The recent escape of convicted brutal murderers, Matt and Sweat, from Clinton Correctional in New York, as facilitated by prison guards, has lots of victim-survivors wondering if there really is justice. Even after a murderer is convicted, the victim-survivors often get revictimized.

When prison guards are seeking humanity in the prisoners and convicted murderers are roaming among them, they are vulnerable to prisoners who are exploiting the system. And an entire community can have their sense of safety and trust in criminal justice shattered, along with the survivors of murder victims.

The Clinton Correctional incident reminds us all that many anti-social prisoners are uniquely capable of exploiting rules and laws in order to run escapes and manipulate the honor system. Many are working to beating the system not trying to be compliant. So are solved murders providing any more peace of mind or separation from the murderer than the unsolved cases? The answer is resoundingly, “No!”

At POMC conference workshops, participants partake in many such discussions and comparisons. Those still seeking justice rarely get insight into those who have allegedly achieved justice. A level of envy exists between the folks that do and don’t achieve some semblance of justice.

However, aside from escaping, how else do these perpetrators continually victimize others from behind bars? The system is designed to keep perpetrators/murderers forever in contact with victims, leading to re-victimization. Consider a few examples that have been shared over the years regarding (Continued on p. 2)
It is said that for every time there is a season—and so it is with me. I wanted to let everyone know that I have tendered my resignation effective Oct. 28, 2016 and will be moving on to pursue other personal and professional goals. It has been my honor to serve the past 4.5 years as your Executive Director and, prior to that, serving 11 years as a member of the POMC National Board of Trustees—and many of those as the Board President.

POMC has been busy and we had a very successful Conference in Orlando. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and effort to make it a success—especially the Conference Committee, National Staff and the Board of Trustees. You will hear more about the Conference later in this issue.

It has been my honor to serve POMC for so many years and I will be sure not to be a stranger. I wish everyone the best and thank you all for your efforts to help those who have had loved ones murdered—including myself. My hope is POMC will be able to continue to thrive in the future and continue serving the important needs of survivors.

All my best,

Dan

---Winnie the Pooh

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

Is There Justice? 
(Continued from p. 1)

weaknesses in the criminal justice system.

The headline “Escaped Murderer/s” serves to victimize and imprison entire communities with fear and “lock down” conditions, as experienced throughout Upstate New York and among prisoners in Clinton Correctional. The act of escaping makes us ever aware that convicted murderers are amongst us. Unfortunately, reality dictates there are many convicted murderers among us, daily. Their ability to victimize guards, communities, and our loved ones continue unchecked.

While one of the motives for sending murderers to jail is to prevent future victims, we don’t always succeed. Also, our loved ones are dead and they already got away with murder. One of the main focuses of victims’ efforts is stopping the victimization of others.

Frequently, various states with budget issues threaten and actually release convicted murderers to motivate taxpayers to vote for higher taxes that will provide more money to the prisons. And, finally, even if a conviction occurs, appeals and limitless motions can give the sense that justice is never achieved. There are various ways in which prisoners can abuse others from within prison, or create more victims in spite of being imprisoned. Frequently, conviction does not equal closure!

[Margaret Kerouac is a counselor and contributing author to Carrie M. Freitag’s Aftermath: In the Wake of Murder. She also has presented workshops at POMC Conferences.]

"For it is written by the finger of the Almighty in the everlasting tablets of the Universe that no nation can endure and prosper into and through whose life does not run the golden thread of equal, exact and universal Justice."

—David Josiah Brewer

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What are victim-impact statements for?

There is substantial confusion in the criminal-justice community about the purpose the statements are meant to serve. Are they meant to be:

> Information for the sentencing body?
> A therapeutic tool for victims and their families?
> An opportunity to confront the defendant? Or,
> Are they meant to reinforce the notion of “worthy” victims?

Hearing the victim impact statements:

> Can make capital juries less careful in their decisions;
> Can make jurors so eager to punish that they search for evidence to validate their anger and ignore evidence in the defendant’s favor;
> Can make them eager to help victims—just not all victims. A murder victim who met her assailant in a biker bar, for example, may be valued less than a victim attacked when leaving a church service.

If victim-impact statements are meant to help victims heal, are the criminal courts the best place to make that happen? Here are points for and against.

> Victims are routinely instructed not to express anger;
> Conflict between the victim and the prosecution can result when murder victims’ families don’t support the death penalty, but seek to speak out on behalf of the defendant and not the state;
> Some victims benefit from having the opportunity to deliver a statement in a formal courtroom setting; but
> Others may want more than silence and a neutral stare from their audience. Some times they get it, sometimes they don’t. The reaction can’t be counted on. Family members who are promised that giving a statement will help them heal or find closure may experience additional pain when the hoped-for relief doesn’t materialize.

> Victims are permitted to confront defendants with the suffering they’ve caused.

