

HI! I'M CARESSE

I'm an independent graphic designer, photo retoucher, triathlete, traveler, fitness instructor, and cat lover. For over two decades, I've worked with small businesses and individuals on brand development, print & digital marketing materials, and whatever else is needed to create opportunity, growth, and community.

A keen eye for visual communication, combined with strong photo retouching and copy editing skills, allow me to offer a complete design package. Whether clients are looking to brand or rebrand; need print materials; want to upgrade their website; layout a cook book; or have photos that need restoration, I'm here. I've worked with a diverse array of clients over the years, including yoga studios, nonprofits, musicians, writers, city government agencies, community organizations, and race directors.

I approach every project with integrity, seriousness, and humor — sometimes the best creative breakthroughs happen in conjunction with silliness. Sometimes a mini karaoke microphone is involved. Whatever the process, I'm passionate about helping my clients effectively communicate their brand and pride myself on maintaining powerful and long-term relationships. I may be an independent designer, but I thrive as part of a team.

In addition to design, I teach kickboxing and cycling, volunteer as a guide for disabled athletes, and chill with my five rescue cats.

I love color and breathe fonts. My favorite color is plaid.

PRIMARY EXPERIENCE

1997-present CLA design | Independent Contractor/Designer

- translate ideas and objectives into intelligent, effective collateral
- uniquely skilled in moving projects from inception through completion, on time and within budget, resulting in happy clients
- combine visual communication, strategic planning, problem-solving, relationship-building, and copywriting/editing skills in order to offer a complete design package
- social media management and content creation
- manage multiple concurrent projects while meeting deadlines
- coordinate with photographers, writers, and other vendors

DESIGN SKILLS + EXPERTISE

Proficiency with: InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator - Writing, copy editing - Photo retouching

Working knowledge of: HTML, CSS - Microsoft Office - Photography

Bonus skills: Organized - Creative - Flexible - Quirky - Patient - Curious - Kind

SECONDARY EXPERIENCE

1997-present Fitness Instructor: cycling, barre, kickboxing, yoga, run coach

- design classes and workouts to accommodate various skill levels and learning abilities
- empower and motivate students both during class and through everyday actions
- present as professional, but also as human, because fitness is not about achieving perfection

2014-present Art+Soul Hartford | Cofounder/Organizer

key achievement: executed six successful annual markets, the pinnacle of which raised \$6000 for Protectors of Animals during the single-day event in 2017

- produce and orchestrate an annual Hartford-based artisan market, whose mission is to raise money and awareness for local causes, as part of an all-female, volunteer team
- coordinate two dozen vendors, location logistics, all print and digital communications
- cultivate community excitement and engagement through social media and word-of-mouth

2014-present Island of Misfit Crafters | Cofounder/Artist

- create funky and functional gifts using recycled, found materials and photography

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts Publishing Hofstra University 1988-1991

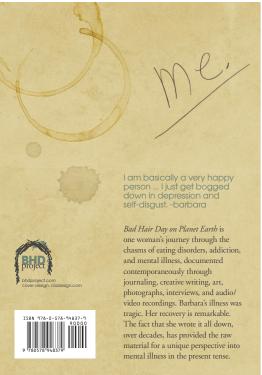
VOLUNTEER

WHY Outreach, Inc.
Board of Directors
Secretary

Achilles Connecticut
Guide for disabled athletes

Protectors of Animals Clean+Feed volunteer





CLIENT bhd project (2013-2023)

ROLES book designer/copy editor, project manager, marketing director, web designer/developer, copy writer, social media content creator

Ten years ago, my client of over a decade approached me about embarking on a book project. There was no specific direction or even a goal at that time; she simply had a story to tell.

Barbara Ruzansky is the owner of West Hartford Yoga in CT. Although many in the community see her as a successful businesswoman and model of healthy living, she spent 30 years struggling with eating disorders, depression, and addiction. She was in and out of psychiatric hospitals, unable to work, and dangerously close to suicide. Yet, in the midst of her trauma, she managed to write it all down, resulting in 6,000 pages of journal entries, letters, artwork, interviews, and audio recordings.

