

Volume 2 Issue 1 Spring 2008



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## New Era in New Jersey: Bringing Cancer Research from Bench to Sidewalk

**A**n award of \$12 million from the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** will enable CINJ to marshal expertise and technology to implement a four-year initiative designed to reduce the numbers of people who hear the words “you have cancer.” This award will allow CINJ to better understand who among the general public are at a greater risk of getting cancer and to get this information out to physicians and family practices. The focus is on cancer prevention and control and on reaching health care providers and the general public with knowledge and access to care.

### Funding Frontiers

Accelerating the program of Prevention, Control and Population Science at CINJ is an ambitious and exciting endeavor. The program aims to bring professionals from diverse disciplines together – laboratory researchers, biostatisticians, social scientists, population scientists, outreach workers, nursing educators and primary care physicians – garnering the knowledge of each field to stop cancer before it begins and to enhance quality of life after treatment.

The initiative consists of five program areas that complement one another. The focus of Prevention and Control will be the collection and analysis of data on risk factors of lifestyle and behavior, genetics, and environment. The Center for Cancer Survivorship will develop and disseminate interventions to reduce the adverse effects of surviving cancer. Disparities Support Services will work to insure open health access and information with a specific focus on underserved and emerging populations in New Jersey. Statewide Network Support will coordinate education, outreach, prevention, control, survivorship and research projects among CINJ’s network of 15 hospitals and

*(continued on page 3)*



Left to right: Program Directors Benjamin Crabtree, PhD; Molly Gabel, MD; Guna Rajagopal, PhD; Kim Evans, MPH and (not pictured Regina Cunningham, PhD, RN, AOCN and Shawna Hudson, PhD), collaborate enthusiastically to maximize the impact of the new Prevention, Control and Population Science Initiative.

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*Gaining Ground* is published two times  
a year for the friends of the Cancer  
Institute of New Jersey Foundation.

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## A Distinguished Life of Giving Malcolm Wernik

For **Mal Wernik**, living generously means giving of yourself to enrich the lives of others. With this philosophy he has touched dozens of organizations and hundreds of people. Mal likes to say “I never worked a day in my life. I am very happy. Helping people and raising money for charity – what better can you do?”

Mal's relationship with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is personal – cancer became an unwelcome visitor twice in his life. Each year donations are made in response to an anniversary letter Mal sends to his dearest friends inviting

### Living Generously

them to help  
celebrate his

survivorship. This special group of friends, affectionately coined, “Mal's Pals,” includes **Bill Milam**, Mal's friend of 42 years. “He's a bulldog; he grabs hold of a cause and he won't let go. He can outwork three men half his age... Mal is so well-liked, and there's never been a better friend; if I needed him, I know he'd be right there.”

Mal has also made major gifts to CINJ and named the play area of the CINJ pediatric hematology/oncology clinic in honor of his parents, Abraham and Ida Wernik.

At age 76, it is typical for Mal to drive 500 miles a week to visit “his people.” He may be visiting the elderly or donors in the hospital, presiding over a Mason's funeral service as Past Grand Master of the Masons of the State of New Jersey, making a 3 a.m. call to Switzerland to update a niece on the health of her aunt, or sitting, listening and talking for hours with friends who view him as “family.”

For 18 years Mal worked for Presbyterian Homes of New Jersey, retiring as President of the Presbyterian Homes of New Jersey Foundation. A pioneer in the area of planned giving, Mal has served many organizations including the Cerebral Palsy Association of Middlesex County, New Jersey Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, Seton Hall University, Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Eden Institute Foundation, The Gift Planning Council of New Jersey, Catholic Charities, Jewish Family Services, and the 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Centers for Children (who will honor Mal at their annual dinner in November).

Mal is very proud of his three children, five grandchildren and his hometown of **Metuchen** where his father and grandfather opened a pharmacy in 1926. Amy, Mal's wife of 51 years who recently passed away, was also totally devoted to their family, friends and community. “My grandkids get a kick out of the fact there is a street called Wernik Place in Metuchen. As a kid I was always at the Y playing basketball,” says the 6'3” man; now Mal is helping the Metuchen Y with their planned giving program.

Mal, you make the world a better place through living generously. We thank you for your tireless efforts and passionate resolve on behalf of so many.



Malcolm Wernik

# Philanthropy Provides the Bridge to Discovery

**D**uring this time of severe federal funding cutbacks for cancer research, emerging innovative ideas suffer. The irony in seeking major funding is that scientists must have strong data before being eligible for government support, yet it is difficult to provide strong data without research funding. **Jattrade Fogarty Trust** helps significantly in eliminating that conundrum by contributing to pilot projects through the Breast Cancer Research Program at CINJ led by **Michael Reiss, MD**.

