



The Compassionate Friends

Manhattan Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Our next meetings...

Apr 15

May 20

Jun 17

Nat. Conf. Jul 12-14

Manhattan Chapter Newsletter

April 2025

APR 15TH MEETING—3RD TUESDAY IN-PERSON

In-person only on the third Tuesday, April 15th We are still working to figure out how and when we can work in on-line meetings. It's by far worth the extra effort to come in-person, but we recognize not everyone can.

A PRAYER FOR SPRING

Like springtime, let me unfold and grow fresh and anew from this cocoon of grief that has been spun around me. Help me face the harsh reality of sunshine and renewed life as my bones still creak from the winter of my grief. Life has dared to go on around me and, as I recover from the insult of life's continuance, I re-adjust my focus to include healing and growth as possibility in my future.

Give me strength to break out of the cocoon of my grief, but may I never forget it is the place where I grew my wings, becoming a new person because of my loss.

~ **Janis Heil, Coquiton, BC**

UN-COMMON DENOMINATORS

I don't enjoy hearing about the exploits of other people's children and grandchildren – especially grandchildren. When I was young, even before I had a child, I managed to seem interested in tales of children – probably because I still looked forward to having one someday.

When I did have a child, I was definitely interested in the exploits of other people with infants and then young, toddling, and school aged children. I could share my own exploits with them. As my child grew, I often shared anecdotes and experiences with other young parents and feigned interest while I waited my turn to participate. As we go through life, we all gravitate to people like us, culturally, economically, socially. Humans have a natural desire to share their experience. We derive comfort in learning about people like us who share our values, our lifestyles and from whom we can sometimes learn better ways of doing the things we universally do.

Then Peter died. Suddenly I had nothing in common with the people I had spent a lifetime traveling through life with. I was experiencing a new kind of pain. There were no words to describe what I was feeling. Those who knew me tried to comfort me by sharing pain they had experienced, losses they had endured. They were attempting to arrive at a common experience so they could commiserate. But there was no common experience. Their losses – their parents, pets, other relatives – though I had also experienced similar losses – this time there was nothing we had in common. Instead of consoling me, their inability to relate to my devastating experience simply served to enrage me

(con't on page 2)

TELEPHONE FRIENDS: When you are having the kind of day you feel only another bereaved parent or sibling can understand, we can listen and share with you. Don't hesitate to call our Manhattan Chapter phone for meeting information **(917) 300 3706**. To speak with someone please call one of the following volunteers; Jacquie Mitchell (eves) (347) 414-1780 jacquienytcf@gmail.com and for siblings, Jordon Ferber (917) 837-7752, beatniknudnik@yahoo.com

TCF MANHATTAN CHAPTER email: tcfmanhattan@gmail.com
TCF MANHATTAN website: www.compassionatefriends.nyc
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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, Apr. 15, 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.

GRIEF: When Does It Stop Hurting

Grief reminds one of the few things that has the power to silence us. It is a whisper in the world and a clamor within. More than sex, more than faith, even more than its usher death, grief is unspoken, publicly ignored except for those moments at the funeral, that are over too quickly, or the conversations among those of us who recognize in one another a kindred chasm deep in the center of who we are.

Maybe we do not speak of it because death will mark all of us sooner or later. Maybe it is unspoken because grief is only the first part of it. After a while it becomes something less sharp, but larger, to a more enduring thing called loss. Perhaps that is why this is the least explored passage: because it has no end.

The world loves closure, loves a thing that can, as they say, be gotten through. This is why it comes as a great surprise to find that loss is forever, that two decades after the event there are those occasions when something in you cries out at the continual presence of an absence. The landscape of all our lives becomes as full of craters as the surface of the moon. We are all defined by who we have lost.

~ Anna Quindlen

Burden of Grief

As I struggle with words to find answers,
reading and writing my pain.

The pages grow blurred before eyes that are tired
from this crushing emotional drain.

The relief that comes from the writing
parallels what I feel when I read.

To open myself to the torture of loss
seems to soothe this unbearable need.

There's no pleasure in life at this moment.

It's an effort to get through the day.

And I labor to stay above water...

but the shoreline is so far away.

So I pick up a pen, or a book about grief
and it serves as a raft for a while. And I hope,
as my tears fall on pages of pain,
that I'll learn to swim towards the shores of acceptance.

