

Listening Hearts



A GATHERING OF BEREAVED MOMS...

Volume IV, Issue 4

July/August 2012

When You See A Butterfly

My soul is released in Heaven
My spirit is in the wind,
I've arrived inside God's kingdom
In Heaven here with Him.

Inside this place of beauty
Enchantment always near,
Far past imagination
This land that has no fear.

Think of me when butterflies
Are flying everywhere
I'm singing, dancing, laughing
Free from earth's despair.

The other side of tomorrow
Within God's time you'll see,
I know He'll bring you safely home
Then forever we will be.

Keep a song inside your heart
And know that I am free,
Do not weep in sorrow
When you remember me.



In this issue:

- ♥ Calendars pgs. 2-5
- ♥ Picnic, page 6
- ♥ Memories of Brian, pg 7
- ♥ What Moms Are Doing, page 8
- ♥ Memories, page 9
- ♥ Rituals Around the World, pages 10-11
- ♥ Movie and Book Corner, page 12
- ♥ Pooh quote, page 13
- ♥ Group Information, pages 14-15
- ♥

Love Gifts

Generous donations make it possible to reach out to other grieving mothers through this newsletter, group sessions and the web site.

Karen & Dana Archer, in loving memory of Colt Porterfield

Anonymous Cash at meeting and

Picnic Donations

...Thank you!!!

Listening Hearts

July 2012 Listening Hearts Children

These cherished children have birthdays this month:

6th	James Randy Allred	mom, Norma Jean
16th	Devin Scott Gorman	mom Jeanne
16th	Eric James Hurst	mom, Terri



These cherished children have anniversary dates this month:

14th	Heather Turner Lane	mom, Cindy
18th	Wade Buchanan	mom, Ruby
22nd	Eric Wolf	mom, Pam j.



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

July 2012 Other Beautiful Children

These adored children have birthdays this month:

4th Jeremiah Smith mom, Rosemary
11th Danny Michael Berry mom, Mary Lou
29th Jim H. Taylor, II mom, Dinah



These adored children have anniversary dates this month:

1st Christopher Roberts mom, Carol
4th Kassie Lynn Hall mom, Karen
14th Crystal Earnhart mom, Gail
22nd Alicia Golembeski mom, Lana
23rd Cassandra Taylor mom, Jayne
23rd Andrew Smith mom, Rosemary
23rd Jeremiah Smith mom, Rosemary
28th William Myers mom, Brenda



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Listening Hearts

August 2012 Listening Hearts Children

These precious children have birthdays this month:

9th Michelle Lee Bell grandmother, Barbara



These precious children have anniversary dates this month:

2nd	Joshua Humphreys	mom, Melissa
6th	Clint Reagan	mom, Debra
8th	Cindy Allen	mom, Barbara
8th	Tony Phillips	mom, Amparo
14th	Gabriel Miller	mom, Katie
23	Marty Short	mom, Janice



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

August 2012 Other Beautiful Children

These adored children have birthdays this month:

1st Alicia Golembeski mom, Lana
10th Kassie Hall mom, Karen
22nd Crystal Earnhart mom, Gail



These adored children have anniversary dates this month:

7th Alex Martin Wolf mom, Tamara
13th Nickolas Pippen mom, Diane
19th Joel McGregor mom, Julie



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Listening Hearts

Picnic and Butterfly Release

A special thanks to everyone that made the picnic and butterfly release a success.



We listen to the flutters of our heart.



As you release this butterfly in honor of me,
know that I'm with you and will always be.
Hold a hand, say a prayer, close your eyes and see me
there.

Although you may feel a bit torn apart,
please know that I'll be forever in your heart.

Now fly away butterfly as high as you can go,
I'm right there with you more than you know.



A Mom's Memories

I was at work on the 3-11 shift the December evening I found out I was pregnant with Brian. It was about a year and a half since Tony and I were married. My hand had been glued to my stomach most of the evening & I had exclaimed one too many times that I just didn't feel well. My fellow nurses were putting the picture all together and eagerly approached me with what I thought was an off the wall suggestion, to take a specimen to the lab. We finished administering meds and treatments, passing each other with expectant grins on our faces. The call came up nearing the end of the shift that I was pregnant. Screeches of joy and laughter & sisterly hugs followed from my workmates, and I was ecstatically speechless!

