



The Compassionate Friends
Manhattan Chapter
 Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Our next meetings...
May 10 & 24
Jun 14 & 28
Jul 12 & 26
Aug 9 & 23

Manhattan Chapter Newsletter **May 2022**

Thoughts on Mother’s Day

A mother’s love is something that no one can explain. It’s made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain.

It is endless and unselfish, and enduring come what may. For nothing can destroy it or take that love away.

It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking, and it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking...

It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns, and it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems...

It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation, and it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation.

A many splendored miracle man cannot understand. and another wondrous evidence of God’s tender guiding hand.

~Helen Steiner Rice

Half a life...
 by Marie Levine, 2019

My fears are catching up with my reality. I’m reading a blog by a young widow who complains about the life she is missing having lost her partner before they could live the life they planned. I read a lot about widowhood now – just as I read a lot about child loss then.

When Peter died 25 years ago at the age of 22, Phil and I had lived half our lives. Peter had barely lived a quarter of his and we felt we had all been robbed – Peter of his entire adulthood and we of everything we were sure life had to offer.

My grief back then was distinctly colored by anger and fear. I was angry for Peter. He had worked so hard to achieve young adulthood and the promise of a successful life. There were no guarantees, but back then we all believed that hard work and perseverance would prove to be a ticket to success. We didn’t really understand how little control we had and that no matter what we do, life happens. I was angry for me and Phil – for all we had invested in life and had been lead to expect - the reasonable rewards that would no doubt follow all our efforts – a growing family, grandchildren and a comfortable old age.

When Peter died, ripped suddenly from our lives, fear rode in and added fire to the anger. Suddenly, the impossible became possible. If this could happen, anything could. My world became totally unstable, incomprehensible and treacherous. If Peter could die, anything could happen; waiting for a light to cross the street, every car seemed about to lose control and come careening into me; the scaffold I walked under might suddenly collapse; if my husband didn’t arrive home within the expected hour, surely some tragedy had befallen him; every ache or pain was surely a terminal condition. I was doomed and I didn’t much care – without our child to watch over and advocate for us, old age was too terrifying to even contemplate.

(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 are willing to listen and share with you. Don’t hesitate to call our Manhattan Chapter phone for meeting information **(917) 300 3706**. To speak with someone please call one of the following volunteers; Jacquie Mitchell (eves) (347) 414-1780 jacquienytcf@gmail.com and for siblings, Jordon Ferber (917) 837-7752, beatniknudnik@yahoo.com

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

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



TCF 45th National Conference
Houston, TX • August 5-7, 2022

45TH TCF NATIONAL CONFERENCE

LOVE SOARS THROUGH CLOUDS OF HOPE

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

[Click here for more information](#)



TCF 45th National Conference
Houston, TX • August 5-7, 2022

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

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

This year's conference will be held at the Marriott Marquis Houston. Reservations can now be made [online](#) at TCF's dedicated reservation link. TCF's discounted room rate with Marriott is \$149 per night plus tax.

Please note that each attendee will only be able to reserve two rooms. Since the conference begins early on Friday and pre-conference activities are offered on Thursday evening, attendees usually find it beneficial to arrive on Thursday.

[Click here for more information](#)

Half a life

(con't from page 1)

Despite the fear, we managed during these past 25 years, to reconstruct our lives, including Peter in everything. As the years passed, as the unremitting pain subsided and a general sadness and longing took hold, we survived the changing of the seasons, the many grandchildren born to friends and family, the holiday seasons, the special days. We took advantage of opportunities to travel, entertained and were entertained by friends, and continued to grieve privately while associates took comfort in our apparent "return to normalcy". Alone together, we became one unit devoted to keeping Peter's memory alive, comforted by knowing we each had a partner carrying half of the same load. We had both crawled out of the same trench in the same war. We both recognized in each other the identical effort it had taken to survive.

And now, Phil is gone – reunited with our beloved son while I am left here to continue the task of keeping memory alive. As Peter lost the future that might have been, I've lost the history that was. Like the tree that falls alone in the forest, with no one to hear, my grief, though understood by my compassionate friends, no longer has a receiver – it brings on a solitary-ness I have never known and am hard pressed to describe.

