



# FORGET-ME-NOT

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Network News</i>	2-3
<i>3rd Annual BB&amp;G Charities Golf Outing</i>	3
<i>Wooden Wings Project</i>	3
<i>Parent's Day Breakfast</i>	4
<i>How to Honour a Bereaved Mom on Mother's Day</i>	4
<i>Be Kind to Yourself</i>	4
<i>Honoring Your Service</i>	5
<i>Light of Mine Memorial Gifts</i>	5
<i>Forget-You-Nots</i>	6
<i>Poetry</i>	7
<i>Elegant Evening to Remember Award Winners</i>	8-9-10
<i>Area Support Groups</i>	11

[wnypbn.org](http://wnypbn.org)

## WNYPBN, Inc.

### Board of Directors:

Jan Walkden,  
**President**  
Laura Reyda,  
**Vice President**  
Dawn Both-Kim,  
**Secretary**  
Michael Anderson,  
**Treasurer**

Michael Anderson, Dr.  
Lynn-Marie Aronica, Dr.  
Vivien Carrion, Lisa  
Jerebko, Suzanne Mis,  
Constance Perna, Lisa  
Wolff, Rev. Richard Zajac,  
Dr. William Zorn

Christine Scott,  
**Executive Director**

## SAVE THE DATES

### Save the Dates!

**May 13, 2017 Parent's Day Breakfast**

ACQUA, Buffalo—see Page 4 for Details

**September 18, 2017**

**Ride to Remember with a Twist**

Batavia, NY

Due to road construction, the Ride cannot include a bicycling portion. The event will include a basket raffle and meal. Watch the website for more information!

**October 8, 2017 Walk to Remember**

Cheektowaga Town Park

## WNYPBN MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Baby's Sweet Beginnings Lactation & Wellness Center	The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care	Life Transitions Center, Inc.
Brooks Memorial Hospital	Eastern Niagara Hospital— Lockport Division	Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital
Catholic Charities of Buffalo - WIC Program	Kaleida Health Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo	SICD: Sudden Infant & Child Death Resource Center
Catholic Health System Mercy Hospital Mount St. Mary's Hospital of Lewiston	Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital	Olean General Hospital
Sisters of Charity Hospital	Jones Memorial Hospital	United Memorial Medical Center
		WCA Hospital
		Wyoming County Community Health System

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Spring is finally sprung in Western New York! Flowers are blooming and I'm getting itchy to start digging in the dirt.

I hope you all are healing and progressing in your journeys of grief. It's a tough row to hoe—especially with Mother's Day and Father's Day quickly approaching. Feel the warmth of the sun, the calm serenity of the soft springtime breezes and

know that your babies will always live on in your heart. They would want you to be happy and to enjoy the beauty in each bloom.

The early spring WNYPBN events were very successful and a wonderful time was experienced by all. The kindness and generosity of all who attending the Basket Raffle

as well as those who attended and were honored at the Elegant Evening to Remember Gala was vastly apparent and appreciated.

Remember to Scatter Kindness everywhere! You never know where it will sprout from your love!

Peace,



## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network (WNYPBN), Inc. is to assist the community to meet the needs of people facing the pain

of perinatal death. We promote standards of bereavement intervention through educational support, community programs, and referral services to bereaved

parents. The WNYPBN supports an established standard of care following a perinatal death, regardless of the facility where the birth took place.



# Network News



From the desk of Christine Scott  
WNYPBN Executive Director



Bereaved Mother of Jacob Wesley Scott—May 27, 2000

Every Spring I feel a renewed sense of Hope. Springtime refers to the season, and also ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and re-growth. With each perennial poking their little head out of the winter ground, and becoming a full bloom with each passing day, the blooms on the Bradford Pear trees, the robins chirping in harmony and singing a tune each morning, the extra bit of warmth felt on my face in the sunshine, and the promise of a monarch butterfly siting soon to come... HOPE! Happy Spring, I hope this season brings a little hope in your hearts.

Our winter/spring programs and services have been extremely healing, well attended, uniting, and successful. I hope many of you were able to attend one or more of them, to take part in the camaraderie and love that surrounded them all!

A very sincere thank you to Kyle & Dori McGowan! They hosted Ryan's Reason Family Skate & Charity Hockey Game Saturday on February 11th at The Healthy Zone Rink in East Aurora. The proceeds supported the Wings of Love Memorial Fund. It was a beautiful day and tribute to Ryan and \$1,805.00 was raised to support the Wings of Love Memorial fund, which eases some of the unexpected financial burden placed on grieving families during the tragic loss of their infant. We are forever grateful for all your hard work and generous support.

Our third Art Support Group, Paint for Hope and Healing, was held at our Network office on March 11th. The event was attended by eight bereaved family members and was a

beautiful and healing journey. Thank you, Amy Bowser, for another great session.

in this event keeps our babies memory alive and is very important part of our lifetime healing journey - Love Lives Forever.

