



Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc.

Whispers of the Heart Newsletter

April 2008



From
Diana's
Desk:

The holidays have passed and the New Year is upon us bringing what others call happiness and health. But for many the loss of a precious life makes it hard to see happiness or anything positive. The pain of having your child die will never go away. Your feelings toward the death will change and you will find a new kind of normal, but the pain will always be just below the surface. Your love for this child will never end, but the fresh raw feelings of pain will subside. Bereaved parents often talk about how the feelings and emotions appear again when they least expect it. A smell, a sound, a touch, a song, a poem, or words will bring the sorrow bubbling to the surface. That emotion is a sign of your undying love. Embrace it.

Rev. Forest V. Strnad from Faribault recently shared a poem with us that he had written on February 16, 1956. The poem was written to honor Timothy Edward Guenther who was born February 7, 1956 and died on February 8, 1956. Rev. Strnad and Timothy's parents have graciously given us permission to share this wonderful poem with you. Rev. Strnad would like to dedicate the poem to the loving memory of the children whose funerals he presided over. Members of the clergy may find this poem very helpful when working with parents. Rev. Strnad has also included suggested variations to the poem.

I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.



ONLY A BABY

© By Rev. Forest V. Strnad
Written February 16, 1956

'Twas only a baby,
Born out of time,
To an expectant home
Filled with love sublime.

They sought him,
Planned for him,
Looked forward with glee,
To a bouncing new baby,
To hold on their knee.

A baby is precious,
In any family,
Especially when longed for,
And planned for with Thee.

These parents seek thy help,
O God in their plight,
While this baby's wee spirit,
Slipped away in the night.

So we trust thee, O God,
For Thy infinite Grace,
As we look to the Light,
That shines out from Thy face.



In memory of:

Baby Ayer ~ April 4, 1951

Timothy Guenther
February 7 – 8, 1956
(poem written in his honor)

William Max Hoag
December 7-9, 1962

Wendy Dicklick
October 5, 1965
lived only 3-4 hours

Wesley David Clark May
January 3, 1985
(Rev. Strnad's grandson)

Rev. Strnad's Variations include:

For a baby girl:

'Twas only a baby,
Born out of time,
To an expectant home,
She was filled with love divine.

For time:

These parents sought Thy help,
O God, in their plight,
While their baby's wee spirit,
Slipped away in the night.



You may have noticed that Rev. Strnad wrote the poem on Feb. 16th and Timothy died on Feb. 8th. When I spoke to Timothy's parents, Betty and Bob, I asked about the difference in dates. They said that Timothy was born in TX while Bob was in the service. Betty was very ill following delivery and unable to travel, so Bob sent precious son home, by train, to his parents in MN for burial.

Imagine my surprise when the Guenther's said they knew Rev. Strnad had done Timothy's service but did not know that he had written a poem for him, or that he had read it at his burial service. Thanks to Rev. Strnad, 52 years later Betty and Bob received a copy of the poem that was written for their precious son.

By Timothy's story I hope that you can see that the love for your child is everlasting and that embracing those feelings sometime catches us off guard but can bring great joy. Imagine how surprised the Guenther's were by my phone call!

Take Care
Diana Sundwall



Escape to Faith's Lodge...

As you may be aware, Faith's Lodge, is a northwestern Wisconsin retreat that serves bereaved parents and families, opened its doors in the summer of 2007. Since opening approximately 70 guests have been welcomed, and experiences have been overwhelmingly positive. As one of the past guests' shares, "I felt discouraged before I came...hope seemed hard to grasp. But the atmosphere and encouragement at Faith's Lodge has given me hope for the future, like a little flame flickering in my heart. I saw a quote while walking on the Path of Inspiration – "Hope is faith holding out its hand in the darkness." I feel like after staying here, I have grasped hold of that hand." Guests are welcomed at The Lodge year-round and may stay from one to five nights. Information about visits and available programs can be found at faithslodge.org. We hope you will consider a visit to Faith's Lodge...a place where hope grows.

For more information about this special Lodge you may pick up a pamphlet at the IRIS office and/or visit www.faithslodge.org



Thank You For Your Gift

- ❖ Lorna Zincke, Anna Kincade, Joy Clemenson, Lois Charbonneau, Jean Hendricks, Kay Heiskari and others ~ Baby blankets and hats
- ❖ All of the confirmation students from Divine Mercy Catholic Church in Faribault that helped with the IRIS Charity Weekend (family fun night, breakfast, and bingo)
- ❖ The 5th Grade Class at Divine Mercy Catholic Church who adopted IRIS for Lent, donated yarn, labels, printer ink, office supplies, tied bows on 200 teddy bears, prayed for IRIS and the IRIS parents.
- ❖ Fabric pouches from the students at Hasting Technical College including Jessica, Erica, Kari, Lizzy, Brittany, Amanda, and Megan
- ❖ Terry Nuetzman for donating 4 infant outfits.
- ❖ Brandi & Chris Petricka, Libby Schmit, Kelly Velander, Margaret Walker, Kay Goracke, Kate Tonjum, Jenny Mikeworth, Karen Kath, Emily Schuenke, Amy Quaintance, and everyone who volunteers in the office.



