

asrt Scanner

YOUR JOB • YOUR CAREER • YOUR ASRT

Find Out How
You Can
WIN WIN!
See Page 6.

9 R.T.s Who Forged The Way

Imaging
Big Bodies

IRELAND
Charms
Students

Learn, Network
and Explore in
Albuquerque

APRIL/MAY 2013 • VOL 45 NO 4

Philip Ballinger, Ph.D., R.T.(R),
FAEIRS, FASRT, blazed a trail
in the profession, setting high
education standards.

www.asrt.org

When Cancer Strikes a Friend: What to Say, What to Do, and How to Help

By **Bonnie E. Draeger**
(Paperback, 14.95)

Every one of us knows someone who has been diagnosed with some form of cancer. We want to help or express our feelings to the cancer patient, but many of us struggle with what to do or say.

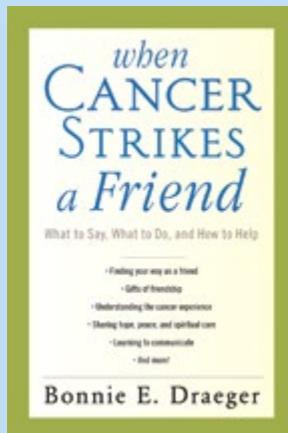
Methodist Deacon Bonnie Draeger is a cancer survivor herself. She writes that we need to use terms based on the language our friends choose for themselves, such as “in remission” or “no evidence of disease.” Bonnie interviewed multitudes of medical professionals, writers and other cancer survivors about how to be a friend to a person with cancer.

She addresses levels of familiarity, indicating how a close friend would offer to “get through this together” while an acquaintance might say, “I’m a good listener if you want to talk.” As a friend, assess if the recently diagnosed person will ask for help or if aid will need to be offered, and consider matching the skills of the volunteer to the needs of the cancer patient. The author encourages giving rides to appointments, but also suggests helping with tasks such as yard work or wrapping gifts, depending on the season.

The author advises how to meet a friend’s emotional state with our own and seek the middle ground, wherever he or she may be in the journey with cancer, always remembering it’s not about us.

Having friends is vital to our health and happiness, especially during a difficult time. This book walks readers gently down the path of best practices when this situation touches their lives.

— **Cristina Olds**



French Docs Going to Prison for Radiation Overdose Deaths

Three physicians in France face medical practice bans, jail time and stiff fines because of the deaths of at least 12 patients from radiation overdoses from 2001 to 2006, a judge ruled in February. *Aunt-MinnieEurope* reported the court ruled that new radiation therapy machines were not properly calibrated, technologists were not properly trained and prior imaging exams were ignored, resulting in 20 percent overradiation. *The Telegraph* in London reported that overdoses were given to nearly 450 cancer patients. No technologists were charged and more radiation therapy staff has been added at the facility in northeastern France.