Cyndee Fahey, bereaved mother of Sarah Suzanne Fahey, October 23-27, 2000, a long time chair of this event states: "The WNYPBN has given me a gift... a second family and beautiful lifelong friends who understand and have the ability to give to others what has been given to me. Volunteering with the Network makes me so proud of my daughter. The events held each year help fund the mission of the WNYPBN: continuing to support each and every family that reaches out for help after the tragic loss of their baby. The Network is there during the darkest time of their lives giving them hope, creating memories and making sure they know that the power of love can never be extinguished. The generosity of everyone attending these events supports our outreach to the bereaved community within the eight Western New York counties."

A tremendous thank you to our chair, Cyndee Fahey, for another year and a job done!! We are so grateful to her and the team of volunteers she lead for another very successful event. Over 170 baskets were beautifully assembled to remember our angels, and many specialty raffles raised \$13,500 to support our programs.

On April 1st the West Seneca Women's Club hosted their 44th Annual Charity Luncheon and chose our Network as one of their Charity Recipients in 2017. We are so grateful for this opportunity because we cannot do it alone. No non-profit agency can succeed without the support of the community



PAINT IN HOPE AND HEALING ATTENDEES AND THEIR BEAUTIFUL WORKS OF ART CREATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF THEIR BABIES GONE TOO SOON. PICTURED AT THE BOTTOM, AMY BOWSER, ARTISTIC COORDINATOR FOR THE EVENT.

At our first board meeting of the year on March 9th, our Board of Directors voted in our new officers: President Mrs. Jan Walkden, RN, BSN, MSN; Vice President, Laura Reyda; and Treasurer, Mike Anderson. I want to welcome all of you in your new role on the board and we are very excited moving forward. Thank you to: Dr. William Zorn, former President; Father Duke, former Vice-President, and Sue Mis, former treasurer for years of dedicated service. Even though they have passed their executive role to another, they will remain a part of our board of directors. We would also like to thank and honor Dr. Zorn and Father Duke for over 35 years of dedicated service to our community!

Saturday, March 25th was our 12th Annual Evening to Remember Basket Raffle. The Annual Evening to Remember gives participants an opportunity to remember and celebrate their loved one by creating a basket in their memory. Creating a basket and participating

*"Hope is the thing  
with feathers that  
perches in the soul &  
sings the tunes without  
the words and never  
stops at all."*

- EMILY DICKINSON

and are so thankful for everyone who aided in the success of this event.

On Friday, April 21st we hosted our 6th Annual Elegant Evening to Remember, where we honored and recognized those in our community who continuously support the mission of the WNY-PBN. We celebrated the gift of kindness: being kind is one of the most valuable gifts you will ever give someone. I want to thank all of our award recipients for their amazing gift they have given to others who have endured the tragic pain of losing a baby.

Together, we change the world one Random Act of Kindness at a time. So many times we wonder what we can do when someone loses a baby.



With the WNY-PBN's new Random Act of Kindness program, you can make a donation that will sponsor an Act of Kindness that will be completed in loving memory of a child, and

this tribute will be listed on our RAK Page on our website Please see pages 8, 9, and 10 for all EER event highlights and for our new Random Act of Kindness program which was launched at the Elegant Evening to Remember. The program was inspired by Kelly Anderson, bereaved mother of Michael Anthony Anderson. Always remember: no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. ~Aesop

Please join us for the Wings of Love Parent's Day Breakfast on May 13th. Together we will acknowledge, recognize, honor, and celebrate that indeed you will forever be a mother or a father, while paying tribute to our beautiful babies. Please see page 4 for more memorial service details. It is important for our WNY-PBN family to support each other during the difficult holidays of Mother's and Father's Day.

All Golfers Save the Date: June 10, 2017 for BB&G Charities 3rd Annual Golf Charity Classic! A portion of the proceeds from the event will support the Wings of Love Memorial Fund. Last year's event was very successful with much fun had by all! Don't miss out on your chance to participate in this event to help support a wonderful cause!

WNY-PBN & Mykell's Model & Talent is accepting bridal gown donations for a bridal show/auction that will take place Late Summer 2017. The gowns will be modeled and

auctioned at affordable prices. All proceeds will go to the WNY-PBN. Participants will also have the option to donate the gowns back for "The Angel Robes Program" where our volunteers will create beautiful handmade infant burial gowns. To donate a bridal gown please contact Christine at Christine@wnypbn.org or Ramona Sanford at mykellsmoelantalent@gmail.com. The loving Random Act of Kindness is done in memory of Ramona's nephew Mykell Sanford (February 9, 2014 - April 19, 2014).

I am looking for creative individuals to aid in the Theme design of this year's Annual Walk to Remember held in October. We are very busy during the summer months planning this special event during Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month. If you have any suggestions or would like to submit a design by June 15th please reach out to me at Christine@wnypbn.org.

Again, please consider joining us the day before Mother's Day for the Wings of Love Parent's Day Breakfast. If you are unable to attend, I wish all of you a peaceful day. Be good to yourselves because you are indeed a Mother or a Father even though you hold your child in your heart and not in your arms. Wishing you all hope and peace.

