

Dear Member,

For we who lost loved ones, the heartbreak persists. For those who are survivors, often with physical and emotional injuries more severe than others realize, the devastating memories remain. The aviation disasters of September 11th (NINE-ELEVEN) shook the world and broke the hearts of millions of people, and now almost everyone knows someone impacted by an aviation disaster, whether it is from that day, or a crash long ago.

Our members felt the pain and suffering after NINE-ELEVEN, too, and months later it is more difficult to find peace and contentment in our every day lives. More people were harmed personally, many more lost family and friends, or they know a story from a "friend of a friend." The powerful personal accounts we hear from the NINE-ELEVEN families and survivors remind us of our own personal experiences and stories.

The friendship and support our members give to each other provides strength in coping with grief. This month, Helen and Larry Siebert have shared the story of their Memory Garden of flowers, plants, and trees representing 27 states and 11 countries in memory of the 230 souls on board TWA 800. The garden includes plants representing the home state flower or the country for each person on board. Helen is also sharing a poem "*From the Normal Family*" which speaks of a personal journey to find a "new normal."

Alice Grasso was a young widow with small children to raise, and is one of many members who have honored her husband's memory by helping others. Alice and others from USAir 427, and about eight other air crash groups, organized NADA/F in Pittsburgh in 1995. Their short-term goal was to support victims' families. Together, they found a personal strength that they did not know they had, and like others, it had not been tested before. The work of the Founding Members led to the passage of the Family Assistance Act of 1996, and we are all grateful for their dedication to helping air crash families in the future.

Their force and determination made NADA/F a reality, and seven years later, we remain committed to the founding goals, including the long-term goals of aviation safety and security.

The world is a better place because of members who remember their loved ones with gardens, memorials, scholarships, and more. It is also a better place because of your support and contributions to NADA/F, in honor and memory of your loved ones. We rely on your donations to help prevent these disasters in the future, as we continue to provide worldwide long-term support for victims' families. *Thank you!*

Sincerely,



Gail A. Dunham, President

***MISSION: To raise the standard of safety, security, and survivability
for aviation passengers and to support victims' families.***

SAVE THE DATE! 8th Annual Meeting September 28-29, 2002

DoubleTree Hotel, Pentagon City, close to Washington National Airport. For the special \$99 rate call (703) 416-4100 or (800) 222-TREE. Mention NADA/F or NATIONAL AIR DISASTER ALLIANCE for the special rate.

Meeting will be from 9:30 AM Saturday morning through 4:30 PM on Sunday. Continental breakfast and conversation starts at 8:30 AM Saturday and Sunday. Saturday evening dinner will again be at the Rooftop Dining Room with a terrific view of Washington DC. Socializing will start Saturday at 5:30 PM before dinner. Actually, prepare for lots of socializing while we visit with old and new friends. Everyone is welcome—survivors, family members, aviation professionals, government officials, members of the media, and all those impacted by aviation disasters recently and long ago. Saturday morning will include our traditional personal introductions and a time for caring and sharing. Meeting Speakers to be announced.

Optional Friday activities will include a behind the scenes Security Tour of Washington National Airport at 10:30 AM Friday. Last year the airport tour was cancelled as the airport was closed, but we anticipate the tour is a GO for this year. Tourmaster will be our own Board Member Bob Monetti, also President of PA103.

Friday 2:00 PM optional meeting at the FAA. Advance reservations for the Friday meetings will be a MUST due to security.

Registration fee is waived for those having a Letter to the Editor published promoting NADA/F's goals: Aviation Safety, Security and Support for victims' families. Check our website under NEWS for a list of the 200 largest newspapers in the U.S. to help you with addresses for your local and national newspapers.

Questions or suggestions? Contact our meeting Co-chairs: **Joan Pontante (315) 593-3279 Japontante@juno.com** and/or **Audrey Ulozas (954) 783-4598 judaud@attbi.com** Meeting Registration information will be available soon on the website and in the next newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you in September!