This highly competitive program solicits applications for pilot projects in the area of breast cancer. The intent is to attract new investigators into the field of breast cancer research, and provide them with the opportunity to test novel research ideas. It has met with great success!

Based on their findings from the pilot study funded by Jattrade Fogarty Trust in 2005, **Drs. Shengkan Jin** and **Deborah Toppmeyer** received close to one half million dollars from the **US Department of Defense** to advance their work on the role of autophagy (a form of cell death) in breast cancer chemotherapy.

This past year, grants were awarded to **Drs. Bruce Haffty, Qifeng Yang**, and **Kim Hirshfield** to determine if young women with a genetic variation associated with early-age onset of breast cancer and who have been treated with breast conserving surgery and radiation differ in response to treatment and to outcomes (i.e. rate of recurrence) from other breast cancer patients. Findings from this study promise to lead to new and more targeted therapies for these patients.

A grant was also awarded to **Drs. Fang Liu** and **Yibin Kang**, who are investigating proteins of interest in breast cancer spreading (metastasis) to bones. Ninety percent of breast cancer deaths are due to its metastasis to organs outside the breast, and the most frequent site of metastasis for breast cancer is bone. The results from this study promise to lead to new targets for preventing this deadly progression.

With funding for the coming year from Jattrade Fogarty Trust, the most promising projects will be funded to ensure that brilliant new research in breast cancer will not be lost or delayed.

## Under the Microscope



*Michael Reiss, MD, Director of the Breast Cancer Research Program and distinguished cancer researcher, at work in his laboratory*

**New Era** *continued from cover*

**90 family practices. Cancer Informatics will retrieve, compile, analyze and distribute data across these projects and help monitor progress and outcomes.**

**Guna Rajagopal, PhD, one of the architects of the Human Genome Project, has joined CINJ to lead the Bioinformatics area. Regina Cunningham, PhD, RN, AOCN, will direct the Survivorship Center. Benjamin Crabtree, PhD, will lead Prevention and Control, and Molly Gabel, MD will direct the Support Network. Shawna Hudson, PhD, and Kiameesha Evans, MPH will lead Disparities Support. Joseph Bertino, MD, Interim Director and Chief Scientific Officer of CINJ, is the Project Director for the four-year initiative. Dr. Molly Gabel, Deputy Director of Extramural Affairs, will co-direct the project.**

**The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 35 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime. For more information, visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org).**

## Stepping Up, Driving On Against Cancer

In October, hundreds of North Brunswick students and residents turned out for the 9th Annual Care to Walk event to benefit breast and ovarian cancer research and treatment programs at CINJ. The efforts of the North Brunswick Township High School Care to Walk Club and local Care to Walk volunteers raised \$21,000 this year and have given nearly \$46,000 in total support since 2007. The day included food, fun, and the walk, but it was the stories by family members to whom this year's walk was dedicated that most in attendance will remember. To start the program, a little boy bravely spoke about how his grandmother spoiled him all the time and that his family and friends were there to walk because they will never forget her. The generous support of community sponsors is key to the event's success. Since its founding in 1998, Care to Walk has been dedicated to providing support to others and raising awareness about breast and ovarian cancers.

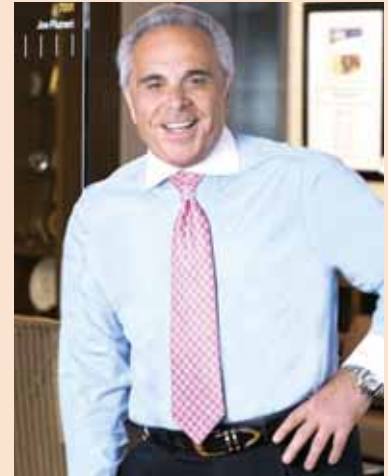
Many members of this local volunteer group are survivors, and are available to talk to patients and family members about issues concerning cancer. For more information go to [www.caretowalk.com](http://www.caretowalk.com).

The New Jersey Coalition of Automobile Retailers (NJ CAR), a non-profit organization serving franchised new car and truck retailers throughout New Jersey, held a two-week employee holiday giving drive to benefit CINJ. The total employee giving was matched by the NJ CAR Charles E. Walton Charitable Foundation, which resulted in a \$5,170 gift to CINJ. The Foundation receives 50% of its financial support from voluntary dealer contributions. NJ CAR President, James Appleton, presented the check to the CINJ

(continued on page 11)

# Business Leader and Philanthropist Joseph J. Plumeri

Joseph J. Plumeri has been the Chairman and CEO of Willis Group Holdings Limited since 2000. Prior to that, he enjoyed a 32-year career at Citigroup and its predecessor companies. Born in Trenton, he and his wife Nancy live in Somerset County, NJ. They have three grown children and two grandchildren. Joe is a business leader, a sports fan, an athlete, and a man with a very big heart...



