DINNER & FASHION SHOW
FEATURING OUR SURVIVORS

2016
THE Celebration of Life

GUEST OF HONOR
ARTHUR GREENBAUM, ESQ.

SHADOWBROOK AT SHREWSBURY
1 OBER PLACE • SHREWSBURY
DECEMBER 5, 2016

PRESENTED BY THE
CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY

at
MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER
&
MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER SOUTHERN CAMPUS
Celebration of Life Committee Members

Ellie Breslow
Janet Brown
Jennifer Brown
Eileen Buriani
Kimberly Dilello
Erin Dooley
Anne Ferreira
Portia Fuentes
Laura Gallo
Stacy Gemma
Joan Hogan
Debra McGivney
Pauline Poyner
Teri Rebhun
Sophie Weiner
Ilene Winters

Special thanks to the Foundation of Monmouth Medical Center for their invaluable assistance in bringing this celebration to fruition
Evelyn Nitis and Felicia Hernandez

Special thanks to the Cancer Support Community's college interns for their tremendous help
Gabrielle Alvarez, Margaret Pappadimatos, and Megan Tuohy
Message from the Chair

Dear Supporters of the Celebration of Life,

Welcome to the Annual Celebration of Life sponsored by the Cancer Support Community at Monmouth Medical Center and Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus. Tonight’s event is an opportunity to celebrate survivorship and to raise funds in order to help as many people as possible in the coming year who are touched by cancer. Your dollars will help to ensure that no one has to face cancer alone and that they will be supported with the tools that they need to thrive during their cancer journey. So thank you to each of you for your kind support.

A big thank you goes to all of tonight’s models as well. We are honored to have you as part of this year’s Celebration of Life! We all wish you continued success in your journey down the “runway” of life, filled with good health, love, light, smiles, and happiness. We are so proud of all of you!

I have had the honor and pleasure of working as a volunteer for the Cancer Support Community for several years. Over this time, I have seen this organization’s amazing impact on hundreds of individuals. Like so many of you, my family has been deeply affected by this disease. I’ve lost my brother to cancer and supported my parents when they were both diagnosed. My mother-in-law was a nine time survivor before she passed away at the age of ninety-two! This evening, our niece, Jennie Breslow Vinson, from Portland, Oregon has joined us to celebrate and is a two and a half year survivor, being diagnosed with breast cancer at thirty-seven! A true warrior!

Together with my extraordinary committee, we wish to express our deep gratitude to the businesses, individuals, and families who have supported this event through sponsorships, gift basket contributions, program ads and attendance this evening. Your overwhelming generosity is essential to the success of tonight’s celebration. Please take note of our donors and support them as they have supported the Cancer Support Community.

Tonight’s event wouldn’t be possible without the amazing help of our committee especially, Janet Brown from Macy’s at Monmouth together with Eileen Burian who coordinated the model’s outfits and Stacy Gemma whose dedication to this fashion show is unprecedented. To 50/50 chairperson, Kimberly Dilello and Debra McGivney, for soliciting and wrapping all the Chance Auction baskets, Jennifer Brown for financial support and terrific brainstorming, Laura Gallo for the sparkling cider favor design, Sophie Weiner and Teri Reehun for coordinating the art school paintings and the centerpieces, and Anne Ferreira, Erin Dooley, and Pauline Poyner for all their support in a multitude of ways! To Joan Hogan, Evelyn Nitis and Felicia Hernandez, thank you for being my shoulder to lean on and always having the time to listen to my ideas and plans.

One of the rewards for the months of hard work was meeting some very amazing people. For those of you who came this evening to honor Arthur Greenbaum, I envy you. Having just met Mr. Greenbaum two months ago, I quickly came to realize what a very special person he is. You, who have known him for many years and call him a friend or colleague, are truly fortunate. Today, I am proud to call Arthur Greenbaum, the Celebration of Life 2016 Honoree, my amazing friend.

With joy in my heart,

Ellie Breslow
Event Chair
Dear Cancer Support Community Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our 2016 Celebration of Life fashion show... a tradition that truly honors all cancer survivors: our models, our members, and the family and friends who love them!

