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Happenings at Mautner: November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

November 26, 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

Your participation,
whether it is through
sponsorship, auction
donation, in-kind

Happy Thanksgiving!

The staff at Mautner Project would like to wish you and yours a warm and peaceful Thanksgiving! We hope that you enjoy the bounty of the season in good health with your loved ones.



Mautner Goes to Baltimore

Mautner Project is pleased to have received a generous grant from the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation to do four *Removing the Barriers* trainings with health care providers at organizations in the Baltimore area - plus a "Training of Trainers" so that they can continue to build their staffs' capacity. *Removing the Barriers* is Mautner Project's signature cultural competency training, which has helped thousands of health care providers across the country to better meet the needs of their LGBT patients. Staff member Elizabeth Ide has been reaching out to providers in the Baltimore area and is currently working with Baltimore Gay and Lesbian Community Center and the Baltimore City Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program to schedule trainings. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with Baltimore's health care providers to bring superior, patient-centered care to lesbian and bisexual women in the area. To learn more about *Removing the Barriers*, including how to bring it to your organization, please visit [our website](#) or call Elizabeth Ide at (202) 332-5536.

Everything Happens For A Reason: Part 3 A Personal Story About Breast Cancer



The Mautner Project is excited to share breast cancer survivor Lisa Williamson's story of an incredible journey. Here is Part 3 of 3 - and coming soon, the complete story on our website!

I didn't realize how much I had been

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.



holding back or denying until this trip. Being with these women who did not have a history with me and therefore had no preconceived notions about who I was or expectations of how I should behave was one of the most liberating experiences of my life. Without realizing it, all of the emotions of going through breast cancer started to stir about and push their way to the forefront of my consciousness. I could no longer live in denial about my cancer or its effect on me.

I've spent a large part of my life building a wall around me to protect me from the world. I had always shown people the me I wanted them to see. Rarely have I ever let someone see what was on the other side of that wall. Going through treatments, I always tried to be positive. My friends marveled at how "brave" and "courageous" I was. I wasn't. I just never wanted anyone to see how scared I was. I didn't want to cry in front of them because I was afraid if I started, I wouldn't be able to stop. So, I kept it all hidden away behind my wall.

Being on the trip and listening to and sharing with all of the other women, something amazing started to happen. It was so subtle at first I didn't even realize it was happening. The wall started to crack. By the end of the trip, it started to crumble. After I got home and spent time processing all of the feelings that came up, it came crashing down completely. For weeks after I returned home, I felt exposed. I craved the support and energy of the women who I had met and become so close to in such a short period of time. I felt safe with them and with my wall gone, I initially felt like I needed their protection.

Amazon Heart helped me remove the wall of denial I had been holding up for so long. It stirred emotions and energy inside me I've never felt. The hardest part about being back has been trying to perpetuate what started for me on that trip.

I realize it is my choice to decide whether to rebuild that wall or rebuild my life. I've chosen to try and rebuild my life. I've been challenged to channel my energy into something constructive and positive. I'm still searching for my place, but it is a journey I am looking forward to.

For the full story, and for information and resources on breast cancer and more check out our website at www.mautnerproject.org. Thanks again to Lisa for sharing her story with us.

In the Community

[Register today](#) for the **National Lesbian Health Summit!** The summit will be held March 6-8 in San Francisco, California, and will welcome all lesbian, bisexual, and queer women and transgender people as well as all of our LGBTIQ friends and allies. It's not too late to submit a workshop proposal or too early to register, so visit the [website](#) today!

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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

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social justice and responsive to the needs of all people.

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