

# Forget-Me-Not



Volume VI, Issue II May 2009—August 2009

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WNY Perinatal
Bereavement Network,
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Life Transitions Center,

#### **Member Organizations**

Brooks Memorial Hospital Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network

Catholic Health System Mercy Hospital Sisters Hospital

The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care

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Mount St. Mary's
Hospital of Lewiston
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# **From Our Heart To Yours**

This issue is dedicated to all the Mothers and Fathers who have lost a child through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or early infant death.

Take heart in knowing you are not alone.

For no apparent reason, putting this month's issue of the newsletter together caused an immense undertow of grief for me. But that is how it always seems to be, right? "For no apparent reason" and we're a pool of tears. We have to keep in mind, though, that these tears are necessary. They help our bodies remove toxins, and help our souls to heal from the sadness.

I truly hope that this coming Mother's Day and Father's Day will not bowl you over with grief, but will be a day you can rejoice in the fact that you are a Mother and Father. If sadness gets the upper hand, however... I do wish you peace. Peace of mind and strength of heart to get through it and get back into life.

I hope many of you made it to the Basket Raffle in March. It was a great success and a lot of fun! Thank you to Lisa Jerebko (the event's chairperson... again!) and all the volunteers who truly made it An Evening to Remember!

Have the best day as you can manage!

Peace

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The mission of the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network (WNYPBN) is to assist the community to meet the needs of people facing the pain of perinatal death. We believe all people experiencing this loss have the right to support that reflects a standard of care regardless of the facility where the birth took place. The Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network supports an established standard of care following a perinatal death. We promote standards of bereavement intervention through educational support, community programs, and referral services to bereaved parents. The WNYPBN is a program of Life Transitions Center, Inc., an affiliate of The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care.

# You are a Mother—You are a Father

Have a Blessed and Peaceful Mother's Day and Father's Day



"I was thinking of you today, and how painful it might be, to have lived through the death of your child when that was never the way you saw their life to be.

On this day when children honor their mothers Though they are not here to tell you, Always their mother you shall be.

For though your child has died before you, So painful to imagine, Your child lives on within you, And to all who knew you well.

The light of your child will always
Return to touch you;
And in a quiet voice, whisper words of love.

This is not a mother's day that you have ever planned,
That sorrow and loss I respect.
Words do not say enough.
My thoughts are with you on a day
When you remain:
Their mother."

(author unknown)

Mother's Day and Father's Day may be the most difficult days of celebration for a parent who has lost a child. While this particular writing does not deal with adoption and its own sense of loss. I don't want to ignore it's own struggle with these days. Typically, these are meant to be days of celebration celebrating both the child that was meant to be yours and the gift that each of you was to the other. For you, your world is different now and these days may be bittersweet. Of course, you may have your own parents to think about, and you may have other children. or even grandchildren, but then you also have the one(s) that have left a "footprint on your heart."

If your loss was that of an only child, you may ask: "Am I still a mom? Still a dad?" There is no child to hold, no child that is visible to the others, and yet, you did mother/father another person.

You have been a mother/father to a child even if that child only lived for one day in the inner part of your being. There may be no mother/daughter brunch or no father/son talks, but unequivocally you are and have been a mother/father to a child. There may be no card that celebrates you. There may not be friends or family who recognize you as such. There may be those who think you are not dealing with your loss. But you are a mother. You are a fa-

ther - and no one will ever be able to take that from you!

Follow your heart on these special days. Do something that you feel the need to do. Let others know your thoughts and feelings. Let your spouse know what you need. If you haven't yet named your baby, this may be a good time to do that. Giving your baby a name can be very healing. Do something on this day that will help you to have a special connection to your child. Hold Mother's Day and Father's Day close to your heart, honoring both your child's birth and death. Grieve the loss, but celebrate the birth.

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Some more things you can do on this day:

- 1. Buy yourself a special gift
- 2. Join or meet with a support group (either formally or informally)
- Keep your child's memory alive by lighting a white candle in their honor
- 4. Send your spouse a card or note, letting them know the

- gifts they possessed as a parent or the gift you know they would have been as a parent.
- Buy a helium balloon and a permanent marker. Write a thank you note to your child for allowing you to be a parent and then set it free.
- 6. Thank your parents for the many ways they taught you to parent

And, last but not least: CELE-BRATE YOU!!!!!!!!

