

Event marks decade of fostering hope

By Katherine Perkins
kperkins@mdislander.com

BAR HARBOR — The 10th annual Carol Dyer Memorial Lumina Evening will set the Bar Harbor Village Green aglow on the evening of Saturday, Aug. 6.

Carol Dyer was a beloved local children's librarian who lost her battle with brain cancer in 2001. The luminary event in her memory is organized by the Bar Harbor YB's, an ad hoc group of local women of which she was a member. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Over the past 10 years, the event has raised more than \$50,000.

Starting in the early '90s, the YBs knew each other through various local social circles and charity functions. Many were mothers in the community who got together to have yard sales, raise money for worthy groups, eat dinner and drink wine. "Community work is our bond," says member Anna Murphy. "It turned to a social bond later, but it started from being active together in the community."

"We all had families, were chaotically busy and never took time for fun ... so we decided to get together and have fun once in a while," says Ann Worrick. "The friendships took off from there."

But it was Ms. Dyer's diagnosis of brain cancer that brought them together as a cohesive unit. "There were a couple of major events that made us realize we aren't all going to be here for each other forever," says Gail Leiser. When Ms. Dyer succumbed to the disease in June of 2001, the group searched for a way to come together and channel their grief.

In the fall of 2001, the YB's attended a Relay for Life in Ellsworth to raise money for cancer



PHOTO COURTESY YBS

Carol Dyer

research in Ms. Dyer's memory. According to Eliza Worrick, a YB Junior, they were struck "by the emotion and beauty of the lumina ceremony held once the sun went down, as small paper bags with the names of those who had survived, were still fighting, or who had lost their lives to cancer were lit with the light of a votive candle."

"It was this opportunity for reflection and remembrance that inspired them to bring these flickering flames of hope to the Bar Harbor Village Green."

the midwives I guess; we've been there to bring it out into the open. But it's not about us anymore, and it's about a lot more than Carol."

Many have come to depend on the annual ceremony as an integral part of continuing grieving process; others have planned family vacations around it. "It's an awesome responsibility," says Ms. Jordan.

As the years have passed, some aspects of the evening have become more celebratory. "While it might seem strange to some to hear a steel drum band or a pair of fiddlers playing for a somber event, I think that it acts more like a reminder that not all hope is lost in the fight against cancer," says Ms. Worrick. "All that we can do in the face of it is to celebrate the lives of everyone who has been touched by cancer and keep hope for the future of a cure."

Luminary order forms are available online at barharbor-ybs.com. Checks can be made payable to the American Cancer Society with "Carol Dyer" in the memo line. Contact barharbor-ybs@gmail.com, Kate Jordan at 288-9680 or Gail Leiser at 288-9083.



ISLANDER FILE PHOTO

Luminaries glow on the Bar Harbor Village Green.



Mount Desert **Islander**
Get all your local news right here
fenceviewer.com

