

# SURVIVORS

National Organization of

## Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

*For the families and friends of those who have died by violence  
Dedicated to the Aftermath and Prevention of Murder*



Spring 2013  
Volume XXXI Issue 1

## My Life in Forensics

By **DAVERE JACKSON**

*(Criminalist, Serology/DNA Unit,  
Arizona DPS - Central Regional  
Crime Laboratory)  
(From the Arizona Dept of Public  
Safety Crime Lab)*

Last fall I met Mr. Dan Levey from POMC, who, when he introduced himself to me, described it as “the group that no one wants to be a part of.” Just hearing those words made me think about how much I purposefully avoid ever having to think about victims, much less their families. You see, in my job, the more detached I can be, the better I can help police solve crimes and attorneys prosecute offenders.

I have been working as a forensic scientist for 18 years. Back in the early 1990s there wasn't much interest in forensics and jobs were scarce and far between. Most states only had one or two labs that were typically run by the medical examiner's office or by a bunch of retired/desk-duty cops. It seemed that either you had to be a medically trained pathologist or know someone who knew someone to get an internship with a police agency's ballistics or fingerprinting units.

While I was working as a certified medical technologist, specializing in hematology for University of Chicago hospitals, forensics began to change. In 1995 the O. J. Simpson trial had started and the spotlight was on forensics. That trial single-handedly changed forensics forever in the United States and abroad. Due to inappropriate evidence handling

and confusing testimony, what forensics can do hit the media-fueled audience with full force. Agencies started to realize how outdated forensics had become with current technology, science techniques, and personnel.

Illinois State Police (ISP) was the first lab system to take this on full force. With federal government support, Illinois instituted a mass hiring of more than 85 individuals for all units of forensics to begin extensive training programs, and then to work in a state-of-the-art new facility in Chicago. ISP has had a reputation of being first in forensics, due to their extensive background in ballistics and fingerprint work in the Chicago mob years of the 1920s and 30s.

The ISP—Forensic Sciences Command is the second largest forensic science system in the world, next to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was the first laboratory system (1982) to become accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors—Laboratory Accreditation Board (Arizona's Dept. of Public Safety was the second). It was the first laboratory system to institute formal forensic training, quality assurance, and research and development programs.

I was accepted into their training program in April of 1995 as a forensic microscopy analyst. This is a very specialized unit of trace evidence examining all types of evidence to identify anything unknown. Also, comparative work is done with known standards, in order to deter-



**Davere Jackson in the Arizona crime laboratory.**

mine if something could have originated from a known sample. For example: hairs, fibers, paint, glass, small particles, wood pieces, and the science of fracture matching. Fracture matching can match something that originally started as one piece, was broken, or was torn from something else.

I worked in the microscopy unit for six years, two years in Carbondale and four years in Chicago—cities are about as different as you can get. Carbondale is a rural college town (Southern Illinois University) surrounded by cornfields and small farms. Many of my cases involved horse stealing, or illegal deer hunting with the occasional college date rape, or burglary of a convenience store. I worked all types of cases, but it wasn't until I was actively involved with a murder case that I got to experience what forensics can bring to a case: knowledge and information—the one clue that allows the last puzzle to fit into place, and gives the detective that one missing link that can solve the case.

I worked a case where a woman was

*(Continued on p. 17)*

# POMC is Moving Forward

By **DAN LEVEY**

POMC Executive Director

Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. staff is doing a fantastic job—Kudos to Sherry, Ratna, Donna and Bev! We have also been fortunate to utilize some fantastic volunteers including Angela Renzi who helps on our website and Bob Hullinger who is our *SURVIVORS* editor. I'd also like to thank POMC Board of Trustees President, Howard Klerk, and the rest of the national board for all they do and for all of their support.

As you know fundraising has been a key focus for me, and Donna Slone and I can say that our efforts are beginning to pay off. In Phoenix, I'd like to thank the Gallagher & Kennedy P.A. law firm, the Law Offices of Sara J. Powell, and McMurray Charities for their donations. I think we need to continue to work in this area to help ensure POMC stabilization and sustainability. If any POMC Chapter would like to work with National to try planning a fundraiser in your area, please let us know.

Through the POMC website, Facebook, workshop presentations, and different media opportunities, POMC has been working hard to raise our visibility nationally. Recently we

were at the table in a Juvenile Justice Reform meeting in Washington, D.C., which was sponsored by the Casey Foundation and the National Center for Victims of Crime. I will present a workshop on Restitution Court (which was started in Arizona) at the Innovations Conference in Miami, Fla. It is sponsored by the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Center for Courts.

We have recently been informed by Appriss, Inc., of Louisville, Ky., that they will support the important work we do. We are pleased to receive this support and look to work to continue to build our relationship with Appriss in the years to come. Since 1994, Appriss has provided innovative software-based services that help hundreds of local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies keep communities safe and informed which included the VINE services to victims.

I hope that many of you will consider attending the Effective Leadership Training coming up in Cincinnati, May



**Dan Levey**

## *SURVIVORS*

16-19 at the Garfield Suites Hotel. This will provide all attendees with a comprehensive certification training course for all Board Members, Staff, Chapter Leaders and Contact Persons, as well as current and prospective State Coordinators.

The policy of POMC set by the National Board of Trustees states: "One third of members of the Chapter Board of Directors, not to be less than two (2), must attend the Effective Leadership Training Course and be certified by the National Board of Trustees..."

I also want to thank Donna Kukura, Gabi Birkner, Beverly Bailey and Anne Murphy who all volunteered and went to Newtown, Conn., to disseminate information on Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc., and avail ourselves.

Clearly the trajectory of POMC is moving in the right direction, but we have much work to do, which includes increasing fundraising and reducing expenses, increase the number of chapters, raise our visibility across the country to name a few.

I encourage each of you to get involved—to help us move POMC forward to make a difference, so that POMC will be there for all of us and those who unfortunately will come after us. ∞

## New Members of National POMC Board of Directors

Since POMC's first Board of Directors was formed in 1982, its members have been a mix of homicide victim survivors and professionals in law enforcement, legal, medical, religion, and many other callings. Diverse in ethnic roots, personal beliefs and opinions, varieties of faith and non-faith, politically conservative, liberal—and all shades between. What has helped them work together has been the wish to alleviate the suffering of homicide victim survivors. To that end, POMC welcomes three new appointees to the Board. We thank them for their willingness to serve.

**GABRIELLE BIRKNER** linked up with POMC after her father and stepmother, Larry and Ruth Birkner, were murdered during a home invasion in 2004. She joined the national board in November 2012. Gabrielle is an award-winning journalist and digital media strategist, and her work has been published widely. She lives with her family in New York City.



# Murder Has No Borders

## The Birth of CPOMC

CPOMC has as its founding members, Yvonne Harvey, Gary Lindfield and Susan Love. Their first meeting was held in October 2009 in Ottawa for the purpose of establishing a Board of Directors and to decide upon a mission, vision and official name for the organization.

The inspiration to create CPOMC came in the aftermath of the murder of Yvonne Harvey's only child Chrissy Nadine Predham, aged 28 in St. John's Newfoundland on January 21, 2007. The ability to come to terms with the reality of this horrific event was compounded by what trauma counsellors refer to as "secondary victimization". This secondary victimization was a direct result of the unimaginable bureaucracy following Chrissy's murder. If Yvonne had experienced this bureaucracy, and re-victimization, so, probably had others.

Yvonne had consulted with psychologists, trauma counsellors, priests and doctors. All of whom were very supportive and helpful in their own way. However, themselves, not having had this experience, could provide encouragement, but not connect on a visceral level.

*It is impossible to expect anyone, who has not been directly impacted by the act of "Murder" to understand the enormous grief, the immense anger, and the depth of hopelessness that those of us feel who have experienced such a life-changing, traumatic, event.*

In 2008 Yvonne discovered Parents of Murdered Children and Other Survivors of Homicide Victims (POMC) in the



**Chrissy Nadine  
Predham  
(1981-2007)**

United States. She began attending POMC support meetings in the U.S. and immediately experienced the benefits of being able to share with others who had suffered the death of a loved one to murder. It was here, sharing with other parents and survivors of homicide victims, that she felt understood. So much so, that she decided to attend POMC's National Conference in August 2009 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Once again she experienced that powerful energy of hope, healing and understanding. At a conference consisting of hundreds of people, it was a unique feeling of just one huge family. It was here with these people who had felt the same despair, that there was clearly the promise of hope that was what she had been searching for.

Yvonne was the only Canadian attendee at that conference. It was at this point that she decided to create a Canadian version of POMC to share this sense of hope with Canadian survivors of murder victims.

In December 2009, CPOMC was incorporated as a Canadian not-for-profit organization. The initiative to unite all parents and survivors of homicide victims across Canada for the purpose of creating a strong unified voice and a national support organization was born. In April 2011 CPOMC was granted charitable status by the Canada Revenue Agency.

