



## NEWS

### Colette's Big Adventure

- by Maggie Mills -

Rosedale resident Colette Nichols is traveling to California in September to take part in the Amazon Heart Thunder motorcycle ride, which raises funds to support the breast cancer support programs, Amazon Heart and the Young Survival Coalition. The nearly 1,000-mile ride extends from Los Angeles to San Francisco. Colette doesn't own a motorcycle and didn't know how to ride one when she signed up for the event. She explains it this way, "I had heard about it a year ago, and thought to myself, there is no way I would be able to do that, I mean I am in chemo. One year later after 15 months of weekly chemo treatments, here I am!"

The California journey is starting right here on Pulaski Highway. Harley Davidson is a ride sponsor and will be providing the 20 riders with the gift of leather jackets and the loan of new motorcycles for the event. The Harley-Davidson/Buell Store of Baltimore came to Colette's aid and placed her in their Rider's Edge Course free of charge. Jean Neal, the Rider's Edge Director at HD Baltimore, enthuses, "After meeting Colette, we fell in love with her and her indomitable spirit and committed to doing everything we could to assist her in this endeavor ... Think about it - not many women in her situation can

conceive of taking on such a challenge - not to mention that she's one of only 20 women (all breast cancer survivors) from the U.S., U.K. and Australia that will be taking part in this ride - and she's from our area! Most of the women who are participating have been riding for years - she's starting from scratch! How cool is that?"

Colette has kept a journal of her experiences on her blog at [my.crazysexylife.com/profile/cjay](http://my.crazysexylife.com/profile/cjay). "I truly cannot believe where I am at this point in my life. Without breast cancer (remember I spell it that way just to piss it off), I would not be meeting these incredible people and preparing to participate in this incredible event. What if breast cancer is just the start of an incredible journey ... well it has been in my life!"

On Saturday, June 7, the Harley-Davidson/Buell Store of Baltimore on Pulaski Highway is hosting the "Heels 2 Wheels" ride to generate donations for both the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation and Colette's ride. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with an 11 a.m. departure time. Colette has already raised enough money to cover her expenses for the trip with the help of the local HOG (Harley Owners Group) chapter and the Maryland, Delaware, D.C. Royal Order of Moose. Money

raised from Saturday's ride will go to the women of Amazon Heart Thunder and Colette's personal goal to raise \$5,000 for the cause. Colette will be there on Saturday to use her newly acquired skills and gain practice for her California adventure. She says, "I want to participate in this event because I finally figured it out that living is so much better than thinking about living or even worse yet thinking about dying. And I want other survivors to know that."

For info., visit: [www.hdstore.com/custompage.asp?pg=womenspage](http://www.hdstore.com/custompage.asp?pg=womenspage).

### New Publication Available

*The Courage to Move Forward*, a free publication produced by the Baltimore County Department of Aging, in partnership with Gilcrist Hospice Care, is now available in Baltimore County senior centers and libraries. This book was designed to help people learn strategies for coping with the challenges of loss and find ways to re-engage into the community. In addition, the book gives tips on how to be proactive in dealing with future healthcare needs and decision-making. For more information, call 410-887-2594.

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