

Emilia's Wings

"There is no footprint so small that it does not leave an imprint on this world."

Website

www.emilias-wings.org

Our website offers a range of materials designed to support you on your journey through grief and healing. You'll find a variety of resources, including eBooks, lists of supporting organizations, recommended reading, music selections, and more.

Be sure to visit our BLOOM page to learn about our monthly Pregnancy & Infant Loss support group meetings.

Facebook

facebook.com/EmiliasWings/

Stay up to date on our projects, special events, and programs by following us on Facebook!

Contact Us

info@emilias-wings.org

You don't have to walk this path alone. Together, we can get through it. Please feel free to reach out to us by email anytime.

February Tulip

Gentle love,
forever held

Delicate and tender,
the tulip shell honors love
that was soft, pure, and
enduring.



February 2026 Newsletter

We welcome you to Emilia's Wings. To those who are newly bereaved, we understand the depth of your devastation and want you to know that you are not alone. We have walked through the darkest valleys of grief ourselves, and we are here to offer unconditional love, support, and understanding. We hope this newsletter provides comfort, guidance, and helpful resources as you navigate your journey through grief. If you know someone who might benefit from our support, please share our website - www.emilias-wings.org and invite them to join our **BLOOM** monthly meetings.

January in Review

Members of BLOOM kicked off the first gathering of the new year last month with the unveiling of our 2026 theme: **"as the seashell holds the song of the ocean, so will I hold you."**

Every person in attendance received a scallop seashell, which we each decoupaged "The Great Wave off Kanagawa" onto. I like to

DATES & EVENTS

BLOOM

February 5th @ 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Kansas City Northland Support Group - Meetings are held every first Thursday of each month.

North Kansas City Public Library
2251 Howell St.
North Kansas City, MO 64116

OTHER

Donations

-Donations can be sent & made payable to Emilia's Wings at:
10637 N. Holmes St, Kansas City,
MO 64155 OR sent via Venmo.

call it the "Shell that Holds the Sea."

We didn't want to send anyone home with an empty shell, so every family was gifted their baby's birth shell and a pearl to place within. You've probably heard of birthstones - gems that correlate with the month in which you were born. A birth shell is the seashell equivalent. Each month's shell carries its own special meanings for those born during that month.

Over the course of the year, our monthly newsletters will highlight that month's birth shell and its symbolism. Last month featured January's "Auger," and this month highlights the "Tulip."

I hope your "Shell that Holds the Sea" and your baby's birth shell are something you all will cherish throughout the years and that they serve as a tangible connection to your baby. May they bring small moments of comfort as you continue to navigate the waves of grief that ebb and flow, just like the tide.



Click on the image above to see photos from our
"Shell that Holds the Sea" crafting night



Please join us for our February BLOOM meeting on Thursday, February 5th from 7:00-8:30 pm at NKC Public Library.

Inclement Weather



It's that time of year again when the weather can be unpredictable, sometimes making it unsafe to gather for our monthly BLOOM meetings. Just a reminder that BLOOM follows North Kansas City School Districts' severe weather procedures. If North Kansas City Schools are canceled due to weather conditions, our BLOOM meetings will also be canceled for the evening. I will send updates via text and email to notify you of any cancellations, providing as much advance notice as possible.

Bereaved Presidents

Did you know that twenty-six of our 45 presidents and their wives were or are bereaved parents to at least one of their children? Our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln, lost two sons during his lifetime.

Edward (4 years old) and William (11 years old), while President Lincoln was in office.

He wrote, *"In this sad world of ours, sorrow comes to all... It comes with bitterest agony. Perfect relief is not possible except with time. You cannot realize that you will ever feel better... and yet this is a mistake. You are sure to be happy again. To know this, which is certainly true, will make you some less miserable now. I have experienced enough to know what I say."*

The president's wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, unable to cope with the assassination of her husband and the death of yet another son, Thomas (18 years old) was confined to a sanitarium. Although she was released after a few months, she was never to be truly well again.

