



*For the families and friends who have died by violence*

# POMC

SUPPORT  
NEWSLETTER

Front Range Chapter  
Parents of Murdered Children

Dec 2011—Jan 2012

## JOIN US FOR DESSERT POT- LUCK AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Holidays can be a very difficult time of the year for survivors, a time when traditions have been a great part of our lives, be it Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa. Most of us have already broken those traditions with the loss of our loved one(s). We at POMC have our own very special tradition...we come together to share in fellowship and to honor our loved ones with dessert, tree trimming and candlelight service. Plan on joining us for our Holiday Dessert Potluck on Saturday, December 17 at 7:00 PM sharp.

Bring your special dessert or a favorite of your loved one. After dessert we will go outside to decorate our beautiful evergreen tree with our very special ornaments that you have provided. Weather permitting, we will have our candlelight service by the tree, otherwise we will come back inside and continue. Bring your singing voices and any favorite carols.

We have the ornaments that decorated our tree last year but you are always welcome to bring a new one, just be sure to have your loved one's name on it. We also have extra if needed. **DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE FAMILY TOO.** This will be a beautiful evening for all to share in. We look forward to seeing you there and...if you can't make it, we will put an ornament on the tree for you.

## NEXT VOICE FORUM SET FOR JANUARY 9

You are invited to the Victims Organized in Correctional Exchange (VOICE) meeting at the District 3 Denver Police Station, 1625 S University Blvd in Denver on Monday, January 9, 2012 from 6:00 – 8:30 PM. There is ample free parking available.

The Crime Victims' Advisory Council (CVAC), a component of the Victim Service Network in Denver, will do a presentation on "Our Stories". CVAC works to educate the public about the personal and societal impact of crime. A panel of CVAC members, all primary and secondary victims of violent crime, will share their personal experiences in conjunction with short video narratives. Audience members will have the rare opportunity to ask questions and interact with crime victims who are at a stage of healing where they are able to engage in the community as anti-violence activists.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2012

**Crime Victims' Rights Week** will be held

April 22-28. Theme: "Extending the Vision: Reaching every VICTIM". Schedule of events will be in next issue.

**POMC National Conference** will be in Phoenix, AZ, August 9 thru 12. Theme: "Journey on... Survivor Strong". More information will be available soon.



PARENTS OF MURDERED CHILDREN NATIONAL OFFICE—CINCINNATI, OHIO

## POMC

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

Web Site  
[www.coloradopomc.org](http://www.coloradopomc.org)

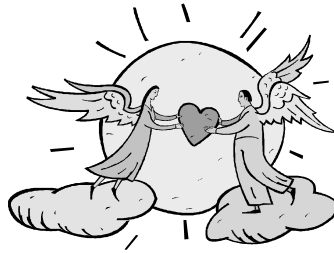
Leader .....	<b>Joe Cannata</b> 303-345-7301
Secretary .....	<b>Nancy Rasser</b> 303-798-2841
Treasurer .....	<b>Tom Rasser</b> 303-798-2841
Director .....	<b>Berkie Harris</b> 303-321-3107
Director .....	<b>Phil Clark</b> 303-932-6771
Director .....	<b>Bill Lusk</b> 303-593-0784
Director .....	<b>Cherri Lusk</b> 303-593-0784
Outreach Chair.....	<b>June Menger</b> 303-651-2326
Member .....	<b>Everett &amp; Linda Donelson</b> 303-693-8887
Member.....	<b>Caryl &amp; Charles Harvey</b> 970-854-2665
Member.....	<b>Jean Heil</b> 719-254-6162
Member.....	<b>Barb Kaptanian</b> 303-792-5432

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

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**Website:** [www.pomc.org](http://www.pomc.org)

