

Spring 2011

Breast Cancer Research and Latinas Highlights from ZBC's September 10, 2010 Community Education Forum

n a sunny September day, more than fifty breast cancer advocates, Hispanic/Latino community leaders, bi-lingual parent educators, college students, faculty, and public health nurses convened at the Marin Health & Wellness Campus





Dr. Esther John speaks with a community member after the research presentation



Community members ask questions and share information at the forum

Research and Latinas. Zero Breast Cancer planned this special forum in partnership with Marin County promotoras (health promoters), the Cancer Prevention Institute of California, the Marin County Department of Health – Epidemiology Division, the Bay Area Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Center, Kaiser Permanente and the UCSF Cancer Risk Program. The morning session consisted of a welcome from ZBC Executive Director Janice Barlow, followed by a series of presentations from researchers, medical specialists, and community organizations. During the discussion groups, participants met with the forum speakers and identified community priorities for further research. UCSF cultural anthropologist Nancy Burke, PhD, and research associate Claudia Guerra, MSW, moderated group reports on breast cancer related issues in the Latina community. Funding for the forum was provided by the Avon Foundation, the Safeway Foundation, and the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

Keynote speaker Esther John, PhD, MSPH, Senior Research Scientist from the Cancer Prevention Institute of California reported that for Hispanic/Latinas:

- Diagnosis of breast cancer tends to be at later stage with larger tumors, resulting in lower survival rates
- Some factors associated with later diagnosis include lack of health insurance, limited health care access, mammography usage factors, and possible adverse tumor characteristics in a sub-group of Latinas

According to Dr. John, "What's notable here in the Bay Area ... is that incidence rates are higher in white women than they are in the rest of California, and we see the same trend for Hispanic women." Dr. John reported that reasons for higher breast cancer incidence in Bay Area Latinas likely include higher socioeconomic status and lifestyle and reproductive patterns associated with higher breast cancer risk. "There's (also) a concern that there may be particular environmental exposures that might be accumulated here in the Bay Area that may explain some of the higher incidence."

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Reporting on the San Francisco Bay Area Breast Cancer Study (1995-2004), Dr. John described Hispanic data based on a multi-ethnic sample of 1,100 breast cancer cases and 1,400 women without breast cancer.¹

- ► The data showed major changes in lifestyle & reproductive factors associated with acculturation the process by which immigrants adopt the attitudes, values, customs, beliefs and behaviors of their new culture
- ► The data also showed that the younger Latinas are when they immigrate, their risk goes up. When they immigrate *before age ten*, they have still a slightly lower lifetime

zero breast cancer

Spring 2011



zero breast cancer

Mission Statement

Our mission is to find the causes of breast cancer through community participation in the research process. We focus on identifying environmental factors and the role they play in the development of breast cancer at all stages of life and across generations.

> Founder Francine Levien (1931 - 2001)

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breast cancer risk, but over time it approaches the risk of women who were born in the Bay Area

According to Dr. John, "this (latter) finding suggests that exposures early in life are important and that breast cancer risk may be determined by factors that happen very early in life."

Conversely, Latinas who migrate to the U.S. as adults may retain cultural practices (physical activity, breastfeeding) that are protective for breast cancer. As a group, foreign-born Latinas in this study had a later age at menarche, lower age of first birth, more children, limited alcohol use and higher fiber intake than U.S. born and Bay Area Latinas.

Dr. John proposed that there could be other factors that have not yet been studied, and that "Hispanics are not homogeneous - there are pronounced differences in education, reproductive patterns and lifestyle in the second to third generation that are similar to whites." She concluded that by studying breast cancer in one ethnic group, researchers can learn about factors that may apply to other populations of women.

Additional forum speakers included Mary Mockus, MD, PhD, breast surgeon from the Kaiser San Rafael Medical Center, who gave an overview of breast cancer biology, and Robin Lee, MS, CGC, UCSF genetic counselor who reported on family and ancestry-related inherited risk in some Latinas. Rochelle Ereman, MS, MPH, Marin County DHHS Director of Epidemiology, described the potential for the Marin Women's Study to analyze breast density, length of residency and country of origin in Latinas over age 40 that are enrolled in this study. Casandra Aldsworth, MPH, ZBC Community Outreach Education Coordinator, reported on environmental exposures of U.S. Hispanics living in urban areas, and preliminary findings from the BABCERC CYGNET study of girls' pubertal transitions. Promotoras Alexandra Danino and Norma Ledezma, Tina Action Program leader Gay Cain, and Susan Schwartz, MPA, ZBC Education Director, presented local breast cancer outreach models for Latina adolescents and women. Bi-lingual group facilitators included Hilda Castillo, Flor Emert, Cecilia Zamora, and Alexandra Danino.

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Q&A session at the Breast Cancer **Research and Latinas Forum**



Zero Breast Cancer has been actively involved with the Marin and Bay Area Hispanic/ Latina community through the:

- **Outreach Project**
- ► Bay Area Breast Cancer and the Environment **Research Center**
- ZBC-SFGH Young
- National Latino Cancer
- Marin County Bi-National Health week and,
- NPAT Ch 26-Encuentro *Latino* (Bay Area) public access television and UC-TV.

The primary aim of ZBC's outreach programs has been to inform Latina women and adolescents about environmental factors associated with breast cancer risk and strategies to minimize risk over the lifespan.

