surviving siblings of The Compassionate Friends.



OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 **ALAIYA**, daughter of Patricia Mosley
- 4/1 **JOEY MASLIAH**, brother of Amanda Rockoff
- 4/1 **SHANA DOWDESWELL**, daughter of Laurie & Roger Dowdeswell
- 4/2 **ALI SEEDAT**, daughter of Deborah McKinzie
- 4/3 **KYLE DANE**, son of Madelaine Samuel
- 4/3 **NATASHA GEMBKA**, daughter of Tim & Alexis Gembka
- 4/4 **ALEX BHAK**, son of Karyn Bhak
- 4/4 **DANNY MAZRAANI**, brother of Mona Mazranni
- 4/4 **JORDAN MITCHELL**, son of Melody Mitchell
- 4/4 **LORI HEALY**, daughter of Tom Healy
- 4/5 **CHRIS MASARONE**, twin brother of Nic Masarone
- 4/5 **MATTHEW BAUMEISTER**, son of Lynn & Mitch Baumeister
- 4/7 **AMIR PRIZANT**, brother of Ayelet Prizant
- 4/7 **JASON KLEIN**, son of Jeanette LaBarb
- 4/8 **CYRUS**, son of Francine Figueroa
- 4/8 **JUSTIN R. NEGRON**, son of Nancy Negron, brother of Samantha
- 4/8 **LISA DONOFRIO**, daughter of Christina Korteweg
- 4/8 **VICTOR CHEN**, son of Vivien Chen
- 4/10 **MELANIE DINOWITZ**, daughter of Elaine Dinowitz
- 4/10 **SHONEN CHAMBERS**, sister of Tiffani Chambers
- 4/11 **AYDIN HOSSAIN**, daughter of Beth & Abir Hossain
- 4/12 **ETHAN MAGDER**, son of Andrea & Gary Magder, brother of Abbi Magder
- 4/13 **DR. AMY BETH ROSEN**, daughter of Helen Rosen
- 4/14 **SUZANNA ZHOU**, sister of Susan Zhou
- 4/15 **MATTHEW CARLSON LUTZ**, son of Linda L. Carlson
- 4/15 **NONI BIALE**, daughter of Margaret and Noam Biale

- 4/16 **ELLA BANDES**, daughter of Judy Kottick & Ken Bandes
- 4/16 **NICHOLAS MONICO**, son of Lisa & Craig Monico
- 4/16 **RICHARD WARNOCK**, son of Claire Warnock, brother of Susan Warnock
- 4/17 **CINDI DIMARZO**, sister of Jodi DiMarzo
- 4/17 **SEAN KIMERLING**, son of Ervine & Noah Kimerling
- 4/18 **HARRY GANDEL**, grandson of Karen & Meyer Gross
- 4/18 **NICOLAS DE LAVALETTE**, brother of Sebastian Lavalette
- 4/19 **SOPHIE ANN MISSHUK**, daughter of Evan Misshuk
- 4/19 **WILL TANG**, brother of Sandra Tang
- 4/20 **LAURA FELDSTEIN**, daughter of Marilyn & Al Feldstein
- 4/20 **MARSHALL FORDE**, son of Asurf Forde, brother of Marcel Forde
- 4/21 **AIDAN HERNANDEZ**, son of Maura Moloney & Victor Hernandez
- 4/21 **BARBARA STRAUSS**, sister of Joanne Shapiro
- 4/22 **DANIEL ALBERT**, son of Anita Albert, brother of Jenna Van Dusen
- 4/24 **SAM BINNICKER**, brother of Griffin Binnicker
- 4/25 **DANIELLE BAKER**, sister of Tiffany Baker
- 4/25 **JONATHAN JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ**, son of Gina Rodriguez, grandson of Maggie Valentin
- 4/25 **KRISTEN SANCHEZ**, sister of Melissa Rosario
- 4/26 **SEAN COLLINS**, brother of Kelly Collins
- 4/27 **BENJAMIN HARTFORD**, son of Nora Madonick
- 4/27 **BRONWEN PRADT**, daughter of Katherine Pradt
- 4/27 **GRETA GREENE**, daughter of Stacy & Jayson Greene
- 4/30 **KIARR LACEY MONROE**, son of Xenia Vasquez & Lacey Monroe
- 4/30 **LOUIS ARESU**, son of Elizabeth Sperrazza, brother of Maria Sperrazza



Our Children Remembrances — Changes

A longstanding tradition in our Manhattan Chapter of Compassionate Friends newsletter has been the listing of our children’s and sibling’s birthdays and anniversaries. I know I look *first* at each issue of the newsletter to see my child’s listing, my sister’s listing, and scan for the birthdays and anniversaries of my TCF friends loved ones.

