

For the families and friends of those who have died by violence

VOICES OF HOPE



Parents Of Murdered Children-MN Hope Chapter, PO Box 516, Circle Pines, MN 55014
pomc.com pomc@pomcmn.com 612-789-5947 or 651-484-0336

POMC National Headquarters
National Organization of POMC, Inc
Executive Director, Nancy Ruhe
100 East Eighth Street, Suite 202
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Phone: 888-818-POMC
Fax: 513-345-4489
Email: NatlPOMC@aol.com
Online: www.pomc.com

Minnesota POMC Meetings Schedule

Minneapolis/St. Paul Hope Chapter 3rd Friday of Month
512 S Albert St., St. Paul

7:00-9:00pm

Holy Spirit Ministry Center located off Randolph Ave and Albert St across from Holy Spirit Church. Meetings held in the library located on the 2nd floor. Handicap accessible. Look for POMC signs. Questions contact Jim Lym @ 651-484-0336 or email at pomc@pomcmn.com

Central Minnesota Meetings

Contact Vicky Bolin @ 612.385.4336 for time and place information.

Southeast Minnesota Meetings 4th Tuesday of Month
18th Ave & 41st St NW, Rochester

7:00-9:00pm

Pax Christi Catholic Church, Rm 5 to the right of the double door entrance, lower level on west side of church. Questions contact: Connie @ 507-358-4017 or

Lois @ 507-367-4646

More info at www.semnpomc.com

Why we are here...

1. To provide ongoing emotional support needed to help parents and other survivors deal with the pain of their loss and facilitate the reconstruction of their lives.
2. To provide contact with similarly bereaved persons and establish self-help groups that meet regularly.
3. To provide information about the grief process and the criminal justice system as they pertain to survivors of a homicide victim.
4. To communicate with professionals about the problems faced by those surviving a homicide victim.
5. To increase society's awareness of the problems faced by survivors.

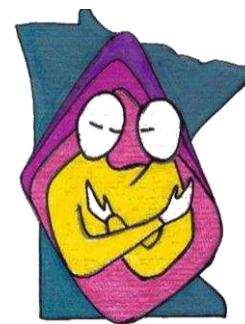
We'd like to hear from you!

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas for Voices of Hope, please let us know.

Contact us either by emailing the newsletter editor at

mbierwerth@hotmail.com

or by mail to our P.O. Box.



Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. is a self-help support organization for families and friends who have lost a loved one to violence.

Moving??? Please let us know to keep you on the mailing list

"Membership" is open to those who have been cruelly bereaved by the murder of a loved one. Professionals who are in frequent contact with grieving families are also welcome to join.

This project was supported by the Office for Victims of Crime, US Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policy of the US Department of Justice

February

Anniversaries

<u>Name</u>	<u>Lived Until</u>
Charles Spann Jr.	February 3, 1994
Jesse Alvarez	February 4, 2005
Jennifer Suzanne O'Neal	February 5, 1994
James Ellison	February 5, 2002
Daniel Joseph O'Connell	February 5, 2002
Dianne Joyce Olson	February 7, 1995
Tyrone Anthony Struss	February 7, 1997
Christopher Lee Bluebird	February 8, 1997
Deltrece Nickole Benson	February 9, 1990
Michael Eric Chaplin	February 9, 2003
Linda Kathleen Farm	February 10, 2002
Manuel Jason Yarbrough	February 11, 1994
Laraemiun LaMont Byrd	February 12, 1993
Londwea Brown	February 12, 1994
Daniel A. Bengtson	February 14, 1994
Kami Talley	February 14, 1996
Mitchell Allen Zachary	February 15, 1986
Jesse Daniel Sayers	February 15, 2004
Elisa Sue Martinez	February 17, 1990
Nancy J Ludwig	February 17, 1991
Debra Jean Blackstone	February 17, 1993
Tina Kay Dunker	February 17, 2001
Ricky Brom	February 18, 1988
Diane Brom	February 18, 1988
Bernie Brom	February 18, 1988
Paulette Brom	February 18, 1988
Ethan LaMar Graham	February 18, 2002
Gertrude Matilda Bestor	February 19, 1995
Tracie Joy McBride	February 19, 1995
Bradley Neil Pruitt	February 20, 1983
Phyllis Lucy Pool	February 20, 1988
Russell James Holt	February 21, 2001
Kevin Allen Gefroh	February 22, 1998
David Ernes Greenwood	February 22, 2000
Jonathan Wilis Dwyer	February 22, 2002
Robert Stratton	February 23, 1987
Artavies Allen Brown	February 23, 2005
Tyhran Eugene Wallace	February 23, 2006
Linda Elizabeth Jensen	February 24, 1992
Blake James Rogers	February 25, 2002
Jorge Antonio Martinez	February 27, 1997
Myeka Coppage	February 28, 1994
Niarte Coppage	February 28, 1994
Nicheba Coppage	February 28, 1994
Nicos Coppage	February 28, 1994
Nika Coppage	February 28, 1994
Denise Marie McCormick	February 28, 2004