Thank You To the United Way

- ❖ Dodge County United Way ~ \$3,000
- ❖ Northfield Area United Way ~ Donor Designations 2006 ~ \$275.53
- ❖ Northfield Area United Way ~ 2nd Quarter Allocation 2007/2008 ~ \$1,000
- ❖ Northfield Area United Way ~ 3rd Quarter Allocation 2007/2008 ~ \$1,000
- United Way of Faribault ~ \$750

Star of the North Award



Left to Right: Jessie Donahue, Congressman John Kline, Anna Kincade, Elizabeth Schmit

Congressman John Kline honored IRIS Volunteers with Congressional Certificates of Special Recognition at the "Star of the North" ceremony.

The three IRIS Volunteers who were honored were Jessie Donahue of Morristown, Elizabeth Schmit of Veseli, and Anna Kincade from Faribault. Donahue and Schmit have been active in Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc. (IRIS) following the death of their children (Kilian Donahue and Zachary Schmit). Donahue and Schmit were recognized for their dedication to IRIS and their volunteer efforts for the non-profit. Both have been active in efforts to raise funds for IRIS and have assisted at many IRIS events including the annual Balloon Release, Holiday Service of Remembrance, Support Group meetings, and have volunteered in the IRIS office. Kincade was recognized for knitting and crocheting infant burial blankets / afghans for IRIS, for assisting and teaching others who also knit & crochet for the organization and for her service to the Golden K organization in Faribault. "The Star of the North was born out of a desire to pay tribute to those people in our district who reach out to others," Kline said. "These simple acts of volunteerism are the bedrock of our communities and we see countless examples of this every day."

Thank you for your kind donation

Business, Corporate, and Organization Donations:



- Ameriprise ~ \$200 Matching Gift ~ Alex Gundhoffer & co-workers pocket change collection
- Kettering Properties ~ \$3,200
- Kettering Properties ~ \$400
- Kettering Properties ~ \$800
- Northfield Hospital ~ \$1,000
- Rice County Child Care Assoc. ~ \$100
- Rice County VFW Auxiliary ~ \$25
- St. Patrick's Church, Sheildsville CCW ~ \$25
- Wachovia Foundation Matching Gifts Program \$250
- Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign ~ \$220



Thank You For Your Personal Donations

- Marian & Arthur Anderson
- Ameriprise Matching Gift Program ~ Lisa Overn, Alex Gundhoffer & co-workers pocket change collection
- Aqua Eden (Pond Service) ~ Jacob Langeslag
- JoAnne & Peter Scariano
- AmyJo & AJ Walker
- Margaret & JD Walker
- Network For Good ~ Michelle Bell



Survey Opportunities



Opportunity #1:

I am a nurse having worked 15 years in Labor and Delivery and now Doctoral candidate at West Virginia University. I am doing a survey about stillbirth interventions? Participants would assist me in learning more about what interventions were important to women at the time their baby died, and what feelings they experienced then and currently. This research is intended to improve the care provided to women at the time of stillbirth. The survey is online and will take about 30 minutes to complete. The survey may be found at: www.surveymonkey.com/plf

Peggy Lambert Fink, MSN, FNP-C
plambert@wvutec.edu



Opportunity #2:

My name is Suzanne Pullen, I'm a former journalist and would like to invite you to participate in a study I am doing involving parents who have had an infant loss. I am a bereaved parent who had a stillbirth three years ago. I am currently co-conducting a survey about medical bad news delivery and the communications between patients and care providers about their diagnosis. I am specifically hoping to reach parents who have had a stillbirth, neonatal death (death of a child within the first 28 days of life), or a pregnancy loss.

We are hoping to learn more about this kind of communication and offer insights to care-providers about the effects of these interactions. Data collected from this confidential survey will be used for completion of a course project in the master's program at San Francisco State University. The survey is confidential and should take approximately 25 minutes to complete. Please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/nld>