## *SURVIVORS*

## **CPOMC Canadian Parents of Murdered Children AND SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS INC**

### **CARROLL ANN ELLIS**

has a long record of service to crime victims. She now is the Manager of Training Delivery in the OFFICE OF VICTIMS OF CRIME/TTAC. Was Director of the Victim Services Division of the Fairfax County (Virginia) Police Department, she served four police jurisdictions and managed services to victims from all crime categories. She also created the first police-based homicide support group.



### **MARTHA LASHER-WARNER**

is Co-leader of the POMC, Albany New York Chapter. She attended her first POMC meeting in 2004, six weeks after the murder of her daughter, Liza Ellen Warner, 29. Martha founded a non-profit corporation, "Family and Friends of Liza Ellen Warner Association, Inc." to educate students at middle and high school levels to recognize the red flags of domestic abuse by telling Liza's story.



# From the Board Room

By **HOWARD KLERK, JR.**  
President POMC National  
Board of Trustees

Almost a year has gone by since the retirement of Nancy Ruhe. Dan Levey has settled into his new position as Executive Director and a law firm in Phoenix has donated office space for our satellite office. We have seen some changes in our national staff, office location in Cincinnati, and changes in our National Board of Trustees. In short we are continuing on as near normal as possible.

As everyone is aware of the struggling economic climate in the U.S, almost all of our funding has dried up and is not available. The staff is working hard to raise sufficient funds necessary for our operation, but we are falling short of our needs. Please consider a donation to National so we may continue in our role as the premier homicide survivor support organization in the country.

If you shop online you can donate to POMC without any additional cost to you. Simply go to our website POMC.org and click on the Amazon.com logo at the bottom of the page: That link will put you on the amazon website. Order your merchandise this way and a small portion of your purchase will go to POMC. This does not change the price of the item and you don't pay a cent extra: You get the merchandise and we get a small donation. Another

way you can help POMC is to donate your old car, boat, RV, heavy equipment, farm equipment, etc., to Action Donation Services. They pick up your donation, sell it, and POMC will receive one half of the net profit. You must specify POMC as the beneficiary. Call Bev at the national office (1-888-818-7662) for details.



Howard Klerk

Please be sure to mark your calendars for August 15-18th (arrival and departure dates) to attend the National POMC Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Unfortunately, since no one has volunteered to host a National Conference in 2014, this may be our last annual conference.

Finally, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of the horrible shootings at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., and all the victims and survivors of homicide everywhere. We hope you find solace with POMC. Bless all of you who have the intestinal fortitude to continue to live as near to normal as possible in spite of your horrendous loss. May we never lose sight of why we exist, and of our loved ones taken from us so early and in such a horrible manner. Sincerely,

*Howard S. Klerk Jr*

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## POMC receives support for 2013 Conference

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of OVC Crime Victim & Survivor Scholarships to attend the 2013 National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. Conference "Open Hearts, Sharing Hope with Trusted Friends...We Remember Them," on Aug. 15-18, 2013. The scholarships will support the attendance of crime victims/survivors lodging for 3 nights. Scholarship applications will be available for the Survivor Scholarship through POMC in the near future.

The Office for Victims of Crime is also



pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of Professional Development Scholarships for state, local, and community-based victim service providers to attend the POMC Conference. In support of those professionals seeking continuing education opportunities, the Program provides up to \$1,000 for individuals and up to \$5,000 for multi-disciplinary teams.

Funding is limited. Applicants must meet specific eligibility requirements. For more information on the Professional Development Scholarships or to apply for a scholarship, please contact OVC TTAC at 866-682-8822 or visit the OVC TTAC Web site: <http://www.ovcttac.gov>

*This event is supported in part through funding from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice. Points of view expressed in this event are those of the organizers and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice*

### POMC receives half of net profit from donations to A.D.S.

Donations to Action Donation Services (ADS) will give POMC 50% of the net profit. ADS accepts donations of cars, trucks, boats, RVs, and heavy equipment, etc. They will pick up the donated item, fix it up (if necessary), and auction the item for the highest possible price. All you have to do is call them at **1-866-244-8464** and tell them what you want to donate, and

designate POMC as the recipient. They will instruct you on how to proceed. A POMC member donated a 20-year-old 5th wheel camper, which netted POMC \$1,397.80. Upon request, ADS will issue you a 1098c form. You can file it with your tax returns as a charitable donation. This is a chance to get rid of equipment and help POMC at the same time.

# In massacre's aftermath, POMC reps visit Newtown

By GABRIELLE BIRKNER

In the hours and days after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting—a tragedy that shook the nation to its core, and hit close to home for many homicide survivors—several POMC members reached out to the organization's leadership to ask how they could be of help to the Newtown, Conn. community.

POMC Executive Director Dan Levey reached out to Newtown officials, and about a week after the shootings, when the crush of media had subsided but the massive trauma was only beginning to set in, a POMC contingent headed to Newtown. The organization had been invited to distribute POMC materials and talk to locals about its support services at a healing event.

There is no POMC chapter in Connecticut, at least not yet. So the Southeastern Massachusetts (SEMA) chapter took the lead, driving down from Cape Cod. I took the train in from New York City, and met SEMA chapter leaders Beverly Myers Bailey and Anne Murphy in Connecticut.

The three of us represented a range of losses POMC members experience—that of a parent, a sibling and an adult child. In 2002, Anne's 16-year-old son, Devyn Murphy, was stabbed to death in a case that to this day remains unsolved. That same year, Beverly's brother Michael Myers, 46, was tortured to death in Washington, D.C. And in 2004, my father and stepmother, Larry Birkner, 54, and Ruth Birkner, 55, were beaten to death during a home invasion.

We knew that going to Newtown might evoke some of our own darkest moments. En route, Anne, a holistic healing practitioner, coached us to take deep breaths and prepare ourselves for what was sure to be a trying day: driving into town, and a law enforcement

presence that would otherwise be out of place in this quiet exurban community.

As representatives of POMC, we were warmly welcomed. At the healing event, Beverly, Anne and I had the opportunity to speak with dozens of community members about what they were going through in the tragedy's wake. "Most of the people we encountered and shared our information about POMC received it with much relief," Beverly wrote in an email to Levey the day after our trip to Newtown.

After the event, we headed to a makeshift counseling center set up at the local middle school and then to a Red Cross office. We told officials at both locations about POMC's origins and the important work that it does on behalf of homicide victims and their families. And we handed them brochures about POMC's mission, programs and support groups, and about sibling grief.

Before heading home, the three of us dropped off our materials at shops

along a commercial strip just blocks from where the shooting took place. It was there, at a local hair salon, that Anne spoke with a teacher who was at the school when the shooting occurred. In an email to POMC Board President Howard Klerk, Jr., Anne wrote: "One of the teachers from Sandy Hook Elementary School told me that the townspeople are falling apart at the funerals and the 'parents are doing good.' We know what that is about. As a parent of a murdered child I could not grasp the enormity of my situation and was in shock as I know they are as well."

The downtown area was a testament to the national outpouring of support for the victims. There were thousands of expressions of sympathy—in the form of

**In a time when massacres are becoming common, the desire of people to express their sympathy and grief shows itself in placing flowers and teddy bears at the site of a tragedy. POMC representatives left this makeshift memorial in Newtown. Ms. Birkner caught the display with her cellphone.**

bouquets, teddy bears, candles and cards that had come from far and wide. Some local store windows had signs with messages such as "God Bless Sandy Hook" and "Love Will Get Us Through." It was clear that the community was pulling together, and determined to make the world a better place in light of the tragedy that took place in its midst. ∞



## MURDER WALL...Honoring Their Memories

## SURVIVORS

The names that appear in this issue of Survivors are those that have been submitted to the National Organization of POMC, Inc., with full or partial payment before Dec. 31, 2012. Names after this date will appear in the next issue.

The Wall consists of solid walnut panels with each holding 120 brass plates inscribed with the name of the victim, along with the date of birth and the date of death. A donation of \$75 is required before a name will be inscribed on a plate and permanently mounted on a panel. (See order form inside this edition.) Not only is this donation a tribute to the memory of your loved one, but it is a tribute that will guarantee that the memory of those we miss so deeply will survive forever.

The Wall is a powerful statement of the violence in our society and of the numbers of loved ones

senselessly killed by others. Not only does it give comfort, but also hope, because every name on it cries out silently for awareness, prevention and justice.

**Cindy Lou Hubbard**  
1/16/59 - 6/1/98

**Laura Pizzini**  
2/11/84 - 10/16/09

*"It is one of the mysteries of our nature that a man, all unprepared, can receive a thunderstroke like that and live. There is but one reasonable explanation of it. The intellect is stunned by the shock and but gropingly gathers the meaning of the words. The power to realize their full import is mercifully wanting. The mind has a dim sense of vast loss—that is all. It will take mind and memory months and possibly years to gather the details and thus learn and know the whole extent of the loss."*

Mark Twain, *Autobiography*, quoted in *In The Midst of Winter*, p. 5



## Your Donations Help to Maintain the Wall's Physical Beauty

Time and much travel have put stress on the many panels of the Murder Wall...Honoring Their Memories, and scratches, nicks, and dents need to be repaired. Many of the cases that are used to transport the Wall have split or broken, handles have fallen off, and the protective material inside each case needs to be replaced.

