



Volume 14

Fall 2012

Three Brides by Joe & Debbie Mayer



New Years Day, 8 and 1/2 years ago started out as a very special day. Our home was filled with joy, excitement, and many relatives. That day was not only ushering in a New Year, but was also filled with the anticipation of my son's wedding, which was to take place only two days later. After enjoying a festive brunch and visiting with our out-of-town family, my son left to pick up his best man from the airport and head to Willmar, MN, where the wedding was to take place. A while after, my three daughters—Krista 19, Nikki 17, and Jessica 12—followed in their car to join the other four

bridesmaids and bride-to-be for a pre-wedding dinner and overnight. Just one mile short of their destination, their earthly lives ended in a car collision and they became three brides in heaven as they met their Heavenly Bridegroom and King. Though our journey is filled with much heartache and sorrow, we know that one day we will see them again. But in the meantime, we are reminded that they are very alive by the timely appearances of their favorite creatures. Specifically, Krista, our oldest, loved Dragonflies. Because of this, when we received the packet from Anne Brooker it was not only touching, but very personal as well. There are numerous such appearances, too many to tell, so I will share two special stories with you.

Three Brides continued on page 5

Luck Visits by Julie A. Bonde

I first met Annie Young in a painting hanging on a wall. I had just had lunch with my husband, Pete, in the cafeteria of his office building. I was walking by a wall with several artworks on it and suddenly a bright fiery orange painting with a stunning dragonfly on it jumped out at me. I did a double take and back-pedaled to take a closer look. I was just stunned at this vibrant and magnificent expression of our favorite symbol of hope, the dragonfly. As I walked away with my husband, I asked if he could find the artist's name and contact info so we could contact them. As he walked away I added, "I want a print of that painting to hang in our house." Pete found the artist to be Annie Young. He emailed her and told her we wanted to buy a couple prints for our organization, the Dragonfly Project. And he told her that we wanted to meet her. Annie immediately felt the same; that she wanted to meet us.

Luck Visits continued on page 4



A Word From Anne Brooker, Founder

Hello all!

As we move into the brisker part of our year here in Minnesota, I want to take a moment to say hello to all our supporters, volunteers, and friends and give a brief update on what The Dragonfly Project (TDP) has been up to for the past few months.

We began a new school-outreach program, headed by volunteer Kathy Stein. When we hear of a student death, TDP responds by sending signed packets to all the school's staff. We also send an inscribed copy of *The Dragonfly Door* by John Adams in memory of the student for the school's library. Death of a classmate or student is a jarring and tragic experience that affects an entire school. We hope this new outreach will alleviate some of their collective grief.

As we all watch the continued news coverage of Hurricane Sandy, our hearts go out to those affected by the storm. The Dragonfly Project is preparing, with heavy hearts, to reach out to the victims' families. Our thoughts are with every one affected—we wish you all well in the aftermath of the storm as you look to rebuild and recover.

Thank you all for your support of TDP. We truly value all that you do.

Best,



Anne Brooker, Founder

Dragonflies “Attend” WWII Commemoration by Juanita Carroll

February 19, 2012 marked the 70th anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Darwin back in 1942. My hubby was a toddler at the time and he with his mother and siblings were evacuated along with other women and children on December 22, 1941, prior to this event. We have visited Darwin on just a few occasions in the past two years and decided to return again to attend the services for the commemoration.



While attending the ceremonies in the parkland above the harbor, we noticed many dragonflies darting across the large screen that had been erected for

easy viewing of the ceremonies. Their appearance struck a chord with us, especially with this being a memorial service for those who had lost their lives on that fateful day.

However, sometime later when returning to our hotel we became aware of a large dragonfly hovering near my shoulder. We were on an elevated walkway where we needed to enter a lift, to descend five stories to the ground level parkland beside the harbor foreshore.

By the time we reached the lift, the dragonfly had settled on the sleeve of my blouse. So with bated breath we entered the lift, and took the ride to the ground, along

with our new-found companion. Walking out of the lift, our dragonfly remained on my sleeve for another few minutes, before flying off into the sunlight. But, not before we took a photo of it...very special!

The amazing twist is that when sharing our evening meal with local friends, we commented on the presence of the dragonflies at the ceremony and were told “Impossible! It’s the wet season and dragonflies don’t appear until the dry! You never see dragonflies during the wet season!”... An interesting response! So glad we took the photo!

