

In Loving Memory of Justin Carr, by Susan and Darrell Carr

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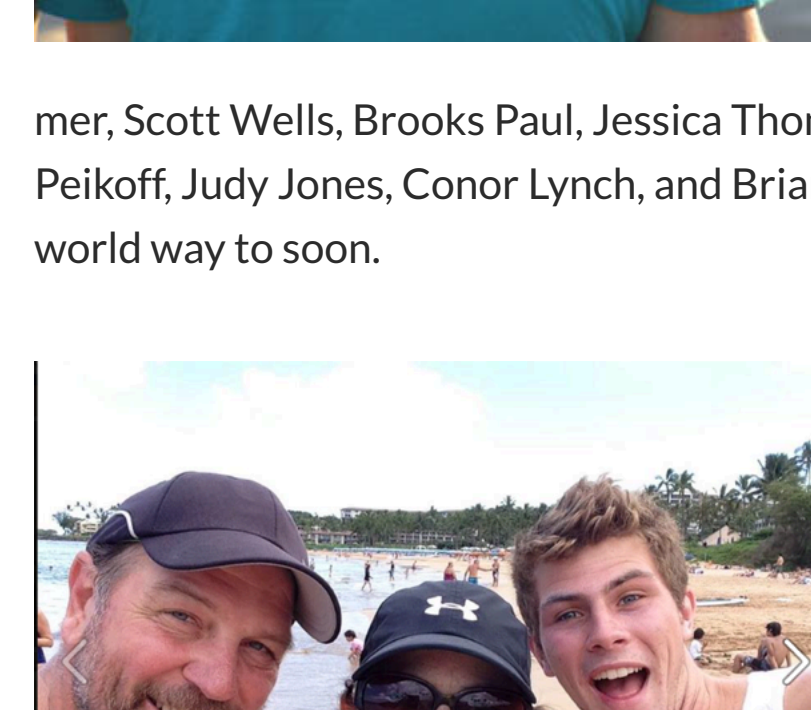
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THE LABOR OF LOVE CONTINUES AT THE BEACH

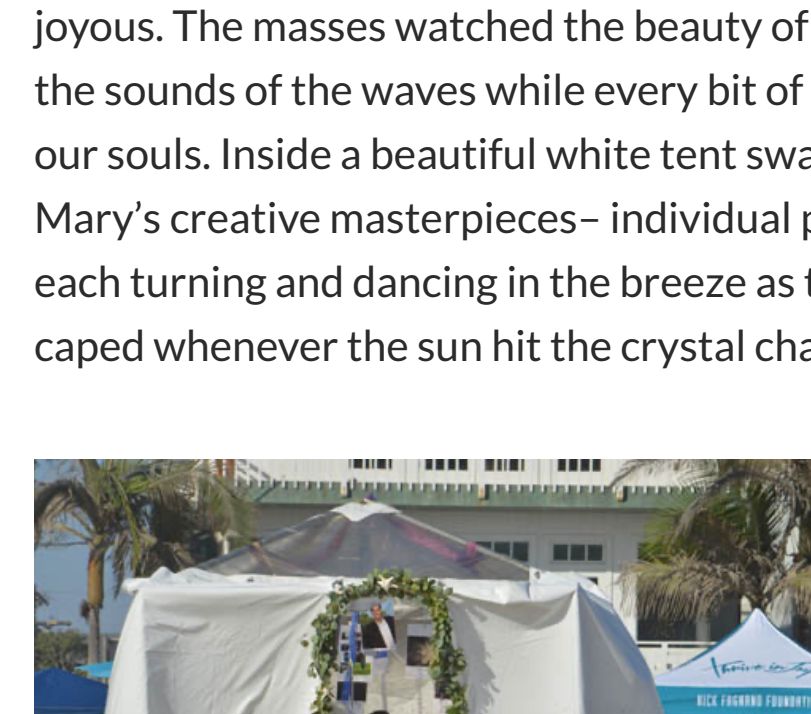
July 28, 2016 Susan Toller-Carr 2 Comments

