

Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

The Joy of a New Beginning

July 18, 2011

Beginning for Whom?

We live at a time when too many of us think of the fast paced, exciting and trouble free messages, we encounter through every kind of media: television, the internet, magazines and even in our own communities, as reality. A reality we deserve and could have if we just knew the right people. Nothing could be further from the truth! Sooner or later, we all get stopped in our tracks by some negative intruder.

Many years ago, long before the thought of cancer became a reality for anyone in my family, there was Gilda Radner.



Gilda Radner 1946-1989
Married to Gene Wilder.
Award winning comedian.
Diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer in Oct. 1986 after misdiagnosis for 10 months. Died May 1989.

I'll never forget Gene

Wilder's insistence that the world know what symptoms his beloved wife experienced that were not recognized as possible ovarian cancer:

- **Abdominal pressure, fullness, swelling or bloating.**
- **Pelvic discomfort or pain**
- **Persistent indigestion, gas or nausea**
- **Changes in bowel habits, such as constipation**
- **Changes in bladder habits, including frequent need to urinate**
- **Loss of appetite or quickly feeling full**
- **Increased abdominal girth or clothes fitting tighter around your waist**
- **A persistent lack of energy**
- **Low back pain**

I thought about ovarian cancer long before I ever thought about breast cancer. Ten years after Gilda's passing, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Since then, I've learned that when there is a family history of breast cancer or ovarian

cancer, genetic testing should be considered: BRCA I and BRCA 2.

Cancer is an equal opportunity invader. Over the years, many of our most revered personalities have battled cancer. Whether in business, sports, journalism or entertainment, locally and nationally, we are reminded that no one is excluded. Each well-known survivor required a new beginning. The need for a new beginning was a reality check for the beautiful singer-actress, Olivia Newton John, as well as tough-man actor, Richard Roundtree, both battled breast cancer. Celebrated survivors usually become advocates.

On the evening of July 26, at Classic on Noble, Steel Magnolias, Men of Steel, volunteers and medical staff from RMC, will celebrate our 8th annual New Beginnings Banquet.

Great Nonprofits
Great NonProfits Campaign was held during the month of June.



Sharing love through support

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Marti Warren, Director

The 2011 campaign identified 123 nonprofits that qualified for the [Top-Rated Health Nonprofits List](#). Health organizations were selected, based on positive reviews from supporters. and people served by the nonprofit organization.

The first positive review posted for Steel Magnolias was by a survivor who moved away from Calhoun County about five years ago. I was so deeply moved by this dear woman's review that it brought tears to my eyes.

2011 Great Nonprofits Campaign

"Steel Magnolias was a huge amount of support after breast cancer surgery and chemotherapy. They are such strong women. I could not help wanting to be just like them. They are always thinking of ways to make things better for others despite their own hardships. So many backgrounds make a very diverse group that can connect with anyone, no matter the circumstances".....Dr. Paula....Bowling Green, Kentucky
(NOTE) Sincere thanks to Paula for her heartfelt review!

"Steel Magnolias sincerely thanks everyone who submitted a positive review for Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc. (Read reviews by logging onto www.greatnonprofits.org/reviews/steel-magnolias-breast-cancer-support-group-inc . 123 nonprofits qualified for the **Top-Rated Health Nonprofits List**. The full list is available at <http://greatnonprofits.org/issues/health-2> . Being one of 123 nonprofits who qualified to be named to the Top-rated Health Nonprofits List, we are thankful, humbled and motivated to work even harder to better serve patients in the NE Alabama region and cancer patients, wherever they live, with our website, care packages, and our newsletters."
Lenora Johnson, Executive Director

"Sometimes it is those who have been wounded most deeply, both humans and animals, who become blessed with the gift of being healers." Caroline Coleman, Charleston, West Virginia...
From Guideposts, June 2011.....*Hobbit the Healer*...page 76

The Cracked Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For two full years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water in his master's house. Of course the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end which it was made. But, the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer, "I am ashamed and I want to apologize to you." "Why," asked the water bearer.

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old, cracked pot took note of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path. The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice there were flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years, I've been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house.

Each of us has our own unique flaws; we're all cracked pots, but if we will allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace his Father's table. In God's economy, nothing goes to waste.

