



FORGET-ME-NOT

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SAVE THE DATES

Save the Dates!

~~~ See Page 8 for more information on all these events! ~~~

**Oishei Children's Hospital's Candlelight Service of Remembrance** December 6, 2017

Beginning at 6:15 PM

Hellenic Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

**Worldwide Candle-Lighting Service** December 10, 2017  
& **Sibling Holiday Celebration Event**

Sibling Event Begins at 6:00 PM, Candle-Lighting Begins at 7:00 PM

Newman Mission Center

**Footprints on the Heart Candle-Light Service** January 5, 2018

Beginning at 7:00 PM

Sisters Hospital Chapel

## WNYPBN MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Baby's Sweet Beginnings  
Lactation & Wellness Center

The Center for Hospice &  
Palliative Care

Life Transitions Center, Inc.

Brooks Memorial Hospital

Eastern Niagara Hospital—  
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Hospital

WCA Hospital

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Jones Memorial Hospital

Wyoming County Community  
Health System

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

So Autumn has been a better summer than our summer. I don't mind the extended warm weather. But it hardly feels like we have to start getting ready for the holidays... which are hard enough to get into in the first place. Just remember, be kind to yourself and give yourself the time to grieve and

time to have fun as you need to! Listen to your body... it's pretty smart.

October was amazing with all of the events for PaIL Awareness. I hope you were able to attend some of them. The Walk was wonderful and meaningful. I hope it meant as much to you as it did to me!

I'm still looking for assistant editors for the newsletter. If you are computer literate and would be interested in helping out, please contact me! Thanks!

Peace,



## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network (WNYPBN), Inc. is to assist the community to meet the needs of people facing the pain

of perinatal death. We promote standards of bereavement intervention through educational support, community programs, and referral services to bereaved

parents. The WNYPBN supports an established standard of care following a perinatal death, regardless of the facility where the birth took place.



### WE REMEMBER

the babies born sleeping,  
those we carried but never held,  
those we held but could not take home,  
those who came home but could not stay.

October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss AWARENESS Month!

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the strength, bravery and love of all of those who came together in our community over this past month to raise awareness, stand with others, have a voice, and break the silence surrounding perinatal loss, for they have survived the unimaginable.



### **A Reflection on all of WNYPBN-Fall Programs:**

- All 13 Labor & Delivery Hospitals participated throughout the month with PaIL activities. Lamar Advertising provided the WNYPBN with an Awareness billboard that was displayed throughout the month of October located 1712 Main St., and Channel 7 News, AM Buffalo Program promoted the Walk to Remember and PaIL Awareness Month. Thank you to Village Veterinary Clinic of Hamburg, Ingram Micro for raising funds throughout the month to support our programs.

# Network News



From the desk of Christine Scott  
WNYPBN Executive Director



Bereaved Mother of Jacob Wesley Scott—May 27, 2000

- Our Babies shined down upon us at this year's 25th Annual Walk to Remember. Over 850 bereaved parents, siblings, family and friends gathered to honor and pay tribute to over 870,000 babies lost each year to perinatal death. A sincere thank you to all involved in planning & supporting this special day. Also a sincere thank you to my event leads; Dawn Both-Kim, Laura Reyda, and Carrie Smith. I am forever grateful to them and to all of our sponsors, fundraising champions, donors and volunteers.

- Run4Buffalo, owners Bill & Kristen Craig, hosted, Forever in My Heart run-walk events throughout the month of October to celebrate our children and raise funds for the Wings of Love Memorial Fund. Thank you to co-ambassadors, Ranay Staley and Donna Zimmer for sharing your stories of love and hope, raising awareness for perinatal loss and promoting this event, and Amy Bowser for creating footprint ornaments that were distributed at the October 14th event.

- October 15th, Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Day, The Peace Bridge, Canalside and Niagara Falls were illuminated in Pink and Blue. Amy Buckner hosted, Gavin's Light Memorial Service near Olean, N.Y. and many participate in the International Wave of Light that started at 7:00 pm to remember all babies gone too soon.

- On September 16th, The Pritchett Family held their 4th Annual Ride to Remember, but with a twist. Replacing the annual bike ride due to road construction, they held



a Basket Raffle and a Krolick's Chicken BBQ. A special thank you to all volunteers, especially the Ritter & Pritchett Families, Cub Scout Pack 19, and those who sponsored and supported this event. A little over \$3,000.00 was raised to support the programs of the WNYPBN, including the Remembering Love in a Heart-beat program.

I am so thankful and truly humbled by all the time, energy, dedication, love and support we received from our community. We couldn't Help Families and Honor Lives without you. Thank you for your generosity. As part of the care giving community, I recognize that to a parent there is nothing more important than their child. The need to honor and remember them is an essential part of our life-long healing journey. Please take the time you need as the holiday season approaches. We would love for you to participate in one of the many Holiday Remembrance Services if you choose.

