

Local Services, Local Support.

Care & Share

Newsletter November 2017



THANKSGIVING TIME AGAIN

The meaning of Thanksgiving has undergone numerous transitions over the centuries. For many of us, the meaning of Thanksgiving usually includes feasting, four-day weekends, football games, floats, family reunions, or a forerunner to Christmas festivities. Families add their own customs to the celebrations, preserving what they hold most precious.

Ultimately, we all gather in unity with family and friends. It is refreshing and invigorating when people come together, in celebration of a common purpose. It's a reconciliation of

differences as well as a time of healing. At this time, we reflect with gratitude upon all the gifts (family, friends, and health) that encompass our lives. In sharing our stories of victories as well as our struggles, we find strength and hope.

Here at Women Supporting Women, we strive to provide hope to all those who walk through our door or we encounter out and about; survivors, caregivers, friends and family alike. During this time of Thanksgiving, Women Supporting Women is truly thankful to all those who support us throughout the year. Without your support and well wishes, we would not be able to provide the much needed free services and support to our local community. To all of you, we cannot say THANK YOU enough.

From all of us at Women Supporting Women

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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Donation Slip on Back

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

SALISBURY	POCOMOKE Nov 9th - 5:30 pm Thursday	OCEAN CITY	CAMBRIDGE Nov 28th - 6:30 pm Tuesday
Nov 2nd - 6:30 pm Thursday		Nov 15th - 1:00 pm Wednesday	
1320 Belmont Ave 410-548-7880	Pocomoke Comm. Center 1410 Market St	Atlantic Health Center 9714 Healthway Dr 410-548-7880	Christ Episcopal Church 410-563-0946
Speaker/Topic: Open Forum	410-548-7880 Speaker/Topic: Open Forum	Speaker/Topic: Open Forum	Speaker/Topic: Open Forum
Facilitator: Kyle Beebe	Facilitator: Virginia Schneider	Facilitators: Cindy Elliott, RN, Nurse Nav. Bev Ward, RN Breast Care Nav.	Facilitator: Sue Todd

SURVIVOR STORY

Travel Gently



by Lisa K. Tager, JD, MSW, LICSW

I first heard the words "travel gently" at a meditation class in New York that I attended with my daughter. I was rather impressed that she had invited me to join her, me being a 55-year-old fuddy-duddy. I've always prided myself on being a little bit trendy and hip (if you count wearing flax clothes and eating Pinkberry by the cupful as "hip"). We changed into our yoga pants. Or rather, she did. I had come prepared wearing my Lulu lemons, which I had barely taken off in the last three years since becoming a fulltime therapist. I no longer felt the need to get dressed anymore, or to act like a "real" adult.

The meditation class was held in a dark, cool dome of a room. Eight other bod-

ies breathed beside us. A facilitator led us in counting and encouraged us to gently push away other thoughts from our minds. Since cancer, I had been making myself do this regularly, so I was actually not bad at this exercise. BC (or before cancer), I was never able to do anything like that! Before cancer, I was barely able to relax long enough to sit still – let alone (attempt to) meditate.

My daughter was smiling and happy and very relaxed after the session, but I was focused on how the beautiful, soothing sunshine felt on my skin.

I knew the problems I would soon be dealing with (the *reentry issues*, as I referred to them) would not be cured by a day of sunshine. Whenever a person with cancer is confronted with anything that reminds you of diagnosis or treatment, it takes your breath away and you get a little bit of that panicky, sick feeling that consumes your entire body. It's an identical reaction to the one you experience when the doctor says, "You have cancer."

My life changed forever in that split second. Visions of my daughters in wedding dresses and my future grandchildren playing on the lawn flooded my mind. My heart started to pound, and I knew I needed support. Since my husband was working and probably unreachable, I called my youngest child, Julia, whom I knew was nearby running errands.

While lying in bed that night, I remembered that about three years prior I was in a job I didn't like. I was so unhappy, yet I felt too embarrassed to quit. So, I had secretly wished that I would have a cancer scare and need to quit work. Nothing too horrible, just enough of a scare to let them release me without the shame that would come from leaving my job without having a new one lined up.

