HILTON WASHINGTON DULLES AIRPORT
13869 PARK CENTER ROAD
HERNDON, VIRGINIA 20171

For more information contact:
Jodi Norman, Gathering Chairperson
703-656-6999
e-mail: bpusvicepresident@gmail.com

National BPUSA Website:
http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org
Our committee has been working on plans for this year’s National Gathering and we are anxious to share this annual event with you. Although not one of us ever imagined we would be associated with a bereaved parent/sibling group, many of us have found that our grief journey is somewhat more bearable when taking this journey with others who truly understand. Some of you have been making this journey for many years while others have barely begun theirs. Hand-in-hand, step-by-step, we walk this road together, offering one another hope. We guarantee that you will be touched by someone during your weekend in Washington, DC with us, whether it is by a speaker, workshop presenter, a song you hear, or a “fellow traveler” seated next to you at a meal who can see that you need a hug. We would be pleased and honored to share this experience, and many others, with you. Please join us the weekend of August 4-6, 2017 for an event you’ll be glad you didn’t miss, as we Reflect, Renew and Remember our Loved Ones.

Gathering Speakers and Performers: We are excited and pleased to announce that this year’s speakers are some of the best in the area of bereavement. Our awe-inspiring speakers for the 2017 National BPUSA Gathering are, Kelly Buckley, Dr. Doug and BJ Jensen, Ron Kelly, Sarah Kravits, Anna Whiston-Donaldson, Gareth Williams, and Tom Zuba. All speakers are bereaved parents or siblings. We are equally excited that the Signing Choir “Love in Motion” will be performing their inspirational songs of love, loss and healing through sign language.

Thursday Night Activities: While the 2017 BPUSA National Gathering officially begins on Friday, August 4th, we have planned very special activities for Thursday, August 3rd for those attendees arriving early. We will be hosting a “Meet and Greet” with a Taco/Fajita Buffet for $30 all-inclusive for adults and $15 for children 12 & under. Join us as we kick off the 2017 National Gathering in Washington DC!

Hotel Accommodations: The Hilton Washington Dulles Airport will be providing a discounted rate of $89 per night (plus tax), and will honor this rate for 2017 National Gathering guests for 3 days before and 3 days after the Gathering (July 30 – August 8). Book your reservation early on our personalized website:


Please use our personal website and NOT the Hilton Hotel website to book your room. Link directly to the hotel for reservations through the BPUSA National website. Sunday, July 9th is the deadline to book hotel reservations at the discounted rate. If you need to call the hotel the number is 703-478-2900.

Travel: If traveling by air, book your flight into and out of Dulles International Airport. The hotel provides a free shuttle to/from Dulles International Airport only and not Reagan National or BWI. We encourage you to attend the Gathering from Thursday evening through Sunday at noon so you won’t miss anything we have planned for you. When booking your flights please keep in mind that on your outgoing flight you need to arrive at Dulles Airport two hours prior to your flight time.

If you are driving, the hotel provides free parking.

Meals: Total Meal Plan (Fri-Sun which includes 3 breakfast buffets, 2 lunches and 2 dinners) is a discounted rate of $160.00 for adults. For children 12 and under we have two options, $130 for the buffet meals or $105 for the package that includes “kid friendly” plated meals. Prices are all inclusive which includes taxes, gratuity and service charges. Individual meals will be available to purchase; however, the meal plans will save you $30 for adults and $15 for the Child’s Buffet Option. Menus available upon request by contacting Jodi at bpusavicepresident@gmail.com. Please advise us of any special dietary needs, as the hotel will accommodate requests for Gluten Free, Lactose Free, Diabetic, Vegetarian, etc. Due to the location of the hotel there are no restaurants other than at the hotel within walking distance and the hotel restaurant is very expensive. It would be the best option to purchase the Meal Plan for all 7 meals.

We have exceptional speakers scheduled at the conclusion of each of our 7 meals. Even if you have not joined us for the meal, all attendees are invited to join us following the meals. We don’t want anyone to miss the messages of hope delivered by each amazing speaker.

Workshops: A variety of workshops are offered in a structured setting facilitated by a skilled presenter and designed to address specific topics. This is also a time of learning and sharing. If you are interested in presenting a workshop at the Gathering, please go to the BPUSA website to submit an application. Deadline to submit an application is April 1st.

