Juanita Vera never feels truly at ease among friends and family, and every time she meets a new acquaintance she wonders, 'Could you be the one?'

Her son's murderer is still out there somewhere, and ever since 2004 when he was killed, she wonders if someone close to her could be involved; smiling to her face and hiding the dark secret. Not many could relate to that feeling, and she keeps her fearful curiosity to herself most of the time.

But once a month in the basement of Grace United Methodist Church on Heights Boulevard, she can relax and talk with other people - parents, sisters and brothers of murder victims - who understand how she feels.

The Heights Chapter of the Parents Of Murdered Children, an international organization based in Ohio, has met in the church since 1997. Its attendance ebbs and flows, said Andy Kahan, victims' rights advocate with the city of Houston, as families deal with the roller coaster of the criminal justice system. Some stop coming after their loved one's killer is convicted, some become advocates and formally join the Chapter.

And some just keep coming, like Vera, because they don't know what else to do.

At last Tuesday night's meeting, they sat together at the "unsolved cases" table and listened to developments in other cases, drank coffee and shared pictures of their children.

The Chapter not only serves as a grief support group, but also as a place for families to come and find help navigating a slow-moving and confusing court system they've been thrown into. Kahan has been the main resource for families ever since the group began. He's a former parole and probation officer and with the help of family of murder victims, he has worked to pass national legislation that prohibits murderers from profiting from their crimes. They're called "murderabilia" laws and they make it illegal for convicted murderers to make money on books about their crimes or from selling their personal effects (from poems and art to fingernails and hair) to those with a flare for the macabre.

As a victims' rights advocate, he and the other group members are busy in the coming days as April 2-8 is National Crime Victim's Rights Week.

The national awareness campaign is sponsored through the U.S. Dept. of Justice, and members of POMC will be hosting several events throughout Houston. This year, one mother will have a bit of extra comfort during the activities now that her daughter's killer is in jail after a highly-publicized and controversial trial.

Kay Renger's 39-year-old daughter, Brandy Renger, was murdered by her boyfriend in 2014. And although Jose Salas-Bustamente was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison in January of this year, the family suffered extra emotional trauma because of an unprecedented turn of events at the trial.

The defense attorney Grant Shiner, had Brandy's father removed from the courtroom after opening statements by telling Judge Jean-nine Barr that he intended to call Dr. Everett Renger as a witness. This came as a shock to the Rengers and prosecutors as Everett was never subpoenaed and had no information on the case to offer. Kay knew from the beginning that she would take the witness stand, so she was aware she would be barred from hearing other testimony, but her husband's removal [continued on next page]
was something Kahan had never seen in his 30-year career in criminal justice.

Kahan and prosecutors tried to appeal to Judge Barr with motions to allow Mr. Renger back in the courtroom, but she denied all requests.

"They were using it as an excuse to get the family out of the courtroom so the jury wouldn't feel sorry for us when we cried, which we did," said Kay.

By the end of the trial, Shiner still had not called the victim's father to the stand. "When the judge asked if the attorney would still be calling Everett to testify, in one simple word, he said, 'no'," said Kahan.

Mr. Renger wasn't allowed back in the courtroom until after resting arguments.

Throughout all of the drama, Juanita Vera and Ruth Marin-Eason, leader of the Heights Chapter, were by Renger's side in the courtroom. They wore pins with pictures of their lost loved ones on their clothes and intercepted media for the family.

Kahan also attends parole hearings with families to help make sure the killers of their loved ones stay in prison as long as possible.

This week, he informed the group about legislation that was just introduced in the Texas House by Representative Senfronia Thompson. House Bill 2120 would enable violent offenders to receive "good time credit" instead of having to serve at least half of their initial sentence before becoming eligible for parole. He urged them to call their local representatives and tell them to kill the bill. The group of about 10 people unanimously agreed they would be speaking out.

Kay Renger admits that without Kahan and other members of POMC, she wouldn't have known what to do with the unexpected legal challenge, or with the media attention. And she'll keep coming to the meetings in the church basement because, just like Vera, it offers a chance to just be herself, and not pretend to be the person she was before her child was murdered.

"You just don't recover," said Renger. "I think this is one of the few places there are where I feel like myself and everyone understands your grief, and that's comforting."

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Parents Of Murdered Children meet in Heights church, became activists for victims' rights CONTINUED
By: Jaimy Jones from Heights Examiner and Houston Chronicle

A group with a serious mission found a fun way to raise money and awareness.

It was called Painting for a Cause.

Members and supporters of the Saginaw Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children hosted the event at U Me Paint.

They enjoyed artist therapy, allowing them to relax and unwind.

