



**The Compassionate Friends**  
**Manhattan Chapter**  
 Supporting Family After a Child Dies

**Our next meetings...**  
 Jan 21  
 Feb 18  
 Mar 18  
 Apr 15

**Manhattan Chapter Newsletter** **January 2025**

**JAN 21ST MEETING—3RD TUESDAY IN-PERSON**

In-person only on the third Tuesday, January 21st 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.

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**Grief isn't a summertime song.**

*It is a lifetime song. But it doesn't have to be a sad song forever. Let it begin to become gentle in your memory. Don't be afraid that you will forget – or that you hold too tightly to the pain. Just as you still remember those summertimes of your youth, rest assured you will never forget the melody of the love you shared.*

~ Darcie Simms, TCF 1991

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**After One Year -- What I Want to Know is, How Do I Go On From Here?**

Many heads always nod in agreement when the question is asked at a Compassionate Friends meeting. Is that your questions, too? It has been over a year since your child has died. In your own way you have met and survived those special days, holidays, his or her birthday and all the events you had anticipated sharing with your child, at least once. Now what? Where do you go from here? Life is going on around you, yet your own life may seem at a standstill. It has had a drastic and traumatic change.

(con't on page 2)

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**WE WISH ALL A GENTLE YEAR AHEAD**

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**SURPRISE**

Surprise is the opposite of expected. The first thing that pops into mind with the word surprise is "happy". I never liked "surprise" parties, but that's the first thing that comes to mind when I hear the word. But truth is, most of life is a surprise. As I write this on the day before New Year's Eve, I think back on 2016 as an apocalyptic year of surprises – both the winners and the losers were surprised.

So many celebrity losses in 2016. So many surprises. Carrie Fisher dies suddenly. And the next day, her Mom joins her. We all get it. It's what we all wished we could do that terrible next day after our own surprise.

After living a reasonably long lifetime, ruminating on the vicissitudes of my life, I am left wondering once again about possibilities. As it turns out, "surprise" (the unexpected) and predictable (the expected) appear to be two sides of the same coin – a coin called "life". We stumble through life doing our best to avoid surprises (bad) and strive to create predictable outcomes (good). Then life happens.

What is interesting is that we do manage to incorporate everything we experience – the good and the not-so-good – into an acceptable life. We expect certain occurrences and passages. We expect to grow up. We expect to grow old. We expect go to school, to learn, to graduate.

(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](mailto:tcfmanhattan@gmail.com)  
 TCF MANHATTAN website: [www.compassionatefriends.nyc](http://www.compassionatefriends.nyc)  
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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, Jan. 21, 2025, 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.*

## After One Year....

(con't from page 1)

A tug-o-war wages within your mind and body. Part of you wants to hang on tight to the life you knew when your family was whole. But after a year of grieving and crying for your child, you realize that life as you knew it is no more. The separation death has brought is daily becoming more real.

If you are at this point in your grief, you know how it is. We are weary and tired from the constant effort and energy it takes to keep moving ahead each day. Possibly we find ourselves putting up a false front and saying "okay," "fine", when people ask how we are doing, because we think they feel that's how we should be by now. We remember a year ago, when we looked ahead to this time thinking we would be back to normal, our grief somehow healed and resolved. Now we often seem to be two different people. A person living with the burden of the loss of our child and the emotions, depth of sorrow and pain which only another bereaved parent can understand; and at the same time a person going through the motions of living in the normal world of everyday work, activities, friends, and problems, which we often are tempted to let go on without us. A feeling of panic isn't uncommon, yet you must have developed some survivor skills if you have come this far.

How do we get out of there and go on without leaving the life of our child behind? Some helpful words might be slowly, carefully, patiently, and prayerfully, accepting ourselves as we are, and truthfully facing our feelings. Our own son was killed 18 months ago by a hit and run driver. If you were to peel back my outer shell right now and expose my thoughts, you would see that loving, exciting seventeen-year-old we shared so many good times with and my wish to have him here on his 19th birthday this month. You would see my desire to know more about heaven and God's plan for eternal life, a deep loneliness, fatigue and many unanswered questions. It's strange. I have apprehension as I move back into life, yet a real fear of staying emotionally where I am.

