



Board of Directors

Beth Hudson - President
Jonathan Becker – Treasurer
Carol Nachtweih – Recording Secretary
Jan Paul – VP-Communications & Message
Lisa Price – VP-Members
Karen Scheible – VP-Development
Lisa Sienkiewicz – VP-Awareness & Education
Alene Becker – Director At Large
Nancy Larson Vomund – Director At Large
Ellen Levine – Director At Large
Dr. David Mutch – Medical Advisor
Charlie Hapke – Legal Advisor

Mission Statement

St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness is committed to impacting ovarian cancer survivorship by promoting awareness of early warning signs and standard of care, funding ovarian cancer research, and supporting survivors. It is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.



President Beth Hudson discusses volunteer programs with Lisa Price, VP-Members, in SLOCA's new office.

Teal Talks Newsletter

We publish Teal Talks twice a year and send e-mail blasts intermittently. If you want to sign up to receive it at home or by e-mail, go to www.sloca.org/newsletters. If you don't want to receive the printed newsletter, e-mail newsletter@sloca.org to ask to be removed from the mailing list.



Teal Talks

New Board, New Plan, New Offices, Same Mission

St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness has elected a new board of directors, moved into larger offices, posted its first job opening and mapped out a promising future with the adoption of a strategic plan.

“It’s an exciting time for SLOCA,” says President Beth Hudson. “After a long period of study, we’re making a lot of changes at SLOCA. What isn’t changing, though, is our mission. These changes are geared to help us execute our threefold mission of raising awareness of ovarian cancer, funding research and supporting survivors.”

A committee of seven women developed the strategic plan under the leadership of Alene Becker, an ovarian cancer survivor who worked in strategic planning for Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. SLOCA’s board adopted the plan in March.

SLOCA was founded 11 years ago by seven women; some were survivors of ovarian cancer and others were nurses. The organization’s work has been directed almost singlehandedly by the board president; as the ambitions and reach of the organization broadened, the work shouldered by its volunteer president became an undue burden.

The goal of the strategic plan was to spread out the work of the organization to enable sustainable growth, to create a succession plan for the presidency and to broaden SLOCA’s reach in the community.

To do that, the strategic plan organized SLOCA’s programs and events under four vice presidents. Their areas are Awareness & Education, Development, Members, and Communications & Message.

For years, SLOCA has been nurtured by the passion and energy of women who are survivors of ovarian cancer and their spouses, sisters, friends and nurses. Sadly, SLOCA has lost many board members to the disease. The strategic plan seeks to attract board members with a diverse background in business and community affairs to bolster the work of ovarian cancer survivors.

SLOCA’s board members serve two-year terms that run from July 1 to June 30. At its last meeting, the current board voted unanimously to extend Beth’s term as president by one year and to elect a new treasurer, recording secretary, four vice presidents and three members at large. *[Meet the new board on page 2]*

The outgoing board also took one last monumental step in voting to post a job opening for a part-time executive director. It will be SLOCA’s first paid staff member.

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Awareness Month Events Start a Month Early

SLOCA has a full slate of events and advertising/media campaign to raise awareness of ovarian cancer for the month of September.

September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, and it kicks off with **Teal Day** on Friday, **September 6**.



Ballgame

SLOCA’s observation starts, however, a month earlier. SLOCA’s **Night at the Ballpark** is set for Friday night, **August 9**, when the Cards open their three-game home stand against the Cubs. SLOCA is selling a block of 500 tickets to fill the stands with fans wearing teal.

Holly Cook, an ovarian cancer survivor, will throw out the first pitch, thanks to her husband’s winning bid at SLOCA’s auction. SLOCA volunteer Sheri Petruso and her three children will be on the field for batting practice; the Petruso family assembles the Sister Boxes given to newly diagnosed ovarian cancer patients.

At press time, the tickets were nearly sold out. Go to www.sloca.org/baseball to see if any tickets are still available.