As you know, a partnership with Monmouth Medical Center two years ago enabled the Cancer Support Community to continue its mission to provide free support, education, and hope to anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis...no matter where treatment has been received. From diagnosis, through treatment, survivorship and beyond, CSC is a community resource that can be counted on to ensure that no one faces the uncertainty of cancer alone.

On behalf of dedicated staff, volunteers, and treasured members, our entire CSC “family” sincerely thanks you for your generous support.

With gratitude,

Joan Hogan
Program Director

Portia Lagmay-Fuentes
Regional Administrative Director, Cancer Services
Message from the President
and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends:

In 2014, Monmouth Medical Center announced a partnership with Cancer Support Community (CSC) to carry on CSC’s mission to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community. Its global network brings the support to the millions of people touched by cancer, and we are exceedingly proud of this partnership that allows us to fully incorporate CSC programs and services into the hospital at both our main campus in Long Branch and our southern campus in Lakewood.

To ensure that no one faces cancer alone, there is no charge for these programs and they’re available to all cancer patients in Monmouth and Ocean counties, regardless of where they are being treated. We are so thankful to the volunteers who each year organize the Celebration of Life fund-raiser in support of Monmouth Medical Center’s CSC programs and services.

I also am very proud to announce that our Cancer Support Community has been recognized with Best Practice honors by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (ACoS CoC). This organization recently awarded our Leon Hess Cancer Center re-accreditation, providing assurance to patients that they will receive the highest-level of comprehensive care at Monmouth, including access to a full range of state-of-the art services and a multidisciplinary approach to provide the best treatment options. The Leon Hess Cancer Center is the only facility in Monmouth County to be designated as an Academic Comprehensive Cancer Program by ACoS CoC.

For more than 40 years, the Leon Hess Cancer Center at Monmouth Medical Center has broadened its leadership role in oncology services through the ongoing expansion of state-of-the-art programs and technologies offered in many areas of cancer prevention, detection, treatment and ongoing after-care. The addition of Cancer Support Community programs and services to our comprehensive cancer program ensures that we also are offering the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer.

Sincerely,

Bill Arnold
President and CEO
Monmouth Medical Center
Arthur Greenbaum has been practicing law for more than six decades. Throughout his long and distinguished career he has focused on real estate brokerage and trade association law, representing many of New Jersey’s most prominent builders and developers, scores of commercial landlords and tenants, and for more than 40 years as general counsel to New Jersey REALTORS®. As a noted authority on real estate brokerage and trade association law, Mr. Greenbaum argued many cases before the New Jersey Supreme Court, including a number of landmark cases that have had a significant impact on the state’s real estate industry. While he has shown a willingness to tackle the most difficult issues, a true generosity of spirit has been the hallmark of his approach. Now in his 91st year, Mr. Greenbaum continues to attend firm meetings, meet with and mentor younger partners and associates, and stay abreast of developments in the real estate world. He has been marked as a true leader, having won widespread esteem among colleagues in the legal profession and the real estate industry alike. He is a 1943 graduate of Weequaic High School in Newark and the University of Pennsylvania and Rutgers Law School. Mr. Greenbaum has been a supporter of the Cancer Support Community and is a 29-year cancer survivor. He was also one of the models for this event during one of the first Celebration of Life Fashion Shows.
The 2016 Celebration of Life Models

Paula Abel
Bill Anderson
Julie Brewington
Kristine Calabro
Kayla Casale
Dr. Sumy Chang
John DiDomenico
Susan Gallagher
Debra Georfo
Elizabeth Hrubash
Alice Kantor
Hector Lopez
Jean Otte
Tina Pilot
Anna Simonelli
Melissa Surdez
Dr. Mindy Wiser-Estin
Paula Abel

Paula Abel knows all about health and wellness. She has been a registered nurse for over thirty years. She is married to her “handsome” husband, John, for twenty-six years. They have beautiful active twin daughters who Paula says are the “joys of my life”. The seventeen year olds perform on the high school dance team, in high school shows and musicals. Paula also enjoys the friendship with her best friends, playing cards and laughing the night away as well as cooking special meals for her family.

