

ANA HAPPENINGS

Volume 8, Issue 2

Summer/Fall 2011

Our Mission

Angel Names Association is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), charitable organization dedicated to assisting families of stillborn children through programs designed to provide financial assistance for end-of-life expenses and counseling services, and funding for stillbirth research.

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Memorial Walk on Remembrance Day 10/15

ANA's annual Memorial Walk will be held on Saturday, October 15th at the Saratoga Spa State Park. This year's walk coincides with Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

Registration for ANA's upcoming Memorial Walk is now open! Participants can register by mail, or set up their own, personalized memorial fundraising pages when they register at www.firstgiving.com/14144. Those who **register prior to 9/15** will have an opportunity to win one of three \$25 Visa gift cards.

In 2010, ANA was pleasantly surprised by the overwhelming number of people who attended and supported the Memorial Walk. Perhaps even more astounding was the \$25,000 they raised at

this *free* event. And, as always, heartwarming stories were in abundance; people from all walks of life were joined together by their common experience of loss. Families who had recently experienced miscarriage, stillbirth and SIDs walked alongside families whose children died decades prior, but whose losses were no less poignant. Despite the shared experience of loss, the event was empowering—it gave a voice to those who have not previously shared their story, and helped to legitimize the experience of infant death that is often overlooked by society.

"Our son was stillborn just two months before the walk," said Lisa, who attended the walk in memory of her son, Angel. "We were still in such deep sorrow, but attending the walk was cathartic

for us. We left comforted by the fact that we are not alone." Lisa was one of more than 400 people who attended the walk.

In anticipation of similar attendance this year, the Board is hoping to streamline on-site registration. Although not required, advance registration—either online or by mail—is strongly encouraged. We are also planning for an additional registration area at the walk.

As in previous years, ANA will continue to offer one free shirt *or* "Forever In Our Hearts" ornament to individuals who contribute \$50 or more in donations. Memorial Walk apparel and ornaments will also be available for purchase at the walk; to guarantee size availability they must be ordered in advance at www.angelnames.org.

Memorial Walk Details

Participation in the Memorial Walk is free. Donations are appreciated, though not required.

Most important, those who attend are able to acknowledge their children in a supportive environment, in ways that are most meaningful to them.

Parking

There is no park entrance fee on the day of the walk. You may park in the Columbia Pavilion lot, or in nearby lots at the Ferndell Pavilion or by the golf course.

Registration

Register in advance online at www.firstgiving.com/14144. Visit www.angelnames.org to

reserve your Memorial Walk apparel and "Forever" ornaments. Pre-registrants should arrive early to pick up their reserved items and submit any donations they have collected.

You may also register and present donations and pledge forms at the walk. Registration begins at noon at the Columbia Pavilion.

Children's Activities

Face painting, arts and crafts, and Bubbles to Heaven are available throughout the day. Families may also add messages to the "Forever In Our Hearts" banner that will be displayed at the walk.

Program

The walk starts at 1:15 p.m.,

and is followed by a nondenominational memorial service at 3:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available at the Pavilion throughout the afternoon.

Walk

The Memorial Walk will take place along a level, paved path that is easily navigable for both strollers and wheelchairs. The designated route is approximately three (3) miles long and connects to an alternate, shorter path for those seeking a shorter walk.

Rain or Shine, We Walk in Their Memory

The Memorial Walk is held rain or shine, and all events except for the walk itself are in covered areas.

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Class of 2014, Penny Harvest Award ANA

Over the years, children have become wonderful ambassadors of ANA, sharing with others our mission and suggesting, all on their own, that their peers join them in supporting ANA.

Recently, two area schools—Corinth Central School and Milton Terrace South Elementary School—have donated more than \$1,500 to support ANA's mission.

Corinth Central School—Class of 2014, Corinth, NY

In the Spring of 2011, Corinth Central Schools' Class of 2014 chose ANA as the recipient of their fundraising efforts. Ashley Torda and Patrick Mann, co-presidents of the class, had suggested that their peers consider donating to ANA the money they had raised.

In May of 2007, Ashley's sister and Patrick's cousin, Alexis, was stillborn. "Ashley was so excited to be a big sister, and Alexis' stillbirth was devastating," said her mom, Tracy. "It took a lot, but I learned—and am still learning—how to work through it," added Ashley. "I try to do positive things in her memory, like volunteering at ANA's Memorial Walk. This gave me another chance to raise money to support ANA in Aley's memory." In early 2011 the group presented ANA with a \$339 check.

Milton Terrace Elementary School, Ballston Spa, NY

In May of 2011, students at the Milton Terrace South Elementary School selected ANA as a recipient of their annual fundraising efforts. The school district's "Penny Harvest" program has become an enormous success, whereby students raise thousands of dollars (in pennies) for local charities every year.

Weeks earlier, Allison Ricci, a first-grader whose big sister Samantha was stillborn, had asked her mother for information about ANA. She gave it to her teacher the next day and asked if ANA could benefit from the Penny Harvest. School staff welcomed the idea and students had the challenging task narrowing the list of possible recipients.