Yoga Event

The next event is **Rise & Shine for a Cure: 108 Sun Salutations**, a yoga marathon held annually at the World’s Fair Pavilion in Forest Park. This year’s event is set for Sunday, **August 25**, starting at 9 a.m. The cost is \$35 in advance, or \$40 the day of the event.

Area yoga instructors will lead participants through 108 sun salutations; a 12-breath series of yoga positions.

To register, go to www.sloca.org/yoga.

Continued on page 7

The following is the slate of board officers and directors elected last month to lead SLOCA:



President: Beth Hudson began a one-year term on July 1 after completing two years as president. Beth, a survivor, became involved with SLOCA at the urging of her sister, who later passed away from the disease. She has co-chaired the Living Out Loud auction, has been a regular presenter with the Survivors Teaching Students program and instigated the strategic planning process.

Treasurer: Jonathan E. Becker, a CPA, is a partner in the firm Becker & Rosen, specializing in individual, business and fiduciary tax and financial preparation and planning. He also functions as a reviewer and performs many other accounting services for clients and managerial duties for the firm. Jon is an active board member of his congregation and has served on other non-profit boards.



Recording Secretary: Carol Nachtweih has been actively engaged in SLOCA since 2010, after losing a sister to the disease. She's worked on the Living Out Loud auction, the Christmas card project and staffing health fairs. For more than 30 years, Carol has held a variety of executive-level administrative support roles. She is employed full-time at Mercy as an executive assistant.

Vice President-Awareness and Education: Lisa Sienkiewicz, a survivor, formerly served on the board as the marketing chairperson. She coordinates the Survivors Teaching Students: Saving Women's Lives™ program in St. Louis program and is its Midwest Regional Coordinator for the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance. She also has served as a consumer reviewer on the national Ovarian Cancer Research Panel.



Vice President-Development: Karen L. Scheible got involved with SLOCA in the fall of 2012 when she partnered with SLOCA to raise money for research. Having lost her mother to the disease in 1995, and a friend in 2012, Karen is passionate about increasing awareness and raising funds for research. Karen has 30 years of professional and volunteer experience in advocacy and development with nonprofits.



Vice President-Members: Lisa McAllister-Price has been a SLOCA volunteer since 2011. Lisa was drawn to get involved in furthering SLOCA's mission after a friend's sister passed away from the disease. Lisa worked in medical equipment sales for more than 25 years and has served on several non-profit boards.

Vice President-Communications and Message: Jan Paul, a survivor, has served on SLOCA's board since 2008. A retired editor for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, she created SLOCA's newsletter, Teal Talks, in 2009, redesigned the website the next year and began coordinating the marketing in 2011. In this position, she will be responsible for publications and marketing.



Director at Large: Alene Becker, a survivor, retired from Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. and joined SLOCA's Survivors Teaching Students program as a speaker. Alene facilitated the process that culminated in adoption of a comprehensive strategic plan in March. Alene's desire is to help support SLOCA's mission in raising awareness of the disease and in providing hope to those diagnosed.



Director at Large: Ellen Levine has served as the Director of Training and Organization Development at Graybar Electric Co. since 2009. Before that, she spent 14 years with the Anheuser-Busch Cos. in St. Louis, where she held training and development roles, most recently as the Director of Leadership and Organization Development.



Director at Large: Nancy Larson-Vomund is an oncology nurse who helped survivors to found SLOCA in 2002. Nancy worked for Washington University School of Medicine in Gynecology Oncology until her retirement in 2011; she now works part time when needed. She also coordinated SLOCA's daylong Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day in 2012 and teaches country line dancing at the Cancer Support Community.



