

Insights

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Judi H Rock On Committee to Host Second Annual Event

Friends and family of a woman from Dunmore who lost her battle with cancer are holding their second annual fundraiser in her honor.

Judi Perry Hartridge, a beloved mother, nurse, and wife, succumbed to cancer in 2007 at the age of 43. In order to honor her generous and loving nature, a group of family and friends wanted to do something in her memory. Last year, the group formed the Judi H Rock On Committee and organized a raffle of a unique pink guitar, nicknamed "The Pink Lady." The raffle, along with a dance party event, generated over \$60,000 for local cancer services provided by the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute.

Currently, the group is making preparations for "Judi H Rock On 2" which will take place on February 4, 2012 at the Scranton Cultural Center. This year's event will be a dance party featuring unforgettable music by two legendary local bands: *Paul LaBelle and the Exact Change* and *Jack Bordo with Old Friends*. Refreshments will be served and cash bar will be available. Tickets for the event are \$40 each and include entry into a raffle for a special pink Fender Stratocaster Mexican guitar (nicknamed "The Pink Lady 2") and a Roland Cube 40 Amplifier.

For more information, or to purchase a ticket, visit www.judihrockon.com or call the Cancer Institute at 1-800-424-6724. Space is limited, so guests are encouraged to buy a ticket in advance.



Members of the Judi H Rock On 2 planning committee gather to show off "The Pink Lady 2" guitar. Shown from left to right are: (front row) Patty Vergnetti, Peggy Ann LaBelle, Paul LaBelle, Jack Bordo, and Carmel D'Angelo; (back row) Christine Zavaskas, Dana Morris, Tony Vergnetti, Pat Troy, Sharon LaBelle, John Hartridge, and Beth Troy.

2012 Shirt Color: GOLD!



Save the Date: March 29, 2012



For more information visit
www.cancernepa.org
or call 1-800-424-6724

Laura Slocum – Story of Survivorship

In May 2009, at the age of 45, I was diagnosed with stage three ovarian cancer. Despite extra screening by my gynecologist since my mom passed away from the disease in 2004, and a normal ultrasound just seven months prior, it was discovered that I had two "apple sized" tumors. One week later, during surgery, doctors found that one of the tumors had already grown to "grapefruit" size. This is all after I had lived a very healthy lifestyle: eating right, being involved in sports, teaching exercise classes, and getting frequent checkups....BAM!

My surgery was followed by an intense chemotherapy regimen. Then, in the summer of 2010, I underwent testing for the genetic mutations that cause breast and ovarian cancers. Only a very small percentage of all the people that test for this are positive. I was one of the "lucky" winners and tested positive for the BRCA 1 gene mutation. My likelihood of developing breast cancer now stood at a whopping 87%. With the knowledge that my grandmother passed away from breast cancer at my current age - there was no doubt in my mind that I would have a double mastectomy, which I had in November 2010, followed by a successful reconstruction.

Prior to my surgery, I was involved with the Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association and also

Support Group for Hereditary Breast & Ovarian Cancer Forming

Two local women have teamed up with a national nonprofit organization to bring a new support group to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Maria Serra and Debra Derby recently started a local chapter of the organization Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE). According to the organization's website, the idea behind the creation of FORCE was that "no one should have to face hereditary breast and ovarian cancer alone."

Serra was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007, and after her oncologist noted her family history of breast and ovarian cancer, she found out

taught exercise classes for ten years. I have recently been able to get back into both, in addition to making and selling jewelry for my company called Creatively Tangled.

I also volunteer at Candy's Place (The Center for Cancer Wellness). I have had the opportunity to do some decorative painting for the center, as I used to be a freelance artist and mural painter.

Additionally, I have worked at the front desk and at special events, as well as spoken with some of the patients that come in that are dealing with the same issues that I have dealt with. The biggest thing that I can do from this experience is to be there for others.

I am married to Bartt Slocum and have two sons: Drew is studying at DeSales University, and Alex is at Shippensburg University.



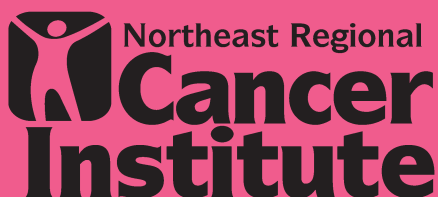
Laura Slocum (left) recently donated her artistic talent to design the cover of the Cancer Institute 2011 Holiday Card. Above, Cancer Institute President Bob Durkin presents her with a recognition plaque in gratitude for her art.

she carried the BRCA 1 genetic mutation, making her risk for developing cancer again very high. During her treatment, she took part in a FORCE support group in Philadelphia and found it so helpful that she wanted to create a similar resource in her hometown. Along with Derby, she is now planning the formation of a local support group, which will meet regularly for casual discussion.

Anyone interested in participating or in more information about the local FORCE support group can contact Maria Serra at 236-0176 or via email at marias@facingourrisk.org.

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