Will I ever feel normal again?

In her extensive work with the dying, Dr. Elizabeth Kübler-Ross discovered that individuals experience several adjustment stages when faced with their imminent death. She proposed the now famous Five Stages of Grief as a pattern of adjustment in her 1969 book *On Death and Dying*.

Since then, many grief counselors and other professionals see the five stages as possible responses to loss, with no fixed pattern of when a certain response comes in the grieving process, nor how many. Rather, any phase can be the first adjustment.

The five responses have since been adopted by many as applying also to the survivors of a loved one's death.

The five responses—denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance—help us learn to live with our loss. They are tools to help us frame and identify what we may be feeling. However, not everyone goes through all of them or in a prescribed order. The hope is that knowing about these phases may equip us better to cope with life and loss.

**DENIAL.** Denial helps us to survive the loss. In this response, the world becomes meaningless and overwhelming. Life makes no sense. We go numb. We wonder how we can go on; if we can go on, why we should go on. Denial and shock help us to cope and make survival possible. It is nature’s way of letting in only as much as we can handle. As you accept the reality of the loss, the denial begins to fade. But as you proceed, all the feelings you were denying begin to surface.

**ANGER.** Anger is a necessary phase of the healing process. The more you truly feel it, the more it will begin to dissipate and the more you will heal. The truth is that anger has no limits. It can extend not only to your friends, the doctors, your family, yourself and your loved one who died, but also to God.

Underneath anger is pain, your pain. It is natural to feel deserted and abandoned. At first, grief feels like being lost at sea. No connection to anything. Then you get angry at someone. The anger becomes a bridge over the open sea, a connection from you to them, and a connection made from the strength of anger feels better than nothing. The anger is just another indication of the intensity of your love.

**BARGAINING.** After a loss, bargaining may take the form of a temporary truce. “What if I devote the rest of my life to helping others? Then can I wake up and realize this has all been a bad dream?” We become lost in a maze of “If only…” or “What if…” statements. We want life returned to what it was; we want our loved one restored.

Guilt is often bargaining’s companion. The “if onlys” cause us to find fault in ourselves and what we “think” we could have done differently. We may even bargain with the pain. We will do anything not to feel the pain of this loss. We stay in the past, trying to negotiate our way out of the hurt. People often think of the phases as lasting weeks or months, forgetting that these responses to feelings can last for minutes or hours as we flip in and out of one and then another. We may feel one, then another, then back again to the first one.

**DEPRESSION.** After bargaining, our attention may move into the present. We feel empty. Grief enters our lives on a level deeper than we ever imagined. This depressive phase feels as though it will last forever. It’s important to understand that this depression is not a sign of mental illness. It is the appropriate response to a great loss.

We may withdraw from life, left in a fog of intense sadness, wondering, perhaps, if there is any point in going on alone. Why go on at all? Depression after a loss is too often seen as unnatural: a state to be fixed, something to snap out of. The loss of a loved one is a very depressing situation, but depression is a normal and appropriate response. It would be unusual not to experience depression after a loved one dies. If grief is a

*Continued on p. 2*
Will I ever feel normal again?

(Continued from p. 1)

process of healing, then depression is one of the many necessary steps along the way.

ACCEPANCE. Acceptance is often confused with the notion of being “all right” or “OK” with what has happened. This is not the case. Most people don’t ever feel OK or all right about the loss of a loved one. This stage is about accepting the reality that our loved one is physically gone and recognizing that this new reality is the permanent reality.

We will never like this reality or make it OK, but eventually we accept it. We learn to live with it. We must try to live now in a world where our loved one is missing. In resisting this new norm, at first many people want to maintain life as it was before a loved one died. In time, through bits and pieces of acceptance, however, we see that we cannot maintain the past intact. It has been forever changed and we must readjust. We must learn to reorganize roles, re-assign them to others or take them on ourselves.

Finding acceptance may be just having more good days than bad ones. As we begin to live again and enjoy our life, we often feel that in doing so, we are betraying our loved one. We can never replace what has been lost, but we can make new connections, new meaningful relationships, new interdependencies. Instead of denying our feelings, we listen to our needs; we move, we change, we grow, we evolve.

We may start to reach out to others and become involved in their lives. We invest in our friendships and in our relationship with ourselves. We begin to live again, but we cannot do so until we have given grief its time.

Ω

[Adapted from information found on Grief.com and from Wikipedia.]

The value of a POMC Conference

(Many conference goers have found renewed hope and purpose in life at a POMC Conference. In the 2002 National Conference in Cincinnati, one victim-survivor offered this testimonial to describe the help the gathering brought her.)

A woman from Houston, who came to Cincinnati to attend her fourth conference, said, the support group “saved my life.” (Her son was killed in 1998). After his murder, she said, she locked herself in her bedroom for three months, until her daughter convinced her to go to a Parents Of Murdered Children meeting. Ω

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer, Aug. 10, 2002]
Arkansas Chapter awarded financial help in public and private ceremonies

State representative recognizes Arkansas POMC Chapter

VAN BUREN, Ark., May 10, 2017 — State Representative Charlotte Douglas presented checks to the Central Arkansas POMC Chapter and a local group called, Homicide Survivors United.

The checks were presented at the Crawford County Courthouse.

[Information comes from Arkansas matters.com]

Chapter presented with Difference Makers Award for June 2017

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., June 17, 2017 — “For us it’s a long-lasting thing that will never end. There is no closure,” explains Amy Stivers with the Central Arkansas Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children (POMC).

The support group was formed to help one another through the violent death of a child. It works hard to extend a line of support to those impacted by murder.

The difficult work has paid off for this nonprofit. Injury lawyers Rainwater Holt and Sexton were able to surprise the group in their studio and give them a special commemorative check to help cover some of their operating costs.

Mike Rainwater said, “We know this is not a position you’ve chosen but it’s chosen you and so we thank you for what you’re doing for the folks in this community. So this thousand dollars is from Rainwater Holt and Sexton for the Difference Makers Award.”

“Generous people like y’all have come to our rescue. I’m so appreciative of what’s going on,” said a POMC member about the award.

“We are constantly working on a small budget and this will help us so much,” said another POMC member.

The award comes as welcome relief for a group that struggles with its own emotional battles and will help cover the costs of the continued support it gives to others.

[Information comes from Arkansas matters.com]

CARRYING THE GRIEF OF THE WORLD

"The grief we carry is part of the grief of the world. Hold it gently. Let it be honored. You do not have to keep it in anymore. You can let it go into the heart of compassion; you can weep. Releasing the grief we carry is a long, tear-filled process. Yet it follows the natural intelligence of the body and heart. Trust it, trust the unfolding. Along with meditation, some of your grief will want to be written, to be cried out to be sung, to be danced. Let the timeless wisdom within you carry you through grief to an open heart."

