

Dear Family Members,

First it was an earthquake, then a hurricane and after that the remnants of a slow moving tropical storm. When I was driving to the meeting in Towson I thought I saw the locusts in my rearview mirror gaining on me. I found myself asking, "**What's next?!**" How many times have we asked ourselves that after the loss of a child? I asked that same thing many times after the death of my daughter when something else would happen. It seemed like just more things were coming down around me. "What's next?" Things that wouldn't have normally bothered me were magnified. One time I got so angry when I couldn't find my car keys. I remember yelling at myself, "Of course you can't find your keys, Ashley's dead." Even at that time I knew intellectually that Ashley's death and my misplaced my car keys had nothing to do with each other. But, I could tie them together. Oh yes, then my well went dry in the summer of 2002, until the wet winter, and then my car accident that same winter. "What's next?" After a time I realized that I thought the bad situations of life would have stopped. It was almost like I expected to have some sort of amnesty and carry a *get-out-of-bad-things-free* card. But I didn't have that....none of us does. Life continued to happen all around me, not stopping for a moment. It was a hard lesson to learn. I expected everyone else **and** life to "cut me a break".

Life continued all around me and that made my loss even more painful. I know that everyone else's life continued on because parts of mine did as well. I didn't want it to keep moving for me or for those around me. I wanted it to stop, just for a moment. I would see the places Ashley and I use to go to change and even be torn down. Life continued. I realized that when the phone calls and the **Thinking of You** cards stopped it wasn't because the caring stopped. It was because life **didn't** stop for others. Everyone went back to doing what they were supposed to be doing. It hurt for a while. That was until I remembered I did the same thing years before losing Ashley. Very dear friends of mine lost a son and I didn't call. I'm sure we've all done that in one way or another. We don't mean to hurt or ignore anyone in pain, but we can let life get in the way and even make excuses for why we don't call. With that I try to be more understanding of others and with myself. Be kind to yourself in this worst loss. You deserve it. By the way, my friends that I didn't call were some of the first ones to come see me. It was because they "got it" when no one else did. That took understanding, kindness **and** forgiveness

Attached is the September-October Newsletter. Please continue to submit articles for the Newsletter as well as the "Question of the Month". All submission should be sent to [newsletter@baltimoretcf.com](mailto:newsletter@baltimoretcf.com).

Sunday, December 11 at 7:00PM is our World Wide Candlelight Memorial. Don't forget to come early and make a butterfly for our perpetual Butterfly Garden. Our memorial is growing each year with presentations and participation. Please send an email to [Candlelight@Baltimoretcf.com](mailto:Candlelight@Baltimoretcf.com) if you want your child included in the program. Also include if you wish to do one presentation such as a song (CD or live), poem or story to honor the memory of your child. Please include the title of your presentation. Even if you submitted your child's name in previous years, we still need to hear from you **each** year. The cut off date for submissions is Monday, November 28. On the December 11, when you sign in at the welcome table, please take **one** candle per child's name. We'll have a reception in the parlor immediately following the memorial. Please feel free to bring "sweets", a dessert and/or a donation. We make a yearly contribution to the church for opening their doors to us and giving us more space to conduct our sharing circles and Sibling Group. We need and appreciate assistance with the set up and clean up.

Maita and Rich Pang have recently come to our chapter. They are participating in the Baltimore Half Marathon on October 15<sup>th</sup>. They want this event raise funds for our chapter so please sponsor them. Please be a part of Team Compassionate Friends by send in a tax deductible financial gift to help us carry on our mission. Send donations to Greater Baltimore TCF, PO Box 2103, Ellicott City, MD 21041-2103. Your gift will be acknowledged in our newsletter and can be made in memory of your loved one, if you choose.

Garrett Tollenger

# Greater Baltimore TCF

## Team Compassionate Friends



**THE  
COMPASSIONATE  
FRIENDS**  
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

*They need not run alone.*

Be a part of *Team Compassionate Friends*. Sponsor and run with Maita and Rich Pang. Join Maita as she and her husband Rich participate in the Baltimore Half Marathon on October 15. But wait, there's no need to put on your running shoes or start training. Maita and Rich joined our family recently and want to do what they can do to raise funds for our chapter. They'll do the hard part...the training & the marathon. It couldn't be easier for you to be with them and our chapter. Just pick up a pen, fill out a check in any amount, put it (or cash) in a stamped envelope and mail it to:

Greater Baltimore Chapter of  
The Compassionate Friends  
PO Box 2103  
Ellicott City, MD 21041-2103

Please consider a tax deductible financial gift to help us continue our mission.