Donations

Cathy Wice
Justin & Kathleen Durel

Margaret Wright
Barb Platzer

Sandy Zahner
Joanne Aldridge
Ruth & Glenn Armes
Marge Behrens
Ernestine Botkin
Gary & Sharon Botkin
Wayne & Linda (Kim) Brewer
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Buchheit
Margie Buxner
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Mary Glover
Grow Investment Club
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Karen Koeper
Peg Lampert
Susan Lecroy
Suzanne & Chuck Levy
Irene Moore
Barb & Bob Platzer
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Richardson
Mrs. Aueila M. Schaeffer
Brenda & Mike Schaeffer
Geri Schmidt
Jean Scott
Rich & Chris Schloss
Wayne & Kathy Schnurbusch
Judy Spurlock
John & Connie Stinson
Mrs. Ethel Thompson
Steve & Juanita Zahner

The following donations were made to SLOCA from January 31 through June 15, 2013, in honor of:

Carol & Walter Beckman
Ron & Chris Barrett
Mike & Linda Sharamituro
Mr. Terrence D. Shofner
Bryan & Karen Street
Nancy Larson-Vomund

Charlotte Boman
C. Elliot Tao

Bev Freyman
Mr. & Mrs. Myron Klevens

Judi Garland
Suzanne Bierman

Lyla Sophia Goldstein
Pat Anslinger

Jerome & Susan Grossman
Hannah F. Singerman

Joanne Henderson
Barb & Bob Faulkner
Women's Auxilliary of Crestwood
Elks #2503
Mr. & Mrs. John Fisher
Dan Kemper
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Krull
Jan Olliges-Swayne
Judy Swehla

Beth Hudson
Mr. & Mrs. Benny Alon
Kathy Hensler
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Litzsinger
Ann McDonald

Beverly Kinkade
Mary Brewer
Brian, Jen, Judy & Girls
Patricia Hayes
Linda Huheey
Ann Kastendieck
Mary Kay Matlock
Bryan & Karen Street

Jeanne Miller
Mr. & Mrs. James Castellano

Merle Miller
Suzanne Bierman
Diana Padratzik

Dr. Mutch & Team: Tiffany, Nancy, Amanda, Sherri & Terry
Robin & Shep Hermann

Jan Paul
Barbara & David Berry
Lynne Davis
Laura Reynolds
Barbara Touchette

Barbara Platzer
Gail Friedman
Wilma & Harvey Gerstein
Jackie & Marty Lipsitz
Carl & Marcia Moskowitz
Robert Platzer
The Hon. and Mrs. Mark Seigel

Cary Renz
Mr. & Mrs. Partick Barron
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ciapciak
Mr. & Mrs. James Finger
Robert Fisher
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Hasselfeld
Nellie Nicholson
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Pope
Mr. John & Dr. Maureen Riffle
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Rucker
Mr. & Mrs. William Stevens
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Tharpe

Estelle Roodman
Dr. Stan Roodman

Ina Sachar
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Fox
Marylen Mann
Judith Shaw

Monte Sandler
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Peck

Karen Scheible
Hilary Turett

Cindy Spencer
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Takavitz

Julianne Stein
Carolyn Johnson

Awareness Month



Mercy Hospital nurses flank gynecologic oncologist Dr. Kevin Easley at last year's Trivia Night to raise money for SLOCA. From left are Jen Keown, Ashleigh Robinson, Marybeth Jennings, Victoria Hamilton, Dr. Easley, Kim Tiepelman, Theresa Sextro, Erin Hayes and Rachel Moehlmann.

Awareness continued from page 1

Trivia Night

Nurses and techs on the women's health unit at Mercy Hospital in Creve Coeur will host their third annual **Trivia Night** to benefit SLOCA on Saturday, **September 14**. The competition will begin at 7 p.m. in the Von Gontard Conference Center on Mercy's Creve Coeur campus.

The cost is \$120 for a table of 8 adults (full tables only). To register, go to www.sloca.org/trivia.

The nurses started the event in 2011; Kristina Palliser is the chairwoman.

