

Our next meetings...
Candle Lighting Dec 8
Dec 17
Jan 21
Feb 18

Manhattan Chapter Newsletter

December 2024

DEC 17TH MEETING—3RD TUESDAY IN-PERSON

In-person only **on the third Tuesday**, December 17th 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.

Worldwide Candle Lighting

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

at the

Parish House of the Church of Ascension 12 W.11th Street, Manhattan, NY Doors open at 5:45pm - Family guests are welcome PLEASE RSVP and arrive by 6:15pm



REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Join us for this moving ceremony and celebration.

Come to remember and honor our children and siblings in person together at our Holiday Candle Lighting.

SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS FOR OUR SLIDESHOW! Click here and see page 6 for more information.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND IN PERSON:

Our national office will have a Virtual Candle Lighting on Dec. 8th at 7pm in each time zone. Go to www.compassionatefriends.org for information.

Worldwide Candle Lighting Our Manhattan Event

Volunteers needed

** Please note we need volunteers to come early and help us at this event to set up, greet, sign in and welcome those who join us and help organize refreshments.

If you can arrive at 5PM and volunteer, please let us know when you RSVP. Just reply to this email.

About the Worldwide Candle Lighting

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting on the 2nd Sunday in December unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit on December 8th, 2024 at 7:00 pm local time, hundreds of thousands of people around the globe commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon.

Now believed to be the largest mass candle lighting on the globe, the annual Worldwide Candle Lighting (WCL), a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone. TCF's WCL started in the United States in 1997 as a small internet observance when congress declared the second Sunday in December, "Children's Memorial Day" and has since swelled in numbers as word has spread

(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 - in person on the third Tuesday of the month

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

This month, Dec. 17, 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.

About the Candle Lighting

(con't from page 1)

throughout the world of the remembrance. Hundreds of formal candle lighting events are held, and thousands of informal candle lightings are conducted in homes across the country and around the world, as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died and will never be forgotten.

The Manhattan Chapter will join in this worldwide commemoration at our own chapter event. Please join us. See information on page 1 or on our website.

> Sunday, DECEMBER 8, 2024 at The Parish House of

The Church of Ascension 12 W.11th St., Manhattan *** Doors open 5:45 Arrive by 6:15 Doors close and program begins promptly at 6:30

To include a photo of your child/sibling in the slide show please email your photos, including their full name the way you wish it to appear, by DECEMBER 5TH to photosmtcf@gmail.com

Be sure also to bring a framed photo of your child or sibling to display during the evening.

Virtual Candle Lighting

If you cannot attend our chapter event, our National Organization offers an online ceremony in each time zone across the United States.

Go to www.compassionatefriends.org to register to join the virtual candle lighting presented by our **National Organization on zoom.**

Truly Worldwide for Everyone

In addition to ceremonies being held in communities around the globe, those individuals who cannot attend their chapters' candle lighting are invited to light a candle wherever they are at 7PM.

In this way a circle of light will encircle the entire globe as candles are lit in each time zone at 7PM.

In the Presence of an Absence

Sometimes I lie awake nights thinking about ways to describe what it feels like. But how can we describe a black hole. That's a concept I never understood. And I suppose that's as close as an apt description as I will ever get. I don't know why it's important to be able to metaphorically describe it. But somehow, once the absence of your child enters your life, it becomes so big, so palpable, so incomprehensible, so always there, that we spend the rest of our lives trying to understand it by adequately describing it.

Being absent is not being there. But our child's absence creates a presence that is more constant than if they were actually, physically there. Perhaps it is the unnatural permanence of their absence that creates a presence that we cannot put aside. That "neverness" is so poignantly described by Nicholas Wolterstorff in his "Lament For A Son". Some relate it to the story of "the elephant in the room". It's an invisible presence that only we can feel. Those who care about us may believe, as time goes on, that we are functioning without that presence. But we know that the absence caused by the death of our children creates a void that is almost physical - an invisible black hole in which we carry all the love, the heartache, the grief, the disbelief, the anger, the longing, for our lost child - and only we can see it and feel it.

As we negotiate ourselves through the coming Holiday season, the presence of the absence we live with on a daily basis becomes an even heavier burden. Reluctant to worry those who love us with the often overwhelming sadness brought on by the onslaught of joyousness, we put on a brave face and do our best to participate in the season. But the absence is always present. And that absence seems even bigger than the actual presence of our children, had they lived.