The Labor of Love Continues at the Beach



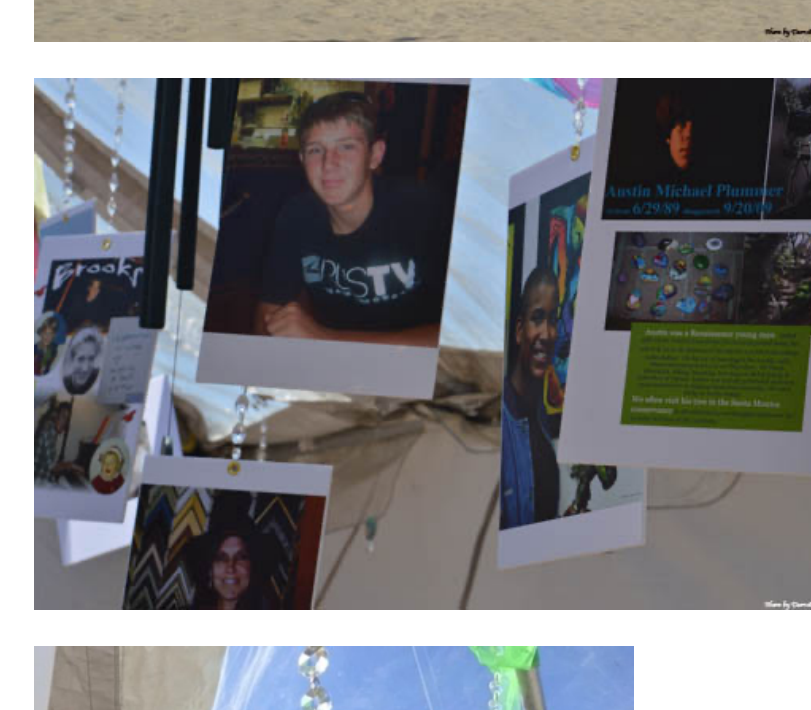
Jay, Mary & Nick

This past Monday, Darrell and I had the pleasure of joining Mary and Jay Fagnano as they celebrated the life of their son Nick—and honored over 14 other young people (including our son Justin, Austin Plummer, Scott Wells, Brooks Paul, Jessica Thompson, Gus Deppe, Lori Peikoff, Judy Jones, Conor Lynch, and Brian Bonifer) who all left this world way to soon.

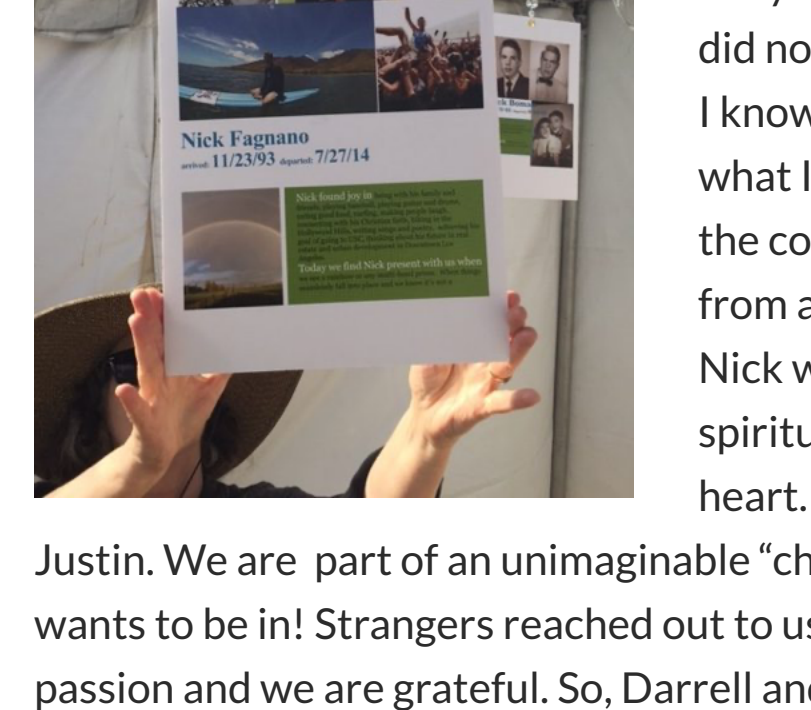


Jay, Mary & Nick

Encircled by the backdrop of the beach with the swimmers and surfers, and the silhouettes of the volleyball nets (that Nick often played on) people gathered on the warm sand as their schedules permitted. It was not sad. It was peaceful. It was inclusive. It was organic. It was both comforting and joyous. The masses watched the beauty of the beach and listened to the sounds of the waves while every bit of the surrounds soothed our souls. Inside a beautiful white tent swaying in the breeze were Mary's creative masterpieces— individual plaques of remembrance—each turning and dancing in the breeze as the rainbows of colors escaped whenever the sun hit the crystal chains.



Jay, Mary & Nick



Jay, Mary & Nick

A News Reporter, who was covering the event, asked me: "Why are you here?" I responded: "I did not know Nick, but I feel like I know him from the glimpse of what I have seen from being in the company of his parents and from all the stories that I read. Nick was compassionate loving, spiritual and giving. He had a big heart. We lost our only son Justin. We are part of an unimaginable "child loss club" that no one wants to be in! Strangers reached out to us with empathy and compassion and we are grateful. So, Darrell and I reached out to Mary and Jay. I also told her what my friend Valerie once told me: "The hole in your hearts can never be filled like sand in the beach." Remembering our children is the oxygen that we need to breathe and get by each day. This is a hard thing to live with everyday for the rest of our life. So, we continue to move forward in their honor—everyday.

