

Brain walk

Heidi Gottlieb, cancerous brain tumor survivor and founder and director of Brain Matters, a Long Island-based nonprofit, leaves Eden Manor in Wakefield on Thursday morning. The bed-and-breakfast was one of her stops as she walked from Port Washington, Long Island, to Mass. General Hospital in Boston, to raise awareness of brain tumors and the need for additional research into both cancerous and non-cancerous tumors. "Walking for me is quite symbolic," Gottlieb said. "For a period of time, all I was able to do was walk. After surgery, I was advised not to drive. I took this route from my house to Mass. General every single week to receive proton radiation therapy." Gottlieb has been living with a cancerous tumor for 20 years and has survived two surgeries. "There isn't as much awareness for brain cancer or brain tumors as there is for other types of medical problems, because brain tumor patients generally don't live long enough to bring that type of awareness," she said. To follow her blog of the walk, and get more information about brain tumors, visit her Web site, www.brain-matters.org.

PHOTO: LIZ BOARDMAN