Suzanne Pullen
spullen@sfsu.edu



Kindred Souls Are We

by Veronica Partridge ~ Angel Mom of Brantley

Kindred souls are we, parents who have lost our child.
 Mothers bereaved and full of grief
 who know not what it is to smile.
 Fathers stand by still and so strong,
 Fear showing their feelings
 will leave their families forlorn.
 Hearts shattered, no piece left in sight.
 Breathing takes all of our strength and might.
 Caring not much for what we have left.
 Nothing else that could happen
 could take us to any further depths.
 How sad the same stories uttered over and again.
 Leaving us still with only memories writhing in pain.
 Our lives forever changed in just a moment's time.
 Now weighing in the balance are our hearts and minds.
 Who would have thought, even for a moment, that we'd
 ever lose our precious one?
 It's such an unnatural,
 out of order devastation it renders us all undone.
 Well wishers try their very best
 to understand and to offer advice,
 They tell us out of their well intended ignorance we need
 to get on with our lives.
 What do they know,
 meaning no disrespect or ungratefulness?
 Unless you're a member of this heart wrenching club you
 can't truly fathom its profound distress.
 If the truth to be told as realistic as I can be
 I wish the pain could stop right here ending with me.
 I wish other parents would never have to endure
 these very feelings have I.
 I wish for no others to have to miss their sweet angels
 and kiss them goodbye.
 For somewhere in heaven
 there is a place our children all play
 And it's this very hope that we'll all meet again
 on that very blessed day.
 Jesus hold us and keep us
 till when your Father calls us home.
 Keep our faith strong and hearts beating
 for it won't be too long.
 To us it may feel like an eternity here on Earth.
 Especially for us mothers who gave these precious
 angels birth.
 We believe in God's promises it's all that we have
 It's what keeps us going each day
 even when we feel so sad.
 Kindred souls are we, parents who have lost our child.
 Mothers bereaved and full of grief
 who know not what it is to smile.



IRIS Holiday Service

The 14th Annual IRIS Holiday Service of Remembrance was held on Sunday December 2, 2007 at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd on Shattuck Campus in Faribault.

Those Lovingly Remembered
During the service

☞ Eunice K. Shumway
This Chapel is dedicated
in her memory

☞ Corey Lyn Creger

☞ Chester Mayo Jr.

☞ Jay Wang

☞ Dr. Chester Mayo Sr.

Families, friends, Shattuck family
and the community of Faribault
Wish to honor and remember
those who died in the recent plane
crash in Faribault.

