

# Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

## The Race Set Before Us

January 15, 2007

### The Mark....The Focus

As we look forward to the work of Steel Magnolias in 2007, it is important that we remind ourselves of our mission.

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1*

During the past eight weeks, while most everyone was shopping, wrapping, cooking and preparing for celebrations with family and friends, Steel Magnolias were contacted about 24 women who were still frozen, like deer caught in the headlights, because of the news that they had breast cancer. A few of these women were facing their second fight with this great enemy.

There is no holiday for cancer, therefore there can be no holiday or delay in responding to the plea of friends and family who contact us on behalf of their loved one.

Because there has to be a starting line for any race, The calls first come to the

Executive Director. Because the Tuesday Bear Huggers are faithful to provide a steady supply of care packages, because Avon in Quintard Mall has been faithful to supply Avon gifts and because the Steel Magnolias' team is always ready, we are able, within days, to respond to every need.

After I've mailed the care packages, that also includes a personal letter, back issues of newsletters, educational Steel Magnolias' material and a list of available services, I then call our chaplain, Ina Rooks. Ina mails each newly diagnosed woman a prayer card and adds her name to the Steel Magnolias prayer list.

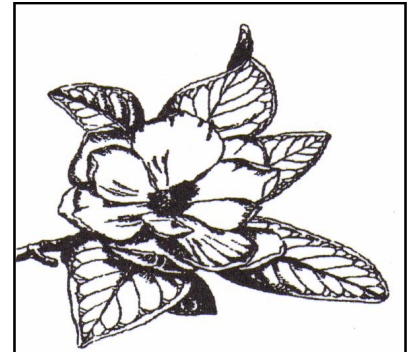
Gladys Denizard is then called. As chairperson of the follow-up committee, she records all information, including address, telephone number and the name of the person who referred the newly diagnosed patient to Steel Magnolias. She then calls to be sure the patient has what they need.

When possible a visit is made to the home of the patient.

A call is then made to Judy Lyle, who is chairperson of the card ministry of the Tuesday Bear Huggers. A "Hug Attack," card is then mailed to the newly diagnosed patient.

Because of the generosity of RMC, made possible because of the strong advocate and voice Steel Magnolias has in Chaplain Jim Wilson, Steel Magnolias now has an office in RMC West. God has been so good to send Milli Carlisle who will keep this office open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Even when Milli is not in the office, a call will put anyone in touch with Steel Magnolias. Messages are checked, regularly, several times a day, even on week-ends.

We must always be faithful to our mission to provide a road map for the newly diagnosed patient. The synonym for FAITHFUL: long-continued and steadfast devotion to



**Sharing love through support**

Lenora Johnson, Founder,  
Editor, Director  
P.O. Box 36  
Jacksonville, AL 36265  
[www.steelmagnoliasinc.org](http://www.steelmagnoliasinc.org)  
(256) 231-8827

Jim Wilson, RMC Chaplain  
(256) 235-5146

Ina Rooks, Steel Magnolias  
Chaplain (256) 488-5505

.....  
whatever one is bound to, by a  
pledge, duty, or obligation.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of the person who makes the referral, to Steel Magnolias. Without your call, Steel Magnolias would have no mission. Some of our Steel Magnolias are always conscious of the need to act, upon hearing of a dear woman whose life has been shattered, by the news of a journey they didn't choose, and for which they have no road map.

### **Winds**

*Sometimes God causes severe winds of trial to blow upon His children to develop their gifts. Just as a torch burns more brightly when waved back and forth, and just as a juniper plant smells sweetest when thrown into flames, so the richest qualities of a Christian often arise under the strong winds of suffering and adversity. Bruised hearts often emit fragrance that God loves to smell.*

*I had a tiny box, a precious box  
Of human love—my perfume of great price;  
I kept it close within my heart of hearts  
And scarce would lift the lid lest it should waste  
Its fragrance in the air. One day a strange  
Deep sorrow came with crushing weight, and I fell  
Upon my costly treasure, sweet and rare,  
And broke the box to pieces. All my heart  
Rose in dismay and sorrow at this waste,  
But as I mourned, behold a miracle  
Of grace Divine. My human love was changed  
To Heaven's own, and poured in healing streams  
On other broken hearts, while soft and clear  
A voice above me whispered, "Child of mine,  
With comfort wherewith you are comforted,  
From this time forth, go comfort others,  
And you will know blest fellowship with Me,  
Whose broken heart of love has healed the world."*

From: Streams In The Desert

By L.B. Cowman

Edited by James Reimann

In honor of those mothers, daughters, sisters, and grandmothers who during the 2006 Thanksgiving and Christmas season, were diagnosed with breast cancer, this poem is for you.

