

Steve seems to be doing OK, all things considered.

From time to time, we talk on the phone to friends and relatives. It is so difficult for Steve to communicate, and it drives me crazy to see him so incapacitated.

A good friend visited for about an hour and I know he liked that. Despite not being able to get words out, he understands most of what we say. Sometimes he pops up with humorous zingers! My old Steve!! He recently had the staff at Hearthstone in stitches, so I heard. All very good. Steve really seems to enjoy Hearthstone, and he realizes that overall, he is much better off there. They have the trained staff who can best minister to his needs.

I'm getting on OK. E.g., lunch tomorrow with the JULIETs...Just Us Ladies Imbibing Eating and Talking. Most of us are or were married to the ROMEOs...Retired Old Men Eating Out...until 5 months ago, Steve would join those guys regularly.

There is that part of me that still digs through the literature and I keep thinking "I can still find a cure". A recent book given to me by Steve's counselor is entitled "Ambiguous Loss" and states in one chapter that Alzheimer's is the cruelest of diseases because you don't have an endpoint and the grief seems to go on forever. There is a growing body of evidence that it may be an infectious (viral) disease. Wouldn't that be something!

Wish we could know that sooner rather than later so that Steve might benefit.

Until this whole thing happened, I had no real concept of how it hits everyone, drags us all down, and how difficult it is to be a caregiver.

As far as cards or letters, I think he would welcome both. He reads ok, but typed notes with larger font might be easier to read.

With great appreciation,

Pam

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