



The Compassionate Friends

Santa Clarita Valley Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

September/October 2018

Volume 19, No. 5



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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Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696
Toll Free (877) 969-0010 *Fax (630) 990-0246
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THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

Mailing Address: 27949 Park Meadow Dr.,
Santa Clarita, CA 91387
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.

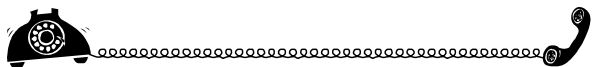
Our next meetings will be **September 6 & October 4.**

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

MEETING **Fellowship Christian Church**

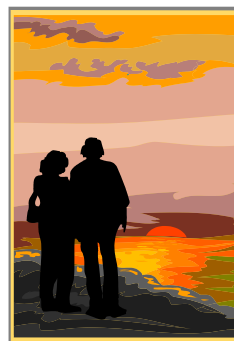
PLACE: **26889 Bouquet Canyon Rd., Ste. C. Saugus, CA 91350**

(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



Vespers

Just at sunset
does your busy day
suddenly fall silent
and remember?

Does the rising night
make you ready
to see that face again,
to feel that love?

Let the sunset
weave its magic.
Invite the rising night
to cast its dream.

Have we not said
a thousand times and more
that we are richest
when the heart remembers?

~Sascha Wagner

From "For You From Sascha"





September Song

The school bells ring, young voices sing
 And small ones shout with glee
 The autumn air beckons school to start
 And left alone is me
 What makes me feel so down and blue
 And boggled down with thoughts of you?
 I see the school bus passing by
 And find myself with a tear in my eye
 Is it the clothes we can't buy
 While others grab the jeans to try,
 Or is it autumn in the air
 That pulls at heart strings-already bare?
 Maybe it's falling leaves and dying grass
 Bringing reflections like a looking glass
 Whatever the reason that stirs my heart
 Every year when school must start
 Reminds me how much I miss you
 Forever loved Forever missed

Mom, TCF Fort Wayne, TX

Journey

Life is a journey
 between shadow and light
 many times over.

Travel your road
 with readiness, always for joy
 and with loving attention
 to the richness
 of your memories.

~Sascha Wagner
 From: "For You From Sascha"

Our Many Special Days

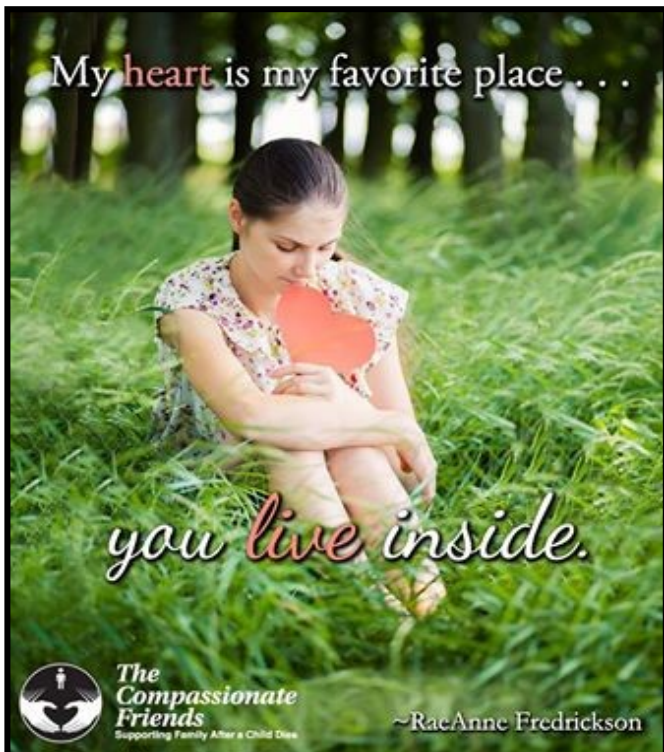
The beginning of the school year each fall seems to signal the coming holidays. The commercial market starts stocking school supplies just after the Fourth of July; shortly thereafter, by late summer the school supplies are crowded out by all the paraphernalia of Halloween! A glimpse of Thanksgiving whizzes by and it is an all out affront on the Christmas season. After the death of our child we stumble around each year looking for the appropriate way of handling these seasons that once had so much joy to them.

But the calendar holidays are far from the only "Special Days" that bereaved parents face. Our child's birthday and death date are especially hard days but also are the days relating to their illness or other events that relate to their death date and funeral or memorial. The most obvious days are not always the only hard days to live with. Rainy days, snowy days, starry nights can all trigger tugging emotions. Tuesday for laundry day may be the hardest day all year long.

No bereaved parent will have the same feeling of a special day or have the same special day because our children were different people to each person. Because of this, like in everything else in our grief work, we have to allow space for each other's "bad" days.

Each passing year after the death of our child finds us relating to special days differently each year. It is a continuing process never to return to that which used to be. As the years pass and we work hard at our "grief work" we will heal but that does not mean being like we were or doing the things we used to do. We are an evolving new person learning to live again.

