



The Compassionate Friends
Manhattan Chapter
 Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Our next meetings...

Apr 16
May 21
Jun 18
Jul 16

Manhattan Chapter Newsletter

April 2024

OUR APRIL 16TH MEETING IN-PERSON

We will be in-person only April 16th. We are still working to figure out how and when we can work in on-line meetings. It's by far worth the extra effort to come in-person, but we recognize not everyone can.

A Mother's Thoughts

Yesterday...

We dreamed of how our future would be
 Of times we'd share, my child and me.
 Whether joy or pain, laughter or tears
 We'd stand together throughout the years.
 A promise of what life should always be,
 For a child so dear, ever loving me.

Today...

My heart sobs with uncontrollable grief,
 I search for answers but find no relief.
 The skies have darkened, no longer bright,
 For my child is gone forever from sight.
 The dreams we shared can never be,
 They're left to linger in my memory.

Tomorrow...

My heart will push aside this cloud
 That darkens my life like a heavy shroud.
 Once again I'll see the dawning light
 And know my child's love still burns bright.
 I'll remember the moments that we both shared.
 I'll remember our love and how we cared.
 I'll remember my child now live in me,
 And his yesterdays shall always be.

~ Carol Cichella, Rockfort, IL

GOING THE DISTANCE

by Marie Levine

Written in 2003, as I approached the ten-year mark, my sensibilities have not changed. Spring, with its built in "special" days still brings me pause. What makes the biggest difference thirty years in, is the knowledge that I am that much closer to re-uniting with my guys. All the more reason to enjoy the season with its warmth and promise of renewal.

I think I get it now. I'm not certain, but I think that as I approach the ten-year mark, I have figured out how to navigate the lay-of-the-land so to speak. What was alien territory and so terrifying almost ten years ago has become familiar and much less frightening.

I remember the early days vividly. It's interesting, that it comforts me to know I can remember the early days. I was afraid back then that I might forget the pain – and even while I begged and prayed for it to subside – I knew I wanted it, in some strange way to continue. The pain, the despair was a palpable "something" I could almost touch. It was an unbelievable reality I could wrap myself around while I tried to come to grips with the fact that I would never have my son to wrap my arms around again. My fear back then of forgetting the reality of him alive has been replaced by my acknowledgement of the reality that he is in another place. Now I am no longer fearful. I know the pain is not only not forgotten, it is never far away.

Another Spring is here. Always a difficult season, I now know what to expect. I know that Mother's Day and Father's Day are embedded (new buzz word) in the season. I don't anticipate the day with great anxiety anymore. I know that no one will celebrate with me. I am no longer "angry" (much) that I am an 'outsider' at that party - no longer entertaining a tiny thought that someone might remember and send me a card. I'm not

(con't on page 2)

TELEPHONE FRIENDS: When you are having the kind of day you feel only another bereaved parent or sibling can understand, we can 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

TCF MANHATTAN CHAPTER email: tcfmanhattan@gmail.com
 TCF MANHATTAN website: www.compassionatefriends.nyc
 CO-CHAPTER LEADERS: **Dan Zweig:** danzweigtcf@gmail.com
Jordon Ferber: beatniknudnik@yahoo.com
 "Our Children" editor: **Dan Zweig:** danzweigtcf@gmail.com
 Newsletter Editor: **Marie Levine** marielevine2@verizon.net

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS MEETINGS are now monthly - always the third Tuesday of the month

WE MEET AT 7:00pm—arrive or sign on at 6:45pm

This month, Apr. 16, 2024, we will be meeting only in person at 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.

GOING THE DISTANCE (con't from page 1)

disappointed anymore because I've become familiar with that reality too. Though I will always be Peter's Mom, Hallmark hasn't tapped into the telepathic market yet.

