

**Great Neck Breast
Cancer Coalition
(GNBCC)**

**Spring/Summer
Newsbrief 2010**

**GNBCC Student and Scientist Scholarship Program Alumnae
are doing amazing things:**

Heidi Park, 2007 alumna of the GNBCC scholarship program and of Great Neck South High School, now a sophomore at Wellesley College, initiated and helped organize an outstanding educational presentation on February 23rd through the Wellesley College Biology Department. "Our Stolen Future: Endocrine Disruptors, What They Mean for Us and What You can Do" included a talk by Maricel **Maffini, PhD** of the Ana Soto Laboratory at Tufts University School of Medicine. She spoke about endocrine disruptors,

including estrogen mimicking chemicals such as Bisphenol A (BPA) which are found in certain plastics, and the risk of adverse health effects that they pose, including breast and prostate cancer. **Laura Weinberg, president of GNBCC** also gave a presentation identifying several endocrine disrupting chemicals with examples of how to avoid them. Special thanks to T. Kaye Peterman, Ph.D., Chair of the Biological Sciences Department and the entire Biology Department at Wellesley College for coordinating this event.

On April 5th, Zoe Schacht-Levine, of Great Neck North High School and Aliyah Cohen of Huntington High School were at the Silent Spring Institute in Newton, Massachusetts, to participate in a film about the Institute. The previous summer, the two students participated in an internship during which they reviewed over 200 personal care products for toxic ingredients that may affect the mammary gland. Their internship at Silent Spring was sponsored jointly by the Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition and the Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition. Zoe and Aliyah designed a poster that described their summer research which they displayed at a recent national breast cancer conference. (www.bcerc.org). During the videotaping, Zoe and Aliyah discussed their poster on mammary gland carcinogens and endocrine disrupting chemicals found in personal care products. The film's purpose is educational outreach for the Silent Spring Institute. To learn more about Zoe's experience at Silent Spring Institute during summer 2009, visit the GNBCC website at www.greatneckbcc.org. For more information on emerging breast cancer/environmental research being conducted at Silent Spring Institute, visit www.silentspring.org.

GNBCC will be sending another student from the Great Neck School District to the Ana Soto Laboratory at Tufts University School of Medicine for summer 2010 to research the effects of toxins on the mammary gland. We will announce the name of our 2010 summer scholarship student on our website and in our next newsbrief. This year marks the 6th year of our Student Scientist Breast Cancer/Environmental Research Scholarship Program. We have sent 10 students to laboratories and research facilities that are studying the effects of toxins on the mammary gland. Our goal with this program is to educate students on the association between environmental links and breast cancer and to support research efforts in preventing breast cancer before it starts!

GNBCC Travels to Albany for Advocacy Day 2010:

On March 8th and 9th, GNBCC's president, Laura Weinberg, attended the New York State Breast Cancer Network's (NYSBCN) Advocacy Day in Albany. The NYSBCN is a coalition of 25 breast cancer, health and environmental organizations from across the state. This year's program, "**Access to Care: Taking Charge**" encouraged participants to take an active role in improving access to quality care in New York State. The program began with a presentation by attorney Mark Scherzer who addressed "What's Next in Health Care Reform for New Yorkers". To read more about Mr. Scherzer, visit his website at: <http://www.markscherzer.com>.

The NYSBCN's 100 conference participants visited their legislators in support of the following bills and issues after Mr. Scherzer's program: the **Prescription Drug Out-of-Pocket Cost Limitation Bill** which prohibits health insurers from creating specialty pricing tiers within their prescription drug formularies, and would keep certain drugs at more affordable prices; the need for a strong bill to **ban the estrogenic chemical BPA** in certain plastic products made for babies and children; and the importance of a **New York Healthy & Green Procurement Initiative** which urges the legislature to pass legislation that will require the state to purchase products that do not contain certain toxic chemicals.

Lend a Helping Hand Program (LAHH)

GNBCC continues our special program which assists newly diagnosed women and men with breast cancer. We provide support through our LAHH program manager, Colette Thaw, and also offer funding for the following services: babysitting, homecare, cleaning service, car service to doctor visits, among other services. Please visit our website for more details. If you know of someone who could benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer with us, please contact Colette at (516) 482 -0683.

U.S. EPA Award Ceremony

On April 23rd in New York City the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented Laura Weinberg, president of GNBCC, with "The Environmental Quality Award." This honor was shared with colleagues Karen Miller of the Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition and Beth Fiteni of The Long Island Neighborhood Network. All three women were honored for the numerous successful environmental programs and projects that they collaborated on over the past decade.

Great Neck Community Reaches Out to GNBCC:

Special thanks to:

The JFK Elementary School for their amazing Cabaret Fundraiser which was held on March 10th and raised \$3,500 to benefit GNBCC. The musical production including students and staff was stellar. A Special Guest Star performance was made by Nikki Blonsky, actress, singer and former student of the JFK School.