Wishing you all hope and peace this Holiday Season.

"What we have once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us." ~Helen Keller



Sincerely,  
*Christine*

*"If you know someone who has lost a child and you're afraid to mention them because you think you might make them sad by reminding them that they died... they didn't forget they died. You're not reminding them. What you're reminding them of is that you REMEMBER they lived. And that is a great, great gift."*

- ELIZABETH EDWARDS

# 25TH ANNUAL WALK TO REMEMBER



The 2017 Walk to Remember celebrated its 25th year as a Memorial Event. The Walk started in a hospital courtyard, lighting a candle and tolling the names of a dozen or so babies lost to perinatal death. It has grown to a true Memorial Walk hosting over 800 Walkers and remembering nearly 1500 babies! Even the most optimistic among those who began this Walk so many years ago would not have imagined the magnitude and outreach the Walk could maintain!

The Walk is always a beautiful tribute to our babies gone too soon! The weather was obliging in that it was relatively warm. However, the wind was bordering on ridiculous! I overheard someone mentioning the wind, saying that the best part of a windy day was that you got a new hairstyle every 30 seconds! But I've also heard it told, as a Native American custom and belief, that the wind carries the souls of your loved ones. If that is true, our babies were out in full force telling us all how much we are loved and that they miss us, too.

There were a few changes this year. Firstly, registration took place completely online. This worked out very well for those of us who record the registration information! There were a few families that did not have internet access, but we definitely registered

them when they called the office to let us know. The WNYPB will ALWAYS be there for families who have had losses, and as the designer of the program, I will always put your babies' names in the listing. There were a few families who contacted me that they were sad they missed the registration deadline because they wanted their child(ren)'s names in the program. They were.

Another big change in the event this year was that all pre-registered families were given a balloon to release during the ceremony. The Walk committee works very hard at making the balloon release environmentally friendly. The balloons, string and paper stars (that families attached to the balloons) were all biodegradable. We continue to request that individuals do not bring their own balloons to release during the event for environmental reasons.



**SENATOR TIM KENNEDY GIVING HIS ADDRESS AND DECLARATION ABOUT PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS AWARENESS MONTH**

Finally, as a thank you to those who pre-registered, we created a Remembrance Wall. Baby names were listed in loving memory and displayed on the main stage area. It was a beautiful tribute to our babies, and I for one, hope to do this again next year!

As Walkers entered Cheektowaga town park and gave information at the registration tables, they were able to view the Bradford Pear Tree that was planted in loving memory of our babies. The beautiful paving stone that commemorates the tree as a Walk to Remember acknowledgement was also on display. Families were encouraged to write notes to their babies to be planted with the



**WNYPB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHRISTINE SCOTT, WELCOMING OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS TO THE 25TH ANNUAL WALK TO REMEMBER**

tree. The note papers will break down, nourish the tree and encourage life!

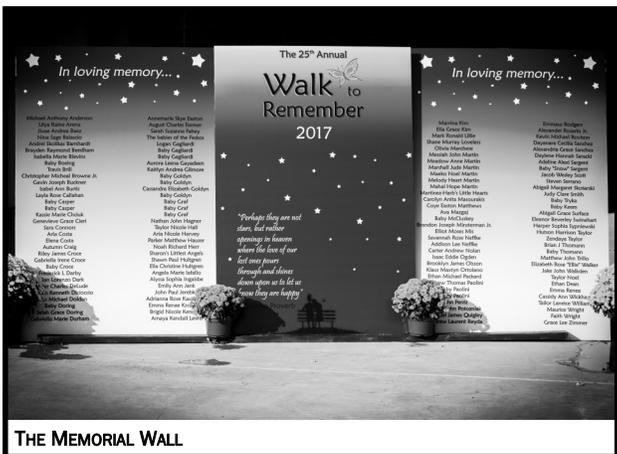
The Kids' Zone was again wonderful with bounce houses, and Mandos the Clown making balloon animals and swords. There were also arts and crafts, as well as popcorn and games. This area has become an integral part of the Walk, as it allows families to reflect on the day while their children are occupied and looked after.

There is always so much information and other memorial items under the pavilion that it is hard to mention them all. I would like to thank everyone who helped at each of the tables, volunteering their time to help the bereaved families the day of the Walk.

As the Event began and families started moving to the seating area for the service, the air was filled with the beautiful sounds of "Amazing Grace" being played deftly and emotionally on the saxophone by Justin Lackie. Christine Scott, the WNYPB Executive Director, emceed the event and thanked and welcomed all in attendance. Senator Tim Kennedy, bereaved father of Brigid Nicole, gave a declaration about Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month and a



**SOUND ENGINEER AND MUSICIAN, JUSTIN LACKIE, PLAYING "AMAZING GRACE"**



**THE MEMORIAL WALL**



heart-felt testimony of his and his wife's experience with the Walk to Remember. Fr. Duke Zajac gave a blessing over those who were in attendance, that they may achieve peace in their grief, as well as a blessing over the Pear Tree.

