

SHARSHERET UPDATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2003

SHARSHERET TEAMS WITH MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING TO HOST SYMPOSIUM ON THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN

Sharsheret will team with **Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center's Post Treatment Resource Program** to host the Symposium, "**How Do We Care For Our Children? Issues for Women and Men Facing Breast Cancer and Their Families.**" The Symposium, Sharsheret's second, will be held in New York City on Monday, May 19th. A transcript of the event will be available online.

The Symposium will educate patients and healthcare professionals about the effects of breast cancer treatments on children, identify the needs of children of all ages coping with a parent's diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment recovery, and explore the obstacles to open communication with children. The panel of experts presenting at the Symposium will include **Rosalind Kleban** (Department of Social Work, **Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center**), **Peggy Anne Murphy** (Clinical Coordinator of the Children's Program, **Cancer Care**), and **Ingrid Whitaker** (Program Manager of Noogieland and Initiatives, **Gilda's Club NYC**). A question and answer session will follow the presentations.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available to support this important event, coordinated by volunteer **Shera Dubitsky**. For more information about the Symposium, please call (866) 474-2774.

SHARSHERET FOUNDER AWARDED JOSHUA VENTURE FELLOWSHIP

Rochelle Shoretz, Founder and Executive Director of Sharsheret, was awarded one of eight prestigious **Joshua Venture Fellowships** for her work in establishing the national organization for Jewish women facing breast cancer. The two-year fellowship will provide venture funding, entrepreneurial training, and technical assistance to further the development of Sharsheret.

Joshua Venture was founded by three leading American Jewish philanthropies - the **Walter and Elise Haas Fund**, the **Nathan Cummings Foundation**, and **Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation** - which set out in 1998 to explore the ways in which they could support the efforts of a new generation of young Jewish leaders. Joshua Venture Fellowships are awarded to Jewish social entrepreneurs, ages 21-35, who are launching or expanding innovative projects and organizations that contribute to a just,

vibrant, and inclusive American Jewish community. Awards are made based on the strength of both the applicant and the proposed venture.

CBS NEWS AIRS SEGMENT FEATURING SHARSHERET

Marking the organization's first anniversary in December, **CBS News** aired a segment about Sharsheret entitled "**Linking Together.**" Correspondent **Amy Stone** interviewed eight Sharsheret Links about their experiences and the support Sharsheret provides young women fighting breast cancer nationwide.

Noting that nearly 250,000 women in the United States under the age of 40 are living with breast cancer, CBS anchors identified Sharsheret as an organization "linking hundreds of young women to help in their recovery." Stone noted that Sharsheret enables young women to "discuss the unique challenges of living with the disease, something friends and family, while helpful, just cannot comprehend." Sharsheret links young women all over the country, enabling them to "speak comfortably and candidly about cancer," Stone reported.

SHARSHERET IN THE HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

Executive Director Rochelle Shoretz participated in **Hadassah's Check It Out Program**, designed to educate high school students about breast health and the importance of self-examination. On February 4th, Shoretz addressed 180 students at Fair Lawn High School in New Jersey, and discussed the effects of breast cancer on young women.

SHARSHERET IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Executive Director Rochelle Shoretz introduced Sharsheret as part of a panel discussion at the **UJA-Federation of New York** on November 21st.

LINKS AND CALLERS

Over **900 phone calls** have been made to Sharsheret since publicity began ten months ago. More than 80 of those calls have come from Jewish women seeking support or looking to support others. Women have called Sharsheret from California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, and St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands).

PUBLICITY

Articles about Sharsheret were published recently in the **Wall Street Journal** (December 2002), **Washington Jewish Week** (December 2002), and **Blueprint Magazine** (January 2003).

Sharsheret is currently featured on the web site of Dr. Susan Love, www.susanlovemd.org. Sharsheret has also been listed as a resource for young women

fighting breast cancer in the new book, **“Fighting for Our Future,”** by **Beth Murphy (McGraw-Hill 2002)** and the accompanying documentary.

Sharsheret has been featured in articles published in the **Jerusalem Post, Baltimore Jewish Times, Bergen Record, Jewish Forward, Jewish Action, Jewish Press, Jewish Week, Jewish Post of New York, Jewish Standard (NJ), Jewish Community News (NY and NJ), Intermountain Jewish News (CO), Lifestyles Magazine, and Emunah Magazine.**

SHARSHERET TO HONOR VOLUNTEERS AT ANNIVERSARY GALA

Sharsheret celebrated its first anniversary in December, and will honor its volunteers at an **anniversary reception** to be held on Tuesday, February 25th. The event, chaired by volunteer **Elana Silber**, will feature a video presentation of the year in pictures, and will highlight the many projects designed and implemented by Sharsheret volunteers.

CONFERENCES AND ITEMS OF INTEREST TO YOUNG WOMEN

The Foundation for Jewish Genetic Diseases, David Berg Foundation, and Shaykin Family Foundation will sponsor, **“Why is This Gene Different From All Other Genes? Testing for Genetic Diseases in the Jewish Community.”** The symposium will explore medical, religious, and legal issues surrounding genetic testing, and will include a discussion of the BRCA1/2 genes. The event will take place on Sunday, February 16th at Columbia University Kraft Hillel Center, 606 West 115th Street, in New York City. For more information, please call (212) 840-1166.

Living Beyond Breast Cancer and the Young Survival Coalition will host the **Third Annual Conference For Young Women Affected By Breast Cancer, “Living Well Today for the Promise of Tomorrow”** on Saturday, February 22nd. The Conference will be held at the Hyatt at Penn’s Landing in Philadelphia, PA. For more information about Conference registration, please call (610) 645-4567.

A CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ONE OF OUR LINKS

Sarah Fenner, one of our Sharsheret Links, is requesting brief “kavannot/intentions on the theme of light” as she prepares a collection of prayers for those receiving radiation treatment. Please contact Sarah at (415) 444-0369 or fennermail@yahoo.com if you are interested in contributing.

SHARSHERET VOLUNTEER MEETING

The next **volunteer meeting** will be held on Monday, March 31st at 8 pm in our office, 294 State Street in Hackensack, New Jersey. Please call Gerry Loeb at Sharsheret for directions: (973) 438-7800.