☞ Nash Rueben Adams

☞ Brice Alec Anderson

☞ Baby Bauer

☞ Cashe Lonnie Berge

☞ Amaya Louise Bonneville

☞ Cole Brent Krenzke

☞ Baby Boy

☞ Amelia Marie Bluhm-Howie

☞ Mariah Grace Boerner

☞ Betty Lynn Boerner

☞ Sophia Lu Boudreau

☞ Hope Brandt

☞ Faith Brandt

☞ Grace Brandt

☞ Noah Roland Emil Brandt

☞ Abigail Elizabeth Brandt

☞ Kyle Drew Burkhardtmeier

☞ Our Precious Angel

☞ Gail Caron

☞ Gianni Anton Carrasca

☞ Scott Arthur Carver

☞ Avalon Lia Christopherson

☞ Sara Connelly-Jones

☞ Nathan Earl Cory

☞ Baby Cory

☞ Shayla Angel and

☞ Shelby Tracy Marie Cota

☞ Preston Hugh Crooks

☞ Baby Crooks

☞ Annette Marie David

☞ Charly Ester Davis

☞ Kadence Jean Davis

☞ William Robert and

☞ Bethany Agnes DeGroot

☞ Lizzy Sammon Dienst

☞ Lily Marcella Dietz

☞ Baby D

☞ Tàhirih Dimayuga

☞ Kilian Richard Donahue

☞ Declan Arthur Donahue

☞ Malachi Donahue

☞ Baby Donahue

☞ Jerry Dougherty

☞ Kayla Jamie Dusek

☞ Keegan Blake Earls

☞ Our Babies

☞ Nikolas Michael Fischer

☞ Lukas Dimitrios Fischer

☞ Marcia Flim

☞ Weston Bradley Germundson

☞ Victoria A. Graves

☞ Hannah Hevon Halla

☞ Shannon Marie &

☞ Baby Grace Marie Hermans

☞ Lindsay Rose Hermsen

☞ Scout Nicole Herndon

☞ Derek Joel Holicky

☞ Mickey Ronald Ingebritson

☞ Brian James Jacobson

☞ McKenzie Grace Johnson

☞ Baby

☞ Baby Kelley

☞ Baby Kelley

☞ Baby Boy Kelley

☞ Mary Kelley

☞ My Baby Sister

☞ My Baby Brothers

☞ Kyriyonna Andrea Kazee

☞ Precious Baby K

☞ Hope Kuennen

☞ Augustus Michael Kuennen

☞ Finley Rae LaCanne

☞ Chase Douglas LaCanne

☞ Joseph Robert Lake

☞ Baby Boy

☞ Jacob Connor Mack

☞ Joseph Thomas Markman

☞ Darby Parks Meier

☞ Baby Meier

☞ Baby M

☞ Jacob Monk

☞ Nicholas Joseph Moravec

☞ Sara Jane Murray

☞ Gracie Ann Narveson

☞ Jonathan Norbert Narveson

☞ Peter Vincent Narveson

☞ Baby

☞ Joshuah Daniel Neubauer

☞ Baby Girl

☞ Daniel Robert Novak

☞ Baby Girl

☞ Baby Girl

☞ Baby

☞ Baby Grandchild

☞ Jacob Donald Peterson

☞ Baby

☞ Daniel James Piepho

☞ Alexander Jason Pierce

☞ Noah Ethan Priebe

☞ Samuel Ethan Priebe

☞ Aiden Michael Puppe

☞ Owne Michael Puppe

☞ Jaxsyn Landon Purfeerst

☞ Angel Twins

☞ Bennett Lou-Jean

Rasmussen-Terry

☞ Jodi Lynn Rickaby

☞ Hannah Rose Rysavy

☞ Zachary Andrew Schmit

☞ Baby Bailey Schmit

☞ Paige Emily Schoenbauer

☞ Garrett William Soltau

☞ Blake Robert Stadler

☞ Alicia Marie Stephens

☞ Lukas Rylan Springer-Akbar

☞ Andrew James Stephens

☞ Tristan Micallen Sticha

☞ Sabrina Marie Strouth

☞ Baby S.

☞ Baby S.

☞ Derek Joseph Sundwall

☞ Precious Twins

☞ Baby Boy

☞ Baby Swedin

☞ Baby S.

☞ Dawn Thorson

☞ Alyssa Grace Trotter

☞ Baby

☞ Kelly Jean Vandereide

☞ Erica Kay Vandereide

☞ William Thomas Wagner

☞ Baby Wagner

☞ Baby W.

☞ Emma Kaye Ward

☞ Baby

☞ J.J. Wolf

☞ Baby Girl

☞ Baby Dillon

☞ Our 5 Children

☞ Our 12 Babies

And all the children
Remembered in their parent's and
loved one's hearts.



Memorials



In Loving Memory of Baby Jack
Anonymous



In Loving Memory of Avalon Christopherson
Loving and Missing our precious little girl
Mommy and Daddy (Saisy & Michael)
Carol and James Christopherson
Margaret and Kevin Fink
Traci & Kevin Cook
Anne Meyer Ruppel & Paul Ruppel
Susan & James Pokorney
Andrea & Christopher Pegram
Susan & James Keul
Mary Werner



In Loving Memory of James Richard Brown IV
Loving you always
Mommy and Daddy (Laura & James)
Sandra & James Brown Sr.
Nancy & Gary Dupont
Lennie & Kenneth Tannehill
Maryann & William Brown



In Loving Memory of Colton Arett
Mommy & Daddy (Michelle & Bob Arett)
Beranek Family



In Loving Memory of Christion Kriesel
Happy 6th Birthday
Grandma & Grandpa Kriesel
(Julie & Larry)



In Loving Memory of Erin Kriesel
Happy 5th Birthday
Love Grandma & Grandpa Kriesel
(Julie & Larry)



In Loving Memory of Sophia Lu Boudreau
Mommy and Daddy Love and Miss you!
(Prinna & Christopher)



In Memory of Trevor Richard Pint
Loving and remembering you on your 4th
Birthday. March 2, 2004
Mommy and Daddy (Kristy and Joe)
Aunt Deborah & Uncle Matthew Hoffer



Memorials



In Loving Memory of Hope Kuennen
Mommy and Daddy (Deanna & Allyn)
Licia Swanson – Happy Birthday Hope!



In Loving Memory of Augustus (Gus) Kuennen
Mommy and Daddy (Deanna & Allyn)
Licia Swanson – Happy Birthday Gus!



In Loving Memory of Daniel J. Piepho honoring
his 4th Birthday, December 28 – 29, 2003. Loving
and Remembering you forever!
Grandma & Grandpa
(Kathleen & Kenneth Ryks)



In Loving Memory of our precious little boy
Weston Bradley Germundson
Mommy & Daddy (Shelly & Brad)
and your sisters



In Memory of our precious little Mariah Grace
Boerner
Mommy and Daddy (Lisa and Joel)



In Loving Memory of Cole Bret Krenzke and
Cashe Lonnie Berge ~ Beloved children of
Carmen & Brent Berge.
Great Grandma (Ruth Koull)



In Loving Memory of Finley Rae and Chase
Douglas LaCanne Happy 2nd Heavenly Birthday
~ Love and miss you!
Anonymous



In Loving Memory of Derek Joel Holicky
Your family loves and misses you ever day!
Grandma (Maureen Johnson)



In Loving Memory of J.J. Wolf
Mom & Dad (Amy & James)



In Loving Memory of Derek Joseph Sundwall
Your Loving Family



In Loving Memory of Sara Connelly Jones
March 17, 1998 ~ Remembering your 10th
Birthday
Grandma (Inez Earl)