Message from the Executive Director Janice Marie Barlow

Radiation Exposures and Breast Cancer Risk

he earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and the resultant ongoing struggles to contain radiation released from the reactors, has brought radiation to the forefront again.

Radiation exposure is the only known cause of breast cancer. It causes damage to DNA and affects how cells communicate. Much of what we know about radiation exposures and breast cancer risk comes from detailed, long-term studies of girls and women who were living in Hiroshima and Nagasaki when the atomic bombs were dropped in 1945, at the end of World War Two. These studies showed that the breast is very sensitive to radiation, particularly if the exposures occurred during infancy, childhood and adolescence. Japanese women younger than age 20 years at exposure had higher incidence rates of breast cancer than those exposed at older ages.

This finding is further supported by many epidemiologic studies investigating populations who were exposed to radiation medically, during infancy, childhood and adolescence. Those exposed include young girls treated for scoliosis, girls in families monitored by x-rays for tuberculosis, infants treated for benign disorders such as birthmarks or normal enlargement of the thymus, adolescent girls treated for acne and childhood cancer survivors. In all of these populations, the risk of breast cancer is significantly increased and often diagnosed decades after exposure.

In April of 1986, a nuclear accident occurred at a plant in Chernobyl, in the far north of Ukraine, releasing radioactive and volatile isotopes into the air. The winds initially carried the radioactive cloud over southern Belarus, where the heaviest fallout occurred. During the days after the accident, the radioactive cloud spread over large parts of Europe with the amount of fallout being dependent on rainfall. Radioactivity from Chernobyl was detected as far away as Japan, but most tragically, millions of people were exposed to radiation from fallout over a short period of time.

In 2005, twenty years after Chernobyl, a report by the World Health Organization concluded that about 4,000 thyroid cancers were caused by exposure to fallout from Chernobyl. Follow-up studies have demonstrated a very strong link between young age at exposure and the risk of developing thyroid cancer. The evidence suggests that the risk of thyroid cancer for those exposed as adults is very low or absent.

Studies have also reported a twofold increase in breast cancer risk between 1997-2001 in those areas receiving the highest Chernobyl fallout compared to those with the least Neither the earthquake nor the tsunami nor being without electricity, water or heat could drive 70 year old Sadako Shiga from her home. What finally caused her to flee was invisible and to her mind was much more sinister: radiation. Munehiro Okamoto, 36, was leading a convoy of four cars and fifteen people and one golden retriever. He was quoted as saying the group would reach a city, stop and then fear that it was not far enough, and resume their journey westward. They are driven not just by suspicion of the government but also by a deep fear of radiation, in a nation where the word "radiation" brings us images of the devastation caused by the dropping of the nuclear bombs at Hiroshima and Naqasaki.

> "Fear and Distrust Push Thousands From Homes" New York Times, March 18, 2011

contamination. The increase, though based on a relatively small number of cases, appeared approximately 10 years after the accident and was highest among women who were younger at the time of exposure.

What we've learned from the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, studies on medical radiation exposures and environmental radiation exposures from Chernobyl, is that cancer risk, including breast cancer risk, from all forms of ionizing radiation exposure are cumulative and the risk continues to increase decades after the initial exposure. Most importantly, we now know that young children are more sensitive to radiation and are at increased risk for developing radiation-induced cancers.

The consistency of these findings has important clinical and public health policy implications. From the clinical perspective, radiologists and other physicians ordering and performing procedures on children involving ionizing radiation (CT scans, X-rays and fluoroscopy/angiography) should make every effort to reduce the types and numbers of unnecessary radiologic procedures. Parents should ask for information on the estimated radiation doses from medical procedures. Physicians and public health professionals can play an important role by educating the public about the risks and benefits of medical radiation.

In today's society, new technologies involving radiation are being developed for other applications. Professional societies and regulators should strongly encourage manufacturers to design new technologies for reducing radiation doses while maintaining image quality. This even applies to devices such as airport scanners, as recent testing has shown they are emitting radiation levels 10 times higher than expected.

Information is the most important resource we have for protecting our health and that of our children. We need to use what we know about the risks of radiation to make informed decisions and take preventative action now.

Reducing exposures to pesticides at home and in the workplace

Cleaning products and antimicrobial/antibacterial hand products have become a part of our modern lives. They are used frequently - often on a daily basis – at home and in the



workplace.

Cleaning products used for common cleaning tasks are mixtures of many chemicals, including disinfectants, surfactants, solvents and fragrances. Most

people do not realize that *disinfectants* are Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered pesticides designed to kill or inactivate microbes (germs). The EPA has issued warnings that the overuse or misuse of *disinfectants* can pose a health hazard because they contain toxic ingredients including formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, and quaternary ammonium chloride compounds (QACs).

Disinfectants are added to cleaning products with the main goal of destroying microbial life; however, the effectiveness of disinfectants used for common cleaning activities has been questioned in the environmental health literature. Although the evidence is minimal, repeated application of disinfectants may increase the risk of microbial resistance, which requires the use of stronger disinfectants in order to be destroyed.

One of the most commonly used ingredients in antimicrobial/ antibacterial hand products is *triclosan*. When introduced to the market in 1972, triclosan was used only in hospitals and health care settings. Since then, triclosan has been added to hundreds of consumer products ranging from antibacterial

Pesticides are substances intended to repel, kill or control any species designated a "pest", including weeds, insects, rodents, fungi, bacteria or other organisms. The family of pesticides includes herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides and bactericides.

