

DON'T MISS OUR "LIVING OUT LOUD GALA ON APRIL 8



Beverly Kinkade

Tickets are on sale for the 2017 "Living Out Loud" gala.

This annual fundraiser is being held at Meadowbrook Country Club on Saturday, April 8.

Festivities will kick off at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Come early to participate in our silent auction. Dinner and live auction begins at 7 p.m. in the main dining room. This year's mistress of ceremonies will be Laura Hettiger, co-host of "Great Day St. Louis" on KMOV-TV.

Beverly Kinkade is this year's recipient of the Volunteer Impact award. Beverly is a past president and board member of SLOCA. She is also very active behind the scenes and has been instrumental in supporting SLOCA events throughout the years.

The Jorgensen family, founders of FamiliesROC, will receive the Teal Spirit Award. FamiliesROC was started as a way to honor their mother Brenda as she battled ovarian cancer. They host a 5K walk/run each September that registers up to 2,000 people. It is the largest and most visible ovarian cancer event in our community. This year marked the 10-year anniversary of the event.

Stand up comedian Greg Warren will share his personal story of his mother, Colleen Kelly Warren's battle with ovarian cancer and entertain



Colleen Kelly Warren and Greg Warren

guests with a short comedy routine. Greg, who hails from St. Louis, has been building a strong fan base around the country with his act inspired by stories from his Midwestern upbringing. He was most recently seen on "Comedy Central Presents", "The Late Late Show" and "Last Comic Standing."

SLOCA is grateful to this year's co-chairwomen, Cindy Becker and Joan Walsh, and their committee, and to Myriad Genetic Laboratories, the presenting sponsor of the gala.

SLOCA's fundraising goal is \$200,000. The money raised will be



The Jorgensen Family

used to support ovarian cancer research, educational programs, and awareness outreach.

Tickets are \$150 each, or \$1,500 for a table of 10. To purchase your tickets, go to sloca.org or call 314-966-7562.

Sponsorships are still available. We are accepting items or services for our silent and live auction.



From left: Cindy Becker and Joan Walsh

Donate items today

Support the 2017 "Living Out Loud" auction by donating an item today!

- Items on our wish list include:
- Condos or use of vacation homes
 - Electronics
 - Sports memorabilia
 - Jewelry
 - Toys

All items are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated. For details or donation forms visit sloca.org/auction.



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Board of Directors

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Teal Talks
 Winter 2017
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Mission Statement

St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness is committed to impacting ovarian cancer survivorship by promoting awareness of early warning signs and standards of care, funding ovarian cancer research, and supporting survivors.

Donations

SLOCA is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. Donations may be made at www.sloca.org/donate or by mailing a check to 12015 Manchester Road, Suite 130, Des Peres, MO 63131. Please note if the donation is in memory or honor of someone.

Stay in Touch

We publish *Teal Talks* twice a year and send e-mail blasts intermittently. We hope you'll share your e-mail address so that we can stay in touch; go to www.sloca.org/newsletters.

To be removed from the mailing list, e-mail newsletter@sloca.org.

TEAL EVENT CELEBRATIONS



The Nail Pro team and event organizers Jessica Williams and Erin Sullivan

SLOCA's 4th annual Teal Toes event, held on **September 14** at Nail Pro in Des Peres, raised more than \$4,000 to fund ovarian cancer research. More than 100 participants enjoyed manicures and pedicures in honor of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness month in September. Raffle tickets were sold for a variety of items and delicious treats were served throughout the day.

Teal Toes organizers Erin Sullivan and Jessica Williams started the event in memory of their friend, the late Shawn Blaes.

Friends of SLOCA enjoyed themselves at Grapevine Wines in Kirkwood for the 6th annual wine tasting.

Guests sample wines and craft beers as well as a variety of appetizers. Raffle tickets were sold to win a basket full of wine and other related items. Guests shopped throughout the evening. Grapevine Wines donated 10 percent of its sales that evening to SLOCA.

"Talbots Gives Back" raised nearly \$500 to benefit SLOCA on November 13. The first-time event was held at the Talbot store at the Shoppes at Chesterfield.

Customers enjoyed sips and snacks as they browsed Talbot's merchandise that day. Talbots donated 10 percent of the day's proceeds to SLOCA. A special thanks to store manager Deborah Kinney for organizing this special event. Mark your calendar for the second annual "Talbots Gives Back" scheduled for **April 30**.