Turn It Teal

With the help of the St. Louis Parks Department, SLOCA will **Turn It Teal** – that is, turn the fountain at Kiener Plaza teal -- for a week in September, beginning Monday, **September 16**. It's the third year for Turn It Teal. Volunteers will hand out awareness brochures and bookmarks over lunch hours on weekdays.

FamiliesROC

Lastly, **Families Run for Ovarian Cancer**, or FamiliesROC, moves to a downtown location for the first time after many years in Forest Park. It's the 7th annual ROC STAR 5K and 1 mile run/walk, and it's set for Sunday, **September 22**.

The event is put on by the family of the late Brenda Jorgensen, who passed away from ovarian cancer. The money raised is given to the Siteman Cancer Center to fund ovarian cancer research. This year's goal is \$100,000. For more details and to register, go to www.familiesroc.org.

Also in August and September, SLOCA plans once again to purchase advertising on digital billboards at select locations throughout metro St. Louis. It also is seeking exposure on radio and TV, online and in newspapers and other print publications throughout the metro area.

SLOCA Chatter

SLOCA Doubles Grant Research Funding



Beth Hudson and Karen Scheible

SLOCA has doubled its usual commitment of \$25,000 for ovarian cancer research funding for 2014.

Each year, SLOCA underwrites a grant from the Foundation for Women's Cancer (formerly the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation) for ovarian cancer research. Because of extraordinary success in fund-raising in the past year, the board budgeted and voted to fund a \$50,000 grant for the next year. In the past decade, SLOCA has given \$280,000 to FWC for research grants.

Karen Scheible, of Chesterfield, contributed a check for \$2,836 to be applied to that grant after completing a successful campaign to sell memorial charm bracelets as a fund-raiser for ovarian cancer research. 66 people in 16 states bought the bracelets.

Diane Katzman Design of Ladue created the charm bracelet of glass and silver in memory of Kathryn Anne Selmer Sheeler, of New Jersey, who died of ovarian cancer in June 2012. Karen and another of Kathryn's former college classmates, organized the effort.

Choir Collects \$385 for SLOCA

Jeff Lackey, choir director at Parkway Central Middle School, surprised SLOCA President Beth Hudson with an envelope containing \$385 in cash in May. The money was collected by choir students at the school in memory of Debbie Webber, an elementary school music teacher who passed away after battling ovarian cancer.

"These donations that rain down like pennies from heaven continue to amaze me," says Beth. The choir students chose SLOCA as the recipient after reading about its work on its website, at www.sloca.org.

Tampa Researcher Receives \$25K Grant



Dr. Gonzalez-Bosquet

Earlier this year, a SLOCA-funded grant of \$25,000 was awarded to Dr. Jesus Gonzalez-Bosquet for ovarian cancer research at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer & Research Institute in Tampa, Florida. The grant was announced in March at the annual meeting of the national Society of Gynecologic Oncology in Los Angeles.

The Foundation for Women's Cancer selected Dr. Gonzalez for the grant. He proposes to study why patients with epithelial ovarian cancer respond to chemotherapy while others do not.

Epithelial is the most common form of ovarian cancer.

Dr. Gonzalez is a gynecologic oncologist at the Moffitt Cancer Center. A native of Spain, he completed medical school at the University of Barcelona and a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the Mayo Clinic. He is interested in the genetics of cancer, and he believes that discoveries in genetics research will pave the way for preventive measures that help to reduce or eliminate gynecologic cancers in women.

SLOCA Wish List

To help furnish the new SLOCA office, we are looking for a large conference table, a couple of adjustable desk chairs, a coffee maker, microwave and large dry erase board.

SLOCA has been fortunate to receive donations of surplus furniture and filing cabinets from Mercy Hospital, along with a desk from the late Nancy Pool and an executive desk from Dr. T. Joseph McCaffrey.

"Now we're just filling in with a wish list for some of the functional items we need," says Beth.