In honor of Presidents Day (February 20th) we pay tribute to all of our US Presidents. We especially hold close to our hearts, all past and current Presidents who have experienced a loss we all know too well... the devastating loss of a child. To read more about the fascinating lives of some of these extraordinary, bereaved figures; check out the following link: [GRIEF IN THE WHITE HOUSE](#).

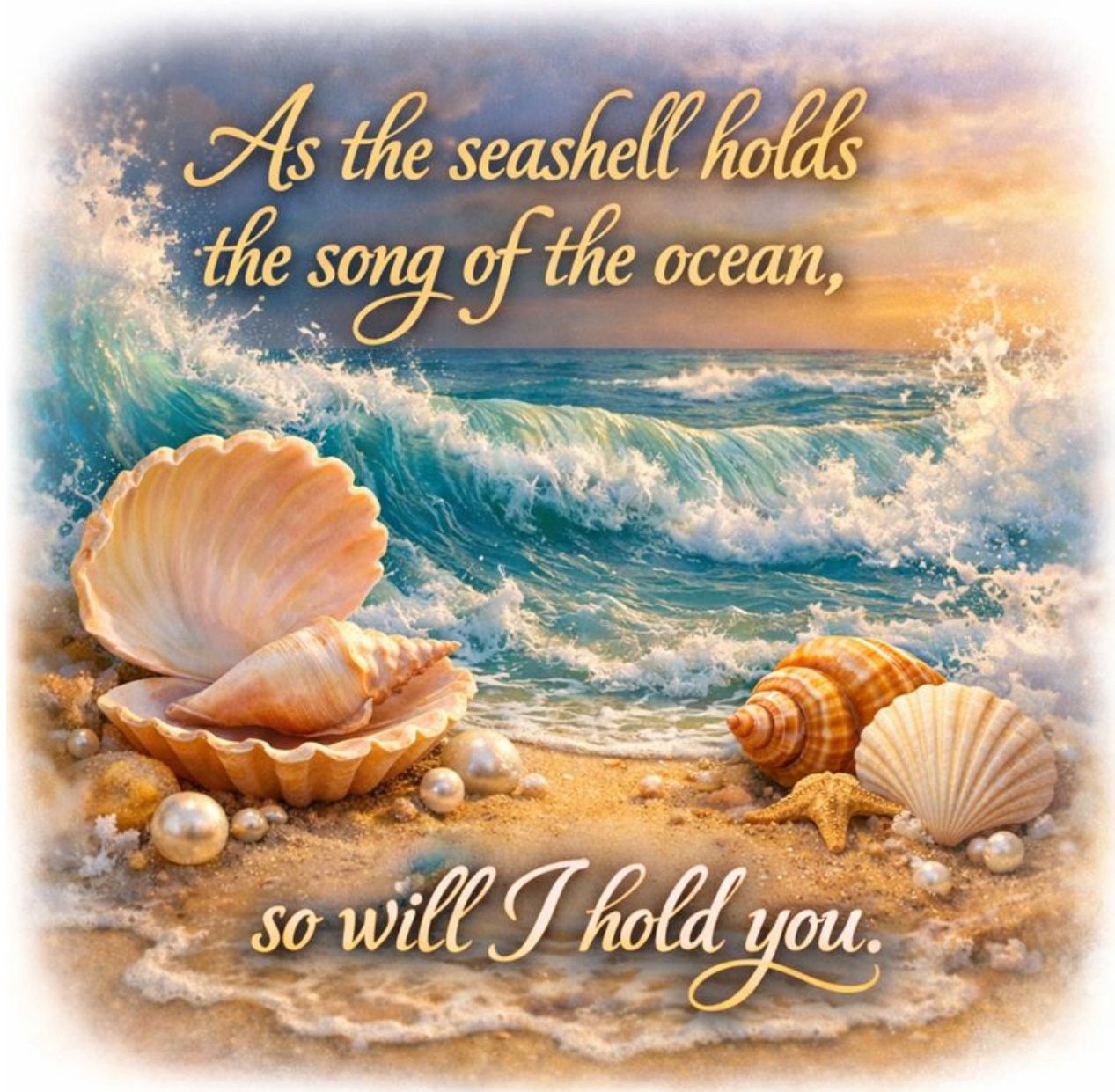
Excerpt from **"GRIEF IN THE WHITE HOUSE"**

