



The Compassionate Friends

Santa Clarita Valley Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

October 2017

Volume XVIII No. 10



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS is a self-help, nonprofit organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to families grieving the death of a child of any age, from any cause. When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, support to every family experiencing the death of a son or daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family. The butterfly signifies a new life for our lost children and a different life for ourselves. It is a symbol of hope, rebirth, and regeneration and beauty.

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS, INC.

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THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

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E-mail TCF.SCV@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheCompassionateFriendsofSantaClaritaCA
website: www.compassionatefriends-scv.org

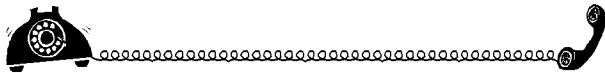
MEETINGS

We have one meeting a month. They are usually held on the 1st Thursday of each month.
Our next meeting will be **October 5, 2017**.

TIME: **7:00 P.M.**

MEETING PLACE: **Fellowship Christian Church
26889 Bouquet Canyon Rd., Ste. C.
Saugus, CA 91350**

(Take the side street next to the Goodwill store and make a left behind the store, the church is located in that building. Entry to the church is the double glass doors.)



FOR INFORMATION OR FOR A LOVING LISTENER, PLEASE CALL:

Diane Briones (Leader) 661-252-4654
Alice Renolds (Co-Leader) 661-252-4374
Carol Costin (Treasurer) 661-670-0395
Linda Stout (Remembrance Secretary) 661-202-8638



The Other Season

Look to the season of your memories-
it fills the weather of your life
with mildness.

It turns to laughter what your love
remembers:

the sound of words, invented new
for singing,
discovery of all-important secrets.

Look to the season of your memories -
how rich you were, and be how rich again.

Look to the season of your memories:
mourn and recall the child you love,
you love.....

until you lose yourself
to find yourself.

~Sascha Wagner

~From: *For You From Sascha*

*Watch the sunrise,
Remember the laughter,
Celebrate what was.*

~Sascha Wagner





Trick or Treat



The night is dim
And the pumpkins grin
At children on the porch.

The doorbell rings
"Trick or Treat" they sing
My heart burns like a torch.

The Dracula's face
And a princess in lace
Are peering in at me.

How I'd love to ask
"May I lift your mask?"
And hiding, there you'd be!

You'd get such a kick
From that silly trick,
But disguised, you must stay.

In the wind that blows
My heart still knows,
You're playing October charades.

~Kathie Slier
TCF Tulsa, OK

*What moves through us is a
silence, a quiet sadness, a longing for one
more day. One more word, one more
touch, we may not understand why you
left this earth so soon, or why you left
before we were ready to say goodbye, but
little by little we begin to remember not
just that you died, but that you lived.*

*And that life . . . gave us memories
too beautiful to forget.*

~author unknown



Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas & Even New Year's Day

Once again the time of celebrations is upon us. Ghosts, goblins, and a wicked witch or two express our farewell to October and prepare us for turkey, family reunions, and pumpkin pie that mark Thanksgiving. Then comes a most cherished holiday—Christmas, followed by New Year's Day.

For many parents these occasions are almost unbearably difficult because our memories give us glimpses of excited costumed children voicing a timid "trick or treat" at neighbors' doors. We remember the fondness of a family Thanksgiving and chuckle at recalling best clothing smeared with the color of cranberry. But, perhaps most of all, we live again the search for that favorite story or book, or the vibrancy of a child's eyes drinking in the Christmas tree.

It is wonderful to remember, but in the first years at least, the pain overshadows most of the happiness we have in recall. But even for those along in years and growth from the time of bereavement, there is a longing that is forever barren, a hope that cannot be realized. The pain may be less wrenching, less totally consuming, but it is always there.

There are ways to help yourself if you wish, but it is very hard at first. You can curse the darkness, holding the pain close to you to protect what little seems to remain of you, and we who are also bereaved will understand, for we have gone that lonely road as well. Plan to give yourself lots of latitude and learn to tolerate your own behavior. If you spend all, one, or two of these days in tear, depression or yarning, it simply means that you are not ready to face the task that the holidays have become. Perhaps in the future you will.

When I think of my son Olin or the children we have all lost, I think of light and dreams, joy and laughter. There is no holiday memory or activity, beautiful present or well-intentioned relative that will compensate for the life, the light, or the splendid future forever lost to eternity. Yet, as I grow older in my grief, I also remember that my child's light and dreams gave birth to my own joy and laughter. These were gifts he gave me every holiday, together with a limitless love that defies all time and space, even death itself.

