



SHARSHERET UPDATE: DECEMBER 13, 2004

WEBCAST OF NATIONAL GENETICS SYMPOSIUM AVAILABLE ONLINE

You can now access a webcast of Sharsheret's recent symposium, **Breast Cancer Genetics: Impact on the Jewish Woman and Her Family**, recorded at Beth Israel Medical Center on October 26, 2004. To access the webcast online through January 28, 2005, visit our website, www.sharsheret.org, and click on the Upcoming Events window. The webcast will be of interest to breast cancer patients, survivors, family members, and health care professionals.

The Symposium addressed the impact of hereditary breast cancer on the extended Jewish family, new research on genetic susceptibility for Jewish women of Sephardi descent, hereditary breast cancer in younger Jewish women, genetic counseling and testing in Chasidic and Orthodox Jewish communities, and appropriate surveillance for Jewish women who test positive or negative for alterations in the genes responsible for hereditary breast cancer. The Symposium also explored the findings of the recent New York Breast Cancer Study that analyzed more than 1,000 women of Ashkenazi Jewish descent, and featured a question and answer session with an expert panel. Symposium attendees found the presentations informative, valuable, and well organized.

The webcast is free of charge and was made possible by a generous grant from the **Jewish Women's Foundation of New York**. For more information, please e-mail symposium@sharsheret.org or call toll-free (866) 474-2774.

SHARSHERET TO DEVELOP FAMILY FOCUS PROGRAM

Sharsheret will develop **Family Focus**, a program to address the support needs of partners, mothers, sisters, and family members of Jewish women facing breast cancer. If you are a spouse, mother, or sister of a young woman facing breast cancer and would be available to participate in a guided group discussion in the New Jersey area in early February, please email info@sharsheret.org or call toll-free (866) 474-2774 for more information.

SHARSHERET TRANSLATES BOOKLETS FOR JEWISH WOMEN FACING BREAST CANCER

Sharsheret will publish Yiddish versions of two new booklets, **“Breast Cancer Genetics and the Jewish Woman,”** and **“Facing Breast Cancer as an Orthodox Jewish Woman,”** developed by Sharsheret with the generous support of the **Greater New York City Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.** To order booklets in English or Yiddish, please call toll-free (866) 474-2774.

OF INTEREST TO YOUNG WOMEN

Young Survival Coalition and Living Beyond Breast Cancer will host the **5th Annual Conference for Young Women Affected By Breast Cancer** on February 19-20, 2005 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For more information, please visit www.youngsurvivorsconference.org.

SHARSHERET IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Executive Director Rochelle Shoretz presented remarks at the **Boro Park Bikur Cholim** symposium, **“Ordinary People Can Be Extraordinary Volunteers,”** October 12, 2004 in Brooklyn, New York. Ms. Shoretz was also a featured speaker at a luncheon presented by **Rofeh Cholim Cancer Society,** November 16, 2004 in Brooklyn. Both organizations are collaborating with Sharsheret in the distribution of thousands of educational booklets published as part of Sharsheret’s **“Breast Cancer and the Jewish Woman”** booklet series.

Sharsheret materials were recently distributed at:

- Stern College Biology Club’s lecture, **“Hereditary Breast Cancer in the Jewish Community: Know Your Options - Genetically and Ethically,”** December 8, 2004 in New York City.
- **“Recent Advances in Breast and Ovarian Cancer Genetics and their Impact on Families of Jewish Descent,”** November 16, 2004 at The Jewish Health and Healing Center of Jewish Family Services of Greenwich, Connecticut.
- Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services’ Annual Bikur Cholim Conference, **“Commitment, Compassion and Community Through Bikur Cholim,”** November 14, 2004 in New York City.
- Jewish Community Center’s **Women’s Health and Fitness Expo,** October 17, 2004 in Whippany, New Jersey.

SHARSHERET IN THE HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

Executive Director Rochelle Shoretz presented remarks at the symposium, **“Jewish Genetic Diseases,”** November 11, 2004 at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Sharsheret materials were recently distributed at:

- **San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium**, December 8-11, 2004 in San Antonio, Texas.
- Continuum Cancer Centers of New York's Ruben Fall 2004 **Breast Cancer Symposium**, November 8, 2004 at Roosevelt Hospital in New York City.

FALL EVENTS BENEFIT SHARSHERET

This Fall, Sharsheret was designated the recipient of proceeds from several benefit events:

- "An Evening of Women and Laughter" featuring **best-selling author Wendy Shanker**, October 27, 2004 in Teaneck, New Jersey, sponsored by synagogue sisterhoods.
- Café Nesheemah musical performance featuring **Omek Hadavar**, December 4, 2004 in Teaneck, New Jersey, sponsored by **Nesheemah Yoga Center**.
- "Showcase 2004," a benefit performance presented by the **Stern College Dramatics Society** at the Schottenstein Cultural Center, December 19, 2004 in New York City. For more information and reservations, please call (860) 966-2514.

If you are interested in supporting Sharsheret at an event in your area, please call Sharsheret toll-free (866) 474-2774 or e-mail info@sharsheret.org.

FAREWELLS

Thank you and farewell to staff members **Gerry Loeb** and **Suzanne Prince** whose dedication to Sharsheret have contributed meaningfully to the organization's growth. Gerry will retire at the end of the year after nearly three years as Sharsheret's Administrator. We wish both Suzanne and Gerry success in all of their future endeavors.

SAVE THE DATE – SHARSHERET'S ANNUAL BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Join us on **Sunday, May 15, 2005** as we "Honor the Women Who Have Touched Our Lives" at Sharsheret's **Annual Benefit Luncheon** (Sheraton Meadowlands – East Rutherford, New Jersey). Share this special day with your mother, sisters, daughters, and friends as we thank our loved ones and recognize the meaningful contributions of Founding Board Member **Dr. Karin Katz**. Details about the Benefit and sponsorship opportunities are forthcoming.