"It's an opportunity to kind of deal with your feelings. The canvas is the perfect place to put your feelings on. You can unleash whatever you're feeling," said Kujuanna Ray, owner of U Me Paint.

The group was created at a time when Saginaw was dealing with dozens of murders a year.

Founder Barbara Clark lost her 17-year-old son in 1998.

"Once funerals are over and everyone goes home, you have no one there to support you through your grieving process and we want to let you know that we're here for that," Clark said.

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Above: Saginaw Chapter of POMC member paints at U ME Paint

Above: Ruth Eason, Chapter Leader of the Heights Chapter of POMC prepares for their monthly meeting
On July 23, 2004, my forty-four-year-old sister, Beth, died. She had been diagnosed with brain cancer two years earlier and given, I might add, six weeks to live. Beth proved them wrong and went down in the medical journals as the longest living survivor of her particular type of fast growing, deadly cancer. I take great comfort in knowing that somewhere down the road, someone else will be sitting in a doctors office receiving the terrible news that Beth did when diagnosed, and when they ask is there no hope, the doctor will then say, “Well, there was this lady in Kansas who lived for two years after going through aggressive rounds of chemotherapy and radiation.” And maybe this person will do what Beth did and hang on long enough for a cure and thus be saved. That would give meaning to my sister’s valiant battle and the ensuing horrific side effects of the chemicals that make the cure far worse than the disease.

My son Brian died suddenly and violently, like each of your loved ones. I was always haunted with the fact I was not with him when he died to comfort him and say goodbye. My mom also died suddenly at the age of fifty-six in January of 1996, from a brain aneurysm. I never got to say goodbye to her either. In fact, all of the deaths of someone close to me, except for aged grandparents, have been sudden, until Beth.

Now, I have had the chance to understand from both sides: when death does not call ahead and give warning and when it does. Believe me, they are both hard, just different in degrees.

Sudden death without warning puts you in immediate shock and blankets you in a fog. Anticipated death that calls ahead and leaves a warning, keeps the fog hanging over you for, as in our case with my sister, two years – always waiting for it to drop. Oddly with Beth, though we had time, I never got the chance to say goodbye because she was fighting so hard to live, to have said goodbye would have felt like robbing her of her hope and giving up on her. So, instead of goodbye, I learned to say “I love you” incessantly at times. If nothing else could be said, the most important thing would be. Since my sister lived far away and I had to do so much of it long distance, I sent simple notes on beautiful paper that said nothing but... I love you. The post office made a fortune off of me the past two years!

I have also come to realize that saying goodbye, though my heart felt so cheated I could not do it with my son, is a misnomer anyway. Even if God had plucked me out of bed that night Brian was shot and put me there beside him on the road where he lay dying, I would not have said goodbye. Goodbye would have been the last thing out of my mouth. I would have begged him and ranted and raved to him, and God, to stay here with me, to not leave me.

So, for those of you struggling with the ‘what ifs’ of sudden death and the agonizing heartache of not being allowed to say goodbye... think about it. Would you really have said it even if you could have?

I no longer say goodbye to those I love. Even when I leave Kansas from visiting my family, those words are not how I leave them. Instead it is always words of love and words of seeing you later. Because, even if something suddenly takes another one I love from my life, I will see them again. In expressing our love each and every day to those we cherish, we need not feel the guilt of ‘what ifs’ anymore. The important – most important gift we give is love and nothing defeats it, even death.

Take care of and be good to yourselves.

Love always,
Beckie
National Day of Remembrance… for Murder Victims
“Remember the past, Treasure the present, Embrace the future”


The National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims not only recognizes murder victims but also honors those organizations throughout the United States that provide services such as support, advocacy and counsel to loved ones of murder victims.

POMC Chapters and other organizations held events around the nation to commemorate the Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.

2017 Effective Leadership Training

POMC trained 9 attendees at the 2017 Effective Leadership Training prior to the National Conference in Irvine, California! Pictured below are the 2017 ELT attendees and trainers:

Back row, left to right: Sherry Nolan (National Office Volunteer Coordinator/Chapter Development), Howard Klerk (POMC National Board of Trustees President), Dorothy Traudt (Greater San Bernardino/Riverside Area Chapter), Terri Bryson (Desert of Hope Chapter), Sylvia Kim (Desert of Hope Chapter), Maria De Jesus Carrillo (Greater Ventura County Chapter), Barbara Serrano (Greater Ventura County Chapter), Bev Warnock (POMC Executive Director)

Pictured front row, left to right: Linda Miers (Greater San Bernardino/Riverside Area Chapter), Beverly Martinez (Greater San Bernardino/Riverside Area Chapter), Debra Dizon-Hernandez (Greater Orange County Chapter), G. Faye Jenkins (Greater Orange County Chapter)
The 2017 POMC National Conference was a great success. We started the week with Effective Leadership Training and the weekend brought the Conference. California was a beautiful location and we couldn’t have asked for better weather while we were there.