So I have promised him a laugh back this Christmas, at least, and on the other holidays if I can. It's not a gift to put in a box or stocking and the packaging will still be the same old me. But he'll have my gift this year—a smile, a laugh, some joy from me. As I write this it seems very strange, for that gift is but a return of many he gave, colorful packages, invisible to all but me, nestled in splendor beneath our tree.

~Don Hackett
TCF, Plymouth, MA

Chapter News

Meeting Topics & Info

October 5 - "How Do I Survive?"

November 2 - Decorate Luminaries for Candle Lighting Remembrance Program

December 7- Holiday Potluck

December 10- Candle Lighting Remembrance Program

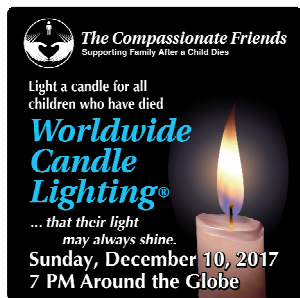
Welcome New Members



Attending your first meeting takes courage and it is always hard to say "welcome" because we are so very sorry for the reason which made you eligible for our membership in TCF. However, we are glad you found us! We cannot take away your pain but we can offer our friendship and support, Do try and to attend at least 3 meetings so you have a chance to meet others who are bereaved and discover that special acceptance that occurs with new friends who truly understand.

New to our chapter are:

Monica Stiff, mother of Jennifer



21st Annual
Worldwide
Candle Lighting
December 10 @ 6:30pm

This will be our chapter's 17th year of holding it's annual candle lighting event in conjunction with the National's Worldwide event. We are happy to announce that we will again be **holding our event indoors but** at a **new location** this year! It will be located at La Mesa Jr. High 26623 May Way, 91351 Santa Clarita beginning at **6:30pm**.

In memory of our children, siblings, and grandchildren we will be selling luminaries as a small fundraiser for our chapter for \$10.00 each. Please join us at the **November meeting** to decorate your very own personal luminary. If you can't make the meeting, you can simply order them by filling out the attached order form and drop it in the mail. We will take care of the rest for you! As this is a fundraiser, we would appreciate that you **not bring** luminaries **from home** or from **past years**. The deadline for ordering a luminary is **December 1st**.

As in the past, we will have a photo/video presentation. If you need to add your child, sibling, or grandchild's photo to our presentation, we must receive it by **November 24**. A digital photo is preferred and should be emailed to Alice at TCFofSCV@gmail.com If you only have a hard copy of your photo, this can be mailed to Alice Renolds at 27949 Park Meadow Dr., Canyon Country, CA 91387. Please include your name, your loved one's name, address, and phone number so the photo can be returned to you. (Please only one (1) photo per child).

Important !

Be sure to have your child or grandchild's picture on file with us if you would like to make a luminary at the November meeting (we print their picture to use on the luminary) or have their picture included in the slide show for our candle lighting ceremony on December 10. Please note the deadline to add to the slide show is...**November 24!** Also, don't forget to order photo buttons. They are great for yourself or family members to wear at the candle lighting. We make them for you at a cost of only \$2.00 each. Please call Alice 661-252-4374 or email TCFofSCV@gmail.com for more info.

It is with great sadness that we learned that one of our members Darlyn Boyle has left this earth and has joined her daughter Summer.

She had recently taken over the job of reminder calls of upcoming meetings to our members. This little task bought her so much joy as she felt like she was helping in some small way and she was connecting with other members.

Our thoughts and love go out to her husband Jim and remaining daughter Destiny.



Autumn Feelings

During the next couple of months, we will see many changes taking place in the world around us. The amount of daylight is decreasing; nights are becoming chilly; will often need some sweaters or jackets as we venture forth each day. However the most dramatic change we notice here in New England during September and October is that of the trees trading their green summer outfits for the brilliant reds, oranges and gold's of autumn, Many of us who are bereaved parents find ourselves feeling tense and depressed when the earth awakens in the spring; we many also experience these feeling when the dramatic changes of autumn occur. A wise lady once said to me, "our bodies respond to the changing season." She was right. They do! And they respond by FEELING. It seems to me that all of the grief feelings that I have-emptiness, sadness, anger, loneliness, guilt and depression- are all intensified as the world of nature around me changes.

