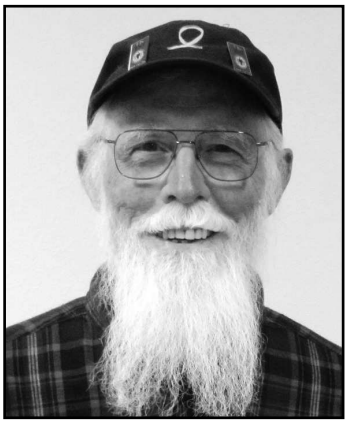


Us TOO Florence Behind the headlines



BY BOB HORNEY
CANCER SURVIVOR
US TOO CHAPTER LEADER

We continue our review of so-called “experts” who take issue with Ben Stiller’s statement, “Taking the PSA test saved my life. Literally.”

We saw last month that Tim Caulfield went after Stiller’s comment simply because Stiller had the influence of a celebrity.

We now check out Dr. Otis Brawley, Chief Medical Officer of the American Cancer Society (ACS) who has never been a proponent of PSA screening. He states: “I have never had a PSA and do not desire one,” even though, as an African-American, he is at increased risk of developing it.

We should note that when

Brawley went to Emory University as Head of Cancer Control, he shut down a free prostate cancer screening program. He was also on watch at ACS in 2013, when the funding for its Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Groups was eliminated.

ACS released a statement that it needed to put its limited resources where they would do the most good and men had other sources for prostate cancer information.

Brawley claims he is not against PSA testing, saying: “If a man is truly informed and chooses to be screened I have no difficulty with it. I am against those who oppose informed education about the screening issue. I am against misleading people by saying it clearly saves lives and there are minimal downsides.”

“There is reason to believe and I do believe that some men’s lives are saved by screening but I must stress that no one knows for sure.”

With that information as a background, Brawley’s following responses to Stiller’s comment were quite predictable:

1) “The thing Ben Stiller doesn’t understand is that his case is based on one positive experience. He hasn’t heard of all the men who have had negative experiences [with PSA testing].”

2) “The tests have bad operating systems. They sometimes miss cancer that needs to be found and they find cancer that doesn’t need to be found.”

3) “When men’s PSA levels are tested before they are 50, there may be more of a chance of error in testing.”

4) “Being confronted with the (PSA) numbers on a regular basis, especially if they are rising, may cause depression and even suicidal thoughts in mind.”

5) “The bottom line is, there’s more harm associated with prostate cancer screenings than good.”

Brawley’s first response: Stiller spoke with his internist about the baseline PSA test, learned its pros and cons and then chose to get it, which is exactly what Brawley recommends (above).

So, what is the problem — except that Stiller believes the baseline PSA test saved his life and Brawley won’t believe it?

Brawley’s second response: Nobody is saying the PSA test is perfect, but since it has been used along with the DRE we’ve had a 40-50 percent drop in prostate cancer mortality.

Brawley’s third response: Brawley is dead wrong!

Expert urologist Patrick Walsh of Johns Hopkins University puts

it this way: “PSA is a better, more specific test in younger men who — unlike older men — don’t tend to have BPH, which can falsely raise the PSA level. PSA measurements taken when a man is in his forties also provide a baseline to be followed over time.”

Walsh adds, “Thus, the man who’s going to live long enough to need to be cured should have the opportunity to be cured. Screening is the first step.”

He added, “Younger men are more likely than older men to have curable disease and to have fewer side effects from treatment.”

Brawley’s fourth response: Does he think it is better for a man and his family to be told his disease is terminal at diagnosis rather than having a rising PSA, be working with an expert urologist and having hope?

Brawley’s fifth response: He refuses to give credit to the state of modern urology, clinging instead to “what was” and unfortunately scaring too many men away from a potentially life-saving baseline PSA test.

Men who are undecided about baseline PSA testing are invited to attend Us TOO Florence meetings, speak with urologists and prostate cancer survivors.

Call Bob Horney at 541-999-4239 for meeting information.

Community Choir seeks singers for new season

Community Chorus of Florence will host sign-ups for its spring season Monday, Jan. 23, at 6 p.m., at Cross Road Church on 10th and Maple streets.

The first rehearsal will follow immediately afterwards and will continue until 8:30 p.m.

