



REFLECTIONS

VOLUME 75

SUMMER ISSUE

AUGUST 2006

President

Lisa Biakanja

Vice President

Mary Williams

Treasurer

Shari Morinishi

Recording Secretary

Mary Ann Garcia

Historian

Carole Guttilla

Parent Contacts

- Lisa Biakanja
(714)960-9897

lbiakanja@yahoo.com

- Debbie Gemmill
(760)747-4429

mom2127@aol.com

- Irene Holguin
(909)783-3709 (Spanish)
gisie01@yahoo.com

- Shari Morinishi
(714)952-1466
sharmori@comcast.net

- Mary Williams
(714)846-0229
willamsinhb@socal.rr.com

- Mary Ann Garcia
(714)403-1814
mrvivsgarcia@yahoo.com

Grandparent Contact

Carole Guttilla

(714)524-7647

CGuttilla@maintech.com

Medical Advisors

- Thomas G. Keens, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
University of Southern
California School of
Medicine/Children's Hospital,
Los Angeles

- Henry Krous, MD, Vice-
Chair Director of Pathology
Children's Hospital, San Diego

Technical Consultant

Andrew Beale

Unisys Corporation

Executive Director

Barbara Estep

gisoc@compuall.net

"It's May Again"

...From a Parent's Point of View

Debbie Gemmill c 2006

It's May again. May has always been a busy month for our family. Mother's Day, Jennifer's birthday, my mother's birthday, my father's birthday.

Jennifer was my firstborn child. She was born on May 22. Her birth made me a Mother. It has always been so. And it will continue as long as I am alive.

Tyler, my second- born child died on May 25. His death has made me the mother of a child who has died. And that will always be so. And that will continue as long as I am alive.

It's May again. And I would like to hide under the covers.

My mother died last May, and that too will add also to the things that I will remember in May. We had a difficult relationship, and although I know she wanted to help me after Ty's death, she didn't know how, and I didn't know how to help her help me. In some ways, it added to my grief. In other ways it's forced me to look at things I've been hiding
(continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

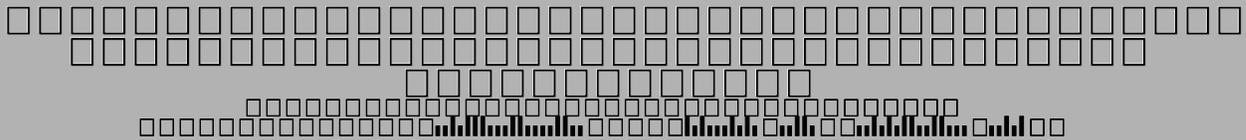
Stop SIDS	2
Memorial Donations	5
Excerpt From A Novel Tea	7
"Little Boy Blue" By: Eugene Field	8
Billiards For Babies	10
2006 Meeting Calendar	11

Save The Date!



*Many terrific silent auction items,
door prizes, good food and fun for all!*

Contact the Guild Office at (714) 973-8417
for additional information or to be added to
the invitation list for this great event.



Department of Pediatrics, Goteborg University, Queen Silvia Children's Hospital, Goteborg, Sweden.

The recognition of prone sleeping and maternal smoking as modifiable risk factors for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), has drastically decreased SIDS incidence. However, during the last years other factors have become necessary to consider to further reduce the risk of SIDS. Side sleeping implies a greater risk than supine sleeping but is still common. Bed sharing may increase the risk of SIDS, while use of a pacifier seems to be protective. Replacement of maternal smoking with nicotine substitutes is not harmless.

Conclusion: To further reduce the risk of SIDS, exclusive supine sleeping should be encouraged and side sleeping discouraged. When breast-feeding is established, a pacifier can very well be used at bedtime. Bed sharing can increase the risk of SIDS if the infant is below 2-3 months of age, especially if the mother is a smoker. Any nicotine use should be avoided during pregnancy and breast-feeding.

For Full-text: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/>

REFLECTIONS

P.O. Box 17432
Irvine, CA 92623-7432
Editor: Cory Morinishi

Reflections is a quarterly publication of the Guild for Infant Survival, Orange County—a non-profit organization. *Reflections* is committed to the collection and dissemination of accurate, up-to-date, scientific and lay information and the correction of misinformation related to SIDS. The Guild is dedicated to the support of families and friends suffering the death of an infant to SIDS.

