

Cancer survivor, agricultural business founder to highlight Barre forum on organic farming, living

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BARRE — Few people would consider themselves lucky to be in a car accident. Jerry Brunetti, founder of Agri-Dynamics, is one of them.

Without getting into a car accident in 1999, Mr. Brunetti would never have received an MRI that revealed he had non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a lethal blood cancer.

Doctors had given Mr. Brunetti, a father of two with four grandchildren, a grim diagnosis — either undergo strenuous chemotherapy or die within six months.

Faced with a life-altering decision, Mr. Brunetti opted to take a less traveled road by using holistic nutrition, detoxification and immune modulation.

While acknowledging that most people would consider such a decision too risky, Mr. Brunetti put his faith in the human body's healing abilities and his self-application of decades of knowledge in farming and animal nutrition to be his salvation.

"For me, it wasn't a gamble," he said. "I've been involved in eco-farming for 20 years at that time, and I heard the same nay saying from people saying that livestock couldn't be grown without antibiotics, or we couldn't grow crops without pesticides. Our biological systems are



Courtesy photo

Jerry Brunetti will speak about healthy farming and ways to strengthen the immune system during an event in Barre Saturday.

pretty amazing. It's a matter of connecting dots, including getting rid of toxic agents and the internal things that caused the lymphoma."

After an intensity-varying holistic treatments for one year, Mr. Brunetti's lym-

phoma went into remission one year later. Ten years after, Mr. Brunetti travels the country for lectures on soil fertility, animal nutrition and livestock health to help people make the connection between personal health and the health of their land and livestock.

This weekend, Mr. Brunetti brings his 30-plus years of expertise to Barre for farmers and people around nearby communities as he prepares to speak on soil and human health in two lectures.

Mr. Brunetti is hoping to help local residents understand the connection between soil biology and plant health and how it relates to making their foods richer in minerals, vitamins and antioxidants for better nutrition and immunity.

"People don't realize how key a high immune system is," he said. "The body is a complex universe and it starts in the soil. Every human component starts in the soil, so we need to better understand our ecosystem."

"We spend a lot of time as consumers eating bad things not good for health," said Mindy Harris of the Northeast Organic Farming Association, the organizers for the event. "Jerry believes that eating nutrient-based foods can help that."

The lecture will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the Barre Congregational Church on 30 Park St.

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