

1 LOIS GABRIEL Diagnosis: breast cancer; April 1992. I feel very blessed to tell you that I have been in good health since my diagnosis. Yet I have lost many close friends to breast cancer during the past eight years. So, about a year ago I decided to take a leave from my work as a breast cancer advocate. I am so thankful for my family and the people in my life who continually remind me that faith and hope will carry me through my journey.

2 WANNA THIBODEAUX WRIGHT Diagnosis: breast cancer; September 1979. In an effort to reach more women and their families, my family (husband, children, grandchildren) and I have traveled across California, presenting two performance pieces about the impact of breast cancer and how one family coped with the disease.

3 NIKI BERG Diagnosis: breast cancer; August 1992. It's almost eight years since my auto-accident and diagnosis. These days are joyful. My husband and I are having the sweetest of time together in our 32nd year of marriage. My oldest daughter and her husband are living happily with my three grandchildren. My youngest daughter is gallantly plowing through her MD residency and will be marrying a dear fellow in October. I am just finishing a two-year project, a photo/essay book on adoption and the sacred relationships between the families that result.

4 HELEN SCHIFF Diagnosis: breast cancer; November 1989. Although speaking and writing are not my forte, I have been doing both as a breast cancer advocate and am, hopefully, improving. I have written articles for *MAMM* and coauthor a regular feature called "Clinical Trials Watch." I spoke at the Department of Defense (DoD) "Era of Hope" conference critiquing the use of tamoxifen for the "prevention" of breast cancer. On the fun front, I'm playing more tennis and my skiing is getting better. I kayaked in the Alaskan Inside Passage and Baja, California and hiked in Chilean Patagonia.

5 MARILYN HACKER Diagnosis: breast cancer; December 1992. Since 1993, I've published three books of poems: *Winter Numbers* (W.W. Norton, 1996), which received a Lambda Literary Award; *Selected Poems* (W.W. Norton, 1994), and, last January, *Squares and Courtyards* (W.W. Norton, 2000). I'm now the director of the M.A. Program in Creative Writing and Literature at the City College of New York. There has been, so far, no further evidence of cancer. I took tamoxifen for five years after chemotherapy and experienced a thickening of the endometrium during the final two years. This fall, my life partner of almost 14 years left me suddenly. It is harder to reconstruct and make sense of my life in this circumstance than it was fighting cancer.

6 SYLVIA WEINSTOCK Diagnosis: breast cancer; May 1980. In the 20 years since I was diagnosed with breast cancer, not only have I survived but I've excelled. I started a cake business that has gained national fame. I never had time to be tired, ill or depressed about my health. I threw myself into my new career and passion. We design and deliver celebration cakes to major clubs, hotels and restaurants in the New York area, around the country and overseas. Breast cancer never stopped me! It gave me a head start!

7 JACKIE YOUNG Diagnosis: breast cancer; February 1998. Since being diagnosed, I have been an advocate for breast cancer awareness. I became the director of marketing for the American Cancer Society in Hawaii. This will be my third year as the Honorary Survivor Chair for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Honolulu. And I am currently on the board of the Asian Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivor Network. I was featured in a documentary film, "Mothers, Daughters & Sisters" about Asian and Pacific Islander women with breast cancer and its impact on families.

8 MUSA MAYER Diagnosis: breast cancer; April 1989. These days, I am more involved in counseling women who have breast cancer, especially those with advanced disease, offering what support and information I can. I continue to be fascinated with the Internet community that is the Breast Cancer Listserv.

9 NAOMI CHASE-FRIDDLE Diagnosis: breast cancer; January 1991. In the nine years since my diagnosis, I have earned my B.A. in English. I have continued to raise my two sons, work as a teacher and a Cantoral soloist, and I am pursuing my ultimate love, writing.

10 CASSANDRA WOODS Diagnosis: breast cancer; March 1995. Having the blessing of overcoming this challenge, I've adopted the saying "Bad don't scare me no more." I just completed a 13-month fellowship in Ghana, West Africa, where I served as country director of a democracy and governance program. Living in Ghana is something I always wanted to do.

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WOMEN FROM MAMM'S PAGES CHECK IN

In each issue, dozens of women living with breast or reproductive cancers are featured in *MAMM* articles. As we prepared for this month's survivorship issue, we at *MAMM* decided to try to catch up with all of the survivors who have been profiled, interviewed or written for the magazine in its first two years of publication. We wanted to find out what these women were up to—and we thought you might be curious about their lives, too. Letters asking for a current photo and written update were sent to more than 100 women. In the following pages, you can check in with the 64 women who responded with news about their health, careers and families. Some are cancer advocates, some are kayaking, some are spending more time with their children and grandchildren, others are facing recurrences—some are doing more than one of these things. And in their own ways, all of them continue to inspire us, even as we remember and pay tribute to the women we have lost.

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