Tossing in bed, I wondered if this was payback or if I had somehow wished my body into a state where I actually enticed the cancer cells to grow. Hearing over the next couple of days that this cancer had reached a very large size and had been growing for a long time made me think that my earlier wish had actually come true without me knowing it at the time. You know what they say, be careful what you wish for.

Back in the Manhattan sunshine, post treatment, I felt elated to be alive and standing in the sunlight with my family in my favorite place in the world. That was enough! I didn't need theater tickets, or a reservation at a fancy restaurant, or expensive jewelry to feel like the luckiest woman alive. As my husband and I drove out of the city and back to Cape Cod, leaving my daughter waving farewell in the street, I reflected on my weekend. The meditation teacher's soft voice urging us to "travel gently" echoed in my mind.

Before cancer, I realized, my focus was on the "travel" part. I wanted to get where I was going, make progress, move on to the next big idea. Now, I am softening into the "gently." I live with more intent. And while I have no less desire to make progress – in my life, in my clients' lives, in the world – I now do so mindfully, and with a gentleness and a calmer devotion to my pursuits that I only could have learned by way of my journey through cancer.

* * * * *

This article was published in Coping® with Cancer magazine, July/August 2017.

MEDICAL UPDATE

Protect Yourself from Infection

by Kimberly Hinckley, RN, BSN, CIC, and Brahm H. Segal, MD

bacteria, viruses, and fungi. People for infections for a number of reasons.

protects the body from infection. For example, certain cancers of the blood may inhibit the body's ability to make normal white blood cells Taking infection prevention into raw meat or seafood. Thoroughly apy and radiation therapy can deblood cells.

white blood cell that have a particularly important role in protecting the body from infection. Neutropenia, or low neutrophil count, can result from certain types of cancer treatment, and the longer the duration of neutropenia, the greater the risk of infection. Other medicines used in cancer therapy (such as steroids) tem.

signs of infection and report them to their physician. Signs of infection red, tender, and swollen.

Hand washing is one of the best you. methods for preventing infections. Different types of medications are in preventing infections from enter- To learn more about preventing inused to treat infections. The most ing your body, so it's important to fections during cancer treatment. common are antibiotics to treat bacterial infections. Antiviral and antifungal medications are also sometimes used to treat infections in with mild soap. Change towels daily, May/June 2014.

people with cancer. Some people ers. Regularly inspect your skin who are at high risk for infections closely for rashes, redness, signs of may be prescribed medications to infection, or cuts that do not heal reduce the risk of infection. People properly. Use a soft toothbrush to with neutropenia who develop a clean your teeth after meals and fever require prompt evaluation and before going to bed. Keep bandages treatment.

Infections are illnesses caused by Keep in mind that there are many them promptly. microorganisms (germs) such as kinds of cancer and cancer treat- In addition, you should keep away ments with different levels of infec- from people who are sick and avoid with cancer may be at increased risk tion risk. Your oncologist can edu- crowds of people, especially during cate you about the risk of infections cold and flu season. Do not handle associated with your specific cancer animal excrement; have someone The cancer itself may compromise and treatment and what can be else help care for your pet. Get the immune system, which is what done to prevent them. However, plenty of rest, as fatigue can stress there are also some general guide- your immune system. Eat a welllines you can follow to reduce your balanced diet. Do not eat spoiled or risk of infection.