Sharing Sessions: These are informal meetings led by a facilitator and are offered Friday and Saturday evenings. Participants share experiences on specific topics.

Sibling Program: We welcome bereaved siblings ages 8 to adult at the Gathering. We are offering sibling-specific programming geared toward adult siblings and teens 14 and older. Activities will be available for younger siblings 8 to 13. Sorry, we are unable to provide supervision for younger children. Details include:

• Several workshops throughout the weekend will be devoted to the particular experience of bereaved siblings.
• Friday afternoon, a pizza lunch for siblings only will allow attendees to meet and talk.
• A sibling Sharing Session will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings.
• The sibling-specific hospitality area will be open for siblings to take a break and get to know one another.
• Activities will be provided for siblings 8-13 during the workshop hours on Friday and Saturday.
• Closer to the Gathering, sibling registrants will receive a schedule with more information about available workshops and activities.
Yoga: We will be offering yoga classes again this year so don’t forget to pack loose-fitting clothing. If you have a yoga mat it would be helpful for you to bring it with you.

Dressing for the Gathering: The dress is casual and the weather will be hot in Washington DC, however, you will want to bring a sweater as the hotel workshop rooms can be chilly.

Slideshow Presentation: This occurs during the Candlelight Service, which is a meaningful part of our Gathering each year. If you wish to have your child included in our slideshow, please send a photo of your child (alone in the picture), no larger than 8x10, and the completed form, to the address listed at the bottom of that page. Photos may also be sent via e-mail in jpg format to bpusaweblinks@gmail.com no later than July 15th.

Sponsorships: We are offering a number of opportunities this year for those who wish to have their child(ren) remembered in a special way during the Gathering. Sponsorships enable individuals, chapters and businesses to support the Gathering as well as remember their loved ones. As you may know, we count on all sponsorships to aid in the cost of the Gathering each year so we can use your help. You are encouraged to participate in as many of the sponsorship opportunities available to you as seen below.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Sponsor a Page in the Gathering Program Book – Fill out the form for your Child(ren)’s Memorial Sponsorship Page to be published in the program book. Mail the form with your page layout, print ready, to Valerie Larson, at the address on the form. The deadline to guarantee your child’s picture is included in the program book is June 1st. The cost for a full page is $100, a half page is $50 and a quarter page is $25.

Sponsor a Workshop Room– At a cost of $100, a sign will be professionally made which will include your child’s name, picture, and the person(s) sponsoring each workshop room. It will be displayed on an easel outside the door of the workshop room for the entire day. Please indicate your participation on the registration form and email a photo in jpg format to bpusavicepresident@gmail.com or send a picture, no larger than 8x10, to Jodi Norman, 539 Harrison Circle, Locust Grove, VA 22508. The sign is yours to keep at the conclusion of the Gathering. The deadline is July 1st.

Sponsor a Centerpiece: We are asking for a $35 donation per centerpiece. Your child’s name and photos will be displayed with the centerpiece during the entire Gathering. If attending, you are welcome to take the centerpiece with you when you leave on Sunday. Please email a photo of your child to bpusavicepresident@gmail.com or mail to Jodi Norman, 539 Harrison Circle, Locust Grove, VA 22508.

Table Favors: If you as an individual or your chapter would like to donate small table favors in memory of your child(ren), we will need approximately 300 items per meal, please contact us closer to date to get an estimate on attendees registered. Contact Mary Howard at 703-407-1615 or email howardfamilyfun@hotmail.com to let Mary know what you would like to donate. Please bring the items with you or mail to Jodi Norman, 539 Harrison Circle, Locust Grove, VA 22508 so that they are received no later than July 25th.

Butterfly Boutique: We will be providing a small gift shop at the Gathering. Donations of small new items to sell would be greatly appreciated. We are looking for small items that would resell for $10 or less. Handmade items are especially sought after. Suggestions for items (but not limited to) are butterfly and angel related note cards, jewelry, candles, magnets, sun catchers, photo frames or albums, bookmarks and journals. All proceeds raised from the Butterfly Boutique will go to support BPUSA. Anyone interested in donating items, contact Jodi Norman at bpusavicepresident@gmail.com.