— Jack Kornfeld
I have just returned from Bethesda, Md., from the National Summit on Crime Prevention and Public Safety. This was an invitation-only event for law enforcement leadership and some victim groups, under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). I was invited by United States (U.S.) Attorney General (A.G.) Jeff Sessions. U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence delivered the keynote speech.

During the conference I was honored to be able to chat with U.S. A.G. Jeff Sessions and U.S. Deputy A.G. Rod Rosenstein. I was also able to spend some time with the U.S. Victim Advocate, Anne Seymour, who introduced me to the soon-to-be appointed Director of the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC). It was a very good conference.

On Tuesday, June 20, the Plenary Panel discussion was moderated by the Honorable Rachel Brand, Associate A.G., U.S. Depart. of Justice (#3 in the D.O.J.) The panel consisted of the Executive Assistant Director of the F.B.I.; the Acting Director, U.S. Marshals Service; and the Assistant Administrator, Chief of Operations, Drug Enforcement Administration.

The workshops were many and varied, ranging from opioids, other drugs, gang violence, MS-13 Street Gang, victim and witness protection, to investigations and crime detection technology, to name just a few. It was apparent that the administration considered law and order one of its primary goals.

Our POMC conference committee is working hard to make the 2017 conference memorable. As we did last year, we will conduct our Effective Leadership Training (ELT) on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday prior to the conference. Our National Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, followed with the evening Welcome Ceremonies and unveiling of the Murder Wall.

Friday morning features the Opening Ceremony and start of the conference. The memorial video follows lunch, allowing for the Oceanside ceremony at a local beach.

If you need to be or wish to be certified, please remember: ELT will be Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday before the conference.

As a reminder, the 2018 Conference will be in the Washington D.C. area. Fulfill your dream. See the D.C. area attractions.

If anyone is interested in running for the National Board, please submit a resume to the National Office in Cincinnati for our reviews as soon as possible.

Prospective Board members will be voted on at our November meeting and, if selected, will take office Jan. 1, 2018. For more information, contact Bev Warnock at the National Office.

Have a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing you at the national conference.

Stop by and say “Hi.”

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**Nominations for 2018 Crime Victims’ Service Awards**

Every year, the Office for Victims of Crime recognizes extraordinary individuals, organizations, teams, and programs that demonstrate outstanding achievements in supporting victims and victim services.

You can read about our past honorees and, if you know a deserving individual, group, team, or program, submit a nomination by July 31, 2017.

The recipients will be honored at the National Crime Victims’ Service Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Visit the National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) website for details about the 2018 NCVRW observation, April 8-14, and the Awards Ceremony as they become available.
The names that appear in this issue of SURVIVORS are those that have been submitted to the National Organization of POMC, Inc., with full or partial payment before June 1, 2017. Names after this date will appear in the next issue.

The Wall consists of solid walnut panels with each holding about 20 brass plates inscribed with the name of the victim, along with the date of birth and the date of death. A donation of $75 is required before a name will be inscribed on a plate and permanently mounted on a panel. (See order form on this page.) Not only is this donation a tribute to the memory of your loved one, but it is a tribute to our collective need to remember and honor those we have lost to violent crime.

Thank You for Your Donation to Maintain the Murder Wall

Shannon Marie & Alexandra Jordan Nolan-Broe, from Margie & Nelson Torres
Michael Simmons, from Reginald & LaToyce Lee
Timothy Staunton, from Denise Coleman
Lisa Weaver, from Howard & Anna Klerk

Your Donations Help to Maintain the Wall’s Physical Beauty

Time and much travel have put stress on the many panels of the Murder Wall...Honoring Their Memories, and scratches, nicks, and dents need to be repaired. Many of the cases that are used to transport the Wall have split or broken, handles have fallen off, and the protective material inside each case needs to be replaced.

Currently, the Wall is made up of 33 panels, displaying over 3,500 victims’ names, dates of birth and dates of death.

In order to maintain the beauty of the Wall, POMC continues to seek donations to help make some of the repairs. To help, please use the form below. Donations made in memory/honor of will be in the next issue of Survivors.

POMC-Wall Repair
(Please Print)

Name:_________________________________________
In memory/honor of:_____________________________
Address:_______________________________________
City, State, Zip:_________________________________
Amount enclosed: $_________   Check:____  MO:_____
Visa:____  MC:____  Am. Express:_____  Discover:___
Card Number: ________________ Sec. Code #: _______
Exp. Date:__________________

Return to:     POMC, 4960 Ridge Ave., Suite 2,
               Cincinnati, OH  45209

Your Donations Help to Maintain the Wall’s Physical Beauty

that will help keep alive the memory of those we miss so deeply.

The Wall is a powerful statement of the violence in our society and of the numbers of loved ones senselessly killed by others. Not only does it give comfort, but also hope, because every name on it cries out silently for awareness, prevention, and justice.
In Loving Memory Of:
The difference between the living and the dead is the difference between the remembered and the forgotten.
Lest We Forget!

DONATIONS

Janice Marie Amirante, from John & Anna Amirante
Frank Carlson, from Sten Carlson
Jarrod Chrisman, from Susie & Rodney Chrisman
Dwayne Chubb, from Albert & Dorothy Chubb
Ken Czillinger, from Joan Fleming
Winter Revena Denny, from Cheyenne Goodman
Alan J. Friedman, from Caryl Buckstein
Eric Gelman, from Richard & Lynn Gelman
Mike Grasa, from Michael & Lazella Grasa

Ryan Charles August Hargens, from Roger & Jane Hargens
Joseph “Jay” Hitt, from Debbie Hitt
Helen Hutchinson, from Christina Sarrafian
Louis Innucci, from Lou & Rosalind Innucci
Keldrick Jackson, from Kenneth & Florette Henry
Erin Lynn Kimler, from Patria Ann Kimler
David LeFever, from Jeana LeFever
Scott Jonathan Lewis and Janet Bunkers, from Jean, Sandra & Steve Lewis
Tamara Lohr, from Lilas Lohr

Edith “Pen” Meyer, from Eric & Jessie Eisendrath
Jennifer Mullin, from John Mullin Jr.
Shannon Marie & Alexandra Jordan Nolan-Broe, from LC & Sherry Nolan, Nelson & Margie Torres
Dr. Laila Osunsade, from Leonarda Vicky Geiger
Christina & Jeanne Oyer, from Clarence Oyer
Angela Reyes, from Janet Reyes
Jim Roback, from Joan Roback
Justin Grant Unin Schwartz, from Debra Schwartz
Michael Simmons, from Reggie & LaToyce Lee
Benjamin Sloan, from Jimmy Sloan
Timothy Staunton, from Denise Coleman
Melissa Stromek, from Thomas & Judith Stromek
Willie Tafoya, from Flora Tafoya
Carolene Marie Wallace, from Claudia Wallace

SURVIVORS

Lisa Marie Weaver, from Howard & Ann Klerk
Karen Whetnall, from Tammi & Fernando Riquino
Jack Stewart Wyman, from Dorothy Scott Wyman

IN HONOR OF

Hope Thompson, from Roger & Elizabeth Marmet, Douglas & Stephanie Thomson

DONATIONS

Anonymous donation
Appriss, Inc. Vine
Paul Brewer
Nicole Cordone
Tawanda Edwards
Estate of Mark Alan Nichols
Ying Liu
Law Offices of Michael Gigandet
Nicole Luscombe
Chris McCombs
Rose Minor
Jimmy Mitchell
Cecily OConnor
Kerryn Pulciani

MURDER WALL....Honoring Their Memories
Murder Wall panels help us not to forget
‘Love Remembers’ can be a message for everyone

By Mary ELLEDGE

(Mary Elledge is the Chapter Leader of the Greater Portland Area POMC Chapter.)