Music and poetry are always a part of the Walk. Music Therapist, Abby Unger, blessed us with her beautiful voice, as did little Sebastian "Bashy" Buckner (brother of Gavin Joseph Buckner). Poems were read by Mia Anderson (bereaved sister of Michael Anthony Anderson), Kristen Quinn (bereaved mother of Nina Sage Balascio) and Jenna Wall (bereaved mother of Taylor Noel, Ethan Dean and Emma Renae). These amazing tributes to our babies gone too soon brought tears to all eyes and helped in healing a bit of interminable grief.

As a special tribute, Senator Kennedy and Christine Scott released 25 Monarch Butterflies as a sign of hope while Abby Unger sang the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun." This began the nearly one mile Walk to honor the babies we can only hold in our hearts.

If you have never been to the Walk to Remember, but have lost a baby so precious to you, please know that it is a calm and safe place to cry, grieve and remember. If you missed the Walk this year, we all do hope that you will be able to attend in the future. We will always remember your babies whether you can be there or not.

By: Dawn Both-Kim

## SPONSORSHIP:

The WNYPBN would like to recognize and thank our generous Sponsors for their continuous support of families afflicted by the tragedy of the loss of a baby.

*Please support those who support us!*

### Butterfly Sponsor:

Village Veterinary Clinic of Hamburg

### Footprint Sponsors:

Catholic Health System

Geico

PCB Piezotronics, Inc.

PHH Mortgage

Ryan's Reason

UB-MD Dept. of Pediatrics

### Star Sponsors:

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OB-Gyn Associates of Western New York

STEL

Wagner Monuments

YourCare Health Plan

A Monroe Plan Company

### Supporting Sponsors:

ROI Financial Group

Pietszak Funeral Home

Thank you to those who have given their time and talents to make the Walk possible!

Signs printed courtesy of **Hale Expo Services, Inc.**

Sound System & Music courtesy of Justin **Lackie, The Buckner Family, and Abby Unger**

Flowers courtesy of **Elaine's Flower Shoppe** and **Trillium's Courtyard Florist**

Family Picnic courtesy of **Frontier Catering, Sahlen's, Mayer Brothers, Market in the Square, The Anderson Family & Friends**

Walker Gifts courtesy of **The Village Veterinary Clinic of Hamburg**

Walk to Remember Decal **Debbie Bartoo**

Kids' Zone courtesy of **Leaping Beauty** (Bounce House), **Mandos the Clown, Erie County Sheriff's Dept., Bouncing on Air LLC** (Popcorn)

Flags for Baby Angels - Crystal Swader

Volunteer Groups: **Clarence YES, Erie County RSVP, Lancaster Youth Bureau, Zonta Club of Cheektowaga/Lancaster**

Photography courtesy of **Eric Jahn**

Wings of Love Mementos **John & Theresa Sergi, Corinne Halbok**

Theme Artwork **Scott Steinbrenner**

Thank you to the following teams for actively fundraising to help support the WNYPBN and our important programs to help those who grieve.

Over \$2000 in donations was collected by team **Nathan John Hagner, Team Alyssa, Team Sara Smiles, Team Logan and Team Pooh's Packard Pals** all collected over \$1000 in donations. Your teams demonstrated such amazing dedication to the WNYPBN in honor and loving memory of your babies. We cannot thank you enough!

### Over \$500 in donations:

Logan Michael

Kim Angels

Easton Angels

Team Lilya

Team Ava

Team Harper

### Over \$250 in donations

Team Genevieve

Coye Easton

In Memory of August

Team Isabel Ann

Ellie's Walkers

### Over \$100 in donations

Team Isaac

Abigail Grace

Family and friends of Parker Matthew

Our Angel John Paul

Owen John Potozniak

Grace Lee Zimmer

Emily Ann Jank

<3 Kaitlyn Gimore & Mason Harris <3

Team CMB Jr.

Team Brayden

Team Baby Boeing

Wings of Love Memorial Fund

Andrew Laurent Reyda

## GIFT OF WARMTH RAFFLE

With the icy and snowy cold on our doorstep, snuggling under a cozy handmade quilt while reading your book and sipping tea (or other adult beverage) sounds very inviting. We have extended our Gift of Warmth Raffle!

The Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network has been gifted with a beautiful hand-pieced / hand-crafted quilt. This beautiful blue and white quilt in the classical Irish Chain pattern is 90"x75" and will be raffled to help support the many valuable Perinatal Bereavement Network programs.

**Tickets are \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5**

*Drawing will be held at the  
WNYPBN's Evening to Remember Basket Raffle.*

Tickets will be available to provide YOU an opportunity to win this treasure. Contact the WNYPBN Office to purchase your tickets at 716-626-6363!