Joseph J. Plumeri

### Caring Community

When asked about his first understanding of being philanthropic, he credits his father Samuel Plumeri, who was part of the very fabric of the city of Trenton and involved in numerous civic and philanthropic organizations in the city he loved. Plumeri says it was his father's mentoring, direction and education that helped him develop into the man he is today. "You become what you see; you become what you're taught, and my father taught me about community." Joe's dad is credited for bringing to the capitol city the minor-league baseball team, the Trenton Thunder, a team the younger Plumeri now co-owns. That sole action by his father in the early 1990s helped foster a revitalization effort along the waterfront area...a story that Plumeri is proud to tell about how one man made a difference.

Joe Plumeri learned about CINJ through Val Skinner, the driving force behind CINJ's LIFE Center, which provides research, treatment and outreach to meet the special needs of young women at risk for breast cancer. His reason for supporting the LIFE Center through the Val Skinner Foundation is to help expand the program and encourage more people to get involved.

Plumeri notes that those who think they won't make a difference, whether through charitable giving or volunteering their time, should reexamine their lives and truly think about the causes they believe in. "The worst thing in the world is to not be a part of something and to not have a passion. Everyone should have a passion in life."

When sharing his philosophy on philanthropy Joe cites a study of octogenarian CEOs in which they were asked, "If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?" The top answers were: "take more risks, have more fun and build monuments to the things you believe in. I realize I want the world to know what I believe in." Plumeri has given generously and has honored his family. The College of William & Mary's Plumeri Park baseball complex, the Plumeri House, and the The Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place (the future New Jersey chapter headquarters of the Make a Wish Foundation), are examples of his celebration of special causes.

As co-owner, Plumeri is especially proud of the community commitment put forth by the Trenton Thunder and the Lakewood BlueClaws. Both teams support various causes that benefit their respective communities under the Grand Slam We Care Foundation.



Twenty-nine fellow LPGA pros team with founder and host of the LIFE event, Val Skinner, for the eighth annual golf outing to drive against breast cancer.

## LIFE Event: this Round of Golf is Not About the Score

In 2000, following the breast cancer diagnosis and then death of 28-year old friend and fellow professional golfer, Heather Farr, LPGA veteran **Val Skinner** made the decision to find a way to help young women and their families battle this disease. Along with representatives from The Cancer Institute of New Jersey she co-conceptualized, “The Young Women’s Initiative,” a national campaign focused on a multifaceted approach to educate young women, their families, and healthcare providers, about breast cancer awareness, risks and early detection.

That same year, Skinner created **LIFE (LPGA Pros in the Fight to Eradicate Breast Cancer)** to help eliminate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease and to reach younger women with information about the importance of early detection and healthy breast care practices.

That year Skinner also hosted the first **LIFE Event**, a premier golf event that for the past eight years has held the distinction of raising the most money for breast cancer research and education in a single-day golf event. Over the years this world-class event has drawn participation from LPGA stars including Hall of Fame members Nancy Lopez, Beth Daniel, Juli Inkster and Karrie Webb, the 2007 top ranked player in the world, Lorena Ochoa and rising stars Morgan Pressel, Brittany Lincicome and Nicole Castrale.

CINJ’s LIFE Center was founded in 2002 and named in recognition of the advocacy of Skinner and her fellow LPGA pros in the fight against breast cancer. The LIFE Center provides programs for young women who have an increased risk for breast cancer through a multidisciplinary team who study unique cancer causes, identify novel risk factors and develop effective preventative strategies.

The center also provides genetic counseling and risk assessment for women at risk and houses prominent researchers in the field of genetics to study factors that may cause early onset breast cancer. The LIFE center expanded with satellite operations in some of CINJ’s affiliate hospitals: Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital, CentraState Medical Center, Bayshore Community Hospital, and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital at Hamilton.

Skinner’s support of the LIFE Center has helped fund a post-doctoral LIFE Fellowship and the development of a high school curriculum. Using breast cancer as the context, students will learn how cancer develops, identify risk factors for cancer and investigate ways to reduce those risks. The program is currently being piloted in a number of New Jersey high schools and could become a national initiative.

To date LIFE has raised \$4 million for the cause, and continues to broaden its reach. This year, the LIFE Event and its new sister event, LIFE in the South, will raise a million dollars for the “Young Women’s Initiative.”

Included in this amazing effort to fight breast cancer are LIFE Partners: the Joseph Plumeri Family, Merrill Lynch, GHI, Guy Carpenter, QualCare and Roche. Other notable contributors are: Assured Guaranty, Commerce Bank, Citigroup Smith Barney and Johnson & Johnson.



