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Happenings at Mautner: *October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month*

October 29, 2008

Visit Our **BIG LOVE** Website!



BIG LOVE

*Our 19th Anniversary
Gala*

*Valentine's Day
Dinner and Dance*

February 14, 2009

6:30 PM - 1:00 AM

Omni Shoreham Hotel

2500 Calvert St. NW

Washington, DC 20008

Ticket Price: \$200

Featuring

A special performance by **BETTY**, who have been featured on

The L Word!

And

The Return of the

BIG DANCE,

with music by DJ JFX

We are very excited to announce the launch of the [BIG LOVE website!](#) Click today to buy your

The Mautner Project and HRC Present

Belly Dance to Health with Belladonna

Build Confidence - Coordination - Mind-Body Connection

Feel Empowered - Sexy - Healthy

Gain Strength - Fitness

And most importantly: **Have Fun!**

All body types, abilities, and experience levels are welcome.



Fridays, October 31 & November 7 & 14

7:00-8:30 PM

FREE to All; RSVP Required

Hosted at HRC Equality Center

1640 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington DC

Ever wonder about the belly dance trend? Find out just how to shake your shimmy at this special free presentation for the LGBT community on Tribal Fusion Belly Dance. Come experience the benefits that belly dance has to offer YOU! No previous experience in any dance techniques required. RSVP is required - please contact Rachele Dixon via [email](#) us or at 202.332.5536 to secure your spot!

Our featured presenter, Belladonna, is an innovative and experienced dancer who has been performing belly dance throughout the East Coast since 1998. A versatile instructor, she offers a variety of dance classes and workshops. Her specialties include tribal fusion technique, sword work and dancing with fire. She is the creative director and member of [ROMKA](#), the premier tribal fusion belly dance company based in Washington D.C. To learn more about Belladonna, [click here](#).

Everything Happens For A Reason A Personal Story About Breast Cancer



The Mautner Project is excited to share breast cancer survivor Lisa Williamson's story of an incredible journey. Stay tuned for more in the next newsletter!

ticket or to become a table captain, sponsor, or volunteer.

Your participation, whether it is through sponsorship, auction donation, in-kind donation, or program advertisement, will help raise funds to improve the health and well-being of all women who partner with women and their families through direct care services; the education of healthcare providers; community outreach and education; and research, advocacy and activism. For more information, please contact Jeanie Adkins at jadkins@mautnerproject.org.

Don't Forget To Vote!

Health care issues and LGBT rights are at stake in national and many local elections - so be sure to use your voice and vote on November 4! If you have any questions about where or how to vote, visit www.vote411.org for help.



In June of 2004 I got my motorcycle license at the age of 38. In January 2007 at the age of 40 I was diagnosed with breast cancer. At the time, I had

no idea how those two completely different events would change the course my life so profoundly.

Breast cancer was something that was never on my radar. I was "young" and there was no history of it in my family. None of my friends had gone through it either, so upon my diagnosis I felt as though I had been dumped in the middle of nowhere without a map and asked to find my way back home. Luckily for me, I had support from my family and friends to help me navigate the sometimes bizarre and often very scary path I'd found myself on.

Once my treatments were over, I felt kind of like someone who had just finished a marathon. Exhausted, exhilarated and completely spent, I'd been given my congratulatory hugs and certificate and then dismissed. Now what?

I tried to return to my life as I'd left it but found that it wasn't quite that easy. I looked for support groups and had a hard time finding one where I fit in. The mainstream support groups were comprised mostly of older, straight women and their husbands and sometimes their adult children. The other thing I noticed was that most of the women in these groups seemed to be fairly consumed with learning all about the latest studies, statistics, tests and treatments. Certainly all important things, but I couldn't help but think that there had to be more to my life than scouring the news for the latest study, test and breakthrough. I'd been given my life back and I didn't want to dedicate it to being a cancer patient. So, I stopped looking for support groups and tried to push cancer into the background of my life. . .

To Be Continued! In the meantime, check out our website for information and resources on breast cancer and more at www.mautnerproject.org. Thanks again to Lisa for sharing her story with us.

And the Winners Are...



We'd like to thank everybody who joined us last Friday for Autumn Glow, the official Big Love Gala Kickoff Party! We'd especially like to express our gratitude to our partners who donated so generously to make Autumn Glow, and the Raffle for a Reason, possible: TOWN Danceboutique, New Course Caterers, I. Gorman Jewelers, Kimpton Hotels, American Airlines, and of course, our wonderful volunteers!

And without further ado, we'd like to announce the winners of Raffle for a Reason. The raffle raised important funds to benefit the Mautner Project's services, and we'd like to thank each of you who took a chance and participated!

**Winner of \$1,000 I. Gorman Jewelers Gift Certificate:
Alicia A. Sutton**

**Winner of the Weekend Getaway from Kimpton Hotels and
American Airlines: Wanda Cockrell
Grand Prize Winner of \$10,000 cash: Carla Nordbrook**

Did you miss Autumn Glow but still want to learn more about Big Love, our 19th Anniversary Gala? Visit our new [website](#) to learn more about becoming a sponsor, table captain, or volunteer!

**Mautner Project: The
National Lesbian Health
Organization**

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The Mautner Project improves the health of lesbians, bisexual, and transgender women who partner with women, and their families, through advocacy, education, research, and direct service. We envision a healthcare system that is guided by social justice and responsive to the needs of all people.

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