I worked with Barbara and an all-woman team to collect, compile, and transcribe the aforementioned artifacts; co-edit the journals; and design a 500-page multi-dimensional book, *Bad Hair Day on Planet Earth*. It's a story told in real time with minimal reliance on memory or the wisdom of the present, offering a glimpse into the mind of someone who is suffering from mental illness and trauma; someone who feels out of control.

We went on to form BHD Project, whose mission is to shed light on the inner struggle of someone in crisis and create a culture of understanding and acceptance. Through the book, a planned safe and supportive online platform, and holistic healing events, we aim to open a converstation on the intersection of mental illness, holistic healing, and creative expression. @thebhdproject



I need to write about my past, the pain, so people understand where I am now. So I can let go. -barbara ruzansky, 1990



[October 20, 2022 post]

Yoga was one of the factors that helped Barbara along the path to healing. It was not a linear path, but rather, one filled with ups & downs, relapses, pain and grief, plenty of questioning, and nuggets of hope along the way. But once Barbara connected with and committed to yoga, her daily practice helped to ground her physically and emotionally.



[November 27, 2021 post]

We've all felt it. Anger. Maybe towards ourselves or another. Maybe situational. Sometimes we keep it bottled up, but that is rarely helpful. Journaling can help express anger and other overwhelming feelings in a healthy way, while also refocusing our brains through mindful and directed expression. Scribbling helps too.





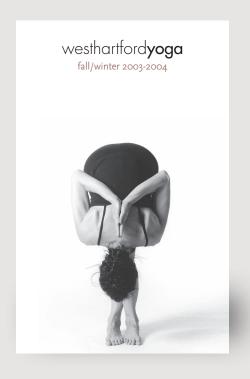


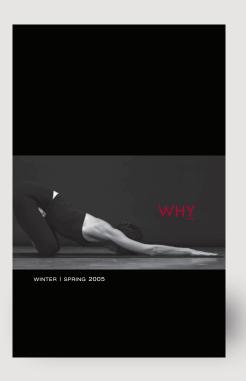
CLIENT west hartford yoga (2001-2023) **ROLES** creative director, print designer, copy writer web designer/developer, project manager, social media content creator, production, photo retoucher, team confidant

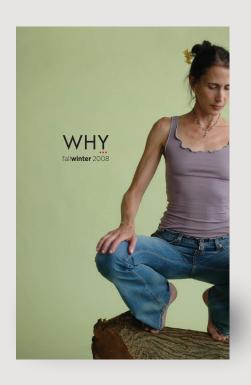
In 2001, West Hartford Yoga (WHY) was poised to open the largest yoga studio in Connecticut. After a chance meeting in one of her classes (and by chance, I mean I boldly introduced myself), I collaborated with the studio owner to create a refreshing brand identity that would stand out from others in their arena while also reflecting the simplicity and spirituality inherent in the practice. Their marketing consistently adopts the warm, welcoming colors of the studio interior while keeping the large array of information both organized and visually appealing.

Throughout our 22-year relationship, I have maintained brand integrity as we transitioned from printed mailers to social media marketing. As the WHY vision spread, this studio with deep community roots began to offer more to their audience, including a teacher training, free classes in local parks, and an awe-inspiring and diverse unification of local yoga studios into an event we call OM Street Yoga. I have been honored to work with Barbara, WHY's founder, on every project, including her just-released book and also serving on the board of WHY Outreach, a nonprofit bringing yoga and healing into underserved communities.

My unofficial role as WHY's marketing goddess (I have an actual name tag!) involves managing and meeting all deadlines, offering creative solutions to unforeseen issues, providing support to team members, and unabashedly offering matter-of-fact professional opinions (most often when asked).















OM Street Yoga article published in Natural Nutmeg - July 2017

Get Your Asana in the Street!

