

ONE
TO
ONE



Ovarian Cancer
Support Group

Special Meaning

At our April meeting, each of our members shared a quote that means something special to her. Below are some of the quotations that especially resonate with our ladies.

Marsha Booser:

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."



Karen Simister:

"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."

(Albus Dumbledore)
from the movie (not the book)
"Prisoner of Azkaban"



Lisa Helmle:

"She believed she could and she did."



Nancy Nordlie:

"Whether you accept it or reject it, God's love for you is permanent."
(Sri Chinmoy)



"Life is what's happening while you're worrying." (Ajahn Brahm)

One to One is devoted to the on-going support of those newly diagnosed, those in remission and those in recurrence.

100% of contributions directly benefit our group by providing activities and paying for expenses.

Donations are gratefully accepted and can be made by check payable to **One to One Ovarian Cancer Support Group** c/o Marilyn Brozovic 4793 Alton Dr. Troy, MI 48085

A receipt will be provided for tax purposes.

Amanda Itliong:

"I must be a mermaid...I have no fear of depths and a great fear of shallow living." (Anais Nin)

"All that you touch you Change. All that you Change changes you. The only lasting truth is Change." (Octavia Butler)



Bonita Gardner:

"I like the quote that I shared because it reflects how faith, for me, is not simply about what I believe, but it is the heart experience of divine Love that gives purpose to my life and makes me feel so very alive."

"Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love and it will decide everything." (Fr. Pedro Arrupe)

PROFILE IN *Courage*

By Marcia Gurche

If I were to tell you about **Michele “Shelly” Gatti**, I would describe her as a strong, quiet, sincere, dedicated, kind “worker bee.” Michele is very unassuming, but her presence is felt wherever she is and in whatever she does. Michele and her husband, **Dave**, are active members of the *Cancer Support Community* (CSC) in Ann Arbor. Following Michele’s diagnosis of ovarian cancer in January 2013, they both realized that they needed the support that they could receive from the CSC – Michele as a survivor and Dave as a caregiver. They have attended meetings there in person, and now virtually, for the last eight years. While Michele was initially diagnosed at an early stage, unfortunately her cancer journey has been a difficult one and she has been faced with multiple recurrences, which means she has incurred multiple chemotherapy regimens, radiation treatments, additional surgery, and treatment with PARP inhibitors. Through all of this, Dave has been by her side. However, it has been particularly frustrating this past year when he couldn’t be physically present at Michele’s appointments with her doctor and he has had to listen in by phone while sitting out in the parking lot.



Michele was raised in East Detroit and lived there with her parents and her brother **Bill** and her two sisters, **Linda** and **Pat**. She attended Wayne State University with the help of financial aid and a small academic scholarship, where she majored in Art History. Her dream of becoming an artist didn’t materialize, but she eventually went to work at Hudson’s, where her dream of meeting her Prince Charming was realized. Dave, a single dad to three little girls, came in one day with his daughters and Michele won all their hearts... with the help of some free samples of

cosmetics! At the time Michele and Dave married, the girls were 5, 7 and 9 and Michele decided to change jobs and work just part-time in order to care for them. Today Michele is proud to say that all the girls are doing well and have beautiful families. **Lisa**, their oldest daughter, is married and is a nurse who lives in Maine. Her two daughters are both attending Wayne State where **Caylee** is getting a degree in education and **Maddy** is a pre-med student. **Laura** is living in Florida and works for Sherwin Williams and has two children: **Alec** works for Coca Cola and **Amanda** is in graphic design. **Chrissy**, Michele’s youngest daughter, also lives in Florida and works in the medical insurance business and is the mother of 5-year-old **Toby**. Dave and Michele were sad to see the girls migrate to Maine and Florida but, prior to Covid, they had been able to visit them on a regular basis.



The Gatti family in 2015

When Michele went to work part-time, she took a job as a teller, first at a bank and later at a credit union. She eventually worked her way up to head of the Debit Card and IRAs departments. She decided to retire six months after finishing treatment following her diagnosis. Dave retired from his job with Ford Motor Company as a computer detailer around the same time, but he likes to be busy and has taken a few other jobs since retirement. He worked for a while as a lunch supervisor at an elementary school and also worked at Metamora State Park. Michele and Dave both love their new home in Brighton, which has a lot of land, so they can garden and enjoy the rural atmosphere.