Sincerely,  
*Christine*

## The 3rd Annual BB&G Charities

### Golf Outing

June 10, 2017

Chestnut Hill Country Club  
1330 Broadway, Darien Center, NY 14040

12:00 Lunch / Registration

1:30 Shotgun Start

\$110 Includes Golf, Lunch, Dinner, and Open Bar Before and After Dinner  
Numerous Raffles, Contests and Prizes

Register at [BBGCharity.org](http://BBGCharity.org) or call 716-870-0903



# BB&G CHARITIES

HELPING KIDS EXPERIENCE THE AMAZING!

Portion of the Proceeds to Benefit the Wings of Love Memorial Fund

## Wooden Wings Project

The Wooden Wing Project was created by Amy & Justin Bowser. It offers customized wooden memorial pieces to honor your angel baby(ies). The piece will include a tree of life with a family of birds sitting inside observing a bird soaring away. The family of birds represents your family here on earth and the bird flying away represents your angel baby making his/her journey to heaven.

A lot of time and love go into these pieces and we would love to work with you in customizing your own.

Proceeds from the memorial pieces will fund the production of the



wooden angel wings that are donated to the WNY-PBN for newly bereaved families.

Contact us [amyrochellebowser@gmail.com](mailto:amyrochellebowser@gmail.com) to get all of your details in place and we can start your order!

The wooden memorial trees are \$40.00 each.

## WINGS OF LOVE PARENT'S DAY BREAKFAST

Save the Date:

**Saturday, May 13, 2017**

**ACQUA Restaurant**

2192 Niagara St.—Buffalo

**10:00 AM until 12:30 PM**

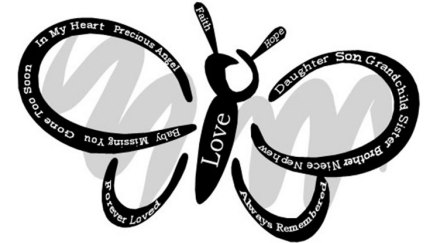
Holidays can be exceptionally difficult after losing a baby. Mother's Day and Father's Day can be especially hard since our chil-

dren are no longer with us to show the world that we are parents. The WNYPNB and their "Wings of Love" Memorial Fund program are hosting a Parent's Day Breakfast once again at the beautiful ACQUA Restaurant and Banquet Facility. ACQUA is along the Niagara River and allows us to release flowers in memory of our lost babies into the river. It is a beautiful, unique and serene event to honor us as parents.

All family members are invited. Tickets are still available! Please contact the WNYPNB

office if you are interested in attending. Keep up to date on this event and all the others on our website:

[www.WNYPNB.org](http://www.WNYPNB.org)



## HOW TO HONOUR A BEREAVED MOTHER ON MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is a challenging celebration for any woman who has experienced the death of her child. She may feel isolated, sorrowful and even confused about her claim to motherhood. Mother's Day is one of many "triggers" that will remind her of her baby and the milestones and future that will never be. A trigger can be anything that causes the bereaved to reflect on their loss; a name, location, smell, anniversary, article of clothing—or even a bunch of balloons that boast, "MOM," in colorful letters.

While Mother's Day may be a painful trigger for bereaved moms, it is also an opportunity to celebrate these women and their children. Here are some ideas to honour them this Mother's Day:

### 1. Affirm her identity as a mother

A woman's love for her deceased child never dies, nor does her motherhood. Celebrate the mom who carried her baby, no matter how briefly, and is strong enough to wake up each day and keep going after the death of that child. Recognize her by wishing her a "Happy Mother's Day;" she is a mother and deserves happiness. Let her know you are thinking of her.

### 2. Celebrate her child

Talk about the baby that died and use the child's name. Look at pictures and discuss the experience. Bereaved mothers will generally commemorate the anniversaries of the baby's birth and death, but Mother's Day provides another cherished opportunity for remembrance.

### 3. Spend quality time together

On a day that is likely to be lonely for the bereaved mom, instead of a card in the mail, give the gift of time. Your attention and friendship will create a lasting impact. Have lunch in a restaurant, go for a hike or create a new memory together. The mother may wish to visit her child's gravesite, light a candle or scrapbook the baby's footprints or funeral program. Doing these activities with the bereaved mother will be quality time she will greatly treasure. In the case that the mother wishes to be alone, suggest another time to do something meaningful together.

### 4. Give thoughtful gifts

While a dozen roses and a box of chocolates may be nice, show you care through a meaningful and relevant gift. There are

many companies that make bereavement jewelry, statues and ornaments. Other ideas include books, picture frames, candles or personalized keepsakes. Or you could make a donation to a hospital, bereavement program or charity in the child's or mother's name. Even a thoughtful letter may be the perfect way to show you care.

### 5. Ask how she is doing and listen

Ask the mother how she is coping and welcome her vulnerability. The best approach is to let her do the talking. Know that you do not need to solve the event or fix the emotions; these things need to be experienced and expressed and this is often helpful in itself. Create a safe environment for the bereaved mother to share. You can do this by open body language, eye contact and active listening. If the mother is struggling, encourage her to take good care of herself and find support.

A woman never stops being her child's mom, whether her baby is with her or not. Bereaved mothers have survived excruciating pain and yet carry on. This bravery deserves recognition—especially on Mother's Day.