**LIFE Event 2008**  
**May 19th**  
**Ridgewood County Club**  
**96 West Midland Avenue**  
**Paramus, NJ**

## Bocce Ball, Anyone?

Put giving into a game and the rewards are unbeatable: making a difference, competing, and having fun at the same time! That's what's in store for participants at the **2nd Annual Bocce Ball Invitational Tournament** May 17 at Colonial Park in **Somerset**. For more information visit [www.newjerseybocce-invitational.com](http://www.newjerseybocce-invitational.com).

Through contributions to **Embrace Kids Foundation**, this event will benefit children with cancer and blood disorders who are treated by CINJ's multidisciplinary medical team at the rate of 6,000 patient visits annually. The event will also benefit Operation Shoebox NJ.

**Frank Valanzola**, founding member of the Bocce Invitational invites all to participate in this exciting event. "Come play bocce ball, create a cultural revolution, win prizes, and help two great charities benefit New Jersey families!"

**Dr. Joseph Bertino**, CINJ Interim Director and Chief Scientific Officer states, "CINJ treats about one-third of all children with cancer in New Jersey. The Bocce Invitational contributes to Embrace Kids Foundation, which helps to fund the educational and non-medical needs of our pediatric cancer patients and their families. We are grateful to Frank Valanzola and the Bocce Invitational Tournament Committee for hosting an event that will touch so many lives."

The Bocce Invitational will feature amateur and professional matches as well as children's festivities. Guest celebrities include Will Jimeno, the Port Authority police officer depicted in the Oliver Stone movie "World Trade Center," Deal or No Deal

model and actress Marisa Petroni, singer and songwriter Giada Valenti, comedian and Saturday Night Live alumni Joe Piscopo, vocalist Bobby Valli, and Rutgers Football players.

Bocce ball is one of the oldest and most popular of games worldwide. A favorite dating back to the Roman Empire, it's on the upswing in our culture, not only among Italian Americans, but also in mainstream neighborhoods and hip NYC bars.

We deeply appreciate the vision and hard work of Frank Valanzola and members of the Invitational Committee: Somerset County Sheriff **Frank Provenzano**; Chief Warrant Officer, US Marine Corps, **Pat DeChirico** and Sergeant **Mark Szczecina**, Somerset County Sheriff's Office.



Left to right: Tournament Committee members Frank Valanzola, Mark Szczecina, Pat DeChirico, and Frank Provenzano



Will Jimeno, Port Authority police officer depicted in the movie "World Trade Center," is a guest celebrity at the Second Annual Bocce Ball Invitational to benefit children with cancer.

We also gratefully acknowledge UNICO National, an Italian-American service and fraternal organization, for its major sponsorship of this year's Invitational through the V Foundation for Pediatric Cancer Research.



Left to right: the dedicated physicians, researchers and nurses of the Gynecologic Oncology Program Drs. Mira Hellmann, Ami Vaidya, Lorna Rodriguez, Wilberto-Nieves-Neira, Darlene Gibbon, and Advanced Practice Nurse Oncologists Allison Prabhakar, Deanna Tiggs and Mary Jane Tranzillo

## Gifts Come in Many Forms

People join in the fight against cancer in a myriad of ways. The workplace can be a rallying site. **Gutter Master** in **Jackson** has been sending CINJ 1% of profits from their business every month since April 2007, to support CINJ's ovarian cancer treatment and research efforts in honor of an employee's wife who is being treated at CINJ.

Ovarian cancer is difficult to detect early and is resistant to chemotherapy. **Lorna Rodriguez, MD, PhD**, Chief of Gynecologic Oncology, is achieving highly promising results in clinical trials with selenium in overcoming this resistance.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity, Gutter Master, and special thanks to **Evan Glaser**, owner of the company, who expresses that he finds the courage of people undergoing cancer treatment "amazing."

## COASTAL JERSEY PARROT HEAD CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTS THEIR



**WHAT:** 2nd Annual Feeding Frenzy ([www.CJPHC.org](http://www.CJPHC.org))  
**WHERE:** Sawmill Cafe Green Room, 1807 Boardwalk, Seaside Park, NJ  
**DATE/TIME:** **Sunday, June 1st from 1 pm to 6 pm**  
**FOR:** CJPHC Birthday Bash  
 In support of Ovarian Cancer Research at The Cancer Institute of NJ

## Denim Days: a Hardy Perennial

Jeans and denim have become synonymous with American “casual” and dress down days at work. Denim days are also popular fundraisers that are both fun and affordable.

