

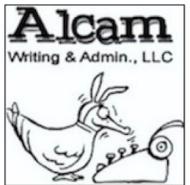


News, Views & Entertainment

More of the Best of the Valley

April 17, 2018

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April is Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month

The years pass quickly but the fight remains the same for individuals and their families faced with a diagnosis of esophageal cancer.

Last April The Valley Voice published a story about the Solsbury family, Valley natives who live in Woodbridge.

Maggie Nolan Solsbury has asked if we would once again publicize the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. Her husband, Keith Solsbury, had been battling Stage 3 esophageal cancer since being diagnosed in 2006.

“Keith has had so many complications and he is struggling to continue, especially since many who are younger than he are passing away from esophageal cancer,” Maggie Solsbury said in an email.

The couple belongs to several online support groups.

She added, “It is hard for him to continue fighting on a daily basis, especially because of what he feels he has put his family through.”

- Patricia Villers

Raising awareness of how esophageal cancer ravages families

By Patricia Villers

The struggle continues.

That may be the best way to describe a local family dealing for more than a decade with the ravages of esophageal cancer.

April is Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month.

Valley natives Maggie Nolan-Solsbury and her husband, Keith Solsbury, have been living with this disease since he was diagnosed with Stage 3 esophageal cancer in 2006.

“Esophageal cancer has affected our lives very dramatically,” Maggie Solsbury says at the beginning of a podcast she posted earlier this month on Facebook.

“You have to fight with everything you’ve got,” she said.

And please take the time to watch Maggie Solsbury’s podcast at the link below.



Her words come straight from her heart and are an inspiration. She urges people to look for early symptoms, which include heartburn, acid reflux, and painful swallowing to name a few.

Maggie Solsbury said she finds the only way to get through the grief and pain of dealing with her husband’s disease is by helping others, and raising awareness.

She is involved in several online support groups. Members are like family, she said, and they understand each other’s struggles.



Some Facts

- Esophageal Cancer is 3 – 4 times more common in men than women
- The incidence of Esophageal Cancer increases with age –about eight out of ten people diagnosed are between ages 55 and 85
- The American Cancer Society estimated that during 2008, 16,470 new cases of Esophageal Cancer cases would be diagnosed in the United States.
- Survival rates are improving: 45 years ago, only 4% of all white patients and 1% of all African-American patients survived at least 5 years after diagnosis versus 18% of white patients and 11% of African-American patients who now survive at least 5 years after diagnosis

<http://ecan.org/facts/>

See the following links for more information

Maggie Solsbury's Podcast

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddsvP_YBfFU&t=607s

The Valley-Voice Blog

[Local family fights good fight against chronic illness](#)

The New Haven Register

[Malloy proclaims April Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[Ansonia family seeks to raise cancer awareness](#)

Derby artist competes in friendly 'duel' with gallery owner

Artfish42 in Milford celebrates third anniversary



MILFORD - Mermaids, and seashells, and fish, oh my!

Original art with a nautical theme sums up what you'll find at the eclectic Artfish 42 Gallery at Walnut Beach.

On Saturday Valley Arts Council President Rich DiCarlo of Derby competed in an artists' "duel" with Meg Giannotti, gallery owner.

Giannotti is celebrating the third anniversary of the gallery at 42 Naugatuck Ave.

In less than an hour she created a collage of torn paper featuring a winsome-looking octopus while DiCarlo painted a clipper ship cutting through the white caps.

Who won? You be the judge!

