



SLOCA

St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness

# TEALTALK

WINTER/SPRING 2019

## DONT MISS OUT! 2019 LIVING OUT LOUD GALA & AUCTION-APRIL 6

SLOCA's annual Living Out Loud Gala & Auction will take place on Saturday April 6th, in the Grand Lobby of the William D. Purser Center on the campus of Logan University, at 1815 Schoettler Road in Chesterfield.

It all starts at 5:30 pm with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. The sit-down dinner is served at 7:00 pm, followed by the live auction and entertainment. Some of this year's auction items include throw out the first pitch at a Cardinal game and an adorable puppy just to name a few. Rene Knott, News Anchor on KSDK News will once again be the emcee and auctioneer!

### The St. Louis Men's Group Against Cancer (STLMGAC)

will receive this year's Teal Spirit Award. STLMGAC is a nonprofit, charitable organization whose cause is raising funds for cancer research, prevention and care of cancer patients and their families. The funds are donated

to various organizations and earmarked for specific programs in the St. Louis community. STLMGAC's generous donations to SLOCA have helped keep our awareness programs alive for many years!

**Beth and Bruce Hudson** will be honored with the Volunteer Impact Award. This dynamic duo has been serving SLOCA since 2010.

Beth is a past President and passionately spreads the word every time the opportunity arises. She has rallied countless volunteers to join SLOCA, started the annual Cookie Baking at Dierbergs and the Ambassador program which connects SLOCA with area Gynecologic Oncology offices. She has volunteered with Survivors Teaching Students, Sister Box chemo care package assembly, FamiliesROC and health fairs.

Bruce does the day-to-day bookkeeping work and has done everything from moving boxes, working the gala, working the SLOCA booth at events, setting up and tearing down at Working Women's Survivor Show and being interviewed for radio spots.

*(Story continues on the next page)*



Rene Knott



from left Dorothy Cambron,  
Mary Cambron and Amy Cambron



Randallynn Vassel



Butler Pantry staff  
serving Tealinis



from left Dr. David Mutch, Susan Robben,  
Joanne Henderson and Nancy Larson Vomund



**Sandi Essner**, this year's survivor speaker, will tell her compelling story. Sandi Essner is a Cape Girardeau, Missouri native. She is married and has three children. She was diagnosed with Stage 4 ovarian cancer and was identified as carrying the BRAC 1 gene mutation in July of 2016. She has undergone three abdominal surgeries, a prophylactic double mastectomy and two rounds of chemotherapy. She is presently in her second remission. Her time now is filled with creating memories with her family, exercising, supporting other ovarian cancer patients through Imerman Angels, writing on her *caringbridge* blog, raising money for cancer research and agreeing to sign up for anything at Siteman Cancer Center that will advance the prognosis of ovarian cancer.

A big thank you 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.

We are still accepting items and services for both the silent and live auctions, such as: vacation homes/condos, unique experiences, electronics, event tickets, jewelry, sports memorabilia, restaurant or spa gift certificates, etc. All items are tax deductible and greatly appreciated. For details visit [www.sloca.org/auction](http://www.sloca.org/auction).

Sponsorships are also available: Teal Sponsor \$10,000, Gold Sponsor \$5,000, Silver Sponsor \$3,000, Bronze Sponsor \$1,500. Please contact Susan Robben, Executive Director at 314-966-7562 for sponsorship benefits and details or visit [www.sloca.org/gala](http://www.sloca.org/gala).

Tickets are \$150 each or \$1,500 for a table of ten. You can reserve your tickets online at [www.sloca.org/gala](http://www.sloca.org/gala) or call the SLOCA office at 314-966-7562.

You can make it possible to positively impact ovarian cancer survivorship in St. Louis!

Last year's event netted more than \$175,000. Let's top that this year so we can continue to spread our message and save more lives!

## BEING ACCURATE NEVER FELT SO GOOD!

Each weeknight at 10 pm, Chief Meteorologist, Steve Templeton guarantees tomorrow's high temperature. The following weeknight at 6 pm, he announces the results. When Steve's forecast is within 4 degrees of the actual high, KMOV awards \$50 to their 4 Degree charity of the month. Each award is also matched by their partner, Cardinals Care. SLOCA was the beneficiary for the month of August and awarded a total of \$2,500! A Big Shout Out to KMOV-TV and Cardinals Care.



from left Susan Robben, Steve Templeton and  
Jannet Dieckgraefe



# "TEAL ON WHEELS"

HERE'S WHAT'S  
BEEN HAPPENING!