**Office:** (513) 721-5683  
**Fax:** (513) 345-4489  
**Toll Free:** (888) 818-POMC

## Love Gifts



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

Jerri & Don Reichert  
in memory of their son,  
**Michael Reichert**

Cherri & Bill Lusk  
in memory of their son,  
**Bryan Lusk**

Mary Hinson  
in memory of her son,  
**Ronald Hinson Jr.**

Catherine Perez  
in memory of her husband,  
**Edward Perez**

Teri Cox  
in memory of her daughter,  
**Brooklyn Jean Ricks**

Pat Rush  
in memory of her son,  
**Ivory Mefford**

## New Members

Nora White  
Lori Nixon  
Eugene Onofrio

## WHY WE ARE HERE

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

## POMC NEWSLETTER STAFF AND INFORMATION

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

Cherri and Bill Lusk  
10063 Boca Circle Parker, CO 80134.  
Email is welcome at:  
[ca.lusk@comcast.net](mailto:ca.lusk@comcast.net)

## Contacts

**Memorials & Birthdays:**  
Cherri Lusk, 303 593-0784

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

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

**Trials and Hearings:**  
Tom Rasser, 303 798-2841



# Trials & Hearings

The competency hearing for Chester Todd has been rescheduled for Jan. 6, 2112; and is expected to receive and discuss results of the competency testing that was performed at Pueblo. As noted in previous announcements, Todd has confessed to the 1966 murder of Sherri Majors, the daughter of Linda and Everitt Donelson, in Denver.

## OVC FUNDS COLD CASE VICTIMS GUIDE

The National Sheriffs' Association, Justice Solutions, and the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc., have just released "Serving Survivors of Homicide Victims During Cold Case Investigations: A Guide for Developing a Law Enforcement Protocol." The Guide, developed through a grant with the Office for Victims of Crime, includes information on definitions and terminology; staffing cold case units; investigative strategies; training and education; communicating with survivors; and collaborating with other entities. The Guide can be found at [www.sheriffs.org/](http://www.sheriffs.org/)

## Memorials for Loved Ones

In other chapter newsletters they publish memorial pages like the one we published in our Oct-Nov newsletter. This helps defray costs of publishing their newsletter. Our board decided at the January board meeting to offer the same service in our newsletter. You can choose a half page at \$50. or a quarter page for \$30. Please send Memorial page items with payment to the editor, Cherri Lusk, 10063 Boca Circle, Parker, Co. 80134. Any pictures or copies are not returnable to the sender. You could also email them to me at [ca.lusk@comcast.net](mailto:ca.lusk@comcast.net). The memorial and or picture must be sent as an attachment for me to access it to place in the newsletter. Please put POMC newsletter in the subject line or I will not open the email. Any questions regarding this service, call Cherri at (303) 593-0784.

## Voices of Victims

They provide post sentencing support to our group and all victims of violent crime. Their website is: [www.voicesofvictims.org](http://www.voicesofvictims.org)



“At this season of the year – so filled with memories and, for most people, family occasions – sometimes our grief seems all but unbearable. And grief is often especially sharp around holiday occasions. But after a while we begin to savor the recall of those gathered times when we were all together, when the tenor of the days was festive and mutually cherishing. ... So memory nourishes the heart, eases the sharp edges of grief, and whether or not we speak of it to one another, spreads its arms to comfort and to gather us as one family in the great human stream of life. In our memory we can live with our loved one again, and be glad.”

**Where there is great love, there are always miracles. - Willa Cather –**

“Every religion has its miracles. For Christians, the miracle of Christ’s life, death and resurrection; for Jews, the escape from Egypt and manna in the wilderness; for Muslims, the ascension of Mohammed from Jerusalem to Heaven. And we have our own miracles of love: our family stories of reconciliations, of recoveries that defy medical explanation but are laid to someone’s faith. Perhaps in our faith communities we see other miracles of love – the dispossessed made to feel at home, the hungry fed, bonds of understanding and mutual joy forming across cultural and racial differences. And in our society at large we see, again and again, the outpouring of food and clothing and shelter to unknown victims of disaster. Of course there are glitches in personal relationships as in international efforts. Others are not always sensitive to our needs, nor are we to theirs. Given that each of us inhabits a unique and private world, maybe it’s a miracle that we get along as well as we do. So at this season of celebration and longing, let’s raise a glass or an inner hurrah, even in our sadness, for the gifts of love wherever we find them – in strangers, in our loved ones, and in our own hearts as well. Let us open our hearts to all the love that is around us.” What better time than the holidays to see the wonder of love and miracles.

