

News From

FIGHTING CHANCE



Photo: Ken Robbins

10th ANNIVERSARY YEAR



Autumn 2012



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DECADE

Chairman's Letter

Fighting Chance is nearing the end of our first decade of community service. It began in 2002 and that decade will conclude at the end of 2012.

We started in a converted garage with a team of one person... yours truly...founder and Chairman. Our directors were a few friends, all of whom (like myself) had been touched by cancer.

Ten years later I am still Chairman, but I now work with a full-time Cancer Patient Navigator, in a suite of offices on the Sag Harbor Wharf that has 14 windows and is flooded with light.

Also occupying the office are three licensed oncology social workers and a clinical psychologist with a Ph. D. The team members, collectively, have over 100 years of patient counselling experience.

Before this year is over, our team will have provided over 2,000 one-on-one counseling sessions to some 250 newly-diagnosed cancer patients who live on the East End. And all those services are free-of-charge.

In this issue of our newsletter we celebrate our 10th anniversary year – which features our Gala at the Devon Yacht Club, our new Charity Poker Championship fundraiser, the Hamptons Swim (now in its 5th year), a rousing mid-winter event at the American Hotel...and more.

None of this would have been possible without our loyal supporters– who believe, as we do, that everyone who battles cancer deserves a Fighting Chance.

Sincerely,

Duncan N. Darrow
Founder & Chairman

OFFICES



1st Office
2002– 2005
Converted Garage on a
Village Alleyway



2nd Office
2006 – 2010
Renovated Victorian at
Jermain St. & Rt.114



3rd Office
2011 to 2021
(lease renewal date)
#34 Bay Street on the
Village Waterfront

Ladies Night Out at The American Hotel



On a Thursday in February the American Hotel was the site for an evening of camaraderie - organized by a group of young women who wanted to expand the circle of Friends of Fighting Chance. The American Hotel in Sag harbor provided "drinks on the house" and donations at the door helped raise close to \$5,000 for the charity, Thanks to Claudia Taglich, Sara Amaden, Laurie Gordon (pictured left) Shelley McBee and many others!

One of our Directors, Shelley McBee Peters, helped put together the group of young women who organized the event at The American Hotel. A special thanks to Shelley and to all of the other event organizers.



OUTREACH

Seen Our Decal, Lately?

This decal measures 4" x 3.5" and has started to appear in shop windows in Sag Harbor and other East End locales. Merchants have responded enthusiastically to our requests that they display the decal as a way of showing their support for our charity.

Why not call our office (631.725.4646) and ask for a few decals . . . then see if you favorite merchants also will display them.



Grass Roots Support for Patient of Fighting Chance



Photo: C.B. Grubb

Sean Carmichael, the Ross School's director of technology, was part of a team put together by Fighting Chance, a free cancer counseling center in Sag Harbor, to donate a lightly-used computer to Jonathan Tyrer, a 20-year-old cancer survivor and budding composer.

Nonprofits Aid Composer

BY BRIDGET LeROY

It was up to Fighting Chance, a free-of-charge cancer counseling center serving the East End, to help a young cancer patient continue on his chosen path as a composer.

It took a team of local nonprofits to get the job done. The leaders of the Southampton Bocce Club, Steve Marciniw and Sal Ficara, had been looking to make an end-of-year donation to Fighting Chance, but had wanted the money earmarked for a special cause.

Margaret Bromberg, an oncology social worker with Fighting Chance, connected with the Ross School who graciously donated a lightly-used computer. Charlie Grubb, Fighting Chance's graphic designer and technology consultant, installed the necessary software, which he had donated, onto the new computer.

At the end of January, everyone involved gathered in the Fighting Chance offices and donated the computer to Jonathan Tyrer. Mr. Grubb said, "The joyful day came about through the teamwork of many well-intended citizens and their East End nonprofit organizations."

Gift from Priscilla Bowden Acclaimed East Hampton Artist Donates 15 Paintings for Auction

In May of this year, Fighting Chance received a gift of 15 oil paintings – primarily East End Seascapes – that were the work of Priscilla Bowden, an acclaimed artist who has lived in the Hamptons for decades. Like so many individuals who support Fighting Chance, Priscilla was at a stage in her career where she felt the urge to "give back" to her community, and the gift of paintings was a very generous gesture.

All of the paintings sold within the space of a couple of months and the proceeds helped support our ongoing outreach to newly-diagnosed cancer patients on the East End. Thanks again, Priscilla



Sagaponack 2004



EHVOR -- East Hampton Volunteer Ocean Rescue -- Leads Benefit Swim for Fighting Chance

Swim Across America Is Co-Sponsor for a 5th Consecutive Year

In the winter months of 2008, Jim Arnold, one of the leaders of EHVOR, sat down in the Fighting Chance offices in Sag Harbor to meet Gerry Oakes, who is head of the Nassau/Suffolk Chapter of an organization known as Swim Across America or SAA. It raises money, through long distance swim events, for several cancer-related causes and has over 20 affiliates nationwide.