Know that on each of these days, I will be remembering you, and the "footprints on your hearts!"

Blessings,

Sr. Brenda Whelan, RSM Coordinator of Spiritual Care Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo



# The 4th Annual Evening to Remember

The Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network (WNYPBN) held the Fourth Annual "Evening to Remember" Basket Raffle on March 7, 2009 at the Lily of the Valley Masonic Lodge in Cheektowaga. The evening was a tremendous success! Not only did families get together to have some fun, we raised nearly \$10,000 to support the WNYPBN and their programs! All this during a financial recession! Thank you to all who attended and gave so generously to make this evening the amazing event that it was!!

Baskets were made in memory of babies who have died by miscarriage, etopic pregnancy, stillbirth or newborn death. Each year the families who have lost a baby contribute to this event by making beautiful baskets in their baby's memory. This year over 150 baskets were donated and over 400 friends, family members and the general public attended the "Evening to Remember".

There are many people behind any successful event and these are the people who made this year's Evening to Remember so successful; Cavalier Wine & Spirits, The Deli Shoppe, Battin Opticals, Buffalo Sabres, Hart Hotels, Hyatt Regency, the Andersons, the Currs, the Williamsons, DJ Tom and the Masonic Community Center- Lily of the Valley Banquet Hall for donating the hall.

Then you have the committee members that put their heart and soul into planning an event like this in memory of their children – The Evening to Remember Committee – Kristine Davidson, Cyndee Fahey, Christine Scott, Lisa Jerebko, Sharon Goldyn, Kelly Anderson, Michelle Morgan, Jennifer Merkel, Sara Noonan, Dawn Both-Kim, Deb Zmuda, John and Noreen Curr.

By: Lisa Jerebko



# Save the Date!

# May 2010: A Parent's Day Brunch

As Mother's Day & Father's Day approach, please be kind to your self: this can be a very difficult time. Even though your child is not here to celebrate, they will live in your heart forever.

To honor all parents who have experienced the tragic loss of a baby, we are planning a "Parent's

Day Brunch." We are in the initial stages of planning, and expect to hold what we hope will be an annual event in May 2010, between Mother's Day and Father's Day. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, please contact Christine Scott at (716) 836-6460 ext. 117 or email at cs@bppn.org.

All proceeds will benefit the Wings of Love Memorial Fund a program of the WNY Perinatal Bereavement Network (see page 5 for information about the Wings of Love Memorial Fund).

By: Christine Scott

## **Devin Phillip Izydorczak**

It has been 2 years since we lost our son, Devin, on Good Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007. We found out at my 16 week ultrasound that Devin had a fatal disorder called Trisomy 18. We were given the option to terminate the pregnancy or carry to term with the knowledge that our son would not live long or at all. It was a very difficult time for us. We were so excited to be expecting our third son, so we were completely devastated. It was a surreal pregnancy for me. I could feel Devin moving around vigorously inside of me, yet I knew that without me, he wasn't going to live. As each week passed and my belly grew larger, it was difficult to hide my pain from the world. People would come up to me and congratulate me, ask me when my baby was due, if I knew if it was a boy or girl. Of course I had to lie to these people; how can you tell someone, "Well actually, my baby isn't going to live?" It was heart wrenching. Yet every morning, I put on my "game face" and went about my daily routine, cherishing every movement Devin made inside me.

As my due date began approaching, my husband and I decided that we needed to make plans for the delivery. We wanted to cherish every moment that we could. We decided to call Hospice and we met with Kelley Clem to discuss

our plans for Devin's birth. We wanted to be prepared ahead of time. We wanted to have a special blanket, clay for footprints, camera for photos, Holy Water for baptizing him and an outfit to bury him in.

As fate would have it, my water broke only three days after meeting with Kelley from Hospice, so we didn't have all the things we wanted when we got to the hospital. Kelley was able to get all the things that we needed while I was in labor for 18 hours. Devin was alive inside of me all the way until he was born... but the birth was very difficult for him and his little heart couldn't survive it. He was stillborn at 8:22 pm on Friday. April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007. My husband baptized him as soon as he was born. We wrapped him in his blanket and held him all night long. Our entire family was with us at the hospital and everyone got to hold him and love him.

