

Boomer

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During the auto integration, Bafitis says, “The patient’s own stem cells are stimulated to increase the healing.”

In fact, Bafitis has pioneered a new procedure with biologic mesh that he’s teaching colleagues around the country: a combination inguinal hernia repair and “tummy tuck” in which more of the patient’s abdominal wall is reinforced with biologic mesh.

“The patient ends up much firmer on both the inside and outside,” he says.

In addition, notes Bafitis, the possibility for post-surgical infection with biologic mesh is miniscule – in contrast to the much greater risk patients have with synthetic mesh.

“I’ve never seen an infection with biological mesh. But I have seen plenty of patients experience either synthetic-mesh infections or have the synthetic mesh eventually fail,” he says.

According to Bafitis, there’s even a disparity in the quality of the collagen that the body produces when healing with the different forms of mesh: “With biological mesh, it’s ‘type one’ collagen – the best kind; with permanent synthetic mesh, it’s ‘type three’ collagen, which isn’t as strong or as supple.”

Biologic mesh also has been used – with mirac-

ulous results, says Bafitis – to heal the deep burn scars and shrapnel wounds suffered by U.S. soldiers.

Other ailments Bafitis envisions biologic mesh soon addressing include sarcomas of the heart and gum deterioration.

Resistance to change

Biologic mesh has been around for only a decade or so – and has not been wholly adopted by the medical community.

One reason is cost. Synthetic mesh is far less expensive than biologic – thus providing hospitals greater profit.

Also, because the biologic is so new – and not really used on a widespread basis – only now have medical institutions been able to conduct long-term, randomized studies on the comparative efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the two materials.

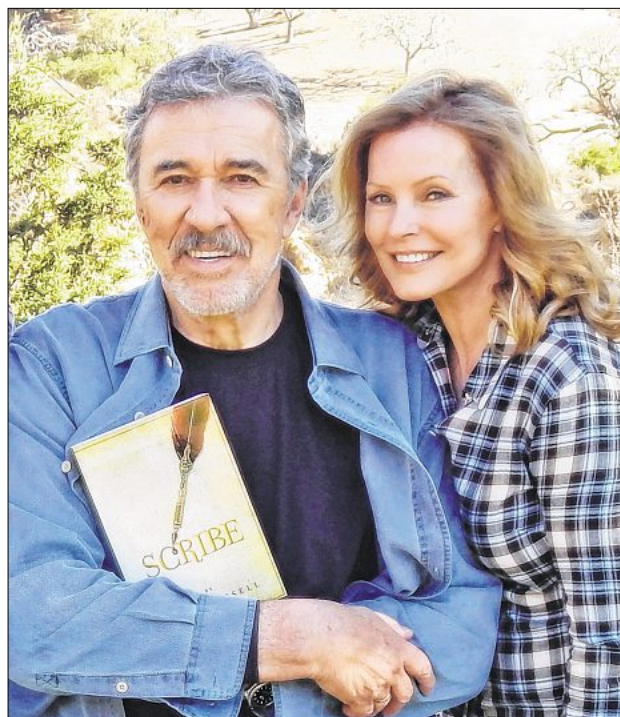
One large-scale study co-commissioned by University Hospitals Case Medical Center and the American Hernia Society, which started in September 2012 and will conclude in November, may lend better clarity to what the industry standard should be – and will be in the future.

Regardless of the study’s conclusions, though, Bafitis plans to champion biological mesh to everyone who will listen.

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Among actress Cheryl Ladd’s passions is golf, though she says she hasn’t had the opportunity to play recently. She hosts annual golf tournaments to benefit the national nonprofit Childhelp. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY FOOD FOR THE POOR



Cheryl Ladd and her husband of 33 years, Brian Russell. He is a producer and author.

Cheryl Ladd

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vid Nelson on “The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet,” and actor John O’Hurley. That event combines two of her favorite interests – helping children and golf.

“I haven’t had the opportunity to play for the last few years,” she says. “We moved to Texas, into a new home, and I was getting the house together. We’ve been here about a year and a half, because my mother, sister, brother, nieces and nephews, our daughter Lindsey and our grandchildren all live there. We have another place in California, but Texas is home.”

Though the Lone Star State is her main base, Ladd still gets to California to visit daughter Jordan, who is an actress, and to work herself. She recently appeared on an episode of “Anger Management” as the girlfriend of Martin (Martin Sheen), the father of lead character Charlie (Charlie Sheen, who is, of course, the real-life son of Martin).

Ladd said doing the show was “way fun, crazy fun. I hadn’t worked with (Martin Sheen) before, but I had met him years ago at a surprise birthday party for him. I was living in Malibu, and someone said ‘Hey, come and celebrate Martin Sheen’s birthday; and I met him there. He’s a terrific guy, so much fun.’”

That story is one of those that lends credence to the idea that Hollywood, especially Hollywood of a certain age, was just famous people all hanging out together in an endless party being fabulous and famous together.

“I guess you could say

IF YOU GO

Cheryl Ladd: Fine Wines and Hidden Treasures Gala, for Food For The Poor, Thursday, Mar-A-Lago. More information: Foodforthe poor.org

that kind of happened!” Ladd says, laughing.