As Phil used to say, "nobody gets out of here alive." Except for those who leave early, everyone will confront old age and ultimately inhabit it. Life has more than enough effortless, built in unavoidable unpleasant memories. Making good memories, "the roses in December", should be our most conscious effort and our highest priority. The season of hope and renewal is upon us. Don't waste a minute.

~ Marie Levine, January 2019

Gifts of Love

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

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

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

Making a contribution –

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

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

The Courage to Come Back Again

By Cathy Seehuetter, TCF St. Paul, MN

It will be eight years this May that my daughter Nina died. On the one hand, it often feels like the life-altering spring day of that horrible accident just happened. On the other hand, it sometimes feels like it has been forever that she has been gone; forever since I saw her unforgettable braces-laden smile that could light up any room she walked into; forever since I heard her infectious giggle as she good-naturedly but relentlessly teased her younger brother; forever since her nightly ritual of coming into my home office, hugging me from behind while I sat in my chair and saying, "Good night, Mommy. I love you."

Almost all of those eight years I have been attending TCF meetings, as I went to my first meeting three weeks later. I was kindly told of The Compassionate Friends shortly after Nina's death. I will be forever grateful to the director of the funeral home who led me to TCF. When I heard that there was a support group for bereaved parents in the area that met twice a month I quickly jotted it on my calendar – I couldn't wait to be with others who truly understood the devastation in my heart and soul, who wouldn't fear my grief, and who wouldn't say things like, "I know just how you feel; I once had a dog that died." (!!!!)

Although my experience at the first meeting I attended was a positive one, I did have questions. For instance, why were some of these parents laughing? It was impossible to think I would ever hear the sound of my own laughter again. Didn't they love their child as much as I loved Nina?

Another quizzicality; why were some still attending meetings ten years after their child died? Did that mean that even after ten years they still felt the same horrific crippling pain that I was feeling then? Did that mean I was never going to "get better"? A horrifying thought to say the least!

I often wonder if some of the other parents who come to a meeting for the first time and then never return have had the same questions.

To say attending those first meetings is an easy thing to do would be wrong. In many ways, it can feel like the most difficult thing you have done since your child's death. Listening to the painful stories of other bereaved parents and sharing their sadness and despair is extremely hard. It is not surprising that many conclude they do not want to subject themselves to any more pain than they are already experiencing. However, maybe they were again able to find, in their own time, their long forgotten sense of humor, able to find a slice of joy again in their lives. If they could, then just maybe it would happen to me too – and I can assure you that it has.

It was also frightening to think about the parents who still came to meetings many years after their child's death. But after attending several meetings and getting to know these same people, I understood why they were still there. For one thing, there is a special closeness and bonding that we as bereaved parents have from sharing our innermost feelings and fears. Grief can be an isolating experience, but at a meeting that loneliness evaporates. Moreover, it is the one place we can talk about our child who has died as much as we like without making anyone feel uncomfortable. Because of this sharing, I feel like I personally know everyone of our TCF group's children and they know my daughter as well. After all, we have learned about them from those who love them the most!

(con't in next column)

As Mother's Day approaches, my thoughts....

By Natalie Smith-Blakeslee

It is a day which was set aside for all that we, as Mothers do for others, and our children. To some as well as myself this speaks of not only the children in the living we have, but still as Mothers to the children or child we have lost. Some of the Mothers I have gotten to know have lost their ONLY child. Here are some of the ways you can help a bereaved mom on Mother's Day.

- Bring up her child's name. Most of us can talk endlessly about our children. Not talking about our child hurts more than speaking of them
- Bereaved moms love to talk about our children and can tell you stories that will make us laugh and cry at the same time.
- Ask about a special gift we got on Mother's Day from our child/children that has passed.
- If you ask about our child and we cry doesn't mean that you have done anything wrong. The tears we shed are for a multitude of different reasons.
- Know that even though it is Mother's Day, we will still want to honor our children and may want to take flowers or balloons to the gravesite. WE feel we were honored to have them for the time that we did.
- Know that your kind words and thoughtfulness doesn't go un-noticed.
- The best gift of all you can give a bereaved Mom is the gift of friendship
- The gift of patience.
- And the gift of Love.
- And a hug, for today is a day that we remember being a Mom to the child/children we lost.