Two years later, there is not a day that goes by that I don't think of Devin. Going to support group definitely helped. It helps to know that you are not alone in dealing with your loss. I realized that all the feelings that I had were normal and that I wasn't crazy. Everyone grieves and heals differently. My wound isn't as fresh as it was, but every now and then, something comes up and opens up my pain all over again. As the saying goes,

"time does heal." And although it is hard to imagine at first, it is very true. I will never understand why we lost Devin. I don't think we can comprehend God's reasoning. We have learned, after all this time, to accept what has happened. It doesn't make the pain go away or erase his memory, but helps you move on day by day.

A few weeks ago, I was sitting in the dentist office waiting room, and I read this article in a magazine. It touched me so much, that I started to cry. I decided to copy it down and I keep it in my purse with me. It has given me a lot of comfort.

"I've learned that unbelievably awful things can and do happen. In truth, they are not such rare, isolated events. Each of us has a story that would break someone's heart. Despite the grief and the unfairness of it all, we keep going. There are chores to be done. There are people who still need our care. There is a life to be led.

I've realized that, regardless of the heartache, we may choose the moments in which we live.

I've learned that love creates a tremendous capacity for grace. And perhaps it is that grace that keeps us moving forward."

By: Kelly Izydorczak

# Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth Bill (CBRS)



The Assembly Health committee voted on the CBRS bill and it **PASSED** 22-4 !!!

Thank you for all the emails, letters or phone calls made to the Assembly Health committee. It does make a difference. One rep who voted NO last year changed their vote to YES.

The bill is now in the Assembly Ways & Means - the same committee that held the bill the last day of session in June. We are working on a plan to make certain it doesn't happen this year and will need your help again.

Since the bill is moving on both

sides of the House (Assembly, Senate) simultaneously, we will keep you informed on when the Senate's Health committee votes.

Keep writing to your own Assembly and Senate members. Sample letters can be found on the blog.

Thank you, Everyone!

Still Parents NY www.CBRSbill.blogspot.com

# Parent Telephone Support Team

When I lost my son, John Paul, in 1999, one of the things that helped me through the deepest darkest time of my life was to talk to someone who understood what I was going through. And that person was another mom with a loss similar to mine.

This prompted me to explore the possibility to start a Parent Telephone Support Team (PTST) through the WNY Perinatal Bereavement Network. The program

was first started in 2001. Unfortunately, due to changes in bereavement personnel at hospitals and only having volunteers to run it, it has not been an active program. So, with the help of Lesley Jordans (WCHOB) and myself, the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network has agreed to re-start the PTST program again.

What this program does is this: each newly bereaved family is to sign a HIPPA release form before leaving the hospital. On this form, is an option where the family is offered a phone call from another

bereaved parent. If this portion of the form is completed, the newly bereaved family will obtain a call from a parent volunteer. All phone calls are kept strictly confidential.

If anyone wishes to more information about the Parent Telephone Support Team, either to receive a call or to volunteer to make the phone calls, they may call 716-836-6460 ext.117.

by Lisa Jerebko



# News from the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network

We have received some good news! The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care has approved the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network (WNYPBN) an official position within their organization. We are now in the process of trying to obtain "seed" money to fund a part-time position to oversee every aspect of the program and events as the WNYPBN continues to grow.

We at the WNYPBN are aware that many in our network are diversely connected and we would like to utilize everyone's strong points where possible! If someone in the network is aware of a large company or Foundation that may be able to donate this "seed" money, please contact:

Christine Scott at the Life Transitions Center:

(716) 836-6460 ext. 117.

Or email Dawn Both-Kim at: forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com

Thank you for your help and support!



Submitted by: Dawn Both-Kim and Lisa Jerebko



Wings of Love Memorial Fund is a program being offered to parents in our eight county

region of Western New York, under the WNYPBN. This Memorial Fund was created by one of the bereaved mothers, Christine Scott, in honor of her son, Jacob Wesley. The Wings of Love Memorial Fund will provide financial assistance for burial costs up to \$350.00, to bereaved parents who can't afford these unexpected expenses.