Thank you for all the magnificent performances. A special thank you to the school administration for organizing this event, including Dr. Sue Kinkaid, Mr. Ronald Gimondo, Janine Robinson and Amy Kempton.

Great Neck South Middle School and Musical Director, Shelley Willcox for their Cabaret Night production at Café Rustica on May 4th, where \$ 1075.00 was raised for GNBCC. The vocalists were terrific. All of you, please take a special bow! Thank you also to **Jeffrey Phillips and staff at Café Rustica** for hosting our wonderful Cabaret Night fundraisers and for your recent generous donation. Also thanks to Camp & Campus of Great Neck for generously donating store coupons to 30 of the female South Middle School vocalists!

Lauren DeSantolo, Chairperson of the May 22nd Upland Road Block Party Fundraiser. Lauren came to GNBCC in January of this year with an idea for GNBCC: A fun afternoon for the community that will generate funds for our programs. Lauren and her committee are planning this fundraising event that is open to the public for May 22nd (rain date: May 23rd) between 12:00 – 5:00 PM. There will be barbecues, a "cake tent" and other delicacies, games for children and vendors. Over two dozen prizes will be raffled! Directions to the block party are on our website. Please join us for a great afternoon!

Thank you to the following committee members of this Block Party event: Jane Hsu, Beth Hochstein, Lisa Malfi, Lore DeWitte, Ann Kouzionis, Fran D'Introno, and Joy Kennedy. Thank you also to Carly Bank, Guidance Counselor at Great Neck South High School and Students Putting An End to Cancer (SPEC) for volunteering to work at the Block Party.

Special thanks to **Assembly Member Michelle Schimel** and her office for securing funding for GNBCC for the past three years even in these difficult economic times.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS OF THE BLOCK PARTY EVENT! We are overwhelmed by your generosity!

Chez Josee (Port Washington) Benkert Bakery
Gustave Rouff Hair Salon (Great Neck) HMART
Star Spa (Great Neck)
Nubest Salon & Spa
Victoria Napolitano
Yogurt Café of Great Neck
Panera Bread of Little Neck
Little Neck Wine & Liquor
Lake Success Wine & Liquor
Something Spiritual, Something Physical Yoga
Jean Marie Patisserie & Gourmet
Waldbaums
Starbucks
Iavarone Bros.
Entrée of Great Neck
Linda Silver Design of Great Neck
Ray Leventhal of Great Neck
Flair of Great Neck
Bed, Bath & Beyond
Nardo Shoes of Great Neck
Sands Point Shop
Denny's Childrenwear
Jane Hsu
Jennifer DiMaria
Modell's Sporting Goods
Ronald J. Krowne, photographer
Staples
The Perfect Spectacle Opticians of Manhasset
30 Minute Fitness
Lou Tortorello, Physical Therapist (of Great Neck)
The Body King
Rotary Club of Great Neck
Anton Community Newspapers
North Shore Farms
Kron Chocolatier
Lazar Chocolates
Sabrina and Frances Hsu
Infinity
Tommie & Co.
Isabel & Andre Vavro
Whole Foods Markets

THANK YOU ALSO TO THE VENDORS OF THE BLOCK PARTY

All-In-One Entertainment, Inc.

Barettes by Beth

Mary Campesi

Giftgirl—Hand Painted Clogs

Hanalei & Kula Fragrance Bar

Karen Helfman Designs

Hooked For Good

Jane Hsu

Mediterranean Pita

Mr. Softee Truck

Pizza on Wheels

Jean Marie Patisserie & Gourmet

Home Baked Goods from Upland Residents

Sugarjewlz

The Pampered Chef

Panetta Physical Therapy

BE WARY OF PHONE SOLICITATIONS

The Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition does not solicit donations via telephone. Several groups under investigation by the Attorney General's office have been targeting various Long Island communities with a massive telemarketing campaign looking for pledges of monetary donations. The telemarketers insinuate they are the "local" breast cancer coalition and unfortunately, many generous residents mistakenly pledge money, believing they are donating to the GNBCC.

Carol Frank of the Great Neck Record has been warning our community about the activities of these groups under investigation which can be viewed in her article called, "Giving to Charity or To Big Business?"

There are so many organizations raising funds, some very worthy and others not quite so. Ask a few questions before you donate to any organization:

- **What is the name, address and phone number of the organization?**
- **Can you get a brochure or visit a web site?**
- **What portion of the donation goes directly back to the organization and what specifically is it used for?**
- **Who is the president of the organization?**

If an organization is hesitant to comply with any of the above requests, consider it a red flag. If you have any concerns about the validity of an organization, please contact the NYS Attorney General's office at (518) 486-9797.

PLEASE NOTE

The Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition (GNBCC) has absolutely no connection with the Coalition for Breast Cancer Cures or any other organization under investigation. GNBCC is an all-volunteer organization made up of Great Neck residents who have been donating their time, since 1992, to serve our community with specific programs. GNBCC has never telephoned for donations.