> No evidence conclusively shows if the statements help victims of violent crimes or how they are meant to help victims or their families.

Victims should not feel required to give a statement in court or pressured to shape their statements to help advance the prosecution’s agenda. The verdict is not yet in on whether the criminal courtroom is capable of serving a therapeutic purpose. But ultimately, the criminal-justice system needs to ensure it can meet its primary obligation: to do justice equally and fairly.  

[This article is based upon themes from The Atlantic’s 2014 article, “What Are Victim-Impact Statements For?”]

What to include in your victim impact statement

As you consider how the crime has changed you and/or your loved one’s life, you may use the following questions to guide you. Remembering and writing about something so painful may be difficult for you. You don't have to complete your draft in one sitting. Take as many breaks as you need.  

[From MADD’s Victim Impact Statement Booklet.]

The Physical Impact of the Crime

When you or your loved one is injured

If you and/or a family member(s) were injured, describe the treatment and recovery process. Remember to include injuries that may have already healed.

> What preparations had to be made for your/their immediate care and your/their after care?
> What physical limitations do you/they live with now?
> Describe the physical pain involved in getting around and getting to the courthouse.

> How much do the physical injuries affect your/their energy level?
> How permanent are your/their injuries?
> How have these injuries affected your/their ability to work and ability to enjoy life?
> List things you/they can no longer do.

When a loved one is killed

The Emotional Impact of the Crime

> How do you feel emotionally when you wake up in the morning?
> What do you think about?
> How often do you cry? Describe the last time you cried.
> What do you think about when you go to bed at night?
> How difficult is it for you to sleep? How long do you sleep? Do you have nightmares?

(Continued on p. 16)
2016 will soon be history along with all that occurred during the year. In July 2016 we held our 30th Annual POMC Conference at the Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort in Orlando, Fla.

For the first time ever our Effective Leadership Training (ELT) was held July 17-July 19 as part of our annual Conference. The ELT was held with 15 trainees in attendance.

Several new workshops were introduced and several old workshops were dropped. While the attendance was lighter than expected, the training and Conference was a success.

The National Board of Trustees (NBOT) is working hard, as usual, to insure that POMC remains the great organization that it is.

A major change will happen Oct.

Florida sheriff sees fate at work in POMC’s presence in Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. The July National POMC Conference convened here in Orlando five weeks after 49 people were killed and 53 were injured at the Club Pulse. The club was the scene of history’s deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history by a single gunman.

Orange Co. Sheriff Jerry Deming welcomed the Conference and credited fate for the Conference’s coming to Orlando when it did. As quoted in the Orlando Sentinel, Deming said,

“We are thankful you chose Orlando for this conference. Things happen for a reason. It’s probably not an accident that you’re here in this community while we continue to grieve our losses.”

On June 12, 2016, the club was the scene of the deadliest mass shooting and the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil since the events of Sept. 11, 2001.
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 September 1, 2016. Names after this date will appear in the next issue.

The Wall consists of solid walnut panels with each holding about 120 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 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.

---

**Thank you for Your Donation to Maintain the Murder Wall**

Lori Mann, from Ann Mann  
Timothy Staunton, from Denise Coleman  
Lisa Weaver, from Howard & Ann Klerk  
Jarrod Chrisman, from Rodney & Susie Chrisman  
Dwayne Chubb, from Albert & Dorothy Chubb

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**2017 National POMC Conference**  
**Date:** Aug 3-6, 2017  
**Place:** Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport  
18800 Mac Arthur Blvd.  
Irvine, CA, 92612  
**Phone:** (949) 833-9999  
**Rooms will be $119.00 per night and there is a free airport shuttle.**  
*More information coming soon*

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**2017 Effective Leadership Development Training**  
**Date:** July 30, 31 and August 1, 2017  
**Same location as the Conference**
Given to a survivor or professional in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the memory of those who have died by violence and/or their contribution to POMC. The recipient will have shown their efforts through such activities as:
> Bringing positive awareness of the special work POMC members and chapters do;
> Having made a difference in the lives of countless numbers of survivors.

**Empty Shoe Memorial Award**

**Lisa Hullinger Memorial Award**

This award is presented to a homicide-victim survivor for efforts to help other survivors. The recipient will have shown such efforts through activities as:
> Exemplary contributions to all homicide-victim survivors;
> Acts of compassion that have contributed to their recovery;
> Dedication in supporting full rights for murder victim survivors.

**Dorothy Lobes Memorial Award**

Presented to a POMC Chapter for outstanding efforts in helping POMC and homicide-victim survivors. The chapter will have shown their efforts by such indications as:
> Loyalty to the purpose and ideals upon which POMC was founded;
> Superior program of assistance to survivors of homicide-victims;
> Outstanding achievements in the area of public awareness;
> Success in chapter fundraising;
> Unfailing support of the National POMC organization and compliance with its bylaws;
> Current with all paperwork and funds.