Birthdays

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>
Agnes Fafrowicz	February 2, 1916
Peter Mark Westra	February 3, 1977
Aaron Michael Rollins	February 3, 1986
Seth David Bartell	February 3, 1989
Edward Thomas Wittkopp	February 5, 1967
Cathy White	February 6, 1945
Jason Bartholomew Hayden	February 6, 1975
Derek Allen Babb	February 6, 1986
Jonathan Wilis Dwyer	February 7, 1971
Leanniatia Cinvette Thomas	February 7, 1980
John Michael Adams	February 8, 1963
Wayne Lowell Huling	February 8, 1965
David Miller	February 10, 1942
Felicia Nicole Martinez	February 10, 1980
Joshua Johnson	February 11, 1966
Kevin Allen Gefroh	February 11, 1997
Russell James Holt	February 12, 1969
Michael Lee Sargent	February 12, 1973
James Herbert Kunitz	February 14, 1945
Nathan Shane Wood	February 14, 1972
Laura Jean MacPhee	February 14, 1975
Michael David Sullivan	February 16, 1961
Kari Ann Koskinen	February 16, 1961
Mary Eileen Hughes-Cornwell	February 16, 1966
Kurt David Markert	February 17, 1960
Patti Ann Huling	February 18, 1966
Craig Howard Shults	February 19, 1976
Wayne Luis Costilla, Jr.	February 19, 1983
Kenneth David Hassler, Jr.	February 20, 1956
Fay Ann Erickson	February 20, 1966
Joshua Richard Haglund	February 20, 1971
Tammy Rae Jensen	February 21, 1968
Eric Douglas Kolstad	February 21, 1982
Cheryl Thompson	February 22, 1975
Alexander Franklin Butzin	February 22, 1984
Daniel Joseph O'Connell	February 23, 1961
Kathleen Deiss	February 24, 1926
Eric Alaverez	February 24, 1979
David John Budziak	February 25, 1956
Melissa Ann Dudero	February 25, 1982
Michael Damon McLoyd	February 26, 1969
Deltrece Nickole Benson	February 26, 1977
Jerry Anderson	February 27, 1952
Crutis A. Goddard	February 27, 1975
Kathlyn Elizabeth Poirier	February 28, 1980
Isiah William Devine	February 28, 2001
Lorraine Binsfeld	February 29, 1940

**If you do not see your loved one's name in these lists and would like to please let us know at mbierwerth@hotmail.com or send a letter to our P.O Box.*

Fourteenth Annual Victim's Rights Week Brunch

This is just a reminder that our 14th annual brunch will once again, be held at the Bloomington Embassy Suites on Sunday April 22.

Patrick Poirier who is Katie Poirier's brother will be our speaker.

The menu will be the same as the past couple of years.

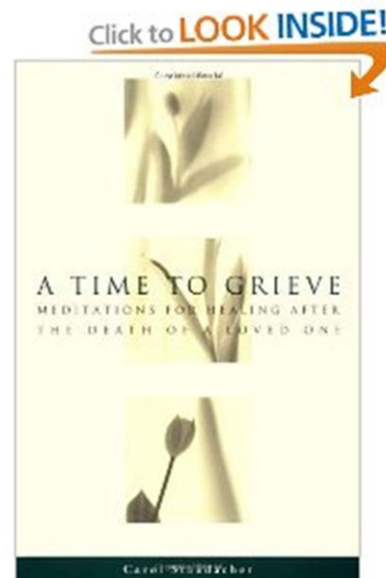
The gathering will begin around 10:30, the formal program starts at 11:00 followed by the meal and Patrick's talk.

