

Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

Wounded Warriors.....Beacons of Light

February 15, 2010



Sharing love through support

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Sheila's and Gudrun's tributes, and precious words from The Tuesday Bear Huggers, touched me deeply, as did my sons' recollections, Sue's loving comment and Prentiss' declaration of love.

Journal Entry Wednesday, Oct. 6, 1999

Following prayer, My gurney was rolled toward the operating room. Friends and family lined the hallway. On the wall of the surgical prep room, I saw an illustration of geese flying in formation. The caption read, "Geese flying in formation have very little wind resistance, whereas a goose flying alone has a hard time." I thanked God for my friends and family, my formation who had prayed me into surgery.

Being diagnosed with cancer, any cancer, is a life shattering event. All one has to do is listen or read the testimony of cancer survivors. Their memory of having the "C" word used in the same sentence with their name is as fresh as the day they heard it. Some examples are: Lenora...I felt as though the floor was dissolving from under my feet. Pam....I couldn't breathe and asked my husband to get me outside. Susan...Being told I had breast cancer took my breath away and left me speechless.

In his best selling book, "It's Not About The Bike—My Journey Back To Life," Lance Armstrong shared, "I thought I knew what fear was, until I heard the words, 'You have cancer.' Real fear came with an unmistakable sensation: it was as though all my blood started flowing in the wrong direction."

At the start, when you feel like curling up in a fetal position, in a safe place, family and friends are the soft place that every newly diagnosed patient needs.

In time, many questions flood your mind, questions about coping day to day with chemotherapy, the side effects of chemotherapy, swelling in the surgical arm and a host of other questions that arise. At this time, a patient needs a formation of survivors who has made the journey and can provide some understanding of the path, a road map.

It was my need that drove me to start Steel Magnolias. My determi-

nation and perseverance in founding Steel Magnolias was the reason for the February 26, 2010, celebration in the RMC Cancer Resource Center.

In response to the amazing outpouring of love I felt from Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel, as each person gave a rose to me, a tribute of the impact Steel Magnolias had on their lives, I wrote the following letter, and mailed it to each person in attendance:

My Dearest Steel Magnolias, Because of Marti's announcement at the Christmas party that something special was planned for me in January, I concluded that the "Mystery Meeting" must be what she meant. In my wildest imagination, I could never have imagined what waited for me in suite 406 of the Physicians Building.

The comments from my late sister, Betty's electronic journal, touched me to the core. Debby's,

As you all know, Steel Magnolias grew out of my suffering and my determination that women who came after me would at least know they were not alone. For the first few years I bore the cost and the work load, including printing and mailing the newsletter from my home. The way I saw it, God had placed a calling on my life. I continue to believe that. However, as the years passed, God sent into Steel Magnolias other wounded warriors who were motivated to make a better path for newly diagnosed women. From this night, it is you who will remain a cherished treasure, hidden in my heart.

Words are cheap, anyone can say anything and lack sincerity, however one cannot fake heartfelt emotion. As much as I love the roses and the incredible award, the gift I will always treasure most is the sincere love I felt and saw in the faces of each of you precious Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel. Jesus said we are Light and Salt. We preserve, we flavor, we illuminate because we are a reflection of our Lord. It is no wonder that Steel Magnolias' wounded warriors has such a powerful impact when we gather at a health fair, speaking engagement or fund raiser.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me such a beautiful evening. I will confess to being somewhat uncomfortable sitting on the throne, wearing a tiara, but I confess that it also felt wonderful.

Having Susan Williamson, Debi Kaufman, Dr. Dave Roberts, Wendy Watson, Cindy Justice and Chaplain Wilson at my special tribute made the evening even more special. God has assembled a team at RMC, and throughout our community to bring comfort and HOPE to local people hurt by cancer.