The winner will be drawn at the event, but you need not be present to win! You'll have this beautiful prize to help warm you on those chilly nights for which Buffalo is famous! Call today and get extra tickets to sell to someone who would appreciate the craftsmanship and artistry that goes into such an intricate and cozy quilt!

By: Jan Walkden  
WNYPBN Board President

*One of the quilters responsible for creating  
this masterpiece!*



## REMEMBERING PAT HARTNETT

A memorial marker will be placed in the Lancaster Rural Cemetery's Wings of Love Memorial Garden in honor of Pat Harnett. Here is a message from a dear friend of Pat's, Mary Lynn Acee:

"When I began at BGH in 1989 as a OB-Gyn Social Worker, Pat was extremely welcoming and thus a friendship was born. Pat was THE go to Nurse Practitioner in the OB-Gyn clinic for the doctors, the residents and the NP students. She was always kind, compassionate and non-judgmental with our patients.

She was one of the "founding members" of the WNYPBN and was very active and a strong advocate for our bereaved parents at BGH. In 1995, after six years of being part of the WNYPBN and providing support and counseling to parents and staff, I suffered my own loss. My baby girl, Kara Lynn was born and died on May 25, 1993. I was transferred late at night from BGH to Children's. When the nurse who accompanied

me in the ambulance asked who I might want to be with me, I mentioned Pat. My mother was deceased and family was out of town. Without going into the whole nightmare, Pat came in the middle of the night, called my husband (who had been foolishly sent home to East Aurora) and started orchestrating what needed to be done to help me, in her extremely calm and expert way. Even though she was there as a friend, the staff all knew her expertise and trusted her judgement. It was Pat who diagnosed me with HELLP syndrome—not even my own OB-Gyn practice picked that up!

I use this as my example, but Pat was there for all our patients: be they homeless, mentally ill, HIV+ and everyone in between.

After we all eventually left Kaleida Health, we remained in contact and got together several times a year... always picking up right where we left off.

Pat's sudden death while at her home in Florida came after years of debilitating

COPD due to sarcoidosis. We all had gathered just weeks before she died.

She remains in the hearts of many, especially her three children: Tim, Heather and Heidi. With all her babies, Pat was never officially a grandmother but a surrogate one to many and loved her children more than anything.

Thank you for your compassion and help with us wanting to honor our dear friend who was a mother to all our babies.

Sincerely,  
Mary Lynn Acee-Kielich"

The stone was donated in Pat's Memory by Mary-Lynn Acee-Kielich, Helene Cacciato, Barbara Bushart-Hantz and Barbara McCulloch. It will be placed in spring and will be engraved:

**LOVE LIVES ON  
IN MEMORY OF  
PAT HARTNETT**

# Forget-YOU-NotS

In Loving Memory Of..

## Landon Santiago Anderson

July 31, 2015 - October 3, 2015

We miss you Landon, Love your Twin brother Alex, Big Sis Ava and Mommy and Daddy

Parents: Angelina and Jordan Anderson

## Michael Anthony Anderson

April 5, 2005

Always, Always in our Hearts! Love Nana & Papa xxxooo  
We love you always! Love, Mommy, Daddy & Mia

Parents: Michael & Kelly Anderson

## Lilya Raine Arena

September 26, 2009

Hugs to the sky, baby! Mommy, Daddy and little sister Willow love and miss you.

Parents: Kelly & Michael Arena

## Brody Lucas Bowser

August 7, 2015

## Bowser Twins

June 2, 2016

## Kade Albright

February 8, 2010

Parents: Amy & Justin Bowser

## Gavin Joseph Buckner

September 15, 2009

Happy 8th Birthday in heaven to my Gavin!! Love, mama, daddy, zack, sebastian, and dominic

Parents: Amy & Ryan Buckner

## Angela Marie Capage

August 28, 2003

It's hard to believe you'd be 14 years old. It seems like yesterday yet so long ago. You're always on my mind and forever in our hearts.

Love, Mommy, Julia, Matthew and Morgan

Parent: Lisa Capage

## Riley James Croce

March 8, 2010

## Gabriella Irene Croce

August 3, 2010

## Baby Croce

December 9, 2013

Each one of you were wanted, missed, and loved. Love, mom and dad

Parents: Lena & Dan Croce

## Aurora Leena Gayadeen

June 21 - August 3, 2012

Parents: Dawn & Leon Gayadeen

## John Paul Jerebko

November 18, 1999

Our little angel! Love, Mom, Dad, Jakob & Jackson

Parents: Peter & Lisa Jerebko

## Kara Lynn Pierina Kielich

May 25, 1995

Miss you every single day.

Parent: Mary Lynn Acee-Kielich

## Marrina Kim

August 3-4, 2005

## Ella Grace Kim

June 8, 2007

We love you and think of you so very often. Please watch over us... now and always. Please give us strength!