Currently, the Wall is made up of 32 panels, displaying over 3,500 victims' names, dates of birth and dates of death..

In order to maintain the beauty of the Wall, POMC continues to seek donations to help make some of the repairs. To help, please use the form below. Donations made in memory/honor of will be in the next issue of Survivors.

### POMC-Wall Repair (Please Print)

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

In memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_ MO: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa: \_\_\_\_\_ MC: \_\_\_\_\_ Am. Express: \_\_\_\_\_ Discover: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Return to:

**POMC, 4960 Ridge Ave., Suite 2, Cincinnati, Ohio,  
45209**

## Donations in Memory of Friends and Loved Ones Helps Preserve the Wall's Meaning

It is the only national monument in the United States for those who have died by murder. It is a tribute that guarantees that the memory of those we miss so deeply will survive. It is a powerful statement of our need to stop the violence. It cries out silently for awareness, justice and prevention. It brings comfort, hope, and understanding, and POMC thanks everyone who, by their donation, helps to ensure that the beauty of the Wall is maintained.

### To Help Maintain the Murder Wall:

**J.D. Anderson**, from Colleen Novia

**Kandice Johnson Gargus**, from  
Walter & Beverly Burns

**Raymone Pierre Lyons**, from Anna Marie Adams

**Marcus Maddox**, from Billy & Monika Maddox

**Anthony "Tony" Matacia**, from Jane Matacia

**Tod McQuaid**, from Roger & Jan McQuaid

**Timothy Staunton**, from Denise Coleman

**Cynthia Sedgwick**, from Jim & Barbara Sedgwick

## Cincinnati judge engages POMC and local agencies to launch gun violence prevention effort

**CINCINNATI** — Children see guns as glamorous and powerful, due to movies, media, and other entertainment genres. They have portrayed guns as attractive images. How can communities combat these images and decrease the number of children who get involved with gun violence? A Cincinnati judge had an idea.

Last spring John Williams, Hamilton County, Ohio, Juvenile Court’s Adminis-

trative and Presiding Judge, created L.I.V.E. Cincinnati, an educational outreach to fifth and sixth graders, trying to reach them at an age before they get involved with guns.

The Court partnered with the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children and other organizations, such as the Hamilton County Prosecutor’s Office, Hamilton County Public Defender’s Office, Ohio Department of Youth Services, and the Positive Influence Team. People from these organizations developed a video to introduce the initiative to school authorities. Teams from the agencies visit the schools to teach the children what happens to surviving families when someone is gunned down.

L.I.V.E. teaches children action steps to take if they encounter an illegal gun:

- Leave the area
- Involve an adult
- Victim, don’t be
- Educate your friends

Two members of the Greater Cincinnati Area Chapter, mother Jamie and daughter Michelle Gulleman, and a younger daughter who spoke on the video but is too young to take part in the POMC Chapter—participated in the video presentation on behalf of POMC. They spoke about the effects of the murder on their loved one, Shane Gulleman, 18-years-old. The Gulleman family also have attended

and presented at some of the schools with the other team members.

L.I.V.E. Cincinnati has been tested in several schools throughout Hamilton County and now is ready to include elementary schools throughout the Cincinnati Public School District. The initiative has received positive media coverage.

The Court is not just reacting to violent situations after they happen. It is working to head off such future situations. That fits well with the POMC vision: “Dedicated to the Aftermath and *Prevention* of Murder.”

Sherry Nolan, on the staff of National POMC, represented the national organization. Contact her to learn more about L.I.V.E. Cincinnati:

[snolan@pomc.org](mailto:snolan@pomc.org)

From the desk of  
**John M. Williams, Judge**



**Dear Students:**

Although movies and video games make guns seem glamorous and powerful, the reality of illegal gun violence is very different. When someone dies in real life, you can’t just reset the box.

There is a disturbing trend in our community of children having easy access to guns. It is our job at Hamilton County Juvenile Court to keep our children and communities safe. This is why we are providing this important information to you.

These tips are designed to keep you and those you care about safe. L.I.V.E. provides you with an action plan. If you find yourself in contact with an illegal gun, follow these simple steps. You have the power to save your life, and you might just save someone else, too. Don’t be a victim. Choose to L.I.V.E.

Sincerely,  
*John M. Williams, Judge*

**myth:**  
I’ve been bullied on my way to school; carrying an illegal gun will make me safer.

**fact:**  
If you carry an illegal gun, you are committing a crime and are more likely to be a victim.\*

**myth:**  
Illegal guns are only a problem in the Inner city.

**fact:**  
Gun violence is the second leading cause of death in the state of Ohio. On average, 45 children are shot every day in America.\*

\*Source: Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence



Judge John Williams, center, and a few of the committee members, far right, who help with presentations. L.I.V.E. teams take the banner in the photo to the schools for the presentation. L.I.V.E. presenters ask the children about what they learned and what they are taking with them to share with others that can save their lives or that of others. Then the students sign the banner, saying that they choose to be guided by what the L.I.V.E. program taught them. They also receive a “dog tag” to wear, with the L.I.V.E. logo showing their support and awareness.

**Help Keep Murderers Behind Bars**

\* Write letters protesting the parole of those convicted murderers listed in each issue of the Survivors newsletter. Petitions can also be downloaded from POMC's web site at [www.pomc.org](http://www.pomc.org).

\* Contact National POMC if your loved one's murderer is going to be considered for early release/parole.

\* Contact National POMC to be placed on the list of those willing to circulate monthly petitions.

\* Support the program by sending your tax-deductible donation. Use the donation form shown below.

**Parole Block Program  
Help Needed**

Parole Block™ is a program of the National Organization Of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc.



**1394**

Convicted murderers have been denied parole through POMC's Parole Block Program!

**PAROLES DENIED SINCE THE  
FALL 2012 NEWSLETTER**

**Terry Duffy  
Bret Thomas  
Richard Ashley**

**Ronald H. Saunders  
Benny Kemper  
I. G. Wimbush**

**Parole Block Protests**

**Tammy S. Wilson  
ID# 17350**

On October 6, 1990, Tod McQuaid was murdered by Tammy Wilson, who wanted to take over Tod's business, and murder was her way to get Tod "out of the picture."

Wilson drugged him, rendering him unconscious, and forced another employee to shoot him. After the employee missed several times, Tammy put a gun to the employee's head and threatened to shoot him if he missed again.

Wilson was guilty of first degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison. She will have served 22 years when she is considered for parole.

**Roger E. Cline  
ID#185291**

On October 6, 1990, Roger Cline was one of three employees who plotted to murder their boss, Tod McQuaid, so they could take control of his two businesses.

Cline offered to be the triggerman and shot Tod three times and killed him on the fourth. He then drove Tod's body in the back of a truck into Ohio and buried him in a shallow grave.

Cline was convicted of first degree murder with mercy and was sentenced to 10 years to life. He will have served 22 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest both of these, write to:**

West Virginia Parole Board  
1409 Greenbriar St. Suite 220  
Charleston, WV 25035-0700

**Quincy E. Brown  
ID# 178172**

On June 7, 1989, Quincy E. Brown along with two others participated in the murder of Donald V. Pierce Jr. Don was waiting for the elevator at his law office in downtown Kansas City, Mo., when Brown pointed a sawed-off shotgun at Don and shot him in the knee and shoulder. Quincy handed the shot gun to one of the others involved in the murder and left.

Brown was convicted of second degree murder and was sentenced to two life sentences. Brown will have served 24 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest, write to:**  
Missouri Dept. of

Corrections  
Division of Probation  
and Parole  
3400 Knipp Drive  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

\*\*\*\*\*

**Keith Doyle  
ID#04607869P**

On August 24, 1984, Keith Doyle strangled Janice Amirante one week before her 19th birthday in a motel after an argument. He then plunged her head in a sink of water to make sure there were no bubbles, removed the mattress from the bed, pried boards off the wooden platform, put her body inside and then replaced the boards and the mattress. He kept the motel room key and two days later when it was vacant

**Parole Block Letters**

he removed the body and dumped it in a drainage area where she was discovered a few days later.

Doyle was convicted of second degree murder with extreme indifference to human life and was sentenced to 25 years to life. He will have served 29 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest, write to:**

NYS Division of Parole  
97 Central Ave.  
Albany, NY 12206  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Kenneth Lonnie Cook**  
**ID# 119820**

On June 29, 1981, Kenneth L. Cook kidnapped, raped and shot to death 18 year old Lori Ann Mann. Lori's nude body was found four days after she had been dumped in the weeds along a dirt road.