All singers from high school age and up are welcome. There is a registration fee of \$60 to cover the cost of music and other expenses.

Several scholarships are available and may be applied for at registration. High school students will automatically receive scholarships.

Community Chorus regularly rehearses on Monday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

at the Cross Road Church.

The choir’s next concert will be held the weekend of May 5 to 7. There will be two performances.

The concerts will have a sunshine theme. Songs that are being considered for the concert program include, “On the Sunny Side of the Street,” “You Are the Sunshine of My Life,” “The Summer Wind,” a few Beach Boys numbers and many others.

The chorus is also seeking volunteers for a number of non-singing roles, such as fundraising, bookkeeping, computer graphics, secretarial and other administrative tasks.

For more information, call 541-997-3469.

City Lights to host Sundance ‘Short Film Tour’

The 2016 Sundance Film Festival Short Film Tour, a collection of the best Sundance short films selected at this year’s Festival, will be hosted by City Lights Cinemas Friday, Jan. 20, through Sunday, Jan. 22.

Like the best short stories, short films are free to be creative and playful with the vast cinematic language filmmakers have at their disposal; this “best of” program from Sundance is a chance to see some of the best film from around the world.

Showcasing a wide variety of story and style, the 2016 Sundance Film Festival Short Film Tour is a 95-minute theatrical program of eight short films selected from this year’s festival, which over the course of its more than 30-year history has been widely considered the premier showcase for short films and the launchpad for many now-prominent independent filmmakers.

Including fiction, documentary and animation from around the world, the distinct 2016 program traverses vibrant styles from wild comedy to reflective poetry. Each breaks through its limited timeframe with a high level of artistry and story that will resonate with audiences long after it ends.

The short films showcased, culled from over 8,000 submissions, include:

• “Affections:” A comedy about isolation and loneliness that follows a young woman who is adrift and seeking intimacy in the most unlikely places.

• “Bacon & God’s Wrath:” A Short Film Jury Award winner, the film focuses on a 90-year-old Jewish woman as she reflects on her life experiences while preparing to try bacon for the first time.

• “Edmond:” A Short Film Jury Award winner for animation, looks at how “Edmond’s”

impulse to love and be close to others is strong — maybe too strong. As he stands by a lake contemplating his options, he reflects on his defining moments in search of the origin of his desires.

• “Her Friend Adam:” Short Film Special Jury Award for Outstanding Performance for Grace Glowicki, the film explores a boyfriend’s jealous impulse spirals out of control in 16 minutes of romantic doom.

• “Jungle:” The lines between trust, betrayal and forgiveness are intertwined for two Senegalese vendors as they try to make a living on the streets of New York City.

• “The Grandfather Drum:” As the balance of the world turns upside down for the Anishinabek people, the elder Naamowin builds a healing drum to save his grandson and his people.

• “The Procedure:” Short Film Jury Award for U.S.

Fiction, it’s about a man who is captured and forced to endure a strange experiment.

Tickets for the 2016 Sundance Film Festival Short Film Tour are currently available at City Lights Cinema or online at citylightscinemas.com.

Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and \$7 for kids.

Show times are Friday at noon and 9:10 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 9:10 p.m., and 8:10 p.m. on Sunday.

Call City Lights Cinema at 541-305-0014 for more information.

PeaceHealth receives donation of baby items

PeaceHealth Peace Harbor volunteers recently received a large donation of baby blankets and sets of baby clothes, booties and hats for newborns.

Maira Tan and her husband have donated to the group for several years while living in Yachats and now continue their generosity from McMinnville.

The couple delivers these items to the group to be given to hospital newborns and their moms. Hours of knitting goes

into the baby items.

Their generosity is greatly appreciated and an example of the healing mission of Peace Harbor.

These beautiful baby items are a true gift to both the hospital patients and volunteers.

The “Tuesday Volunteer Workshop” is an example of just one of the volunteer opportunities available at Peace Harbor.

This group of talented volunteers meets every Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. in the recre-

ation room at Spruce Point. Various projects are worked on for the hospital and patients, including cough pillows, surgical packs, Healing Blankets and more.

The group also teaches knitting and crocheting and new members are welcome.

Donations of yarn are also greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Tuesday Group Chair Denise Dimeglio at 541-997-3844 or the Peace Harbor Volunteer office at 541-997-8412.



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