For most fathers, Father’s Day is a day to reflect on the child or children they have and on the joys of being a father. Sadly, it is different for fathers whose child or children were murdered.

The ugly thing about homicide is that it cannot be resolved. It takes a long time to get the fact that your child was murdered not to always come up in your mind when you think of them. The first years can be a nightmare. The scenario plays over and over in our minds. What we must never forget is the fact that we need to tell our story. If we do not, it plays like a record, over and over.

Many of us will feel like we have no control over our need to go over the scenario of the loss of our child. It never stops. Yet, some of us may not be able to get the words out. This is even worse. There is no one way that is right when we lose someone to homicide. Traumatic grief leaves us with the same symptoms a person suffers from having post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

What also occurs is the worry that our loved one will not be remembered. I didn’t want the picture of my loved one on our POMC picture board. It was years before I finally had enough courage to add his name. I felt that if I put his picture on the board, I would be admitting he would not be back. I was trying to keep him with me as long as I could. I knew he was dead, but I could not accept it.

Murder makes losing a loved one even harder. We focus on how and if our loved one suffered. After that, we focus on justice for our loved one. If there is no justice, we get stuck in our pain. This makes us feel like we have let our loved ones down. Some of us never find our loved one’s body. Their death is never really acknowledged.

Life without our loved one brings an emptiness we never knew before. We are faced with mind-boggling grief. Our happy memories fade. We are left with a pain we are unprepared to deal with. Grief takes us away from the living. It can make us feel that we don’t even fit in with our own family. They want to help us. Yet, we don’t know how they can. We are now different. We are not the rock we thought we were. We feel misunderstood and somehow alone even if we are surrounded by others. We might even feel that our family and friends would be better off without seeing or hearing us grieve. I sometimes felt that I was pulling my family down with me. I wondered if I would be able to say his name without having my heart break.

Experts tell us that murder is the hardest way to lose a loved one. We know that murder can’t be resolved. Yet, we hear painful comments from people who think they are being helpful. If a parent is murdered, a person might say, “At least, they were older.” If your child was murdered, I have heard people say, “Thank heaven, you have more children,” Worst of all, they might say, “It was God’s will.”

It is no wonder we can’t remember anything but our loss. Many of us may wonder if we will ever be able to remember happy times we shared. For those who continue to suffer from years of PTSD, we know now that there are experts who can help them. It is now recognized that traumatic grief causes people who have lost loved ones in a violent way to suffer from its’ symptoms.

Depression is another illness that co-victims can face. For counseling, it is so important that co-victims of homicide go only to experts who understand “the aftermath of homicide.” Support groups that deal with others who have lost loved ones can be most effective. When we gather, we know we are not alone. We see others who feel that they are also losing their minds. We see others who feel that they don’t want to go on without their loved one. There are some co-victims who have never found their loved ones’ bodies. Co-victims can also feel guilty and angry. The anger and rage some of us feel when we see or hear about the person who murdered our loved one can be shocking to even us. Personally, I learned the true meaning of “rage” after my son was murdered and I saw each person who helped murder him in court proceedings.

Finding other co-victims lets us know we are not alone. No one judges us or our loved ones. We all know that murder can happen to anyone. When we see that others are further along in their grief, we have hope. At POMC meetings, hugs are freely given. For those who live too far away from meetings, there are telephone friends to call. Telephone friends can be a lifeline to those who cannot get to meetings or for those who cannot wait for a meeting.

I hope that all co-victims will be able to know that “Love Remembers.” You will need to do your grief work and share with others who understand. You need to know that after we have been able to go through our grief and not around it, we will open the doors to remembering the love and happy times we shared with our loved ones. In the book, Safe Passage, Molly Fumia wrote:

“Even though I am surrounded by friends, I
Think about images of the past
Present for me.
Which of these ghosts, if any, deserves my
attention? It seems unkind to banish them all from among the living, from a place that was once theirs.
But, I want to laugh again, to participate once more in lively conversation.
When I welcome those memories that have been invited. I
will eventually close the door on those which haunt me.”

(Continued on p. 16)
1638 Convicted murderers were denied parole through POMC’s Parole Block Program as conducted by the POMC National Office and POMC chapters in the U.S.

Help Keep Murderers Behind Bars

- Write letters protesting the parole of those convicted murderers listed in each issue of the SURVIVORS newsletter. Petitions can also be downloaded from POMC’s website at www.pomc.org.
- Contact National POMC if your loved one’s murderer is going to be considered for early release or parole.
- Contact National POMC to be placed on the list of those willing to circulate monthly petitions.
- Support the program by sending your tax-deductible donation.

Support for the Parole Block Program:

Jarrod Chrisman, from Rodney & Susie Chrisman
Kim Martello, from Elizabeth Wilson
Timothy Staunton, from Denise Coleman
Lisa Weaver, from Howard & Ann Klerk
Jason C. Wright, from Stacey Richards

Support POMC’s Parole Block Program
Keep A Killer Behind Bars

Name: __________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
City, State, Zip: __________________________________
Amt Encl: $_______ Check: ___ Money Order: _______
Credit Card: Visa____ MC_____ AMX____ Dis_______
Card #: _________________________________________
Sec. Code #: _______ Exp. Date: ____________________
In Memory of: __________________________________

Return to:
POMC, 4960 Ridge Ave., Suite 2
Cincinnati, OH 45209

Parole Block™ is a program of the
National Organization of
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

HEARINGS TO BE HELD

Parole Hearing
September 2017
RE: Matthew Solomon
ID#: 89A1381

On Christmas Eve, 1987, Matthew Solomon strangled his wife of two months, Lisa. Then he wrapped her body in garbage bags and left her to freeze in a field. Solomon reported Lisa missing and led the search for her. Her body was found six days later.

Solomon was convicted of murder with depraved indifference and was sentenced to 18-years-to-life in prison. He will have served only 30 years when he is considered for parole.