Wine Basket Winners-Brian Zielinski, Loren Hewitt, Mary Mosqueda

SAVE THE DATES



From left: SLOCA Executive Director Susan Robben, Gavin Warnhoff, Brook Foust, Will Foust, and Kale Warnhoff

SLOCA Kicks off National Ovarian Cancer Month in September with the Cardinals baseball game. Mark your calendars for Friday, **September 8**, as the St. Louis Cardinals take on the Pittsburgh Pirates. Come decked out in your favorite teal shirt and help SLOCA cheer on the Redbirds.

Take advantage of our Early Bird promotion by purchasing your tickets before June 1 to receive the \$25 Early Bird Special, which includes a hot dog and soda. Regular price tickets are \$35 after June 1.

Tickets can be purchased online at sloca.org or by calling the SLOCA office at 314-966-7562.



FamiliesROC Race

We are excited to announce that SLOCA will be more involved than ever in the biggest event of the year, FamiliesROC, Run for Ovarian Cancer. This year's event will be held Sunday, **October 8**, in downtown St. Louis. The race includes a 5K and a 1 mile walk/run. All proceeds will benefit SLOCA's ongoing programs to raise awareness, support survivors, and fund research.

Information on this year's race, along with details on how to register yourself and/or your team, will be available soon.

Donations continued

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The following donations were made to SLOCA June 26, 2016 through Feb. 1, 2017, in honor of:

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Mr. Michael Bates

Alene Becker
Ms. Cathy Orr

Happy Birthday
Ms. Melissa Lohrmann

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All survivors & Dr. David Mutch
Ms. Martha Korte

The birth of Noah
Mr. & Mrs. William Peck

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SLOCA SALUTES AMEREN'S COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY



From left: Patty Reynolds Joanne Henderson

Each year the Ameren Corporation Charitable Trust donates millions of dollars to support local educational institutions, civic and cultural organizations, youth activities, senior programs and social services. In addition, they also focus on initiatives that preserve and protect the environment, provide services to help the most vulnerable live productive lives and through the arts, enrich culturally diverse communities.

Ameren's connection with SLOCA began with Ameren's Vice President, Dennis Weisenborn, and a key leader on his

staff named Patty Reynolds. Patty's mother, Joanne Henderson, was diagnosed with stage 3C advanced ovarian cancer in 2006. Through Patty, Dennis followed Joanne's daily challenges and journey with ovarian cancer.

During treatment, Joanne and Patty became actively engaged in the mission of SLOCA and the connection to Ameren was launched. Ameren hosted the "Living Out Loud" gala in 2012 and played a key role engaging corporate leaders across our community and SLOCA's sustained growth. Throughout the years Ameren's connection to SLOCA has grown by sponsoring their gala every year and in turn SLOCA participates in Ameren's annual health and wellness fair, passing out awareness materials to participating employees.

Three years ago SLOCA reached out to Ameren to see if one of their executives would like to participate on its board. Dennis approached David Hennen, Director and Assistant General Counsel at Ameren and without hesitation he agreed to serve. Not long before, one of David's colleagues, Beth Burns, had lost her life to ovarian cancer. Today, *(Continued in next column)*



From left: David Hennen, Patty Reynolds, Dennis Weisenborn

SLOCA GRANTS ARE THE FOUNDATION TO FUTURE RESEARCH

Since 2006, St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness has funded research grants totaling \$368,000 through the Foundation for Women's Cancer. The research program focuses on enabling young investigators to pursue careers as physician-scientists. The goal of the research grants and awards program is to provide financial support to young investigators with the hope that small stimulus grants will provide encouragement and funding at a crucial point in career path choices, leading to more researchers dedicated to gynecologic cancer research.



Dr. Sanaz Memarzadeh

One of SLOCA's success stories involves a grant awarded in 2008 to Dr. Sanaz Memarzadeh for the "Identification of Ovarian Surface Epithelial Cells and their Role in Cancer Initiation." The grant helped her to establish an independent basic science laboratory (The G.O. Discovery Lab) focused on identifying adult epithelial stem cells in gynecologic organs and understanding the role these cells play in initiating gynecologic cancers.

Dr. Memarzadeh is passionate about being a woman clinician-scientist who works both at the bedside and the bench, and she hopes to improve treatments for women with gynecologic cancers. Today Dr. Memarzadeh a gynecologic oncologist and molecular biologist at UCLA and an assistant professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She and her laboratory team at the G.O. Discovery Lab are seeking to uncover the causes of ovarian and endometrial cancer. They are currently focused on discovering normal cells that may be acting as precursors for these cancers and the genetic pathways that can turn these normal cells into cancer.