Yes, it is hard to go on because no one can do it for us. The great effort it takes to get out of bed on time in the morning, to plan ahead for dinner and to make the best of each new day must come from within each of us. Now is a good time to take inventory of our resources. Do you have your health, home, husband, other children, other family members, friends, a job, faith in God? Do you have talents which you have neglected or something you always wanted to do which could be developed?

Making an appointment for health or dental check-up, deciding to lose those pounds you gained through frustrated eating; planning some special times with your family, initiating contact with old friends, and rebuilding relationships, releasing new energy into your job, taking time to seriously study your faith, enrolling in a class to learn something new may be the boost you need. Do you have strengths of understanding love, caring, listening? No doubt you have already reached out to help someone else in their need or grief because you know how that kind

(con't in next column)

## SURPRISE

(con't from page 1)

We expect to fall in love and we anticipate a natural progression through life – careers, marriage, children. We even learn to expect and survive loss. We lose a pet, a best friend moves away, a young love fades, a grandparent dies. We suffer these losses, and we learn to survive them. Some stay with us as dusty memories. Some fade away to some far-off place too deep to even recall. But we learn that losing is a constant. There will be loss. It can be expected. No one gets out of here alive.

We know too that even we will join those who left this world before us. But in our children, we find comfort, for they will be our continuum. Through them we will experience the future. They are us. They do not die.

And then they do.

Surprise. Now what? We have done everything a human does to incorporate life's surprises into our somewhat ordered life. We learned that no one knows what life has in store, that control is limited, that loss is predictable. *But nowhere was it ever thought possible that a child could die.* Our child. A living, breathing part of our heart. No one told us this was possible. How do we continue with such a broken heart? How do we re-order our remaining lives?

I think of the millions who came before me and lived this calamitous life experience. I recognize now how every newly grieving parent had to start from scratch – there's no playbook or how-to survive this unbelievable, indescribable hurt. Every new resident of this parallel universe must discover for themselves what it will take to survive to the end. *And must decide how they want to.*

It's another New Year. Some of us are at the beginning of this sorrowful journey. Some of us are far along, getting closer and closer to re-uniting with our missing children. We can only hope that the future holds only manageable surprises and the coming year surprises us by meeting our expectations.

## Marie Levine, 2016

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## After One Year....

(con't from left column)

of love has helped you.

Last summer, a "Things to do" list evolved out of my own frustration of not being able to budge or take even one step forward. Each day I tried to accomplish at least one small task from this list. As I saw little bits of progress, my attitude and depression began to lift. I kept my list very simple thinking of those things which would encourage me to succeed in areas I was weak, such as house work, planning meals and meeting the needs of my family; yet allowing me time for a quiet half hour by myself, going out to dinner with my husband, taking a walk, a bike ride or playing the piano and being available to care for others in a helpful way, especially other bereaved families. Of course, some days are still hard, but over the months my ability to move ahead has gradually increased. If you are stuck in one spot and the obstacles ahead seem too big, I encourage you to make a list of your own to fit your own lifestyle, talents and strengths. Our life is still worthwhile even as we continue to work through our grief.

~ Phyllis Sewell, TCF, Van Nuys, CA

## I WILL WAIT FOR YOU

I will wait for you  
Though we never had a chance to say goodbye.  
Remember me...  
When winter snows are falling through a quiet sky.  
I'll remember you  
when, in our darkest hour,  
you held my hand and prayed I wouldn't go –  
but a silent voice called out to me:  
my time had come, and I had to travel Home...  
Since then, I know your life has never been the same.  
for I visit you each day:  
so many times I've felt your pain;  
I've watched you cry;  
and I've heard you call my name...  
but now, further along life's road I stand  
in a timeless world, just beyond your sight.  
Waiting for the day when I can take your hand  
and bring you across to this Land of Golden Light.  
Till then, remember me,  
you understand –  
and try not to cry.  
But if you do:  
let your tears fall  
for the happiness and the joy we knew.  
and for the special love we shared –  
for love can never die.

~Stephen O'Brien 1995, TCF UK

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## CELTIC BLESSING

She does not leave, she is not gone,  
she looks upon us still.  
She walks upon the valleys now,  
she strides upon the hill.

Her smile is in the summer sky,  
her grace is in the breeze.  
Her mem'ries whisper in the grass,  
her calm is in the trees.

Her light is in the winter snow,  
her tears are in the rain.  
Her merriment runs in the brook,  
her laughter in the lane.

