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RELATIONSHIPS

How a husband helped his wife

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September 30, 2006

Sandy Eiler of Ann Arbor reckons she's informally counseled about 200 women on her experience with breast cancer, body image and breast reconstruction.

A former nurse turned public relations entrepreneur, Sandy, 64, was diagnosed in 1989. To other women curious about her reconstructed breast, Sandy does a show-and-tell. She allowed a local television newscast to film her chest post-surgery. When her chemo was done, she and her husband took her wig to a firing range, where she blasted it to bits.



Larry Eiler of Ann Arbor wrote a book about dealing with his wife's breast cancer. Sandy Eiler talks to wmen about her experience and reconstructed breast. (EILER FAMILY PHOTO)

"You've had your clothes off in more restrooms in Ann Arbor," jokes her husband, Larry Eiler, 67. He wrote "When the Woman You Love Has Breast Cancer," a book about how he dealt with his wife's breast cancer surgery and replacement.

Larry's advice

- Be open to talking about your feelings and fears together.
- To be reassuring and supportive to a partner, little things can mean a lot. He'd often place flowers in his wife's car or in her office. He'd write her little love notes and put them in unexpected places.
- Accompany her to doctor's and treatment appointments to let her know you'll face this experience as a couple.
- Find other men to talk about it with, be it through a support group or an informal network of friends.

his books

"When the Woman You Love Has Breast Cancer" and "Prostate Cancer's Emotional Maze: Forging Your Way" are available on Amazon. The prostate cancer book is available on www.prostateemotions.com. To get the breast cancer book, contact the Eilers' firm at 734.761.3399 or sandy@eilerpr.com.

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this week's events

Today ...

Writers' and Artists' Circle: 7 p.m. Mondays and 10:30 a.m. Saturdays at the Allen Park Public Library, 8100 Allen, Allen Park. 313.381.2425.

Read more events.

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