



KICKING-CANCER CHRONICLE

EDITOR: BARON ROBISON

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT, OR ARE FIGHTING,
THE GOOD FIGHT AGAINST CANCER.

EDUCATING PEOPLE ON HOW TO LIVE AN ANTI-CANCER
LIFESTYLE BY EATING REAL FOOD AND DOING SOME MOVEMENT.

CARRIE HAMILTON'S STORY – "CANCER DURING COVID"

TOLD BY CARRIE HAMILTON

Late 2019, I found a lump in my right breast. I called my doctor, but we decided to wait until my yearly exam in February of 2020. Come February the lump felt bigger, but my doctor was not concerned about it and said to me "it doesn't feel like cancer, so it is up to you whether you would like to do a mammogram". Ultimately, since I was 40, I decided to go ahead and just have a mammogram. I will never forget that day, I started the mammogram and after I was completed, they sat me out in the little waiting area. Then, after a little bit of time, they brought me back to an ultrasound. After the ultrasound, a gruff older gentleman came into the room sat down and just stated "you have cancer, any questions". I held it together until I got in the car and then cried all the way home. It was the worst Friday afternoon and weekend, especially trying to keep a happy face for my kids.



After the biopsy things were starting to be put into place. Keep in mind, COVID is just ramping up. My first meeting was with my oncologist and because COVID guidelines were just being set, I could not have a support system with me, or on a call with me. Everything was taking longer than expected because of COVID. I finally got to meet the surgeon ALONE, we decided on lumpectomy and radiation. This was a quick decision and hard to make without anyone else hearing or supporting my decision currently. We always knew it would be harder with Type 1 diabetes, but throw COVID in the mix and now the surgery board has to meet to see what cases they will allow.

April 14, 2020 is another day that really stands out to me. I got on a zoom call with my geneticist and found out I carry the Check2 genetic mutation. This changed everything. I would now have a mastectomy on my right side and not do the left until later. This decision must be made this way because of COVID and my Type 1 diabetes. Due to COVID protocols they are only doing necessary surgeries. So, I knew I now had, at the very least, 3 surgeries ahead of me, just for my breasts. Check2 is rare and they are just studying it, so most of the decisions were left up to me and making those in a 30-minute appointment alone is hard.

April 29, 2020 was the day of my surgery. It had been up in the air if Darrell, my husband, could take me and see me. Ultimately, that morning the hospital decided he could do pre-op with me and then see me for about 2 minutes after surgery while they wheeled me to recovery. He could not go to my room or be with me for support. I had never had surgery before, so I was terrified for me being by myself for a couple of days in the hospital.

The next journey for me was Chemo. In COVID times, this even looked different. You could not have a support person, so my mom dropped me off and I walked in all by myself again. They hooked me up, put my cold cap on, and started the chemo. No more than 2 minutes in, I started having an allergic reaction and began to go anaphylactic. It was the scariest moment I have ever had in my life, lots of people working on you, not being able to breathe, and to be all alone with no one I knew with me. They were able to get me back stable and

then about an hour later wanted to try again. Reluctantly, we tried again and immediately went back into an allergic reaction again. We quit for the day, and they sent me on my way alone to go meet my mom waiting to drive up and get me. Needless to say, it took me a couple of weeks to recover, not only physically but mentally.

A few weeks later the doctors wanted to try again with a different type of chemo. It was the same result as before; it just took a little longer to react. Thankfully, Darrell was there with me and calm me back down. Try being hooked back up to an IV in a room where you have gone anaphylactic 3 times. Chemo was now off the table; they were worried it was doing more harm than good. Next up was my left side. I made the decision to proactively have a mastectomy on that side due to the genetic mutation. Surgery and recovery went well, and another expander was put in. With COVID, there were no support groups at first and now most are via ZOOM. Please remember to do your monthly checks, and no matter your age, please follow up with a mammogram, we could have caught mine earlier.

JEFF MORRISON'S STORY – "SOME RAY OF HOPE" (Q. 4 2021 GoTEAM...)

