

MOCA MESSENGER

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1

MINNESOTA OVARIAN CANCER ALLIANCE

Spring 2011

MOCA Presents New Survivorship Series

MOCA's new Survivorship Series addresses life with, through and beyond your ovarian cancer diagnosis.

As treatments improve and advance, issues of survivorship after an ovarian cancer diagnosis become more important and pertinent. More and more women are surviving with ovarian cancer, which opens up a whole new world of questions, concerns and possibilities. MOCA has always held educational meetings for ovarian cancer survivors on topics related to survivorship, and this year we are stepping up our efforts.

In 2011, we are introducing the Survivorship Series, consisting of six separate educational meetings on different topics, all relating to surviving and thriving with ovarian cancer. We welcome you to attend one or more of these free meetings, which are targeted for survivors and their supporters. Here is a brief look at what you will learn at these meetings:

Living Beyond Cancer

Brenda Hartman, MSW, LICSW, 23-year, stage 4 ovarian cancer survivor

Cancer is a surprise for all of us and it can change how we experience life. This meeting will explore how we can integrate the cancer experience, find life beyond cancer, expand joy and continue to heal.

Thurs. April 7, 7–8 p.m.
Brookdale Library
6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

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Volunteer Opportunities for Research Advocates

Research advocates are a vital part of research. They are people who have experienced the disease themselves or as a family member or caregiver. They represent the voice of the patient to the scientists and researchers. They contribute patient insights to research programs about research strategy and clinical trials and provide outreach to patients and communities. Research advocates help make scientific and medical advances more timely, relevant and effective for people with cancer. Research advocates have a desire to make things better and an interest in and willingness to learn the basics of science, research and clinical trials.

MOCA has two volunteer opportunities for research advocates to:

- **Review proposals submitted to MOCA for funding through the MOCA Ovarian Research Grant Program**

The MOCA Grant Program is described on page 8. This position requires about 15–30 hours of proposal review each year between March–April.

- **Serve as a research advocate on the Mayo Ovarian SPORE Patient Advisory Committee**

SPORE grants (Specialized Program in Research Excellence) are research grants funded by the National Cancer Institute to support interdisciplinary teams of investigators who are dedicated to translational research and moving basic research findings from the laboratory to the clinical setting. Mayo was awarded a SPORE grant for ovarian cancer research in 2009. The goal of the ovarian cancer SPORE is to improve ovarian cancer survival and quality of

life through translating research findings into better treatments and solutions for patients. MOCA partners with the Mayo ovarian SPORE through research advocate support and clinical trials community education.

The time requirement averages a few hours per month plus advocate education, with optional participation in special projects such as review of SPORE developmental research grant applications.

Both research advocate opportunities provide opportunities for participation in advocate education; email and internet access is required.

If you are interested in being considered for either of these opportunities, please contact Kathleen Gavin at kgavin@mnovarian.org for additional information.

Do you want to continue receiving the MOCA Messenger?

To make sure we are using our resources wisely, we are asking all members who would like to continue to receive the paper copy of the MOCA Messenger to “opt in”.

You can do this by going to www.mnovarian.org and completing a short form. You may also email us at MStGeorge@mnovarian.org with your name and address, or call 612-822-0500.

If you do not contact us to let us know you would like to continue receiving the MOCA Messenger, you will be removed from this mailing.

Letter from the President

Hello everyone,

It's been a long time since we've had a newsletter. The last time I wrote, snow wasn't even on the ground yet and hopefully, by the time you read this the snow will be melting away and the seasons will be changing.

As we look forward to a new spring with new beginnings, I thought I would report on some of the changes we're experiencing at MOCA.

First, I am sad to say that our Public Education Program Manager Lindsay Kohn accepted another position outside of the organization. Lindsay was a valuable member of MOCA and we are sad to see her leave us. However, with change there is an opportunity for growth and I am excited to see what a new team member can do for the organization.

Another change is happening within the board of directors and once again, this will hopefully bring about new and exciting opportunities for the organization. Most of you know that MOCA seeks the Charities Review Council seal of approval and this year

that council adopted more rigorous standards. This in turn made MOCA review several of the board policies. We completed a board survey allowing us to reflect on our positions and the growth that could be accomplished within the organization and the board. We also set term limits for board members and reviewed MOCA's bylaws. I am hopeful that this thoughtful process will continue to make MOCA a stronger organization laying the groundwork for future generations to come.