Memorials



In Loving Memory of our Granddaughter Emma Ward
Grandma and Grandpa Maas



In Loving Memory of our precious son Jacob Peterson
Mom & Dad (Susan & Scott)



In Loving Memory of William Thomas Wagner
Mom & Dad (Sheri & Tim)



In Loving Memory of Baby Wagner
Mom & Dad



In Loving Memory of our children William Robert and Bethany Agnes DeGroot
Love Mom & Dad (Connie & Joe)



In Loving Memory of Gianni Anton Carrasca
Your family loves and misses you very much!
Mom and Dad (Arlene & Gene)



In Loving Memory of Nicholas Joseph Moravec
Mom and Dad (Denise Moravec and Joe Moravec) and your loving sisters



In Loving Memory of Brice Alec Anderson
Happy Birthday, I Love you!
December 18 1992 – April 13, 1993
Mom (Krista Anderson),
Mitchell and Keifer



In Loving Memory of Baby Bauer precious child
of Becky and Josh
Grandma (Tami Lemke)



In Loving Memory of Bennett Rassmussen-Terry
Mary and David Amy



In Loving Memory of Blake Robert Stadler
Love you forever! Grandma Armagost



In Memory of Tahirih Dimayuga ~ Loving and
honoring your always.
Mommy and Daddy
(Michelle Pettit de Dimayuga and J.
Guadalupe Dimayuga Garcia)



Memorials



In Loving Memory of Noah Roland Emil and
Abigail Elizabeth Brandt. Our precious, perfect
twins ~Happy 1st Heavenly Birthday.
Mommy and Daddy (Beth and Eric)



In Loving Memory of Hannah Rose Rysavy, we
love you.
Mommy and Daddy (Wendy & Ben)



In Loving Memory of Daniel James Piepho.
Mommy and Daddy (Chantell & Charles)



In Loving Memory of precious little Garrett Sterling.
Mommy and Daddy (Amy & Brand)



In Memory of Baby Homuth
Mommy and Daddy (Barry and Jackie)



In Memory of Cameron Bailey ~ July 16, 2002
Mommy and Daddy (Leah & Bryan)



In Memory of Micah O'Connor ~ Oct. 3, 2005
Leah & Bryan Bailey



In Loving Memory of Hayden James Hachfeld
Grandma and Grandpa
(Lynne and Loel Holthus)



In Loving Memory of our precious son Danny Novak.
December 12 – 22, 1965
Mom and Dad (Karen and Don)



In Loving Memory Grace Johnson you are in our
hearts today and forever. March 21, 2008
Much Love
Mommy and Daddy (Jill and Marshall)
Garrett, Dylan & Brooke
Aunt Beth and Uncle Nick Dienst



In Loving Memory of Anna, Derek, Preston,
Baby Crooks, Kilian, Malachi, Declan, Baby
Donahue, and precious little Paige.
Thank you for all of your support and
acceptance.
Anna's Mom and Dad



Memorials

In Loving Memory of my mother and all of my siblings:



My mother Leone Kitzman who passed away after 101 years on earth.



My brothers Richard Kitzman: 4/11 to 8/1932
and his twin Robert Kitzman:
4/11/1932 – 12/12/2007



My twin sister Baby Girl Kitzman: 1/15/1938



My sister Baby Kathleen Kitzman: 1946



From your loving sister Joan Batchelder



In Loving Memory of our nephew, Kilian Richard Donahue
Mary and Dr. Dave McIntyre



In Loving Memory of Joshuah Daniel Neubauer
10/13 – 12/8, 2000
Shannon & Kevin Holicky



In Loving Memory of our precious son, Lukas
Rylan Springer-Akbar
Mommy & Daddy
(Kristie Springer & Sakib Akbar)



In loving memory of our precious baby girl,
Grace Kathryn Woitas, January 16, 2004.
We love you and miss you every single day.
You will always be a special part of all of us. We
know that you are safe with Jesus (and grandpa)
Happy 4th Birthday!

Mom and Dad-Marisa and Kevin Woitas
Your brothers-Braeden and Jaxen
Grandma D'Rae
Grandma and Grandpa Woitas
Great Grandma & Great Grandpa Barrie

Additional items donated in Grace's memory include: baby blankets, mailing labels, baby lotion, preemie diapers, baby yarn, preemie onesies, and pink baby quilt.