By: Alexis Marie Chute

## BE KIND TO YOURSELF

If this is your first Mother's Day and Father's Day without your baby... or your 51st... the day can be tremendously painful. Unexpected emotions can surface and make you weep, make you angry, or make you completely a mess. You may go through the day completely numb, or feel everything so acutely that your sanity seems to be lying on the brink.

Guess what? This is normal.

Please, don't expect too much from yourself. Go where you need to go and do what you need to do, and don't worry about pleasing anyone. If they love you, they will understand.

Most of all, remember that your baby would want you to be happy. It may be hard to be

happy, but don't beat yourself up if you smile or laugh through your tears. Remember that you are a parent! You are a mom or a dad, and you deserve to be recognized on these special days, whether others can see your child or not!

Happy Mother's Day. Happy Father's Day.

By: Dawn Both-Kim

# HONORING YOUR SERVICE

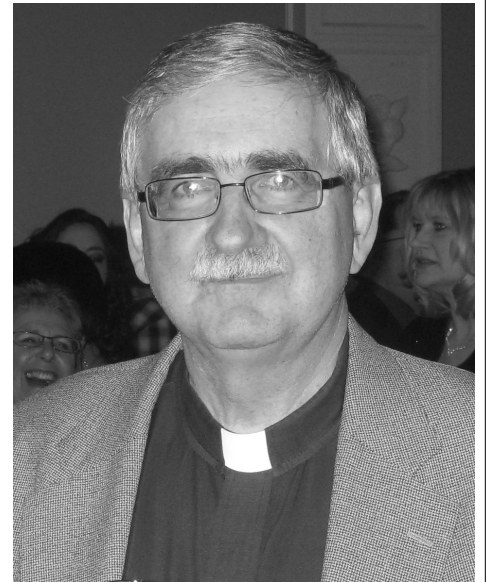
Thirty five years ago, if you experienced a miscarriage or stillbirth your baby was whisked away to parts unknown. Chances are very great that no one spoke to you about what had happened or recognized the depth of your painful loss. No one discussed the many physical and emotional experiences you may encounter over the next hours, days, months or years as the ramifications of your loss became integrated into your many life experiences. As you lay alone in a darkened room, you may have felt like your very soul had been ripped from your being.

A small group of people recognized that bearing the pain of infant death should not be experienced alone, uninformed and isolated. They also acknowledged that the death of an infant produces a ripple effect of pain to Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents, Siblings and others who may have been looking forward to the hope of new life.



**Dr. William Zorn, PhD** was one of the founding Fathers of the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network. Through his professional practice as Director of Family Services and Neonatal Follow-Up in the Department of Pediatrics at Women's and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Dr. Zorn has guided the path for many families coping with the changing needs of their small children. His strong education and diverse experience in Counseling Psychology and Rehabilitation Counseling, combined with his kind manner, has brought comfort and direction to many. We at the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network have also been the beneficiaries of his wisdom, experience, compassion and direction. Dr. Zorn's calm, "steady state" has been a beacon of hope and growth for this developing organization for over 35 years. The Network, the community and the thousands of families who have benefited from what you so readily give will be forever touched. Dr. Zorn, his wife Susan and daughter Natalie have been members of our Network family offering support, kindness and presence whenever they can. Dr. Zorn, "thanks" is far too insufficient for your many contributions and guidance helping this organization grow to meet the many unidentified needs of those who experience the pain of infant loss. We love you and look forward to your continued contributions and support.

**Father Richard Zajac**, to those who know and love him he is Father "Duke." Father Duke has created a strong foundation for the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network for the last 35 years. Father Duke recognized the long term pain of infant death long before society would even speak the words "miscarriage" or "stillbirth." Everyone knows that when "Father Duke is in the house" it will be a kinder, gentler place to be. Father Duke's gifted ability to weave everyday experiences with spiritual messages brings insight and



hope to those who hear his words. A talented story teller, Father Duke takes life experiences and witnessed miracles, and incorporates them into life messages as expressed in his literary talents. In his books, Life Injections, reality and spirituality meet each other.

Father Duke has shared his rich gifts with many through his work as Chaplain at Sisters of Charity Hospital, his work with youth supporting and coaching baseball, and his endless dedication to the churches and parishioners of Western New York. Father Duke's insight to the human spirit helps break down barriers to healing and finding hope. Anyone who is touched by him is richer because of his presence.

Father Richard "Duke" Zajac: thank you for your many years of dedicated leadership and kindness. You have "Injected" each of our lives and helped us to connect scripture to the human experience. Many are richer because of your insight, kindness and compassion.

By: Jan Walkden and Christine Scott

# LIGHT OF MINE MEMORIAL GIFTS

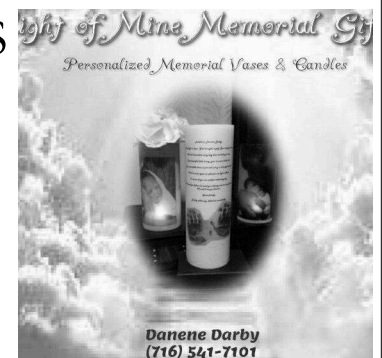
Light of Mine Memorial Gifts was created to honor the memory of my baby boy Frederick L. Darby. I was very encouraged and inspired by all the gifts and help my family received from the WNYBPB and other parents nationwide who were once in our shoes. My mission is to give back to this wonderful organization and give the gift of a light of love to a newly bereaved parent. I offer personalized memorial candle hold-

ers, pillar candles and vases.