It is very important that our listings are correct and meaningful and we try to keep the listings as accurate and up to date as possible, but we are not perfect. Should you desire a change to your loved one’s listing or if your listing is missing, please let us know. Email to tcfmanhattan.nyc@gmail.com and tell us what needs to change.

Dan Zweig



OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED
APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



- 4/1 **MARCUS PRESTON**, son of Valerie Preston
- 4/1 **RORY STAUNTON**, son of Orlaith & Ciaran Staunton
- 4/2 **ALEX BHAK**, son of Karyn Bhak
- 4/2 **ANDREW SCHLEIFER**, son of Kittyhawk Schleifer
- 4/2 **LYLA SKYE MEDICI**, daughter of Mimi Delle Donne, sister of Meghan Matias
- 4/3 **DANA FLAX**, sister of Casey Flax
- 4/3 **KRISTOFFER SALAVANTE**, son of Maria & Eliezer Salavante
- 4/3 **SAGE JOSEPH**, daughter of Debra Driscoll
- 4/4 **CHRISTINE EBERT**, daughter of Judy & John Ebert
- 4/4 **JORDAN MITCHELL**, son of Melody Mitchell
- 4/6 **MICHAEL WHITLOCK**, son of Peggy Whitlock
- 4/6 **TREVOR MATTHEWS**, son of Angela Matthews
- 4/8 **ALEXANDER ANDUJAR JR.**, son of Madelaine Colon
- 4/8 **CYRUS**, son of Francine Figueroa
- 4/9 **ANDREW FREDERICK RUBIN**, son of Barbara & George Rubin
- 4/10 **DAN OSHINSKY**, brother of Julie Mintz
- 4/11 **DAVID ALEXANDER**, brother of Farah Alexander
- 4/13 **AYDIN HOSSAIN**, daughter of Beth & Abir Hossain
- 4/14 **BRITTANY MALVEAUX**, sister of Jordan Malveaux
- 4/14 **TYREE SHEPPARD**, son of Laura Sheppard
- 4/16 **IAN BYSTOCK**, son of Marc Bystock

- 4/17 **MICHAEL MOUSSA**, son of Mariam Moussa
- 4/18 **JEREMY PALLEY**, son of Iris Palley and Stephen Palley
- 4/20 **KYLE DANE**, son of Madelaine Samuel
- 4/21 **RELONZO W. PERKINS-MACK**, son of Denise Perkin Best
- 4/22 **RASHID SOLIS**, son of Frank Solis
- 4/23 **ALIYAH RABSATT**, daughter of Patricia Rabsatt
- 4/23 **KERRY STONE**, brother of Catherine Kells
- 4/23 **KEVIN DEL ROSARIO**, son of Annaliza del Rosario
- 4/23 **PABLO RAMIREZ**, son of Carlos Ramirez
- 4/23 **RISA FIELD**, sister of Barbara Field
- 4/24 **BRANDON MYERS**, brother of Rachel Myers
- 4/24 **CHRIS MASARONE**, twin brother of Nic Masarone
- 4/24 **EREZ KLEIN**, son of Rachel Gordon
- 4/24 **NATALIE JOY HERTEL-VOISINE**, daughter of Barbara Hertel & Don Voisine
- 4/25 **CINDI DIMARZO**, sister of Jodi DiMarzo
- 4/25 **JORGIE PEREZ**, sister of Janeisy Perez
- 4/26 **JAMES HAYS**, brother of Claire Hays
- 4/27 **MARGARET BRAUN-GRIEP**, sister of Helen Braun
- 4/27 **MATTHEW GORDON**, brother of Elizabeth Stilwell
- 4/27 **OLIVIA PETRERA COHEN**, daughter of Nancy Petrera
- 4/29 **MAX GLEZOS-CHARTOFF**, son of Julie Chartoff & Irene Glezos
- 4/29 **SOPHIA JOLIET AGUIRRE**, daughter of Monica Deliz



Gifts of Love

A Love Gift is a donation given in memory of a child who has died, or sometimes a memorial to a relative or friend. It can be in honor of a happy event that you would like to acknowledge, or simply a gift from someone who wants to help in the work of our chapter.