BOOKS

NADF has many books to share with members for a small donation to our organization. All books have been donated by authors, publishers, and friends of NADF. The funds raised are used to educate and communicate with our members. Feel free to use the book order form included in this newsletter. In some cases, quantities are limited. You may contact our book coordinator, Mary Kahl, regarding availability, by calling (724) 864-0026 or email to: MKahlcu18@aol.com. Book requests can be expedited by mailing the orders and checks (payable to NADF – NATIONAL AIR DISASTER FOUNDATION)) directly to Mary Kahl at 1917 Victoria Ln, Irwin, PA 15642-5606. Additional BOOKS are listed on our website, and many can be ordered directly from NADF.

Our book drive for 2002 will soon be underway. NADF will accept multiple copies of books related to aviation safety/security or bereavement and grief. Donors will be acknowledged in a future newsletter and we are most grateful for all book donations, new and used. Remember that your donations are tax deductible and you will be helping NADF continue its mission.
Mary Kahl

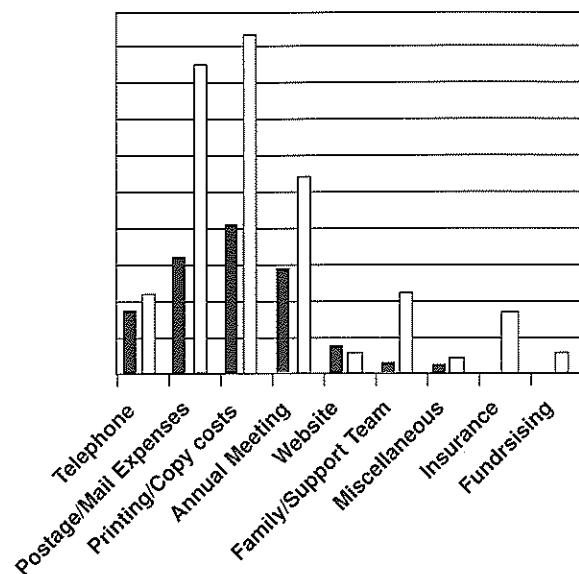
The U.S. Mail

Some of the incoming NADA/F mail has gone through the infamous Washington DC sorting station that has had so many mail problems. Some of our incoming mail has been irradiated, delayed as long as two months, and some has not arrived at all. The situation is better now, however, if your membership check to NADA/F has not been cashed, or your letter was not acknowledged, please assume that it was lost in the mail, and we would still love to hear from you with those much-needed donations and letters!
Thank you! Gail Dunham

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Please consider a donation of \$20 per person, per year, for membership, or as much as you can afford, to the NATIONAL AIR DISASTER FOUNDATION. We also welcome Newsletter Sponsors for a \$2,000 donation. Our resources are stretched as we reach out to more people than ever before. Aviation safety is in the news as we respond to more requests for information from the media and new members.

As you can see from the simple bar chart below, comparing our 2000 and 2001 expenditures, postage and printing are the two largest line items in the budget, and continue to rise. Communication expenses are over 80% of our budget, and cover telephone, postage, printing, the Annual Meeting, and website. Our members generously cover their own travel expenses, and we have no paid staff. We want to assure our members that every penny is spent wisely, and is tax-deductible. **Your donation is needed to help continue our work!** *Gail Dunham*