When people asked me how the day was I said the following:

It was a uniformed village with:

- Family members from up and down the coast
Nick's lifelong friends from elementary and high school, college and baseball team members, church parish and even his Kindergarten Teacher
Mary and Jay's friends from high school, college and their community
Other Families who lost a child, brother, sister or friend
Varun Soni, the Dean from USC School of Religious life
Friend's sang Nick's favorite songs
A bonus was also having my elementary friend Lisa join the celebration for a second year in a row. Up until last year, I had not seen her since 8th grade. She did not know the Fagnano's at all-but she feels connected because she has one son Ryan and she vacations on Venice Beach every year at the same time. Nick's story has touched her to the core.



Susan and Lisa Venetians from the Venice Beach Community

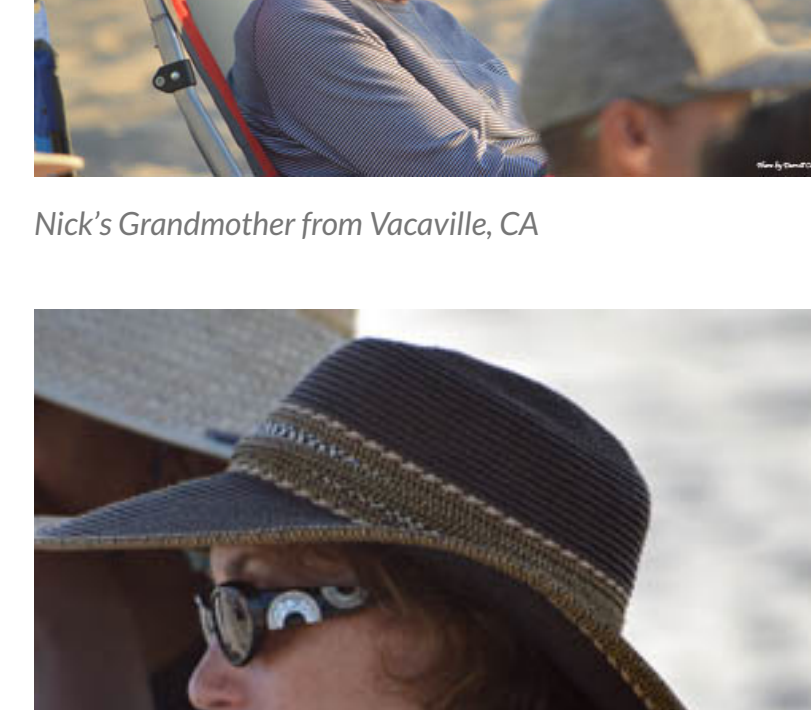
There were "Venetians" from the Venice Beach Community

- Lifeguards whose lives were impacted by Nick...



Jay's Eternal City...

I think I can safely say that for Mary and Jay, Venice Beach is akin to Rome, Italy—the Eternal City. The ancient Romans believed that no matter what happened to the world or how many empires came and collapsed— Rome would go on forever. Venice Beach will forever be Mary and