Nancy Larson Vomund chaired Team SLOCA to raise money for the Cancer Support Community of St. Louis in its annual fund-raising walk, Steps for Hope, at Creve Coeur Park on May 18.

Auction Shatters All Records

SLOCA's annual gala and auction in April netted more than \$133,000 and, in the process, shattered the event's records for fund-raising, sponsorships and attendance.

Living Out Loud is SLOCA's premiere fund-raising event. The theme of this year's gala was Life Is Your Garden, LIVE IT OUT LOUD.

More than 370 people flocked to the Edward Jones Corporation Headquarters in Des Peres to nosh, drink, bid on auction items, dance a modified conga line, dine, laugh, tear up and reach deep into their pockets.

The crowd gave Gala Chairwoman Cary Renz a standing ovation in recognition of the evening's overwhelming success. Cary is a four-year survivor of ovarian cancer who got involved with SLOCA a year ago.



From left: Dennis Weisenborn, Cary Renz and Walter Beckman.

Cary's sister, Katie Sullivan, had served as the Sponsorship Chairwoman. Eighteen corporations and individuals committed money for sponsorships totaling \$45,000.

SLOCA presented its first Teal Spirit Award to Walter Beckman of McCarthy Construction for his support of SLOCA since his late wife's passing from ovarian cancer. His story underscored what many in the room knew all too well – how the disease devastates those who care for the women who have received a diagnosis of ovarian cancer.

In the keynote address, Alene Becker, a 30-year survivor, gave a riveting account of being diagnosed at age 18 and fighting for her life while her friends went off to college. She got involved with SLOCA four years ago after retiring from a successful career with Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.

Capping off the program was a poignant video featuring women and men affected by an ovarian cancer diagnosis. The video, jointly produced by WIL Radio and Allison Hershberger of Ignite!Events, can be viewed on the SLOCA website, at www.sloca.org.

Proceeds from the event go to support SLOCA's threefold mission of raising awareness, funding ovarian cancer research and supporting survivors.

Volunteer Spotlight: Alene Becker



Alene was a trim high school athlete at Ladue High School when unexplained abdominal bloating kept her from zipping up her prom dress. She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer at age 18.

Fast forward 32 years. She is retiring at age 50 from an executive position at Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., where she was involved in coaching and leadership development, strategic planning and succession planning. As she mulls over what's next, her oncology nurse, Donna Dombrowski, suggests that she get involved with SLOCA.

Alene gives keynote speech at Living Out Loud gala.

Alene did just that. "Donna suggested that my story may help provide encouragement and hope to patients and their families," she recalls.

Alene dipped her toes in the water by signing up to be a speaker in its awareness program for medical students, Survivors Teaching Students: Saving Women's Lives.

"I immediately fell in love with the idea of teaching students and helping to raise awareness and bringing to life what students read about in books," she says. "I felt like I was really helping to make a difference."

At one such presentation last fall, Alene was speaking on a panel with SLOCA President Beth Hudson. As they chatted privately, Alene learned Beth's aspiration to initiate a process of strategic planning for SLOCA and waded deeper into the water by volunteering to facilitate the process.

In December, Alene began leading weekly meetings of a committee convened by Beth to study SLOCA's history and mission and to map out the road to its future. The resulting plan was adopted by the Board of Directors in March, and a new board was elected last month to execute the plan's objectives.

"In my mind SLOCA's mission is simple and well-focused," says Alene. "It has a rich history and, under Beth's leadership and the commitment of other volunteer leaders, a strategic plan has been created. That plan will help ensure that SLOCA can live up to its mission now and in the future and that it will have a significant impact on the lives of women and their families."

Alene, now 54, is married to that high school prom date, Jonathan Becker. They live in Clayton and have two grown sons, Matt and Josh. She runs daily, works out at the gym and takes on part-time consulting work.

