# Kristi Marsh



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# Meet Kristi Marsh Author. Speaker. Advocate. Survivor. Founder of Choosewiser.com.

Diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer at age thirty-six and with three young children at home, Kristi started on a quest to create a healthier home and body. Now a proponent for women's health, Kristi's passion is to share her knowledge and journey with others.

"So many people are reluctant to make changes in their lives because they think it's going to be expensive or time consuming. But making little changes over time in the products we smother on our skin, foods we devour, and surroundings in which we immerse ourselves, doesn't have to be difficult. It actually can be fun."

Kristi founded an organization dedicated to educating women about the interaction between environmental toxins and their health, and empower and encourage them to become savvy, aware consumers.

Along the way, she transformed from online educator to inspirational, passionate, moving speaker. Kristi's efforts have been recognized and celebrated by :



- Toastmasters International Magazine, May 2012
- Clean Water Action's 2011 John O'Connor Award
- Prevention Magazine's Picture of Health, 2010
- *Healthy Living Magazine's* Champion of Health, 2010 Awards
- Greenschool's 2009 Outstanding Leadership Awards

Her dynamic speaking style earned her 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Toastmasters 2011 International Speech Contest in Massachusetts.

# And Then Came the Book...

Her first book, *Little Changes*, is a succulent swirling lollipop of lessons about the products we smother on our skin, foods we devour, and surroundings in which we immerse ourselves. A gut-wrenching roller coaster of emotions, her adventure involves a Western Grebe, farm stand spinach, a meaty love story, a rock in Wyoming, and some pioneers—which eventually captured national attention.

With a cup of humor, a smidgeon of sarcasm, and a wallop of mainstream motherhood, *Little Changes* enlightens readers about the simmering, swelling, epic transformation of our generation; becoming self-advocates for their own environmental health.



Between February and October 2012, Little Changes sold more than 1,500 books world wide. Little Changes is available in paperback, eBook, audio, and in volume discounts for events.

### Little Changes was selected as:

- Campaign For Safe Cosmetics Summer Book club read 2012
- Women's Voices for the Earth Book Pick 2012







# On The Rise



### Kristi Marsh, CC: MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES

How little things can make a big difference.

#### By Julie Bawden-Davis

n 2006, when a blopsy confirmed that Kristi Marsh suf-fered from aggressive breast cancer, doctors gave the 36-year-old mother of three her treatment options. While Marsh immediately researched her alternatives. ultimately it was her immer Marsh immediately researched her alternatives, ultimately it was her inner wisdom that led her to make the best possible decision.

#### "I found my voice and was inspired to encourage women to be their own environmental health self-advocates."

"For five days I sat on the phone talking to everyone I could about whether to have a lumpectomy or mastectomy," says Marsh, a member of the Tri-County Talkers member of the Tri-County Talkers Toastmasters in South Easton, Massachusetts. Finally, exhausted from the research and confused because everyone gave her a different answer, she lay down on her bedroom

answer, she lay down on her bedroom "I finally realized that despite the huge medical community and all of the information on the Internet, the answer had to come from me," says Marsh, who has no family history of place inside and listen, because that would be the best answer." ould be the best answer. 12 WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

In those quiet moments, Marsh chose a mastectomy, and the decision ulti-marely saved her like. During the surgery, doctors found and removed another tumor that was flattened agains ther rib cage. It was Marsh's newfound ability to acknowledge her inner voice that led her to not only survive the cancer, but to thrive and discover her calling.