Cook was convicted of murder and was sentenced to life in prison. He will have served 31 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest, write to:**

State of Oklahoma  
Board of Pardon and Parole  
1st National Center  
120 N Robinson Ave.  
Suite 900W  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Ronnie Fisher**  
**ID#118960**

On May 19, 1989, Lynn Marie Dust was murdered by a co-worker, Ronnie Fisher. She met him at this storage shed to pick up a VCR that she had

him purchase for her. When she turned to leave, he hit her in the head with a blunt instrument, killing her. He transported her body and hid her in an illegal dump, where she was found seven weeks later.

Fisher was convicted of first degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison. He will have served 24 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest, write to:**

State of Oklahoma  
Board of Pardon  
and Parole  
120 N Robinson Ave.  
Suite 900 W  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Matthew Solomon**  
**ID# 89A1381**

On Christmas Eve, 1987, Matthew Solomon murdered his wife of two months, Lisa, by way of strangulation. He then wrapped her body in garbage bags and left her to freeze in a field. Solomon reported Lisa missing and led the search for her. Lisa's body was found six days later.

Solomon was convicted of murder with depraved indifference and was sentenced to 18 years to life. He will have served 26 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest, write to:**

NY State Parole Board  
97 Central Ave.  
Albany, NY 12206  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Curtis Smith**  
**ID# 042043**

On March 14, 1984, Curtis Lee Smith shot 17-year-old Michelle Hartfiel point blank in the head, killing her. Michelle had left her home in Elk River, Minn., with Smith, a past parole offender, to travel to Springfield, Mo., to meet up with an old jail buddy.

Once there, they got a hotel room for a few nights, and Michelle realized this is not where she wanted to be. When she told Smith she was going to return home, he shot her.

Smith plea-bargained to

second degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison. He served 26 years when he was released in March 2010.

In November 2010 he violated his parole with a misdemeanor drug charge and is back in prison. He will be considered for parole in June 2013.

**To protest, write to:**

State of MO  
Dept. of Corrections  
2729 Plaza Dr.  
PO Box 236  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**Support for the Parole Block Program:**

- Tara Atashian**, from William & Mary Roberts
- Rhona Eiseman**, from Harriet Pownall
- Elizabeth Foster**, from Helen Foster
- Howard Jay Goodman**, from Lenore Freedman
- Kandice Johnson Gargus**, from Walter & Beverly Burns
- Anthony "Tony" Matacia**, from Jane Matacia
- Tod McQuaid**, from Roger & Jan McQuaid
- Jessika Messmer**, from Edward & Lorraine Messmer
- Peter Dodd Nichols**, from Lee Nichols-Freeman
- Timothy Staunton**, from Denise Coleman
- Valley of the Sun Chapter**, from Robin Grass
- Beckie & Don Miller & Board Members**, from Robin Grass

**Support POMC's Parole Block Program  
Keep A Killer Behind Bars**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amt Encl: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_ Money Order: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ AMX \_\_\_\_\_ Dis \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sec. Code #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:**  
POMC, 4960 Ridge Ave., Suite 2  
Cincinnati, OH 45209



## **Parole Block letters from victim survivors**

**June 22, 2012**

Hello,

Enclosed the reply from Texas. Another three years—I can breathe a sigh of relief. I wasn't able to go out like before & get a number of signatures, just one sheet & mostly thanks to everyone there to help keep Hanna behind bars.

You give us very good support & another surprise: one lady on the parole board called me personally, that was the very first time. She said he was in a unit and been big problem.

Thank you again. Happy Days

*Carol Linson*

---

**June 18, 2012**

I would like to say **thank you all** for signing the petition to the New York State Board of Parole and I am pleased to say that after due deliberation by the board panel members, parole was again **denied**.

Your signature was extremely important in helping to send a message to the parole board that release of this convicted murderer is unacceptable. Furthermore, the board concluded that inmate #93A0903 will not be eligible for another parole hearing until May of 2014.

I would like to give special recognition to those of you who took the time to write Victim Impact Statements and to those who helped gather signatures from friends and family. Your efforts are very much appreciated! Those of you that collected signatures—please share the outcome and extend my gratitude to all.

Justice demands a prison term to the fullest extent and I intend to continue to do whatever is necessary to ensure this criminal remains imprisoned for the rest of his natural life. Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,

*Jennifer*

### **Corrections from Fall 2012 issue**

\* A donation "In Honor of All Survivors" was listed as coming from Bruce and Herb Campbell. Mistake! It was from Bruce and **Barbara** (or **Barb**) Campbell.

\* SURVIVORS erroneously printed a Parole Block letter in the Fall 2012 issue, p. 9, as coming from Louis Balonis. It came from **Louise** Balonis. Worse, we misquoted Ms. Balonis as citing her murdered daughter as Karen. It was **Kathie**. Karen is **very much alive**.

We know how disturbing it is for others to attribute a wrong or misspelled name to those we've lost through murder. We wish to apologize for these disturbing errors in editing this newsletter.

## **SURVIVORS**

**August 1, 2012**

I thank the National Organization of POMC, chapter leaders and members who took the time to sign a petition opposing the parole of Reginald Glover. I truly thank you all for your time, support, prayers, thoughts and love.

Reginald Glover CDC#H56475 waived his right to a parole hearing for two years(2014). He wants more time to remain disciplinary free so he can reduce his custody level from maximum security. Please include my thank you to everyone and the outcome of the parole hearing in the next POMC Newsletter. Please return the refundable fee of \$25.00 to me.

Thank you.

*Pearl Graham*

---

**December 12, 2012**

Once again, it is time to submit our money for the Quarterly Newsletter. When I get the Newsletter, I just can't seem to read it fast enough! Thanks for sending it via email in 2013. Postage is getting way too expensive and why not email?

First off, thanks for the hard work you do for all victims. It still seems like yesterday that our daughter, Ann Michelle Garay Vogelpohl, was murdered by her husband. To say that we miss her is an understatement. It is times like Christmas that we can't **stop** thinking about her and want her with us—the hurt never stops!

Also, thanks for the yearly notes of condolence. They are very much appreciated—for sure! But thanks to your organization and the **fine** people that send letters and fill out petitions, our murderer has not gotten out. In fact, their son, now 22, testified against his father at the last parole hearing and helped us gain another 10 years before we have to go through this again!

It is so sad that such an organization is necessary, but there are so many animals out there hurting those we love. In addition, it gets tougher due to the financial crunch our country is now incurring with prisoners getting out earlier than they should. We **must** do everything we can to help one another. So, I write letters to the Parole Board and as much as it is tough and hard to do, **we have to do it!** Please accept this \$100 to continue our Newsletter and to also give a wee bit to such a fine organization. We will send more next year. Thank you so much and **Merry Christmas** to everyone that helps.

*Pat Garay*

# Defense plea of genetic factors in violent conduct is faulty science

The headline reads, “Your Honor, My Genes Made Me Do It,” and the article explains “the latest attempt to explain violent behavior” as an “unfounded exercise.”

Continuing domestic violence raises the question of causes. In the 1970s, urban poverty seemed to be behind it. In the 1980s, mental illness; in the 1990s, substance abuse. Today, society singles out malfunctioning brains.

This argument, along with brain scans and expert testimony that development of the nervous system are factors that account for the crime, is increasing in actual court cases. Although this is increasingly presented in criminal court cases, the article sees it as unreliable science, even though that does not seem to matter. A recent article in *Science* magazine suggests

that judges may impose lighter sentences if they are convinced that an offender is “born bad,” or that the offender’s brain “made him do it.”

Drs. Judith Edersheim and Bruce Price, co-directors of the Center for Law, Brain and Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Jordan Smoller, of the Center’s scientific faculty, in a thoughtful *Wall Street Journal* article, assess the findings and point out errors in such defense cases.

- The genetic argument presented is wrong. In the last decade, a divergent of the “warrior gene” was presumed to be the factor behind violent behavior, yet this gene is affected by other genes and social environment. Genetic mutations do not account for violent conduct.

- At least 30 percent of men have this variant, but most do not commit violent crimes. If anything, victims of abuse may have a slight increased “risk of antisocial behavior.”

- The same arguments now are being used about brain-scan evidence, that new findings show that a defendant’s brain caused him or her to act abnormally. Yet, this cause can be taken in several ways. Some brain injuries affect behaviors, but many do not. It is not certain that brain scan differences bring “changes in individual behavior.”

Until science soundly and legally relevant can link up genes, conduct, and brains, “judges, juries and the public should be wary of neuroscience in the courtroom.” ∞

*(From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 22, 2012)*

**“Comedian Bill Cosby understood the effect of violence on our culture when he observed that, ‘The main goal of our collective future must be to stop violence. Too many, I’m afraid, have grown addicted to it.’ ”**

*(From the 2011 POMC Milwaukee Conference speech by the representative of the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office.)*

## *Your Help Is Needed*

Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. has been helping to change lives for more than 34 years, bringing about hope, healing, love, and a renewed life to survivors of homicide victims.

