

**JAN-FEB 2025**



**Bereaved  
Parents  
OF THE USA**  
**ST. LOUIS, MO**

**Chapter Newsletter**

**VOLUME 48 - NUMBER 1**



### New Year's Resolutions

1. I will try not to expect so much understanding from others who have not walked the same path.
2. I will be kind to myself - health, appearance and time to be alone.
3. I will remember that I owe it to myself to try to enjoy life.
4. I will try to be more considerate of my spouse, children and parents. They, too, are coping and deserve my help.
5. I resolve in memory of my child to do something to help someone else. For I know that in doing this, my child will live on through me.

~TCF Mobile Alabama~

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## Meet Patrick Salyer

Welcome to the 2024 Candle Light ceremony. I'm Steve Salyer and joining me is my lovely wife Anne Marie. We want to thank Mike and

Jeanne for allowing us to open the ceremony talking about our son Patrick.

When I was asked to tell Patrick's story my first thought was one that I am sure that all of you who have stood up here before I did. How could Steve and I tell people about a 31-year old's life in just a few minutes. I thought it was an impossible task, so we decided to give you the high lights, instead of a whole life at one time.

Patrick was born in a small town in South Carolina, named Rock Hill. Due to most of my family being from there he was very proud of that. Our other children were born in Florida. He and his sister were actually my first husband's biological children, Steve adopted him right after we got married when Patrick was 5. Patrick would always say that Steve was the only father he had.

Once Patrick turned five he began to show an interest in sports so we started him in t-ball. He was a very normal child chasing every ball but he learned quickly that he didn't have to get to every ball

He had a normal childhood. But if anyone caught a virus, it was him. He had many strep throats and scarlet fever while he was growing up as well as Chicken pox.

When he was young Patrick adored his grandfather. He loved to go to the mountains and my father would take him to the Great Smokey Mountains many times. My parents also housed foreign exchange students for many years. One of them was a young man named Martin, who was from Denmark. Martin missed his family, so he and Patrick had a special bond despite the difference in their ages. (Patrick was



3-5 and Martin was 18 – 20). They stayed friends for the rest of his life. Martin even invited Patrick and my mother to Denmark when he graduated high school. Martin even named his only son Patrick William.

Patrick also played basketball for a couple of seasons but he didn't have the height to be very good at it. While in middle school, he came home from school and slammed his books down. He was mad that he made the track team. Since he needed a spring sport, we thought that was good. So we asked him why he ran fast if he didn't want to be in track. "The coach invited the cheerleaders to the track tryouts so they all tried their hardest." Was his reply. We couldn't help but laugh and told him that was a smart coach.

When Patrick got into high school his favorite sport changed from baseball to football. His first homecoming the team decided to shave their heads which Patrick joined in on but when prom rolled around most of the players lost their dates due to a lack of hair. It was the last time Patrick shaved his head until his hairline started to recede in his twenties. Patrick played linebacker his first season of football and made some big plays in some big games. As the years went by he got the opportunity to play offense and actually scored a touchdown but it was called back due to an offensive penalty.

**Continued on page 3**

He was a smooth talker and could charm any one that he met. I honestly think that's how he graduated. He talked teachers into passing him so they didn't have to put up with them for another year. He came home one day in the seventh grade and told me "Mom I am not going to pass science. My teacher hates boys. She likes the girls, but hates all the boys." I called the teacher for a conference. When I told her what he said, his teacher said to me "Please don't tell my sons that I hate boys! ", she became his favorite teacher. I was also known as the parent that doesn't take my child's word without getting the whole story. While in high school, Patrick went paint balling with his friends. When he got back, he started getting a rash. He was due to take his final exams that week. By the next day, we knew he couldn't take his exams. His arm, from elbow to wrist ballooned up and he looked like Popeye, I had him put a jacket on and took him to his principal's office. The man took one look at his arms and got Patrick excused from all his finals.

After graduating high school, Patrick spent one semester at University of North Texas but then moved to Houston to be closer to his best friend. Patrick bought tickets to the Houston vs Dallas football game and invited me to go to the game with him and Dallas actually won the game.