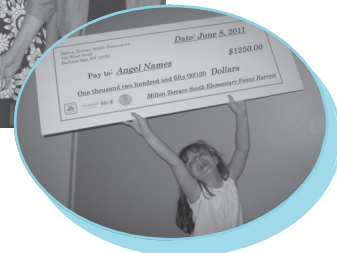
Michelle Mosca, ANA cofounder, and Board Member Paige Ricci presented information and were interviewed by a "student roundtable." "The children were delightful, asked well-thought-out questions

and were eager to understand what ANA does, how many families we help and what their donation would mean to us," said Mosca.

Shortly after the presentation, the student members presented to every class with information taken from the interviews. "Angel names not only touched our group of kids that interviewed



ABOVE: Mrs. Birch (Back row, L) with Milton Terrace South Elementary Students, present check to ANA Board members Paige Ricci (Front row, L) and Michelle Mosca (Front row, R). RIGHT: Allison Ricci proudly holds the check from her schoolmates to ANA.



you, but it touched almost every class that voted," remarked teacher Melissa Birch.

On June 8th, Mrs. Birch and the Milton Terrace South Elementary School students presented a \$1,250 check to ANA Board members Michelle Mosca and Paige Ricci.

"We are so proud of Allison, and so grateful to the students and Ballston Spa school district for their generosity and support," said Ricci.

NYS Legislature Says "Yes" to Certificate of Still Birth

Since 2003, New York families who have experienced the tragedy of still-birth have been fighting for the respect and recognition of birth. All states—including NY—issue a death certificate and require the family to pay for funeral expenses. Until now, NY did not offer the option of a birth certificate.

On June 16th the New York State legislature overwhelmingly passed A8178a (S3111b), the Certificate of Still Birth bill. The bill had an historic 100 Assembly sponsors.

Michelle Mosca, ANA cofounder, and Paige Ricci, Still Parents NY leader, were in attendance at the June 16th vote. "Watching that board light up green — all

the 'yes' votes— was the perfect end to this struggle," remarked Ricci.

Jeff and Lori Tieger, whose son Daniel was stillborn and whose life inspired them to found Daniel's STAR (www.danielsSTAR.org), played an invaluable role in advancing the legislation. "The passage of this bill does not take away the pain, but it does bring some comfort and long overdue joy," said Jeff. "Just like his sisters, Daniel teaches us, motivates us, inspires us, and makes us better people. The only difference between my son and my daughters is that he is not physically here, but his impact on our lives as parents is just as great. Daniel was born still, but he was *still* born."

MISS Foundation founder, Dr. Joanne Cacciatore, was the first to introduce similar legislation in Arizona in 2001. Upon

hearing New York's news, Cacciatore remarked, "No other family in New York will ever have to know what it's like to feel that sense of disrespect or indignity or non-recognition."

"This bill is pro-women and pro-family; women have the right to know about the prevalence of stillbirth and what they can do to help prevent it," added Mosca. "The bill will increase awareness and stimulate research funds to uncover the etiologies of stillbirth."

The bill's future is now in the hands of Governor Cuomo, awaiting his signature.

Thanks to Assembly members Gottfried, Galef, and Gabryszak; Senators Larkin and Kennedy; and all of the bill's sponsors, the Certificate of Still Birth bill may soon become law.

For more information visit www.stillparentsny.webs.com.



L to R: Paige Ricci, Michelle Mosca, Assemblywoman Nancy Calhoun, Assemblyman Neil Gabryszak & Assemblywoman Sandy Galef.

Memorial Walk: Pre-Registration Form

There is no fee to participate in the walk; pre-registration is encouraged. Register online at www.firstgiving.com/14144, or complete the form below and return it to ANA by September 15.

Ask family, friends and coworkers to sponsor you. Below are a few ways to spread the word.

- ◆ Use the “Dear Friends” letter available online at www.angelnames.org. Download the letter, personalize it and mail or email it to your friends, family and colleagues
- ◆ Post your Firstgiving memorial page on social networking sites such as Facebook.
- ◆ Add a fundraising widget or badge to your blog or emails.

You can complete the Donations form (available in this issue or online at www.angelnames.org), and/or print a donation report from your Firstgiving page, and return it, along with the donations, to ANA in advance or at the Memorial Walk.

Pre-Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Memorial Information

I am walking in memory of
(please print baby's name(s) clearly and as you wish it to be read during the memorial ceremony):

Baby's birth/death date(s):

Our Gift to You

If you raise \$50 or more, you may select **one** free ANA Memorial Walk shirt or a “Forever In Our Hearts” ornament. **Please note the limit is one free shirt/ornament per fundraiser.* *To guarantee size/availability, please submit \$50 of your collected donations by Sept. 15.

Attend

- I plan to attend ANA's Memorial Walk!
- I have raised \$50 or more in sponsorships and wish to reserve ONE FREE*:**
- L/S Shirt: __S__M__L__XL
- OR
- “Forever In Our Hearts” ornament/pin
- donate my “Forever” ornament to the Memory Box Program
- I would like to reserve the following Memorial Walk items:**
- L/S Shirt: __YS__YM__S__M__L__XL — \$15 ea.
- “Forever In Our Hearts” ornament/pin — \$20 ea.
- Memorial Sign (\$10 ea.) in memory of _____
- Quilt square for the “Forever” quilt _____ (\$20 ea.)