Sometimes, however, we can draw strength from situations that see, on the surface, to be negative. A few weeks after Linda's death, I heard from two friends within a few days of each other. One said. "you know, when I am troubled, I get out and walk until I find something in nature that I've never seen before. I look at it and think about it, and I am renewed." The other friend, who had some physical disabilities, wrote me a note in which she said, "whenever I feel discourage, I find something in nature to study, and I am renewed." I think hearing from these two friends within just a few days of each other had to be more than just a coincidence. I feel that there was an important message there for me, and I've tried to act on it.

I can draw strength from an early morning walk, from frost patterns on our windows, from a raging blizzard, from birds at our feeder, from a rainbow, a ladybug or a whale-If I slow down, think about those things, observe their intricacy and beauty, and attempt to let some of their energy into myself.

We have to slow down, try to realize what is happening to us and be receptive to the energy that is in the natural world for us. When I'm down because it's a sparkling, clear, colorful autumn day and Linda isn't here to experience it with me, I have to feel that pain, then let it go so that the natural beauty and energy around me can strengthen and renew me.

Let yourself experience autumn-the emptiness and aching that you feel. Then try to let go of those feelings, just enough to set the wonder and the beauty of the season into yourself-one day at a time.

*~Evelyn Billings
TCF Springfield, Mass.*

*In your gathering of memories,
invite your courage
to remember everything.*

~Sascha Wagner



Masks

In idle conversation,
you ask me about my children.
You are an acquaintance
I do not know you well,
And so I speak happily of joys
lightheartedly of mischief,
but I do not speak of death.

I do not want to see
the shadow of uncertainty
pass your face.
And feel the awkward silence that falls
like a curtain between us.
I do not want to say,
"It's okay, that was
a long time ago."
I will never be "okay"
and sometimes it seems
like yesterday.

And so I take my mask
along with me through life
like a perpetual Halloween night,
to hide just a bit from people
and to preserve my strength.
For mourning is tiring,
and each time I recount
That day of death,
I am a little wearied,
I would rather speak
of the joys of his life
than the sorrows of his death,
to strangers who absently ask of children.

Yet, tragedy is more universal
than ever I had known
before it touched my life,
And so at times, I wonder
who else looks out from behind a mask.

*~Karen Nelson
TCF, Box Elder County
Brigham City, UT*



Love Gifts



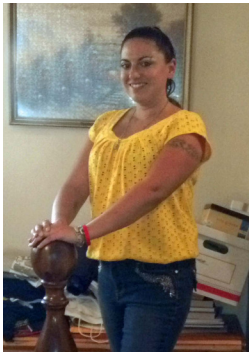
Were Received From:

David & Laurie Millard

In Loving Memory of their Daughter:

Brianna Brandy Millard Smith

10/6 - 3/30



Happy Birthday in Heaven

Is there a party up in Heaven
To celebrate today?
Did angels frost a cake for you?
Or sing to start your day?

We're celebrating you down here
As they must be above
I truly hope your special day
Is filled with peace and love

This day was always special
As we gathered round you here
We'd sing and laugh and celebrate
Your day with so much cheer

I miss those special moments
That we shared throughout the years
It's hard to find that on this day
My eyes now fill with tears

I'm trying hard to smile for you
But, ohhh...that empty chair...
I turn around and find myself
Still shocked that you're not there

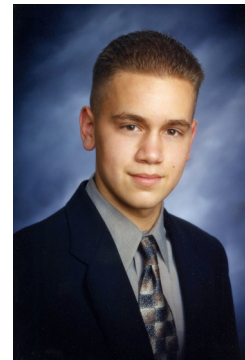
Please know I'm thinking of you
As I go throughout each day
This day is very special though
Because it's your birthday

Carlos & Ana Rodriguez

In Loving Memory of their Son:

Eric Rodriguez

8/11 - 1/20



We miss you so much Eric!
We just hope you can feel our love for you in heaven.
Love Dad & Mom

Love Gifts 

A Love Gift is a wonderful way to remember your child, grandchild, or sibling's birthday or angel dates or just to say I love you. What better way than to have their photo included in our newsletter along with a special memory, thought or message, article or poem from you.

If anyone would like to make a donation in memory of their child, grandchild, or sibling you may give it to Alice or Diane at our meeting or mail it to Alice at 27949 Park Meadow Dr., Canyon Country, 91387. You can also email the info to TCF.SCV@gmail.com Love gifts should be received by the 10th of the month to be placed in the following month's newsletter. What a special way to share and remember your loved one!

