

Photo by Gordon Hesse



When my mother's sister found out she had breast cancer 19 years ago, our family was devastated. Her father had died of prostate cancer about ten years earlier; for us, the word cancer meant death.

But my aunt is a survivor, and now celebrates almost two decades of being cancer free. Improvements in detection techniques and treatments have created an aura of hope around the formerly dreaded disease as much as pink ribbons have proliferated on everything from figurines to clothing. In this issue, Joan Schultz's story, *Hope Grows*, details one woman's experience and explores how organizations in our area bring hope to women and their families facing a diagnosis like my aunt's.

In addition to being Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October is the season we feel a new chill in the air as leaves turn gold, orange and red around us. Pumpkin patches sprout and cornfields give way to corn mazes. Festivals revolve around scarecrows and all-things apple—cider, pie and picking. Little ones plan carefully what costume they will don at the end of the month. Check out fun and spooky happenings around the area in our Datebook and Travel-on-a-Tank departments.

Be sure to read the excerpt from Jonathan Maberry's new book "The Dragon Factory: A Joe Ledger Novel." Once again he will have you on the edge of your seat, with the little hairs at the back of your neck standing at tingling attention.

And whether you're currently renovating your home, thinking about it, or just like to window shop for ideas, don't forget to reserve time to visit the Greater Philadelphia Home Show, Friday through Sunday Sept. 25, 26, and 27 at the Valley Forge Convention Center. We have a complete directory and map on pages 46-47.

Here at *Suburban Life* we're in full swing of the season and appreciate hearing from so many of you who are enjoying it along with us. Happy Fall!

Brenda Lange