

"It takes a lot of courage to release the familiar and seemingly secure, to embrace the new... There is more security in the adventurous and exciting, for in movement there is life, and in change there is power."—Alan Cohen

Beachwood Voice

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About Beachwood Voice

Beachwood Voice is a quarterly publication in its 9th year. We are dedicated to bringing vital information to the Beachwood Canyon community, our hillside neighbors, and other Hollywood residential neighborhoods and businesses.

We invite your comments:

Beachwood Voice

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Dear Readers

Transformation Ahead for the Beachwood Voice

The paper you hold in your hand is the last issue of the Beachwood Voice until the beginning of 2008.

Over nine years ago, when this paper began publication, it was a humble eight-page rag with no advertising and little future. As volunteers jumped on board to write, sell ad space, and take photos, the paper grew. Today, there are two commissioned ad sales

people, a paid graphic designer, a team of excellent writers, and the Beachwood Walkers to bring you the 32-page, high quality, content-rich quarterly gift that is the Beachwood Voice.

Recently, I learned that my mother has a rare form of cancer called *neuroendocrine*. Mom is a young 74-year old, active woman with a part time job as a "Hostess with the Mostest" (that's her self proclamation) at the Stick and Stein Eatery in El Segundo. But she's more than all that to me.

Mom was a very young mother with little education. Her mother died at age 50 of a heart condition and her father was an alcoholic. She cared for him until he died 32 years ago. She raised all four of us kids as though we were all her little friends, making projects out of giving to the poor or the elderly. Although our family was very poor, she made giving and sharing fun. The rare moment when she would impose her will on us was Sunday morning—we hid under our covers because we knew it was time for church.

If it weren't for her children, she could have pursued her singing career. Instead, she was content to sing to us every night adding new standards and perfecting her performance—all for us.

As adults, all four of her kids became volunteers and activists in one form or another. For the last few years we have gathered monthly for "Family Day" surrounding each other with love and support.

Today finds my mother fighting for the ability to enjoy a few more months—maybe even years—of this love and intimacy. Her headphones are in place and her head is bobbing as she sings along with Simon and Garfunkel's *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. Her face is at peace and her signature platinum-blonde angel hair, soon to fall to chemotherapy's shears, is still in its crowning glory. She's in her own world—onstage with the microphone in her

hand. She's glowing even as the needle in her arm delivers a deadly poison into her body to combat the cancer. In the same room, other patients receiving their chemo regime smile. For a moment, they do not think about their own situation; they are watching a little white-haired lady, my mother, in bliss.

While I take a break to support Mom, the Beachwood Voice will still be delivered to you quarterly—but the next issue will arrive directly to your in-box! Yes, the Beachwood Voice will be an *ezine*!

This means you will still be able to read your favorite features—*Ms. Grammer*, *Our Side of Town*, *Reflections* and more. You'll be updated on news that directly affects you—news of our neighborhood and community that you cannot get from the LA Times. This means our advertisers can still reach you with their messages—all in color. But most of all, this means everyone wins. I will be able to oversee my mother's care, while serving you with this vital community publication.

Community papers are the heart-and-soul of our democracy. It is important to remember that our nation was formed because American colonists wrote and read local publications that reasoned out, in a public forum for all to read, the rationale for creating the world's first modern representational democracy.

As Americans, we *must* be informed, and we must encourage our fellow citizens, many of whom have chosen to insulate themselves from knowing the news, to read, to educate themselves. Maybe then we can reclaim America as the beacon of freedom it once was—both for our citizens and for all residents of this global village.

Please help us reach you and those you know would enjoy reading the Beachwood Voice. Send me your email address so that you can be sure to receive our next issue.

It's simple—send your email address to beachwoodvoice@sbcglobal.net and in the subject line type in "subscribe." Please also send the addresses of friends and associates who you think might enjoy reading about our corner of the world, our take on the news. We'll add them to our distribution list. There will be an opt-out option available with each issue.

Our ezine and past Beachwood Voice issues will also be available on the web at www.beachwoodvoice.com.

Please enjoy this current issue of the Beachwood Voice—it's full of wit, wisdom and news. And please join me in stepping over the threshold into a new world that we could not have even imagined a decade ago. All things are possible when the doors of possibility and transformation are thrown open.

—Fran Reichenbach
Publisher

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in the Editorials and Opinion pieces in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors or Publisher—but they might!

Opposing views are ALWAYS welcome and encouraged. In fact, we have had to discontinue what we had hoped would be a regular column, "Point-Counterpoint" due to our unsuccessful attempts to find a conservative voice willing to write for it. It is, and has always been, our goal to make the Beachwood Voice a sounding board for diverse points of view. Please join us in our efforts to represent the wide scope of the opinions of our community.

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