Jim and Gerry had been brought together by Duncan Darrow, the Chairman of Fighting Chance, because SAA had become a benefactor of Fighting Chance and wanted to create a new long distance swim event on the East End. Doing so required the support of local government and cutting all sorts of red tape. EHVOR was well-suited to accomplish those objectives and in July 2008 the first "Swim Against Cancer" was launched on a beach in Amagansett.

In July 2012 the event celebrated its 5th Anniversary, and donations from and on behalf of over 200 swimmers benefited Fighting Chance and represent one of the most important sources of annual funding for our charity.

Creating a new swim event entailed all sorts of logistics, but EHVOR was a perfect partner for SAA because its members were trusted and well respected members of the East End communities

As one of the leaders of EHVOR, and a very special friend of Fighting Chance, Jim Arnold epitomizes the idea of "neighbor-helping-neighbor" which is part of the bedrock of all the communities on Long Island's East End.



MEMBERS ONLY

EST. 1916

DEVON YACHT CLUB PIER

NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 12 PERMITTED WITHOUT AN ADULT



p6

Seen here . . .
the "10th Anniversary Wreath"
which was created as a unique
feature of Gala 2012.

Remarks from The Reverend Darwin Price

A heartfelt thanks to Duncan Darrow and the present board of Fighting Chance for inviting Grace and me to be a part of this 10th Anniversary Celebration.

It is an honor to be present, realizing how many individuals' lives have been touched by Fighting Chance since its inception.

I recall with fond memories the life of Duncan's mother, Charlotte.

It really was her struggle with lung cancer that set in motion Duncan's focus on such an organization and resource for others who had not yet embarked on a "Cancer Journey".

For individuals who wonder "What do I do, now that I have been diagnosed with cancer?" Fighting Chance is now there for them.

As we know, many have survived and continue on with this journey of life.

However, some have not won the earthly battle but have fought the fight with dignity.

Shortly, with the laying of the wreath, we will recall their bravery and remember their spirit.

Gala 2012 Celebrates the 10th Anniversary of Fighting Chance



As the sun was setting at Devon Yacht Club, the current Board assembled on the Club's dock to observe a moment of silence after a reflection from Rev. Darwin Price (seen in photo at the far left), a former Board member, for over a decade, and formerly the Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East Hampton. Moments earlier, the strains of "Taps" were also heard from a trumpet far down the beach.

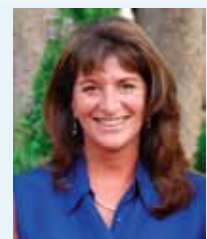
The evening continued with a seated dinner for the 200 guests, who enjoyed a seafood feast. Assemblyman Fred Thiele appeared to award a special honor to Fighting Chance. There was dancing to the Lone Sharks band with special guest Rick Davies of Supertramp. Scores of items were featured in a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle.



Sue Davies

Co-Hosts for Gala 2012

Sue Davies and Judi Desiderio – both Directors of Fighting Chance -- joined forces to host the very special 10th Anniversary Celebration at Gala 2012. Sue is seen here addressing the 200 guests at the Gala. Judi is CEO of Town & Country Realty, which deserves special thanks for a very generous donation which helped defray the costs of the evening's event -- which raised over \$125,000 for the charity.



Judi Desiderio



Assemblyman Thiele presents Proclamation to Duncan Darrow from the NY State Assembly, celebrating a decade of community service by Fighting Chance.



THE DECADE AWARD -

As our decade ends, five Fighting Chance members were honored for their outstanding work, contributions, and dedication. The recipients were: Karrie Robinson, Director of Clinical Services, former Board Members Richard Perlman and Ben Gillikin, and current Board Members, Sue Davies, and Tuck Hardie.



A very special Birthday Cake was presented at the end of the evening and provided desert for all 200 guests.

Our Ambassadors to Local Health Fairs

One of our jobs at Fighting Chance is to make East End communities aware of the free services we offer. How do we do that? Well, attending the numerous health fairs at neighborhood schools is one way, and our staff has established information tables at scores of these fairs over the years.

There are about ten health fairs every year, at schools from Westhampton to Montauk. For several years we have had a presence at these fairs – handing out brochures and answering questions about our services.

Two of our best “ambassadors” are Nancy Greenberg who works with us as a Cancer Patient Navigator, and Bill DiScipio, Ph.D., one of our senior patient counselors. They are pictured here setting up at the Springs Middle School.