Love, Mama, Daddy and Trent

Parents: Dawn & Mark Kim

## Sean M. Madigan Jr.

July 10, 2017

Mommy and daddy love you so much our sweet, sweet angel baby! Keep watching over us baby boy!

We miss you every waking moment.

Parents: Sean Madigan Sr & Brittany L Fay

## Bud Charles Mott

September 12, 2005

## Theresa Marie Mott

September 12, 2005

## "Blueberry" Mott

January 21, 2014

## Baby Mott

December 23, 2014

Miss you with all of our hearts, Theresa, Bud, "Blueberry" and Baby Mott. God knows our pain and sadness. We know that someday, we will see you again. All our love ~ Daddy, Mommy & Alison Parents: Timothy & Beth Mott

## Owen John Potozniak

August 16, 2017

I miss you and love you so much my beautiful boy.

Parents: Jennifer & Michael Potozniak

## Max Robison

October 15, 2014

We love you no matter how much time passes. We hope we are honoring your memory.

Parents: Joy Murphy & Kraig Robison

## Michael James Quigley

October 24, 1992

Miss you more and more! 'Til we meet again! Love, mom

Parent: Debi Zmuda

## Adeline Alexi Sargent

August 1, 2017

Our little dipper, we love you so much. You are everything to us and always will be.

## "Snow" Sargent

January 23, 2014

You will always be our precious baby girl. We love you so much

Parents: Maddox Sargent & Tracy Thomas

# Forget-YOU-Not

In Loving Memory of...

**Jacob Wesley Scott** May 27, 2000  
We love you and think of you every day! Butterfly kisses, buddy! Love, Mom, Dad, Thomas & Mandy  
*Parents: Phillip & Christine Scott*

**Alexander James Staebell** September 10, 2016  
My life was forever changed. I know you are watching over mommy. Until we meet again my baby boy. I love you.  
*Parent: Amy Staebell*

**Anthony Viele** June 2, 2005  
Another school year has begun...You'd be in 8th grade right now and Another year I won't get to see you rush out the door in your new clothes, new shoes, with new friends. I miss you my son! Please continue to look down on me and your siblings and guide us. We love you Anth!  
*Parent: Starr Viele*

**Grace Lee Zimmer** April 12, 2012  
Until we meet again, fly sweet butterfly, fly! A moment in our arms, A lifetime in our hearts. Love, Mom, Dad, Hunter and Luke  
*Parents: Donna & Russell Zimmer*

**Harper Sophia Sypniewski** October 14, 2014  
Mommy, Daddy and your sisters love you!  
*Parents: Aaron & Brieanne Sypniewski*

#### Interested in Submitting a Memorial?

Please email your baby's Forget-YOU-Not to:  
[forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com)  
Submissions are due by the 15th of the month prior to the issue month.  
Family members and friends are also encouraged to submit:

## Safe Arrivals

To Grant Others Hope

Proud parents, Dan and Lena Croce, and big sister Adelaide Joy are thrilled to announce the arrival of **Genevieve Joy Croce!** She was born on October 2, 2017 at 2:05 pm and was 8 pounds, 5 ounces and 20 1/2 inches long. The family will always remember her siblings in heaven: Riley James, Gabriella Irene and Baby Croce.

#### Interested in Submitting Your Safe Arrival?

Please email your new baby's information as well as their heavenly sibling's information to:  
[forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com)  
Submissions are due by the 15th of the month prior to the issue month.

## NEW FAMILY NAME

Some may ask, "why does your new baby have the same middle name as her big sister?"

Adelaide was given the middle name of Joy after three of her siblings had come and gone to heaven before her. We knew the only way we could name her "Joy" was if she was alive at birth: she would truly be a joy and would bring such joy to our lives. The second joy of our lives arrived on October 2nd and she too will now carry the new family name. A new beginning to a family name! We are elated that these girls will grow up sharing in the name Joy, knowing that feeling of joy that they bring us every day.

By: Lena Croce



We would like to thank the OB-GYN Associates of WNY for their donation as a Star Sponsor for the 25th Annual Walk to Remember. The advertisement in the program was incorrect, and we would like to thank them for their patience and understanding in correcting this oversight.



Western New York  
Perinatal Bereavement Network, Inc.



## Join Us to Remember

*Compassionate  
Friends Worldwide  
Candle-Lighting Service  
and Sibling Holiday  
Celebration Event*

**December 10, 2017**

6:00-6:45 PM for Holiday Celebration  
7:00 PM for the Candle-lighting Service

**UB Newman Mission Center:**

495 Skimmersville Rd.  
Amherst, NY 14228

December 10th is the Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle-Lighting Service. We are joining others around the world at 7:00 PM local time to remember our daughters, sons, brothers, sisters, grandchildren and cousins who will never be forgotten.