Paula could not have done her cancer treatment without the incredible support of John and the girls who all approach life with a great sense of humor and a song. Her best friend, Missie, a cancer survivor too, and Missie’s entire family have been a great support. From family dinners together to family vacations, they constantly cheer each other up and encourage each other through the tough times. Paula is also grateful to her doctor, Seth Cohen, who didn’t give up on her. She believes she is still here today because of his excellent care! When Paula thanked Dr. Cohen the day he announced that she was in remission, Dr. Cohen told her not to thank him but to thank God. Paula truly believes that God worked through Dr. Cohen’s hands to give her this miracle.

Bill Anderson

Bill is most passionate about being a volunteer. He is a member of the Freehold Fire Department, the Sons of the American Legion, the Ancient Order of the Hibernians, chairman of “Old Freehold Day”, and the Freehold Spooktacular! He and his wife, Peggy also participate in the New Egypt Relay for Life.

Bill loves spending time with Peggy and their chocolate lab, Riley who has been an incredible comfort throughout his cancer journey. The support of family, friends and the Freehold community was very helpful as well as Billy’s team of doctors and their staff. But what he was most thankful for on his journey was the guidance and support of his wife, Peggy. Billy feels she had been his biggest supporter, his loudest cheerleader, his absolute ROCK, and the best nurse he could have ever asked for throughout his whole ordeal. He often thinks that things would have been different if it had not been for Peggy’s help. “Peggy, I am so grateful that I have you in my life, because you have certainly made it better!”
Julie Brewington

Julie loves to dance and sing karaoke, even though, she says, she is tone deaf! She loves cooking and eating Italian food! Julie, a newlywed since June 6, 2015, is a Calculus teacher at Rumson-Fair Haven High School. She also advises the National Honor Society and is the head coach of the Varsity Field Hockey Team. She loves working with her students and athletes of the RFH community.

Julie was diagnosed at age twenty-five with breast cancer, chose to not feel sorry about herself and stay stuck on "why me", but chose to hit the ground running. She is thankful for the outpouring of support from her family, friends, players, co-workers, neighbors and even strangers. Julie thinks the encouragement she received surely played a huge role in her healing process. She knew that anytime she felt weak, either emotionally or physically, she could lean on her support system to help her get through. Julie is thrilled to be the Celebration of Life bride this evening!

Kristine Calabro

Kristine has taught English for the last thirty years from grades 7-10. Teaching is her passion! “I love kids! There is nothing better than having a great discussion with them about something they have read. I never tire of seeing light bulbs go off as they “get” a concept I am teaching!” Work and family take up most of Kristine’s time but when she has a free moment she enjoys running, reading, walking with her dog, doing Sets Bootcamp classes, going to estate sales with her daughter, and watching the Jets lose with her son and husband.

First and foremost, God helped her through her cancer challenge. Sometimes she just wanted to fall apart but she would get a little kick from somewhere and then knew it was Him reaching out to say, “Move on! Fight it.” Kristine believes He sent those little nudges through the people around her. Her husband never showed his stress or worry which made her feel confident that everything was going to be okay. He worked behind the scenes to make sure that life went on which Kristine noticed even though her husband might not have realized this! Her children are her rocks as well as her husband. Brittany, Kristine’s daughter never let her feel alone by calling her daily and taking care of a multitude is commitments and chores. She kept her mom calm with her own calming ways! Kristine’s son, Markus, always kept her laughing! He is always on her side and truly wants what is best for his mom. Kristine is blessed with a son-in-law whose little texts here and there had a profound effect on her outlook. She is also lucky enough to have a mom and dad who came to appointments and filled in whenever needed. Their encouragement was unparalleled! She is also blessed with two friends who unfortunately have experienced the BIG C as well and their comfort has been priceless.
Kayla Casale

Kayla Casale was only twenty-two years old when she was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Her mother was only twenty-eight when she was diagnosed with the same cancer. Kayla, an avid shopper, says she can get lost in T J Maxx and Marshalls. She loves shopping more than anything! Kayla is a very busy restaurant manager who loves to work hard and make her customers happy. She enjoys riding her bicycle to the beach where she likes to spend most of her time in any season.

