

SHARSHERET UPDATE: MAY 23, 2002

COMMUNITY AND MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARDS

We are pleased to announce the formation of Sharsheret's **Community Advisory Board** and **Medical Advisory Board**. Members of the Community Advisory Board will be zealous advocates on behalf of Sharsheret, enthusiastic communicators of our mission and vision, and integral participants in our leadership development, program expansion, and fundraising activities. The Medical Advisory Board will provide guidance on medical issues that affect the Sharsheret community. The first Board meeting was held on May 1st at the home of Dr. Patricia Cayne in New York City. Many talented and committed women and men have agreed to serve as members of the Board, including:

Community Advisory Board

Hon. Myriam J. Altman

Lisa Belzberg

Patricia Cayne, Ph.D.

Carol Ann Finkelstein

Ellen Finkelstein

Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Adina Heino, Esq.

Faye Landes

Keith Mendelson

Lauren Merkin

Gail Propp

Sheldon Rudoff, Esq.

Helene Stark, Ph.D.

Lois Waldman

Lauryn Weiser

Medical Advisory Board

Dr. Karin Katz

Dr. Thomas Kolb (Chair)

Dr. Gila Leiter

Dr. Kenneth Offit

Dr. Ruth Oratz

Elsa Reich, M.S.

Allison Rosen, Ph.D.

LINKS AND CALLERS

Over 300 phone calls have been made to Sharsheret since publicity began 5 months ago. Forty (40) of those calls have come from Jewish women seeking support or looking to support others. Women have called Sharsheret from Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, California, Texas, Wisconsin, New York, and New Jersey. Many who called originally for assistance have become supporters - Sharsheret "Links" - adding to the chain of support that is strengthened continually by common experience.

SHARSHERET OFFICES DONATED BY IDT

This week, Sharsheret will move to its new home in Hackensack, New Jersey. IDT, a corporation based in Newark, New Jersey, has generously donated office space, computer equipment, telephone lines, and calling cards for our long distance links. The office will provide a comfortable place for volunteers to meet and work, and will enable us to coordinate our outreach efforts more efficiently. Our thanks to IDT for their generosity, and to Keith Mendelson for his time in overseeing all of the details.

PUBLICITY

Articles about Sharsheret will soon appear in **Lifestyles Magazine**, **Jewish Action**, and the **Intermountain Jewish News** (Colorado).

Sharsheret has also been featured in articles published in the **Bergen Record**, the **Jewish Week**, the **Jewish Forward**, the **Jewish Press**, the **Jewish Standard (NJ)**, the **Jewish Community News (NY and NJ)**, and **Emunah Magazine**. Sara Rudoff Olshin, Sharsheret's Director of Public Relations, has been leading our publicity efforts.

SHARSHERET IN THE HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

On May 6th, the **American Cancer Society** featured Sharsheret in its **Reach to Recovery** training series. Rochelle Shoretz discussed the issues affecting young Jewish women and young mothers fighting breast cancer. Cynthia Rubin, President of the **Young Survival Coalition**, discussed the issues unique to young women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

EVENTS FEATURING SHARSHERET

Rochelle Shoretz introduced Sharsheret—its outreach and education efforts—as part of **Congregation Keter Torah's breast health awareness night** on May 21st. The event was organized by Sharsheret volunteer Marla Kleiner, and included a discussion of women's health led by a nurse from Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Sharsheret **parlor meetings** will be held shortly in the following locations:

- Tenafly, New Jersey – Tuesday, May 28th
- Great Neck, New York – Wednesday, June 12th
- Lawrence, New York – Wednesday, June 19th
- Riverdale, New York – Wednesday, June 26th

These events are a wonderful opportunity for Sharsheret to reach women in diverse communities, and to raise funds to support our outreach efforts. If you have friends or family interested in attending or hosting a meeting, please call the Sharsheret office at (201) 837-8793.

