

SHARSHERET UPDATE: JULY 19, 2002

SYMPOSIUM ON BREAST CANCER AND FERTILITY

As the number of young breast cancer survivors increases, an important quality of life issue is becoming more salient: the ability to become a parent after cancer treatment. Many Sharsheret callers phone with questions about fertility preservation and with concerns about pregnancy post-treatment. To address some of these issues, Sharsheret will co-host its first **symposium on breast cancer and fertility at Cornell Medical Center** during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Sharsheret volunteer Amy Mines Tadelis has been planning the symposium with volunteers at **Fertile Hope**, a non-profit organization addressing the issues of fertility and cancer. The symposium will educate patients and healthcare professionals about the effects of breast cancer treatment on fertility, available options for fertility preservation, pregnancy and reproductive options post-treatment, and the avenues of support available for those struggling with cancer and fertility. Renowned experts **Dr. Zev Rosenwaks (Cornell Medical Center), Dr. Kutluk Oktay (Cornell Medical Center), and Dr. Ruth Oratz (NYU School of Medicine)** will address the fertility concerns foremost on the minds of many young breast cancer patients. Representatives from **American Infertility Association, Resolve, A T.I.M.E. (Torah Infertility Medium of Exchange), Fertile Hope, and Sharsheret** will discuss the support available to young women addressing issues of fertility.

The **American Cancer Society** and **Cornell University Weill Medical College** have already agreed to serve as symposium sponsors. If you know of an individual, organization, or corporation interested in sponsoring this most significant event, please call (973) 438-7800 for sponsorship details.

The symposium will take place on October 24, 2002, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Invitations will be mailed out at the end of September.

LINKS AND CALLERS

Over 400 phone calls have been made to Sharsheret since publicity began seven months ago. Forty-five (45) of those calls have come from Jewish women seeking support or looking to support others. Women have called Sharsheret from Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, 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 IN THE HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

On August 21st, the **American Cancer Society** will feature Rochelle Shoretz of Sharsheret in its **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 2002 Kickoff Breakfast**. The Kickoff, to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, will launch the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Walk. Ms. Shoretz will introduce Sharsheret to an audience of 1,500 guests, and will discuss the American Cancer Society's generous support of our new organization.

The 5-mile walk will take place on Sunday, October 20th, in New York City's Central Park. We will be walking as the **Sharsheret Team** and invite all of our Callers, Links, and volunteers (and their friends and family) to join us. If you are interested in walking or supporting our Team, please call (973) 438-7800. Pledge forms and walk information will be mailed out shortly.

SHARSHERET OFFICES DONATED BY IDT

Sharsheret has moved to its new home in Hackensack, New Jersey. **IDT**, a corporation based in Newark, has generously donated office space, computer equipment, telephone lines, and calling cards for our long distance links. The office provides a comfortable place for volunteers to meet and work, and enables us to coordinate our outreach efforts more efficiently. Our thanks to IDT for their generosity, and to Keith Mendelson, a member of Sharsheret's Community Advisory Board, for his time in overseeing all of the details. Please note our new phone number: **(973) 438-7800**, and fax number: **(973) 438-7810**.

PUBLICITY

Articles about Sharsheret were recently published in the **Jerusalem Post** and the **Baltimore Jewish Times**. Articles about Sharsheret will soon appear in **Lifestyles Magazine**, **Jewish Action**, the **Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles**, 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**.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Parlor meetings are a wonderful opportunity for Sharsheret to reach women in diverse communities, and to raise funds to support our outreach efforts. We extend deep gratitude to the following hosts for opening up their homes and hearts to our organization: **Yosifa and Chaim Book** (Tenafly, New Jersey), **Lara and Gregory Rhine** (Great Neck, New York), **Susan and Jimmy Frisch** (Great Neck, New York), **Terri and Andrew Herenstein** (Lawrence, New York), and **Vera and Naomi Spira** (Riverdale, New York). Their dedication and generosity has helped build support for our organization, and has heightened awareness about the issues specific to young Jewish women fighting breast cancer.

The next Sharsheret **parlor meeting** will take place **Monday, August 12th**, 8:00 p.m., at the home of Chaim and Rachelle Mandelbaum, 695 Palmer Avenue, **Teaneck, New Jersey**. If you have friends or family interested in attending or hosting a meeting, please call the Sharsheret office at (973) 438-7800.

PROJECTS

We have completed our second national mailing – an effort to reach **Bikur Cholim organizations** across the country. Sharsheret volunteer Beth Rosenbaum coordinated the efforts of many other volunteers who worked on this important project. Our first national mailing, to **Mikvaot and ritualariums**, reached women in Jewish communities nationwide.

Sharsheret has begun to distribute **Health Information Packets** at all Sharsheret events. The information packets include breast health guides, self-examination shower cards, and guidelines for the early detection of breast cancer.

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.

Sharsheret volunteers Peggy Cottrell and Amy Solnica have begun to assemble **research articles** on issues significant to young Jewish women fighting breast cancer. We plan to make these materials available to our Links and Callers.

PILLOWS OF SUPPORT

A generous gift to Sharsheret has enabled us to begin distributing decorative pillows to those Callers who must elevate their arms after surgery. Our thanks to Dr. Patricia Cayne, a member of Sharsheret's Community Advisory Board for inspiring and donating our "Pillows of Support."

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Sharsheret is pleased to introduce our new **Volunteer Coordinator**, Elizabeth Naor. Elizabeth will manage volunteer projects and coordinate the significant contributions of our volunteers. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, please call Elizabeth at (973) 438-7800.

Our **Summer Interns**, Eliana Rudolph, Chaim Kagedan, and Elkanah Elkin have helped coordinate our move to Hackensack and are spending the summer working on a number of Sharsheret projects. Thanks to our part-time interns Temima Strauss and Caroline Pincus, who have generously donated their time to our organization.

The next **volunteer meeting** will take place on Wednesday, August 7th, at our office: 294 State Street, Hackensack, New Jersey.