that fight infection. In addition, can- your own hands has a very literal wash fruits and vegetables before cer treatments such as chemother- translation. Hand washing is one of eating them. the best methods for preventing Ask your doctor about vaccines that crease the number of healthy white infections. If your hands are visibly prevent illness. It's important to talk dirty, you should vigorously wash to your doctor before receiving any Neutrophils are a specific type of them with soap and water for at vaccines because live vaccines can least 15 seconds. It's OK to use alco-potentially be harmful to people hol-based hand sanitizers when with certain types of cancer. Encoursoap and water is not available. Al- age family, friends, and caregivers ways wash or sanitize your hands to be immunized as well. before eating, drinking, or taking Empowering yourself is one of the medication; after using the bath- most important things you can do to room, coughing, sneezing, or blow- prevent infections during cancer ing your nose; before touching your treatment. You have the right to ask eyes, nose, or mouth; before and everyone who participates in your can also weaken the immune sys- after performing any care involving care to wash their hands. Make sure intravenous lines, catheters, or ban- that anyone who visits you is It's important for people receiving dages; and after touching things healthy, and don't be afraid to ask cancer treatment to be alert for that are frequently touched by oth- questions when you're unsure. Coners. It is also important for your tact your healthcare team if you sushealthcare providers, include fever, cough, and skin that is friends, and caregivers to wash or fections caught early are easier to sanitize their hands before touching treat.

> Your skin is your first line of defense maintain good personal hygiene. visit PreventCancerInfections.org. The first step to ensuring good hy- This article was published giene is to bathe or shower regularly in Coping® with Cancer magazine, and do not share towels with oth-

dry. If they become wet, change

expired foods, and do not consume

family, pect you may have an infection. In-

COMPLEMENTARY CARE



Keeping Up Appearances When Cancer Leaves Its Mark by Terri Tate, RN, MS

Where I come from, looking good was all that mattered. In Grosse Pointe, Michigan, in the 1950s, what you wore to church on Sunday was more important than how you behaved during the week. My mother never tired of telling me that girls like me needed to "do the most with what they had." Looking back, I can see that I

was a pretty child, but at the time I couldn't see beyond my freckles and slight chubbiness.

Even as a kid, though, I suspected that who you were on the inside was more important than how you looked. Sure, I wanted to fit in and wore checked gingham skirts over layers of crinolines, but I never spent much time on my hair or make-up. I was more concerned about being a good girl and helping Mom. But I could never do enough to keep her happy. My failure was constantly reinforced by the voice in my head that I would later name "The Vile Witch Upstairs." I thought this inner critic was all there was to me.

Following Mom's suggestions, I became a wife, a nurse, and a mother. But she and "The Witch" were still not satisfied. And I grew tired of trying to please them. I entered a period of deferred adolescent rebellion that involved getting divorced, remarried, and then redivorced. Clearly, I wasn't cut out for rebellion. So, I stayed busy caring for others, and by my mid-40s, things were starting to look pretty good. My kids were launched, my career was booming, I was engaged to a lovely man, and we had just bought a house so beautiful that we kept waiting for the real owners to show up.

And then, the whole picture began to unravel with the discovery of a little spot under my tongue. I was brushing my teeth one blustery Michigan night when I noticed the sore. It took three months to get a diagnosis: cancer. Surgery removed the tumor, the margins, and some nodes in my neck. The doctor uttered the best words in the English language, "We got it all." He had done such a skillful job that, after a few weeks, I looked, ate, and talked much as I had before.

By the time my remaining tongue started to burn, I was newly married, and my speaking career was busier than ever. It had only been 18 months since the first surgery, but it still took my doctor three months to diagnose the recurrence. By the time he did, I had a tumor the size of a golf ball on my remaining tongue. This surgery was not so simple. It lasted 24 hours, involved removing and rearranging a host of body parts, and left me with less than half a lower jaw. This time, my looks, speech, and eating ability were all af-fected. And I had a two-percent chance of survival.

With my life on the line, looking good was not high on my priority list. After all, my husband vowed that he could see my inner beauty. Then he left me for a younger, blonder, more symmetrical woman. I was alone, disfigured, and pushing 60. What could I do?

There was no changing the external realities, so I had to look inside for peace. I spent quiet time alone, wrote in a journal, went for walks, and discovered that there was more to me than "The Vile Witch Upstairs." I unearthed wise and loving parts of myself and got to know them. I learned to care for myself as I had always cared for others.