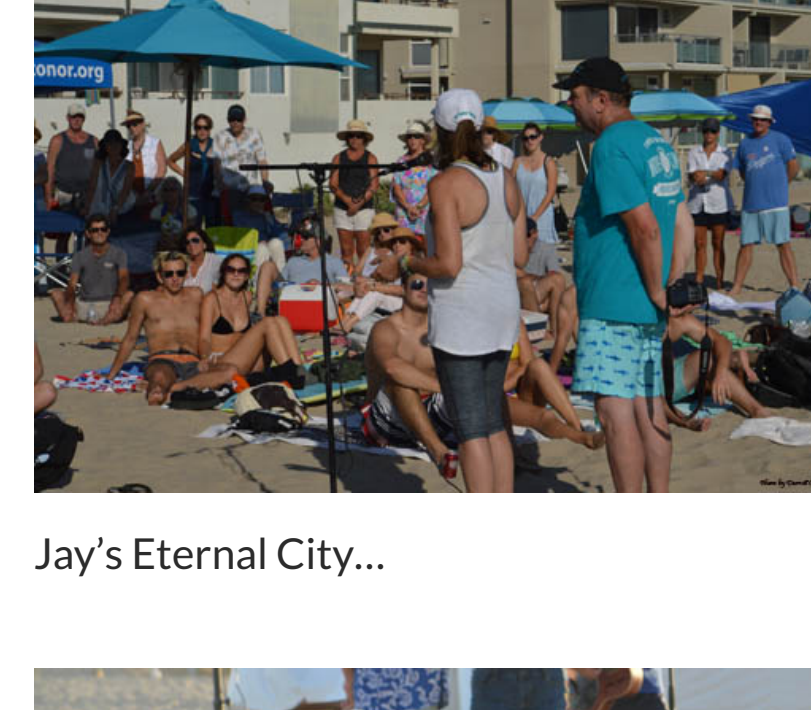
Nick's Grandmother from Viscaville, CA

As the crowd gathered to form a large human heart on the beach, Jay passionately told the crowd: "We need you all in our life in the days and years to come. We want to hear about you and your families and your life's adventures. What else are we to do?" So, Mary and Jay's Labor of Love will continue as they gallantly work to help others with the platforms of the "Thrive in Joy Foundation"...

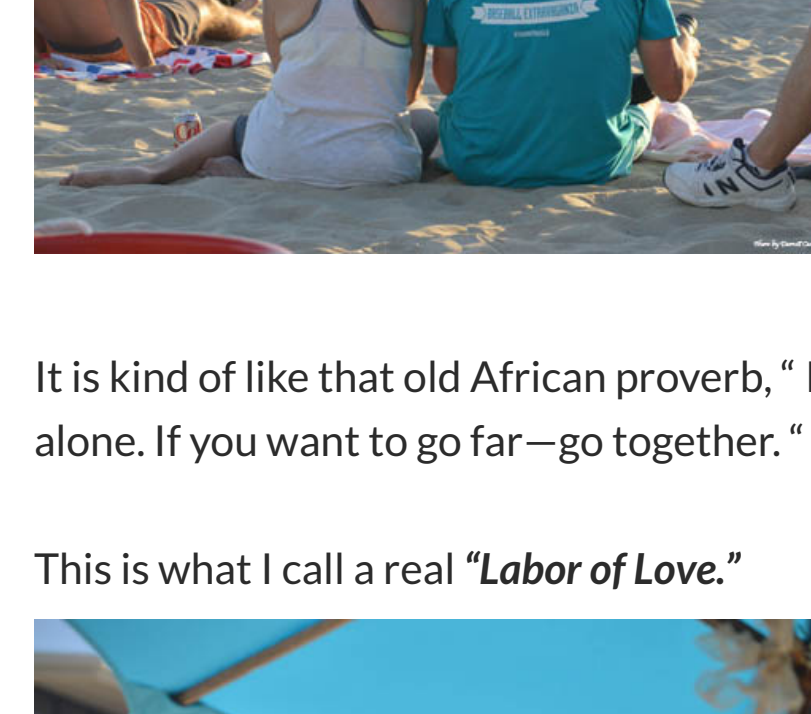


Jay's Eternal City...

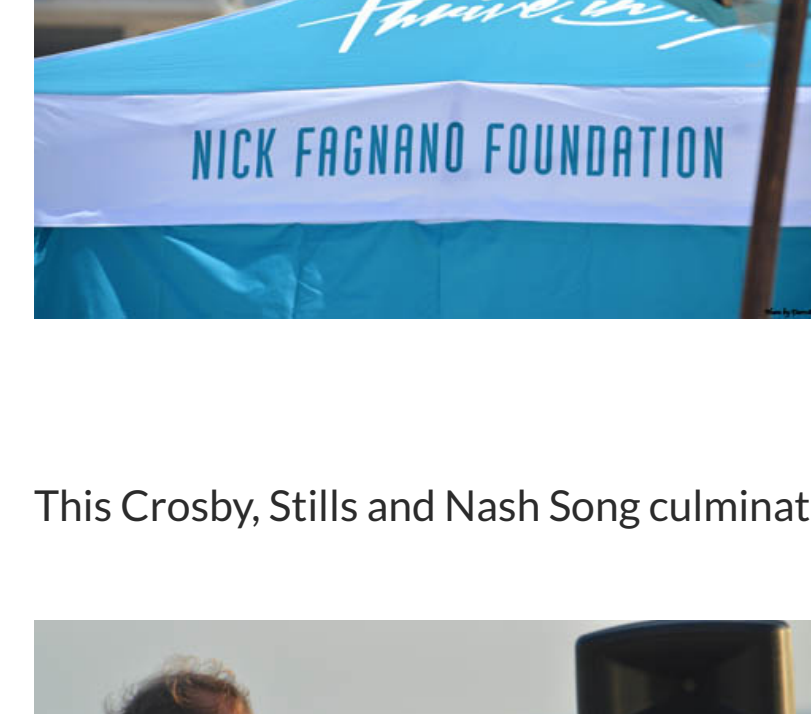
We can all " Get by with a little help from our friends"



