



TEALTALK

SUMMER/FALL 2019



Susan Robben and Rene Knott



from left Stacey Castiglioni, Vicky Woolfolk and Martha Kemper

GLITZ, GLAM AND GIVING!

SLOCA's biggest night out, the annual Living Out Loud Gala & Auction, took place on Saturday April 6th in the Grand Lobby of the William D. Purser Center on the campus of Logan University in Chesterfield. It was an evening of glitz, glam and most importantly, giving!

The merriment began with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction followed by an exquisite sit-down dinner, live auction, awards ceremony and compelling words from survivor, **Sandi Essner**.

In Sandi's words, "The evening was uplifting, beautiful and extremely well organized. As I stood before the crowd, I wished all the ovarian cancer patients could see how many people are fighting to advance the cause. It gave me strength and readied me for my next battle against the disease."

Sandi is presently in her second remission. She spends her time supporting other ovarian cancer patients through Imerman Angels, writing on her CaringBridge blog, raising money for cancer research, volunteering at Siteman Cancer Center to help improve the prognosis of ovarian cancer, exercising and creating family memories.

Rene Knott, News Anchor on KSDK News was once again an energetic emcee and auctioneer and kept the crowd entertained!

The St. Louis Men's Group Against Cancer (STLMGAC) received this year's Teal Spirit Award. STLMGAC's generous donations to SLOCA have helped keep our awareness programs alive for many years!

Beth and Bruce Hudson were honored with the Volunteer Impact Award marking their countless hours of volunteer work for SLOCA. This dynamic duo has been serving SLOCA since 2010.

There were 360 patrons and the evening raised \$250,595 – an increase from last year, surpassing our goals! This year's Fund-A-Need generated an all-time record high of \$65,450 due, in large part, to survivor, Sandi Essner's moving speech.

There were more than 100 silent auction packages including jewelry, sports memorabilia and short getaway packages. The live auction included Logan the Labrador who went for nearly \$3,000! Other popular items were the Hawk's Cay Resort Getaway, which went for \$5,500 and the California trip that went for \$4,500.

Continued on next page.



from left Michael and Melissa Jorgensen, Dr. David and Lynn Mutch and Jody and Eric Jorgensen

“WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH GO SHOPPING”

SLOCA supporters put the famous phrase, “When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Go Shopping” to the test at a fundraiser on May 8th hosted by the Vault Luxury Resale, one of the country’s finest resale boutiques!

These strong and enduring fighters of ovarian cancer became fully engaged in an evening of luxury shopping, wine, cheese and camaraderie, all to help raise funds for SLOCA’s mission – impacting ovarian cancer survivorship by promoting awareness of early warning signs and standards of care, funding ovarian cancer research and supporting survivors.

Many thanks to the Vault Luxury Resale and to the energetic and helpful Vault staff. Ten percent of all sales were donated to SLOCA! To date, the Vault has donated more than \$225,000.00 back to the St. Louis community.

The Vault is located at 2325 South Brentwood Blvd, Brentwood MO. It is known for its abundance of Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Gucci, Prada and other designer items.



The Vault Staff

One hundred percent of the evening’s proceeds support SLOCA’s mission of impacting ovarian cancer survivorship by raising awareness, supporting survivors and funding research.

Many thanks to our Sponsors!

Teal- Myriad

Gold- Emerson, Ameren, Maritz, TESARO, Clovis Oncology, Graybar, World Wide Technology and Nidec Motor Company

Silver- Edward Jones, Mercy, Siteman

Bronze- Lewis Rice, Merck, Stifel, Spellman Brady & Co., J.W. Terrill, St. Luke’s Hospital, SLUCare, Missouri Foundation for Health, Summit Marketing and Enterprise Holdings

A big thank you goes to this year’s planning committee and co-chairs, Cindy Becker and Lisa Cannon Bearden. Both Cindy and Lisa lost their mothers to ovarian cancer. They are active volunteers with SLOCA, donating their time to raising money and educating the community about ovarian cancer.

Don’t miss out! Please mark your calendars for next year’s Gala on [April 18, 2020!](#)



DR. S. (SYL) G. WALTERS MAIN HALL

North Hall

The J. E. and L. B. Walters Foundation, Inc.