I am also excited about some mini strategic planning sessions held to work on the marketing and promotion of MOCA's events and awareness programs. It was so exciting to hear some new ideas about spreading awareness and branding MOCA, while continuing and sustaining our growth. Watch as we get closer to our events for some new and exciting changes that we have discussed. (I'm sorry I can't give you any details yet, as plans are still being developed.)

And finally, MOCA's new website is very close to being launched. This was

accomplished by a very dedicated group of individuals to keep MOCA's site as up to date as possible and fresh with news about the organization and the disease. I can't wait for you to see the site and know that you will be as happy with the new content and look as we are.

Ah Spring, a time for change, renewal and new challenges. I hope this letter finds you in the process of looking at something in a whole new way, developing new problem solving skills, and not dreading a new challenge but accepting it and embracing it. We all face challenges and change in our personal and professional lives and sometimes, when it happens, we are reluctant to accept it. But sometimes through the doors of change a new opportunity awaits, and although it's hard to remember that when things get turned upside down we must remember to be patient and see it through. I am so glad I did. I wish you a spring filled with patience, opportunities and new beginnings.

Warmly,

Lisa McLaughlin

Support MOCA Events

Last year, more than **3,500** people participated in the Molly Cade Memorial Golf Tournament, Mid Summer Night's Gala and the Silent No More Walk/Run for Ovarian Cancer. Together we raised more than **\$400,000** to support women with ovarian cancer. In 2010, sponsorships and contributions enabled us to fund **\$250,000** in research aimed at discovering an early detection test, better treatment and a cure for ovarian cancer. In 2011, we will award **\$300,000** to research grantees at the leading research institutions in Minnesota.

MOCA has awarded over \$2.9 million to over 40 ovarian cancer research projects in Minnesota. We are committed to advancing research

toward better treatment, earlier detection and a cure. To do this we need your help. Our goal in 2011 is to raise **\$500,000** for MOCA through our annual special events.

MOCA relies on its wonderful corporate supporters to sponsor our annual special events. Each spring we call on those who have a connection to a business or corporation, or know of someone who may be able to support MOCA to donate what they can. Event sponsor and auction donation forms are available for download at www.mnovarian.org.

If you or your business is interested in sponsorship opportunities to support MOCA, please contact Courtney at cbarrette@mnovarian.org or call 612-822-0500.

REGISTER TODAY!

SILENT
NO **12th** **MORE**
WALK & RUN
FOR OVARIAN CANCER

Join us on Saturday, September 10, 2011 for the 12th Annual Silent No More Walk/Run for Ovarian Cancer at Rosland Park in Edina. Gather your family, friends and colleagues and invite them to join you at this year's event. Each year we welcome over 3,000 participants where we honor the women of MOCA. Individual participant, Family & Corporate Team registration is now available at mnovarian.org!

In Celebration of Life

October 2010 – Spring 2011

All of us at MOCA wish to honor and celebrate the lives of the following women who recently passed away. Their strength, courage and grace are to be admired. We will carry on the fight against ovarian cancer in their names. We extend our sympathies to their spouses, partners, children, family and friends.

Heidi Duback Bassett	Pamela Premo
Nancy Blyler	Joanne Purrington
Elaine Dehn	Betsy Slapnicher
Darlene Eckart	Jan Soll
Ruth Elverson	Jacquelynn Svard
Cari Forman	Sue Windschitl
Kelly Laas	Lynn Yurecko
Helen Lemke	

2011 MOCA Calendar

April 7	Survivorship Series — Living Beyond Cancer , Brookdale library
April 29-30	Rock the Cure , O’Gara’s Bar & Grill, St. Paul
May 1	Spring Fling Diva Run , Rochester
May 10	MOCA Annual Meeting , Southdale Library
May 24	Survivorship Series — Spiritual Survivorship , Neighborhood House at Wellstone Center, St. Paul
June 23	Survivorship Series — Ovarian Cancer Research Update , Roseville Skating Center
July 17	Mid Summer Night’s Gala , Lakeville
July 18	Molly Cade Memorial Golf Tournament , Lakeville
Aug. 2	Survivorship Series — Understanding Palliative Care , Minnetonka Community Center
Aug. 20	3rd Annual Glenwood MOCA Open , Glenwood, MN
Sept. 10	12th Annual Silent No More Walk/Run , Rosland Park, Edina
Sept. 27	Survivorship Series — Rehabilitation After Cancer , Brookview Community Center, Golden Valley
Oct. 20	Survivorship Series — Clinical Trials , Bloomington Center for the Arts
Nov. 12	Diva Dash , Centerville, MN

Check www.mnovarian.org for more details.