This award is presented to an outstanding survivor, professional, or organization in recognition of their work which promotes and supports the survivors of homicide-victims;

The recipient will have shown their efforts in activities such as:
> Promoting and supporting the image of POMC;
> Contributing to the memory of those who have died by violence.

**Making A Difference Memorial Award**

**Extra Mile Memorial Award**

[This award was presented for the first time.]

For her dedication, devotion, and outstanding service to National POMC for:
> Supporting several conferences;
> “Hands on” help with the conference; and
> Going the extra mile.

Congratulations to **Susan Kelley-Leiker**, Wichita Chapter

Congratulations to **Sue Osolin**, Valley of the Sun Chapter

Congratulations to **Laurie Schlossnagle**, Layton, Utah

Congratulations to **Colorado Front Range POMC Chapter** [represented by Chapter Leader Phil Clark]

Congratulations to **Maryalice Godfrey**, Greater Portland Chapter [represented by Chapter Leader Mary Elledge]

Carolyn Buono (far right) and children (from left)—Leila, Josh, and Kylie Mappes visit Jasmine, the Conference Therapy Dog. The two sisters and brother are nieces and nephew of murder victim Frank Branam.
Howard Klerk (left), Glen Brazeal, Darryl Lee, Mike Kullander, Dan Levey, Dennis Greenhalgh, Martin Garza, & Tom Camper.

California Correctional Peace Officers’ Association

CCPOA staff members once again showed their support of POMC’s vision and mission with their generous $10,000 donation. Members of their staff have led workshops and have opened many doors into law enforcement circles. Victim survivors have gained much through their many efforts.

Empty Shoe Memorial Award
Susan Kelley-Leiker, Wichita, Kansas

Susan Leiker is a sociologist with a Masters Degree from Wichita State University. Professionally, she is a Senior Human Resources Specialist. She serves as the Diversity Manager for the city of Wichita. She has worked for the city since 1988.

Her brother, Tom, was murdered in 1986 in Holcomb, Kan. She came to POMC’s first conference in 1987 and has never missed a conference. The Orlando Conference was her 30th!

With her mother, Corinne Radke, Susan co-founded the Wichita, Kansas POMC Chapter in 1988. She has served the Wichita Chapter as a co-founder, co-leader, board member, and advisor to the board.

Lisa Hullinger Memorial Award
Sue Osolin, Phoenix, Arizona

Sue’s 19-year-old son, Ryan, was murdered Dec. 2, 1997. Sue came to POMC in 1998 and from 2000-13 served on the Valley of the Sun Chapter as meeting facilitator, parole block coordinator, and Chapter Co-leader.

Sue served as a POMC Conference Committee Member for POMC National Conferences held in Phoenix. She is certified as a member of the POMC Murder Response Team and has received Effective Leadership Certification.

Osolin served on the Arizona Board of Executive Clemency Board from May 2015 to Feb. 2016 and still volunteers as the Chapter’s Facebook page coordinator.

Extra Mile Memorial Award
Laurie Schlossnagle, Layton, Utah

Laurie is a professional dog trainer. Her quiet, calm presence was a cornerstone at several conferences: Cincinnati, 2009; Philadelphia, 2010; Milwaukee, 2011; and Cincinnati, 2013. [See her article in the Spring 2016 issue.]

One aspect of Laurie’s professional work is in therapy dog and crisis response work—visiting schools, libraries, and assisted living centers regularly, and responding to crisis, disasters, and traumas with her canine crew of Daisy, Dolly, and Delphie. Another is that of earning multiple titles in Rally and obedience competitions. And still another is maintaining a dog training business in Utah.

Dorothy Lobes Memorial Award
Phil Clark, Littleton, Colorado

The Colorado Front Range POMC Chapter started meeting in 1983. Since then, the Chapter has supported more than 700 families with grief emotions, and also during trial and parole hearings.

Phil and Stasi Clark attended their first meeting in 2008, a couple of months after the murder of their 22-year-old daughter, Toni. They’ve been group members ever since. Phil joined the Chapter’s Board of Directors in 2011 and was elected as Chapter Leader in 2013.

Over the last four years, Phil has volunteered as a Victim Advocate with the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Dept. In April, he started full time as a Victim Specialist with the Denver Police Dept.

Making A Difference Memorial Award
Maryalice Godfrey, Portland, Oregon

For 10 years, Maryalice has written remembrance notes for the dates of birth and death for loved ones of Greater Portland Area Chapter members. That involves supplying paper products and ink cartridges, keeping names, addresses, and dates correct—and that’s for more than 900 members.

She provided tremendous support in the building of the Oregon/Washington Memorial Wall. On the Sept. 25th National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, Maryalice greets people, collects names and addresses, and helps people find their loved ones names on the Memorial Wall.