### **Beyond My Heart's Door**

The beauties I behold  
As I peer beyond my heart's door,  
Awards my imagination  
With beauties untold.

God help the frightened child  
That lives within my heart,  
To move bravely, beyond this portal,  
Strong, and Focused and Riled.  
By Lenora Washington Johnson

### **Lessons On Life**

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent each of them on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away. The first son went in winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer and the youngest in the fall. When they had gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen. The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent and twisted. The second son said, no it was covered with green buds and full of promise. The third son disagreed; he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen. The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was rope and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment. The man explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen only one season in the tree's life. He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person by only one season, and that the essence of who we are and the pleasure, joy and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up. If you give up when it's

winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfillment of your fall.  
MORAL: Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest. Don't judge life by one difficult season.  
Persevere through the difficult patches and better times are sure to come some time or later.

### **Correspondence**

Jennifer Poore has been sending regular updates to a large number of prayer partners, including Steel Magnolias. On December 2, I responded to her update and Jennifer sent this message:

"Thank you so much for your words of encouragement. They are the fuel that strengthens my faith and lifts my spirits. I love what you quoted in your E-mail. It is so true. I (we) can be an encouragement to others who are just now facing a difficult trial or tribulation. It is so comforting to know others are walking the journey with you. If there is anything I can do to assist any of the women the group has sent care packages to, please don't hesitate to contact me. Please thank the Steel Magnolias members for their prayers and support. May God bless you for always thinking of others during their darkest hour." In His Name, Jennifer Poore

Derek Brown, of WideNet Consulting, asked that a Steel Magnolias' care package be sent to his cousin, Renee. Derek forwarded her response to his referral of her name to Steel Magnolias:

"If there was ever any doubt, well no more. You are officially my favorite cousin. I got the package from Steel Magnolias that you requested. It was so nice and useful. Thank you for thinking of me. You are such a thoughtful and wonderful person and I love you." Renee

### **Minutes of November 28, Steel Magnolias Meeting**

The 4th Tuesday meeting of Steel Magnolias was called to order by Parliamentarian, Marti Warren. Chaplain, Ina Rooks, gave each lady a name from our prayer list. Prayer was offered by each survivor for the person whose name was on her paper.

Just as prayer was ended, Rita, Manager of Downey Medical and Sales associate, Heather, entered the room, with bags containing mastectomy bras and prosthesis for the benevolent closet and an envelope containing a contribution of \$156. Linda Barton, who sold quilt raffle tickets in honor of her mother, breast cancer survivor, Peggy Austin, arrived to turn in the last of her ticket stubs and money. Thank you, Linda!

Marti then called the meeting to order. Lenora Johnson, in Secretary, Jo Ann Taylor's absence, read the minutes of the October meeting. Minutes were approved as read. Treasurer, Nancy Burnell gave the financial report, which was approved. (Report at close of minutes)

In old business: Motion was made and seconded that we elect Nancy Burnell and Margaret Taylor to fill vacancies on the Steel Magnolias Board of Directors. They were unanimously elected. The 2007 Board of Directors is as follows: Nancy Burnell, Margaret Taylor, Jo Ann Taylor, Gail Tuck, Marti Warren, Lenora Johnson, Dr. James Daniel, Chaplain Jim Wilson, and Chairman of the Board, Dr. Dave Roberts.

In new business: Lenora talked about the [www.steelmagnoliasinc.org](http://www.steelmagnoliasinc.org) web site. Gail Tuck proposed that Steel Magnolias, starting January 1, 2007, pay the \$49 a month service charge to WideNet Consulting, on a per year payment plan, saving the group one month's payment, making the yearly fee, \$539. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Vice President, Keither Zeimet will be responsible for scheduling special guests for 2007 Steel Magnolias' meetings.

Marti Warren led a special program about the different hats a woman wears. Several ladies shared the different hats they wear on a daily basis. Marti entertained us by modeling hats from her antique hat collection. Everyone then put their name in Hat #1 for a door prize, Hat #2 held statements of what each of us was thankful for and Hat #3 of something funny that had happened to each individual when we were going through our surgeries and treatments associated with breast cancer. We each read someone else's entry from Hat #2 and #3. Everyone laughed and had a great time. Winner of the door prize, a \$15 gift certificate to Warren's Family Affair, was Lenora Johnson.