[Juanita Carroll lives in Australia]



Adopt-a-State Update by Stan Liedman

The Adopt-a-State program continues to be an integral part of the Dragonfly Project. Through their work, our devoted volunteers have allowed the Dragonfly Project to reach many families who have lost loved ones living in many cities and states across the country. They watch the obituaries in newspapers from the area of their choice and distribute condolence cards containing a dragonfly key chain to grieving families. This year, our volunteers have sent cards to over 2,200 grieving families, which is about a 25% increase from last year at this time. The program continues to grow.

My wife Lynn and I have been coordinators for the Adopt-a-State program since it was established in 2009 with the first packets being shipped in February 2010. Since then, Adopt-a-State has continued

to grow and allowed the Dragonfly Project to reach far and wide. We always welcome new volunteers as we know that despite our best efforts many families with tragic losses do not get packets since we do not cover all areas. Most of our volunteers are from families who have received packets. They realized the positive impact that the dragonfly message had on them and felt compelled to become part of the Dragonfly Project. That is also what led us to volunteer. We lost our daughter Michelle in March 2004 and received a packet. We first couldn't believe that somewhere there were loving people who cared about us and noticed our loss. We came to the annual celebration that first year and found comfort and love and wanted to help spread the message of hope. We love the experience of volunteering and would welcome anybody who would be interested.

Volunteering for the Adopt-a-State is a very easy volunteering opportunity and is something that makes one's heart feel close to those whom are grieving. We work with our new volunteers to find an area large or small for them to monitor. We help to identify newspapers for the area that they would cover. If you are interested please contact us at StanL@dragonflyproject.org and we will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

My Dragonfly Miracle by Lisa Grant

Our beautiful daughter, Tara, died tragically on June 24, 2007, at the age of 21. We received a dragonfly packet from a community friend who had lost her husband recently and it provided us with hope during a devastating time.

We had moved away from our community for a couple of years and returned in 2010 to be close to our daughter and grandson.

Shortly after we moved back, I was outside tending to my flowers and witnessed the largest dragonfly I have ever seen in my life. This miracle was so significant as this dragonfly held onto a pole near my flowers for an extended period of time, I quickly ran into the house and grabbed my phone to take pictures and when I returned the dragonfly was still there. It allowed me to get so close to take the pictures. Tara's favorite color was lime green. The sightings of dragonflies always bring me a feeling of hope and comfort and they are a sign to me that Tara is with me all of the time.

I have since sent many packets to those who are grieving the death of a loved one and am grateful for this project that brings a sense of hope, comfort and healing to so many.

Here is a picture of our whole family on our family trip to celebrate Tara's graduation from High School. It was taken in 2006, on our Zipline Excursion in Belize.

On the left is Tina (Tara's sister), Tara, Lisa and Gordy. Blessings and peace to all who mourn. ~Lisa Grant



Luck Visits (continued from page 1)

On an early December day in 2009, Pete and I met Annie for lunch. Pete had told me she was blind but I didn't know what to expect. I know I wasn't expecting so much joy, enthusiasm and generosity. I know I wasn't expecting Annie. I still find it hard to remember that she is blind. Her vision of God's grace is so clear and vibrant.



Annie's painting as it turned out was called, Luck Visits. It was something her grandmother had told her; that dragonflies are good luck. After her grandmother died, she was working with her grandmother's flowers and a dragonfly touched Annie's cheek as it flew by. Annie knew it was a reminder from her grandmother and God. The base coat for the painting contains bits of flower petals from her grandmother's flowers mixed with vibrant orange, a spirit color. And floating over it all is the dragonfly. Annie wrote to me, "For years the crook of my neck has cradled a dragonfly charm. My fingers would most certainly gravitate to the charm

throughout any given day as a means to calm my nerves, focus my energy during prayer or a distracting device for anxious fingers. Needless to say, over time, I have come to know every detail of that charm." She was wearing that necklace, with the same charm as we use on our key chains, on her neck the day we met her.

Annie is a very generous person. Without hesitation she donated her artwork to The Dragonfly Project to use as we wished. So this year, at our 10th Anniversary Celebration, we unveiled our newest card with Annie's precious painting on the front. Annie also shares The Dragonfly Project with others and often gives away a dragonfly key chain to people that she meets while out and about. She always carries an extra just in case.



Recently, Annie's art was featured by RAW artists on their website and in a video. You can learn more at www.rawartists.org/annieyoungarts and see her on video here www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwfA10lgyQg&feature=plcp

Annie's blog/website is www.annieyoungarts.blogspot.com

Luck visits, indeed! Meeting Annie was one of the luckiest days of my life. And now we have another partner in our ministry of spreading hope.