We are proud to report SLOCA grant recipients 2006 through 2016 all remain in translational and/or clinical research. SLOCA hopes one day that because of the ongoing gynecologic research there will be a world without ovarian cancer.

(Continued from Column 1)

Joanne Henderson's story is a "miracle" after her cancer completely disappeared in 2013. Joanne's story provides hope to the many women battling the disease. Her sunny disposition continues to be an inspiration to others and Joanne remains a valuable asset to the SLOCA organization.

Ameren realizes charitable needs are a basic part of good corporate citizenship. By helping improve the lives and develop the talents of others through their charitable contribution and giving program, Ameren is continuing to improve the quality of the communities they serve.

SLOCA is grateful to Ameren for their philanthropic spirit and ongoing support of the work that we do.

INTRODUCING SLOCA'S BOARD PRESIDENT



Nancy Larson Vomund

In July, SLOCA nominated a new board president, Nancy Larson Vomund. Nancy worked as an oncology nurse for 20 years with Washington University Gynecological Oncology and before that medical oncology. "Few people get to do a job they love and I'm one of the lucky ones." Nancy says of her work, "Those of you that know me know how much I loved my job and even more my patients. It was a privilege to work with so many wonderful women."

As a board member of the Missouri Cancer Consortium, Nancy also volunteers with the Cancer Support Community and the Hope Light Foundation. She was

a founding member of SLOCA and has a special place in her heart for our organization. Her goals for SLOCA are to educate more women and doctors on the early signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer. She hopes there will soon be a test to find this disease early and most of all a cure. As president she understands how important funding research is and hopes SLOCA can continue to provide more funding for future grants.

Nancy realizes the accomplishments that SLOCA past presidents have achieved, and is excited to bring her energy and ideas to keep SLOCA's mission moving forward.

Welcome New Board Members

Eric Jorgensen Director at Large



Eric Jorgensen

Eric is Sr. Vice President at CitiMortgage and is one of the founders of FamiliesROC, a non-profit that organizes the ROC STAR 5K/1M Race and partners closely with SLOCA. His family created the event in 2007 to support their mother, Brenda Jorgensen, as she battled ovarian cancer. Their goal is to fund ovarian cancer research and to raise awareness of the disease. Brenda passed away seven years after her diagnosis.

Sandi Tolliver Director at Large

Sandi is a Corporate Business Development Manager at World Wide Technology, Inc., where she focuses on marketing and corporate initiatives. Sandi is a survivor of ovarian and breast cancer and has been a SLOCA volunteer since 2005. She has helped with events such as the fashion show and Working Women's Survival Show, has supported women who are recently diagnosed with *(Continued in next column)*

FAREWELL TO ONE OF OUR OWN

Teachers teach and good teachers lead. SLOCA's immediate past president, Lisa Sienkiewicz, is a good teacher – and leader.

Lisa and her husband, Steve, retired recently and are moving to Florida. And so it is that the SLOCA community must bid her farewell and offer our heartiest thanks for a decade of selfless contributions to our mission.

Lisa was diagnosed with Stage 1 endometrial and Stage 1 ovarian cancers in February 2006, and she has been in remission since then. It is almost certain that she caught the disease early thanks to an aunt who had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer years earlier and who had alerted her family members to the symptoms. Two other women in Lisa's family also were diagnosed with ovarian cancer.



Lisa Sienkiewicz

A special education music teacher, Lisa took on the role of educating medical students about the symptoms of ovarian cancer through a national program adopted by SLOCA, Survivors Teaching Students: Saving Women's Lives™. Under Lisa, the program expanded to train physician assistant, nurse-practitioner and nursing students, and she instituted a system of evaluating the program's effectiveness. She also took on the role of regional coordinator for the Midwestern states for the program's parent, Ovarian Cancer National Alliance.

"No one can know how many women's lives may have been saved by the medical professionals with whom Lisa and her speakers came into contact," says Jan Paul, a former speaker and coordinator for the program. "By familiarizing the medical profession with the symptoms of this insidious disease, she may have enabled many women to be diagnosed at an early stage, when it can be treated more successfully."

Lisa served on SLOCA's board of directors for many years, first as director of marketing and later as vice president of awareness. From 2014-2016, she served as president, ending her term last July. During those years, she was involved in helping to plan and execute nearly every event. She will be deeply missed.

(Continued from Column 1)

cancer, and has shared her story in the media during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. In addition, she volunteers with Global Leadership Forum, providing marketing and communications support. GLF is a non-profit organization that serves the underrepresented in STEM education, or science, technology, engineering and math.