- Hooded Sweatshirt: __YS__YM__S__M__L__XL — \$25 ea.
- Zippered Polar Fleece: __S__M__L__XL — \$30 ea.
- Fleece Blanket: \$15 ea.

Need a size not offered here? Contact ANA (www.angelnames.org or 518-654-2411) to request a special order. *Note—additional fees may apply.*

All reserved items must be paid for in advance of the walk to ensure size availability.

Personalization

Memorial Walk shirts can be hand-calligraphied with the baby's first name. And, if you pay for your shirt/sweatshirt by **9/15**, you can request that the item be personalized and ready for you to pick up at the walk. Calligraphy will also be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the walk.

Order Only

If you can't attend the walk but want to place an order, please call to arrange pickup/delivery. Items will be sent via USPS; mailing costs are extra.

Please mail the items indicated [at left] to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Donate

I am unable to attend ANA's Memorial Walk but will be there in spirit. My \$____ donation in memory of _____ is enclosed.

Area Artist Donates “A Mother’s Love” Necklaces

When Cindy Brunell, owner of Beachin' Baubles Jewelry in Corinth, NY, heard about ANA's Memorial Walk, she wanted to contribute something to make a difference. “I wanted everyone to be able to walk away with something physical to hold on to after the walk, and I know and understand that not everyone has extra money for something like this.”

“I know loss is a hard thing to deal with on a daily basis,” added Brunell, who has experienced pregnancy loss herself. “I also just wanted to do something nice for people on a day that will have a great deal of

significance for them.”

Brunell has been busy at work on the necklaces, making several each night in the hopes of donating 100 or more “Mother's Love” necklaces by the day of the walk. Thanks to her generosity, mothers who attend ANA's annual Memorial Walk on October 15th will leave with a special memento of the day.

“We are anticipating a tremendous turnout again this year,” said ANA founder Michelle Mosca, who plans to present a necklace to the first 100 mothers who register at the walk. “It will be a tangible reminder of their experi-

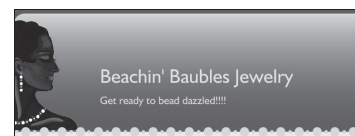
ence at the Memorial Walk, and a symbol of the love they will always have for their child (or children).”

Brunell's business, Beachin' Baubles Jewelry, consists primarily of making special-order jewelry for individuals and nonprofit organizations. She works with natural stone and Swarovski crystals, and uses non-tarnishing silver (as in the Mother's Love necklace, at left) and copper to create each piece.

For more information visit Beachin' Baubles on Facebook or at www.beachinbaublesjewelry.com.



Above: One of two “Mother's Love” pendant designs, made with non-tarnishing silver. The pendants will be given to mothers who attend ANA's Memorial Walk on 10/15/11.





PO Box 423 * Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Phone: 518-654-2411
Fax: 518-654-2411 (call first)
www.angelnames.org

**Memorial Walk
10.15.11
Register NOW!**

2011 Memorial Walk Details, cont'd.

Memorial Items

ANA APPAREL & ORNAMENTS

ANA Memorial Walk shirts, sweatshirts and polar fleece, as well as ANA's exclusive "Forever In Our Hearts" ornament/pins are available in advance. Reserve yours when you register online! Items will also be available in limited quantities at the walk.

"FOREVER" QUILT

For a minimum donation of \$20 per square, families can be part of

the "Forever" quilt, to be displayed at future ANA events. Submit the decorated fabric in memory of your loved one, and we will add it to the quilt.

MEMORIAL DISPLAY

Memorial signs highlighting the names of babies remembered on this day are available for a minimum \$10 donation. They will be displayed throughout the pavilion and may be taken home after the walk. *Order in advance.*

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The memorial service will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will include a flower ceremony and a reading of the names of babies in whose memory attendees are walking.



Orders: www.angelnames.org
Registration: www.firstgiving.com/14144
Information: (518) 654-2411

Register by 9/15 to win one of three \$25 visa gift cards!

Dates to Remember

POKER RUN for Charity to benefit ANA

Hosted by the Colonie Chamber of Commerce
Women 4 Women Council

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Registration: 4:00 PM
Colonie Center Mall

Poker Run: 4:00—7:30 PM

Reception: 5:30—9:00 PM
Wolf's 1-11 Restaurant
Colonie, NY



STILLBIRTH SUMMIT 2011

Star Legacy Foundation

Supported by ANA

October 6-8, 2011

Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel
Bloomington, MN

Featuring...

- * An international panel of researchers dedicated to the prevention of stillbirth
- * National experts on practical prevention, networking, resources, and support.

6th Annual Memorial Walk

*Honoring babies lost through miscarriage,
stillbirth, and infant death.*

Saturday, October 15, 2011
12:00—4:00 PM

Columbia Pavilion
Saratoga Spa State Park
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

To Register or for more information about these events, visit www.angelnames.org or call (518) 654-2411