To protest write to:
Division of Parole
97 Central Ave.
Albany, NY 12206

Parole Hearing
Sept. 2017
RE: William Samuel Scythes
ID#: A306599

On Sept. 18, 1991, William Scythes brutally murdered his wife, Sandra Jane Scythes, while she was sleeping. He tied her up and strangled her. Afterwards, he deposited her body in the nearby woods. Two days later, he turned himself in to the authorities.

Scythes was convicted of first degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison with mercy. He will have served only 26 years when he is considered for parole.

To protest write to:
West Virginia Parole Board
1356 Hansford Street
Suite B
Charleston, WV 25301

Parole Hearing
Sept. 2017
RE: Michael Deane
ID#: A306599

On June 5, 1994, Michael Deane used a metal object to brutally beat James (Jay) Joseph Hitt while he was sleeping. The injuries inflicted upon Jay were so severe that his skull was fractured and
there were multiple contusions of the brain which caused his death. Deane left the scene of the crime and was on the run for almost two months after the brutal murder when he finally turned himself in to the authorities.

Deane pled guilty to murder and was sentenced to 15 -years-to-life. He will have served only 23 years when he will be considered for parole. Ω

To protest write to:
Ohio Parole Board
770 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43222

Parole Hearing
October 2017
RE: Ronald Branham
ID#: A289093


While Michael slept, Branham sneaked into his room to remove a crossbow that Melissa had financed a few days earlier.

Branham shot Michael, while the children were asleep down the hall.

After Branham shot Michael, he came to Melissa and told her he didn’t think Michael was dead, so she told him to go back and shoot him again. Melissa waited until 6:00 a.m. and claimed that she had just found the body.

Branham was convicted of aggravated murder and was sentenced to 20-years-to-life in prison. He will have served only 27 years when he is considered for parole.

(Continued on p. 10)
MURDERERS CAUGHT

These unsolved cases were listed with POMC. Please contact the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. at 1-888-818-7662 or by email at natlpomc@pomc.org. Be sure to include the reference number in any and all correspondence.

Unsolved Case #1
Reference Number 99-1
Lori Ann Hill
$50,000 REWARD!

Lori Ann Hill was born Nov. 9, 1970. She set out at 10 p.m. after a football game to walk the seven miles home. She was lethally beaten on Oct. 25, 1985. Three days later, her body was found near Wauseon, Ohio.

*[Lori’s murderer was caught.]*

Unsolved Case #3
Reference Number 99-3
Doris Bertsch
$10,000 REWARD!

Doris Bertsch, 70-years-old, of Kenton Hills, Ky., was strangled in her home Nov. 25, 1997. No one saw or heard anything. The Covington, Ky. police state that they have very little to go on, with the most concrete evidence being a DNA sample.

*[Doris Bertsch’s murderer was caught.]*

Unsolved Case #5
Reference Number 99-5
Michael Bruce
$1,000 REWARD!

Michael Bruce, (1978-1994), quarreled with a 17-year-old girl in Hoffman Estates near Chicago. Police are looking for her 19-year-old brother, Hugo Zarco, who allegedly stabbed Bruce once in the chest during a quarrel over his sister’s honor.

Bruce was taken to Hoffman Estates Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead from two stab wounds to the chest at 10:57 p.m., police said.

“Mike called some girl an (expletive) and that’s why he got killed,” someone said. “Hugo Zarco just walked away like they had straightened things out.”

*[Bruce’s murderer was caught in August 2006. On March 10, 2008, Bruce’s parents accepted a plea bargain with his admission of guilt and a sentence of 27 years in prison.]*

Amazon contributes to POMC

Amazon.com is a supporter of National POMC. Please visit our website - www.pomc.org and click on the Amazon link. Purchase through them, and POMC will receive a percentage (4-13%, depending on the item). For answers to questions about the link, email: Bev Warnock, bwarnock@pomc.org

PAROLE BLOCK

(Continued from p. 9)

Letters from families

June 18, 2017
RE: Parole Denial for Thelette Brandon
TDCJ-ID #339778

Dear Sir:

A short time ago I contacted you to help me petition the Texas Parole Board to deny the release of Thelette Brandon to parole for the murders of my police officer husband and a Kansas man. I have received word that the Parole Board has reviewed and denied the release of Thelette Brandon to parole. His next review date has been set for approximately May 1, 2020.

I am sincerely grateful for your efforts in helping me to affect the decision for the safety of our community.

Sincerely,

Shirley Barrett
Chief Diggs hopes progressive policing will lead to healing in Ft. Myers

POMC Chapter group meetings part of Chief’s plans

By MELISSA MONTOYA

FORT MYERS, Fla., June 16, 2017. Gwendora Baskins’ cries reverberated through the sanctuary of the small Fort Myers church on Grand Avenue.

Its been nine years, but the grief of losing her son to gunfire remains fresh.

“The pain never stops,” the 49-year-old said. “I hurt all the time.”

Through her tears, she told the story of her son Willie Fletcher at a recent Parents Of Murdered Children (POMC) meeting. He was shot and left to die on a Harlem Lakes street as he was leaving a Mother’s Day block party on May 11, 2008.

“I tried to get to him and they turned me around,” Baskins said, weeping as she clutched a crumpled tissue. “I tried to get to him, and I couldn’t make it, and my baby died in the street.”

Fletcher’s death, like so many others, remains unsolved. And like so many other parents in Fort Myers, Baskins continues to grieve.

The restorative healing circle at the POMC meeting is one of the new approaches Fort Myers Police Chief Derrick Diggs is taking to heal the broken relationship between the minority community and police. The group has been in existence for just under a year, but it adopted the circle because of restorative justice consultants who have been working in Fort Myers to address the underlying issues of distrust between police and the minority community.

The emotions on display at the POMC meeting indicate the trauma experienced by residents after years of tension with police, according to Saleem Hylton.

But it’s not just residents who suffer.

“Police are suffering from trauma in the same way the community is suffering from trauma,” Jenkins said during a city workshop.

There’s a need to deal with that stress, said Jenkins, a dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Southeast Missouri State University.

“The community is saying yes, the cops are messing with me because I’m black or brown; yes, the institution sucks,” Jenkins said. “The police are saying, and I’ll give you the direct quote, I’m tired of the community calling me a white cracker.”

The restorative healing circles are a starting point to address those problems, said Jenkins. “This process allows for honest, frank discussion.”

Restorative justice, which favors rehabilitation instead of punitive measures, is not the only approach to policing, Diggs said, but it’s what the consultants believe will work best for Fort Myers.

Diggs said, “…when you have a situation as we have here in the City of Fort Myers, I think restorative justice will go a long way for improving the relationship with the police department in certain communities, as well as enhance the public safety of the entire community.”

