



Editorial

By Eileen F. Gould

As spring arrives so does the start of baseball season. The author of this issue's cover story explains how her love for baseball got her through the darkest hours of her treatment. Last fall, her favorite team, the Chicago Cubs, won the World Series for the first time in 108 years!

One of the potential late effects of some chemotherapy drugs is hearing loss, so also in this issue, a young-adult patient explains how state-of-the-art technology has changed her life with the invention of amazing new hearing aids. A Memorial Sloan Kettering audiologist broadens the conversation further, highlighting what resources are available to patients who have experienced this side effect of their treatment and what options they can consider.

Spring always brings thoughts of hope and new beginnings.

Where Are They Now?

I will always be thankful for my Memorial Sloan Kettering doctor and his wonderful nurse; they took good care of me over the years while I was being treated for stage IV oral cancer, and I am now thrilled to be in the head and neck survivorship clinic. Throughout my cancer journey at MSK, there were also several programs that helped me get where I am today, including Art Expressions, where I was able to recapture my artistic skills; the Visible Ink writing program, through which one of my stories was acted out and performed by the professional singers of Broadway's *Motown*; and this very newsletter, *Bridges*, which has published my stories and has always been a comfort to read. I also participate in my Seniors 966 Jazz Club in Brooklyn — I go every Friday night to dance for laughter, to benefit from fellowship, and to listen to music. I also enjoy creative cooking, reading, and being surrounded by caring and loving people. I am truly blessed.

— Ann Colander



Patient and Caregiver Volunteer Program

The Patient and Caregiver Volunteer Program connects current patients and caregivers to volunteers who have experienced a similar diagnosis or circumstance related to cancer. If you are a former patient or caregiver of someone who has completed treatment, please consider becoming a Patient or Caregiver Volunteer.

For more information, contact Wendy Bonilla at 212-639-5007 or patient2patient@mskcc.org.