



Parents of Murdered Children and Survivors of Homicide Victims

POMC SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

Front Range Chapter

Oct 2010—Nov 2010

NEXT VOICE FORUM SET

You are invited to the Victims Organized In Correctional Exchange (VOICE) forum with the Colorado Department of Corrections to be held at the District 3 Denver Police Station, 1625 S. University Boulevard, Denver, on Monday, October 25 from 6:00 – 8:30 PM. There is ample free parking available.

Topics for the evening will be parole hearings and the parole revocation process. Remember the topics are chosen by those in attendance at the prior forum, so this truly is your chance to be heard and to have your questions answered.

NOVEMBER 16th IS THE DATE TO REMEMBER

Once again the Pearl Street Grill will donate a percentage of its food revenue to support the Front Range Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children. The date this year will be Tuesday, November 16th.

Mark your calendar and plan on having lunch or dinner on that day at the Pearl Street Grill located at 1477 South Pearl Street in Denver. Come and bring your friends and give our community an opportunity to get to know and support us.

If you are unable to join us, please consider sending a tax deductible donation to POMC, P.O. Box 375, Littleton, CO 80160-0375

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK SET FOR NOVEMBER 20TH

It's time again for our annual Thanksgiving Potluck. Plan on joining us on Saturday, November 20th. The board will provide the meat (turkey, ham, etc.)

Each family is asked to bring one of the following to share:

- Last name: A thru H...a side dish
- I thru P.... a dessert
- Q thru R...a salad

Dinner will start at 6:30 PM. This is a time to come together with our extended family and acknowledge all the many things we have to be thankful for.

* * * * *

WE ARE INVITED TO “LEAP INTO LEADERSHIP” at COVA’s Annual Conference, November 7-10, at Keystone Resort & Conference Center in Keystone, Colorado.

“Why should you attend?” you may ask. This conference will provide:

- 1.) dynamic keynote speakers with messages that will inspire, motivate, educate and entertain.
- 2.) 70+ workshops to give YOU what YOU want and need .
- 3.) Great opportunities to network and socialize.
- 4.) Lots of fun.

Contact COVA at 303-861-1160 for more information. Hope to see you there.



PARENTS OF MURDERED CHILDREN NATIONAL OFFICE—CINCINNATI, OHIO

**FRONT RANGE CHAPTER
INFORMATION AND NUMBERS**
"We Are Here to Help"

Web Site
www.coloradopomc.org

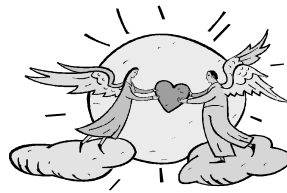
- Leader **Joe Cannata**
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- Member **Caryl & Charles
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- Member **Barb Kaptanian**
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Love Gifts



**Our Chapter Thanks
the following group of members
who gave a donation in honor of
their loved one.**

Margaret Gould for friends
Dee Rhodes & Randy Fleming

Gayle Sawhill for her brother,
Randy Fleming

Phyllis & Ciro Pena for son,
Ricky Bobian

Theresa Cox for daughter,
Brooklyn Ricks

Marilyn & Robert Walsh for son,
Daniel Walsh

Debhra Bradley for son,
**Ibrahim Bradley and nephew,
Damon Roberts**

Erica Mulligan for son
Michael Tarasuik

Catherine Perez for
Edward L. Perez

Carolyn Latham for daughter,
Joni Lynn Bradshaw

Mary Halfen for daughter,
Mary Jo Halfen

New Members

Faye Herrera

Kate & Harlan Schrade

Hollie & Morgan Ferguson

WHY WE ARE HERE

1. To support persons who survive the violent death of someone close, as they seek to recover.
2. To provide contact with similarly bereaved persons and establish self help groups that meet regularly.
3. To provide information about the grieving process and the criminal justice system as they pertain to survivors of a homicide victim.
4. To communicate with professionals in the helping fields about the problems faced by those surviving a homicide victim.
5. To increase society's awareness of these problems.

