

*"Our conference guests shared how much they enjoyed your presentation; specifically, your humor and the manner in which you bare your soul to your audience. This was validated further when you received a standing ovation. Your keynote remarks made our conference a world class event for our 850 participants."*

**Mike Bailey, Chief Operating Manager,  
Handi Medical Supply, Inc. St. Paul, MN**

*"Brenda educated and entertained with a wonderful blend of humor and inspiration for our signature women's event in Menomonie, WI. Our participants were rolling with laughter and tears as Brenda relayed stories about family, joys, life goals and trials. A signed copy of Brenda's book, "If the Battle is Over, Why Am I Still in Uniform?" was given to each participant after her standing ovation. I know that the message in her book and her presentation will stay with our community for a long time."*

**Jan Pejsa, Women's Circle of Care,  
coordinator, Red Cedar Medical Center,  
Menomonie, WI**

*"On behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society, I want to express our thanks for your participation as a keynoter at our Living with Cancer conference. We have received many positive comments. They truly appreciated the ideas and information you presented. You received a 4.9 rating out of a possible 5. Thanks for coming up to Regina, Saskatchewan and we wish you continued success."*

**Wendy McDermid, Director**



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# Brenda Elsagher



*"Brenda has the ability to make me laugh one minute and cry the next. Her message is poignant, fun and hopeful."*

Bringing Laughter With a Message  
Keynote Speaking with Heart

# Brenda ELSAGHER

Brenda Elsagher is a comedian, author, and national speaker who brings a joyful message in the face of adversity. At age 39, Brenda was diagnosed with colorectal cancer which gave her an opportunity to re-evaluate her life. It wasn't a cleaner house she sought, but to have more adventure, deeper relationships, and more fun! Every day became important and every hour became a choice on how she wanted to live it. A small business woman for many years, she pursued her love of comedy only to find out that it was keynote speaking that was her passion and destiny.

Her second look at life helped her to begin college at age 42, where she discovered the love of writing. Since then she has written several books, all which deal with a glimpse of life from the funny side. Brenda writes a humorous medical column, a blog, and now texts regularly, a requirement made by two children in college!

She loves to interact with the audience, does her research based on clients needs and makes it personal, bringing out stories in which all can relate. The audience can trust her knowing that she will give them the information they need along with a healthy dose of laughter.

Her anecdotes include stories of being in an interfaith-intercultural marriage and a mom of two. Brenda has spoken on a variety of topics that include leadership, diversity, self image, goal setting, blending cultures and faiths, aging and disabilities, and humor and healing. Brenda's talks have a healthy bunch of laughter and the audience walks away feeling energized.

## Rave Reviews

"Brenda was an excellent choice as the keynote speaker at our radiology conference. She reminded us of how humor and an upbeat attitude in our daily jobs really can have a positive effect on the patients."

-- Sue Marchell, Lisa Bohm, North Dakota Society of Radiologic Technologists

"Brenda Elsagher is a rare find...funny, engaging, disarming, inspiring, full of joy that is contagious!" -- San Short, Upson Regional Medical Center, Thomaston, GA

"Thank you for presenting at the Fairmont Medical Center Women's Seminar. I am grateful for the education, laughter and hope you shared with us. I admire your keen sense of humor in the face of brutal reality."

-- Barbara Allen, M.D., President/CEO

"The votes are in and it's unanimous, 'You were terrific!' Thanks for sharing your experiences and entertaining us at our Survivor's Day event. You are a hero to many cancer survivors and it was a pleasure working with you"

-- Jan Sullivan, Cancer Health Treatment Centers, P.C., Merrillville, Indiana

"Brenda is charismatic, she takes time to know her audience, and brings that knowledge to her talk. Her ability to find humor in life, in the face of a cancer diagnosis laced with humor is in itself, inspiring."

-- Dolores McCord, Piedmont Hospital, GA

"The content and quality of Ms. Elsagher's program was second to none. The attendees adored her and ranked her the highest of all speakers at the conference, scoring a superior rating. She is a true professional in preparing for her presentation, well organized, easy going, and an excellent speaker teaching us about the power of laughter."

-- For the MN-DONA conference, Nancy Yeske

"A delight working with you. I appreciated your prompt responses to my questions and your interaction with the audience before, during and after your presentation. It made this event very special."

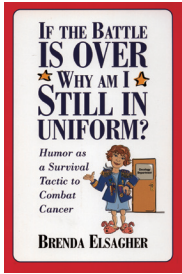
-- Barb Lichty, Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital, IL

"Brenda made us laugh, cry and realize we are not alone as patients, family members, caregivers and medical professionals. We walked away with a new perspective on cancer, life and our jobs. Brenda's keynote at our event went above and beyond. She met with Moffitt staff, autographed books and helped with goody bags! Brenda encouraged us to know what we do matters to cancer patients and their families."

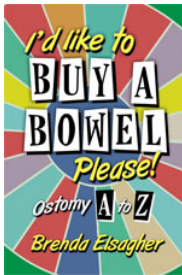
-- Christine Roemer, M. Ed. Patient Education Specialist, Moffitt Cancer Center

*References made available upon request*

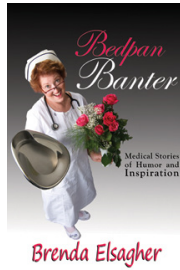
## Books



*"If the Battle is Over, Why Am I Still in Uniform?"* delivers an uplifting poignant message about living through daily battles with honesty and humor. Brenda Elsagher takes her personal story and connects to each reader through their tears and laughter.