He was a smart kid, but didn't want to work if he didn't have to. This was obvious with his grades. He was a very good salesman and I swear he could sell ice cubes to an Eskimo. He started working sales jobs and really enjoyed his jobs.

Even though Patrick had his share of medical issues, he was also a hypochondriac. He was constantly worried about having all types of diseases and medical conditions. It was a constant occurrence, so one day when he came up to me saying his belly button hurt, I snapped at him. I told him to go to the doctor. That evening while I was cooking dinner, he called. He told me that he was still at the doctor, and they were admitting him to the hospital for emergency surgery, Patrick had a hernia in his umbilical cord. That taught me a big lesson to never blow off his pains and illnesses.

Patrick loved anything Irish. He was very proud of his Irish heritage. In 2013 we took Patrick and our youngest son to Ireland. He loved that trip. The boys were always trying to one up each other. When we went into a condo in Youghal, Patrick ran ahead and claimed a bedroom because there was a beautiful view of the bay out his window. Jon went in the other room and found he had views out both his windows. Patrick was upset and wanted Jon to swap rooms. I wouldn't let Patrick get his way and boy was he wasn't a happy camper. He and Jon were always trying to outdo each other. Typical sibling rivalry. Jon was boasting when we visited King John's castle that he was a king. Patrick piped up that he was a Saint because everyone knew of Saint Patrick, and he had a holiday named after him. We told him that he had never been a saint so that didn't count.



**Candlelight  
Ceremony,  
Dec 1, 2024**

**Steve &  
Anne Marie  
Salyer**

**Continued on page 4**



## Patrick Salyer - 2024 Candlelight continued from page 3

Patrick loved his family. He was also very protective of all of us but especially me. He would call me or text me numerous times a day. At the time, it would be annoying, but I would give anything to have those calls again. My other kids only call once a month at the most. Patrick also loved kids. He loved making them happy and would do funny things to make them happy. He could talk like Yoda from Star Wars. After he was in his mid-twenties, he dated women that had children and ones who natural fathers weren't in their lives. He would quickly become their father and let them know that they were important.

Then Patrick met Jennifer. She was very special and loved Patrick very much. She had two children and Patrick quickly became their father. Kaden is in high school now and Haily is in middle school. They still miss their father. The year 2019 was the worst year Steve and I ever had. In January Steve was laid off from the job he had worked for 23 years. Steve got a job offer in April. The only drawback was that the job was in Missouri. I knew nothing about Missouri. The only place I had visited was Branson and I knew that St. Louis was not like Branson. We had to move quickly so we decided to let Patrick, Jennifer and the kids stay in our Texas house. They were supposed to pay the mortgage. It was a win for both of us. We left on Mother's Day. I was going to fly back to Texas on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Patrick's older sister and her family were coming to Texas for a visit. Jennifer and Patrick moved up their wedding date to July 14 so that his sister could be at the wedding. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, I got a phone call from Jen. Patrick had been admitted to the hospital and was in ICU. He had started hallucinating and no one could reason with him. I flew down the next day and Patrick had already slipped into a coma. Instead, of getting married, Patrick passed away on July 14. I at least feel glad that the last thing I said to him was "I love you" because that is what I say to all my kids.

I tried to concentrate on the positive memories. That is the way that I hope most people will remember him. I am now a grief facilitator, along with Marilyn Kister, for the Bereaved Parents Group of USA, Wright City Group, where helping others helps me. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 1pm to 3pm at the Wright City Library.