I've stopped trying to teach the world what it's like. I thought early on in my journey, that I could somehow show the uninitiated a little glimpse of the territory by writing what I was feeling. But I recognize now that the uninitiated aren't supposed to know. The fates are saving them for themselves. When you arrive in this place you must be a "virgin" griever. No amount of warnings or fears can prepare you for this journey.

It's been almost ten years. Impossible, but still true. When you quantify it, in addition to the more than 3650 days, it includes those heavy-duty survival days - ten birthdays, ten anniversary days, ten Thanksgivings, ten Mother's Days, ten Father's Days, ten Springs, ten Summers, ten Christmases and 560 candles - just for Peter.

In all this time, in my quest for understanding, I've come to know hundreds and hundreds of newly bereaved and not so newly bereaved parents. For me, that's been the most helpful learning experience of all. I've learned that we all start off the same way. We arrive here dazed, confused and disbelieving. We all think we may or even want to die. But we really only want to be with our kids again. Those of us who are fortunate enough to find a support system like TCF, ultimately discover we are in a graduate survival program for the grieving. But it's years and years before we recognize that.

Time and my own desperate struggle to survive has paid off. Peter is more totally a part of me now than he might ever have been without my hard-won understanding of the territory. He is an ever-present fixture in my consciousness, attached to every thought, every perception, every emotion, every feeling, every sensibility. He is my constant companion - motivating me, encouraging me, comforting me - waiting for me.

I'm glad I stayed the course and didn't drop out. I'm ready for my degree. I've learned, from those who were here before me, and especially from those who came after me, what it takes to survive. You've all taught me well and I'm still learning. I'm so grateful to those who share my journey.

Peter's got it all figured out. I'm getting there and now I know someday I'll have it all figured out too.

~ Marie Levine, 2003

THE GREATEST GRIEF

A sudden terrible accident killed your child. That terrible phone call changed your life with no warning - you didn't get to say good-bye - this has to be the most terrible loss of all.

Your child died by suicide. You feel you should have been able to prevent it. Your guilt is devastating. How can you live with such incomprehensible tragedy?

You only had one child - now you have none and your focus in life is gone. What's the point of living? What could be more devastating?

You've experienced the death of more than one of your children. Will it happen again? How does one survive this pain?

When your baby died, your dreams died. You have few memories and you're too young to be suffering like this. This loss is the most unfair.

Someone murdered your child - an unbelievable violation -
(con't in next column)

"Some of my friends are uncomfortable with death. I don't blame them, because we work hard to keep death hidden away. Despite the fact that death is happening all the time, we chose to believe it isn't there.

Yet only with familiarity comes understanding. I have been brought close to dying by someone I love, and we are getting acquainted, death and I. I will never be as afraid as I used to be.

Giving death a place in my life is healthy for my living."

~ Molly Fumia, "Safe Passage"

"I have been thinking about the change in the seasons. I don't want to miss spring this year. I want to be there on the spot the moment the grass turns green."

~ Anne Dillard

Grief is preoccupying. For a while it seems to take all our attention. We forget what day it is - or don't care. We stop attending to public issues in which we have been involved. We may forget appointments, or whom we have seen and under what circumstances.

At first this is inevitable - and appropriate. We need to immerse ourselves in this shocking new world until we, in some sense, "get used to it" - as swimmers, diving into cold water swim vigorously around until they grow accustomed to the temperature.

But we need to be careful. Because we are missing things too. Perhaps we need to make a conscious effort to begin to pay attention to what is happening beyond the pain of grief.

Because we wouldn't want to miss the grass turning green, or the smell of wisteria, or the sound of children laughing.

~ Martha Whitmore Hickman, from "Healing After Loss"

THE GREATEST GRIEF,, (con't from left column)

you're angry and your frustration with the legal system feeds your anger. This must be the very worst.

You're a single parent. Your child has died, and you have no one to lean on, no one to share your grief. Surely your suffering is the most painful.

The unbelievable has happened. Your adult child died. You had invested so much in that child. Now who is going to care for you in your old age?