Meeting was adjourned and everyone enjoyed Lenora's homemade chili and a variety of desserts.

In the absence of Jo Ann Taylor, minutes were taken by Margaret Taylor

## November 2006 Financial Report

November		Balance Brought Forward
		\$5,357.52
01 — 100	Lenora Johnson: Monthly expenses	5,257.52
13 — 576	Wal-Mart: Computer for Office @ RMC West	4,681.52
13 — 39	Roll of Stamps (Office @ RMC West	4,642.52
14 — 100	Lenora Johnson (Difference in cost of replacement of faulty computer)	4,542.52
20 + 454	Quilt Raffle 444 1 Pen 5 1 Book 5	4,996.52
26 — 39	Roll of stamps for Ina Rooks	4,957.52
27 + 15	Gladys Denizard for T-shirt	4,972.52

### Steel Magnolias Christmas Brunch

Steel Magnolias, friends and spouses, gathered, on the morning of Saturday December 9, at 10:30 a.m., in Monet Salon & Day Spa's beautiful Tea Room, for Christmas Brunch. Porterhouse catered a beautiful breakfast buffet. After eating a delicious meal, Lenora read letters from newly diagnosed breast cancer patients and outlined the complete support package received by patients who receive care packages from steel Magnolias. Ina Rooks and Gladys Denizard were recognized for their faithfulness to do follow-up cards and phone calls.

Special Gold Coin "Thank You" Certificates were presented to local businesses, physicians and individuals who have made significant contributions, in money or goods to the work of Steel Magnolias. Those not present, to receive their certificates, had their certificates on display, to be delivered at a later date.

Aline Gardner, following the recognition of contributors, and the presentation, to Aline, of a beautiful Pink Ribbon Wind Chime from Warren's Family Affair, drew the winning ticket for her beautiful Dresden Plate, memorial quilt. A man from the Saks Community was named winner.

We then moved on to fun and games! Hansel Gardner must have x-ray vision because he managed to choose gifts that everyone wanted to steal. All in all, each of us had great fun!

### Gold Star Contributors

Only those who had made contributions, in 2006, that exceeded \$500, were recipients of gold coin Certificates. We sincerely thank each and every contributor for sharing our concerns for the newly diagnosed patient and for women living with cancer:

North Alabama Women's Center  
Aline Gardner  
Advanced Printing  
Downey Medical  
Jacksonville Medical Center  
Quintard Mall Avon Store  
Wound Healing Center  
Recycled Antique Jewelry  
Haywood Jewelers

The Tuesday Bear Huggers  
Northeast AL Regional Med. Center  
American Awards  
MGMA of East AL  
Monet Salon & Day Spa  
Alamed Health Care  
Swinging Stars Square Dance Club  
Harvest Moon Gift Shop  
WideNet Consulting

### Hansel and Aline Deliver Barbara Pelletier's Memorial Quilt

#### ....In Her Own Words....

"Hey All, Sorry to say the quilt went to a guy named Jim Kelley.. I sold some tickets at a pancake breakfast that was being held at a fund raiser for some lodge to buy glasses for the poor and this man was there fixing the air conditioner and decided to buy a book of raffle tickets. When I delivered the quilt to his wife, she cried. She said that her sister had died suddenly, a short while back and her name was also Barbara. She had just finished decorating her house for Christmas and was feeling very sad because it was her first Christmas without her sister and best friend. At first I was a little disappointed that someone we knew didn't get it. What a surprise when Dad and I walked into the ladies' house and heard the story. God had a plan and it amazed us that He would let me take it to a lady in pain over her sister BARBARA'S death. It made it a little easier to give up a project that really meant a lot to me. I asked her to take care of it because a lot of love and tears went into it. She asked for a hug."

Barbara Pelletier's children live in Rhode Island. When they received the Email about the placement of Aline's "LABOR of LOVE," they commented, "Auntie, that is one of the most beautiful Christmas stories we have ever heard." Thank you Aline! Your generous memorial project brought joy to everyone, and funds that will provide for even more hurting women.