South Hall

SLOCA RECEIVES \$3,000 FROM THE ST. LOUIS SERVICE BUREAU!

What do dance classes, fine stationary and community service have in common? They're all part of a local charitable organization that's been serving generations of St. Louisans since the 1930's, the St. Louis Service Bureau.

The Service Bureau has a long tradition of donating profits through grants via three branches: dance, a shop and foundation. The Bureau sponsored dance program is for children in 6th through 12th grades, and is chaperoned by members of the Bureau's board. The beautiful shop, located on Clayton Road in Ladue, sells fine stationary and unique gifts. The staff are experts in proper etiquette for stationary and invitations. Profits from the dances and the shop are donated to local charities through the Foundation.

Marilyn Crowley, Service Bureau Advisory Board Member, sponsored SLOCA on behalf of her good friend and ovarian cancer survivor, Cary Renz. The Bureau presented SLOCA with a \$3,000 grant to produce and distribute SLOCA's Sister Boxes. The Sister Boxes chemo care packages are delivered to approximately 200 newly diagnosed ovarian cancer patients via hospitals. The boxes are packed with comfort items helpful during treatment and follow-up care, and link them to referral and support services available through SLOCA. The women are given tools to deal with treatment options, side effects and the trauma and stress of having cancer.

Thank you St. Louis Service Bureau!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Shari Weelborg is an eight-year ovarian cancer survivor. She began volunteering for SLOCA in 2013 and has had many roles as a volunteer – starting with being a member of the Marketing Committee and then being the Director of the Speakers Bureau. She currently is both the St. Louis Area Facilitator for the [Survivors Teaching Students](#) program and the Regional Coordinator of [Survivors Teaching Students](#) for the Midwest.

Survivors Teaching Students: Saving Women's Lives™ is a medical education program engaging medical students, nurse practitioners, physician assistant students and resident doctors. Ovarian cancer survivors talk about their experiences from the patient's point of view, describing their symptoms, how they were diagnosed and given the news of their diagnosis and provide a synopsis of their treatment and aftercare. SLOCA's partnership with Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance's educational program Survivors Teaching Students: Saving Women's Lives™ is presented to 250 medical professionals at Washington University, St. Louis University and the University of Missouri – St. Louis, as well as resident doctors in St. Louis area hospitals.

Shari explained, "I am honored to be part of such a great organization as SLOCA. I have met some amazing women. It's a great support system and way to connect with other survivors. Most importantly, I am privileged to help bring awareness of the disease and the early signs and symptoms and hopefully help save women's lives."

SLOCA is always looking for survivors who would like to tell their stories and be part of [Survivors Teaching Students](#). Please call SLOCA at 314-966-7562 if you would like to help.

SEE YOU AT THE FINISH LINE!



Sunday, October 13th join more than 1,500 runners and walkers out in full force as they fill the streets of downtown St. Louis! Together we can show our support for SLOCA's mission – raising awareness of ovarian cancer, supporting survivors and funding research!

The 13th annual *Families Run for Ovarian Cancer ROC Star 5k and One-Mile Run/Walk* is the largest gathering in our community dedicated to supporting women battling ovarian cancer, their families and loved ones and the medical community. Over the years, more than \$400,000 has been raised to fund crucial ovarian cancer research and support SLOCA's ongoing awareness programs locally. Help us break this year's goals of \$100,000 raised and 2,000 participants! All proceeds donated fund ovarian cancer research and support SLOCA's ongoing awareness programs.

The event is family-friendly and will include entertainment by the School of Rock House Band, over 30 gift baskets for raffle, the Bubble Bus, photo booth, several food trucks, appearances by Fredbird and Louie and much more! You won't want to miss the "Survivor Ceremony" where

survivors' names are announced and each survivor receives a long stem rose.

Join us at [Soldiers' Memorial, Downtown St. Louis](#)
1315 Chestnut Street,
St. Louis, MO 63103
Registration now open!