Her gentleness is in the flowers,  
her sigh in autumn leaves.  
She does not leave, she is not gone,  
'tis only that we grieve.

## On The Death Of A Child

When a child dies, a light goes out in the world, never to be replaced. We are overcome by pain and heartbreak which is beyond measurement, and completely unable to comprehend any meaning beyond such tragedy. The loss of such a young life, the finality of it, can hardly be fathomed. We search in vain for an answer to why a life so full of promise and unfulfilled potential has been torn away so prematurely.

Our grief and anguish is unrelenting and unyielding in its intensity. Although we know that death can come quickly, with no warning to any living creature, never in our wildest dreams did any of us imagine that one of our children should be taken – a reverse of the natural order.

At first it seems as if our lives, our souls, the very inner-most substance of our being have been shattered, never to be resurrected again. Our tears, our anguish, conceal any legacy that remains of the child's existence. It is as if we are enveloped in a cloud of darkness and deep despair. The reality of the death is as unforgiving as the sky, the sea, the earth and all eternity.

The inevitability of birth, life and death blankets us with a feeling of futility about the uselessness of it all. It is hard to remember that during the child's short and transitory time on earth, he or she contributed a unique essence of life, imprinting an image on all those who were touched. Therein lies the child's legacy – the only bridge connecting the chasm between the living and the dead. For each of us, the legacies left by our children differ in detail, yet at the same time are similar with respect to the precious memories, which are all that remain to provide comfort.

At first, we are inconsolable, but gradually, the reaching out of heart and hand by those who understand and can respond to such a loss touches the soul, helps soothe the unbearable pain and intense suffering. *Only a parent who has lost a child can give such a gift to another bereaved parent.*

As in any event, there is a lesson to be learned. An opportunity emerges from the sorrow – an opportunity to sort out trivia, old resentments, to perceive with clear vision that in our lives which is truly important. The tragedy we have experienced somehow enables us to establish new and more meaningful priorities; to love and to value those who are close with a renewed sense of appreciation and awareness. If any meaning is ever again to exist in our lives, it will develop as a result of newly-found sensitivity, love, and compassion for others.

~ Chris Moon, TCF Rio Linda, CA

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## The Gift of Someone Who Listens

Those of us who have traveled a while  
along this path called grief,  
need to stop and remember that mile,  
the first mile of no relief.

It wasn't the person with answers  
who told us the way to deal.

It wasn't the one who talked and talked  
that helped us start to heal.

Think of the friend who quietly sat  
and held our hands in theirs  
The ones who let us talk and talk  
and hugged away our tears.

We need to always remember  
that more than the words we speak,  
it's the gift of someone who listens  
that most of us desperately seek.

~ Nancy Myerholts, TCF, Toledo, OH

## Siblings

Grief is lonely. When my sister died two years ago, everyone knew about it and talked about it. Everyone was in shock...

But now, two years later, the anniversary of her death came and went without even a card in the mail. No one remembered the day. No one called to say "I am thinking of you." No one asked "How are you feeling?"

My family has stayed in close contact and we talk about Susan all the time. But when it comes to grieving over Susan, everyone grieves alone. No one knows how I feel about my little sister and how it hurts me so deeply to know she's not here.

Everything else in life can be shared with someone else but not grieving. No one can fully understand the pain because everyone's pain is different. When the pain is greatest, the loneliness is the greatest too. I never thought I could feel this much pain and still survive. I am alone in my grief. There is no one else here with me.

Susan was born when I was 11. She committed suicide when she was 16. The baby of the family, the youngest of four kids, our hearts are broken forever.

~ Cherie Bagadiong, TCF St. Mary's County, MD

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## He Lives In Me

I shall see him  
in the beauties of the earth,  
in the loveliness of summer sunsets,  
and the loneliness of winter winds.  
In the delicate new life  
of springtime trees,  
in the blazing glory  
of Fall's bright leaves.  
I shall see him in the face of youth  
seeking, straining, for love and truth.  
And in the peaceful face of age,  
completing the journey of our days.  
I shall see hm  
in the ocean's mighty power.  
I shall see hm in the wonder of the stars.  
I shall see him  
in the face of happiness and care.  
I shall see him everywhere.