We could not have done this without you.

Your trust and financial support has enabled us to assist hundreds of thousands of loved ones over the years.

It is our hope that through these difficult economic times you will continue to make POMC your charity of choice.

Every donation, regardless of the amount, is vital if we are to continue making the difference in the lives of those who have faced the ultimate tragedy—the murder of a loved one.

Thank you.

## **POMC supports Federal Victims Rights Amendment**

The Federal Victims’ Rights Amendment will be re-introduced in this upcoming session of Congress and POMC will keep you posted on its status. We will need your help in contacting your member of your Congressional delegation to urge them to sign onto the Victims’ Rights Amendment. The Victims’ Rights Amendment would extend to crime victims a series of rights, including the right to be notified of court hearings, the right to attend those hearings, and the right to speak at particular court hearings (such as hearings regarding bail, plea bargains, and sentencing). Similar proposed amendments have been introduced in Congress since 1996. For more information on the Federal Victims’

Rights Amendment please go to the website —

**<http://nvcap.org>**

# CONTACT PERSON & CHAPTER CORNER

By Sherry Nolan

We want to take this opportunity to thank the following new volunteers for the invaluable services that they provide to other survivors on behalf of POMC, Inc. If you would like more information about our volunteer opportunities, please contact Sherry Nolan, National Volunteer Coordinator, at: 888-818-7662 or [snolan@pomc.org](mailto:snolan@pomc.org).

**2 new Contact Persons have joined the National POMC family since our last SURVIVORS Newsletter:**

**Donna Simcoe** (Parent-Survivor)  
Evansville, Indiana  
812-453-3514  
[simkc55@yahoo.com](mailto:simkc55@yahoo.com)

**Tammy Messina** (Parent-Survivor)  
Reisterstown, Maryland  
443-761-2227  
[tmessina91060@gmail.com](mailto:tmessina91060@gmail.com)

**2 new Chapters have opened their doors to offer support:**

**The Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Chapter of POMC**  
Chapter Leader—**Dawn Nasewicz**  
(Parent-Survivor)  
Johnstown, Pennsylvania  
814-539-5267, 814-255-4121,  
814-659-7673  
[dawn\\_esther\\_4264@yahoo.com](mailto:dawn_esther_4264@yahoo.com)

**The North Central West Virginia Chapter of POMC**  
Chapter Leader—**Betty Sargent**  
(Parent-Survivor)  
French Creek, West Virginia  
304-924-6791, 856-220-9616  
[bjsargent39@yahoo.com](mailto:bjsargent39@yahoo.com)

Co-Leader—**Karen Whiteman**  
(Sibling-Survivor)  
Shinnston, West Virginia  
304-592-9133, 304-627-4878  
[kmwrn123@msn.com](mailto:kmwrn123@msn.com)



## Is there a POMC Chapter in your area?

Support groups and some organizations are born out of tragedy; either one's personal tragedy, or the part one plays in the tragedy of others. POMC offers support to all families and friends of those who have died by violence—through the staff at the National Office, local chapters, contact persons, and surviving members who volunteer their time and resources to reach out to others.

- If you have a sincere and genuine concern for other survivors.
  - If you are prepared for a long-term commitment.
  - If you can tolerate others' personal beliefs.
- If you don't need personal recognition for your efforts.
- If your personal reward comes by seeing other survivors grow and by offering Hope.
- If you feel that you are at a time in your own life's journey where you can reach out to help others who have experienced the trauma of a loved one's death due to violence and can provide a safe, non-judgmental, and confident outlet for sharing—

Please take the first step in learning about the process of volunteering for POMC and opening a new Chapter or becoming a Contact Person by contacting Sherry. There is incredible value in being able to reach out to others.

*\*\*©TLC Group Publications for Transition, Loss and Change...Dallas, TX (1992) (with revisions)*

*"The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Gandhi*

# SURVIVORS

## IN MEMORIAM

*(The following POMC Chapter Leaders and Contact Persons have given much of their lives to helping victims. We are grateful for such special people. They will be sorely missed.)*

**RIC NESBIT, TEXAS**, died Oct. 19, 2012. Ric was Chapter Co-founder and Co-Leader of the former North Texas Chapter of POMC in Fort Worth. Ric was also a Contact Person for a number of years. **Judy Nesbit**, his wife, is still a POMC Contact Person. Ric started the Chapter after his daughter, **Katy Nesbit** was murdered Aug. 25, 1995.

**GAIL LELAND, ARIZONA**, died Nov. 21, 2012. Gail was a Chapter Co-founder and Co-Leader of the former Tucson Chapter.

**PAT PERAINO, TEXAS**, died Dec. 4, 2012. Pat was a Contact Person for many years in Corpus Christi.

**CHRIS DAHL, MINNESOTA**, died Jan. 15, 2013. Chris was Chapter Co-Leader of the Minnesota Hope Chapter.

**FRED REKER, 84, ST. CLOUD, MINN.**, died Dec. 31, 2012. Together with his wife, Rita, he founded the POMC Central Minnesota Chapter. Their daughters, Mary, 15, and Susan, 12, missing for 26 days, were found murdered in 1974.

# “Deceitful above all Things”

## Meditation on a Fatal Friendship

By **STEPHEN PAUL FOSTER**

The bad news came from... Ft Lauderdale, Florida, home of my long time, good friend Bill... Ft Lauderdale Police... had recently found the stabbed and bludgeoned body of his ex-girlfriend in his apartment.... That he was directly responsible for the murder of anyone was unthinkable.

Over the next several days a different and far more awful picture took shape, ... My good friend, it appeared, had committed a horrifically violent, premeditated murder and then fled.

It was a sensational story and got

national attention.... Bill was not some glib Cliff Notes intellectual. The range and depth of his knowledge was truly phenomenal....

At the time of the murder Bill was employed as a foreign language librarian.... where Bill met Columbian-born Gloria Gomez, whom he dated.... Gloria had broken off the relationship and become engaged to another man.... he exploded in rage and murdered her.

The news got worse. Gloria’s murder was a repeat performance.... Bill had killed another woman, Lisa Hullinger, in Germany nineteen years earlier... Like Gloria, Lisa had broken off with him shortly before the fatal encounter. Like Gloria, Lisa had been bludgeoned, an object of murderous rage....

Interpol was searching for Bill. His

*(Dr. Foster’s 2011 blog recalls my family’s trauma and the murder of my daughter, although that is not the thrust of this article. From time to time murder victim survivors may encounter the family and friends of the murderer. Sometimes we gain the insight that some of them, too, have been stunned by the murder; may even have similar trauma reactions as those of murder victim survivors. This story tells of another kind of victim experience. The words are those of the writer, although condensed from his longer blog article. —Robert Hullinger)*

photo appeared on the FBI’s web site: “Wanted by the FBI—Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution—Murder.” The story was also featured on television’s “America’s Most Wanted.”... This man had been my friend for fifteen years.

Bill and I had kept in touch over the years.... When he finished his degree,... Bill eventually got a job at...the Broward County Public Library in Ft Lauderdale.... It was at that library where he met Gloria Gomez, whom he eventually murdered.

How could this extraordinary man I had known for so long and for whom I had so much affection, commit such horrible crimes? He had killed two young women. I had two young daughters.... My wife adored him and thought he was one of the funniest, wittiest people she had ever known.... We could only faintly conceive of the unrelieved anguish of the families of the victims.

Was there a flaw in my character not to have recognized the malignancy in his?... How could the character of such a treacherous individual not eventually become apparent to someone who had been so close? Approximately three months went by and Bill remained at large, presumably in Europe.... [But Bill returned to New York and...] was eventually taken into custody by the police.... The Florida authorities extradited Bill from New York and put him in the Broward County jail to await trial for the murder of Gloria Gomez.

There he remained for nearly five years before his case came to trial.... The jury concluded...with the recommendation of

*(Continued on p. 19)*

### CP/CL UPDATES

If you have a message of interest, a great fundraising idea, upcoming chapter events, special awards or recognitions received, or ideas that you would like to share with our “POMC family,” please mail them to my attention: Sherry Nolan at National POMC or email them to [snolan@pomc.org](mailto:snolan@pomc.org).

**The deadline for receipt of the next newsletter articles is May 31, 2013.** Please note: due to deadlines or overflow of articles, etc., we may not be able to include all of those received in the next SNL, but will keep them for future newsletters.

Thanks for all that you do on behalf of others through POMC.

### Chapter Donations

Thank You to the following Day of Remembrance donations to National POMC from chapters and chapter members.