Sign up today to participate in the 2019 Families Run for Ovarian Cancer ROC Star 5k and One-Mile Run/Walk – join as an individual or create a team. Event registration includes a T-shirt for all participants as well as snacks and beverages.

Register at: sloca.org or call the SLOCA office at (314)-966-7562. Participants can register for a timed 5k run/walk, a 1-mile fun run/walk or even "ROC It from Home" if they cannot make the event.



1-Mile Registration: \$30 (Increases to \$35 August 1, 2019)

5K Registration: \$35 (Increases to \$40 August 1, 2019)

Race Day Schedule:

7:00 am – Registration

8:30 am – Survivor Ceremony

8:40 am – National Anthem

8:45 am – Race Start

9:30 am – Awards Ceremony

10:00 am – Raffle Drawing

It takes many volunteers to put on the Race! Volunteer needs include: race registration, race setup, course crew, water stop management, parking attendants, help at the finish line, entertainment and race clean up. To volunteer for this event visit our website at sloca.org/froc or call the SLOCA office.

Sponsorships and in-kind donations are still needed. For more information, please contact Susan Robben, Executive Director at the SLOCA office at (314) 966-7562 to discuss these opportunities:

Presenting sponsor \$7,500

Teal Sponsor \$5,000

Gold Sponsor \$2,500

Silver Sponsor \$1,000

Bronze Sponsor \$500

Please join us for the 13th annual Families Run for Ovarian Cancer ROC Star 5k and 1-Mile Run/Walk presented by TESARO!

Hope to see you at the Finish Line!

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT: KARI HACKER, MD, PHD

Through the 2018-2019 [Foundation for Women's Cancer \(FWC\)](#) Research Grants and Awards program, Kari Hacker, MD, PhD, and Clinical Assistant Professor at New York University (NYU) Langone Health, received a \$50,000 research grant funded by [St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness \(SLOCA\)](#).

In this Q&A, Dr. Hacker will share insight into her ongoing gynecologic (GYN) cancer research, how the FWC grant and generous funders impact her work, hopes for the future and more.

How would you describe your current research?

I am studying how a patient's immune system interacts with her ovarian cancer and how chemotherapy affects this interaction, so that we can develop more effective immunotherapy for ovarian cancer.

How does receiving a grant from the FWC impact your work?

As a very junior surgeon-scientist who is interested in developing a translational research program—applying knowledge learned in the lab through the study of models of cancer to developing tools that address medical needs and ultimately design clinical trials based on this information—this grant will support my research while I generate information that will serve as the basis for a cancer development award.

What kind of treatment progress or discoveries do you envision happening in GYN cancer research?

I think we will continue to prolong the lives of ovarian cancer patients with new treatments that we are currently testing in clinical trials. My hope is that we will discover how to better harness a patient's immune system in the fight against ovarian cancer.

What made you decide to go into the medical field and the GYN oncology subspecialty?

I was drawn to the diversity of the GYN oncology specialty. We are true surgeons, but also administer chemotherapy to our patients and follow them in surveillance once they have achieved remission. Through this continuity, we are able to guide them through their entire cancer treatment, from diagnosis to surgery and chemotherapy.

Lastly, could you share a brief personal bio to help readers get to know you?

I grew up the oldest daughter—of five—of a navy doctor and a nurse, in Wilmington, DE. I attended Dartmouth College for my undergraduate education and received a BA in biochemistry/ molecular biology and sociology.

During college, I worked in a plant biology research lab and got the scientific research bug. While I loved research, I felt as if my future research would be more relevant to human health if I better understood the gaps in knowledge about specific human diseases. Following undergrad, I enrolled in the Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill and graduated with my MD and PhD in 2011.



During my medical school clerkships, I was drawn to a career in women's health. I particularly enjoyed the diversity of patient care and meaningful patient relationships I witnessed in obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN). I completed my residency in OB/GYN at UNC Hospitals and then my fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the University of Michigan. I am now a first-year faculty member at [NYU Langone Health](#).

As a new resident of New York City, I enjoy exploring the diverse neighborhoods, particularly eating at all of the delicious restaurants and browsing the amazing art in the city's many museums. I enjoy spending time with my husband and 12-year-old Golden Retriever. I am an avid knitter and love to travel—internationally and nationally.