~ E. Rita Asher, TCF Cape Cod, MA

Written at dawn on the day following my brothers' death

## 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.*

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### 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](#)

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## 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](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

⇒ go to [www.centeringcorp.org](http://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.

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### ...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.

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## 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.

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## 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.



OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/2 **LAURA LEVIS**, daughter of Georgia & William Levis
- 1/2 **LUCY GRAVES**, daughter of Edward Graves
- 1/3 **BRIAN MARC LIPTON**, son of Nancy & Charles Lipton
- 1/3 **WILLIAM (BILLY) SMEAL**, nephew of Amanda Smeal
- 1/5 **BENJAMIN TELUSHKIN**, son of Joseph & Dvorah Telushkin
- 1/5 **MICHAEL MOSS**, son of Michaela & Bob Moss
- 1/5 **NOELLE QUARANTA**, sister of Meredith Bonacci
- 1/5 **RUTH DOUGHTY**, sister of Louise Doughty
- 1/7 **CAMERON NICHOLLS**, son of Stephanie Moore Nicholls
- 1/7 **JAQUELINE AHERN**, niece of Nan Ahern
- 1/7 **OSCAR JOAQUIN**, son of Dru Levasseur
- 1/8 **CHRISTINE EBERT**, daughter of Judy & John Ebert
- 1/8 **ELLIOT CALVIN COPP**, son of Ariel Marie Pierce & Aaron Copp
- 1/8 **JENNIFER BLANCHE BYRD**, daughter of Claudia Byrd
- 1/8 **JOCELYN REED**, daughter of Cynthia Powell
- 1/10 **MICHAEL STEIN**, son of Eric Stein
- 1/11 **BRYAN KELLY**, son of Sean Kelly
- 1/11 **JESS ILIAS**, son of Chris Clavelli
- 1/12 **JOHN MARZANO**, son of Claire Martino
- 1/12 **JONATHAN MOORE**, son of Ron & Ronnie Moore
- 1/13 **CHRISTOPHER JAMES ROUCH**, son of Kathy Rouch
- 1/13 **JOSE SANFORD**, son of Yolanda Rosado Ortiz & Gloria Perez
- 1/13 **MICHAEL RATH**, son of Kathy Rath
- 1/14 **ANTHONY SANCHEZ**, son of Deborah Sanchez
- 1/14 **BRIAN CULLIMORE**, son of Teresa Cullimore
- 1/14 **CHARLENE ALVAREZ**, daughter of Charlie Alvarez
- 1/14 **DAVID GIBBS**, son of Ann Gibbs
- 1/15 **ADAM GERVER**, son of Howie Gerver
- 1/15 **ARA DYMOND**, son of George & Linda Torosian Dymond
- 1/15 **MARIA CUNARD**, sister of Angela George
- 1/16 **AMOL VADEHRA**, brother of Mallika Vadehra
- 1/17 **GABRIEL J. DIERRE**, son of Marie Nicole Rene
- 1/17 **KIARA KHARPERTIUM**, sister of Devin Kharpertium

- 1/17 **PAMELA SUE CHAIKEN**, daughter of Sandy & Lionel Chaiken, sister of Stephanie
- 1/17 **PHILIP SULZER**, son of Barbara & Burton Sulzer, brother of Lisa
- 1/18 **STEPHANIE GUBIN**, daughter of Rita Mittman
- 1/19 **LUKE NIGHSWANDER**, son of Matthew Nighswander
- 1/19 **VINCENT MONACO**, brother of Charles Monaco
- 1/20 **JONATHAN TARA**, son of John & Mary Tara
- 1/21 **CHARLIE CAMPDERRICH**, son of Jody Campderrich
- 1/21 **LISA WEBB**, sister of Janine Clancy
- 1/21 **YVONNE LAURICE AJAKIE**, daughter of Evelyn Rabi
- 1/22 **KEITH DANIEL**, son of Linda Daniel Finer
- 1/23 **ADRIAN V. ROSAS**, son of Alejandra & Adriano Rosas
- 1/24 **ALEX KNEPPER**, son of Lisa & Emanuel Psychojos
- 1/24 **ERIC ROSENBERG**, son of Sharon Rosenberg
- 1/24 **LATASHA ALCANTARA**, daughter of Anita Guy-Martin
- 1/24 **MICHAEL AARONSON**, son of Dorothy Aaronson, brother of Robert Aaronson
- 1/25 **ARIELLE ANEY**, daughter of Jenelle & Christopher Aney
- 1/25 **KELLY ERIN GRAVES**, daughter of Gail Graves
- 1/26 **DAVID 'JESSE' REISSMAN**, brother of Phil Reissman
- 1/26 **FRANCISCO JAVIER**, son of Doris Cales
- 1/26 **SONU ADAMS**, daughter of Una Chaudhuri & Michael Adams, sister of Nathaniel Adams
- 1/27 **JEFF CARPENTER**, son of Donna Carpenter
- 1/27 **JOHN THOMAS (TOMMY) VIGORITA**, son of Patricia & Vincent Vigorita
- 1/27 **ROBBIE LAWRENCE**, son of Keisha Lawrence
- 1/27 **WILL EARLE**, son of Nancy Earle
- 1/29 **EREZ KLEIN**, son of Rachel Gordon
- 1/29 **STEVEN STERMAN**, son of Lenore Salazar
- 1/30 **JIMMY ARMSTRONG**, brother of Siobhan Armstrong
- 1/31 **AHREN JUDE KARRAN SINGH**, son of Rondha-Ann Lam
- 1/31 **ELLIS ZIMMERMAN**, son of Anna Ellis & Benjamin Zimmerman