She has found the passion of the SLOCA volunteers she has met to be contagious. In April, she told her inspiring story as the keynote speaker at SLOCA's gala and auction. Last month, she was elected to the Board of Directors as an at-large director, and her husband, Jon, a CPA, agreed to take on the job of treasurer. And she's moved into the role of a facilitator with the Survivors Teaching Students program.

What would she say to someone who's thinking about getting involved with SLOCA?

"Get involved as much as you can. Help us to help make a difference. There are so many opportunities to make a difference and do whatever it is you like doing or are good at."

If you want to volunteer with SLOCA, whether it's to chair an event or help at a health fair, contact Lisa Price, Vice President-Members, at members@sloca.org.

Donations

The following donations were made to SLOCA from January 31 through June 15, 2013, in memory of:

Cathy Lindstrom
Ann Rapko

JoAnn Barnes
Myrna Barnes
Donald Grotjan
Nancy Kurilla
Southside Weavers & MO Basket Weavers Guild
St. Louis Regional Chamber
Laura Taylor

Ann Beckman
Janet Northcutt
Scott & Mary Rose

Linda Behnken
Gretchen Salsich

Susan Bober
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Hudson

Glenda Bradbury
Marilyn Collier
Patricia & Gerald Riebold

Sandy Seem Connolly
Kathy Marshall

Roxanne Cousins
Barb Platzer

Stephanie D'Arc
Robert Stone

Deborah Emmons
William & Harriet Emmons
Gene & Shirley Rehm
Denise Ulep

Maryann Fernandez
Jerry Kelly Heating & Air Conditioning

Malinda Fisher
Mark Fisher

Ruth Ann Glisson
Heart Specialty Associates

Ruth Grimes
Gigi Grimes
Robert Stone

Myra Grossman
The Ames Foundation
Renee Kanterman
Lisa & Jerry Wallis
Robert & Karen Zobel

Jacolin Henningsen
Julie & Steve Hermann

Nancy Herfel
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Huheey

Jennifer Krass
Luann Koop

Lynne M. Levin
Bill & Sandra Peck
Robert Stone

Harvey Levy
Robert Stone

Karen Longtin
Kathy Joyce

Helen Marx
Judy Dirkers

Barbara Jo Mattingly
Linda Anderson
Juanita & Gary Briggs
Kathleen Cooper
Don & Judith Delonjay
Mary Hammerstone
Dee McCafferty
Daisy Presson
Carol Rothermich
Cathy Webb
Wesley & Nancy Williamson

Judy Montgomery
Clay McKinney

Pamela S. Nicholson
Stephen Nicholson

Judy Ann Ostendorf
Phyllis Robinson
Sue Theodore

Joyce Pallardy
Wayne Alexander
Laurie Feldman
Claude & Anita Knight
Patricia Koenen
Mike Lane
Mrs. Pat McKeon
Cheryl Medley
Michael Miller & Susan Schneider
Bryan & Karen Moore
John & Patricia Pidgeon
Glennon & Arline Runde
Les & Gloria Schierding
Chuck & Claudia Umphenour
John & Patricia Walendy

Mary Ellen Pitzer
Elizabeth & Peter Wimmer

Nancy Pool
Linda & Elliot Benoist
Guy & Rebecca Blasé
Mary Boyce & Family
Ann Carter
Sandy Coburn
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Cox (Mary Voges)
Andrea Craig
Carol Darnell
Margaret Dozier
Preston & Jody Fancher
Fielder Electrical Services & Staff
John J. Flynn
H. John & Jan W. Frank
Gretchen Freund
Marianne & Martin Galt
Betsy & Spencer Garland
George & Janice Grant
Patricia Hayes

Linda Kahn
David & Cathy Kinsman
Tom & Linda Kolbrener
Jim & Anita Lamont & Family
Marti Lanese
Nancy Larson-Vomund
Stephen & Alisa Nickelson
Ellen Sedgwick
Rick & Carolyn Sachs
Charles Schagrin
Peter K. Switzer
Barry Short
Debbi & Kevin Seelman
G. David Voges
Kathy Vollman
Barbara Wulfinf
R.J. Ziegler

