

## MBCW Responds to Rising Rates

In January, the Northern California Cancer Center announced a 20 percent increase in breast cancer rates in Marin County. The staggering and unacceptable announcement was met with a resounding commitment from community leaders to do more to find out why Marin has such a high incidence rate.

Marin Breast Cancer Watch joined researchers, county health officials, medical professionals and elected officials at a press conference in calling for a Community-wide Call to Action.

MBCW Board Member Fern Orenstein gave a heartfelt presentation at the press conference, in which she urged women to stay informed and take a more active role in their health care.

"These latest statistics should serve as a wake-up call," she said. "Now more than ever, the response must be deliberate. The research must ask the right questions, researchers must be willing to listen to the voices of the community, and our elected officials must be ready to support these efforts with adequate resources."

Orenstein further urged everyone to practice the Precautionary Principle, saying that any reasonable evidence of harm, rather than absolute proof of harm, should be the guiding principle in our everyday decisions about what products we use, what foods we eat, and to which chemicals we expose ourselves and our families.

In addition, MBCW pledged to intensify its efforts to pursue community-based research projects and build more partnerships in the community as it works to find answers to the many questions we face about breast cancer in Marin.

**Please join us for the 3rd Annual  
HONOR THY HEALER Awards Celebration  
Saturday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m.  
Fireman's Fund  
Call 415/256-9011 to purchase your tickets.**



*Joe Nation, Mary Beth Maloney, Janice Barlow, Frima Stewart and Dr. Bobbie Head at the February hearing of the Assembly Select Committee on Cancer Detection.*

## Joe Nation Holds Hearing on Breast Cancer

In early February, Assemblyman Joe Nation continued to show leadership on cancer issues by convening a hearing of the Assembly Select Committee on Cancer Detection, Prevention and Research. The hearing, entitled "The Incidence of Cancer: Is it Higher in Marin County?" not only looked at rising breast cancer rates, but also examined potential environmental links.

Janice Barlow, MBCW executive director, testified about breast cancer in Marin and the environment. In her testimony, Barlow called upon legislators to make the funding of studies investigating the relationship between breast cancer and the environment a national priority. She urged the passage of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act that will allow researchers to study breast cancer's environmental triggers.

And she called on policymakers to address prevention of breast cancer by studying and reducing the number of cancer-causing chemicals in our environment.

Community members who attended the hearing praised MBCW for its efforts in looking at environmental links. MBCW continues to be the only organization in the Bay Area researching the causes of breast cancer.

For MBCW Preliminary *Adolescent Risk Factor Study* results see page 3

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Janice Marie Barlow

The past few months have been among the busiest in Marin Breast Cancer Watch's history. With news in January that breast cancer rates in Marin have increased 20 percent in the past year, the organization participated in multiple events to help raise awareness of this unconscionable rise and gather support for more research, more community action and more funding in Marin County.



What has been so rewarding throughout this process is the number of members in the community who have come to the organization, asking how they can help, signing up for community workshops, sharing ideas about the environment, and actively participating in hearings and community forums.

More than a hundred people came to hear Dr. Julia Brody from the Silent Spring Institute give her presentation on *The Environment and Breast Cancer: The Case for Prevention*. See Ronnie Cohen's story on page 5 for more information. Dr. Brody's visit solidified MBCW's commitment to explore the role environmental factors and exposures play in the development of breast cancer. Preliminary results from the *Adolescent Risk Factor Study* summarized on page 3 show that Marin County women with and without breast cancer think the environment may be a significant contributory factor.

As community members and breast cancer activists, MBCW will work to broaden public awareness of potential environmental causes of breast cancer, to increase research into environmental causes of breast cancer and to create public policies, which could address environmental causes of breast cancer. As community-based researchers, we will continue to investigate possible environmental causes of breast cancer in our studies and involve the community in the research process.

Rising breast cancer incidence and uncertainties about the benefits of mammography make it clear that we can no longer afford a status quo approach to breast cancer. Moving forward means asking different questions and challenging current assumptions about breast cancer. We must accept the fact that

we don't really know who is at risk for breast cancer or how to prevent it. Imagine how much more we might be able to achieve if the same level of energy, interest and money that surrounds the current mammography debate was channeled into the prevention and discovery of modifiable environmental causes of breast cancer.