- Robert Alarcon**
- Chris Chavez**, from Mark & Joani Share
- Christopher Cooper**, from Cheryl Cooper
- Delaware County Chapter**
- Julie Gullede**
- Southwest Louisiana Chapter**
- Brian Miller**, from Don & Beckie Miller
- Greater Portland Oregon Chapter**
- Greater Pittsburgh Chapter**
- Debbi Spencer**
- Valley of The Sun Chapter**
- Valley of the Sun Chapter**, from Mark & Joani Share

## In Loving Memory Of:

*The difference between the living and the dead is the difference  
between the remembered and the forgotten.*

### Lest We Forget!

**J.D. Anderson**, from Colleen Novia  
**Andrew**, from Sarah Kopelovich  
**Kirk Barrett**, from Priscilla Barrett  
**Aaden Batista**, from Elizabeth Batista  
**Dietrich Bay**, from Yvonne Bay  
**Vinay Bhatia**, from Lucy Bhatia  
**Larry Birkner**, from Eva Birkner  
**Bryan Robert Biser**, from  
Robert & Charlene Biser  
**Brian Kevin Boothe**, from  
the Kukura and Boothe families  
**Deana Lynne Bowdoin**, from  
Leslie James  
**Valerie Brooks**, from Carolyn Brooks  
**William Cayse**, from  
Janice Vonderhaar  
**Jarrold Chrisman**, from  
Rodney & Susie Chrisman  
**Dwayne Chubb**, from  
Dorothy & Albert Chubb  
**Aaron Coleman**, from  
Craig & Lori Coleman  
**Michael Crump, Becci Johnston,**  
**Pam Walker**, from Dee Engle  
**Tom Czillinger**, from  
Kathleen Cassini, Larry & Joy Dienger,  
Joan Fleming, Thomas & Lynn Hensler,  
Robert & Marcella Hudson, Robert &  
Charlotte Hullinger, David Moyer, David  
& Tricia Roettker, Katharine Teipen,  
Trina Whittemore, Jerome & Vivian  
Willging, Connie-Firmin Widme  
**John H. dePunte Sr.**, from  
Thomas & Nancy Carty  
**Carol Donnelly**, from Ruth Donnelly  
**Lynn Marie Dust**, from  
Arlene & Gregory Weidinger  
**Mark Evans**, from R & Pat Evans  
**Dan Everbeck**, from  
Gary & Bonnie Everbeck  
**Elizabeth Foster**, from Helen Foster  
**Ann Michelle Garay Vogelpohl**, from  
Patricia Garay  
**Kandice Johnson Gargus**, from  
Walter Beverly Burns  
**Ellen Rae Greenberg**, from  
Dr. & Mrs. Joshua Greenberg  
**Shannon Renee Greenwalt**, from  
Ellen Johnson  
**Nelson Goodno**, from Therese Goodno  
**Kyle Gullede**, from Mary Gullede

**Ryan Hargens**, from Carey Verschuure  
**Michael Gene Harris**, from  
Betty Robinson  
**Donald "Ryan" Haynes**, from  
Shannon Ramirez  
**Gregory Wayne Hines**, from  
Judy & Terel Hines  
**Michelle Martha Lang-Klotz**, from  
Astrid Lang  
**Dan King**, from Dennis and Toni King  
**Michele Renae Kriezel**, from  
Karen Kriezel  
**Jessica Lynn Lange**, from Gay Hynds  
**Mark Leath**, from Yvonne Leath  
**Vicky Morse**  
**Shannon Marie & Alexandra Jordan**  
**Nolan-Broe**, from Sharon Nolan  
**Newtown Angels**, from  
Randa Foda/Foda Family Practice  
**Cindy Neal Sawyer Smith**, from  
Jimmie Sawyer  
**Tori Ann Shupe**, from M. Louise Parker  
**Karen Synarski Olive**, from  
Joan Synarski  
**Danny Pearson**, from Sarah Parker  
**Pat Peraino**, from the Douglas Family  
**Theresa Pierce**, from Gabrielle Birkner  
**Laura Pizzini**, from Seatuck Cove Ltd.  
**Laura Pizzini**, from Donna Kukura  
**Rob Pursley**, from the Kruse Family  
**Robert Ramirez**, from Sandra Alcaez  
**Bert Rich**, from Shirley Rich Brinegar  
**Joe Sampayo**, from  
Maria & Jose Sampayo  
**Sandy Hook Victims**, from  
Benjamin Fortin  
**Sandy Hook Victims**, from  
Donna Mowen  
**Fred Schmidt**, from Wilbert Schmidt  
**Michael Simmons**, from  
Reginald & LaToyce Lee  
**Renelyn Canciano Simmons**, from  
Herman & Cora Simmons  
**Stephen Senator**, from Stewart Senator  
**Darrel Smith**, from Barbara Smith  
**Timothy Staunton**, from  
Denise Coleman  
**Michelle Louise Stern**, from Odile Stern  
**Brandon Stock**, from  
Peggy Beck, Debra Betz & Trevor Betz,  
Vernon Denise Betz, Candice Clement &

## SURVIVORS

Ariel Clement, Ryan Cron, Cherie Cron,  
Donna Herring, Janie & Jon Marlow,  
Pamela Marlow, Linda Nordhorn, Cole  
Riley, Mrs. Richard Schlottman, Richard  
Alan Schlottman, Richard & Cynthia  
Schlottman, Austin Sills, Rick Sills, S.  
G. Sills, Taylor Sills, Charles & Henry  
Stock, Henry & Doris Stock, Jason Stock,  
Dava Thomas, United Commercial Trav-  
elers of America, Charles & Doris Unsel  
**Monte Tewksbury**, from Jeri Mead  
**Carl "Dean" Theriot Jr.**, from  
Catalene Theriot  
**Melissa Thoma**, from  
Frank & Dorothy Thoma  
**Harold Creighton Thomason**, from  
Michael Thomason  
**Rachel Timmerman**, from  
L.C. & Lillian Timmerman  
**Nan Toder**, from Sol & Linette Toder  
**Timothy M. Traaen**, from  
Khirsten Swann  
**Jessica Ariana Trimmer**, from  
Len & Debbie Trimmer  
**Amy Nicole Tuttle**, from  
Timothy & Michele Tuttle  
**Lisa Weaver**, from  
Howard & Anna Klerk  
**Ben Webb**, from Susan Webb

### Thank You for Your Donation

Harry & Susan  
Bonnell  
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Durham N. Caro-  
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Vernon Geberth  
P.H.I. Investigative  
Consultants  
Leslie Gosule  
Steve & Robin  
Grass  
Nancy Greiwe &  
Bill Markovits  
Michael Grissom  
Cherlyn Kelly  
Antonio LaRocca  
Caroline Loucks  
Alison & Rick  
Mars

Jennifer Mapp  
Vicky Morse  
Ruth Oberg  
Candace Padgett  
Cheryl  
Peckenpaugh  
Dale Robertson  
Regina Ruthven/  
Ruthven Finan-  
cial Planning  
Dave Smithwick  
Larry & Laurie  
Strickland  
Melody Thomas-  
Graham  
Valley of the Sun  
Wes Warnock

# Why Am I Still in POMC?

*(Nearly 21 years ago, the Oregon Chapter of POMC newsletter published Penny Bergford's answer to a question posed by many veteran members. We reprint it with permission. Mary Elledge, Chapter Co-leader, says of her, "Penny is truly one of our heroes in our "POMC World." In the next issue, Mary tells of Penny's impact upon the chapter and beyond.)*

By PENNY BERGFORD

Following the murder of my only son, Fred J. Bergford on Feb. 3, 1980 in El Paso, Texas by a 21-year-old stranger in a mass shooting, it was many months before I found Parents Of Murdered Children (POMC). After only one meeting, I knew I had found a group that would support me through the healing process.

Many of my outside friends have questioned my continued presence over these many years in such a "morbid" group as POMC. The answer seems obvious. Survivors of a loved one's homicide have much in common and the bonds are strong. Our values have

undergone dramatic changes. What we look for and find in each other are the intrinsic traits—trust, acceptance and love.

I have never been in a group whose members so willingly suspend moral judgment while generously lending emotional support to those in pain. Through personal experience each has learned and is able to express empathy, understanding, and the rare ability to listen to (and hear) another's anguish.

Yes, we do hear gut wrenching stories of heinous murders. And yes, sometimes after a meeting I arrive home with tears in my eyes. But who better to be of help—to listen to the tragedies of survivors' lives than those who have stumbled down the same path before them. While my life will always wear a patina of sadness, with the help of those who have gone before me, I have progressed beyond that first numbing shock and the following unbelievable pain. With encouragement from the group and the feeling safe in protected

environment, I crawled out from that black hole and gradually started filling the emptiness with a few positive thoughts and tentative plans for a future—one which I thought was lost to me.

During those first few years my actions could have signaled that here was a pretty stable individual. If so, she was skating thin ice. The inner me was regularly plumbing the depths. Yet finally, there came an occasion when I reacted to a funny incident, not with a polite chuckle but with a true belly laugh. Of course, the sadness will forever be with me because my beloved son cannot be. However, no longer does it prevent me from feeling and reacting to all the good around me. The wonderfully enriching interaction with POMC friends; the trust I place in those friends; and the deep reservoir of love that keeps threatening to bubble over. New members have said when they saw how the group has helped so many, they felt for the first time a glimmer of hope they too might survive.