Disinfectants are defined as chemicals or physical agents used on hard inanimate surfaces and objects to destroy or irreversibly inactivate microorganisms, viruses and infectious fungi and bacteria.

Antimicrobial means the product contains a chemical that can kill or suppress the multiplication or growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses or fungi.

Antibacterial means the chemical in the product kills bacteria and some, but not all, viruses.

Endocrine Disruptor is an external agent that interferes in some way with the role of natural hormones in the body. Such an agent might disrupt the endocrine system by affecting any of the various states of hormone production and activity; for example, by preventing the making of hormones, by directly binding to hormone receptors or by interfering with the natural breakdown of hormones.

soaps, deodorants, toothpaste, cosmetics, fabrics, toys, to other household and personal care products. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finds in its 2009 report, *National Report on Human Exposures to Environmental Chemicals*, and its 2010 update that triclosan is in the bodies of 75% of the US population and its levels are increasing.

Scientists are only beginning to study the impact of triclosan on human health and the environment. Studies that have been done have found that triclosan persists in the environment and contributes to the increasing rates of bacterial resistance to antibiotic medications and cleansers. Triclosan is an endocrine disruptor and has been shown to affect male and female reproductive hormones,

which potentially increases cancer risk. Furthermore, the pesticide accumulates in soil, is taken up by food crops and breaks down into different forms of dioxin, thereby exposing consumers to even more dangerous chemicals.



Ways to protect yourself and family from cleaning hazards and antibacterial chemicals:

- Choose "green" (environmentally preferable) cleaning products, including:
 - Cleaners certified by an independent third party, such as Green Seal or EcoLogo
 - Disinfectants that carry the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Design for the Environment (DfE) seal on the label
- Visit the ZBC website for suggestions for making your own eco-friendly cleaning products at home. (www.zerobreastcancer.org)
- When shopping, read labels and avoid purchasing antimicrobial/antibacterial hand products containing triclosan, triclocarban and/or quaternary ammonium chloride compounds (QACs).
- Use regular soap and water which has been found to be just as effective as antibacterial soaps.
- Check out the following resources which provide information on many products, including the contents and safety ratings:
 - Skin Deep: Cosmetic Safety Database (www.cosmeticsdatabase.com)
- The Good Guide (www.goodguide.com)
- Take action: Tell the EPA that triclosan must be banned to protect the public, workers and the environment.
- Join the Beyond Pesticides Campaign to Ban Triclosan (www.beyondpesticides.org/antibacterial/triclosan.htm)

Another level of exposure: Thirdhand Smoke

n the Spring 2009 Zero Breast Cancer newsletter, we advocated the avoidance of exposures to active and passive/secondhand smoke (SHS) as a strategy to reduce one's risk



of breast cancer. Recently, the issue of thirdhand smoke exposure is raising concerns as more studies are being conducted to determine the environmental impacts of tobacco use. In the February 2011 issue of Environmental Health Perspectives, an article entitled "Does the Smoke Ever Really Clear? Thirdhand Smoke Exposure Raises New Concerns", discusses thirdhand smoke (THS) and its possible impact on human health.

WHAT IS THS?

Thirdhand smoke consists of residual tobacco smoke pollutants that: 1) remain on surfaces and in dust after tobacco has been smoked, 2) are re-emitted back into the gas phase, or 3) react with oxidants and other compounds in the environment to yield secondary pollutants.¹ By this definition, thirdhand smoke can be found on surfaces in the homes and cars of smokers long after the actual smoke has dissipated.

The article cites a recent study which showed that THS pollutants have been found in homes that had been vacated by smokers for two months, and were still detected after a fresh coat of paint and brand new carpeting had been installed. Furthermore, researchers have found that nicotine absorbed onto surfaces reacts with nitrous acid found in the air to form tobacco-specific nitrosamines, some of which are classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as human carcinogens. The article goes on to express concern over the exposures to small children and infants, as they are more susceptible to absorbing higher levels of the toxicants in thirdhand smoke because of their closer proximity to contaminated surfaces such as carpets and clothing.

LIMITING OUR EXPOSURES

Currently, there is not enough research on the long-term health impacts of THS, but the California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program has already begun funding studies on THS and cigarette butt waste. Until conclusive evidence is produced, communities and businesses have already taken action to limit exposures by banning smoking in hotel rooms, apartments, restaurants and rental cars. Locally, three cities in the county of Marin are considering tightening their smoking regulations, which would limit the exposure of smoking, secondhand smoke (SHS), and THS to its residents. The Smoke-Free Marin Coalition (SFMC) met with Larkspur, Fairfax, and Tiburon to discuss a new ordinance that would expand protections for nonsmokers in multi-unit housing where smoke drifts to neighboring units through shared ventilation systems. The outlook is promising and most of the ordinances should pass in either late spring or early summer 2011.

Bottom line: until the health effects of thirdhand smoke are known, avoid exposures by keeping your homes and cars smoke-free.

Citation: 1 Burton A 2011. Does the Smoke Ever Really Clear? Thirdhand Smoke Exposure Raises New Concerns. Environ Health Perspect 119:a70-a74. Doi:10.1289/ehp.119-a70

ZBC's Impact In Marin County and Beyond

Since Zero Breast Cancer was founded 15 years ago, we have distinguished ourselves from other breast cancer organizations through our unique involvement in research.

This work has ranged from collaborating with scientists, to designing studies that address our community's concerns, to advocating for more research focused on the environment and breast cancer, to educating our community on the latest research findings.