NATIONAL AIR DISASTER ALLIANCE & FOUNDATION

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The Bookshelf
Spring, 2002

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QTY	Author	Book Title	Unit Donation	TOTAL Donation
	Allardyce & Gollin	<i>Desired Track, The Tragic Flight of KAL 007, Vol.1 & 2</i>	\$30.00	
	Nattanya Anderson	<i>Broken Wings: A Flight Attendant's Journey</i>	\$20.00	
	Barbara Bartocci	<i>Nobody's Child Anymore: Grieving, Comforting, Caring When Parents Die</i>	\$10.00	
	Simon Bennet	<i>Human Error - By Design</i>	\$20.00	
	Kenneth Doka	<i>Living With Grief After Sudden Loss</i>	\$15.00	
	Kenneth Doka	<i>Living With Grief: Children, Adolescents & Loss</i>	\$15.00	
	Kenneth Doka	<i>Children Mourning, Mourning Children</i>	\$15.00	
	Diana Faïrechild	<i>Jet Smarter: The Traveler's Rx</i>	\$10.00	
	Andrea Gambill, Ed.	<i>Food for the Soul: A Best of Bereavement Poetry Collection</i>	\$10.00	
	Guggenheim	<i>Hello From Heaven A New Field of Research After-Death Communication</i>	\$5.00	
	Jill Werman Harris, Ed.	<i>Remembrances & Celebrations: Eulogies, Elegies, Letters & Epitaphs</i>	\$15.00	
	Holtkamp	<i>Grieving With Hope</i>	\$10.00	
	Kolf	<i>When Will I Stop Hurting</i>	\$5.00	
	Kushner	<i>When Bad Things Happen to Good People</i>	\$5.00	
	Stephen Levine	<i>Meetings at the Edge: Dialogues With the Grieving, Dying, Healing & Healed</i>	\$10.00	
	Stephen Levine	<i>Healing Into Life & Death</i>	\$10.00	
	Levine & Levine	<i>The Grief Process: Meditations for Healing</i> (2 cassette tapes)	\$15.00	
	McCracken & Semel	<i>A Broken Heart Still Beats</i> Hard Cover	\$20.00	
	Manning	<i>Don't Take My Grief Away</i>	\$10.00	
	Martin & Romanowski	<i>Our Children Forever</i>	\$5.00	
	Martin & Romanowski	<i>We Are Not Forgotten</i>	\$5.00	
	Martin & Romanowski	<i>We Don't Die</i>	\$5.00	
	Moody	<i>Life After Life</i>	\$5.00	
	John Nance	<i>Blind Trust - 1st Edition</i> Hard Cover	\$30.00	
	Christine Negroni	<i>Deadly Departure: Why the Experts Failed to Prevent.</i> Hard Cover	\$20.00	
		<i>TWA 800 and How It Could Happen Again</i>		
	Mary Schiavo	<i>Flying Blind, Flying Safe: The Former Inspector General of the US Dept of Transportation Tells You Everything You Need to Know to Travel Safer</i> Hard Cover (autographed)	\$20.00	
	Jerry Schemmel	<i>Chosen to Live: The Inspiring Story of Flight 232 Survivor</i> Hard Cover	\$20.00	
	Shortley-Lalonde	<i>Widowed Without Warning</i>	\$10.00	
	Rodney Stich	<i>Unfriendly Skies</i>	\$25.00	
	Judy Tallebaum	<i>The Courage to Grieve</i>	\$10.00	
	Andrew Weir	<i>The Tombstone Imperative</i>	\$15.00	
	2001 dues	<i>Annual voting membership - includes pins(set of 2) for new members</i>	\$20.00	
	Bumper Sticker	<i>Safety Delayed is Safety Denied.....www.PlaneSafe.org</i>	\$2.00	
	Pin	<i>1.5 diameter - Pewter Logo pin</i>	\$5.00	
	Pins (set of 2)	<i>1 Circular logo pin and sm. rectangular NADA/F pin - Blue/Yellow Brass</i>	\$5.00	

Calculate the GRAND TOTAL of your donation by adding all figures in the last column.

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Grand TOTAL

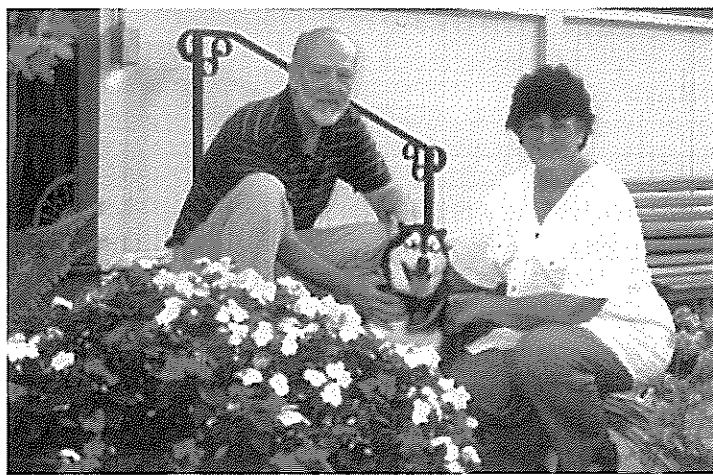
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Larry & Helen, with Sebastian. Larry is Treasurer of NADA/F and both are Team Leaders on *Family Support Team*. (573) 635-1488 Email: HlnSiebert@aol.com