Kayla credits many things that helped her through her journey; things like music, art therapy, having too many drinks, but most of all the love and support from her family and friends. Kayla always felt that since she was born to a survivor, it was in her blood to be one too! Kayla’s positive outlook each day, going to work and furthering her career, and staying busy has helped her along her journey. And that is just the way she likes it!

Dr. Sumy Chang, FACS

Like others I asked myself “why me?” Being a cancer surgeon does not make me immune to a cancer diagnosis myself. The support of my family, friends, colleagues, my doctors and their teams helped me to get through the treatment and the recovery period. Although, that may seem like a huge network of people, there are hours that they are working, sleeping, etc., essentially unavailable. At those times, what kept me strong was thinking about the breast cancer patients that I have taken care. These women handled the diagnosis and treatment with such gratitude, grace and generosity; in some cases, with greater adversity than I faced. Their phrase of “this could have been worse” got me through some of my darkest hours. The medical oncology team at Vantage Point and radiation oncology at Monmouth Medical Center did tremendously to alleviate my side effects and encourage me during my treatment. I feel very fortunate to live in a time and place where my cancer can be treated, and to have the resources to not only treat the cancer, but also the side effects. One of these resources is the Cancer Support Community, where restorative yoga helped me regain my strength and transition from a cancer patient to a full-time breast cancer surgeon. Now, being the recipient of the compassionate care provided by all the doctors, nurse, technicians, support staff during my treatment and recovery gave me a side of cancer treatment that I did not have as a surgeon. And now I think “why not me?”

I am learning about myself after my treatment. My hobbies, quirks and interests prior to my diagnosis seemed mundane now, and I am taking pleasure in what I used to think were mundane things. Like others, I am interested in traveling to places that I haven’t been but also staying at home and connecting with friends and family. Now, my passion is living my life to the fullest and not to take people for granted, particularly my husband and my young son who will not remain at this age forever. This experience has taught me to pause and enjoy the moment. It has changed me and all aspects of my life: mother, wife, daughter, sister, friend, and cancer surgeon.
**John DiDomenico**

John, DiDomenico, 63 years young, is from Oceanport. He is a husband, father, grandfather and friend. He has been married to Annie for forty-two years and they have one daughter, Gabriella, and two sons, John and Timeo. Granddaughter, Lucia Susanna is expecting a brother or sister in the near future. He is most passionate about his faith, family, and friends. He is lovingly referred to as Mr. Home Maintenance, which gives his kids a good laugh! He has spent his life building business opportunities domestically and internationally that create career opportunities in strong growth and environmentally sustainable sectors.

John is a two year, Stage 4, Pancreatic Cancer Survivor who says that “vigilance is rooted in our inextinguishable hope”. After a very rigorous regimen of chemotherapy, he considers himself a “1 per-center” among the small group of people still alive more than two years after an inoperable pancreatic cancer diagnosis. Both John and wife Annie credit Dr. Seth Cohen for his knowledge, wisdom and ease in making his patients comfortable. John chose to be treated at Monmouth Medical Center saying there is nowhere else he wanted to go.

A former entrepreneur, John proclaims staying alive is now his full time deal. The message surrounding pancreatic cancer is so negative and he now wants to share the message that there is real talent right here at MMC. He is eager to use his story to raise awareness of the need for data sharing and therefore fundraising for the small group of patients surviving with advanced pancreatic cancer and funding for research for a cure.

**Susan Gallagher**

Susan tells us that she enjoys making jewelry and working at her daughter’s boutique, Uphoria, in Little Silver. She gets to meet women who are dealing with breast cancer and some who are survivors like herself. She finds it rewarding to share experiences with them all. Susan hopes to help all newly diagnosed by creating a kit to give them some of the items they will need as they embark on their cancer journey.