The FWC presents career development awards to applicants who wish to further develop their careers in gynecologic cancer biomedical, behavioral or clinical research. Learn more about the [FWC Research Grants and Awards](#) program at www.foundationforwomenscancer.org.

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LET'S GET THE WORD OUT!

Join SLOCA in September for National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month is an opportunity for organizations and people to spread awareness and education about ovarian cancer. Events will include cookie baking, pedicures and baseball – all culminating in our annual 5k and 1-mile walk/run in October!

The American Cancer Society estimates one in 78 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in their lifetime. In the United States alone, there will be over 22,000 new cases of ovarian cancer diagnosed this year and over 14,000 women will die from the disease. According to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, there are almost 200 new diagnoses and 100 deaths from ovarian cancer in the St. Louis metropolitan area annually.

September 3rd Cookie Baking for Survivors

Join us September 3rd at the Dierberg's Cooking School kitchen in Des Peres to bake Teal Ribbon cookies. These scrumptious treats will be given to St. Louis ovarian cancer patients and their caregivers at local gynecologic oncologists' offices. Please call the SLOCA office to sign up!



September 13th SLOCA Night at Busch Stadium

Join us September 13th at 7:15pm when the Cards take on the Brewers at Busch Stadium. Tickets are only \$35 per person (face value \$63) and includes a FREE jumbo hot dog and soda. Seats are located in the lower right field box, and ovarian cancer survivors are free. Tickets will go fast, so order yours online today at sloca.org or call the SLOCA office. Let's turn the ballpark teal!

September 17th Teal Toes

Join us September 17th at Nail Pro in Des Peres for a pedicure (teal color not required), tasty treats, beverages, silent auction and raffle. A portion of the day's proceeds benefits SLOCA's awareness programs. Reserve your pedicure appointment online at SLOCA.org/tealtoes or call (314) 966-7562.



October 13th Families ROC

Join us October 13th for the 13th annual Families Run for Ovarian Cancer ROC Star 5k and 1-Mile Run/Walk held at Soldiers' Memorial in downtown St. Louis. The streets will be filled with over 1,500 participants! This is the largest gathering devoted to ovarian cancer awareness in our community. Help us break this year's goals of \$100,000 raised and 2,000 participants!

Event registration includes a T-shirt for all participants, as well as snacks and beverages. The event is family-friendly and includes entertainment by the School of Rock House Band, the Bubble Bus, the photo booth, appearances by Fredbird and Louie and much more! All funds raised support crucial ovarian cancer research and ongoing awareness programs locally.

Thank you in advance to everyone who participates, volunteers, donates or contributes to the **2019 National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month** events. Your help makes a difference!



FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER



INSPIRE OTHERS TO FUNDRAISE ON YOUR BEHALF!

Reach friends who care with a Facebook fundraiser. Holding a Facebook fundraiser is a great way to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms among your network. You can set up a dedicated fundraising page to tell others about SLOCA's mission and rally around a fundraising goal. Friends can donate with just a few clicks without even leaving Facebook – where they already visit every day.



SLOCA receives 100% of the donations made via Facebook to support our mission. To date in 2019, we have collected \$8,807 through 245 donors! In 2018, our first year accepting Facebook donations, we received \$13,793 through 481 donors. Due to privacy, individual donor data is not shared with us, so we will not solicit those who donate via their Facebook page.

Your birthday is the perfect time for a fundraiser. Two weeks before your birthday, Facebook will show a prompt in your news feed that gives you the option to create a fundraiser for one of 750,000 available nonprofit organizations – and we hope you'll choose SLOCA! This Facebook feature allows you to set a goal amount and create a custom message. On your birthday, your friends will receive a notification inviting them to donate to SLOCA.

We'll help you get started and give you tips to reach your goal. Share with friends. Connect friends to your cause and gain supporters across Facebook.

Please contact SLOCA at 314-966-7562 or social@sloca.org.



from left Andrew Knapp, Sandy Sullivan and Craig Knapp



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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.

Send 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 Talk 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.

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