POMC conferences always feature photo boards.
**Support for the Parole Block Program:**

**Convicted murderers have been denied parole through POMC’s Parole Block Program as conducted by the POMC National Office and POMC Chapters in the US.**

**1578**

**PAROLES DENIED SINCE THE FALL 2016 SURVIVORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ronald Brook</th>
<th>Kenneth Cook</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Flores</td>
<td>Ricky Knapp</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Scythes</td>
<td>Javier Valenzuela</td>
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**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.

**Hearing Results**

**Brook Parole Denied**

Sept. 22, 2016

Dear Bev,

Hope you are doing well.

Good news!

Ronald Brook had his hearing today, it was extremely emotional. The parole board denied him for another three years, and added an additional 15 years on to his sentence!

Thank you again for all of your letters, especially from the Board of Directors. The parole commissioners commented on the large file of signed petitions that were sent in. It all was worth every minute of your hard work and in behalf of POMC.

Thank you again!

We are overjoyed they denied his parole!

With Sincere Best Wishes,

Ed Worthan,
Susan Worthan,
Brother & Family, and everyone else involved in this case.

(Continued on p. 9)
Hearings to be Held

Parole Hearing:
January 10, 2017
RE: Richard Lockridge
ID#: J48367

On July 22, 1991, 28 year old Kim Martello was brutally strangled by her business partner, Richard Lockridge. She had gone to the authorities and was about to “Blow The Whistle” on the shady business dealings he was trying to involve her in.

After strangling Kim, he put her in a cardboard box, transported her in the back of her own pickup truck, and dumped her on a trash pile in the extreme heat of the Palm Springs desert area. Her decomposed body was discovered by transients three days later. She remained a Jane Doe for another 12 days until she could be identified by dental records.

After delaying the trial for 42 months because he kept changing attorneys, Lockridge was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to 25-years-to-life in prison. He will have only served 21 years and seven months when he is considered for parole.

But Kim’s family has grieved her for 25 years. Ω

To protest write to:
California Board of Parole Hearings
Attn: Pre-hearing Correspondence
PO Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

Parole Hearing:
March 2017
RE: Donald Lesak
ID#: A-294597

On May 27, 1994, James M. Dunphy was gunned down by Donald Lesak. On that day Lesak calmly walked into the office of which James Dunphy was the Union President. James agreed to see him—despite the fact he had received explicit death threats from Lesak—and escorted him into his office, it is believed, in an attempt to protect his fellow office workers at CGIU Local #546.

Unfortunately, Lesak was heavily armed with a virtual arsenal of weapons, including a 357 Magnum. Once in the office, Lesak shot James in the heart. Then he calmly walked out of the office and left.

Lesak was found guilty of murder with a gun specification. He was sentenced to 15-years-to-life and three years for the gun specification. He will have served only 21 years when he is considered for parole. To this day Lesak has indicated no remorse or regret for his actions. Ω

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

Hearing:
August 2017
RE: Ike Lee Brown, Jr.
ID#: 02093445
TDCJ ID: 00401796

On Oct. 15, 1984, Sandie Miller, 18, was beaten, sodomized, raped and strangled to death by Ike Lee Brown Jr. He left Sandie’s body in a vacant apartment where she was found three days later. When he murdered Sandie, he had been out of prison on parole for 2½ months after serving time for rape of a minor.

Brown was convicted of murder, rape, and rape of a child. He was sentenced to life in prison. He will have served only 33 years when he is considered for parole. Ω

To protest, write to:
Angie McCown, Director,
Victim Services Division
8712 Shoal Creek Blvd.,
Suite 265
PO Box 13401
Austin, TX 78711-3401
Fax #: (512) 452-0825

Survivors

Parole Hearing:
January 2017
RE: Thomas Opozda
ID#: W97177

On April 4, 2008, Joshua D. Fitzgerald with his brother, Patrick, went to an open-mic event where their younger brothers were performing at a Fairhaven, MA. VFW hall. During the event, Joshua brushed past an event coordinator and words were exchanged and the situation escalated.

The brothers were leaving when 20/25 people spilled out of the building and Joshua and Patrick ran around the corner. The crowd attacked them. Patrick was stabbed in the back and both were fighting off their assailants. At some point, Thomas Opozda introduced a knife into the situation.

A friend of the Fitzgerald’s, Robert Williams, was driving by when he stopped and the crowd attacked him. Opozda admitted stabbing him with his knife. He then handed his knife to a friend, who then ran to the car which the Fitzgerald’s were leaving in and opened the door, stabbed Joshua in the abdomen and pulled him out of the car.

(Continued on p. 14)
Family is revictimized by story told on 20/20

By Mary Elledge

[The following letter was written to the Executive Producer of 20/20. Annie McCann’s parents have been waiting for years to get help on the murder of their daughter, 16-year-old Annie. The detectives in her case were saying not murder, but suicide. Recent evidence in her case proved otherwise. The following is an e-mail that The Greater Portland Area POMC Chapter sent to them. We will continue the story when and if we receive a reply from Mr. Sloan.]