TOLD BY HIS WIFE, ROBIN

My husband, Jeff Morrison, turned 59 on Aug 7, 2021. A few days later on Aug. 10, 201 he was diagnosed with Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer, after caring for me for the last two years due to my own health issues, and starting a business in real estate investing, since retiring from UPS after 31 year. After leaving UPS we discovered that his small pension wasn't enough to live on, so he went to work for his brother in Santa Rosa, CA and started classes to become an electrician. Jeff has started a real estate company and is currently flipping houses in the Portland OR area.

For the last few month he had been experiencing stomach pain that would go from mild pain, which he thought was stress, to excruciating pain after eating anything. He didn't think anything of it, because he is normally healthy, but after his birthday when he turned 59 he decided to go to the emergency room. It was there he was told his Pancreatic Cancer was "Not curable, but treatable". There were so many unanswered questions. "What does this mean? What do I need to do? Chemo? Surgery? How long do I have?" When he got the news that he had Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer he couldn't believe it. "Like a truck me over", is what he said. He started to panic, wondering how he could get all the things he needed to get done to make sure his wife and family could carry on with their lives as normal as possible. He had not shared his condition with many people. He had only shared it with his daughters, an employee, and then the first part of September with Baron Robison from Kicking-Cancer. Jeff had been nominated for the Q. 4 2021 GoTeam... and meeting with Baron he was able to see the Kicking-Cancer organization's mission to help people that are affected by cancer, not just diagnosed with it. Having an opportunity to live a better life with education and loving support from an organization that sees the importance of all those affected by cancer. We now have some ray of HOPE.



TRIBUTE TO BECKY OLSON (Q.1 2020 GoTEAM...)

TOLD BY ALLISON HANCOCK CURRENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR BREASTFRIENDS

Becky Olson, a devoted wife, mother of 5 and grandmother, passed away on April 24, 2021, at the age of 68. Becky was a 5-time breast cancer survivor who never lost hope and fought her cancer battle with grace.

In 2000, Becky and her good friend Sharon Henifin, co-founded Breast Friends. Breast Friends is an organization that provides emotional support to women who are navigating a cancer diagnosis. Through their own experience with a cancer diagnosis, they set out to create a community of support that would fill the emotional needs of women from the initial diagnosis, through treatment and life after treatment.

Becky was also an author of her book titled, "The Hat That Saved My Life". The book is about her experience with a breast cancer diagnosis. Through her own eyes and experiences, she helps the reader to remember the important things in life: faith, love, family and hope. When someone met Becky, they were immediately drawn to her infectious smile, laugh and humor. She lived life to the fullest and realized that the world that we live in is not about surviving but about thriving and living. The book weaves humor, laughter and tears to each of the stories that are told.

Becky was never afraid of large groups of people. She loved the stage and was a sought after speaker for Women's Conferences, luncheons and medical conferences for healthcare professionals. Her use of humor and story-telling kept the audiences engaged and laughing. Her presentations helped the audience discover their passion and reason for living. Not only did she travel across the country to speak, she also was the host of the Breast Friends Cancer Support Radio. This is a weekly broadcast on the Voice America Health and Wellness Channel. She would have guests from all over the country including international. Through the radio show there were listeners in all 50 states and 113 countries. She loved learning about the speakers and sharing with the audience relevant information that helps those diagnosed with cancer and their loved ones navigate the new and challenging path that they are facing.

When Becky received her 5th cancer diagnosis, it was stage four and had metastasized to her lungs, liver and bones. She found that staying positive was difficult at times but realized that when going through a difficult time, it was important to do the things that you love. Her life and legacy will always be remembered and hold a special place in the hearts of all those that knew her.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kicking-Cancer met Becky in Oct 2019 as she announced her Stage 4 fight. Baron Robison did the "Flight for Air" stair climb in March 2020 at the USBancorp tower in Portland, a 40 story stair climb as a GoTeamBecky event.