Facing disfigured dating at 71, I can't say I'm thrilled to be "facially different." But I'm grateful that I've found a way to accept myself "as-is." Cancer can ravage our bodies, but not our souls. Be gentle with your-self as you face this challenge. Loving ourselves improves the quality of our lives, no matter what we look like.

This article was published in Coping[®] with Cancer magazine, July/August 2017.

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION

EN on Foods

Calling Out Cauliflower

he Folklore. Cauliflower's "brainy" appearance clearly suggests it's a smart dietary choice. Its name comes from the Latin words caulis, which means cabbage, and floris, or flower. Indeed, cauliflower shares its history with the cabbage, traced back to 6,000 B.C., when the Roman philosopher, Pliny the Elder, deemed cauliflower the most pleasant tasting variety of cabbage in his encyclopedia, Natural History. Delicious on its own, cauliflower's unassuming flavor happily adapts to many culinary profiles, from curried to pickled, making it so easy to enjoy its bounty of health and nutrition benefits.

The Facts. Cauliflower (Brassica oleracea) is part of the very recognizable vegetable family known as crucifer, or Brassica, which includes cabbage, broccoli, kale, and collard greens. Cauliflower has a closely packed "head" of undeveloped flower buds surrounded by green leaves that shelter it from the sun, preventing the formation of chlorophyll in white varieties. There are also green (Broccoflower), purple, and orange (sometimes called "cheddar") varieties. A one-cup serving has just 28 calories, vet packs an impressive 92% DV (Daily Value, based on 2,000 calories/day) of antioxidant vitamin C, 22% DV of vitamin K for healthy blood function, as well as several beneficial sulfur-containing compounds called glucosinolates.

The Findings. Scientists recommend consumption of Brassicas, including cauliflower, largely because they are rich sources of glucosinolates. When eaten, glucosinolates form isothiocyanates, which are linked to cancer prevention (Frontiers in Plant Science, 2017). Sulforaphane, another type of isothiocyanate present in Brassicas, has shown antitumor effects and inhibition of cancer cell growth, which become even more potent when combined with irradiation treatment (PLoS One, 2017). Glucosinolates in Brassicas also have been found to benefit cardiovascular health by significantly reducing blood cholesterol levels (Molecular Nutrition & Food Research, 2015).

ENVIRONMENTAL NUTRITION November 2017



Cauliflower is rich in disease-fighting compounds.

The Finer Points. Peak season runs September through November, but cauliflower's popularity merits year round availability. The freshest cauliflower has a pristinely white (or green, purple, or orange!), tightly packed head that's free of spots or blemishes, and is wrapped in healthy looking green leaves. Store, refrigerated, up to a week in a plastic bag. Minimize cooking time to maintain its health promoting compounds, while exploring this veggie's versatility: slice into "steaks," chop and sauté or roast, process into "rice," or puree into mashed "potatoes" for fun twists on the ordinary. -Lori Zanteson

Notable Nutrients: Cauliflower 1 c (124 g) cooked, chopped

Vitamin K: 17 mcg (22% DV)

Calories: 28

Dietary Fiber: 3 g (12% DV) Vitamin B6: 0.2 mg (10% DV) Vitamin C: 55 mg (92% DV) Folate: 55 mcg (14% DV) Note: c=cup, g=gram, mg=milligram, mcg=microgram, DV=Daily Value, based on 2,000 calories/day

Cauliflower Almond Soup

1 medium onion, diced 4 cloves garlic, minced 2 Tbsp olive oil ²/₃ c white wine 1 medium cauliflower,

- small florets 1 medium potato,
- peeled and diced 5 clow-sodium vegetable stock
- ½ c plus 1 Tbsp ground almonds Salt and pepper, to taste

1 c almond milk

- 1. Sauté the onions and garlic in olive oil until transparent. Add white wine and simmer until reduced by half.
- 2. Add the cauliflower and potato and cook for another 2 minutes. Add vegetable stock, bring to a boil, and simmer for 25-30 minutes.
- 3. Mix in the almond milk and ground almonds and simmer for another 3-4 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- 4. Using a hand-held blender or food processor, puree until smooth.

