



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

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POSTS

THIS SWIMMER CAUGHT MY EAR

APRIL 10, 2015 SUSAN TOLER-CARR 1 COMMENT



The First Annual Justin Carr Memorial Swim Meet was held yesterday March 2, 2014. Yesterday, we did it. I walked the pool, I touched the water... I made the sign of the cross. I said a prayer, and thinking of my baby Justin made me smile through my tears.

what can I say about the friendship you had with Justin was a gift. Justin's Art Teacher Ms. Hall designed the trophy which is a image of Justin doing the butterfly, the sun from Justin's infamous "happy to see the sun come up", the triangle is synonymous with the "renaissance man, Loyola had a special cheer for Justin, and we saw so many kids who swam with Justin on the Rose bowl club team.

Thank you everyone. Justin, there are no more words.. Love you and miss you more.

My guardian angel Nina Avalos-Juarez

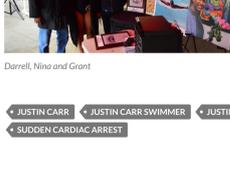
who only met my baby Justin Carr World-Peace for the first time ONE HOUR before his untimely transition sent me this gift via a FB message back in November 2013. I read it all the time because it proves to me that Justin was living his life to the fullest up until the moments right before is untimely passing.

Hello!

I'm sure you are probably wondering who I am. My name is Nina Juarez. I am currently a sophomore at Harvard-Westlake. Now you're probably wondering, "Why is this girl I have never met before messaging me?" Well the reason why I am messaging you is because I want to thank you. On February 22, 2013 I met a very special person who, little did I know, was going to change my life. His name was Justin Carr. On that day I was going to the Upper school (since I was in 9th grade then I had to take the sports shuttle) to swim practice with Coach Carroll. When we first got there Carroll told us that we were going to watch some film first. That is where I saw Justin for the first time. He was surrounded by all of his friends. He was so happy and joyful which made me so excited to get to swim with him. It was pretty much my first time swimming with the swim team since I had just finished Water Polo. Anyway, there was a little time before Carroll could get the projector up so everyone was just chatting. I remember Justin was laughing about some broken chair next to him. He was so funny and I was laughing so hard. I'm sure that that was one of the hardest times I have ever laughed. Him and Coach Carroll were also talking about this movie called Pride and also Coach Carroll was congratulating him on bringing Samuel L. Jackson to the school. Then, Coach Carroll told us that we were going to get into the pool. I remember being so excited because Justin and me were in the same lane. I had never talked to him but he kept on making me laugh so hard and I know if we ever had the chance we would be the best of friends. He kept on joking about how cold the pool was and how he didn't want to get in. A few minutes in they made him go into some of the faster lanes because he was way faster than al of us in the slow lane. I just told myself I would talk to him after practice no big deal. And then the unthinkable happened. I just remember telling myself "He is going to be okay, everything is fine". And then when I got the email I could barely breathe. All I could say is "He was right there... I saw him... he was okay.... I remember how supportive everyone was on Monday. I was in Vocal Ensemble at the time and I had just finished talking to my dean so I was a little late to class. I was about to tell Ms. Burtchaeil why I was late but all she did was hug me and she said while she was hugging me and crying "I love you". I don't know what I would do without her. She let me stay in the choir room after Vocal Ensemble, since I had a free, with the Madrigals. Ms. Burtchaeil talked about Justin and how he was in Madrigals too. The Madrigals started singing a song called Voces Lucis. I have never heard the madrigals sound so beautiful and it was all for Justin. When I went to the vigil I had never seen a place so full of love and compassion. His friends sang beautiful songs for him and your Husband sang Our Father so beautifully. It inspired me to learn more about this incredible boy. When I was looking around heard his beautiful voice in the recording of Tomorrow from Annie and it's all right. I dedicated my swim season to Justin and tried to do the best I could. When I finally learned to do the butterfly, the right way, I was overjoyed! Coach Carroll was so proud that he let me do the 50 butterfly for JV at the Championships! After school ended I decided to go to this choir camp at Idyllwild because I heard my new choral teacher, Mr. Guerrero was faculty there and a some kids from HW were going. During this I met Adam Lange, Benny Weisman, Michelle Lee, and Landon Fadel at Idyllwild. All of them sang with Justin and always used to sing It's all right during our breaks. I became really close with all of them. One day we where singing this song called Dawn (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vn3DA-JEmkQ) our conductor starting crying. She started talking about this girl who used to sing for her and had just passed after she got Pneumonia. Immediately after this you saw all the Harvard-Westlake kids one by one starting to cry up a storm as we tried to sing it again. Benny was right in back of me and as soon as he saw me look at him and start crying and he just hugged me without saying a word as if he knew me and knew everything. We all one by one got out of our seat and went to this little stairway right next to the choir room. And we all just hugged each other and Mr. Guerrero came outside to talk us and he said "aren't you glad you have each other?". If I weren't crying my face off I would have said "I am so happy to have met these people and bond with them like I have never bonded with anyone". After this, I saw the mail about Hairspray and knew I had to audition. I worked countless hours practicing over and over my lines, songs, and dances moves. When the cast list came out and I saw Benny and I both made it. I was too happy for words. I was cast as one of Maybelle's crew and I couldn't be happier. I made so many friends during the time we were all practicing. As it came closer to opening night I worked I hard as I could to get everything perfect. I met with Dr. Faultus twice to go over my alto part even when he said I had it solid. When it came to opening night I was so excited and scared but I knew I had to do it for him. Each time before the performance I would hide my Justin bracelet in my pockets or under my shoe for good luck. During the last performance right before we were about to go on for "I know where I've Been" we all where outside and we all agreed that we had to sing the loudest and strongest we've ever sung it for Justin. While we were singing I Know Where I've Been everything finally made sense to me. From the first day I met him he's been with me. Every time I swam he was right there cheering me on. When I was almost too scared too audition he was there with me. When I auditioned with I Know Where I've Been he was standing right there supporting me. And when I was on that stage he was right next to us singing with us. As I held Kennedy Green's and Daniel Davila's hands I felt so strong and so safe. As if nothing could tear us apart. I don't know if you saw but everyone on that stage was crying but all of us were trying to sing as loudly and beautifully as we could through those tears. I have never felt anymore love than I felt on that stage that night. After the song Zita hugged me and I was so happy. That was the happiest night of my life so far. And it was all because of Justin.