GENE ZIELINSKI'S STORY – "LIVE WITH HOPE" (Q. 1 2022 GoTEAM)

TOLD BY HIS WIFE, CAROL

It started out as a routine checkup a week after his 68th birthday on January 29, 2020. When Dr. Wang did his usual check of the lungs he paused and said, "Hmm... I don't like the sound of that". From that observation, an Xray followed the next day, then a CAT scan, then just a few days later an MRI. A week after that observation, Gene and Carol were sitting in a urologist's office being told that Gene had kidney cancer. "Are you sure, how could you know?" they asked. The mass on his kidney measured 12.1cm X 9.1cm X 10.8cm. Gene was referred to Oregon Oncology at Salem Hospital and Dr. Nicholas Barber took over his case. A PET scan confirmed that the cancer had metastasized to his lungs. Plus a biopsy a month later confirmed it.

Following diagnosis, Gene started a common immunotherapy treatment with Axitinib (Inlyta) and Pembrolizumab (Keytruda). In addition to the treatment, the team decided it was best to surgically remove the tumor and the kidney along with it in June 2020. Side effects from the Axitinib led to a second treatment starting in November of Interleukin (IL2). It was extreme but sometimes effective treatment that was performed at Providence/Franz Cancer Center by Dr. Brendan Curti. The treatment was beneficial but after 3 rounds it had done all it could do.

Bring in the Nivolumab (Opdivo) Ipilimumab (Yervoy) immunotherapy treatment next, which was helpful, but not enough. Giving up was not an option so on Dr. Barber's suggestion, Gene consulted once again with Dr. Curti on a trial study he was involved in. (ALLO-316-101 is a Phase 1 multicenter study. They are evaluating the safety and efficacy of ALLO-316 on subjects with advanced or metastatic clear cell renal cell carcinoma.) Extensive tests were performed to ensure that Gene was an acceptable candidate. On September 15, 2020 he began his inpatient treatment of the pre-treatment infusions, which included chemotherapy. On September 20, 2020 he received the CAR-T infusion. Gene was constantly monitored for side effects. On September 25, 2020 was well enough to be released to local lodging until September 30, 2020 when he had a biopsy on the lung tumors. Following the biopsy he was happy to return home to continue to recover from the treatment. They live with hope, not just for themselves but for the success of the treatment for others that suffer from this disease. Gene and Carol are grateful to the great medical staff at Oregon Oncology, Providence/Franz Cancer Center 7N and especially Dr. Nicholas Barber, Dr. Brendan Curti and Dr. JafferBashey.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gene is only the 4th person in the world to participate in the ALLO-316 study. As of his CT scan on October 15, 2021 the tumors were reduced by almost 40% just in less than a month from the T-Cell infusion.



QUARTERLY THOUGHT

"LET ME NOT DIE WHILE I'M STILL ALIVE"

BY BRENDA FARRIS

In my book club years ago, we read a story of a man with a terminal diagnosis of brain cancer. One of the gals in my book club made the comment that "Cancer is the disease of Love." At the time, the first thought I had from her remark was: "How can you say that?! My mother in law died a horrible death of cancer!" Thankfully, she continued her thought, and it was so profound, so meaningful, it has brought so much peace to my soul that I have recalled it so clearly even these many years later. "My Father", she told the group, "passed away recently from cancer. During his slow decline I was blessed to spend time with him – REAL TIME that I never would have taken had this situation not occurred. I was able to visit

him as I helped with his personal needs, we did puzzles together, looked through photos, recalled family events, watched shows, laughed, cried, hugged, forgave, listened, reminisced. So much HEALING happened over those precious months spent together.

"In contrast" she continued, "my brother was killed in a car accident. He was there one day, and the next he was gone. No time to spend to together, no time to visit, share ideas, reminisce, laugh, cry, hug, forgive. I'm so truly grateful for the TIME I was given to spend with my father before his passing." I left that event truly fed and my heart was beginning the process of healing from the wound of losing my mother in law. As I continued to think upon her words "Cancer is the disease of Love", I have come to have a greater understanding of the thought: ' Let me not die while I am still alive.'

Yes, one day I will die...but on all the other days may I truly LIVE!

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