The Guild For Infant Survival, Orange County Information:

2130 E. Fourth Street #125
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Ph: (714) 973-8417
Fax: (714) 973-8429
(800) 474-SIDS (7437)
Email Address:
gisoc@compuall.net
Website Address:
www.gisoc.org

Newsletter Deadlines

If you would like to contribute an article or poem to an upcoming issue of *Reflections*, please contact: Cory Morinishi at (714) 952-1466 or e-mail him at shar-mori@comcast.net. The next Newsletter deadline is 10/1/06. We encourage your participation!

“It’s May Again”

...From a Parent’s Point of View

(Continued from Page 1)

from, mostly the knowledge that no matter how hard you try, you can never get it all right. Mother’s Day is a poignant reminder of that, and adds to my May swirl of emotions.

But this May is different. Jordan, aka the Subsequent Child, is graduating from college. The Subsequent Child, the one born after the child who died from SIDS, he is the one we worried incessantly over, the one who wore an apnea monitor like ‘normal children’ would wear a bib. The child we watched constantly to see if that monitor was showing green or shouting in loud decibels “PARENTS, we have trouble here”. He is graduating from San Diego State University, and without the apnea monitor in his backpack which I’d predicted all those years ago when we brought him home from the hospital. He is graduating with a degree in a field that didn’t even exist when he was born. How things have changed.

He has plans to move from our house into a condo or apartment in a much ‘cooler’ neighborhood. This is good...this is normal. It is what we expect and hope our children will do. I may have the opportunity to decorate the long awaited Guest Room. As I look across the hall right now, I can almost picture it...a room that will have the quilt I’ve been working on, a nice little night table with a pretty little lamp, a closet with padded hangers and not hockey cards. A nice little hooked rug on the floor instead of wall- to- wall laundry.

It will be an Empty Room. I am reminded of when it was an empty room before....then I am reminded of this...what I wrote all those years ago:

The Baby’s Room

Someone else sleeps there now
Fresh paint
New curtains
The corner where the crib used to be
Filled now with a chair
We call it
The Guest Room

We used to call it

(continued on page 4)

“It’s May Again”
...From a Parent’s Point of View
(Continued from Page 3)

The baby’s room
And even now
The words stick in my throat

I sit in the chair
In the corner where the crib used to be
A Guest
Visiting memories
In the baby’s room.
(from The Chance to Say Goodbye)

That room didn’t stay empty. Jordan filled it with his birth, his life, fourteen months after his brother’s death. And Jordan’s room won’t stay empty long after he moves out. I will happily welcome guests. I’ve learned so much from each of my children, but perhaps Ty is the one who taught me what happens after the shock and numbness of grief gives way to the reality that life goes on.

Your world opens somehow, and you remember that your heart is a muscle that gets stronger when you force it to work even when you think you will die from trying. I’ll finally finish that quilt I’ve been working on in hopes that it will cover someone in the love that my sons, the one who is alive and the one who died, have given me. It’s how life goes on. It’s always a surprise.

It’s May. I am once again visiting memories, some not so happy, but mostly I celebrate. I celebrate children who live and are moving forward and doing things I’d whispered in their ears from their infancy...Live each day, be happy, eat your veggies. Look for traffic before you cross the street, but remember that much of life is unmapped . Move forward, believe that life goes on, because it will whether you think you want it to or not. Take your pieces and make a quilt. Love because you are able; forgive while you can.

I will hug my daughter this Mother’s Day and thank her for being the one I leaned on and for giving me a reason to wake up those mornings following Ty’s death.