**It is dark now. The snow is deep blue and the ocean nearly black.  
It is time for some music. - May Sarton –**

You may feel like this is your deepest winter. “In the midst of the deepest winter, of the darkest night, what are we to do? Acknowledge the cold and the dark, the mystery of an unknowable black ocean that seems to stretch into infinity, and then sing!

“Or, to put it another way, it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. One of the glories of human beings is their ability to venture, to see beyond the immediate scene, to raise a note of hope and risk in a sometimes foreboding world.”

So may these holidays, this turning from Hanukkah or Christmas to the New Year, “...this milestone which has its aura of sadness because I enter another year without my loved one, may this New Year’s Eve be for me a time for music. And if I am able, later, if not now, may I hear in my heart the voice of my loved one lifted with my voice, to praise life, to hope for life, to join others on this circling globe in an ‘Alleluia,’ for the experiences we have shared and share even now, and for the ways beyond time and death in which we are bound to one another in gratitude and love.”

**Happy Hanukkah, Blessed Christmas, Prosperous New Year. Alleluia. Amen. Barb**

# Birthdays Remembered

**Jan Mariano**, January 1, 1952

**Sarah Robinson**, January 3, 1985

**Neal Eldrenkamp**, January 5, 1959

**Lori Jean Burritt**, January 6, 1953

**Alan Friedman**, January 9, 1951

**Thad "T.J." Tigges**, January 9, 1968

**Marlon Horton**, January 10, 1984

**Judy Gushard**, January 11, 1945

**Angie Fite**, January 11, 1970

**Mitch Anderson**, January 11, 1975

**Ricky Bobian**, January 15, 1974

**Heather Moore**, January 16, 1974

**Jacine Gielinski**, January 16, 1975

**Carrie Lee Gonzales**, January 17, 1957

**Jason Paiz**, January 17, 1979

**Bailey Davidson**, January 20, 2005

**Dylan Gushard**, January 21, 1971

**Bryan D. Lusk**, January 24, 1976

**Leah Mandell**, January 29, 1972

**Javad Marshall-Fields**, January, 1983

**Rubon Wayne Norwood**, December 1, 1938

**Ethan Wolf**, December 1, 1974

**Chad Ferguson**, December 1, 1977

**Robert Mejia**, December 2, 1979

**Meglan Renaud**, December 3, 1976

**Paul Anthony Ciaramitaro**, December 4, 1959

**Kyra Harris**, December 7, 1959

**Jason Trembath**, December, 9, 1974

**Dale Morris**, December 11, 1931

**Marilyn Gillespie**, December 11, 1951

**Mel Gurule Jr.** December 11, 1959

**Chandra Haak**, December 12, 1975

**Craig Jackman**, December 18, 1964

**Tammy Lamberty**, December 18, 1970

**Edward Gomez (Martinez)** December 19, 1962

**Edward Gomez**, December 19, 1986

**Randy Arlin Russom**, December 20, 1964

**Desiree Holland**, December 20, 1975

**Frank Hernandez Jr.**, December 21, 1979

**Michelle Vinson**, December 22, 1968

**Michelle Mellema-Witherell**, December 23, 1967

**Daniel Chavez**, December 25, 1972

**Diane J. Caldwell**, December 26, 1950

**Cindy Wilson/Langlois**, December 26, 1954

**Michael Adams**, December 26, 1962

**Michael L. Crouch**, December 27, 1957

**Linda Zambotti,**, December 29, 1954

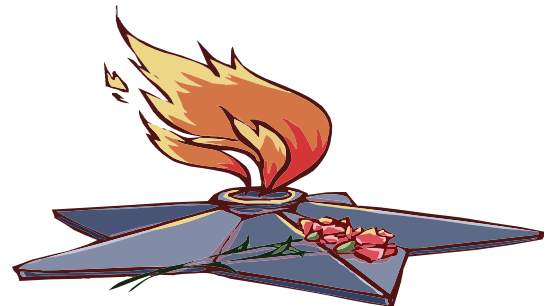
