

# **Bereaved Parents of the USA 2019 National Gathering Registration Packet**

**NATIONAL GATHERING 2019**



**Bereaved Parents USA**

August 2-4 ♥ St. Louis, Missouri

**Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel  
7730 Bonhomme Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
314-863-0400**

For more information contact:  
Melanie E. Groves, Gathering Chairperson  
(304) 612-1341  
e-mail: [BPUSAGatheringChair@gmail.com](mailto:BPUSAGatheringChair@gmail.com)

National BPUSA Website:  
[www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org)

## 2019 BPUSA NATIONAL GATHERING CONFERENCE

### *"Spirit of Love"*

**This document contains essential information – please read to the end before registering!**

Many find the grief journey more bearable when shared with those who understand. Some have been on this journey for years while others have barely begun. Hand in hand we walk this road together, offering one another support and hope. We are honored to share this weekend with you, knowing you will be touched in some way through your experience, whether by a speaker, a workshop, a song, or a "fellow traveler" seated next to you at a meal. Please join us the weekend of August 2-4, 2019 to share the Spirit of Love in memory and honor of our children, siblings and grandchildren gone too soon.

**Hotel Accommodations:** The Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel will be providing a discounted rate of **\$99 per night (plus tax) and will honor this rate for 2019 National Gathering guests for 5 days before and 3 days after the Gathering (July 28-August 7), come early or stay late to experience all that St. Louis and the surrounding area has to offer! Book your reservation early using the BPUSA website:**  
<https://www.bereavedparentsusa.org/annual-conference/annual-gathering-conference/>.

**Please use the BPUSA website and NOT the Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel website to book your room. A link directly to the hotel for reservations through the BPUSA National website is provided. Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at midnight is the deadline to book hotel reservations at the discounted rate. If you need to call the hotel, at this number (314) 863-0400 and NOT the toll free number. Please make your reservations as soon as possible and before the deadline as they may not honor the discounted rate after July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Cancellations:** You may cancel your hotel reservation for full deposit refund charge up to 72 hours prior to your arrival date. **Bookings:** All reservations must be charged 1st nights room and tax 72 hours of arrival. Valid credit is required.

**Travel:** If traveling by air, book your flight into **St. Louis International Airport (STL). Shuttle information has yet to be determined.** The airport is approximately 15 minutes from the hotel. Plan your flights accordingly as we encourage you to attend the Gathering Conference from Thursday evening through Sunday at noon. Book your flights as soon as possible!

If you are driving, the hotel provides complimentary parking.

**Meals: We believe that the camaraderie and bonding during shared mealtimes is a vital and significant part of your Gathering experience; therefore, we highly recommend the conference meal plan.** To make it as easy as possible for you to join us at each of the meals, we work to keep prices affordable. This year's meal plan cost breaks down to \$25 per meal with tax and tip included.

- **Meal Plan** (Fri-Sun which includes 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners) is a discounted rate of \$180. Prices include tax and gratuity. Individual can be purchased, however, taking advantage of the meal plans could save you up to \$20. **Please advise us of any special dietary needs, as the hotel will accommodate requests for Gluten Free, Diabetic, Vegetarian, Vegan, etc.**
- **Children's Meals:** There is no reduced rate for children for the buffet meals. However, we are offering for children, 12 and under, the option of child-friendly meals for \$100 for all seven meals. Please advise us of any special dietary needs for your child.

**Thursday Night Meet & Greet:** While the 2019 BPUSA National Gathering officially begins on Friday morning, August 2nd, we have planned a special activity on Thursday evening, August 1st for those attendees arriving early. We will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" reception from 7-8 pm. Enjoy a "Taste of St. Louis" with appetizers and local craft sodas along with complimentary wine and beer for \$20 all-inclusive. A local musician will provide background piano music for your entertainment.