Since POMC provided me with a life line back to sanity, I feel it is not only my wish but a privilege to complete the cycle and, along with other old-time members, extend that life line to others.

Another reason I still attend meetings is perhaps less altruistic. After our only child was killed, I didn't think of my husband and me as a family. Our son's death had made us a couple. After my husband's death, I was no longer even part of a couple. Since I needed to belong somewhere, I seemed to slide very naturally into thinking of friends of POMC as an extended family—one to which I could belong.

About the "morbid" label occasionally hung on us. The dictionary definition of morbid puts it mainly in the disease classification. While death may be the end result of a disease, it is not in itself a disease. Morbid is often teamed with curiosity and it is true that an extended fascination or obsession with another's pain might be considered morbid. Yet seldom is this unhealthy attitude expressed in a meeting. Once a

*(Continued on p. 17)*

### *In Honor of:*

#### **Arizona fundraiser in honor of Dan Levey**

**Danny Adelman**  
**Arizona Trial Lawyers Association**  
**Kimberly Ball**  
**Bentley & Mojdeh Bobrow**  
**Kent Burbank**  
**Theodore & Dawn Campagnolo**  
**Marna Dahan**  
**Eldon Diamond**  
**Cathy Gilbert**  
**Rob Ginis Avondale Toyota**  
**Law Office of Elliot Glicksman**  
**Janice Goldstein**  
**William Earl Jones**  
**Barbara Lawall**  
**Pamela Levin**  
**John Lewis**  
**Lori Linderman & Gary Goldberg**  
**Steven & Krista Lynch**  
**Keith & Marna McLendon**  
**McMurry Charities**  
**Rachel Mitchell**

#### **Cindi Nannetti**

**Law Offices of Sara Powell**  
**Michael & Judith Schaffert**  
**Randie & Lee Stein**  
**Kelly Taft**  
**Temple Solel Rabbi Linder**  
**Jay & Gayle Weiss**

#### **In Honor of**

**Dunia Alherr**  
**All First Responders**, from  
Jimmie Sawyer  
**Francine Tanquay & Annie's**  
**Book Stop**, from  
Gary & Bonnie Everbeck  
**Donna Kukura**, from  
Seatuck Cove LTD  
**Dr. Marcia Riley**, from  
Glenda Vaughn, Arnold Cohen,  
Susan Cohen  
**Nat Robinson**, from  
Diane Lowe  
**The LIRO Team and Registrars**,  
from Robin Beller

## NATIONAL POMC FUNDRAISERS UPDATE

### \*\*AMAZON CONTRIBUTIONS TO POMC\*\*

In November of 2012, Amazon.com became a supporter of National POMC. The Amazon link was posted on the National POMC website @ [www.pomc.org](http://www.pomc.org) and by doing so; any Amazon purchase through our website link has provided contributions to POMC. By accessing Amazon through the POMC website, POMC receives a percentage of all purchases (4-13%, depending on the item). This does not increase the cost of your purchase.

This is a great opportunity to purchase items you would normally get directly from Amazon; however, by using the link on the POMC website, your purchase contributes to the POMC mission! Amazon has a wide variety of items—making shopping convenient and stress free. Please share this wonderful opportunity with your Chapters, Families and Friends! This is showing to be a great fundraising opportunity that requires very little work. We appreciate you using the link for your shopping—and for all you do to support POMC!

### \*\*THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM\*\*

National POMC became a member of the KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM in October, 2012. We are awaiting the results of the quarterly earnings report and will receive a contribution in March for our regional sales. This first quarter has been a bit confusing, as the National code ##83326 is strictly for the Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky region only. All other regions must register individually, meaning the program is geographically based. While Kroger has affiliates in many states/cities, it is somewhat difficult to know what stores are where. Some affiliates have undergone name changes, creating some issues in researching what stores are in what area. However, I urge you to consider this opportunity for your local chapter and explore what your local options are. You can contribute to POMC by registering your Kroger Plus Card online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) and linking it to the POMC code in your area. If you don't have a Kroger Plus card, you must first sign up, as you will need to have your card number when you register for this program.

If you do not have a Kroger/Kroger Affiliate in your area, there are many other grocery chains that do similar programs. It is certainly worth looking into and results in funding that takes very little effort. Please contact me with any questions/problems you might have with registration, as I would like to see everyone benefit from this fundraiser.

I am currently working on other regions and I would greatly appreciate any input as to what you have in your area. If you should have questions regarding the Amazon link or the Kroger Community Rewards Program, please don't hesitate to call or email me and I will be happy to assist you.

### \*\*NATIONAL POMC 2013 FIRST ANNUAL GOLF EVENT\*\*

I am pleased to announce that 2013 will mark the first annual

## *SURVIVORS*

National POMC Golf Event held in Cincinnati, Ohio. The planning is already underway and we will soon be announcing details and registration at [www.pomc.org](http://www.pomc.org). The event will be held in the fall and I hope to see this be a great success to raise awareness and funding for POMC!

I am continuously researching/applying for funding opportunities and fundraising ideas for National POMC and welcome any input you may have. I encourage you to contact me if you should need assistance with finding additional opportunities for your Chapters and I look forward to working with you to acquire our goals as an organization.

Thank you for supporting National POMC!

Donna Slone  
Development Coordinator  
[dslone@pomc.org](mailto:dslone@pomc.org)

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### *A larger meaning out of our shared suffering*

*“It’s my very strong personal belief that all of life’s experiences should be put to some use, and if they aren’t, then they’re being wasted. I do not want all the pain and suffering of living through Lisa’s death to be wasted, just as I know you do not want the pain of living through your loved one’s death to be wasted. It’s my hope that collectively, as joint members of POMC, we can bring a larger meaning out of our shared suffering by helping to ease the pain of others.”*

*Charlotte Hullinger, Keynote Address,  
1992 POMC National Conference  
Portland, Oregon*

# Forensics identifies DNA

*(Continued from p. 1)*

found dead in the woods, with nothing for the police to go on. Not until we found and identified very small metal beads in her hair did we realize where she had been murdered. Apparently, these beads were metal cast-offs from high intensity torching, seen only in industrial metal factories. There was a steel mill about two hours north of the forensic laboratory. I was able to take a tour, collect samples at the mill, and match the metal beads back to their source. From this information detectives were able to find the primary scene where the victim was killed. This helped them find the killer. As a forensic microscopist, I worked closely with detectives to gather clues and information leading to more conclusive evidence—like fingerprints and DNA.

In 2001, I transferred into the DNA unit, and after a year of intense training, became a nuclear DNA analyst at the Illinois State Police-Forensic Science Centre in Chicago. This work was unlike microscopy work, which focused on things and chemicals; DNA is all about people. A DNA analyst deals with human evidence, such as body fluids, skin, teeth or bones. Most of these cases were sexual assaults on anyone: women, men, the young, or the elderly. The perpetrator could be anyone, from the random stranger to the neighbor next door. This

is when I really began to realize how gruesome and cruel crime could be. Not to just the victims...but to their families and friends.

The first case that showed me this involved a female college student walking to her dorm from class. A man abducted her in broad daylight at gunpoint and took her to another location, where he brutally raped her for several hours. He

*Forensics can bring to a case...the one clue...that gives the detective the missing link that can solve the case.*

then dropped her off exactly where he found her, like nothing had happened. Her family, being from India, disowned her because she wouldn't be able to participate in an arranged marriage. This young woman felt so alone and damaged that she committed suicide. Soon after, one of her best friends also committed suicide, which in turn, affected the University community. The pain and damage that was done by this one man to a woman, a family, and a community, will never be forgotten.

This was my wake up call to what violence can do. I will never forget the prosecutor's face when he had to tell me that the trial was continued, because the victim was dead. Or the shock I felt when I learned that the man who had done this

was already in the system, but let out of prison early due to over-crowding. I realized my gift to this case was identifying the perpetrator, putting his DNA into the CODIS database and getting a match to a convicted offender. *(Funded by the FBI, the Combined DNA Index System computer database stores DNA profiles created by federal, state, and local U.S. laboratories, to help identify crime suspects.)*

That conviction was precious. The victim wasn't able to share in the victory of that discovery, but I know that my work is what put that murderer in prison for 30 years.

After this, much of my work in Chicago became post-conviction work. This involves old evidence or newly discovered evidence that was never tested for DNA. Once analyzed, the DNA can verify that the person convicted did or did not commit the actual crime. For so long, people forgot this was a gift of forensics to give. I have been involved with several cases with the Innocence Project, and I was so proud when, on Jan. 31, 2000, Illinois became the first state to place a moratorium on the death penalty.

I feel confident in my new position as a criminalist for the Arizona Dept. of Public Safety, where I have worked for the last five years in trace evidence and nuclear DNA casework units. My experience in both fields can give a rare perspective on a case.