I pray for the peace of belief,
that heaven's your home and you're waiting for me.
Then I'll finally be free of this grief.

~ Sally Migliaccio, TCF Babylon, NY

UN-COMMON DENOMINATORS (con't from page 1)

It was only when I discovered other parents whose children had died, that I recognized the common denominator that would ultimately save me. Because there were no words to describe what I was going through, I realized that only other people who had experienced *this* loss understood what I was feeling. They didn't have words either, but I knew they knew. It was the most healing thing I did. Reaching out to other parents like myself.

I have a friend who has never had children. When I told her I wasn't interested in grandchildren stories told by several of our co-workers, she admitted that it bothered her all her life but she didn't feel she was justified in not caring. It was only when I shared my impatience with these story tellers that she felt she could admit that these "conversations" bothered her too. Why do people with children and grandchildren feel it is okay to discuss the exploits of these kids with people who have no surviving children? Isn't there anything else they can talk about? How about books, travels, theater, politics, current events, the weather...

Being the parent of a child no longer living in this world is a real challenge. Even having a surviving child comes with the life-long terror of knowing what is possible. I think one of the things that bothers bereaved parents is the nonchalance of parents and grandparents (especially grandparents) who can't wait to talk about these grandchildren to anyone who will listen. I delight in changing the subject anytime anyone tries to tell me about these offspring. Especially other bereaved parents. They should know better.

Oh well, winter's almost done. Spring can't be too far away. Soon I'll be able to talk about my garden. I wonder if that bothers people who don't have one?

~ Marie Levine, 2012

"Grief has left me feeling out of control.

A friend suggested that when I feel this way, it might help to center myself.

So I began to search for my center, and I found my wounded heart still

beating, and it listened to the rhythm of my breathing, in and out, slowly, quieting.

*And I was reminded of the life of which I am a part,
not a small and limited existence that begins and ends abruptly and coldly,*

but a continuing, breathing being of which I am in the center now,

*tucked in between all that has come before me
and all that will come after me."*

~ Molly Fumia, "Safe Passage"

Siblings

Brother

A part of me, my only sibling,
You alone hold the history of my youth.
The barbeques at Grandma's and fishing at the dam,
The Easter egg hunts and sparklers on the Fourth...

When little we fought like brothers sometimes do,
but more often played, and laughed, and teased.
I tried to be what I thought a big brother should be,
and you played younger equally well.

Then we reached that age when interests differ;
I thought you were too crazy and wild,
and you were sure I was too uptight.
Neither of us planned to get together,
thinking we would always have the time.

It was only when they came to tell me,
after leaving a note on Mom's door,
to let her know you weren't coming back.

For a while I believed it should have been me,
since I had failed, I hadn't watched over you.
And it was hard to see how much mom hurt,
wondering if there was something I could have done.

But then I finally realized, probably with your help,
that I did nothing wrong; it was just your time.
The love we've always had will never leave,
And the memories we share will always be alive.

So even though I'll always be the big brother,
I realize my baby bro has some special gifts now,
and want to thank you for being that rascally angel
who often lets us know he's always around.

~ by **David Ardenall**

The Compassionate Friends Sibling Credo

*We are the surviving siblings of The Compassionate Friends
We are brought together by the deaths of our brothers and sisters*

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

Sometimes we need our families to be there.

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

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

When our brothers and sisters died, our lives changed.

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

TUESDAYS AT 7:00PM

With Jordon Ferber - Sibling Leader

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

Sign up to get our siblings schedule emails

[Click here for exclusive sibling emails](#)

TCF SIBLING CHATS

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

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

NO VACATION

There is no vacation from your absence.

Every morning I awaken.

I am a bereaved parent.

Every noon I feel a hole in my heart.

Every evening my arms are empty.

My life is busy now, but not quite full.

My heart is mended, but not quite healed.

For the rest of my life every moment will be lived without you.

There is no vacation from your absence.

~ **Kathy Boyette**, TCF Mississippi Gulf coast

The Compassionate Friends

48th National Conference

July 11th to 13th , 2025 in Bellvue, WA

The 2025 National Conference

BORN STILL: A MISUNDERSTOOD GRIEF

I find myself writing this maybe because I hurt, maybe because I just have to.

