

GNBCC Winter 2011 Newsbrief



GNBCC IS AWARDED FIVE-YEAR GRANT BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES AND THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

The Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition (GNBCC) and the Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition (HBCAC) were awarded a five-year grant to work as Community Partners with Principal Investigators Susan Teitelbaum, Ph.D. and Jia Chen, Ph.D. at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, in New York City by the NIEHS. This initiative is part of a federal project called “Breast Cancer Environmental Research Project”, in which 14 other national Principal Investigators will be researching environmental links to breast cancer.

Drs. Teitelbaum and Chen will be studying Breast Cancer Genomics in Windows of Susceptibility to Endocrine Disruptors. The endocrine disrupting chemicals that the Mount Sinai breast cancer researchers will be addressing are triclosan, found in anti-bacterial soaps and cosmetics, parabens, in cosmetics and phthalates, in cosmetics and certain plastics. The findings of this five-year study may provide us with a better understanding of breast cancer etiology and public health recommendations about changes in lifestyle that can be easily and widely implemented.

As Community Partners with Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Laura Weinberg, President of GNBCC and Karen Miller, President of HBCAC, will establish an outreach and translation program of the Mount Sinai research project. They will also represent the community perspective in the interpretation of study results. For more information on the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Project and BCERC, go to: www.bcerp.org, www.bcerc.org. A new, updated BCERP site will be up shortly.



From left: Laura Weinberg, Susan Teitelbaum, Ph.D., and Karen Miller

Long Island Verizon/FIOS1 Volunteer Extraordinaire Awarded to Laura Weinberg and the Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition

Shirley Siegal, resident of Great Neck, and former President of the League of Women Voters in Great Neck nominated Laura Weinberg, president of GNBCC for the Verizon/Fios Volunteer Extraordinaire Award. After three weeks of electronic public voting, Laura Weinberg was announced as the winner and received a \$300 award. GNBCC received a \$500 reward, and Shirley Siegal received a \$100 award. Shirley has been so kind to donate her reward money to purchase mailing postage for GNBCC!

GNBCC CO-ORGANIZES NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY

National breast cancer researchers, breast cancer advocates and 32 students with chaperones from three Great Neck and three Huntington High Schools convened on November 18th for the inaugural conference of the national Breast Cancer and Environment Research Program (BCERP) which was held at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. The Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition organized the large student turnout and provided transportation funding for Great Neck North and South High Schools and the North Shore Hebrew Academy High School.

During the conference question and answer period, several students participated. Ali Paul, a freshman of North Shore Hebrew Academy of Great Neck, said "To be only a high school student and attend a conference concerning a matter that affects so many is life altering."

The conference was planned and organized by Laura Weinberg (GNBCC), Karen Miller of the Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition (HBCAC), and Kaya Balke of the University of California, San Francisco.



From left: Laura Weinberg, Gary Ellison (National Cancer Institute BCERP director), Karen Miller, Les Reinlib (BCERP Program Director), Patricia Licata (President, West Islip Breast Cancer Coalition)

Some highlights of the one-day conference were:

- The theme: "Precautionary Principle to Public Policy: Building Blocks". Researchers, policy makers and advocates who presented spoke of the Precautionary Principle which says that since science is rarely 100% certain, you act in the presence of concerning, sound scientific weight of evidence. Speakers emphasized that mounting current scientific evidence is enough fodder for lifestyle and public policy changes, as

exemplified recently with legislative action taken to ban the estrogen mimicker Bisphenol A (BPA) in children's products in seven states including New York. BPA is also found in plastic bottles and thermal cash receipts.

- The five- year national research initiative, Breast Cancer Environmental Research Project (BCERP), is studying the impact of pre-natal-to-adult environmental exposures that may predispose a woman to breast cancer. BCERP is a continuation of a prior seven- year project called Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Centers (BCERC) where four national centers studied the blood work and urine samples of six to eight year old girls in correlation to chemicals they were exposed to and diet factors. The project is being sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Cancer Institute. (NCI)

STUDENTS AND CHAPERONES WHO ATTENDED BCERP CONFERENCE IN NYC



From left; Science Research Advisors Ms. Serfaty and Allen Sachs from North Shore Hebrew Academy H.S., Guidance Counselor and SPEC advisor of Great Neck South H.S, Carly Bank. Not pictured is Jessica Schust, Environmental AP Teacher, Great Neck North H.S.



GNBCC LEND A HELPING HAND PROGRAM

Our Lend a Helping Hand Program has helped several newly diagnosed women this past fall. We assist women by offering funding for services such as house cleaning, grocery bills, transportation to doctor visits, among other services. For more information go to the GNBCC website: www.greatneckbcc.org or call: 516 829-1139.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FALL 2010

- In September, GNBCC President, Laura Weinberg spoke at Gilda's Club in New York City which offers support to women with ovarian and breast cancer.