It's a quandary, this need to adequately describe what we're feeling. Volumes have been written in our attempts to make the uninitiated "get it" and introduce the newly bereaved to what lies ahead to assure them that they are not losing their minds, only discovering for themselves what none of us have been able to describe. I've said it before - there's a chemical change that enables us to feel the pain of this particular despair. No other sadness compares. And that is why we can only describe these sensibilities in metaphor. Though most can relate to the loss of a parent, a pet, or a friend, only those who live it can relate to the loss of a child.

And I guess that is why we all keep trying to describe the indescribable. We think once we describe it sufficiently, civilians will feel the intensity of our despair and we'll be understood by everyone and forgiven for feeling as we do and for changing into the people we become. It's a puzzlement.

So here we go again. Plunging into the season of joy. Remember this season, it's all about you. Be kind to yourself. Be gentle to yourself. Our children are still with us. Wrapping us all in a big, warm, cuddly, hug. Feel it.

~ Marie Levine

Ready or not, here they come!

Try as you might, you can't escape the holiday season. Though it has been some years now, I still remember how I approached those first few holidays with fear and trepidation. I hadn't had the necessary time yet, to know how the new me reacted to old situations. I didn't even want there to be a Thanksgiving or Christmas, for it meant I had to come face to face with the fact that my son wasn't going to be part of them anymore. That brought out a pain in me that I'm sure I don't need to explain to you.

But they came anyway, complete with turkey, trimmings, jingle bells and a lot of hohoho's. Since a hardy HoHo was a hard thing for me to come by in those early years, I didn't try. I fumed and fussed about what I was going to do that first year in particular. What was left of my feeble brain bedeviled me to get an answer to the old question, "What are you doing for the holidays?"

I soon realized that if I tried to please everybody on the periphery of my life, I was going to end up pleasing nobody. And since my needs were paramount, it was only necessary that I work out something that afforded the least amount of pain for my husband and daughter and me.

I had several choices: decide to do things as we had always done them; decide to keep some of the old traditions but introduce some new ones; or do as we eventually did: just ignore the whole thing. They laugh in the groups I talk with when I tell how my family and I spent Thanksgiving at the Benihana of Tokyo restaurant. Can't get any farther away from tradition than that! But it was right for us.

As with many other things having to do with grieving for a child, there aren't any rules or regulations, and you don't believe anybody who tries to lay a bunch of them on you. My suggestion is: once you've gotten input from your immediate family as to their needs and wants, decide right now how you think you'd be most comfortable observing the holidays and make plans. Your brain will keep badgering you until it gets an answer; any answer. It really doesn't care what you decide, but it wants an answer. So give it one. You may decide at the last minute to do nothing you've said you would do. It'll be too late then for your brain to bedevil you. This is true for all the holidays and any other day that is special. Just know that it is possible still for you to have some control over your life.

Remember; Benihana of Tokyo is always an option for you.... Don't worry about making reservations. It isn't a busy day for them anyhow!

~ Mary Cleckley, TCF, Altlanta, GA

"God gives us memory so that we may have

roses in December."

~ James Matthew Barrie

...from Healing After Loss by Martha Whitmore Hickman.....

"I was beginning to do better. I thought I was doing better, but a few days ago, the holidays just hit me."

~ widow, contemplating her first Christmas alone.

Memories are always there to hook us, to make the grief fresh again – birthdays, anniversaries, summer vacation, - any occasion of "the first time around" without our loved one. But the Christmas holidays, the Hanukkah observances, when the whole world seems poised for celebration, are among the most difficult times of year for survivors of loss.

Each of us has a time-honored list of things "we always do" – go for services, hang the stockings, light the candles, share traditional foods. They are part of our identity and our joy in being alive in the world together – and now one of the key people with whom we shared that joy is gone. Is it any wonder we cringe from the thought of the holidays?

We will get through it, and probably better if we can talk about it with others who are feeling the same loss. Reaching out to other (the poor, the lonely, the homeless) for whom this is also a difficult season will help, and will express the deeper meaning of the season.

I know this will be a hard season for me. I will take one day at a time. I will acknowledge when grief hovers close. And I will try to be open to times when joy may surprise me, too.

CANDLES IN DECEMBER

By Sally Migliaccio

My sadness seems reflected in the music that I hear, every young one's glowing face reminds me you're not here. Shoppers crowd the festive stores – emotions running high. I was part of this world once, before that sad July.

This season's meant for happy times; for love, warm hearts and cheer.

but grieving families 'round the world remember those not here. We struggle through the season, lighting candles to proclaim our children aren't forgotten, 'round the world our candles flame.

I slowly pass through gates thrown wide one clear, cold Christmas day.

