

Dancing With Survivors

Friends team with pros to raise money to help active cancer patients.

Stephanie Caponigro
Special to the Jewish News

Tikkun olam, repairing the world, is important to how close friends and breast cancer survivors, Roz Fantich and Sheri Mark, live their lives. Their cancer journeys brought these

extraordinary women together, but they stay together because of their common love and respect for what they do for others.

Now they are teaming up to support the Pink Fund's "Dancing with the Survivors" event Sept. 26 at Art Van Furniture in Warren. They will be danc-

ing along with other survivors Jan Jones of Wolverine Lake and Irma Slimko of Grosse Ile.

The Pink Fund, founded in 2006 by breast cancer survivor Molly MacDonald, provides individuals in active treatment with up to 90 days of financial assistance to cover non-medical expenses, such as health insurance premiums, housing, transportation and utilities. The fund helps to meet basic needs and decrease stress levels, helping patients fight the disease.

Teaming up is Fred Astaire Dance Studios of Bloomfield Hills, owned by Evan and Lada Mountain. The event features breast cancer survivors and their Fred Astaire dance partners performing dances such as the Bolero, Cha Cha, Hustle, Rumba, Samba, Swing and Waltz.

While Fantich and Mark didn't have to seek financial assistance to pay bills while undergoing their treatment, they are fully aware that others who can't work do face financial hardships.

"Breast cancer research is extremely important, but there is also an overwhelming need of funds to provide financial assistance to patients in active treatment," said Fantich, who will dance the Cha Cha and a little Hustle. "It's fun and upbeat, and as a breast cancer survivor, that's exactly how I define myself — fun and upbeat!"

Mark said, "The most important reason I am dancing is to help raise awareness and money for the Pink Fund so that more women going through breast cancer treatment can get much-needed help with their bills. Also, dancing is so much fun, is great exercise and helps maintain great spirits." She will perform a West Coast Swing and a Samba.

How They Met

Community volunteer Fantich of West Bloomfield was drawn to be a hospice volunteer after raising her children. At the time of her diagnosis in 2000, she was caring for a hospice patient who would eventually lose her battle with cancer. While going through treatment, Roz's goal was to get back to hospice. Her return as a hospice volunteer, caring for a man with ALS, helped get her through her cancer journey.

She also volunteers for ALS organizations, the Committee for Stem Cell Research, the For A Day Foundation, Imerman's Angels and North Star Reach, to name a few.



Sheri Mark and Roz Fantich

Mark of Bloomfield Township is a nurse, attorney, wife, mother and grandmother of six. She is also a six-year breast cancer survivor. Despite six surgeries, a MRSA infection, chemotherapy, radiation and five years of Tamoxifen, she maintains her good health through exercise and eating right. She is married to Dr. Abe Slaim.

Her volunteer efforts include serving on many nonprofit boards, including Planned Parenthood of SE Michigan, ALS Association of Michigan, Comfort Bears for Kids and Michigan Citizens for Stem Cell Research and Cures. She is currently board chair of North Star Reach, a nonprofit that is building a camp for children with serious health challenges on 105 acres surrounded by three lakes in Pinckney. All of the children and their families will attend North Star Reach camp free of charge (www.northstar-reach.org).

In addition to the Dancing with the Survivors showcase, the evening will also feature entertainment from the Royce & Jenn Band and open dancing to tunes from DJ Mike Anthony. Guests can also sample food from 2 Unique, Garden Fresh, Just Baked, Matt Prentice, Peteet's Famous Cheesecakes, Sahara and Treat Dreams. The Coffee Beanery will serve seasonal specialty coffees, and Lucy Wines will provide wine.

The event runs from 6-9 p.m. Sept. 26 at ArtVan Furniture, 6500 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren. Tickets: \$100, available for purchase at www.thepinkfund.org. □

Stephanie Caponigro owns her own PR firm.

 Volvo Summer Sales Event



Final Days of the Volvo Summer Sales Event

Volvo will pay up to \$1,350.00 in payments on any 2013 Volvo in stock. Offer ends 09/30/2013

NEW 2013 VOLVO S60 T-5
equipped with moonroof, leather, keyless drive, climate package and metallic paint.

Suggested price is
\$36,425⁰⁰

24 month one payment lease **\$9,998⁰⁰**
Due at Signing

includes all taxes, fees and license plate transfer. Includes maintenance.



HURRY IN...
THIS OFFER IS AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY!

ASK ABOUT OUR VOLVO AND SAAB LOYALTY OFFERS.

248-624-0400
Volvosales@dwyerandsons.com
www.dwyerandsons.com

DWYER&SONS
VOLVO/SUBARU

On Maple Rd., W of Haggerty
½ mile E of M-5, 4 miles N of I-96
OPEN SATURDAYS

24 month closed end lease, 10,000 miles allowed per year. Zero security deposit. Based on approved credit through Volvo Car Financial Services. Total contract price is \$11,348.00 less \$1,350.00 w \$9,998.00 due at signing Summer Sales Event offer. Volvo and Saab owners qualify for an additional \$500.00 Loyalty rebate. Offer ends 09/30/2013.