

Cecelia Frack Scott
1352 Westhampton Road, Florence, MA 01062-9783
cecefscott@comcast.net
(home/work) 413-586-6584, (cell) 413-329-0268
psychotherapist
Spouse: Astrid Lindstrom, Class of 1974
Children: Heather Anne Scott, Jeffrey David Scott
Grandchildren: Tiernan, Zoe, Abigail, and Laura

The last five years have been quite an adventure – not one I would have chosen and not one that usually elicits reminiscing, relaxing, and rejoicing!

However, a friend (MHC '75) gave me a birthday card with characters from the Wizard of Oz which read “It's not where you go...It's who you meet along the way.” Her card and the lovely note she wrote nudged me into reminiscing about the road I had traveled, especially over the past few years, and the marvelous company I had along the way. My perspective shifted dramatically!

In November 2011, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, leading to three surgical procedures and subsequent radiation treatment. Cataract surgery in February 2012 was a mere “blip” on the calendar. Then in the fall of 2013, stomach discomfort and acid reflux led to a diagnosis of GERD and eventually prompted a CT scan that led to detection of stage 4 ovarian cancer in the spring of 2014. I had very extensive surgery May 30, 2014, with two hospital stays totaling 19 days, then began chemotherapy in late July. The chemo ended December 30, and I now am checked every few months to determine the need for further treatment. So far, so good! On top of all this, I was in a car accident last October, falling asleep at the wheel while driving to work. Amazingly, though my car was “totaled,” I came through the crash with a tiny scratch on my ring finger, and no other person or vehicle was involved. Now in 2015, I am coping with a severe rotator cuff problem in my left shoulder; the treatment path ahead is not yet clear.

On the bright side: May 2012 heralded the birth of my fourth grandchild, Zoe Amita, a true delight. In January 2014, we welcomed Jonah, a year-old rescue dog who races around the yard chasing squirrels, then leaps into our laps! I also had a marvelous 75th birthday celebration last year that extended to August when, despite my surgery, Astrid and I were able to travel to Oregon for a family reunion vacation.

Those are the basic events. But surrounding and woven into them was the amazing care and love of others: especially Astrid, but also family members, friends, and caregivers of all kinds who have supported me along the way, --- my PCP, breast surgeon, radiologist, oncologist who referred me to an excellent surgeon at Mass. General Hospital in Boston who operated to remove cancer from my ovaries, etc., the doctors and nurses at MGH who were wonderfully caring and with whom I made personal connections, staff and members of my local cancer support organization, friends who drove several hours to visit me at MGH, one staying over and bringing me home, others who brought food and stayed with me overnight to allow Astrid to have a week's break camping with our dog. And there are more – so many individuals, friends, colleagues, choral group members, and so on.

I was and continue to be blessed by all of these human connections, some of which were woven into my life in surprising ways. I have come to a new level of joy and appreciation for the gifts I have received in my life. That I came away basically unscathed by a very serious accident, just missed by a tractor-trailer, tells me I am here for a reason and to live what life I have left with joy and gratitude.

I don't know what lies ahead. I do plan to pursue some alternative paths of healing. I plan to work less and rest more. In any case I plan to be present for our 60th Reunion – in spirit if not in body!