Prior to the memorial service, we will be holding a Sibling Holiday Celebration! Santa will be attending from 6:00-6:45 PM. Snacks and crafts will also be provided during this time. Child supervision will be available during the memorial service.

**Please RSVP by December 1, 2017 for the sibling holiday celebration  
and/or the candle lighting memorial service:**

(716) 626-6363 • Katherine@wnypbn.org • Tara@wnypbn.org



## Footprints on the Heart Annual Holiday Candlelight Service

**Friday, January 5, 2018  
7:00 PM  
Sisters Hospital Chapel**

Must RSVP by December 22nd  
716-862-1678 or  
acreamer@chsbuffalo.org

*ADULT ONLY EVENT*

If you have not sent your child's  
photo for the slide presentation,  
please send it by  
November 15th to:

ochbereavment@kaleidahealth.org

Or to

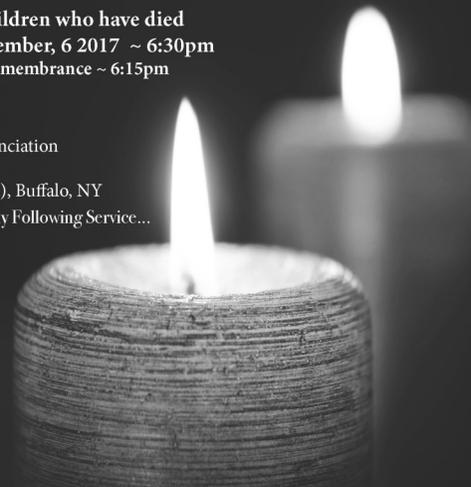
Rev Tom Baldwin  
Spiritual Care Department  
Oishei Children's Hospital  
818 Elliott St  
Buffalo NY 14203

In case of inclement weather,  
please check the closings on local  
news stations.

## *A Candlelight Service of Remembrance*

Honoring the children who have died  
Wednesday, December 6 2017 ~ 6:30pm  
Prelude & Video Remembrance ~ 6:15pm

Hellenic Orthodox  
Church of the Annunciation  
146 W Utica St  
(Corner of Delaware), Buffalo, NY  
Reception Immediately Following Service...



JOHN R. OISHEI  
Children's  
Hospital

## RUN4BUFFALO LIVE EVENT

On Saturday, October 14th, Run4Buffalo held our group run/walk for our "Forever in My Heart" event to benefit the WNY Perinatal Bereavement Network's Wings of Love Memorial fund. While all of our events are a virtual run/walk that can be completed at

any time and in any place, we hold a group run/walk option for anyone who would like to come together and complete their run or walk with others.

This group run/walk was by far our best turn-out! We were overwhelmed with the

support we received for this cause! While stories and tears were shared, there were also many hugs and smiles as we ran and walked in honor and memory of the babies that were taken too soon!

A huge thank you to Christine Scott, Executive Director of WNY-PBN, for coming out to assist and hand out medals as participants crossed the finish line! Also to Amy Bowser, owner of BareHands Decor, for making the beautiful medal racks that were raffled off to both group run and virtual run participants! We would like to thank our race ambassadors, Donna Zimmer and Ranay Staley, who helped bring awareness to the event! And of course, thank you to the 200 participants world-wide who participated and helped us support such a wonderful organization! We couldn't do any of this without you!

By: Bill and Kristen Craig



## HE IS EVERY SEASON

Andrei was born still on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Each September, the moment I catch the first whiff of crispness in the air, I begin to fall apart. Every aspect of fall is tied to my autumnal baby who never got to see the leaves floating down from the tree branches or smell the damp aroma of muddy earth. Fall is, by far, the most intense for me, but the grief isn't isolated to just one season.

Soon after I'm back on my feet after weeks of dejection, it is Thanksgiving and then Christmas season. Spending time with family, and momentous holidays, only amplify his absence. We have our traditions that incorporate Andrei into our holidays, but it

is, of course, not the same as having him here.

Spring sends tingles of excitement that after a long winter, warmer weather and more time outdoors is around the corner. My living children burst out the front door excited to jump in puddles, ride tricycles and hunt for bugs. And where is my boy with unbridled energy racing up and down the sidewalks? We walk home from the park and I weep for him.

Summer is busy and filled with fun: playgrounds, beach vacation, family parties. Amid the near constant packing and unpacking of snacks, water bottles, sunscreen and bathing suits, I look for him. I wish I

could will him to appear at the Fourth of July parade wild-eyed and grabbing candy. Sharing photos of my daughters on the jungle gym, I stare hard waiting for him to emerge hanging upside down and grinning triumphantly.

Six years later, I've learned to brace myself for fall, but sometimes the ache surprises me during other times of the year. Just as I carry my grief each and every day, I miss my boy in each and every season.