I drove home slowly on the cold, clear, wintery night. Sliver sparkles of moon low in the sky flickered through the blowing tree limbs. The stars seemed to lead me home. The lamps of the angels. It was not the usual exhausting, distressing ride home from a long shift in the hospital that I normally experienced. It was a peaceful glide in which I was not aware of any fatigue or discomfort. Only aware of a new life.

Tony was out of town for a few days and I waited till I got home to call as I wanted to let it fully permeate my mind, and then give to him the good news. He could not contain his love & excitement. It rushed with his voice through the phone line. We were to be parents and we were tremendously happy.

The weeks following I would go to bed and lie with my hand again on my abdomen, and the life inside would connect me to a thrill of expectancy and the unknown. Who had been a twinkle in God's eye was now with me, and that would be my first remembrance of Brian.

Remembering you, Brian, on Mother's Day and loving you always. Mom (Lee Ann Christ)



Brian Christ

September 16, 1982-December 15, 2004

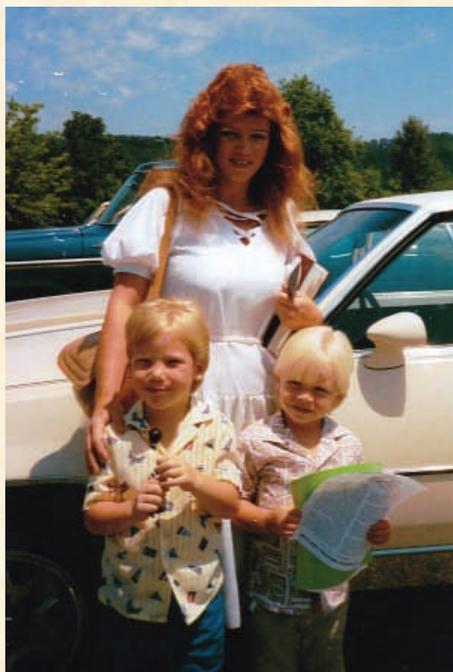
Listening Hearts

What Moms Are Doing

Karen and Dana enjoy a trip to Chattanooga for a car show.



Memories



Karen with young Colt and a young man that Karen raised until he reached the age of 12.

Colt Porterfield

April 17, 1984-June 20, 2006



Picnic



Listening Hearts

Rituals Around the World

Rituals

from the book, *Don't Let Death Ruin Your Life,*
A practical guide to reclaiming happiness after the death of a loved one
by Jill Brooke

Africa: Anytime a family is celebrating a special occasion, the elder family member pours a drink onto the floor before making the toast.



k0210146 www.fotosearch.com

Ancient Rome: Lavish feasts were held at the burial site on the anniversary of a loved one's death, including serving the favorite dishes of the departed. It was also a custom to create masks of the person's face to keep their presence always in the home.

Judaism has many ways of remembering loved ones, starting with the week-long mourning period called "shiva". The family gathers to tell stories of the deceased and reflect on their relationship with the loved one, each other and with God.

China: After someone had died the family would build a paper house, complete with paper furnishings, cars, appliances and all worldly goods. A Buddhist priest would arrive and play the flute, creating an ethereal sound. He would then take a match, light it, and burn down the house. The belief was that every paper model of something they created would then be realized in the afterlife for the one who is deceased.

Hong Kong: There are tiny stores that sell paper pictures of all earthly possessions. If someone wasn't married, you could buy a picture of a mate for them. If he didn't have a car, you could buy him one. Symbolically, this helped the griever. It's a way of feeling that the next life will offer more than this, that life can continually get better.

Continued.....

Rituals Continued

During the annual **Japanese** summer festival called O Bon, families make paper boats and wax them to a stiff sheen so they can hold small candles. On the night of O Bon, these boats are set sail on the river to commemorate the members of the family who are deceased. To see the river illuminated with tiny boats, each representing special memories of a loved one is truly unforgettable. Later people have reflective discussions about those they love.

In **Mexico**, as well as **El Salvador, Colombia and Guatemala**, Dia de los Muertos-the Day of the Dead-is an honored tradition of celebrating the life of your loved ones. Families summon the spirits of loved ones with a personalized altar decorated with the most cherished possessions of the deceased. It could be anything from a favorite dish, a photo, puppets, masks or even a tall glass of Coca-Cola. Other families picnic near the graveside and even bring boom boxes with a loved one's favorite music.