"...Compassionate Friends is about transforming the pain of grief into the elixir of hope. It takes people out of the isolation society imposes on the bereaved and lets them express their grief naturally. With the shedding of tears, healing comes. And the newly bereaved get to see people who have survived and are learning to live and love again." —Simon Stephens, founder of The Compassionate Friends

We can't do this without you. Your gift will be acknowledged in our newsletter and can be made in memory of your loved one, if you choose.

[www.BaltimoreTCF.com](http://www.BaltimoreTCF.com) 410-560-3358



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## Newsletter

October 2011

*Dear Compassionate Friends:*

*Fall is upon us and it often brings with it anxiety about upcoming holidays or sadness as we watch children start the school year. Compassionate Friends is here for you. The supportive group setting is a safe place for you to share all the many emotions that arise and lessons that are learned during your journey.*

*Please remember that this newsletter is for you to provide an opportunity for additional support outside the meetings, maintain a connection with members who cannot always get to meeting, and provide outreach to those who may not be ready to attend a meeting.*

*We welcome your:*

- Poetry (original or poems you've read and like)*
- Book reviews (what books have really helped you?)*
- Fundraising/events (either in memory of your child or in support of national organizations)*

*All input can be sent via email to:*

**[newsletter@BaltimoreTCF.com](mailto:newsletter@BaltimoreTCF.com)**

*Or via hard copy mail to:*

*The deadline for the next bimonthly newsletter is the August 25.*

*Thank you.*

*Linda, Diane and Maura*

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*My son, a perfect little boy of five years and three months, had ended his earthly life. You can never sympathize with me; you can never know how much of me such a young child can take away. A few weeks ago I accounted myself a very rich man, and now the poorest of all. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

### **Monthly Meeting Information**

Baltimore County-The First Wednesday  
Brown Woodbrook Memorial Presbyterian Church  
6200 N. Charles St. Baltimore  
7:30-9:30 PM

Harford County-The Third Wednesday  
Mountain Christian Church  
New Life Center Room 124-126  
1802 Mountain Rd. Joppa  
7:00-9:00 PM

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### **TCF Chapter Contact Information**

Chapter Leader: Garrett Tollenger,  
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Newsletter editor: Maura Taylor,  
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### **The Sibling Corner**

Our Towson chapter meeting hosts a sibling group, which coincides with our regular meeting time. There are so many special issues that occur when you lose a brother or sister. This group will offer a safe place for you to share your challenges, concerns and successes when walking this path. Siblings age 16 and over are welcome and encouraged to attend. This will be facilitated by siblings for siblings.

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### **To Our New Members:**

Coming to your first meeting is the hardest thing to do. But you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. We do understand.

### **To Our Seasoned Members:**

We need your encouragement and support. You are the string that ties our group together and the glue that makes it stick.

TCF is here to welcome you, share your grief and encourage you.

***Special Thanks to William Ermatinger who spoke to us on the topic of guilt at our September 7 meeting. William is always willing to share the insights and experiences of his 44-year journey with the loss of his daughter, Kathy. Thanks to all who braved the rain, we're glad you made it.***



## Mark Your Calendars!

It's time to mark your calendars now for the annual December 11 Worldwide Candle Lighting which will again be held at Brown Memorial Church beginning at 7:00 p.m.

If you have not attended before, this is a very moving and uplifting experience. During the service a family member will read the name of their loved one. During the reading of name(s), each family will light a candle for their child(ren). Families are invited to read a story, a poem, sing a song or play music in honor of their child. Families are also invited to create a decorative butterfly with their child's name on it. Bring your special butterfly to be included in Madeline's Butterfly Garden. This precious garden was inspired by the following true story and is dedicated to Abigail and Madeline.