I invite you to join us as we work to explore the environmental links to breast cancer. Give us your feedback and ideas, volunteer to help, actively participate in the *Personal Environmental Risk Factor Study* and the *Marin Environmental Data Study*, financially support us, and last but not least, talk about breast cancer, the environment and our organization with your family, friends and local community.

## \$10,000 MATCHING GRANT RECEIVED

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After hearing that breast cancer rates in Marin County increased 20 percent in one year and learning of the important research conducted by MBCW, an anonymous donor gave the organization a \$10,000 matching grant.

The donor asked that the funds be used as a one-for-one challenge against other donations in hopes that additional people in the community will be compelled to give to the organization.

We are extremely grateful for this unexpected and much needed donation. Please join with others in the community and send what you can so that we can maximize this generous gift, continue conducting important research studies, and help educate the community.

## Thanks to our Special Supporters

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MBCW would like to extend special thanks to the following for recent fundraising events to support our ongoing research:

- **The Stapleton School of Performing Arts** for their donation of \$1 per ticket sold for their *Nutcracker* performance. The school raised \$3200 in support of MBCW.
- **The friends and family of Lindsay Hope Dubin**-To celebrate the birth of their daughter, Scott and Laurie Dubin requested that donations be made to MBCW in lieu of gifts. Their generous friends donated over \$1000 to help us in our quest to find the causes of breast cancer.

# ADOLESCENT RISK FACTOR STUDY IN THE HOME STRETCH

Ginger Souders Mason

In 1999, Marin Breast Cancer Watch embarked on a two- and one-half-year *Adolescent Risk Factor Study*. This case control study was designed to look at activities of women from birth through age 21. Funded by the Breast Cancer Research Program, each of 301 breast cancer cases and 305 age-matched controls, completed an interview of approximately two hours in length. We thank all those who did participate and look forward to sharing our findings when they become available. To ensure that the results from the *Adolescent Risk Factor Study* are scientifically valid, the findings must go through a peer-review process. They will be shared with the community as soon as possible.

One result can, however, be written up for this edition of *Keeping Abreast*. The final, open-ended question asked, “Do you have any ideas about what might cause breast cancer?” and “What are your ideas?” are outlined in the table below.

The table shows the results of the third-hand interpretation of what was said to the interviewer and written down in response. In most cases, the respondent’s intent was clear, but there was no way to be sure that the interpretation assigned for this report was the intended answer for all responses. The total response rate is reported in the table on the next page. Of those who responded, the number of categories that classify the average response was 2.5.

- Smoking, alcohol & recreational drug use
- Prescription drugs
- Radiation, X-rays, EMF exposure (including microwave ovens)
- Weight change & body image
- Activity, exercise
- Underarm deodorant use
- Bras & under-wire style bras.

Responses differed between cases and controls. For example, more cases than controls felt that stress, lifestyle factors, and the use of prescription drugs contributed to the disease. More controls felt that heredity and diet/nutrition were significant factors. Only a few women thought childbearing, breast-feeding and health care utilization might play a role in causing breast cancer. It is interesting to note that nearly three times as many cases as controls felt this category was significant. Overwhelmingly, both cases and controls felt that the environment—which included location, water and toxins—may be a significant contributory factor.

The tables organize positive responses in each category. Often a person would answer “No” or “Don’t know” to the overall question and respond with ideas. These ideas were considered as part of the total response tally in each category.

## Responses to the question: Do you have any ideas about what might causes breast cancer?

	Cases #	Case %	Control #	Control %	Average %
Yes	237	79%	219	72%	75%
No	63	21%	80	26%	24%
Don’t Know	1	<1%	5	2%	1%
No Answer			1	<1%	<1%
Total	301	100%	305	100%	100%

The categories under which the responses were grouped are as follows:

- Family history or genetics
- Stress & lifestyle including cosmetic use
- Childbearing, breast feeding & health care utilization
- Diet & nutrition
- Environmental exposure including location/ water/ toxins

*It is important to remember in reading these results that these are what the women thought might be important in causing breast cancer and not what other researchers have shown to be associated with developing breast cancer. Also differences in responses between women who have and who have not had breast cancer might reflect the differences in what an individual felt caused her own disease versus what women without breast cancer think might generally be associated with causing this disease.*