Just a few of many that helped with the event (left to right):  
Terre Rosciglione, Mike & Jeanne Francisco, Pat Ryan,  
Steve Salyer, Kim Wiese, Anne Marie Salyer



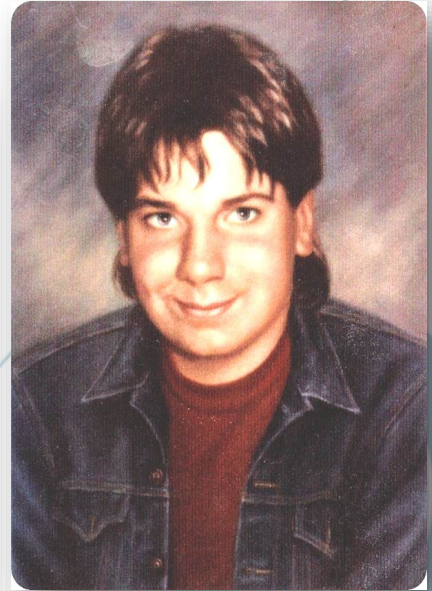
# THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE GIFTS



*In Memory of*  
**Kenneth Michael  
Lederich**



*In Memory of*  
**Ryan Matthew**



*In Memory of*  
**Timothy Roorda**



*In Memory of*  
**William Raymond  
Bousman**



*In Memory of*  
**Daniel Mark  
Kohler**



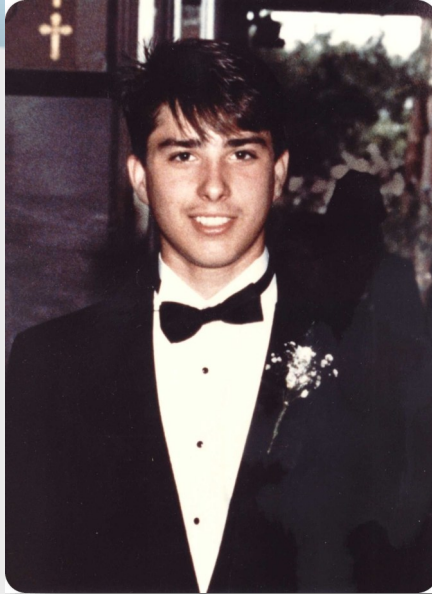
*In Memory of*  
**James Kevin  
Foley**



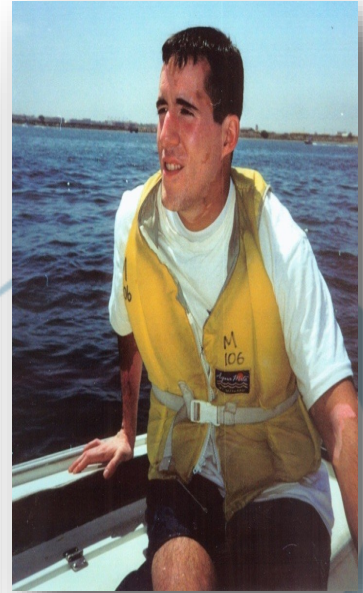
# THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE GIFTS



*In Memory of*  
**William Leonard  
Woods Batterson**



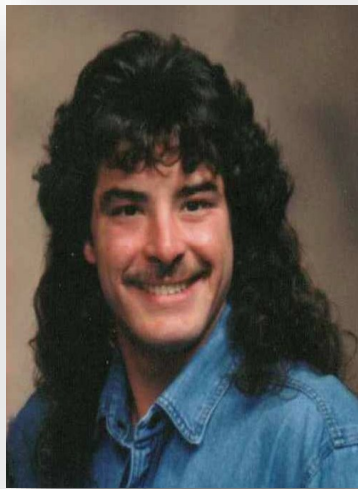
*In Memory of*  
**Robert Andrew  
Angelbeck  
"Robbie"**



*In Memory of*  
**Jorge Tumialan**



*In Memory of*  
**Steve Bengfort**



*In Memory of*  
**Thomas Ian  
Lupardus**



*In Memory of*  
**Natalie**

## TO ROSIE

Another Christmas came and went.  
They just keep flowing along.  
Good times yes, but reminders always  
that you are forever gone

Songs that are sweetly familiar,  
more decorations than you could believe.  
Yet all that I want to hear or gaze upon  
is that one person I cannot see.

All those twinkling globes  
that shine upon me at night,  
are not near as wonderful  
as your blue eyes ever so bright.

All those colorful and sparkly gifts  
Wrapped up just so under the tree  
are not near as special  
as your presence would be.