On Friday, we started workshops and Friday night we made a trip to Crystal Cove State Park where we had a beautiful sunset vigil with speakers, singers, dancers, snacks, and even a surprise visit from the Newport Beach Harbor Patrol who honored our loved ones with a water display.

On Saturday, we continued with workshops and held our Awards Banquet (recipients on pages 6 - 7) as well as our annual dance, everyone had a great time! Sunday we had brunch and said our goodbyes to everyone until next year!

We hope all attendees had a beneficial Conference and for those of you who could not attend our 2017 Conference in California, we hope to see you in the D.C. area for the 2018 Conference.

California Correctional Peace Officers’ Association

CCPOA staff members once again showed their support of POMC’s vision and mission with a 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.

Left to right: Martin Garza, Bev Warnock, Howard Klerk, Neil Pollard & Dennis Greenhalgh

SAVE THE DATE

The POMC National Conference Committee members are excited to invite you to join us for the 2018 National POMC Conference in Washington, D.C.

What: 32nd Annual POMC National Conference

Where: Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Washington, D.C. – Crystal City
300 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22202-2891

When: August 2-5, 2018

For more information, contact Bev Warnock at bwarnock@pomc.org or by phone at (513) 721-5683
Awards presented by National POMC Executive Director, Bev Warnock and National POMC Board of Trustees President, Howard Klerk.

Lisa Hullinger Memorial Award
This award is presented to an outstanding individual who has shown exemplary contributions to all survivors of homicide victims, acts of compassion that have contributed to the recovery of survivors, and dedication in supporting full rights for victims/survivors.

Patty Walters

John W. Gillis Leadership Award
This award is given to a professional who fights for the rights and dignity of crime victims and survivors of homicide victims.

Jennifer Miller

Making A Difference Award
The Making A Difference Award is given in recognition of work which promotes and supports the image of POMC and has contributed to the memory of those who have died by violence.

Bette Erwin

Empty Shoe Award
This award is presented to an outstanding individual in recognition of their contributions to the memory of those who have died by violence. It is only given to someone who has done something very special or is very dedicated to POMC. They bring about a positive awareness of the special work that they do for POMC members and its Chapters.

David & Ellen Foster
(award accepted by their daughter, Misty Foster)
The Courage Award
This award is given to an extraordinary individual who has shown outstanding courage on behalf of victims/survivors. The award is in recognition of an individual who shows courage, spirit, and determination to persevere against all odds and to see that justice is served.

Ashley Hill & Marie Belmontez
(Marie Belmontez pictured, Ashley Hill not pictured)

Dorothy Lobes Memorial Award
The Dorothy Lobes Award is presented to a POMC Chapter for their outstanding achievements in the area of public awareness, superior programs of assistance to survivors, success in Chapter fundraising and their unfailing support of National POMC and compliance with its bylaws.

Queens New York Chapter
(Represented by Chapter Leader Naomi Baxter)

Dr. Robert Araniosian
Humanitarian Award
This award is given to an exceptional humanitarian for their efforts in providing survivors with comfort and knowledge to ease their fears and suffering following the murder of a loved one.

Brad Stetson

Extra Mile Award
This award is given to an exceptional individual for their dedication and outstanding compassion in support of National POMC’S mission to help all survivors. Thank you for going the extra mile.

Dawn Terrizzi
Maintaining the Beauty of the MURDER WALL...Honoring Their Memories

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 4,000 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:____________________________
Email Address:____________________________
Amount enclosed: $_________  Check:____
Money Order :____  Visa:_____   MC:______
Am. Express:______  Dis:_______
Card Number:________________________________
Expiration date:________________
Security Code (back of card):________________

Return to:
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.
635 W. 7th Street, Suite 104
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203

WALL BOOKLETS HONOR THEIR MEMORIES

POMC’s Murder Wall...Honoring their Memories is a beautiful memorial to the more than 4,000 murder victims whose names appear on the Wall. Behind each name there is a face and a story of a person whose life was taken prematurely. It is time to tell those stories.

Memorial booklets, which travel with the Wall, are compiled as an ongoing project of National POMC. Cost is $20.00 to include one page, front and back without a photo, or $30.00 if you wish to have a photo included. The photos are non-returnable and must be no larger than 2 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches.

Forms are available on the POMC Web Site at: www.pomc.org or by calling National at (888) 818-POMC.