I am just two years bereaved, and have belonged to TCF for about a year and a half now. My son died when I was full term with him. In my search for help to assist me through my own grief (I have tried to help others understand what it is that we who have lost a baby – a child at birth – feel.) Sometimes it is very difficult to explain my feelings, because Sean never lived outside my womb. But because he was vibrantly alive inside of me for nine months I grew to know him as he developed.

Sometimes I think back and try to remember the happy memories of time with my son. He loved fettucine alfredo, but it had to have broccoli or shrimp in it. I think about the kind of music he liked, and of the songs he liked me to sing to him.

Sean liked me to rub him to sleep. I remember that he hiccupped so often it sometimes drove me nuts! Oh, how I miss those days. But because of those days – even through this intense pain – I also have joy. I have joy because I had my son at all; because I loved my son, because I mothered him.

When I was first bereaved, I looked at people who had “time” with their children and thought to myself, “well, at least you had them for (however long it was). I know other grieving

parents look at me and think, “well, at least you didn’t get to know him.” I know now how wrong I was, and also how wrong they are. No matter what amount of time we have with our child, we all feel the same pain of loss.

We should never have to bury our children.

I have pain because Sean died, because I had only ten minutes with him outside my womb, because I never saw his eyes open, never saw him smile, never heard him make a sound. The silence in the delivery room was deafening. I have pain because he lay in a morgue for days, waiting to be buried. I have the pain of seeing my son in his coffin, seeing that coffin closed, having a funeral, putting him in the ground, saying goodbye. Pain because I now must visit him at a cemetery. I grieve his loss terribly, and feel a crater burned into my heart. I feel the emptiness that will never be filled, I feel the loss of my future, my life.

You see, I feel what you feel. Our experiences may be different, you may have had your child longer than I did, but our pain is all the same. Losing a child is a life-altering experience. Things will never be the same, and I don’t want it to be!

~Kathy Evans,

in loving memory of my son **Sean**

The Compassionate Friends

48th National Conference

July 11th to 13th , 2025 in Bellvue, WA

The 2025 National Conference



Bellvue, WA

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
- ♦ The Worst Loss by Barbara D. Rossoff

⇒ take advantage of the book list on the TCF web-site www.compassionatefriends.org

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

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

...to our new members

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

...to our long standing members

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

~ ~ ~

The Compassionate Friends Credo

We need not walk alone.

We are The Compassionate Friends.

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

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

but our love for our children unites us.

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

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

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

We are young and we are old.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

share the anger as well as the peace,

share the faith as well as the doubts,

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

WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE.

WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS.

~ ~ ~

Online Support from the National Compassionate Friends Website

Live Chats

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

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

Private Facebook Groups

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

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



OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



4/1 **ALAIA MOSLEY**, daughter of Patricia Mosley
 4/1 **JOEY MASLIAH**, brother of Amanda Rockoff
 4/1 **SHANA DOWDESWELL**, daughter of Laurie & Roger Dowdeswell
 4/1 **TEREL SMITH**, son of Cathy Philbert
 4/2 **ALI SEEDAT**, daughter of Deborah McKinzie
 4/3 **KYLE DANE**, son of Madelaine Samuel
 4/3 **NATASHA GEMBKA**, daughter of Tim & Alexis Gembka
 4/4 **ALEX BHAK**, son of Karyn Bhak
 4/4 **DANNY MAZRAANI**, brother of Mona Mazranni
 4/4 **JORDAN MITCHELL**, son of Melody Mitchell
 4/4 **LORI HEALY**, daughter of Tom Healy
 4/5 **CHRIS MASARONE**, twin brother of Nic Masarone
 4/5 **MATTHEW BAUMEISTER**, son of Lynn & Mitch Baumeister
 4/5 **SEAN MERCEDES**, son of Lenin Mercedes & Virginia Rivas
 4/7 **AMIR PRIZANT**, brother of Ayelet Prizant
 4/7 **CYRUS WANECKE**, son of Nolan Wanecke & Talya Ramchandani
 4/7 **JASON KLEIN**, son of Jeanette LaBarb
 4/8 **CYRUS**, son of Francine Figueroa
 4/8 **JUSTIN R. NEGRON**, son of Nancy Negron, brother of Samantha
 4/8 **LISA DONOFRIO**, daughter of Christina Korteweg
 4/8 **VICTOR CHEN**, son of Vivien Chen
 4/10 **MELANIE DINOWITZ**, daughter of Elaine Dinowitz
 4/10 **SARAH KATZ**, daughter of Michael & Jill Katz, sister of Dana Katz
 4/10 **SHONEN CHAMBERS**, sister of Tiffani Chambers
 4/11 **AYDIN HOSSAIN**, daughter of Beth & Abir Hossain
 4/12 **ETHAN MAGDER**, son of Andrea & Gary Magder, brother of Abbi Magder
 4/13 **DR. AMY BETH ROSEN**, daughter of Helen Rosen
 4/13 **ISAIAH VILLAFANA**, son of Camille Evans & Elijah Burgos
 4/14 **SUZANNA ZHOU**, sister of Susan Zhou
 4/15 **MATTHEW CARLSON LUTZ**, son of Linda L. Carlson
 4/15 **NONI BIALE**, daughter of Margaret and Noam Biale

