Senator Phillips Secures $50,000 for The Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition

The Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition is honored and grateful for the generous New York State funding secured for us by Senator Elaine Phillips. This funding will be a boost for our many public outreach programs including presentations on the environmental connection to breast cancer and prevention, our Students & Scientists Research Program and our Lend a Helping Hand Program which assists newly diagnosed women. The funding being provided to GNBCC is part of a resolution passed by the New York State Senate to support a range of community-based investments in cancer prevention and treatment, maternal health initiatives, help for new mothers with substance abuse problems, and other programs to improve mental, emotional, and physical well-being.

(Left to right) Lawrence Lin (Student Alumni Intern), Colette Thaw (Secretary), Barbara Masry (Honorary President & Founder of GNBCC), Senator Elaine Phillips, Laura Weinberg, President/GNBCC, Randa Maher (GNBCC V.P./Communications), Karen Glaser (Lend a Helping Hand Committee Member) GNBCC Board Members not pictured: Lisa Levine, Vice President; Maria Rudman, Treasurer; Donna Leftkowitz, Lend a Helping Hand Program; Mindy Gordon, Gloria Gersman, Diana Stein, Pamela Fogel)
A community coming together to support women diagnosed with breast cancer.

We welcome Donna Leftkowitz of Great Neck as our new Lend a Helping Hand Program Director and Board Member. Under Donna’s guidance, with committee members Karen Glaser and Pamela Fogel, GNBCC continues to assist newly diagnosed women by providing funding for services after surgery and during treatment for house cleaning, agency home care assistance, transportation to/from medical appointments, child care, groceries, post mastectomy bras, and post chemo wigs. We have enhanced the LAHH Program by collaborating with several other Breast Cancer Coalitions through a Long Island-wide “Round Robin” program. When individual coalitions meet their maximum funding capacity for a client, we can reach out to other coalitions for funding assistance and they can reach out to GNBCC. We also partner with the American Cancer Society (ACS) who has referred several local LAHH clients to our coalition. If you know anyone in need of this assistance, please email us at: info@greatneckbcc.org.
Meeting with Assemblyman D’Urso

GNBCC met with Assemblyman Anthony D’Urso and discussed environmental links to breast cancer, and bills supporting disclosure or bans on toxins.

New York State Health Research Science Board

Randa Maher, GNBCC Vice President of Communications, was recently reappointed by Governor Cuomo to the New York State Health Research Science Board (HRSB) through 2020. Ms. Maher had been recommended to the board by former Senator Jack Martins. As a board member Ms. Maher will review and vote on research applications for awards from the Breast Cancer Research and Education Fund.

Randa Maher
GNBCC’s 2018 five high school summer interns will be assisting research in environmental links to breast cancer and breast cancer prevention at the following research facilities/laboratories:

Amanda Shirazi, Great Neck North High School, Laura Vandenberg, Ph.D Laboratory at UMASS/Amherst

Bell Lim, Great Neck North High School, Laura Vandenberg Ph.D Laboratory at UMASS/Amherst

Raymond Lin, Great Neck North High School, Richard Gross Ph.D Laboratory at RPI

Ethan Abizadeh, North Shore Hebrew Academy High School, Richard Gross Ph.D Laboratory at RPI

Sayo Ogunleye, Sewanhaka High School, Mary Beth Terry, Ph.D Research Center at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

2018 GNBCC Students & Scientists Breast Cancer Risk/Environment Research Program interns: Belle Lim, Amanda Shirazi, Ethan Abizadeh, Raymond Lin are flanked by alumni students Isabelle Sarraf and Lawrence Lin.

Caption: (left to right) Lisa Levine (GNBCC), Olu Ogunleye, Sayo Ogunleye, Laura Weinberg (GNBCC)
Presentations on Environmental Exposures and Breast Cancer

Laura Weinberg/GNBCC presented in Jen DiPalo and Ellen Goltzer’s health classes at Great Neck South Middle School. The students learned about identifying toxins in cosmetics linked with breast cancer by reading labels. She reviewed issues related to fragrances, and the following chemicals: parabens, triclosan, oxybenzone, octinoxate, phthalates, formaldehyde, and others. Students brought in cosmetics that they currently use, read the labels, and asked questions about listed ingredients.