#### December 2006 Financial Statement

December		Balance Brought Forward	4,971.76
01	— 100.00	Lenora Johnson: Monthly Expense	4,871.76
05	+ 288.00	Downey Med., Brunch, Quilt Raffle	5,159.76
06	+ 666.88	Return Faulty computer to Wal-Mart	5,826.64
08		Dell computer order cancelled—RMC will provide computer	
09	— 550.00	Porterhouse Café (Christmas Brunch)	5,276.64
09	— 50.00	RAJ Breast Cancer Wind Chime for Aline Gardner	5,226.64
09	— 73.69	Lenora Johnson Supplies for Gold Coin Awards, Condiments, Easels	5,152.95
09	— 58.94	Lenora Johnson Balance for Award framing	5,094.01
22	+ 268.00	Quilt Raffle, Brunch	5,362.01
23	— 50.00	Oxford Computer Service (Return and Handling of new Dell Computer	5,312.01

Thank you, Nancy for doing such a great job!

#### A River Runs Through It

About two weeks before Christmas, my childhood friend, Mitchell James sent an Email, "Lenora, I'm going to be at Mama's for Christmas, we would like to bring her to your house." I wrote about Lillian in the August newsletter. On December 23rd, Mitchell, his wife Angie, grandson, brother, Edward and Lillian drove into my yard. They had driven from Marianna, Florida, arriving in time for a late lunch. My sister Betty and I prepared an Italian meal and we all gathered around my dining table. As I studied the faces of these grandparents that I'd last seen when they were teenagers, and listened to the recounting of childhood adventures, I felt such love and a connection with what was and what is, moments we rarely take the time to explore. What a gift! Friendship and love are truly God's greatest gifts.

On January 8, I received this Email, "We had a great time coming up there, it was worth the drive to see you guys again, I just wish Gerald could have been there. Don't forget to send me the cake directions, my wife asked about that the other day." Mitch

Even though more than forty-five years have passed since we were children together, the river that flows through the passing of time and binds hearts, filled us with gratitude.

Guideposts, January issue, has an article by Denzel Washington, "The 5 People Who Made Me Who I Am." This article is an excerpt from Denzel's book, "A Hand to Guide Me." We should never forget those wonderful people, gifts from God, who helped to form us into vessels that God can use to bring comfort, joy and direction to a hurting world. God has a purpose and a plan for each of us and His plan is always that we live our lives and faithfully run the race God gives to each of us. The Reader's Digest, January edition, has an excerpt from Billy Graham's autobiography, "The Journey." The basic message is: Treat others as you'd like them to treat you—Use your tongue for good not evil—Never repay evil with evil—Don't hold grudges—Practice the power of forgiveness.

#### The Connection

Over and over again, throughout my life, I have heard the saying, "There is a reason for everything." A few days before Christmas, a woman from Piedmont called. She said, "My mother and my grandmother died from breast cancer and now my 20 year old daughter has a mass in her breast and her nipple is bleeding. She lives in Macon, Georgia, and she has no insurance." I told her to go to the Macon, Georgia, Health Dept., and inquire about the CDC Breast and Cervical Cancer Project and to get in touch with her local affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. After I hung the phone up, I thought of Janet Beebe, the keynote speaker for our New Beginnings Banquet. I E-mailed Janet about the young woman from Macon. Janet said, "I live 45 minutes from Macon and I know people in Macon who do a great job." I spoke with the mother from Piedmont and was told that Janet had contacted her daughter and that an appointment had been made for her to see a doctor in Macon.

Support is all about networking! Had Steel Magnolias not made contact with Janet through her friend, Pat, who was introduced to me by Pat's sister-in-law, who lives in Anniston, I would not have known to E-mail Janet Beebe. Thank you Jean, Pat, Janet!

#### **From Alabama to Texas to Alabama**

Hazel Johnson Rudolph, about two years ago, told me about her granddaughter who was battling breast cancer. She asked that I send her the monthly newsletter. A few weeks before Christmas, Hazel called to invite Prentiss and me to a New Year's party at her house. She said that her daughter and two granddaughters were coming from Texas and her granddaughter, Celeste, who enjoyed the newsletter each month, wanted me to come. Prentiss and I went to the party. Hazel, who is approaching her 94th birthday, had prepared a beautiful refreshment table and was, as usual, the most gracious hostess. Celeste, whose cancer has spread to her hips, and I were able to visit for a couple of hours. Celeste, who lives near Austin, Texas, belongs to a Bosom Buddies group.

The Bosom Buddies, in Austin, was founded about 10 years ago by two breast cancer survivors who identified a need for a Christ centered support group for women with breast cancer. The group gathers at noon every Monday at a Methodist church that generously allows us to use their library for our meetings. The group is composed of women of all faiths and at various stages in their journey with breast cancer. Our meetings include prayer, support and sharing. After the weekly meeting, we "adjourn" for lunch at a local restaurant for some food and fellowship. Each year we have two socials, one in the summer and the other a Christmas party with our spouses.