This is my gift to forensics, working in a field that has immense personnel turn-around and falling budgets. I am training new criminalists, who are excited to be involved in this popular field. This allows me to give career and science presentations to students who never realized that science can be "cool".

The field of forensics is forever changing with the latest technology and faster approaches to solving a case always around the next corner. Forensics is the true blend of science, crime, and law, which helps to give justice and closure to victims and their families That is the greatest gift of all. ∞

## Why Am I Still in POMC?

*(Continued from p. 15)*

newcomer's experience is known, the emphasis is how to help that person through his grief, as well as the hurts and frustrations of involvement with the judicial system.

A less well known factor in the healing process is humor—not as a planned therapy, but a spontaneous quip or offhand remark. Granted, some might be considered black humor, but after a particularly heavy session nothing can release tension as fast as a well placed wisecrack.

When I scan back over my years in the group, I realize that my journey through grief has been almost as important as the destination: regaining emotional stability and the desire to forge ahead to new dimensions of personal growth. There are many rewards for staying on. When I see profound grief change to muted sorrow: when I see deep seated anger change to a less volatile flash point and when I see shocked disbelief change to reluctant acceptance—then I know these are the greater rewards for membership in POMC.

November 11, 1992

Portland, Oregon Chapter of POMC ∞



## 27th Annual POMC National Conference

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

Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.  
August 15-18, 2013  
Cincinnati, Ohio Hosted by:  
Greater Cincinnati Area Chapter

Registration: \$230 if postmarked by July 1, 2013  
\$260 after July 1, 2013

Hotel: Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza (in  
downtown Cincinnati)  
35 W. Fifth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2899

Phone: 1-800-HILTONS or 513-421-9100 Fax: 513-  
421-4291

Web Site: [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)

Room Rate: \$115 (plus tax) per night (single or  
double up to 4 guests per room)

Room reservations must be made by contacting the  
Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza directly. For  
those guests who would like to extend their stay,  
this special room rate will be offered 3 days before  
and after the official conference dates, based on  
availability. All reservations must be accompanied  
by a first-night room deposit, or guaranteed with a  
major credit card.

[http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/  
personalized/C/CVGNPHF-PMC-  
20130815/index.jhtml](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/C/CVGNPHF-PMC-20130815/index.jhtml)

“POMC” special rate available until July 24, 2013  
and you must request POMC rate when making  
reservations. If code is requested, our conference  
code is “PMC”.

Airports and Greater Cincinnati Airport (CVG)  
located in Hebron, Ky.

Transportation: Approximately 13 miles from  
downtown Cincinnati

Tank Bus: Fare is \$2 for one way and runs  
approximately every 30 minutes. (Check their  
website prior to arrival for current time schedule  
and price). [www.tankbus.org](http://www.tankbus.org)

Shuttle: Executive Transportation--fare is \$22 for  
one-way or \$32 for a round trip per person (subject  
to change). 859-261-8841

Taxis: available 24 hours a day--fare is approx-  
imately \$27 (subject to change).

Dayton Airport (DAY) located in Dayton,  
Ohio, Approximately 66 miles from downtown  
Cincinnati

## SURVIVORS

**Important: If you are planning to bring a chapter quilt or anything else to display at the Conference, you must let us know no later than July 1! The hotel has space constraints. We cannot promise to have room for impromptu displays.**

**No child care will be provided. Due to the sensitive nature of the workshops, children under the age of 18 will not be allowed to accompany you to any workshops.**

### POMC'S MISSION STATEMENT

POMC makes the dif-  
ference through on-going  
emotional support,  
education, prevention,  
advocacy, and awareness.

### POMC'S VISION STATEMENT

To provide support and  
assistance to all  
survivors of homicide  
victims while working  
to create a world free of  
murder.

### SURVIVORS Newsletter Subscription

Please find enclosed \$10.00 for my annual subscrip-  
tion (three issues) for the SURVIVORS Newsletter  
(\$25.00 outside the United States).  
(Please Print)

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

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  
year (s)

Payment method:  Visa  MC  Am Ex.  Dis.  
 Check

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is an extra \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation for  
someone in need and is given in:

Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

All those donating an extra gift “in loving memory of,” or  
“in honor of” will be listed in the next issue of the Survi-  
vors newsletter. To have POMC send a letter acknowledg-  
ing your gift to the family, please provide family’s name,  
address, city, state, and zip code.

# Important Effective Leadership Development Training to be held May 16-19, 2013

A program of the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc. Registration brochure on POMC website

Since its inception in 1978, Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. (POMC) has grown beyond expectations. Our mission of making the difference through support, education, prevention, advocacy and awareness has become an unending challenge for all of us, at all levels, who work for POMC's cause. Effective leadership is essential to achieve our mission; opportunities for personal development, education, information-sharing, networking and other programs will serve to increase our expertise.

National POMC is offering this comprehensive, certification training course for all Board Members, Staff, Chapter Leaders and Contact Persons, as well as current and prospective State Coordinators. The policy of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. set by the National Board of Trustees states: "One third of members of the Chapter Board of Directors, not to be less than two (2), must attend the Effective Leadership Training Course and be certified by the National Board of Trustees..."

Chapters not in compliance with POMC programs and policies will no longer be able to operate under POMC. Any other training, aside from POMC's ELT, will not qualify to meet this requirement.

## Registration and Site Information:

Registration is limited to 40 participants and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Training sessions will be held at the Garfield Suites, Cincinnati, OH. Total cost of the training, which includes training materials and ten meals, is \$300.00.

Greater Cincinnati/Northern Ky. International Airport is the closest airport. The cost of Executive Travel —

[www.executivetransportation.org](http://www.executivetransportation.org)

—(shuttle to and from airport) is \$32.00 for round trip.

Hotel rooms are \$79.00 for a one bedroom suite and \$99.00 for a two bedroom suite plus tax per night. Participants are responsible for making their own reservations directly with the hotel. If you wish to share a room with someone and need a roommate, contact Bev Warnock at National before making reservations.

Sessions will run from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Thursday, Friday and Saturday followed by dinner. Sunday's session will be from 8 A.M. to 1

## A Fatal Friendship

*(Continued from page 13)*

death. The judge sentenced him to die.... Somehow, *[nearly six years later]* even with the vigilance of death row security, Bill put an end to himself.

Bill's story is now indelibly marked in our own family history.... His friendship and his involvement with our family haunt us and always will.... All of the many good memories of him are intermingled and ultimately stained with the horrible images in our minds of what he did to the two young women and their families,

**"The act of murder makes no sense, and it is those closest to the victim who, in murder's aftermath, bear the brunt of the absurdity. The utter senselessness of one human being killing another scares us all and it is probably only normal that we go to unusual lengths to avoid hearing directly from victim's families. But such avoidance only prolongs our state of ignorance and increases our fear."**

*Doug Magee*

*(What Murder Leaves Behind: The Victim's Family, New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1983, p. viii.)*

## SURVIVORS

P.M. so it is advised to make flight reservations after that time.

### Hotel Information:

Garfield Suites  
2 Garfield Place  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
(513) 421-3355

[www.GarfieldSuitesHotel.com](http://www.GarfieldSuitesHotel.com)

To receive discount room rate, you must give Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.'s name when registering and reserve your room by April 30, 2013

### Cancellation Policy:

Cancellations must be in writing and postmarked on or before April 30, 2013. There is a \$75.00 cancellation fee. No refunds will be made after May 3, 2013.

After I learned about what he had done, I never sought any contact with him, nor desired any. There were no questions he could answer for me....

To my knowledge Bill never expressed any genuine sorrow or remorse for what he did.... As for the real victims he left in his wake, the women and their families, I continue through the years to imagine the senseless, pitiless violence they experienced.... It is them I think of when I contemplate the desperate wickedness of this man who was once my friend. ∞

*Posted by Stephen Paul Foster*  
<http://fosterspeak2.blogspot.com/>

# Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

*For the families and friends of those who have died by violence*  
4960 Ridge Ave, Suite 2  
Cincinnati, OH 45209

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 5894  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Police units present the meaningful ceremonies for the gathered survivors at POMC conferences. The rituals are highlights of such gatherings and bring collective calm to the conference-goers. The police units involved are glad to help, and conferees are glad to have them there.



## Going GREEN!

Beginning with the Summer 2013 issue, *SURVIVORS* will be delivered by e-mail.

We ask subscribers to send their e-mail addresses to the POMC National Office at:

[natlpomc.pomc.org](http://natlpomc.pomc.org)

or call (888) 818-POMC, as email will be the only way to receive the newsletter.

This will not only help save on paper, but also reduce POMC overall printing and postage costs to print the newsletter and mail via U.S. Mail. However, we still will charge a \$10 subscription fee although the *SURVIVORS* newsletter will be delivered only by e-mail. If you do not have access to e-mail, please contact National, as a limited number of copies will be sent out on an as-needed-basis.

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