

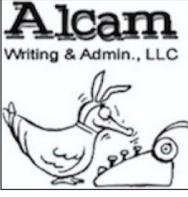


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More of the best of the Valley

August 10, 2017



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Recuperation journey: Real-life Wonder Women

By Patricia Villers

Recently my daughter Allegra and I took in a matinee.

It was one of those hot July days and a cool, dark movie theater seemed like a good idea. And it was.

We saw *Wonder Woman*, a movie I didn't think I would particularly like, but I did enjoy the escapist entertainment. Allegra liked it, too.

I'm not a superhero movie fan by any stretch. I haven't seen *Spiderman* or any other movies of that genre.

The only one I ever saw was the 1978 classic, *Superman*, starring the late Christopher Reeve. Of course I was only 5 at the time! (just kidding).

I had intended to write a mini-review of *Wonder Woman*, which is based on a DC comics character, but didn't get to it.

Fast forward a couple of weeks to July 27, a day that quickly became one of the five most important days of my life. That's when I met my kidney donor, West Hartford resident Robin Gilmartin.

We were part of an 18-person kidney exchange program - nine donors and nine recipients - at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

It was an overwhelming and emotional meeting for all involved. The hospital hosted a meet and greet and lunch for us followed by a press conference. We were interviewed and applauded and it was an amazing experience! None of us could stop smiling.

The next day it dawned on me I had met a real-life Wonder Woman in the person of Robin.

By donating a kidney to a perfect stranger - yours truly - Robin became a superhero in my book! She saved me from having to start dialysis, which was the next step in my battle with Polycystic Kidney Disease.

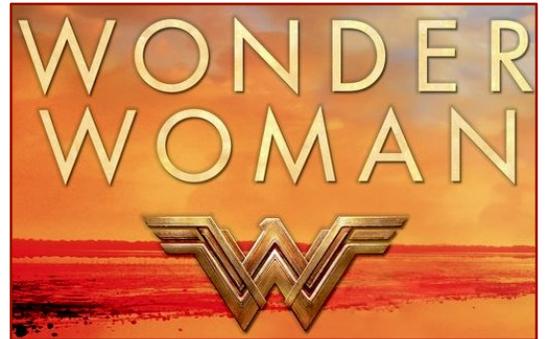
I already had had an ultrasound of my arm to determine whether my veins could withstand dialysis. It was getting closer to reality with each passing day.

Enter another wonderful Wonder Woman: Someone I've known for more than 30 years, my husband's baby sister, Suzanne Watson. Her blood type is universal so she was a match for me when she came forward last winter to donate a kidney.

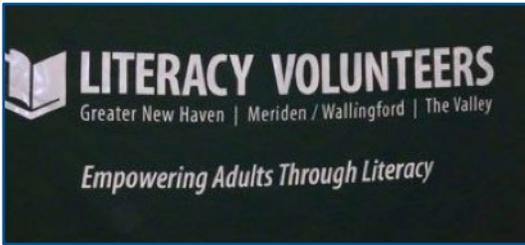
As it turned out, her kidney was a better match for another person, who turned out to be William Greenwood of Bethel. We were assured I would still get a living-donor kidney if Sue and I agreed to have hers go to him.

Long story short, I now have two honest-to-goodness Wonder Women in my life. And I couldn't be more grateful to them.

Meanwhile, *Wonder Woman*, starring a striking Gal Gadot as an Amazon princess and Chris Pine as an American pilot in a story set during World War I, is an entertaining film. If you're seeking a break from reality, go see it. You won't be disappointed.



Literacy Volunteers looking for tutors in the Valley



DERBY - Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven, the Valley Office will be having training for people interested in tutoring adults in the Valley towns of Shelton, Derby, Ansonia and Seymour.

If you love to read, have good English language skills you feel will help others, or feel you have time to help others improve their English reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, please call Kathi Hunt, Valley Program Manager, at 203-736-5420, Ext. 267.

Or, go on-line at www.lvagnh.org and submit an application under the volunteer section and you will be notified. she receives the application. The new home of the Valley office of Literacy Volunteers Valley is located at 30 Elizabeth St.

Getting ready for school in Ansonia



At Emmett O'Brien Technical High School in Ansonia, workers are getting the building ready for the upcoming school year. Students will go back to classes at the Prindle Avenue school on Aug. 29. In other Valley districts, the first day of school in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford and Seymour is Aug. 28; In Shelton, school also begins on Aug 29.

Photo by Patricia Villers

Master's Table



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