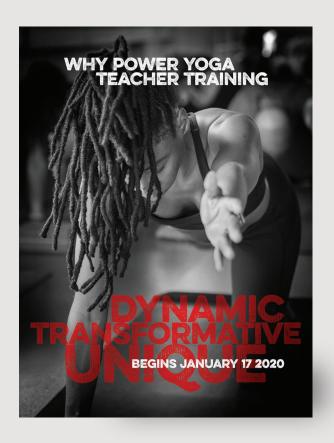
#OMSTREET

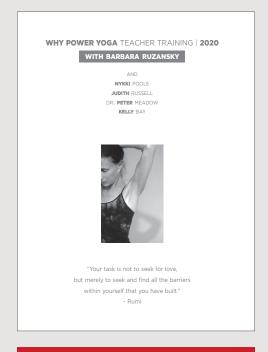
#omstreet

OM YOGA Free yoga on LaSalle Road! Saturday, July 21 at 8:00am

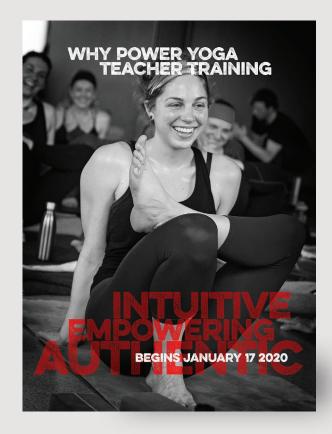
westhartfordyoga.com

(July 28 rain date)





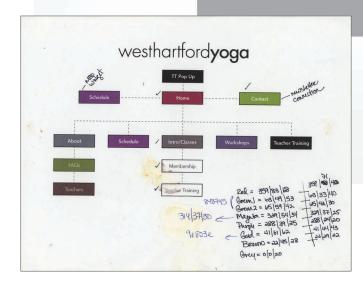
WHY Teacher Training article published in Natural Nutmeg January 2023







westhartfordyoga.com











LIFE ISN'T MEANT TO BE JUST LIVED INSIDE.

CLIENT CT Trailmixers (2006-2021) **ROLES** logo + swag designer, vector manipulation

After spending several years unofficially organizing trail runs, the founder of CT Trailmixers (CTM) decided make the group an official entity. Established in 2016, CTM brings runners of all ages and abilities together to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world. The brand pairs warm, earthy tones with a hint of brightness to mirror the bright colors often worn on the trail. A dirty footprint breaking out of the circle of nature icons completes the visual.

Having created the CTM logo, graphic standards, and subsequent swag, I continue to oversee and design all race elements, develop a consistent and playful visual style, and manage projects from concept through printing. Although I do not draw the graphics from scratch, I manipulate the vector assets in order to properly showcase each event as well as the group mission.

As a bonus, I relish the oohs and aahs from runners as they proudly display their swag on race day.













Vendor spec sheets





pms warm gray 11



1.65" CT TRAILMIXERS GET OUT

CT Trailmixers Hats:

OGIO Endurance Velocity Training Cap (OE651) ors: Blacktop / Pace Yellow

Logo Colors: Blacktop = white / pms 388
Pace Yellow = white / pms warm gray 11

 $\label{logo} \mbox{Logo Size: } 10^{\circ} \mbox{w x } 1.75^{\circ} \mbox{h} \\ \mbox{Position: top of tagline is } 4.5^{\circ} \mbox{from top edge of collar / centered left to right} \\$ FE ISN'T MEANT TO BE JUST LIVED INSIDE.

OF THE 1875 GET OUT. CT Trailmixers T-shirts - Back

Brand: Sport-Tek Color: Yellow

Logo Position: Center left to right Type begins 4.5" from top edge of collar

CT Trailmixers T-shirts - Front

Brand: Sport-Tek Color: Yellow

Logo Colors: White / PMS 1675 PMS Warm Gray 11

White... Outer circle Inner graphics Oak leaf

PMS 1675... Inner circle Footprints Warm Gray 11... "CT Trailmixers" type "Get Out" type Logo Position: Chest, Center

CT Trailmixers









CLIENT Donohue Group, Inc. (2018-2021) **ROLES** print designer, web designer/developer creative director, copy editor

Within a world of technical services vendors, the Donohue Group, Inc. (DGI) stands apart from its competitors as a company that is owned, managed, and staffed by professional librarians.