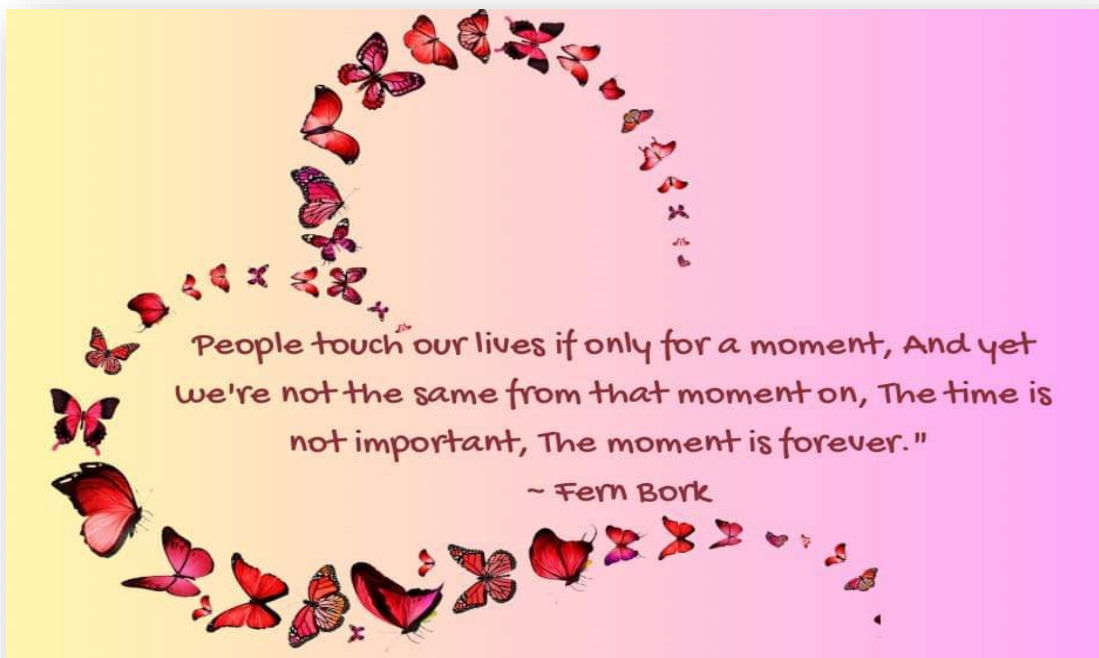
For everything that is made  
as wonderful as can be,  
nothing can compare  
to what you mean to me.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE GIFTS



**In Loving Memory of  
Rosie Umhoefer**

Poem by Rosann Umhoefer,  
Rosie's mom - BPUSAStL





# 2025 NATIONAL GATHERING Conference



Bereaved  
Parents  
OF THE USA



Pittsburgh Airport Marriott

**JULY | 25-27 | 2025**

777 Aten Rd, Coraopolis, PA

## Our Speakers



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Tiffany McConathy*

Mrs. Arkansas  
Nora's Legacy Project  
An Unexpected Fight



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Sara Schneider*

Bowen Walker  
Foundation



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Susan Whitmore*

griefHaven



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Michael Straley*

Leah's Legacy  
Foundation



SPECIAL GUEST

*Brett McCutcheon*

The Ocean - Five Years  
Instrumentalist, Composer  
and Music Educator



SPECIAL GUEST

*Bob McCutcheon*

Rhythm 19 Fund  
Owner & President of The  
Vault Recording Studio



**Saturday, March 22, 2025**

Additional information will be posted on the website as registration nears. Please get the word out to your family and friends, as well.

Trivia is our annual fundraiser.

Knights of Columbus  
5701 Hwy N  
Cottleville, MO 63304

**We look forward to seeing you!!**





*work hard in silence,  
let your*  
**SUCCESS**  
*make the noise.*

## THANK YOU MIKE FRANCISCO



In addition to serving as Chapter Chair on the BPUSASTL board, Mike spent 15 years maintaining

the database of names and photos essential for our annual bereaved candlelight services. Thank you, Mike, for the countless hours, late nights, dedication, and your passion in helping to bring comfort to bereaved parents, grandparents & siblings.