I am thankful God called me to start Steel Magnolias. I am equally thankful that He continues to enlarge our territory. Adding to our numbers, women once trapped in breast cancer imposed cocoons, now emerging, beautiful butterflies. As we work together, faithful to the work before us, 2010 can be a glorious year.

Thank you again for all your gifts to me, for every encouraging and loving word. I love each of you and I treasure our friendship.

I love you,
Lenora Washington Johnson

CHOCOLATE COBBLER

John Williamson

1 stick of unsalted butter
2 cups self-rising flour
3 1/2 cups sugar, divided
1/2 cup, plus 3 Tablespoons cocoa., divided
1 cup milk
2 Teaspoons vanilla flavoring
1/2 cup chopped pecans
3 cups boiling water (I use about 2 3/4 cup)

Melt butter in a 9 x 13 baking dish

In a bowl, combine flour, 1 1/2 cups sugar, 3 Tablespoons cocoa, milk and vanilla

Spoon into baking dish over melted butter **BUT DO NOT STIR.** Mix 2 cups sugar and 1/2 cup cocoa together and sprinkle over batter. Sprinkle on pecans. Pour boiling water over; **DO NOT STIR.**

Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. **DO NOT OVERCOOK;** Cobbler will be cake like in the middle and syrupy around the edges. Cool slightly; serve warm in dessert dishes or small bowls. Top with vanilla ice cream.

Susan Williamson was asked by one or more Steel Magnolias for this recipe. It was very good!!

There were other great desserts on the table at this amazing event, including Susan Dupree's famous Red Velvet Cake.

Wendy and Charlotte provided a potato bar, including everyone's best loved toppings. Biggest potatoes I've ever seen and S0-0-0-0-0-0 GOOD!!

**Steel Magnolias Picture Album
Tribute to
Founder, Lenora Washington Johnson**



Marti tells Lenora the program will begin with a message from her sister, Debby and a recorded memory from her late sister, Betty.



Margaret reads message from Debby.



Nancy read Betty's childhood memory of Lenora.



Jimmy Taylor said, "The first time I heard the name Lenora Johnson was at a child's funeral in Heflin. Margaret had just been diagnosed with breast cancer. I mentioned it to people standing outside the funeral home. A little woman responded, 'Does Lenora know about Margaret?' To which I asked, 'Who is Lenora and why should she know about Margaret?' In 3 days I had the answer."



Faithful volunteer, Linda Barton said, "My mother has had breast cancer twice. This wonderful group helped us in so many ways. When I volunteered in honor of mom, Peggy Austin, I didn't know what there was to do, but now I know these women are constantly busy, raising money to pay for programs that help local cancer patients. Thank you Ms. Lenora for starting Steel Magnolias."



Keither tells Lenora about the first time she attended a meeting, after being invited by Marti Warren, and how glad she did.



Sister-in-law, Sue, congratulates Lenora.



Pinks Director, Gladys, shared a phone conversation. Her Spanish accent and my Southern accent...Lively!



Nancy truly went the extra mile to attend this special celebration in my honor. Nancy said, in 2006, she had just completed chemo treatments and she would never forget the first time she attended a Steel Magnolias meeting. She said, "I knew in my heart I had found what I needed." Nancy's husband Harry is now fighting a battle with a strong enemy, taking daily radiation treatments. Please keep Harry and Nancy in your prayers.



Marti asked Dr. Dave Roberts to "ROAST" Lenora. Please, someone HELP! Dr. Dave's first words to describe Lenora: STUBBORN and PUSHY! Thankfully it got better as he went along. All jokes aside, Dave has been with Steel Magnolias since 2002. We are blessed and thankful to have his leadership on our board. He serves as board chairman and represents us on the RMC Cancer Committee.



My husband, Prentiss, "The Driver," as he tells everyone, is enjoying the roasting just a little too much!



The Steel Magnolias Life Achievement Award was presented to Prentiss and me. Without our Men of Steel, none of us would be where we are.

