

No one should have to grieve alone.
William Wendt

Wendt Center Today

WENDT CENTER
FOR LOSS AND HEALING

Winter/Spring 2010

Making Toast . . . and coping with grief

Roger Rosenblatt is Guest Speaker at 34th Annual Benefit

Losing a child is something no parent should have to experience. When they suddenly and tragically lost their daughter, Roger Rosenblatt and his wife, Ginny, embarked upon one of the most painful journeys imaginable.

Mr. Rosenblatt, author, essayist, and journalist, was guest speaker at this year's 34th Annual Benefit on November 4th at the Four Seasons. Two years ago, the Rosenblatts' daughter, Amy Elizabeth, 38-year-old surgeon and mother of three, collapsed on her treadmill and died. The Rosenblatts moved in with their widowed son-in-law to help care for their three grandchildren as they struggled to cope with Amy's

Sharing Grief with our Haitian Neighbors



Wendt Center staff and Crisis Response Team members helped to organize a candlelight vigil at the Embassy of Haiti for DC residents of Haitian origin mourning the loss of a loved one in the recent, devastating earthquake.

The Center is reaching out to those living in our community who are affected by this tragedy.

sudden death. While he was not able to write about his family's ordeal for a long time, Mr. Rosenblatt eventually published an essay, "Making Toast," in *New Yorker Magazine*. The article evolved into a book by the same title that was published in February.

It was a great honor for this year's benefit attendees to hear the Rosenblatts' story, share in some small measure in their grief, and celebrate with them some of the moments of peace, laughter, and joy that they were able to discover in their new roles as caregivers to their grandchildren. Guests alternately wiped away tears and howled in laughter as Rosenblatt took us through colorful, candid moments of his family's daily life - a life forever changed for them all.

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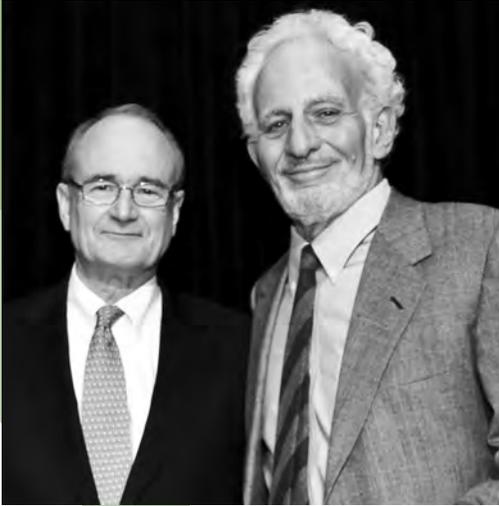
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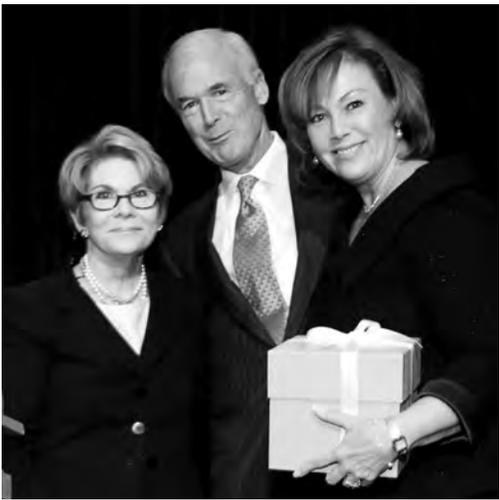
Roger Rosenblatt (right) chats with Jim Lehrer (center) and David Gregory (emcee) at our 34th Annual Benefit. Mr. Rosenblatt held the audience spellbound with a moving account of how the death of his daughter impacted his family.

34th Annual Benefit Honors Outstanding Supporters



Dr. Bruce Sklarew accepts the 2009 William A. Wendt Award presented by Board Chair John Franklin.

Psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Dr. Bruce Sklarew received the 2009 William A. Wendt Award, established in 1996 to honor individuals who have made significant and enduring contributions to the Wendt Center. Dr. Sklarew was the catalyst for launching our nationally renowned RECOVER Program at the city morgue. He was also Principal Investigator for the Center's School-Based Mourning Project and co-edited *Analysts in the Trenches: Streets, Schools and War Zones*, documenting the project as an evidence-based group intervention for grieving children. Our thanks to Dr. Sklarew, a most skilled and tireless advocate for the mission of the Wendt Center.