Our Mission

- To create an awareness regarding early warning signs that may be indicative of ovarian cancer.
- To create and promote resources for support, networking and education for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer and their families.
- To unite and educate individuals, the medical community and organizations to achieve earlier diagnosis, better treatment and a cure for ovarian cancer.
- To advance ovarian cancer research toward earlier diagnosis, better treatment, and a cure.

MOCA Board of Directors and Staff

Visit www.mnovarian.org to view:

- Board of Directors
- Medical Advisory Committee Members
- MOCA Staff
- Volunteers

For more information or to contact MOCA’s staff call (612) 822-0500

The information contained in this newsletter mailing or any enclosure contained herein, should NOT be considered a substitute for the opinion of a qualified health care provider. MOCA does not recommend or guarantee any product mentioned in this newsletter mailing or any enclosure contained herein. Please use this information to assist you in obtaining further information and in making your own health care decisions.

MOCA's Young Survivor Network

Welcome Spring! It's a time of growth and renewal and the Young Survivor Network has been working on exciting new plans!

Earlier this year, we were honored to receive a contribution of \$1,000 from IBM Corporation on behalf of the IBM Volunteers. We're excited to have the opportunity to use these funds to raise awareness of ovarian cancer in young women. While still in the planning phase, our hope is to reach out to high school and college-aged women and educate them on the symptoms of ovarian cancer. As you know, knowledge of these symptoms could save young lives or the lives of women they love. At recent meetings, we have generated a lot of great ideas for meeting topics and speakers for our group and

we're looking forward to solidifying these plans in the next couple months.

Like the seasons, our group is in need of some renewal! Don't get me wrong. We have a wonderful group of women who have been consistently involved with the Young Survivor Network for many years. However, as a group, we are collectively aging. We joke about being the "Not So Young Anymore" Survivor Network, but in all seriousness, we want to continue to be a support network for younger women. Of course we aging members love our group and will continue to be involved, but we extend the invitation to survivors in their teens, twenties, and early thirties to participate in our monthly meetings and upcoming plans. If you have questions about the

Young Survivor Network, please feel free to contact us at moca-ysn@chaska.net.

We are looking forward to an informal gathering on April 30th at Rock the Cure at O'Gara's in St. Paul. The event is a benefit for women's cancer organizations and MOCA is delighted to be a beneficiary again this year. Several of us attended last year and had a blast! Watch for details on our webpage.

The Young Survivor Network meets the third Tuesday of the month at the MOCA office (4604 Chicago Ave. Minneapolis) from 6:30–8:00. For more information on upcoming meetings please visit www.mnovarian.org/young_survivors.htm.

Volunteer Spotlight

Pete and Joan Melrose



Joan and Pete Melrose

Pete and Joan Melrose are invaluable volunteers to MOCA. For them, volunteering is a way to give back to an organization that has helped their daughter.

Pete and Joan's daughter, Sarah Noonan, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2003. To show their sup-

port, Pete and Joan attended MOCA's 2003 Walk/Run. They had such a great time that they volunteered at the registration booth in 2004. Since then, they have made attending MOCA fundraising and educational events a priority.

Joan helps MOCA with accounting tasks, mailings and database clean-up. Even in the heat of this past summer, Joan helped set up the MOCA booth at the Minnesota State Fair. Because of Pete's volunteer hours, IBM who is Pete's employer, donated four computers and a laptop in 2008 and this year is donating \$1,000 in support of the MOCA Young Survivor Network. Pete, in addition to working at the MOCA booth and playing piano at the 2010 Gala, always wears a MOCA pin.