Sharing Better Choices

Sharing Better Choices For two years the struggled with cancer, enduring eight surgeries and rounds of chemotherapy. Fighting this battle while being the best mother possible to her there young children, Marsh examined tare, non-organic foods and household more she dug, the more she believed that some of the choices she made for bestelf and her family were potentially toxic. As a result, she searched for balabilier options and became eager to Share her findings with others. One day Marsh was watching her son's karate lesson, and as she sat, she sketched out her thoughts on how to make the subject of toxins humorous

months as a member, I started mo through the Competent Communi manual and my life was electrified Once she became a Toastmast started sharing her story with clu for mothers and church groups, found her surfaces environ as

startee starting, and church group found her audience growing as spread of her engaging tails, then she has established the o tion and website Choose Wisi now speaks across the United about her experience with co-tabout her experience with co-tabout her experience with co-connaction between environ roxins and health. Her bood Changes: Tales of a Reluct. Eco-Monics Proneer, inte-com story with simple was small changes that can ac-healther lifestyle. "I did not venture or to 'name' environment

to 'name' environmer causing my cancer, bu causing my cancer, or ward on a full, loving Marsh says. "As indi have significant influ exposure by simply in our products and when we can." He

NORTH EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS, USA

# From right to left: Kristi Marsh, her husbar Ted, and the couple's three children: Kyle, age 11, Kaytee, 9, and Tanner, 14.

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Another aspect she struggled with initially was how to get the word out

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For more information about Choose Wiser, visit choosewis

### Julie Bawden-Davis is a

Treelance writer based in Southern California and Iongtime contributor Toastmaster. You can reach her



# **Press and Web Presence**



### **One Year Growth**

<b>Be Choosy Newsletter Subscription</b>		Choose Wiser Facebook	
October 2011	770 Subscribers	October 2011	324
October 2012	1403 Subscribers	October 2012	1330

And on You Tube? 7400 views!

- First Featured Rockstar in the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics Recognizing Rockstars Launch
- Vitamin Retailer Magazine, October 2012, Interview
- Flour Sack Mama Blog, September 2012, Book Review
- Toastmaster International Magazine, two page feature article May, 2012
- Yahoo Women Who Shine Nomination
- About.com Natural Beauty by Tricia Chaves: Ways to Detox Your Beauty Routine
- Edible South Shore Magazine Book Review
- Smart Health Radio Interview with Dr. Glenn, Los Angeles CA
- Rene Syler Good Enough Mothers Life Lessons Interview
- Seventh Generation mention on 7Gen Blog

# **Recent Events**

#### 2013

- April 12th -13th Home EcoMomics 101 Weekend Retreat
- March 7th Natural Products Expo West: Marketing to Moms, Anaheim, CA.
- February 4th Mansfield Mothers Club: "Deliciously Green and Clean" Event, Mansfield, MA

January 17th South Shore Locavore's Speaker Series: "Organic with a Budget Friendly Attitude," Kingston, MA

#### 2012

#### November

- Festival of (Giving) Trees: Annual Luncheon Keynote, Southbridge, MA
- Natural Resources Trust Annual Meeting: Tribute to Silent Spring Keynote, Easton, MA
- Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital: Author Meet & Greet Boston, MA

#### October

- Boston University Medical Center Toastmasters: SPEAK Movie Premiere Panel Member, Boston, MA
- Suffolk University: Guest Lecture Communication and Journalism Students, Boston, MA

#### September

• Celebration of Women & Health: Keynote, Easton, MA

#### July

- Campaign for Safe Cosmetics: Book Club Webinar with Stacy Malkan
- Friends of Hanson Library: "Goin' Organic with a Budget Friendly Attitude," Hanson, MA

#### June

- Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition's Against the Tide: Meet and Greet, Hopkinton, MA
- National Active and Retired Federal Employees: Monthly Luncheon Keynote, Halifax, MA

#### May

- Collaborative on Health and Environment-Alaska: Monthly Teleconference Guest
- Franklin Newcomers Club: Event Keynote, Franklin, MA
- Westwinds Bookshop: Meet and Greet, Duxbury Library, Duxbury, MA
- Toastmasters District 31 Spring Conference: Workshop Presenter, Dedham, MA

#### April

• Purdue North Central Woman's Association Annual Spring Luncheon: Keynote, Westville, IN

#### February

- Bridgewater State University Library, "Going Organic with a Budget Friendly Attitude," Bridgewater, MA
- Easton Ames Free Library Event: Author Meet & Greet, Easton, MA