So as we seek ways to minister together, and as God calls you to the tasks He has appointed for you, don't be afraid of your flaws. Acknowledge them, and allow Him to take advantage of them, and you too can be the cause of beauty in His pathway. Go out boldly, knowing that in our weakness, we find His strength.....Author Unknown

The Advocates Prayer

Lord, make me strong, not that I might possess strength, but that I might be able to meet the crisis in my life and in the lives of those who reach out to me.

Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel Meeting



Sherry said: Grow where you are planted!

The Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer support Group, Inc. and Men of Steel met at 5:00 pm on June 28, 2011, in the Cancer Resource Center, suite 406, RMC Physician's Center.

The meeting was called to order by President, Marti Warren, who introduced Chaplain, Sherry Grinstead. Sherry presented a short talk about "Blooming Where You Are Planted." To demonstrate her message Sherry brought a small, potted begonia for each person. Before giving thanks for our food, Sherry prayed for everyone on the prayer list and for each person attending the meeting. While members made their way to the buffet tables, Sherry placed a flower at each person's place at the tables. Everyone enjoyed potato bar, provided by RMC and a variety of salads and desserts provided by Steel Magnolias.

Following dinner, Marti Warren turned the meeting over to Executive Director, Lenora Johnson. Lenora announced that Marti had accepted the position of Pinks Boutique Manager. Marti then told the group about the generous contribution of a 3 foot Chinese Palace Vase. Donated by a retired physician and his wife.

Lenora talked about emails she had received about the positive impact Steel Magnolias was having on our community and elsewhere. She shared how Tuesday Bear Hugger, Gerri Smith's poem was part of "Hope Rising," National Cancer Survivor Day at Providence Hospital, Mobile Alabama. Robi Jones, RN and coordinator for Breast Friends in the Providence Hospital's Breast Center made bookmarks that featured Gerri's poem, "Lord Lift Me Up." Lenora also told about several communications from other cities in Alabama and a special communication from a woman who has moved to a western state. Lenora reminded everyone that faithfulness to work together at events such as the Bazaar and the golf tournament is essential for Steel Magnolias continued ability to meet the needs of local cancer patients. It saddened Lenora to read a letter from Publicity Chair, Sheila Gaddy: "Thanks for everything. Steel Magnolias is a good group of men and women. I will not be able to give time to this group now, I have accepted a job. Thanks for letting me be a small part of Steel Magnolias. Love, Sheila"

Two visitors, Daphne Wilson and Robbie Parker, said a few words concerning their Race For The Cure team and about their interest in the work Steel Magnolias is doing with local breast cancer patients. Marti Warren and Lenora Johnson encouraged everyone to be in the lobby of RMC, no later than 7:00 am to set up the Bazaar. Jimmy Taylor brought the group up to date about where the golf tournament is at this time and charged each member to use every opportunity to

talk about the great work done for local cancer patients, by Steel Magnolias, and to work to make this year's tournament a success. Jimmy discussed the sports auction and the items of interest to both Alabama & Auburn fans.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.
Respectfully submitted by Marti Warren....Minutes by Chuck Trull

Steel Magnolias Bazaar



Serious inquirers only...
Call Steel Magnolias
(256) 231-8827
Lenora@steelmagnoliasinc.org

Pictures 1-8

1. Gloria Woosley arranges snacks as customers look at items displayed at the Steel Magnolias Bazaar.
2. Marti Rogers talking about the Mark Ingram and Cam Newton autographed shirts while shoppers consider purchases.
3. Three ft. tall, Chinese, Rose Medallion decorated palace vase with 6 leg ebony stand. Contributed by a retired doctor and his wife. This beautiful item did not sell and is available for a reasonable price.
4. Marti Rogers displaying Mark Ingram shirt....Keither Zeimet displaying Cam Newton shirt.
5. Gund Centennial Teddy with raffle tickets. Teddy bear contributed by Gerri Smith.
6. Prentiss and Lenora Johnson, taking a break.
7. Paul McCabe giving healing touch to Marti Warren's hurt toe.
8. Linda Barton, on tippy toes next to the exquisite palace vase.



