

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

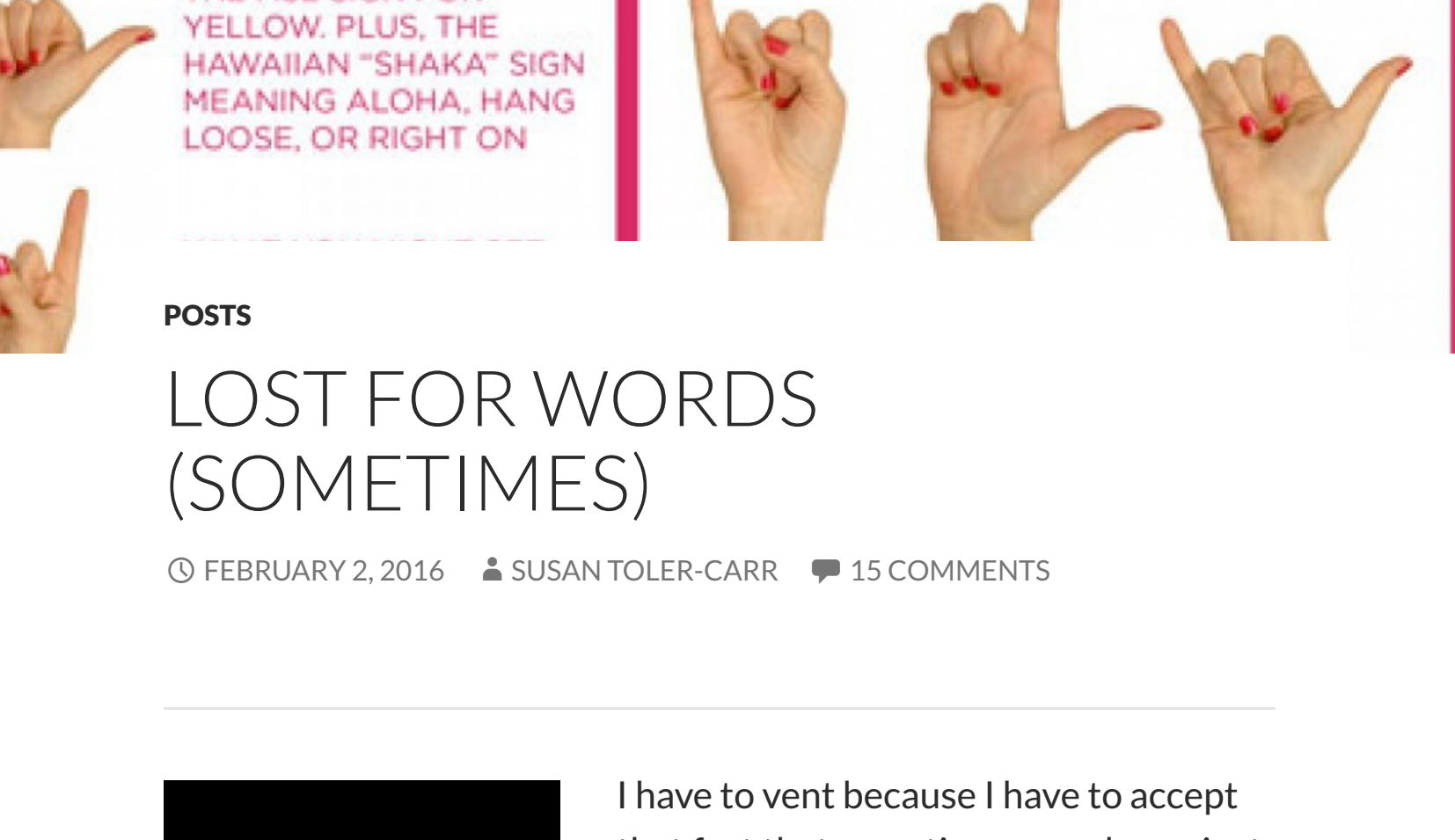
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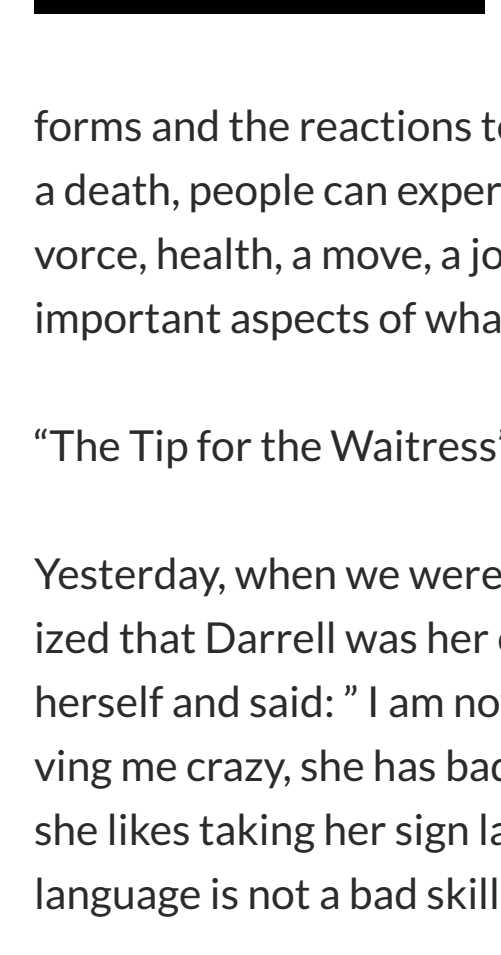
VALENTINE I LOVE YOU