Donations In Honor Of

Angie Neubauer 30th Birthday, her father Jim Holicky 60th Birthday, also honoring, remembering, and loving their son/grandson Joshuah Daniel Neubauer October 13 – December 8, 2000

Jenny, Joel, Tyles & Cayden Schmidt
Dianne Traxler
Annoymous donations
Angie and Dan Neubauer
Joseph Neubauer
Debbie & Kenneth O'Connell
Abby Alonso
Cindy & Duane Holicky
Virgene & Charles Dempewolf, Jr.
Lisa & Phillip Simon
Julie & Andy Jindra
Susan & Tom Holicky
Donna Dudley



Adult Memorials

In Loving Memory of
Milton Truesdell
Nancy & Lawrence Baldwin

" How do you sleep when the rest of us cry ?
How do you dream while a mother
has no chance to say goodbye ? "



~Pink (singer)



If Roses Grew In Heaven

Author Unknown

If Roses grow in Heaven,
Lord please pick a bunch for me,
Place them in my Mother's arms
and tell her they're from me.
Tell her I love her and miss her,
and when she turns to smile,
place a kiss upon her cheek
and hold her for awhile.
Because remembering her is easy,
I do it every day,
but there's an ache within my heart
that will never go away.



Honoring and Remembering Mothers Day and Fathers Day

By Diana Sundwall

Many parents who have a child die do not know how to bring up the subjects of Mother's Day and Father's Day to family and friends. They don't want others to think they are wrong for considering themselves mothers and fathers. It's very common for parents to question "Am I a mother?", "Am I a father?", and do I have the right to celebrate this special day?

You need to be the first one to acknowledge that you are a parent. Do not wait for others to recognize this fact. No one can take that distinction away from you. You are forever this child's parent and deserve to be honored on these special days.

Mother's Day and Father's Day are no longer just about "your" parents ... it's about "you" and your precious child. After all, you are this person's parent.

If you can't imagine celebrating parenthood with others, or the thought of your families normal traditions seem unrealistic, consider doing something different. Start your own tradition, maybe it's a picnic at the cemetery or the location where you scattered your precious child's ashes. This is not as unusual as you may think! Over the years I have watched as countless parents and family members visit the cemetery on special occasions. I have noticed that many of them have brought a full picnic, while others have brought a special cake or dessert. Remember "you" are a parent, and parenthood should be celebrated the "way" you choose. This particular way of honoring your parenthood may not be your style but some of the other suggestions below may be of interest to you.



Acknowledge and remember that you are a parent.



Admit that this day may be difficult for you to handle, and explain that to your spouse and others.



Listen to your heart !



Call your baby by his or her name. This will make it easier for others to use the name and makes your child "real" in everyone's eyes. By doing so you are reminding others that you are a parent.



Do not assume that everyone will be aware of how you are feeling on Mother's Day or Father's Day. Being aware that some situations may be difficult or extremely emotional for you will allow you the opportunity to plan accordingly.



Make your plans known early. This lessens stress and frustration for you and others. Follow your heart.



Attend functions that you "want" to attend, and those that "you" will feel comfortable at. Discuss with each other what you would like to do. If attending family functions is going to be too difficult, explain it to family members. It's ok to say "it's just too hard to attend this year." If your church traditions will be difficult, consider an alternative to the service and/or talk to your clergy about honoring all parents including grieving parents during the service.



Family and friends may offer help and support in an effort to make the day special for you. Allow them this honor. It may be their way of working through their grief.



Family and friends may consider sending a card, flowers (silk will last for years), visiting the burial location, taking a flower or stuffed toy to the cemetery, helping plant a memorial tree, flowers, or garden, or making a donation to IRIS in memory of a precious child.



Indulge yourself in a special treat, trip, or gift for yourself and/or spouse.



Make time on both Mother's Day and Father's Day to remember your child, you could do this by:

- Lighting a candle at home, at church, and/or at the cemetery
- Placing special flowers at your child's grave, in your church, or on your dinner table
- Planting a tree, a rose bush, or flowers
- Developing a memorial garden
- Purchasing a mother's ring or pendant
- Saying a prayer
- Looking through your keepsakes
- Having a good cry

Listen to your heart. For some, this may be spending the day on the sofa watching TV or a movie. For others there may be a need to sit at the cemetery all day, and for some there may be a need to be surrounded by family and friends. There is no right or wrong way to spend the day. Being aware of your own emotions, feelings, and physical needs will be easier if you listen to your heart.





My Daddy

By Becky 1997

A special Daddy chosen for me.
 A strong hearted man is what he'd be.
 A wonderful person, so full of dreams.
 A man who has fun, laughs, smiles and gleams.
 Someone who'd love me through good times and bad.
 One who'd act happy even when he was sad.
 Dad, you were chosen to love me so true.
 To be there for mommy through and through.
 I am your special one who changed your whole life.
 I was gone in a second without saying good-bye.
 But I know you love me – you told me so much.
 Although I couldn't see you,
 I could feel your gentle touch.
 You're my special Daddy... I'll always love you.
 I'm sorry for the way things had to be but
 I'll be watching over you.