To David Sloan,
Executive Producer of 20/20

Dear Mr. Sloan:

Two of our members, Mary Jane and Dan McCann, entrusted 20/20 to do a story about the unsolved murder of their daughter. Annie McCann, who was murdered Nov. 2, 2008. The case is still unsolved.

Annie’s body was found in Baltimore alongside a dumpster. The police found the McCanns’ car. The two boys driving it were not charged. They were released with counseling and school attendance. Someone else, an adult, was located at the scene where Annie’s body was found, but he was never charged. He later murdered another young woman and is in prison for that crime.

The police concluded that Annie died of lidocaine poisoning because they found a half-used bottle of Bactine near her body. However, the makers of Bactine said that ingesting five fluid ounces of Bactine would not have caused Annie’s death.

Dr. Harry Bonnell, a forensic pathologist, wrote,

“There is far more lidocaine found at the autopsy of Annie than could possibly have been produced by her ingesting five fluid ounces of Bactine and it has a vile taste. No human could ingest it—accidentally, intentionally, or by the third-party administration—without vomiting. There were no signs of recent vomiting reported in the autopsy of Annie.”

Dr. Bonnell added,

“The circumstances under which the teen-aged girl might have learned or acquired and ingested lidocaine must be investigated. There is a high probability of culpable adult involvement in this death. The investigation into this death was totally inadequate to reach any determination of the manner of death, much less calling it a suicide, or an accident, or ruling out homicide.”

20/20 did not use this information in Annie’s story. Instead, during the last 15 minutes, the program presented Dr. Bill Manion, who did not agree with any of the other evidence about an older half-bottle of Bactine left at the scene.

I understand that you might want to have had another opinion. But, why did you not also want to use a doctor’s opinion who testifies across the United States for homicide cases. You were given Dr. Bonnell’s opinion.

The mortuary reported that you told the McCanns that Annie was sodomized. You did not include this in the 20/20 story. A young girl cannot sodomize herself. This was pertinent information. It meant that the police did not have complete information on the condition of Annie’s body. Why did you not report it in your story? The mortuary did not have to tell what they found.

There were no fingerprints found on the bottle of half-used Bactine; no results found on the rape test; evidence was turned over to the McCanns even though the case is still supposed to be open; the letters had been looked at in the beginning; Dan and Mary Jane had told and written that there were more letters that they had found under her bed; they never tried to hide the letters; even the FBI agreed that they believed Annie was not serious about suicide; the letter that you had was the one left on the bed; again to experts, she did not sound serious about suicide and the bruises on Annie was never explained.

You promised not to do what the police have been doing for over eight years (“saying not murder, but suicide”). Dan and Mary Jane thought this would help get justice.

I am Chapter Leader of the Greater Portland Area Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children and teach at several colleges on the “aftermath of homicide.” We have a large Chapter and I have seen many movies made about “their stories.” Please consider what you promised the McCanns and help rectify what this has done to them.

Sincerely,
Mary Elledge
Chapter Leader

Don’t Waste Your Pain

There is a saying: “Don’t waste your pain.” What does it mean to not waste your pain?

For one: loss and pain sensitizes you to the pain of others. You can use your pain to effectively and sincerely come alongside someone else in pain with real understanding. It changes you from a sympathizer to an empathizer.

Sympathy is feeling compassion, sorrow, or pity for the hardships that another person encounters, while empathy is putting yourself in the shoes of another, feeling what they feel.

And in my opinion, you only really qualify as an empathizer through personal experience.

Don’t ever underestimate the power of just being there for someone else in pain. For most people in pain, the most valuable take-away and comfort is knowing that someone understands what it is like and validates their pain. Even if our experiences are unique.

The pay-off for you? Taking the focus off yourself is a healing experience, which will bring comfort and peace to your own soul.

-Submitted by ZelFred
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The death of a loved one is a difficult experience, and the murder of a child is especially devastating; and

WHEREAS: As a nation devoted to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness, America must focus attention on the families of crime victims who are left to deal with great pain and sorrow in the absence of their cherished loved one; and

WHEREAS: The friends and families of murder victims cope with grief through a variety of support services including counseling, crisis intervention, professional referrals and assistance in dealing with the criminal-justice system; and

WHEREAS: The designation of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims on September 25th of each year provides an opportunity for the people of the United States to honor victims who have been torn away from their lives by homicide and to recognize the effects such tragedies have on surviving family members; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas joins with the Central Arkansas Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children, as well as victim-service programs, criminal justice officials and concerned citizens throughout the State to remember the anguish caused by homicide, to honor the courage of survivors and to help the survivors rebuild their lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 25th, 2016, as

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR HOMICIDE VICTIMS

across the State, and I encourage all Arkansans to join me in remembering the victims who have been murdered and their families, and to support programs that help those who have been devastated by violent tragedies.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 29th day of August, in the year of our Lord 2016.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State
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

VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT PAID...NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE WORTHLESS...BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE PRICELESS.