No toys or plaything do I bring, those gifts of yesterday. I carry with me just a polished heart of granite made, and walk with grief to where she lies in a silent, silvered glade.

"Merry Christmas love," I whisper... the quiet words sound so forlorn.

"I've brought my heart for you to keep, my gift this Christmas morn. It comes complete with all my love, though this one's carved of stone,

I'll place it here, it will be near, you'll never be alone."

We parents don't forget, my love, this month we will unite. To honor all we'll light a wall of candles through the night. The world will know our memories glow with love that's deep and true.

We'll stand as one, and 'fore it's done, the Heavens will know too. Please keep my gift, beloved child, close to where you lie, and know my love surrounds you 'till the day I too shall die. On the eighth day of December my candle's flame will light, I pray you see the love we'll free into the starry night.

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Siblings

The loss of a sibling – no matter how old, no matter how close or not, and no matter how often death has occurred to others we know, is like losing a part of our own lives and part of ourselves. Who will be left now to remember us as the children we once were? Who will be able to remember our parents the way we do and as only their children can? Who will be there who lived in the same house, tasted the same foods, heard the same stories, were taught the same lessons as we were? We still have our own memories, of course, but without someone who shared them to continue them and relive them with us, they become mere ghosts...

When we lose a sibling, we lose not just that particular person or relationship, but perhaps our last remaining link with our past. Our siblings are special people in our lives, i.e. sometimes they are supports and sometimes they are stresses or even strangers to us. But it does not really matter because regardless of whether we live like each other or even like each other, we have intimately and irrevocably shared and shaped each other's past and been shaped by it. So when our siblings age and fail, our own lives are changed too. And when our siblings die, we know there is no one else – no matter how close to us they may be – who can bring back the particular part of our life we have lost.

~ Lillian Hawthorne, Senior World Magazine, 1997

Ask Dr. Heidi

Question:

My oldest daughter passed away in March 2008. I am concerned that her 15-year-old sister doesn't want to talk about it. She doesn't seem to be grieving. What can I do? When I mourn, I do it alone in my bedroom so I won't upset my daughter, but it's almost like she's carrying on like she's never had a sister.

Answer:

Teens who have experienced the death of a sibling have been through a lot. While teens often want others to know they've experienced a sibling loss, they don't want to be different or pitied because of their loss. Although teens might not look like they're grieving, internally they are often on an emotional roller coaster. The teens I work with want their parents to know that even if they are not talking to them about their loss, they are grieving. Acknowledge the uniqueness of your daughter's loss. Let her know you are there for her even if she doesn't want to talk. Tell her that although you have lost a child, you don't know what it's like to lose a sibling. Making statements such as, "I'm here if you want to talk", or "It must be very difficult for you right now", can be very validating to grieving teens. While your daughter may not be willing or able in the moment to talk about her loss, she will know from these statements that you care. It is important to model healthy grieving for your daughter, such as setting aside time to mourn, journal, and walk or exercise, as well as talking about your own feelings of loss. Don't be afraid to show tears in front of your daughter, just reassure her that even though you are sad, you will still be able to take care of her and that life is still worth living. Often the parents I work with don't feel they are coping well with their own feelings, let alone supporting their teens' feelings. It is important to realize that despite your best intentions, it's easy to make mistakes, so be compassionate with yourself and your daughter, and hold fast to the idea that you are doing the best you can under the most difficult circumstances.

Dr. Heidi Horsley, PsyD, is a bereaved sibling as well as a psychologist. She is the Executive Director of The Open To Hope Foundation and a former Board member of The Compassionate Friends.

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.

Siblings! Email in photos of your brothers and sisters for our slideshow of remembrance.

And come to the Worldwide Candle Lighting on December 8th.

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

Recommended reading...

♦ The Bereaved Parent
 ♦ First You Die
 ♦ Talking to Heaven
 ♦ Beyond Tears
 ♦ Love Never Dies
 by Harriet Sarnoff
 by Marie Levine
 by James Van Praagh
 by nine mothers
 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 accessed only after a request to join is approved by a moderator.

Click **HERE** for more information and a list of Private Facebook Groups.

Worldwide Candle Lighting

Sunday, December 8th, 2024 Worldwide Candle Lighting Event In Manhattan

at the

Parish House of the Church of Ascension 12 W.11th Street, Manhattan, NY

Doors open at 5:45pm - Please arrive by 6:15pm - Family guests are welcome - PLEASE RSVP Click here or the Events Tab on our website www.compassionatefriends.nyc for more information.

The Compassionate Friends - Worldwide Candle Lighting



* Remember - if in person...be sure to bring a framed photo of your loved one to be displayed in the ballroom during the evening.