NOT I LOVE YOU
THE ASL SIGN FOR YELLOW, PLUS, THE HAWAIIAN "SHAKA" SIGN MEANING ALOHĀ, HANG LOOSE, OR RIGHT ON

LOST FOR WORDS (SOMETIMES)

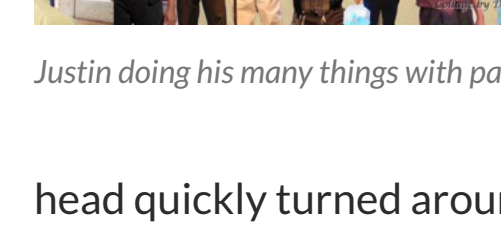
FEBRUARY 2, 2016 SUSAN TOLER-CARR 15 COMMENTS



I have to vent because I have to accept that fact that sometimes people are just lost for words when they hear my story about Justin. This week I encountered two people yesterday and today. What I have learned these past few years without Justin in our world is that generally most people find it uncomfortable to remotely talk about the death or loss of someone in your life. Hell, it could even be from a loss of a pet-which in fact can also shift someone's life. What I learned through (an education process) is that Grief and Loss comes in all shapes and forms and the reactions to them are unique to each person. Besides a death, people can experience grief from loss of a relationship, divorce, health, a move, a job, a disability etc. so the following are the important aspects of what I wanted to share:

"The Tip for the Waitress"

Yesterday, when we were eating at a restaurant, the waitress realized that Darrell was her college professor and she reintroduced herself and said: "I am now the mother of a 17-year old who is driving me crazy, she has bad grades, wants to enlist in the Navy but she likes taking her sign language classes." I gently told her that sign language is not a bad skill to have."



Justin doing his many things with passion!

Then, I looked at her and told her that we lost our son -however, and we let him "be" who he wanted to be. Sometimes what you think is success it is not just about the Grades or the GPA-if the student is not happy, lost, or not seeking her passions this could be very detrimental in the long run.