Last year we introduced you to "Teal on Wheels," a Pedal the Cause Cycling Team that rides to help the fight against gynecological cancers. We caught up with them again this year for an update.

Here is what team co-captain, Randalynn Vasel had to say, "Having thousands of people together, riding for a united cause (a world without cancer) is an amazing thing – something you can't put into words unless you're actually there. For survivors, it's a chance to get out there and push ourselves with friends and family by our sides, along with other cancer survivors. For me, I was able to check one more difficult thing off the list and say 'Take that, I will not let this keep me down.'"

Dr. Andrea R. Hagemann, team co-captain, said, "This year, through Pedal the Cause, it really hit home for me how powerful a community united under a common cause can be. The Pedal the Cause Community was bigger than ever, and the whole weekend was filled with vibrant energy and excitement. Cancer doesn't have a chance against this group.

Coming together in a community setting, where our white coats and scrubs are gone, the patient gowns are gone, the name badges that define our role in the hospital are left at home... that's powerful.

This year, thanks to SLOCA and TESARO, we got to exchange those usual outfits for team jerseys where you couldn't for one second tell the difference between a doctor and a patient. Our jerseys were so fun – we celebrated our team name, "Teal on Wheels" with mostly the teal color, and a little flare of DNA with polka dots, because they're fun and represented the proteins made from DNA – teal for ovarian, purple for cervical and peach for uterine cancer.

I think the most profound thing about the weekend was pretty simple – we're all just people, human beings, trying to live our lives to the max. We could do it on our own, but when you work together to go the extra mile (or, 100 miles like Randalynn did!) that's when the extraordinary happens. That's when you feel like cancer does NOT have a chance. And even in the heartbreaking times when women's bodies succumb to the disease, you know their spirits never will. That's when your TEAM raises over \$60,000, surpasses all goals and has a ton of fun doing it. I hope you will consider joining us next year!"

Pedal the Cause raised \$4.5mm in 2018, all for cancer research at Siteman Cancer Center. Teal on Wheels raised \$62,990, a record year for the team, surpassing their push goal!



# SEPTEMBER 2018 WRAP UP!

## SLOCA'S FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS WENT ALL OUT THIS PAST SEPTEMBER FOR NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH!

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 diagnosis and 100 deaths from ovarian cancer in the St. Louis metropolitan area annually.

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month is an opportunity for organizations and people to spread awareness and education about ovarian cancer. Survivors, patients, medical staff, advocates, SLOCA's volunteers and friends were out in force – cookie baking, pedicures, baseball, a workshop – all culminating in a 5k and 1-mile walk/run!

### Cookie Baking for Survivors

SLOCA volunteers gathered at the Dierbergs Cooking School kitchen in Des Peres to bake Teal Ribbon cookies. Dozens of these scrumptious treats were given to St. Louis ovarian cancer patients and their caregivers at local gynecologic oncologists' offices.



from left Anne Allred and Susan Robben

SLOCA fans filled the seats – tickets included a jumbo hot dog and soda. Ovarian cancer survivors attended for free!



from left Dr. Becky Kaufman Lynn, Donna Dombrowski and Susan Robben

### Ovarian Cancer: Survive and Shine Course

SLOCA partnered with Cancer Support Community and Sheresheret Supports St. Louis at the Jewish Community Center in Creve Coeur for a day of inspiration, education, hope and even some comedy. St. Louis area oncologists and genetic, nutrition and mental health experts led a variety of educational sessions geared specifically to ovarian cancer survivors and their caregivers.

Jonna Tamases, cancer survivor, was the keynote speaker, performing her award winning solo performance called, "Jonna's Body, Please Hold," an emotionally riveting, yet comical look at Jonna's own cancer journey. This event was FREE for ovarian cancer

### Teal Toes

Pampering for a good cause! Pedicures, tasty treats, beverages, silent auction and raffle took place at Nail Pro in Des Peres, raising \$6,500 to benefit ovarian cancer research.

### SLOCA Night at Busch Stadium

SLOCA friends threw out the first pitch at Busch Stadium when the Cards took on the Dodgers.



The Foster Family and Jannet Dieckgraefe





survivors and caregivers with complimentary breakfast and lunch.

