

**Barbara Refsin
'Bobbie'
Wiesen**



Tidewater Mensa extends our gratitude to Mr. Edward Burton for supporting our scholarship program in memory of long-time TM member Barbara "Bobbie" Wiesen.

Soap and Water

by Dave Gunderlach

For a few years now, I've had in a bathroom drawer a couple of bars of, well, bar soap. They must have been gifts. They came in fancy wrappers and they claim to have some sort of butter or cream in them. I've got to admit, they do feel creamy, and they lather up very nicely. What they aren't, is antibacterial. Although fancy and creamy, they're just plain soap.

By contrast, most of the ubiquitous liquid soap—at home and in countless public restrooms—was, until recently, “antibacterial.” Labels commonly said things like “Clinically proven to eliminate 99% of the germs your family encounters.” Apparently, that claim has been removed in the wake of newer research that those soaps, for example, contain such a low level of antiseptic chemicals that the bacteria could develop a resistance to them.

Last year antibacterial soaps were banned from sale because the FDA said there was insufficient evidence to prove that soaps with antibacterial ingredients were more effective than plain soap and water in preventing illness.

OK, lots of change and market adaptation. But try this on for size: while most soap feels slippery (my plumber reminded me that “all soap is grease”) many (most?) of the liquid soaps feel, to me, much more slippery than bar soap. My experience with the liquid antibacterial soaps is that they require a longer rinsing time to remove them from my hands (and other body parts, when in the shower). I've noticed that even though my “butter” bar soap also feels smooth and creamy, it rinses away noticeably more quickly than the liquid soap. So I'm wondering if there's a water conservation issue here.