Donations to Maintain the Beauty of the Murder Wall... Honoring Their Memories

Thank you for your donation to maintain the Murder Wall:
- Joan Roback
  in memory of Jim Roback
- Denise Coleman
  in memory of Timothy Staunton
- Suzanne Zane
  in memory of Christina Zane
- Susie & Rodney Chrisman
  in memory of Jarrod Chrisman
- Dorothy & Albert Chubb
  in memory of Dwayne Chubb
- Howard & Ann Klerk
  in memory of Lisa Marie Weaver
- LC & Sherry Nolan
  in memory of Shannon Marie & Alexandra Jordan Nolan-Broe
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, 2017. Names after this date will appear in the next issue.

The Wall consists of solid walnut panels with each holding 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 inside this edition.) Not only is this donation a tribute to the memory of your loved one, but it is a tribute that will guarantee that the memory of those we miss so deeply will survive forever. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Jo Hawthorne</td>
<td>2/08/83 - 1/10/09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ricardo Muñoz</td>
<td>2/14/61 - 5/01/82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Weber Hock</td>
<td>10/27/60 - 4/27/82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan Manuel Hernandez</td>
<td>1/29/52 - 7/15/71</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Boutilier</td>
<td>6/20/90 - 8/08/09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Rubio</td>
<td>12/18/74 - 4/10/94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fernando Campos</td>
<td>5/30/53 - 4/20/13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Steven Didlick</td>
<td>3/06/56 - 1/24/14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MURDER WALL...Honoring Their Memories Order Form
Anyone interested in having their loved one’s name inscribed and permanently mounted on the Wall should fill out the order form below. Make checks payable to “POMC Wall,” or for your convenience, Discover, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted.

Send to: Parents Of Murdered Children, 635 W. 7th Street, Suite 104, Cincinnati, Ohio 45203

LOVED ONES INFORMATION

Loved ones name ________________________________________________

Date of Birth_________________________ Date of Death_________________________

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Choice of payment (check one): _______ Pay in full for $75.00 OR _______ 3 payments of $25.00 each

Payment type: ____ MC  ____ Visa  ____ Am. Express  ____ Discover  ____ Check

Card Number_________________________ Exp. Date__________ Security Code__________

SUBMITTERS INFORMATION

Name ________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________

City, State, Zip ________________________________________________

Phone Number ________________________________________________

Relationship to victim ________________________________________________

The name will be added to the panel upon payment in full. Once your plate has been permanently mounted on the panel, you will be notified. New panels join the Wall as they are completed.
With Bev Warnock

Parole Block Program

1642 Convicted murderers have been denied parole through POMC’s Parole Block Program!

Support for the Parole Block Program

In memory of:
- Jarrod Chrisman from Susie & Rodney Chrisman
- Dwayne Chubb from Albert & Dorothy Chubb
  - Elizabeth Foster from Helen Foster
  - Timothy Staunton from Denise Coleman
- Lisa Marie Weaver from Howard & Ann Klerk

Hearing Results

Denied Petitions:
- Jeffrey Blair
- Ike Lee Brown
- Samuel Hayden
- Michael Hathaway

Died in Prison
- Lester Cooper

PAROLE HEARINGS TO BE HELD

Hearing Date: November 2017
Fred Stanley  ID#: A287855

On April 9, 1990, Fred Stanley murdered Thelma Beck, age 73, in her home. Thelma was brutally stabbed 12 times and her throat was slashed. She was a defenseless victim on a walker.

Stanley was convicted of murder and was sentenced to 15 years to life. Stanley will have served only 23 years when he is considered for parole.

To protest, please write to:
Ohio Department of Corrections
770 W. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43222

Hearing Date: December 21, 2017
Phillip Clark Watts  CDC#: H89135

On August 3, 1992, Phillip Clark Watts stabbed Lawrence Harrison, 82 years old, 63 times in Lawrence’s home before stealing his social security check, clothes and tools. There were 26 of the stab wounds in his face which blackened his eyes. Both his eyes were gouged out with the knife blinding him while they fought. He was fighting for his life. There were also bite marks on his back. His injuries were so extensive that his body was grotesquely mutilated.

Watts was convicted of murder in the 1st degree and was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison plus one year extra for using a knife. He will have served only 23 years when he is considered for parole.

To protest, please write to: OR E-mail to:
Board of Parole Hearings  BPHcorrespondenceunit@cdcr.ca.gov
PO Box 4036
Sacramento, CA  95812
## PAROLE HEARINGS TO BE HELD

**Hearing Date: December 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Villescaz</td>
<td>00836333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On April 22, 1991, Robert Villescaz and his friend brutally beat, raped, and murdered Monica Joy Martinez who was only 17 years old in Texas. The two men took Monica to Lake O.C. Fisher where they caused her death by drowning her. Specifically, the men put a rope around the girl’s neck and carried her into the water, where one held her head under the water while Villescaz jumped on her back and kicked her in the ribs. They hid her body under some rocks, but later moved her to another location and buried her. Her remains were missing for almost 19 years due to the murderers lying about the location repeatedly as well as moving her repeatedly. Her remains were identified in February 2010.