We have completed a new monograph that details what has been accomplished, what we have learned, and how we have applied what we have learned to our primary purpose: preventing breast cancer. We look forward to sharing this new report, *Engaging Community, Expediting Research, and Eliminating Breast Cancer in Marin County and Beyond*.

You can order the upcoming report online at: www.zerobreastcancer.org/zbcreport

NEW Early Detection Program in Marin County

Breast Cancer Connections, a Palo Alto based nonprofit, is pleased to announce the expansion of its Gabriella Patser Program to Marin County!

This critical program provides free screening and diagnostic services to uninsured women and men under the age of 40 who have a breast health issue suspicious of a malignancy.

Services include mammograms, breast ultrasounds, surgical consultations, breast biopsies, and follow up care.

Breast Cancer Connections is grateful to our community partners and the following medical provider partners in Marin County who make this expansion possible: Leah Kelley, MD, Marin General Hospital; Marin Medical Laboratories/PathGroup San Francisco; California Advanced Imaging Medical Associates; and Anesthesia Consultants of Marin.

To learn more about the Program, contact Rina Olea, Manager of Programs and Outreach at Breast Cancer Connections, at (650) 326-6299, ext 11 or rina@bcconnections.org

The Breast Biologues: A biology dialogue about breast cancer and the environment

ogether with the basic scientists in the Bay Area Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Center, we've produced a new education kit called *The Breast Biologues*. The education kit, consisting of a 15-minute video and a narrative comic book, answers questions such as "how does a normal breast develop?" and "what causes a normal cell to turn cancerous?" It is based on the latest research findings from the Center and uses clever visuals and accessible language. The comic book, available in both English and Spanish, is a colorful booklet made up of artwork

research



from the video and accompanied by brief descriptive prose.

The Breast Biologues is a result of the collaboration between Lori Schkufza, an animation consultant; the Center's basic science researchers: Dr. Zena Werb at University of California, San Francisco, Dr. Paul Yaswen at Lawrence **Berkeley National** Laboratory, and Dr. Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff at New York University Langone School of Medicine; and Casandra Aldsworth and Janice Barlow from

Zero Breast Cancer, and members of the Center's Community Outreach and Translation Core.

Please visit the Center's website http://bayarea.bcerc. org/cotcpubs to view the video, access an electronic copy of the comic book or place an order for the education kit.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Dr. Zena Werb and Lori Schkufza were both involved in the development of the *Breast Biologues* education kit from its inception. We spoke with them recently about the *Breast Biologues* and what it's like working as a scientist and an animator, respectively.

ZENA WERB

Department of Anatomy, Biomedical Sciences Program and the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center University of California, San Francisco, CA



Dr. Zena Werb is a molecular and cellular biologist at the

University of California San Francisco who collaborates with Zero Breast Cancer as part of the Bay Area Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Center. Dr. Werb's research is focused on normal human and mice breast cells to learn about how cancer develops. Much of her research helped to inform *The Breast Biologues* education kit, and the time-lapse images she's developed of cells in the breast in real time are featured in the project. Recently, Dr. Werb shared some insight into the field of science and cell biology:

ZBC: How does *The Breast Biologues* explain the relationship between biology, the environment and breast cancer?

DR. WERB: We suspect the increased breast cancer risk from environmental agents is a consequence of disrupted cell interactions. *The Breast Biologues* uses images of normal and tumor cells to vividly demonstrate that interaction.

ZBC: How did you become interested in science?

DR. WERB: I cannot recall a time when I was not curious about the world around me. One of my earliest memories of science was at the age of 4, learning Newton's laws at my father's knee on a farm in Saskatchewan, Canada. Science fascinated me throughout high school, and when I went to the University of Toronto my interests changed from geophysics (studying earthquakes) to chemistry and biochemistry.

The Breast Biologues: A biology dialogue about breast cancer and the environment *continued from page 6*

ZBC: In the field of cell biology, do scientists work alone in a lab?

DR. WERB: Not at all. I have had wonderful collaborations from my earliest experiences and continue to have them in the scientific community both nationally and internationally. Cell biology is an international discipline and I have been privileged to work in Oxford, Paris, and Munich during my career. These adventures gave me the opportunity to see how different scientists go about their work. They have influenced my approaches, and I trust that I've influenced them as well.

ZBC: What advice do you have for people interested in science?

DR. WERB: Throughout our careers we all need mentors, or people who help guide us. These mentors may change, and we may need several mentors at once, since no one person may be able to listen or give advice on all the parts of our careers and on all the unwritten rules. In various parts of my career I have had excellent mentors, or none, and so I learned that first and foremost my career was my own responsibility. You need to choose your mentors, not just wait until a mentor chooses you. To succeed you also need to learn to be your own mentor, and that in turn helps you become a mentor for others.

LORI SCHKUFZA

is an animator and designer who directed the art and animation for *The Breast Biologues* project. She currently works for Zynga, a social network game developing company that makes the popular game



FarmVille. She spoke with us recently about her life and work:

ZBC: What purpose does *The Breast Biologues* project serve, from your perspective?

LORI: I think that it demystifies certain aspects of cancer, which is a daunting, heavy subject for everyone, whether it has affected aspects of your own personal life or whether you've been lucky enough to have it bypass yours. Infographics (graphic visual representations of information, data or knowledge) can take something highly emotional and reel it in so that you can absorb the concept and the information in a calm manner. I think that it's a subject that can frighten a lot of people, which can steer you away from educating yourself on that subject. *The Breast Biologues* lightens that subject in its visual presentation so that an audience can take in and absorb that material, thus better informing them.