The Courage to Come Back Again *(continued)*

However, I think the majority of us "veterans" of TCF will tell you the main reason we still continue to come to meetings is our desire to give back by being there for the newly bereaved parents who walk through our meeting-place doors, just as others were there for us early on in our grief. It has become a part of our life's purpose and a big step in our healing to return what we so gratefully received from those parents before us.

If you have found another healthy means of dealing with your grief, we are very thankful. We know that support groups are not for everyone. But, if not, give our meetings another try (or two or three). You can come to talk about your experiences or say nothing at all and listen to the others – that is entirely up to you. Whatever your needs, we truly believe that in our group you will find understanding, comfort, affirmation, hope, friendship, and caring. We know it takes a lot of courage to come back again, but we want to help – we are your Compassionate Friends.

With gentle thoughts,

Cathy Seehuetter, TCF St. Paul, MN

The Robin's Song By Genesse Bourdeau Gentry

It's spring once again. Our part of the world is turning back towards the sun; trees are leafing out; wildflowers are blooming. Robins are again singing to one another. And, I believe, also singing to those who are grieving.

Before my daughter Lori died in the summer of 1991, I was under the misperception that only the English robin had a glorious song. That smaller, red-breasted scalawag of a bird delights all who hear it, and I had felt that we in the United States had been short-changed when they'd misnamed its larger, boring, American cousin the same sweet name. All I'd ever heard our robins do was cheep! Then one spring day in the year after Lori died, during one of the darkest times of my grief, my ears and heart flew open with surprise at a song I heard outside my window. I distinctly heard, in the midst of my pain, a bird singing loudly and clearly, "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheerio! . . . Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheerio!" I went outside to see what marvelous bird might have been sent to sing to me. I could barely see the bird at the top of the neighbor's poplar tree, so, while hoping this exotic, magical bird wouldn't fly away while I was gone, I went to find our binoculars.

Rushing back, I could hear the bird from each room in the house. After adjusting the binoculars, I was truly amazed to see one of our "boring" American robins come clearly into view! As he continued singing clear as day, "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheerio!" I marveled at this special message and wondered if my robin was the only one who sang these words. So I looked it up in my Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds and found that my robin was not an anomaly, but that robins are considered the true harbinger of spring, singing "Cheer-up, cheer-up, cheerily."

I stood there that day filled with wonder. I wasn't hearing things; there it was in the bird book: "Cheer-up, cheer-up, cheerily." I thought to myself, "Cheerily . . . No, that isn't what I hear. "We had lived in England for a year and our family, especially Lori, who loved to put on an English accent, often said "Cheerio!" to one another when we meant, "Goodbye" or "See you later!" There was no doubt in my mind as I stood there listening. It WAS cheerio. Lori could have found no more perfect way to try to cheer me up AND say "hello"!

Nine springs have passed since then, and although I will always deeply miss Lori's physical presence in my life, those darkest of times are thankfully now mostly in the past. It is spring once again and as I hear the robin singing so hopefully in the highest branches, it takes me back to that first spring song, and I smile, remembering. And I think of all those who are now in the darkest depths of their own grief and pray they too will hear this lovely song.

TUESDAYS

TUESDAYS AT 7:00PM

With Jordon Ferber - Sibling Leader

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

Sign up to get our siblings schedule emails

[Click here for exclusive sibling emails](#)

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

www.compassionatefriends.nyc

Because You Once Walked Through

Now more years have passed us by
and thirty-five you'd be.
The years have come, the years have gone,
and you are what I see.

I feel you in the sunset,
and as each new day dawns.
You're with us in the starlight
and as the day draws on.