Villescaz plead guilty to 1st degree murder and was sentenced to 40 years. Villescaz will have served only 19 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest, please write to:**

- **OR**
- **E-mail to:**
  - TDCJ Victim Services
  - victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov
  - Fax to:
  - (512) 452-0825

**Hearing Date: May 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>TDCJ#:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jose Able Navarro</td>
<td>06420593</td>
<td>01806529</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On March 19, 2011, Orlando Caesar Salazar was at a nightclub to listen to a band when a fight broke out and Jose Able Navarro and 2 other individuals jumped Orlando. They knocked him to the floor and continued to brutally assault him by kicking him in the head. He was taken to the hospital with a broken neck and his brain was dislodged. He was pronounced dead an hour later. Orlando had just returned from Afghanistan in December of 2011, and was home for two weeks and in transition to a new duty station at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas. He had also served a tour in Iraqi Freedom.

Navarro pled guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 10 years. Navarro will have served only 7 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest, please write to:**

- **OR**
- **Email to:**
  - TDCJ Victim Services Division
  - victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov
  - Fax to:
  - (512) 452-0825

**Hearing Date: June 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>DIN:</th>
<th>NYS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Scharff</td>
<td>95A5219</td>
<td>07551706K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On November 15, 1993, Shari Sarote was murdered in the stairwell of her apartment by her stepfather, Lewis Scharff. He waited in the stairwell for Shari to leave for work and repeatedly stabbed her in the head and body. Scharff was married to Shari’s mother and he murdered her in retaliation for Shari’s mother leaving him and refusing to return to live with him again. After he was arrested and in prison he paid a hitman to get rid of the witness.

Scharff pled guilty to 2nd degree murder and was sentenced to 25 years to life. He will have served only 24 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest, please write to:**

- **NYS Dept. Of Corrections and Community Supervision**
- The Harrimon State Campus Bldg. #2
- 1220 Washington Ave.
- Albany, NY 12226-2050
Monday, July 31, 2017

I am relieved to report that the parole for Michael Hathaway was denied. I am only sorry that we’ll have to go through the hearing process again in 3 years.

Your counsel and support to help us prepare for the hearing was extremely valuable, and I appreciate it so much! Please extend our thanks to the POMC Chapters and individuals who distributed, signed and submitted petitions. We were not able to get copies of any of them, but we did see that the Parole Commissioners at the hearing had a thick file folder full of papers, and I like to think that many of those were petitions.

To the extent that we could, we followed Howard's advice to the letter, and we will again in the future. As aunts and cousins, we were not allowed by State of Nevada rules to be heard on record (i.e. the inmate, who is on video conference from the penitentiary, could not see or hear us, and we could not be in the video record). But, as I reminded my sister and nieces who also attended, we were there to try and influence the Commissioners, not the inmate. The Commissioners were very patient with us, gave us adequate time to speak, and I felt that they gave us a fair hearing. All I can say is, thank goodness (and thanks to you too) I was prepared!

The hearing had an interesting aspect that I don't think was covered in Howard's workshop on what to expect: I am in the habit of taking detailed notes at meetings, and I wanted to do so at the hearing. I asked permission, and I was told I could, then discovered I'd forgotten my notepad. I was pretty embarrassed about that, but decided, about one minute before the hearing started, to run out to the car and get a pad of paper. Once the hearing started, I was scribbling like mad, doing my best to capture statements verbatim. At one point, I thought to myself, “Why am I doing this? There’s to be a video!” But I kept on taking notes. Then, about 15 minutes into the hearing, one of the clerks stopped the proceeding to announce that the auto had not been recording! They dismissed us from the room while they tried to fix it, but when we came back in they told us that there was a problem with the recording and there would be no video record. So my handwritten notes are the only record of the hearing. I'm so glad I took the notes! I realize they’re unofficial, but I think they will be valuable when the next hearing comes up.

Also, I followed up a couple of hours after the hearing by faxing the Commissioners a letter thanking them for their time and for listening to us, mentioning some points from the hearing that clearly demonstrated that the inmate should not be paroled, and reinforcing our request that they deny parole. I mailed a hard copy of the letter after I faxed it.

I expect that each time we go through this it will be harder, but it really helps to know that POMC is there for support. I have sent a donation in via POMC website.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend our National Conference in Irvine, but I wish the best for success for the event.