ZBC: How did you first become interested in animation?

LORI: Animation played a huge role in my childhood and adolescence. I was raised on Disney cartoons from the 1930s with the early *Silly Symphonies* through the second Renaissance with *The Little Mermaid* and *The Lion King*. As I grew up there was always some form of animation that greatly interested me and spoke to me at the time. I can't pinpoint an exact moment when I realized, "I want to do that," but I've known for a long time now.

ZBC: What is your background in science?

LORI: A very minimal one. The last science course I took was Physics in high school. Other than that, it's mostly having engineers and computer scientists in my close social circles and thoroughly loving the Tomorrowland episodes of the old Disneyland television series from the 1960s. In fact, the latter is what made me come to understand the role animation can play in science. The concepts presented are clearly dated to the midcentury mindset, but they brought concepts closer to my level that when presented alone would probably be entirely over my head, because they were presented in a familiar, fun way.

ZBC: How does art and animation play a role in science?

LORI: I think that art, and more particularly animation, can make science more readily accessible to the general public. It can be an incredible teaching aid because most of the time still images don't come close to illustrating really complex concepts. The images in my science textbooks throughout school always confused me more because you're looking at multiple ideas and concepts in a single image and you have

to make sense of it all. Motion clarifies because it provides a full illustration over a given span of time. Animation has that advantage over live action because you can give life and a face to ideas and concepts that aren't seen. Since the advent of film and later television this intersection has become more and more prevalent and I think it can only become more so in the future.



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Forum participants included representatives of twenty-five health, social service and public and non-profit programs that reach the Hispanic Latino community in five Bay Area counties - Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda and Contra Costa – with the majority residing and working in Marin County. Individuals who attended the forum committed to take preventive action and share the information learned with their family, friends, coworkers and client populations. The forum's aim to involve the Latino community in the breast cancer research process was effectively achieved. Zero Breast Cancer thanks the presenters, participants and sponsors who contributed to this forum's success.

There were several reasons for ZBC to sponsor Breast Cancer Research and Latinas, including the fact that breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in U.S. and California Hispanic women and is also the leading cause of cancer death in this population.² The estimated rate of invasive breast cancer incidence in California Hispanics, at 83.3 per 100,000 women, is comparatively lower than the estimated rates of California non-Hispanic white women at 140 per 100,000.³ Although U.S. Hispanic women have a lower incidence of breast cancer compared to other races and ethnicities, they have a 22% higher rate of breast cancer-related mortality compared to non-Hispanic White women.⁴ The Latino population, already the nation's largest minority group, is projected to triple in size and will account for most of the nation's population growth from 2005 through 2050. Hispanics are expected to make up 29% of the U.S. population in 2050, compared with 14% in 2005.⁵ Concurrently, the risk and incidence of breast cancer in Latinas is a growing public health concern in Bay Area communities and in the U.S.

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ZBC Youth Advisors Win Awards for Activism

Congratulations to San Rafael High School senior Wendy Mazariegos, who was one of six youths to receive the 2011 Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award



Youth Advocates Wendy Mazariegos & Daniela Cuba

from the Marin County Human Rights Commission at the awards dinner on January 20th. Wendy was recognized for her contributions as youth advisor to ZBC's Latina Adolescent Outreach Program and for her volunteer work at the Canal Alliance tutoring Marin Latino children. Wendy assisted ZBC staff with bi-lingual communication at the 2010 National Latino Cancer Summit, and she is dedicated to reaching members of her Latina community who lack access to breast cancer information.

At the first annual Marin Teen Girl Conference on March 5, 2011, Wendy spoke about her work with ZBC during a panel presentation to 250 adolescent girls. Her future goal is to become a pediatrician.

Also kudos to ZBC Youth Advisor Daniela Cuba, a San Marin High School senior who will receive the 2011 AAUW Project Recognition Award from the American Association of University Women - Novato Branch. Project Recognition honors high school girls who are committed to their schools and communities and who are role models for other teen girls. Dani serves on the board of the Novato Youth Center and volunteers at the Novato Teen Center where she promotes ZBC's Latina adolescent brochure. In addition to her work with ZBC at health fairs, she joined ZBC in community outreach media work with the Novato Public Access TV program, Encuentro Latino. Her "live reporting" experience at the 2010 National Latino Cancer Summit influenced her future goal to become a television journalist reporting on health.

Daniela's reflection on her work with ZBC: "I am so fortunate to have been given the opportunity to become part of such an amazing organization at such a young age. I feel like I, as a teen, am making a big difference in this world because of everything that I am learning."

Zero Breast Cancer was a Community Partner to the first annual Marin Teen Girl Conference, sponsored by the Marin Women's Commission on Saturday, March 5th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael. This conference reached 250 students from grades 7 – 12, and created a forum for Marin teen girls to gain self-confidence in making positive choices and support for their future success. Zero Breast Cancer hosted a resource table at the Teen Girl Mall that provided adolescent educational materials focusing on environmental factors associated breast cancer risk and promoting lifetime physical activity and positive health habits.

supporting our mission

Spring 2011

Honor Thy Healer

oin us on Thursday, May 5, 2011, as Zero Breast Cancer celebrates the 12th annual Honor Thy Healer awards program. This year we will pay tribute to a Marin County medical oncologist, a team of biologists who are looking at how specific toxic exposures may affect breast cancer development, a medical center administrator with a deep commitment to the health of the community, a Mill Valley nutritionist and trainer who founded a company dedicated to helping people live healthier lives, and a healing partner who is supporting her dear friend through a recurrence of breast cancer.