To place an order I can be reached via email at [lightofminegifts@gmail.com](mailto:lightofminegifts@gmail.com)

Please also visit my Facebook page Light of Mine Memorial Gifts.

By: Danene Darby



# Forget-YOU-NotS

In Loving Memory Of..

**Michael Anthony Anderson** April 5, 2005  
Always, Always in our Hearts!  
Love Nana & Papa xxxooo  
We love you always! Love, Mommy, Daddy & Mia  
*Parents: Michael & Kelly Anderson*

**Lilya Raine Arena** September 26, 2009  
Hugs to the sky, baby! Mommy, Daddy and little  
sister Willow love and miss you.  
*Parents: Kelly & Michael Arena*

**Brody Lucas Bowser** August 7, 2015  
**Bowser Twins** June 2, 2016  
**Kade Albright** February 8, 2010  
*Parents: Amy & Justin Bowser*

**Liam Patrick Casey** July 6-7, 2012  
Not a day goes by that we don't think of your beau-  
tiful face. We love and miss you so much!  
*Parent: Jerricka Casey*

**Riley James Croce** March 8, 2010  
**Gabriella Irene Croce** August 3, 2010  
**Baby Croce** December 9, 2013  
*Parents: Lena & Dan Croce*

**John Paul Jerebko** November 18, 1999  
Our little angel! Love, Mom, Dad, Jakob & Jackson  
*Parents: Peter & Lisa Jerebko*

**Marrina Kim** August 3-4, 2005  
**Ella Grace Kim** June 8, 2007  
We love you and think of you so very often. Please  
watch over us... now and always. Please give us  
strength! Love, Mama, Daddy and Trent  
*Parents: Dawn & Mark Kim*

**Jacob Wesley Scott** May 27, 2000  
We love you and think of you every day! Butterfly  
kisses, buddy! Love, Mom, Dad, Thomas & Mandy  
*Parents: Phillip & Christine Scott*

**Bud Charles Mott** September 12, 2005  
**Theresa Marie Mott** September 12, 2005  
**"Blueberry" Mott** January 21, 2014  
**Baby Mott** December 23, 2014  
Miss you with all of our hearts, Theresa, Bud,  
"Blueberry" and Baby Mott. God knows our pain  
and sadness. We know that someday, we will see  
you again. All our love ~ Daddy, Mommy & Alison  
*Parents: Timothy & Beth Mott*

**Andrew Thomas Paolini** September 8-15, 2003  
**Baby Paolini** August 2002  
**Baby Paolini** October 2004  
Always in our hearts. We love you forever! Love,  
Mommy, Daddy and Sam  
*Parents: Becky & Charlie Paolini*

**Michael James Quigley** October 24, 1992  
Miss you more and more! 'Til we meet again!  
Love, mom  
*Parent: Debi Zmuda*

**Dayanara Cecilia Sanchez** March 21, 2010  
**Alexandria Grace Sanchez** May 31, 2011  
To our beautiful shining stars, you are both loved  
and missed!! Each day is a day closer to seeing  
you, girls. Forever in our hearts. Love and kisses....  
*Parents: Jose & Judith Sanchez*

**Emma Renae** June 15, 2006  
**Taylor Noel** August 18, 2005  
**Ethan Dean** August 18, 2005  
Not a day goes by that I don't miss the three of  
you. The only bit of comfort I find is that you are  
together and in the arms of Jesus, and I know  
grandma is with you. Fly high my angels and re-  
member: Forever loved, Forever One!  
XOXOXOXOX ~ Mommy  
*Parent: Jenna*

# Poetry

Solace in the written word...

## I love you Mommy

I love you Mommy:  
 Mommy did you feel me when I moved inside of you?  
 You would say you want to meet me  
 And I wanted to meet you!  
 You said you really loved me and I know that that was true  
 I know you really loved me...  
 'cause I know that I loved you...  
 I know you really loved me...  
 Because I know that you still do.  
 I heard you when you talked to me,  
 I heard you when you cried,  
 I even heard you when you sang  
 Or talked to someone passing by  
 I knew you were excited mom  
 And that excited me  
 I knew that you would talk about  
 The things that I could be  
 The time got closer to the day  
 My life was supposed to start  
 I never panicked or got scared  
 I just listened to your heart  
 I would kick to make you happy  
 To let you know that I was there  
 And when I would stop kicking  
 I'd hear your laughter fill the air  
 Very soon you'd meet me mom  
 But not like it should be  
 You would be in so much pain  
 But know that now I'm free  
 I never wanted to leave you mom  
 You always held my heart  
 I loved you more than anything  
 Right from the very start  
 On Mother's Day  
 You need to know  
 I really am still here  
 You may not see  
 You may not hear  
 But know that I am there  
 I know you will cry  
 I know you will hurt  
 I know you want me there  
 But know that I still love you mom  
 And I am always here.  
 Mommy please forgive me  
 If you feel that I don't hear  
 But since day one and from then on  
 I always felt you near  
 Words and proof are not always needed  
 to know a bond is true  
 I know you love me Mommy....  
 And please know that I love you  
 By: Jenna Wall