Beverly Schiro
John & Janet Adkins
Linda & Richard Bolender
Don & Dolores Fiala
Whitney Graham
Martin & Susan Hutchinson
John & Molly Schwabe
Cindy Whitehead
Jan Wolf
Jim & Donna Wolken
Karen Yeager

Madeleine Hope Silberberg
Acropolis Investment Management
Tambi Aks
Michelle Barry
Carol Bauer
Baumstark Family
Sibyl-Anne Beauchamp
Ellen & Gene Benner
William Corrigan
James Costello
Mr. & Mrs. Russ Dentsbier
The Directed Account Plan
Martha & Walter Enoch
John & Ginger Eichhorn
Muriel Geisen
Marie Hamill
Ann Kastendieck
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Marklin
Yvonne Hope McManemin
O'Fallon Kiwanis Club
Shirley Rosner
Shelly Sarich, DDS, MS
Don & Jackie Schappe
Gary Schimer
Jim & Susan Seidel
Tante Silberberg
Joanne & Mike Sullivan
Lee & Phil Sutherlin
Terry & Sheri Smith
Alicia Tierney
Bryan & Bobette Tracy
Kathleen Welter
Elizabeth Wimmer

Jana Southern
Pattie Stolze

Lon Stober
Robert Stone

Libby W. Stone
Robert Stone

Marjorie Vogel
Jim & Sandy Applequist

Debbie Webber
Jennifer Grimm
Parkway Central Middle School
Choirs

Deborah (Debbie) Welch
Roger Amann
Arneson Timber Co.
Julie Arnold
Robert & Margaret Behrens
John Bolesta
Kelli Bryan
Salvatore & Debra Cira
Judy Foster
Andrew & Nancy Fussner
R. Joseph & Norrita Hammond
Ingram Barge Co.
Richard & Mary Ann Jente
Julie Kemper
Karen Kopff
Julie Lamfers
Vicki Lederer
Melissa McKenzie
Jeffrey Morrison
Norman Lumber Co.
Charles & Linda Pate
Michael & Kimberly Stephan
Kelly Vaughn
G. Alan & Amy Welch
George & Gwen Welch
R. Dean & Judith Welch

Rebecca (Becky) Wiggs
Mary Baker
Cynthia Berrry
Brian, Jen, Judy & Girls
David Brown
Katherine Butkiewicz
Crossroads Elementary Flower & Courtesy
Ron Davenport
BillieJean Diekamp
Susan Dorn
Kathy Frillman
Julie Hardin & Vicki Marion
Pat Kelly
Linda Lew
Patrick & Kathi Mahoney
Susanne (Susie) McDonald
Tom Miller
John & Julie Osdieck
Bonnie Paglia
Kelly Raney
The Rudolph Family
Laura, Mike & Sarah Reed
Mary Ann Rich
Mary Rhodes
Patricia Rhodes
Sarah Rhodes
Ann Sharpe
Lawrence & Linda Rumery
Connie Schneider
Lisha Teteak
Kathleen Turner
Sherri & Mike Tyler
Miranda Warden

Rose Marie Werkmeister
Joanne Kuhn

Executive Director Search

SLOCA's first paid staff position – that of executive director – was posted late last month on its website, www.sloca.org and that of The Rome Group, at www.theromegroup.com, which specializes in non-profit jobs.

Applications for executive director are being received until July 22. The director will manage the day-to-day activities of the office, including bookkeeping, and oversee development activities, including SLOCA's fund-raising event and grant-writing. The position will report to the president and Board of Directors. The job will average 32 hours a week.

"We are looking for someone who has experience working in another non-profit organization," says SLOCA President Beth Hudson. "It will be essential to have good computer skills, to be comfortable raising money and to be able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, from board members to volunteers to corporate executives."