There will be a silent auction again this year.

We look forward to another memorable gathering.

Reservation forms will be included in the next newsletter. Please plan to attend.

Book Recommendation:



A Time to Grieve: Meditations for Healing After the Death of a Loved One

By Carol Staudacher

I just finished reading this book. I was up all night. I agree with the other reviewers that generally, this book is not a cover to cover read. In 1985, I was 23 and lost my fiance. As I struggled through the grief, I found little comfort or understanding from my friends and family. I turned to literature. I found few good books, the *Courage to Grieve* was the best and a great source of comfort. But, Oh how I wish this book was there then!

A dear friend died a few weeks ago and I have been looking for ways to help and support her husband. I came across this title from other Amazon reviewers. I'm not very good with words-- and this book captured a swirl of complex thoughts and feelings and put them into words. It encourages, it asks you to be gentle with yourself, it tells you the true meaning of courage--TO FEEL-- and it keeps reminding you--hold onto your hope no matter the depth of your pain or the severity of your isolation. You will make it through the grief. This author has given us-- the broken (and mended) hearted a very special gift.

Amazon.com - \$10.19

Mother reflects on life without Katie Poirier

Posted: Monday, September 27, 1999

www.brainerddispatch.com

MOOSE LAKE (AP) -- Pam Poirier sometimes finds herself glancing at the back door of her home, hoping that her daughter will walk in and end the nightmare that started when Katie was abducted from a convenience store and later killed.

"It's four months of hell, if that's the way you want to (put) it," she said. "I'd give up everything to have her back."

The fact that Donald Blom cleared up the uncertainty surrounding Katie's disappearance by admitting he kidnapped and killed the 19-year-old has made things a little easier. In some respects, Poirier said the tragedy has made her family closer, stronger and more spiritual.

"We're not going to be the same family we were on May 25," Poirier said of husband Steve, son Patrick, father Lloyd Simich and her siblings. "But if anything, we're better."

She finds comfort in her faith, family and the hundreds of letters of inspiration she received from strangers. Each night, Pam and Steve sift through boxes and bags of letters, some from as far away as Europe and Australia

Katie Poirier

Late in the evening of May 26, 1999, Katie Poirier, working alone at a convenience store in a Conoco service station, just off the freeway near Moose Lake, Minnesota, was abducted by a man, caught on the video tape wearing a New York Yankee jersey with the number 23 on the back.

The disappearance touched off a massive search for Katie which was called off on June 6.

Witnesses reported seeing a black pickup in the area and gave a partial plate number. The plate was ultimately traced to a pickup owned by a man identified as Donald Blom.

In September he admitted to the killing and told authorities remains found in a fire pit on his property were Katie's.

I expect that many of you reading this will recall the case as it was very high profile at that time.

Joanie and I and several other POMC members met Katie's mom Pam, over the ensuing years. For a bit, we were all members of a fledging group known as CVAC, (Crime Victims Action Committee) which was formed to assist persons who needed help interacting with the criminal justice system. Sadly, the program never really got going and we disbanded after a year or so.

We are pleased and honored to have as our speaker at the Crime Victims Rights Week Brunch, Katie's brother, Patrick. He has spoken many times to various groups regarding Katie's case and its effect on his family. We, over the years have had speakers from the justice system, parents and politicians, but only once before have we had a sibling.

We look forward to an insightful talk from a brother's viewpoint

Jim Lym

Mother contd...

And she reflects on the memories. There's the search for Katie's junior prom dress that drove both crazy. Katie's passion for french fries with a side of ranch dressing, Cabbage Patch dolls and dresses, dogs and movies and the Green Bay Packers also stick out in her mind.

She smiles at how Katie, at 5 feet 2 and barely 100 pounds, could eat and eat. "Just a peanut," she said. "And she eats like a horse."