*Please be respectful and reproduce  
 only with the poet's consent. Thank you.*



## I have Peace

I held you for as long as I could  
 I kissed your tender face a thousand times  
 I memorized your features, your tiny lips, your nose  
 I counted your perfect fingers and perfect toes  
 You were mine you looked just like me  
 As I held you my heart multiplied times three  
 You gave me hope, more plans, more dreams  
 I peeked into your little eyes connecting with your sweet soul  
 You are all I ever wanted and what I never knew I needed  
 For 24 days you taught me how to be strong  
 You taught me how not to fear life.  
 Frederick Lamarr Darby  
 Happy birth day to you forever!  
 I cry when I miss you  
 I scream when I need you  
 I smile when I remember you  
 I'm here because of you  
 Living and breathing stronger.  
 I love you and knowing you love me too.  
 I have peace.

By: Danene Darby

# ELEGANT EVENING TO REMEMBER GALA

The "Elegant Evening to Remember" was held on April 21st at the strikingly beautiful and tremendously chic, Foundry Suites in Buffalo. The event featured an awards ceremony recognizing physicians, nurses, volunteers and organizations for their outstanding dedication to the WNY-PBN and to our bereaved community.

The event was able to raise much needed dollars for the WNY-PBN's important programs and also launched our new **Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) program**. The RAK program encourages donations in honor of a baby gone too soon. When you make this donation in their honor, a member of the RAK team will commit an act of kindness on an unsuspecting individual or group. This could be as simple as paying for a stranger's coffee at Tim Horton's or cleaning up a public playground/park. The Random Act and the honored baby(ies) will be posted on our soon to be launched RAK webpage on our website. If you are interested in making a dona-

tion in honor of a baby gone too soon, please contact Christine Scott at the WNY-PBN office: (716) 626-6363 or at Christine@wnypbn.org.

This year, we honored the following individuals for their service and unadulterated kindness that they have bestowed on the bereaved in our community:

## Physician of the Year



## Dr. Jodi Ball, MD

Obstetrics-Gynecology  
Bartels, Polawski, Weissman & Cloud



I would like to thank the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network for honoring me with the Physician of the Year Award. I am truly humbled by the strength and courage that each family faced with such great loss endures. During my medical training, Obstetrics was commonly viewed as a joyous and happy field of medicine. When I experienced my first patient with an adverse outcome, my eyes were opened to the extreme grief and overwhelming void that comes with losing a child. As a physician, we are taught to systematically make a diagnosis and explain a treatment plan to our patients. In the setting of perinatal death, there is no such plan. There is often no explanation. No root cause. From an academic standpoint, this is hard to accept. What I have learned from helping families through this extremely difficult time is that love and strength create a sense of peace. There is little room for anger and there is great joy that can come out of such a terrible circumstance.

I thank the families who have allowed me to care for them and to grieve with them. You have taught me more than you know! May your children remain angels in heaven watching over all of us.

I thank the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network for the guidance and hope they provide to those in need. I would like to thank my partners, Doctors, Bartels, Powalski, Weissman, Cloud, Smyers and Jeyalingam for sharing the same empathy and compassion in caring for our patients. I would also like to thank the bereavement team at Sisters Hospital, including the nurses, the chaplain service at the Catholic Health System, and Amy Creamer for their countless hours of work and dedication. I feel truly blessed to be recognized with this honor.

## Physician of the Year



## Dr. Luther Robinson, MD

Medical Genetics and Pediatrics  
UBMD Pediatrics  
Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo



Tonight's recognition as Physician of the Year is a fitting conclusion to my career. When I interviewed for my position at Women and Children's Hospital ("Children's") thirty years ago, I recall that Dr. Robert E. Cooke, who was chair of the Department of Pediatrics, remarked that he was a "pretty good advocate for children." As a pediatrician and dysmorphologist, I have striven to be a "pretty good advocate" for kids with disabilities.

I have been blessed to work with caring physicians, nurses, and hospital staff members who have cared for your babies as though they were family. We have laughed with you and grieved with you. Tonight is a night that I celebrate and salute you, the families who have endured the premature loss of your loved ones.

And while none of us is perfect, I know that kids get a special dispensation - a bye if you will - with God. I am pleased to have served you.



**Volunteer of the Year****Amber Hultgren, LMSW**

Bereaved Sister, WNYPN Volunteer



It is an honor to receive this award from Christine and the WNYPN. I first became involved with the Network as a Masters of Social Work Student. Before that time I knew nothing about the Network or support available for people who had experienced a perinatal loss. As I was searching for a second-year internship I stumbled across the WNYPN, and I immediately knew I wanted to be involved. My family had experienced a perinatal loss just a couple of years before then, and I was processing my own feelings of grief, so the work and mission of the Network resonated with me. In the time that I was lucky enough to work with Christine and everyone else who is a part of the Network, I learned valuable lessons about loss, hope, the positive impact that simple actions can have, and the resilience that people can show in the face of tragedy. I am proud to still be a part of this Network, which does so much for families with very few resources. Being named Volunteer of the Year means that I have the privilege of being in the company of many selfless, hard-working people who give their time to help support families that have experienced an unimaginable loss. It also gives me the opportunity to make an impact in honor of my own brother and sister, Shawn and Ella. Thank you.