**POMC NEWSLETTER
STAFF AND INFORMATION**

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by volunteers prior to the regular POMC meeting. It is the official publication of the Front Range Chapter of POMC. Articles, poems, and letters from members are welcome. They may be edited for length and conciseness. Mail such items to the editors,

Cherri and Bill Lusk
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Email is welcome at:
ca.lusk@comcast.net

Contacts

Memorials & Birthdays:
Cherri Lusk, 303 593-0784

Roster & Mailing List:
Robert Curnow, 303 948-3494

**Healing & Bereavement
Resources:**
Barbara Kaptanian, 303-792-5432

Trials and Hearings:
Tom Rasser, 303 798-2841



Trials & Hearings

Following his earlier conviction on a charge of conspiracy to commit murder and other charges related to the murder of Javad Marshall Fields and his fiancé, Vivian Wolfe; Parish Carter was sentenced to 70 years in prison. Javad is the son of Rhonda Fields. This sentencing completes the murder trials of the three perpetrators in this case.

No further activity has occurred in the prosecution of the August, 2009 murder of Ricky Bobian; and a trial date of December, 2010 remains scheduled. Ricky is the son of Phyllis and Ciro Pena.

In the April, 2010 murder of Chelsea Santaguida, a motions hearing is scheduled for Nov. 22, 2010, and a trial is set for Jan. 21, 2011 for the defendant, Zacharia Santaguida, brother of the deceased. Both Chelsea and Zacharia are adoptees of the Santaguida family. Chelsea was the daughter of Juliette Strauss.

In the appeal of Wesley Stoltz for the murder of Bryan D. Lusk, Wesley Stoltz was denied his appeal. Bryan is the son of William and Cherri Lusk.

“Courageous” describes the POMC National Conference

Ever since joining POMC several years ago after the murder of our beloved Jesse I have looked for a word that would describe our membership. I found it at the 24th Annual POMC Conference held from August 12 – 15, 2010 at the Marriot Airport Hotel outside of Philadelphia, PA. The word is “courageous.” Over 300 courageous parents of murdered children and other survivors of victims of homicide from across the US and Canada were in attendance and I was so glad to be among them. The conference was hosted by the Delaware, PA County Chapter of POMC.

My introduction to courageous people started at Denver International Airport (DIA) waiting to board the plane. There I met a very beautiful woman named Faye Jenkins from the Inland Empire Chapter in San Bernardino, CA. Faye and other members of her family were attending the conference in memory of her equally beautiful daughter, Quiana. Quiana and her husband, Janek, had only been married three weeks when they were both murdered in their home in Riverside, CA on the night of October 15, 2008. The case would finally be going to trial later this year. Janek’s parents, who live on the East Coast, were coming to meet the Jenkins family at the conference. Both Janek and Quiana were the only children of their respective parents.

Once we arrived in Philadelphia the conference went as follows. The traditional unveiling of the Murder Wall was held on Thursday night. The Murder Wall is a collection of 32 plaques holding 120 names each with dates of birth and death. Executive Director Nancy Ruhe spoke about the history of the Murder Wall and the Pennsylvania State Police Honor Guard conducted the ceremony with a bag pipe accompaniment.

The opening ceremony began Friday morning at 8:30 a.m. Speakers included various POMC national officers, mayors, district attorneys and other politicians. They all said that they were honored to have the conference in

their state. The next two days featured sixty different ninety minute workshops. The workshops were held simultaneously, seven at a time. The hardest thing for me was picking which workshops to attend. The subjects focused on dealing with grief, prosecution, forensics and honoring loved ones. K-9 comfort companions were in attendance and the host chapter ran special buses to take attendees on a tour of their own memorial garden located just minutes from the hotel.

After Friday evening's diner the memorial video was shown. It consisted of over 150 pictures of loved ones with names, dates of birth and death. It was set to musical accompaniment and as each picture was shown the mourner lit a candle at their table. It was very touching and for many it was the highlight of the conference. Saturday saw more workshops and the Awards Banquet in the evening followed by a chance to dance and relax to recorded music and a DJ. On Sunday morning there was a brunch and a closing ceremony where the baton was passed to the Greater Milwaukee Chapter who will host the event in August of 2011.

The conference also included a bookstore and gift basket auction. Although the meals catered by the Marriot were excellent, the host chapter provided a hospitality room where people could go for coffee and snacks. Most poignant and creative were the table favors left at each place setting for each meal. These were provided by either chapters or parents to honor their loved ones. Some were as simple as handmade book marks or more expensive such as pens or chocolate bars. Each, however, carried a name and date of death and often a picture or message.