### South Brunswick Schools

Last November, faculty members **Craig Botnick** and **David Holmes** initiated a monthly denim day for the faculty and staff at **Crossroads North Middle School**. For a \$3 donation to CINJ, the educators were given a “**Dress Down Day**” sticker that served as a 1-day pass to wear denim. The enthusiastic participation, which garnered \$988 in three months, convinced the pair and school principal, **Judy Black**, that they should petition the other nine district schools to join in this effort. So far, five other schools, **Brunswick Acres Elementary, Constable Elementary, Greenbrook Elementary, Monmouth Junction Elementary, and Crossroads Middle School South** have joined the jean gang and raised a combined total of \$2,172 through February.



*Crossroads North Middle School Principal, Judy Black and faculty members David Holmes (left) and Craig Botnick don denim.*

### East Brunswick School District

East Brunswick teachers and staff at the District’s 11 schools broke their own record and raised \$4,318 during the annual district-wide “**Denim Day**” event, in which they paid for the privilege of wearing jeans on a Friday. This year, for the first time, the breast and pediatric programs at CINJ benefited from the funds raised. **Trish LaDuca**, coordinator of community relations and programs for the **East Brunswick School District**, notes “District staff are happy to donate monies raised through our district-wide denim day to cancer research that is being done right in our own backyard. We have seen how The Cancer Institute of New Jersey directly benefits the families in the East Brunswick community.

### York Insurance Services Group, Inc.

Employees of **York Insurance Services Group** in **Parsippany** raised nearly \$2,000 for CINJ through their participation in the company’s “**Jeans for Charity**” program. Every Friday in October, employees making a \$3 donation were entitled to wear jeans to work – a great way to enjoy comfort for a cause.

### Charity Begins at Home

The **2nd Annual “Thanks for Giving Dress Down Days”** were once again a success as CINJ staff enjoyed donning denim and donating in the three days leading up to Thanksgiving. Offering a fundraising challenge was **Dr. Joe Bertino**, Interim Director, who (for a charitable price) would wear a rock and roll tee shirt for the event. Dr. Bertino’s colleagues met the challenge and he appeared in a Led Zeppelin tee shirt, but with his usual acoustical instrument around his neck... a stethoscope. Close to 100 staff members participated, raising over \$1,300.

### For the next time you put on your jeans

These days denim and jeans are as American as apple pie. For our donors, jeans represent a dress down day at school or work, and a comfortable, affordable way to make a difference in the fight against cancer.

The origins of the fabric and words “denim” and “jeans” actually came from France (serge de Nimes) and Italy (Genoese sailors wore them in the 1600s). In the USA this versatile material became interwoven into the American cultural fabric beginning with the California gold miners and early railroad workers in the 1800s, and was popularized by movie cowboys of the 1930s. Due to War World II, fewer jeans were made, but denim was re-introduced into Europe by American military men who wore jeans off duty. Denim became associated with youthful rebellion in the 1950s (Marlon Brando, James Dean) and some schools actually banned students from wearing jeans. The 1960-70s saw denim decorated in the “hippie” art of the time. Designer companies entered the market in the 1980s, and added a new dimension to the phenomenon.



*Dr. Joseph Bertino celebrates CINJ’s “Thanks for Giving Dress Down Days”.*

## Surf, Sand, and Support for Cancer Research

**Surfer Timothy Erickson, a high school student in Long Beach Island, and his friends are on a mission to ride over cancer. They named this effort **Boarders without Borders**. Timothy jumped right into the deep end by collaborating with **Jetty**, a New Jersey born clothing company for board riders, to design and sell tee shirts emblazoned with the CINJ logo.**



Timothy Erickson, Boarders Without Borders founding member, models the CINJ tee shirt.

**A portion of the proceeds benefits cancer research at CINJ. Timothy's passion for the cause stems from his family's personal experience with the disease. Through "treatment and prayers" his Dad has survived this disease and is cancer-free, an**

**inspiration to Timothy. Timothy and his Dad continue to enjoy the sport they both love. His grandfather was treated for prostate cancer at CINJ and his brother is a medical student at the UMDNJ/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. This young man, with a sporting entrepreneurial spirit, decided to find a way to fight cancer and honor his family.**

**Timothy says Boarders Without Borders gives boarding enthusiasts a way to use their passion for a good cause. So hit the beach in style and join Timothy and Jetty in their efforts to support CINJ (You can order shirts online at [www.Jettylife.com](http://www.Jettylife.com), search clothing for men and women under short sleeve tees).**

## Children of Cancer Patients Find Strength Through Art

Eighteen year old **Jason Rappoport** is helping to launch a new art therapy support program at CINJ for children whose parent has been diagnosed with cancer. Making a \$1,000 contribution in memory of his mother who died of breast cancer, he wants to help ease this emotionally difficult experience for other children. The program helps the child to normalize feelings of sadness, anxiety, fear and anger; increases the child's knowledge about cancer in an age-appropriate way, and facilitates communication between parent and child.