The support of her family and friends was what helped Susan through her cancer diagnosis and treatment. Her support group was extremely helpful as well. “These special people in my life kept me going and kept my spirits high.”
Debra Georfo

Debra shares that she is the mother of three children and happily married for twenty years. She loves being at home with her family and cooking delicious meals for them! Dancing, singing and reading books are “her kind of things!” Debra’s profession is nursing and helping others in her little way is what she is most passionate about.

“Waves of adversity come like a thief in the night washing over you, and you feel tempted to give up. As the circumstances consume more of your attention, we are losing our sight…..” Debra thanks the Lord for all His goodness and unfailing love, for giving her a wonderful and loving family, an awesome church family here in the USA and in the Philippines, thoughtful and supportive friends and co-workers, reliable and caring doctors, nurses and other staff members and her dearest husband who was and is always there for her. For Debra, it was never an easy path but with all of the above she was able to make it through.

Betty Hrubash

Betty Hrubash enjoys swimming, walks on the boardwalk, and dinners with family and friends. She also enjoys visiting the Amish country and trips to Atlantic City.

Betty believes that her faith, a very positive attitude and knowing in her heart that she had a fabulous caring doctor like Dr. Kohli and her staff, Kathy, Janice and especially, Erin Dooley, the nurse navigator, who all helped walk her through her journey. They made her feel comfortable and worry free. Betty knew right away that she wanted to be treated at Monmouth Medical Center’s Radiology Department and not travel into NYC or Philadelphia for treatment. She was also fortunate enough to have two great neighbors who had recently undergone breast cancer treatment and told her what to expect. She calmed her fears and helped her to understand her treatment. Betty says she “is here to stay”. She believes that staying positive can get you through the journey. “Believe you can and you will! It is what it is!”
Alice Kantor

Alice is passionate about her family. Her husband, son, daughter, and grandchildren give her strength, joy, and love! Alice loves to hike, fly fish, ski, camp, snowboard, travel, and cook. Alice also enjoys teaching PreK at Holy Cross School in Rumson. She loves to see the sparkle in the eyes of her grandchildren when they experience new things! She enjoys Sunday mornings and car trips with her husband and family to visit the beach, mountains and anywhere being outdoors. Alice enjoys anything that comes her way especially being able to awaken each morning. God, her family, and friends at Holy Cross School gave her the love and support she needed to get through her diagnosis and treatment. She especially is thankful for Dr. David Sharon and the nursing staff, Leslie and Darla on BBR2 and the Infusion Center “girls”. Alice is “known” for her own original words to “The Ants Go Marching In” which helped others during chemo infusion and in turn helped her during that time in her life.

“And we are all marching out in the sun when our chemo is done!”

Hector Lopez

Hector Lopez was born in Puerto Rico and arrived in America as a two year old toddler and went straight into the embrace of his adoptive mother’s arms. His mother’s loving presence and guidance kept him on the straight and narrow path growing up in New York City’s Chelsea neighborhood, where he learned that although life can present difficult challenges, it is how we meet those challenges that make us who we are. It’s those challenges that strengthen our resolve, faith and compassion for ourselves and others.

Hector was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2016 and says that the lessons he learned in his youth came to bear as he dealt with the emotional pain of his diagnosis and proactively worked with his doctor at ProCure on his treatment plan. Hector says that it was through forty-four weeks of treatment that his resolve to fight the cancer was strengthened by his faith in a higher power. “The doctors and nurses at ProCure were my biggest supporters during my cancer treatments and now I want to give back and help others get through this difficult time. Life is short and we must enjoy every moment.

Hector wishes to thank all of his friends and family for their support, concern and encouragement and looks forward to helping others make it through.
Jean Otte

Jean Otte was born in England and came to the United States in her twenties. Widowed at forty-nine, she raised her sons alone. After a successful career as a corporate executive, she began a nationwide organization twenty-five years ago to help women become successful leaders with “Women Unlimited Inc.

Jean loves Broadway, is an avid mystery reader and travels the world. Most important are her “gal pals” who she enjoys spending time with and drinking wine!

Jean is thankful first and foremost to Dr. Kohli and her nurse navigator, Erin Dooley, and of course, PRAYERS! She has experienced more than her share of adversity in life but she believes she has been blessed with the ability to envision a positive outcome and not ever have a victim mentality. Above all she believes that humor is truly the best medicine. Jean feels she is blessed with a great sense of humor!