"I wear it as a conversation starter about the need for early detection of ovarian cancer," says Pete. "I know of at least two ovarian cancer cases that were detected early with favorable outcomes because of these conversations."

Without volunteers like Pete and Joan, MOCA would not be the thriving organization it is.



Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 10

6:00–8:00 p.m.

Southdale Library
7001 York Ave. S.
Edina, MN 55435

In addition to awarding the research grants, we will honor our committed volunteers. MOCA relies on a large number of individuals who devote countless hours of their time doing office work, planning and executing events, providing outreach and promoting awareness of ovarian cancer, in addition to many other important jobs. And finally, we will honor our Board of Directors, a group of individuals so committed to MOCA and our mission, and vote in new board members. We look forward to seeing you there!

Goodbye to Lindsay Kohn



Lindsay Kohn

The Public Education Program Manager is responsible for managing MOCA's support and information programs including health fairs, support groups, community education meetings, the MOCA Mentor Program, MOCA's Dream Awards and other outreach to the at-risk and general public. Working only part-time, Lindsay detected the need for and created special programming for newly diagnosed women and launched the RISE support group. In addition she expanded support groups to reach Brainerd and St. Cloud. Lindsay improved our health fair displays and sought opportunities for us to reach wider audiences. She navigated the process of attaining an education booth for MOCA at the State Fair, prepared volunteers to staff the 200 hours required to host the booth and provided logistical support for the 10 days of the Fair.

Before she left MOCA, Lindsay developed the 2011 Survivorship Series, consisting of six meetings over the course of the year and taking place throughout the Twin Cities, with speakers on topics of interest and value to our MOCA members.

Thanks, Lindsay, for all you have done for MOCA. You will be missed, but we look forward to seeing you at our events in your new role of MOCA volunteer!

Survivorship Series Continued from page 1

Spiritual Survivorship

Chaplain Mary E. Johnson, MA, Retired Assistant Professor of Oncology, Mayo Clinic Cancer Center

For some, a diagnosis of ovarian cancer is spiritually as well as physically and emotionally distressing. What is spiritual distress and how much is too much? This presentation will offer an opportunity to discuss some things we don't talk about very much.

Tues. May 24, 7–8 p.m.
Neighborhood House at Wellstone Center, Anna Heilmaier Meeting Room
179 Robie St. E.
St. Paul, MN 55107

Ovarian Cancer Research Open House

MOCA Research Grant Recipients

In 11 years, MOCA has awarded \$2.9 million to ovarian cancer research projects in Minnesota. Join us for an open house where recipients of MOCA research grants are invited to display their MOCA-funded projects and the outcomes of their work. Talk directly with researchers about how their efforts have advanced ovarian cancer research toward earlier diagnosis, better treatment, and a cure.

Thurs. June 23, 7–8 p.m.
Roseville Skating Center, Fireside Room
2661 Civic Center Dr.
Roseville, MN 55113

Understanding Palliative Care

Kathy Bassett, Allina Palliative Care Program and Linda Linder, RN, Ovarian Cancer Survivor

Palliative care treats pain as well as addresses your physical, emotional and spiritual concerns after a cancer

diagnosis. Palliative care can be available to anyone with a cancer diagnosis at any point in their disease, and is very different than (but may eventually include) hospice care, a resource for people with six months or less to live. Learn how palliative care can help you live each day to its fullest.

Tues. Aug. 2, 7–8 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Rehabilitation After Cancer

Andrea Cheville, MD, Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Mayo Clinic Cancer Center

Ovarian cancer treatment can be a difficult road which may leave some women with side effects requiring rehabilitation. Dr. Andrea Cheville specializes in cancer rehabilitation at Mayo Clinic Cancer Center. She will discuss lymphedema, pain management and other issues that may arise after ovarian cancer treatment.

Tues. Sept. 27, 7–8 p.m.
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Pkwy.
Golden Valley, MN 55426

Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are an important step in advancing ovarian cancer treatment. Some patients are familiar with clinical trials, and others may not know about them. Hear from a leading expert in cancer research about the importance of ovarian cancer clinical trials, why you might benefit by participating, and where the research is heading.

Thurs. Oct. 20, 7–8 p.m.
Bloomington Center for the Arts, Rehearsal Hall
1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd.
Bloomington, MN 55431

Donating to MOCA has never been easier!