4/16 **ELLA BANDES**, daughter of Judy Kottick & Ken Bandes
 4/16 **NICHOLAS MONICO**, son of Lisa & Craig Monico
 4/16 **RICHARD WARNOCK**, son of Claire Warnock, brother of Susan Warnock
 4/17 **CINDI DIMARZO**, sister of Jodi DiMarzo
 4/17 **SEAN KIMERLING**, son of Ervine & Noah Kimerling
 4/18 **HARRY GANDEL**, grandson of Karen & Meyer Gross
 4/18 **NICOLAS DE LAVALETTE**, brother of Sebastian Lavalette
 4/19 **ROAN VAUGHAN**, son of Melissa Schreiber, Brendan Vaughan & Renee Dale
 4/19 **SOPHIE ANN MISSHUK**, daughter of Evan Misshuk
 4/19 **WILL TANG**, brother of Sandra Tang
 4/20 **ASHER FERGUSON**, son of Ryan Ferguson & Christine Tran
 4/20 **LAURA FELDSTEIN**, daughter of Marilyn & Al Feldstein
 4/20 **MARSHALL FORDE**, son of Asurf Forde, brother of Marcel Forde
 4/20 **NAOMI STOLAR**, sister of Susan Schindler
 4/21 **AIDAN HERNANDEZ**, son of Maura Moloney & Victor Hernandez
 4/21 **BARBARA STRAUSS**, sister of Joanne Shapiro
 4/22 **DANIEL ALBERT**, son of Anita Albert, brother of Jenna Van Dusen
 4/22 **LYRA MANNING**, daughter of Gloria Grayeb
 4/24 **PAUL HENNESSEY**, brother of Kevin Hennessey
 4/24 **SAM BINNICKER**, brother of Griffin Binnicker
 4/25 **DANIELLE BAKER**, sister of Tiffany Baker
 4/25 **JONATHAN JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ**, son of Gina Rodriguez, grandson of Maggie Valentin
 4/25 **KRISTEN SANCHEZ**, sister of Melissa Rosario
 4/26 **SEAN COLLINS**, brother of Kelly Collins
 4/27 **BENJAMIN HARTFORD**, son of Nora Madonick
 4/27 **BRONWEN PRADT**, daughter of Katherine Pradt
 4/27 **GRETA GREENE**, daughter of Stacy & Jayson Greene
 4/30 **KIARR LACEY MONROE**, son of Xenia Vasquez & Lacey Monroe
 4/30 **LOUIS ARESU**, son of Elizabeth Sperrazza, brother of Maria Sperrazza



