BCA VIRTUAL ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW

Monday, October 19, 2020
See inside for more information
MESSAGE FROM YONNI WATTENMAKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy, safe, and wrapping up what has certainly been an unusual time. These last months have been filled with anxiety, loss and uncertainty, but perhaps you were also able to enjoy moments of joy and quiet that our busier, more hectic lives may not typically allow.

Through it all, we have been busy at Breast Cancer Alliance. While we have been working remotely, we have not faltered in our commitment to our mission. We must continue to spread awareness of, and raise funding for, the life-saving and life-changing grants that BCA funds.

We know this pandemic is hitting everyone differently. For the hundreds of thousands of women and men across the US who suffered from diminished wages, lost their jobs, and for many, lost their health insurance, accessing healthcare is more difficult than ever. BCA’s role in removing barriers of access to that care, and supporting the doctors and scientists who can improve outcomes in breast cancer, has become even more essential.

“The pandemic has not lessened those odds and it has exacerbated the challenges already associated with this difficult disease.”

For more than two decades, Breast Cancer Alliance has worked in unique and critical ways to improve survival rates and quality of life for those fighting this disease by funding innovative, early-stage research, supporting the breast health needs of underserved women, and propelling more breast surgeons into the field. We are proud of the $29 million granted to date to advance the field of breast cancer research, but there is much more work to be done.

In addition to BCA’s virtual Get Fit for Hope Challenge, monies from which are designated to support breast cancer patients affected by COVID-19, BCA has also remained firm in its commitment to improving healthcare equity through increased access to quality treatment for breast cancer. Breast Cancer Alliance took the Inclusion Pledge as a proud partner in a network of breast cancer organizations and pharmaceutical companies dedicated to reaching Black women and other minorities in underserved communities to provide better education and opportunities to receive the breast health care they require. In July, I had the honor of speaking on a webinar about healthcare inequity and BCA’s continued commitment to helping to improve access and quality care for patients regardless of race or socio-economic status.

Breast cancer has, or will, touch us all. One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime and one in 833 men. The pandemic has not lessened those odds and it has exacerbated the challenges already associated with this difficult disease. Stay with us on this journey and join us for BCA’s reimagined Virtual Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show on October 19th.

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Yonni Wattenmaker
IN MEMORY: LUCY DAY, COFOUNDER, BREAST CANCER ALLIANCE

On June 5th, surrounded by family at home in Palm Beach, Florida, Lucy Day peacefully passed away from pancreatic cancer, after surviving breast cancer with which she was diagnosed in 1997.

Lucy was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 2, 1944, the only child of William Harris Reals, M.D. and Lucile Farnsworth Reals. She held a bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago and a master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania, both in Anthropology and American Archeology. After work on archeological sites and for museums, Lucy had a career in finance and commodities and held a Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

Once retired, Lucy embarked on a rewarding new chapter as a volunteer. An enthusiastic gardener, she was a judge for the Garden Club of America for more than twenty years. At her home in Greenwich, she developed a renowned topiary garden which she and her beloved husband, Nat, later donated to the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. It was relocated there in October 2018 and comprises “Lucy’s Garden.”

Lucy also served as board chairman of three non-profit organizations and co-founded Breast Cancer Alliance with her friends Mary Waterman, Susan Elia, Kenny King Howe, Valerie Marchese, and Cecile McCaull in 1996.

“Over the years, Lucy’s dedication to BCA never wavered and she remained one of its greatest champions,” shares BCA Executive Director, Yonni Wattenmaker. “Those of us who had the privilege of knowing Lucy will always remember her as a bright, beautiful, funny, philanthropic, and energetic force. The orchids she would send to the office to say how proud she was of our accomplishments are just one example of the depth of her thoughtfulness. She was truly one of a kind and will be missed.”

Lucy is survived by Nat, also a dedicated supporter of BCA and a member of its Advisory Council, and their daughters E.V. Day (Ted Lee) of Brooklyn, NY and Annabelle Day of San Francisco, CA.

Her contributions will be honored with a special tribute at the BCA Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show on October 19. At the family’s suggestion, please consider honoring Lucy with a memorial donation to BCA.