If you would like to include your child's name in the program or request to speak, read a poem, play a song, etc., please email (with "Candlelight" in the subject line) to [info@baltimoretcf.com](mailto:info@baltimoretcf.com) by December 1.

### Madeline's Butterflies

Every year TCF has a memorial service in December to honor and remember all of our children. Last year (2003), I brought my daughter Madeline who was two years old. We were going to remember her twin sister, Abigail, who was stillborn.

We were running late, as usual, and were the only ones walking down the hallway to the chapel. The hallway had bare white walls with no decorations anywhere. As I was rushing to get inside the chapel, Madeline stopped in the middle of the hallway and said, "Mommy, look at all the butterflies." I asked her where they were, and she said they were everywhere.

I know she was seeing the spirit of her sister and of all our children who are always with us. It's comforting to think that they all know each other as well. I like to think that they can look out for each other in the same way that my TCF sisters and brother look out for me.

Sharon, mother to Abigail and Madeline

### Giving to Compassionate Friends

Family members, this is a wonderful thing for a group outside of our membership to do. A group that may have no other tie to us, other than you, may want to help us "just because". Maybe your company offers matching gift opportunities or you work for a charitable company. And, as members of our family, I ask you to please consider a **tax deductible** financial gift of your own to help us continue the outreach. Your gift will be acknowledged in our newsletter, and can be made in memory of your loved one, if you choose.

However you came to find us, it was because our name was known by someone or found somewhere. It may have been from your own desperate search, a member of your family, a friend of a friend, a counselor, doctor or someone you don't know or remember. Someone found us, came to know our purpose and how to contact us. Please don't forget that our chapter was there for you because others before you cared. Help us be there for those who may not yet know that they need us. Let them know that, ***They Need Not Walk Alone.***

Please mail a check to:  
The Greater Baltimore Chapter of TCF, PO Box  
2103, Ellicott City, MD 21041-2103

Thank you. It all helps.

Garrett Tollenger



### After October

and if there be a perfect month,  
for me, it is October...  
with days and nights like laughing fauns,  
with mornings bright and sober.  
when wind will dance in sudden glee  
to do the autumn-sweeping  
or cloud and fog and wistful rain  
can move a heart to weeping.  
and in October You were born,  
four days before November...  
and four years later you were gone,  
my little son, my only son,  
I love you.  
and remember. . .  
**sascha**

## September/October Remembrances

In September and October, we remember the following children.

### September Birthdays

Beth Szczepanski  
Robert William Biondo  
Nathan Krasnopoler  
Bryan Canter  
Nelson Yargar, III  
Matthew David Puccini  
Melisa Rene Lisa Shamer  
Nickolas Benjamin Phippen  
Kayla Anna Boone  
Jordon Proulx  
Camryn Grace  
Jeffrey Alston  
Camryn Grace Wilson  
Christine Kelly Enders  
Nathan Patrick Fenchak  
Joshua Matthew Belanger  
Chad Petterson  
Elijah Joseph Virago  
Joseph Michael Ackermann

### September Heaven Days

Lauryn Marie Little  
Robert M. Bryant  
Robin Tonette Thomas  
Andrew Dewey McQuade  
Jeremiah DeMario  
Sunshine Marie Royston  
Matthew David Puccini  
Chip Carroll Wyrde  
Karie Rebecca Dietz  
Larry Schultz, III  
Kareem Kelly Guest  
Michael Ryan Atkins  
Irene Matthews  
Christopher Black  
Danny Lee Gruz  
Camryn Grace Wilson  
Bob Palese  
Jasmine Daye Bishai

### October Birthdays

Jewel Donte Thomas  
Brandon Rix  
Michael Verleysen  
Andrew Dewey McQuade  
Jeremiah DeMario  
Jessie Koch  
Christina Lee Boles-Fitch  
Garrett Nelson  
Connor Elliott King  
Benjamin Huxtable  
Amy Marie Adams  
Bruce Francis Vasil  
David Knox  
Gaebriel Patrick Kelly  
Evan J. Weichert  
Isaiah Eli Scott  
Elise Nora Detterline  
Barbara (Bonnie) Anne Basener  
Christopher Ryan LePore  
David Culbertson  
Cathi Faye Horst  
Jason Verfaillie  
Andrew Wohlfort

