



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 Seehuettter, 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 Seehuettter, 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	5/17	ROWENNA WIGHT WHITE , daughter of Nancy Wight
5/1	MICHAEL ANTHONY EAGLE , son of Leslie Katina Eagle	5/18	ABIGAIL BURG , daughter of Jean & David Burg
5/2	CASEY LOW , brother of Dara Low	5/18	ALESSIA MORRONE , daughter of Amy Morrone
5/2	GAVIN PESKIN , son of Leah Peskin	5/18	EDDIE WALSH , twin brother of Tricia Walsh
5/3	JOSEPH MARINO , brother of Joanne Marino	5/18	WILLIAM GRIFFO , son of Yvona & William Griffio, brother of Mike Griffio
5/4	CHRISTOPHER MEYER , brother of Kimberly Meyer	5/19	BENJAMIN RACCALE , son of Sara Raccale
5/5	ANDRE AMES , son of Jacqueline Jackson	5/19	CHRISTOPHER EISELE , son of Kathleen & John Montoya
5/5	IAN DINER , son of Martin & Nicki Diner, brother of Paige Diner	5/19	DAVID YOOD , son of Nora & Barry Yood
5/5	ROBERT SULKOWSKI , brother of Sarah Sulkowski	5/20	DAN OSHINSKY , brother of Julie Mintz
5/5	RUBY MANE , daughter of Mohasin Mane	5/20	DANNY VOLEN , brother of Raizy Volen
5/5	SAGE JOSEPH , daughter of Debra Driscoll	5/21	ALEX WITONSKY , brother of Ava Witonsky
5/6	ANDREW MARTIN , son of Marina Re	5/21	SERYNA RODRIGUEZ , daughter of Marilyn Castro
5/6	BAYLIN CODDINGTON , son of Debra F. Coddington	5/22	BRIAN GEWIRTZ , son of Kathleen & Steven Gewirtz
5/6	DAVID KRANZ , son of Denise Kranz and Charles Katz	5/22	ISABELLA CARROLL , daughter of Doreen Carroll
5/6	JASON ELLIS , son of Michael Ellis	5/22	LINDA GIOVE , daughter of Arlene Schechter
5/8	JORDAN JOHN , brother of Christian John	5/22	NOAH REISMAN , brother of Rachel Reisman
5/8	MARSHALL NEIDIG , son of Quinn and Joe Neidig	5/24	ALEX HARRY SINGER , son of Susan & Lewis Singer
5/9	BRENDEN CARSON , son of Debra Carson	5/24	CHARLIE DENIHAN , son of Barbara and Ben Denihan, brother of Krissy and Kate
5/9	SACHA REID KANTOR , son of Kathy Landau & Michael Kantor	5/24	JULIETTE DICKSTEIN , daughter of Gail Luria
5/11	JOHN HULWIYA , brother of Vanessa Hulwiya	5/25	BRANDON SCHWARTZ , son of Joann & Mark Schwartz
5/11	SEAN MCCLURE , son of Patricia McClure	5/26	AMANDA RUSSELL , sister of Katie Turner
5/11	TATE RAMSDEN , brother of Ashley Ramsden	5/26	JOSEPH ALINI , son of Maria Rodriguez
5/12	CHRISTINE FORNATO , sister of Theresa Fornato	5/27	ROBERT ZIETEK , brother of Barbara Zietek
5/12	LEO CONAGHAN , nephew of Ellen Barry	5/27	ZAIDA SANTIAGO , daughter of Selena Santiago & Lewis Harbour
5/12	MATTHEW YUDELMAN , grandson of Anne Schuman & Ian Yudelman	5/29	LOUIS PEREZ , son of Mercedes Tapia
5/13	BRENDA CHAPMAN , daughter of Della Scrugs	5/30	WILLIAM MAEROV , son of Lance Maerov
5/13	EVAN MAXWELL , brother of Jean Maxwell	5/30	JON ROMULO , son of Tocy Friend
5/13	NOAH BOWER , son of Pat Bower Cooley	5/30	KRISTINA ESPOSITO , daughter of Cecilia Esposito
5/13	NOAH STERN , son of Barbara Samuels & Nicholas Stern	5/30	OLIVIA PETRERA COHEN , daughter of Nancy Petrera
5/13	RORY STAUNTON , son of Orlaith & Ciaran Staunton	5/30	RICHIE BENANTI , son of Monica Benanti
5/16	ALIYAH RABSATT , daughter of Patricia Rabsatt	5/30	TROY O. MYERS , son of Claudette Hannibal
5/16	JUSTIN ALMON , brother of Kristina Adam	5/31	HARVEY STERMER , brother of Carol Lee Stermer-Aulicino
5/16	KHALID ALBABAA , son of Kerri Albabaa	5/31	KOFI A. MENSAH JR. , son of Rosinah Mensah & the late Samuel A. Mensah, brother of Dr. Kofi A. Mensah, Ph.D
5/17	LYDIA WOOD , daughter of Matt Wood		
5/17	PATRICE WALKER , daughter of Mazrene Holmes		





OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED

MAY ANNIVERSARIES



5/2	BRADLEY KEITH BONGAR , son of Beth Bongar	5/18	LAVONE SANTANA , son of Istrha Santana
5/2	CRYSTAL LAUZAU , daughter of Gwyneth Hotaling	5/18	MAHLIK WILLIAMS , son of Ramona Williams, brother of Mekael Williams
5/2	JONATHAN JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ , son of Gina Rodriguez, grandson of Maggie Valentin	5/18	MICHAEL RAVEN , son of Selma & Rob Raven
5/2	MARLON LABOVITCH , son of Hannah Labovitch	5/19	ALESSIA MORRONE , daughter of Amy Morrone
5/2	WILLIAM EDWARD SHUBERT , son of Irma E. Shubert	5/19	DEREK GOMEZ , son of Marta Freyre & Robert McManus, brother of Xiomara Gomez
5/3	JOEY MASLIAH , brother of Amanda Rockoff	5/19	MARY GIBBS , sister of Cynthia Gibbs-Pratt
5/5	ANDY FISHER , son of Barbara Fisher	5/20	JACK FREYTES , son of Olga Lopez & Elvin Freytes
5/5	JENNIFER BLANCHE BYRD , daughter of Claudia Byrd	5/20	JEREMY RODRIGUEZ , son of Wanda Marrero
5/5	JOE MCCLENAHAN , brother of Michael McClenahan	5/21	ADAM JACOBS , son of Rick Jacobs
5/6	CHRISTINE SCHLENDORF , daughter of Karen Schlendorf	5/21	IAN DINER , son of Martin & Nicki Diner, brother of Paige Diner
5/6	MELISSA AVRIN , sister of Andrew Avrin	5/22	STEVE DAVOREN , brother of Doug Davoren
5/6	WILL TANG , brother of Sandra Tang	5/22	TAYLOR HOLLOWAY , brother of Brittany Holloway-Brown
5/7	GER ANDLINGER , daughter of Jeanne Andlinger	5/23	ADRIAN V. ROSAS , son of Alejandra & Adriano Rosas
5/7	PHILIP SULZER , son of Barbara & Burton Sulzer, brother of Lisa Sulzer	5/24	AMELIA (YANNIE) CORBETT , sister of Sara Corbett
5/9	BENJAMIN LEWIS KAPLAN , son of Barbara Lewis Kaplan	5/25	JACK ROBERTS , son of Joanne Wright
5/9	BRUCE WALES , son of Fran Wales	5/25	JOVI RAMOS , son of Desiree Ramos
5/10	LOGAN GENTRY , son of Christine Spiro	5/25	MICHAEL VINCENT ROSEN PIPITONE , son of Alison Rosen & David Hantman
5/10	MICHELLE GITTENS , daughter of Lanise M. Ballard-Gittens	5/26	LISA DONOFRIO , daughter of Christina Korteweg
5/11	MATTHEW BAUMEISTER , son of Lynn & Mitch Baumeister	5/27	CRAIG MARTINEZ , son of Louis Hampton Martinez
5/12	ELIZABETH O'HARE , sister of Christopher O'Hare	5/27	EMMA GRACE KNOWLTON , daughter of Samantha Knowlton
5/12	GIRBUN LAO , brother of Ithreum Brown	5/27	JOEY HOLLIDAY , son of Billy & Terry Holliday
5/12	MICHAEL FABI , son of Donna Leder	5/27	SARAH AKHTAR , sister of Alafia Akhtar and Rahil Darbur
5/13	OWEN MULLER , son of Jane K. Muller	5/27	TERRANCE RICHARDSON , son of Theresa Richardson, brother of Francina Branch Elysee
5/14	CANDICE CHEN , daughter of Belle Tung	5/28	HUMZA MALIK , brother of Amani Malik
5/14	NORBI MORGENSEIN , daughter of Gary Morgenstien	5/29	MAMADON JOHNSON , sister of Djassi Johnson
5/15	ROSE LIANG , sister of Holly & Chue Liang	5/30	CAMDYN JAYEL DUCKWORTH , daughter of Tiffany Clark
5/15	RYAN THOMAS , son of Jacqueline Thomas	5/31	ANTONIO LAW , son of Jacqueline Law
5/16	BENJAMIN HARTFORD , son of Nora Madonick		
5/18	GRETA GREENE , daughter of Stacy & Jayson Greene		