Silent Auction and Raffle: We will be having a silent auction and raffle to raise funds to support ongoing national efforts of BPUSA. Donations in memory of your child(ren) are greatly appreciated and welcomed. Please contact Christine DeClerck at christine.declerck@aol.com or 586-770-7746 for more information. Some of the popular items from past raffles/silent auctions are butterfly or angel themed items such as jewelry, handbags or artwork; gift cards for national chain restaurants and services; and themed baskets, just to name a few. Higher value items such as trips, handmade quilts, original artwork, signed sports items (Jerseys or sports equipment) from famous athletes and teams are also greatly appreciated. Bring address labels from home for the raffle tickets.

Heart to Art Mural Project: This year we have the unique opportunity to host a group of talented artists from Heart to Art, LLC in Pennsylvania who will lead us in creating a one-of-kind mural together. Through visual storytelling, the Heart to Art team will support the community-building aspects of this kind of mural project. Together, we will highlight BPUSA’s mission and purpose and, at the same time, encourage each bereaved person to visually express his/her grief journey that has been supported by BPUSA. Please read about their collaborative art murals on their website: http://www.hearttoartpa.com/

Creative Station: You will be able to do craft projects in our Creative Station. Bring photos of your child to use in different projects. This year attendees will be able to decorate a votive candle holder, with your child’s photo, to use at the Candle Lighting Service on Saturday night. We will have a copier and a printer available to make copies of your pictures. Also bring a framed photo of your child(ren) to use in a photo booth, if desired.

Picture-Buttons: We will have a picture-button maker at the Gathering. It is highly recommended that you preorder them at a cost of $5 each. Please send a picture or pictures of your child via e-mail to jederickson@aol.com in jpg format and indicate on the order form how many picture-buttons you would like. If bringing a picture with you to the Gathering, a clear photo is best because they will be scanned into the computer and picture-buttons will be made from the scanned copy. Your original photos will not be cut or used to make buttons.

T-Shirts: Gathering T-shirts in full color can be preordered on the registration form. The price of the t-shirts will be $15 for sizes S-XL and $18 for sizes 2X-3X. A limited number of T-shirts will be available for sale at the Gathering. Please pre-order.
The Hospitality Area: A social gathering spot to enjoy light snacks and beverages and/or a place to take a break from the busy schedule and catch your breath while you visit with other bereaved families.

Reflection Room: A peaceful and serene room to reflect and meditate.

Memorial Templates: Enclosed in your packet is our template of a butterfly to decorate in memory of your loved one. Be creative!!! Bring it with you to be placed so that we can all get to know your child who is “Forever Loved – Forever Missed”. Put your child’s name and dates on the front. If you would like to have your template displayed and are not attending the gathering, they can be mailed to Jodi Norman, 539 Harrison Circle, Locust Grove, VA 22508 to be received no later than July 15th.

Sunday Morning: A Sunday morning non-denominational worship service will be led by Dr. Doug Jensen and Love In Motion Signing Choir.

End of Gathering: We will conclude Sunday around noon and you don’t want to miss anything as we wrap up another Gathering until next year. Following our last breakfast buffet, we will have our closing speaker and a touching closing ceremony– a beautiful ending to an amazing weekend shared with families and friends, both old and new.

Photographs and Video: Photographs and/or video will be taken at the Gathering. By taking part in the Gathering you grant BPUSA full rights to use the images resulting from the photography/video filming, and any reproductions or adaptations of the images for fundraising, publicity or other purposes to help achieve the goals of BPUSA. This might include (but is not limited to), the right to use them in BPUSA’s printed and online publicity, social media, press releases and funding applications. If you do not wish to be photographed please check the box on the registration form and you will receive a special colored name tag. For children under the age of 18, a form will need to be signed by a parent at the Registration Table.

“Pennies From Heaven” FUNraiser: Start saving your “Pennies” (any loose change or dollars, too) to participate in our “Pennies From Heaven” FUNraiser. You would be surprised how fast all that loose change laying around the house or car adds up! Bring your donations to the Gathering to participate in this FUNraiser. Any questions, contact Kathy Corrigan at bpusasecretary@gmail.com.