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.

NEBRASKA
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Rhode Island
Tennessee

Utah
Vermont
Washington, D.C.
Wyoming

1 new Chapter has joined the National POMC family since our last SURVIVORS Newsletter and has opened its door to offer support:

The Fort Myers Florida-Lee County POMC Chapter

Chapter Leader-Angela McClary (Survivor-Parent)
Lehigh Acres, Florida
239-839-4348 cell
fmflcpomc@gmail.com

Co-Leader-Rickey L. Anderson, Sr. (Survivor of Parishioner)
Cape Coral, Florida
239-898-9794 cell
focfmpastor@gmail.com

POMC CHAPTERS CELEBRATING 1-19 YEARS OR MORE OF OFFERING SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE-VICTIMS

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<th>CHAPTER NAME</th>
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POMC CHAPTELEST CELEBRATING 1-19 YEARS OR MORE OF OFFERING SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE-VICTIMS

CP/CL UPDATES
If you have a message of interest, a great fundraising idea, upcoming Chapter events, special awards or recognitions received, or ideas that you would like to share with our “POMC family,” please mail them to my attention: Sherry Nolan at National POMC, or email them to snolan@pomc.org.

The article deadline for the next newsletter is Feb 15, 2017. We may not be able to include all of those received in the next SNL, but may keep them for future newsletters. Thanks for what you do for others through POMC.
Remembering Mata Weber

September 1, 2016

We would like to thank you for being part of Mom’s life. She always said “with each person I help I heal just a little bit, though I will never completely heal. Knowing that my helping someone will in turn help them help someone else, and that person will help someone else and if we just keep helping someone else.”

Not everyone “touched” her as you did, and she was confident that by reaching out to others you will “Carry the Torch” and continue on making a difference one person at a time.

We can’t thank you enough for all you did in helping our mother survive our tragic loss. POMC meant the world to her and literally saved her life. Without your love and support she never would have become the wonderful woman we all know and love. She truly was an angel in disguise.

Forever Grateful,

The surviving children of Mata Weber

ADAM MARIAN BINCER (1930-2016), 86, died Nov. 8, 2016, in Fort Myers, Fla. He and his wife, Wanda Lawendel, survived the Holocaust in Poland, met in Stockholm, Sweden as teen-agers, separated when their families emigrated to the U.S., married others, but met again when they both had divorced. They married in Atlanta in 1972, settled in Madison, Wis. with Wanda’s three children—Yvonne, Brian, and Michael. Yvonne was murdered in 1983, and the Bincers founded the Central Wisconsin Chapter in 1988, serving as Chapter Leaders in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In retirement, they moved to Florida. Wanda preceded Adam in death in 2008.

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We invite notices and photos of those deceased, who have served as Chapter Leaders, Co-Leaders, or as Contact Persons.

ANNETTE BLUMENFELD, (1923-2016), 92, of North Miami Beach, Fla., died July 25, 2015. Her son, Michael David, was murdered Dec. 20, 1979. Annette joined the Miami/Dade County POMC Chapter and served as a Contact Person for 20 years (1995-2015). She received the Lisa Hullinger Memorial Award in 2004.

LaVERNE SAUNDER FLYTHE, 63 (1952-Jan. 25, 2016), of Suffolk, Va., joined the Virginia Beach POMC Chapter soon after the murder of her son, Dameyon P. Flythe. Ms. Flythe was active in church and community, serving also as an ambassador for a national prison ministry. In recent years LaVerne prepared to achieve certification with the National POMC Organization, intending to open a Suffolk Chapter. Cancer postponed her plan.

[Information given by Virginia Beach Chapter Leader Jeanette Richardson.]

[IN MEMORIAM]

Remembering Mata Weber

September 1, 2016

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[Information given by Virginia Beach Chapter Leader Jeanette Richardson.]
POMC hosts, participates in local community ceremonies

FORT MYERS, FL — The July 24 Club Blu shooting that killed two teens and left 18 others injured sparked a community vigil. On Monday, the day following, townspople, members of Mt. Hermon and Next Level churches, and the forming Ft. Myers—Lee County POMC Chapter joined together for a vigil in remembrance. Their first meeting as a Chapter was held on Aug. 11.

LITTLE ROCK, AR, Sept. 24 — Central Arkansas POMC Chapter members observed the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims at the State Capitol stairs. Those in attendance explained the solace that talking about the circumstances of their loved ones’ deaths brought them.

KINGWOOD, W VA, Sept. 25 — Stacey Greaser, Victims Advocate for the Preston County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, presided over the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims ceremony at the Kingwood Christian Fellowship Church. It was the second year the observance took place in the county.