### October Heaven Days

Brandon Rix  
Brearah Karli Stevens  
Kevin Michael Ryan  
Jessie Koch  
Vicki Gail Sears-Hube  
Jenne Elynn Gans  
Elisa Guibas  
David Knox  
Mike Nelson  
Isaiah Eli Scott  
Elise Nora Detterline  
Christine Kelly Enders  
Andrew Wohlfort  
Jeffrey Van Wade  
Joseph Allan Caskey, Jr  
Trenton Reightler  
Joseph Michael Ackermann

*When you remember me, it means you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. It means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we meet again, you will know me, and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart. For as long as you remember me, I am not entirely lost." -Fredrick Beuchner, Theologian*

\*\*\*please let us know if anyone was left off the list. We are still updating our database.

## When a Couple is Hit with the "Worst Loss"

*Editor's Note: The following story was written by Scott Shibuya Brown, L.A. Times staff writer and appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Sunday, July 2, 1995.*

Three years ago, death of the most wrongful sort claimed two victims in Joe and Donna's household (they asked that their real names not be used). The first victim was the couple's 18-month-old daughter, Melanie, who died from a malignant brain tumor. The second was more unexpected: Joe and Donna's once strong, six-year marriage, which crumbled in the aftermath of their child's passing. Both of them were lost in fear and grief," says a psychologist who counseled Donna. "They were unable to sustain each other." Of all the tribulations that test the bonds of marriage, none is as overwhelming as the death of a child.

Although there are no studies to correlate deaths with divorces, psychologists and other therapists say they are accustomed to seeing the events in tandem. A child's death, they say, invariably triggers a pathology in the surviving family, with many previously healthy unions succumbing under the weight of the tragedy.

"There is a significant rise in divorces in families whose children have died," says Arthur Kovacs, a Santa Monica psychologist who treats patients suffering from grief. The husband and wife "cry out for comfort, and no one has any to give." Says one San Diego mother whose adolescent son died five years ago, "When you lose a child, your losses are just beginning." Nationally, about 65,000 children die every year, and there are several well-known groups—such as Parents of Murdered Children and The Compassionate Friends—that provide support and information for bereaved parents. The day of the Oklahoma bombing, members of local and regional chapters of Compassionate Friends arrived at the site to aid parents of the children lost in the building.

Ultimately, however, the burden of grief, blame and anger are borne by the mother and father, collectively as parents, but also as individuals. And that, therapists say, is where the secondary trauma begins. For no matter how strong the marriage might have been, the passage through the pain of losing a child is always a journey taken alone.

"Grief for a child doesn't conform to the other normal expectations of other griefs," says Barbara Rosof, a San Diego psychotherapist and author of 'The Worst Loss: How Families Heal From the Death of a Child' (Henry Holt & Co., 1994). "Even though a couple is married, there's a feeling that they are going through it alone, each partner is wrapped up in their own grief." The time after a child's death means a lengthy spell of acute agony, Rosof says, a period of up to a year-and-a-half when "you walk around like you've been hit over the head with a baseball bat."

Paradoxically, it is also a time often marked by intense isolation from one's spouse, despite the other partner being the only person sharing the experience and sharing a commensurate amount of pain. Such isolation bodes badly for any marriage, Rosof says, but is especially destructive during a time when spouses need to communicate with each other more than ever. "Instead of being able to help and support your partner, you feel so empty and numb and devastated, you don't have much to give," Rosof says. "People are so overwhelmed that they are not reflecting on the state of the marriage for a long time. The notion that tragedy brings people closer together is a lovely, wishful fantasy."

Many factors can influence a marriage struggling in the aftermath of a child's death. Sometimes the child may have been the only element holding a shaky marriage together. In instances where one parent was responsible for the child at the time of the death, the chances of the marriage's enduring worsen as blame is added to the guilt. "Those are almost intolerable circumstances for a marriage," Kovacs says. Another factor that may affect the surviving parents is the nature of the child's death. Jeanne Murrone, a Charlotte, N.C. clinical psychologist, who works with grief related issues, says in situations in which children have died after a lengthy illness, parents have to have time to adjust to the impending loss. When the child's suffering has been especially great, death may also bring about a sense of relief.