The only way to tell if the restorative approach is working is to measure violent crime….In Fort Myers, so far this year, the police department has investigated one homicide. Diggs is quick to point out Dunbar has not had a homicide in about 10 months. The last one occurred on Sept. 1 of last year.

“The citizens out there are telling us they are feeling safe,” Diggs said. “Some of them are saying it’s been the safest they’ve been in a long time.”

The chief also has implemented a two-year training program for officers, including the use of force and implicit bias. Police managers are using consultants with Youth and Families in Crisis to help with training and recruitment of minority officers.

But there is much more work to do on the other recommendations. Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson has consistently said the city and its police department will implement all 32 of them. The report, which was released in February, stressed 29 of the 32 recommendations should be implemented over the next year. Diggs should follow the timeline and Henderson and the rest of the city council and staff should provide him with the necessary funds and support to improve criminal investigation technology, continue with department reorganization that allows for the hiring of more officers and promotes community involvement between the department and residents.

We recognize there is “no magic bullet,” as Diggs often says. “Folks think that you can do one thing and then everything around will turn around,” Diggs said at a recent POMC meeting, organized by Diggs, as he moves forward with a progressive policing plan. “The problems we have with the disconnect with certain communities didn’t happen overnight. It took a while. And it’s going to take time to start to build that trust to where it needs to be.”

(Continued on p. 16)
We thank the following new volunteers for the valuable services that they will provide to other survivors on behalf of POMC, Inc. If you would like more information about our volunteer opportunities, please contact Sherry Nolan, National Volunteer Coordinator, at: 888-818-7662, or snolan@pomc.org

A WORLD OF THANKS, VOLUNTEER!

We appreciate all that you do. You give your time and energy, too. You brighten lives like a shining star. What a truly special person you are. You make a difference by caring, and change the world by VOLUNTEERING!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS for the dedication, compassion, and selflessness shown through their continued efforts to provide on-going emotional support to others through phone calls, email, support group meetings, court accompaniment, local events bringing about awareness, education, and advocacy to victims of crime, and remembrance programs for the surviving family members whose loved ones' lives were taken from them.

In this 2017 anniversary, POMC acknowledges those Chapters with Articles of Association that were signed between May 1 and Aug. 30 of the year they became a probationary POMC Chapter:

- Central Illinois Chapter/ IL 26 years
- Chicago Area Chapter/ IL 13 years
- Colorado Front Range Chapter/ CO 34 years
- Desert of Hope Chapter/ NV 1 year
- Ft. Myers Florida-Lee Co. Chapter/ FL 1 year
- Greater Orange Co. Chapter/ CA 12 years
- Greater Ventura Co. Chapter/ CA 12 years
- Saginaw Co. Chapter/ MI 4 years
- San Antonio Texas Chapter/ TX 28 years
- Trumbull Co. Chapter/ OH 29 years
- Virginia Beach Chapter/ VA 12 years

Hundreds of survivors across the U.S. volunteer for the National Organization of POMC as Chapter Leaders, Co-Leaders, and Contact Persons. If you are at a point in your life where you are ready to reach out to others who have suffered the loss of a loved one due to violence, please contact me. The following states need someone to offer support services through phone, email, support group meetings, & court accompaniment, etc.

- Alabama
- Hawaii
- Mississippi
- Montana
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Rhode Island
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Vermont
- Washington, D.C.
- Wyoming

WESTERLO, N.Y., May 9, 2017. — Betty Filkins, 70, was recognized as this year’s New York State Woman of Distinction from the 46th Senate District by Senator George Amedore.

Filkens is also involved with two organizations, Parents Of Murdered Children and Citizens Against Homicide, due to a murder that occurred in her family. Within these organizations, she works to keep convicted murderers in prison, writing letters when they come up for parole.

Filkens attended the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Albany. Her medical career led her to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation and then teach CPR. She volunteered for the Westerlo Rescue Squad, and became the first woman to join Westerlo’s all male fire department in 1978.

Fund raising for family medical needs and community charities and sending care packages to overseas military, plus a longer list of charitable work led her husband to nominate her for the state honor.

[Adapted from The Altamont Enterprise, May 18, 2017.]

New York State Senator George Amedore congratulates Betty Filkins for her outstanding life of service to her community and beyond.

SURVIVORS CONGRATULATES

POMC member recognized as New York State Woman of Distinction
For A Grieving Person

The original post simply read:
“My friend just died. I don’t know what to do.”

Here was G. Snow’s moving advice:

Alright, here goes. I’m old. What that means is that I’ve survived (so far) and a lot of people I’ve known and loved did not. I’ve lost friends, best friends, acquaintances, co-workers, grandparents, mom, relatives, teachers, mentors, students, neighbors, and a host of other folks. I have no children, and I can’t imagine the pain it must be to lose a child. But here’s my two cents.

I wish I could say you get used to people dying. I never did. I don’t want to. It tears a hole through me whenever somebody I love dies, no matter the circumstances. But I don’t want it to “not matter.” I don’t want it to be something that just passes. My scars are a testament to the love and the relationship that I had for and with that person. And if the scar is deep, so was the love. So be it. Scars are a testament to life. Scars are only ugly to people who can’t see.

As for grief, you’ll find it comes in waves. When the ship is first wrecked, you’re drowning, with wreckage all around you. Everything floating around you reminds you of the beauty and the magnificence of the ship that was, and is no more. And all you can do is float. You find some piece of the wreckage and you hang on for a while. Maybe it’s some physical thing. Maybe it’s a happy memory or a photograph. Maybe it’s a person who is also floating. For a while, all you can do is float. Stay alive.

In the beginning, the waves are 100 feet tall and crash over you without mercy. They come 10 seconds apart and don’t even give you time to catch your breath. All you can do is hang on and float. After a while, maybe weeks, maybe months, you’ll find the waves are still 100 feet tall, but they come further apart. When they come, they still crash all over you and wipe you out. But in between, you can breathe, you can function. You never know what’s going to trigger the grief. It might be a song, a picture, a street intersection, the smell of a cup of coffee. It can be just about anything…and the wave comes crashing. But in between waves, there is life.

Somewhere down the line, and it’s different for everybody, you find that the waves are only 80 feet tall. Or 50 feet tall. And while they still come, they come further apart. You can see them coming. An anniversary, a birthday, or Christmas, or landing at O’Hare. You can see it coming, for the most part, and prepare yourself. And when it washes over you, you know that somehow you will, again, come out the other side. Soaking wet, sputtering, still hanging on to some tiny piece of the wreckage, but you’ll come out.

Take it from an old guy. The waves never stop coming, and somehow you don’t really want them to. But you learn that you’ll survive them. And other waves will come. And you’ll survive them too. If you’re lucky, you’ll have lots of scars from lots of loves. And lots of shipwrecks.