Not even Blom, a convicted sex offender, can take those memories away.

"Everywhere I turn, it's Katie," she said.

"Everywhere I am, it's Katie. It is going to be hard for me thinking of her taking care of me now, rather than me taking care of her."

The Poirier family has suffered through a host of emotions -- concern, hope, anger, anguish and frustration -- since Katie was abducted four months ago Sunday.

Early on, it was hard for Poirier to get out of bed. "I'd just sit with the covers over my head -- I didn't care," she said. "It even took a lot to dust off my coffee table. I had to sit down. Leaving the house was very hard. And if I'd go, I'd want to come right back."

The physical toll also mounted. She started smoking again. She lost 25 pounds. She stopped wearing makeup.

But Poirier will try to resume her old routines. She planned to return today to her job as a social worker in Moose Lake for the first time since Blom's Sept. 8 confession. Steve Poirier, a biologist who runs a business in Superior, Wis., is back to work and busy. Patrick, Katie's 21-year-old brother, works for his dad and plans to go back to Fond du Lac Community College in Cloquet this winter.

But it appears likely that the Poiriers will have to endure a court trial because the plea deal that brought Blom's confession is no more.

Last week, Poirier showed up in court and watched as Blom was led to and from the courtroom. It was the first time Pam Poirier had faced Blom since his arrest.

"I don't know if it was Katie or God," she said. "But I wasn't nervous. I had to look evil in the eye and I did. And he didn't win."

Love Gifts

A special thanks to all who have generously donated in memory of their loved ones.



Joan and Jim Lym in memory of Mike Lym

Blanch Picka in memory of her brothers Harry and Clarence Wondra and George Picka

Michael Goldstein in memory of Daniel G. Fox

Russ and Barb Andrews in memory of Steve and Michelle Andrews

Mother contd...

After Thursday's hearing -- when the plea agreement fell apart for the second time -- Pam, Steve and Patrick went out to eat. They were able to laugh.

"Donald Blom is not in our house," she said. "The day of the service or that weekend, we would not talk about him. We're leaving him outside. He's not at our dinner table, he's not with us (when we watch) our TV shows. The devil has not entered our house. He's tried. But he might as well go on."



MN Hope Chapter Board of Directors

Sharon Huberty-Wiggins (Chapter Leader)	651-245-6195
Jim Lym (Co-Leader)	651-484-0336
Chris Dahl (Co-Leader)	612-789-5947
Darlene Moen (Treasurer)	612-840-8522
Joan Lym (Member)	651-484-0336
Frank Baumgardner (Member)	651-224-3114
Phyllis Baumgardner (Member)	651-224-3114
Mike Schumacher (Member)	612-348-5368

If you would like support or have information on upcoming hearings, trials, or sentencings please call Jim Lym at 651-484-0336.

If you would like to memorialize your loved one on the MN Hope Chapter Memorial Wall, please mail the following to our P.O. Box.

- Victim's Name
- Date of Birth
- Date of Death
- 2"x3" colored photo
- \$25 check to POMC/MN Hope Chapter

The walls are 2'x3' and consist of thirty photos each. Underneath their photo is a brass nameplate with their name, date of birth, and date of death. The walls travel to POMC functions. We currently have 5 panels.

"Justice will only be achieved when those who are not injured by crime fell as indignant as those who are."

LOVE GIFTS are a living memorial to our children, siblings and grandchildren, usually given on anniversaries, birthdays, holidays, etc. There is no charge for our newsletters or meetings. We depend solely on your contributions.

I wish to make a donation in memory of:

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

DOB: ___/___/___ DOD: ___/___/___

Age at Death: _____

Donated by: _____

Relationship to: _____

Please make your tax deductible check payable to: **POMC Minnesota Hope Chapter and mail to: PO Box 516, Circle Pines MN 55014**

In case of inclement weather please contact Jim Lym @ 651-484-0336 for meeting changes. This is for all bad weather conditions...storms in summer and winter, extreme temperatures and other conditions.

Thank You

Directions to Holy Spirit Church

From I-94:

Exit Snelling Ave and travel south to Randolph Ave. Turn left on to Randolph. Holy Spirit is on the south side of the street at the corner of Randolph and Albert.