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 [cfmanhattan.nyc@gmail.com](mailto:cfmanhattan.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
- 1/1 **SCOTT DEMEL**, son of Caren and Marc Demel
- 1/2 **BRADLEY CHAIN**, son of Herbert Chain
- 1/3 **AMIAS**, son of Samantha Diaz, nephew of Jasmine Burney
- 1/3 **BARBARA STRAUSS**, sister of Joanne Shapiro
- 1/3 **PHILIP GOODFRIEND**, son of Debbie Goodfriend
- 1/3 **STUART MILLER**, son of Nancy Morgan
- 1/3 **WILLIAM FISHER**, son of Sally A. Fisher
- 1/4 **JASON KLEIN**, son of Jeanette LaBarb
- 1/4 **LOUIS DEDAJ**, brother of Victor Dedaj
- 1/4 **MARK H. IHDE**, son of Linda & Don Ihde
- 1/4 **ROBBIE LAWRENCE**, son of Keisha Lawrence
- 1/5 **NOELLE QUARANTA**, sister of Meredith Bonacci
- 1/6 **ARA DYMOND**, son of George & Linda Torosian Dymond
- 1/7 **JAKE GOLDBERG**, son of Gene Goldberg, brother of Ben Goldberg
- 1/8 **AVA NASCIMENTO**, granddaughter of Eugenia Nascimento, niece of Laura Jones
- 1/8 **DAVID MCSWAIN**, brother of Malissa McSwain
- 1/8 **JASON R. CHIN**, son of China Chin
- 1/9 **CAROLINE MONTGOMERY**, daughter of Catherine Montgomery
- 1/10 **ELLIOT CALVIN COPP**, son of Ariel Marie Pierce & Aaron Copp
- 1/10 **INSANN LAWLOR**, son of Serena Bhaduri
- 1/11 **ANYA GABRIELA KUPPERSMITH**, daughter of Judith Kuppersmith
- 1/11 **SAM BERGER**, son of Marla & David Berger
- 1/12 **CHARLOTTE MILLER**, daughter of Caitlin Felton & Barney Miller, sister of Clara
- 1/13 **WONDER HAMILTON**, daughter of Gary & Jennifer Hamilton
- 1/14 **CASEY CRUZ**, daughter of Ibelka Cruz
- 1/14 **CHRISTOPHER MURPHY**, brother of Nina Murphy
- 1/16 **SANDY SMITH**, sister of Cindy Smith
- 1/18 **DAYLE HENRY GRUBER**, son of Hank Henry
- 1/18 **LISA WEBB**, sister of Janine Clancy
- 1/19 **JENNA AGULE**, sister of Devon Agule