To every person who contributed in any way, to the surprise party presented in my honor, on January 26, in the Cancer Resource Center, THANK YOU!

Financial Statement

January	Balance Brought Forward	\$6,295.07
01 (-) 100.00	Lenora Johnson	6,195.07
11 (-) 143.00	Miller Florist (Lenora Johnson's sister: Betty Skelton Funeral)	6,052.07
15 (+) 589.00	Deposit: Rooks donation 200, King Memorial for Betty Skelton 50, Robin Hood MD (Dr. Vadlamani) 150, Christmas Breakfast 89, Chaplain Services Memorial for Betty Skelton 50 Memorial for Barbara Ransford 50	6,641.07
15 (-) 143.10	Armstrong Florist (Marie Harbin Funeral)	6,497.97
15 (-) 145.97	Lenora Johnson: Postage for Care Packages 16.08, Roll Stamps 44.00, Wal-Mart for shelves and drawer cabinet for Pinks 77.97	6,352.00
27 (-) 61.30	American Awards (Lenora's Life Achievement Award)	6,290.70
27 (-) 45.00	Evans Florist (36 Tribute Roses for Lenora)	6,245.70
28 (-) 144.85	Advanced Printing (450 newsletters) (Cost 295.00-150.15 cr. = 144.85)	6,100.85



Steel Magnolias
 RECEPTION AND
 OPEN HOUSE
**PINKS
 CLOSET**



Marti Warren

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010
 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM
 RMC CANCER RESOURCE CENTER
 SUITE 406, PHYSICIANS CENTER
 901 LEIGHTON AVENUE
 ANNISTON, ALABAMA 36207

Steel Magnolias closet provides wigs,
 mastectomy bras, prosthesis, hats,
 and scarves free to breast cancer patients.
 Come meet Gladys Denizard, Pinks Director

ENJOY GREAT HORS D'OEUVRES,
 VISIT WITH STEEL MAGNOLIAS AND
 THE TUESDAY BEAR HUGGERS.

Steel Magnolias office is now located in
 Chaplain Jim Wilson's Office
 Suite 103 of the Physicians Building.
 Phone (256) 231-8827

JEWELRY

Marti, owner of Marti's
 Antique Jewelry, (RAJ)
 pleads with everyone to
 please contribute your no
 longer worn
 costume jewelry!

The Steel Magnolias
 Annual Bake and Jewelry
 Sale is Saturday, April 3,
 2010 at Quintard Mall,
 9 am to 5 pm.

Please take contributions
 to Suite 103 in
 The Physicians Office
 Building
 901 Leighton Ave.
 Anniston, AL 36207
 Clearly Marked, for
 Steel Magnolias.

Thanks! contributions are
 Tax Exempt

**DO YOU BAKE? WELL KNOW FOR YOUR SPECIAL CAKE?
 WE NEED YOU!**

WOMEN'S CHURCH GROUPS & CIVIC GROUPS
 SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2010. QUINTARD MALL
 Need more information: Call Office (256) 231-8827 or Lenora (256) 447-9822

Local High School Clubs and Jacksonville State University Service Clubs
 Please help us provide services for local cancer patients.
 More info. Call Office (256) 231-8827 or Email lenora@steelmagnoliasinc.org



Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.
First Annual Lea Fite Memorial Golf Tournament
 Pine Hill Country Club, Saturday, May 8, 2010
 175 Pine Hill Drive, Anniston, AL 36207
 Sponsored by Food Outlet—Owner Mike Sanders

Sign-up fee \$50: Includes-Registration, Lunch, Gift Bag

Opportunity at time of registration to purchase separate Package that includes: 2 mulligans, a throw and a skirt @ \$15. Cost after registration, \$20

For More Information or to register, call:
 Jimmy Taylor (256) 463-7620

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Mail Newsletter	16	17	18 Pinks Reception Cancer Ctr.	19	20
21	22	23 Group Meeting	24	25	26	27
28	Monday March 15, Mail Newsletter Meet now in Suite 103 to stuff envelopes.					