Margaret Taylor, opening the Steel Magnolias Sports Auction.



RAJ's well trained sales clerks: Estelle Robertson, Janet Reese and Judy Elder

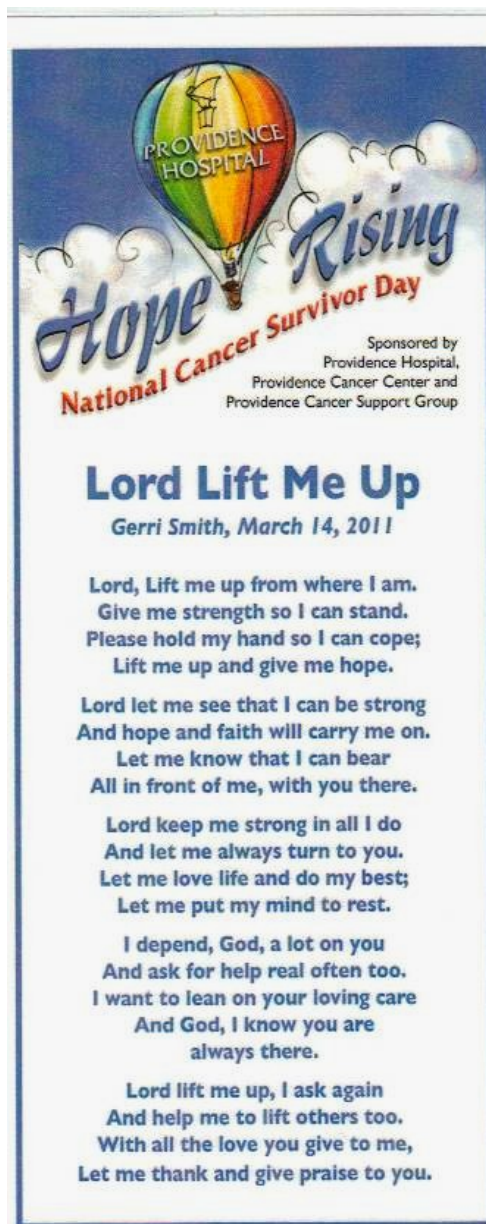
Financial Statement

June		Balance Brought Forward	\$6,645.69
01 (-)	100.00	Lenora Johnson, Monthly Expense	6,545.69
02 (+)	1000.00	Stringfellow Grant (Juliette P. Doster Award: Margaret Taylor)	7,545.69
08 (-)	195.00	Tournament Cancellation Ad—Anniston Star	7,350.69
08 (-)	75.00	Jeff Owens & Associates—Tax Preparation	7,275.69
14 (-)	51.21	Reimburse Lenora—BathSalts.com : Bulk Bath Soak for Bazaar	7,224.48
15 (+)	500.00	Private Contribution	7,724.48
21 (-)	44.00	Postmaster—100 stamps	7,680.48
24 (-)	23.85	Reimburse Marti Warren—Ribbon, etc. for Bath Salts Decanters	7,656.63

A complete reporting of the July 14 and 15 Steel Magnolias Bazaar, will be in the August Steel Magnolias Newsletter. Proceeds from the event will be deposited in the Steel Magnolias, RMC Foundation Account and funds will be used to fund the Steel Magnolias Dining Voucher Program. (Two vouchers are given to the family of any cancer patient in surgery at RMC and are redeemable in the RMC hospital cafeteria.

Correspondence

June 22, 2011



Dear Mrs. Johnson,

I wanted to thank you for your assistance in getting Mrs. Smith's approval to use her poem for our National Cancer Survivor Day. I have enclosed a thank you card for Mrs. Smith. I have also enclosed some of the poems that we gave to survivors. I am also sending you and Mrs. Smith one of our pins. Ever since I received one of your pins, I have wanted for our group to get our own pin and we just got these completed. It is so encouraging to get your monthly newsletter and our group loves hearing about how your group supports your community by education on prevention and early detection. I know God will continue to bless your ministry as you bless others with your presence and support.