Sincerely,
Barbara Brady
Thank You

Thanks to all those who have chosen POMC as their charity of choice. Your donation has helped thousands of surviving family members; stopped the early release of 1,642 convicted murderers; assisted in POMC’s Second Opinion Services; provided the National newsletter, Survivors, to those who cannot afford it and so much more. POMC’s outreach would not be able to exist without your continued support.

In Loving Memory of

Robert Bosley
from Audrey & Henry Bosley

Mark Buice
from Thomas Clayton

Jarrod Chrisman
from Rodney & Susie Chrisman

Dwayne Chubb
from Albert & Dorothy Chubb

Dillon Ray DeCoster
from Claire DeCoster

Michael De’Niro Carter
from Wayne & Christina Carter Ross

Ochari DiAiello
from Charon & David Sandoval

David G. Foster
from David & Ellen Foster

Daniel G. Fox
from Michael & Judith Goldstein

Aaron David Hall
from Flora Fazio

Isaac R Keels
From Tina Echard, Diane Bader Lewis

John Wiltsie Lake & Anthony Burns Lake
from Theodora Buckman

Vincent Leuzzi
from Filomena Mazzone

In Loving Memory of

Scott Lewis & Janet Bunkers
from Jean Lewis

Pegye Marshall
from June Marshall

Peter Dodd Nichols
from Lee & Terry Freeman

Shannon Marie & Alexandra Jordan Nolan–Broe
from LC & Sherry Nolan

Jeffrey Armstrong Patterson
from David & Ann Patterson

Jeffery Adam Phillips
From Dian Bader Lewis

Jim Roback
from Joan Roback

Michael Simmons
from Reggie & LaToye Lee

Timothy Staunton
from Denise Coleman

Ronnie (Rachel) Testa
from Stella Behar

Louis Villagragu
from Linda Bell & Monica Cannon

Caroleen Wallace
from Claudia Wallace

Lisa Marie Weaver
from Howard & Ann Klerk

In Honor of

Leslie Perez
from Coast Hills Community Foundation

Donations

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Misholai Crawford
Cheyenne Goodman
Nicole Luscombe
Magnified Giving
Rose Minor
Eric Nichols
Paypal Charitable Giving
Matthew Sabo
Constance Zemf
Christopher Zukowski
There are hundreds of survivors across the U.S. who volunteer for the National Organization of POMC as Chapter Leaders, Co-Leaders, Contact Persons and State Coordinators. 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
- District of Columbia
- Delaware
- Hawaii
- Mississippi
- Montana
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Rhode Island
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Vermont
- Wyoming

Thank you to the following Chapters for 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 survivors 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 September 1 and December 31 of the year they became a probationary POMC Chapter:

- Merrimack Valley Chapter/Massachusetts - 11 years
- South Carolina Chapter/South Carolina - 16 years
  - San Diego Chapter/California - 11 years
  - Wichita Kansas Chapter/Kansas - 29 years
- Contra Costa County/East Bay Chapter/California - 30 years
  - Chicago Area Chapter/Illinois - 13 years
- Fort Myers Florida-Lee County Chapter/Florida - 1 year
  - Minnesota Hope Chapter/Minnesota - 32 years
- North Bronx/Westchester Chapter/New York - 23 years
  - Albany, New York (Capital District) Chapter/New York - 35 years
- Peninsula/South Bay Chapter/California - 36 years
  - Houston Chapter/Texas - 36 years
- Central Arkansas Chapter/Arkansas - 27 years
  - Tri-County Chapter/Florida - 4 years
- Mercer County Chapter (merged w/Trumbull)/Ohio - 21 years
- Monterey County Chapter/California - 7 years

CP/SC/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 deadline for receipt of the next newsletter articles is January 15, 2018. Please note: due to deadlines or overflow of articles, etc., we may not be able to include all of those received in the next SNL, but may keep them for future newsletters.
We would also like to extend our thanks to the 87 Contact Persons and State Coordinators throughout the U.S. who also offer invaluable services to those survivors in their state who reach out to them for additional support, especially when there is not a POMC Chapter nearby. These volunteers are willing to spend time talking, and especially listening, to others about their loss.