Getting back to courageous people, Cynthia Clark Harvey and Becky Miller from the very active Valley of the Sun Chapter in Phoenix gave me insight into how they conduct their monthly meetings. Dr. Harry Bonnell, POMC's board certified forensic pathologist, gives many volunteer hours to the organization and is always ready to patiently but truthfully answer questions. Claudia Place from the Peninsula/South Bay Chapter in Santa Clara, CA shared insight from her days as a labor union organizer and I can't forget the two elderly moms from the New England area who lost their only sons many years ago but still come to the conference to keep in touch and share memories. There were so many more that I don't have space to mention.

And Faye – we hugged as we said goodbye on Sunday morning and she promised to keep me updated on the progress of the trial. We vowed to meet again next year in Milwaukee with Quiana, Janek and Jesse in our hearts.

Submitted by Berkie Harris

From Barb Kaptanian

Expressions of Grief

Mitch Albom: Author, Hyperion Books for one more day have a little faith

Through Albom's inspiring characters and masterful storytelling, readers will newly appreciate those whom they love, and those whom they thought they had lost. They're not really lost at all; they're closer than you think and live forever in the heart and memory. Simply told, sentimental, and profoundly true, his books have genuine power to stir and comfort the readers.

As you read spellbound by Mitch Albom's stories about dying and loss, even if you get one small pearl of wisdom that you can take to heart in your own path of healing, the books will penetrate your sentiments and thoughts and help you along the way. True to all of us, although unique, transcendence is possible and we can gain a whiff of paradise. And feel the gentle breeze of love fill our hearts once again with memories. That one little pearl is definitely worth the read.

for one more day: A haunting novel about the family we love and the chances we miss. This is the story of a mother and a son, and a relationship that lasts a lifetime and beyond. It explores the question: What would you do if you could spend one more day with a lost loved one? What transpires in the novel is one "ordinary" day so many of us yearn for, a chance to make good with the loss of one we love, to explain family secrets, to seek forgiveness, to say goodbye.

James McBride, author of *The Color of Water*, summarizes: "If you had the chance, just one chance, to go back and fix what you did wrong in life, would you take it? And if you did, would you be big enough to stand it? Mitch Albom ...

once again demonstrates why he is one of [McBride's] favorite authors: a fearless explorer of the wishful and magical, he is also a devout believer in the power of love. For one more day will make you smile, it will make you wistful. It will make you blink back tears of nostalgia. But most of all, it will make you believe in the eternal power of a mother's love."

Excerpts from *For One More Day*: (On Charley's visitation from his mother eight years after her death) "My mother moved closer. Her voice softened. 'Have you ever dreamt of someone who's gone, Charley, but in the dream you have a new conversation? The world you enter then is not so far from the world I'm in now.' She put one hand on mine. 'When someone is in your heart, they're never truly gone. They can come back to you, even at unlikely times.'

"(On the death of Charley's mom) "I HOPE YOU never hear those words. *Your mom*. [Your child, notation in brackets mine]. *She died*. They are different than other words. They are too big to fit in your ears. They belong to some strange, heavy, powerful language that pounds away at the side of your head, a wrecking ball coming at you again and again, until finally, the words crack a hole large enough to fit inside your brain. And in so doing, they split you apart." have a little faith: Rabbi Harold Kushner explains, "Once again, Mitch Albom has given us a heartwarming true story, about the power of love to triumph over death, and the power of faith to guide us through the worst adversity." Scott Turow writes the book..." is an absolute wonder. Tender, transporting, and deeply moving, a profound meditation on kindling the light that struggles in billions of hearts."

Excerpts from *Have a Little Faith*: "...the Reb could do nothing but listen to the worst imaginable words - *We couldn't save her*-told to him by a doctor he had never met before that night. How could this happen? She had been perfectly normal earlier in the day, a playful child, her whole life before her. *We couldn't save her?* Where is the logic, the order of life?"

"A small shovel of dirt was tossed on the grave. ...'I cursed God,' he'd (the Reb) admitted when we'd spoken about it. 'Why her? What did this little girl do? She was four years old. She didn't hurt a soul.' Did you get an answer? 'I still have no answer.' Did that make you angry? 'For a while, furious.' Did you feel guilty cursing God - you of all people? 'No,' he said. 'Because even in doing so, I was recognizing there was a greater power than me.' He paused. 'And that is how I began to heal,' "

The Help. A novel by Kathryn Stockett. Published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc.