### FamiliesROC

The 12th annual Families Run for Ovarian Cancer ROC Star 5k and 1-Mile Run/Walk, presented by TESARO, was held at Soldiers' Memorial in downtown St. Louis. The streets were filled with teal with over 1,600 registered participants – the most runners we've ever had! More than \$115,000 was raised to fund crucial ovarian cancer research and to support ongoing awareness programs locally.

This is the largest gathering devoted to ovarian cancer awareness in our community. Event registration included a T-shirt for all participants, as well as snacks and beverages. The event is family-friendly and included entertainment by the School of Rock House Band, the Bubble Bus, the Photo Bus Photo Booth, appearances by Fredbird and Louie and much more!

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, donated or contributed to the event. You help us make a difference. Mark your calendar for October 13, 2019 for the 13th annual Families Run for Ovarian Cancer!





# SLOCA RECEIVES \$2,000 FROM THE ZONTA CLUB!

The Zonta Club of St. Louis presented SLOCA with a \$2,000 donation! Founded in 1925, Zonta Club St. Louis is part of Zonta International, a service organization of professionals dedicated to improving the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women globally and locally.

Laura Burton, past President and past Community Grant Chair, said, "We chose to donate to SLOCA because we believe in the SLOCA mission and to promote Zonta in our community through our many service projects."

Zonta Club International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.

Thank you, Zonta Club!

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## WORLD OVARIAN CANCER DAY GIVEBACK WITH THE VAULT LUXURY RESALE

In recognition of World Ovarian Cancer Day Wednesday May 8, 6pm to 8pm, The Vault Luxury Resale shop will be hosting a "Give Back" event with a percentage of sales going to SLOCA. The Vault is one of the country's finest upscale resale boutiques and is located at 2325 S Brentwood. Join us for this unique shopping party. Food and beverages will be included.



# GIVINGTUESDAY

Thanks to your generous support, we broke our GivingTuesday record – raising more than \$6,500 to increase awareness, fund research and support survivors in our community.

GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the US) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

Each year SLOCA is a part of this call to action. We celebrate a day dedicated to giving – when charities, families, businesses, retailers and more come together for Giving Tuesday. Last year, more than 10,000 organizations in 46 countries came together to celebrate GivingTuesday.

SLOCA invites you to join the movement. Mark your calendar for December 3, 2019.

In 2018, SLOCA gifts were matched in memory of Debbie Bozsa, who lost her battle in 2012. Thank you for your support!

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## MAKE AN IMPACT BY DONATING STOCK TO SLOCA!

Increase your [gift](#) to [charity](#)—and your tax deduction—with one simple strategy. Make a bigger impact by donating long-term appreciated [securities](#), including [stocks](#), bonds and mutual funds, directly to [SLOCA](#). For more information, call the SLOCA office at 314-966-7562. One easy phone call can make a BIG difference!

# SITEMAN CANCER CENTER AWARDED \$40,000 GRANT FOR OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH

SLOCA awarded Siteman Cancer Center a \$40,000 grant for ovarian cancer research. The grant was made possible through the joint efforts of SLOCA'S 2018 Families Run for Ovarian Cancer and "Team Jane." "Team Jane" comes together every year to take part in the Families Run for Ovarian Cancer as a way of honoring Jane Lottes who lost her battle with ovarian cancer on April 13, 2009. The team consists of Jane's family including husband, Lee Lottes and her three children, Kristy Hettenhausen, Greg Lottes and Matt Lottes, as well as many more family members, classmates and

amazing friends. The team is approximately 100 members strong each year. Way to go "Team Jane!"

Katherine Fuh, MD, PhD Gynecologic Oncology, Surgeon and Assistant Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Washington University School of Medicine is on the Siteman research team for ovarian cancer. Dr. Fuh had this to say, "We see women with ovarian cancer and treat them with the therapies that are available. We need more types of treatments and we will discover them through the research and work we are doing in the lab. It is wonderful that we

are all working together to improve these women's lives and ensure they can experience the next level of life they desire – time with their families and loved ones. The grant money will be used to develop new therapies and new treatment, such as immunotherapy, targeting cancer that has metastasized and chemo-resistant cancers."



from left Dr. Matthew Powell,  
Jannet Dieckgraefe, Family of Team Jane,  
Susan Robben and Dr. David Mutch





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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](http://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](http://www.sloca.org/newsletters).

To be removed from the mailing list, e-mail [newsletter@sloca.org](mailto:newsletter@sloca.org).

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