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OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED



MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1 **GEORGE D. MARAS**, son of Marilyn Maras
 5/1 **MICHAEL ANTHONY EAGLE**, son of Leslie Katina Eagle
 5/2 **CASEY LOW**, brother of Dara Low
 5/2 **GAVIN PESKIN**, son of Leah Peskin
 5/3 **JOSEPH MARINO**, brother of Joanne Marino
 5/4 **CHRISTOPHER MEYER**, brother of Kimberly Meyer
 5/5 **ANDRE AMES**, son of Jacqueline Jackson
 5/5 **IAN DINER**, son of Martin & Nicki Diner, brother of Paige Diner
 5/5 **ROBERT SULKOWSKI**, brother of Sarah Sulkowski
 5/5 **RUBY MANE**, daughter of Mohasin Mane
 5/5 **SAGE JOSEPH**, daughter of Debra Driscoll
 5/6 **ANDREW MARTIN**, son of Marina Re
 5/6 **BAYLIN CODDINGTON**, son of Debra F. Coddington
 5/6 **DAVID KRANZ**, son of Denise Kranz and Charles Katz
 5/6 **JASON ELLIS**, son of Michael Ellis
 5/8 **JORDAN JOHN**, brother of Christian John
 5/8 **MARSHALL NEIDIG**, son of Quinn and Joe Neidig
 5/9 **BRENDEN CARSON**, son of Debra Carson
 5/9 **SACHA REID KANTOR**, son of Kathy Landau & Michael Kantor
 5/11 **JOHN HULWIYA**, brother of Vanessa Hulwiya
 5/11 **SEAN MCCLURE**, son of Patricia McClure
 5/11 **TATE RAMSDEN**, brother of Ashley Ramsden
 5/12 **CHRISTINE FORNATO**, sister of Theresa Fornato
 5/12 **LEO CONAGHAN**, nephew of Ellen Barry
 5/12 **MATTHEW YUDELMAN**, grandson of Anne Schuman & Ian Yudelman
 5/13 **BRENDA CHAPMAN**, daughter of Della Scrugs
 5/13 **EVAN MAXWELL**, brother of Jean Maxwell
 5/13 **NOAH BOWER**, son of Pat Bower Cooley
 5/13 **NOAH STERN**, son of Barbara Samuels & Nicholas Stern
 5/13 **RORY STAUNTON**, son of Orlaith & Ciaran Staunton
 5/16 **ALIYAH RABSATT**, daughter of Patricia Rabsatt
 5/16 **JUSTIN ALMON**, brother of Kristina Adam
 5/16 **KHALID ALBABA**, son of Kerri Albaba
 5/17 **LYDIA WOOD**, daughter of Matt Wood
 5/17 **PATRICE WALKER**, daughter of Mazrene Holmes

5/17 **ROWENNA WIGHT WHITE**, daughter of Nancy Wight
 5/18 **ABIGAIL BURG**, daughter of Jean & David Burg
 5/18 **ALESSIA MORRONE**, daughter of Amy Morrone
 5/18 **EDDIE WALSH**, twin brother of Tricia Walsh
 5/18 **WILLIAM GRIFFO**, son of Yvona & William Griffo, brother of Mike Griffo
 5/19 **BENJAMIN RACCALE**, son of Sara Raccale
 5/19 **CHRISTOPHER EISELE**, son of Kathleen & John Montoya
 5/19 **DAVID YOOD**, son of Nora & Barry Yood
 5/20 **DAN OSHINSKY**, brother of Julie Mintz
 5/20 **DANNY VOLEN**, brother of Raizy Volen
 5/21 **ALEX WITONSKY**, brother of Ava Witonsky
 5/21 **SERYNA RODRIGUEZ**, daughter of Marilyn Castro
 5/22 **BRIAN GEWIRTZ**, son of Kathleen & Steven Gewirtz
 5/22 **ISABELLA CARROLL**, daughter of Doreen Carroll
 5/22 **LINDA GIOVE**, daughter of Arlene Schechter
 5/22 **NOAH REISMAN**, brother of Rachel Reisman
 5/24 **ALEX HARRY SINGER**, son of Susan & Lewis Singer
 5/24 **CHARLIE DENIHAN**, son of Barbara and Ben Denihan, brother of Krissy and Kate
 5/24 **JULIETTE DICKSTEIN**, daughter of Gail Luria
 5/25 **BRANDON SCHWARTZ**, son of Joann & Mark Schwartz
 5/26 **AMANDA RUSSELL**, sister of Katie Turner
 5/26 **JOSEPH ALINI**, son of Maria Rodriguez
 5/27 **ROBERT ZIETEK**, brother of Barbara Zietek
 5/27 **ZAIDA SANTIAGO**, daughter of Selena Santiago & Lewis Harbour
 5/29 **LOUIS PEREZ**, son of Mercedes Tapia
 5/29 **WILLIAM MAEROV**, son of Lance Maerov
 5/30 **JON ROMULO**, son of Tocy Friend
 5/30 **KRISTINA ESPOSITO**, daughter of Cecilia Esposito
 5/30 **OLIVIA PETRERA COHEN**, daughter of Nancy Petrera
 5/30 **RICHIE BENANTI**, son of Monica Benanti
 5/30 **TROY O. MYERS**, son of Claudette Hannibal
 5/31 **HARVEY STERMER**, brother of Carol Lee Stermer-Aulicino
 5/31 **KOFI A. MENSAH JR.**, son of Rosinah Mensah & the late Samuel A. Mensah, brother of Dr. Kofi A. Mensah, Ph.D





OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED
MAY ANNIVERSARIES



5/2 **BRADLEY KEITH BONGAR**, son of Beth Bongar
 5/2 **CRYSTAL LAUZAU**, daughter of Gwyneth Hotaling
 5/2 **JONATHAN JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ**, son of Gina Rodriguez,
 grandson of Maggie Valentin
 5/2 **MARLON LABOVITCH**, son of Hannah Labovitch
 5/2 **WILLIAM EDWARD SHUBERT**, son of Irma E. Shubert
 5/3 **JOEY MASLIAH**, brother of Amanda Rockoff
 5/5 **ANDY FISHER**, son of Barbara Fisher
 5/5 **JENNIFER BLANCHE BYRD**, daughter of Claudia Byrd
 5/5 **JOE MCCLENAHAN**, brother of Michael McClenahan
 5/6 **CHRISTINE SCHLENDORF**, daughter of Karen Schlendorf
 5/6 **MELISSA AVRIN**, sister of Andrew Avrin
 5/6 **WILL TANG**, brother of Sandra Tang
 5/7 **GER ANDLINGER**, daughter of Jeanne Andlinger
 5/7 **PHILIP SULZER**, son of Barbara & Burton Sulzer, brother
 of Lisa Sulzer
 5/9 **BENJAMIN LEWIS KAPLAN**, son of Barbara Lewis Kaplan
 5/10 **LOGAN GENTRY**, son of Christine Spiro
 5/10 **MICHELLE GITTENS**, daughter of Lanise M. Ballard-
 Gittens
 5/11 **MATTHEW BAUMEISTER**, son of Lynn & Mitch Baumeister
 5/12 **ELIZABETH O'HARE**, sister of Christopher O'Hare
 5/12 **GIRBUN LAO**, brother of Ithreum Brown
 5/12 **MICHAEL FABI**, son of Donna Leder
 5/13 **OWEN MULLER**, son of Jane K. Muller
 5/14 **CANDICE CHEN**, daughter of Belle Tung
 5/14 **NORBI MORGENSTEIN**, daughter of Gary Morgenstein
 5/15 **ROSE LIANG**, sister of Holly & Chue Liang
 5/15 **RYAN THOMAS**, son of Jacqueline Thomas
 5/16 **BENJAMIN HARTFORD**, son of Nora Madonick
 5/18 **GRETA GREENE**, daughter of Stacy & Jayson Greene
 5/18 **LAVONE SANTANA**, son of Istrha Santana
 5/18 **MAHLIK WILLIAMS**, son of Ramona Williams, brother of
 Mekael Williams

5/18 **MICHAEL RAVEN**, son of Selma & Rob Raven
 5/19 **ALESSIA MORRONE**, daughter of Amy Morrone
 5/19 **DEREK GOMEZ**, son of Marta Freyre & Robert McManus,
 brother of Xiomara Gomez
 5/19 **MARY GIBBS**, sister of Cynthia Gibbs-Pratt
 5/20 **JACK FREYTES**, son of Olga Lopez & Elvin Freytes
 5/20 **JEREMY RODRIGUEZ**, son of Wanda Marrero
 5/21 **ADAM JACOBS**, son of Rick Jacobs
 5/21 **IAN DINER**, son of Martin & Nicki Diner, brother of
 Paige Diner
 5/22 **STEVE DAVOREN**, brother of Doug Davoren
 5/22 **TAYLOR HOLLOWAY**, brother of Brittany Holloway-
 Brown
 5/23 **ADRIAN V. ROSAS**, son of Alejandra & Adriano Rosas
 5/24 **AMELIA (YANNIE) CORBETT**, sister of Sara Corbett
 5/25 **JACK ROBERTS**, son of Joanne Wright
 5/25 **JOVI RAMOS**, son of Desiree Ramos
 5/25 **MICHAEL VINCENT ROSEN PIPITONE**, son of Alison
 Rosen & David Hantman
 5/26 **LISA DONOFRIO**, daughter of Christina Korteweg
 5/27 **CRAIG MARTINEZ**, son of Louis Hampton Martinez
 5/27 **EMMA GRACE KNOWLTON**, daughter of Samantha
 Knowlton
 5/27 **JOEY HOLLIDAY**, son of Billy & Terry Holliday
 5/27 **SARAH AKHTAR**, sister of Alafia Akhtar and Rahil Darbur
 5/27 **TERRANCE RICHARDSON**, son of Theresa Richardson,
 brother of Francina Branch Elysee
 5/28 **HUMZA MALIK**, brother of Amani Malik
 5/29 **MAMADON JOHNSON**, sister of Djassi Johnson
 5/30 **CAMDYN JAYEL DUCKWORTH**, daughter of Tiffany
 Clark
 5/31 **ANTONIO LAW**, son of Jacqueline Law