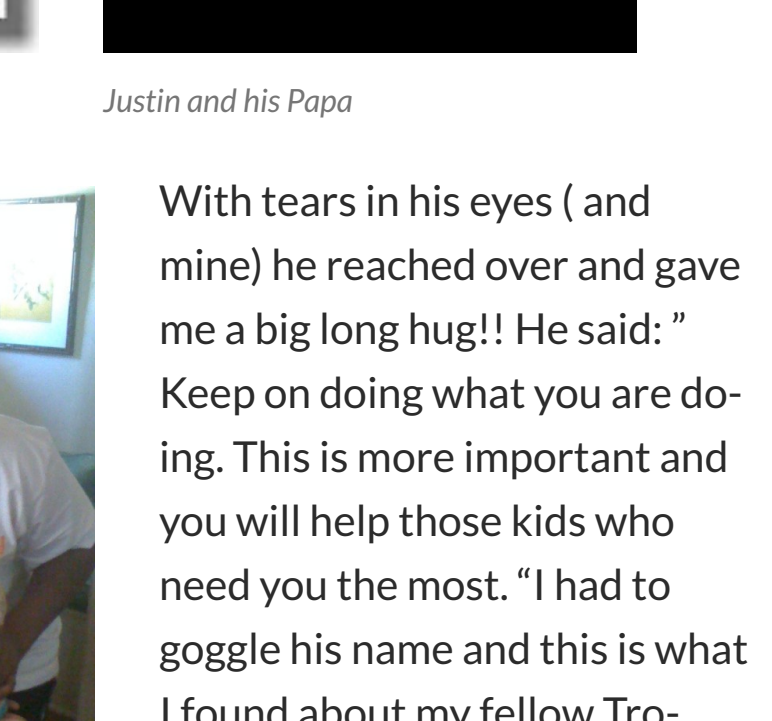
When I told her how Justin died suddenly and unexpectedly she said assuredly: "At least he died quickly and did not have cancer!" Ok, you know what came next (my head quickly turned around) and I politely told her: "You know it does not matter how someone died (suddenly or prolonged), what age (young or old) it changes you and any kind of loss can be unimaginable. There is no timeline or method to how people deal with it. She straightened up and said with a hug: "I guess I will accept my daughter the way she is." I said: "That's not a bad option to have." I could have gone on and on ... But I think the tip was well received. As for me, (always Justin's Mom), I have learned to try and educate people who may not know what to say. Honestly, I did not always know what to say either...

"A Doctor with Bedside Manners"

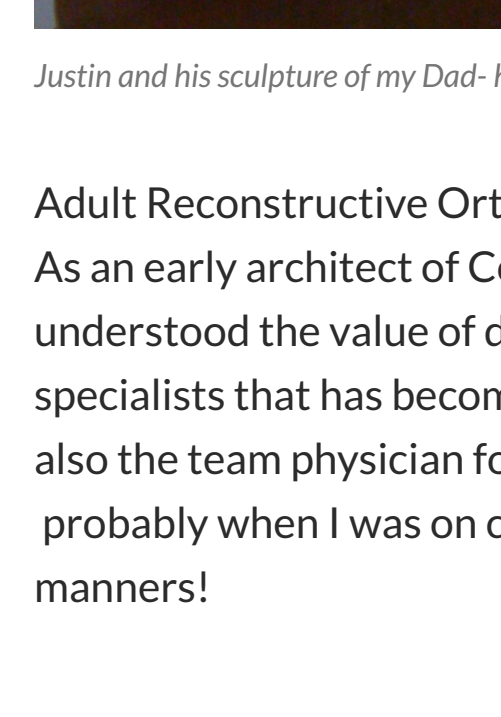
Flip side today I went to my orthopedic surgeon Dr. Richard Diehl. He is a dapper gentleman who wears colorful bow ties, vests and socks and most importantly, he has the best bedside manners!!!

He has been practicing for 48 years and he is the father of two daughters. When I have my appointment, I always ask about them. One is a senior in high school and the other a senior in college. He said: "Every time I see your name on the chart I get a chill before I come into the room, because you know honey, no one should experience the loss of a child. It is just too much." Then we spoke about his kids and I told him I am on a new mission to try and help students find their passion and regain "their voice" and their curiosity for learning- because that is what we did for Justin." He said that there is so much undue pressure on these kids today and I tell my daughters to: "Do your best and your best is good enough." I lost it at that point because that is the same phrase I heard over and over again from my Dad.

My Dad often told my siblings, his students and all the kids he encountered this same phrase...



Justin and his Papa



Justin and his sculpture of my Dad- his Papa

With tears in his eyes (and mine) he reached over and gave me a big long hug!!! He said: "Keep on doing what you are doing. This is more important and you will help those kids who need you the most." I had to goggle his name and this is what I found about my fellow Trojan..."

We all know that Justin wanted to become an architect. The resume noted that Dr. Diehl is an "architect" in his field... "Richard C. Diehl, M.D.