A GARDEN OF MEMORIES

By Helen Siebert

(Larry & Helen Siebert lost their only children, two daughters; and their niece and her husband on TWA Flight 800, July 17, 1996)

It is Spring, at least today. Two days ago it was sleeting, but today was beautiful. It felt good to be outside cleaning the flower gardens of debris that had accumulated during the winter. I found myself looking at the still sleeping flowers and visualizing how they had looked last summer. Here and there green was emerging and the early spring flowers were in bud, letting me know they had survived. I realized that I, too, had survived and "gotten through" another season of holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries without our daughters, and a dear niece who was born on my 22nd birthday.

How does one "get through"? However one does it – and each who loses a loved one does it differently – shares one thing in common, well two things: we are never "over it", and it is the hardest work we have ever done or ever will do. Grief is overwhelming, but thankfully at first grief is numbing. I lost all my sense of being, but on the positive side, it kept me insulated. As the numbness ebbed, pain flowed in so intensely that I found myself holding my breath, or perhaps I was forgetting to breathe. While in my numbness, I cursed that I just wanted to have things the way they had been and not the nightmare I was living now. Then when the pain struck, it was so intense that I ran to anger, denial, drowned in tears or anything else my whirling mind imagined just to escape the pain.

But looking back, I believe what saved me was putting sound to my thoughts. Talking about what happened, saying or hearing our daughters' names, expressing my feelings, fears — rational and irrational. My wonderful sister-in-law who lost her only child, a daughter on Flight 800, and I shared so much and we truly did understand each other's pain. My husband, my rock solid,

level-headed companion donned a suit of armor and was there for both of us. We three took turns donning that suit of armor and I imagine we will continue as long as we live. One thing we soon learned was that each grieves in their own way and men and women grieve in entirely different ways. Finding this out early enabled us to provide each other room to grieve without suspicion or questioning. Another invaluable source of strength was meeting with the other families who lost loved ones on Flight 800. Scattered all over the world we still managed to meet and hear about the loved ones who were together when their lives ended. As we sat listening to stories of people we didn't know being told by their families who were left, there was a revelation that all we were thinking, doing, feeling while we were at home alone, was similar, and some instances exactly what others also had experienced. It was so encouraging to realize we were not "losing it", and what we were experiencing was NORMAL. Each time we came together, the raw, horrible injury we all experienced s-l-o-w-l-y began to heal. Several of us became good friends joined by an inexplicable bond.

Each time I returned home I realized that there was no "getting back to normal" – to what was before. My normal would have to become a NEW NORMAL. For me, it took a long time to find a new normal outfit that fit. It was like getting a complete makeover for a very stubborn person. A makeover that I had to like what it looked like staring back at me in the mirror, liked how it felt, and it had to take place immediately with excellent results because I was just too tired to try on a different one. Then I realized each morning or afternoon when I awoke I had to remember how it had fit the day before. This was particularly difficult when on some days I couldn't even remember where I had put my toothbrush.

It seemed, though, when I was overwhelmed, I would go into the garden even during winter. The garden didn't care if my shoes didn't match, if my hair was combed, if I was crying, or yelling. In the last six years and depending on my state of mind, our garden has enlarged, spread, infested, and taken over just about every part of our yard. I found that digging goes much faster in an anger or frustration mode. My husband also helped, but was also waging a last stand that he had to keep at least one area for "just grass".