- 1/19 **ROBERT GOODEN**, son of Tonya & Frank Gooden
- 1/20 **ELIZABETH HANAU**, daughter of Marsha Hanau
- 1/22 **CHANDI PYTOWSKI**, daughter of Rosanne Cosentino & Bronek Pytowski
- 1/22 **MAGGIE GOWELL**, daughter of John & Rosanna Gowell and sister of Jesse
- 1/22 **MICHAEL RATH**, son of Kathy Rath
- 1/23 **ALEX WITONSKY**, brother of Ava Witonsky
- 1/23 **FRANCISCO JAVIER**, son of Doris Cales
- 1/23 **GIAN PAOLA SANTINI**, son of Joan Santini, brother of Giuliana Reitzfeld
- 1/23 **HUNTER MARSHAD**, grandson of Erica & Neal Marshad
- 1/23 **JAMES MONTGOMERY**, son of Denise Montgomery
- 1/23 **VICTOR CHEN**, son of Vivien Chen
- 1/24 **JAMILA IRONS-JOHNSON**, daughter of Jeannine Irons
- 1/24 **RAY RATTRAY**, son of Amy Schrier & Dan Rattray
- 1/25 **ADAM RAPOPORT**, brother of Lindsay Rapoport
- 1/25 **ANTHONY SANCHEZ**, son of Deborah Sanchez
- 1/25 **MEGAN SMITH**, daughter of Ann Smith
- 1/25 **RICHARD WARNOCK**, son of Claire Warnock, brother of Susan Warnock
- 1/26 **JULIO BARRERA**, son of Martha Riveira
- 1/27 **JASMINA ANEMA**, daughter of Theodora Anema
- 1/28 **ALEXANDER GOLDIN-KRAUS**, son of Jill Goldin
- 1/28 **ALEXANDRA DISANTIS**, daughter of Margo & Frank DeSantis
- 1/28 **MATT RITTER**, brother of Grace Ritter
- 1/29 **DANIEL SNYDER**, brother of Lisa Snyder
- 1/29 **JOSIAH BAAWUAH**, son of Porsha & Terry Baawuah
- 1/29 **VINCENT MONACO**, brother of Charles Monaco
- 1/30 **CHRISTOPHER KWIK**, brother of Sharon Kwik
- 1/30 **RICK HOWELL**, brother of Annie Howell
- 1/31 **EUGENE BONACCI**, brother of Meredith Bonacci
- 1/31 **MATTHEW GOODSTEIN**, son of Ann Goodstein
- 1/31 **ZACH HOWELS**, brother of Matt Howels



**Our Children Remembrances — Changes**

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OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 **JAMES RUSSO**, brother of Adrienne Russo
- 2/1 **RICHARD VALDEZ**, son of Lisa Valdez
- 2/2 **ANDREW BALTINI**, brother of Kevin Baltini
- 2/2 **BRUCE WALES**, son of Fran Wales
- 2/2 **ISAAC JACOB MEYERS**, son of Nahma Sandrow Meyers , brother of Hannah Meyers
- 2/2 **KAYDEN POLIUS**, son of Letitia & Greg Polius
- 2/3 **ANTONIA DALEY**, granddaughter of Linda Daley
- 2/4 **CHARLIE-ROSE MCCALL**, daughter of Yolette Perry
- 2/5 **BRYCE SHELDON**, son of Bianca Villalona
- 2/5 **CLAIRE MONTAIGNE**, daughter of Fen Montaigne
- 2/6 **JOSEPH BABY**, brother of Marilyn Baby, son of Yohannan Baby
- 2/6 **MASON SIMMS**, son of Shavon Simms
- 2/7 **BRADLEY KEITH BONGAR**, son of Beth Bongar
- 2/8 **TRYGVE WASBOTTEN**, son of Marilyn Wasbotten
- 2/9 **CLARK HARMAN**, son of Katherine & Alex Harman
- 2/10 **JEREMY RODRIGUEZ**, son of Wanda Marrero
- 2/10 **KAREN CASBAY**, sister of Laura Reissman
- 2/10 **MARINA ELIZABETH CLOOS**, daughter of Alice Cloos
- 2/10 **PABLO RAMIREZ**, son of Carlos Ramirez
- 2/10 **STUART MILLER**, son of Nancy Morgan
- 2/11 **STACEY LEONDIS**, sister of Diana Leondis
- 2/12 **IAN BOSIN**, son of Judy Neustadter
- 2/13 **BURKE TAYLOR**, brother of Emily Yoshikawa
- 2/13 **GARY LEUNG**, brother of Tony Leung
- 2/13 **ROMEL ARIAS**, son of Luisa Cabrera
- 2/15 **DESTINI DOYLE**, daughter of Annette & Kendall Doyle
- 2/16 **MARTIN DE JESUS FLORES**, brother of Joanna Flores
- 2/16 **RAJESHVARI PATEL**, sister of Sandip Patel