By: Courtney Bajdas  
Bereaved mother of  
Andrei Skolikas Barnhardt  
October 17, 2011

## SUDDEN INFANT AND CHILD DEATH RESOURCE CENTER IS CLOSING

The New York State Department of Health, Division of Family Health, has ended funding for the Sudden Infant and Child Death Resources Center. Due to lack of funding and programmatic changes services ended October 31, 2017.

When the Center began over 40 years ago, it was one of the first federally funded programs in the country to promote a partnership of parents with dedicated health, social services and public health professionals to support bereaved families and understand the complexities of Sudden Infant Death

Syndrome. Over the years research and our understanding of these sudden deaths has evolved. With the federal "Back to Sleep" campaign, we saw one of the greatest public health accomplishments. Implementation of infant sleep positioning education resulted in a 50% reduction in SIDS deaths. We are proud of the role this Center played in educating New York State professionals, parents and caregivers about measures to reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep related infant deaths. Of equal importance has been our work to support bereaved

families statewide and expanding public awareness.

We have valued our work with our many colleagues across New York State and hope you will continue educating parents and professionals about safe sleep practices and safety measures to care for and protect our infants.

With warmest regards,  
Marie Chandick, LMSW  
Jan A. Walkden, MSN

# Poetry

Solace in the written word

## Smile Mommy:

Mommy I can hear you  
 And I see your tears for miles  
 But Mommy even through your tears  
 I need to make you smile  
 I know you already miss me  
 I am your first born child  
 And even though I have to go  
 You want me for awhile  
 You see, I knew that I was loved  
 The moment life began  
 And I knew that in my Mommy  
 I had a life time friend  
 Someone to protect me  
 To keep me safe and warm  
 Someone there to hold me close  
 And shelter me from harm  
 Please don't be sad now Mommy  
 It's nothing that you did  
 And for my life, you made it right  
 And in your womb I hid.  
 You kept me safe and warm here  
 I grew and grew and grew  
 And Mommy with my passing  
 I prayed hard that YOU knew  
 Your heart feels like it's breaking  
 Your sorrow overwhelms  
 You often times may wonder  
 If you'll fall straight to the ground  
 But you are strong my Mommy  
 Your kind and loving too  
 And I'm so glad when God chose my Mom  
 The one he chose for me was you.  
 I feel so loved and special  
 And even I can see  
 That when God chose the perfect Mom  
 He'd chosen you for me  
 You showed me so much loving  
 You showed me so much care  
 You showed me life that could be right  
 The whole time I was here  
 And though my life was short  
 And born sleeping I may be  
 Know in your heart  
 We're never apart  
 You are always here with me  
 In Jesus arms I'm watching  
 Until your time is through  
 And know that though we're far apart  
 I am always still with you.  
 You'll find me in the rain drops  
 That drip upon your face  
 You'll find me in the moonlight  
 That shows and lights the way  
 I'm always with you Mommy

I'm everywhere you look  
 And know that through the life you gave  
 A chance is what you took  
 A chance at happy endings  
 A chance at heart ache too  
 A chance for me to have the life  
 That God had meant me to  
 And though he took me early  
 And you feel that we weren't through....  
 Know that you gave me plenty...  
 Because I have a piece of you

~Jenna~

## Nina Sage

In the quiet forest of the night  
 10,000 stars shine so bright  
 they look like flashlights.

The breathtaking scene is so amazing  
 you just want the night to hold the stars  
 before the sun blazes across the sky.

We gaze at them all night long  
 you might think they are spirits  
 talking to you softly.

When dawn arrives the stars will vanish,  
 but they don't get banished.  
 They will appear at night once again.

By: Andrew Quinn

## In My Mind

Somewhere in my dreams tonight  
 I'll see you standing there  
 You look at me with a smile  
 "Life isn't always fair"  
 You say you were chosen for his garden  
 His preciously handpicked bouquet  
 "God really needed me,  
 That's why I couldn't stay"  
 It's said to be that angels  
 Are sent from above  
 I've always had my angel  
 My brother, whose heart was filled with love  
 When I look up at the sky so blue  
 All I see are visions of you  
 "While there's a heart in me,  
 You'll be a part of me."

By: Jenn Farrell

## The Tree of Life

In the tree of life  
 Our roots are forever entwined.

With their last breath  
 The one we have greatly loved  
 Does not say goodbye,  
 For love is timeless.

Instead, the one we greatly loved leaves us  
 With a solemn promise...  
 The one we greatly love will continue  
 To be present to us  
 Whenever called upon.

Let us not grieve.  
 Beyond letting go  
 For in the tree of life  
 The one we greatly love and our roots  
 Are forever intertwined.

Submitted anonymously and  
 written by the family of  
 Austin J. Berres :  
 January 13, 2002 - February 9, 2002

The first three poems were read at the  
 2017 Walk to Remember by Jenna Wall,  
 Kristen Quinn and Mia Anderson.

As with any original works of art, please  
 credit the authors when reproducing any of  
 their works. Thank you.