Our chapter exists solely on voluntary, tax deductible donations. We thank you in advance for any donations you may be able to give or send. Your donations help to pay the expenses of our newsletter, purchase books & brochures, coffee & refreshments, new member's packets, our rental space and other miscellaneous supplies. They also fund our annual Balloon Release and Candle Lighting programs. We sincerely appreciate your support!



"Forever In Our Hearts"



Our Children/Grandchildren/Siblings Remembered

October 2017



<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Angel Date</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
<i>Michelle Nicole Briones</i>	8/24	10/11	<i>Daughter of Bert & Diane Briones Sister of Tim</i>
<i>Vincent Michael Lizarr</i>	9/6	10/5	<i>Son of Rich & Ida Hahlbech/Mauro Lizarr Brother of Gregory</i>
<i>Jamie Knopf</i>	10/21	11/21	<i>Daughter of Jim & Susan Kirk</i>
<i>Dwaine Michael Laub</i>	10/6	5/29	<i>Son of Stephen & Mary Trimmel Sister of Hallie</i>
<i>Adam Bouziane</i>	4/15	10/29	<i>Son of Laura Erdmann-Bouziane Brother of Ryan</i>
<i>Andrew Owen Soltero</i>	10/29	8/8	<i>Son of Paul & Jenni Brother of Caitlynn, Hailey</i>
<i>Greg Hilton</i>	7/11	10/2	<i>Son of Gary & Kathy Hilton Brother of Matt</i>
<i>Brianna Brandy Millard Smith</i>	10/6	3/30	<i>Daughter of David & Laurie Millard Sister of Jessica, Rosalie</i>
<i>Randal Laine Smith</i>	10/24	8/2	<i>Son of Sharon Smith Sister of Cystal</i>
<i>Aiden Matthew Lopez</i>	10/27	3/26	<i>Son of Jessica & Cesar Grandson of Carmen & William</i>
<i>Travis Fredrick Marton</i>	10/15	1/1	<i>Son of Ricki & Andrew Marton Brother of A.J., Jake</i>
<i>Julian Nicholas Nava</i>	12/27	10/11	<i>Son of Diane & Richard Brother of Terina, Marissa, Annis, Daniel</i>
<i>Aidan Isaac Navarro</i>	8/29	10/2	<i>Son of Javier & Tejera</i>
<i>Adam Scott Fitch</i>	10/23	10/31	<i>Son of Rick & Susan Brother of Parker, Kevin, Trevor, Jake</i>
<i>Sarah Geneva Lowery</i>	4/23	10/28	<i>Daughter of Bill & Karen Lowery Sister of Spencer</i>



On last month's (September) Memorial page Karla Mendez name was accidentally left off. We apologize for this error and have listed it below.

<i>Karla Hana Mendez Brada</i>	9/3	9/1	<i>Daughter of Hector & Jaroslava Sister of Sasha</i>
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The Compassionate Friends
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Light a candle for all
children who have died

**Worldwide
Candle
Lighting®**

... that their light
may always shine.

**Sunday, December 10, 2017
7 PM Around the Globe**



Candlelight Remembrance Program

December 10, 2017 6:30pm

Photo Presentation & Luminaries

La Mesa Jr. High School

26623 May Way

Santa Clarita, CA 91351

*Sponsored by The Compassionate Friends
Of Santa Clarita*

Again this year we will have a video presentation of our children's, sibling's, and grandchildren's photos. You do not have to be a member of the Santa Clarita Chapter to have their photo included in this presentation. Photos must be received by **November 24** to be included in the video. A digital photo is preferred and should be emailed to our chapter at TCFofSCV@gmail.com. If you only have a hard copy of your photo, it can be mailed to Alice Renolds at 27949 Park Meadow Dr., Canyon Country, CA 91387. Please include your name, loved one's name, address, and phone number so your photo can be returned to you.

Also available for purchase are luminaries in memory of your child/sibling/grandchild as a small fundraiser for \$10.00. If you are unable to make our November meeting to come and decorate one, please fill out and mail in the order form below. We will take care of the rest for you and put it out on the walkway the night of the program! These luminaries are yours to take home at the end of the program. As this is a fundraiser, we would appreciate that you **not bring your own** luminary or **ones from past** years to our program.

The deadline for ordering a luminary is **December 1.**

# _____ of Luminaries with battery operated candle (\$10.00 each)	Total \$
Name(s) to appear on Luminary (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)	

Please mail order form and check (made out to The Compassionate Friends) to:

Alice Renolds
27949 Park Meadow Dr.
Canyon Country, CA 91387

Orders must be received by December 1, 2017