Environmental Impact & Breast Cancer Prevention: Introducing a Bilingual Program

For years, the Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition (GNBCC) and Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition (HBCAC) have made strides on Long Island and beyond to educate the public on toxic environmental exposures and breast cancer prevention. The two groups always seek out diverse audiences, and just a few years ago ran a train the trainer workshop in Harlem alongside the Witness Project. Now, in partnership with Green Inside and Out, the three groups will present to Long Island’s Hispanic communities with a new bilingual program. This would not be possible without the expertise and connection with Angelica Medina of the Adelphi Program. A large audience congregated at a recent Adelphi Breast Cancer Support Program forum where GNBCC, HBCAC and Laura Vandenbeng, PhD of UMASS/Amherst presented and inspired the Adelphi Program to introduce and collaborate on a bilingual breast cancer and environmental connection program. Look out for new developments this fall!
Environmental Impact & Breast Cancer Risk
Presentations at the NYS Adelphi Breast Cancer Support Program

(Left to right) Laura Vandenberg, PhD, University of Massachusetts/Amherst, Laura Weinberg, President of GNBCC, Karen Miller, President of Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition (HBCAC) Dr. Vandenberg presented on the impact of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and the mammary gland. EDCs are found in a myriad of consumer products such as: pesticides, certain plastics, cosmetics, cleaning products, and home furnishings. Laura Weinberg of GNBCC presented on how to avoid toxins in various consumer products. Karen Miller of HBCAC presented on the history of environmental health advocacy for breast cancer.

Laura Weinberg presents to NYS Adelphi University Breast Cancer Support Program Volunteers on the Environmental/Breast Cancer Connection and how to avoid toxins in consumer products. The coordinator of this group is Alida Rubenstein, LMSW.

(Left to right) Alida Rubenstein (Adelphi), Laura Weinberg, (GNBCC), Hillary Rutter (Executive Director of Adelphi Program)
Laura Weinberg, president of GNBCC, presented on environmental exposures and breast cancer risk to women at the Nancy Marx Cancer Wellness Center at the Sid Jacobson JCC in Roslyn. Environmental exposures discussed were: pesticides, plastic ware, cosmetic ingredients, cleaning products, air fresheners, cookware, flame retardants and PAHS. Safer, healthier choices were also recommended.
**Summer Tips on Reducing Exposure to Toxins**

**Sunscreen:** Avoid products with the chemicals Oxybenzone and Octinoxate which imitate estrogen. Instead, choose products with Zinc Oxide or Titanium Dioxide (non nano-particles).

**Charbroiled Foods:** Contain Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) which are carcinogenic. The Long Island Breast Cancer Study Project found a 50% greater risk of breast cancer in women with the highest level of PAHs.

**To Avoid Toxic Pesticides:** For lawn care, keep the mowing height at 3” in order to shade weed seeds, and leave grass clippings on the lawn. Use bio-based products to eliminate weeds which are available at garden stores. Spray vinegar on weeds that grow through cracks in cement or pavement to eliminate them. For indoor crawling insects apply boric acid gel or diatomaceous earth in cracks and crevices.

In recent years, a U.S. Geological Survey found various pharmaceuticals, including hormones such as estrogen, in bodies of water across the country. To help minimize water contamination the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District, headed up by Commissioner Patty Katz, sponsored a ‘Shed the Meds’ Program for Town of North Hempstead residents on June 3rd. Over 200 pounds of pharmaceuticals were collected at this event! GNBCC was a co-sponsor of the program along with Reach Out America, the Nassau County Police Department and Northwell Health.

(Left to right) Commissioner Patty Katz of the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District, Laura Weinberg of GNBCC, Sandie Salat of Reach Out America
Visit to Albany

As a steering committee member of the JustGreen Partnership, headed by Kathy Curtis, Cecil Corbin-Mark, and Bobbi Wilding, Laura Weinberg of GNBCC attended a meeting in Albany regarding several bills that would ban toxins linked with breast cancer found in children's products such as various "bisphenols" or "flame retardant" chemicals. Three other bills on the agenda call for public disclosure of ingredients found in children's products, feminine care products and personal care products. All three of these product categories may contain toxic chemicals associated with breast cancer.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) leaders announce that a New York State website which will list all ingredients in cleaning products will be posted in July 2019. This website will empower consumers with a right to know what is in their cleaning products so that they may choose products without toxins linked to cancer and other chronic diseases. (Left to Right): Bobbi Chase Wilding of JustGreenPartnership, Pamela Hadad Hurst of Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Laura Weinberg (GNBCC) Elizabeth Meere (DEC), Emily Dominiack (DEC)
Thank You To Our Donors!

Thank you to Linda Silver Designs for their generous donation!

Thank you to Lonny's Wardrobe of Great Neck for their generous donation!
To donate to GNBCC, visit our home page at www.greatneckbcc.org. Also ‘Like’ the Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition on Facebook for upcoming events and information!

Spotlight On Our Interns Who Designed This Newsletter

Anna Glasman

Halli Fein

Happy and Healthy Summer!