Our 2011 honorees are: *Healing Professional*, **Krista Muirhead**, **MD**, Chief of Oncology, Kaiser Permanente San Rafael Medical Center; *Community Breast Cancer Research*, **Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff, PhD**, (NYU Langone School of Medicine), **Zena Werb**, **PhD**, (University of California San Francisco), **Paul Yaswen**, **PhD**, (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory) with the Bay Area Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Center; *Community Leadership*, **Patricia Kendall**, Medical Group Administrator, Kaiser



Permanente San Rafael Medical Center; *Francine Levien Activist*, **Kim Juarez**, Founder, LOLA / living our lives actively; *Healing Partner* **Susan Mulvey**, nominated by Roni Peskin Mentzer, Director Emeritus of Zero Breast Cancer.

We are delighted that ZBC's friend and Emmy-winning ABC7 newscaster, Cheryl Jennings, will preside over the evening at the Mill Valley Community Center. A Cinco de Mayo-themed dinner will be presented by Insalata's. Tickets are \$135 each and can be purchased over the phone at 415-507-1949 x 102 or online at www.zerobreastcancer.org. The evening begins with a reception at 6:00 pm followed by dinner and the awards program.

Honor Thy Healer Grand Travel Raffle Imagine yourself enjoying a fabulous weekend for two at the luxurious Beverly Hills Montage!	UXURY BEVERLY HILLS WEEKEND GETAWAY RAFFLE ONDARS Destroy Delta
Deveny Hirs Montage: Ticket price ~ \$100 Only 100 tickets will be sold Only 100 tickets will be three Only 100 tickets will be three early bird drawings. Early bird drawings. In addition to the grand travel prize drawing, there will be three early bird drawings.	Round trip airfare for two, San Francisco – Los Angeles Two nights at the Beverly Hills Montage Brunch at the Beverly Hills Montage \$100 dining credit at the Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire Champagne & Spa Basket in your room No blackour dark Vild will 12/31/11
Early bird raffle winners will be announced at www.zerobreastcancer.org the day of each drawing. EARLY BIRD DRAWING #I Tickets received by April 1 will be entered into the drawing for an overnight at the Inn at the Tides, Bodega Bay. Valid until 5/31/2012.	Only 100 tickets will be sold for this year's Honor Thy Healer Grand Travel Raffle. <i>What great odds!</i>
EARLY BIRD DRAWING #2 Tickets received by April 15 will be entered into a drawing for a \$250 travel gift card from AAA. Wild unil 123/11. Must be meaned at either the Sim Refer or Lateput AAA branches. EARLY BIRD DRAWING #3 Tickets received by April 29 will be entered into a drawing for dinner at Balboa Café in Mill Valley.	In addition, there are three opportunities to win wonderful prizes with the early bird raffles. To obtain a raffle ticket contact
Please indicate the number of raffle tickets you would like to purchase on your RSVP card (enclosed).	Sharon Doyle at 415-507-1949 x 102

supporting our mission

RIP CITY RIDERS

Rip City Riders, a local group of motorcycle enthusiasts who share a love of motorcycle riding, have been active philanthropists in our community for over 20 years. Their mission is improve the lives of people in the counties where they live – Marin and Sonoma – which they do by donating the proceeds from their annual motor cycle raffle to a local nonprofit organization. Some past recipients include: Hospice by the Bay, The Marin Community Food Bank, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Project Open Hand, Boys and Girls Clubs of Marin & Southern Sonoma Counties, and the Kid Street Learning Center.



Zero Breast Cancer is pleased to announce that we will be the Marin County beneficiary of the annual motorcycle raffle this year. The lucky winner will ride home on a 2011 Harley Davidson Road Glide.

Tickets are \$5 each. Please call the ZBC office at 415-507-1949 x102 with questions or for information on buying tickets, or go to www.ripcityriders.org to purchase online. The drawing will be held on October 1, 2011 at the Petaluma Fairgrounds.

Plexus Art Group Reception



The evening of November 11th was a special gathering of some of Zero Breast Cancer's founding supporters along with members of the Plexus Art Group to celebrate ZBC's acquisition of a collection of one-of-a-kind hats.

The hats, each exquisite art pieces, are permanently on display at the Zero Breast Cancer office. They are available to be loaned out for shows or exhibits and have already been on display throughout the Bay Area.







supporting our mission

Back by popular demand is the 4th annual Racing for Research karting day at the Jim Russell International Karting Centre at Infineon Raceway.



Participants at the 2010 Racing for Research day

Great Father's Day or Graduation Gift Idea!

The date is Sunday, June 5th and the cost is \$300 per person. Space is limited, so sign up today!



Friends and family at Racing for Research



Dipsea Hike/Run Lite September 17th

Zero Breast Cancer's annual Dipsea Hike/Run Lite will be on Saturday September 17, 2011, on Mt. Tamalpais. Registration opens at 8:00 am and kickoff is at 9:00 am. Hundreds of people from throughout the Bay Area participate in this yearly community event that highlights ZBC's prevention message about the benefits of physical activity and its effect on breast cancer risk reduction.