**Sponsorships:** We are offering several opportunities this year for those who wish to have their child(ren) remembered in a special way during the Gathering Conference. Sponsorships enable individuals, chapters and businesses to support the Gathering Conference and honor their loved ones in a tangible and meaningful way. We count on these sponsorships to help us keep the cost of the Gathering Conference affordable. You are free to participate in any or all of the sponsorship opportunities listed below:

- **Memorial Page in the Gathering Conference Program:** Fill out the form included in this packet or the electronic form on our web page for your child(ren)'s memorial page to be published in the program. Mail or email the form with your page layout, print ready, to Valerie Larson, at the address on the form **OR** download your print-ready layout in jpg format on the electronic form on our web page. The cost is \$100 for a full page, \$50 for a half page and \$25 for a quarter page. **The deadline for including your child's picture in the program is June 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- **Advertise in the Gathering Conference Program:** Are you a business owner? An author? A singer/songwriter? Please place an ad in our Gathering Conference Program. Full page \$300, half page \$150, quarter page \$75, business card \$25. Use the form included in this packet or download a print-ready ad on the electronic form on our web page. **The deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- **Sponsor a Workshop Room:** At a cost of \$50, a 18x12 foam board sign will be professionally made to include your child's name, picture, and the person(s) sponsoring each workshop room. It will be displayed in the workshop room for the entire day. Please email a picture, no larger than 8x10, to Melanie Groves, in jpg format to [BPUSAGatheringChair@gmail.com](mailto:BPUSAGatheringChair@gmail.com). The sign is yours to keep at the conclusion of the Gathering. **The deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- **Sponsor a Centerpiece:** Your child's name and photo will be displayed with the centerpiece on a table during meal time for the entire Gathering weekend. The cost is \$35 per centerpiece. You are welcome to take the centerpiece with you when you leave on Sunday. Please email a photo of your child to Melanie Groves at [BPUSAGatheringChair@gmail.com](mailto:BPUSAGatheringChair@gmail.com) **no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Picture Buttons** can be ordered at a fee of \$5 per button. It is highly recommended that you preorder any picture buttons. Please indicate the number of picture buttons on the registration form. **The picture that you send for the slideshow will be the photo used for the picture button you are purchasing.** If you would like to use a different photo for your picture buttons, please send a picture or pictures via e-mail to [BPUSAGatheringChair@gmail.com](mailto:BPUSAGatheringChair@gmail.com) in jpg format and indicate on the order form how many picture-buttons you are purchasing.

**Slideshow Presentation:** This occurs during the Candlelight Service Saturday after dinner and is a meaningful part of our Gathering each year. Your child's photo (**alone in the picture**) may be submitted via one of three methods:

1. Please send a photo of your child, no larger than 8x10, and the completed Slideshow form (found at the end of this packet), to the address listed at the bottom of that form
  2. E-mail in jpg format to [bpusaweblinks@gmail.com](mailto:bpusaweblinks@gmail.com)
  3. Upload your child's picture when you register online with the electronic registration form on the BPUSA website.
- Deadline for submitting photos is July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## Important Deadlines

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Early Bird Registration ends

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Gathering Program Memorial Pages Due

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Gathering Program Business Ads Due

July 1<sup>st</sup> – Hotel Early Bird Discount Ends

July 1<sup>st</sup> – Deadline to submit all photos via mail & email for all sponsorships & the slideshow.

If you are a Chapter Leader:

- Make copies of this Registration Packet to give to your chapter members as soon as possible.
- As a chapter, donate an item for the Raffle.
- As a chapter, donate an item to put in the tote bags given to every attendee. We will need approximately 250 items.
- Get with your chapter members and decorate your memorial templates to be displayed at the Gathering.
- **Plan to attend the Chapter Leadership Training on Thursday afternoon, August 1<sup>st</sup>. (Scholarships Available)**

## BPUSA ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

### PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

*When our loved ones miss us,  
They toss a penny down.  
Sometimes just to cheer us up  
To make a smile out of a frown.  
So don't pass by that penny  
When you're feeling blue.  
It may be a penny from heaven  
That your loved one tossed to you.  
~ C. Mashburn*

### COINS CAN ADD UP QUICKLY!

Convert your loose change into dollars and donate to BPUSA

Yes, we're doing it again! Only this time, it's a Facebook fundraiser! Facebook charges no processing fees for non-profit fundraisers.

Often, we, as bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents have a special connection to coins found in unusual places or when we are having a bad day. Of course, we're not asking you to part with your special coins, but I know that you, like me, have loose change hanging out on top of your dresser, under the seats of your furniture and in your car's center console!