# PAINTING UNDER THE STARS

I love the whole "Paint Night" craze that has been going on! I've gone with friends, have dragged my husband and son for the Star Wars paint nights and have gone so far as to purchase my own supplies to paint whenever I want!

Last year, the WNYPBN hosted a paint night with an artist's rendition of our Wings of Love Monument for Forest Lawn Cemetery.



**PAINT NIGHT #1—MY GOD DAUGHTER AND HER AUNT "WENT ROGUE" AND PAINTED SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PICTURES!**

The paint night was successful and fun, but unfortunately I wasn't able to attend. I asked Christine Scott if she would teach this painting if I had a paint night at my house. I really wanted to do one in honor of my daughters, especially since Marrina's birthday was on August 3rd. Christine tried to agree but was slated to be out of town that night. So, I determined the best way to teach the painting, and taught it myself.

When I advertised it on my Facebook page, I was overwhelmed with all my friends who really wanted to join me in my event. I ended up adding a second night (a week later) for one group of painters then the other. I told everyone it was a fundraiser, and everyone was very happy to help!

As we can all recall, August was a miserable month, weather-wise. So, we did not paint under the stars, but in my kitchen! I ended up raffling off a few bottles of wine and some of my homemade salsa, and fed my friends lots of food and adult beverages.



**PAINT NIGHT #2—THANK YOU, LADIES!**

We all had a blast! I was able to donate \$415 to the WNYPBN in honor of my girls because of the paint nights. I plan on doing more since I have all these easels! If you're interested in hosting one, shoot me an email! We can make a few more dollars for the WNYPBN!

[forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com)

Thanks!

By: Dawn Both-Kim



## AREA SUPPORT GROUPS

*Tiniest Angels Support Groups are combining with Footprints on the Heart to better fulfill the support group need in our community*

### Parent Telephone Support Team (PTST)



Speak with another bereaved parent who has endured a similar perinatal loss. This service is a program of the WNYPBN, Inc.

**Contact:**  
Christine Scott, (716) 626-6363

### Caring Arms Support Circle

Stillbirth and Early Infant Death

When: 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM  
Ministry Center, Rm #4  
100 Gregory Ct, Williamsville  
Next to Millard Fillmore Suburban

**Contact:**  
Denise Hudden, RN or  
Karen Cwalina, RN 716-568-6653

### Circle of Hope

Death and/or Serious Illness—Niagara Hospice  
4675 Sunset Dr., Lockport or  
2186 Liberty Dr., Niagara Falls

**Contact:**  
Outreach Dept. 716-280-0777

### Footprints on the Heart

Miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth and early infant death

When: 1st Tuesday @ 6 PM  
Piver Center Conference Room  
Sisters Hospital  
Amy Creamer (716) 862-1678

### Hopeful Hearts

Subsequent Pregnancy Support

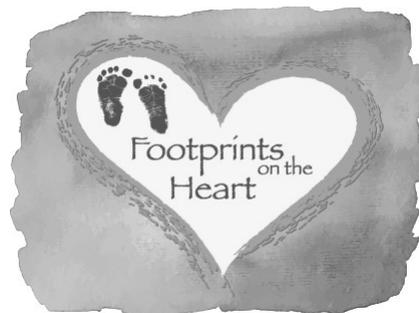
When: 3rd Tuesday @ 6 PM  
Piver Center Conference Room  
Sisters Hospital—begins Feb 16  
Amy Creamer (716) 862-1678

Please see the Sisters of Charity Hospital website and/or Facebook page for more information about other support that is offered:

[www.chsbuffalo.org/services/PregnancyLoss](http://www.chsbuffalo.org/services/PregnancyLoss)  
<https://www.facebook.com/footprintswny>

Amy Creamer is always available for individual or couples counseling. Please feel free to call her anytime if you need support.

Amy Creamer (716) 862-1678



### SIDS Family Support Group

SIDS and Infant Death  
Joan A. Male Family  
Support Center  
60 Dingens St., Buffalo

**Contact:**  
Jan Walkden, (716) 822-0919

### Sibling Grief

Siblings 5 years and older  
When: 2nd Wednesday @ 6:30 PM  
First Trinity Lutheran Church  
1570 Niagara Falls Blvd,  
Tonawanda

**Contact:**  
Tara Young, (716) 878-7681



**Western New York  
Perinatal  
Bereavement  
Network, Inc.  
30 S Cayuga Rd  
Williamsville, NY  
14221**

**Phone: 716-626-6363  
Fax: 716-626-6368  
E-mail: christine@wnypbn.org**



*Helping Families  
Honoring Lives*

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Baby's Name & Honored Date(s):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Editors reserve the right to grammatically edit or reject materials submitted. Views and opinions in this publication are not necessarily those of the WNYPBN or its member organizations, but those of the individual authors.

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Forget-Me-Not

