Young Professional ‘Lights The Night’ and Creates Blood Cancer Awareness

Kiwanis Club of NYC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS Metropolitan Division – member Jason Steiner, along with his sister Julie, walked in the October Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s “Light The Night” walk over the Brooklyn Bridge. They walked to honor Jason’s brother-in-law and Julie’s husband, David Korn, who has been diagnosed with and is currently battling non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

David was diagnosed in January 2005 at the age of 42. After three months of chemotherapy, he went into remission, but a more aggressive form of the cancer returned in October. David underwent another round of intensive chemotherapy from November 2005 through February 2006 to prep his body for a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately because David possesses a rare haplotype, the National Bone Marrow Registry was unable to find a match for him. As a result, David underwent a stem-cell transplant using his own stem cells on April 19, 2006. After a little over a month in the hospital, David was able to be home on May 12, in time to celebrate his 44th birthday. It has been about five months since his stem-cell transplant and David is still recovering from the procedure. He is currently battling a lung infection which is a side effect of some of the intense chemo drugs used against the cancer. In September 2006, David and my sister will celebrate their 5th anniversary. Hopefully, they will be able to celebrate another 50 anniversaries together!

“Light the Night” is the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s nationwide evening walk to build awareness of blood cancers and raise funds for cures. Walkers carried illuminated balloons - white for survivors and red for supporters - to celebrate and commemorate lives touched by cancer.

Every five minutes, someone is diagnosed with blood cancer and every ten minutes someone dies from these diseases. Please join the effort to curb blood cancers. If you would like to support Jason and his sister with this cause, to help David and thousands of others with blood cancers, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. You may make a secure donation go to: <www.active.com/donate/TnLNewyork/1633_jsteineneIN> or, if you prefer, you may make a check payable to: The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and mail it to Jason Steiner at 68-36 108th Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375.

Governor David Rothman Given NYS Liberty Award

This year Governor Joe and First Lady Nydia honored me by asking me to serve the New York District and to come up with a “Hands On Project” for the Midwinter Conference. The project will be called “Pillow Hugs.” We will be decorating pillowcases and they will become “Pillow Hugs.”

So please join me, Gov. Joe and First Lady Nydia and show a child that we care and want to give something a “Pillow Hug.” For more information contact me at (516) 352-6105 or email me a Pebble3382@aol.com

Unplanned East Meadow Service Project Earns Parents’ Gratitude

The Kiwanis Club of EAST MEADOW, Long Island South Central Division – D31/9 Jay Steinmetz met with fellow Kiwanians Norma Gonsales, President Dr. Alan Alterman and Gary Hudes at the home of a severely handicapped 16-year-old local boy.

They were joined by representatives from Alure Home Improvements of East Meadow and the Town of Hempstead Building Department. The purpose of their meeting was to develop a plan to finish the basement in a manner that would accommodate the necessary therapies this youngster needs on a daily basis. He is wheelchair-bound and, understandably, does not want not to be. So, he chooses to crawl on his hands and knees whenever he’s not in the wheelchair.