MT. VERNON, OH, Sept. 23 — This group gathered on the Public Square Friday afternoon for A Day of Remembrance for Victims of Homicides and to raise the banner in the background. Kneeling are Janelle and Chloe Ketron. FRONT ROW, from left, are Lela Ewart, Diana Oswalt, Victims Advocate, Belinda Thompson, Steve Thompson, Rodney and Susie Chris-

Remembering Mata Weber: 'Saddened by passing'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

O’Fallon, Mo., Sept. 3, 2016 — I was saddened to read of the passing of the long-time leader of the St. Louis Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children, Mata Weber.

Somehow, in the fog that surrounded our family after the murder of our son in 2010, we found Mata.

My wife and I journeyed to St. Alexius Hospital in St. Louis to attend monthly POMC meetings. There we found people we truly had something in common with.

Mata was there to greet us at the door. She shared her daughter’s tragic murder story.

Attendees were genuine when they said, “I know how you feel.” We were able to give and listen to heart-wrenching testimonials, provided by parents who wished they weren’t qualified to be there. There were guest speakers who provided keen insight into the working of the legal system.

Field trips to St. Louis, ESL City Hall, and Our Lady of Snows in Belleville followed to attend candlelight and memorial services. We met the state’s and U.S. attorneys up close and personal.

Our son’s case started out at the top of the unsolved murder stack. With each passing day one or two cases were piled on. Murder never ends. In 2014-15 St. Clair County was listed 21st in the “murder capitals” in the U.S.

His murder remains unsolved. The perpetrators could be dead, imprisoned, or still walking the streets. Mata would say we just need to carry on and hope for the break that will lead to successful prosecution. Time marches on.

Bill Malec

**In Loving Memory Of:**

*The difference between the living and the dead is the difference between the remembered and the forgotten.*

*Lest We Forget!*

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**Individual Charitable Donations [those in blue from businesses]**

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Murder victim's family has few options

Unsolved slaying may remain in hands of detectives who mishandled the case

1. Family may want an outside agency to renew the investigation. State agencies, however, probably will not take over a local police department’s murder case.

The Wisconsin Cold Case Review Team, affiliated with the Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators, will not accept from a family or an attorney a request to review their case. The Team may accept only the investigating agency’s request for review of a cold case.

2. A state agency dealing with cold cases usually will step in only when the local agency asks for help.

3. A family may ask a district attorney and the state’s attorney general to renew the case, but these officials cannot grant the request unless it comes from the district attorney.

4. A private agency dealing with cold cases may offer families a path to follow.

In Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators cold case review team typically offers advice on six to eight unsolved Wisconsin homicides annually.

The non-profit American Investigative Society of Cold Cases, nationally, offers free consultation on murder cases to police agencies, but not to private individuals.

POMC offers an independent second-opinion service to help families of murder victims. In 2014, survivors from around the country submitted 13 cases for review by independent pathologists, criminal profilers, and/or seasoned homicide detectives, who look for inconsistencies in interview statements and areas within a homicide that may warrant another look.

According to POMC Executive Director Dan Levey, “We are not the investigative agency. We are not there to second-guess law enforcement. We are just trying to be another set of eyes. It can be an effective tool to help survivors.”

In cold cases, Levey advises families to keep the case before the public and, if possible, consider offering a reward for leads that may lead to a conviction.

What are victim-impact statements for?

(Continued from p. 3)

> About how much of every day do you feel sad?
> Do you feel more tired than you did before the crime?
> Have you been diagnosed with depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, or any other stress-related illness since the crime?
> Are you on any medications for those conditions?
> Have you considered suicide since the crime?
> Have relationships been difficult since the crime?
> How has it affected your family life?
> Has your view of the world as a safe and fair place changed since the crime?
> Has your spirituality changed since the crime?
> Have you had difficulty completing day-to-day activities that are related to circumstances of the crime?
> If you have children who have been impacted by this crime, consider the following questions:
> How has your child been emotionally impacted by this crime?
> Has your child regressed developmentally as a result of this crime?
> How has your child’s school performance changed?
> How has your child’s relationship with family members and friends changed?
> Has your child required counseling? If so, how has it helped? If not, why not? Ω

[Based upon MADD’s Victim Impact Statement Booklet.]

FROM: Flora Fazio — RE: Mata Weber

(Continued from p. 13)

Remembrance and Victims Rights Week. Later, for more than eight years, Mata was a guest lecturer for my Victimology class at St. Charles Community College. My students came to love her and would inquire of her even after they graduated. We shared twice a year, in the classroom and lunch afterwards.

I left the college last year to complete my doctoral degree. Mata was such encouragement for me; but, I had to drop coursework and come home to care for Benny. Mata would always call to check on us. What I’m saying is that Mata was a leader who cared about others in every aspect of the world caring. She gave so much of herself. I think this email has helped me. My heart is full and my eyes overflow now. Thank you for your time. Ω

Flora
CINCINNATI — The Greater Cincinnati Area POMC Chapter staged its commemoration of the 2016 National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims by unveiling its “years-in-the-making” monument.

