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Living With Warts

I have been hobbling on my left foot for the last few weeks. Turns out I have a wart on my heel. Here's what I've noticed in living with the wart.

- One small wart, about the size of a push pin, has completely changed my gait. I favor my right foot and shuffle my left foot in a slightly less dramatic way than Igor waiting on Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. What's the wart in your life that is affecting how you live your life?
- I have become fashionable in my footwear. Where I used to wear flat, conservative shoes and sneakers, I'm now seen wearing strappy sandals that allow the pressure of my foot to shift forward, toward the ball of my foot and away from my heel. While this is immensely more comfortable when standing still, it makes for an even more awkward walk. Lesson learned: It's fun to change your identity once in awhile, even if it means putting up with some inconveniences.
- I have trouble keeping up with small children and men with large strides. This informs me of what it feels like to be in a world of catch up, no matter who or what it is that I'm trying to catch up to.
- Without going into the technical details, suffice it to say that wart removal can be slow and methodical or fast and a crapshoot. I chose slow and methodical. So each day, I have time to myself, working on the wart, where expediency is not the primary concern. My family leaves me alone and I find the rhythm in moving the pumice stone back and forth across dead skin. I see results every few days. What's the dead skin in your life that you need to work on removing, not in one blast of liquid nitrogen, but with the gentle rubbing of a pumice stone?

If this isn't enough to make you want to cultivate warts, here's one more reason. My wart led me to the most fun with my kids in a long time. No kidding. The podiatrist prescribed medicine that could only be purchased at Walgreen's, probably because no other pharmacy will take the time to mix up a solution of 70% salicylic acid. I noticed a coupon in our kitchen "junk drawer" just before picking up the prescription—an enticement for customers to switch their prescription to Walgreen's. With every prescription filled, customers receive a \$20 credit for merchandise at the store but cannot use it to pay for the prescription. Free money to use at Walgreen's on a Saturday night! With two boys in tow, kids old enough to have an opinion. Hmm...candy aisle? No, says the mother in me. Pumice stone? Yes, says the practical side of me. My nine-year old quickly spied a waffle maker for \$9.99 and my twelve-year old went for the Bearclaw (chocolate ice cream, cashews, caramel and chocolate bits) in the freezer. I say yes to both. We go home, wart remedies in hand, happy for our sweets and the magical contraption that turns goey batter into light waffles.

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