Share Your Dragonfly Story

Your stories are important. Through this newsletter, your wonderful stories about your loved ones and your experiences with dragonflies have helped countless people in their time of grieving. We thank you for sharing them and would encourage you to continue to share your stories.

If you would like to share your story, send an e-mail to: BuzzetteEditor@dragonflyproject.org.



Photo by Karl Bonde--bondekidphotos.wordpress.com

Three Brides (continued from page 1)

Five months after the girls died, my husband and I were in Redwing, MN, climbing the bluffs after a Memorial Concert for the girls. This is something we did when camping there with our kids. When at the top of the bluff I started singing *The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music* and began playfully running and spinning in circles. My girls and I would have done that in a cornball type of way, so I began to cry. All of a sudden not one or two, but exactly three dragonflies hovered over and danced around me! I knew my girls were enjoying that experience as much as me.

I have always sung and written songs and felt that one day I would make a CD. Well, that one day came and *Eternity Calls* was recorded



in 2007 as a special tribute and memorial to my girls. They all sing on it, as well as my son and daughter-in-law. I asked a friend take some photos for the artwork on the CD and we chose a beautiful place by a lake. It was June and I remember thinking, "What would make this perfect is if I saw some dragonflies." Well, a dragonfly actually landed on me as if to say, "Mom, I am so proud of you!" Now because of digital film, we must have had over a hundred pictures! I needed to come to a decision, so I asked a friend to look at them with me. As we were looking I saw something I hadn't seen in all dozens of times I had looked before. In one of the dancing photos, right above my head was not just one, or two, but three dragonflies! Now I knew that all three of my girls were cheering me on! I truly believe that God has given us the dragonfly, along with other beautiful creatures to remind us that life doesn't stop here!

To learn more of our story and hear samples of the *Eternity Calls* CD go to our website at: www.Eternalbrideministries.com



HOPE GROWS

Once upon a time a man wrote a simple story about how dragonflies are symbols of life after death. A little over ten years ago, a little girl was inspired to use that story to bring hope to those who were grieving. Since then, The Dragonfly Project has grown. The message of hope continues to be shared all over the United States and beyond. We have sent packets and/or received donations from every state in the union and even a few other countries including Australia.

See table to the right with yearly statistics of packets distributed. Thanks for all that you do to share this wonderful story of hope !

# of Packets Distributed	Time Period
44,934	Total from the beginning
6,028	Total for 2012, thru October
7,406	Total for 2011
4,072	Total for 2010
4,895	Total for 2009
6,898	Total for 2008
6,832	Total for 2007
4,285	Total for 2006
2,713	Total for 2005
1,304	Total for 2004
314	Total for 2003
187	Total for 2002

Want to Donate?

A. Go to www.dragonflyproject.org

- Click on our **Make a Donation** page and follow instructions there.
- You will be able to click on PayPal or mail in a donation.

B. Go to your PayPal account:

- Click on the tab **Send Money**.
- Enter treasurer@dragonflyproject.org as the e-mail address.
- Follow the PayPal instructions to complete.

C. Go to our GiveMN website:

- givemn.razoo.com/story/The-Dragonfly-Project
- follow the directions on the website to donate with your credit card.

SAVE THE DATE

1:00 p.m.
Saturday
April 6, 2013

11th Annual Dragonfly Project Celebration and Remembrance Event

Nativity Lutheran Church
St. Anthony Village, MN



Please plan to join us for the Eleventh Annual Dragonfly Project Celebration and Remembrance Event on Saturday, April 6, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., at Nativity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. With music and story, we will take time to celebrate the connections we have with each other and with those loved ones we have said goodbye to. The program will be followed by a reception.

We welcome you to invite your family and friends to this heartwarming event. In the past, some people have brought their families and friends to honor their loved one. Others have come by themselves. Watch for more details about The Eleventh Annual Dragonfly Project Celebration and Remembrance Event in March or check out our website, www.dragonflyproject.org.

We hope you can join us for this wonderful event!

Photo Request for Celebration

During the program, TDP will again show a photo montage of loved ones who have died in years past. If you are attending this event and would like to send a photo of your loved one to be shown, please e-mail the photo as a jpeg of the photo along with your loved one's name and a short description of what your loved one liked to do.

(Please keep description to 15 words or less.)