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	6/18	JOSIAH BAAWUAH , son of Porsha & Terry Baawuah
6/3	JESSE VALENTINE , son of Joanna Valentine	6/18	JUDAH GUBBAY , son of Marge Gubbay
6/4	ADAM JACOBS , son of Rick Jacobs	6/19	KASRIEL BENJAMIN , son of Sarah & Tony Benjamin
6/5	JOHN COOPER JR. , brother of Keith P. Cooper	6/20	RAEHL AUSTER , daughter of Gail Auster
6/5	MAYA , sister of Matt Klegon	6/20	PAUL FONGKIN , brother of Desiree Brown
6/6	HOLLY OESTREICH , daughter of Joyce Oestreich	6/21	YULIA KRASHENNAYA , sister of Deb Faynshteyn
6/6	ZACH HOWELS , brother of Matt Howels	6/21	RALPH JOSEPH GONZALEZ , son of Blanca Gonzalez
6/7	JOSETTE GIBBS , daughter of Juanita Gibbs	6/22	WILLIAM EDWARD SHUBERT , son of Irma E. Shubert
6/9	JOEY , son of Shantel Morrison & Tamara Cantave	6/22	CELINA PACHECO , daughter of Evelyn Gonzalez
6/9	RASHID WASHINGTON , son of Chakaina Anderson	6/23	JELANI CARTER , son of Darlene Hoffman
6/9	TIMOTHY KOK , brother of Tse Wei Kok	6/23	JOE MCCLENAHAN , brother of Michael McClenahan
6/10	BLAKE GARY , daughter of Denyze Gary	6/23	PAUL WALKER , son of Ellen Walker
6/10	LOUIS DEDAJ , brother of Victor Dedaj	6/24	HUMZA MALIK , brother of Amani Malik
6/10	MARLON LABOVITCH , son of Hannah Labovitch	6/25	JASON R. CHIN , son of China Chin
6/10	NOAH GLARPHAM , son of David & Heather Kopp	6/25	SANDRA CHU , Best friend of Emanuel Veras
6/10	ORIYAH GRAY , daughter of Chelsea Conklin	6/26	ALAN SOLITAR , son of Susie & Bruce Solitar
6/10	TAYLOR HOLLOWAY , brother of Brittany Holloway-Brown	6/26	ANTHONY HELZER , son of Donna Romer
6/11	BENJAMIN GOURDJI , son of Anna Gourdji	6/28	CIANNA L. ALEXANDER , daughter of Rebecca Harper-Alexander
6/11	RUSSELL GABAY , brother of Lori Gabay	6/28	VIRGINIA JOHNSON , sister of Angela Pistilli
6/14	ORION DUMITRIU , son of Winnie Yang	6/29	DAVID ZABLIDOWSKY , son of Doris & Martin Zablidowsky
6/15	AODHAN CUMISHEY , daughter of Donal Cumishey	6/29	JAVAN STEWART , son of Omarr & Ursula Stewart
6/16	JASON ZAINTZ , son of Linda Zaintz	6/29	KAREEM EDWARDS-MITCHELL , son of Jacquie & John Mitchell, brother of Kristopher & the late Kevin Mitchell
6/16	SHAY DORRITIE , son of Richard Dorritie	6/30	CAROLINE MASON , daughter of Rachel Mason
6/17	REBECCA MOORE , daughter of Debra Phillips	6/30	IAN BYSTOCK , son of Marc Bystock
6/17	VICENTE EDUARDO , son of Tomasina Eduardo	6/30	JORGIE PEREZ , sister of Janeisy Perez
6/18	CHANDI PYTOWSKI , daughter of Rosanne Cosentino & Bronek Pytowski	6/30	LINDA MARQUEZ , daughter of Hilda Mendoza
6/18	JACK FREYTES , son of Olga Lopez & Elvin Freytes	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	6/15	NEILL PERRI , son of Maddie & Cliff Kasden
6/1	ED DELVALLE , son of Carmen DelValle, brother of Judy DelValle	6/15	PIERRE MCALOON , son of Peggy McAloon
6/2	NICHOLAS SOTO , son of Deborah Freeman & Eddie B. Soto, Jr.	6/16	BRIAN GOLDBERG , son of Gloria & Arthur Goldberg
6/2	WILLIAM MAEROV , son of Lance Maerov	6/16	JOSH GROSSE , son of Susan Grosse
6/4	SACHA REID KANTOR , son of Kathy Landau & Michael Kantor	6/18	BLAKE GARY , daughter of Denyze Gary
6/6	JOCELYN REED , daughter of Cynthia Powell	6/18	LISA WEINER , sister of Abby Moller
6/7	ANDREW MARTIN ARNOLD , brother of Barbara Arnold	6/20	AARON BENVENISTE , grandson of Susan & Richard Rosenbluth