Our Children Remembrances — Changes

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

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



OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



4/1 **MARCUS PRESTON**, son of Valerie Preston
 4/1 **RORY STAUNTON**, son of Orlaith & Ciaran Staunton
 4/2 **ALEX BHAK**, son of Karyn Bhak
 4/2 **ANDREW SCHLEIFER**, son of Kittyhawk Schleifer
 4/2 **LYLA SKYE MEDICI**, daughter of Mimi Delle Donne, sister of Meghan Matias
 4/3 **DANA FLAX**, sister of Casey Flax
 4/3 **KRISTOFFER SALAVANTE**, son of Maria & Eliezer Salavante
 4/3 **SAGE JOSEPH**, daughter of Debra Driscoll
 4/4 **CHRISTINE EBERT**, daughter of Judy & John Ebert
 4/4 **JORDAN MITCHELL**, son of Melody Mitchell
 4/6 **MICHAEL WHITLOCK**, son of Peggy Whitlock
 4/6 **TREVOR MATTHEWS**, son of Angela Matthews
 4/7 **BRIAN QUINN**, son of Susan Quinn
 4/7 **JORDAN ELIAS VELAZQUEZ**, son of Kathleen Velazquez
 4/8 **ALEXANDER ANDUJAR JR.**, son of Madelaine Colon
 4/8 **CYRUS**, son of Francine Figueroa
 4/9 **ANDREW FREDERICK RUBIN**, son of Barbara & George Rubin
 4/10 **DAN OSHINSKY**, brother of Julie Mintz
 4/11 **DAVID ALEXANDER**, brother of Farah Alexander
 4/11 **PEARL PATEL**, daughter of Christian Peele & Vinay Patel
 4/12 **CHRIS BALDWIN**, brother of Brooke Baldwin
 4/13 **ADAM GERVER**, son of Howie Gerver
 4/13 **AYDIN HOSSAIN**, daughter of Beth & Abir Hossain
 4/14 **BRITTANY MALVEAUX**, sister of Jordan Malveaux
 4/14 **SEAN MERCEDES**, son of Lenin Mercedes & Virginia Rivas
 4/14 **TYREE SHEPPARD**, son of Laura Sheppard
 4/16 **DANNY MOONEY, JR.**, son of Danny Mooney

4/16 **IAN BYSTOCK**, son of Marc Bystock
 4/17 **MICHAEL MOUSSA**, son of Mariam Moussa
 4/18 **JEREMY PALLEY**, son of Iris Palley and Stephen Palley
 4/20 **KYLE DANE**, son of Madelaine Samuel
 4/22 **RASHID SOLIS**, son of Frank Solis
 4/23 **ALIYAH RABSATT**, daughter of Patricia Rabsatt
 4/23 **KERRY STONE**, brother of Catherine Kells
 4/23 **KEVIN DEL ROSARIO**, son of Annaliza del Rosario
 4/23 **PABLO RAMIREZ**, son of Carlos Ramirez
 4/23 **RISA FIELD**, sister of Barbara Field
 4/24 **BRANDON MYERS**, brother of Rachel Myers
 4/24 **CHRIS MASARONE**, twin brother of Nic Masarone
 4/24 **EREZ KLEIN**, son of Rachel Gordon
 4/24 **NATALIE JOY HERTEL-VOISINE**, daughter of Barbara Hertel & Don Voisine
 4/25 **CINDI DIMARZO**, sister of Jodi DiMarzo
 4/25 **JORGIE PEREZ**, sister of Janeisy Perez
 4/26 **JAMES HAYS**, brother of Claire Hays
 4/27 **JAYDEN ALEXANDER BAEZ**, son of Josephine Cartagena
 4/27 **MARGARET BRAUN-GRIEP**, sister of Helen Braun
 4/27 **MATTHEW GORDON**, brother of Elizabeth Stilwell
 4/27 **OLIVIA PETRERA COHEN**, daughter of Nancy Petrera
 4/27 **TRAVIS FREEMAN**, son of Daniel Freeman & Elizabeth Morse
 4/28 **AMANDA PIMENTEL GUZMAN**, daughter of Mayireny Guzman & Juan Pimentel
 4/29 **MAX GLEZOS-CHARTOFF**, son of Julie Chartoff & Irene Glezos
 4/29 **SOPHIA JOLIET AGUIRRE**, daughter of Monica Deliz
 4/30 **DEVON ALLEN**, son of Lisa Singletary