**Nurse of the Year****Angela Stutzman, RN**Labor & Delivery  
Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo

The families that I have been fortunate enough to take care of are what inspires me. The first time I took RTS training, I met Christine and she showed me a small Polaroid of her son Jacob, the most precious memory she had. It started to show me how making memories for families is extremely important.

In 2008, I met Vivian Comins who lost her daughter Isabella Moon almost at term. I spent the whole day with her and Eric before she had her C-section. When the doctor handed "Izzie" to me at delivery, I looked down at her and begged that she just take a breath and be all right for her parents. But she couldn't. I ended up becoming very close to Vivian and she unknowingly has shared her journey with me over the years and has taught me so much. Her family is a part of my family. Izzie lives on and leaves me signs all the time that she is guiding me to help others. One time in the NICU I was making a heartbeat bear with a very preterm baby, I wanted it to be perfect for her mom. When I finished, while walking out, the baby next to her was named Isabella, it was as if she was there saying that everything would be ok. Izzie remains with me all the time through small signs. I will never stop learning and I hope to continue to take care of these amazing, inspiring families.

Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly...

Community Service



Amy Creamer, LMHC

Perinatal Bereavement Coordinator  
Sisters of Charity Hospital



I am honored to receive this award on behalf of myself and Catholic Health, which supports the vision of helping families when they are most vulnerable and in need. As someone who understands the impact that losing a child has on parents, siblings and extended family, it is imperative to me that I do all that I can for each grieving family that I meet. The bonds of parenthood do not end when a child dies. Therefore, it is just as important to offer support to these families, as needed throughout their lives, as they continue to live with the tragic loss of their baby. The Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network understands this lifelong journey and I am grateful for the services that they provide for the bereaved families in our area. It continues to be my pleasure to work with the Network to raise awareness, educate and expand perinatal bereavement services available throughout Western New York.

Max Lucado said "No one can do everything but everyone can do something." While this is challenging work, it is also the most rewarding I have known. I would like to end by thanking all of the families who I've had the privilege to help, support and grieve with as they walk their journey of loss. I am every bit as grateful to them as they are for the support and guidance I am able to provide. I hope to be able to continue providing care to grieving families through my work at Sisters and as a part of the Network for many years to come.

Community Awareness Award



AM Buffalo Team  
Linda Pellegrino  
Frank Pacella

WKBW Buffalo—Channel 7



It is our mission on AM BUFFALO to represent and serve this incredible community. Through our many years and countless segments, we have come to understand that loss has no finality. However, it can be eased by sharing. It has been our honor to help promote the work of the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network. Through them, our audience has learned about this dedicated group whom has suffered bereavement in the most personal ways, yet, who offer unconditional support and fellowship. We thank you for this recognition and accept the Community Awareness Award with gratitude. Know that we will endeavor to continue to share the message of this important, helpful network of caring individuals.



AM Buffalo

Community Awareness Award



Anthony Chimera

Website designer for WNYPBN  
Cherrytail Design



First off, I would like to thank Christine, Dawn and the rest of the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Team for even considering me for the Community Awareness Award. I would also like to thank Lisa Jerebko who referred me to the great people of WNYPBN as their web designer. Without her, I wouldn't have been able to become friends with such wonderful people and become a contributor toward such a great cause.

Seeing the hard work done by this organization, I'm so grateful to be of help to not only the organization but also the people who count on non-profits such as this one. After three years of designing the WNYPBN website, I've found myself educated on Bereavement and I've seen the heroic families and volunteers join hands with WNYPBN and become a loving, thoughtful community.

I'll continue to do my best as WNYPBN web designer to provide the best experience for this community and organization.

Thank you again.





## AREA SUPPORT GROUPS

### "Tiniest Angels" Parent Bereavement Support

Miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth and early infant death

When: 3rd Wednesday @ 7 PM  
30 S Cayuga Rd—Lower  
Williamsville

**FREE—Please call to register**

*Facilitated by Margaret Husted*

#### Contact:

Christine Scott, (716) 626-6363



### "Tiniest Angels" Support for Subsequent Pregnancy

Support for pregnancy after a perinatal loss

When: 3rd Tuesday @ 7 PM  
30 S Cayuga Rd—Lower  
Williamsville

**FREE—Please call to register**

*Facilitated by Terri Fronczak*

#### Contact:

Christine Scott, (716) 626-6363

### "Tiniest Angels" Grandparent Support

Support for grandparents after a perinatal loss.