Photos can be e-mailed to: julieb@dragonflyproject.org

Please write "photo montage" in the subject line of the e-mail.

If you submitted a photo last year and would like to

use the same one, please use the e-mail address above to communicate that request and provide reference information about your prior photo.

If you do not have e-mail, you can mail the photo. In addition to attaching the information above, please label the back of the photo with the deceased person's name and also the sender's address, then mail to:

The Dragonfly Project
c/o Julie A. Bonde
2632 Brighton Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

If you want your photo returned, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Photos must be received by March 6, 2013



March 2012-August 2012

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Alan
Given by Dorothy Groom

In Memory of Patrice Anderson, daughter
Given by Jeanne Michaud

In Memory of Jacob Baalson
Given by Kay Baalson

In Memory of Hans Bonde
Given by Karen Bonde
Given by Charlotte Bonde

In Memory of Mark & Dennis Boro
Given by Maureen & Dennis Boro

In Memory of John Carlson
Given by Jody Carlson

In Memory of Sister Maria DeAngeli
Given by Robin Eggert

In Memory of Margaret F. Echan
Given by Leslie Fletcher

In Memory of Ray Englund
Given by Charlotte & Paul Englund

In Memory of Erin Enslin
Given by Gail Holmes

In Memory of Eddie Erzar
Given by Kathy Matschiner

In Memory of Family & Friends
Given by Carolyn Dobis

In Memory of Marie Finneman
Given by Ladonna Kiefert

In Memory of Margot Fowler
Given by Michelle Vomund

In Memory of Bernard Gadiet
Given by Michele Moskwa

In Memory of Granddaughter
Given by Delphine Arme

In Memory of Chet Gromek
Given by Linda Paulson

In Memory of Joseph Gysler
Given by Ladonna Kiefert

In Memory of Tiffany Lane Harmon
Given by Rebecca Harmon

In Memory of Lee Haug
Given by Sharon Thielke

In Memory of Boyd Headlee
Given by Sandra Pettis

In Memory of Brenda Honeyman
Given by Dr. Patricia Kipp

In Memory of Husband
Given by Lavon Sowada

In Memory of Husband
Given by Ruby Mehr

In Memory of Brianna L. Ingvall
Given by Mary Jane Ingvall

In Memory of Michael Jacobs
Given by Kay Bjorke

In Memory of Olivia Jean
Given by Tiffany Ruff

In Memory of Evelyn "Bernice" Johnson
Given by Betty Tucker

In Memory of Theresa M. Kinney
Given by Dennis Kinney

In Memory of Laura Knutson, My Mother
Given by Georgia Savat

In Memory of Robert & Gladys Koetter
Given by Betty Tucker

In Memory of Jason Kraycer
Given by Susan Kraycer

In Memory of Jim Kruger
Given by Sandra Pettis

In Memory of Paul Lawrence
Given by Michele Moskwa

In Memory of Dick Lipa
Given by Margaret Lipa

In Memory of David Luke
Given by Sandy Wallace

In Memory of Ryan Wade Martinez
Given by Joann Hawkes-Peters

In Memory of Aristra, Nikki & Jessica Mayer
Given by Joe Mayer

In Memory of Sean McQuillen
Given by Paula McQuillen

In Memory of Jeremiah Millard
Given by JoAnn & John Bablitch

In Memory of Eugene E. Miller
Given by Elsie Miller

In Memory of Phillip M. Miller
Given by Marlene Miller

In Memory of Bernie Nash
Given by Delphine Arme

In Memory of the life of Jacob Nelson
Given by Kay Cafferty

In Memory of Mrs Helen E Ostrom
Given by Ann Marie Woulfe

In Memory of Matt Pace
Given by Ladonna Kiefert

In Memory of John R. Paul
Given by Audrey Paul

In Memory of Joseph L. Peel
Given by Joseph & Patricia Peel

In Memory of Police Officer Joey Plant
Given by Vicki Plant

In Memory of Greg's Mother, Polly
Given by Robin Eggert

In Memory of Kevin Printz
Given by Sue Fritz

In Memory of Sister Kimberly Prohaska
Given by Robin Eggert

In Memory of Arjean Reynolds
Given by Brian & Sue Holden Gaviglio

In Memory of Sarah c. Richardson
Given by Diane Feeny

In Memory of Robin
Given by Robin Eggert

In Memory of Judy Robinette
Given by Ladonna Kiefert

In Memory of Amanda Rohlman
Given by Linda Rohlman

In Memory of Casey Joe Schluessler
Given by Barbara & Randy Schluessler

In Memory of Casey Schluessler
Given by Marcia Willett

In Memory of Lila, Dan, Rob Schneider
Given by M. J. Schneider

In Memory of Chicko Scholes
Given by Sherilyn Goldammer

In Memory of Rachel Schreiner 6/13/2005
Given by Palmer Ruschke

In Memory of Luther Sheridan
Given by Elizabeth Dwyer

In Memory of Kathleen Sievright
Given by Muilenburg Family Gift Fund