From 35E:

Exit Randolph Ave and travel west. Holy Spirit is located on the south side of the street at the corner of Randolph and Albert.

**Meetings are the 3rd Friday of every month
7-9pm**



MN Hope Chapter Digital Photo Frame

A very special thanks goes out to the family and loved ones of Joshua Haglund who generously donated a digital photo frame to our chapter to help create a very moving memorial to all our fallen loved ones. It will be on display at our monthly meetings and any special functions such as the annual brunch. Below is a consent form that needs to be completed to have your loved ones photo included. Please sign and return it to us by mail or at the next meeting. Include an un-cropped photo of any size. The clearer the picture, the better. The photo will be returned.

**MN Hope Chapter Memorial Digital Photo Frame
CONSENT FORM
(please print clearly)**

I give the Minnesota Hope Chapter of POMC permission to use my loved one's photo for the Memorial Digital Photo Frame that will be displayed at chapter meetings and events.

Your Name: _____

Loved One's Name: _____

DOB ___/___/___ DOD ___/___/___

Relationship to Loved One: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Phone(area code): _____

Email: _____

Donation included (optional):

\$ _____

We are sorry for the circumstances that bring you to POMC, but we hope that we can be of assistance to you as you work through your grief. You are cordially invited to attend our meetings each month. Nothing is required of you. There are no dues or fees, and you need not speak a word. Attending your first meeting takes courage, but most find a comforting network of support, friendship, and understanding that only those who have "been there" can give.

Central MN Chapter News



From the Heart of Minnesota

Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

For the families and friends of those who have died by violence.

National POMC Headquarters: 100 E 8th St, Suite 202, Cincinnati, OH 45202
phone 888-818-7662. Email NatlPOMC@aol.com, Web www.pomc.com**Announcements:**

1. If you want to remain on the mailing list please contact mbierwerth@hotmail.com and or to add your loved ones name, DOB & DOD.

Meetings:

1. Our new meeting location is at the Life Transitions Building at 312 2nd Avenue North, in Sauk Rapids. Meeting times are the 3rd Sunday from 2:00 - 4:00 PM.
2. Our next meeting will be held on Sun. March 18th, at 2 PM

From Rita Reker, St. Cloud

I attended a planning meeting today in preparation for our 3 county observance of Crime Victim's Awareness Week coming up in April. Eight or nine victim organizations participate in that each year. There will be a large event on Thursday evening, April 26 at the St. Cloud Police Dept. meeting room. Last year Jim Lym was our featured speaker. Again this year several victims will tell their stories. It's always a great event, and open to the public. This year the focus will be on teen victims. There will be good food too. I'll keep you informed.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 18th, at The Life Transitions House, at 312-2nd Ave. No. in Sauk Rapids.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Reker, Co-Leader Central Mn Chap. POMC



Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.
 Minnesota Hope Chapter
 P.O. Box 516
 Circle Pines, MN 55014

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**MN Hope Chapter
Upcoming Events**

Meeting: Friday Feb 17th

14th Annual CVRW Brunch:

Sun, Apr 22nd



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

Pomc.com/minnesota

Newsletter Mailing List Update

This is an effort to update our mailing list. We are asking for your cooperation. To continue receiving the POMC, MN Hope Chapter VOICES OF HOPE newsletter, please fill out the information below and return. We hope you will continue to want to receive the newsletter and future mailings. Thank you, MN Hope Chapter Board of Directors.

Name: _____ Newsletter Donation: \$ _____
(optional)

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

Permission to send info to POMC National: Yes: _____ No: _____

Email Address: _____

Do you wish to remain on the mailing list? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, by Mail ___ Email ___

Survivor/ Professional/ Both If Professional, Company Name: _____
(circle one)

Victim's Name: _____
Last First Middle

DOB: ___/___/___ DOD: ___/___/___ Age at time of death: ___

Your relationship to the Victim: _____

**Mail to: POMC, inc. MN Hope Chapter, PO Box 516, Circle Pines, MN 55104
 Or email us at: pomc@pomcmn.com**