**Emily Reilly**, December 29, 1991



# In Memoriam

**Phillip Mc Cain**, January, 1, 1994  
**Michael Cates**, January, 1, 1994  
**Brad Amack**, January, 1, 1998  
**Jordan Shuford**, January, 1, 2002  
**Tiff Vainey 5th**, January, 2, 2006  
**Robert Mejia**, January, 3, 2004  
**Conrad Duran**, January, 3, 2010  
**Cindi Talor**, January, 4, 1996  
**Steven Johnson**, January, 7, 1995  
**Mary Rogers**, January, 8, 2001  
**David Gonzales Shuker**, January, 11, 2004  
**Elvin Landrum**, January, 12, 1996  
**Gina Padilla**, January, 13, 1996  
**Gary Clark**, January, 14, 1988  
**Jolene Romero**, January, 15, 1994  
**Ryan C. McDaniel**, January, 16, 1996  
**Josh Harman**, January, 18, 1999  
**Jamie Paine**, January, 20, 1997  
**Eric Martinez**, January, 20, 2001  
**Craig Jackman**, January, 21, 1981  
**John Flores**, January, 21, 1989  
**Page Ten Brook**, January, 23, 1997  
**Nick Thelley**, January, 23, 2004  
**Chris Mains**, January, 25, 1999  
**Thad "T.J." Tigges**, January, 25, 2001  
**Garry Gene Bailey**, January, 26, 1996  
**Robert Hayden**, January, 26, 1999  
**Edward Gomez (Martinez)**, January, 27, 1997  
**Edward Gomez**, January, 27, 1997  
**James Springer Jr**, January, 27, 2002  
**Judy Gushard**, January, 30, 1987  
**Dylan Gushard**, January, 30, 1987

**Vanessa Gushard**, January, 30, 1987  
**Leroy Martinez II**, December, 2, 1993  
**Yvonne Cossio**, December 2, 1993  
**Steve Murgatroyd**, December, 4, 1993  
**Wayne Craig**, December, 4, 1998  
**John Rasser**, December, 5, 1996  
**Terry Sheeran**, December, 5, 1999  
**Cody Martell**, December, 10, 2002  
**Dennis Meredith**, December, 11, 1992  
**Matt Ownbey**, December 12, 2000  
**Fernando Sanchez**, December, 12, 2004  
**Cindy Jolene Tiemann**, December, 16, 1987  
**Frank Hernandez Jr**, December, 17, 1998  
**Jerry Baca**, December, 18, 2008  
**Megan Patricia Neylon**, December 19, 1998  
**Michelle Mellema-Witherell**, December 20, 1992  
**Heather Moore**, December, 21, 1995  
**Michael McMullen**, December, 22, 2007  
**Polly Elizabeth Sullivan**, December, 25, 1998  
**Martha Munoz**, December, 26, 1998  
**Paul Christopher Bueno**, December, 28, 1999  
**Damon A Roberts**, December 30, 1992  
**Michael L. Crouch**, December 31, 1986  
**Christine Marie Zablocki-Alicata**, December, 31, 1986



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

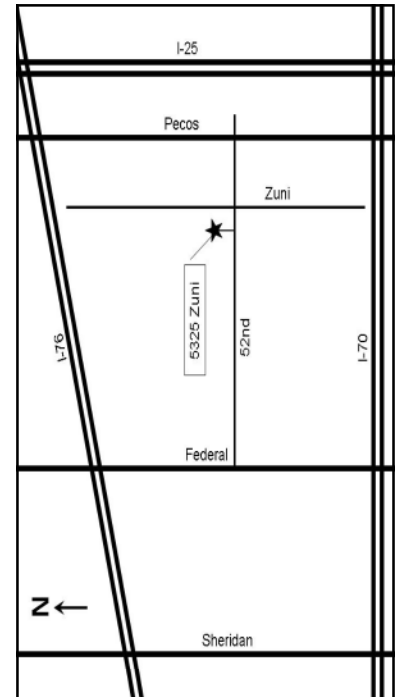
December 16 – Holiday Dessert Potluck, Tree trimming,  
Candlelight Service – 7:00 PM

January 9 - VOICE Forum  
(see Pg 1 for details)

January 21 – Board Meeting at 6:00 PM  
Support Group at 7:30 PM

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POMC  
P. O. BOX 375  
LITTLETON, CO  
80160-0375



We meet in the  
**cafe**ria of the  
**Qwest Building**  
at 5325 Zuni in Denver on  
the **3rd Saturday**