PROJECTS

We have begun to assemble a **Support Manual for Sharsheret Links**. The manual will include, among other things, guidelines for appropriate Sharsheret conversations, rules of confidentiality, and a list of resources to share with Sharsheret Callers. All Links will receive a copy of the manual when it is ready for distribution.

We have nearly completed our second national mailing – an effort to reach **Bikur Cholim organizations** across the country. Volunteers have completed phone calls to these organizations, and Sharsheret materials will follow shortly. Our first national mailing, to **Mikvaot and ritualariums**, reached women in Jewish communities nationwide.

Volunteers at Sharsheret recently completed the assembly of **Health Information Packets** that will be distributed at Sharsheret events. The information packets include breast health guides, self-examination shower cards, and guidelines for the early detection of breast cancer.

We are continuing to target **physicians, ob-gyns, oncologists, radiologists, and breast surgeons** whose patients may benefit from Sharsheret. Please email us at info@sharsheret.org with the names and addresses of your health care providers and others to whom we could send information packets. Volunteers have begun to coordinate our **National Health Care Mailing**, targeting cancer centers across the country.

CONFERENCES & LECTURES OF INTEREST TO YOUNG JEWISH WOMEN

Living Beyond Breast Cancer will host a free teleconference entitled “**The Latest in Detecting and Treating Breast Cancer and Improving the Quality of Your Life—ASCO Meeting Update.**” The teleconference will focus on the data presented at the May 2002 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and will take place on Tuesday, June 4th, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. To register, log on to <http://www.lbbc.org/register.asp>.

The **University of Rochester** will host a symposium on **Genetic Privacy and Discrimination** Friday and Saturday June 14-15th. Presentations will include a discussion of detection and disclosure of the BRCA1 gene, laws regarding genetic

testing, and genetic privacy and discrimination in the workplace. For more information, please call (585) 275-4392 or log on to: <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/cpe/sgpd>.

Sharsheret volunteers are currently planning our first breast cancer symposium. **Sharsheret and Fertile Hope** (an organization addressing the issues of fertility facing those with cancer) will co-host “**Breast Cancer and Fertility: A Symposium With Leading Experts**” on October 24, 2002 (during Breast Cancer Awareness Month). Doctors from Cornell and NYU will address, among other topics, the current research on the effects of breast cancer treatment on fertility, fertility preservation options, fertility options post-treatment, and support for women diagnosed with breast cancer and coping with issues of fertility. Invitations will be mailed out in September.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

A number of Sharsheret volunteers have assumed important roles in the organization. Our **Link Coordinator**, Lauryn Weiser, will follow up with Links and Callers to ensure that Sharsheret is meeting the needs of the women who use our service. Three volunteers have become Sharsheret **Regional Coordinators**: Sharon Herenstein, Sara Leah Barishansky, and Jessica Kornwasser. Our Regional Coordinators have begun to collect information from Callers across the country in an effort to reach additional women affected by breast cancer.

Our **Summer Interns**, Eliana Rudolph and Chaim Kagedan, have helped coordinate our move to Hackensack and will spend the summer working on a number of Sharsheret projects.

At our **volunteer meeting** on April 30th, volunteers signed up to organize fundraising events, coordinate our research effort, and help design Sharsheret’s Best Face Forward program to counter the cosmetic side effects of chemotherapy. If you are interested in participating in any of these projects, please email us at info@sharsheret.org or call (201) 837-8793.

PILLOWS OF SUPPORT

A generous gift to Sharsheret will now enable us to distribute decorative pillows to those Callers who must elevate their arms after surgery. Our thanks to Dr. Patricia Cayne for inspiring and donating our “Pillows of Support.”

DONOR CARDS

Sharsheret donor cards are now available. If you know of an individual, corporation, or organization interested in supporting our important work, please email info@sharsheret.org for donation cards, or share our address: P.O. Box 3245, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666. Gifts can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one, and contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for all that you have done to help Sharsheret grow.