

A Link In The Chain

Breast-cancer support group Sharsheret starts local chapter.

Photos by Angie Baan



Alice Berlin and Yehudit Jubas, both of Southfield, and Sharsheret founder Rochelle Shoretz of Teaneck, N.J.



Bella Morgan of Huntington Woods and Janet Snider of Southfield

Rochelle Shoretz is a vibrant, active attorney and the mother of two school-aged boys. She's also a two-time breast cancer survivor. Shoretz was just 28 when she was first diagnosed and she's been fighting ever since. But she's not battling breast cancer alone. In 2001, while undergoing chemotherapy, Shoretz founded the New Jersey-based support group Sharsheret ("chain" in Hebrew) to connect Jewish women across the country going through a similar ordeal. Since then, the group has provided services for more than 19,000 women.



Robin Schwartz
Columnist

"Eight years ago, when I was diagnosed with breast cancer for the first time, there was no organization dedicated to supporting young Jewish women facing breast cancer," Shoretz tells visitors to her organization's Web site. "The Sharsheret chain of support I started has come full circle. I began as a link in that chain and now use the strength of others for my own support."

About 75 women gathered at the Southfield home of Alice Berlin on Oct. 14 for the first local Sharsheret event. Shoretz

made a special trip to Michigan to address the group.

"Rochelle is a dynamic speaker and very inspirational," said Yehudit Jubas of Southfield, president of the local chapter and a member of the group's national advisory board. "I feel it's so important to bring Sharsheret to the attention of all Jewish women so when they need help, they will know where to find it."

The group provides a peer support network and offers resources for caregivers and family members. There are also educational, outreach and quality of life programs.

"All women share a deep concern, a compassionate caring and a sense of responsibility about breast cancer, research, support services, fundraising, education and understanding," said Jubas. "While we hope to one day eradicate this disease, in the meantime, through our efforts, we can certainly improve the odds for so many women like ourselves." □

For more information about Sharsheret, go to www.sharsheret.org or call (866) 474-2774



Becky Eizen and Elana Lofman, both of Southfield



Amy Gottlieb of Huntington Woods and Jody Charlip of Farmington Hills



Elana Berlin and Cheryl Zuroff, both of Southfield



Lauren Katz and Nancy Kleinfeldt, both of Huntington Woods