Tina Pilot

Tina is a self-employed, self-motivated real estate agent who works seven days a week. She says she fell in love with people transitioning from home to home and helping them in their journey. She enjoys music, theater, helping others, is involved in charity events, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors for Ocean County Tourism and Business Development, and the Realtor Community Service Committee at the Ocean County Board of Realtors. In 2013 she was chosen Realtor Associate of the Year for the State of NJ and Ocean County Board of Realtors. Her passion is one kind gesture each day without a feeling of regret and helping those in need. It is now another passion of Tina’s to spread the word for early detection and try to bring awareness to women of the importance and need for self-care.

Tina thanks her friends for their monumental strength. She never had to worry about a ride to chemo, or to the Neulasta shot the next day or where her next meal would come from. A blanket and bag full of prayers and well wishes went with her every day. These were, she says, the most difficult days of her life. Her friends bought her a bat, which symbolized breast cancer. All who mattered to her have signed the bat and she has it as a keepsake. The radiation treatments went by like a windmill. The staff was amazing! Tina’s sister stayed with her on weekends and kept her spirits up with bouquets of smiley face balloons. Tina credits her amazing doctors and staff, Drs., Pardes, Chang, Cohen and D’Ambrosio with a huge thank you! “We will get you through this and you are going to be alright!” What more can anyone ask for?
Anna Simonelli

Anna is a half-century young! She was born and raised at the Shore. She is a two time breast cancer survivor who enjoys music, her immediate family, and her friends. She has had six surgeries in two years and loves “her new girls”!

Anna says she joined the Cancer Support Community two years ago and it has been the best thing she’s ever done. The CSC is her home away from home. The staff, patients, survivors, friends and family are all caring people who support each other. Anna loves that they understand, help, laugh, cry, eat, hug, kiss, drink and relax together. She enjoys exercising through Tai Chi, Qi Gong and Yoga to name a few. Anna appreciates that their classes are for the well being of those affected by cancer, including friends and families.

Anna is thankful for the support of the CSC, her friends and family, especially her nieces and nephew. She is so proud of them. She tries to surround herself with sincere people and believes that “what doesn’t kill you, makes you stronger”

“It is my life that makes me happy! It makes for a more wonderful world!”

Melissa Surdez

Melissa loves movies and is a huge binge TV watcher! She is married to an amazing man, Lance, and they have “awesomely delicious kids”, Quinn, seventeen and Brielle, fourteen. Melissa is a Senior Human Resource Director for the Global Technology function at Johnson & Johnson. She was recently selected as the 2016 Working Woman of the Year for Johnson & Johnson and Working Mother Magazine. Melissa is an accomplished speaker who has done several TEDx Talks, which you can find on YouTube. Melissa is also a certified Life Coach who has coached and counseled many professional women in the work world as well as those out of work during their cancer journey. Her husband calls her the “cancer whisperer”.

Melissa is very grateful to Dr. Seth Cohen, her sister, Dr. Jessica Israel, her husband and kids; they are her anchors. Her best anecdote is the ability to see some humor in her journey.
Dr. Mindy Wiser-Estin

Mindy is a gynecologist with an office in Little Silver. She enjoys playing tennis and volunteering for her temple, Congregation Torat Ei in Oakhurst, the Jewish Family and Children Service, and Jewish Federation. She has raised money and awareness for breast cancer including five thirty-nine mile, two day walks. Mindy says she is most passionate about being a good mom, wife and friend. Nothing matters more to her than her family and close friends.

Mindy was so very fortunate to have an incredible support system. Her husband, David, children, Sam and Josh, her sister Toby and brother, David, and their families were there for her 100%. She has an amazing network of close friends who cooked for her, drove her to chemo and doctor appointments, and were always there with hugs and encouragement. Although her parents were in Florida during most of her treatment, Mindy knows their love and support were very critical to her recovery. Mindy also thanks her doctors, Drs. Belen and Won for finding her cancer so early, making a definitive diagnosis, and treating her vigorously.