Hi, Readers,

It’s that time of year again when WIBCC is gearing up to start our fundraising process in order to fund our Lend A Helping Hand program. Please visit our website and the calendar on the website for any upcoming events. Your support is always so appreciated, as is by all the women, men and their families affected by breast cancer that we are able to provide services for. I want to also announce the newest member to our Board of volunteers…welcome Diane Vaughan.

The big event of the year is the 25th Anniversary of the Clam Shucking Contest, August 13, at Nicky’s on the Bay, Bay Shore Marina. We are hoping to have many special things to celebrate this very special event. If you have attended in the past, you know what a big party it is with lots going on for the entire family. And if you like Chinese Auctions, well it’s a big one! Over 100 baskets! So, invite your friends and family to make it an even bigger party. We’re looking for some new clam shuckers to join our faithful ones. It’s such a fun event to watch and cheer on your favorites. Also sign up your kids for the corn husking event after they get their faces painted.

So come one, come all. Hope to see you there!!

Proud President, Margaret Campise

Good Samaritan Breast Health Center

Two years after the West Islip Breast Cancer Coalition of Long Island, the first coalition on Long Island, was founded by Lorraine Pace, it approached Good Samaritan Hospital to open a breast cancer center. With the help of WIBCC’s fundraising efforts, Good Samaritan’s Breast Health Center was established on February 17, 1994.

It became the first comprehensive patient-focused program on Long Island dedicated to breast health and breast disease. Today, the Breast Health Center offers a dynamic approach, with dedicated breast imagers, pathologists, referring physicians, surgeons, radiation and medical oncologists, registered radiological technologists, registered nurses and genetic counselors providing women with timely, state-of-the-art and compassionate care for breast disease.

The WIBCC was honored to welcome the senior class of nursing students from St. Joseph’s College, led by teacher, LuAnn Rowland, to its office. The students are studying “Survivorship” and were very interested to learn more about the function of the Coalition and how it assists patients while going through treatment.

President Margaret Campise and fellow Board member and breast cancer survivor, Joanne Marquardt, provided the students with not only information about the WIBCC and its valuable services but also updates on the ongoing research and strides being made in the treatment of breast cancer.

It was an engaging afternoon with a delightful group of young women who we wish much success in their medical careers.
I was diagnosed with breast cancer October 2017. It came as such a shock and with fear and anxiety. I remember the first day I came into your office. I just left the mammography center and was emotionally drained.

When I opened the door, my life was changed. I found hope, caring people, information, and assistance in many areas. I am 75 and on a very limited budget. I was very concerned about co-pays and other expenses. Through your fundraising efforts, you provided me with much needed financial assistance, and I am forever grateful.

I did not travel alone in this journey. I recognize God’s work in all the people who assisted me and the serenity I received through prayer and meditation. Every day seemed to bring another sign of hope in my fight against the cancer.

The outcome could not have been better. After my bilateral mastectomy in January 2018, I was cancer free — no other treatment needed. My prayers were answered. How can I say thank you? I can’t do much, but I will always remember your organization, workers and volunteers in my prayers.

The end of the year brought a wonderful gift. The Girl Scouts of West Islip, through your organization, brought the biggest food basket for Thanksgiving! Filled with so many wonderful food items and gift cards, it made my Thanksgiving wonderful. So many items that I could not use them all, so I passed the abundance to the food pantry at my church. The generosity of the Girl Scouts helped others besides me.

So as the year ends and a new one begins, I thank God for your organization and the wonderful Girl Scouts of West Islip.

God Bless,
Diane Erickson

Last year we brought you the story of Joan Perrin and Board member, Mae Blum, both diagnosed with gynecological and breast cancers. Today, they are not only twin survivors, but twin thrivers!

Says Perrin, “Since humor was always my best coping mechanism, I tried to find the funny side of Cancer and chemo. I began to write humorous poems about my experiences.” Now she has a collection of poems she hopes to have published, but in the meantime she is proud to share them with us.
I remember looking out my window as gray clouds filled the sky. I thought to myself, “if there’s no sunshine, I need to be the light.” Nearly 200 people came to the Fitness Rave in Middle River, Maryland with one common goal...to raise money for those in the fight against Breast Cancer.

The 2nd Annual “Shake Your Tatas” Zumbathon included more than an exhilarating workout. Healthcare professionals from Johns Hopkins Breast Health Center spoke to the audience about the importance of mammograms and the current advancements in their care processes. A breast cancer survivor and representative from the Red Devils, a nonprofit organization that aids families in Maryland going through chemotherapy and post surgical treatments, discussed her appreciation for the event. A local chiropractor offered free consultation alongside jewelry and skincare vendors. Participants of the Zumbathon were able to buy raffles for a chance to win their most-wanted donation baskets. “The Taste of New York,” basket donated by my father, Bill Lane and Pastosa Ravioli of North Babylon was definitely a desired prize. It was truly a multi-faceted wellness experience for all who attended.

After nearly two hours of the indoor dance part, it was time for the rose recognition ceremony, a tradition we carry on at The Fitness Rave every October. Breast Cancer fighters, survivors, and their family are given a rose to symbolize their courageous feats, despite their challenging journeys. It’s a moment to recognize that they are not alone in this battle. Handing my mother Diane Lane, a West Islip native and 13-year survivor, her rose this year, in person, was truly special for both of us. I’m so appreciative to the blessings we’ve been given throughout her remission. That’s why I feel compelled to continue supporting the community of families facing breast cancer, regardless of circumstance or location. The help of many generous contributors, the success of thee vent filled my heart with endless gratitude. Myself, among many others can attest to the fact that we did not need to wait for the sunshine, but chose to be the light and dance in the rain.

By Chelsea Lane Weinstein

Deadline is coming!

In 2010, the National Breast Cancer Coalition set a deadline and launched a plan of action to know how to end breast cancer by January 1, 2020 –Breast Cancer Deadline 2020® referred to as the Artemis Project® which is its research component focused on primary prevention and preventing metastasis. Latest update:

According to the NBCC, “In the area of primary prevention, Artemis participants have established a path forward on the development of a preventive vaccine. Regarding the prevention of metastasis, we are identifying how the immune system interacts with dormant tumor cells, and we are working with partners to create a database of genomic and clinical data from patients with breast cancer.”

Maryland Zumbathon Contributes to WIBCC

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Please join us for the
25th ANNIVERSARY

Clam Shucking Contest

TUESDAY, AUG. 13, 2019
11 AM – 4 PM

Featuring
Beer • Wine • Soda • Food • Lobster
50/50 • Chinese Auction • Music

Nicky’s on the Bay
Bay Shore Marina
150 South Clinton Ave.
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GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE • TICKETS $20 EACH OR TWO FOR $25
1st Prize: $2,500 • 2nd Prize: $1,000 • 3rd Prize: $500
Grand prize compliments of Atlantic Hyundai

For information, call (631) 669-7770
25th Annual Clam Shucking Event

Join us for a family fun day on the Great South Bay.

Huge Chinese Auction, Raffles, Face Painting, 50/50, Corn Husking, Food, Music, and more!

Tuesday, August 13

Look inside for details...

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