- In October, De Franco Salon of Roslyn held an “Art Gallery Fundraiser” for GNBCC. From left, Barbara Skoblow Leivent, photographer, Rene Spagnolo of De Franco Spagnolo Salon, and Laura Weinberg.
- In September, GNBCC attended a Round Table Discussion with Congressman Steve Israel for GNBCC’s and HBCAC’s Students and Scientists Summer Breast Cancer/Environment Research Program. Eugene Park, a senior from Great Neck South High School attended, along with six students from the Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition student program. To read Eugene Park’s essay about his summer scholarship experience at the Soto/Sonnenschein Laboratory, go to the GNBCC website at: www.greatneckbcc.org .
- In November, North Shore Motor Cycle of New Hyde Park ran a fundraiser for GNBCC.
- Planned and organized the Breast Cancer and Environment Research Project (BCERP) inaugural conference. (see article in this newsbrief for details)
- Assisted women through our Lend A Helping Hand Program



Thank you Congressman Steve Israel who recently met with student alumni to discuss the environment and public health; shown here (left to right)– Laura Weinberg (GNBCC) and Eugene Park (2010 Senior at Great Neck South High School); Karen Miller of Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, and HBCAC participants Savitha Racha (2010 Commack HS); Aliyah Cohen (2009 Huntington HS); Farooq Ansari (2009 Commack HS); Chirag Munim (2010 Northport HS); Pablo Palacios (2010 Whitman HS); Rubab Rehman (2009 Whitman HS); Kimberly Shen (2010 Whitman HS); and James Engeldrum, Science Director, Commack High School

Breaking news: NYS Names 85 Toxic Chemicals to Avoid

For the past four years, Laura Weinberg of GNBCC has been an alternate on the Governor's Green Procurement Advisory Council. The New York State Interagency Committee on Procurement voted on December 29, 2010 to approve a guidance policy requiring all NYS agencies to consider avoiding 85 toxic chemicals in products, services and technologies purchased by the state. Relying on federal priority lists, the list includes known and probable human carcinogens, persistent bio-accumulative toxins (PBT's), PBDE flame retardants, PFOA (teflon-related chemicals) and Bisphenol A (BPA). To view the list of toxic chemicals and products in which they are found, go to the Office of General Services website: <http://www.ogs.state.ny.us/EO/4/docs/ExhF.pdf>. This is the most comprehensive chemical avoidance purchasing list in the country and it will have a major impact on greening the marketplace with New York's annual buying power of \$9 billion. "This is a win for public health since the targeted toxic 85 chemicals will now be on the radar screen of New York State's purchasing agents. This policy has the potential to substantially reduce the public's exposure to several carcinogens which are currently released into our environment through common consumer products," said Laura Weinberg, president of the Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition and an alternate member of the Governor's Green Purchasing Advisory Council.

GNBCC Visits Our Newly Elected State Senator, Jack Martins



(Left to right) Laura Weinberg, president of GNBCC, Monika Lalezarzedah, alumnus student of the GNBCC Students and Scientists Research Scholarship Program, Senator Jack Martins.



In Memoriam: A tribute to Susan Cohen, Chair of the New York State Breast Cancer Network:

Susan M. Cohen, beloved Chair of the New York State Breast Cancer Network, passed away on December 22, 2010. She was 69 years old. Susan co-founded the Network with a small group of other New York State breast cancer survivor power-houses in 1998. For the past twelve years she had been a leader, teacher and inspiration to the Network. As an active Board Member and participant of the New York State Breast Cancer Network, GNBCC worked with Susan Cohen for over a decade. She was an inspiration to everyone she worked with and will be sorely missed, especially as March 15th Advocacy Day preparations are being met.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2011

- New York State Breast Cancer Network Advocacy Day in Albany on **March 15th**. For more information check our website periodically. To register: www.nysbcen.org.
- **June 4th**: 2nd Annual Upland Road Block Party. Check GNBCC website for updates.
- May/June: Selection of high school students for our Student/Scientist Summer Research Program
- More Cabaret Fundraisers at Cafe Rustica, dates to be announced on our website: www.greatneckbcc.org .
- **Fall 2011**: Historical fundraiser "WALK FOR GNBCC" will take place in Great Neck. This first of a kind walk through Great Neck is being graciously organized by John Ryan, a resident of Great Neck.

Thank you to all of our members for your ongoing support. Your contributions help keep our programs in motion!