"My son, Jacob Wesley Scott, was born still on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2000. Even though several years have passed, there is not one day that goes by that I don't think of him, miss him, and love him. In his honor, I want to share that love and strength he has given me, with all of the parents in our community who experience the loss of their child."

Anyone interested in making a donation during this season dedicated to family to help this fund assist families in need are asked to please make checks payable to:

Wings of Love Memorial Fund

Donations can be sent to:

The Hospice Foundation of WNY c/o WNY Perinatal
Bereavement Network,
225 Como Park Blvd.,
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Any questions?

Feel free to contact:

Jan Walkden or Christine Scott at the Life Transitions Center (716) 836-6460 ext. 117.

Or email at:

forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com

Thank you!

Christine Scott



# "Forget-You-Not"s



In Loving Memory of:

Emmanuél Anthony Wilfredo Alvarez Aug 13, 2008

Mommy Misses You & knows your watching over her! Love, Mommy

Parent: Angelika M. Alvarez

Michael Anthony Anderson April 5, 2005

We love you and miss you!! Love, Mommy, Daddy and Mia

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> birthday to our precious angel!

Love, Nana and Papa XXXOOO Parents: Michael & Kelly Anderson

**Blake Anthony Bauer** September 14, 2007

Parents: Yvonne & Robert Bauer

**Ryan Brown** October 21, 2008 **Baby Brown** January 18, 2009

I love you forever. I like you for always. As long as I'm

living, my baby you'll be.

Parents: Kevin and Shannon Brown

Angela Marie Capage August 28, 2003
Baby Capage January 24, 2007

Miss you so much! All our love, Mommy, Daddy, Julia,

Matthew and Samantha

Isabella Moon Comins April 28, 20008

Happy Birthday, tiny dancer. Mommy and

Daddy love you!

Parents: Eric & Vivian Comins

Parents: Chuck & Lisa Capage

Grace Curr November 11, 2004
Jack Matthew Curr October 6, 2005

Jack Matthew Cur There isn't

There isn't a moment in the day that we don't think of each of you. Butterflies and wind chimes are our reminders of you here on earth. All our love, Mom, Dad, Johnny, Joseph and Hannah

Parents: John & Noreen Curr

lan Davidson August 31, 2000

We love you so much, our beautiful boy! We miss you every day! Love you so much, Mommy, Daddy, Sarah and

Natalie

Parents: John & Kristin Davidson

Sarah Suzanne Fahey October 23-24, 2000

We miss you more than words can say! We love you so much! Love, Mommy, Daddy, Kevin and Zachary

Parents: Kevin & Cyndee Fahey

**Aiden James Gawera** February 9, 2006

Not a day goes by that I don't think of you! I know you are with our Savior and I will see you again. Love,

Mommy

Parents: Kim Gawera

Cassandra Elizabeth Goldyn September 13, 1999

We love you, our precious Angel! You will always be the sun, the moon and the stars. Love, Mom, Dad and Big

Sister

**Goldyn Babies** 1997, 1998, 2001

You will be in my heart forever! All my love forever,

Mommy

Parents: Thomas & Sharon Goldyn



Angelo James Guido May 30-31, 2007

Happy Second Birthday! WE hope you have a wonderful day with your baby brother. We love and miss you!

Gregori James Guido May 9, 2008

Happy First Birthday! We hope that you have a wonderful day with your big brother. We love and miss you!

Parents: Greg & Melissa Guido

**Devin Phillip Izydorczak** April 6, 2007

Happy 2nd Birthday in Heaven! We love and miss you so much!! Watch over us!!

Love, Mommy, Daddy, Bradley and Nicholas

Parents: Kelly & Frank Izydorczak

**Keyonte Jamall** March 3, 2009

I miss you! I will love you forever.

Parent: Verna Gause

**John Paul Jerebko** November 18, 1999

We love and miss you so much! Parents: Lisa & Peter Jerebko



# "Forget-You-Not"s



In Loving Memory of:

Elijah Xavier Jones

February 25, 2009 Steven Serrano

March 16, 2006

Mom and Dad will be always thinking of you and miss

vou! Love vou!

