

Relay for Life of Seneca County Newsletter

March 2015



2015 Relay Theme: **A Cure is Born** (movie theme)
www.relayforlife.org/senecacountyny

Dates to Remember:

March 9 – Team Captain Meeting (all) 6:00 @
Community Center **Committee Meeting**
immediately following

April 6 - Team Captain Meeting (new) 6:00 @
Community Center **Committee Meeting**
immediately following

May 4 - Team Captain Meeting (all) 6:00 @ Community Center **Committee Meeting**
immediately following

June 2 - Bank Night 6:00 – 8:00 pm @ Community Center

June 5 – Relay @ Mynderse Academy, Seneca Falls, NY

Relay for Life of Seneca County
Friday, June 5, 2015
3:00 PM
Mynderse Academy Senior High
(105 Troy St, Seneca Falls, NY)

Fundraisers:

Team **Ya Yas** is having a **Yankee Candle Fundraiser** *now thru March 20th*
YankeeCandleFundraiser.com
group #990075995

If you would like for your fundraisers to be advertised in this newsletter please email the information to glott57@gmail.com or hillary.gozigian@cancer.org before the 1st of each month.

Monthly letter:

My Cancer Journal

In the early months of 2010 I was experiencing fainting spells. So I went to the ER at Clifton Springs Hospital. The ER staff was concentrating on possible heart issues. I said, "It's gastric." A nurse asked, "Are you a nurse?" I replied, "no". "Why do you say it is gastric", she asked. My reply, "I know my body."

Nausea, weakness, bloating were other health issues.

In the coming months, I had other tests, x-ray, cat scan and on July 14 EGD which gave diagnosis of an ulcer, then another EGD on September 14.

On September 16, Dr. Biery of Clifton Springs Hospital called saying, "I have bad news, it is cancer. I recommend surgery and if you were my Mother I would recommend Dr. Stephan Ettinghausen at Rochester General Hospital to do the surgery. I replied, well aren't I? (referring to Mother)

I voiced my approval. Bob my significant other was sitting opposite me and I did not want him to know of the cancer.

After hearing the big "C" news, I had to go to interview applicants for an organist position at church. I did tell my Pastor that I had just received the cancer diagnosis.

The next day I did tell my good friend that had taken me to my tests. I was being asked many questions, where are you always going, how much shopping can you do? I do not see many packages. I finally had to tell him and made a call to Cherie and Jim, (daughter and son-in-law) the news. Called my daughter in Iowa whose husband was in hospital recovering from an acute myocardial infarction. I did not want to tell her the bad news but she would be upset if I didn't tell her.

Met with Dr. Stephan Ettinghausen at Rochester General Hospital and he was reluctant to perform the surgery – it was severe surgery and stage 3 but a concern because of my age, 86.

Surgery was scheduled for October 22. Distal Gastrectomy, abdominal node dissection feeding Jejunostomy. I was in hospital 9 days and had a great attitude and accepted it well.

I received excellent care at RGH – One aide would bring me a bikini every day after bath. (Made me feel more human.)

Dr. Ettinghausen recommended chemotherapy – I selected Dr. Stephen Ignaczak at Clifton Springs and also Dr. Albracht for radiation. My insurance company approved my treatment in pill form. I had treatments from December thru part of March.

I resumed most of my activities thru the summer on a reduced schedule.

In 2013, while hospitalized at Clifton, they discovered a spot on my left lung. It was not possible to do a biopsy because of the location, so near to my heart. A pet scan indicated it was malignant.

I was referred to Dr. Christian Peyre at Strong Hospital and again he was reluctant to do surgery based on my age. I convinced the doctor to go ahead and surgery was completed on November 13. It turned out to be a pneumonia infection. Part of my lung was removed. Now I am on an inhaler for my lungs.

My family, church family, golf and social friends were and still are so supportive.

I feel I am so very fortunate to be able to do regular activities – even golf (not so good anymore) but the friendship is wonderful.

Life is what you make it. Enjoy each day and be thankful.

Alice T. Burgdorf

New at Relay this year:

The survivor dinner will be held at 5:00, before the Survivor Lap