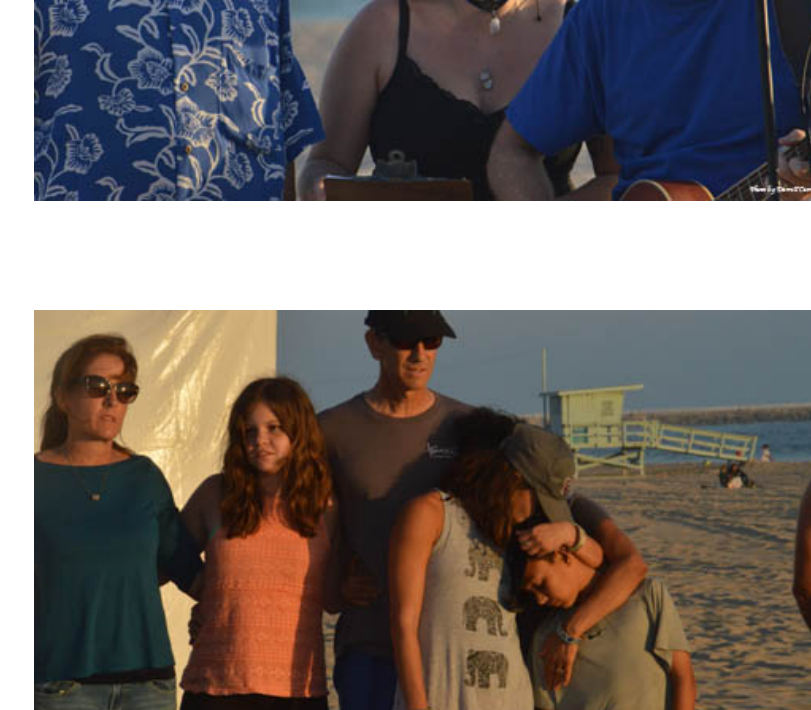
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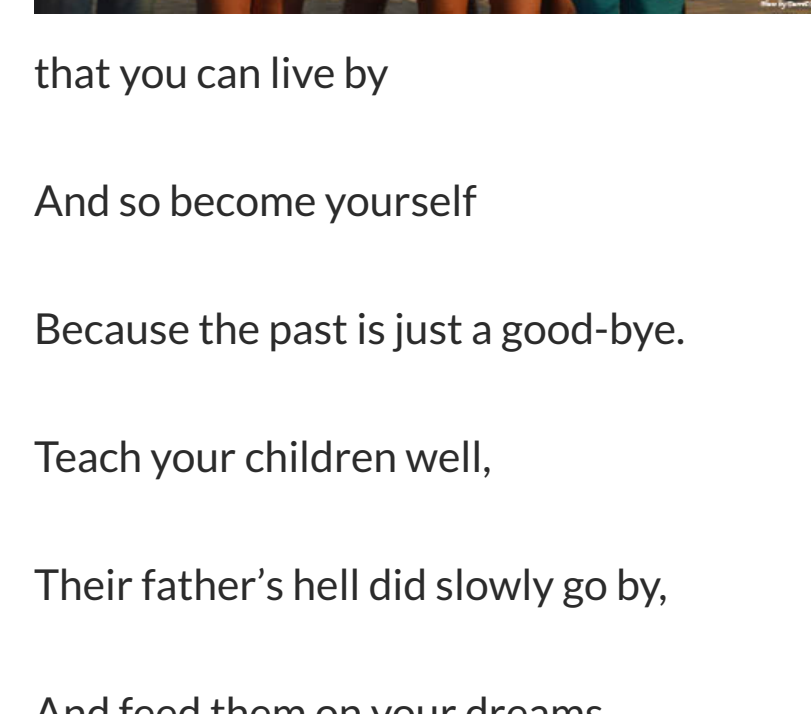
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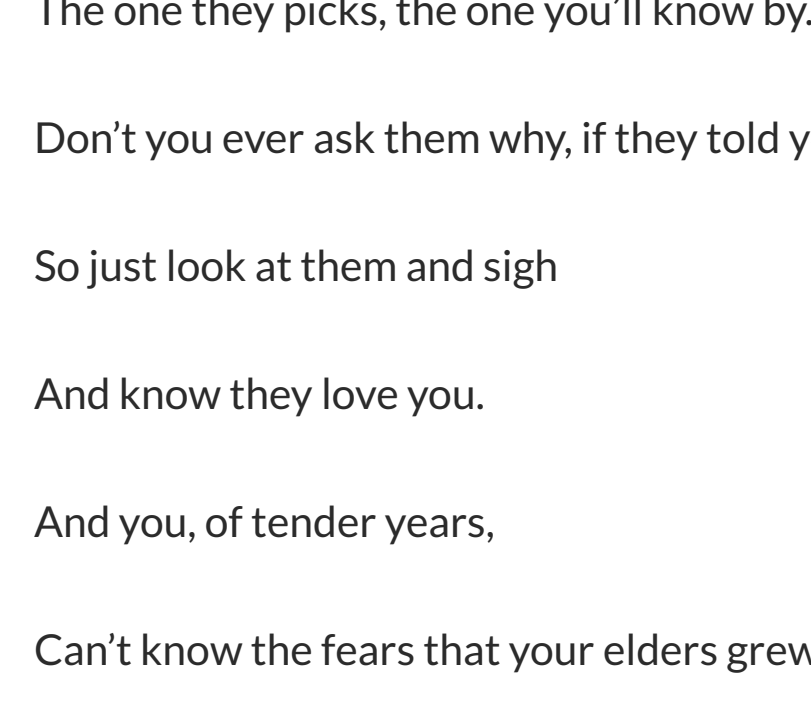
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