Parents: Bonnie Jordan & Edwin Jones

Happy Birthday, my sweet angel. I love you and miss you! Mommy

Parent: Lisa Salgot



Marrina Kim **Ella Grace Kim**  August 3-4, 2005

June 8, 2007 Thank you for bringing Trent home to us! We

love you and miss you tons and tons! Love, Mommy and Daddy

Parents: Mark & Dawn Kim

**Jashaad Tylon Tre'von Smith** July 30, 2008

Mommy and Grammi love you so much! You are always in our thoughts. We will never forget you!

Parent: Jamie Carter

Franklin Swedene

Gage Andrew Miller

August 15th, 2000

January 16, 2009

April 27, 2002

Always in our prayers ~ forever in our hearts! Our love sent on the wings of angels, Mommy, Daddy, Paris, Cole and Preston

Parents: Gary & Kathleen Miller

Benjamin Thomas Swedene Happy Birthday!!

Love and Kisses, Sweet Babies!

From Aunt Sarah

Parents: Jason & Margaret Swedene

Nicholas Shane Morgan January 28, 1997

You are always in our hearts! With lots of hugs and kisses,

Mommy and Iyonna love and miss you very much! Love,

love Mom and Dad

Parents: Joseph & Michelle Morgan

In loving memory of our son:

Luke Tyler Szymanski September 1, 2004

We love you Always and Forever! Love, Mom & Branden

Parents: Denise Woodhead & Rich Szymanski



Parent: Yolanda A Patterson

Xavier Jermaine Patterson

Alexis April Treece

February 28, 2005

May 26, 2005

April 8-9, 2006

Happy 4th Birthday. We love you and miss you! Love,

Mommy, JR, Madison and Victoria Parents: Jason and Michelle Treece

Isaiah Aaron Ray Nathan David Ray

September 22, 2003 Love you! Mom and Dad

Parents: Dave & Cindy Ray

Charles Wesley November 12, 2006

Happy Second Birthday! We love you and miss

Parents: Ken & Lisa Wesley



Tyshier Robbins

March 11, 2009

Mommy and Daddy will miss you forever and always!

You're loved lots!

Parents: Lynn Burkett & Dewan Robbins

**Maximillion Ciaccia** 

March 25, 1993

Parent: Sharry Habberfield

**Jacob Wesley Scott** 

May 27, 2000

We love and think of you every day! Love, Mommy, Daddy, Thomas and

Mandy

Parents: Christine & Phillip Scott

Interested in Submitting a Memorial? Please email your baby's Forget You Not to:

forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com

Submissions are due by the 15th of the month before the next issue is due out.

> Family members and friends are also encouraged to submit: not just parents!



# Poetry

#### Thank you, God

Thank you God for Your gift of life For each is a part of Your plan To bring Your love to our world today No matter the length of its span

Thank you God for Franklin
Though his life was a flicker of light
He is alive for all of eternity
And in my heart his spirit burns bright

Thank you God for Benjamin Whose life has forever changed What I say and do and think and feel Gratefully, never to be the same

Thank you God for Margaret and Jason Who taught me how to love Their children who live in Heaven with You And to trust You up above

Thank you God for family and friends Whose arms never tire
Of holding, giving, sharing and loving
With courage and strength I admire

Thank you God for Your gift of faith That takes me by the hand And leads me to accept Your will Even when I don't understand.

By: Sarah Noonan

### And you're still not here...

Another holiday has passed...
And you're still not here.
We celebrated and laughed and ate and talked...
And you're still not here.

Another day has passed...
And you're still not here.

We worked and shopped and played and thought... And you're still not here.

Another hour has passed...
And you're still not here.
I cleaned up the dinner and washed all the plates...
And you're still not here.

Another moment has passed... And you're still not here.

I was typing and thinking and wiped away tears... And you're still not here. And you're not going to be...

But I think of you... always. I love you.
I miss you so very much.

By: Dawn Both-Kim

#### A Mother's Words of Love and Loss

Written for Margaret Swedene in Memory of Franklin and Benjamin by Aunt Sarah Noonan

From the moment that I knew you were Growing inside of me, I've loved you with a love so deep No one has ever seen.

I've felt your growing kicks and knew Before I ever saw That you'd be full of life and love My greatest gift of all.