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

MAY BIRTHDAYS



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

5/17 **LYDIA WOOD**, daughter of Matt Wood
5/17 **PATRICE WALKER**, daughter of Mazrene Holmes
5/17 **ROWENNA WIGHT WHITE**, daughter of Nancy Wight
5/18 **ABIGAIL BURG**, daughter of Jean & David Burg
5/18 **ALESSIA MORRONE**, daughter of Amy Morrone
5/18 **EDDIE WALSH**, twin brother of Tricia Walsh
5/18 **WILLIAM GRIFFO**, son of Yvona & William Griffio, brother of Mike Griffio
5/19 **BENJAMIN RACCALE**, son of Sara Raccale
5/19 **CHRISTOPHER EISELE**, son of Kathleen & John Montoya
5/19 **DAVID YOOD**, son of Nora & Barry Yood
5/20 **DAN OSHINSKY**, brother of Julie Mintz
5/20 **DANNY VOLEN**, brother of Raizy Volen
5/21 **ALEX WITONSKY**, brother of Ava Witonsky
5/21 **SERYNA RODRIGUEZ**, daughter of Marilyn Castro
5/22 **BRIAN GEWIRTZ**, son of Kathleen & Steven Gewirtz
5/22 **CAITLIN SANDERS**, daughter of Veronica & Lamar Sanders
5/22 **ISABELLA CARROLL**, daughter of Doreen Carroll
5/22 **LINDA GIOVE**, daughter of Arlene Schechter
5/22 **NOAH REISMAN**, brother of Rachel Reisman
5/24 **ALEX HARRY SINGER**, son of Susan & Lewis Singer
5/24 **CHARLIE DENIHAN**, son of Barbara and Ben Denihan, brother of Krissy and Kate
5/24 **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 Toccy Friend
5/30 **KRISTINA ESPOSITO**, daughter of Cecilia Esposito
5/30 **OLIVIA PETRERA COHEN**, daughter of Nancy Petrera
5/30 **RICHEL BENANTI**, son of Monica Benanti
5/30 **TROY O. MYERS**, son of Claudette Hannibal
5/31 **HARVEY STERMER**, brother of Carol Lee Stermer-Aulicino
5/31 **KOFI A. MENSAB JR.**, son of Rosinah Mensah & the late Samuel A. Mensah, brother of Dr. Kofi A. Mensah, Ph.D
5/31 **T.J. CRAIG**, son of Tom Craig, brother of Mac Craig





OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED

MAY ANNIVERSARIES



5/1 **AUDREY NIBLO**, daughter of John Niblo
5/2 **BRADLEY KEITH BONGAR**, son of Beth Bongar
5/2 **CRYSTAL LAUZAU**, daughter of Gwyneth Hotaling
5/2 **JONATHAN JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ**, son of Gina Rodriguez,
grandson of Maggie Valentin
5/2 **MARLON LABOVITCH**, son of Hannah Labovitch
5/2 **WILLIAM EDWARD SHUBERT**, son of Irma E. Shubert
5/3 **ISABELA ESPINOZA-THOMPSON**, daughter of Nayomi Espinoza
& Hopeton Thompson
5/3 **JOEY MASLIAH**, brother of Amanda Rockoff
5/4 **AVIVA LIPSKY-KARASZ**, daughter of Julia Zangwill & Daniel
Lipsky-Karas
5/4 **JAMIE ROBERTS**, son of Katelin Roberts
5/4 **ZACK KASNETZ**, brother of Alex Kasnetz
5/5 **ANDY FISHER**, son of Barbara Fisher
5/5 **JENNIFER BLANCHE BYRD**, daughter of Claudia Byrd
5/5 **JOE MCCLENAHAN**, brother of Michael McClenahan
5/5 **MATEO TASHMAN**, son of William Tashman
5/6 **CHRISTINE SCHLENDORF**, daughter of Karen Schlendorf
5/6 **MELISSA AVRIN**, sister of Andrew Avrin
5/6 **WILL TANG**, brother of Sandra Tang
5/7 **GER ANDLINGER**, daughter of Jeanne Andlinger
5/7 **PHILIP SULZER**, son of Barbara & Burton Sulzer, brother
of Lisa Sulzer
5/9 **BATHSHEBA KOHN**, daughter of Yoel Kohn
5/9 **BENJAMIN LEWIS KAPLAN**, son of Barbara Lewis Kaplan
5/9 **BRUCE WALES**, son of Fran Wales
5/10 **LOGAN GENTRY**, son of Christine Spiro
5/10 **MICHELLE GITTENS**, daughter of Lanise M. Ballard-Gittens
5/11 **MATTHEW BAUMEISTER**, son of Lynn & Mitch Baumeister
5/12 **ELIZABETH O'HARE**, sister of Christopher O'Hare
5/12 **GIRBUN LAO**, brother of Ithreum Brown
5/12 **MICHAEL FABI**, son of Donna Leder
5/12 **SOPHIA MELILLO**, daughter of Kristen Leigh
5/13 **OWEN MULLER**, son of Jane K. Muller
5/14 **CANDICE CHEN**, daughter of Belle Tung
5/14 **NORBI MORGENSTEIN**, daughter of Gary Morgenstein
5/15 **ROSE LIANG**, sister of Holly & Chue Liang