## WELCOME CHRIS CONNELL



Chris joined BPUSA after his daughter Valene passed in 2014. You can read his and Carol's key-

note candlelight speech in the January/February 2024 newsletter available on the website:

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

Mentored by Mike Francisco, Chris assumed the database role with the recent candlelight ceremony. Thank you, Chris.

# It Will Be Better

It will be better. Strange sounding words to be saying to newly bereaved parents, aren't they?

"Surely she lies. Either that or she didn't love her child as much as I loved mine," you think. Even so, you are probably hoping I'm a truthful person and that you can believe those strange sounding words, because you need to believe.

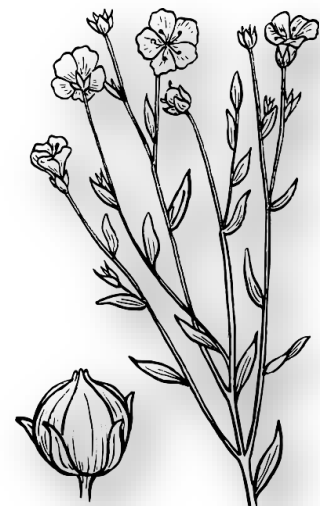
Well, I'm not lying. I am a truthful person and you can believe those words. You will note I did not say you were going to "get over" your grief. I said, "It will be better." It takes a lot of time to learn to live with your loss more comfortably, but you will, for the pain does soften after you've allowed it in and have dealt with it in an emotionally healthy way. Given the proper time and support, we do get scar tissue over those raw and bleeding wounds, the scar tissue gets knocked off every now and then, but it doesn't bleed as much or as long as time goes by.

Those of us who are surviving, and who loved our children as much as you loved yours, are able to enjoy the happiness that is left in this new life we've created. It's missing someone we loved better than ourselves and we don't like it as well as the old one, but it's sure better than the pain of fresh grief.

You are going to survive and go on to better days. It will be better. Take it as a promise and believe it!

*I find you  
sometimes,  
like a dried  
wildflower  
pressed  
between  
the pages of  
memory.*

—John Mark Green



Lovingly lifted from BPUSA Springfield & Central Illinois  
Newsletter, Nov 2024—Author Mary Cleckley




 Note from: **Deb Bronder**

*My heart is once again overwhelmed with your support and help in baking, delivering, doing both or gift of love. Each year I try to find words that could express our gratitude. This week I will be finishing up the packaging of the cookies - and so great-ful for the beautiful assortment.*

*And I wish that I could share with you the gratitude of the recipients (most messages coming via text or phone call).*

*Sometimes I question as to the significance - but the messages remind me. God blessed us with the opportunity to use KY's name - it meaning (knowing you), to share the cookies. But the cookies really are from each and every child they represent. God inspired this so many years ago - and I feel honored to be a small part.*

*Thank you  Your generous hearts are a blessing for so many.*

*(If you baked cookies and want your container back - please let me know. Most came without names).*

From The Bronder Family: "Knowing You Ministries began in honor of our daughter Kylene who inspired us to open our eyes to those hurting hearts around us."

The Bronder's also accept help in cookie donations, either bought or baked, packaging and delivering.

If you wish to receive cookies during the month of December 2025 in memory of your child, please let someone on the BPUSASTL Board know in October 2025. Or contact Deb Bronder with your address:

[knowingyou@sbcglobal.net](mailto:knowingyou@sbcglobal.net)



**In Loving  
Memory of  
Kylene Bronder**



**LOSS OF CHILD** 

**Weavings** is a retreat for mothers who have lost a child that is held at a retreat center near Saint Louis, MO

**Weavings** 

We have retreats for moms scheduled for **April 4-6 and October 24-26**, Email [griefsupport@bjc.org](mailto:griefsupport@bjc.org)