I will hug my son for being the one who showed me that life does go on, and in a marvelous way.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Donations have been made in the loving memory of the following babies by those who loved them:

In Memory Of Scott Francis Hogan

Richard, Frances & Edward Hogan

In Memory Of Ryan Jahn

Ellen E. Free & Paul Dahlgren

In Memory Of Jason Doo And Family

Edward & Sonja Hule

In Memory Of Mary McGuire

Jeanne Allison

In Memory Of Justin David Stall

David, Linda & Traci Stall

In Memory Of Kaylee Billings

Lance and Lori Blake

SIDS RESEARCH DONATION

The GISOC announces a \$5,000 research donation to be matched by First Candle and the CJ Foundation for SIDS, making a total of \$10,000. This donation is to support SIDS research and is given to the San Diego SIDS/SUDC Research Project. A description of a Project has been provided by Project Manager Amy Chadwick.

The San Diego SIDS/SUDC Research Project is dedicated to increasing the understanding of sudden infant and early childhood death. Based in Southern California, the Project is directed by Dr. Henry Krous, Director of Pathology, Children's Hospital, San Diego and Professor of Pathology, UCSD School of Medicine. Collaborating closely with Dr. Krous are Dr. Hannah Kinney, Pediatric Neuropathologist, Harvard University; Dr. Piero Rinaldo, Pediatric Metabolism Expert, Mayo Clinic; Dr. Mike Ackerman, Pediatric Cardiologist, Mayo Clinic; and Dr. Tom Keens, Pediatric Pulmonologist and SIDS expert, Children's Hospital, Los Angeles. To date, nearly 850 cases of sudden infant death and greater than 70 cases of sudden death in children beyond the first birthday have been entered into the research database. Published studies and presentations at medical and scientific meetings have yielded insightful information regarding epidemiology and pathology, and have imparted an increased understanding of potential mechanisms involved in the deaths of these infants and children. For more information on SUDC research please visit our website at <http://sudc.org/page.asp?id=11>. Dr. Henry Krous (hkrous@chsd.org) and Project Manager Amy Chadwick (achadwick@chsd.org) can be contacted by e-mail or reached by phone at (858) 966-5944.

Hayden Raye you are my breath of heaven
 You came and scored a perfect seven
 Now you are safe in Jesus arms
 To give him all your charms

Your father and your mother
 Love you very much
 Even your big brother
 Loved your every touch

Your grandma and your grandpa
 Your uncles and your aunts
 Adore you and love you
 And pray for you too

We all kissed you and hugged
 We squeezed you and cuddled you too
 But now you are in heaven
 For all the angels to treasure

Your heavenly Father who knows more than we do
 In his perfect wisdom decided to bring you home
 To add a ray of sunshine for all the heavenly host to view

But Jesus loves you most of all
 Because the Bible tells us so
 Little ones to him belong
 So for now we say so long

You will live on in our hearts until we meet again
 In a not too distant future
 When we'll never have to part
 Please save a place for us
 Because we miss you, very very much

Love, Grandma Claire
 Hayden Raye Strickland
 8/1/2003 -9/27/2003
 Happy 3rd birthday our sweet angel.
 We love you and miss you!!

YOUR GIFT IS APPRECIATED

This Gift Is In Memory Of:

This Gift Is In Honor Of:

Acknowledge To: _____

Address: _____

Donor: _____

Address: _____

Please print. Make checks payable to:
 Guild for Infant Survival (GIS)
 P.O. Box 17432, Irvine, CA 92623-7432

Pump It Up!

Do you and your family want to jump, bounce, and play? Join us on January 16th from 6:30-8:30 at Pump-It-Up in Irvine for GISOC's first ever parent meeting at an inflatable party house! Bring the whole family at no charge! The Irvine Pump-It-Up is located at 16871 Noyes Avenue. For directions, call: 949-261-7867. Hope to see you there!

EXCERPT FROM A NOVEL TEA

BY JEAN CHAPMAN

DISTRIBUTED THROUGH SPRINGBROOK PRESS (INFO@SPRINGBROOKPRESS.COM)

Let me tell you, dear reader, about our Novel Tea in December of 2002. It became a memory day that inscribed itself on my heart.

Richard Paul Evans' books made the Angel of Hope famous. Parents who had experienced the loss of a child contacted Evans after reading about Mary Ann and her little girl's death in *The Christmas Box* and *The Timepiece*.