*Continued on page 4*

Adolescent Study continued from page 3

**NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO MENTIONED THE FACTOR AS POSSIBLY IMPORTANT IN CAUSING BREAST CANCER:**

Other responses mentioned:  
 1. Weight change & body image: 4%  
 2. The level of activity and exercise: 5%  
 3. Underarm deodorant use: 1%  
 4. Bras & under-wire style bras: 1%

	Total	Cases	Controls
Family History & Genetics	178	65	113
	29.4%	21.6%	37%
Stress & Lifestyle including cosmetics use	196	107	8
	32.3%	35.5%	29.2%
Childbirth, breast feeding & health care utilization	31	23	8
	5%	7.6%	2.6%
Diet & Nutrition	198	89	109
	32.7%	29.6%	35.7%
Environmental Exposure including location/water/toxins	310	163	152
	52%	54.2%	49.8%
Smoking, alcohol & recreational drug use	106	57	49
	17.5%	18.9%	16%
Prescription Drugs	90	57	33
	14.9%	18.9%	10.8%
Radiation, X-Rays, EMF exposure (including microwave ovens)	42	24	18
	6.9%	8%	6%

*Seated around a desk, strewn with pages filled with numbers, are some of the research team working on the Adolescent Risk Factor Study: (left to right) Dr. Georgie Farren, Colin Leary, Charlie Quesenberry, PhD, Margaret Wrensch, PhD, Marion Lee, PhD and Terri Chew.*



## JULIA BRODY ON ENVIRONMENTAL LINKS TO CANCER

Ronnie Cohen

Researchers in Cape Cod are vacuuming houses in search of clues to prevent breast cancer. What could possibly show up in a vacuum-cleaner bag? So far, a dozen toxic pesticides—including DDT—a suspected carcinogen sprayed throughout the Cape before the United States banned it in 1972.

Julia Brody, executive director of Massachusetts' Silent Spring Institute and principal investigator for the Cape Cod research, revealed early results of her group's work in March during a Marin Breast Cancer Watch forum. About 100 activists, environmentalists, researchers and community members concerned about Marin County's skyrocketing breast cancer rates attended the San Rafael event.

"If these rates can go up, we can learn how to bring them back down," Brody says. "There is substantial research to suggest that prevention is a realistic goal."

But, she cautions, "It's not going to be quick and easy."

In 1993, when women living in a majority of the towns on Cape Cod learned that their breast cancer rates exceeded Massachusetts' statewide rate, Brody says they responded the same way Marin County women are responding today. The women of Cape Cod said: "This is not acceptable."

And the Silent Spring Institute, named for Rachel Carson's landmark book, was born. With funding from the state of Massachusetts, Silent Spring researches preventable causes of breast cancer on Cape Cod and in the Boston suburb of Newton.

Silent Spring researchers now are doing a case-control study of 2,100 Cape Cod women, half with breast cancer and half without. In addition, researchers are examining 120 homes for 86 suspected chemicals in air, dust, water and urine. The researchers selected the chemicals because they are either known to cause mammary tumors in animals or are estrogen disrupters—chemicals believed to promote breast cancer.

Cape Cod researchers are particularly interested in possible connections between pesticides and breast cancer because the forested resort area surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean was routinely sprayed since the 1940s with more than two dozen chemicals—including DDT—to kill gypsy moths and to promote hearty cranberry crops.

A researcher vacuums each home for about an hour and draws an air sample for 24 hours. Results from the first 30 homes are in. In more than half of the studied homes, Brody says, researchers found a dozen different pesticides, and in 10 percent of the homes, they found another six pesticides.



*MBCW Executive Director Janice Barlow, Julia Brody and MBCW Board member Fern Orenstein.*

"We found DDT in more than half the homes," Brody says, sounding stunned herself.

But the results might have been predicted. DDT, a persistent organic pollutant that decimated some bird species to the edge of extinction in the 1950s and 1960s, and other pesticides used on Cape Cod degrade painfully slowly, if at all.

Silent Spring researchers also are examining Cape Cod's groundwater and drinking water, which Brody fears could contain toxins from local septic systems. Anything flushed down sinks or toilets, including excreted suspected carcinogens such as oral contraceptives and hormone-replacement therapies, can travel into drinking water.