5/15 **RYAN THOMAS**, son of Jacqueline Thomas
5/16 **BENJAMIN HARTFORD**, son of Nora Madonick
5/18 **GRETA GREENE**, daughter of Stacy & Jayson Greene
5/18 **LAVONE SKY SANTANA**, son of Istrha Santana
5/18 **MAHLIK WILLIAMS**, son of Ramona Williams, brother of
Mekael Williams
5/18 **MICHAEL RAVEN**, son of Selma & Rob Raven
5/19 **ALESSIA MORRONE**, daughter of Amy Morrone
5/19 **DEREK GOMEZ**, son of Marta Freyre & Robert McManus,
brother of Xiomara Gomez
5/19 **MARY GIBBS**, sister of Cynthia Gibbs-Pratt
5/20 **JACK FREYTES**, son of Olga Lopez & Elvin Freytes
5/20 **JEREMY RODRIGUEZ**, son of Wanda Marrero
5/21 **ADAM JACOBS**, son of Rick Jacobs
5/21 **IAN DINER**, son of Martin & Nicki Diner, brother of Paige Diner
5/22 **STEVE DAVOREN**, brother of Doug Davoren
5/22 **TAYLOR HOLLOWAY**, brother of Brittany Holloway-Brown
5/23 **ADRIAN V. ROSAS**, son of Alejandra & Adriano Rosas
5/23 **MILES ELLIOT COUGHLIN**, son of Fredricka Weinstein &
Matthew Coughlin, brother of Marla Tolson, uncle of Lena Tolson
5/24 **AMELIA (YANNIE) CORBETT**, sister of Sara Corbett
5/25 **JACK ROBERTS**, son of Joanne Wright
5/25 **JOVI RAMOS**, son of Desiree Ramos
5/25 **MICHAEL VINCENT ROSEN PIPITONE**, son of Alison Rosen
& David Hantman
5/26 **LISA DONOFRIO**, daughter of Christina Korteweg
5/27 **CRAIG MARTINEZ**, son of Louis Hampton Martinez
5/27 **EMMA GRACE KNOWLTON**, daughter of Samantha Knowlton
5/27 **ISAIAH VILLAFANA**, son of Camille Evans & Elijah Burgos
5/27 **JOEY HOLLIDAY**, son of Billy & Terry Holliday
5/27 **SARAH AKHTAR**, sister of Alafia Akhtar and Rahil Darbur
5/27 **TERRANCE RICHARDSON**, son of Theresa Richardson,
brother of Francina Branch Elysee
5/28 **HUMZA MALIK**, brother of Amani Malik
5/29 **MAMADON JOHNSON**, sister of Djassi Johnson
5/30 **CAMDYN JAYEL DUCKWORTH**, daughter of Tiffany Clark
5/31 **AMY ROSENBERG**, daughter of Carol Rebsch
5/31 **ANTONIO LAW**, son of Jacqueline Law



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	
MON	Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	First time CHAT orientation	General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE TCF Online National Magazine Click here for Information
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 the 3rd Tuesday of each month: APR 15 MAY 20 JUN 17 JUL 20
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	Medford	2nd Friday	(631) 738-0809
Bronx	2nd Tuesday	(914) 714-4885	Rockville Centre	2nd Friday	(516) 766-4682
Brookhaven	2nd Friday	(631) 738-0809	Rockland County	3rd Tuesday	(845) 398-9762
Brooklyn	3rd Wednesday	(917) 952-9751	SmithPoint/Mastic	2nd Thursday	(631) 281-9004
Flushing	3rd Friday	(718) 746-5010	Staten Island	2nd & 4th Thurs.	(718) 983-0377
Manhasset	3rd Tuesday	(516) 466-2480	Syosset (Plainview)	3rd Friday	(718) 767-0904
Marine Park, Bklyn	3rd Friday	(718) 605-1545	White Plains	1st Thursday	(914) 381-3389

PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUPS

Click below for National Website's Listing of groups.

24/7 PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUPS

[TCF – Loss of a Child](#)
[TCF – Loss of a 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](#)