Important - take note!
There will be an ongoing slideshow of all our children...

To include your loved one in this beautiful memorial, please email.your.photos.by.DECEMBER 5TH to: photosmtcf@gmail.com

We suggest you send two photos - a young, "sunrise" photo and a "sunset" more recent photo.

Be sure to indicate your child's **full name exactly as you wish it to appear!**

(If you had photos in last year's slideshow, just request to use the same photos for 2024)

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND IN PERSON: National will have Virtual Candle Lighting. Go to www.compassionatefriends.org.

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.



OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



12/1	CASSIE WILSON, sister of Kaylie Wilson	12/15	THOMAS ROBERTS, brother of Victoria Roberts-Wierbowski	
12/1	GLEN FRASER, son of James Fraser	12/16	BRENDAN CLAVIN, son of Nancy Hamma	
12/1	MATEO TASHMAN, son of William Tashman	12/16 MICHELLE GITTENS, daughter of Lenise Ballard-Gittens		
12/1	ROBERT GOODEN, son of Tonya & Frank Gooden	12/16	WILFRED DelVALLE, son of Carmen DelValle, brother of	
12/2	FORREST RYZY-RYSKI, brother of Sophia Ryzy-Ryski		Judy DelValle	
12/2	JANIE GONG, daughter of Alan & Daisy Gong	12/17	JAMES MONTGOMERY, son of Denise Montgomery	
12/2	JENNIFER CARGILL, daughter of Virginia Crosby	12/17	RICKY BATASHOFF, brother of Dana Stein	
12/3	ASHLEY CALAZAN, daughter of Erica Bonifacio	12/17	STEFAN PAKULSKI, brother of Marek Pakulski	
12/3	PAULINE FUCHS, daughter of Carolin Fuchs & Rene Groth	12/18	DAVID GLASS, son of Jack & Laura Glass	
12/3	YVONNE BURDEN, sister of Crystal Burden	12/18	ZIGGY MARTINEZ, son of Sally Tucker	
12/4	JESSE ARATOW, son of Susanna Hoffman	12/20	DANIEL O'NEILL TOLEDO, son of Kathleen O'Neill	
12/4	MEGAN YODER, sister of Kyle Yoder	12/20	EUGENE BONACCI, brother of Meredith Bonacci	
12/4	SETH KAHN, son of Debbie & Harold Kahn	12/21	DAVID ALEXANDER, brother of Farah Alexander	
12/5	GLENN SPELLER JR., son of Glenn Speller Sr.	12/21	MELISSA AVRIN, sister of Andrew Avrin	
12/5	MEGAN SMITH, daughter of Ann Smith	12/22	JACOB PAUL ROBINSON-SWEET, son of Gail Robinson	
12/6	AARON BENVENISTE, grandson of Susan & Richard Rosenbluth	12/22	MATT BEHAN, brother of Chris Behan	
12/6	DESIRA (Desi) PACUK, sister of Nikkie Pacuk	12/22	MATTHEW FIDLER, son of Annette Fidler	
12/6	YEHUDA MILSTEIN, son of Edith Bayne, brother of Ilana Milstein	12/23	JON MICHAEL CAMINITI, son of Charles & Linda Caminiti,	
12/7	JOHN BARNES, son of Hana Barnes		brother of Jacqueline Caminiti	
12/7	RYAN THOMAS, son of Jacqueline Thomas Kilbane	12/26	ETHAN WASSERBERGER, son of Simon & Cynthia Wasserberger	
12/8	SAMMY COHEN ECKSTEIN, son of Amy Cohen & Gary Eckstein	12/26	OWEN MULLER son of Jane K. Muller	
12/10	JONAH HENIG, son of Abby Henig	12/27	NORBI MORGENSTEIN, son of Gary Morgenstein	
12/11	JAMES PATRICK (Jimmy) SINISI, son of AnneMarie Sinisi	12/28	SCOTT LACROIX, brother of Kendra Lacroix	
12/11	MIKE CHARY, brother of EllaRose Chary	12/29	ARTURO LAULO, brother of Luz Laulo	
12/13	CAMDYN JAYEL DUCKWORTH, daughter of Tiffany Clark	12/29	CALEB SANDE, grandson of Renee & Hervey Sande	
12/14	AMELIA (Yannie) CORBETT, sister of Sara Corbett	12/29	NASIR NEWSOME, son of Sharhon Newsome	
12/14	DUSTIN TUNICK, son of Jenifer Kelly	12/29	VALDING DURAN, son of Milagros Bueno	
12/14	DYLAN BISCH, son of Eileen Eck	12/30	ETHAN HOLDER, son of Beverly Holder	
12/14	LISA WEINER, sister of Abby Moller	12/30	MICHAEL McGOVERN, son of Harri Molese	
12/14	MATTHEW SADI, son of Sheri & Tzuri Sadi	12/31	JOEY HOLLIDAY, son of Billy & Terry Holliday	
12/14	MICHAEL MOUSSA, son of Mariam Moussa	12/31	ROBERT WILLIAMS JR., son of Kimberly Hatwood	
12/15	BRANDON MYERS, brother of Rachel Myers	12/31	RUSSELL FERBER, son of David Ferber & Dorothy Jordon,	
12/15	HAYLEE LABBAN, daughter of Penelope Coward		brother of Jordon Ferber	
		12/31	WILLIE GWATHMEY, brother of Katie Gwathmey	
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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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