[Want to share this article with your friends? Just copy and paste this link:]

http://good-mag.co/

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POMC Mourning Flag

The National POMC Mourning Flag is black with white lettering. It has the POMC logo and the words, “The National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, for the families and friends of those who have died by violence.”

POMC asks that its Representatives fly the flag publicly at half-mast each time there is a murder in their community. (Size 3’ x 5’)

Donation: $40.00
POMC supports Marsy’s Law

The National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. (POMC) urges everyone to stand up for your rights in the justice system. We ask law enforcement, criminal justice professionals, and victim service providers to advocate, support and help enforce the rights of crime victims. Crime victims and survivors should no longer feel like the “outsiders looking in on what was their loved ones lives,” but feel that their voices are being heard and validated throughout the criminal justice process. With the additional support of Marsy’s Law in Ohio, the protection and enforcement of crime victims’ rights; victims and survivors may once again feel protected, respected, and empowered knowing that they have the same rights as the accused…equal rights. Anyone can become a victim of crime at any time. Support Marsy’s Law in your state now.

Memories to share as I leave the SURVIVORS editorial chair

By Robert Hullinger

This issue winds up my five-year stint as editor of SURVIVORS. Many POMC memories date back to 1978. Here is a couple. The Fall issue will come out with Kayla Bauer at the helm (see p. 19).

In the late 1980s, as a reporter for a weekly Cincinnati newspaper, I interviewed Raymond Burr, in town to speak at an industrial conference.

He was known to millions as television’s Perry Mason (1957-66), a defense attorney who lost only two cases, and as Chief Ironsides (1967-75), the prosecutor who never lost a case. Both TV series dealt with people on trial for murder.

Here I was—a POMC member, a homicide-victim survivor—interviewing the actor whose roles dealt with those on trial for so much imagined violence.

Later it came to me that “Perry Mason/Chief Ironsides” might address our POMC National Conference. Regrettably, due to changes in his life and career and mine, the chance slipped away.

Raymond Burr died in 1993. It was the year that POMC established the M.I.N.E. (Murder Is Not Entertainment) program.

Some comments made by others anonymously

- Marsy’s Law would ensure that victims have the same co-equal rights as the accused and convicted—nothing more, nothing less.
- While criminals have more than 20 individuals rights spelled out in the U.S. Constitution, the surviving family members of murder victims have none.

Violent crime in Ohio: 2015

- 33,898 violent crimes
- 500 murders and non-negligent manslaughters
- 5,149 rapes
- 12,554 robberies
- 15,695 aggravated assaults

[Google Wikipedia.org for more information about Raymond Burr.]

In the mid-1990s, Eric Schlosser of the Atlantic Monthly interviewed Charlotte and me for an article he was writing. We were two among many homicide-victim survivors he interviewed.

[Continued on p. 15]
The Victims’ Rights Toolkit is the first of its kind in the nation.

By Cathy Harper Lee

[Cathy Harper Lee is the founder and executive director of Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center— formally the Justice League of Ohio. For 20 years, she has helped to ensure crime victims are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect—their voices heard and legal rights enforced.]

COLUMBUS, OH — The Victims’ Rights Toolkit is an online resource that educates crime victims, medical professionals, counselors, advocates, social workers, criminal justice officials, and the community about crime victims’ rights in Ohio and federal jurisdictions, and provides crime victims “self-help” tools to exercise their rights.

There are hundreds of rights, administrative codes, policies, and best practices that impact crime victims. The toolkit pulls them all together, provides an abbreviated description in layman terms, organizes them under the appropriate stage; hospital, investigation, prosecution, incarceration, and post release control in a natural order of occurrence making it easier for crime victims to understand what they should expect or are required to request at each stage of the criminal justice process.

The Victims’ Rights Toolkit is highly intuitive. An individual using the Toolkit can enter the victim’s age, adult or juvenile offender, jurisdiction (Ohio or Federal), type of crime, victim disability (if applicable), and the Toolkit will return rights, administrative code, protocols, and best practices specific to the crime victim’s situation.

In many instances crime victims are required to notify the prosecutor, court, or custodial agency if they wish to exercise particular rights. The Victims’ Rights Toolkit identifies which rights should be “automatic” and which rights “require notification.”

Form letters have been created for rights that require notification. If a crime victim wishes to exercise a right that requires notification they can simply check a box and a letter created by Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center staff attorneys is generated. Crime victims then send the letter to the appropriate agency.

If a victim’s rights are not being provided they can contact the Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center for free legal representation to help enforce their rights. Victim advocates using the Toolkit to assist crime victims can contact Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center staff attorneys for technical assistance, advice, and legal opinions to provide to their local officials.

The Victims’ Rights Toolkit, combined with the legal assistance of Ohio Crime Victim staff attorneys, provides advocates throughout Ohio the resources they need to successfully advocate for the rights of the victims they serve.

Memories to share

(Continued from p. 14)

More than that, Schlosser examined the culture of murder, how horrific death is a main feature of entertainment. His many-sided presentation still rings true.

After working on SURVIVORS during the early and late periods of POMC’s existence, it is past time for younger POMC-ers to present the POMC story to homicide-victim survivors and to public awareness.

(See Kayla Bauer’s intro—p. 19)

[The article is posted on the web page: pomc.org]

The grapes of understanding

It isn’t your typical book club. Privileged prepies join with prison inmates to read and talk about the works of John Steinbeck, currently The Grapes of Wrath.

But each side agrees that what they come away with are life lessons and a new way of looking at each other.

The Palma High School-Soledad Prison reading group is in its second year. From January through March, they met every other Friday night to discuss the themes and metaphors in the book.

Victims rights advocate Angie Ortega said it’s good to see the kind of dialogue taking place between Palma students and Soledad inmates.

As a Chapter Leader of Monterey County Chapter POMC, she works to keep criminals in prison but also counsels youth in juvenile hall to try and steer them away from a life as career criminals.

Ortega also visits the prisons as part of a restorative justice group. She was impressed to hear of Palma’s out-reach and said a reading program is something her group can get behind.

[Excerpts from the full article, “The grapes of understanding,” by Roberto M. Robledo, found in The Salinas Californian, May 14, 2016.]
Reducing Louisiana’s prison population

Many states face similar problems as Louisiana, where reform proposals affect sentences for murder and death-by-violence

LOUISIANA. The Justice Reinvestment Task Force project proposes sweeping changes to Louisiana sentencing laws to reduce sentences for defendants, thereby reducing the number of inmates in state custody.

The state’s incarceration rate has shot up 35 percent over the past 20 years—currently at 816 per 100,000 people, double the national average. This costs the state $600 to $700 million a year.

This push comes at a time when many states, including some in the South, have embraced a movement toward deincarceration and sentencing reform that’s gained support across the political spectrum.

The Task Force is made up of several state lawmakers, judges, a sheriff, the state public defender, corrections officials, a prosecutor, and a leading conservative pastor. They are charged with recommending potentially sweeping changes to the way Louisiana punishes lawbreakers.