You hold a place much altered
from when you once were here.
But nothing's changed the way we feel,
you're in the love we share.

We may not hug or hold you
except for in our dreams.
But you have shown us, given proof,
that life's not what it seems.

That death is not the end of life,
you're not so far away.
That your life flows through each of us
as we love and laugh and play.

So, dear child, as we go on
with and without you here,
send your light to help us see,
a guide through smiles and tears.

And our lives will be a tribute,
we'll do our best for you.
The world will be a better place,
because you once walked through.

~ Genesse Gentry, from "Catching the light"

The Compassionate Friends Sibling Credo

We are the surviving siblings of The Compassionate Friends

We are brought together by the deaths of our brothers and sisters

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

Sometimes we need our families to be there.

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

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

When our brothers and sisters died, our lives changed.

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

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

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



OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

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





OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED
MAY ANNIVERSARIES



- 5/2 **BRADLEY KEITH BONGAR**, son of Beth Bongar
- 5/2 **CRYSTAL LAUZAU**, daughter of Gwyneth Hotaling
- 5/2 **JONATHAN JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ**, son of Gina Rodriguez, grandson of Maggie Valentin
- 5/2 **MARLON LABOVITCH**, son of Hannah Labovitch
- 5/2 **WILLIAM EDWARD SHUBERT**, son of Irma E. Shubert
- 5/3 **JOEY MASLIAH**, brother of Amanda Rockoff
- 5/5 **ANDY FISHER**, son of Barbara Fisher
- 5/5 **JENNIFER BLANCHE BYRD**, daughter of Claudia Byrd
- 5/5 **JOE MCCLENAHAN**, brother of Michael McClenahan
- 5/6 **CHRISTINE SCHLENDORF**, daughter of Karen Schlendorf
- 5/6 **MELISSA AVRIN**, sister of Andrew Avrin
- 5/6 **WILL TANG**, brother of Sandra Tang
- 5/7 **GER ANDLINGER**, daughter of Jeanne Andlinger
- 5/7 **PHILIP SULZER**, son of Barbara & Burton Sulzer, brother of Lisa Sulzer
- 5/9 **BENJAMIN LEWIS KAPLAN**, son of Barbara Lewis Kaplan
- 5/9 **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
- 5/13 **OWEN MULLER**, son of Jane K. Muller
- 5/14 **CANDICE CHEN**, daughter of Belle Tung
- 5/14 **NORBI MORGENSTEIN**, daughter of Gary Morgenstein
- 5/15 **ROSE LIANG**, sister of Holly & Chue Liang
- 5/15 **RYAN THOMAS**, son of Jacqueline Thomas
- 5/16 **BENJAMIN HARTFORD**, son of Nora Madonick
- 5/18 **GRETA GREENE**, daughter of Stacy & Jayson Greene

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



Our Children Remembrances — Changes

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

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

Dan Zweig



OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



- 6/1 **TSAIGH GREENIDGE-JAMES**, son of Sinaya Greenidge, brother of Niasia Greenidge-James
- 6/3 **JESSE VALENTINE**, son of Joanna Valentine
- 6/4 **ADAM JACOBS**, son of Rick Jacobs
- 6/5 **JOHN COOPER JR.**, brother of Keith P. Cooper
- 6/5 **MAYA**, sister of Matt Klegon
- 6/6 **HOLLY OESTREICH**, daughter of Joyce Oestreich
- 6/6 **ZACH HOWELS**, brother of Matt Howels
- 6/7 **JOSETTE GIBBS**, daughter of Juanita Gibbs
- 6/9 **JOEY**, son of Shantel Morrison & Tamara Cantave
- 6/9 **RASHID WASHINGTON**, son of Chakaina Anderson
- 6/9 **TIMOTHY KOK**, brother of Tse Wei Kok
- 6/10 **BLAKE GARY**, daughter of Denyze Gary
- 6/10 **LOUIS DEDAJ**, brother of Victor Dedaj
- 6/10 **MARLON LABOVITCH**, son of Hannah Labovitch
- 6/10 **NOAH GLARPHAM**, son of David & Heather Kopp
- 6/10 **ORIYAH GRAY**, daughter of Chelsea Conklin
- 6/10 **TAYLOR HOLLOWAY**, brother of Brittany Holloway-Brown
- 6/11 **BENJAMIN GOURDJI**, son of Anna Gourdji
- 6/11 **RUSSELL GABAY**, brother of Lori Gabay
- 6/14 **ORION DUMITRIU**, son of Winnie Yang
- 6/15 **AODHAN CUMISHEY**, daughter of Donal Cumishey
- 6/16 **JASON ZAINITZ**, son of Linda Zaintz
- 6/16 **SHAY DORRITIE**, son of Richard Dorritie
- 6/17 **REBECCA MOORE**, daughter of Debra Phillips
- 6/17 **VICENTE EDUARDO**, son of Tomasina Eduardo
- 6/18 **CHANDI PYTOWSKI**, daughter of Rosanne Cosentino & Bronek Pytowski
- 6/18 **JACK FREYTES**, son of Olga Lopez & Elvin Freytes