1	•		1
12/1	VERNON KENNEDY, son of Tressie Kennedy	12/18	DESTINI DOYLE, daughter of Annette & Kendall Doyle
12/2	JOEY, son of Shantel Morrison & Tamara Cantave	12/19	JOEL MALDONADO, son of Alisha Murzi, grandson of
12/2	JONATHAN MOORE, son of Ron & Ronnie Moore		Evelyn Murzi
12/2	SAVANNAH WIGGINS, daughter of Dolores Wiggins	12/19	JOSHUA ROBERT ESFORMES, son of Susan Esformes,
12/2	SUZANNE ZHOU, sister of Susan Zhou		brother of Jacob
12/2	ZOIE BENNETT, daughter of Zachary Bennett	12/19	JUSTIN ALMON brother of Kristina Adam
12/3	HENRY SZOR, son of Eva Grin	12/19	ROBERT RODRIGUEZ, son of Caroline Linares
12/3	VYLETTE MOON, daughter of Jackie Hakiki	12/20	TATE RAMSDEN, brother of Ashley Ramsden
12/4	ROBERT PATRICK JENKINS, son of Barbara Jenkins, brother	12/20	TROY O. MEYERS son of Claudette Hannibal
	of Cheryl	12/21	BAYLIN CODDINGTON, son of Debra F. Coddington
12/6	ALEX HARRY SINGER, son of Susan & Lewis Singer	12/21	CAITLIN SANDERS, daughter of Veronica & Lamar Sanders
12/6	DYLAN JOSEPH MAIDA, son of Lisa Burns & Sal Maida	12/21	JUDAH BRYNDAL, son of Dusty & David Bryndal
12/8	DYLAN RANDALL, son of Yenia & Robert Randall	12/22	GREGORY ROTH, brother of Stephanie Roth
12/8	JADEN MAXWELL THOMAS, son of Louise Thomas, brother of	12/22	TODD C. FIORE, son of Yvonne Fiore
	Tanya	12/23	AMANDA RUSSELL, sister of Katie Turner
12/9	AREIS GORDON, son of Joselyn Gordon	12/23	QUENTIN MUNDY, son of Terri Mundy
12/9	SHONEN CHAMBERS, brother of Tiffani Chambers	12/24	ADAM AZZOLI, son of Amanda Azzoli
12/10	CHRISTOPHER ROTH, brother of Stephanie Roth	12/24	DANIEL O'NEILL TOLEDO, son of Kathleen O'Neill
12/10	JOHN HULWIYA, brother of Vanessa Hulwiya	12/24	MONTE JONATHAN GOLLUB son of Ellie Gollub
12/10	ZUNILDE (ZUNNY) MARTE, daughter of Victor Marte	12/24	RENZO SCHNIPPER, son of Matthew Schnipper and Marla Farina
12/11	HARRY GANDEL, grandson of Karen & Meyer Gross	12/24	RICHARD CONLEY, son of Phyllis Conley
12/11	JONAH HENIG, son of Abby Henig	12/25	CHARLIE SINISI, son of Ann Marie Sinisi, brother of Kelly and
12/12	CALLIE LONG, daughter of Jackie Long		Dawn and the late Jimmy Sinisi
12/12	CIANNA L. ALEXANDER, daughter of Rebecca Harper-Alexander	12/25	DAVID LANG BAREK, son of Peggy Lang
12/12	DANNY VOLEN , brother of Raizy Volen	12/25	LILY, SARAH & GRACE BADGER, daughters of Madonna
12/12	PAULA VOLEN, daughter of Raizy Volen		Badger and Matt Badger
12/12	SHANA DOWDESWELL, daughter of Laurie & Roger Dowdeswell	12/25	ROBERT SULKOWSKI, brother of Sarah Sulkowski
12/13	ALAN MYL son of Joanne Myl	12/26	ASHLEY CALAZAN, daughter of Erica Bonifacio
12/13	AMBER ASHTON, daughter of Tom & Eleanor Ashton	12/27	SAIGIA BRON, daughter of Florence Layayette
12/13	GEORGE DAVID MARAS, son of Marilyn Maras	12/27	SANDRA CHU, Best friend of Emanuel Veras
12/14	DANNY MAZRAANI, brother of Mona Mazraani	12/27	THOMAS ROBERTS, brother of Victoria Roberts-Wierbowski
12/14	JIMMY ARMSTRONG, brother of Siobhan Armstrong	12/28	ANDY PERSAUD, son of Dennis Persaud, brother of
12/15	COLETTE WAINWRIGHT, sister of Katherine Sall		Andrea Persaud
12/15	JEFFREY VANCHIRO, son of Sylvester (Sly) Vanchiro	12/28	NASIR NEWSOME, son of Sharhon Newsome
12/15	JESSIE MORGAN PEK, daughter of Karyn Pek	12/29	PAULINE FUCHS, daughter of Carolin Fuchs & Rene Groth
12/15	JOSE SANFORD, son of Yolanda Rosado Ortiz & Gloria Perez	12/30	KELLY ERIN GRAVES daughter of Gail Graves
12/16	DARIA NORTON, daughter of Charlotte Savino & Lee Norton	12/30	OLIVER LIEGEY, son of Viva & Robert Draper
12/18	ALEX BIBLER, son of Lindsay Bibler	12/31	IAN BOSIN, son of Judy Neustadter
12/18	ARON LINDELL, son of Julie Lindell	12/31	LIAM ARDEN, son of Esther and Patrick Arden
12/18	CHRISTOPHER DOMBROWSKI, brother of William &		