### Generation Generous

The approach is through art. For example, the children may build a paper "strong box." On the outside of the box they draw pictures of things that make them feel better, like music, sports, friends, etc. Then they write their worries down on paper slips, and put them inside the box, literally placing their fear in a box of their own strength.

The program **CLIMB** (Children's Lives Include Moments in Bravery), created by the Children's Treehouse Foundation, is adapted and coordinated by **Linda Mathew** of the CINJ Social Work Department. Children ages 5-11 from five CINJ patient families, all breast cancer survivors, participated in a pilot of CLIMB last fall, with concurrent sessions for parents. Here are some comments the kids shared about the group:

- **Fun.**
- **Excited and would like to come back and meet new people.**
- **Everything we did made it better to talk.**
- **Laughed.**
- **We shared feelings and it was okay.**

Our goal is to have this program available in the spring to all children between 5 and 18 years old. If you would like to join Jason with a donation to build this program, please call the CINJ Foundation office at 732-235-8614.



Left to Right: Deborah Toppmeyer, MD, Director of the NJ Comprehensive Breast Care Center at CINJ; Jason Rappoport, Linda Mathew, Oncology Certified Social Worker; Jacquelyn Lauria, Advanced Practice Nurse Oncologist and Scott Rappoport



2008 HOPE Bracelet

## The Green Wave Rolls Again

**Long Branch Schools** have scheduled the **3rd Annual Wave of Hope Festival and Walk for Cancer Research** for Friday, June 6th. The semester long fundraising efforts to support pediatric cancer research at CINJ includes the sale of the **2008 HOPE Bracelet** made with Swarovski crystals. To purchase a 7" or 8" bracelet for \$40.00 or for more information about the Festival, Walk, or event sponsorship, please contact event co-chairs **Nicole Pelligrino** ([npelligrino@longbranch.k12.nj.us](mailto:npelligrino@longbranch.k12.nj.us)) or **Marissa Fornicola** ([mfornicola@longbranch.k12.nj.us](mailto:mfornicola@longbranch.k12.nj.us)).

## A Tribute to Warren Marvin

**Warren Marvin** passed away in January at the age of 90. He was too modest a man to speak of his generosity and big heart, so we do so again to honor his philanthropy and his legacy with sadness and profound gratefulness.

What kind of man was Warren? A friend relates that one time Warren was complaining that a \$5 eyeglass repair cost too much. His friend was puzzled by this attitude, since Warren had just made a six-figure gift to CINJ, and asked him about it. Warren said, "Charity comes out of one pocket, and everything else comes out of the other." Two of his hobbies were gardening and feeding the birds. He was a life member of the Masonic Fraternity and the faithful Tyler of Harmony Lodge No. 8 for 36 years.

Warren Marvin, an extraordinarily generous man, contributed over \$500,000 in gifts and annuities to CINJ. He was a founding member of the Legacy Society, a special group comprised of those who make a bequest to CINJ, and one of "Mal's Pals." Warren also quietly supported other organizations and donated several mini buses to organizations that served people in need. Often he would fill them to the brim with food, so that only the bus driver could fit in the bus and drive it to the grateful organization. The buses are marked Warren's Wagon.

After retirement, Warren tried "to keep busy one way or another while coping with the problems of later years." One of the special occasions of his retirement, he stated, was receiving an invitation to attend the dedication of the new expansion for The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. After the building tour and ceremony he noted, "to say the least, the dedication was quite impressive while the speakers spoke eloquently of the efforts being made to find a cure for cancer."

Warren Marvin's generosity helps CINJ to continue gaining ground on cancer, a cause in which he truly believed.



Warren Marvin

### Legacies

### Medical Students Look Ahead

Research training and career development are fundamental to advancing the war against cancer. Accordingly, as a Comprehensive Cancer Center, CINJ has a firm commitment to mentoring the next generation of physician-scientists. We understand that medical students who are exposed to methodologies in a specific field are more inclined to consider that specialty as they plan their careers. To address the shortage of urologic oncologists, **C.R. Bard Foundation** partnered with CINJ to establish the **C.R. Bard Scholars Program**.

### Learning for Life

Through a competitive process, first and second year medical students are selected for a paid internship to conduct research, provide patient care and learn more about genitourinary cancers: bladder, kidney, penis, prostate, pelvis, testicular and urethra. The experience provides an exceptional opportunity to work closely with accomplished physicians and scientists, to present research at conferences and to publish research findings.

This summer program has proven to be quite successful with two of the seven prior participants pursuing urology specialties.

