



September 12, 2017

Dear WBB Members,

I'm able to return to our meetings for the first time since February. It's great to be back!

I have had a very challenging year. In March my husband, Daniel Turluck, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He passed away June 26.

July 16 I was sailing in the Chicago-Mackinac race and in very rough conditions got tossed across the cabin, landed head first, suffering a concussion.

August 2 a friend was helping load a Sunfish sailboat on my trailer. He tripped, fell, dropped the boat, I was unable to hold the whole thing, it fell out of my hands, landed on my thigh, leaving a hematoma the size of a half-football. Walking was extremely painful.

August 7 I was driving to the Secretary of State to register a sailboat. A car crossed the yellow line as I was coming into Augusta, hit an MDOT work truck near the back and then hit my van, left front to left front, totaling the van. I spent a day in the hospital, gained a new concussion, and a new hematoma, right next to the old one.

That finished my sailing for at least six months. I was off computers, TV, and phone screens for a total of 5-1/2 weeks. Walking was difficult for about four weeks. I'm still slow, but doing better. Treatment is ongoing.

A good sailing friend of mine, Cara Bown, from Cleveland, Ohio, is involved with pet rescues. She has been competing in pageants that are held as fundraisers to benefit the pet rescues. She was deeply affected by a horrible attack—one we all pray we never experience. Two years ago, Judy Malinowski, a former beauty queen, daughter, sister and mother was attacked and set on fire by an ex-boyfriend. "It's destroyed my life, my family's life, my kids' life," Judy whispered to WBNS-TV in her final year of life. "Everyone around us' life. And the laws of justice are just not fair." Last December, Michael Slager pleaded guilty to aggravated arson in the attack that ended up costing the 33-year-old her life. Despite cries for a greater sentence, Slager received just 11 years in prison, the maximum penalty for that charge. While doctors told Malinowski she would not long survive her injuries, she persisted, fighting for life every single day the last two years. She also started fighting for tougher laws to help women caught in situations similar to hers. Her story inspired a bill in Ohio to create tougher prison sentences for attacks that permanently disfigure or disable victims. Judy died the day after my husband did.

Cara was inspired to establish a pageant in Judy's honor. The Pageant for Hope is a fund-raiser pageant for Domestic Violence Victims and Survivors. The pageant provides girls and women with a chance to enjoy a day of beauty and fun for a great cause. There will be a purple spirit outfit procession, an evening gown competition, and one on stage question.

I have never been in a pageant. This sounded like something completely different and that it could be something to help me progress with my mourning and trauma recovery, providing an opportunity to help others and help Cara with her goal. So, I've entered! Event page: <http://tinyurl.com/17PageantForHope>



PLEASE DONATE! The program is incorporating a collection for My Sister's Place, a Women's domestic violence shelter in Ohio. It is one of the few in Ohio that allows animals. Each contestant has been asked to collect for the shelter. Would you please make a donation? You may drop off your items at Studio 24 salon, 1413 E Milham Ave, Portage, MI, in a box in the lobby (thanks Judy Willy!) by 10/18 or bring them to our October 3 meeting. The wish list includes (please note that items with an * next to them must be new and in original packaging; also note that items in CAPS are an URGENT NEED):

Entertainment Needs

Card & Board Games*
Journals
Arts & Craft Supplies

Women's Needs

DAILY PLANNERS
BRAS*
UNDERWEAR*
Pre-Paid Gas Cards
NIGHT GOWNS*
ROBES*
SLIPPERS*
Umbrellas
Shoes
SOCKS*
Makeup and Nail Polish*

Children's Needs

SOCKS*
UNDERWEAR*
PULL-UPS (all sizes)*
BABYPOWDER
LOTION AND WASH
RASH OINTMENT
Shoes

Bed & Bath Needs

PILLOWS*
TOWELS & WASHCLOTHS
TOILET BRUSHES
TWIN XL SHEETS

Hygiene Needs

Hairbrushes*
Nail Clippers*
Curling Irons*
Hair dryers*
Electric hair straighteners*
BODY WASH
Chapstick

Kitchen Needs

Dishtowels & Potholders*
Foil
Plastic Wrap
BAKING PANS*
Cooking Pots*
Silverware

Household Needs

DRYER SHEETS
ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHT BULBS
KITCHEN-SIZED TRASH BAGS
CLEANING PRODUCTS
DISINFECTANT SPRAY AND WIPES
TOILET TISSUE
PAPER TOWELS
DISHWASHER DETERGENT
Facial tissue
RADIO ALARM CLOCKS
LAMPS*
VACUUM CLEANER*
Lint rollers
BABY MONITORS

Thanks!