When: Last Tuesday of the month  
@ 6:30 PM  
30 S Cayuga Rd—Lower  
Williamsville

**FREE—Please call to register**

*Facilitated by Joanne Ferrelli and  
LouAnn Bajdas*

#### Contact:

Christine Scott, (716) 626-6363

### "Tiniest Angels" Twin Loss Support

Miscarriage, stillbirth and early infant death of one or more of the babies in a multiples birth

When: 3rd Thursday @ 7:00 PM  
30 S Cayuga Rd—Lower  
Williamsville

**Free—Please call to register**

*Hosted by the WNYPNB, Inc.*

*Facilitated by Sue Mis*

#### Contact:

Christine Scott, (716) 626-6363

"Tiniest Angels" Support Groups are being added regularly. If you are in need of support, please contact the WNYPNB office for information on a support group that is convenient for you! 716-626-6363 or  
Christine@wnypbn.org

### Parent Telephone Support Team (PTST)



Speak with another bereaved parent who has endured a similar perinatal loss. This service is a program of the WNYPNB, Inc.

#### Contact:

Christine Scott, (716) 626-6363

### Caring Arms Support Circle

Stillbirth and Early Infant Death

When: 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM  
Ministry Center, Rm #4  
100 Gregory Ct, Williamsville  
Next to Millard Fillmore Suburban

#### Contact:

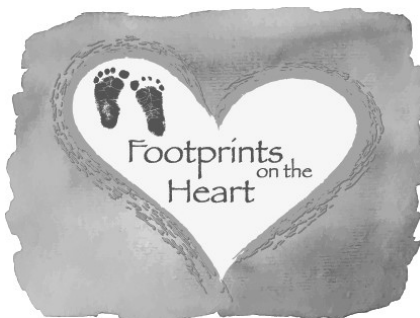
Denise Hudden, RN, 716-568-6653

### Circle of Hope

Death and/or Serious Illness—Niagara Hospice  
4675 Sunset Dr., Lockport or  
2186 Liberty Dr., Niagara Falls

#### Contact:

Outreach Dept. 716-280-0777



### Footprints on the Heart

Miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth and early infant death

When: 1st Tuesday @ 6 PM  
Piver Center Conference Room  
Sisters Hospital

Amy Creamer (716) 862-1678

### Hopeful Hearts

Subsequent Pregnancy Support

When: 3rd Tuesday @ 6 PM

Piver Center Conference Room  
Sisters Hospital—begins Feb 16

**Amy Creamer (716) 862-1678**

Please see the Sisters of Charity Hospital website and/or Facebook page for more information about other support that is offered:

[www.chsbuffalo.org/services/PregnancyLoss](http://www.chsbuffalo.org/services/PregnancyLoss)  
<https://www.facebook.com/footprintswny>

Amy Creamer is always available for individual or couples counseling. Please feel free to call her anytime if you need support.

**Amy Creamer (716) 862-1678**

### SIDS Family Support Group

SIDS and Infant Death

Joan A. Male Family  
Support Center  
60 Dingens St., Buffalo

#### Contact:

Jan Walkden, (716) 822-0919

### Sibling Grief

Siblings 5 years and older

When: 2nd Wednesday @ 6:30 PM  
First Trinity Lutheran Church  
1570 Niagara Falls Blvd,  
Tonawanda

#### Contact:

Tara Young, (716) 878-7681



Please submit any articles, blurbs, photos, memorials, safe arrivals, etc. to [forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com)

For information on Internet and Keep-sake resources, please view our website at [www.WNYPNB.org](http://www.WNYPNB.org)

If you would like to volunteer for any of the WNYPNB events, on the Parent Telephone Support Team, or in our offices, please feel free to contact Christine Scott at 716-626-6363 or via email at [Christine@wnypbn.org](mailto:Christine@wnypbn.org)



**Western New York  
Perinatal  
Bereavement  
Network, Inc.  
30 S Cayuga Rd  
Williamsville, NY  
14221**

**Phone: 716-626-6363  
Fax: 716-626-6368  
E-mail: christine@wnypbn.org**



*Helping Families  
Honoring Lives*

This newsletter is FREE for one year (4 issues) after your loss. If you would like to continue your subscription, please send \$5 to help defray mailing costs for an additional year. You may also find this newsletter for no cost whatsoever on-line at [www.wnypbn.org](http://www.wnypbn.org). Make checks payable to WNYPBN, Inc. and send the completed form below to WNYPBN—Newsletter, 30 S. Cayuga Road—Lower, Williamsville, NY 14221. If you are receiving duplicate mailings, please let us know.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Baby's Name & Honored Date(s):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Editors reserve the right to grammatically edit or reject materials submitted. Views and opinions in this publication are not necessarily those of the WNYPBN or its member organizations, but those of the individual authors.

If you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact the above address. Please know that we will be here for you if you need us in the future!

This newsletter has been printed courtesy of **Twenty-First Century Press**  
Contact **Twenty-First Century Press** for all your printing needs: (716) 835-5907  
501 Cornwall Ave., Buffalo, NY 14215

WNYPBN, Inc.  
30 South Cayuga Road—Lower.  
Williamsville, NY 14221

Volume 14, Issue 2

May 2017—August 2017

Forget-Me-Not



NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
BUFFALO, NY  
PERMIT NUMBER 1337