It is in the image of our Creator That all are made, even so God has made you so special That He just couldn't let you go.

So, sweet baby, love of mine, You must go to God above. But it breaks my heart to let you go, For you were mine to love.

He'll carry you in His protective hands Up to heavenly skies Where Mary, our mother, will snuggle you close And angels will sing you lullables.

I'll hold you forever one day when I receive new birth.
But know my child, my gift, my own, That you are loved on earth.

#### **Interested in Submitting a Poem or Story?**

Please email your submission to:
forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com
Submissions are due by the 15th of the month before the next issue is due out.
Family members and friends are also encouraged to submit: not just parents!

# 17th Annual



The 2009 Walk to Remember will be held on

Sunday, October 11, 2009

It's been almost 2 years since we lost our precious angel: Myrakle Alandra Eve Walker at 13 months. She came into our lives at a time when her Daddy and I really needed her. Due to the lost of her, we've grown so much. I know in heaven, her smile is uplifting to all that are there. I just wanted her to know we will never forget her and we will always love her... FOREVER.

Love Always



Yolanda Walker Samuel Walker Tyrell Bailey During the months of September and October each year, hundreds of parents, health-care professionals and friends across the United States will be participating in a "Walk To Remember". These Walks are dedicated to the hundreds of thousands of babies that die each year through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or early infant death...and are a beautiful memorial to those babies.

In 1993, the Honorable Dennis Gorski, Erie County Executive, gave a proclamation that the month of October would, each year thereafter, be recognized as National Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month in Erie County.

Our first planning committee meeting will be held on May 12th, and will meet monthly to plan this beautiful walk honoring our children. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee please contact Christine Scott, Chair at (716) 836-6460 ext. 117 or email at cs@bppn.org.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Walk Committee Meeting

Tuesday May 12th
Life Transition Center
150 Bennett Rd.,
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
7:00 p.m.

#### **Local Internet Support Group**

If you are interested in <u>Footprints on My Heart</u>, a local Internet support group with a private listing, please send an email to melissasidor@hotmail.com or forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com. You'll need to have a Yahoo ID to access this private group. Missy Sidor created this wonderful site in memory of her daughter, Liljana, who was born prematurely at 24 weeks. She has also created <u>Hopeful Hearts</u>, a local internet private support group for those pregnant after a loss, or those considering trying again after a previous loss. These groups are not affiliated with any area hospitals and although Missy is the founder of both, she is not responsible for any information or messages posted on the group pages.



The Newsletter Committee is looking for submissions of articles, poems, stories, memorials, etc. Submissions may be emailed to:

# forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com

or addressed to:

Dawn Both-Kim, 1 Montclaire Ln. Orchard Park, NY 14127



# Safe Arrivals



**Takira Dariana Hall** was welcomed into this world on February 6, 2009. She was born at 7 lbs and 19 inches long! Takira and her big sister Tatiana will always remember Taylor Nicole Hall (February 20, 2003) in heaven.

Olivia Grace Salisbury was born to Dawn and Ron Salisbury on February 14, 2009. She was 8 lbs and 11.6 oz. Together with Victoria, Brianna, Cody and Samantha, she will always remember her heavenly brother Ronald Salisbury, Jr. (September 21, 2007).

On January 29, 2009, Michelle Treece gave birth to **Victoria Lynn Treece**. Victoria was 6 lbs 8 oz and 19 inches long. Jason Jr. and Madison are thrilled to

have a new sister! The family remembers, loves and misses Alexis April Treece (February 28, 2005).

**Tyana Marie Titman** was born on February 9, 2009 at 7 lbs 6 oz, and 20 inches long to Jade Granly and Zach Titman. Jade and Zach will always remember Baby Titman (May 22, 2007).