Sincerely,

Robi Jones, RN, BSN, ARNP, CBCN

Providence Hospital Breast Friends Coordinator

Providence Hospital Breast Center

Mobile, AL

NOTE

Every month Steel Magnolias receives correspondence from survivors who are looking for a local support group in their town. Sometimes I can help; I always give information about www.steelmagnoliasinc.org and our monthly newsletter. I also make them feel free to contact us if we can be of help.

It is especially rewarding that Steel Magnolias has been able to encourage this group in Mobile. I am thankful for Gerri's great talent and her loving heart that she would share her great gifts with survivors, wherever they live.

Thank you Ms. Robi Jones, for allowing us to be a part of your Breast Friends group at Providence, Hospital in Mobile, Alabama. Your pin is very special! We pray God's blessings on your important work.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, July 23: Lea Fite Memorial Golf Tournament, Pine Hill Country Club. Shot gun start for golfers at 8:00 am..... Everyone working the tournament, be at golf course by 7:00 am. Please see poster on next page.

Sports Auction: At the Steel Magnolias Bazaar in the RMC Main Lobby, much interest was shown for the Mark Ingram and Cam Newton autographed shirts, as well as the Auburn poster autographed by Coach Chizik, several bids were placed. Following the tournament and lunch, bidding will end and items will be awarded to the highest bidder. Interested parties, not participating in the golf tournament, should be at Pine Hill Country Club a little before noon to ensure time to continue bidding. For more information: email <tjimmeg63@aol.com> or phone (256) 463-7620

Tuesday, July 26: New Beginnings Banquet, Classic On Noble, 6:00 pm. Everyone who received an invitation, please RSVP. Classic needs confirmed count of people attending. If in doubt, and a late call is necessary, please call Lenora (256) 447-9822 or (256) 231-8827 or email <lenora@steelmagnoliasinc.org>

Thursday, July 28: RMC's 19th Annual Cancer Survivor's Celebration, GIVE CANCER THE BOOT! 6:00 pm, Anniston City Meeting Center. RSVP at (256) 235-5084

Monday, August 15: Stuff envelopes! Steel Magnolias Newsletter mailing day. Suite 103 of Physicians Center

Tuesday, August 23: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel Meeting, Cancer Resource Center, Suite 406 in the RMC Physicians Center. Pizza and Ice Cream Supper! Please bring salad or ice cream. Don't forget sugar free/low fat choices. Special guest to be announced. Any breast cancer survivor can be a member of Steel Magnolias. Need more information....Call (256) 231-8827. If secretary not available.....Please leave a short message and phone number.



Representative Lea Fite

2nd Annual Lea Fite Memorial Golf Tournament

Sponsored by
Mike Sanders - Food Outlet

Hosted By
Men of Steel

To

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Steel Magnolias
PINE HILL
COUNTRY CLUB

Saturday,
July 23, 2011

Tee Time: 8:00 a.m.

2 Mulligans/Throw/Skirt
At registration \$15
After registration \$20

Prizes based on full field

1st Flight
1st place team \$600
2nd place team \$400

2nd Flight
1st place team \$200

Shot Gun Start

Hole
Sponsorship
\$100



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*University of AL Heisman Trophy Winner,
Mark Ingram autographed jersey*

*Auburn Heisman Trophy Winner,
Cam Newton autographed jersey*

Bidding on each jersey to start at \$175.00

A
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Entry Fee \$50 per player

4 man scramble \$200

Lunch will be served

We Sincerely
Thank You

Mike Sanders
Food Outlet—
Tournament
Sponsor

Zaxby's —
Food & Tea

Star Bucks
Coffee—
Coffee Cart

Coca Cola—
Colas & Water

Walgreen
Drug Store—
Free water
Volunteers

Buster Miles—
Hole in One
prize: \$10,000
towards a new
or used vehicle

Area Business
Owners—
Contribution of
door prizes for
the Golfers

Businesses &
Individuals—
Without your
labor, this
event could not
have happened

Let's be ready
for our golfers!!
Steel Magnolias, Men of
Steel and faithful Volunteers--
Be at Pine Hill
Country Club
by 7:00 am.
July 23, 2011

For more information
contact Jimmy Taylor at (256) 463-7620 or email: <tjimmeg63@aol.com