Brianne Dombrowski





1/17

OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



1/2	LAURA LEVIS, daughter of Georgia & William Levis	1/17	PAMELA SUE CHAIKEN, daughter of Sandy & Lionel Chaiken, sister of Stephanie
1/2	LUCY GRAVES, daughter of Edward Graves	1/17	PHILIP SULZER, son of Barbara & Burton Sulzer, brother of Lisa
1/3	BRIAN MARC LIPTON, son of Nancy & Charles Lipton	1/18	STEPHANIE GUBIN, daughter of Rita Mittman
1/3	WILLIAM (BILLY) SMEAL, nephew of Amanda Smeal	1/19	LUKE NIGHSWANDER, son of Matthew Nighswander
1/5	BENJAMIN TELUSHKIN, son of Joseph & Dvorah Telushkin	1/19	·
1/5	MICHAEL MOSS, son of Michaela & Bob Moss		VINCENT MONACO, brother of Charles Monaco
1/5	NOELLE QUARANTA, sister of Meredith Bonacci	1/20	JONATHAN TARA, son of John & Mary Tara
1/5	RUTH DOUGHTY, sister of Louise Doughty	1/21	CHARLIE CAMPDERRICH, son of Jody Campderrich
1/7	CAMERON NICHOLLS, son of Stephanie Moore Nicholls	1/21	LISA WEBB, sister of Janine Clancy
1/7	JAQUELINE AHERN, niece of Nan Ahern	1/21	YVONNE LAURICE AJAKIE, daughter of Evelyn Rabi
1/7	OSCAR JOAQUIN, son of Dru Levasseur	1/22	KEITH DANIEL, son of Linda Daniel Finer
1/8	CHRISTINE EBERT, daughter of Judy & John Ebert	1/23	ADRIAN V. ROSAS, son of Alejandra & Adriano Rosas
1/8	ELLIOT CALVIN COPP, son of Ariel Marie Pierce & Aaron Copp	1/24	ALEX KNEPPER, son of Lisa & Emanuel Psyhojos
1/8	JENNIFER BLANCHE BYRD, daughter of Claudia Byrd	1/24	ERIC ROSENBERG, son of Sharon Rosenberg
1/8	JOCELYN REED, daughter of Cynthia Powell	1/24	LATASHA ALCANTARA, daughter of Anita Guy-Martin
1/10	MICHAEL STEIN, son of Eric Stein	1/24	MICHAEL AARONSON, son of Dorothy Aaronson, brother of
1/11	BRYAN KELLY, son of Sean Kelly		Robert Aaronson
1/11	JESS ILIAS, son of Chris Clavelli	1/25	ARIELLE ANEY, daughter of Jenelle & Christopher Aney
1/12	JOHN MARZANO, son of Claire Martino	1/25	KELLY ERIN GRAVES, daughter of Gail Graves
1/12	JONATHAN MOORE, son of Ron & Ronnie Moore		DAVID 'JESSE' REISSMAN, brother of Phil Reissman
1/13	CHRISTOPHER JAMES ROUCH, son of Kathy Rouch	1/26	FRANCISCO JAVIER, son of Doris Cales
1/13	JOSE SANFORD, son of Yolanda Rosado Ortiz & Gloria Perez	1/26	SONU ADAMS , daughter of Una Chaudhuri & Michael Adams, sister of Nathaniel Adams
1/13	MICHAEL RATH, son of Kathy Rath	1/27	JEFF CARPENTER, son of Donna Carpenter
1/14	ANTHONY SANCHEZ, son of Deborah Sanchez	1/27	JOHN THOMAS (TOMMY) VIGORITA, son of Patricia & Vincen
1/14	BRIAN CULLIMORE, son of Teresa Cullimore	1/21	Vigorita
1/14	CHARLENE ALVAREZ, daughter of Charlie Alvarez	1/27	ROBBIE LAWRENCE, son of Keisha Lawrence
1/14	DAVID GIBBS, son of Ann Gibbs	1/27	WILL EARLE, son of Nancy Earle
1/15	ARA DYMOND, son of George & Linda Torosian Dymond	1/29	EREZ KLEIN, son of Rachel Gordon
1/15	MARIA CUNARD, sister of Angela George	1/30	JIMMY ARMSTRONG, brother of Siobhan Armstrong
1/16	AMOL VADEHRA, brother of Mallika Vadehra	1/31	AHREN JUDE KARRAN SINGH, son of Rondha-Ann Lam
1/17	GABRIEL J. DIERRE, son of Marie Nicole Rene	1/31	FILIS ZIMMERMAN son of Anna Filis & Renjamin Zimmerman