- 2/17 **IRIS**, daughter of Alyson Ben-David
- 2/17 **JONATHAN DIAZ**, son of Jeanette Diaz
- 2/17 **JUSTIN CRAIG LEDERMAN**, son of Ruth Lederman
- 2/17 **QUENTIN MUNDY**, son of Terri Mundy
- 2/18 **DANNY CRONIN**, son of Mary Cronin
- 2/18 **EMRE EDEPLI**, son of Levant & Kirsten Edepli
- 2/19 **DEVON ALLEN**, son of Lisa Singletary
- 2/20 **BLAKELY RUSSELL KAY**, daughter of Barbara Russell
- 2/20 **JOHN RICHARDSON**, son of Vivian Richardson
- 2/20 **LISA COOPER**, daughter of Alphonso Appleton
- 2/20 **MIKEY HARTNETT**, son of Jessica & James Kerwin
- 2/20 **SHANEIREE DAMES**, daughter of Vivian Richardson
- 2/20 **ZACHARY JAMES MILLIKEN**, son of Vigi Cadunz
- 2/21 **ASHLEY HOPE GOODMAN**, daughter of Karen Goodman
- 2/22 **ALEXANDER GOLDIN-KRAUS**, son of Jill Goldin
- 2/22 **DANIEL BRENNAN**, brother of Aileen Brennan
- 2/24 **ANAYA TAHA**, granddaughter of Soheir Kache
- 2/24 **GEORGE MICHAEL PEREZ**, son of Priscilla Perez
- 2/25 **MICHAEL FABI**, son of Donna Leder
- 2/26 **IAN ADLER**, son of Judy Adler
- 2/26 **IMOGEN ROCHE**, daughter of Theseus Roche
- 2/26 **MATTHEW GOODSTEIN**, son of Ann Goodstein
- 2/27 **ADAM AZZOLI**, son of Amanda Azzoli
- 2/27 **ALISON GERTZ**, daughter of Carol & the late Jerry Gertz
- 2/27 **PARIS CAVIC**, sister of Mel Cavic
- 2/27 **QUINDORA PERSUAD**, daughter of Maria Cabassa
- 2/28 **ANTHONY & NICHOLAS AURELIA**, twin sons of Patrick Aurelia
- 2/28 **BARA COLODNE**, daughter of Mia and Eric Colodne
- 2/28 **MARCUS PRESTON**, son of Valerie Preston



**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**  
**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**



- 2/1 **ISABEL XIE**, baby daughter of Denise Chow & Wayne Xie
- 2/1 **JUSTIN HOLLAND**, son of Carole & Marvin Holland
- 2/1 **MISCHA DRUCKER ZIMMERMAN**, son of Henia Drucker
- 2/1 **RALPH JOSEPH GONZALEZ**, son of Blanca Gonzalez
- 2/2 **NARI GAJADHAR**, son of Beena Bermingham, nephew of Asha Singh
- 2/3 **CLARK HARMAN**, son of Katherine & Alex Harman
- 2/3 **GABRIEL ROCCOFORTE**, son of Judith Weiss
- 2/3 **JORDAN JOHN**, brother of Christian John
- 2/4 **ELLA BANDES**, daughter of Judy Kottick & Ken Bandes
- 2/5 **ADAM FELDBERG**, son of Tsipi Taube
- 2/5 **STEFAN PAKULSKI**, brother of Marek Pakulski
- 2/6 **BOBBY BEATTIE**, brother of Rose Beattie
- 2/8 **JESS ILIAS**, son of Chris Clavelli
- 2/8 **WILLIAM (BILLY) SMEAL**, nephew of Amanda Smeal
- 2/10 **JONATHAN BUCAOTO**, son of Ruth Sowell
- 2/10 **JONATHAN TARA**, son of John & Mary Tara
- 2/10 **SANDRA PLOUFFE**, daughter of Margie & Bram Jelin
- 2/12 **KEITH DANIEL**, son of Linda Daniel Finer
- 2/12 **LINCOLN WHEELER-POWELL**, son of John Powell & Britta Wheeler
- 2/12 **PAMELYNN SAMUEL**, daughter of Madelaine Samuel
- 2/12 **RAJESHVARI PATEL**, sister of Sandip Patel
- 2/13 **BRENDAN BITTNER**, brother of Jessica Bittner Markus
- 2/13 **LEO AYALA**, son of Gila Ayala
- 2/14 **DANIEL BRENNAN**, brother of Aileen Brennan
- 2/14 **ISAAC RAUCH**, son of Marc Rauch & Lisa Anderson
- 2/14 **KRISTEN SANCHEZ**, sister of Melissa Rosario
- 2/14 **NAOMI STOLAR**, sister of Susan Schindler

