



## *A Message from Sandee Burbank*

I turned 65 in August, which, according to my kids, makes me officially an “Old Fart”. Wonderful! I thought they would refer to me as the “Grand Old Lady” or at least something more refined. So much for dreams!

I get lots of jokes in my email about the subject of growing older. The telling part is that I think they’re funny and the kids ‘don’t get it’. One thing I’ve learned is that most who didn’t live through the fifties, sixties and seventies just don’t understand. Many of us who did are now retiring. I’m hoping that perhaps they will remember the dreams they had for themselves then and will now have the courage to stand up for future generations by fighting for truth and science in drug policy.

I’ve definitely had to slow down since my stroke a year ago and a recent bout with cancer has left me very thankful for life and the love and support of my friends and family. The surgery was successful and the financial assistance that I so gratefully received from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation allowed me to focus on my health, not medical bills.

Meanwhile the heat of summer slows things down and gives me more time to contemplate the pleasures of life. I love listening to the chirping of the crickets. White noise to some, but for me much different than another true love, the sound of a roaring river when we are camping. I chuckle to myself as I hear the kids talk, slurp and giggle over frozen pops and still enjoy watching a meteor shower at midnight on lounge chairs in the field. The smell of the early flowers in the garden is intoxicating. Fall is rapidly approaching. Indoor gardeners who can help outdoor gardeners keep their strains going over the winter are so appreciated. If you can help, please reach out.

MAMA is busy with our membership expanding, as well as the demand for clinic appointments and classes. MAMA’s Kids Camp was a great success (story in the October 2009 newsletter). Thank you to those who joined us or offered testimony at the meetings of the Expert Panel on Adding Psychological Conditions to the OMMP. We hope for a positive outcome.

Best wishes as we head into harvest season. ~ Sandee