The 6 mile course utilizes several of the trails on Mt. Tamalpais, including the famous Dipsea steps. It is designed to accommodate both trail runners and hikers and attracts a wide range of ages from young school-aged children to people in their seventies and beyond. The Dipsea Hike/Run Lite is an excellent way for us to demonstrate this important breast cancer risk reduction message while encouraging people of all ages to keep physically fit.

Please join us! For details visit: www.zerobreastcancer.org/events.html







Zero Breast Cancer gratefully acknowledges all of the 2010 donors and contributors that allow us to continue our important work:

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- Making a contribution using the enclosed envelope.
- Workplace giving. If your employer has a workplace giving campaign, you can designate Zero Breast Cancer as the recipient of your payroll deductions. Please include the following information on your form:

ZERO BREAST CANCER 4340 Redwood Highway Suite C400 San Rafael, CA 94903 Nonprofit tax ID #68-0386016

- Matching Gifts. Check to see if your company has a Matching Gift Program. Many companies will donate a percentage or even double the amount of your gift.
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upcoming events

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Honor Thy Healer 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Mill Valley Community Center Tickets \$135 per person To register, visit www.zerobreastcancer.org/events.html (415) 507-1949 ext 102

Sunday, June 5, 2011

Racing for Research

Jim Russell International Karting Centre 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Infineon Raceway Tickets \$300 per person To register, visit www.zerobreastcancer.org/events.html (415) 507-1949 ext 102

Saturday, September 17, 2011

Dipsea Hike/Run Lite 8:00 am Registration; 9:00 am Kickoff Old Mill Park, Mill Valley Registration \$35 for adults; \$20 for students & kids under 10 are free To register, visit www.zerobreastcancer.org/events.html (415) 507-1949 ext 102

Please check our website regularly for updates, new programs and events between ZBC Newsletter printings.

How to Reduce Your Risk of Breast Cancer Around Your House with Green Cleaning

Many cleaning chemicals being sold in the U.S. today contain chemicals that can harm our health. In addition, products labeled "green" can be expensive and are not regulated. Natural products, however, are safe and effective for cleaning your home and using them will reduce your and your family's exposure to harmful chemicals in our environment.

Keep these points in mind:

- Buy a few high quality spray bottles that you can use many times. Bottles with ounce measurements on them are especially useful for measuring and mixing.
- Be sure to label your mixtures to avoid confusion.
- ALL cleaners, whether homemade or store bought, and cleaning ingredients should be kept safely away out of the reach of children and pets in locked cabinets or high places.

BAKING SODA

We all own a box of baking soda and now that we are facing some economically challenging times ahead, it makes sense to take a trip to the dollar store to stock up on a few more boxes of this precious eco-friendly powder.

- 1. **Deodorize your dishwasher:** Simply sprinkle **'***c***up** of **baking soda** on the bottom of your dishwasher before running a cycle.
- 2. **Freshen up your sponge:** If your kitchen sponge or towel starts to get a bit stinky, soak it overnight in **2 cups** of **warm water**, **2 tbsp** of **baking soda** and **5 drops** of **tea tree oil**.
- 3. **Clear a clogged drain:** Mix **1/2***up* of **baking soda** with **1/2***up* of **white vinegar** (careful as when you add the vinegar, it may bubble over). Pour down drain followed by **2 cups** of **boiling water**.
- 4. **Moldy shower curtains:** Throw a mildew/mold stained shower curtain into the washing machine with a couple of bath towels. Add **1 cup** of **baking soda** to the detergent and add **1 cup** of **vinegar** to rinse cycle.
- 5. **Clean combs, brushes:** Freshen up your bristles by whirling them around in a bowl of **3 cups** of **warm water** and **2 tsp** of **baking soda**.
- 6. **Dandruff remedy:** Wet your hair and then rub a **handful** of **baking soda** vigorously into your scalp. Shampoo and condition with sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS)-free products and repeat for the next 5 or 6 times that you wash your hair.
- 7. **Deodorize your carpet or rug:** Lightly sprinkle **baking soda** over your carpet. Let it settle for 30 min and then vacuum.
- 8. **Paving stones:** Keep the weeds from growing in between paving stones by sprinkling **baking soda** onto the paving stones and sweep it into the cracks.
- 9. **Clean your grill:** Scour yucky grill racks with a paste made from **2 tbsp baking soda** and **2 tbsp** of **water**. Apply paste with a brush, leave for 15 minutes and then rinse.

10. **Clean your car:** Use a solution of **1/4 cup baking soda** in **1 quart** of **warm water** to clean your car lights, chrome, windows, tires, vinyl seats and floor mats without worrying about unwanted scratch marks. Apply with a sponge or soft cloth to remove road grime, tree sap, bugs, and tar. For stubborn stains use baking soda sprinkled on a damp sponge or soft brush.

LEMONS

The acid in lemons makes the citrus a great cleaning agent, and it has a bleaching effect, particularly when exposed to sunlight. When it comes to clothing, work quickly, then rinse, and wash clothing immediately.