*"I'd Like to Buy a Bowel Please!"* is a compilation of eighty stories from people touched by bowels gone haywire. Contributors are health care providers, family members, and people living with ostomies. These stories provide some humor and insight into the life of a person living with an ostomy and is hopeful in the face of adversity.



*"Bedpan Banter"* is a must-have book for patients and caregivers. The stories in this book take place in a medical setting and are contributions from doctors, nurses, patients and caregivers. These anecdotes are true moments of humor and inspiration that you'll remember for a long time.



*"It's in the Bag and Under the Covers"* is a groundbreaking book with an inside look from the view of a person with an ostomy or a caregiver dealing with the issues of sex, intimacy dating and caregiving. There are 64 stories shared honestly about a subject people have rarely talked about. There is heartbreak as well as triumph and everything in between. Maybe you need some ideas on how to tell your date you have an ostomy or maybe you just want to see how other people handle intimacy, it's here for you to read.



## Speaking Topics Clients Awards & Titles Books

## Awards & Titles

- American Cancer Society Golden "Mic" Award
- Newsmaker of the Year, Minnesota Women's Press
- Twin Cities Funniest Person
- Past President, United Ostomy Association
- Comedian/Storyteller
- Author
- Advocacy to Action Award from GYRIG (Get Your Rear in Gear)
- Fight Colorectal Cancer: Patient advocate volunteer



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## Speaking Topics

### FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS:

#### **Humor and Healing from the Patient's Perspective**

*Brenda gives an accredited talk on how humor can be used in the work experience as she relays personal stories. She will educate you on the various forms of humor and their practical uses on the job. Citing studies of the benefits of humor, and telling stories of examples in the workplace setting, she will keep you laughing and interested.*

*Include one of Brenda's books as a take away gift for the audience. CEU credit objectives and description of Brenda's educational talk and clinical evaluations given upon request.*

### FOR FOUNDATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, WOMEN'S EVENTS, MIXED GROUPS, HEALTH FAIRS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS:

#### **Lessons, Life and Laughter**

#### **Joy Through the Journey**

*Brenda's presentation bring on loads of laughter as she addresses the adversity most people experience. Her stories illustrate how to get through challenging times using humor and a positive attitude. Brenda's keynote consists of clean comedy, personalized stories for your particular group and she ends with an inspirational story. If you want your crowd to guffaw and walk away feeling better, you want Brenda at your event.*

*Recommended companion book for gift giving: "Bedpan Banter."*

### FOR CANCER SURVIVORS, CAREGIVERS AND ONCOLOGY PROFESSIONALS:

#### **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to my Crisis!**

*Brenda talks about cancer in an honest and hilarious manner with a hopeful message shining through. She is known for her ability to talk about tough subjects in a poignant way peppered with a lot of laughing that leaves the audience feeling great.*

*Recommended companion book for gift giving: "If the Battle is Over, Why Am I Still in Uniform?"*

### FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH OSTOMIES, THEIR CAREGIVERS AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS:

#### **Choosing the Life We Want to Live**

*Brenda speaks from the heart about living life with an ostomy and shares the many stories of the people she has interviewed over the years. This talk will bring out lots of laughs and ease your pain about "living life with a bag." Brenda doesn't hold back as she shares a message laced with humor for this audience. This is one group we don't have to worry about laughing their guts out!*

*Recommended companion book for gift giving: "I'd Like to Buy a Bowel Please!" or "It's in the Bag and Under the Covers."*

## Clients

- M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- WOCN Regional Conferences
- ND Society of Radiologic Technologists
- Upson Regional Medical Center, GA
- Grand Itasca Foundation, MN Women's Expo
- Fairmont Medical Center, MN
- Fairview Health System
- Valley Hospital, NJ
- Cancer Treatment Center, IN
- Minnesota Nurses Association
- Abbott Northwestern Hospital
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses
- Hollister Incorporated
- Allina Health System
- Mayo Healthcare Systems
- Ridgeview Medical Center
- Elmbrook Memorial Hospital Foundation, WI
- United Ostomy Association of America & Canada
- American Business Women's Association
- Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance
- American Cancer Society
- Great Plains Regional Medical Center, NE
- Marshfield Clinic, WI
- Health East
- MAMSS, Minnesota Association of Medical Staff Services
- Minnesota Gastroenterology
- Oncology Nurses Society
- Trinity Hospital, TX
- Miller Dwan Medical Center
- Mount St Mary's Hospital, NY
- Gerad Foundation, Ohio
- Mercy Medical Hospital, Iowa
- Children's Hospital
- National Cancers Registrars
- Piedmont Hospital, Georgia
- Martha Siekman Cancer Center, WI
- MS Society
- Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, TN
- MN-DONA
- Ohio Valley Colon and Rectal Surgeons
- Red Cedar Medical Center, WI
- Altru Health Systems
- Bristol Hospital
- Good Samaritan Hospital, NY
- Women's Wellness & Lifestyle Expo, MN
- Lake Forest Hospital, IL
- Mercy Hospital, Maryland
- Moffitt Cancer Center, FL
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Alvera Hospitals
- Kaiser Permanente
- Iowa Senior Expo