The truth is that the death of any you're-too-young-to-be-suffering-like-this - this loss is the most unfair. The truth is that the death of any child is the greatest loss, regardless of the cause, regardless of the age. Our own experience is far more painful than we had ever previously envisioned, so how could we possibly comprehend what others have undergone?

To make comparisons between our own suffering and the pain of others is an exercise in futility. It accomplishes nothing and sometimes can be hurtful to others.

To say that one type of death produces a greater or deeper grief than another tends to place different values on the children who have died. Each child is worthy of 100% of our grief.

Each person's sorrow is 100%, because we love each child, those still living and those who have died, with 100% of our being. I can't imagine wanting to walk in the shoes of any other bereaved parent. Can you?

~ Peggy Gibson, TCF, Nashville, TN

JULY 12-14, 2024—NEW ORLEANS

The Compassionate Friends 47th Annual National Conference

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



TCF's National Conference is an enriching and supportive event for many newer and long-time bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings. Attendees come and find renewed hope and support, as well as strategies for coping with grief, all while making friendships with other bereaved people who truly understand the heartbreaking loss of a child, sibling, or grandchild. Lifelong friendships are often formed and rekindled each year at TCF conferences.

Unique and cherished highlights of our conference include our heartfelt Saturday evening Candle Lighting Program, Sharing Sessions, Keynote Addresses, Healing Haven, Butterfly Boutique, Crafty Corner, and Silent Auction. Our weekend of inspiration, sharing, and learning is followed by the Walk to Remember on Sunday morning.

This year's conference will be held at the New Orleans Marriott. Reservations can now be made online at TCF's dedicated reservation link. Our discounted room rate with the Marriott is \$144 per night plus applicable taxes and fees. Please note that each attendee can reserve a maximum of two rooms. Many attendees arrive on Thursday since the conference begins early on Friday morning. We also have pre-conference activities that are offered on Thursday evening, that attendees find beneficial. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans! Let us know if you are going! Jordon and Dan will both be there.

Compassion
FILLS THE AIR



TCF 47TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024
✦ New Orleans, LA ✦

47TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

JULY 12-14, 2024 | NEW ORLEANS, LA

[**MORE INFORMATION**](#)

[**REGISTER NOW**](#)

Recommended reading...

- ◆ The Bereaved Parent by Harriet Sarnoff
- ◆ First You Die by Marie Levine
- ◆ Talking to Heaven by James Van Praagh
- ◆ Beyond Tears by nine mothers
- ◆ Love Never Dies by Sandy Goodman

⇒ take advantage of the book list on the TCF website www.compassionatefriends.org

⇒ go to www.centeringcorp.org, for an extensive list of resources for ALL those grieving for every possible reason – for parents, grandparents, siblings, mothers, fathers, teens, children...because of sudden death, accident, long term illness, infant loss, miscarriage, homicide, substance abuse, etc.

Reading other bereaved people's stories helps us. Take advantage of these resources. Discovering how much of what we feel is being experienced by fellow travelers helps us understand the process and restores hope.

...to our new members

Attending your first meeting is the hardest thing to do. But you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Try not to judge your first meeting as to whether or not TCF will work for you. Often, it is the second, third or fourth meeting where you will find just the right person or the right words said that will help you along in your grief.

...to our long standing members

We need your encouragement and continued support. You are what ties our group together. Sadly, each meeting brings new parents. *THINK BACK*... what would it have been like for you if there had not been any "oldtimers" to welcome you and share your grief and encourage you and tell you that in time, the pain will soften...with time, there is hope.

~ ~ ~

The Compassionate Friends Credo

We need not walk alone.

We are The Compassionate Friends.

We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope.

Our children have died at all ages and from many different causes,

but our love for our children unites us.

Your pain becomes my pain just as your hope becomes my hope.

We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances.

We are a unique family because we represent many races and creeds.

We are young and we are old.

Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh,

and so intensely painful that we feel helpless and see no hope.

Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength; some of us are struggling to find answers.

Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or deep depression; others radiate an inner peace.

It is pain we will share just as we share the love for our children.

We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves,

but we are committed to building a future together as we reach out to each other

in love, and share the pain as well as the joy,

share the anger as well as the peace,

share the faith as well as the doubts,

and help each other to grieve, as well as to grow.

WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE.

WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS.

~ ~ ~

Online Support from the National Compassionate Friends Website

Live Chats

The Compassionate Friends offers "virtual chapters" through an Online Support Community (live chats). This program was established to encourage connecting and sharing among parents, grandparents, and siblings (over the age of 18) grieving the death of a child. The rooms supply support, encouragement, and friendship. The friendly atmosphere encourages conversation among friends; friends who understand the emotions you're experiencing. There are general bereavement sessions as well as more specific sessions.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and a list and schedule of Live Chats.

Private Facebook Groups

The Compassionate Friends offers a variety of Private Facebook Groups. These pages cover a wide range of topics and are moderated by bereaved parents, siblings, or grandparents. They may be accessed only after a request to join is approved by a moderator.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and a list of Private Facebook Groups.

Siblings

...This month, more from Alan Wolfelt's book, "Healing The Siblings Grieving Heart"....

"To the outside world, we all grow old. But not to brothers and sisters. We know each other as we always were. We know each other's hearts. We share private family jokes. We remember family feuds and secrets, family griefs and joys. We live outside the touch of time."

Your brother or sister has died. I am truly sorry for your loss.

Whether your sibling was younger or older, whether the death was sudden or anticipated, whether you were very close to your sibling throughout your lives or experienced periods of separation, you are now grieving.

To grieve is to experience thoughts and feeling of loss inside of you. If you loved your sibling, you will grieve. Even if you had a difficult or ambivalent relationship with your sibling, you will grieve. Expressing your grief is to mourn. And to mourn is to heal.

Sibling relationships

Brothers and sisters often have strong and ambivalent feelings for one another. Relationships among siblings tend to be very complex, characterized by a mixture of anger, jealousy, and a fierce closeness and love. What was your relationship with your sibling? I'll bet it wasn't entirely simple.

The reason that sibling relationships are so complex is that while we are growing up, siblings are both friends and enemies, teammates, and competitors. We play with our siblings and we fight with our siblings. We share our parents' love. We enjoy being part of a family and we struggle to be seen as individuals. And as teenagers, we are developmentally tasked with separating from our families – casting our sibling relationships in a new light.

Sometimes we carry our childhood rivalries and differences into adulthood, and our ambivalent feelings toward our brothers and sisters remain. Sometimes we separate from our siblings completely as adults. And sometimes we become very close friends with our grown-up brothers and sisters.

Yet, no matter what your present-day relationship with your sibling was, his or her death is a blow because part of your story has died. You shared a history with your sibling. Your stories began together and were intimately intertwined for years. Who else knew you so well?

At any given time, an estimated 25% of Americans have experienced the death of a sibling. This means that nearly 100 million people in our country have suffered the death of a brother or sister. Yet why do we hear so little about sibling grief?

~ this is from the introduction by Alan Wolfelt of his book,
"Healing The Adult Siblings Grieving Heart -
100 Practical ideas after your brother or sister dies."

More from Dr. Alan Wolfelt next month

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.*

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](#)

TCF SIBLING CHATS

Some online chats for adult and teen siblings to
share concerns and feelings are available on the
TCF National website

[Click here to display the full schedule of chats for
both parents and siblings](#)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

www.compassionatefriends.org

July 12-14, 2024

Compassion
FILLS THE AIR



TCF 47th NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024
New Orleans, LA



OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 **ALAIA MOSLEY**, daughter of Patricia Mosley
- 4/1 **JOEY MASLIAH**, brother of Amanda Rockoff
- 4/1 **SHANA DOWDESWELL**, daughter of Laurie & Roger Dowdeswell
- 4/1 **TEREL SMITH**, son of Cathy Philbert
- 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
- 4/5 **SEAN MERCEDES**, son of Lenin Mercedes & Virginia Rivas
- 4/7 **AMIR PRIZANT**, brother of Ayelet Prizant
- 4/7 **CYRUS WANECKE**, son of Nolan Wanecke & Talya Ramchandani
- 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 **SARAH KATZ**, daughter of Michael & Jill Katz, sister of Dana Katz
- 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
- 4/13 **ISAIAH VILLAFANA**, son of Camille Evans & Elijah Burgos
- 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 **ASHER FERGUSON**, son of Ryan Ferguson & Christine Tran
- 4/20 **LAURA FELDSTEIN**, daughter of Marilyn & Al Feldstein
- 4/20 **MARSHALL FORDE**, son of Asurf Forde, brother of Marcel Forde
- 4/20 **NAOMI STOLAR**, sister of Susan Schindler
- 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 **PAUL HENNESSEY**, brother of Kevin Hennessey
- 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.



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
- 4/7 **BRIAN QUINN**, son of Susan Quinn
- 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
- 4/12 **CHRIS BALDWIN**, brother of Brooke Baldwin
- 4/13 **AYDIN HOSSAIN**, daughter of Beth & Abir Hossain
- 4/14 **BRITTANY MALVEAUX**, sister of Jordan Malveaux
- 4/14 **SEAN MERCEDES**, son of Lenin Mercedes & Virginia Rivas
- 4/14 **TYREE SHEPPARD**, son of Laura Sheppard

- 4/16 **DANNY MOONEY, JR.**, son of Danny Mooney
- 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
- 4/22 **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
- 4/27 **TRAVIS FREEMAN**, son of Daniel Freeman & Elizabeth Morse
- 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.

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 – We raise needed funds at each meeting by passing a basket for voluntary contributions at our in-person meetings. We are so glad to hold online meetings whenever possible, but there is no 'basket' at our online meetings. If you are able to, whenever you can as an online participant, 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.



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
- 5/2 **VERNON KENNEDY**, son of Tressie Kennedy
- 5/3 **ISABELA ESPINOZA-THOMPSON**, daughter of Nayomi Espinoza & Hopeton Thompson
- 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 **ARTHUR KOZLOVSKI**, brother of Kristina Kozlovski
- 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 **CAITLIN SANDERS**, daughter of Veronica & Lamar Sanders
- 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 **JULETTE 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. MENSAB JR.**, son of Rosinah Mensah & the late Samuel A. Mensah, brother of Dr. Kofi A. Mensah, Ph.D
- 5/31 **T.J. CRAIG**, son of Tom Craig, brother of Mac Craig





OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED
MAY ANNIVERSARIES



5/1 **AUDREY NIBLO**, daughter of John Niblo
 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 **ISABELA ESPINOZA-THOMPSON**, daughter of Nayomi Espinoza
 & Hopeton Thompson
 5/3 **JOEY MASLIAH**, brother of Amanda Rockoff
 5/4 **JAMIE ROBERTS**, son of Katelin Roberts
 5/4 **ZACK KASNETZ**, brother of Alex Kasnetz
 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
 5/5 **MATEO TASHMAN**, son of William Tashman
 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
 5/9 **BRUCE WALES**, son of Fran Wales
 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
 5/12 **SOPHIA MELILLO**, daughter of Kristen Leigh
 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 SKY 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
 5/23 **MILES ELLIOT COUGHLIN**, son of Fredricka Weinstein &
 Mathew Coughlin, brother of Marla Tolson, uncle of Lena Tolson
 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 **ISAIAH VILLAFANA**, son of Camille Evans & Elijah Burgos
 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 the 3rd Tuesday of each month:
APR 16 MAY 21 JUN 18 JUL 16

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

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

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](#)