DGI approached me with a desire to visually reinvent their brand and also remain relevant to their current clientele. Over the course of the project, we explored ideas that complement the company's traditional roots while also emphasizing its cutting-edge intellectual personality. The result was a compelling brand package that reflects modernity, simplicity, sophistication, and quality.

The complementary responsive website allowed me to delve into my basic, but important, HTML and CSS skills in order to customize several of the pages and forms.





LOGO DESIGN DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

What is the full name of the business as you would want it to appear on your brand?
 The Donohue Group, Inc.

Who is the primary target audience?

Libraries, Publishers, other vendors for library products

- 3. If you had to describe your business in three words, what would they be
- Dependable, Detail-oriented, Adaptable

What do you want your logo to accomplish?

Look polished, professional, recognizable; look different from our main competitors who are very "slick" and "modern" looking

- 5. Do you have a tag line? If so, would you like it stated along side your logo?
- 6. Do you have any specific imagery in mind to potentially be incorporated into your logo
- 7. Do you have color preferences/existing brand colors

Deep maroon/red and gold are existing

- Are there any colors that should not be used?
- Blue, pink, purple
 9. What feeling or message do you want your logo to convey to those who view it
 Professional, reliable, approachable, flexible,
- up-to-date/current in our field
- 10. Are there any brands that appeal to you visually? If yes, please provide a web address or jpeg for reference

Additional Notes

Recognizable from a distance, with a nod/wink to the fact that while we use all modern techniques, we are classically trained librarians who recognize the value of doing things the "old-fashioned way" and include those value-added elements in our work whenever we can.





Donohue Group, Inc.



LOGO DESIGN DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

What is the full name of the business as you would want it to appear on your brane
 Donohue Group, Inc. (or, DGI)

Who is the primary target audience?

Libraries, publishers, vendors/distributors of content to libraries. Archives, historical societie

If you had to describe your business in three words, what would they be a second or second

Experienced cataloging professionals

I. What do you want your logo to accomplish?
Be instantly recognizable as the brand for quality library cataloging and metadata service

Make DGI look progressive, but also have not lost our humanism or commitment to quality.

Do you have a tag line? If so, would you like it stated along side your logo?
 I have used: Connecting publishers & librarians, for the benefit of readers everywhere.

Do you have any specific imagery in mind to potentially be incorporated into your loge.
 We are known as "DSI," so maybe something that incorporates the initials into a bold & modern design.

7. Do you have color preferences/existing brand colors?

Current palette is red/black/gold

Are there any colors that should not be used?

Not fond of pink, purple, green

What feeling or message do you want your logo to convey to those who view it?
 We are library professionals who are forward-looking, innovative, and offer personalized, customizable services for metadata management.

Are there any brands that appeal to you visually?

Ad	Additional Notes:	





CLIENT CCFH (1997-2016)

ROLES print designer, photo retoucher, focus group observer, print production

Concerned Citizens for Humanity (CCfH) was a nonprofit founded in 1990 by a group of artists who wanted to use their creative skills to give something back to their communities. I first met the founder, Darrell, in 1997 when he approached me to seamlessly weave together photographs of a community mural. As a self-proclaimed Photoshop genius (I mean, I'd been using the program since version 1.5), and a fan of Darrell's work, I excitedly agreed and we formed a relationship that has continued beyond his retirement in 2016.

I eventually morphed from photo retoucher to print designer and focus group observer, creating powerful awareness posters and other materials to help educate communities on many of today's health and social issues such as HIV/AIDS, addiction, homelessness, violence, animal abuse, STDs, and teen pregnancy. In order to convey proper understanding of these issues, we met with people in our target populations, listened, emphathized, and connected with them, so we could truly provide what they needed.