### 2010

• Happiness is a Habit Retreat: Guest Speaker, w/ Pam Young & Marla Cilley aka "Fly Lady," Dallas, TX

# **Presentation Topics**

Kristi brings enthusiasm and humor to a simmering, swelling topic—environmental health for conferences, luncheons, annual events, or anywhere women gather to be inspired and celebrate. All presentations are customized to the particular event, nature of audience and time available. Presentations available can be tailored for:

- Keynote
- Conferences
- Annual Luncheons
- Business Networking Breakfasts
- Hayrides (It has been done!)
- Meet and Greet Author Events
- Women's Organizations and Moms Club Special Events

### **2013 Focus Platforms**

### **Cla-Clunk: Your Life Purpose Awaits**

There is nothing like an endearing real-life story to move your audience and create your most memorable event ever. Weaving inspiration with the concept of embracing our own beautiful bodies, this presentation will energize and enlighten your audience.

Avoiding science jargon and instead focusing on practical can-do principles, Kristi's contagious, enthusiastic style leads audiences through an emotional and invigorating journey.

By the end, your guests will be ready to embrace, rally, and rededicate to your organization's event theme, focusing on the health of our own beautiful bodies.

**Potentials:** Kick-off Keynote, focused guest speaker. Women's



leadership or health conferences. Can be used for breast cancer awareness, celebration of women, fundraising, self-created journey inspiration.

# Presentation Topics Cont'd

### **Romancing the Everyday-Me's**

They are curious. They are coming. They want to do the right thing. The Everyday-Me's.

They could be your biggest market, yet, they are incredibly cautious and will turn on you in a heartbeat. How should you approach this market? How can you gain their trust and build a long-lasting relationship?

We know choosing wiser can make impact our health and our family's health and yet most of mainstream America remains unwilling to change their shopping habits. In this presentation, I demystify the eco-



movement, shift it from doom-and-gloom messages, and educate you about how to reach and empower the Everyday-Me's—**busy working women and stay-at-home mothers**. In this presentation, I'll explain:

- How to grow your chapters, business, support for your green efforts...
- Why Everyday-Me's choose to live in the comfort of status-quo, fearing that joining the eco-movement will be difficult, time consuming, guilt-inducing, and expensive.
- The social and emotional ties that prevent them from becoming your clients right now.
- Simple mistakes that will either turn them off from your brand permanently, or become your best friend for life.

**Potentials:** Conference workshops, organizations with national chapters, green teams, sustainable committees, green focused organizations and non-profits.

### **One Book: One Community**

A One Book: One Community format is a fresh event idea that bring communities together with a common event - whether you are a town, hospital, non profit organization, there will be plenty of discussion. Unique and fresh, this is a month-long *Little Changes* book club culminating with an *"Evening with the Author."* 

Launch and promote over a six-week period, celebrating the end with a one-hour event—either an in-person author signing, or webinar interview.



- Add raffles throughout month for better-for you products and celebrating local resources.
- Add trivia throughout month. Post one 'little change' a week. Share your organization's green accomplishments.

**Potentials:** Launch and promote during March/April for Earth Day, June/July for a summer bookclub, or in October for Breast Cancer Awareness month, holding event in early November.

# Presentations Cont'd



### **Deliciously Green and Clean**

This was my most requested Choose Wiser workshop of 2012. Not because we like to *clean*, but because we like to *play*. In this presentation, I mix-and-make cleaning products cooking show style. Or, audience members make and take samples home!

Today, women use a vast number of chemical-based cleaners and other household products to keep their homes clean and

fresh. Unfortunately, many of the chemicals in these products are harmful to our bodies. With some easy modifications, we can reduce our family's daily exposure to these harmful ingredients, create a healthier home, AND focus on saving money.

- Engage the audience with my story...and why we want to Choose Wiser.
- Identify starting point ingredients to replace in your home.
- Discuss "alternative" cleaning products vs. DIY products.
- Lead with interactive cooking show style demonstration.