- 6/18 **JOSIAH BAAWUAH**, son of Porsha & Terry Baawuah
- 6/18 **JUDAH GUBBAY**, son of Marge Gubbay
- 6/18 **KASRIEL BENJAMIN**, son of Sarah & Tony Benjamin
- 6/19 **RACHEL AUSTER**, daughter of Gail Auster
- 6/20 **PAUL FONGKIN**, brother of Desiree Brown
- 6/20 **YULIA KRASHENNAYA**, sister of Deb Faynshteyn
- 6/21 **RALPH JOSEPH GONZALEZ**, son of Blanca Gonzalez
- 6/21 **WILLIAM EDWARD SHUBERT**, son of Irma E. Shubert
- 6/22 **CELINA PACHECO**, daughter of Evelyn Gonzalez
- 6/22 **JELANI CARTER**, son of Darlene Hoffman
- 6/23 **JOE MCCLENAHAN**, brother of Michael McClenahan
- 6/23 **PAUL WALKER**, son of Ellen Walker
- 6/24 **HUMZA MALIK**, brother of Amani Malik
- 6/25 **JASON R. CHIN**, son of China Chin
- 6/25 **SANDRA CHU**, Best friend of Emanuel Veras
- 6/26 **ALAN SOLITAR**, son of Susie & Bruce Solitar
- 6/26 **ANTHONY HELZER**, son of Donna Romer
- 6/28 **CIANNA L. ALEXANDER**, daughter of Rebecca Harper-Alexander
- 6/28 **VIRGINIA JOHNSON**, sister of Angela Pistilli
- 6/29 **DAVID ZABLIDOWSKY**, son of Doris & Martin Zablidowsky
- 6/29 **JAVAN STEWART**, son of Omarr & Ursula Stewart
- 6/29 **KAREEM EDWARDS-MITCHELL**, son of Jacquie & John Mitchell, brother of Kristopher & the late Kevin Mitchell
- 6/30 **CAROLINE MASON**, daughter of Rachel Mason
- 6/30 **IAN BYSTOCK**, son of Marc Bystock
- 6/30 **JORGIE PEREZ**, sister of Janeisy Perez
- 6/30 **LINDA MARQUEZ**, daughter of Hilda Mendoza
- 6/30 **SAVANNAH WIGGINS**, daughter of Dolores Wiggins