Please send your new baby's name, birthday, size and weight to us, along with the new baby's heavenly big brothers' and sisters' names and honored dates to:

forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com Subject: Safe Arrivals



# Area Support Groups



### **Bereaved Parents of USA**

Death of a Child

When: 2nd Friday @ 7:30 pm. Life Transitions Center

150 Bennett Rd., Cheektowaga

Contact:

Tony & Bernie Misita, 675-3844

## **Caring Arms Support Circle**

Stillbirth or Early Infant Death

When: 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 pm

Ministry Center, Rm #4

100 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville Next to Millard Fillmore Suburban

Contact:

Denise Hudden, RN, 668-6653

#### Circle of Hope

Death and/or Serious Illness-Niagara Hospice 4675 Sunset Drive, Lockport or 2186 Liberty Drive, Niagara Falls Contact:

**Outreach Department 280-0777** 



#### Death of a Child

Discovering New Life: After the Death of a Child When: 1st and 3rd Tuesday

at 9:30 am

United Methodist Church 5681 Main St., Williamsville Contact:

Lesley Jordans, 878-7773

#### Death of an Only Child

When: 4th Wednesday of each month 5:00 pm

United Methodist Church 5681 Main St., Williamsville Contact:

Lesley Jordans, 878-7773

#### **Families Growing Through Grief**

Parent/Grandparent & Sibling Grief (4-16) (Separate Rooms)

When: 2nd Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m. 1st Trinity Lutheran Church

1570 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda Contact:

Lesley Jordans, 878-7773

# Footprints on the Heart

Miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, and early infant death

When: 4th Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

Life Transitions Center 150 Bennett Rd.. Cheektowaga

#### Contact:

Fran Kane, 862-1678



# **Hopeful Hearts/Subsequent Pregnancy**

Pregnancy after a loss

Contact:

Fran Kane, 862-1678

## Pat's Place

Contact:

Lesley Jordans, 878-7773

## SIDS Family Support Group

SIDS and Infant Death Life Transitions Center 150 Bennett Rd., Cheektowaga Contact:

Jan Walkden, 837-5189

#### Sibling Grief

Young Sibling (5-16 yrs)

Adult Sibling (17 yrs-adult)
When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month 6:30 pm

1st Trinity Lutheran Church 1570 Niagara Falls Blvd, Tonawanda Contact:

Lesley Jordans, 878-7773

#### Storm Clouds & Rainbows

When: Mondays 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Life Transitions Center 150 Bennett Rd., Cheektowaga

Contact: Jim Grande, 836-6460



## Surviving the Death of Your Child

Loss 12 years and under due to illness/ disabilities

When: 2nd Tuesday of each month 6:00 PM

Williamsville United Methodist Church 5681 Main St, Williamsville

Contact:

Lesley Jordans, 878-7773

# The Compassionate Friends

Death of a Child

Buffalo Area:

When: 1st Friday @ 7:30 pm Life Transitions Center 150 Bennett Rd., Cheektowaga

Contact:

Andy Thomasula, 626-9463

# Hamburg

Contact:

Candie Young, 627-5472 mytimtoddrobin@aol.com

#### Rochester

When: 2nd & 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 pm Genesee Region Hospice Homecare 70 Metro Park

**Contact:** 

Kathy Spodo, 585-214-1000

## "Tiniest Angels" Parent **Bereavement Support**

Miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, and early infant death

When: 3rd Wednesday of each month

Baby's Sweet Beginnings Lactation & Wellness Center

231 Aurora Street, Lancaster Contact:

Christine Scott, 681-8100

## **Transitioning Parents**

Further along the Journey of Grief When: 3rd Wednesday of each month 6:30 pm

Contact:

Lesley Jordans, 878-7773

#### WNY Rainbow Connection

Children after a loss

**Contact:** 

Nicole Pirrone, 716-566-6587 716-799-4183 nicole\_pirrone@hotmail.com

# Internet Support and Keepsake Resources

#### **Angel Babies Forever Loved**

www.angels4ever.com
Provides support to grieving parents of infants whether from miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal loss or SIDS.

#### **Angel Lady**

www.angelady.net
Artist Ethel Pontsler offers custom artwork of deceased loved ones
based on photographs.

#### **Angels in Heaven Ministries**

www.angelsinheaven.org
Offers framed poems, cards, and audio tapes relating to infant loss.

#### **Ashwood Artisans**

726 Main St. in East Aurora (716) 652-7333
Engrave footprints onto charms for necklaces, tie tacks, etc.
Diane Lehman will work with you to get what YOU want.

## **Baby Photo Retouching Service**

www.babyphotoretouch.com
Transforms your precious baby photos through digital technology to
correct some of the damaged image.