### CINJ Foundation has launched its website! Log onto [www.cinjfoundation.org](http://www.cinjfoundation.org)

- see how donations are helping CINJ win the war against cancer
- make a gift in honor of someone special, or a special occasion
- register for CINJ events such as a run, bike ride or comedy night
- get in touch with a staff member of CINJ Foundation



Matt Brown, CINJ Foundation Webmaster

Log onto [www.cinjfoundation.org](http://www.cinjfoundation.org) to buy tickets to  
**Nurses Comedy Night**  
Sunday May 4, 2008  
Stress Factory, New Brunswick, NJ  
Tickets are \$35  
and include dinner and the show  
**To benefit CINJ Nurses  
advanced training and scholarships**



Left to right: C. R. Bard Scholars Frank Penna, Robert Kalfer, Abhay Singh, Nicole Montgomery, and Sarah Driscoll

# “Voices”

## Karen Kelly Boyce

With their children now grown, retirement life for urban dwellers **Karen Kelly Boyce** and her husband Michael led to a rural adventure. They bought a 125-year-old farm in the Pine Barrens to renovate and set about breeding Nigerian Dwarf Goats. Karen fulfilled her dream of writing, becoming a published author. And then, her life took what she calls a bend in the road—breast cancer.

“It was the first mammogram I ever had, and I’m even an RN,” Karen admits. “I only did it at my doctor’s insistence, and planned never to do it again. It was a ‘miracle’. It detected what turned out to be breast cancer at only stage one.”

Karen is now cancer free and has written a book about her breast cancer experience. “This book was much harder to write than my fiction,” she states, “but I wrote it in hopes it will help someone else going through the experience. I include things that helped me, nutrition, prayer, meditation and some ways to promote humor.”

“When I started this book, I was sure it would be a comedy. Cancer can be so depressing. I wanted to take a different view. So many experiences have been downright funny. I wanted to share that, to make you laugh. A strange thing happened, however, when I started to write my great comedy. I couldn’t do it... My journey through breast cancer was both joyful, and sad. I laughed and I cried. I lost faith and yet clung to hope. This was the whole truth, and nothing but the whole truth was worth telling...”

In an excerpt from a chapter titled “The Wig” Karen achieves both the humor she was seeking as well as the unvarnished truth of her experience:

“...I had never worn a wig. Once I worked the night shift with a nurse who wore a wig every night... She was in her late sixties but somehow decided that a blond wig worthy of Madonna would make her look younger. She would apply the shoulder length wig to her head, then pin a large starched nurse’s cap to the wig... The weight of the cap would have the wig sliding around her head all night. ... The sight of this wrinkled nurse with the long blond curls and spinning cap probably scared or cured many a patient... I decided from this experience, that I needed help in picking out my wig. So as expected, I called my best friend. We would make buying my wig a day trip that would include lunch...”

## Coming Soon

“**A bend in the road, a year’s journey through breast cancer,**” by author Karen Kelly Boyce. In her book, she chronicles her experience as a breast cancer patient. Proceeds will benefit the research of two CINJ physicians.



Karen Kelly Boyce

Later in the chapter, “...Seventeen nights after my first chemotherapy treatment, I was turning over in the middle of the night. I reached up to brush some hair out of my face and woke up in shock. The hair I had brushed out of my face was now in my hand and not at all attached to my scalp. Reaching up in the dark, I took a large clump of hair at the top of my head in my hand and gave it a gentle tug. It easily came loose from my scalp... It was three o’clock in the morning and as my husband snored peacefully beside me, the thought of going back to sleep and waking up in a bed full of hair suddenly disgusted me. I plodded barefoot into the bathroom. Looking in the mirror, I simply grabbed the scissors and started cutting ...”

Karen will donate proceeds from her book to the research of **Drs. Antoinette Tan** and **Thomas Kearney**, who treated her. “The team approach at CINJ saved my life,” she states. “I knew where I was at all times. They were wonderful.” We are grateful to you, Karen, for sharing your experience in your talented voice for the benefit of others.

Karen is currently seeking a national publisher because she wants to make “as much money as possible” for Dr. Tan’s and Dr. Kearney’s research. We will update you of the book’s availability in our fall issue. In the interim, check for updates on the Boyce Farm website [www.queenofangelsfarm.com](http://www.queenofangelsfarm.com).

## Bellonia Iovine

Donations began to arrive at the CINJ Foundation office from **Bellonia Iovine** in October 2003, along with a handwritten note in honor of her daughter **Antoinette Buthorn**, who was treated at CINJ. Our director responded with handwritten thank you notes on the CINJF acknowledgment letters. Every few months another gift and another handwritten note would arrive. The donations kept coming and now total an amazing 26 gifts!

We had the privilege of meeting with this lovely lady and her daughter to learn the story behind her personal constancy of giving. Bellonia Iovine is approaching 93 years old, her silver hair outshined only by her sharp mind, good heart and strong presence: her family calls her “the boss.”