Adult Reconstructive Orthopaedics

As an early architect of Congress Orthopaedic Associates, Dr. Diehl understood the value of developing a core practice of outstanding specialists that has become the leader in orthopaedic skills. He was also the team physician for USC's athletic department for 20 years- probably when I was on campus. And I must add, he has the best manners!

PREVIOUS POST MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

NEXT POST Juju is still Dancing...

15 THOUGHTS ON "LOST FOR WORDS (SOMETIMES)"

Bootsy Baby

MARCH 6, 2016 AT 5:31 PM

So glad that you share so freely. The story of the dr. made me wonder what generation he calls his. While I was at USC, I struggled to get an academic foothold. That was a new sensation for me. Until then, I'd always been an accomplished student. Success came easily. I was either valedictorian or salutatorian for kindergarten, Jr. High and High school graduations. My freshman year, my dad's sage advice, carried me forward and got me over many a hump; 'daughter, do the best that you can and take pride in knowing you did your best work!'

REPLY

NY

FEBRUARY 14, 2016 AT 4:35 PM

Susan,

I do not know what to say, just keep writing

REPLY

Donna Dotson

FEBRUARY 14, 2016 AT 12:02 AM

Susan, I am always touched and empowered by what you share. Please continue doing what God has gifted you to do. You are helping so many parents and people in general. You are a wonderful woman, mother, and friend. Love You Donna

REPLY

David G

FEBRUARY 8, 2016 AT 5:10 PM

Sometimes it seems like the entire world is engineered so that we cannot let one another just BE. It is the quiet voices like yours that make a difference. Reading your essays, I always hear John Lennon's "Imagine" in the background: "Imagine all the people living life in peace"

REPLY

Dona Mitoma

FEBRUARY 8, 2016 AT 1:38 AM

Loved hearing about your appointment with Dr. Diehl. You helped the waitress (and ex-student) in understanding a little more of the world. Great work, dear Susan!

REPLY

Megan Meehan

FEBRUARY 5, 2016 AT 3:25 PM

I lost my dad 38 years ago and sometimes the pain is still the same as it was just yesterday

REPLY

Noreen

FEBRUARY 5, 2016 AT 7:09 AM

There was a butterfly in that exam room, I am sure of it. I love you!!! Miss you.

REPLY

Debra "SMILELaDe" Johnson

FEBRUARY 4, 2016 AT 8:53 PM

Beautiful, I love that you included both sides .you have such a gift and I am glad you are sharing a piece of Justin everyday, he had the BEST parents , and still guiding and hugging you every day "My Indigo Child" Keep me on your List

REPLY

Anonymous

FEBRUARY 4, 2016 AT 6:45 PM

Susan, I applaud you for doing what you are best qualified for AND you have the heart for it. What with the curse words? You don't need them to make your point. You are a knowledgeable, most talented woman who is highly admired and respected. Love you much. Dorothy

REPLY

Auntie Gloria

FEBRUARY 4, 2016 AT 11:58 AM

I look forward to your e-mails. Please continue to share. It was good to see you, your husband and niece and her friend a few weeks ago, even though the visit was brief. Always love, Auntie

REPLY

Latrell

FEBRUARY 4, 2016 AT 11:11 AM

Susan, Never stop writing or expressing your feelings. Your emotions are valid. I am touched by all that you share.

REPLY

Zofia

FEBRUARY 4, 2016 AT 10:37 AM

I don't know anyone else who has been able to bring so much inspiration from such a huge loss. Thank you!

REPLY

Marianne (Kearney) Wright

FEBRUARY 4, 2016 AT 10:27 AM

Terrific thoughts Susan. Thanks for sharing a snippet of your life. I always enjoy reading and your musings always leaves me thinking! That's a good thing.

REPLY

Anonymous

FEBRUARY 4, 2016 AT 9:59 AM

Hi Susan, I was just thinking about you this morning. Thank you for sharing and as Dr. Diehl said, keep on doing what you are doing. We need you two! Talk to you soon. Donna

REPLY

Marianne Hall

FEBRUARY 3, 2016 AT 11:31 AM

Susan this piece weaves so many great stories, words of wisdom, and life lessons — into one! Thank you! Justin's Ms. Hall

REPLY

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NOVEMBER 2021

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