## **Born Angels Pregnancy Loss Support**

www.bornangels.com
Provides links to many wonderful sites, pregnancy loss support, infertility support, neonatal loss support, and adoption resources.

#### **Breathless Tears of Silence**

http://members.tripod.com/~abier/breathless.htm Site dedicated to those who lost through stillbirth.

#### Celebration Forest

www.celebrationforest.com
Allows you to plant a tree in honor of your deceased beloved one

#### **Creating Memories**

www.anencephalie-info.org/e/memories.htm

#### **Facts About Miscarriage**

http://www.pregnancyloss.info

#### The Grief Recovery Institute

http:/www.grief-recovery.com
The action program for moving beyond loss

#### H.A.N.D.

www.handonline.org
Helping cope with the loss of a baby before, during, or after birth

#### A Heartbreaking Choice

www.aheartbreakingchoice.com
For parents who have interrupted their pregnancies after poor prenatal diagnosis.

#### Hygeia.org

www.hygeia.org
An online journal for pregnancy and neonatal loss.

#### **Journey of the Hearts**

www.journeyofhearts.org
An online healing place for anyone grieving a loss.

#### Links to sites for Loss and Grief

http://www.trisomyonline.org/grieflinks.htm

#### M.E.N.D.

www.mend.org

To reach out to those who have lost a child due to miscarriage, stillbirth or early infant death and offer a way to share experiences and information through support groups, a quarterly newsletter and an internet web site.

#### M.I.S.S. Foundation

www.misschildren.org

Provides immediate and ongoing support to grieving families, empowerment through community volunteerism opportunities, public policy and legislative education, and programs to reduce infant and toddler death through research and education.

#### My Heart's Missing Link

www.myheartsmissinglink.com

Offers beautifully designed heart-shaped pendants with a birthstone and a "missing link" to help remember loved ones who now live in heaven and your heart.

#### **National Share Office**

www.nationalshareoffice.com

For those who are interested in an infant loss support group. Also the site has good information regarding parents' rights and grief education.

#### A Place to Remember

www.aplacetoremember.com

Uplifting support materials and resources for those who have been touched by a crisis in pregnancy or the death of a baby.

## Rainbow Maker

www.rainbowmaker.org

To provide comfort, peace, and informative resources to bereaved parents. To promote healing through poetry and writings. To help families rebuild.

# **Remembering Our Babies**

http://www.october15th.com/
The official site of pregnancy and infant loss remembrance day—
October 15th.

#### **Rich Remembrances**

www.richrembrances.com
Offers custom engravings that decorate, commemorate and
motivate.

#### Sara's Smile

www.Sarasmile.org

Operates to fill the arms of grieving mothers with a Share © Bear giving them something to fill that empty space as they grieve for their child.

#### Star Foundation

www.starfoundation.net

Gives you the opportunity to Name a Star in the sky after a friend or loved one.

Su	he	cri	nti	οn	R	'n	ewa	al

We would like to inform you of a change in our policy regarding sending out this newsletter. We will send this newsletter, free of charge, for 4 issues (1 year's time) after your loss. After this time, if you would like to remain on our mailing list, we are asking for a \$5.00 contribution to help defray the publishing costs. Following this mailing, any labels not current will be removed from our mailing list. If your free subscription is no longer valid, and you wish to continue receiving our newsletter, please fill out the renewal form and forward a check for \$5.00 payable to WNY Perinatal Bereavement Network. c/o Christine Scott, Life Transitions Center, 150 Bennett Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227. Please note on the check it is for the Forget-Me-Not Newsletter. This fee will cover a one year period, or 4 newsletters. Thank you very much for your cooperation as we update our mailings. If you are receiving duplicate mailings please let us know by either email or US mail. If there are any financial concerns that prohibit you from subscribing, please notify us by email or US mail, and we'll be happy to continue your subscription. If you have received this newsletter through your bereavement packet at the hospital and have not signed a release at the hospital to receive this newsletter, and you wish to assure you will receive it in the mail, please forward your name, address, baby's name, baby's date of birth/death, and hospital where loss occurred to the same address, or email to forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com

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Cheektowaga, NY 14227	picase contact the chian address above.		

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