Fighting Chance is only as strong as is the dedication of our volunteers. Led by the indefatigable Maureen McAdam many have helped out over the years. Our thanks go out to Pat Matheson, Nancy Petrie, Joanne Nardo McDowell, and for outstanding help with our Poker event, Paul and Bernadette Da Scolti, Marie and David Klarman, Sally Collins, Kerry Calvert, Rosalie Rusak, Eileen Gallagher and Renee Riley.

VOLUNTEERS



Cancer survivor, long time fisherman, and Fighting Chance volunteer, Kevin Fitzpatrick won first prize in the 2012 Big Brother, Big Sister Fishing Competition.

Kevin has been fishing since he was a child, and has started his own cancer fundraising charity called “Hooked on Healing” which provides an outlet for cancer patients and survivors.

Kevin has been an active participant in many of our functions and truly embodies the spirit of Fighting Chance. Please visit his web site www.hookedonhealing.com to learn more about this worthy cause.

Big Fish



Seen here is the 131 lb. Thresher Shark Kevin caught this summer,

American Legion Hall in Amagansett is Site for Charity Poker Tournament Raises \$50,000 for Fighting Chance



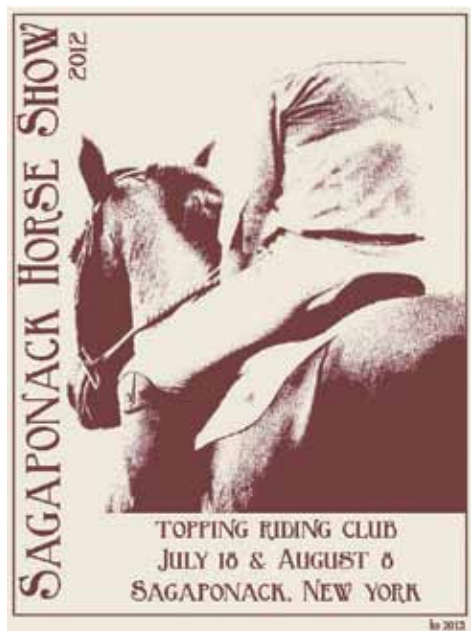
On a Saturday evening in late July, some 75 poker players gathered in Amagansett for the 1st Annual Hamptons Poker Championship, organized by patients who had been counseled at Fighting Chance and by several of our volunteers.

There were 10 “Vegas-style” poker tables for “Texas Hold ‘Em” poker, and dealers, decked out in tuxedos, arrived from Atlantic City as part of the event management provided by Casino Kings...who put on a world-class event.

As players exhausted their supply of chips, an ever smaller group of finalists emerged and, eventually, a Champ. Players paid \$300 for the entire evening of entertainment including a delicious dinner and open bar.

You can bet that we are already planning the “2nd Annual” event for the summer of 2013.





A Very Special Poster Sale in Sagaponack

Kate Saroka, a local photographer, horsewoman, and a new Friend of Fighting Chance, designed a poster for a horse show at the Topping Riding Club this summer. The Club, which has operated in Sagaponack for over 50 years, sold limited edition prints of the poster, seen here.

All proceeds were donated to Fighting Chance in memory of Anne Aspinall who was a beloved teacher at Topping.

These simple gestures of generosity, that bubble up from the “grass roots”, remind all of us at Fighting Chance that we are truly appreciated by the community we serve.

To see more of Kate's work visit her web site at: <http://sunsickart.com/>

Restorative Yoga Group is Expanding

Sessions Now Include
Yoga and Support Group Discussion

In earlier issues of this newsletter, we've mentioned Eric Pettigrew, seen at right, a remarkably talented yoga teacher who is based on the East End and has taken special training in how to offer “gentle, restorative” yoga to cancer patients and their caregivers. Eric's liaison at Fighting Chance is Dr. Bill DiScipio, one of our psychotherapists. Yoga classes are held at “Yoga Shanti” in the village of Sag Harbor, and Sterling Yoga in Greenport. As always, it's free-of-charge

Over the past year, a core group of patients and caregivers has been established, and we often have up to 8 people in a class. The classes are held in both locations twice a month, and in addition, a new support group has recently been added immediately after the Sag Harbor yoga class. It is held back at the Fighting Chance office, and is led by Dr. Bill DiScipio and Dr. Kelly Turner. The positive therapeutic effects of the yoga experience are thought to enhance the emotional benefits of the support group.

Please call 631 725 4646 for more information or to register for a class.

Congratulations to Eric, Dr. Bill, and Dr. Kelly Turner!



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FIGHTING CHANCE

Free Cancer Counseling Center Serving the East End. . . Since 2002

34 BAY STREET SAG HARBOR NY 11963 Tel: 631 725 4646

To make a contribution go to www.fightingchance.org and click on Donate Now.