We hope you will convert your coins to dollars and donate them to **BPUSA's Annual Fundraiser Pennies from Heaven!** No donation is too small!

Simply click on the following link <https://www.facebook.com/donate/325277424848115/> to go to our fundraiser page. Click "donate" and follow the simple instructions to make your donation.

If you or your chapter members would rather donate by check, please mail the check to: Charlotte Jackson, 34 Parish Lane, Lake Katrine, NY 12449 with "Pennies from Heaven" in the memo.

Please share this fundraiser with your chapter members, friends and family! Thank you!!

*Kathy, Melanie, and the 2019 BPUSA Gathering Conference Committee*

# 2019 BPUSA NATIONAL GATHERING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

**\*Please complete ONE FORM for EACH PERSON attending**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Death Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Death Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship to this Child: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a sibling, what is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

**Early Registration Postmarked BY JUNE 1st is \$75 per adult,  
\$50 for College Students with ID & Workshop Presenters & \$40 for children under 18.  
If postmarked after June 1<sup>st</sup>, the registration fee is \$95.00 per adult.**

**Please register as EARLY as possible for planning purposes, and to get the BIGGEST SAVINGS on fees!**

ITEM	QTY.	PRICE	TOTAL
<b>Registration Fee</b> (see above) Register EARLY for the best price!		each	
<b>Meal Plan</b> (Friday-Sunday: 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners)		<b>\$180.00</b>	
<b>Children's Meal Plan</b>		<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>Thursday Meet &amp; Greet</b>		<b>\$ 20.00</b>	
<b>Individual Meals:</b>			
Friday Breakfast \$20			
Friday Lunch \$30			
Friday Dinner \$40			
Saturday Breakfast \$20			
Saturday Lunch \$30			
Saturday Dinner \$40			
Sunday Breakfast \$20			
<b>Sponsorship of a Workshop Room</b>		<b>\$ 50.00</b>	
<b>Sponsorship of a Centerpiece</b>		<b>\$ 35.00</b>	
<b>Sponsorship of a Memorial Ad (\$100, \$50, \$25)</b>			
<b>Business Ad (\$300, \$150, \$75, \$25)</b>			
<b>Picture Buttons</b>		<b>\$ 5.00</b>	
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>		<b>\$</b>

**\*If you wish to donate In Memory of your child, grandchild or sibling please go to Donate on the Menu Bar on the BPUSA Website**

**Special Diet Needs and/or Food Allergies (explain in detail): \_\_\_\_\_**

Send this completed Registration form (ONE FOR EACH PERSON attending) AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE and your check or money order made payable to BPUSA NATIONAL GATHERING to:

**Charlotte Jackson, BPUSA Treasurer  
34 Parish Lane  
Lake Katrine, NY 12449  
Phone: (845) 336-7654**

or register online at [www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org)

# Memorial Sponsorship Page Form

Sponsoring a memorial page in the Gathering program book is a meaningful way to remember our precious children, brothers/sisters, and grandchildren. Design your page around your child's picture or your memories of them. The memorial pages will be in color. If you do not include a page design with your donation, the Program Book Committee will create a design for you.

Name of person placing memorial page: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the memorial page size you would like:

Quarter Page (3.6" x 4.9") \$25.00     Half Page (7.5" x 4.9") \$50.00     Full Page (7.5" x 10") \$100.00

Enclosed\* amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All memorial page entries must be received with payment NO LATER than JUNE 1, 2019.

**\*Note: If you paid for your memorial sponsorship page when you registered online, you do not need to send payment with this form.**



The program book will be printed in 8-1/2" x 11"-page format. Please use these dimensions when creating or selecting your memorial page size.

Your materials must be mailed in time so that we receive them NO LATER than JUNE 1, 2019. Please make checks payable to BP/USA National Gathering and mail to:

Valerie Larson  
6900 Cole Timothy Court  
Manassas, VA 20112



## BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP PAGE FORM

Thank you for sponsoring a business ad in our Gathering Conference Program. With your help, we can continue the important work of providing support, understanding and education to grieving families across the United States.