(Cont'd. on next page)

Over the years, the Gatti family has enjoyed camping throughout the country, and they have thoroughly appreciated the opportunities they've had to travel to Hawaii, Mexico, Alaska, and the southwest United States. They enjoy going to Florida most winters when Michele's health allows, where Dave enjoys fishing while Michele spends her time relaxing, sightseeing and enjoying nature.

Michele likes to garden and do cross stitch and crochet. Her passion is photography and their home is filled with many beautiful, professional-looking photographs from trips they have taken. Michele may not have become a professional artist, but she uses her talent to surround herself and her family with lovely memories.



Since her diagnosis, Michele has been a very active advocate for ovarian cancer awareness. She recently participated in Advocacy Day through the *Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance* and met virtually with numerous congressional legislators to help raise awareness about the need for increased federal funding for research and education. She does a wonderful job as a presenter for the *Survivors Teaching Students®* program which helps bring awareness of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer to future health care professionals. Additionally, Michele speaks to the general public during presentations of the SPEAK program sponsored by the *Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance* (MIOCA) to inform people of ovarian cancer symptoms so the disease can be caught early. She is on the advisory board of MIOCA where she also spearheads their annual "Tie Michigan Teal" campaign in September during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Never one to slough off, Michele also captains the ribbon-tying in Grand Blanc each September, deputizing Dave and her sister, **Linda**, and brother-in-law, **John**, to help out as well. There are very few MIOCA sponsored events or activities that Michele misses, either by attending or volunteering. If anyone is worthy of being designated an "Unsung Hero" it is Michele!



ME, MYSELF AND I

It was unfortunate that we could not have our annual retreat weekend last year but we are making plans for a safe weekend this year!



Join us Labor Day Weekend, 2021:
September 3 thru September 5
(Friday evening thru Sunday morning)



for our annual **ME, MYSELF and I** weekend. This weekend is about YOU. The venue is St. Paul of the Cross. You will be provided private rooms with a shower and 5 meals.

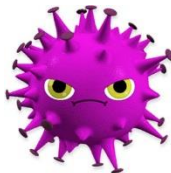
We begin with dinner Friday evening, followed by *Speed Dating*, where we all get to know each other. Additional breakout sessions include: *Making Good Food Choices for Healing and Recovery*; *Tai Chi for Health*; *Reverse Plate Painting* to be led by Marcia Gurche; and *Music Therapy*. Our send-off presentation for Sunday morning will be the *Power of Sisterhood*. Massages will also be offered throughout the weekend. Bring a friend, or come alone, but look forward to a weekend of peace and serenity filled with fun, sharing, and lots of laughter thrown in!



A Little Covid Humor

submitted by Terrie Karebian

- ✓ I'll call it a smart phone the day I yell, "Where's my smart phone?" and it yells "Down here in the couch cushions!"
- ✓ I made a huge To Do list today. I just can't figure out who's going to do it.
- ✓ Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for a short time and come out wrinkle free and two sizes smaller??
- ✓ At our age we can hide our own Easter eggs, wait half an hour, and have no clue where we put them.



HAPPY SURVIVORSary!

Gail Humphrey	33 years
Genny Beaudrie	26
Letha Williams	21
Gail Bidingier	8
Barbara Blakemore	4
Bonita Gardner	2
Lisa Helmle	2
Paula Smith	1

Beloved author **Beverly Cleary** recently passed away at the age of 104. What better way to honor her, than to channel our inner Ramona?



"She was not a slowpoke grownup. She was a girl who could not wait. Life was so interesting she had to find out what happened next."

—RAMONA THE PEST



Please join us for our ZOOM meetings at 4:30 pm on the second and fourth Thursdays each month.

- * May 13 and 27 *
- * June 10 and 24 *
- * July 8 and 22 *

An email will be sent to everyone four days prior to each video support group meeting asking if you would like to participate. A separate email with a link will be sent to those who reply one day prior to the meeting.

If your SURVIVORSary is missing, we did not receive an updated form from you.

Please contact Marilyn Brozovic via email: brozovicm87@gmail.com

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Objectives of support group:

- ✦ Provide a forum for ovarian cancer patients to address concerns;
- ✦ Support each other through initial treatment phase, during potential recurrence, and with issues related to long term survival;
- ✦ Establish core group of survivors willing to visit newly diagnosed patients;
- ✦ Increase awareness of ovarian cancer, including its symptoms and risk factors, in the hope of achieving earlier detection and treatment.