A FEW MEMORIES OF LUCY FROM BCA’S FOUNDERS

“Founding the BCA was hard work in those early years and definitely very time consuming. We all had our strengths and it was a solid team effort. We utilized our individual talents to move us towards our fundraising goals. Lucy was a very smart cog in the BCA wheel and stayed dedicated through all these years.”
— Kenny King Howe

“When Mary Waterman, then diagnosed with stage four breast cancer, set out to establish what was originally called the Greenwich Breast Cancer Alliance, she selected a small group of us with great consideration as to what skills we would bring to the table. Lucy brought many: business acumen, event planning experience, a broad network of contacts and influencers who helped us move forward, and a true and abiding dedication to the cause.”
— Valerie Marchese

“I have known Lucy for 35 years. Lucy knew how to enhance the quality of any project she undertook. Her generosity of time and talents have inspired all those who have worked with her. I praise Lucy for her personal style and dedication to lead. I admired her perseverance and spirit. Lucy was charming, had a wonderful sense of humor and was fun to work with. She gave so much of her time as a leader in the Greenwich community, and was known for her topiary gardens, prize-winning plants and her support of many organizations. Breast Cancer Alliance was very fortunate to have her talents and her continued support for 35 years! She was a dear friend and I shall miss her very much.”
— Cecile McCaull
Monday, October 19, 2020

FASHION SHOW BY CAROLINA HERRERA PRESENTED BY RICHARDS
WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO BCA CO-FOUNDER, LUCY DAY
WITH DJ APRIL LARKEN

Please join us virtually this October.
Though we cannot be under one tent, we will still be celebrating a meaningful, fun and fashionable event safely “together.”
Breast cancer diagnoses have not waned during this pandemic.
Screening, treatment and research have all suffered from delayed visits and restricted access.
Your support is needed perhaps now more than ever before.

Event Co-Chairs: Karena Bailey, Ashley Bekton, Joy Gregory and Melissa Nisenson

Event Committee

Dr. Michelle Abadir-Hallock*
Kim Augustine*
Sara Bartow
Jane Balkin
Emmy Bealle
Oonee Beldotti
Susan Bevan
Caitlin Brodie
Sasha Cannan
Susan Carroll
Christa Crebllo
Margo Cole
Lindsey Collin
Jaime Cooper Warner
Jill Coyle*
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Christina Downey
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Erin Glassbrook
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Joy Kaye
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Stephanie Latham
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Alessandra Messineo Long
Karen Lowney*
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Lisa Matthews
Michelle McKnight
Sarah Meindl
Andrew Mitchell-
Namdar*
Debbie Needle
Justin Nelson*
Courtney Olsen*
Sharon Phillips**
Lisa Quackenbush
Jordan Rhodes*
Mary Jo Riddle*
Barbara Rodkin*
Nancy Resen*
Julie Ruby
Faith Ruppel
Heather Sahrbock
Daisy Sanders
Ellen Schapps
Richman*
Jill Schecter
Lauren Schwebold
Trish Shannon*
Angali Sherman
Lisa Skinner*
Ali Stevens
Laura Sullivan
Megan Sullivan
Loren Taufield*
Julie Thomas
Sarah Toepke
Ariane Tray
Fran Warren
Claire Weil
Susan Weis*
Jane Gershon Weitzman*
Joan Whipple
Chamisa Wilkinson
Amanda Wilson
Elisa Wilson*
Era You
Diane Zarrilli*
Melly Zola*
Jen Zulli
Meg Russell
BCA President
Yonni Wattenmaker
BCA Executive Director
*BCA Board Member
**President Emeritus

Make your gift and keep checking back for exciting event updates: http://bidpal.net/BCALuncheon2020
To make a gift by check, Donor Advised Fund, stock or wire transfer, please use the enclosed reply envelope.
WHO IS YOUR MODEL OF INSPIRATION?

Honoring or remembering the women and men who have undergone treatment, and/or are living with metastatic breast cancer, is a beautiful gift.

This year, you can honor or make a memorial tribute for your Model of Inspiration. Their photos and stories will be featured on our website, which can be enjoyed and shared worldwide.

The world is a different place than it was a year ago but our work remains essential and these tributes are reminders for us all as we strive for a brighter, healthier future.

When you join us on October 19, you can help us to celebrate the very special models in this year’s Models of Inspiration fashion show as well.

Nicole Dimonda
Jennifer Dreilinger
Vivian Monique Evans
Anna Forde
Annmarie Veziano FORMATO
Amy Frolick
Reshma Gopaldes
Maria Hryckowian
Robyn Jones
Kathleen Lozier
Shea Mencel
Melissa Tolchin
ONE WOMAN’S STORY: ANNA FORDE
by her daughter, CRYSTAL STOUTE

I worked for Breast Cancer Alliance for seven years and have seen the impact the organization has had on the lives of so many. Everyone who engages with BCA has been affected in some way by this disease. Though it hadn’t struck close to home for me, I never took lightly the difference BCA has made, and continues to make. That was until January 4, 2020 at 8:08 am when I woke to a text from my mother which read “I have breast cancer.”

I jumped out of bed, called her and said “What stage? When did you find out?” She told me they caught it early. I threw on my clothes like a mad woman, jumped in the car and sped to her house to collect the information I needed. The swiftness with which I moved that day has not stopped. Equipped with her records, I reached out to Yonni Wattenmaker who then reached out to Dr. Barbara Ward at Greenwich Hospital.

“We found a doctor in my network who operated on me years prior,” Anna explained. “It was important for me and Crystal to trust every person who came into contact with me during this journey.”

I wanted everyone who laid a hand on my mother to know that Anna Forde is a mother of two kids, wife of 17 years, sibling of six and a friend of many. She recently retired and has yet to tackle her bucket list. The second part of her life has just begun and, selfishly, without my mother, I would be empty.

After countless appointments, the surgery was set for April 4th. We prepped, purchased comfortable clothes and whatever else we thought she would need during recovery and then we were hit with the roadblock of coronavirus. We prepped, purchased comfortable clothes and whatever else we thought she would need during recovery and then we were hit with the roadblock of coronavirus.

“We all became a bit panic stricken fearing the spread of the cancer, and of the unknown. The doctors started me on neoadjuvant therapy hoping to stop any potential spread until the surgery.”

We spent 90 days of watching daily press conferences, trying to keep our spirits up, but crying often from worry. For me, this was harder than when she first shared her diagnosis because there was nothing to do but wait.

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We finally received the call that her mastectomy would be on June 26th at 9:30am. I have never heard my mother so happy and those days flew by in seconds. On the day of the surgery, masks on, I prayed hard, listened to what the doctor said, watched them prep her and finally walked her to the OR.

We prepped, purchased comfortable clothes and whatever else we thought she would need during recovery and then we were hit with the roadblock of coronavirus.

“Three weeks before the surgery we received a call from my surgeon letting us know the mastectomy was postponed indefinitely,” Anna said.

This was undoubtedly one of the hardest things we ever experienced.

“It is now 3 weeks since my surgery. There have been a slew of appointments, drains, logging information, pain killers, mastectomy pillows but also everlasting memories, laughter, phone calls and uninterrupted family time. It surely brought our family closer. Last Friday I learned that I would not need chemotherapy or radiation, just medication for the next 5 years. It felt like a ton of bricks had been lifted from our chests. I have a long road to recovery, but we are thankful.”

Follow us on social media for instant access to event updates, health care information and more.

www.facebook.com/breastcanceralliance @BCAllianceCT @breastcanceralliance
THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT OF BCA BREAST SURGERY FELLOWSHIPS

Lisa Fischer, chair of BCA’s Breast Surgery Fellowship Grants Committee, is incredibly dedicated to her role. “I was approached four years ago to chair this committee after co-chairing the BCA Annual Luncheon and being a survivor of the disease. I understand from personal experience how important it is to have an excellent breast surgeon on your team in order to achieve the best outcome. It has been my privilege to serve in this role to ensure that those who develop this disease in the future can find the best possible care with doctors who are well-trained and advise and perform treatment based on their multidisciplinary

breast surgical fellowship training from Society of Surgical Oncology-accredited hospitals in the tri-state area. Through our fellowship grants, we have trained 45 surgeons who are scattered throughout the U.S. themselves training other doctors and reaching many more women and men who develop breast cancer.”