Please check out our donation pages online at

www.mnovarian.org

New Event in Rochester to Benefit MOCA

Spring Fling Diva Run

Building off of last year's successful Diva Dash, MOCA and Final Stretch have expanded their partnership to bring two running events to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and support MOCA's programs. New this year will be the Spring Fling Diva Run in Rochester on May 1, which will include a women's-only 5K and 10K, and a 1K Fun Run for kids. Both the 5K and 10K will wind through the trails of Silver Lake Park and surrounding areas of Rochester. The race's location was chosen for its beautiful trails, large sprawling park, and panoramic lake views. Kathleen Gavin, MOCA's Executive Director, says, "This is a great event that gives MOCA supporters a chance to participate as individuals, volunteers or fundraisers." \$5 of each registration fee will be donated to MOCA by Final Stretch.

When Mary Pat Oslund, a MOCA member and avid runner, was asked if she would attend the May 1 Spring Fling Diva Run, she replied, "Yes of course. I love the fact that they have several racing options for women and kids (10K, 5K and a 1K kids run). And I



think it is fun that it's just for women. 10Ks are my favorite races. Far enough where I feel like I stretched myself a bit, but not too far that I need to really train for it. What could be better than a running event that supports MOCA?"

"Five years ago when I found out I had cancer, I quickly learned that I was very lucky to be diagnosed at an early stage. When I was going thru chemo treatments, I found it still very important to stay active. I didn't feel quite well enough to run so I walked/jogged almost everyday. It was therapeutic. The fresh air and the exercise made me feel stronger, emotionally and physically."

"Unfortunately, most women are diagnosed at the late stages of the disease. MOCA is dedicated to changing this statistic, which is why I volunteer and support MOCA. It is a great organization that cares deeply about women, family and friends that have been affected by ovarian cancer. They work so hard to educate women about the disease, to support women with the disease and to raise money for research."

For more information visit our website at www.mnovarian.org

Spring Fling Diva Run

May 1

9:00 a.m. race start

Jefferson Elementary School
1201 10th Avenue NE
Rochester, MN

Diva Dash

November 12

9:00 a.m. race start

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Reg. Park
7401 Main St.
Centerville, MN

Corporate Spotlight

Clear Software for Good



Casey Helbling, founder of Clear Software for Good, is working to create a new and improved MOCA website.

Clear Software for Good is a web application development firm whose mission is to "make the world a better place by building great software for companies doing great things." They strive to work with progressive and socially responsible companies and believe that they can positively affect change by helping like-minded companies be successful.

Casey's involvement with MOCA preceded his work on the website, however. He and his wife, Erin, heard about MOCA in 2005 and decided to participate in the 5K at the Silent No More Walk/Run. After a two-year battle with ovarian cancer, Erin's mother passed away in 2004. Since then, Casey and Erin have always looked for ways to raise awareness of ovarian cancer.

"We knew we had to be involved with such a great organization that gets the word out about such an overlooked disease," says Casey.

In 2010, Clear Software for Good began working on MOCA's new website. Jon

Hanke, husband of MOCA Board of Director member Chris Wick, asked a group of local web developers and designers if they were interested in being a part of the project. Already involved in and supportive of MOCA's cause, Casey jumped at the opportunity.

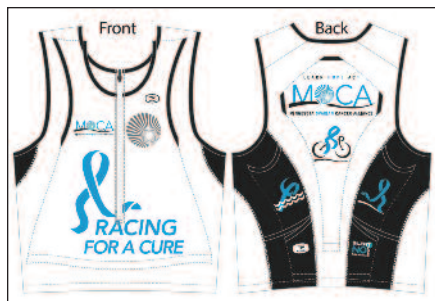
"MOCA is a treat to collaborate with and we look forward to more great things in the future," says Casey.

Clear Software for Good is working to update and expand the functionality of MOCA's current website. The new site will offer a clean, sleek design that will be easy to navigate. The new website will be up and running soon!

Racing for a Cure

Do you participate in triathlons, marathons, 5Ks, bike races or other sporting events? Are you looking for a way to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and support MOCA? You can support Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance by creating a fundraising page for your biking, swimming or running event to help raise awareness of ovarian cancer for your friends and family.