As her daughter advanced through treatment Bellonia would say, “Give me the good news,” then say to herself, “a prayer has been answered,” and send us a donation. “She has always been charitable, giving to St. Jude’s and St. Mathias, even using her crocheting skills to make clothes for dolls for underprivileged children, and she raised her son and daughter to appreciate blessings and to be generous,” Antoinette adds. “I do everything with my whole heart and soul,” Bellonia asserts as the final word.



*Bellonia Iovine and CINJ patient Antoinette Buthorn enjoy a mother and daughter chat.*

Bellonia Iovine grew up in Brooklyn and has enjoyed 69 years of married life! The secret of an enduring marriage she attributes to: harmony and forgiveness. “I don’t believe in arguing. I’m a peacemaker.”

“Their longevity is also probably due to her great cooking of a fresh Mediterranean diet. What she does to an artichoke is decadent!” says her daughter. Bellonia also worked for Chase Manhattan for 20 years, when it wasn’t fashionable for a wife to work which introduces the incredible historical experience this woman carries through most of the 20th century, now into the 21st – Two World Wars, the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression, the Cold War, airplanes, television, men on the moon, computers and the internet. No wonder she is something of an icon to her grandchildren and great grandchildren who adore her.

This story is also about the voice of Bellonia’s daughter, Antoinette, who asks us to quote her that her physician **Dr. Dale Schaar**, who treated her leukemia is a “genius, brilliant, and a gifted physician. I don’t know what I would have done without him.” And, “Without **Dr. Mecide Gharibo’s** compassion, at that time a Fellow, sometimes I wouldn’t have made it through the night.” She adds a special acknowledgement of her

**Advanced Practice Nurse Laura Ciavolino** and **Dr. Joseph Aisner** whom she holds in special esteem, and **Dr. Linda Patrick-Miller** who is her ongoing guide through cancer survivorship. Bellonia Iovine – thank you for the gifts in honor of your daughter, and for your faith in us and the work we do. What a strong voice you have!

**Foundation in December at the annual employee holiday gathering.**

**South Brunswick’s Crossroads North Middle School Tau Unit, comprised of five 7th and 8th grade homeroom classes, played five hours of continuous volleyball to support CINJ. The 6th Annual Volley for Life event on February 29th had 10 teachers, 92 current students, and 30 alumni join with generous community sponsors to raise \$5,630. Science teacher and six-year veteran of the event, Janet Wiener, says “The Tau Unit organizes Volley for Life each year to advance cancer research and help cancer patients at CINJ, but it also provides a powerful demonstration for young students of what they can accomplish as members of a community.”**



*Opposing teams “Los Banditos” and “Lightning Bolts” volley for life against cancer.*

**The Knights of Columbus of Saint Monica’s Lodge in Jackson held its 7th Annual Golf Outing in September, raising \$4,500 for CINJ. The event honors loved ones affected by cancer and supports cancer research. Over the years, the event has raised more than \$50,000 for CINJ research and patient programs.**



Over 500 enjoyed an elegant and charitable evening at the Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick. The 12th Annual Award of Hope Gala and Benefit Auction held October 27, 2007 raised over \$1 million.



Left to right: 12th Annual Award in Leadership in Patient Care Honorees Eric Rubin, MD, Susan Goodin, PharmD; Award of Hope Honorees William N. Hait, MD, PhD and Robert E. Campbell



Left to right: Gala Co-chairs Steven and Debbie Adler and son Eric



Leslie Logan Taylor, Chair, Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation Board of Trustees



Gala Co-chairs Kathleen and Jeffrey Jackson



Left to right: Former CINJ Directors Michael Gallo, PhD, William N. Hait, MD, PhD, and Interim Director Joseph R. Bertino, MD

### Calendar of Events

**Sunday, May 4**  
**Nurses Comedy Night Benefit**  
 The Stress Factory, New Brunswick, NJ

**Saturday, May 17**  
**2nd Annual Bocce Ball Invitational Tournament**  
 Somerset, NJ

**Sunday, May 18**  
**Princeton University Women's Football Clinic**  
 Princeton, NJ

**Sunday, June 1**  
**CJPHC 2nd Annual Feeding Frenzy**  
**Sawmill Cafe Green Room, Seaside Park, NJ**

**Friday, June 6**  
**Wave of Hope Festival and Walk**  
 Long Branch Middle School,  
 Long Branch, NJ

**Saturday, Sept 6**  
**Century for the Cure Bike Ride**  
 Warren, NJ

**Sunday, September 14**  
**High Speed Chase for the Cure (walk/run)**  
 Piscataway, NJ

**September TBD**  
**Jon Runyan's Score for the Cure (golf)**  
 Ramblewood Country Club, Mt. Laurel, NJ

**October TBD**  
**Care to Walk**  
 North Brunswick Township H. S.,  
 North Brunswick, NJ



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