



MECA

Missing and Exploited Children's Association



News

Issue 2

Winter 06-07

Focusing on Maryland's Missing and Exploited Children and Adults

View Maryland's Missing Children at: www.missingkids.com/precreate/MD.html

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Circle of Hope 2006

By Kylene Johnson

Annapolis, MD --- John Lyon began first. His plight still invokes chills down then parents, and then children in the mid-70s in Montgomery County, Maryland. Way before Adam Walsh, Polly Klass, and Elizabeth Smart made child abductions known to the United States, *what happened to Kate and Sheila* was a overwhelming shadow of innocence lost in Maryland.

Flashback 1975. John Lyon was a prominent Washington, DC Disc Jockey and father of four. On March 25th, 1975, his two daughters Kate and Sheila, began walking home from a local mall. They never made it home, setting off the most notorious child abduction investigation and cold-case (they have never been found) in the state of Maryland.

He shared the story of their disappearance on May 25th, National Children's Day, at the 'Circle of Hope' ceremony at Lawyers Mall in Annapolis. He felt at home, he said, all around him were family members who know all too well the horror of an unsolved disappearance. He didn't speak of the anger, the fear, the frustration, he spoke of hope. Hope now for the missing that wasn't there in 1975. He spoke of DNA, the Amber Alert, the Sex Offender Registry, and all the progress that has been made in the last thirty years to keep children safe.

Admist a backdrop of missing person posters, Maryland family member after family member shared their experience of an unsolved disappearance. The family of Bernadette Caruso attended, who has been missing since 1986, with a niece giving a moving portrayal of their 20 year heartbreak. The sisters of Leanne Faulk, missing since 1985 in Hyattsville, gave a tearful look into their experience. Stephanie Lurz, a good friend of Tracie Mosley missing since 1996 in Reistertown, walked up to the mic and moved

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MECA holds vigil to remember Maryland's Lost on National Missing Children's Day



Kate and Sheila Lyon



Featured Missing Child



Crystal Haag
DOB: Jan 29, 1983
Missing: Apr 26, 1997
Age Now: 23
Sex: Female
Race: White
Hair: Lt. Brown
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'4" (163 cm)
Weight: 140 lbs (64 kg)
Missing From: BALTIMORE, MD
Baltimore City Police Department
(Maryland) - Missing Persons Unit
1-443-984-7114 or 1-410-396-2284

Remembering the Missing, October 1st, 2006

Families of missing persons in Maryland gathered at the Historic Baldwin Hall in Millersville, MD to remember the missing. This event was hosted by the family of Bernadette Caruso, to mark her 20-year old disappearance. About 12 families of missing Marylanders attended the event to share their stories, support other families of the missing, and discuss implementing changes into missing persons in this state.



Bernadette Caruso



last seen 9/27/1986
A long-term MECA member's daughter

We have moved

405 E Joppa Rd #301
Towson, MD
410-321-1184 fax: 410-337-5247

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Circle of Hope 2006 continued

the audience with a poem that made you feel as if Tracie was your long lost childhood best friend.

The mother of Michael Hogan, missing since 2004 from Vermont and possibly in Maryland, shared her experience of an adult disappear-

ance and addressed the need for chronic searches for mentally ill persons.

Delegate Jean Cryor shared how the Missing and Vulnerable Person Act of 2005 will help bring closure to families.

Dr. Warren Tewes, Forensic Dentist at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's gave families a brief overview of the forensic identification progress.

Janet Sydnor told of her great love for her brother, who went missing on Christmas Day in 2000. A drug addict with AIDS, he was every bit as loved as any missing person.

Names of the missing children in the state were called out by Maryland Center for Missing Children Director Carla Proudfoot. Names of adult missing were called out by Kylen Johnson. Immediately followed by a candlelight circle formation 'Circle of Hope' with prayers for Maryland's missing persons. Anne Brooks, President of Meca, sang a hymn in final ceremony closing.

All captured on video tape by one Richard Garner, who has never experienced a missing person in his life. Email Basscatrich@aol.com if you'd like a copy.



The Joan Taavon Award 2006

The Joan Taavon award was created by AMECO in remembrance of the former President of Meca, who died in a car accident in November of 2003. Each year, the award is given by AMECO to someone who excels in work with missing children.



Beth Alberts giving the 2nd Joan Taavon Award to Phyllis Hallatt of Child Find Saskatchewan

Meca Welcomes New Members

Detective Timothy Gardner,
Baltimore City Police

Judy Stauffer

Bryan Inagaki and Jeff Mount of
Krav Maga Maryland

Nate Comella

Beverly Byron, *Montgomery County Shaken Baby and Family Violence Prevention Program*

Do you know about the **National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest** for 5th graders? Information found here...<http://dept.fvtc.edu/ojjdp/postercontest.html>

The Clearinghouse Corner

Introducing... Joe Miller



He has accepted a position as Caseworker at the *Maryland Center for Missing Children*. Joe has been with the Maryland State Police for the last 13 years, specializing in Police Communications.

Welcome Joe!

Featured MECA member John R. Worden

John is the Human Service Program Manager of the Counseling Team in the Youth & Community Resources Section of the Baltimore County Police Department. He is a nationally recognized Educator on the topic of Missing Children Investigations. Mr. Worden has been with MECA since shortly after its inception, and currently serves as its Program Advisor as well as serving on MECA's Board of Directors.

In 2001, John was an essential part of a committee that put together an award-winning training program titled "My Child is Missing," designed to better train law enforcement and missing person non-profit organizations in the latest investigational techniques. Along with Carla Proudfoot from the Maryland Center for Missing Children, he has trained almost all the law enforcement agencies in Maryland, and hundreds of law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada.

Mr. Worden holds a masters degree in clinical psychology and is a licensed clinical Counselor in Maryland, a certified addictions counselor and Family Therapist. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the Community College of Baltimore County's Essex campus. John is an avid skier, fisherman, gardener and family man.

TOURNAMENT A BENEFIT FOR MECA

On November 11, 2006 a TAE KWON DO Tournament was held in Dundalk, Maryland organized by Eric J. Frederick. MECA was invited to be the first beneficiary of the Tournament. The

participants ranged in age from 4 to over 50. There were also young adults from Iceland taking part.



Nate Cormella and Anne Brooks



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Stamp

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Best time to contact: _____

Do you have an area of speciality? _____

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organization**

Best of wishes in 2007, **MECA**