The food, the tea, and the readings we selected seemed to go on and on. We didn't want the time to end. When the teapot was finally empty and our hunger and conversation were satisfied, I made an announcement. The day wasn't over! We were now going to drive to the Lake Forest Memorial Park. They looked at me. A cemetery? they were silently asking. Yes! An Angel of Hope statue had been dedicated at that site a few months before, and I wanted my fellow-readers to see a tangible reminder and witness of the poignant stories we had just read and discussed.

On September 28 of 2002, I stood on this piece of hallowed ground when the Angel of Hope was dedicated. Evans explained why he had written the two books that introduced the Angel of Hope to the world. This soft-spoken, humble man stood in a misting rain on the graves of children who had left this earth too soon. He related the experience of his own mother enduring the death of a child. We felt his empathy as he recounted a dream he had in which his mother's agony had been re-enacted. When he awakened, he felt an almost holy compulsion to write her story of grief.

Richard Paul Evans stood silent watch with us in the rain that day and continued to stand as he autographed our books. With his empathy, with his written words, with the commissioning of the Angel of Hope, he seemed to echo the sentiment of our souls: "I shall be richer all my life for this sorrow."

Now as I stood here with my Novel Tea friends, I told them about the statue's dedication, and the tears that had anointed this hallowed ground. I told them about a baby named Harold who died before he ever really had a chance to live.

Read the complete chapter regarding author, Jean Chapman's experience with her book club by visiting our website www.gisoc.org under Angel of Hope.

LITTLE BOY BLUE

By: Eugene Field (1850-1895)

*The little toy dog is covered with dust,
 But sturdy and stanch he stands;
 And the little toy soldier is red with rust,
 And his musket moulds in his hands.
 Time was when the little toy dog was new,
 And the soldier was passing fair;
 And that was the time when our Little Boy Blue
 Kissed them and put them there.*

*"Now, don't you go 'till I come," he said,
 "And don't you make any noise!"
 So, toddling off to his trundle-bed,
 He dreamt of the pretty toys;
 And, as he was dreaming, an angel song
 Awakened our Little Boy Blue—
 Oh! the years are many, the years are long,
 But the little toy friends are true!*

*Ay, faithful to Little Boy Blue they stand,
 Each in the same old place, Awaiting the touch of a little hand,
 The smile of a little face;
 And they wonder, as waiting the long years through In the dust of that little chair,
 What has become of our Little Boy Blue,
 Since he kissed them and put them there.*

TIME WARNER CABLE PRODUCTION DONATION

Time Warner Cable has donated a professional live video interview to the Guild for Infant Survival, Orange County. The interview will appear on Time Warner's Channel 6 "Reach Out" show, which has the potential of reaching 185,000 viewers. Lisa Biakanja, Rachel Strickland, and Sandy Walden, Public Health Nurse, are interviewed on the program. "Reach Out" is scheduled to show every Thursday and Saturday at 3:00PM and 9:00PM. The program will air 8 to 10 times starting in September, but exact dates have not been determined.

Recent national trends in sudden, unexpected infant deaths: More evidence supporting a change in classification or reporting.

Shapiro-Mendoza CK, Tomashek KM, Anderson RN, Wingo J.

Am J Epidemiol. 2006 Apr 15; 163(8):762-9.

The recent US decline in sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) rates may be explained by a shift in how these deaths are classified or reported. To examine this hypothesis, the authors compared cause-specific mortality rates for SIDS, other sudden, unexpected infant deaths, and cause unknown/unspecified, and they evaluated trends in the age and month of death for these causes using 1989-2001 US linked birth/death certificate data. Reported deaths in state and national data were compared to assess underreporting or overreporting. SIDS rates declined significantly from 1989-1991 to 1995-1998, while deaths reported as cause unknown/unspecified and other sudden, unexpected infant deaths, such as accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed (ASSB), remained stable. From 1999-2001, the decline in SIDS rates was offset by increasing rates of cause unknown/unspecified and ASSB. Changes in the cause-specific age at death and month of death distributions suggest that cases once reported as SIDS are now being reported as ASSB and cause unknown/unspecified. Most of the decline in SIDS rates since 1999 is likely due to increased reporting of cause unknown/unspecified and ASSB. Standardizing data collection at death scenes and improving the reporting of cause of death on death certificates should improve national vital records data and enhance prevention efforts.