Save a Place

By Donna D. Salva

A father's pride, a mother's joy
 Whether it's a girl, or it's a boy,
 Kind words and flowers, cards, and gifts galore
 They come with the baby, that all can adore.

But what of the mother and father who cry
 The ones, whose precious child did unknowingly die,
 Where is our comfort, our grief has no end
 How can these people say our hearts will mend?

They don't know our pain; they don't know our sorrow,
 They don't know our fears of what may come tomorrow.

So please next time you hear "it's a girl or it's a boy",
 Save a small place in your hearts for us,
 Robbed of that joy.



IRIS Wish List

- Baby lotion (sample size)
- Baby or sport weight yarn in pastel colors
- Drinking water
- Gift Certificates for printing
- Gift Certificates photo processing
- CD-R's
- Long arm quilting machine and quilting frame
- Volunteers
- Mailing labels
- Stamps
- Postal Scale



A Mother's Day Wish From Heaven

By Jody Seilheimer

Dear Mr. Hallmark,

I am writing to you from heaven,
 and though it must appear
 A rather strange idea,
 I see everything from here.

I just popped in to visit,
 your stores to find a card
 a card of love for my mother,
 as this day for her is hard.

There must be some mistake I thought,
 I saw every card you could imagine
 except I could not find a card,
 from a child who lives in heaven.

She is still a mother too,
 no matter where I reside
 I had to leave, she understands,
 but oh the tears she's cried.

I thought that if I wrote you,
 that you would come to know
 that though I live in heaven now,
 I still love my mother so.

She talks with me and dreams with me;
 we still share laughter too,
 Memories are our way of speaking now,
 would you see what you could do?

My mother carries me in her heart,
 her tears she hides from sight.
 She writes poems to honor me,
 sometimes far into the night.

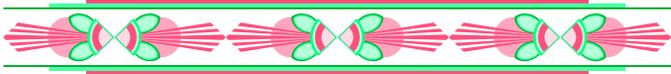
She plants flowers in my garden,
 there my living memory dwells
 She writes to other grieving parents,
 trying to ease their pain as well.

So you see Mr. Hallmark,
 though I no longer live on earth
 I must find a way to remind her
 of her wondrous worth.

She needs to be honored,
 and remembered too
 just as the children of earth will do.

Thank you Mr. Hallmark,
 I know you'll do your best
 I have done all I can do;
 to you I'll leave the rest.

Find a way to tell her,
 how much she means to me
 until I can do it for myself,
 when she joins me in eternity.



A Grieving Parent Is...

Judy Skapnik

A grieving parent is someone who . . .
will never forget their child,
no matter how painful memories are.

A grieving parent is someone who . . .
yearns to be with their dead child,
but cannot conceive leaving their living ones.

A grieving parent is someone who . . .
has only part of a heart,
the rest is buried with their child.

A grieving parent is someone who . . .
begs for relief from the memories which plague them,
and then feels guilty when they get it.

A grieving parent is someone who . . .
pretends to be happy and enjoying life,
when they really are dying inside.

A grieving parent is someone who . . .
can cry or laugh at the drop of a hat
whenever they remember their beloved child.

A grieving parent is someone who . . .
feels as if they just lost their child yesterday,
no matter how much time has passed.

A grieving parent is someone who . . .
fears for their remaining family, because they cannot
bear to have any more losses.

A grieving parent is someone who . . .
sits by their child's gravestone and
feels a knife stabbing their heart.

A grieving parent is someone who . . .
wants to help others who have lost loved ones, because
somehow their loss, is theirs all over again.



GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, quality search results as the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is an online shopping mall that donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Order gifts online and donate to IRIS !

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and enter **Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc.** as the charity you want to support. Every penny adds up!



This Mother's Day,

This Father's Day

By: Lisa Weber

I have a son.
I have a daughter.
I am a mother.
I am a father.
I do not take my child to the park like some parents do ~
but I take my baby everywhere in my heart.
She was denied this earthly existence.
I don't know why.
He will play catch in the stars, not on the ball field.
She will never shop for a prom dress at the mall,
and he will never ask for the keys to my car.
But they are our children, nonetheless.
I will wear her birthstone around my neck.
I will think of him every day.
Acknowledge me on Mother's Day.
Wish me a pleasant Father's Day.
I need that support and acceptance as much as you.
I am a parent.
Mother's Day is to honor all mothers.
Father's Day is to honor all fathers.
As spring brings forth new life following the quiet healing
of winter,
let us welcome a rebirth of hope in our own lives.
In recognition of childless parents,
and those who have loving children,
but also have felt the heartache of the death of a child,
this Mother's Day and Father's Day.
My wish for you is one of peace, love, and to
call to mind the dignity of parenthood.



Why God???

