

## **Team Sweet Pea joins Against the Tide**

**by Jean Cann**

On June 25 at the Hopkinton State Park, Against the Tide participants will swim, walk and kayak to benefit the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC). MBCC seeks preventable causes of breast cancer. MBCC's website says, "Now in its thirteenth year, Against the Tide brings together families and individuals of all ages to fight breast cancer."

Hopkinton's Alexandra De Collibus decided to unite family and friends when she learned about Against the Tide at a meeting of In Hopkinton by Women, a group of local women business owners. Through DeCollibus' business, Sweet Pea Yoga, she teaches Itsy Bitsy Yoga® to young children in several locations, including Absolute Yoga in Hopkinton.

"What has drawn me to the Against the Tide and the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition is its emphasis on the prevention of breast cancer," says De Collibus. "As with yoga, our greatest desire is to support a body's wellness by creating a healthful environment with which to live and work. By researching the connection between environmental elements and its role in the development of breast cancer, we can draw attention to the very root causes that play a role in the incidence of cancer..."

De Collibus also works as a classroom assistant at Montessori Children's House in Southborough. Both there and at her yoga classes, she has distributed flyers and registration packets.

"As a wife, daughter, teacher and friend, it is important for me to honor the women who have been touched by cancer and the devoted families and friends who have supported and loved those women through each day," she said. "On behalf of all the extraordinary moms, grandmas and friends I have been blessed to meet through my business Sweet Pea Yoga, my years of work at the Montessori Children's House in Southborough, and throughout my life, I am grateful to be able to participate," she said. De Collibus will kayak and encourages others to join her, or to walk or swim.

Bill Shakespeare, a father of three including one of De Collibus' current students, will swim for Team Sweet Pea. He works as Research Director for Ariad Pharmaceuticals, where his team works to develop compounds that slow or stop tumors, including breast cancer, from metastasizing. When he saw the Against the Tide flyer that De Collibus distributed he jumped in.

"This seemed to be a great opportunity to get some exercise--I swim," Shakespeare said. "And to raise money for a cause near and dear to my heart."

De Collibus also recruited her husband, Mike Krausert, for Against the Tide. He has formed his own team--Team Halloween.

"Mike is a scenic designer for Halloween attractions (haunted house events)," said De Collibus. "He is going to be doing the kayak event and is representing his colleagues and supporters in the Haunted Attraction industry...He is also running a raffle of various Halloween/Haunted attraction related items and services donated to help generate pledges for Against the Tide. When someone places a pledge for Team Halloween they are also entered into a raffle to win logo design and digital artwork services, digital artwork, books, costume prosthetics and makeup, haunted house calendars and instructional DVDs, etc."

"Because I hope that our newest generation of girls need not grow up in a world where breast cancer threatens their health, their family, their future or their dreams, I am honored to head up Team Sweet Pea in the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition's Against the Tide event," said De Collibus.

Those who wish to join Team Sweet Pea, may contact De Collibus at (508) 981-3244 or [info@sweetpeayoga.com](mailto:info@sweetpeayoga.com). For more information about the event, to register or to view the pledge pages of Team Sweet Pea and others, log on to [www.mbcc.org/swim](http://www.mbcc.org/swim). Those wishing to register or donate may also call 1-800-649-6222.