

# Teal Ribbon Newsletter

Happy New Year 2017!

## 2017 What's Happening

#### **Finding a New Home**

After 10 years, we say goodbye to our little house on Portland Avenue in Gladstone, Oregon. After a precarious sale to the city to redevelop the property, SHOC and five other small businesses are on the hunt for new homes.

Before setting up shop in 2006, the foundation was operated entirely out of the home of SHOC President Bruce Hildreth and the late Sherie Hildreth, SHOC's founding President.

A fixer-upper, the SHOC House received countless contributions from community members to make it more functional and comfortable. We thank everyone who volunteered their time, services and materials to bust down walls, put up paint, lay down flooring, transform a dilapidated side yard into a serene hideaway aptly named the Healing Garden, and so much more.

It's the closing of one chapter and the beginning of a new. On the bright side, we'll be saving money by working remotely, which means more dollars to donate to ovarian cancer research!

#### **Girls Nite Out**

3rd Thursdays of the Month 6pm-8pm Clackamas, OR *Breast* 

Come schmooze in a supportive space with other survivors affected by breast and gynecologic cancers. This is a causal potluck-style gathering hosted by Breast Friends. RSVP is not required but always appreciated. Please contact group leader Sharon Sullivan for more information at sharonsullivan@juno.com or 503-701-2628.

## **30th Annual National Cancer Survivors Day**

Sunday, June 4 2pm-4pm Portland, OR



Come celebrate survivorship among friends and family, good food, fun activities, gift basket giveaways and wellness resources. This event is free and all are welcome! Location is TBD. www.ncsd.org

### 7th Annual Teal in the Garden



Join us for an intimate tea party luncheon celebrating gynecologic cancer survivors. Date and location are TBD, but likely to take place in the spring or month of September. Count on tasty bites, good conversation and great company! More information will be posted soon at shocfoundation.org.

## 13th Annual SHOC Walk & Run

Online Registration Opens April 1st!

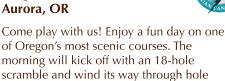
Saturday, August 5 6:30am-11am Latus Motors Harley-Davidson Gladstone, OR

Walk (or run) it out alongside the beautiful Clackamas River! Enjoy a 5K/10K walk or run or go for the 1-mile family walk. Fun extras include a pancake griddle breakfast, the sounds of the Last Regiment of Syncopated Drummers, face painting, vendors, the Rose City Rollers and the Rose City Hogs! Gynecologic cancer survivors are invited to a special sit-down Survivor Breakfast.

#### 9th Annual Drive Out Ovarian Cancer Golf Tournament

#### Online Registration Opens April 1st!

Friday, September 8 7:45am Shotgun Start Langdon Farms Golf Club Aurora, OR



contests, a catered lunch, a lively raffle and

oral auction, a silent auction and awards!

O-Vary Funny!

Join the Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Oregon and SW Washington for their annual dinner and fundraising auction on Thursday, October 12th. This "Stand-up Benefit for Ovarian Cancer" is their signature event and promises a jolly good evening with plenty of laughs. www.ovariancancerosw.org

# 2016 Looking Back

#### \$160,000 Donated Since 2015!

In 2015, we presented our annual gift to OHSU in the special company of survivors at our 5th Annual Teal in the Garden Survivor Tea. While logistics proved difficult to host our Tea Party in 2016, we headed to OHSU like old times to present our gift. Each gift in the past two years has been made in the amount of \$80,000, increasing the SHOC Foundation's donation totals to \$810,000 since 2005. These funds continue to help Dr. Tanja Pejovic and her dedicated team further their research, collaborate with researchers around the world and manage the Oregon Ovarian Cancer Registry. Thank you to every donor and volunteer who continue to make these annual gifts possible.

#### SHOC Walk 2016

A resounding thanks to each individual who took part in this powerful event on August 6th and made 2016 our most successful year yet. With the support of nearly 200 sponsors, 700 participants and volunteers and hundreds of donors, we were able to raise over \$60,000! A tip of the hat to our major contributors: Latus Motors Harley-Davidson, Compass Oncology, Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, Oregon Pacific Investment and Development Company, KPAM AM 860, Tonkin Family of Dealerships, East Side Athletic Club, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, Portland General Electric and Toyota of Gladstone.

#### **Golf Tournament 2016**

On September 9th, we hosted a full field of 144 golfers at the beautiful Langdon Farms Golf Club. Golfers, guests and dedicated volunteers were treated to an afternoon of sunshine, a delicious Hawaiian-style lunch, competitive oral and silent auctions, a raffle and wine pull—all of which raised over \$32,000! Our sincere thanks to our Event Sponsor for the fifth year, Directors Mortgage, our Lunch Sponsors, Compass Oncology, Caddies 4 Cure and Weichert Realtors, and to the countless other sponsors and supporters who helped to "drive out ovarian cancer" and make this event such a success.