 You can't tell if someone has gonorrhea by looking at them
 You or your

You or your partners may be infected and not have symptoms

or anus

- ©, if not treate
can cause proble
such as dischar

you pee - Condoms help

- Anyone 13 and over can be test and treated confidentially

It's easy to test... just pee in a cup (c) is curable

Get tested 4



Call 860-509-7920 visit findSTDtest.org or gytnow.org whteva ur style
you dnt wnt to wear G



to find out if **you** wearin it (gonorrhea)

get tested

See inside for details.

You can't tell if someone has gonorrhea by looking at them

You or your partners may be infected and not have symptoms

- You can get in the vagina, throat or anus

on cause stomach pain, internal bleeding or the inability to have bables

- Condoms help prevent getting (a) - Anyone 13 and over can be tested and treated confidentially

- It's easy to test... just pee in a cup - (a) is curable

Get tested 4



Call 860-509-7920 visit findSTDtest.org or gytnow.org

THE AIDS CHAIR a call for re-engagement

AIDS CHAIR .org

It's Over

CCfH

The AIDS CHAIR was designed to stand as a steadfast symbol of the urgent need to re-engage and re-energize the AIDS movement. It's emergence comes at a time when the domestic agenda has shifted its focus away from the AIDS crisis, even while the destruction of human lives and communities continues unabated.

The Red Ribbon shape pays homage to the iconic symbol of solidarity, commitment, struggle, pain, and a shared sense of urgency which typified the early years of the AIDS movement, and is intended as a visual reminder of the critical social dialogue and hard work still needing to be done to end the crisis. To become part of the solution, go to:

www.**AIDSCHAIR**.org

AIDS Chair project launch in Hartford, CT December 1, 2009

if u werin it dnt be sharin it



to find out if u werin it (gnria) get tested

get tested ll 860-509-7920 or visit www.findSTDtest.org

get tested 4

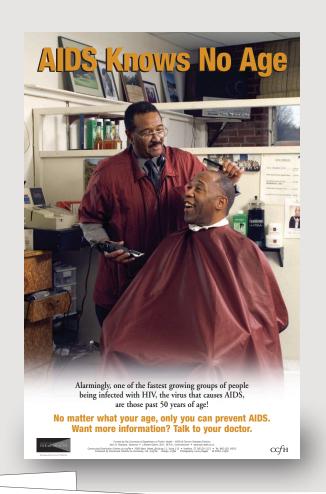


call 860-509-7920 visit findSTDtest.org or gytnow.org PER STATE OF THE PER ST

Gonorrhea campaign: Dissemination into high schools and public transit 2009 HEARTSAFE campaign with DPH



call 9-1-1 administer CPR provide defibrillation early advanced care





Agenda: May 13 Focus Group "Over Fifty

Room will be set up with chairs in a circle or tables with Note taker will record information on newsprint set up Refreshments will be available No video or audio recordings will be made of focus gr

Set up: Easels with newsprint CPG information: flyers and bookmarks TPG business cards

Welcome: Facilitators
Introduce Facilitator: Kathy for women /
Introduce Note taker: Barb for women's group
Observer: Caresse from Concerned Citizens
Carlos from Concerned Citizens for

Facilitator Introduction of Roles and Purpose of and I will be the

is to guide the process and channel our discussion for today's group. Our conversations today will be Note taker will record your ideas, statements and taking notes to be used in the production of future

I would like to thank each of you for taking time of Planning Group, better known as the CPG, evaluation briefly review our purpose for being here, and th you feel uncomfortable about a question, you ca is said and recorded in this room will remain co that you also afford the same promise to your t

This focus group is part of a statewide inform purpose of the focus group is to find out inform HIV behaviors, what services are needed but where individuals go to find out information a groups such as this, the CPG will be better a rventions to reduce the spread of HIV/AII participate in this focus group because of th People Over Fifty. Your input, ideas and vie Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as being at risk for HIV infection. The CPG

Introduction to Questions:

Some information about what see do snow about hit in in people Over Fitty.