- 1. **Clean copper pots and pans:** Dip **half a lemon** in **salt** and scrub tarnished copper pots to remove oxidation stains.
- 2. **Plastic food-storage containers:** To bleach stains from tomato soup and other acidic foods on dishwasher-safe items, rub **lemon juice** on the spots, let dry in a sunny place, then wash as usual.
- 3. **Banish stains on a cutting board:** Cut a **lemon in half**, dip it in **table salt**, and rub it over the stained area.
- 4. **Remove stains on countertops:** Start by squeezing some **lemon juice** on the stain and scrubbing with a cloth. If that doesn't work, sprinkle with **table salt** and scrub gently. You can use lemons on marble countertops, but only if absolutely necessary because the acids can damage the marble.
- 5. **Garbage Disposal:** Cut a **lemon** in half, then run both pieces through the disposal. It cleans and keeps your garbage disposal smelling fresh.
- 6. **Clean stains on stainless steel appliances:** by applying a **paste of lemon** and **salt** or **lemon** and **baking soda**. Allow the paste to sit for five minutes before washing and rinsing the stained area.
- 7. **Remove rust or mildew stains from textiles:** by rubbing with a paste of **lemon juice** and **salt**. Work quickly and wash clothing or other fabric item immediately.
- 8. **Remove oil stains:** Gently rub a **few drops** of **lemon** into the stain. Wash clothing immediately.
- 9. **Remove tough coffee or wine stains (from white fabrics):** Spray with **lemon juice** and hang in sunlight to bleach the stain away.
- 10. **Ink stains:** Start by blotting as much of the ink stain as possible, then saturate the stain with **lemon juice**. Sprinkle with **salt** and rub the **salt** into the stain with your fingers or an old toothbrush. Wash the garment right away.

SALT

Famously, salt provides an inhospitable chemical environment for most bacteria, including Salmonella, E. Coli, and it serves double duty against bacteria in that it also removes water from food and cells, making it harder for bacteria to grow without moisture. Salt also is a good non-abrasive scrubber and provides many uses in the home and for the body for this reason.

- 1. **Cleaning greasy or baked-on food** The greasiest iron pan will wash easily if you use a little **salt** in it and wipe with paper. Or if you are facing the awful task of scrubbing out a roasting pan, dampen the pan and sprinkle **salt** all over. The salt will lift off the baked on food.
- 2. **Cleaning ovens Salt** and **cinnamon** take the "burned food" odor away from ovens and stove burners. Sprinkle spills while oven and burners are still hot; when dry, remove the salted spots with a stiff brush or cloth.
- 3. **Cleaning refrigerators** Use **salt** and **soda water** to clean and sweeten the inside of your refrigerator. It won't scratch enamel either.
- 4. **Cleaning tarnished silverware** Rub tarnish with **salt** before washing.
- 5. **Removing onion odors from hands** Rub fingers with **salt** moistened with **vinegar**.
- 6. **Restoring sponges** Give sponges new life by soaking them in **cold saltwater** after they are washed.
- 7. **Removing rings from tables** White rings left on tables from wet or hot dishes or glasses can be removed by rubbing a **thin paste** of **salad oil** and **salt** on the spot with your fingers, letting it stand an hour or two, then wiping it off.
- 8. **Brightening colors** Wash colored curtains or washable fiber rugs in a **saltwater solution** to brighten the colors. Brighten faded rugs and carpets by rubbing them briskly with a cloth that has been dipped in a strong **saltwater solution** and wrung out.
- 9. **Removing mildew or rust stains** Moisten stained spots with a mixture of **lemon juice** and **salt**, then spread the item in the sun for bleaching; and finally, rinse and dry.
- 10. **Ditch the stain remover:** Many stain removing sticks can be toxic. Instead make a solution with **4 tbsp** of **salt** in **2 cups** of **hot water**. This is especially good on yellow perspiration stains. Simply sponge the solution onto the stain and rub until the yellow disappears. Wash as normal.

VINEGAR

The acidic liquid is a powerful cleaner, eating through lime and grime, and killing many viruses and bacteria. From cleaning calcium buildup to unclogging drains to detoxifying your home, it seems like there's nothing vinegar can't do, and it's easy on the environment and your wallet.

- 1. **Remove cloudy buildup:** If your stemware is cloudy from the dishwasher, wrap the glasses in **paper towels** soaked in **vinegar**, let them sit, and the cloudy deposits will rinse right off
- 2. **Clean soap scum, mildew, and grime from bathtub, tile, and shower curtains:** Simply wipe the surface with **white vinegar** and rinse with **water**.
- 3. **Clean a toilet bowl:** Pour in **1 cup** of **white vinegar**; let it stand for five minutes, and flush.
- 4. **Unclog a shower head:** Unscrew the shower head, remove the rubber washer, place the head in a pot filled with **equal parts vinegar** and **water**, bring to a boil, then simmer for five minutes.
- 5. Windows: Put 3 tbsp vinegar per 1 quart water in a spray bottle. For extra-dirty windows try this:
 ½sp liquid soap , 3 tbsp vinegar and 2 cups of water. Shake well. The best way to get streak-free windows? Use newspaper instead of paper towels to wipe them.
- 6. **General dusting:** It's better to dust with a damp cloth. Try **1 tsp olive oil** per **½up vinegar**. Mix together in a bowl and apply with a soft cloth.
- 7. Wash walls: Wipe down your walls with a vinegar water mixture, which helps absorb odors and clean surfaces.
- 8. **Deodorize a room filled with cigarette smoke or paint fumes:** Place a small bowl of **white vinegar** in the room.
- 9. **Remove lint from clothes:** Add **'***é***up** of **vinegar** to the rinse cycle of the washing machine. This will also help brighten fabric colors.
- 10. **Remove decals or bumper stickers or price tag:** Soak a cloth in **vinegar** and cover the decal or bumper sticker for several minutes until the vinegar soaks in. The decals and bumper stickers should peel off easily.

Resources:

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