



The Compassionate Friends

Manhattan Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Our next meetings...
Dec 14 Candlelighting
Dec 16
Jan 20
Feb 17

Manhattan Chapter Newsletter

December 2025

DEC 16TH MEETING—3RD TUESDAY IN-PERSON

In-person only **on the third Tuesday**, December 16th. We are still working to figure out how and when we can work in on-line meetings. It's by far worth the extra effort to come in-person, but we recognize not everyone can.

Worldwide Candle Lighting

Sunday, December 14th, 2025

at the

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

Doors open at 5:45pm - Family guests are welcome

PLEASE RSVP and arrive by 6:15pm



REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Join us for this moving ceremony and celebration.

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

SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS FOR OUR SLIDESHOW!

Click here and see page 6 for more information.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND IN PERSON:

Our national office will have a Virtual Candle Lighting on Dec. 14th at 7pm in each time zone. Go to www.compassionatefriends.org for information.

Worldwide Candle Lighting

Our Manhattan Event

Volunteers needed

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

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

About the Worldwide Candle Lighting

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting on the 2nd Sunday in December unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit on December 14th, 2025 at 7:00 pm local time, hundreds of thousands of people around the globe commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon.

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

(con't on page 2)

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

TCF MANHATTAN CHAPTER email: tcfmanhattan@gmail.com
 TCF MANHATTAN website: www.compassionatefriends.nyc
 CO-CHAPTER LEADERS: **Dan Zweig:** danzweigtcf@gmail.com
Jordon Ferber: beatniknudnik@yahoo.com
 "Our Children" editor: **Dan Zweig:** danzweigtcf@gmail.com
 Newsletter Editor: **Marie Levine** marielevine2@verizon.net

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS MEETINGS are now monthly - in person on the third Tuesday of the month

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

This month, Dec. 16, 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.

About the Candle Lighting (con't from page 1)

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

The Manhattan Chapter will join in this worldwide commemoration at our own chapter event. Please join us.

See information on page 1 or on our website.

Sunday, DECEMBER 14, 2024 at

The Parish House of

The Church of Ascension 12 W.11th St., Manhattan

***** Doors open 5:45 Arrive by 6:15 Doors close and program begins promptly at 6:30**

To include a photo of your child/sibling in the slide show please email your photos, **including their full name** the way you wish it to appear, by DECEMBER 11TH to photosmtcf@gmail.com

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

Virtual Candle Lighting

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

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

Truly Worldwide for Everyone

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

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

ALTERED STATES

From the time we are born, our personalities are shaped by our chemistry, our environment and our experience. Our state of mind is a result of these human factors. My life, until Peter's death in 1993, had a typical series of "ups" and "downs". My perspective and my responses were molded by my chemistry, my environment and my accumulated experience. But nothing in my life prepared me for what was, is, and always will be a calamitous experience so devastating that it has chemically rearranged me into what might be termed an altered state.

In the beginning, my confusion was so total I had no desire to go on living. Peter, an only child, was the core around which my life and my future revolved. With my future removed I was incapable of redesigning my life. With Peter gone, I found myself in unexplored territory with no desire to learn to navigate or survive. With no surviving children to motivate me it took my grieving husband (now fearful of losing me too), to remind me that as long as I lived, Peter would live. That thought, giving Peter's memory life, is what gives my altered life meaning to this day.

No one who has not lost a child can imagine how we, the terminally bereaved, look at life. Ours is a perspective permanently changed by catastrophic events impossible to have anticipated...and therefore impossible for us to have even suspected the behavioral changes that might become necessary to survive. It puts us in a place that will remain strange, unfamiliar and unbelievable for the rest of our lives.

Those with no surviving children are particularly impacted, especially at the prospect of impending old age. I remember how my mother was concerned about the material treasures she had lovingly collected throughout her life as well as those she had inherited from her mother. It comforted her to know that the memories inherent in these artifacts would continue on in the compendium of life, continuing to decorate the lives of her children and grandchildren. For me there is no such comfort. My treasures and the memories contained within them are destined to be scattered in a meaningless dispersal.

In my altered state, I watch the grandmas and the grandpas I see on a winter weekend in Florida, delighting in a visit from their children and grandchildren – a joy and a continuum I will never know. Sure, not everyone has kids. Childless by choice or circumstance, their lives are designed accordingly. Their expectations don't include grandchildren. How do we incorporate that acceptance into lives that always anticipated the futurity of grandchildren?