### Contact Person/Chapter Leaders/State Coordinator Corner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Chapter Leader Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska-1</td>
<td>Alissa (Lisa) Robinson - Survivor: Parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona-2</td>
<td>Mattapan, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas-2</td>
<td>803-888-9897 - cell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California-11</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lisarobinson67@gmail.com">Lisarobinson67@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado-1</td>
<td><a href="mailto:BostonMassChapterofPOMC@gmail.com">BostonMassChapterofPOMC@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut-1</td>
<td>Proshana Gaines-Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida-6</td>
<td>Dorchester, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia-4</td>
<td>617-291-0746 - cell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho-1</td>
<td><a href="mailto:proshanagajnesjones@gmail.com">proshanagajnesjones@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Illinois-2</td>
<td>1 new Contact Person has joined the National POMC family since</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indiana-2</td>
<td>our last Survivors Newsletter and has opened its door to offer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa-1</td>
<td>support:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas-3</td>
<td>The Boston Area Chapter of POMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky-2</td>
<td>Chapter Leader Information</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dorchester, Massachusetts</td>
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<td>New Mexico-1</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina-2</td>
<td>1 new Chapter has joined the National POMC family since our last</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio-1</td>
<td>Survivors Newsletter and has opened its door to offer support:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon-1</td>
<td>Contact Person:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania-3</td>
<td>Jason Howell - Survivor: Sibling</td>
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<td>South Carolina-2</td>
<td>Austin, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Dakota-1</td>
<td>512-203-2576 - cell</td>
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<td>Texas-6</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jasoncarloshowell@yahoo.com">jasoncarloshowell@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia-1</td>
<td>1 new Chapter has joined the National POMC family since our last</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Virginia-1</td>
<td>Survivors Newsletter and has opened its door to offer support:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin-4</td>
<td>Contact Person:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A World of Thanks to Bob Hullinger

Over the last 5 years the Survivors Newsletter has been written and put together with so much love, care and dedication by the previous Editor, Bob Hullinger. He has spent countless hours compiling articles and reading topics ranging from interesting, heartfelt, heartbreaking, educational to inspiring.

He has given us endless material and information that is so important to POMC and those who receive the subscriptions. Many of you may have even felt like you really got to know Bob over the years from reading the Newsletters.

He has been such a help to the National Office taking on such a large, time consuming task, and doing so on his own time from home. As much as we will miss Bob and his Newsletter writing, we know this is some much deserved relaxation time for him and wish him all the best!

Bob has produced a Newsletter that has brought us laughs, tears, knowledge and hope and we at the National Office hope to continue that with all Newsletters to come.
A Message from the Board Room

With POMC National Board of Trustees
President
Howard S. Klerk, Jr.

We are rapidly coming to the end of the Summer of 2017. I certainly hope it was a summer that brought some joy to everyone. Our National POMC staff headed up by Bev Warnock, our Executive Director, has had a busy summer in many ways: One of which was planning and running our 31st Annual Conference with its myriad details. The conference was a great success and certainly had something for everyone. One of the highlights of the conference was the Friday evening Hawaiian themed sunset vigil along with a Hula dancer and speakers. Everyone received a mini surfboard inscribed with their loved one’s name. To allow for the trip, the memorial video was moved to mid-day Friday. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the conference the success that it was. Most volunteers worked “behind the scenes” from making hand held fans to table centerpieces. From set up to breakdown they toiled well into the evenings. To all the volunteers, I wish to say thank you for a job well done. This year we had an extraordinary number of first time attendees. It was an honor to meet and chat with many of you. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year when we meet in the Washington D.C. area with its many attractions.

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday preceding the conference we held our Effective Leadership Training (ELT) for the second consecutive year. I was joined by Bev Warnock, Sherry Nolan and Rachel Sedlacek as the presenters. The group, while small in size, made up for it in spirit. All those who submitted their request for certification prior to the National Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday have been certified. We would like to welcome our new leaders and we wish you all the best. The future of POMC relies on our certified leaders. Thanks to all of you who attended the training.

Speaking of Washington D.C. in June I traveled to Bethesda Maryland (right outside of D.C.) to attend the “National Summit on Crime Reduction and Public Safety”. This was by invitation only sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). I was invited by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions to represent Parents Of Murdered Children. It was a very intense couple of days and covered many of the problems facing society and law enforcement today. A few of the subjects covered were murder, drugs, opiates and street gangs. I got a chance to meet and speak to A.G. Sessions and Deputy U.S. A. G. Rod Rosenstein. While there I had a chance to meet Darlene Hutchinson. Darlene is the newly appointed Director of OVC (Office of Victims of Crime). I also met Anne Seymour again, who I have known for a long time. Anne is the victim advocate for the U.S.A. Both Darlene and Anne have said they would consider being speakers at the 2018 Conference in the D.C. area. Something to look forward to.