Joggin' Inside

Old Coot

An old prospector named Ralph, shuffled into town leading an old tired mule. Old Ralph headed straight for the only saloon to clear his parched throat. He walked up and tied his old mule to the hitch rail. A young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other. The young gunslinger looked at the old man and laughed, saying, "Hey old man, have you ever danced?" Ralph looked up at the gunslinger, grinned and said, "No, I never did dance....never really wanted to." A crowd had gathered as the gunslinger grinned and said, "Well, you old fool, you're gonna dance now!" and started shooting at the old man's feet. The old prospector, Ralph-not wanting to get a toe blown off-started hopping around like a flea on a hot skillet. Everybody was laughing, fit to be tied! When his last bullet had been fired, the young gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned to go back in the saloon. Old Ralph turned to his pack mule, pulled out a double-barreled shotgun, and cocked both hammers. The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air. The crowd stopped laughing immediately. The young gunslinger heard the sounds too, and he turned around slowly. The silence was almost deafening. The crowd watched as the young man stared at the old timer and the large gaping holes of those twin barrels. The barrels never wavered in old Ralph's hands, as he quietly said, "Son, have you ever kissed a mule's butt?" The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, "No sir.....but....I've always wanted to." **LESSONS learned:** *Never be arrogant. *Don't waste ammunition. *Whiskey makes you think you're smarter than you are. *Always, always make sure you know who has the power. *Don't mess with old people; they didn't get old by being stupid. Courtesy of Pokey....Anniston, AL

11 People on a Rope

Eleven people were hanging on a rope under a helicopter. Ten men and one woman. The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one had to leave, because otherwise they were all going to fall. They weren't able to choose that person, until the woman gave a very touching speech: **There was this preacher** who was an avid golfer. Every chance he could get, he could be found on the golf course swinging away. It was an obsession! One Sunday it was a picture perfect day for golfing. The sun was out, no clouds in the sky, and the temperature was just right. The preacher was in a quandary as to what to do, and shortly, the urge to play golf overcame him. He called an assistant to tell him that he was sick and could not do church, packed his car up, and drove three hours to a golf course where no one would recognize him. Happily he began to play the course. An angel up above was watching the preacher and was quite perturbed. He went to God and said, "Look at that preacher. He should be punished for what he is doing!" God nodded in agreement. The preacher teed up on the first hole and swung at the ball, and sent it sailing effortlessly right into the cup, three hundred and fifty yards away. A perfect **HOLE-IN-ONE!!!** He was amazed and excited. The angel was a little shocked. He turned to God and said, "Begging your pardon, but I thought you were going to punish him." God smiled, "Think about it....who can he tell?" Following the story, the woman said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because she was a woman, she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids and always making sacrifices with little return. As soon as she finished her speech, all the men started clapping..... Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL

Husband Comes Home Drunk

Jack wakes up with a huge hangover after his company's party. He is not normally a drinker, but the drinks didn't taste like alcohol at all. He didn't even remember how he got home from the party. As bad as he was feeling, he wondered if he did something really wrong..... He forced himself to open his eyes, and the first thing he sees is a couple of aspirins next to a glass of water on the side table. And, next to them a single rose!! He sits up and sees his clothing in front of him, all cleaned and pressed! He looks around the room and sees that it is in perfect order, spotlessly clean. So is the rest of the house. He takes the aspirins, cringes when he sees a huge black eye staring back at him in the bathroom mirror. Then he notices a note hanging on the corner of the mirror written in red with little hearts on it and a kiss mark from his wife in lipstick: "Honey, breakfast is on the stove, I left early to get groceries to make you your favorite dinner tonight. I love you, darling, Jillian" He stumbles to the kitchen and sure enough, there is hot breakfast, steaming hot coffee, and the morning newspaper. His 16 year old son is also at the table, eating. Jack asks, "What happened last night?" "Well, you came home after 3 am, drunk and out of your mind. You fell over the coffee table and broke it, and then you puked in the hallway, and got that black eye when you ran into the door." Confused, he asked his son, "So why is everything in such perfect order and so clean? I have a rose, and breakfast is on the table waiting for me??" His son replies, Oh THAT...Mom dragged you to the bathroom, and when she tried to take your pants off, you screamed, "Leave me alone woman, I'm married!!!" Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL