

# Holiday Issue

## BREAST CANCER SURVIVAL CENTER

*Providing Post-Treatment Support and Education*

December 2004

Volume 5, Number 3

### 2005 Events

#### Support/Discussion

##### Groups:

January 11, 25; February 8, 22;  
March 8, 22; April 12, 26; May  
10, 24; June 14

September 13, 27;  
October 1, 25; November 8, 22;  
December 13.

##### Retreats:

April 8 – 11, Survivors' Weekend,  
Mercy Center, Madison, CT

April 30, Young Survivors' One-  
Day Retreat, St. Paul's on the  
Green, Norwalk, CT

##### Awareness Events:

October 2, 2005, Sixth Annual  
*Celebrate Life!* Fashion Show and  
Brunch, Shore and Country Club,  
East Norwalk, CT

Candle-lighting Events  
Westport, Milford, West Hartford  
October 2005

*Thanks to the Wilton Woman's  
Club for generously under-  
writing this center newsletter  
for the fourth year.*



### ***Superstar Models Celebrate Life***

Fifteen beautiful breast cancer survivors, and more than 175 of their family and friends, celebrated beating breast cancer at the fifth annual *Celebrate Life!* fashion show and brunch on Sunday, October 17. The event was held at Shore and Country Club at Gregory Point in East Norwalk, overlooking Long Island Sound.

Once again this year, Talbots in Westport provided all the clothes for the show, and the clothes were gorgeous. Lots of bright colors to spice up the dreary winter days to come. Makeup was done by Dianne and Arianna Daniels of Norwich, and hair by three Fairfield stylists: Vinny Vitale of Arcadia Hair Salon, Donna Schaefer of DMS Hair Design, and Pompea Sanderson of Pompea. Handsome male escorts came from the Gedney Modeling Agency of Fairfield, as well as two models' husbands, Tim Green and Ted Pulton. Commentary for the show was expertly done by Michele Hubler of Black Rock, a model in our 2002 fashion show, and Bob Laska, publisher of the *Connecticut Post*.

The models for this year's show were: Sherry Becker, Pat Brown, Shirley Canaan, Michelle Crook (pictured above), Mary Lou De Luca, Dorothy Fitzgerald, Mary Green, Carol Kellogg, Connie Montali, Gail Moskow, Ellen Muskus, Anne Powers, Katie Reed, Lillian Riddick, and Martha Wood. The committee is already forming to begin plans for the sixth annual *Celebrate Life!* fashion show, which will be held Sunday, October 2, 2005, also at Shore and Country Club. If you would like to be part of the planning of this wonderful event, call (203) 857-7304. Or e-mail us at [cancersurvival@aol.com](mailto:cancersurvival@aol.com).

## It's All About Support

This is the time of year when families gather together to give thanks and celebrate the joy of being together. As survivors, we give thanks and celebrate every day just for the joy of being here for another day. But sometimes we neglect to articulate how grateful we are for the ongoing support of family and friends, which has gotten us to whatever healing point we are at today.

The support of a loving partner is particularly important at all stages of our journey. But this is usually an undefined role. I remember hearing Jill Eikenberry and her husband, Michael Tucker – co-stars of the television show “LA Law,” she a breast cancer survivor – talk about this several years ago at an event in Trumbull. “When Jill was diagnosed, I felt so guilty,” Tucker said. “I felt that I should have done something to protect

her from cancer, and I didn't know what that was. I also didn't know what my role was now. I was her husband, but my place in her life somehow seemed secondary, replaced by the doctors and nurses who were helping her fight the cancer.”

I suspect this is a frequent, though probably unspoken, thought process for many partners of survivors. There's a new book which talks about this issue, written by Marc Silver, an editor at *U.S. News & World Report* and the husband of a three-year breast cancer survivor. The book is called *Breast Cancer Husband: How To Help Your Wife (And Yourself) Through Diagnosis, Treatment and Beyond*. One of the most important points Silver makes in his book is that there really is no single RIGHT way to be a breast cancer husband. The role is

really what she wants you to be, and this role can certainly change over time. The most important thing is to be there, and really listen to what she is saying, he says. Sounds easy. It's not.

Partners can express support in many ways. For example, when we were putting together our fifth annual *Celebrate Life!* fashion show, we needed additional male escorts for the models. Two husbands volunteered to help, Tim Green, whose wife Mary was a model, and Ted Pulton, whose wife Laura modeled in 2000 and who now serves on our board. Bob Laska, whose wife Marianne was also a model in our 2000 show, volunteered to be our emcee. Perhaps not their first choice as a way to spend a Sunday afternoon, but certainly supportive. None of us can do this alone.

*Susan Santangelo*

### Save the Date

**The Healing Path**, a weekend retreat for post-treatment survivors,  
April 8-11  
at Mercy Center, Madison, CT.

**Young Survivors' One-Day Retreat**,  
April 30  
at St. Paul's on the Green,  
Norwalk, CT

### Highlights of Center Events

#### **Light A Candle for Breast Cancer Awareness**

BCSC Candle Lighting Ceremonies Raised Breast Cancer Awareness in Fairfield, Hartford and New Haven Counties, Connecticut

*Students at St. Joseph College, in West Hartford, CT, read the names of women who have been affected by breast cancer at BCSC candle light vigil. Other ceremonies were held in Westport and Milford, CT.*



Providing Post-Treatment Support and Education for Breast Cancer Survivors and their Families

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Photos: St. Joseph College

# Celebrate Life! Fashion Show Highlights

*Scenes from the annual Celebrate Life! Breast Cancer Survival Fashion Show and Brunch.*



# Inspiration:

*Dedicated to my loving, caring, wonderful mother*

I have lived my whole life with my mother, father and two older brothers.

The reason I am telling you this is because my mother has stage four breast cancer.

My mother is the most courageous woman I have ever met in the whole eleven years I have lived.

She takes everything with a positive attitude except the cancer.

And you know what, I really don't blame her. Because of this disease, more than half the women who have it die.

I admire my mom so much because she takes everything head on and never gives up on herself.

If she didn't take everything this way, the cancer might have already killed her.

She works full time with the human services council.

Her job is to help kids and I admire that, because she could just stay home every day and take care of herself; but she chooses to help kids that are in need.

My mother also cooks, cleans and all that other good stuff at home.

All of us try and pitch in as much as we can.

Most days it is very busy around here. Ryan, the oldest, has baseball most of the time. Alex, the second oldest, has lacrosse most of the time.

My wonderful father has a band called the Silver Streaks, and he supports my mother so much. He keeps her spirits high.

I really do not know how my mother balances it all: work, kids, home. She is the most amazing woman/person in my eyes.

She is very grateful she still has her life today. She thanks her wonderful doctor.

He treats her like a person, not just some other woman with cancer. I am pretty sure that's why she loves him so extremely much.

All in all, the point I have tried to make is if you have cancer, don't make yourself think you are weak just because you have been diagnosed with this horrific disease. You are still the same person, but you will come to find it will make you mentally and physically stronger.

*--C. G., Norwalk, CT*

Please let us know of others who would like to receive this quarterly newsletter.

*Editor's Note: We cannot provide medical advice. Consultation with your doctor is your best source of medical information.*

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**Fifth Annual  
Celebrate Life!  
Breast Cancer  
Fashion Show**



# Order Form

**BREAST CANCER SURVIVAL CENTER**  
*Providing Post-Treatment Support and Education*

**Sock It to Breast Cancer!™ socks**  
 \$10 per pair

**Sweatshirts** with the Breast Cancer survival candle logo \$20, \$30

**Sock It to Breast Cancer!™ bear \$20**

Selection	Quantity	Price	Total
Socks	<i>Circle style</i>		
	Trouser socks	\$10.00	
	Sport socks	both white	
Sweatshirts	<i>Circle size</i>		
	M L	\$20.00	
	XL	\$30.00	
"Meg" Bear	Brown	\$20.00	
	White		
	Light Brown		
Shipping	Under \$20	\$ 2.50	
	\$20 and up	\$ 4.50	
<b>TOTAL</b>			

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**I Would Like to Donate \$100, 50, 25, \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please accept my tax-deductible contribution to help provide support and education to breast cancer survivors and their families.**

**Please make checks payable to Breast Cancer Survival Center and mail to:  
 BCSC, 23 Oak Ridge Lane, West Hartford, CT 06107. Thank you. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.**

**Own a  
 Breast Cancer  
 Survival Center bear**

**\$20 each**

**\$20 each**



*Bears shown, from left, in brown, white, light brown.*

**Help provide education  
 and support  
 To breast cancer survivors  
 and their families**



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# *Thank yous and Kudos*

Many people helped make our fifth annual *Celebrate Life! Fashion Show and Brunch* such a wonderful success.

The terrific staff of Talbots in Westport; Dianne and Arianna Daniels for the models' makeup; Arcadia Salon, DMS Hair, and Pompea for the hair styling. Our guest hosts, Robert Laska, publisher of *The Connecticut Post*, and Michele Hubler, 2002 superstar model.

From The Gedney Agency, our handsome male escorts: Michael Arroyo, Paul Kaman, Antony Scire, and Sohail "Sal" Sheikh. And special guest escorts Tim Green and Ted Pulton. A special thank you to Craig Shoop of The Gedney Agency for making the event happen! Thank you to Norwalk Mayor Alex Knopp, and Jim Hutchinson and the excellent staff at Shore and Country Club. And to our event hosts, Marti and Bob Baker; our media sponsors, Woman Magazine, especially Lisa Hartley and Susan Cole; Brooks Community Newspapers, especially Kevin Lally; and all our good friends at *The Connecticut Post*. Also our corporate sponsor, Cornerstone Bank, and individual sponsors, the Family and Friends of Katie Reed.

Thank you to our generous raffle donors: Betsy Santangelo, Lynn Dennis, Fairfield Consignments, Linda Michaud, Drama Hair Technology, d. Sabrina Salon, Physical Integrity Health Club, Delmar Greenwich Harbor Hotel, Mr. and Mrs. Max Marshall, Barbara Dean, Patty Kondub, Len De Luca, Nancy Martin, and Talbots.

Our program well-wishers and advertisers: The Callari Auto Group; The Elliott Family; Brody, Wilkinson and Ober; Soleil Toile; Women's Health Care of New England; Lacey Manufacturing Company; Friends of Lillian Riddick; Acadia Health Care; The Knitting Niche; Munson Real Estate; Neurological Surgery; Robert Laska; Lisa Topham, RN; Dr. Barbara Manion; PAR Pool and Spa; Media Horizons Inc; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stranko; Sandy Dressler; Zelda Jacobs; Bob and Maria Zimmerman; The Burghart Family; Jeanne Klinge; St. Paul's Bookstore and Café; Kevin, Lydia and Turner; State representative G. Kenneth Bernhard; Dr. Mary Battilocchi; Nordstrom's; The Center for Creativity and Wellness; Peerless Cleaners; Lydia Staton; Tilda and Warren Brown; Susan Wright; The Roballey Family; Tracey Roballey; Betty VonLiebermann; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; The Pivor Family; Sadelier; Norwalk Radiology and Mammography Center.

Our wonderful volunteers: Joan Likely-Cosenza, Laura Sydney, Danielle Pulton, Donna Schaefer, Pompea Sanderson, Vinny Vitale, Dianne Daniels, Arianna Daniels, Linda Michaud, Keira McGee, Joe McGee, Barbara Pearson-Rac, Barbara Miller, Cindy Perham, Trina Barnes, Marianne Laska, Claudette Apple, Lynn Murray, Stephanie Ross, Rona Jaffe, Jeff Cochrane, Pam Troy-Kopack, Jenny Kopack, and Jimmy Kopack.

**For our October candle-lighting ceremonies,** a special thank you to:

**For Westport:** First Selectwoman Diane Farrell for reading all the names; Barbara Pearson-Rac, Pat Scully, and the Westport Make a Difference Day Committee; the staff of the Westport Library; the Staples High School Orphanians singing group; and the remarkable volunteers from the Westport Young Woman's League who partner with us every year to produce this ceremony: Event Chairman Pam Troy-Kopack, Allison Allott, Anna Buckley-Izzo, Christine Davis, Dot Baliban, Heidi Cunningham, Jacqueline Byrne, Joanne Cohen, Joanne Heller, Kelly Pollard, Keryn Geller, Kim DeWitt, Jeanette Linsey, Michelle Saunders, Susan Finestone, and Terri-Ann Adrian.

**For Milford:** Marianne and Bob Laska, our event chairmen; Mayor James Richetelli for reading all the names; the terrific staff of Parks and Recreation, especially John. Our volunteers from Jonathan Law High School football team and cheerleading squad: Matt Anderson, Scott Marlow, Kevin Flynn, A J Massey, Sandra Spangler, Peter Pietrini, Antonio DeJesus, John Larone, George Anastasio, Kyle Mella, Jose Villanueva, Nicole Cartina, Kelly Murdoch, Diana Atilho, Stephanie Comlish, Tiffany Salais, Colleen Murphy, Sharon Thomas, Melissa Francetic, Melissa Craig, Sean Villiste, Ashley Carole, Jessica Blee, Paige Giorgio, Marie Hoyt, Billy Plickman, Franklin Butler, Sean Kearney, Scott Bossone, Joe Henry, Jeff Lucisano, Bandon Edo, Sean Sherrick, Mike Robinson, Ben Eisenhanaler, Nenny Singer. And our wonderful chorus from Lauralton Hall: Amanda Doerr, Nina Demeter, Alyssa Reyes, Samantha Middlemass, Laura Norris, Kate LaBella, Kym Rogers and Megan Pelletier.

**For St. Joseph College in West Hartford:** Kandyce Aust, event chairman; Roseann Smith and Leah Gilbert, student readers; and especially Father David for the beautiful and meaningful liturgy.

You were all wonderful!