Over 10% of all new AIDS cases in the LIS occur in people over 50, in the last few years new population of rose faster in middle apolitioner people than in prover 50, in the last few years new population of rose faster in middle apolitioner people than in prover 50, in the last few years new population of rose faster in middle apolitioner people than in prover 50, in the last few years new populations of the control of the faster in the faster in the control of the faster in th

Risk Behaviors

1. What do you know about HIV?

2. What do you know about how people get HIV and sexually transmitted infections or STIs?

3. What things do people in your group do that make them more likely to get HIVSTIs?

Reasons for Not Using Condoms

1. How do people protect themselves against getting Hvis/ETti?

1. How do people protect themselves against getting Hvis/ETti?

3. What is the public with that some people croose not to use condoms?

4. What is the protection of the condomselves are to the condomselves of the condomselves are to the condomselves of the condomselves of the problems you have heard about using condoms?

6. What are some of the problems you have heard about using condoms?

Services That are Needed But Not Available

Arvices That are Needed But Not Available 1 What reconvices are available to you be enhormation on HVISTI12? 1 What reconvices are available to you be enhormation on HVISTI12? 3 What are value in your group that prevents people tom getting HVISTI12? 4 What are value in paides that yourself from HVISTI12? 5 What are value in paides that yourself from HVISTI12? 5 What are value in paides that you be to get an HV lear? 6 What are value in paides that you be to get an HVI lear?

Barriers to Accessing Prevention Services

1. What would you like to do to protect yourself from HMXSTIs but are unable to do?

1. What would you like likely to see HMXSTI services?

1. What much does feet that off to use HMXSTI services?

2. What much does feet that off to use HMXSTI services?

3. What much does feet that you were they service you have HIV affect your using services?

6. If you found off that you were thin you will be you will not have you were disprised with HIV, what do you think your friends/femily would saydorthank or ad?

Where People Go to Get HIV Information

1. Where have you gone to get HIVXTI information? How successful was that?

2. Where would you like to get HIVXTI information?

3. What would be the easiest why for you to get HIVXTI information?

Thank you for your help in this process

AIDS Knows No Age 2003 campaign

What things do people in your group do that make the This question provided a broad range of answers from uestion provided a broad range of ans-es", "Drinking/Using drugs", "Not us Other responses: People going out, es: reopte going out, having s. Having an affair, getting it At my age, I don't worry Poor people at risk Don't think people over 5 Don't enjoy in risky beha

Many of the answers projected perception over 50 weren't at risk." HIV/STIs were a status and the young (who are fearless and

Do you think you are at risk for HIV/STIs (Vener

Do you think you are at risk for HIVAITS (Feel Responses were overwhelmingly "NO". Populati No - do not have sex...not sexually active Am diabetic and share needles with friends who c Personally "NO" Could involve my grandchildren or children... HIV is not a current issue for us We're still Puritanical – don't talk about thin

How do people protect themselves from getting
Answers were fairly common: don't have sex, u
Other responses: Get education
Practice using condom

Why do you think that some people choose it Answers ranged from "Don't always work." products," "No pleasure", "Partner didn't wa Other responses: No money Spur of the ri Spent money Not enough

Religious

Fear

This question also sparked condo condoms where seen as being use protection. Other issues raised co "Don't know anything ab "Condoms not available i

People Over Fifty Focus Group Report

Four (4) People Over Fifty Focus Groups were conduced, during May 2003 – two female and two male. Each group consisted of between 6.15 pericipanted, during may 2003 – two female and two Regional Senior Creter in Williamatic, Cret Cretaril and the Comman of Youth Adult Day Care Center in Regional Senior Creter in Williamatic, Cretaril and the Comman of Pound Pour Cretaril and property, CT (urban). Each group was segregated into male and female participants for facilitation property.

- Total number of seniors participating in fecus groups:

 27 (emules (59% White, 59% Hispanies and 11% Black)

 14 males (50% White, 59% Hispanies and 7% Black)

 Age range: 55-80 years, average age @ 66

 19c Williamies groups were 59% white with one African American male.

 The Bridgeport groups were predominantly Hispanic.