"Many bereaved parents find that the loss of a child shifts their priorities. They seek meaning in life, with all that such a search entails. They also experience a new perspective on what they value:

life's transience seems more immediate; relationships more vital. These presidents show us a few of the many forms grief can take. Theodore Roosevelt was crippled with guilt; Calvin Coolidge discovered new priorities; George H. W. Bush and Dwight Eisenhower found ways to go on, though never to forget; Abraham Lincoln demonstrated how sorrow and compassion can save a people and heal a nation." -David Bannon, 2020

The following link lists all of our bereaved presidents and a brief description of their unique losses:

[US Bereaved Presidents](#)



We extend our most sincere sympathy to those who have recently lost a child.

Please know that we are thinking of you and share in your hurt and sorrow

This February we Remember...

Baby Mason - February 1990
Baby Crisman - February 1995
Ilyse - February 1996
Baby Byrd - February 2002
Karson Wright - February 1, 2006
Levi Lewis - February 1, 2008
Nicholas Daniel Burford - February 2, 1993
Hope - February 2, 2013
Lydia Elaine Clay - February 9, 2024
Luke Thomas - February 10, 1996
Braydon Richard - February 10, 2015
Baby Waldschmidt - February 13, 1995
Noah Beckett - February 13, 2023
Katie Beth - February 14, 2002
Alexis Marie Lee - February 14, 2020
Nathan Richard - February 18, 1988
Santana Rhyatt Leann Grippando - February 18, 2021
Sara Chesney - February 19, 2004
Natalie Nicole - February 20, 2001
Gabriel - February 22, 1989
Baby Dunning - February 23, 2016
Baby Clough - February 25, 2021
Baby Barnes - February 27, 2013

*To add your baby's name to our remembrance list, please email us at info@emilias-wings.org.
 Please include your baby's name along with any significant dates you'd like us to honor.*



Secrets of the Shore

Seashells hold a quiet magic. They are both fragile and strong, delicate in appearance yet enduring through time. Each one carries a story, a memory of the ocean, of tides and currents, of life hidden within. In many ways, they mirror the journey of love, loss, and remembrance.

Protection

A seashell's first magic is protection. Just as the ocean provides a home for the tiny life within, a shell guards

and cradles, creating a safe space in which life can flourish - even if briefly. For those who have experienced the loss of a baby, shells symbolize the sacred care and shelter we wish we could always provide. They remind us of the love that surrounds, even when life is fragile and fleeting.

Memory

Seashells also carry memory. Each ridged line and curved edge tells a story of the waters it has known, of storms weathered and calm days embraced. So too do our hearts carry the memories of the babies we have lost - their tiny kicks, the soft whispers of hope, the moments that linger long after they have passed. A seashell can serve as a tangible connection, a keepsake of the love and life that touched us, however briefly.

Transformation

Finally, seashells embody transformation. Once a home for life, they eventually drift, washed and reshaped by waves, becoming something new - beautiful, enduring, and timeless. In the same way, our grief, though painful, transforms. It becomes a quiet strength, a deepened love, and a gentle reverence for life's fragility. Like seashells, our hearts carry the marks of loss, yet emerge holding beauty and meaning.

In giving a seashell to remember a baby, we honor this magic. We celebrate protection, we treasure memory, and we acknowledge transformation. Each shell becomes a symbol of love, enduring beyond what we can see, carrying the whispers of a life that continues to touch us - softly, quietly, but forever.