Speakers Bureau

www.steelmagnoliasinc.org

Steel Magnolias appreciates the opportunity to speak about the work done on behalf of cancer patients by Steel Magnolias. More information:
 Call (256) 231-8827

lenora@steelmagnoliasinc.org

Saturday February 6, 2010

Marti Warren spoke to the Alpha Delta Kappa Teachers Sorority at First Baptist Church at McClellan. Fifteen members were present.

Mark Your Calendar

Thursday February 18: PINKS reception and open-house, 10 am to 4 pm, Suite 406, Physicians Center

Tuesday February 23: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel meeting, 5 pm, Suite 406, (RMC Cancer Resource Center) Physicians Center, 901 Leighton Ave., Anniston, Alabama.

Special guest speaker: Alisa Bennett, student doing clinical requirement for certified lymphedema certificate from University Tennessee Health Science Center. Supervisor, Regina Sinlayson will be accompanying Alisa. **Food:** RMC will provide large crock of potato soup. Lenora will bring oyster crackers. Others attending can bring salad of choice or light dessert.

Tuesday March 23: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel meeting, 5 pm, Suite 406, Physicians Center, 901 Leighton Ave., Anniston. Food, Fellowship and discussion of upcoming events. More Info about food at a later date.

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

Joggin' Inside

CNN NEWS

His request approved, the CNN News Photographer quickly used a cell phone to call the local airport to charter a flight. He was told a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport. He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go! The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, "Fly over the valley and make low passes so I can take pictures of the fires on the hillsides." "Why?" Asked the pilot. "Because I'm a photographer for CNN News," he responded, "and I need to get some close up shots..." The pilot was strangely silent for a moment, finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is....You're NOT my flight instructor?!" Courtesy ofPokey Warren

Naïve Receptionist

During a recent password audit at a company, it was found that a naïve receptionist was using the following password: "MickeyMinniePlutoLouieDeweyDonaldGoofySacramento" When asked why she had such a long password, she said she was told that it had to be at least 8 characters long and include at least one capital. Courtesy of....Rhonda Hill

Child's Christmas Report

When classes resumed after Christmas, the teacher asked the class to write a report about what they each did during the Christmas break, while away from school. One child wrote the following: "We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Arizona. Now they live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on bicycles and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a wreck center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now, they do exercise there, but don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on. At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out, and go cruising in their golf carts. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night—early birds. Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll house. The ones who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked center for pot luck. My Grandma says Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too. When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out, so they can visit their grandchildren. Courtesy ofPokey Warren

MAN Of The House

The husband had just finished reading a new book entitled, "You Can Be The Man Of Your House." He stormed over to his wife in the kitchen and announced, "From now on, you need to know that I am the man of this house and my word is Law. You will prepare me a gourmet meal tonight, and when I'm finished eating my meal, you will serve me a sumptuous dessert. After dinner, you are going to go upstairs with me and, well, you get the point. Later, you are going to draw a bath so I can relax. You will wash my back and towel me dry and bring my robe. Then you will massage my feet and hands. Then tomorrow, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair?" Without even looking up from her morning paper the wife replied, "The funeral director would be my first guess." Courtesy of....Pokey Warren

Don't You Know

Just before I was deployed to Iraq, I sat my eight-year-old son down and broke the news to him. "I'm going to be away for a long time," I told him. "I'm going to Iraq." "Why?" he asked. "Don't you know there's a war going on over there?" Courtesy of....Pokey Warren

Cub Scout

On the way back from a Cub Scout meeting, my grandson innocently said to my son, "Dad, I know babies come from mommies' tummies, but how do they get there in the first place?" After my son hemmed and hawed awhile, my grandson finally spoke up in disgust, "You don't have to make up something, Dad. It's okay if you don't know the answer." Courtesy of....Pokey Warren