

20TH AVA BIENNIAL CONVENTION



Out of Bounds Bash Speaker Announced

20th AVA Biennial Convention Committee

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Stepping Out of Bounds in Billings



A wife, mother, and breast cancer survivor, Christine Handy, who wrote a best selling book called *Walk Beside Me* as a description of her illness and her long road to recovery, is the American Volkssport Association's Friday evening "Out of Bounds Bash" dinner speaker. *Walk Beside Me* is not only a book title; it is the story of the fulfillment of AVA: America's Walking Club's themes of fitness and friendship. She has agreed to participate in walks and events during the three-day Convention in Billings, Montana on June 7-9, 2017. The Banquet is the culmination of energizing and exciting AVA meetings and walks of the organization's bi-annual convention.

Christine was an accomplished national and international model which included JC Penney, Bud Light, Pepsi, Petco and Target as clients. Her current professional goals include serving as an ambassador for cancer-related causes. Her story has been featured in Healing Touch, Town & Style, Kindred Spirit Magazine, Outreach Magazine, and AVA's newspaper, The American Wanderer. She has been featured on Fox News Radio and has spoken at multiple organizational events.

When asked about her experiences and book, she states, "My core message in *Walk Beside Me* is about friendship, the true power of friends. Not friends who stand by you for a few days but friends who never forsake you and stand by you season after season. It's a story of friends that sustain and carry you when you can't carry yourself." She highlights both her life and her book by saying her favorite line is "your being, your love, your gratitude – that's your music. It takes place inside of you, and you are the machine that can play. There's no other instrument like you, nowhere in the world. That's what makes you unique."

AVA Convention attendees are in store for a moving and inspiring talk from one who has been there, Christine Handy. She enjoys interacting with people, and might we say, her future AVA friends. Within AVA clubs and local communities, the messages of friends and friendships resonate with AVA values of interaction and relationship. Come and enjoy wonderful friendships, opportunities for fitness and exciting fun.

For more information about Christine tune into her interview on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP7h35wYfLM>. You may also visit her Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/people/Christine-Handy/100011412960718>. Or you can review her book at <http://www.christinehandy.com/>. <https://www.buzzfeed.com/christinehandy>

For the latest convention updates please visit our website at <http://2017avaconvention.org/> or contact Sherry Sayers at ChairPerson@2017AVAConvention.org. *Join the AVA: America's Walking Club in pursuit of a healthier America-June 7-9, 2017 in Billings Montana.*