In addition to the case-control study, Silent Spring researchers are mapping breast cancer incidence on the Cape with a new computer technology that integrates current and historical environmental information. The technology allows researchers to map cases of breast cancer on one layer with another layer mapping prior land use and another showing pesticide exposures.

Silent Spring's maps incorporate maps pilots used to guide them while spraying pesticides. The maps include information on pesticides collected from other pesticide applicators, moth wardens, cranberry growers, golf course superintendents and government officials.

Silent Spring's maps also integrate land-use maps dating back to 1951. In the early 1950s, much of the Cape remained forested, and the forests were heavily sprayed to ward off gypsy moths. Then homes were built.

"Women moved into land that had been sprayed, creating a new opportunity for exposure, which is an area we're interested in studying," Brody says. She believes the women living in the

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## THE MAMMOGRAPHY DEBATE: A PERSPECTIVE

Janice Marie Barlow, Executive Director

The question of whether routine mammography reduces breast cancer deaths in women has been debated for years. The debate recently intensified following the publication of a review in the respected British journal, *Lancet*, which analyzed seven large mammography studies that followed a half-million women. Researchers from the Nordic Cochrane Center in Denmark found no evidence that routine mammography reduces the death rate from breast cancer. The researchers concluded that five of the seven studies that suggested mammograms can help save women's lives by detecting tumors early, were too flawed and that the other two studies showed no evidence that mammography reduced breast cancer deaths or prolonged women's lives.

In addition, the authors reported mammography leads to more aggressive treatment and more unnecessary surgeries. Finally, the authors suggest that more randomized trials should be designed and conducted to determine mammography's effect on overall breast cancer mortality. (Full text of the *Lancet* article can be found at <http://www.thelancet.com>)

In response, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force issued new guidelines for breast cancer screening that strongly recommend the screening test and lower the recommended age women should routinely begin receiving them from age 50 to 40. While the committee's report said it was "difficult to determine the incremental benefit of beginning screening at age 40 rather than age 50," the panel nonetheless recommended that women do so. The guidelines of the federal government, the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society recommend that women in their 40s and older be screened with mammography every one to two years. (Complete press release is available at <http://newscenter.cancer.gov/pressreleases/mammstatement31jan02.html>)

The controversial findings from the Nordic Cochrane Center study as well as the federal government's new guidelines have sparked a candid and long overdue public debate on the risks, benefits and uncertainties surrounding population-based mammography screening of *healthy, symptom-free* women.

The primary goal of any public health screening program such as mammography is to reduce death rates. To be an effective screening program two requirements must be met:

- A treatment for the condition is more effective when delivered early.
- The benefits of early detection must outweigh the risks associated with screening.

The Nordic Cochrane Center's conclusion that there is no

evidence that mammography reduces breast cancer death rate has prompted a public discussion of whether the benefits of early detection of breast cancer outweigh the risks associated with mammography screening. As part of these discussions, the risks and limitations of routine mammography screening have been, perhaps for the first time, openly discussed. The risks and limitations include:

- **Not all cancers are detectable by mammography.**

According to the National Institutes of Health, mammography misses 10% of all tumors and nearly 25% of tumors in women younger than 50. A negative mammogram does not ensure the absence of breast cancer.

- **The large majority of abnormal mammograms (80% to 90%) do not turn out to be breast cancer.** Most women who have false positive tests undergo unnecessary subsequent mammograms or needle aspirations, biopsies and other invasive procedures.

- **The frequency of mammograms increases the probability of a false positive result.**

When a screening test is performed more often, the result is fewer missed cases of disease and more false positive results.

- **Not all non-palpable cancers discovered through mammography develop into invasive breast cancer.**

Too little is known about breast cancer biology to tell which ones pose threats. As a result, women may be undergoing surgeries, radiation treatments and chemotherapies that are not medically necessary, yet have significant side effects impacting quality of life.

- **The risk associated with low dose radiation exposure from repeated mammograms is not known.**

These mammography discussions have made the public more aware of the benefits and risks associated with routine mammography as well as the quality of evidence underlying screening recommendations. Such information is needed if women are to make informed personal decisions about mammography.