## *Angel of Hope*

*Candlelight Memorial Service  
held every year on*

*December 6th, at 7:00 pm*



**J. P. Rosciglione**

Good Evening,

My name is **Terre Rosciglione**. I unfortunately became a member of the BPUSA St. Peters organization in Feb 2005 when my son JP was tragically killed in a hit and run car accident at 20 years old. He was a fun loving and charismatic young man with a smile that would light up any room. He loved the Cardinals, the Colts, a food feast which required at least 3 sides, but mostly loved being with and entertaining his family and friends. He was on a path to make the world a much better place before taken from this earth much too soon. My journey over the last 19+ years has been nothing short of a rollercoaster ride with some highs and many lows much like all of you. I continue to struggle at times but choose to move forward in this new normal as I know in my heart JP is guiding me along the way.

For me, the holiday season is one of the most difficult to maneuver as it typically represents “family time” and half of mine is not physically present. This coming year in particular marks one of those dreaded milestones. He will be gone for as long as he was here. But with the help and support of family and friends, I will continue the healing process and my quest for peace. If I may, I’d like to offer a few suggestions that helped me and hopefully will help some of you during this time:

Find a support group of people who understand exactly how you are feeling. Whether it be Shaare, BPUSA or any number of other active organizations available, to use as your SAFE place. A place to enter where all members have total understanding of the path you walk with no judgement or explanation needed. This was priceless for me.

Surround yourself with family and friends and talk to them about your needs and concerns. Education is key. Most only want to help but feel helpless if they have no information or communication from you. It can be very difficult but essential for you and those who love and care for you.

I have been very lucky and blessed with family and friends who choose to walk this path with JP and I.

Do what you feel like doing during the holiday. If tradition is just too painful, start a new one. Maybe do something different each year. If getting out of bed is all you can handle for the day, then celebrate the accomplishment. Don’t feel pressured or forced by the needs of others. These are your days to spend as you need. You may be surprised to find family and friends willing and wanting to be a part of whatever it is you choose to do.

Thank you for this blessed opportunity to speak for a few moments about my precious JP. My wish for all is you this holiday and going forward is to find moments of peace and relish in the good thoughts and memories of your children. Remember, they are always watching and holding your hand along the way each and everyday.



# MEETING TIMES & PLACES

\*\*\*Call for meeting status\*\*\*



<u>BUSINESS / FACILITATORS MEETINGS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
<b>ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!</b>  <b>CONTACT: Mike &amp; Jeanne Francisco</b> <b>636.233.8490</b>	BJC Hospital St. Peters Medical Center Bldg. 1 St. Peters, MO 63376	<b>Contact Mike &amp; Jeanne. Meeting dates vary depending upon unforeseen events.</b>	9:00 AM

GROUP MEETINGS	MEETING LOCATION	FACILITATOR(S)	DAY	TIME
BPUSASTL—St. Peters / St. Charles, MO	Share 1600 Heritage Landing, Suite 109 St. Peters, MO 63303	Mike & Jeanne Francisco 636.233.8490	1st Thursday - <b>Please contact facilitators for meeting status</b>	7:00 pm
St. Peters / St. Charles, MO—Siblings Facilitator	Same as above	Samantha Schaefer 636.293.1099	Same as above	7:00 pm
Wright City Group	Scenic Regional Library 60 Wildcat Drive Wright City, MO 63390	Anne Marie Salyer 972.740.9702 Marilyn Kister 636.634.6019	3rd Saturday	1:00-3:00 pm
Troy Group	Dept. of Health Conference Rm #5 Health Dept. Drive Troy, MO 63379	Cindy Morris 314.954.1810	1st Wednesday	7:00-9:00 pm