Located in the Spring Grove Cemetery grounds (fourth largest cemetery in the U.S.), the monument near the heart of the park-like cemetery forest provides a restful place to reflect upon the changes in one's life journey.

The culmination of years of raising funds for the monument, arranging with cemetery officials for a proper location, and settling upon a fitting design, revealed a different theme for this reminder of lives lost to violence.

Several POMC Chapters—among others in this country: Augusta, Maine; Oregon City, Ore.—Greater Portland Area; Owasso, Oklahoma;—use the concept of names mounted upon the monument. When the monument is full, another section needs to be erected for more names.

The Cincinnati Chapter’s monument is based upon a different concept. The open space in the monument’s upper lefthand is an open door, inviting bereaved survivors, families, and friends, to come in to what has become hallowed ground. No matter how many come, nothing will limit the number envisioned by the open space in the monument.

Parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, and their own children, came to dedicate this fitting memorial monument on Sept. 25, 2016 — the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, set aside by Congressional Resolution. Included in the crowd were victim service providers and law enforcement professionals.

Mother and child search for the nameplate and wall panel number of someone dear to them.
Just What Kind of People Are the Parents of Murdered Children?

How do we describe the parents of a murdered child? First, we must not be deceived into thinking that all want to go out and return the favor! Some of course feel enormous revenge; but most people are not vengeful people. They are instead

- scared people—scared of possible revenge inflicted upon them by a murderer still at large. They are
- hurt people—hurt severely by having their most prized possession ripped from their grasp in a most gruesome way. They are people in
  - pain—great pain—more pain than those of us who have never been through it can imagine, a pain so deep that for many there appears to be no surface to it. They are
  - frustrated people—frustrated by the layers of bureaucracy known as the criminal justice system, which essentially treats them as nonentities, with no rights. They are also people
  - alone—alone in a world where they can find few others in the immediate environment who really understand their torment and who are willing to allow them to share their deepest feelings and sensations.

“It seems that only when they encounter others who are like themselves in terms of sharing a similar experience in life can they find comfort and some sense of security in realizing that what they feel and experience is indeed normal, and that they are not insane or rapidly becoming so.”

[From Beyond Endurance: When A Child Dies, by Ronald J. Knapp, 104-05]

Charlotte Hullinger tells a crowd about the kind of people POMC-ers are. She spoke at the Hamilton County observance of the National Crime Victims’ Rights Week ceremony at the Cincinnati YWCA.

A Place

There is a place
A safe place for grief to be expressed.
Grief - with all of its raw, component pieces.
Raw grief, with its shock
its powerlessness
its downness
its guilt

its anger
its injustice
its saturating pain.

Have you felt it?
Any of it?
And you know what?
IT IS OK!

At this place
This safe place for grief to be expressed.

At POMC.

[Jean Lewis: Taken from Thanks For Asking.]
POMC trains 15 attendees at the Effective Leadership Training held before the Orlando Conference

Training now is given days before the annual Conference

FRONT ROW, (left to right): Rev. Dr. Rickey L. Anderson, Sr. (Fort Myers Florida-Lee County Chapter); Colette Krinock (Peninsula South Bay Chapter); Angela McClary (Fort Myers Florida-Lee County Chapter).

MIDDLE ROW, (left to right): Maria Martinez (Kansas City Area Wide Chapter); Susan Fitzgerald (Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter); Donna Narez (Los Angeles Chapter); Mildred Stewart (Queens Chapter); April Jones (Tri County Chapter); Erma J. Boyd-Dorsey (Fort Myers Florida-Lee County Chapter).

TOP/BACK ROW, (left to right): ELT Trainer Howard Klerk (President National Board of Trustees); Betty Bradwell (Tri County Chapter); Marquita Clardy (Minnesota Hope Chapter); Denise Brewer (Valley of the Sun Chapter); Carolyn Longstreet (Miami-Dade Chapter); Susan McGhee (Queens Chapter); Tania Faustin-Prophete (Fort Myers Florida-Lee County Chapter).

Not pictured (other trainers): Terrie Jacoby (Vice President National Board of Trustees); Bev Warnock (National Office Manager); Sherry Nolan (National Office Volunteer Coordinator/Chapter Development).

SURVIVORS CONGRATULATES
The Central Arkansas POMC Chapter

LITTLE ROCK, AR — The Central Arkansas POMC Chapter was nominated to be the latest winner of the Spirit of Arkansas Award and won! The law firm of Rainwater, Holt and Sexton attorneys Mike Rainwater (left) and Bob Sexton (right) present the $500 check to the Chapter’s Victim Advocate Amy Stivers and Contact Person Elaine Colclasure. Outside of its law practice, the firm has partnered with KATV-TV, Channel 7, in Little Rock for the Spirit of Arkansas Award that goes to a nonprofit organization.
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

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