But we must not forget that the question of whether routine mammography can effectively reduce the number of breast cancer deaths remains unanswered even today—40 years after its introduction as a breast cancer screening tool.

## HONOR THY HEALER CELEBRATION IN MAY

Cassie Stevenson

Marin Breast Cancer Watch's Third Annual **Honor Thy Healer** celebration is fast approaching and we are thrilled to be able to honor eight outstanding local individuals. Andrea Martin, founder of The Breast Cancer Fund, will be the first recipient of the Francine Levien Activist Award. The award is being given in the name of our late, much loved founder and former executive director who passed away a year ago. Andrea Martin was chosen because she embodies so many of the qualities that made Francine such a wonderful leader—commitment, vision, intelligence and strength.

Andrea is a pioneer in the breast cancer movement, having founded The Breast Cancer Fund in 1992 and leading it until this past fall. Among her major accomplishments are: working with U.S. Representative Barbara Lee, then a member of the California State Assembly, to craft a 2-cent cigarette tax, the first statewide initiative to channel tobacco funds to breast cancer programs; helping Senator Dianne Feinstein to establish the breast cancer stamp, which has generated \$21.9 million to date; and helping Congresswoman Nancy



Andrea Martin

Pelosi to increase the federal budget for cancer research by \$15 million. In addition, The Breast Cancer Fund has helped to raise breast cancer awareness in countries where it was a taboo subject through the mountain climbing expeditions it has organized for breast cancer survivors in such countries as Japan and Argentina. Most significantly, The Breast Cancer Fund has played a vital role over the past 10 years in making breast cancer a major issue on our own national scene.

This winter Marin Breast Cancer Watch solicited nominations from the community for healing professionals who have helped local women with breast cancer. We were thrilled to receive nominations for a wide range of healers. The award is being given to the Kaiser Permanente team of Dr. Anne DeLaney, Chief of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Karin Kidd, RN, and Kathy Givens, FNP. Three healing partner awards are being given to individuals nominated by friends and family members for their dedication in helping a loved one through their fight against breast cancer. The recipients will be Connie Dean, the late Alvy Greenfield (to be accepted by her daughter), and Linda Trenholm.

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## HUMAN AND DIPSEA RACES

Amy Roduner

The Marin Breast Cancer Watch is "going active" with two of our upcoming fundraising events. We are very excited to announce our first annual Dipsea Hike/Run to be held on July 20th at 8:00 a.m. on Mount Tamalpais. This event will be a fun and healthy way to raise breast cancer awareness in the community and to support the organization. On May 11, we will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Marin Human Race. Please mark your calendars for both of these events.

The goal for the Dipsea Hike/Run is to create a fun and healthy annual event to raise awareness to the high incidence rate of breast cancer in Marin. We would also like to demonstrate how committed the Marin community is to working together to find the causes of breast cancer. In order to create a successful annual event, we have formed a partnership with members of the Tamalpa Running Club. They will be sharing their technical expertise in the Dipsea course as well providing us with approximately two dozen volunteers. The 7-mile course will start at the Mill Valley Park and end at the Mountain Theater. Once at the theater, we will picnic while enjoying live music from a local band.

The Marin Human Race supports the work of hundreds of non-profit organizations in Marin County. Last year we collected over \$6000 in pledges due to the efforts of all who participated. The newly designed, mostly level, 4-mile course will take us through the Marin Center Fairgrounds. After the walk/run there will be a community fair for all to enjoy. We hope you will join us this year at this wonderful community event. The registration deadline is May 2, 2002 for the Marin Human Race.

The Human Race will be a great warm-up for the Dipsea Hike/Run. Local community-based organizations are available to assist in your training. Team Survivor provides fitness and health education programs for women surviving any kind of cancer. For more information email [batsmarin@yahoo.com](mailto:batsmarin@yahoo.com) or call 415/924-6887. You may also consider becoming a member of the Tamalpa Running Club, check out [www.tamalparunners.org](http://www.tamalparunners.org).

For more information about the Human Race or the Dipsea Hike/Run please contact Marin Breast Cancer Watch at [info@breastcancerwatch.org](mailto:info@breastcancerwatch.org) or call 415/256-9011.