Kathryn and Michael Hanley receive 2009 Elizabeth B. Durrie Award presented by Carol Pensky.

With deepest appreciation for their many years of staunch and generous support of the Wendt Center, Kathryn and Michael Hanley were selected to receive this year's Elizabeth B. Durrie Award. Through their pivotal leadership and financial support, Kathryn and Michael have played a critical role in helping the Center stay a steady course through times of economic challenge to maintain its position as leader in the field of grief and traumatic loss. The Durrie Award was created to honor and acknowledge individuals or organizations that have been fundamental to the work, growth, and longevity of the Center.

Many new supporters attended the Benefit this year, thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of a vibrant Junior Committee.



Thank you.

Our heartfelt thanks to this year's Benefit Co-chairs:

Carol Pensky
Kathryn Hanley
Bobbi Smith

and to

Junior Committee Co-chairs:

Gina Coburn
Darcy Langdon
Jennifer Wood

Thank you.

Special thanks to our Wendt Circle, Gold, Platinum and Silver Sponsors, to our Benefactors, Sponsors, and Friends

Save the Date

35th Anniversary Benefit

Thursday, November 4, 2010
Four Seasons Hotel



Kathryn Hanley, Carol Pensky and Bobbi Smith, 2009 Benefit Co-chairs

Kathryn Hanley, Carol Pensky and Bobbi Smith, 2009 Benefit Co-chairs

For more than three decades, Wendt Center volunteers have compassionately served residents of the Washington Metropolitan area. Each year, over 200 highly trained volunteers unselfishly give their time to assist grieving children and adults who have experienced the loss of a loved one. With open hearts, soft words, and a gentle touch, these dedicated volunteers provide comfort and support to individuals on their journey to finding healing through hope and the knowledge that they are not alone.

In October 2009, the Center welcomed Kecia Hill as Volunteer Coordinator. Herself a former Wendt Center volunteer, Kecia brings knowledge of the organization and much creativity, passion and vision to her new role. Having served as a Crisis Response Team (CRT) member and a camp volunteer, Kecia says,



2009 Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC volunteers await the arrival of their young campers.

Volunteers help us shine



Volunteer Coordinator
Kecia Hill

"I'm truly inspired by the work of all the volunteers ~ whether they help families through home visits, groups, camp or rituals of remembrance. I feel blessed to be a part of something larger than myself. As we help others, we ourselves are being transformed from the inside out."

The Wendt Center has always been strongly committed to engaging the skills and dedication of volunteers throughout all its programs. We are launching an aggressive recruitment campaign to further expand and diversify our existing base of volunteers, providing them with relevant, cutting-edge training so that they can be as effective as possible in the important work they do. Through the commitment, dedication and unwavering support of our Wendt Center volunteers, we will continue to touch hearts and transform lives one person, one family at a time.



Dedicated Crisis Response Team (CRT) volunteers respond to the urgent needs of families affected by sudden loss.

WE NEED YOU!!

We are currently seeking Camp volunteers and volunteers to help with our Butterfly event! Check our website for more information!

"Through the commitment, dedication and unwavering support of [our] volunteers, we will continue to touch hearts and transform lives . . ."

News briefs . . .

Wendt Center staff were invited to conduct numerous trainings around the region, including:

Childhood Responses to Grief and Short-Term Techniques to Help Children Deal with Grief, keynote speech at the NIMH conference in February.

Effects of grief and loss on children and ways to help children cope at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center.

Grieving Children and Adolescents at Gallaudet University.

Grief and Loss and the Wendt Center Wrap-around Service Model to the United States Army Reserve.

Watch for a *Washington Post* article on the Wendt Center to appear at the end of March in the Wellness Section!



Second Annual Memorial Butterfly Release!

Sunday, May 23, 2010

2:00 - 4:00

Garfield Park

3rd and G Street, SE (near Capitol Hill)
Capitol South metro stop (Orange/Blue line)

This year's Memorial Butterfly Release promises to be even more beautiful and moving than our first. Don't miss this very unique opportunity to remember someone you loved or to honor someone special in your life.

If you can't be there, you can *still* participate. Details and order information can be found by clicking the butterfly link on our website: (www.wendtcenter.org).

If you want to **give back**, if you want to be part of a **dedicated**, committed team of individuals serving those affected by **grief and loss** in the metropolitan DC area, we can put your **skills** to good use. Check our **website** for more information. **Call us.**

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