



Dr. Dennis Perman ::

Message of The Week



Greta

May 12, 2014

Dear Doctor:

Most of us have had to deal with loss of some sort – loss of money, loss of opportunity, loss of flexibility as we get older – but one of the toughest losses to deal with is the loss of life, especially when someone seems to have so much future before them. The Masters Circle has suffered such a loss – on Monday, May 5, 2014, our own dear Greta Milam, Senior Bookkeeper and one of the key players on our financial team, succumbed to pancreatic cancer.

Greta pronounced her name “Greet-a,” like someone who greets you, rather than “Grett-a,” which makes perfect sense – she was not a re-gret-er, as I never saw her look back, but only forward. She had plenty of heartache – a difficult marriage that ended badly, the loss of her dad, and her first round of illness a few years ago, which she faced with dignity, courage, and a determination to stay private and to avoid letting it affect her work, which she executed with a rare blend of precision and creativity.

The memory of the passing of my own mom is still fresh in my thoughts – this is the second Mother’s Day I am spending without her. For Greta’s bright and talented son James, this is his first, and I don’t envy him. I remember trying to sort out my feelings last year, knowing that she wouldn’t want a lot of unhappiness and mourning on her behalf, but rather to remember the good times.

Like my mom, Greta wouldn’t prefer a lot of grieving – in fact, she declined to have a formal service, choosing a quiet cremation instead. It was her way not to inconvenience anyone, or to call unnecessary attention to herself.

No discussion of Greta would be complete without mentioning her sardonic sense of humor – ever the Brit, she saw comic relief in the challenges and adventures of everyday people, and took delight in pointing out what was funny about them.

I will surely remember her English accent, and her typical response to unanswerable questions, to which she would invariably reply “6” – and I will never forget her level of dedication to The Masters Circle, for which she worked tirelessly. She treated TMC as if it were her own company, and that’s why she earned so much responsibility, and leaves such a gaping vacuum in her absence.

It reminds me what I have learned over and over, from the loss of my mother, Dr. V, Greta, and other loved ones – we’d better stay as present as possible, and appreciate all of our blessings. Life, it turns out, is short, whether it lasts fifty years, eighty years, a hundred years or whatever – we must acknowledge that every breath is a precious gift, not to be overlooked or taken for granted. It could be over at any moment, and I for one want to have love in my mind and heart when my time comes.

Greta Milam, gone but not forgotten – we will surely miss her, and we are grateful for her contribution. Sometimes in quick interoffice messages the letters of her name got switched around to spell “Great” – and the shoe certainly fits.

Dennis Perman DC,
for The Masters Circle

PS - SuperConference is coming up fast, June 5-7 in Chicago – the theme is “Changing The Game,” and that’s what the Twenty-First Century Doctor of Chiropractic has to know about -- how the game is changing, and what we need to do to not only win it, but lead the charge. Top neurologists, inspiring philosophers, and the cutting edge of practice success -- for more information or to register, please go to www.SuperConference2014.com, or simply call 800-451-4514.