The changes recommended in this workshop will save money and help protect family member's health. 45-minute presentation with cooking show style demonstration, followed by author signing.

**Potential:** Moms Club, Women of Today, Women Networking Celebrations. Community Health Event. Conference break out workshop.

### **Budget Friendly and Goin' Organic?**

When it comes to topics, food is always a favorite. The question is, is it possible to eat genuine, organic foods on a budget? And why should we or shouldn't we examine this option? In this dynamic workshop, we'll discuss these topics:

- Can choosing organic foods influence your health?
- If you have to make a choice, where should you start
- Discuss definitions of terms like organic, local, sustain able, and natural.
- Why the acronym GMO is more important this year than any other.
- Farm fresh fruits and veggies: eat locally and seasonally or organic?
- How to choose happy meat, healthy eggs, and hormone free milk.
- How to find options when eating out.

High energy, information packed followed by author signing.

**Potential:** Community and Library Celebrations, Conference break outs, Women's organization for a memorable night out.



# Kind Words....

"I've read other books on environmental toxins and the poisons that we (willingly or unknowingly) accumulate in our bodies every day. But Kristi made it matter. The combination of her personal health struggle and quest to learn "why?", humor, and plain un-sciency descriptions of techie concepts like hormone-disruptors combine to make "Choosing Wiser" seem not only worthwhile, but actually doable. Even by regular, non-hippie, non-wealthy, non-research-lab-owning ordinary people like me." ~ Chandra Rambo, Everyday-Me

"Anyone who is thinking about breast cancer prevention as well as "the cure" this month needs to know Kristi Marsh. Kristi and I met by coincidence last spring and there's something about her that's magic. Where I'm a radical at times, she's a diplomat..gently reaching out to people to help them learn about choices. The combination seems to work and I remember meeting her the first time in person and wanting to burst into tears at her courageous approach to life and beating cancer while maintaining her family and sanity. Please look her up and read her book trailer...it's about making small changes to live a healthier life after a life changing experience. And if you believe in angels...believe in Kristi Marsh."

~ Audra Conklin, Modern Mermaids

"Eleanor Roosevelt said, 'Many people walk in and out of your life but only true friends will leave footprints on your heart.' I feel you have truly left a footprint in the Purdue North Central Women's Association." ~ Laura Odom, President Purdue North Central Women's Association, Annual Spring Luncheon

"I was at your talk at the Spring Conference. I love what your doing and the way you're making the speaking and writing work. I hope one day I can make a similar leap!"

~ Stuart Pink, Toastmasters International World Champion 3rd Place, 2012

"Kristi, You are Amazing! Thank you for making the world a healthier place and for helping to give the beauty industry a makeover!" **~Stacy Malkan, author of, Not just a Pretty Face, The Ugly Side of the Beauty Industry, and founder of the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.** 

*"Kristi's presentation reminded me to Stop. Think and Listen."* **Pauline Alighieri, Executive Director,** Mel's Foundation, at a presentation at the South Shore Women's Business Network.

"Ms. Marsh is that rare presenter who is able to deliver serious information with panache and energy. She is articulate, funny, touching, and down-to-earth – a combination that ensures her audience is fully engaged in all that she has to say. Her enthusiasm for her subject is contagious and lends itself to vigorous feedback and audience participation. The Ames Free Library hosted approximately 200 adult events in the last calendar year. The events contributed to the library's winning of a finalist position in the competitive Best Small Library in America 2011 award. I would personally place Kristi Marsh in the top 15 presenters for a year that witnessed a highly noteworthy set of speakers." ~ Uma Hiremath, Ph.D.Assistant Director Ames Free Library



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- Request a copy of Little Changes: Paperback, eBook or audio
- Join discussions on Facebook: Choose Wiser
- Grow with me through the Be Choosy Newsletter
- <u>Connect</u> through LinkedIn: Kristi Marsh
- <u>Tweet</u> with me on Twitter: @ChooseWiser