Fly-Hope-Dream: Fly-Hope-Dream will be providing Dream Flights to bereaved families before, during and after the conference. Open cockpit flight in a vintage biplane is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents can sign up to fly at no cost. There will be limited availability, so be sure to reserve your flight(s) via the “Request a Flight” button on their home page (Fly-Hope-Dream.org). Please note in the “Additional Comments…” section that you will be attending the Annual Gathering and Fly-Hope-Dream will contact you in due course about scheduling your flight(s).

If you are a Chapter Leader:

- Make copies of this registration packet to give to your chapter members right away.
- As a chapter, donate table favors for the Gathering meals.
- As a chapter, donate a theme-basket or an item for the Silent Auction or Raffle.
- As a chapter, decorate your memorial template for displaying at the Gathering.
- Bring picture boards or scrapbooks to share to help us get to know your chapter’s children.
- Bring extra copies of your chapter newsletter to share with others attending the Gathering.
- Participate in the “Pennies From Heaven” FUNraiser. Information will be sent to Chapter Leaders.
- Plan to attend the Leadership Training on Thursday, August 3rd and invite key members of your Chapter’s Steering Committee to attend.
# 2017 BPUSA NATIONAL GATHERING
## REGISTRATION FORM

*Please complete ONE FORM for EACH PERSON attending*

Name: __________________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________   City: ________________________________________

State: _______     Zip: ___________ Tel. # (_________)(_________)(_________)   Email: ________________________________

Child’s Name: _________________________________

Birth Date: ____________ Death Date: ____________

Your relationship to this Child: ______________________

If you are a sibling, what is your age? ____________

If you do not want to be photographed, please check here. ____

Early Registration Postmarked BY JUNE 1st is $75 per adult, $50 for College Students with ID and $40 for children under 18.

If postmarked after June 1st, the registration fee is $95.00 per adult.

Please register as EARLY as possible for planning purposes, and to get the BIGGEST SAVINGS on fees!

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<th>ITEM</th>
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<td>Child’s Buffet Meal Plan (ages 12 &amp; under)</td>
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<td>Child’s Plated Meal Plan (ages 12 &amp; under)</td>
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<td>Sponsorship of a Memorial Page ($100, $50 or $25)</td>
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TOTAL AMOUNT DUE $

Special Diet Needs and/or Food Allergies (explain in detail): _______________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Register online at [www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org)

Or send this completed Registration form (ONE FOR EACH PERSON attending) AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE along with your check or money order made payable to Bereaved Parents of the USA to:

Cheryl Sanza, Treasurer
10 Robert Dr., Florida, NY 10921

For questions or info call: 845-651-7746 (after 2pm ET)
The slideshow presentation during the Candlelight Service is a meaningful part of our Gatherings. If you are attending the 2017 Gathering and wish your child to be a part of our slideshow presentation, send a photo of your child, (photo should be of your child only), via e-mail in jpg format to bpusaweblinks@gmail.com. If you need to mail a photo, send a photo no larger than 8X10 and this completed form to the address below. You can pick up your picture(s) at the Gathering Registration Table when you arrive or enclose a postage paid addressed envelope so that your photo(s) can be immediately returned to you.

________ I wish to have my child included and have enclosed a photo.

________ The picture should be in your file from a past Gathering.

________ Include my child’s NAME ONLY with appropriate representation (no photo available).

PRINT CLEARLY

Child’s Name: ________________________________________________________________

Phonetic Pronunciation: _______________________________________________________

Birth Date: _____________________________ Date of Death: _________________________

Your Name: ___________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________

City: _________________________________________________________________________ ST: _______ Zip:______________

Phone Number:(______)_____________________ Email:______________________________

A picture and completed form is needed for each child being remembered. The picture submitted should be of the child only for showing during the Candlelight Service. Please put child’s name and address on the back of the photo.

Mail to be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 15, 2017

Send this form and your child’s picture to:

Matthew Groves
1190 Worthington Drive
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Or Email this form and a picture to bpusaweblinks@gmail.com. You will receive a confirming email back. If you don’t, please follow up. You don’t want to miss out having your child’s picture included.
Memorial Sponsorship Page Form

Sponsoring a memorial page in the Gathering program book is a meaningful way to remember our precious children, brothers/sisters, and grandchildren. Design your page around your child’s picture or your memories of them. The memorial pages will be in color. If you do not include a page design with your donation, the Program Book Committee will create a design for you.