But sudden deaths from accidents or tragedies like the Oklahoma City bombing, she says, are likely to be harder on parents who, in addition to being wholly unprepared for the child's death, suffer from the trauma of the event and from guilt for having placed the child in that situation.

"Can you imagine the guilt of the parents who put their children in that day care center?" Kovacs asks. "They will replay endlessly what they would have done differently." One dissenting voice on the nature of grief is Andrea Gambill, editor-in-chief of Bereavement magazine, a publication she calls "a support group in print." Gambill, who lost her 17-year-old daughter, almost 20 years ago, says the notion that divorce follows death is "absolutely not true" and that in most cases losing a child "will strengthen a marriage...in the long run." "This is all based on the assumption that a child's death is a terrible stress on a marriage and therefore it will end up in divorce court," says Gambill, who says the presumption that a child's death will trigger divorce is based only on anecdotal experience and not clinical data. "The investment that each parent had in the child gives them a link they don't want to end," she says. Similarly, in cases where one parent may have been in charge of the child at the time of death, Gambill's experience through the magazine has been that there "is not a lot of blaming." "If the

blame exists, it is short-lived," she says. "When two people love each other, they are very willing to understand how it could have been them in charge."

Such understanding, however, is not likely to be forthcoming immediately after a child's death. Therapists recommend that following a loss, grieving parents should look outside their marriage to friends, religion, and family for support and respect the manner in which the other spouse grieves. In many cases, one or both parents may find it difficult to discuss the child's death until months or years after the fact. One northern California woman, whose toddler drowned in a bathtub and who was divorced shortly afterward, says she and her husband could never bring themselves to really talk about their son's death. Decades later, both having remarried, they met each other in public and both broke down crying and were for the first time able to communicate their shared pain and loss. Psychologists say, too, that while most parents learn how to cope with their loss, they rarely are ever able to forget it. Recently, Kovacs began counseling an 82-year-old woman who more than 50 years ago lost her 8-year-old son to leukemia. Although she separated from her husband, they later reconciled. The woman produced a faded photograph of her son, one she always carried in her wallet. "She wept as bitterly as if it had been yesterday," Kovacs says. "A death of a child goes on for the rest of your life," Rosof says. "To the parents of a dead child, he grows up in their minds every day, like 'today he would be starting the first grade,' or 'today, he'd be getting his driver's license. Twenty years after, parents will say, 'I think about him every day."

### **Recordings of TCF National Conference**

If you were not able to attend TCF's National Conference in July, you still have the opportunity to hear workshops and sit in on the opening banquet program, Saturday banquet program and candle lighting, and Sunday closing. Through special arrangement with Fresh Audio and Video, you have the opportunity to purchase audio discs or MP3 downloads of any of 63 workshops. Not only are these helpful in our personal grief work, these are excellent for program topics for TCF chapter meetings. A few of the many topics: The Bereaved parent—Five Years Later; Whispers of Love, Signs from Our Children; How Long Does It Take? The Many Faces of Grief. Go to <http://freshpublishing.com/the-compassionate-friends-34th-annual-national-convention-fresh-c-264-p-1-pr-33478.html> for information about ordering.

### **TCF National Organization On Facebook**

Please visit and promote The Compassionate Friends National Organization's Facebook page by becoming a fan. You can get there by clicking on the link from TCF's national home page at [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org). Or, log into

Facebook and search for "The Compassionate Friends/USA."

"We want this to be both an informative and supportive place for those of us who are mourning the death of a child, sibling, or grandchild," says TCF's Executive Director Patricia Loder. "All are welcome to leave messages and talk about the child and their grief. As in our meetings, we especially appreciate shared insights about anything that has brought you comfort, hope, or some measure of peace." Our Facebook page will provide a forum for free and open conversation. While messages will be reviewed, they will not be screened before they are posted. So we are asking members to be gentle and respectful of one another and to use common sense in their posts--no offensive language, no overt selling of products or services and no religious proselytizing. Also, keep in mind that all opinions expressed are those of the individual poster and do not necessarily reflect those of The Compassionate Friends, Inc. or its sponsors.