A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope although not necessarily related to grieving per se. However, there are again some pearls that resonate with the deep feelings of loss. Stockett so vividly expresses through the words of one of the characters, Aibileen, what it feels like to lose a child.

Excerpt: "I lost my own boy, Treelore, right before I started waiting on Miss Leefolt. He was twenty-four years old. The best part of a person's life. It just wasn't enough time living in this world." By the time Aibileen heard of her son's accident, he was dead. "That was the day my whole world went black. Air look black, sun look black. I laid up in bed and stared at the black walls a my house. Minny came ever day to make sure I was still breathing, feed me food to keep me living. Took three months fore I even look out the window, see if the world still there. I was surprise to see the world didn't stop just cause my boy did. Five months after the funeral, I lifted myself up out a bed. I put on my white uniform and put my little gold cross back around my neck and I went to wait on Miss Leefolt cause she just have her baby girl. But it weren't too long before I seen something in me had changed. A bitter seed was planted inside a me. And I just didn't feel so accepting anymore."

Can you resonate with these expressions of grief? I know I do. I can't help but think how the loss of my son has colored so much of what I read. When I see grief expressed in these ways, it pops off the page with blaring reality. I can identify with these words. And strangely enough, I find expression for my pain and I heal. I hope you will too.

Blessings, Barb

Birthdays Remembered

Cindy Stewart, October 1, 1955

Damon A Roberts, October 1, 1972

Colin Ehlers, October 1, 1974

Ada Johnson , October 2, 1963

Matthew Worden, October 2, 1966

Christine Waegele, October 3, 1969

Dale Yanda, October 4, 1967

Shaundra Schell, October 5, 1966

Damon J. Murphy, October 5, 1972

Frankie Paul, October 6, 1969

Cynthia Mc Queen, October 7, 1959

Jodi Carrigg, October 7, 1959

Martha Munoz, October 7, 1981

Ronald Eugene Hinson Jr, October 8, 1959

Brooklyn Ricks, October 8, 1973

Brooklyn Jean Ricks, October 8, 1973

Jason Ortiz, October 9, 1974

Ray (Paisano) Linebarger, October 12, 1944

Katheryn Gonzales, October 12, 1990

Britt Mackay, October 14, 1980

Mark Antony Wilson, October 15, 1972

Fernando Sanchez, October 15, 1980

Jennifer Mesa, October 16, 1970

Matt Ownbey, October 17, 1980

Theodore C. Carleton, October 19, 1954

Peter Beaupre , October 24, 1974

Jessica Morehouse, October 25, 1973

Charley Richards, October 26

Joni Lynn Bradshaw, October 27, 1960

Lori Bases, October 28, 1968

Katie Bailey, October 30, 1975

Ryan C. McDaniel, October 30, 1994

Yvonne Cossio, October 31, 1969

Rickey Ritter, November 4, 1981

Ralph Earl Pettis, November 5, 1928

Phillip Rose Jr, November 6, 1969

Tami Medina, November 6, 1977

Cassie Bernall, November 6, 1981

Thomas Hollar, November 6, 1992

Polly Elizabeth Sullivan, November 7, 1954

Julie Gordy, November 7, 1958

Stoneham Farris, November 7, 1973

Jamie Paine, November 7, 1979

Shashan S Ortiz, November 9, 1980

Gina Padilla, November 9, 1983

Conrad Duran, November 10, 1984

Jon-Paul Lewis, November 12, 1982

Paula Ross Stiner, November 13, 1966

John C. Abeyta, November 15, 1977

Sammy Burks, November 16, 1987

Lynn Cannata, November 17, 1966

Jessica Ann Arredondo, November 20, 1967

Virginia Sakala/Russo, November 21, 1964

Ron Haynes, November 22, 1979

Laura Hetes, November 23, 1968

Linnea Dick, November 23, 1987

Marcos Torres, November 24, 1978

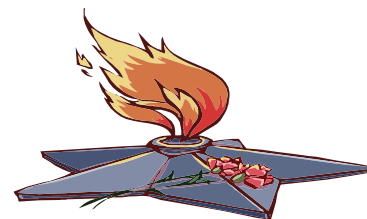
Douglas "Dougie" Charles, November 25, 1957