SPECIALIZED MEETINGS	MEETING LOCATIONS Please contact facilitators to verify meeting dates/times.	FACILITATOR(S) / CONTACT(S)	DAY	TIME
SOUL: (Surviving Overdose and Understanding Loss)	Concordia Lutheran Church 505 S. Kirkwood Rd. Kirkwood, MO 63122 Or via Zoom (holiday weekends and church conflicts) <b>*Be sure to contact MaryAnn before attending</b>	MaryAnn Lemonds 314.282.7453 (landline) 314.330.7586 (cell) SurvivingOUL@gmail.com	Sundays <b>*To confirm dates, contact MaryAnn before attending</b>	5:00 pm
Life Crisis Center Survivors of Suicide	9355 Olive Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63132	314.647.3100	Wednesdays	7:00 pm
Healing After Suicide Loss	Baue Funeral Home 608 Jefferson St. Charles, MO 63301	Kristen Ernst: Call to confirm meeting location and time at 636.328.0878	1st & 3rd Monday	6:00 pm
Trees of Righteousness Grief Support Group—Any loss	Christian Hospital in the main lobby conference room—Please call Johnnie for correct location, dates and times	Johnnie Coleman 314.740.3602	3rd Tuesday	6:00 pm to approx. 7:30 pm
BPUSA Virtual Bereaved Sibling Chapter — Ages 18+	Please use this link to register: <a href="https://virtual-bereaved-sibling-chapter-meeting.mailchimpsites.com/">https://virtual-bereaved-sibling-chapter-meeting.mailchimpsites.com/</a>	Katie Alger 845.443.0614	Last Thursday of the month	7:00 pm CST

# TELEPHONE FRIENDS

## BPUSA ST. LOUIS CHAPTER CO-CHAIRS:

**Mike & Jeanne Francisco**

**636.233.8490**

Accident, Auto	Theresa DeMarco	636.544.3478
Adult Sibling	Samantha Schaefer	636.293.1099
Drugs/ Alcohol	MaryAnn Lemonds	314.330.7586
Child with Disability	Linda Frohning	314.721.5517
Illness	Marilyn Kister	636.634.6019
Jefferson City	Sandy Brungardt	314.954.2410
Only Child /Single Parent	Donna Arnold	314.608.3655

As always, for up-to-date  
information  
on BPUSAStL events, visit  
[www.bpusaStL.org](http://www.bpusaStL.org)

### Representation in Lieu of Meetings

Tri-County, MO	Brenda Wilson 573.438.4559
OPEN ARMS (Parents Left Behind)	Kathy Dunn - 314.807.5798 <a href="mailto:kathydunn333@yahoo.com">kathydunn333@yahoo.com</a>
West County Group (formerly held in Ladue, MO)	Jacque Glaeser 636.236.5103 <a href="mailto:jlynn63021@yahoo.com">jlynn63021@yahoo.com</a>

## Newsletter Submissions

Cut-off date for our next issue is

**February 15, 2025**

Send your submissions (poems, articles, love gifts) to:

Newsletter  
PO Box 1115  
St. Peters, MO 63376  
or to :

[snowwhite6591@gmail.com](mailto:snowwhite6591@gmail.com)

Your writings may help someone.



## OUR COMMITMENT



Part of **BPUSAStL's** commitment to you is that we are the space where our parents and families communicate. Printed in your newsletter are articles to educate and ones that are private expressions of writers. We offer our writings only for your reflection, sometime serving nature or establishing routines signal solace to the writer. Often they turn to religion or spirituality for comfort and guidance.

**BPUSAStL** share these insights not only for your contemplation but also to acknowledge our community's many and rich sources for strength and hope.



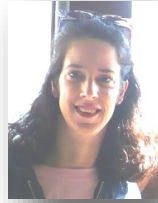
## Children of BPUSAStL's Board Representation



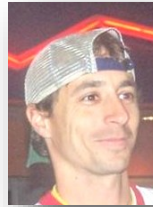
**Julie Bardle**  
*Daughter of  
Marilyn Kister  
Newsletter  
Editor & Wright  
City Group  
Facilitator*



**Joseph DeMarco**  
*Son of  
Theresa DeMarco  
Treasurer*



**Jennifer Francisco**  
*Daughter of Jeanne  
& Mike  
Francisco  
St. Peters Group  
Facilitators  
& Co-Chairs*



**Mickey Hale**  
*Son of  
Jacque Glaeser  
Secretary*



**Jeffrey Morris**  
*Son of  
Cindy Morris  
Troy Group  
Facilitator*



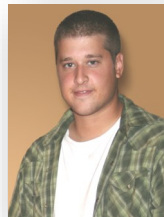
**J. P. Rosciglione**  
*Son of Terre  
Rosciglione  
Trivia  
Coordinator*