- 2/14 **RHETT THOMPSON**, son of Gayla Thompson
- 2/15 **RONAN CHRISTOPHER LOUIS**, son of Rick Louis
- 2/17 **LAURIE NICHOLS**, daughter of Marie Jones
- 2/17 **RICHARD VALDEZ**, son of Lisa Valdez
- 2/18 **BRIAN GEWIRTZ**, son of Kathleen & Steven Gewirtz
- 2/18 **MICHELE SIEGEL**, daughter of Lillian Hass
- 2/19 **BRANDON WEDEL**, brother of Brittni Wedel
- 2/19 **CASEY STRAKA**, son of Dana Straka
- 2/19 **CORLYN HAYNES**, daughter of Yvonne Haynes
- 2/19 **IAN ADLER**, son of Judy Adler
- 2/19 **JAVAN STEWART**, son of Omarr & Ursula Stewart
- 2/19 **KELLI ANNE AULETTA**, daughter of Dick & Mary Auletta, sister of Kimberlee
- 2/19 **LORI HEALY**, daughter of Tom Healy
- 2/20 **GERSON JAIR SALMON**, son of Ivette Salmon
- 2/21 **ALEXANDER ROBERTS**, son of Nancy Roberts
- 2/21 **TEVIN A. HAMPTON**, son of Patricia Lilly
- 2/22 **CARLOS APONTE**, son of Mildred Aponte
- 2/22 **SERYNA RODRIGUEZ**, daughter of Marilyn Castro
- 2/23 **AODHAN CUMISHEY**, daughter of Donal Cumishey
- 2/24 **LEO CONAGHAN**, nephew of Ellen Barry
- 2/24 **MARTIN DE JESUS FLORES**, brother of Joanna Flores
- 2/25 **MARY ANN VALVERDE**, sister of Victoria Soto
- 2/26 **GLENN SPELLER JR.**, son of Glenn Speller Sr.
- 2/26 **JOSEPH MARINO**, brother of Joanne Marino
- 2/27 **FLORENCE FRAZER**, sister of Harri Molese
- 2/27 **PAUL THOMPSON**, son of Elaine Thompson
- 2/28 **MICHAEL MCGOVERN**, son of Harri Molese



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| THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CHAT SCHEDULE.<br><a href="#">Click here to display exact times and to see entire schedule</a> |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| ET   | MORNING  | EARLIER EVENING   | LATER EVENING   |
| MON  | Parents/Grandparents/Siblings                        | First time CHAT orientation                                     | General Bereavement<br>Parents/Grandparents/Siblings        |
| TUE  |  | Loss to Substance Related Causes<br>First time CHAT orientation | Bereaved less than 2 yrs<br>Bereaved more than 2 yrs        |
| WED  | Parents/Grandparents/Siblings                        | First time CHAT orientation                                     | General Bereavement<br>Parents/Grandparents/Siblings        |
| THU  |  | No Surviving Children<br>First time CHAT orientation            | General Bereavement<br>Parents/Grandparents/Siblings        |
| FRI  | General Bereavement<br>Parents/Grandparents/Siblings | Pregnancy/Infant Loss   | General Bereavement<br>Parents/Grandparents/Siblings        |
| SAT  |  |   | General Bereavement<br>Parents/Grandparents/Siblings        |
| SUN  |  | Suicide Loss  | General Bereavement Issues<br>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:  
**JAN 21 FEB 18 MAR 18 APR 15**

**Newsletter article submissions are welcome.**  
Please email to [marielevine2@verizon.net](mailto:marielevine2@verizon.net)

**MAKE A DONATION**  
[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

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

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](#)