Old age. I watched my parents deal with it. I dealt with it. With love and concern I accompanied both my parents through the last years of their lives. I did everything I could to make that period in their lives as comfortable and filled with joy as I could. Who will do that for us?

As a meaningful birthday, holiday or anniversary approaches, I listen as my contemporaries talk about the celebrations planned for them by or with their children. Though Peter often referred to these, then future, celebrations, he is gone and we must endure the significance these times might have had – permanently focused on what might have been.

~ Marie Levine, 2001

A 2025 Update from Marie - continued on page 3...

OLYMPICS OF THE SOUL

These are the last few days of autumn. Soon the last of the leaves will fall, the days will grow mercifully shorter, the temperature will drop and we will retreat to the safe comfort of home. For just a brief period, we can watch the world from the safety of the nest, not enticed out into the games of summer by well meaning friends and family, intent on our participation. We need this time to prepare for the next Olympics of the soul...the Holidays.

So much has been written about getting through the holidays when you are grieving. The intensity of the pain of the recently bereaved, the suggestions of how to manage by the experienced griever, the wistful thoughts of the poets...so much to be said about this particular period of survival. Truth is, the holidays are only a tad more difficult than every other day. Like salt in a wound, the over-the-top joyousness adds an extra dose of emotional pain. But I've come to realize that many who "celebrate" the holidays are also fellow travelers along this grieving path. They're just further ahead than many of us are. I'm still not up to the festivities. For me it remains a time of introspection. With absolutely no opportunity to mourn our losses at this time of year, I choose to remain as low key as possible and venture back into the ebb and flow of days only after New Year's Eve.

It's not possible for the uninitiated to comprehend the emotional roller coaster we are on now. But I recently came across a column written by an Australian Mom. Though not written with the holidays in mind, it expresses for me the way I spend much of my time during this particular season. I wanted to share it with you.

If Only They Knew...

By Jan McNess, TCF, Victoria, Australia

If only they knew when I speak of him, I am not being morbid, I am not denying his death. I am proclaiming his life. I am learning to live with his absence. For twenty-six years he was a part of my life, born, nurtured, molded and loved; this cannot be put aside to please those who are uncomfortable with my grief.

If only they knew that when I sit quietly, apparently content with my own company, I am not self indulgently unhappy, dwelling on things which cannot be changed; I am with him, I am seeing his face, hearing his voice, remembering his laughter, recalling his excitement and joy in life. Please allow me this time with him as I do not begrudge you your time with your children.

If only they knew when I sometimes weep quietly, I do not cry in self-pity for what I have lost. I weep for what he has lost; for the life he loved, for the music which filled his very being and for all he still longed to hear, for the poetry which moved him to tears, for the beauty about him that daily fed his soul, for the exhilaration and excitement of flying the skies, of searching for his God in the vast space of the universe. For all that he loved and lost, I cry.

If only they knew the feeling of deep grief, the emptiness and dull pain, the endlessness of death. If only they understood the insanity of the platitudes so freely spoken; that "time heals", that "you'll get over it", that "it was for the best", that "God takes only the best", that "he's in a better place", and realize that these are more an insult than a comfort, that the
(con't in next column)

ALTERED STATES - update (con't from page 2)

An update from Marie...2025

Reading this now, two dozen years after writing it, almost 33 years after losing Peter, I cannot help feeling compelled to refute the sense of hopelessness I felt then. I have arrived at the old age I fearfully anticipated back then. I'm a widow now, but living an independent and frankly, serene and happy life. I've recreated a family by nurturing several friendships and allowing myself to be integrated into their celebrations and milestones. I reflect often on what I did have, and am so grateful – Peter continues to be so present in my life and I will never stop wondering what his life would be like today – but my memories of him – of us – definitely bring a smile. I cannot help but acknowledge, time is definitely on our side.

~ Marie Levine, 2025

If They Only Knew—OLYMPICS OF THE SOUL

warm and compassionate touch of another means so much more.

If only they knew that we will not find true peace and tranquility until we are prepared to try to stand in the shoes of others. We will not be understood until we learn to understand compassionately and we will not be heard until we learn to listen with our hearts as well as our minds.