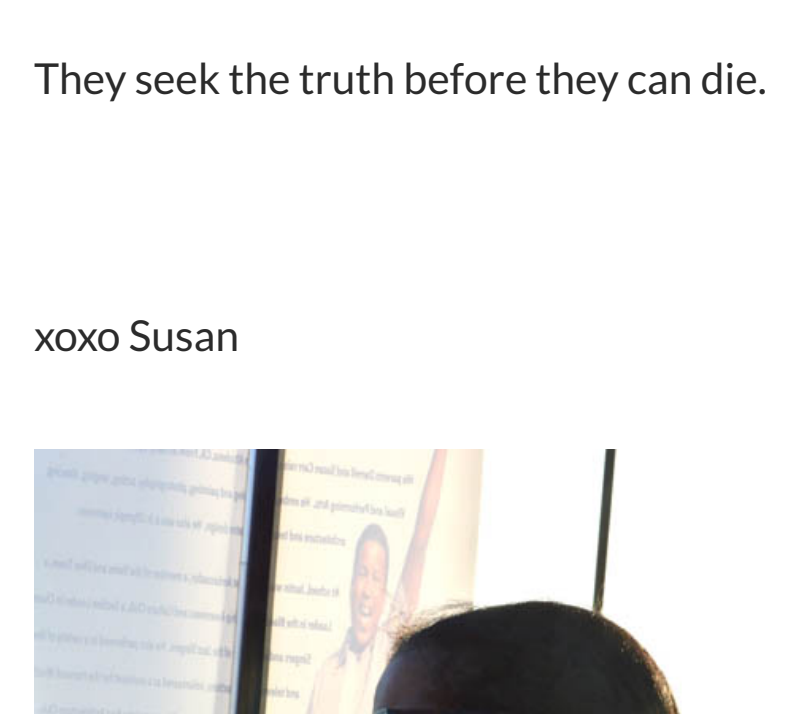
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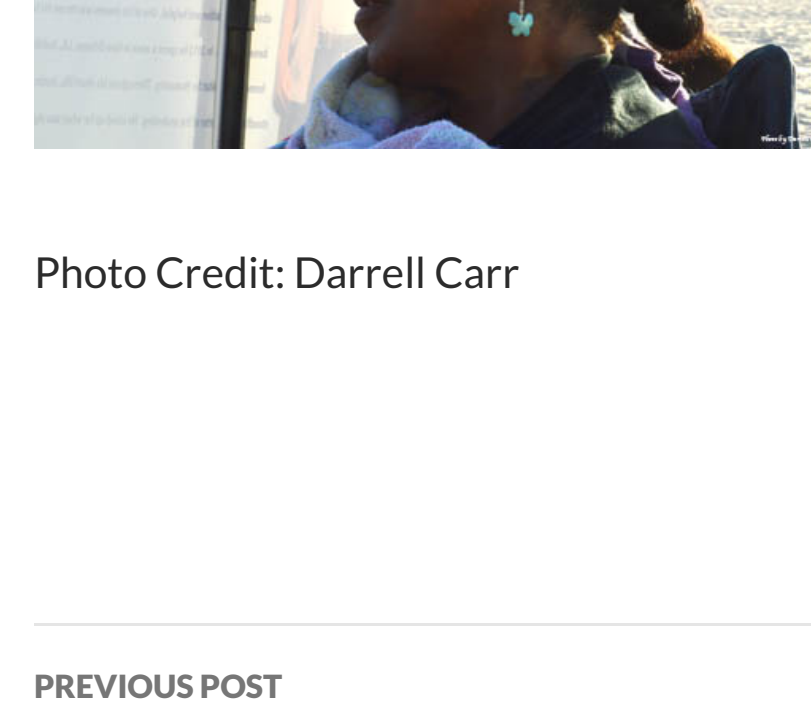
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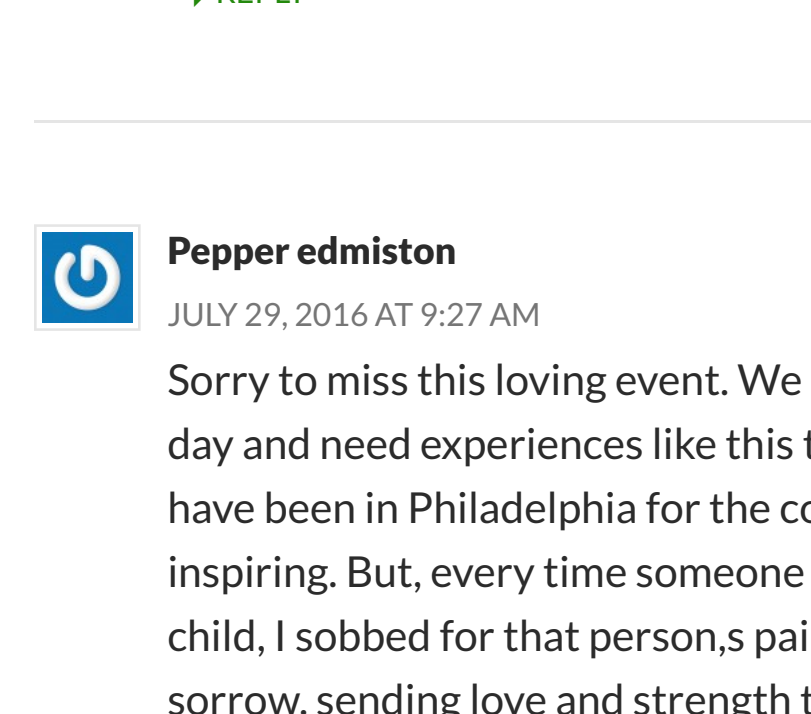