### **MBCW's Wish List:**

*Metal files, digital camera, color printer  
projector for Power Point presentations  
Volunteers for Honor Thy Healer 2002*

## REMEMBERING FRANCINE LEVIEN, MBCW FOUNDER, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH

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Cynthia Hardin



*Dear Francine,*

There's so much I want to tell you. First, I miss you dearly. Your presence, your voice, your thoughts and ideas — your feistiness!

I miss going to Spirit Rock with you (I know—I stopped going long before you did—but I still cherish our time there together). Your birthday parties were the best! I miss sitting down with a cup of tea and bemoaning the state of—*everything*—the traffic in Marin, environmental dangers, the crisis in the Middle East, the food that people eat, the food our government says poses no health hazards—HAH! We often wondered why people believe the bureaucrats. You and I knew that we couldn't control all the environmental problems, but we *could* control what we put in our bodies.

I remember going to the Marin Farmer's Market on Sundays, raving about all the beautiful, delicious organic fruits and vegetables that we were lucky to have in our own backyard. We cooked together and we ate our wonderful fresh food and we sipped our tea and we criticized the state of everything. We reminded ourselves that while we couldn't save the world, we could definitely make an attempt to change things close to home, which we believed would lead to change on a broader scale.

Francine—what an impact you had! Most people don't even dream of leaving a legacy, and I doubt you imagined such a thing. Yet that's what you did. You left a remarkable legacy in the organization that you founded—Marin Breast Cancer Watch. And there are many people who thank you every day for putting your heart and soul into bringing your vision to life. You trained a whole team of activists in Marin County who are now environmentally aware and demanding to know why the cancer rates are so high.

What a gift to have known you. I feel blessed that you were a part of my life and though I miss your physical presence — your spirit, your generosity and your laughter will remain with me forever.

Much love,  
*Cynthia*

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### Francine Would Be Pleased

Roni Peskin-Mentzer

I have a photo of Francine on my dresser that I keep meaning to put away in my memory box but cannot. It was taken at Francine's 71st birthday party and she is laughing, full of life and love. As I look at her each morning, I recall her brightness and energy.

Since Francine died there have been many changes at MBCW. Francine had great respect for Janice Barlow and was instrumental in having her appointed to the board of directors. Now Janice has been appointed Executive Director of MBCW. This would please Francine.

Francine wanted to encourage women to uncover unknown environmental risk factors that might be causing the high incidence of breast cancer in Marin County. MBCW is now collaborating with researchers at Lawrence Berkeley Labs and the Marin County Department of Health and Human Resources to do just that. Nancy Rubin, past director of Health and Human Resources in Marin county, pointed out that MBCW, under the leadership of Francine, was a great example of an organization that has reached out to kindred organizations to partner with them in order to achieve common goals. This would please Francine.

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.MBCW and Professor Margaret Wrensch, an epidemiologist at UCSF, have been working together for more than three years on the adolescent study. The interviews are finished and the findings of this study will be announced in the summer. This would please Francine.

Francine believed fervently in the Precautionary Principle and through her work with Supervisor Hal Brown, the board of supervisors has passed a proclamation that details the county's belief in this principal. This would please Francine.

Francine would be pleased that an environmental award named in her honor will be presented to Andrea Martin of the Breast Cancer Fund. Francine believed in building coalitions and she had great respect for the work that Andrea and the Breast Cancer Fund are doing across the country.

Lastly, Francine would be devastated to hear that the rate of breast cancer in Marin County has soared by 20%. She would be annoyed that things were not moving fast enough, because she expected the most from people. After mourning for the lives lost to this devastating disease, especially her dear friend Mary Gould, I can see Francine rising above the sadness and attacking this continuing problem with new vigor and passion. Hopefully her dreams will soon come to pass. She can be assured that the members of MBCW are continuing to ask the questions. We will not stop until we have the answers and I know that this would please Francine.