Jane Batkin, Frannie Burns and Polly Park Hyman were instrumental in launching this piece of BCA’s mission and remain on the selection committee today. Jane and Polly share their thoughts about this important program.

“The Fellowships provide doctors the opportunity to focus their interest, skills and talent in breast surgery over a one-year period. Once the training is completed, they are uniquely qualified to offer exceptional care to anyone requiring breast care: both surgical and non-surgical. It is rewarding to see how many Fellowships BCA has awarded over the years and the geographic diversity of the practicing recipients. Most of all it is rewarding to know that countless patients have benefited, and continue to benefit, from their care and expertise.” — Polly Park Hyman

WELCOME THE 2020 BREAST SURGERY FELLOWS...

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Sarah Ponto Shubeck, MD, MS

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Michelle Abghari, MD

Rodkin Family Breast Surgery Fellow

Yale University, Angelike Saridakis, MD

Mitchell Family Breast Surgery Fellow

...AND SEE WHERE OUR 2019 FELLOWS ARE HEADED!

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Rodkin Family Fellow: Dr. Jonathan Smith studied at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and did his general surgery residency at William Beaumont Army Medical Center while he was on active duty until 2008. Dr. Smith worked in a civilian surgery practice until 2019 and then pursued this fellowship as his interest in the treatment of breast cancer patients became his passion. Dr. Smith will soon oversee breast surgical oncology at OSF Healthcare in Peoria, IL, an affiliate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

Memorial Sloan Kettering, Pitch Your Peers Fellow: Dr. Elizabeth R. Berger received her undergraduate education at Yale, attended medical school at Loyola Chicago and has an MS from Northwestern. Her surgical experience and many breast cancer-specific presentations and research abstracts are impressive, and she presents a strong clinical skillset. Dr. Berger will be moving to Yale where she will be Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology, Department of Surgery at Yale School of Medicine.

Mt Sinai/Beth Israel: Dr. Shkala Karzai was born in the US but is the daughter of parents who fled Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion. She was educated at Georgetown University and received a medical degree at the American University of Beirut to be close to her family, who now reside in the UAE. Dr. Karzai was a surgical resident at Inova Fairfax where she became interested in the multidisciplinary approach of breast cancer, learning from Dr. Costanza Cocilovo, BCA’s first Breast Surgery Fellow. Dr. Karzai is extending her studies with an endocrine fellowship to further improve the skills she will employ as a breast surgeon.

Dubin Breast Center at Mt. Sinai: Dr. Nicole Gordon pursued her undergraduate studies at University of California-Berkeley with a degree in Integrative Biology. She received her medical degree and did her residency at Oregon Health and Science University. She has an interest in oncoplastics and nipple sparing mastectomies and a desire to treat the underserved and the health disparities of breast disease among this population.
SAVE THE DATES...AND JOIN BCA FROM ANYWHERE!

Registration links can be found at breastcanceralliance.org/events

**Tuesday, September 15, 2020**
BCA Symposium: Hot Topics in Breast Cancer virtual from Washington, DC

**Monday, October 19, 2020**
BCA Virtual Annual Luncheon & Fashion Show: Reimagined featuring our signature Models of Inspiration and Carolina Herrera fashions presented by Richards virtually from Greenwich, CT

**Thursday, November 19, 2020**
BCA Poker Tournament Digital, live-stream hosted by Faded Spade

**Thursday, December 10, 2020**
BCA Holiday Wine Tasting and Master Class with Kevin Zraly, founder of Windows on the World Wine School Location to be announced

Have you heard about breast cancer treatment by focused ultrasound? Learn more: November 8 - 13: https://symposium.fusfoundation.org/

Breast Cancer Alliance
48 Maple Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
Yonni Wattenmaker, Executive Director breastcanceralliance.org

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