India cultures also share similar customs. Chief Hawk Pope, the charismatic leader of the Shawnee tribe, told me about the Feast of the Dead, which takes place after the winter solstice, the shortest and gloomiest day of the year. The tribes gather to have a great feast. "A small portion of each dish is put in a traditional shell or in a wooden bowl and taken to the Great House, which is like our church," he explains. "We then put the food around the altar and fire and speak the names of each person who has passed to remember them."

Listening Hearts

Movie and Book Review Corner:

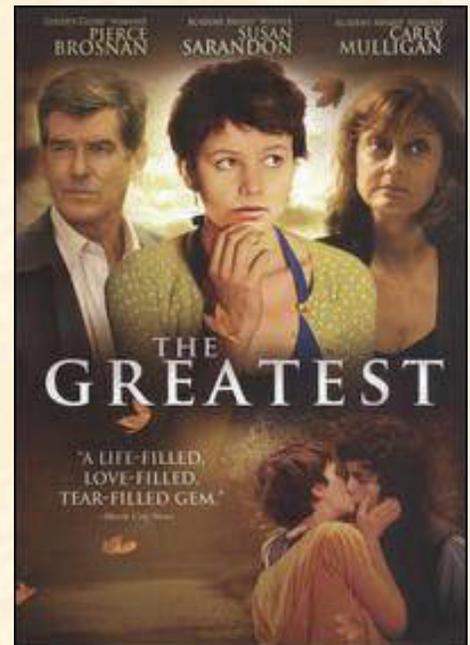
Synopsis: (taken from the Internet)

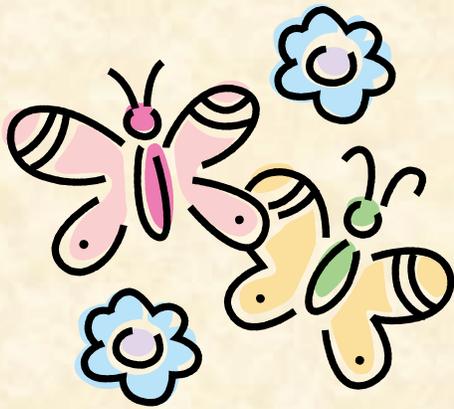
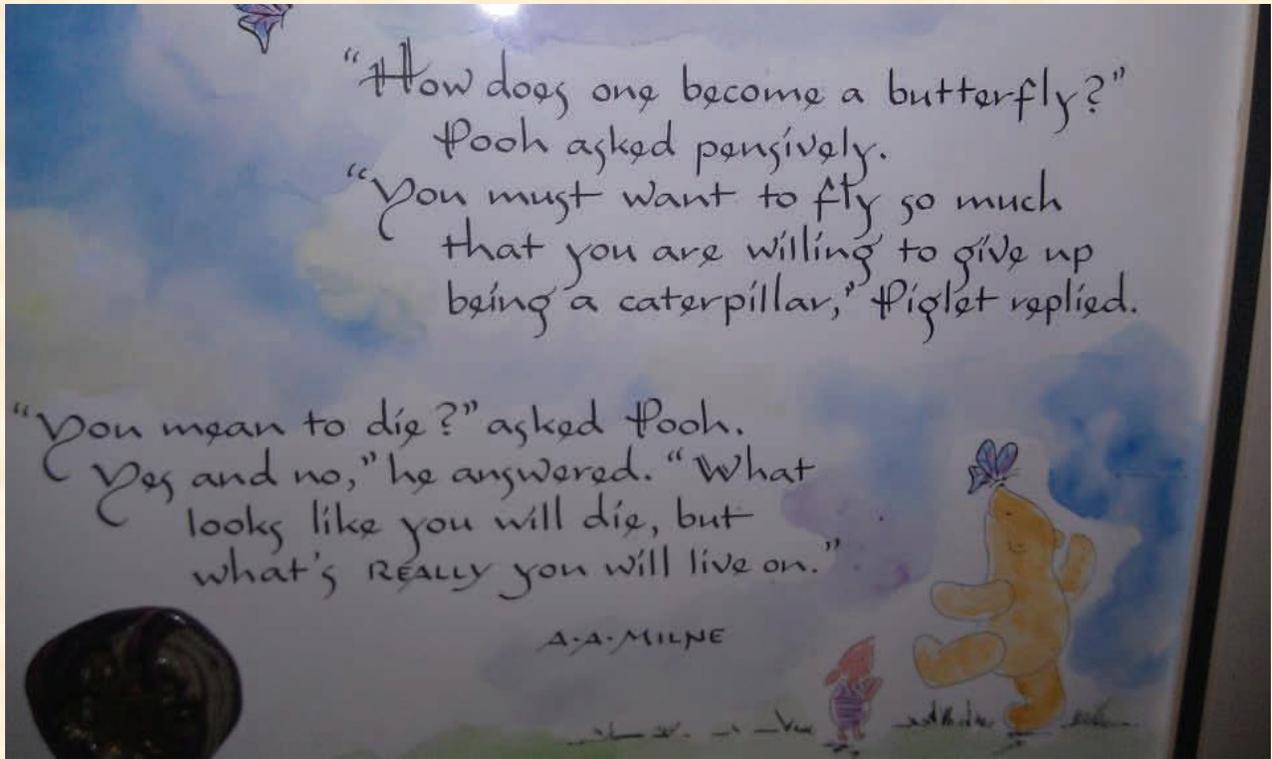
Tragedy opens the wounds a family has long struggled to ignore in this powerful emotional drama. Bennett Brewer (Aaron Johnson) was a bright, handsome, and talented young man who was suddenly killed in an auto accident late one night while driving home with Rose (Carey Mulligan), a girl who had been a close friend for years but had only recently become romantically involved with him.