6/7	BLAKELY RUSSELL KAY , daughter of Barbara Russell	6/20	ALEX KNEPPER , son of Lisa & Emanuel Psychojos
6/7	VIRGINIA JOHNSON , sister of Angela Pistilli	6/20	JAKE MAJER , grandson of Linda Reed
6/9	HARVEY STERMER , brother of Carol Lee Stermer-Aulicino	6/21	MARIA , daughter of Gigi Semone
6/9	JENNIFER CARGILL , daughter of Virginia Crosby	6/22	KAREN CASBAY , sister of Laura Reissman
6/9	STEVEN SCHWARTZ , son of Ellen Schwartz	6/23	ANDRE AMES , son of Jacqueline Jackson
6/10	BRYAN KELLY , son of Sean Kelly	6/23	ROBERT WILLIAMS JR. , son of Kimberly Hatwood
6/10	DAVID GIBBS , son of Ann Gibbs	6/24	PETER TRAKIS , son of Dolores & John Trakis
6/10	MIKE CHARY , brother of EllaRose Chary	6/26	CAMERON NICHOLLS , son of Stephanie Moore Nicholls
6/10	REBECCA MOORE , daughter of Debra Phillips	6/26	JULIETTE DICKSTEIN , daughter of Gail Luria
6/10	SCOTT LACROIX , brother of Kendra Lacroix	6/27	ANJELINA PATRICE WILLS , granddaughter of Patricia Tyler-Owens
6/10	ZIGGY MARTINEZ , daughter of Sally Tucker	6/27	BETTY DIBIASO , daughter of Susan Carty
6/12	CHRISTOPHER WAGNER , son of Linda & Edward Wagner	6/27	JAQUELINE AHERN , niece of Nan Ahern
6/12	FRANK UNTENER , son of Barbara Chase	6/28	JASON MARKS , son of Helena Marks
6/12	LUIS A. GARCIA , son of Tania Germes	6/28	ANTONIA DALEY , granddaughter of Linda Daley
6/12	PATRICK CESARIO , son of Sharon Cesario, brother of Frank Cesario	6/28	MALIK DUFOR , son of Waltrina DeFrantz-Dufor
6/13	STEFANO AGOSTINELLI , son of Pascale Agostinelli	6/30	DAVID PICARD , son of Darlene Picard
6/14	AHMAD SHARRIEFF-AL-BEY , son of Rashied Sharrieff-Al-Bey	6/30	KAREEM EDWARDS-MITCHELL , son of Jacquie & John Mitchell, brother of Kristopher & the late Kevin Mitchell
6/15	CHRISTOPHER ROMINE , brother of Jennifer Romine	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				The Compassionate Friends National Office 48660 Pontiac Trail #930808, Wixom, MI 48393 Toll Free (877) 969-0010 www.compassionatefriends.org email:nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org
ET	MORNING	EARLIER EVENING	LATER EVENING	WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE <i>TCF Online National Magazine</i> Click here for Information
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	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
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	Newsletter article submissions are welcome. Please email to marielevine2@verizon.net
SAT			General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	
SUN		Suicide Loss	General Bereavement Issues Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	MAKE A DONATION Click here to Donate to the Manhattan Chapter

OUR COMPASSIONATE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS

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

PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUPS

Click below for National Website's Listing of groups.

24/7 PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUPS

[TCF – Loss of a Child](#)

[TCF – Loss of a Stepchild](#)

[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](#)

[TCF – Loss of a Grandchild](#)

[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](#)