As this holiday season begins, I pray that we all find it in our hearts and minds to be thankful for what we have, and grateful for having had what we've lost.

Marie Levine, 2000

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

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

~ widow, contemplating her first Christmas alone.

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

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

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

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

SIBLINGS
HOLIDAZE

by Jordon Ferber

The holiday season is a stressful time for everyone, and it seems to me that it starts earlier every year. During a time that we are supposed to be thankful for all that we have in the world, many of us tend only to see what we don't. As much as Valentine's Day reminds single people that they don't have that special someone in their lives, so does the Holiday season remind me that I don't have my brother. Families come back together. Siblings return home from college, or from wherever they've moved to, reconnecting at parties with friends from years past. Every thing on TV shows happy, fully intact families whose only real crises are a drunk family member and/or where to buy a toy on Christmas Eve.

This coming December 31st marks Russell's 27th birthday. I try not to be so sad. I know I'm not alone in these thoughts. I try to think of the good times, the fact that I spent almost every New Years with him, celebrating his birthday with the world.

Growing up together, December was always the time we had off from school together. As we got older and left for boarding school and/or college, the winter break was a time when a family vacation was almost assumed. We spent many of Russell's birthdays on vacations around the world. As Russell grew up, and became more sociable and part of the nightclub world, there was never a shortage of places to party the night away with him. Together with my parents I flew out to San Francisco to paint the town red for his 21st. After celebrating at a friend's house party, we indulged in a crazy bar hopping night through the streets of North Beach.

These days, I miss him often throughout the time from Thanksgiving to New Year's. It's still the time of year people come home, still the time of year everyone is having a holiday party, reunions of family and friends. Every December for the last five years, I've walked through the month in a daze, from one party to the next, looking for anything to distract me from looking forward. I feel like December is the only month no one will call you a lush, everybody's looking to escape something.

As the New Year draws closer, I am actually looking forward to it this year. For the second year in a row, my family and I will be having a party at our apartment to celebrate Russell's birthday. I found last year's celebration to be very low key and comforting, surrounded by those who wanted to hear about Russell, who wanted to celebrate with us, with HIM. The stress free environment actually allowed me to go out after the count-down and have a good time. This year I hope for the same possibility of good fortune and revelry. Whatever I do after midnight will not be filled with sadness, as I remind myself it will be the beginning of a new year, a fresh start, and perhaps a reunion with myself.

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

And come to the Worldwide Candle Lighting on December 14th.

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](#)

REFLECTIONS

With the death of my sister came some powerful realizations: that life isn't always fair or predictable, that sometimes even my best isn't good enough, and that from the day of her death, the happy events in my life would always be tinged with sadness.
Despite the pain and the loss, death has also left me with some valuable lessons and precious gifts. As a result of my sister's death, I have a greater appreciation of life and a greater compassion for those who hurt. I have learned to be a survivor and to have a successful career and a productive life in the face of tremendous grief and loss.
I have been gifted with good friends and special people who help me through the tough times. But most of all – I have been given the gift of time – time to heal and time to replace those painful memories of death with the priceless memories of my sister's life.

~ Cathy Schanberger
"This Healing Journey, An Anthology for Bereaved Siblings"

A LETTER TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS.....

Thank you for not expecting too much from me this holiday season.

It will be our first Christmas without our child and I have all I can do coping with the “spirit of the holiday” on the radio, TV, in the newspapers, and stores. We do not feel joyous and trying to pretend this Christmas is going to be like the last will be impossible because we are missing one.

Our family traditions will be too painful for us to continue this year. Please understand this and maybe some Christmas in the future we will have these traditions again.

Please allow me to talk about my child, if I feel a need. Don’t be uncomfortable with my tears. My heart is breaking and the tears are a way of letting out my sadness.

I plan to do something special in memory of my child. Please recognize my need to do this in order to keep our memories alive. My fear is not that I’ll forget, but that you will.

Please don’t criticize me if I do something that you don’t think is normal. I’m a different person now and it may take a long time before this different person reaches an acceptance of my child’s death.

As I survive the stages of grief, I will need your patience and support, especially during these holiday times and the “special” days throughout the year.

Thank you for not expecting too much from me this holiday season.

Love,
A bereaved parent

This letter is from the Madison, Wisconsin Chapter. They give permission for parents to use all or any part of it in a letter to your own family or friends.