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CHAT SCHEDULE. Click here to display exact times and to see entire schedule			
ET	MORNING	EARLIER EVENING	LATER EVENING
MON	Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	First time CHAT orientation	General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings
TUE		Loss to Substance Related Causes First time CHAT orientation	Bereaved less than 2 yrs Bereaved more than 2 yrs
WED	Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	First time CHAT orientation	General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings
THU		No Surviving Children First time CHAT orientation	General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings
FRI	General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	Pregnancy/Infant Loss	General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings
SAT			General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings
SUN		Suicide Loss	General Bereavement Issues Parents/Grandparents/Siblings

The Compassionate Friends National Office
48660 Pontiac Trail #930808, Wixom, MI 48393
Toll Free (877) 969-0010
www.compassionatefriends.org
email:nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org

WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE
TCF Online National Magazine
[Click here for Information](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Our next Chapter meetings are Tuesdays:
APR 12 MAY 10 JUN 14 JUL 12
APR 26 MAY 24 JUN 28 JUL 26

Newsletter article submissions are welcome.
Please email to marielevine2@verizon.net

MAKE A DONATION
[Click here to Donate to the Manhattan Chapter](#)

OUR COMPASSIONATE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS

Babylon	1st Friday	(516) 795-8644	Rockville Centre	2nd Friday	(516) 766-4682
Bronx	2nd Tuesday	(914) 714-4885	Rockland County	3rd Tuesday	(845) 398-9762
Brookhaven	2nd Friday	(631) 738-0809	SmithPoint/Mastic	2nd Thursday	(631) 281-9004
Brooklyn	3rd Wednesday	(917) 952-9751	Staten Island	2nd & 4th Thurs.	(718) 983-0377
Flushing	3rd Friday	(718) 746-5010	Syosset (Plainview)	3rd Friday	(718) 767-0904
Manhasset	3rd Tuesday	(516) 466-2480	Twin Forks/Hamptons	3rd Friday	(646) 894-0317
Marine Park, Bklyn	3rd Friday	(718) 605-1545	White Plains	1st Thursday	(914) 381-3389
Medford	2nd Friday	(631) 738-0809			

PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUPS

Click below for National Website's Listing of groups.

24/7 PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUPS

- | | |
|--|---|
| TCF – Loss of a Child | TCF – Loss of a Grandchild |
| TCF – Loss of a Stepchild | TCF – Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren |
| TCF – Loss of an Only Child/All Your Children | TCF – Miscarriage, Stillbirth, Loss of an Infant Grandchild |
| TCF – Multiple Losses | TCF – Loss to Long-term Illness |
| TCF – Daughterless Mothers | TCF – Loss to Cancer |
| TCF – Men in Grief | TCF – Loss After Withdrawing Life Support |
| TCF – Bereaved LGBTQ Parents with Loss of a Child | TCF – Loss to Mental Illness |
| TCF – Bereaved Parents with Grandchild Visitation Issues | TCF – Sudden Death |
| TCF – Loss to Miscarriage or Stillbirth | TCF – Loss to Suicide |
| TCF – Infant and Toddler Loss | TCF – Loss to Homicide |
| TCF – Loss of a Child 4 -12 Years Old | TCF – Loss to Substance Related Causes |
| TCF – Loss of a Child 13-19 Years Old | TCF – Loss to a Drunk/Impaired Driver |
| TCF – Loss of an Adult Child | TCF – Grieving with Faith and Hope |
| TCF – Loss of a Child with Special Needs | TCF – Reading Your Way Through Grief |

The Compassionate Friends
c/o Sally Petrick - Treasurer
945 West End Ave Apt 2B
New York, NY 10025

Making a Donation—Now Online

Many of us are grateful for what Compassionate Friends has done for them and want to lend their support, even those who do not currently attend our meetings. You can still mail a check to the address to the left or donate online.

[Click here to Donate to the Manhattan Chapter](#)