Our Children Remembrances — Changes

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

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

Dan Zweig



**OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED
JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**



- 6/1 **LOUIS PEREZ**, son of Mercedes Tapia
- 6/1 **ED DELVALLE**, son of Carmen DelValle, brother of Judy DelValle
- 6/2 **NICHOLAS SOTO**, son of Deborah Freeman & Eddie B. Soto, Jr.
- 6/2 **WILLIAM MAEROV**, son of Lance Maerov
- 6/4 **SACHA REID KANTOR**, son of Kathy Landau & Michael Kantor
- 6/6 **JOCELYN REED**, daughter of Cynthia Powell
- 6/7 **ANDREW MARTIN ARNOLD**, brother of Barbara Arnold
- 6/7 **BLAKELY RUSSELL KAY**, daughter of Barbara Russell
- 6/7 **VIRGINIA JOHNSON**, sister of Angela Pistilli
- 6/9 **HARVEY STERMER**, brother of Carol Lee Stermer-Aulicino
- 6/9 **JENNIFER CARGILL**, daughter of Virginia Crosby
- 6/9 **STEVEN SCHWARTZ**, son of Ellen Schwartz
- 6/10 **BRYAN KELLY**, son of Sean Kelly
- 6/10 **DAVID GIBBS**, son of Ann Gibbs
- 6/10 **MIKE CHARY**, brother of EllaRose Chary
- 6/10 **REBECCA MOORE**, daughter of Debra Phillips
- 6/10 **SCOTT LACROIX**, brother of Kendra Lacroix
- 6/10 **ZIGGY MARTINEZ**, daughter of Sally Tucker
- 6/12 **CHRISTOPHER WAGNER**, son of Linda & Edward Wagner
- 6/12 **FRANK UNTENER**, son of Barbara Chase
- 6/12 **LUIS A. GARCIA**, son of Tania Germes
- 6/12 **PATRICK CESARIO**, son of Sharon Cesario, brother of Frank Cesario
- 6/13 **STEFANO AGOSTINELLI**, son of Pascale Agostinelli
- 6/14 **AHMAD SHARRIEFF-AL-BEY**, son of Rashied Sharrieff-Al-Bey
- 6/15 **CHRISTOPHER ROMINE**, brother of Jennifer Romine

- 6/15 **NEILL PERRI**, son of Maddie & Cliff Kasden
- 6/15 **PIERRE MCALOON**, son of Peggy McAloon
- 6/16 **BRIAN GOLDBERG**, son of Gloria & Arthur Goldberg
- 6/16 **JOSH GROSSE**, son of Susan Grosse
- 6/18 **BLAKE GARY**, daughter of Denyze Gary
- 6/18 **LISA WEINER**, sister of Abby Moller
- 6/20 **AARON BENVENISTE**, grandson of Susan & Richard Rosenbluth
- 6/20 **ALEX KNEPPER**, son of Lisa & Emanuel Psychojos
- 6/20 **JAKE MAJER**, grandson of Linda Reed
- 6/21 **MARIA**, daughter of Gigi Semone
- 6/22 **KAREN CASBAY**, sister of Laura Reissman
- 6/23 **ANDRE AMES**, son of Jacqueline Jackson
- 6/23 **ROBERT WILLIAMS JR.**, son of Kimberly Hatwood
- 6/24 **PETER TRAKIS**, son of Dolores & John Trakis
- 6/26 **CAMERON NICHOLLS**, son of Stephanie Moore Nicholls
- 6/26 **JULIETTE DICKSTEIN**, daughter of Gail Luria
- 6/27 **ANJELINA PATRICE WILLS**, granddaughter of Patricia Tyler-Owens
- 6/27 **BETTY DIBIASO**, daughter of Susan Carty
- 6/27 **JAQUELINE AHERN**, niece of Nan Ahern
- 6/27 **JASON MARKS**, son of Helena Marks
- 6/28 **ANTONIA DALEY**, granddaughter of Linda Daley
- 6/28 **MALIK DUFOR**, son of Waltrina DeFrantz-Dufor
- 6/30 **DAVID PICARD**, son of Darlene Picard
- 6/30 **KAREEM EDWARDS-MITCHELL**, son of Jacquie & John Mitchell, brother of Kristopher & the late Kevin Mitchell
- 6/30 **MITCHELL WALKER**, son of Fountain Walker
- 6/30 **ROMEL ARIAS**, son of Luisa Cabrera



Gifts of Love

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

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

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

Making a contribution –

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

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

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

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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Our next Chapter meetings are Tuesdays:
MAY 10 JUN 14 JUL 12 AUG 9
MAY 24 JUN 28 JUL 26 AUG 23

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](#)