Be sure to visit the Racing for a Cure webpage on the MOCA website and link to our MOCA Store page to check out the racing jerseys we have available for purchase! For more information, contact Constance at cwhite@mnovarian.org or 612-822-0500.



MOCA in the News

MOCA has released an Awareness Public Service Announcement (PSA) produced by StoneArch Creative and starring MOCA members Theresa Schroer and Ruth Gaylord to a number of TV stations in the Twin Cities and Duluth areas. Our Awareness PSA raises awareness about the symptoms of ovarian cancer and the importance of early detection.

We hope to extend MOCA's reach across Minnesota. So, keep an eye out for MOCA'S PSA on your local TV station! If you see it let us know! You can also watch and post a Facebook link to the PSA at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bXaL51stbU

Medical Education Update

Educating the medical community — including doctors, medical residents and students, and nurses — to achieve earlier diagnosis and better treatment for ovarian cancer is a critical component of MOCA's mission. In the first half of 2011, MOCA will participate in a number of events to accomplish this.

Reaching Practicing Physicians

The Reaching Practicing Physicians program provides current information about ovarian cancer to practicing physicians, with a focus on primary care doctors. This program pairs a gynecologic or medical oncologist with ovarian cancer survivors who deliver prepared talks in continuing medical education settings, including conferences and updates.

Feb. 25 — Continuum Oncology Conference, Allina Hospitals and Clinics

Dr. Cheryl Bailey, a gynecologic oncologist with Minnesota Oncology, will be presenting a lecture about “ovarian cancer/cervical screening/PAP categories” to 100 primary care physicians at the all-day conference.

Apr. 14 & 15 — 2011 Spring Refresher, Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians

This is the first time MOCA will exhibit ovarian cancer materials at this conference attended by 350, or 10%, of all Minnesota's family medicine physicians.

Apr. 29 & 30 — Cancer Survivorship Conference, University of Minnesota and Minnesota Cancer Alliance

Sarah Noonan, MOCA's VP, Board of Directors will speak as a guest panelist at the two-day conference, which MOCA is co-sponsoring, and address more than 100 primary care physicians, oncologists, nurses, and health professionals.

Reaching Medical Residents

The Reaching Medical Residents program provides current information about ovarian cancer to medical residents, with a focus on primary care residents. This program pairs a gynecologic or medical oncologist with ovarian cancer survivors who deliver prepared talks in residents' educational settings.

May 13 — Family Medicine Residents, University of Minnesota

Dr. Peter Argenta, a gynecologic oncologist with the University of Minnesota, and Resa Gilats, a MOCA member, will address approximately 25 University of Minnesota Family Medicine residents at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul.

Survivors Teaching Medical Students

This powerful MOCA initiative puts ovarian cancer survivors in front of University of Minnesota medical students who are starting their six-week obstetrics and gynecology clerkship rotations. Ovarian cancer survivors present their stories and then take questions from the students.

Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 21, and May 23 Survivors Teaching Medical Students, University of Minnesota

Three MOCA members tell their stories to 25 medical students at each session.

Apr. 11 — Family Medicine Interest Group of Medical Students, Mayo Clinic

Three MOCA members will present their stories to approximately 40 medical students. This is the first time in several years MOCA has been invited to address the Mayo medical students, and we hope we will be invited again next year.

Support and Information Available to You

Support Groups

Minneapolis — Meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:00–7:30 p.m. at MOCA.

St. Paul — Meets the third Saturday of the month from 2:00–3:30 p.m. in the Old Main Building, room #003 at Macalester College.

Young Survivor Network — Meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 6:30–8:00 p.m. at MOCA.

Brainerd Area — Meets on the second Thursday of the month from 6:00–7:30 p.m. at the Nisswa American Legion, 25807 Main St., Nisswa, MN. This support group is open to survivors and support people.

Southeastern Minnesota — Meets every third month in Rochester. Contact MOCA for more info.

Information Session for Women Newly Diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer

— This is a one-time support group for women who have been diagnosed in the past year. Next meeting: May 18 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. at MOCA. RSVPs requested.