### **The Compassionate Friends Credo**

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope. The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for them unites us. Your pain becomes my pain, just as your hope becomes my hope.

We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances. We are a unique family because we represent many races, creeds, and relationships. We are young, and we are old. Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh and so intensely painful that they feel helpless and see no hope.

Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength, while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, while others radiate an inner peace. But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share, just as we share with each other our love for the children who have died.

We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts, and help each other to grieve as well as to grow.

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends.

## **Siblings Walking Together (formerly *The Sibling Credo*)**

We are the surviving siblings of The Compassionate Friends. We are brought together by the deaths of our brothers and sisters. Open your hearts to us, but have patience with us. Sometimes we will need the support of our friends. At other times we need our families to be there. Sometimes we must walk alone, taking our memories with us, continuing to become the individuals we want to be. We cannot be our dead brother or sister; however, a special part of them lives on with us. When our brothers and sisters died, our lives changed. We are living a life very different from what we envisioned, and we feel the responsibility to be strong even when we feel weak. Yet we can go on because we understand better than many others the value of family and the precious gift of life. Our goal is not to be the forgotten mourners that we sometimes are, but to walk together to face our tomorrows as surviving siblings of The Compassionate Friends.

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### **COURAGE**

My brother died three years ago when he was seventeen years old. It was an accident when he fell while hiking in the mountains. I was fifteen and my brother was my hero. I would do anything to make him proud. When I lost him, I could have just given up. I have the courage to love people even though I know that I could lose them. I had many opportunities to just forget everyone else and lose myself. My brother was my best friend and when he died I could have too.

I decided that he would not have wanted me to throw my life away. I try my hardest to work hard in school and live up to what his expectations would have been. I am not living just for him. I am living for myself. A lot of people like to escape their problems by drinking or doing drugs. Alcohol and drugs only make problems worse because escaping a problem is not solving the problem. Self-respect means knowing who you are and treating yourself with dignity. I want people to look at me and to respect me. Staying in school and working to my potential is essential for respect. People cannot respect those who do not respect themselves. As Shakespeare said, "This above all else, to thine own self be true."

I do not make choices based on what the popular decision is. I base my thoughts and ideas on what I believe is right and important. I know that my brother would have been proud of me, because I made it through the most difficult time in my life,

without him. I kept living when I lost the most important person in the world to me.

Courage is to keep fighting even though it looks like you are going to lose. When he died, I felt the world crash down on me. Everything I ever hoped for just seemed empty. Even now sometimes it will just hit me that my brother is gone. I have to keep on living and facing the world because that is what life is all about. Sometimes things happen that seem impossible to face. If I do not face my problems, who will?

Life is not supposed to be easy but it is not devastating either. There are so many wonderful things that happen and I have to have the courage to realize it. Life is not just a long line of problems. It is also a long line of answers. I need courage and self-respect to find these answers. I have to trust myself and my future that everything will work out. It always does. The answers to life's problems can only be found through hard work and belief in yourself. My belief in myself comes from a big brother who always had faith in me.

*Patricia Kelley/TCF Richmond, VA  
In Memory of my brother, Sean 8/24/76 -  
8/28/93*

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### ***Sacred Letters***

***By Margaret Singer (sister of Baltimore TCF member, Paula O.)***

Symmetry and beauty,  
The handwriting of God.  
Throughout the ages the sages  
Pondered the mystical meaning  
Of letters, dots and strokes  
Seeking revelations.

Perhaps in desert nights  
Lit by moonlight and fire,  
The ancients were inspired by dancing figures,  
Swirling arms and legs  
Bending this way and that  
In a sacred ballet.

The movements of dance  
Enacting daily tasks of the people,  
Working, playing, fighting, loving, mourning,  
Praying, may have inspired the scribes  
To transcribe the gestures  
In stylized alphabet.

The letters, fat, lean, open, closed,  
Dalet, Mem, tall Lamed, small Jud.  
All express the mystery and geometry  
Of the universe. In solemn configuration  
They fill our holy books, telling our  
And God's ever evolving story.

Sometimes the letters break out in flames  
Or swirl like snakes on the page.  
But always written in holy, black ink  
They tell that God is one  
And mankind is one.