On August 24th we traveled from Maine to Albany, New York to attend our seventh parole/victim impact hearing. We were shocked and angered by the way we were treated. Victim’s rights have been sent back to the stone age. We were not allowed to read statements by family members. No one was allowed to utter a word other than the designated speaker and the commissioner. They believe parole should be granted based on the behavior of the prisoner while incarcerated: The crime should not be considered since it is now in the prisoners past!! The crime may be in the prisoner’s past, but it surely is in the fore front of the victims and survivors of their crimes. I guess, according to them, the criminal is the victim. This should not be tolerated, we are people too. We should let acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci know our feelings. He can be reached at:

New York State Corrections & Community Service Harriman State Campus
1220 Washington Ave.
Albany N.Y. 12226-2050

As our anthem goes: We Are the Survivors Joined Together We Are Strong! Please let them hear from you regardless of where you reside.

Best Wishes - Howard
POMC NBOT Secretary and Chapter Leader,
Martha Lasher-Warner Receives Much Deserved Award!

Martha Lasher-Warner, National Board of Trustees Secretary and Chapter Leader of the Albany, New York (Capital District) Chapter of POMC was awarded The Jefferson Award on April 4, 2017, in recognition of her Selfless Service to the Community. The Jefferson Awards Foundation celebrates the unsung heroes alongside national leaders in service. We are so happy to hear Martha was given this award as she is so deserving of it!

At the same reception Martha was given a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for outstanding and invaluable service to the community by the United States Congress as well as a Citation from the New York State Assembly as an outstanding New Yorker, one who is worthy of the esteem of both the community and the great State of New York.

Congratulations Martha!

Above: Martha Warner-Lasher proudly poses with her award, The Jefferson Award

A Message from the Executive Director

With Bev Warnock

Another POMC Conference has come and gone, and as usual, it was a cathartic experience for most of us as people connected with old friends and met new ones it is sad that we have to meet by having lost loved ones to murder, but we are thankful that this Conference makes it possible for us to support each other in ways that no one else could possibly do. The Conference was a very successful one with about 250 attending and about 70 of those attendees were new survivors. It’s sad that there were so many new survivors, but I’m extremely glad that they had somewhere to go with their grief. The Friday night beach memorial was beautiful and everyone said it was a wonderful experience for them. It was a peaceful, comforting night at Crystal Cove State Park overlooking the ocean with amazing music, dancing and great information from Chaplain Ralph. Our keynote speakers on Saturday and Sunday, Chief Lee Sjolander and Lawanda Hawkins gave very powerful, uplifting speeches.

Coming back from the Conference we started right in with the move of the POMC National Office, and it was not an easy one. We finished the move around 10:30 PM on a Friday night. It was a tiring and very late night, but we are finally settled in the new location and by Monday morning we had everything working. Our new office address is 635 West 7th Street, Suite 104, Cincinnati, OH 45203. If anyone from out of town is visiting Cincinnati for vacation or here on a work trip, please stop in and say hi. We would love to show you the new office.

We celebrated The National Day of Remembrance on September 25th, and the website had your loved ones names scrolling on that day. If you did not see your loved one’s name, please let us know so Ratna can add it to her files for next year. Our first Grief Retreat Weekend will be held here in Cincinnati November 10 - 12, 2017. If you have an interest in attending please call the National Office for more information. If it is difficult financially to attend, we do have some financial help available.

Sincerely - Bev

Above: Martha Warner-Lasher proudly poses with her award, The Jefferson Award
POMC Catalog Available

POMC’s “Journey Through Grief” catalog is available by contacting POMC at: (888) 818-POMC. The catalog can also be downloaded from our website at: www.pomc.org.

The catalog provides color photos and a listing for all POMC items: books, bumper stickers, brochures, clothing, magnets, music, etc.

Information on items for POMC’s National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, special gifts, memorials, and tributes are also included in the catalog.

Contact POMC today for your free copy.

*REMINDER*

Has something changed? Please, let POMC know if your name, address, email or phone number have changed. Call us toll free at (888) 818-7662 or email us at natlpomc@pomc.org

Dedication Page Information

Dedication Pages are included in each publication of the Survivors Newsletters. 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, 635 W. 7th Street, Suite 104, Cincinnati, OH 45203. Please include your name and daytime phone number in case we have to contact you for clarification.

“We when someone experiences the loss of a loved one, it changes them in a way that they could never go back to the person they once were”

Did you know Amazon.com is a POMC sponsor?

POMC receives 4-13% depending on item of all Amazon.com purchases made through the amazon link on our webpage. The use of this link does not increase the cost of your purchase.

We’ve moved

Our new address is:
635 W. 7th Street,
Suite 104
Cincinnati, OH
45203
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:____________________________________
City, State, Zip:_____________________________
Email Address:_______________________________
Phone number: (___)________________________
Amount enclosed: $_______ for ________ year(s)
Payment method: ___Check ___Visa ___MasterCard
___American Express ___Discover
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.

Return to:
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. 635 W. 7th Street, Suite 104
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203
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