*Lorraine Pace, co-president of Breast Cancer Help, presents an award to MBCW President Roni Peskin-Mentzer on behalf of founder Francine Levien on March 11, 2002. Below is the wording on the plaque.*

## **MBCW and the NIEHS**

Marin Breast Cancer Watch has been invited to a "brainstorming" session organized by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in Charlotte, North Carolina. The NIEHS is embarking on a major effort in breast cancer research related to gene-environmental interactions. The session will help NIEHS better identify the key scientific research gaps and opportunities. Vicki Kalobokes, Executive Director of the National Alopecia Areata Foundation and member of NIH Council of Public Representatives (CORP) facilitated the invitation to attend. Kalobokes is a Marin County resident.

**Breast Cancer Help (presents the)  
Healthy Environment for a Living Planet (award)  
In loving memory of Francine Levien,  
Founder and former Executive Director of the  
Marin Breast Cancer Watch, whose efforts were  
dedicated to finding a cause and cure  
for breast cancer.**

**Her spirit and compassion live on  
with those who continue her work.  
August 16, 1929 - April 27, 2001  
Dr. Allen G. Meek, Chairman of the Board  
Father Thomas Arnao, Co-President  
Lorraine Pace, Co-President**

**Congressional representatives need to hear from their constituents. To share your concern about the high incidence rate of breast cancer in Marin County, please contact:**

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
U.S. Congress  
2457 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Lynn Woolsey  
U.S. Congress  
2263 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Barbara Boxer  
U.S. Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Assemblyman Joe Nation  
State Capitol  
Room 3126  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## DONATIONS TO MARIN BREAST CANCER WATCH

*The following donations were received between December 12, 2001 and March 18, 2002.*

### **DONATIONS IN HONOR:**

**All women in Marin County**  
from Judy Mesinger

**All women who have breast cancer  
and those looking for the cure**  
from the Wihlborg Family

**Mary Anne Ball**  
from Judy and Richard Burns

**Janice Barlow**  
from Justin Faggioli and Sandy  
Donnell

**Pat Bennish**  
from Michelle and Jeffrey Lerman

**Janet and Marty Dalton**  
from Susan and Todd Christman

**The birth of Lindsay Hope Dubin**  
from James and Kim Bair  
from Susan and Todd Christman  
from Dawn Denberg  
from Andrew and Kyle Dubin and  
Shelly Kielar  
from Lawrence and Sharon Dubin  
from Daniel and Karen Dunn  
from Buddy and Carole Feldman  
from Jean and Michael Freed  
from Richard and Amy Gerstein  
from Bryant and Ellen Lehr  
from Lydia Marti and Richard  
Porter  
from Nancy Melmon  
from Barbara and Sheldon Migdal  
from Barbara and Alan Mitchell  
from Dr. Joseph and Marsha Morgan  
from Susan Pascoello  
from Sara Reif  
from Carol and Norman Shubert  
from Laurie Strongin and Allen  
Goldberg  
from Greg and Susan Watkins

**Sarah Erlwein**  
from Christine Costello

**Maggie Evans**  
from Peggy Hamilton

**Debra McKnight-Higgins and Theresa  
Higgins**  
from Charles and Fleur McKnight

**Roni Mentzer**  
from Sally Mentzer

**Norma Morosin**  
from Rosalie Morosin

**Pam Neely**  
from Heather Neely and Brian  
Beaver

**Lu Pearson**  
from John and Merry Morgan

**Frank Pryliasen**  
from Julie Ann and Leon Belli

**Beth Rosenthal**  
from Mort and Carol Rothman

**Zoe and Terry Sternberg**  
from Susan and Todd Christman

**The Teachers of the Stapleton School  
of Performing Arts**  
from Erin and Peter Badala

**Linda Watson**  
from Suzanne and Bruce Degen

**With appreciation to MBCW Board  
and Staff**  
from Julie Grantz

### **DONATIONS IN MEMORY:**

**Rino Belli**  
from Ines Belli

**Kyoko Bronte**  
from Chieko Huang  
from Mrs. Tomoyo Morita

**Ana DeSouza**  
from Dave and Catherine Capper

**Karen Ghirarduzzi**  
from Emilia Di Caprio

**Mary Gould**  
from Georgianna Farren and John  
Loftus  
from Ruth B Niccolls  
from Lucille Pearson

**Alvy Greenfield**  
from Dr. David Benkle

**Rita Killacky**  
from Lucille Pearson

**Francine Levien**  
from Marion De Heer  
from Fred Finkelstein  
from Sheilah Glover  
from Tanya Shaffer  
from Rona Weintraub