Bennett's death devastates his family: his mother, Grace (Susan Sarandon), is overcome with grief and can't stop wondering what his final minutes must have been like; father Allen (Pierce Brosnan) is forced to turn away from his mistress (Jennifer Ehle) and try to comfort a woman he's no longer certain he loves; and brother Ryan (Johnny Simmons) mourns Bennett while becoming painfully aware that he will never live up to his late brother's example in the eyes of his parents.

As grief slowly brings the family's emotional troubles to the surface, two unwelcome characters come into the picture -- Rose, who has discovered she's pregnant with Bennett's child, and the truck driver (Michael Shannon) who unwittingly took Bennett's life.

The first feature film from writer and director Shana Feste, *The Greatest* received its world premiere at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival.





Love



Listening Hearts

Morristown Meeting Information

Listening Hearts is a gathering of bereaved moms. We wish every day that there was no need for such a group. Since we can't change things that are out of our control, we work to help ourselves and each other to process this devastating and life altering loss. We work to find ways to carry the loss and love in the same heart.

Our group meets every other month in Knoxville at the Eye Institute Conference Room located at 2020 Kay Street, Knoxville, TN 37920. The dates and times can be found at our website: www.listening-hearts.memory-of.com.

We also have a second meeting place in Morristown. See below.

Listening Hearts A Gathering of Bereaved Mothers

***....now has a second meeting
place.....***

***Hillcrest Baptist Church
410 S. Liberty Hill Rd.
Morristown, TN 37813***

***All bereaved moms are
invited.***

2012 Morristown Meeting Dates:

***Saturday, January 7th
Saturday, March 3rd
Saturday, May 5th
Saturday, July 7th
Saturday, September 1st
Saturday, November 3rd***



***Meeting Time:
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon***

A gathering for bereaved moms...

LISTENING HEARTS

Donations may be mailed to
Listening Hearts
P.O. Box 51674
Knoxville, TN 37950

E-mail: listeninghearts@live.com

Website:

<http://listeninghearts.net>



We're on

facebook



Listening Hearts, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, is a self-help gathering of bereaved mothers from all walks of life.

It does not matter the age of the child or the cause of death. Nor does it matter the length of time since the child's death.

No one should travel this journey alone. Join us as we help each other find ways to carry the pain of this loss and the joy of the love for our child in the same heart.

Contributors this issue:
Lee Ann Christ
Karen Archer

Listening Hearts Knoxville 2012 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held on Saturdays 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

- ♥February 4th
- ♥April 7th
- ♥June 2nd
- ♥August 4th
- ♥October 6th
- ♥December 1st

Editors:
Debra Reagan
Heather Reagan

Thank you to everyone. We are honored to share the love and memories of your precious child.

Unless otherwise noted by the contributors, the submissions may also appear on the website.