As I worked or just sat in the garden, my thoughts would drift and I would begin questioning or feeling guilty that I was enjoying the friendships that had developed with the Flight 800 families. Amazed that even friendships could occur out of such a horrible, gut wrenching tragedy. But the friendships persisted and became more comfortable without the guilt. Upon reflection almost six years later, I think I wanted the guilt because I felt I needed to feel bad that I was continuing my life and my daughters' lives had stopped.

On sleepless nights I would sometimes read over the list of all the passengers that were together and who because of their death now brought their families together.

There were also little cameos, stories, pictures, and poems that a dear Flight 800 friend and I had gathered from the families who wished to participate in making and sharing a memory book called *"We Remember Them"*.

As I read and reread the names and where they had lived, I thought of flowers because we had recently planted the state flower of Missouri in our yard – a Hawthorne "tree" (go figure). Then it came to me, a memory garden! A garden in which all our loved ones on Flight 800 could be celebrated — surviving, growing, nurtured and beautiful. My husband's dear grass space would be reduced a little more. After I explained, he agreed. We started locating and gathering the state flowers. Some had to have substitutions (like Mock Orange replaced the Orange Blossom for Florida) because in Missouri's weather it wouldn't last. We also selected representative flowers for the countries. The special Flight 800 garden started taking shape. As both old and new friends heard of our endeavor, seeds would appear in the mail and two beautiful mountain laurels were delivered from Connecticut. My sister-in-law tracked down a Clivia to represent the Ivory Coast. It has taken three years, but it will be completed just before we attend the sixth anniversary of Flight 800 and the dedication of the beautiful families' memorial at Smith Point Park on Long Island on July 17, 2002.

Yes, gardening has brought me peace. After Flight 800 changed our lives forever, the pleasure of gardening came back into my new life first. Or perhaps gardening is what endured through it all. It is a connective tissue linking the past to the present. The next to reappear was my desire to read again. No longer did novels hold my shortened attention span, but my daughters' love of poetry did. Short articles in newsletters that I never knew existed came mysteriously to the mailbox. *"Bereavement, a Magazine of Hope and Healing"* and *"Bereaved Parents USA", St. Louis Chapter* are two outstanding periodicals with wonderful, helpful articles that seem to leap off the page making me think they were put there just for me.

Leigh Hunt wrote: *"Whenever evil befalls us, we ought to ask ourselves, after the suffering, how we can turn it into good. Shall we take occasion, from bitter root, to raise perhaps many flowers."*

Our desire to achieve something good out of bad led my husband and I to become members of the organization, The *National Air Disaster Alliance/ Foundation (NADA/F)*. NADA/F's mission is to raise the standard of safety, security, and survivability for aviation passengers and to support victims' families. Last year it instituted *Family Support Teams* formed to help victims and survivors of air disasters. The trained Support Teams are themselves family of victims or survivors of air disasters. The first team served at the Pentagon after September 11th and received accolades for their work with the families. NADA/F is a credible, supportive, and conscientious organization dedicated to fight and support changes to make air travel safer. The website contains a

wealth of resources and helpful information at www.planesafe.org.

My new normal continues to grow and even surprise. One of the feelings I miss most is joy. In my old normal, joy came from our daughters. Watching them grow. Watching them realizing their dreams and hopes. Bursting with pride in their wonderful achievements and seeing their beautiful smiles. A few days ago while struggling to write this, I began remembering a wonderful episode in their lives, and realized I was feeling joy in a memory that was filling my mind. To my amazement, I do have joy. Joy is still our children, but in memories.

As time speeds by, or on some days creeps by, I am certain that other parts of my old normal are floating out "there" and will make the passage into my new normal. Perhaps when the parts appear, they will be changed and scarred just like me. I have made it this far because of the love, support and strength of my husband, old friends, new friends, extended family that is left, and even strangers who take the time to care. I also know I can never give up because to do so would disappoint our daughters. I feel their energy in me whenever I do something that would make them proud. So, with each new day, I will face what it brings and hope it contains a little joy, passion, love, pleasure, comfort, peace, and yes, even tears.