Applications should be e-mailed to jobs@sloca.org.

New Board continued from page 1

In preparation for that step, the SLOCA board voted in May to move to a larger office, and the move took place in mid-June. The office is on the top floor of the building where SLOCA's first office was located: at 12015 Manchester Road in Des Peres. The new address is Suite 130. The phone number is 314-966-7562.

At the June board meeting, Beth thanked each of the outgoing board members for their service and presented each with a glass paperweight engraved with a SLOCA logo and words of appreciation. The outgoing board members are Charlie Hapke, vice president; Bruce Hudson, treasurer; Dede Dierkes, recording secretary; Pat Hazslip, corresponding secretary; Barbara Platzer, membership secretary; Joanne Henderson, historian; Merle Miller and Ina Sachar, directors. She also presented paperweight with her thanks to Grace Katzenberger, a founder and past president; Karen Higano, another past president, and Nancy Marron, former corresponding secretary and board member.

Save the Dates

Aug. 9. Ovarian Cancer Night at the Ballpark. Location: Busch Stadium.

Aug. 25. Rise & Shine for a Cure: 108 Sun Salutations. Location: World's Fair Pavilion.

Early September. Cookie Baking for Survivors. Call SLOCA office for details.

Sept. 6. National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day. Wear teal.

Sept. 14. Trivia Night. Von Gontard Conference Center, Mercy Hospital.

Sept. 16. Turn It Teal. Location: Kiener Plaza Fountain, Downtown St. Louis.

Sept. 22. FamiliesROC run/walk. Downtown St. Louis.

Ask the Doctor

Angelina Jolie and Supreme Court Spotlight Hereditary Cancer

By Dr. Dave Mutch



Hereditary cancer has been in the news in recent months because of Angelina Jolie's decision to make public her inherited BRCA mutation and her prophylactic surgery to prevent breast cancer. We have known for many years that increased cancer risk could be inherited. It wasn't until the early 1990s that we were able to identify which genes were responsible for inherited predisposition to some cancers.

The first genes to be identified were two known as BRCA1 and BRCA2. Mutation of these genes increases significantly the risk of ovarian and/or breast cancer. We can test for such mutations by looking at the sequences in these genes. When abnormal DNA sequences change the function of these genes, the person's risk of developing ovarian and/or breast cancer increases.

We now have a large body of knowledge that tells us which DNA abnormalities are important and can lead to increased risk of developing a cancer. Up to 10 percent of patients with breast or ovarian cancers have a hereditary predisposition.

Guidelines from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network tell us these patients should see a genetic counselor and get tested for the presence of these inherited gene mutations:

- ovarian cancer
- breast cancer at any age with a relative younger than 50 with breast, ovarian or pancreatic cancer
- a male family member with breast cancer
- a known mutation within the family
- a strong family history of other cancers

All women with ovarian cancer should undergo genetic counseling. If you have breast or ovarian cancer, ask your doctor if you might benefit from counseling and testing.

Myriad Genetics has been the sole laboratory to test for these genes, and the cost of testing has exceeded \$3,000. In effect, because of a patent filed on the testing of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, Myriad had a monopoly on the genes. In a long-awaited decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last month that human genes cannot be patented. (The decision went on to say, however, that work done by labs such as Myriad to create a synthetic form of DNA for cancer screening does deserve patent protection.)

The notion that no one can "own" genes seems intuitively obvious to most of us, but the legal system sometimes moves slowly. This landmark decision opens the door for more companies to get involved in testing and treatment. This should lower the cost of testing and increase the research on these genes to better identify abnormalities that raise the risk of breast and ovarian cancer. I believe that it may soon be possible to sequence the entire genome of all cancers for just a few hundred dollars.

That could help us to determine if there is a hereditary component and to identify which treatments will be effective.

I urge you to ask your doctor whether counseling and testing might be appropriate for you.

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