KIARA KHARPERTIUM, sister of Devin Kharpertium



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

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



1/1	MATTHEW SADI, son of Sheri & Tzuri Sadi	1/19	ROBERT GOODEN, son of Tonya & Frank Gooden
1/1	SCOTT DEMEL, son of Caren and Marc Demel	1/20	ELIZABETH HANAU, daughter of Marsha Hanau
1/2	BRADLEY CHAIN, son of Herbert Chain	1/22	CHANDI PYTOWSKI, daughter of Rosanne Cosentino &
1/3	AMIAS, son of Samantha Diaz, nephew of Jasmine Burney		Bronek Pytowski
1/3	BARBARA STRAUSS, sister of Joanne Shapiro	1/22	MAGGIE GOWELL, daughter of John & Rosanna Gowell and
1/3	PHILIP GOODFRIEND, son of Debbie Goodfriend		sister of Jesse
1/3	STUART MILLER, son of Nancy Morgan	1/22	MICHAEL RATH, son of Kathy Rath
1/3	WILLIAM FISHER, son of Sally A. Fisher	1/23	ALEX WITONSKY, brother of Ava Witonsky
1/4	JASON KLEIN, son of Jeanette LaBarb	1/23	FRANCISCO JAVIER, son of Doris Cales
1/4	LOUIS DEDAJ, brother of Victor Dedaj	1/23	GIAN PAOLA SANTINI, son of Joan Santini, brother of
1/4	MARK H. IHDE, son of Linda & Don Ihde		Giuliana Reitzfeld
1/4	ROBBIE LAWRENCE, son of Keisha Lawrence	1/23	HUNTER MARSHAD, grandson of Erica & Neal Marshad
1/5	NOELLE QUARANTA, sister of Meredith Bonacci	1/23	JAMES MONTGOMERY, son of Denise Montgomery
1/6	ARA DYMOND, son of George & Linda Torosian Dymond	1/23	VICTOR CHEN, son of Vivien Chen
1/7	JAKE GOLDBERG, son of Gene Goldberg, brother of	1/24	JAMILA IRONS-JOHNSON, daughter of Jeannine Irons
	Ben Goldberg	1/24	RAY RATTRAY, son of Amy Schrier & Dan Rattray
1/8	AVA NASCIMENTO, granddaughter of Eugenia Nascimento,	1/25	ADAM RAPOPORT, brother of Lindsay Rapoport
	niece of Laura Jones		ANTHONY SANCHEZ, son of Deborah Sanchez
1/8	DAVID MCSWAIN, brother of Malissa McSwain	1/25	MEGAN SMITH, daughter of Ann Smith
1/8	JASON R. CHIN, son of China Chin	1/25	RICHARD WARNOCK, son of Claire Warnock, brother of
1/9	CAROLINE MONTGOMERY, daughter of Catherine Montgomery		Susan Warnock
1/10	ELLIOT CALVIN COPP, son of Ariel Marie Pierce & Aaron Copp	1/26	JULIO BARRERA, son of Martha Riveira
1/10	INSANN LAWLOR, son of Serena Bhaduri	1/27	JASMINA ANEMA, daughter of Theodora Anema
1/11	ANYA GABRIELA KUPPERSMITH, daughter of Judith Kuppersmith	1/28	ALEXANDER GOLDIN-KRAUS, son of Jill Goldin
1/11	SAM BERGER, son of Marla & David Berger	1/28	ALEXANDRA DISANTIS, daughter of Margo & Frank DeSantis
1/12	CHARLOTTE MILLER, daughter of Caitlin Felton & Barney Miller,	1/28	MATT RITTER, brother of Grace Ritter
	sister of Clara		DANIEL SNYDER, brother of Lisa Snyder
1/13	WONDER HAMILTON, daughter of Gary & Jennifer Hamilton	1/29	JOSIAH BAAWUAH, son of Porsha & Terry Baawuah
1/14	CASEY CRUZ, daughter of Ibelka Cruz	1/29	VINCENT MONACO, brother of Charles Monaco
1/14	CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, brother of Nina Murphy	1/30	CHRISTOPHER KWIK, brother of Sharon Kwik
1/16	SANDY SMITH, sister of Cindy Smith	1/30	RICK HOWELL, brother of Annie Howell
1/18	DAYLE HENRY GRUBER, son of Hank Henry	1/31	EUGENE BONACCI, brother of Meredith Bonacci
1/18	LISA WEBB, sister of Janine Clancy	1/31	MATTHEW GOODSTEIN, son of Ann Goodstein
1/19	JENNA AGULE, sister of Devon Agule	1/31	ZACH HOWELS, brother of Matt Howels