While she’s worked steadily since the 1970s, the actress “absolutely embraces” the fact that she’s best known for “Charlie’s Angels,” which spawned a successful movie reboot and a not-so-successful TV re-imagining.

“I can’t believe how loyal the fans have been. Every time they play the series (on TV) we have younger fans again. Young women love the show, and it’s kind of inspiring,” she says. “There was a young woman helping me recently with my iPhone, and she said she was going to be a firefighter. In the ‘70s that was unheard of. I think we inspired young women to step out of basic roles and go for it. And if we did that, I’m really pleased.”

Although some people questioned whether the Angels were objectified, Ladd says she enjoyed that the show didn’t take itself too seriously, while setting the women up as role models. They were “feminine ... it was about the hair and the outfits, and kind of glamorous, but the underlying message was to go for it, to have power, to have the ability to expand your mind for who you want to be.”

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‘I have been a child advocate my whole life. I was inspired to use my celebrity to help children.’

Cheryl Ladd

HEALTH NEWS

Diabetes support group meeting

Tuesday: 10 a.m., Weisman Community Center (7091 West Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach); call 561-731-4321.

Vein screenings

Tuesday: 4 to 7 p.m., Kimmel Vein Institute (1905 Clint Moore Road, Suite 215, Boca Raton); call 561-477-0210.

Johns Hopkins Medicine Women’s Health Conference and Luncheon

Thursday: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Palm Beach County Convention Center (650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach); conference will feature 10 seminars on a variety of topics central to women’s health; registration is \$150; call 410-955-8660.

Fitness event to benefit soldiers

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Meyer Amphitheatre (104 Datura St., West Palm Beach); Hard Exercise Works will host a cross-fit-style athletic competition, proceeds from which will benefit the U.S. Armed Forces; call 561-339-5905.

Online help for ADD, ADHD

Dr. Brian Sheen, founder of The Florida Institute of Complementary and Alternative Medicine, has launched an online program that provides alternative choices to children and adults suffering from ADD, ADHD, anxiety and stress. Visit 7keysforattention.com for more information.

Ongoing support groups

Regents Park Boca Raton (6363 Verde Trail, Boca Raton) offers the following free weekly support groups: **Mondays**, 7 to 9 p.m.: Co-Dependency Anonymous 12-Step Program; 7:30 to 9 p.m.: Overeaters Anonymous; **Tuesdays**, 8 to 9 p.m.: Co-Dependency Anonymous 12-Step Program; **Wednesdays**, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 9 p.m.: Overeaters Anonymous; **Thursdays**, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Overeaters Anonymous; **Fridays**, 7 to 9 p.m.: Overeaters Anonymous. Call 561-483-9282.

Sands

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“There was such an integrity in his guidance, his tutoring and his directing. It sort of changed my approach to performance in everything I’ve worked on since ... He could have called on anybody to step in for him.”

Upon Pinter’s death, Sands repeated the piece he’d performed in his stead in Los Angeles “as a memorial tribute, as a one-off, a reason for people to get together and remember Harold.” But when Malkovich, his co-star in “The Killing Fields” and in NBC’s recent pirate drama “Crossbones,” approached him about creating a more lasting piece, he agreed.

“We went to New York to do 10 shows, and we did 50, such was the demand and the apprecia-

tion for it ... What John and I set out to create, above all, was an entertainment. I couldn’t just be some biopic,” Sands says. “He was a very funny man, and the evening we’ll all spend together will be a very funny evening, I promise you that.”

Pinter’s poetry is front and center in “A Celebration,” but Sands admits to “knowing nothing of it” before working with Pinter in that 2005 performance. Pinter had, Sands says, kept his poetry largely to himself, and “the depth of the intimacy it reveals, the tenderness of this man,” is significant.

“He’s known as something of a menacing firebrand in the dramatic world, but the poems reveal tremendous love, humanity and romantic inclinations,” he says. “It was a great surprise. The plays channel some other

place, but the poetry was absolutely from his heart. The intelligence of the work is very striking, and it touches on all aspects of adult life, which is why everyone can relate, to love and disappointment, to war and peace.

“It would be very hard for a student to write an accurate portrayal of the man from reading his plays, which stay at a remove. But in the poetry and prose, and the essays, there is an openness that gives a great balance to his overall body of work. If he had not been such a remarkable dramatist, he would be celebrated as an incredibly important poet.”

The one-man play and its inherent starkness is in direct contrast to some of the work Sands has been known for, including ensemble costume pieces like “A Room With A View” and his roles

in horror movies like “Arachnophobia” and the “Warlock” movies. And he just completed work on Fox’s “Gotham,” the Batman origin story.

“I do have a habit of being asked to do baroque things, with a lot of pyrotechnics and effects,” says Sands. “That suits me fine. I would say I’ve been very lucky as an actor. We don’t choose the material we’re asked to take part of.”

“Actually, I’m a reactor to circumstances created by other people. I’m lucky to be asked to participate in a variety of materials. I’ve worked in over 50 countries. When I set out to be an actor, I just wanted to work and it still applies. My enthusiasm and curiosity is about whatever the next gig is.”

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