In Memory of Eliana Alciny Sinouthasy
Given by Melanie Larsen Sinouthasy

In Memory of LaVon Sowada
Given by Michael Porter

In Memory of Nancy Steidl
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In Memory of Howard Stiller
Given by Betty Tucker

In Memory of Bill Tombarge
Given by P.J. Tombarge

In Memory of Doris Vaughan
Given by Michael Subialka

In Memory of John Waters
Given by Elizabeth Waters

In Memory of Kathryn "Kat" Wedell-More
Given by Julie LeRud

In Memory of Alberta Whitaker
Given by Norman Whitaker

In Memory of Those Who Have Passed
Given by Carolyn Dobis

In Memory of Nick Wiemann
Given by Donna Wiemann

In Memory of Julie Woltzen
Given by Joyce Woltzen

In Memory of Rosemarie Rink Woulfe
Given by Ann Marie Woulfe

In Memory of Gary Zmija
Given by Marianne Zmija

IN HONOR OF:

In Honor of Jeremy Funston's 30th Birthday
Given by Kimberly Vuckovich

In Honor of Bob Whiting
Given by Janet Otten

GROUP DONATIONS:

Allina Health System
Andra M Alvine Revocable Trust
Creative Soul Design
Morgan Stanley CSA
Nativity Lutheran Church
Prudential Foundation
R & D Water Consultants LLC
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Thrivent Financial Foundation
Thrivent Financial, Mpls Emp Vol Comm
US Bankcorp Foundation

IN KIND DONATIONS:

Annie Young Arts
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Fridley High School
Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
Nativity Lutheran Church
Real Life
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Thomson Reuters
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
United Heart & Vascular Clinic

The Dragonfly Buzzette is the official newsletter of The Dragonfly Project and is published twice a year. The next issue will be published in Spring 2013. The Dragonfly Buzzette committee consists of Julie Bonde, Peter Bonde, Anne Marquardt Brooker, Sharon Foss, Valerie Marquardt, Cheryl Seefeldt, and Jan Stanton.

CHANGES? Have you moved or do you no longer want to receive the Dragonfly Buzzette? Please send these changes to Marcia Kurtz at marciak@dragonflyproject.org (put "address changes" as the subject)
Or The Dragonfly Project, c/o Marcia Kurtz,
46 North 16th Avenue, Hopkins, MN55343



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A message
of hope
to those who
are grieving.



What is The Dragonfly Project?

In 2000, when I was 10 years old, our friends' 11-year-old son, Hans Bonde, died of a brain tumor. Shortly thereafter, I decided to send the family a story about dragonflies and their significance in the cycle of life and death. The story, written by Walter Dudley Cavert, ended with the comforting message: "The fact that we cannot see our loved ones or communicate with them after the transformation, which we call death, is no proof that they cease to exist."

This small gesture so moved the grieving family that, in 2002 at age 11, I decided to create my own nonprofit corporation that would reach out to people who were grieving. I decided to send people who had lost a loved one a condolence card, a copy of the dragonfly story and a dragonfly key chain. I incorporated the organization and named it "The Dragonfly Project."

Anne Marquardt Brooker
Founder

Each year, thousands of dragonfly packets are sent throughout the United States and other countries to individuals who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Each dragonfly packet, which contains a condolence card, the dragonfly story and a dragonfly key chain, costs \$4.00 to make and send. The Dragonfly Project is operated by volunteers and a board of directors. Donations are welcome.

To make a tax deductible donation to The Dragonfly Project or to request a dragonfly packet be sent to you or someone you know, visit our web site at www.dragonflyproject.org. The Dragonfly Project is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit. Your donations are tax deductible. You can mail us your tax deductible donation or your request by downloading the forms on our web site. Donations can be made "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one. Check with your employer to see if they will match your donation.

For further information about The Dragonfly Project's current projects, upcoming events, or ways you can get involved, please visit our web site at www.dragonflyproject.org.