Questions were designed to access risk behaviors, HIV/STI knowledge base, reasons for not using condoms, services needed but not available, barriers to accessing prevention services, and locations where people go to obtain HIV/STI information.

While it was requested that the facilitators use the term STI, it became immediately apparent that the participants could not identify with that ferm. Instead the term Venereal Disease was used in discussing sexually transmitted diseases.

Also, based on facilitator feedback, it was nated that certain questions, especially those relating to "services needed but not available" and "barriers to accessing prevention services" were not appropriate or relevant to the trayed of pollutions and solicited few responses. Other questions were substituted to spark discussion and responses.

Han Do You Know About H112

Awareness in this area ranged from "Never heard about it" to understanding of modes of naturalisation (see blood, sharing needles). Myths regarding transmission were still reflected (e.g. toilet of the state of

How do people get HIV/STIs (VD)?

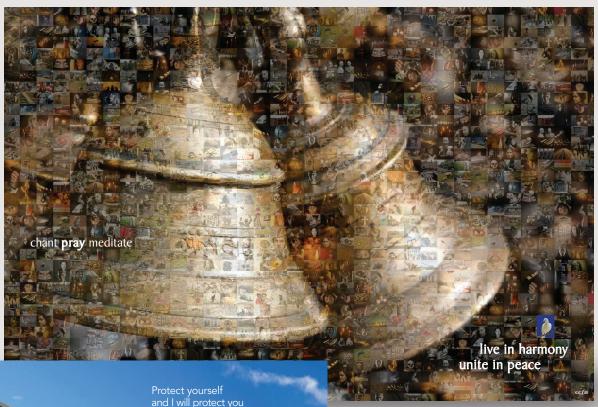
Have the people set #IIV/STR 1DD?

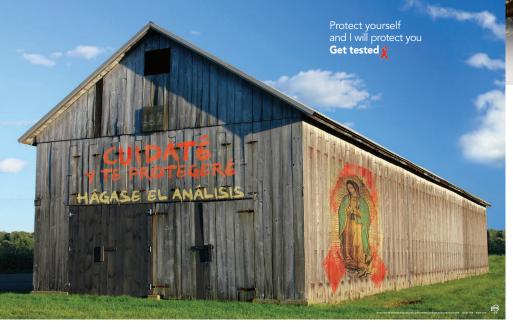
Understanding was universal see, blood, notelles, but no mention of mother to child Some mentioned kissing, salva, Blood transfusions, toiler seats, tears, one, <u>that are needed (dishedicity</u>).

Williamsaire Vigars was also mentioned as a recovery are gening #IIV/STIs. Women felt that because of vigars, men are becoming more executily across the proportion of the second that the women their age are not very interesting or executing.

Bridgeport: Sharing of needles (diabetic) was a big issue and concern.











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 1000 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford CT
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eter Roth, CKD | Lorey Cavanaugh, CKD/CBD - Owner



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www.kb-dc.com

west hartford 860 953 1101

CLIENT KBDC (2004-2021) **ROLES** print + web designer, print production

Not every client is looking to rebrand. When I connected with KBDC (Kitchen & Bath | Design + Construction), this woman-owned business had a logo and palette, but was ready to introduce a professional liveliness into its marketing. After the owner reached out, what resulted was years of fun for me and growth for her business.

I designed and produced colorful and sometimes quirky ads, print brochures, newsletters, and flyers promoting KBDC services, and eventually designed a secondary logo to allow for greater versatility with name recognition. All keeping within the company's existing brand.

When Lorey, the owner's, vision expanded to include home furnishings, Francine Taylor strutted playfully onto the scene and I added that company's whimsical brand to my cache of KBDC designs.

After taking some time off to reconfigure her business, the owner once again approached me in 2020 and hired me to redesign the static, stagnant website. What resulted was an informative, professional, easy-to-navigate design that showcases their high-end, quality services, emphasizes their shift into a new digital process, and also reflects their personality.











DON'T MISS THE **2008 KITCHEN TOUR!**

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www.kb-dc.com





Secondary logo