Business name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

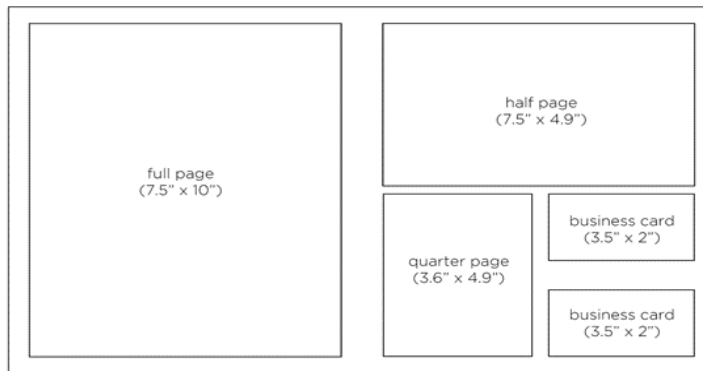
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the size you would like for your business page ad:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Full Page \$300.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **Half Page \$150.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Quarter Page \$50.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **Business Card \$25.00**

**Enclosed amount: \$** \_\_\_\_\_



The program book will be printed in 8-1/2" x 11"-page format. Please use these dimensions when creating your business ad.

**Please submit your ad "Print-Ready" with a resolution of 300 pixels per inch or higher in a JPG format. It may be sent to us as an email attachment or by mail on a flash drive. Deadline is JUNE 1, 2019.**

If sending by **e-mail**: send to Valerie Larson at [rlarson900@verizon.net](mailto:rlarson900@verizon.net)  
Please include "Business Sponsorship Page Form" in the subject line.  
Include your name, address and phone number in the text so we can easily contact you if we need more information. Your email with all the information and photo(s) must arrive no later than **June 1st**.

If sending by **mail**: make checks payable to BPUSA National Gathering.  
Mail to: Valerie Larson, 6900 Cole Timothy Court, Manassas, VA 20112.  
The package must be mailed in time so that we receive it no later than **June 1st**.



**BPUSA NATIONAL GATHERING CONFERENCE**  
**SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION FORM**

The slideshow presentation during the Candlelight Service is a meaningful part of our Gatherings. If you are attending the Gathering Conference, please send a photo of your child, (**photo of your child only**), via e-mail in jpg format to [bpusaweblinks@gmail.com](mailto:bpusaweblinks@gmail.com) or upload your photo on the electronic registration form on the BPUSA website. If you need to mail a photo, send a photo no larger than 8x10 and this completed form to the address below, **no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>**. You can pick up your picture(s) at the Gathering Registration Table when you arrive or enclose a postage paid addressed envelope so that your photo(s) can be immediately returned to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed a photo of my child/children.

\_\_\_\_\_ The picture should be in your file from a past Gathering.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include my child's NAME ONLY with appropriate representation (no photo available).

**PRINT CLEARLY**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phonetic Pronunciation: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

A picture and completed form are needed for **each** child being remembered. **The picture submitted must be of the child only** for showing during the Candlelight Service. Please put child's name and address on the back of the photo.

Mail to be **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN July 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Send this form and your child's picture to: Matthew Groves  
1190 Worthington Drive  
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Upload a picture on the electronic registration form on our website or email this form and a picture to [bpusaweblinks@gmail.com](mailto:bpusaweblinks@gmail.com), no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>. You will receive a confirming email back. If you don't, please follow up. You don't want to miss out having your child's picture included.

## 2019 BPUSA Gathering General Information

The following information describes some of the various activities that will be available during for the 2019 BPUSA *Spirit of Love* Gathering Conference.

**Gathering Speakers, Performers and Special Events:** Our speakers will follow our meals on Friday and Saturday. All attendees are invited, regardless of attendance at meals. Please join us to hear the speakers 15 minutes after meals have been served. "Love In Motion" will also be performing their inspirational songs of love, loss and healing through sign language throughout the weekend.

**Conference Meal Plan:** We believe that the camaraderie and bonding during shared mealtimes is vital and significant part of your Gathering experience. Therefore, we highly recommend the conference meal plan found on the first page of this Registration Packet.

**Thursday Night Meet & Greet:** While the 2019 BPUSA National Gathering officially begins on Friday morning, August 2nd, we have planned a special activity on Thursday evening, August 1st for those attendees arriving early. We will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" event from 7-9pm. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available for \$20 all-inclusive starting at 7pm and ending at 8pm and entertainment will be provided 7-9pm.