The garden blooms from March through October, with Blue Bonnets from Texas, Violets the state flower of Illinois, New Jersey and Rhode Island, Columbine from Colorado, Black Eyed Susan's from Maryland, and on it goes. The garden is often Open to View at their home in Jefferson City MO.

Editors Note: For information about Bereavement Magazine: www.bereavementmag.com
For information about the St. Louis Chapter of Bereaved Parents contact Sabra Penrod at: SABOOTS@worldnet.net.att
For the national headquarters check: www.BereavedParentsUSA.org

FROM THE NORMAL FAMILY

BY Edith Fraser

Bereaved Parents USA, Volume 23, Number 2

March – April, 2002

If you think you are going insane,
THAT'S NORMAL

If all you can do is cry,
THAT'S NORMAL

If you have trouble with the most minor decisions,
THAT'S NORMAL

If you can't taste your food or have any semblance
of an appetite,
THAT'S NORMAL

If you have feelings of rage, denial and depression,
THAT'S NORMAL

If you find yourself enjoying a funny moment and
immediately feeling guilty,
THAT'S NORMAL

If your friends dwindle away and you feel like
you have the plague,
THAT'S NORMAL

If your blood boils and the hair in your nose curls
when someone tells you, "It was God's will",
THAT'S NORMAL

If you can't talk about it, but can smash dishes,
shred old phone books or kick the garbage can
(preferably empty) down the lane,
THAT'S NORMAL

If you can share your story, your feelings with an
understanding listener – another bereaved parent,
THAT'S A BEGINNING

If you can get a glimmer of your child's life rather
than his/her death,
THAT'S WONDERFUL

If you can remember your child with a smile,
THAT'S HEALING

If you find that mirrors have become windows and you
are able to reach out to other bereaved parents
THAT'S GROWING

Family members have networked with others for years, and we know that our friendships are very unique because of the difficult events we share. I have met wonderful people during the ICISF classes, and been able to broaden my base of people for resources and friendship. While we learn more about a person's response to a crisis and the stages of grief, we have a greater understanding about our personal experiences and ourselves. ICISF training offers personal help, excellent training for our Family Support Team, or possibly become an ICISF team member in your own community. If you have questions feel free to give me a call.

Barbara Skudlarick

(360) 371-4109 Email: MazamaJoe@cs.com

The following was published in *Life Net*, a Publication of ICISF, International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc.

Life Net

NATIONAL AIR DISASTER ALLIANCE / FOUNDATION

When an air crash occurs there are many victims who may not be on the passenger list. Those who die and those who survive such horrific tragedies are, of course, direct victims of the disaster. The survivors can be profoundly impacted by an air disaster whether they are injured or not. But there are many indirect victims of air disasters, who should be considered as well. For example, the employees of an airline that has suffered a loss and the rescue and recovery personnel are among the indirect victims. They may suffer acute and prolonged grief processes and stress reactions such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Certainly no one can argue against the fact that the families and friends of those who died or were injured are victims as well. The air crash for them is a life-altering event from which they never totally recover. They may return to work and function in their families, but there will always be the feeling that a gaping hole has been torn into the fabric of their lives. There will always be the dreams that go forever unfulfilled. There will always be that emptiness they feel when they seek the company of one who was taken away so abruptly. Even in cases in which a loved one survives, they must alter their lives to accommodate the changes brought about by the medical recovery of a loved one. At the very least, their sense of security regarding air travel is altered.

The families and friends of the direct victims of an air disaster need support, information and guidance. Some may benefit from direct crisis intervention services. Others simply need someone to tell them what to expect next as the investigation moves along. Still others need to know how to get information from the various governmental agencies involved in the investigation. The *NATIONAL AIR DISASTER ALLIANCE/FOUNDATION (NADA/F)* exists to assist the families and friends of direct air disaster victims. It can render assistance in these areas and many more.