Name of person placing memorial page: ________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
City: __________________ State: _______ Zip: __________________________
Phone # (___) __________________ Email: ____________________________

Please check the memorial page size you would like:

☐ Quarter Page (3.6” x 4.9”) $25.00  ☐ Half Page (7.5” x 4.9”) $50.00  ☐ Full Page (7.5” x 10”) $100.00

Enclosed* amount: $ __________________

All memorial page entries must be received with payment NO LATER than JUNE 1, 2017.

*Note: If you paid for your memorial sponsorship page when you registered online, you do not need to send payment with this form.

The program book will be printed in 8-1/2” x 11”-page format. Please use these dimensions when creating or selecting your memorial page size.

Your materials must be mailed in time so that we receive them NO LATER than JUNE 1, 2017. Please make checks payable to BP/USA National Gathering and mail to:

Valerie Larson
6900 Cole Timothy Court
Manassas, VA 20112
Memorial Sponsorship Page Guidelines

If you need your memorial page designed for you, please send:

- Your completed form
- Your payment (check or money order, made payable to BP/USA National Gathering)
- Your completed form - Instructions for Memorial Page Design

If you are designing your own memorial page:

If you prepare your own design and submit it “Print-Ready” we would prefer to receive it in digital format with a resolution of 300 pixels per inch or higher. It may be submitted as an Adobe PDF file, an MS Word file, or a JPG file. It may be sent as an attachment to an email or by mail on a CD, DVD, or flash drive.*

You may submit your design as a “Print-Ready” page, printed at a high quality so that it will look good when reproduced by photocopying. Note: the print will need to be scanned to be placed in the digital program book layout.

*Note: Any items sent for your sponsorship page design will not be returned via mail. You may pick them up at the registration table at the Gathering.

Photo Requirements

Digital photo file(s). The best format is a JPG file. Be sure the resolution is at least 300 pixels per inch.

If you don’t have a JPG file(s) of the photo(s), you can take the original photo(s) to a copy center such as Fed Ex/Kinko’s, Office Depot, or Staples. They can scan the photo and create the JPG file for you.

Please do not send a printed photocopy or inkjet printout of a picture. They do not scan and reproduce well, and will result in a poor quality for your page. You don’t want that, nor do we!

If you are submitting a “Print-Ready” version of the memorial page, you do not need to submit the photo(s).

If sending by e-mail:
Send to Valerie Larson at rlarson900@verizon.net.
Please include “Memorial Sponsorship Page” in the subject line.
Include your name, address and phone number in the text so we can easily contact you if we need more information. Your email with all the information and photo(s) must arrive no later than June 1st.

If sending by mail:
Make checks payable to BP/USA National Gathering.
Mail to: Valerie Larson, 6900 Cole Timothy Court, Manassas, VA 20112.
The package must be mailed in time so that we receive it no later than June 1st.

Questions? Please call Valerie Larson at 703-791-6537.
Instructions for Memorial Page Design

If you are not submitting a print-ready page design and need it designed for you, enclose this form with the Memorial Sponsorship Page Form. Please type or print clearly below.

Name of person placing memorial page:

Memorial page size:

Instructions for designer:

Page text:

Number of photos to be used:

Photo(s) enclosed or will be e-mailed as digital file(s). (please circle one)

If you know how you would like the page to look, please sketch it here:
MEMORIAL TEMPLATE

Use this butterfly template to decorate in memory of your child(ren), sibling or grandchild for decorating our children’s memorial area during the Gathering. Copy the butterfly pattern onto any color cardstock, cut it out, and then decorate it as you wish, adding the child’s name, their birth and death dates, photos, phrases, stickers, etc. on the front. Bring your completed template with you to the National Gathering. If you cannot attend, mail your decorated butterfly to Jodi Norman, 539 Harrison Circle, Locust Grove, VA 22508 to be received no later than July 15th. Chapter leaders consider decorating templates with your chapter members during a monthly meeting before the Gathering and bring them or mail them to address above.