Happy Chanukah

There are various ways we include Johnny in our Chanukah celebrations. Some are subtle and others more overt. When we light the menorah, we use a blue taper as the extra candle. The color blue represents Johnny to us. Just as the extra candle gives of itself to light each of the other candles without giving up its own light, we give Johnny and each other our love without diminishing ourselves. After the meal and before we exchange gifts and play games, we say the Kaddish (mourners prayer). This demonstrates our faith in God despite our loss. It insists that we focus on hope rather than despair and our determination to pass on loving memories of Johnny from generation to generation. Shalom.

~ Tom Wyatt, TCF, St. Louis, MO

THE HOLIDAYS

*With the changing of the seasons,
the holidays come once more.
Busy shoppers, joyous laughter,
pretty wreaths hung on the door.*

*Though I pause in the twilight hour,
and hear the children play,
my joy is forever silenced,
by the dreadful day in May.*

*My love of the holiday season,
now lives in another time,
memories of past Christmases,
when all of my life was fine.*

*The tree lights no longer sparkle,
my heart is cold inside.
My holiday joy ended,
the day my only child died.*

*I stand outside now looking in,
to a world I no longer know.
My tears flow like a river,
and melt the falling snow.*

*I turn now to the meaning
of what Christmas really is –
my pain softened by believing,
in spirit, he will always live.*

~ Vicki Tushingham, Los Angeles, CA

Worldwide Candle Lighting
Sunday, December 14th, 2025
Worldwide Candle Lighting Event
In Manhattan
at the
Parish House of the Church of Ascension
12 W.11th Street, Manhattan, NY
[Click here for more information.](#)

Recommended reading...

A wealth of resources are available at www.centering.com. These are a few;

Love Never Dies; *A Mother's Journey From Loss to Love* by Sandy Goodman. Sandra shares her story in a way that will help you find your own path through your most private pain. You too, can emerge from the deepest hurt and darkness into the awareness that the loves you lost still remain with you in so many ways.

Beyond Tears: *Living After Losing Child*. Revised edition with a brand new chapter written by young adults. Nine mothers who met in a support group give comfort and direction to bereaved parents. They candidly share with other grieving parents what to expect in the first year and beyond.

Into The Valley and Out Again: *The Story of a Father's Journey* by Richard Edler. After the unexpected death of his son, Rich's life seems to stop. The next few years were spent climbing out of the bottom of a valley he had not known existed before. It is a story about what is important in life, sorrow, faith, acceptance and rebirth.

The Bereaved Parent by Harriet Schiff. Many parents feel that no one can help because no one understands the complex ramifications of their tragedy. Harriet wrote this book to help other bereaved parents. Offers guidance and step-by-step suggestions on how to cope with the stages of grief, from the funeral to rebuilding your marriage.

For Bereaved Grandparents by Margaret Gerner. Written by a bereaved grandparent, this gentle resource addresses the issues grandparents are faced with when experiencing this double grief. Includes information about grief, helping your grieving child, what you can do, grandfathers, holidays and deeper relationships.

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.

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 be accessed only after a request to join is approved by a moderator.

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

Worldwide Candle Lighting

Sunday, December 14th, 2025

Worldwide Candle Lighting Event In Manhattan

at the

Parish House of the Church of Ascension

12 W.11th Street, Manhattan, NY

Doors open at 5:45pm - Please arrive by 6:15pm - Family guests are welcome - PLEASE RSVP

[Click here](#) or the Events Tab on our website www.compassionatefriends.nyc for more information.

The Compassionate Friends - Worldwide Candle Lighting



We remember... that their light will always shine.

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

Important - take note!

There will be an ongoing slideshow of all our children...

To include your loved one in this beautiful memorial, please email your photos by DECEMBER 11TH to:

photosmtcf@gmail.com

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

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

(If you had photos in last year's slideshow, just request to use the same photos for 2025)

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

Gifts of Love

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

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

Passing the Basket – We raise needed funds at each meeting by passing a basket for voluntary contributions at our in-person meetings. We are so glad to hold online meetings whenever possible, but there is no 'basket' at our online meetings. If you are able to, whenever you can as an online participant, please help and make a 'Basket' contribution to help our organization.