NADA/F urges the aircraft manufactures, the airlines, the FAA, and Congress to take steps which will make air travel safer. They see their role as a prevention-oriented role. They would like to prevent other families from suffering the pain they have endured. They also recognize that their own experience can be a guidepost for some families that have encountered a tragic loss as a result of an air disaster. They are willing to help newly traumatized families deal with the chaos and confusion that surrounds an air crash. The *NADA/F* advocates for victims and encourages legal actions that bring air criminals to justice. They put a human face on the statistics. It is relatively easy to ignore a casualty count. It is much harder to ignore the mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, aunt and uncles and grandparents of those casualties.

NADA/F is formulating a crisis response network that can respond to assist the families of direct victims of an air disaster. We have met many of these fine people at ICISF conferences. The sensitivity and insight the members of *NADA/F* are bringing to the training have impressed the faculty and their fellow students in the conferences. They have a great willingness to learn and are clearly motivated to assist others who need their guidance and care.

ICISF encourages a greater level of involvement between local CISM teams and members of *NADA/F*. They have much to offer and can be an asset to CISM teams. There is also a need for *NADA/F* members to obtain guidance and support from experienced CISM team members. Make a place for them on your team, at least as associate members if you are not prepared to offer them full membership. Welcome them and help them find a home within the CISM team. By reaching out to help others they are helping each other and themselves recover from the most catastrophic losses of their lives.

INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS FOUNDATION, Inc. - ICISF

ICISF is a non-profit, open membership foundation dedicated to the prevention and mitigation of disabling stress through education, training, and support services. They work with Crisis and Disaster Response Programs, organizations, and communities worldwide. *NADA/F* is proud to work with ICISF!

- ✓ Classes that would be the most applicable to *Family Support Team (FST)* would be:
- ✓ Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Basic Group Crisis Intervention
- ✓ Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Crisis Intervention and Peer Support, and
- ✓ Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Advanced Group Crisis Intervention.

Conferences offer up to 12 classes, including *NEW* courses such as Domestic Terrorism.

Each class is a 2-day program, and you may participate for 2 or 4 days.

Questions? Training is very affordable. Feel free to give us call for more information.

FST Director, Barb Skudlarick, MazamaJoe@cs.com (360) 371-4108, or

Helen and Larry Siebert HlnSiebert@aol.com (573) 635-1488

May 2-5, 2002

Santa Rosa CA – Northbay Regional CISM

Contact Liz VonFrankenberg (707) 766-1525 x 15 Liz@verihealth.com

Hilton Sonoma County/Santa Rosa special rate of \$129 per night (707) 523-7555 for reservations

<http://www.icisf.org/conference/brochures/sonomaca.pdf>

May 16-19, 2002

Seattle WA – Contact Jim Detrick (425) 255-1284 detrickjw@aol.com

DoubleTree Hotel at the Seattle Airport – \$94 per night (800) 222-TREE

<http://www.icisf.org/conference/brochures/seattle.pdf>

✓ *Barb Skudlarick will be attending— feel free to join her!*

May 30-June 2, 2002

Columbia MD – Call ICISF (410) 750-9600

Sheraton Columbia Hotel - \$114 per night, (410) 730-3900/reservations

<http://www.icisf.org/conference/brochures/columbia.pdf>

June 13-16, 2002

Las Vegas NV - Contact Brendon Donoho (702) 303-0483

BDONOH0@ci.las-vegas.nv.us or Irwin Goldman (702) 407-0880 Dialme2@earthlink.net

Rivera Hotel & Casino \$87 per night (702) 794-9412/reservations

<http://www.icisf.org/conference/brochures/las-vegas.pdf>

June 20-23, 2002

Oshkosh WI – Fox Valley CISM, Contact K.C. Schuler, Theda Clark Medical

Center Chaplain (920) 729-3158 KC.Schuler@thedacare.org or Steve Radich (920) 727-3020

The Park Plaza Hotel & Convention Center - \$94 per night (920) 231-5000/reservations