**Workshops:** A variety of workshops are offered in a structured setting facilitated by a skilled presenter and designed to address specific topics. This is also a time of learning and sharing. If you are interested in presenting a workshop at the Gathering, please go to the BPUSA website to submit an application. **Deadline to submit an application is March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Bereaved Sibling Program:** We welcome siblings ages 12 to adult to attend the Gathering. There will be workshops and sharing sessions devoted to the concerns of bereaved siblings they can choose to attend. **Please note: Siblings between ages 12-18 may participate in these workshops, but they will need written permission if unaccompanied by a parent. We are unable to provide daycare for children under 12.**

**Sharing Sessions:** These are informal meetings led by a facilitator and are offered Friday and Saturday evenings. Participants share experiences on specific topics.

**Book Study:** Read the book, *Ordinary People*, by Judith Guest. We'll meet together and share our observations from the book, in a discussion facilitated by Donna Corrigan.

**Fun Art:** Back by popular demand, a painting class will be offered as a Friday night Sharing Session and will be taught by a local artist with all materials provided, free of charge. The painting will be easily done on a 12x12 canvas that can fit into your suitcase. Please sign up at the BPUSA Registration Desk when you check in for the Gathering.

**Yoga:** We will be offering yoga classes again this year so don't forget to pack loose-fitting clothing. If you have a yoga mat, it is highly recommended that you bring one with you.

**Creation Station:** You will be able to do craft projects in our Creation Station. Bring photos of your child to use in different projects. We will have a copier and a printer available to make copies of your pictures, if needed. You will be able to decorate and personalize a votive for Saturday Night's Candle Lighting.

**Closing Ceremony:** We will conclude the weekend with a touching closing ceremony on Sunday morning, ending around **11am**. This will be a beautiful finale to an amazing weekend shared with families and friends, both old and new.

**BPUSA Rocks St. Louis:** We are painting rocks to "hide" around the Gathering with the sole purpose of spreading joy and brightening people's day. It is meant to inspire creativity of all ages and a way to remember our children. Rocks will be available to paint in the Creation Station **OR** bring a special rock from home -- from a place where your child or sibling played or went to school; maybe from the beach or the mountains where you vacationed together. We will have the paint and sealer for you to paint this "sacred" rock to keep forever in memory of your child or sibling or hide if the mood strikes you! On the back of your rock please reference the Facebook group "@BPUSAROCKSSTLOUIS."



**Spirit of Love Gallery:** We will be providing a small gift shop at the Gathering. This year vendors will be selling unique bereavement-related items! **If you would like to be a vendor, please complete the vendor form on the BPUSA website or contact Barbara Dietrich at 813-340-9120.**

**BPUSA Bookstore:** Also located in the Gallery will be the BPUSA Bookstore, provided by The Centering Corporation offering a wide variety of grief-related books, CDs and DVDs, many of which are authored by our speakers, workshop presenters and performers. Authors will be available to autograph their books at a designated time during the weekend.

**Spirit of Love Raffle & 50/50 Drawing:** We will be hosting a raffle again to raise funds to support ongoing BPUSA efforts. Donations to the raffle in memory of your child(ren) are greatly appreciated and welcomed. Please email Barbara Dietrich at [bpusaboard1@gmail.com](mailto:bpusaboard1@gmail.com) for more information. Popular items from past raffles have been butterfly or angel themed items such as jewelry or handbags; gift cards for national chain restaurants and services; and themed baskets, to name a few. Higher value items such as trips, handmade quilts, signed sports items (Jerseys or sports equipment) from famous athletes and teams are also popular and well-received.

**Photographs and Video:** Photographs and/or video will be taken at the Gathering. By taking part in the Gathering you grant BPUSA full rights to use the images resulting from the photography/video filming, and any reproductions or adaptations of the images for fundraising, publicity or other purposes to help achieve the goals of BPUSA. This might include (but not limited to), the right to use them in our printed and online publicity, social media, press releases and funding applications. For children under the age of 18, a form will need to be signed at Registration at the Gathering.

**What to Wear at the Gathering:** The dress is casual and the weather will be warm in St. Louis, **however, you will want to bring a sweater as the hotel workshop rooms can be chilly.**