### **We Never Forget**

### Remembering Michelle R. Kendrick



On September 30, 2016, the family of Michelle R. Kendrick marked the 10th anniversary of her passing at the age of 42. By that time, she had already lived so much and left her mark on the world.

Professor Kendrick, PhD had a raucous and irreverent sense of humor and there were few dares she ever backed away from. A bumper sticker on the back of her truck, "Are you going to cowboy up or just lie there and bleed?" speaks volumes to the way she lived her life.

A Latina from a working class background, Michelle grew up riding horses and moved on to motorcycles and marathons while pursuing a doctorate in English at the University of Washington. She married and settled in

(over)



Remembering Michelle, Continued

Portland, Oregon to earn her tenure at Washington State University, Vancouver. She also had two vibrant children, Griffin and Sofia, as well as a wide circle of friends.

A brilliant scholar who had a visceral hatred for war and injustice, Michelle established the program in Digital Technology and Culture at WSU Vancouver. She taught and published on subjects ranging from diversity and multiculturalism to media representations of war. Her book, *Eloquent Images: Word and Image in the Age of New Media*, was published from MIT Press.

A year after Sofia's birth, Michelle felt the lump in her stomach that presaged her battle with ovarian cancer. While enduring

surgery, chemo and radiation treatments, she rediscovered her passion for horses—Michelle was still training her thoroughbred Elvis well into her third round of treatment—and like always, when she got thrown, she got right back on.

During this time, Michelle married David Smith and they spent the last two years of her life as a hectic extended family with Griffin and Sofia and her step-daughters Eliza and Emma. This part of Michelle's dream fulfilled: a big family, a successful career and fast rides on horseback.

To help keep her memory and her work alive, Michelle's family established the Michelle Kendrick Memorial Scholarship Fund at WSU which helps support students in the DTC program—now known as the Creative Media and Digital Culture degree. Learn more at michellerkendrick.com.



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#### Remembering Brenda McGowan



In 2015, the late Brenda Payne McGowan left a legacy within the ovarian cancer community. The SHOC Foundation was fortunate enough to be a part of that legacy as a benefactor to her estate, which generously granted a considerable gift toward the advancement of ovarian cancer research.

Brenda's zest for life is something that can be felt even by one who didn't know her personally.

Coming from little means, Brenda grew up as the third child of four in a tiny two-room house with no electricity or plumbing on the eastern shore of Maryland. With some financial assistance from a local garden club and savings she'd built up from summers waitressing 10-12 hour shifts, Brenda was able to put herself through nursing school at the Delaware Hospital School.

From a young age, she had a passion for music; singing while working in the fields

during summers picking watermelons, cucumbers and tomatoes. She learned guitar and performed her own songs at the local grocer for nickels and dimes, as well as performing with a gospel group at churches. A proponent for earning and saving, Brenda worked all sorts of jobs as a young girl: babysitting, shoveling snow, running errands, setting women's hair, cleaning houses. A picture on a wall calendar sparked her curiosity for the bigger world, which lead to an appetite for learning, reading and traveling.

During a three-month rotation during nursing school, Brenda lived in Washington D.C., where she would ride the bus all day on Saturdays for 25 cents, touring around all the city's sites, museums and galleries.

After graduating as one of 18 students out of a class of 52, Brenda and a close friend spent every penny to their name camping cross-country in a green Volkswagen bug, stopping in 22 states and Mexico. After landing in Boise, she went right to work as a nurse. During her time in Idaho, she learned to ski, mountain hike, horse ride, brand cattle and fly fish. Brenda relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area for a position in pediatrics at Stanford University Hospital.

On the way up to Alaska for a camping trip, Brenda and her friends stopped off at the Pendleton Roundup in Oregon—here, she met the love of her life, William "Bill" McGowan.

The two lived on a "piece of heaven" in Sherwood, Oregon they called Foxglove

Farm. Brenda continued her work as a pediatric nurse at St. Vincent in Portland. Together, they enjoyed raising animals, gardening, entertaining, camping, traveling and fly fishing.

Brenda spent the last two and half decades of her life helping others by providing academic scholarships, raising charitable funds for those in need and operating a grassroots nonprofit organization called the Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project to save the Western Bluebird from extinction.

In addition to birding, Brenda continued to pursue the extracurricular activities she loved: hiking, frequenting the Oregon Coast, competing in decathlons, singing with the Concord Chorale and the Grace Notes (the latter of which performed at assisted living facilities) and providing support to other women as a member of PEO.

Brenda's life was rich with activity and adventure but made richer by time spent with her two stepchildren, six grandchildren and five greatgrandchildren.

Brenda would have been 73 this February. She embodied a full life, leaving no stone left unturned or any question left unanswered. Her five and a half year battle with ovarian cancer was fought with courage and grace, and her spirit lives on through a vast network of friends, family and those who have learned her story and experienced her generosity. Happy Birthday, Brenda.