~Gerry Hall
 TCF South Central, MO



Chapter News

Meeting Topics & Info

September 6 - "Managing Stress During Grief" - We will be discussing and sharing ways to help with stress.

October 4 - "Handprints of Choices" - Exploring what to let go of and what to hold on to!

November 1 - Decorate luminaries

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:

Aaron & April Boehlert-Rubinfeld parents of Aurora

Kevin & Misty de la Cueva parents of Aveline

Kevin & Pam Findley parents of Erica

About our Meetings

Please don't stay away from a meeting because the scheduled topic does not interest you. At each meeting there will be time to discuss and share whatever is on your mind. We welcome your participation, but it is not required.



Thank you so very much for your generous newsletter renewal donations.

They are greatly appreciated!

Carlos & Ana Rodriguez in memory of their son Eric
Mary Trimmell in memory of her son Dwaine
Bruce Peddie in memory of his son Nigel
Patricia Patton, Ph.D. in memory of all children
John & Rumi Callin in memory of their son Thomas
Pahola Mascorro in memory of her son Eli
Myra Kulick in memory of her granddaughter Bailey
Marilyn Lemke in memory of her son William
Fran McPhie in memory of her son Sean
Marie Sprague in memory of her son Steven
Kathy Kelly in memory her son Mickey

Mark your calendar !



*22nd Annual Worldwide
Candle Lighting
December 9 @ 6:30*

Our 18th Annual Candle Lighting Remembrance program will take place on Sunday, December 9th. This program is held in conjunction with the National's 22nd Worldwide event.

We are happy to announce that we will be holding this program again indoors at La Mesa Jr. High at 26623 May Way, Santa Clarita 91351. Our program begins 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. These will line the walkway of our ceremony and are yours take home afterwards. 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 one by filling out the attached order form and drop it in the mail. As this is a fundraiser, we would appreciate that you not bring luminaries from home or from past years.

As in the past, we will have a photo/video presentation during our program. If you want 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 TCF.SCV@gmail.com If you only have a hard copy, this 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 the photo can be returned to you. (Please only one (1) photo per child).



World Suicide Prevention Day
Working Together to Prevent Suicide
September 10, 2018



Please light a candle near a window at 8 PM on Monday, September 10, 2018. To show your support for suicide prevention, to remember a lost loved one, and for the survivors of suicide.



Autumn Tears

We look back on September and we realize that somehow we made it through those dreaded first days of school. Whether it was the anticipation or the actual days that were the worst, we survived. We used our faith, our support systems or just plain hard work and made it over yet another hurdle. We watched small children heading for their first day of kindergarten, listened to excited teenagers talk of high school and heard stories of children leaving home to attend post-secondary school. Somehow we rode the waves of grief and found ourselves ashore again.

As these waves subside new ones will build as we head into the holidays that speak of, and to, children. Halloween will soon approach and for some, painful memories. Thanksgiving arrives to exemplify family and togetherness and Christmas looms ahead. These special days are forever reminders of our loss-the costumes we'll never sew, the empty chair at turkey dinner, the fun and magic we'll never share with someone we love. Forever reminders that our child has died.

To survive when these events and anniversary days come around let's find time to think of the good memories we have-the announcement of our long awaited pregnancy at Thanksgiving dinner, the look of excitement of our daughter helping prepare the turkey dinner. These holidays will always be reminders that our child died. Let us also make them reminders that our child lived! They left us memories more precious than any others to hold and celebrate!

*~Penny Young,
TCF Powell River, British Columbia*

Halloween



It is here, this day of merriment
and children's pleasure.
Gremlins and goblins
and ghosties at the door of your house.

And the other children
come to the door of your mind.
Faces out of the past,
small ghosts with sweet, painted faces.
They do not shout.

Those children
who no longer march laughing
on cold Halloween night,
they stand at the door of your mind-
-and you will let them in,
so that you can give them
the small gifts of Halloween-
a smile and a tear.

~Sascha Wagner

Masks



At times of sorrow
everyone deals with feeling
in unique ways.

Try not to hurt
if those closest to your heart
seem to grieve less
or behave strangely.

We cannot always see on the outside
how someone mourns on the inside.

*~by Sascha
From: For You From Sascha*

It's Okay to Grieve

It's Okay to Grieve.

The death of a child is a reluctant and drastic amputation, without anesthesia. The pain cannot be described, and no scale can measure the loss. We despise the truth that the death cannot be reversed and, somehow, our dear one returned. Such hurt!
It's okay to grieve.

It's Okay to Cry.

Tears release the flood of sorrow, of missing and of love. Tears relieve the brute force of hurting, enabling us to level off and continue our cruise along the stream of life. It's okay to cry.

It's Okay to Heal.

We do not need to prove we love our child. As the months pass, we are slowly able to move around with less outward grieving each day. We need not feel guilty, for this is not an indication that we love less. It does mean that, although we don't like it, we are learning to accept death. It's a healthy sign of healing.
It's okay to heal.

It's Okay to Laugh.