Makes 4 servings

Nutrition Information Per Serving: 275 calories, 14 grams (g) fat, 1 g saturated fat, 26 g carbohydrate, 7 g protein, 3 g dietary fiber, 174 milligrams sodium. Recipe adapted courtesy Almond Board of California

5

One Drink a Day May Increase Breast Cancer Risk

Imbibing just one alcoholic beverage a day increases a woman's risk of breast cancer, according to research. London researchers reviewed 119 studies worldwide that included over 12 million women and 260,000 plus cases of breast cancer. There is strong evidence that consuming alcoholic drinks increases risks of both premenopausal and postmenopausal breast cancer. Alcohol is converted into toxic acetaldehyde, which builds up in the body, meaning more cancer-causing cell damage. The studies showed being physically active, especially vigorous physical activity, decreases risk.





16th Annual Walk for Awareness





















Tanger Outlets OC Car Show

Ę Peninsula Pressage





Auturn Wine-festival















WSW News & Happenings

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Upcoming Events

"Quarters In. Paddles Up." Thursday, November 2nd @ 5:00 PM Salisbury Moose Lodge

Pint & Pose

Tuesday, Nov. 14 @ 5:15 PM EVO Craft Brewing Company \$25 before 11/7 or \$30 after. Includes (2) craft beers

Wine Down Hour

Friday, Dec 8th at 5:30-7:30 pm Brews Up at Urban Nectar, Berlin, MD \$40/person and includes wine tastings, wine making and (2) bottles of wine to take home.

For more information and to register for our events, visit www.WomenSupportingWomen.org Or Call (410) 548-7880

FUN FACT:

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's first meal in space after walking on the moon was foil packets with roasted turkey.

Office Staff Members

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Sue Revelle & Kathy Pisani Mentoring Coordinators Co-Founder Thank You to the following organization for making donations during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. 1. Caroline County EMS 2. Snow Hill High School Principal, Kim Purvis and WSW, Kerrie Bunting 3. Ocean City Elementary Faculty and Staff 4. K&L Microwave Staff with WSW, Amanda









Mentoring Minute

Just Diagnosed with Cancer? Tips for Adjusting to your New Life

- Write down your questions and concerns before your doctor visits
- If possible, bring a family member or friend to help you remember what you hear
- If you can, let your healthcare team know whether you want to know all the facts or just the basics
- The best time to plan for potential changes to your routines is before you begin treatment
- Stay flexible changes may come when you least expect them
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle, eating a variety of foods, getting adequate rest, and exercising
- Take it one day at a time easy to overlook this simple strategy during stressful times
- Let friends and family help you where possible, with errands, transportation, meals, and chores
- Express how you really feel to other people, in a journal, or through another outlet
- Seek support from others (i.e. support group)

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Joke of the Month

I asked my daughter if she'd seen my newspaper. She told me that newspapers are old school. She said that people use tablets nowadays and handed me her iPad. The fly didn't stand a chance.



Check out more funny jokes:

<u>http://</u> www.shortfunny.com/

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Fruitland Lions Club

november: |nô'vembər| -n.

the last month of autumn, but the beginning of a new adventure; time to take risks and do the unexpected

In Memory Of:

Alexander "Sandy" Butchart Spider and Sandy Fry

> Mary Henderson A friend

Kathryn Collins Williams Caroline Trader And Grace Granz

Business

Auto Medic Towing & Repair Salisbury Brick Co., Inc 7-Eleven Store # 23366 Ruth's Chris Steakhouse Harbor Dental Center Stoney Ridge Farms

> In Honor Of: Evelyn Brooks Trott Anne Ryan Neary

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- Mail in (donation slip on back)
- **x** In Honor or Memory of
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Please contact the office if you are not reading or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter. Thank you.

410-548-7880 or Tassia@womensupportingwomen.org

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