Author unknown

The first thing that we asked God
was just the reason why;
when he took our precious daughter
beyond the stars in the sky.
As we held on to her body
We then started to scream and shout;
was this God so really kind
as people were making out.
But our anger then turned to sadness
as we held her in our arms;
she was still our beautiful daughter
truly an angel with all her charms.
It was then we started to wonder
as our eyes filled up to cry;
was our angel needed elsewhere
and is that the reason why.

In loving memory of Paige Schoenbauer
Paige was born April 15, 2004

Mark your calendar now
for the annual
**Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc.
Golf Classic**

Friday July 11, 2008
1pm Shotgun Start
Faribault Golf Club

Butterfly Release




Calendar of Events

- May 14 Mid-day Support Group Meeting
11 am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office
- May 17 RSVP for Scrapbooking (507) 334-4748
- May 24 Scrapbooking 10 am – 6 pm
RSVP for more info (507) 334-4748
- May 27 Evening Support Group Meeting
7 – 8:30 pm at the IRIS Office
(Honoring Fathers)
- June 11 Mid-day Support Group Meeting
11 am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office
- June 24 Evening Support Group Meeting
7 – 8:30 pm at the IRIS Office
- July 8 IRIS Board Meeting 7 pm IRIS office
- July 9 Mid-day Support Group Meeting
11 am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office
- July 11 Annual IRIS Golf Classic and
Butterfly Release
- July 22 Evening Support Group Meeting
7 – 8:30 pm at the IRIS Office
- August 13 Mid-day Support Group Meeting
11 am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office
- August 26 Evening Support Group Meeting
7 – 8:30 pm at the IRIS Office
- September 10 Mid-day Support Group Meeting
11 am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office
- September 23 Evening Support Group Meeting
7 – 8:30 pm at the IRIS Office
- October 5 Balloon Release & Pot Luck
- October 8 Mid-day Support Group Meeting
11 am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office
- October 14 Board Meeting 7 pm IRIS Office
- October 28 Evening Support Group Meeting
7 – 8:30 pm at the IRIS Office
- November 12 Mid-day Support Group Meeting
11 am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office
- November 25 Evening Support Group Meeting
7 – 8:30 pm at the IRIS Office
- December 7 IRIS Holiday Service of Remembrance



Join us for a Day of Scrapbooking

Is it hard to even thinking about working on a memorial scrapbook for your child? Don't know where to begin? Do you know what you want but feeling overwhelmed? Do you need others around to inspire you? Don't have the supplies to do a scrapbook? IRIS can help! We have many scrapbooking supplies and a few scrapbooks that have been donated by individuals and professionals. Join us for a day of scrapping! Join us on:

May 24, 2008
10 am – 6 pm
RSVP to IRIS Office
(507) 334-4748 by May 17th

Location and additional information will be provided upon registration. Please bring a treat to share. IRIS will provide the beverages and scrapbooking supplies.



Have you ordered you IRIS 20th Anniversary Ornament / Sun catcher? Yes, you can still have it engraved. Yes we have them in the office or you can visit www.irisRemembers.com for more info, order forms or to order online with PayPal.

Infants Remembered In
Silence, Inc.
101 NW Third Street
Faribault, MN 55021
www.irisRemembers.com
(507) 334-4748

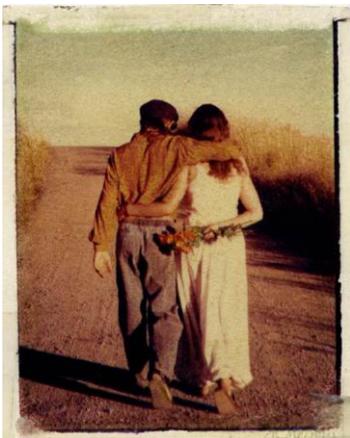
Non-profit
Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Faribault, MN
Permit # 5

Inside this issue:

**Mother's Day**



Poems



Men Do Cry

By Ken Falk

I heard quite often "men don't cry"
though no one ever told me why.

So when I fell and skinned a knee,
no one came by to comfort me.

And when some bully-boy
at school
would pull a prank so mean
and cruel,

I'd quickly learn to turn and quip,
"It doesn't hurt," and bite my lip.

So as I grew to reasoned years,
I learned to stifle my tears.

Though "Be a big boy" it began,
quite soon I learned to "Be a man."

And I could play that stoic role
while storm and tempest
wracked my soul.

No pain or setback could there be,
nothing could wrest one single tear
from me.

Then one long night I stood nearby
and helplessly watched
my son die.

And quickly found, to my surprise,
that all that tearless talk was lies.

And still I cry, and have no shame;
I cannot play that "big boy" game.

And openly, without remorse,
I let my sorrow take its course.

So those of you who can't abide
a man you've seen who's
often cried,

Reach out to him
with all your heart
as one whose
life's been torn apart.

For men do cry when they can see
their loss of immortality.

And tears will come
in endless streams
when mindless fate
destroys their dreams.