#### **From Texas To Nicaragua**

Last year, at the invitation of a local oncologist, Dr. John Doty, we began an outreach to women in Nicaragua who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Dr. Doty has formed, Austin Samaritans; who support medical needs of all kinds in Nicaragua, with a mission outreach program. The Bosom buddies, last year, provided over 150 packets of mini toiletries, bandanas\scarves, and a card in Spanish that explains about the group and that we are praying for them. Each card is signed personally by a buddy. In addition, we sent wigs, prosthesis, bras, hats and other items that could be given to women in treatment. We are now planning to send more items this Spring, when Dr. Doty returns for his semi-annual mission trip. It is a wonderful project and we are proud and blessed to be a part of this special outreach. Courtesy of Celeste Stark, Austin, Texas

Celeste told me that there are many breast cancer support groups in the Austin area who have varying projects in the community. It was such a privilege to meet Celeste and is gratifying to share the differing ministries that Steel Magnolias, Inc. has, and learn about the Austin, Texas Bosom Buddies. More can be read in the February, Steel Magnolias newsletter about the Austin Samaritans.

#### **Ovarian Update**

Just as I was beginning to reclaim my life, re-grow my hair and think about reclaiming my appearance, I made an appointment with Martha Shaw at Unique Salon. Martha did permanent makeup on my eyebrows and taught me how to style my hair that was partly curly and partly straight. She told me that her mother was a breast cancer survivor, therefore she was very careful to have regular mammograms. It never occurred to Martha that she faced, because of her genetics, an even greater threat. By the time Martha was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, it had spread throughout her abdomen. This is not an isolated incidence.

Ovarian cancer is rare when compared to breast cancer, however, we as breast cancer survivors need to know the symptoms. Rosemary, a resident of Calhoun County, after battling breast cancer, and after consulting many doctors about troubling symptoms, was finally diagnosed with Stage 3-C Ovarian Cancer. She learned only then that her genetic disposition made her vulnerable to ovarian cancer.

Janet, a resident of Calhoun County, went from doctor to doctor, trying to get a diagnosis for her troubling symptoms, finally being diagnosed with Stage 3-B ovarian cancer.

Sadly, Martha, Rosemary and Janet are the norm for women seeking diagnosis for ovarian cancer. The symptoms for ovarian cancer are so similar to those experienced by women having digestive system disorders or premenstrual symptoms that crucial time is lost and ovarian cancer stages very rapidly.

Betty Reiser, a 35 year old survivor, who was diagnosed at stage-I, says women need to learn the symptoms to watch out for because the statistics are staggering! 23,000 women, every year, are diagnosed, every year 18,000 women die. 80% of patients are diagnosed at stage III or IV, when survival is slim. 70 to 90 percent of patients with stage I disease are still alive in 5 years; 65 % five year survival rate in stage II and 15 to 35 % five year survival in stage III.

Symptoms: A feeling of abdominal bloating and fullness....Changes in urinary frequency and function....Abdominal swelling....Eating irregularities....Unexplained changes in the way your pants fit: too tight without weight gain....Unexplained abdominal or pelvic pain....Unexplained weight loss or gain....Shortness of breath when exercising, especially when it happens after the same activity level was easy just weeks or months before....Pain during intercourse, especially deep into the abdomen, suggesting a swelling of the ovaries....Swollen legs.

CA-125 is used in women after they have been diagnosed but is considered unreliable as a screening tool for the general population. Most ovarian cancer patients are finally diagnosed by CAT Scan. Statistics were taken from the November-December, 2006 issue Mamm Magazine.

### **Looking Ahead**

In the year 2006, God richly blessed Steel Magnolias. Our January meeting will be devoted to the discussion of the Steel Magnolias' mission and our goals for 2007. At our first meeting, January 2006, we could never have imagined having the support, from the community and from RMC, allowing us to impact the lives of women living with breast cancer. We are now, for the first time, in a position to provide a more complete program of outreach.