<http://www.icisf.org/conference/brochures/oshkosh.pdf>

July 11-14, 2002

Springfield MA – Contact Chuck Roode (413) 846-6100 CLROODE@aol.com

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place - \$119 per night (413) 263-2015/reservations

July 25-28, 2002

Portland, Maine – Contact Donnell Carroll (207) 741-2790 Ex_Dir@smems.org

Sheraton South Portland Hotel - \$129 per night (207) 775-6161/reservations

August 8-11, 2002

Brunswick and The Golden Isles, GA

August 14-18, 2002

Melbourne Australia – Dr. Robyn Robinson 613 + 9347 + 6927

robynr@bigpond.net.au Website: www.cismfa.org.au

September 5-8, 2002

Maui Hawaii

September 19-22, 2002

Nashville TN

October 3-6, 2002

Charleston SC

October 17-20, 2002

Bakersfield CA

October 31-November 3, 2002

Traverse City, MI

November 14-17, 2002

West Palm Beach FL

December 5-8, 2002

San Diego CA

More classes will be announced. Training updates will also be on our website: www.PlaneSafe.org

For more information visit the website: <http://www.icisf.org/> or <http://www.icisf.org/dates.htm>

International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc.

10176 Baltimore National Pike, Unit 201, Ellicott City, MD 21042

(410) 750-9600-phone (ask for Kim Michelotti)- (410) 750-9601-fax or Email: kbrown@icisf.org

Special thanks to Alice Grasso for sponsoring this Newsletter in Memory of Len Grasso.

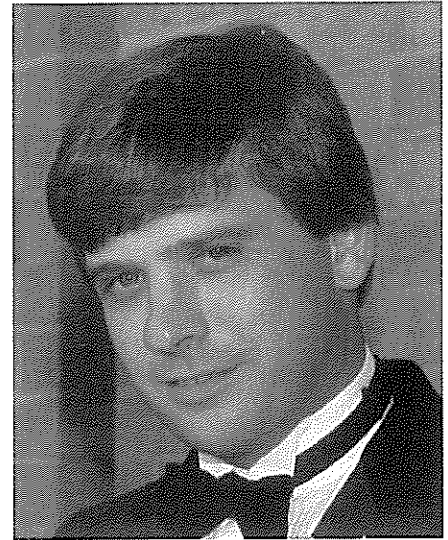
This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of my husband, Len Grasso, who died at the age of 41, in the crash of USAir Flight 427 on September 8, 1994, near Pittsburgh. Len was a wonderful husband and father of two young daughters, and an avid golfer. He always had a smile on his face and was willing to help anyone. In his honor and memory I have established The Leonard C. Grasso Charitable Foundation which has supported safer air travel and children's organizations. We built a playground at a local church and helped to preserve the crash site in Hopewell Township. The crash site was purchased solely by family members contributions and was dedicated in April of 2000.

I was a founding member of USAir Flight 427 Air Disaster Support League, and the *NATIONAL AIR DISASTER ALLIANCE/FOUNDATION*, and we were able to make changes for the families of victims of air disasters. We went to Washington DC and met with the NTSB and the Secretary of Transportation, which resulted in passing the Family Assistance Act. We still have a long way to go, but I learned we CAN make a difference if we speak up and join with others.

One thing that helped me tremendously was meeting the other family members. Talking with them and realizing someone else understood what I was going through was really helpful to me. Allegheny County PA offered us counseling where we met one another. We also met George Donnelly, pastor and psychotherapist who was with us in the beginning, was on our board, and led most of our services. He recently passed away and will be greatly missed by US427 families and others.

I will live forever with Len's memory in my heart, and the desire to see airplanes safer for my children and all air travelers. My children have grown up looking at pictures of their Dad instead of having him hug them. They have watched their Mom make a difference in the laws of this country, knowing it takes strength to overcome such a great loss. I have learned to live with Len's death, but I will never accept that planes cannot be made safer. Let's all work together towards that goal!

Alice Grasso aegrasso@bellatlantic.net



Remembering Len...

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST MAILING FROM US AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ON OUR MAILING LIST PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU! Call toll free 888-444-NADA

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