

Good evening.

I'm Jason Danieleley, the lucky guy who, as of Wednesday, celebrated 19 years married to tonight's honoree.

Over our 20 years together, it's safe to say, that the last year and a half has been the most trying physically, emotionally and mentally and for a couple in show business that's saying a lot.

Since May 6th of last year I have witnessed this woman, whom I already knew possessed great strength, determination and commitment to succeeding, turn her focus not only to healing but through her trials, try her best to help others who may be on a similar journey.

Marin's surgeon, Dr. Nadeem Abu-Rustum, said on her initial visit with him that "everything was going to be alright" and that her positive mental attitude and determination to be well will do as much for her as the science and technology that he had at his disposal.

I've witnessed that power of her positive attitude over and over again. Not only has it served her well but also with it, she has lifted me up time and time again, more than you'll ever know. My therapist knows and so does my pshycopharmacologist but...

Marin is not a person who sits back and lets things "happen" to her. She moves continually forward and upward in her everyday life whether it be with work, home issues or trips to Memorial Sloan Kettering for Healing Therapy, which is what she calls chemotherapy, 'adjusting the vocabulary' to maintain a positive attitude.

It is one thing to stand here at a lovely and entertaining gala and say how positive and strong Marin is. The reality of the day to day is so far removed and so foreign to most of you, thank god, that you can't possibly comprehend the depths of strength and resilience that it *really* takes. The daily fears and emotional bottoming out, not to mention the issues that come with having most of your bowels removed and now trying to find foods that your body can properly digest without sending you back into the hospital for an obstruction, trying to get the proper nutrients in your very limited diet to give you the strength to continue not to mention to keep you working, plus doing interviews to bring a greater awareness to ovarian cancer, travel to Washington D.C. to talk to Congressmen and women about how they might help...

I can't say that I could do that. I stand in awe and am constantly inspired.

Neither one of us would say we are happy that Marin was diagnosed with ovarian cancer but she does think that there is a reason that it has happened and is determined to take this opportunity to help further the advancement of ovarian cancer awareness, do whatever is necessary to help in the creation of early detection tests, raise an awareness of the BRCA jean mutation which, if positive, can lead to early detection and specific treatments in, not only, ovarian but breast, prostate and colon cancers.

...And all while she continues to star in Broadway shows surrounded by the most generous, caring and giving community of artists.

Friends - It's my honor to present the first "Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative "Dame" Award", to my wife Marin Mazzie.