Sandi Tolliver

Donations

The following donations were made to SLOCA June 26, 2016 through Feb. 1, 2017, in memory of:

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Mr. & Mrs. Coy Schultz
Mr. & Mrs. William Shaus
Ms. Helen Wilhelm

Barbara Meldrum
Ms. Ruth Bruce
Mr. Richard Meldrum

Sue Mumaw
Mr. & Mrs. John Bender

A Loving Tribute to our Beta Sigma Phi Sister

Beta Sigma Phi's tribute to Mallory Morton, who passed away in February 2014 from ovarian cancer, just keeps growing.

For three years, the sorority's Alpha Eta Iota chapter has sponsored a 5K walk/run, fish fry, and raffle in her memory, calling it "Trot to the Tropics." In 2016, the sorority sisters formalized the memorial by creating the Mallory Morton Ovarian Cancer Endowment.

Mallory grew up in Hallsville, Mo., and graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Arts in communication and a minor in psychology. Her friends say Mallory was someone who cared about every person she met. She was just 27 when she passed away.

Britney George, a close friend of Mallory's, remembers well a conversation she had with Mallory during a visit in the hospital in St. Louis after a big procedure.



"I told Mallory the sorority wanted to do something to help out, and her response was, 'Just nothing big, no auction.'" Britney recalls. "We knew we wanted to do a 5K because Mal loved to run, but we weren't sure how well just that would go over. That's when we came up with the idea of a fish fry and raffle. Unfortunately, Mal passed away prior to the event. It was then that we decided we wanted to do an annual event in her memory."

"Trot to the Tropics" started that year. The money raised initially went to Mallory's family, SLOCA, and a yearly scholarship at the local high school. The next year, the event raised more than \$9,000 for SLOCA. The 2016 event was again hugely successful; this time the funds went to the Ellis Fischel Ovarian Cancer Foundation in Columbia, Mo. SLOCA was pleased to support the event by donating bracelets, pens and bags to help raise awareness.

The sorority says it is proud to honor Mallory's memory each year. This year's "Trot to the Tropics" will be held Saturday, April 8. For more information, go to trottothetropics.weebly.com or on Facebook Trot to the Tropics 2017.

A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Elaine Rodery wanted to bring her 80th birthday in with a bang so she invited all her friends to a luncheon at Old Hickory Country Club in St. Charles. Instead of gifts, Elaine asked her friends to make a donation to SLOCA in honor of her sister-in-law, Mary Wellinghoff, who had passed away from ovarian cancer in 2013.

"My Aunt Mary was like a sister to my mom and we miss her dearly," said Becky Dunning, Elaine's daughter. "My mom's idea to ask for donations to SLOCA in lieu of birthday gifts was a perfect way to honor Mary." (Continued in next column)

JMJ EVENTS IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



From left: Brian Ogle, JR Howard, Jade Schmidt, Matt Robertson, Jason Clark and Brad Bono

The sixth annual "Washing Out with Washers" (WOWW) Tournament, held July 16, raised a record \$2,123.

This annual event was started in 2011 as a labor of love by Jason, Melissa and Jason – three young people who formed JMJ Events to host fun events that benefit St. Louis area charities.

The washers event began six years ago in Melissa's front yard with a few teams participating. Over the years, it has grown to more than 30 washer teams participating and moved to Tower Grove Park. The event also draws a slew of spectators with drinks donated by Urban Chestnut and Schlafly and food donated by Pappy's and Billy Goat Chips. The proceeds benefit SLOCA.

Congratulations to Brad Bono and Jason Clark, who returned as the reigning champions for the second year in a row; to Jade Schmidt and Matt Robertson for their 2nd-place finish; and to new comers Brian Ogle and JR Howard on finishing in 3rd place.

This year's event will be held July 8 at Tower Grove Park. Online registration will be available soon at sloca.org.

(Continued from first column)

Becky said the celebration brought together more than 120 of Elaine's women friends. "Those that attended were friends for just a few years to friends for 70 years," she said.

Elaine said she was amazed at her friends' generosity; the donations totaled \$1,800. "My daughter, Becky Dunning, was invaluable in helping this event occur," she said. "It surprised me that many of my guests said that a very close family member of theirs had passed away after suffering from ovarian cancer, and I had not known it, and they were especially glad that we picked this charity."



From left: Elaine Rodery, Becky Dunning

SLOCA thanks Elaine and her guests for their generosity and congratulates Elaine on her milestone birthday.