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EDITOR'S NOTE KIMBERLEY KEARSEY

Find your passion and you find your voice

THIS ISSUE IS MY THIRD SINCE returning from maternity leave in August. The transition from full-time mom to full-time editor has been – as many working moms warned me – anything but easy. A few things scared me about getting back to the grind, but writing wasn't one of them. That's because I love to write. It's been my passion on a personal level from as young as 12, and professionally for almost two decades. The people I meet and write about; they fuel this passion because their stories are fascinating. It doesn't matter who you are, you have a story to tell. And nurses are no exception.

Research for our feature on hidden talents (pg. 18) started with an email to you. We asked for your stories and you delivered. I'd like to thank every nurse for sharing their passion. I was thrilled to hear from RNs who are committed competitors in body building, martial arts, speed skating, gymnastics, Thai boxing, jazz, hockey, rowing, pool and more. Artists from all walks of life responded about their passion for acrylic, oil, crafts, life drawing, basket and rug making, photography, and even the building of bird-houses and sewing of teddy bears. Musicians who play the guitar, piano, flute, trumpet, flugel horn, West African jembe drum and ukulele contacted me. And actors, clowns, pastry chefs, yoga

instructors, authors, vocal artists, and dancers told me their stories. I even heard from a motorcycle enthusiast, a pilot and an inventor. I wish we had room for all of your stories.

Narrowing the list of more than 100 to four was a difficult but necessary task. We simply had to choose. This notion of choice is a common thread throughout this issue of the magazine. Whether it's work or health, we make hundreds of choices every day, and some are easier than others. For Don and Eleanor Costello (pg. 22), the choice to butt out was also a difficult but necessary one. Thanks to nurses, they've maintained their healthy lifestyle and no longer inhale the chemical cocktail they once did – at least not intentionally.

In our cover feature about environmental activism (pg. 12), we also highlight the choice of more and more nurses to raise awareness of the connection between our environment and our health. They've taken a stand for themselves, their patients and their loved ones. As a new mom, my reasons for feeling passionate about the future of the planet stem from a desire to protect my son and his future. It's passion that propels people to action, whether that action is in the form of activism, sport, dance, art or just about anything else. Have you found your passion? **RN**