### **Steel Magnolias Bake and Jewelry Sale**

The Saturday before Easter will be here before we know it! A few days ago, I spoke with Marti about our annual fundraiser. Marti said that everyone who has old costume jewelry to contribute, needs to get the jewelry to her soon! Please carry contributions of old jewelry to **The Warren Family Affair**, located in suite 103 of the Noble Building, located at 1021 Noble Street. Easiest entrance is from Wilmer Avenue. Store is located next to Couch's Jewelers. Hours are: Monday and Wednesday...1:30-5:30; Thursday, Friday, Saturday....10:30-5:30.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

**Thursday, January 18: Steel Magnolias Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., in the Tyler Center Deli**

**Saturday, January 20: Lenlock Wal-Mart Breast Cancer Awareness Fair, Need volunteers to help distribute information.**

**Tuesday, January 23: Steel Magnolias Group Meeting, 5:00 p.m., in the Tyler Center Classroom. Meetings are for breast and ovarian cancer survivors and their significant other. Snacks to follow meeting.**

**Tuesday, February 27, Steel Magnolias Meeting...Special Guest: DeDe Garsrerrick, from Friend's Natural Market...subject: Immune System**

## Here Goes!

### Chuckles About Marriage

**My husband** and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God, and I didn't.....**Marriage** is a three-ring circus: Engagement ring, Wedding ring, and suffering.....**For SALE:** Wedding dress, size 8. worn once by mistake.....**There are two times** when a man doesn't understand a woman: Before marriage and after marriage....**Why were hurricanes** usually named after women? Because when they arrive, they're wet and wild, but when they go, they take your house and car.....**The woman applying for a job** in a Florida lemon grove seemed way too qualified for the job. "Look Miss," said the foreman, "Have you any actual experience in picking lemons?" "Well, as a matter of fact, YES! She replied. "I've been divorced three times.".....**An old man goes to the Wizard** to ask him if he can remove a curse he has been living with for the last 40 years. The Wizard says, "Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words that were used to put the curse on you." The old man says without hesitation, "I now pronounce you man and wife."....**Because they had no reservations** at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbor and his wife were told there would be a 45-minute wait for a table. "Young man, we're both past 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes." They were seated immediately.....**All eyes were on the radiant bride** as her father escorted her down the aisle. They reached the alter and the waiting groom; the bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand. The guests in the front pews responded with ripples of laughter. Even the priest smiled broadly. As her father gave her away in marriage, the bride gave him back his credit card.....**John was on his deathbed** and gasped pitifully, "Give me one last request, dear," he said. "Of course, John," his wife said softly. "Six months after I die," he said, "I want you to marry Bob." "But I thought you hated Bob," she said. With his last breath John said, "I do!"....**A man goes to see the Rabbi.** "Rabbi, something terrible is happening and I have to talk to you about it." The Rabbi asked, "What's wrong?" The man replied, "My wife is poisoning me." The Rabbi, very surprised by this asks, "How can that be?" The man then pleads, "I'm telling you, I'm certain she's poisoning me, what should I do?" The Rabbi then offers, "Tell you what. Let me talk to her, I'll see what I can find out and I'll let you know." a week later the rabbi calls the man and says, "Well, I spoke to her on the phone for three hours. You want my advice?" the man said yes and the Rabbi replied, "Take the poison."

### The Café

An Indian walks into a café with a shotgun in one hand pulling a male buffalo with the other. He says to the waiter: "Want coffee." He gets the Indian a tall mug of coffee. The Indian drinks the coffee down in one gulp, turns and blasts the buffalo with the shotgun, causing parts of the animal to splatter everywhere and then just walks out. The next morning the Indian returns. He has his shotgun in one hand, pulling another bull buffalo with the other. He walks up to the counter and says to the waiter, "Want coffee." The waiter says, "Whoa, Tonto! We're still cleaning up your mess from yesterday. What was all that about, anyway?" The Indian smiles and proudly says..."Training for position in United States Congress: Come in, drink coffee, shoot the bull, leave mess for others to clean up, disappear for rest of day."

### Catholic Heart Attack

A man suffered a serious heart attack and had open heart surgery. He awakened from surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at a Catholic Hospital. As he was recovering, a nun asked him questions regarding how he was going to pay for his treatment. She asked if he had insurance. He replied, in a raspy voice, "No health insurance." The nun asked if he had money in the bank. He replied, "No money in the bank." The nun asked, "Do you have a relative who could help you?" He said, "I only have a spinster sister, who is a nun." The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God!" The patient replied, "Send the bill to my brother-in-law."

### Thanksgiving Divorce

A man in Phoenix calls his son in New York the day before Thanksgiving and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; 45 years of misery is enough." "Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams. "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father says. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her." Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone, "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this!" She calls Phoenix immediately, and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up. The old man hangs up the phone and turns to his wife. "Okay," he says, they're coming to Thanksgiving and paying their own way."