Every heart he has touched has become a better person because of him. He showed me how to be "Big Blonde and Beautiful", how to do the Madison, and has taught me the most important lessons of all ... To love and be loved. To hug everyone as if this could be the last. To sing and dance like nobody's watching. That you're never fully dressed without a smile. And that being yourself is the best you, you can be. You may not remember this but when you came around and hugged me and I started crying, you didn't say, "Who are you?" or "and why are you crying you didn't even know him"; you said "It's okay. It all right". And you loved me without even knowing who I was. You and him and your husband have changed my life forever and I cannot thank you enough for that. So thank you. Thank you for hugging me. Thank you for loving me even though you didn't know me. You and your husband were the best parents Justin could ever hope for. If I could talk to Justin just one I would thank him for letting me into his dream. Thank you, your husband and Justin for being my angels in disguise.

Love and Peace, Nina Juarez (Motormouth's Gang Member)



Darrell, Nina and Grant

JUSTIN CARR JUSTIN CARR SWIMMER JUSTIN CARR WANTS WORLD PEACE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

PREVIOUS POST A DAY INTERRUPTED WHEN ALL YOU ARE TRYING TO DO IS JUST YOUR JOB

NEXT POST BACK TO SCHOOL-FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULES

ONE THOUGHT ON "THIS SWIMMER CAUGHT MY EAR"

Dr. Margie Baker JUNE 12, 2021 AT 11:38 PM All I can say is this is the most beautiful blog I have ever read. From all that has been expressed here by you and Nina; by all the descriptions of his character, his relationships with his friends; his interests in art, music, drama, and sports. I, too, can feel his loving spirit though I have never met him. And I, too, love Justin Carr Wants World Peace with all the love there is. All glory to God.

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Suzanna Camejo on Life as a Walt Disney imagineer and beyond
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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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www.justincarr-wantsworldpeace.org

NOVEMBER 2021

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

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