Proposed changes deal with sentencing laws that involve life sentence penalties and limits to prosecutors’ ability to use the habitual offender statute. The life sentence would be eliminated for first degree (aggravated) rape, second degree murder, and first degree murder when the death penalty is not imposed.

The overall thrust of the task force is to reduce minimum and maximum sentences that may be imposed even for violent crimes.

Begun in June 2016, the Task Force Report was submitted March 16, 2017. ∞

'Love Remembers'

(Continued from p. 7)

This is where the song, “Love Remembers” comes in. We will never be without our loved ones when we can remember without pain. Their mark on this earth will be kept alive by us remembering the happy times we shared. The acts of kindness and the love we shared will be the memories that “we have invited.” The memories we close the door on will be those of the pain they suffered. Yet, so that others will not meet the same fate, we will not lose sight of the fact that they were murdered … We will honor these individuals forever because they are our own. ∞

My deepest love and admiration.

Mary Elledge

Appendix A: Violent Death Offenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FELONY CLASS</th>
<th>SENTENCE RANGE</th>
<th>OFFENSE EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Life         | Life sentence or death penalty (death penalty if specified in statute) | > Murder I
> Murder II |
| Class A      | 10 – 40 years* | > Manslaughter, victim under 10 years of age |
> Vehicular homicide, BAC over .20 |
| Class B      | 2 – 40 years   | > Manslaughter |
> Vehicular homicide |

[Adapted from news-press.com Used by permission.]

Progressive policing leads to healing

(Continued from p. 11)

At the small sanctuary on Grand Avenue where Baskins spoke out, others, too, told the stories of brothers and sons who have been killed. They cried together. And members of the state attorney's office who were invited by Angela McClary listened.

McClary started the POMC group after her son Deonte Redding was shot and killed. Redding and his half-brother Zachary Blue died in a vehicle on a driveway on South Drive in 2014. June 7 marked the third anniversary of their deaths, which remain unsolved.

Family members commiserated about how difficult it is to live their lives after losing someone to gun violence.

Fort Myers police officer Sgt. Willie Tellis, who is involved in the clergy-police partnership, said the discussion was important because it reminded him of the lasting effect homicide can have on a person.

“Generally, we only see the initial effects at the crime scene,” he said “A session like this re-engages and brings back the urgency we have to continue to follow up on unsolved murders for families who are still grieving.”

For Baskins, the pain of losing her son is too much. It almost kept her from attending the meeting. But, she said, she felt understood and she felt like people were listening to her.

“It helped,” Baskins said. ∞

[Adapted from news-press.com Used by permission.]
What A Small, Small World

POMC brings together family members unknown to each other

By Carole Betts Pearson

Darlene Betts Rader and I are first cousins (our dads were brothers). Sharon Hoover Phelps and I are first cousins (her dad and my mother were brother and sister). Suzanne Dupee and Sharon Phelps are first cousins (their mothers were sisters).

Early in July 2016 Darlene Rader called me to ask if I knew any Hoover family members living in Arizona. Suzanne Dupee had contacted Darlene to learn more about the Central Ohio Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children. Darlene has been involved with POMC since her brother was murdered in December 1990. [Darlene was the long-time Chapter Leader through 2015. In 2016 she became a Contact Person.] Suzanne is involved with a chapter in Arizona as her stepdaughter was murdered along with a friend 21 years ago.

Suzanne had seen memory plaques from the Ohio POMC at a convention in Las Vegas. She contacted Darlene to learn more about the plaques. Suzanne had taken a picture of my cousin Gary’s plaque because the Betts name was familiar. When she met Darlene on a trip home to Ohio, she learned that Gary was Darlene’s brother.

Darlene explained that her Aunt Betty was a Hoover who had married her dad’s brother. She mentioned her cousin Carole Sue. Suzanne recognized the name Carole Sue, but she couldn’t contact her at the time. Ironically, she had met her cousin Sharon at my Westerville home in October 2013. Days after my conversation with Darlene, my cousin Sharon called to say she would be in town and wanted to visit. Then she said that her cousin Suzanne was in Ohio and had met with Darlene Rader or Rider. I knew immediately—that was who Darlene had called me about. Suzanne was still in town and we were able to gather at my home for a visit.

What a small world: that Sharon and I would each have a cousin involved with POMC and that they would meet and bring the four of us together for a day. Ω

What courts cannot do for us

“It’s sad but true that society is not a great comforter. When tragedy strikes us, one has to look to his family and friends for consolation. The court system is not set up [for], nor can it be properly efficient at consoling people.”

— Judge Gilbert Bettman

(The Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Cincinnati, Ohio.)

The greatest fear of some parents of murdered children

“The parents left behind say their greatest fear is that their children will be forgotten. They become convinced the police will move on to the next case, that their son or daughter’s killers will remain free to spend holidays with their families. As the months and years pass, parents begin to express a sense of isolation, a feeling that every-one else has moved on while they remain trapped in their grief.”

[“In the Killing Zone,” Sacramento Bee, June 17, 2017]
### National Conference workshops include these topics & workshop instructors

**A New Normal**  
Gayle Moffitt & Mary Elledge

**Music Heals**  
Kris Eberle and Kathy Hernandez

**The Positive Effects of Animals**  
Laurie Schlossnagel

**The Impact of Traumatic Grief on Friends and Family Members**  
Mari Bailey

**Mothers Grief Part 1 and 2**  
Beckie Miller

**Fathers Grief**  
Don Miller

**Sibling Grief**  
Dawn Terrizzi & Amanda LaBelle

**Preparing for Parole Hearings**  
Howard Klerk

**Living in Trauma Shadow**  
Bill Jenkins

**Yoga**  
Kris Eberle

**Do No Harm**  
Bill Jenkins

**Making Memories Unforgettable Parts 1 & 2**  
(Scrapbooking)  
Mari Bailey

**Dealing with Loss from Unsolved Cases**  
Claudia Wallace

**Therapy Dogs in Local Chapters**  
Laurie Schlossnagel

**Overcoming Survivors' Guilt**  
Carrie Freitag & Peggy Kerouac

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Instructor(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siblings Grief Panel</td>
<td>Lori King, Connie Sheely and Maria Martinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keola, Life Healing Through Dance, Music</td>
<td>Kathy Hernandez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healing through Service to Others (Motherland Documentary)</td>
<td>Beckie Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putting Forgiveness in its Place</td>
<td>Carrie Freitag &amp; Peggy Kerouac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry &amp; Journaling</td>
<td>Gayle Moffitt &amp; Mary Elledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When Your Only Child Is Murdered</td>
<td>Claudine Sanchez</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**POMC receives half of net profit from donations to Action Donation Services.**

Donations to Action Donation Services (ADS) will give POMC 50% of the net profit. ADS accepts donations of cars, trucks, boats, RVs, and heavy equipment, etc. They will pick up the donated item, fix it up (if necessary), and auction the item for the highest possible price. All you have to do is call them at 1-866-244-8464 or e-mail them to (www.actiondonationservices.org), tell them what you want to donate, and designate POMC as the recipient. They will instruct you on how to proceed. A POMC member donated a 20-year-old 5th wheel camper, which netted POMC $1,397.80. Upon request, ADS will issue you a 1099c form. You can file it with your tax returns as a charitable donation. This is a chance to get rid of equipment and help POMC at the same time.