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THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CHAT SCHEDULE. Click here to display exact times and to see entire schedule				The Compassionate Friends National Office 48660 Pontiac Trail #930808, Wixom, MI 48393	
ET	MORNING	EARLIER EVENING	LATER EVENING	Toll Free (877) 969-0010	
MON	Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	First time CHAT orientation	General Bereavement	www.compassionatefriends.org email:nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org	
			Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	email.nationalonice@compassionatemends.org	
TUE		Loss to Substance Related Causes	Bereaved less than 2 yrs	WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE	
		First time CHAT orientation	Bereaved more than 2 yrs	TCF Online National Magazine Click here for Information	
WED	Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	First time CHAT orientation	General Bereavement	MARK YOUR CALENDARS!	
			Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	Our next Chapter meetings are	
THU		No Surviving Children	General Bereavement	the 3rd Tuesday of each month:	
		First time CHAT orientation	Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	DEC 17 JAN 21 FEB 18 MAR 18	
FRI	General Bereavement	Pregnancy/Infant Loss	General Bereavement		
	Parents/Grandparents/Siblings		Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	Newsletter article submissions are welcome.	
SAT			General Bereavement	Please email to marielevine2@verizon.net	
			Parents/Grandparents/Siblings		
SUN		Suicide Loss	General Bereavement Issues	MAKE A DONATION	
			Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	Click here to Donate to the Manhattan Chapter	

OUR COMPASSIONATE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS

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

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 Gran
TCF – Loss of a Stepchild	TCF – Grandparents I

TCF - Loss of an Only Child/All Your Children

TCF - Multiple Losses

TCF - Daughterless Mothers

TCF - Men in Grief

TCF - Bereaved LGBTQ Parents with Loss of a Child TCF - Bereaved Parents with Grandchild Visitation Issues

TCF - Loss to Miscarriage or Stillbirth

TCF - Infant and Toddler Loss

TCF - Loss of a Child 4 -12 Years Old TCF - Loss of a Child 13-19 Years Old

TCF - Loss of an Adult Child

TCF – Loss of a Child with Special Needs

ndchild

TCF - Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren

TCF - Miscarriage, Stillbirth, Loss of an Infant Grandchild

TCF – Loss to Long-term Illness

TCF – Loss to Cancer

TCF - Loss After Withdrawing Life Support

TCF - Loss to Mental Illness

TCF - Sudden Death

TCF – Loss to Suicide

TCF - Loss to Homicide

TCF – Loss to Substance Related Causes

TCF - Loss to a Drunk/Impaired Driver

TCF - Grieving with Faith and Hope

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