

Since my update in 2009 (I believe that's when it was), I have remained NED (no evidence of disease) and stable. I did have a scare when I had swollen lymph nodes above my collarbone, but that turned out to be thyroid related after I had 2 CAT scans to determine what was wrong. Now I just take life one day at a time, like so many others.

I volunteered with the Inflammatory Breast Cancer Foundation and became a member at large of its Board of Directors. After attending board meetings for several years and doing whatever was requested of me, I was elected Vice President of the Foundation. My mission in life is to educate as many people (general public and medical personnel) as I can until the day I die. Even a telemarketer is not safe from me. You want me to listen to your spiel? Then you listen to mine first. LOL. No one should have to fight with their doctors to get a proper diagnosis, yet I hear this daily from the women who call in to our toll-free line. By the time some of them finally get a proper diagnosis, they are already stage 4...this is not acceptable. The earliest you can detect IBC is stage 3b (not stage 0, 1 or 2 like regular breast cancer patients). IBC is very aggressive and that's why it's so important to get a timely diagnosis.

My oldest granddaughter has just had her 5th anniversary in June 2012 and she and her hubby are now the proud parents of a 10-month old beautiful girl, making me a great-grandmother now. I'm delighted.