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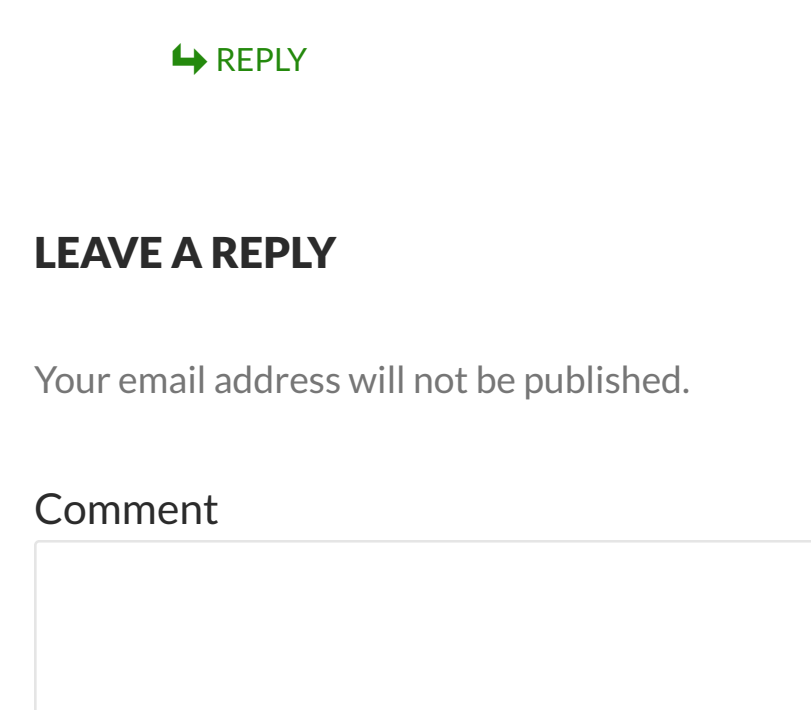
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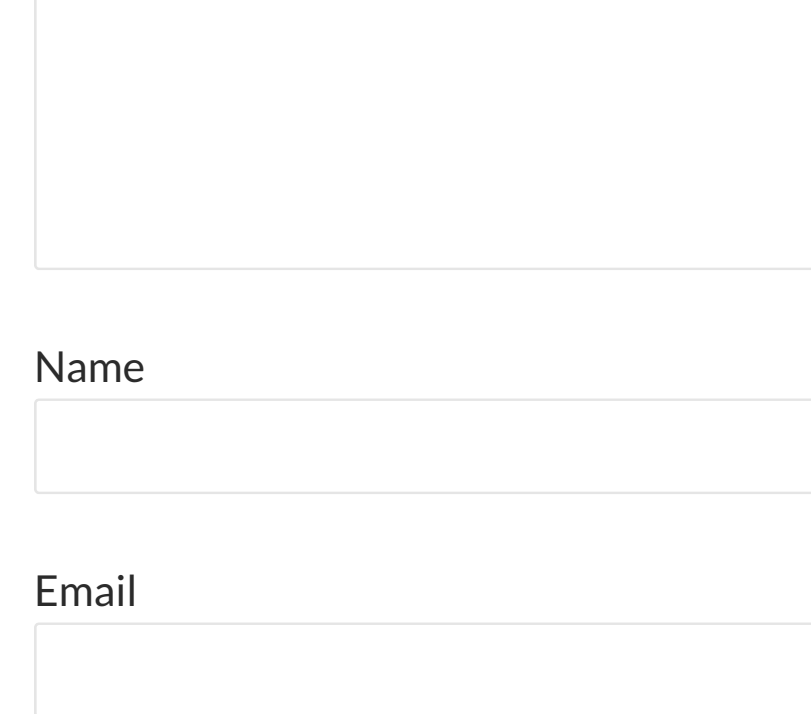
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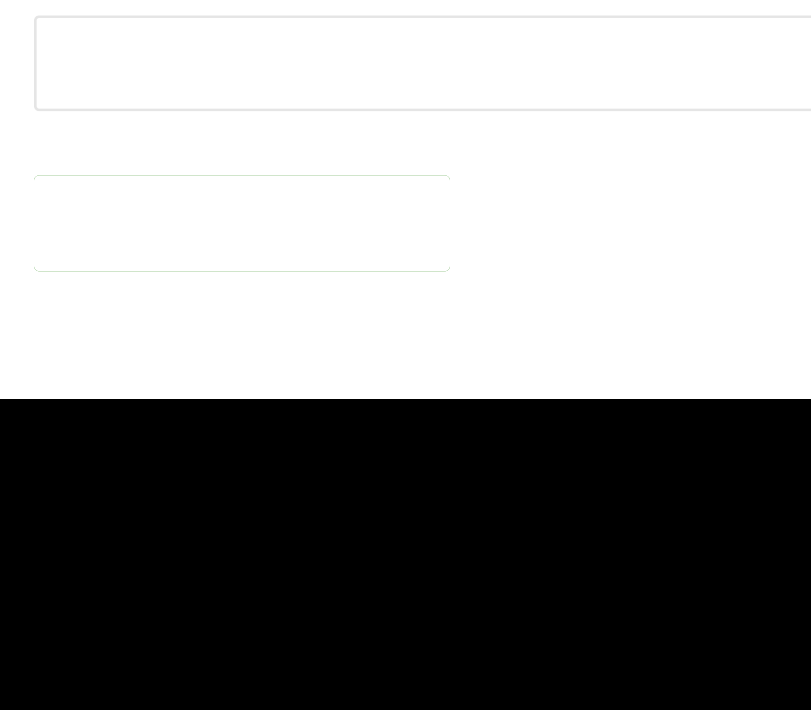
Jay's Eternal City...