Ask The Doctor

NEWSLETTER DONATIONS

This column offers our readers the unique opportunity to ask questions of a medical nature which will be answered by **Thomas G. Keens, MD**, Professor Pediatrics, University of Southern California School of Medicine/Children's Hospital Los Angeles and **Henry F. Krous, MD**, Professor of Pathology & Pediatrics, UCSD School of Medicine, Director, San Diego SIDS/SUDC Research Project, Children's Hospital San Diego. Please address your question in writing to either of our experts and mail to:

GISOC, P.O. Box 17432
Irvine, CA., 92623-7432
or e-mail to gisoc@compuall.net.

We thank Dr. Keens and Dr. Krous for being willing to volunteer their time and expertise in this way.

The cost to print and mail the *Reflections* newsletter is steadily rising. Therefore, it is important that we have your latest contact information. If the address shown on your newsletter is not correct, please e-mail Barbara Estep at gisoc@compuall.net or call her at (714) 973-8417 with your current information.

Newsletter donations of \$20 covers the cost of printing and mailing quarterly newsletters. Mail your donations in today.

**LITTLE BY LITTLE, STEP BY STEP,
I LEARNED THAT I DIDN'T NEED
TO HANG ON TO THE DEATH
TO REMEMBER THE LIFE.
WHAT A JOYOUS DISCOVERY!**

~ANONYMOUS

Billiards For Babies!

Mark your calendar now!

October 27, 2006

Danny K's Billiards and Sports Bar.

1096 North Main Street

Orange, Ca 92867

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Something for Everyone!

Silent Auction Items Include:

**A cabin at Big Bear*

**A two night stay at the historic Saddleback Inn at Lake Arrowhead.*

**Gift baskets galore.*

**Wine tasting parties.*

**Magnums of wine signed by the wine maker.*

**Deep sea fishing trips.*

**Whale watching trips.*

**Family fun packages, including birthday parties.*

**Dining out gift certificates including the Original Fish Company, Spaghettini Grill and Jazz Club, The Cheesecake Factory, Romano's Macaroni Grill and many more.*

**Gift certificates for some of those great stores we all love.*

**Sports events tickets*

**Photography packages*

**Surf camp*

**Kayaking tours*

**High Speed Internet*

And much much more!

Bring your friends and family for a fun-filled night of great company, good food, billiard tournaments, live music and auction items that will delight everyone.



2006 MEETING CALENDAR

Parent Support Meetings– All meetings are from 7:00—8:30 PM.

* Please RSVP to the parent host prior to the meeting

- September 12, 2006 GISOC Office
2130 East 4th Street, Suite 125, Santa Ana
RSVP to GISOC Office at (714) 973-8417.
Hosted By Lisa Billings.
- November 14, 2006 Elizabeth Broderick's Home
17564 Santa Paula Circle, Fountain Valley
RSVP to Mary Ann at (714) 403-1814 or (714) 973-8417

Business Meetings– Business meetings are held at the home of Rachel Strickland located at 2828 East Puritan Place in Anaheim, (714) 630-0400. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. If you would like to have an item added to the agenda, please contact Lisa at (714) 960-9897 or lbiakanja@yahoo.com.

October 7, 2006



**GUILD FOR INFANT SURVIVAL, ORANGE COUNTY
P.O. BOX 17432
IRVINE, CA 92623-7432**

**NON-PROFIT
U.S. Postage PAID
Tustin, CA
Permit No. 309**

This newsletter is made possible, in part, by a grant from The CJ Foundation for SIDS

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Stamp

We are updating our mailing list. Please help us by completing this form. To mail: Cut this page in half and fold it so the address on the opposite side is showing. Staple, add a stamp and mail.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

**GUILD FOR INFANT SURVIVAL,
ORANGE COUNTY
P.O. BOX 17432
IRVINE, CA 92623-7432**

Please check all that apply:

_____ Please add me to the mailing list

_____ Please discontinue sending the newsletter

_____ The above address is new

_____ I receive more than one copy of the newsletter