**Patrick Salyer**  
*Son of Anne Marie  
and Steve Salyer &  
Wright City Group  
Facilitator*



**Rosie Umhoefer**  
*Daughter of  
Rosann Umhoefer*



**Matthew Wiese**  
*Son of Kim Wiese*



**Arthur Gerner / Emily Gerner**  
*Son & Granddaughter of  
Deceased Margaret Gerner  
Founder of BPUSAStL*

## Children of BPUSAStL's Special Events



**J. P. Rosciglione**  
*Son of Terre  
Rosciglione  
Trivia  
Coordinator*



**Aaron Cole**  
*"Aaron's Ms.  
Courtney"  
Trivia Coordinator*



**Danny Brauch**  
*Brother of  
Samantha  
Schaefer  
St. Peters Group  
Sibling Facilitator*

**If you wish to make a love donation - IN ANY AMOUNT - We will include a picture of your child(ren). (See page 5-7 of this newsletter)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

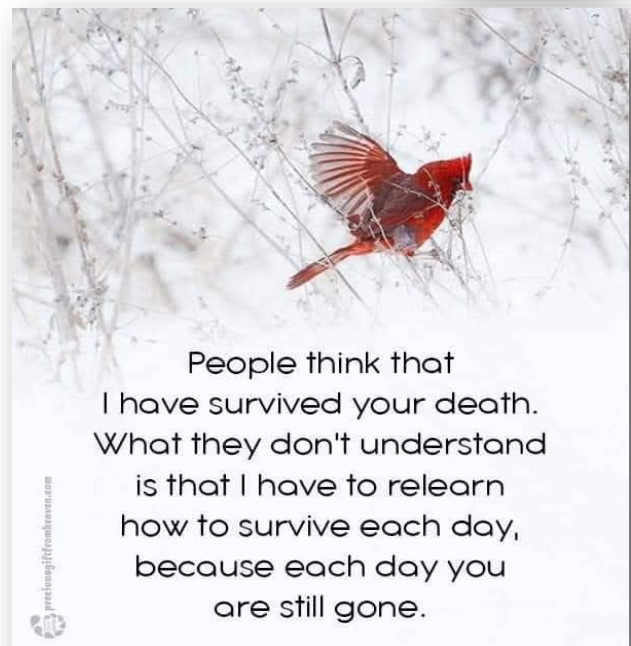
CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF CHILD(REN) \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE A LOVE GIFT DEDICATED TO MY CHILD(REN) IN THE MONTH OF: \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE IN LOVING MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: Bereaved Parents of the USA-St. Louis,  
P. O. BOX 1115, ST. PETERS, MO 63376**



## 'GROWING AROUND GRIEF' (LOIS TONKIN, 1996)

WHATSYOURGRIEF.COM



## WELCOME

We are the parents whose children have died. We are the siblings whose brothers and sisters no longer walk with us through life. We are the grandparents who have buried grandchildren. We come together as Bereaved Parents of the USA to provide a safe space where grieving families can connect, share our stories, and learn to rebuild our lives. We attend meetings whenever we can and for as long as we find helpful. We share our fears, confusion, anger, guilt, frustrations, emptiness, and feelings of hopelessness, knowing these emotions will be met with compassion and understanding. As we support, comfort and encourage one another, we offer hope and healing. As we confront the deaths of our loved ones, our shared grief brings us to a common ground that transcends differences, building mutual understanding across the boundaries of culture, race, faith, values, abilities, and lifestyle. Together we celebrate the lives of our children, siblings, and grandchildren, sharing the joys and the heartbreaks as well as the love that will never fade. Together, strengthened by the bonds we create, we offer what we have learned from one another to every bereaved family, no matter how recent or long ago the death.

We are the Bereaved Parents of the USA.

We welcome you