Jay's Eternal City...



Jay's Eternal City...



Jay's Eternal City...

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Anonymous on THIS IS US... DARRELL, SUSAN & JUSTIN
Anonymous on THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR
Nancy on THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR
Dr. Margie Baker on This Swimmer Caught My Ear
Suzanna Camejo on Life as a Walt Disney Imagineer and beyond
Catherynne on Life as a Walt Disney Imagineer and beyond
Betsy on Life as a Walt Disney Imagineer and beyond
Renee Plummer on NFL PIONEER BURL TOLER'S LIFE WILL INSPIRE Bay Area SPORTS FANS (MY DAD AND JUSTIN'S PAPA)
Ellen Garrett on a tree of life (For two Justin's MOMS) WAS IT A COINCIDENCE?

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Sedona Silent Grief Child Loss
Sudden Cardiac Arrest SCA University of San Francisco World Peace
www.justincarr-wantsworldpeace.org

NOVEMBER 2021

Calendar for November 2021 showing days of the week and dates.

• Sep

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PREVIOUS POST

"The Hands Of My Father"... By Justin Carr

NEXT POST

"This Little Light of Mine "Happy 20th Bday Justin"

2 THOUGHTS ON "THE LABOR OF LOVE CONTINUES AT THE BEACH"

Geri JULY 29, 2016 AT 11:13 AM No words... You said it all in action and song. xxxxxx

REPLY

Pepper edminster JULY 29, 2016 AT 9:27 AM

Sorry to miss this loving event. We miss our son david every day and need experiences like this to keep us moving. We have been in Philadelphia for the convention, which was so inspiring. But, every time someone spoke about the loss of a child, I sobbed for that person's pain and for my own great sorrow, sending love and strength to my sisters in sorrow. Love. Pepper

REPLY

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