R.I.S.E. Ongoing Support Group for Newly Diagnosed Women

— Quarterly support group for women within the first year of diagnosis. Next meeting: June 15 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. at MOCA. RSVPs requested.

FORCE support group (Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered)

— Meets on the second Saturday of the month from 2:00–3:30 p.m. at MOCA.

All support groups are free and subject to change.

For more information or to RSVP, call (612) 822-0500, or visit our web site: www.mnovarian.org.

Other Support, Education and Events

MOCA Mentor Program — One-on-one support from survivors, partners of survivors, daughters who have lost their mothers to ovarian cancer, and friends of survivors. You will receive a phonecall within three business days of your request, but usually sooner. To request a mentor, call MOCA at (612) 822-0500.

Community Education & Survivorship Series Meetings — MOCA hosts meetings for ovarian cancer survivors, family members and friends. Free and open to the public. Coming up: “Living Beyond Cancer” on April 7 from 7:00–8:00 p.m. at Brookdale Library.

MOCA to Award \$300,000 for Research

MOCA will be awarding \$300,000 to researchers in Minnesota to conduct critically important research on ovarian cancer this year. This is a 16% increase over the amount awarded by MOCA in 2010. “In addition to the generous and consistent support from our members throughout 2010, we had a couple of large, unexpected gifts that came at the end of the year, which makes this increased level of funding possible,” explained Kathleen Gavin, MOCA’s Executive Director. Last year, MOCA awarded \$250,000 for ovarian cancer research. Individual donations for ovarian cancer research have become even more important as support from other sources, especially the federal government, is level or declining.

MOCA conducts an annual competitive process to solicit and evaluate proposals to receive funding. The

research projects we fund are of the highest caliber. All proposals are evaluated by a national panel of experts in gynecologic oncology and basic cancer research. Proposals are also reviewed by MOCA members, survivors and family members who represent the needs and interests of patients. These research advocates are most likely to ask the “so what?” question: “So what difference will this research make to women facing ovarian cancer?”

By making a gift to MOCA, donors experience a very direct relationship with the researchers that are being funded. Funding decisions, which are made by MOCA’s Board of Directors based on recommendations of the review panel, will be announced at MOCA’s Annual Meeting on May 10 and researchers will be on hand to

explain their projects to MOCA members. All MOCA members and donors are invited to this exciting meeting to meet and greet MOCA funded researchers.

MOCA is proud of its 11 year total of research grants awarded, which is just under \$3 million, putting it in the upper echelon of non profit research funding organizations. But as Gavin explained “We need to do more. There still is no early detection test for ovarian cancer and though most women will be able to experience a remission, ovarian cancer is highly recurring. Much needs to be discovered about why ovarian cancer becomes chemo resistant and how to prevent recurrences. We will not rest until these discoveries are made and the outlook for women with ovarian cancer is dramatically improved.”

Donations to MOCA

Future donations will no longer be printed in the MOCA Messenger. For donation information go to www.mnovarian.org.

Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations for their support of Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance. These contributions reflect the period of October 2010-January 31, 2011.

Matching Gifts Program

Ameriprise Financial
Give with Liberty
IBM Employee Services
US Bancorp Foundation
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign

Ameriprise Financial Employee Gift Matching Program

Barbara Walior

Community Health Charities of California

Anonymous

Give with Liberty Mutual Foundation Match

Anonymous

IBM Employee Charitable Contribution Campaign

Anonymous
Pete & Joan Melrose
Cathrine Prihoda

The Meredith Corporation Foundation

Alan & Jodie Schafer

United Health Group Giving Campaign

Anonymous
Suzanne Almen
Deanne Barnes
Sanjib Basak
Nancy Berryman
Kari Brey
Maria Bruun
Kelly Caldwell
Darrel Cusey
Barry Dahm
Nicholas Dau
Mary Beth Dondelinger
Natalie Engh
Daniel & Karen Franke
Jennifer Garber
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Patricia Sauro
Irene Shedlosky
Katherine Smith
Robert Thelen
Michelle Trombetta
Judith Vankirksmith
Jolene Voigt
Vaughn Wallace
Weishuang Wang
David Weinandt
Jacqueline Williams
Katie Wise

United Way Giving Campaign

Anonymous
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Linda Arford
Gayle Boeke
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