

RiseOfCourage's Mission is threefold.

My blog's primary goal is to raise cancer awareness; encourage regular checkups for early detection and to make people more aware of their health. A second goal is to inspire and encourage others who are fighting cancer, as well as to foster an understanding of what it's like to be a victim of cancer. It's a blog for everybody, not just patients. Thirdly, I strive to share my skill sets as a writer-artist to both benefit fellow patients and to help me recover from the financial devastation caused by cancer.

Who I am.

I'm a boat mechanic, artist and, most recently as of 2004, became a writer. I've always believed in working hard and doing work one enjoys and in being true to oneself; living a life that is meaningful and fulfilling. In this case, I'd traded a home on land to live on a boat in the late 1990s. I used my technical training to work as a marine engine mechanic and worked in retail. While earning a living, I seasonally cruised in my boat to other ports.

No, I'm not wealthy or a "trust fund baby" and I only emphasize this because I worked hard for what I have, didn't have it easy, and hope this inspires others. One doesn't have to be rich to live the life you love! (to learn more, visit www.rebeccaburg.com)

When I was diagnosed with Stage 3c, er+pr+her2+ breast cancer, I had to not only quit my job as a mechanic, but I had to relocate to be closer to the treatment center. The treatments made me too sick to work full time and they also took a significant part of my time. A single chemo treatment took me about six hours, and for several days after that I had to run to the clinic for shots to rebuild a suppressed immune system caused by the chemo. Then there are the innumerable doctor's appointments, tests, scans, and travel time to various clinics and hospitals...ugh!

Despite this unpleasant set back, I managed to start a blog and finish writing a science fiction novel while working part time in retail. The retail work is "light duty" and less vigorous than my job as a boat mechanic when struggling through treatments.

The Latest Project.

Seeking Serenity, an "adult" coloring book with meaning, due to be published around the end of June/beginning of July, 2016. This unusual take on the growing popularity of the adult coloring book involves lovingly hand drawn images that are special requests from my readers. People have sent me photos of their pets, and human loved ones, or have requested custom artwork (from mermaids to food scenes). Each page in this new, upcoming coloring book is in memory of, or a dedication to, a real pet or person.

Part of the proceeds from the book sales will be used toward the purchase of coloring supplies and at-cost copies of the coloring book. I will donate these items to fellow patients stuck in a hospital room or spending long hours in a chemo chair. The quality, family friendly books will bring a little bit of fun and anxiety relief to both children and adults. I've already donated numerous copies of my nonfiction book, *Sail With Me*, and the sci-fi novel, *The Human and the Hunted*, but the coloring book will be so much more fun!