Eddie Garcia, November 25, 1978



In Memoriam

- Mel Gurule, Jr**, September 23, 1997
Jim Gardner, October 3, 1997
Joni Edwards, October 4, 1995
Jack Koller, October 5, 2009
Gary McGee, October 7, 2001
Bill Leis, October 8, 1999
Michael Scott Reichert, October 9, 2000
Joni Lynn Bradshaw, October 10, 1986
Ennis Walton, October 10, 1999
Frank Sumpton, Jr, October 13, 1989
Kevin Blunt, October 15, 1997
Alan Michael Conner, October 15, 1998
Greg Swazo, October 15, 2001
Anthony Taiitt, October 16, 1981
Earl Mitchell, October 16, 1984
Michael J. Loughrey, October 17, 1983
Rebecca Lynn Ochs, October 17, 1995
Mel Gurule Jr, October 17, 1997
Henry Kellie, October 18, 1975
David Enos, October 19, 2002
Virginia Sakala/Russo, October 21, 1994
Shantel Duran, October 23, 1998
Jason Trembath, October 25, 1992
Ron Griego Jr, October 25, 2003
Ronald (Ron) Georgopulos, October 26, 1988
Dale Yanda, October 26, 1988
Michael Allendorf, October 29, 1994
Kimberly Greene-Medina, October 29, 1996
Roy Cozby, October 31, 1994
Larry Orrantia, October 2004
Sgt Lyle Wohlers, November 4, 1992
Larry Carmichael, November 6, 1988
Randy Arlin Russom, November 8, 1983
Ibrahim Bradley, November 9, 1996
Joseph Nelson, November 10, 2005
Pamela Blandon, November 12, 1991
Tiffany Brill Jarmon, November 13, 2008
Justin Maggard, November 13, 2009
Melodie Robertson, November 14, 2003
Michael Adams, November 16, 1985
Lorren Holcomb, November 16, 2001
Loren Holcom, November 16, 2001
Justin Andrew Archuleta, November 17, 1996
Raymond Albert Nieto, November 17, 1996
Christine Waegele, November 18, 1993
Jan Mariano, November 19, 1991
Jesse Lamblin, November 19, 1996
Buffy Rice Donahue, November 21, 1993
Matthew Foley, November 21, 1996
Cody Faust, November 22, 2002
John LaRose, November 22, 2009
Blaine Eric Noble, November 23, 1993
Diane J. Caldwell, November 23, 1998
Jessica Ann Arredondo, November 25, 1988
Danny Steve McQueen, November 25, 1992
Gregory Scott Stone, November 25, 1992
Geronimo Maestas, November 26, 1993
H Gregory Jukiewicz, November 26, 1994
Jason Ortiz, November 27, 1994
Julie Gordy, November 28, 1982
Linda Zambotti, November 28, 1996
Ali Muhammad Sparks, November 29, 1998
Angel Delgado, November 29, 2005
Alan Little, November 2003



ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 16 - Board Meeting at 6:00 PM
 Regular Meeting at 7:30 PM

October 25 - Quarterly VOICE Forum
 (See pg 1 for details)

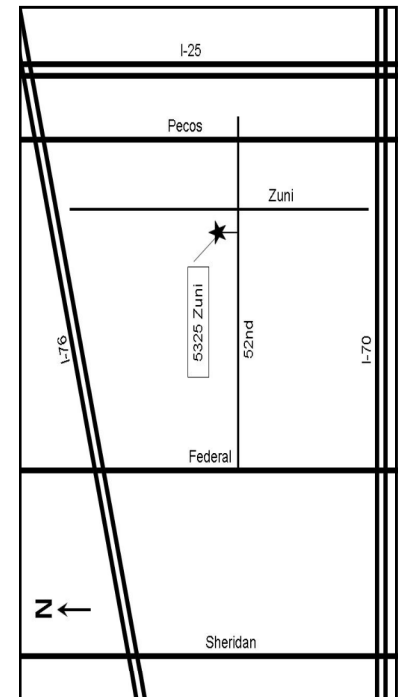
November 7-9 -COVA Conference

November 16 - Fundraiser at Pearls Street Grill

November 20 - Annual Thanksgiving Potluck
 See pg 1 for details)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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We meet in the
cafeteria of the
West Building
 at 5325 Zuni in Denver on
 the 3rd Saturday