Making a contribution –

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

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



OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



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

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OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



12/1	VERNON KENNEDY , son of Tressie Kennedy	12/18	CHRISTOPHER DOMBROWSKI , brother of William & Brianne Dombrowski
12/2	JOEY , son of Shantel Morrison & Tamara Cantave	12/18	DESTINI DOYLE , daughter of Annette & Kendall Doyle
12/2	JONATHAN MOORE , son of Ron & Ronnie Moore	12/19	JOEL MALDONADO , son of Alisha Murzi, grandson of Evelyn Murzi
12/2	SAVANNAH WIGGINS , daughter of Dolores Wiggins	12/19	JOSHUA ROBERT ESFORMES , son of Susan Esformes, brother of Jacob
12/2	SUZANNE ZHOU , sister of Susan Zhou	12/19	JUSTIN ALMON brother of Kristina Adam
12/2	ZOIE BENNETT , daughter of Zachary Bennett	12/19	ROBERT RODRIGUEZ , son of Caroline Linares
12/3	HENRY SZOR , son of Eva Grin	12/20	TATE RAMSDEN , brother of Ashley Ramsden
12/3	VYLETTE MOON , daughter of Jackie Hakiki	12/20	TROY O. MEYERS son of Claudette Hannibal
12/4	ROBERT PATRICK JENKINS , son of Barbara Jenkins, brother of Cheryl	12/21	BAYLIN CODDINGTON , son of Debra F. Coddington
12/6	ALEX HARRY SINGER , son of Susan & Lewis Singer	12/21	CAITLIN SANDERS , daughter of Veronica & Lamar Sanders
12/6	DYLAN JOSEPH MAIDA , son of Lisa Burns & Sal Maida	12/21	JUDAH BRYNDAL , son of Dusty & David Bryndal
12/7	ROSS DEWEES , son of Chris Dewees	12/22	GREGORY ROTH , brother of Stephanie Roth
12/8	DYLAN RANDALL , son of Yenja & Robert Randall	12/22	TODD C. FIORE , son of Yvonne Fiore
12/8	JADEN MAXWELL THOMAS , son of Louise Thomas, brother of Tanya	12/23	AMANDA RUSSELL , sister of Katie Turner
12/9	AREIS GORDON , son of Joselyn Gordon	12/23	QUENTIN MUNDY , son of Terri Mundy
12/9	SHONEN CHAMBERS , brother of Tiffani Chambers	12/24	ADAM AZZOLI , son of Amanda Azzoli
12/10	CHRISTOPHER ROTH , brother of Stephanie Roth	12/24	DANIEL O'NEILL TOLEDO , son of Kathleen O'Neill
12/10	JOHN HULWIYA , brother of Vanessa Hulwiya	12/24	MONTE JONATHAN GOLLUB son of Ellie Gollub
12/10	ZUNILDE (ZUNNY) MARTE , daughter of Victor Marte	12/24	RENZO SCHNIPPER , son of Matthew Schnipper and Marla Farina
12/11	HARRY GANDEL , grandson of Karen & Meyer Gross	12/24	RICHARD CONLEY , son of Phyllis Conley
12/11	JONAH HENIG , son of Abby Henig	12/25	CHARLIE SINISI , son of Ann Marie Sinisi, brother of Kelly and Dawn and the late Jimmy Sinisi
12/12	CALLIE LONG , daughter of Jackie Long	12/25	CHRISTINA ROMAN , daughter of Dalila Oquendo
12/12	CIANNA L. ALEXANDER , daughter of Rebecca Harper-Alexander	12/25	DAVID LANG BAREK , son of Peggy Lang
12/12	DANNY VOLEN , brother of Raizy Volen	12/25	LILY, SARAH & GRACE BADGER , daughters of Madonna Badger and Matt Badger
12/12	PAULA VOLEN , daughter of Raizy Volen	12/25	ROBERT SULKOWSKI , brother of Sarah Sulkowski
12/12	SHANA DOWDESWELL , daughter of Laurie & Roger Dowdeswell	12/26	ASHLEY CALAZAN , daughter of Erica Bonifacio
12/13	ALAN MYL son of Joanne Myl	12/27	SAIGIA BRON , daughter of Florence Layayette
12/13	AMBER ASHTON , daughter of Tom & Eleanor Ashton	12/27	SANDRA CHU , Best friend of Emanuel Veras
12/13	GEORGE DAVID MARAS , son of Marilyn Maras	12/27	THOMAS ROBERTS , brother of Victoria Roberts-Wierbowski
12/14	DANNY MAZRAANI , brother of Mona Mazraani	12/28	ANDY PERSAUD , son of Dennis Persaud, brother of Andrea Persaud
12/14	JIMMY ARMSTRONG , brother of Siobhan Armstrong	12/28	NASIR NEWSOME , son of Sharhon Newsome
12/14	STEVEN STERMAN , son of Lenore Salazar	12/29	PAULINE FUCHS , daughter of Carolin Fuchs & Rene Groth
12/15	COLETTE WAINWRIGHT , sister of Katherine Sall	12/30	KELLY ERIN GRAVES daughter of Gail Graves
12/15	JEFFREY VANCHIRO , son of Sylvester (Sly) Vanchiro	12/30	OLIVER LIEGEY , son of Viva & Robert Draper
12/15	JESSIE MORGAN PEK , daughter of Karyn Pek	12/31	IAN BOSIN , son of Judy Neustadter
12/15	JOSE SANFORD , son of Yolanda Rosado Ortiz & Gloria Perez	12/31	LIAM ARDEN , son of Esther and Patrick Arden
12/16	DARIA NORTON , daughter of Charlotte Savino & Lee Norton		
12/18	ALEX BIBLER , son of Lindsay Bibler		
12/18	ARON LINDELL , son of Julie Lindell		





OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



1/2 **LAURA LEVIS**, daughter of Georgia & William Levis
 1/2 **LUCY GRAVES**, daughter of Edward Graves
 1/3 **BRIAN MARC LIPTON**, son of Nancy & Charles Lipton
 1/3 **WILLIAM (BILLY) SMEAL**, nephew of Amanda Smeal
 1/5 **BENJAMIN TELUSHKIN**, son of Joseph & Dvorah Telushkin
 1/5 **MICHAEL MOSS**, son of Michaela & Bob Moss
 1/5 **NOELLE QUARANTA**, sister of Meredith Bonacci
 1/5 **RUTH DOUGHTY**, sister of Louise Doughty
 1/7 **CAMERON NICHOLLS**, son of Stephanie Moore Nicholls
 1/7 **JAQUELINE AHERN**, niece of Nan Ahern
 1/7 **OSCAR JOAQUIN**, son of Dru Levasseur
 1/8 **CHRISTINE EBERT**, daughter of Judy & John Ebert
 1/8 **ELLIOT CALVIN COPP**, son of Ariel Marie Pierce & Aaron Copp
 1/8 **JENNIFER BLANCHE BYRD**, daughter of Claudia Byrd
 1/8 **JOCELYN REED**, daughter of Cynthia Powell
 1/9 **JACK BRAUN**, brother of Hannah Braun
 1/10 **MICHAEL STEIN**, son of Eric Stein
 1/11 **BRYAN KELLY**, son of Sean Kelly
 1/11 **JESS ILIAS**, son of Chris Clavelli
 1/12 **JOHN MARZANO**, son of Claire Martino
 1/12 **JONATHAN MOORE**, son of Ron & Ronnie Moore
 1/13 **CHRISTOPHER JAMES ROUCH**, son of Kathy Rouch
 1/13 **JOSE SANFORD**, son of Yolanda Rosado Ortiz & Gloria Perez
 1/13 **MICHAEL RATH**, son of Kathy Rath
 1/14 **ANTHONY SANCHEZ**, son of Deborah Sanchez
 1/14 **BRIAN CULLIMORE**, son of Teresa Cullimore
 1/14 **CHARLENE ALVAREZ**, daughter of Charlie Alvarez
 1/14 **DAVID GIBBS**, son of Ann Gibbs
 1/15 **ADAM GERVER**, son of Howie Gerver
 1/15 **ARA DYMOND**, son of George & Linda Torosian Dymond
 1/15 **MARIA CUNARD**, sister of Angela George
 1/16 **AMOL VADEHRA**, brother of Mallika Vadehra
 1/17 **GABRIEL J. DIERRE**, son of Marie Nicole Rene

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



Our Children Remembrances — Changes

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OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



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

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THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CHAT SCHEDULE. Click here to display exact times and to see entire schedule				The Compassionate Friends National Office 48660 Pontiac Trail #930808, Wixom, MI 48393 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: DEC 16 JAN 20 FEB 17 MAR 17
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](#)