**Lillian Morse**  
from Mort and Carol Rothman

**Eva Musante**  
from Julie Ann and Leon Belli

**Muriel Oberlander**  
from Lynne Oberlander

**Marianne Pomeroy**  
from Nancy Rosser Hutchins

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*Donations continued from page 10*

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**More calendar items:**

**May 11, 2002**

Human Race  
7:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Marin Center Fairgrounds and Lagoon

**June 4-June 8**

World Conference on Breast Cancer  
Victoria, BC, Canada  
For information and registration go to  
<http://www.worldbreastcancerconf.ca/wcbchome.html>

**Mission Statement**

*Marin Breast Cancer Watch is a grassroots organization dedicated to finding the causes and stopping the epidemic of breast cancer. We accomplish our mission through community-based research, education and public policy advocacy with a focus on creating a healthy environment.*

**Founder:**

Francine Levien  
Board Members:  
Roni Peskin Mentzer, President; Flavia Belli, Vice President; Lucy Rezendes, Treasurer; Linda Spence, Secretary; Andrea Fox, Georgie Farren, Fern Orenstein, Ginger Souders-Mason, Joanne Williams, Barry Zack and Katie Beacock.

**MBCW Staff:**

Janice Barlow: Executive Director  
Tom Scott: Communications Director  
Colin Leary: Research Assistant  
Cassie Stevenson: Events Coordinator  
Adrienne Kolb: Administrative Assistant  
Sahar Kianfar: Research Assistant

**Newsletter Staff:**

Edare Carroll, Editor, Cynthia Hardin, Assistant Editor

[info@breastcancerwatch.org](mailto:info@breastcancerwatch.org)  
[www.breastcancerwatch.org](http://www.breastcancerwatch.org)

## **Upcoming MBCW and Community Events**

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### **April 19-20**

The Stapleton School of Performing Arts' Spring Concert  
Marin Center Showcase Theater  
Featuring new dances, enchanting repertory pieces and live accompaniment. The highlight of the concert will be the debut of "Tina's Waltz," a tribute to the late Tina Shea, performed by Tina's daughter Caitlin. For more information contact the Stapleton School of Performing Arts at 415/454-5759.

### **April 20**

Breast Cancer Action's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting  
Beyond the Pink Ribbon: Challenging the Culture of Breast Cancer; Keynote Speaker: Barbara Ehrenreich  
Mistress of Ceremonies: Anne Lamott; Music by: Adrienne Torf; 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
The Women's Building, 3543 18<sup>th</sup> Street, SF  
Suggested donation: \$10 per person. Call 415-355-9988.

### **April 27-April 30**

National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Advocacy Training Conference  
Washington, D.C.  
For information and registration, go to [www.natlbcc.org](http://www.natlbcc.org).

### **May 4**

#### **Honor Thy Healer**

6:00 p.m., Fireman's Fund  
777 San Marin Drive  
Novato, CA (See website for more upcoming events!)

## **Julia Brody and Environmental Links**

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*Continued from page 5*

Cape Cod homes where researchers found a dozen chemicals probably used few of the chemicals themselves. Instead the chemicals may have found their way into the homes decades before the women moved into them.

It's a leap, however, Brody says, between drawing a connection and proving that one thing causes another. "There's a long way to go from there are chemicals in our homes to these chemicals cause breast cancer," she says.

In the meantime, while scientists hunt for proof, Brody advocates working with policy makers to try to rid the marketplace of suspect chemicals. *For more information on Silent Spring, visit [www.silentspring.org](http://www.silentspring.org).*

## **Honor Thy Healer**

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*Continued from page 7*

Finally, we will be giving a special "Shining Star" award to Marin Independent Journal Publisher Roger Grossman. Over the past year, Roger has become one of our strongest supporters as well as an important voice expressing concern about the possible environmental link to Marin's high incidence rate.

Please come to *Honor Thy Healer* on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and join us as we recognize these individuals for their outstanding accomplishments. Tickets are available until April 22<sup>nd</sup> for \$125 by calling 415.256.9011. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cassie Stevenson at [cassies@breastcancerwatch.org](mailto:cassies@breastcancerwatch.org) or 415.256.9011, ext. 103.



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