Laughter is not a sign of less grief. Laughter is not a sign of less love. It's a sign that many of our thoughts and memories are happy ones. It's a sign that we know our dear one would have us laugh. It's okay to laugh.

*~Patricia Luffy Nevitt
TCF Austin, TX*

 **Love Gifts** 

Were Received From:

Carlos & Ana Rodriguez

In Loving Memory of their Son:

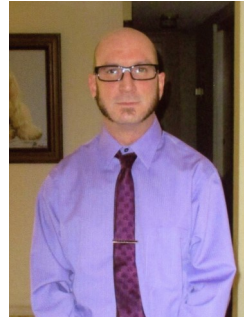


**Eric
Rodriguez
8/11– 1/20**

We have always been so proud of you. We know Angels in Heaven are happy to see your beautiful smile every day. We miss you so much. We treasure every memory of you and keep them in our hearts always.
Much, Much Love
Mom & Dad

Bobbie Mathers

In Loving Memory of her Son:



**Peter Spencer
2/5 - 9/4**

Has it been really a year?
Loving and missing you
everyday.
Love Mom & Dad

The Soul would have no Rainbow
if the eyes had no tears.
~Native American Proverb

Barbara Rawson

In Loving Memory of her Son:



**Christopher
Rodriguez
9/22 - 6/13**

Happy 45th birthday son.
You are loved and missed each and every day.

Pahola Mascorro

In Loving Memory of her Son:



**Eli Rodriguez
9/26 - 2/17**

No Time to say goodbye, you were gone before
we knew it, and only God knows why.

Love you, miss you,
Dest, CJ & Mom

"Forever In Our Hearts"

Our Children/Grandchildren/Siblings



Loved and Missed on Their Birthdays

<i>September</i>			<i>October</i>		
Name	Date	Member	Name	Date	Member
Vincent Lizarr	9/6	Ida Hahlbech/Mauro Lizarr	Jamie Knopf	10/21	Jim & Susan Kirk
Brian Berry	9/16	Steve Berry	Dwaine Laub	10/6	Mary Trimmel
Christopher Rodriguez	9/22	Barbara Rawson	Andrew Soltero	10/29	Paul & Jenni
Francisco Garcia	9/10	Veroncia Garcia	Brianna Millard Smith	10/6	David & Laurie Millard
Eli Rodriguez	9/26	Pahola Mascorro	Randal Smith	10/24	Sharon Smith
Karla Brada	9/3	Hector & Jaroslava	Aiden Lopez	10/27	Cesar & Jessica
			Aiden Lopez (Grandchild)	10/27	Carmen Smith
			Travis Marton	10/15	Andrew & Ricki
			Adam Fitch	10/23	Susan

Lovingly Remembered on Their Angel Dates



<i>September</i>			<i>October</i>		
Name	Date	Member	Name	Date	Member
Thomas Callin	9/6	John & Rumi Callin	Michelle Briones	10/11	Bert & Diane Briones
Jeffrey Costin	9/3	Richard & Carol Costin	Vincent Lizarr	10/5	Ida Hahlbech/Mauro Lizarr
Michael Rodriguez (Sibling)	9/19	Debbie DiCorrado	Adam Bouziane	10/29	Laura Erdmann-Bouziane
Cyrena Becerra	9/5	Mona Gonzalez	Greg Hilton	10/2	Kathy Hilton
Austin Losorelli	9/30	Joe & Phyllis Losorelli	Adam Fitch	10/31	Susan Fitch
Caitlin Gulley	9/10	Dale & Holly Gulley	Sarah Lowery	10/28	Bill & Karen Lowery
Peter Spencer	9/4	Bobbie Mathers	Sage Gallegos	10/17	Alex & Anita Gallegos

correction

On the July/August newsletter Memorial page Joshua, Bonnie & Gary's last name was spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling is Sparage.

Also, listed incorrectly was the date for Olivia Kares Birthday, it should have been 7/14.

On the Love Gift page the dates for Darren Bullock were listed incorrectly. The correct dates should have been 6/15 - 11/19

We sincerely apologize for these errors!!

Recalling Love

Endless days and nights pass by
 Never a one that my heart doesn't cry.
 Recalling the memories from along ago past
 Trying to capture you and make time last.
 Shadows of yesterday's play in my mind
 Lost in the dreams of a happier time.
 The echo of your laughter is music to my ear
 I can almost touch you,
 And hold you near.
 Your face is so clear, in my mind's eye

I can almost pretend you are here,
 You didn't die.
 And we sit and talk about our hopes and dreams
 Oh so real in my heart all this seems.
 But I must awaken, as reality calls me to return.
 But oh my son for the past I yearn.
 But you remain in my heart and mind
 And whenever I wish, your presence I can find.
 I miss you more today than yesterday,
 But not as much as tomorrow.

*~"Steve's" Mom - Sheila Simmons
Atlanta TCF Online Sharing*



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 9, 2018
7 PM Around the Globe**



Candlelight Remembrance Program

December 9, 2018 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 23** to be included in the video. A digital photo is preferred and should be emailed to our chapter at TCF,SCV@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