Greetings~

To help inspire and support wellness initiatives, I will be  
periodically emailing motivational stories from the book, ***Shot in the Arm***, written  
by Sharon Lee Riguzzi.

In this excerpt, Sharon tells the story about an Italian  
vacation and how she almost missed a long anticipated visit to Positano. While we may dream of reaching our goals, do  
we allow ourselves to stop short and settle for less? Or do we push past our  
fears and challenges to achieve them?

If reading about Sharon’s vacation puts you in the mood for  
something Italian, I hope you’ll enjoy the recipe I’ve included for **Pasta Primavera**.

As part of health and wellness within your company, please  
feel free to pass the “Shot of Motivation” and recipe along to all of your  
co-workers.  
  
If you would like to offer your employees the convenience of an onsite Weight Watchers AT WORK Program this spring, please let me know and I can help you to get started!  
If you already have a program but would like to increase participation, I can help you with marketing ideas!  
  
In good health ~  Cheryl  
  
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**Don’t Settle ~ by Sharon Lee Riguzzi**

During a trip to Italy we were scheduled to spend three days  
on the Amalfi coast, in the built-into-the cliffs town of Positano. When we rented a car in Naples, it was  
suggested we take the longer, more scenic route to our destination. It was a beautiful day, and this sounded like  
a wonderful idea, so off we went.

For anyone who has never driven in Italy, my recommendation  
is always have a co-pilot just to read the signs. I was very excited as we reached the signs  
stating Salerno was around the bend, knowing Positano wasn’t far off. We’d read about he cliffs and the curvy  
roads, so we were ready for them. Since  
my husband had lived in Italy for two years, and was a skilled driver, I knew I  
was in safe hands.

Obviously we didn’t have a clue.

If we had one ninety-degree turn to conquer, we had a  
hundred. Out of the corner of our eyes, we  
would catch a glance of a glistening body of water, but neither of us wanted to  
take our eyes of the road for a fraction of a second.

Maneuvering the curves wasn’t the only problem. Try maneuvering a curve with an  
eighty-passenger bus coming from the other direction as a motorcyclist chatting  
on a cell phone passes the bus! This  
wasn’t an isolated occurrence. It  
happened continually along this nightmarish drive.

Neither my husband nor I is a wimp when it comes to tackling  
the road, but with forty-one kilometers left to our destination I was ready to  
call a halt to the drive. If I opened my  
eyes, Amalfi looked okay. We could  
cancel our reservations in Positano.   
What was the sense in putting ourselves through this stress when we were  
supposed to be having a relaxing vacation?   
Why not cut our losses and settle in here?

Of course for the last ten months I had been visualizing  
myself sitting on our terrace in Positano, calmly taking in the serenity and  
beauty. If we stopped now, wouldn’t I  
always wonder if Positano was all that I had dreamed about for so long?

In how many other areas of our lives do we stop our dream  
journey just short of reaping the rewards or our achievement because the going  
got tough? We settle, and our settling  
might not even be such a bad thing, but we’ll always wonder if only and what  
if.

Slowly we made our way, and as Positano came into our sight,  
we both agreed it had been worth the trip.   
Many times during our stay there, I found myself smiling as I sat in my  
chair on our terrace, calmly taking in the serenity and beauty. And to think I almost missed out on this!

Ask yourself, “What am I missing out on?” Then dig in, and go for it! Life is too short to settle.

Pasta  
Primavera with Side Salad

***PointsPlus***Value ~ 6

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| **Ingredients** | ***PointsPlus***Value |
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| 1 cup(s) cooked whole wheat pasta penne, kept hot\* | 5 |
| 1 cup(s) fresh tomato(es) peppers and/or onions, seasoned, roasted, chopped | 0 |
| 2 Tbsp basil oregano and/or parsley, chopped | 0 |
| 2 Tbsp shredded fat free mozzarella cheese \* | 0 |
| 1 1/2 cup(s) arugula | 0 |
| 1/2 cup(s) fresh mushroom(s) and shallots, sliced | 0 |
| 6 medium grape tomatoes halved | 0 |
| 2 Tbsp fat-free Italian salad dressing \* | 1 |
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| **Instructions** |  |
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| Combine pasta with roasted tomatoes (and other roasted vegetables such as peppers and onions); sprinkle with basil (or other herbs including oregano or parsley) and cheese. Enjoy with arugula, mushrooms, shallots and grape tomatoes tossed with dressing. |
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| **Swaps** |  |
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| Try olive oil and vinegar instead of bottled dressing, and fat-free soy cheese instead of mozzarella. (These swaps may affect ***PointsPlus***® values.) \*To make this meal gluten free, use gluten–free pasta, cheese and dressing. |
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| **Flavor Boosts** |  |
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| Crushed red pepper flakes, Italian seasoning and/or minced garlic |
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| **Restaurant Tip** |  |
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| Ask if whole-wheat pasta is available. |
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