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**Ventura Co. POMC Chapter observes 33rd Annual National Crime Victims’ Rights Week**

VENTURA, Cal., April 5, 2017 — At the annual ceremony held on April 5, many outreach organizations were present with material including—but not limited to—“Greater Ventura County Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children,” “Mothers Against Drunk Driving,” “Bikers Against Child Abuse,” and several more.

The District Attorney’s office spread the word about resources available to victims and survivors of crime.

The event wrapped up with a march around the Government Center. Many members of the POMC Ventura County Chapter carried poster size pictures of their murdered loved ones.
Kayla Bauer prepares for additional duties as editor of POMC’s *SURVIVORS*

Kayla Bauer works as an Administrative Assistant at the POMC National Office. She is paid through the state grant that we receive. Her responsibilities include: * maintaining the database and making updates as they are sent in; * sending out the anniversary card packages to all of the note writers; * in charge of Second Opinion Services; * helping with answering the phones and talking to survivors; and many other things that come up in the office.

Kayla has recently begun working with the Murder Wall… Honoring Their Memories, and the Parole Block Program.

Now Kayla will begin to edit this newsletter, *SURVIVORS*, with the Fall issue—her first issue. She has the full support of the POMC staff and Board of Trustees.

Kayla graduated in the fall of 2015 from Northern Kentucky University, majoring in social work.

**Dedication Page Information**

Dedication Pages can be included in each publication of the *SURVIVORS* Newsletter. Not only is this a way to memorialize our loved ones, it also helps to defray the cost of publishing the newsletter. We offer this opportunity to pay tribute with poems, photos (black and white only), letters/loving thoughts, or special requests. A donation of $25.00 is requested for each 3 1/2 x 4 inch square used. 2 squares for $50.00, 3 squares for $75.00, whole page $100.00. Send item and appropriate donation to “Dedication Page,” POMC, 4960 Ridge Ave., Suite 2, Cincinnati, OH 45209. Please include your name and daytime phone number in case we have to contact you for clarification.

**REMINDER: has something changed?**

Please let POMC know if your name, address, city, state, phone number(s), or email address have changed. Call us toll free at: (888) 818-7662 or e-mail to: pomc.org

**SURVIVORS Newsletter Subscription**

Please find enclosed $10.00 for my annual subscription (three issues) for the SURVIVORS Newsletter ($25.00 outside the United States). Please consider adding an extra subscription fee to help defray the cost for someone who cannot afford to subscribe.

(Please Print)

Name:__________________________
Address:________________________
Email address:____________________
City, State, Zip:__________________
Daytime number: ()________________
Amt. enclosed: $__________ for _____ year(s)
Payment method: __Visa __MC __Am Ex.
__Dis. __Check
Card number:____________________
Expiration date:__________________

Enclosed is an extra $__________ donation for someone in need and is given in:

Memory of:_______________________
Honor of:_______________________

All those donating an extra gift “in loving memory of,” or “in honor of” will be listed in the next issue of the *SURVIVORS* newsletter. To have POMC send a letter acknowledging your gift to the family, please provide family’s name, address, city, state, and zip code.
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.
For the families and friends of those who have died by violence
4960 Ridge Ave, Suite 2
Cincinnati, OH  45209

Parents Of Murdered Children
National Conference

31st ANNUAL
POMC NATIONAL CONFERENCE
IRVINE, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 3 - 6, 2017

Join POMC for our 31st Annual National Conference in Irvine, California. We will offer workshops on various topics such as: Vicarious Trauma, Unsolved cases, Mothers, Fathers & Sibling Grief, Coping Skills and much more as well as workshops presented by various professionals from Victims Services, Legal Teams, Comfort Dogs Services, Detectives and more.

For more information on our 2017 conference and registration feel free to contact our National Office at natpomc@pomc.org or by phone at (513) 721-5683. You can also find the 2017 POMC National Conference Registration and instructions on our website at www.pomc.org.

Will I ever feel normal again?…….1
   >Continuing to help survivors
   >The value of POMC Conf….2
Arkansas Chapter lands financial support…………………….3
   >Carrying the World’s Grief
From the Board Room……………….4
   >Nominations for 2018
Crime Victims’ Service Awards
Murder Wall………………………..5
In loving memory…………………….6

Love Remembers………………..7
PAROLE BLOCK PROGRAM……….8-9
Parole Block Program Policy…………9
Murderers Caught…………………10
Ft. Myers police chief partners with local POMC Chapter……11
Chapter Leaders/Contact………..12
Persons/State Coordinators
For A Grieving Person……………13

POMC supports Marsy’s Law…….14
   >Memories to share
Victims’ Rights Toolkit……………..15
   >The grapes of understanding
Reducing La. Prison Population……16
What a small, small world………….17
   >Fear of Some POMC-ers
   >What courts can’t do for us
National Conf. workshops……….18
   >Ventura Co.’s 33rd NCVRW
Kayla Bauer to be editor……….19
   >Dedication page information

“Come to a POMC conference and learn that you can again feel something besides pain .... I guarantee you will be surprised, uplifted, humbled, hugged, empowered and informed. Information makes this grief journey more bearable.... The conferences promote healing, rebuilding shattered lives, and a gentleness and compassion permeates the air in odd contrast to the violence that brings us all together”

—Beckie Miller

Parents Of Murdered Children
For the families and friends of those who have died by violence
4960 Ridge Ave, Suite 2
Cincinnati, OH  45209

Love Remembers

The grapes of understanding
Reducing La. Prison Population

What a small, small world

National Conf. workshops

Kayla Bauer to be editor

Dedication page information

Parents Of Murdered Children
National Conference

August 3 - 6, 2017
Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel
18800 Mac Arthur Boulevard
Irvine, California, 92612

Join POMC for our 31st Annual National Conference in Irvine, California. We will offer workshops on various topics such as: Vicarious Trauma, Unsolved cases, Mothers, Fathers & Sibling Grief, Coping Skills and much more as well as workshops presented by various professionals from Victims Services, Legal Teams, Comfort Dogs Services, Detectives and more.

For more information on our 2017 conference and registration feel free to contact our National Office at natpomc@pomc.org or by phone at (513) 721-5683. You can also find the 2017 POMC National Conference Registration and instructions on our website at www.pomc.org.