



**Lauri Strauss  
Leukemia  
Foundation**



Dear LSLF Foundation Friends,

This year our year end appeal is different from those in the past. There is no event attached and nothing to join. We are presenting an update about the happenings in our foundation. Sadly, this year we have lost two valued volunteers to our cause and gratefully added five new directors to the board.

Since our inception in 1987 our board memberships have changed somewhat over the years. Time does

not stand still yet the devotion of our volunteer members has remained constant. Within the pages of this newsletter, you will note that our efforts to find cause and cure for these devastating diseases has not wavered.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your continued contribution in honor of those who so selflessly support our cause. - Evelyn I. Strauss

## Kannatt Daughters Join The LSLF & Give A Generous Donation

Kannatt's Three Daughters, Nancy, Ellen and Nina have joined our board of Directors. They have generously donated the total proceeds of the sale of the contents of their parent's home. In the past, though they were not members of the board, they were nevertheless very active in all our board events. It is their intention to have a LSLF Discovery Grant disbursed in the memory of their parents.

**Nancy Zolna**, I am Evelyn and Herman's oldest daughter. My husband and I live in West Orange, NJ. We have two children who are both married, and we have four grandchildren. I spend my days working as an instructional aide in an elementary school. I generally work with younger children (kindergarten or 1st graders). It's an extremely rewarding job to be able to help children learn. In addition to working, I love to exercise and spend time with my grandkids, family and friends. I enjoy playing Mah Jongg and Canasta with friends.

I have supported the foundation from the start, whether it be attending a concert or a kickoff dinner. I hope that I can follow in my parent's footsteps and make them proud, however they are a tough act to follow. Their passion and drive were something like no other. They were a one in a million.

**Ellen Kannatt** is the daughter of Evelyn and Herman Kannatt. She spends her time working full time helping young adults find their path. When not working Ellen spends time with family, with friends and following in her parent's footsteps by doing volunteer work. Ellen and her family have been supporters of the Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation since it was founded. Whether attending a benefit concert, a kickoff dinner, helping to organize and run bone marrow registry events, the foundation has been a part of their lives. Just look at the picture of Evelyn at one of the benefit



ABOVE (L-R): Ellen, Nina & Nancy

RIGHT: Evelyn Kannatt with Ellen's youngest son, Max



concerts with Ellen's youngest son! While there is no one person who can fill Evelyn Kannatt's shoes, Ellen hopes to help the foundation so it can continue to do its magic.

**Nina A. Kannatt, Esq.** hails from Jacksonville, Florida and has been married to her loving husband of 33 years Matt Gapinski. They have 3 children Andrew (26), Anna (21) and David (19). She is the youngest child of Evelyn and Herman Kannatt. Nina graduated from The University of Pennsylvania with a BA in Psychology and Villanova University School of Law. Nina has focused her career in the area of Education Law and specifically represents families and children with special needs. Nina is a lifelong swimmer, USA swimming official, loves spending time at the beach and outdoors. Over the years she and her family have supported the Foundation in many ways including conducting Bone Marrow Registration Drives in connection with school events and community swim meets.



*"Please accept our sincerest condolences to Evelyn's family and to your Foundation for this major loss. For our lab and me personally this is also a major loss. I have had the pleasure of knowing Evelyn since 2001. She was always there with LSLF, and her presence was to me and I am sure to so many others synonymous to your Foundation. We will truly miss her." - Constantine Mitsiades, MD*

*"I knew Ms. Kannatt for over 25 years since our lab's first LSLF grant in the 1990s. We worked closely together to support the careers of early stage leukemia investigators. She was a great advocate for the trainees and their host labs, often soliciting extra applications. She was passionate about leukemia research as her husband Herman was a long-time survivor. I will miss Evelyn's warmth, engird and dedication to the fight against leukemia and related illnesses." - Jonathan D. Licht, MD*

*"Evelyn did an enormous amount of work for the foundation as well as being a long and dear friend to Evelyn Strauss. She is in our prayers with thanks for her many years of effort." - Don Bindler*

*"I hold many fond memories over the years of chatting with Evelyn, who was always wearing a beautiful gown, at the cocktail receptions at Carnegie Hall prior to LSLF's wonderful galas. She was always so gracious and clearly loved furthering the mission of the Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation. It was a pleasure to have her as an advocate of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory." - Julie Sutherland*

*"Evelyn helped so many people in so many ways. Will be sorely missed" - AC Providenti*

# IN LOVING MEMORY OF EVELYN KANNATT

## Evelyn Kannatt:

Evelyn Kannatt and Evelyn Strauss met at work where Evelyn Kannatt handled the finances. They became friends. Upon Lauri's passing and the inception of The Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation, Evelyn Kannatt became its volunteer Treasurer. Subsequently with the assistance of her husband Herman, she took on the additional position of volunteer LSLF Grant Coordinator.

Her devotion and expertise earned her the respect and friendship of our LSLF Medical Advisory Board Members and our LSLF Discovery Grant Recipients. Under her tenure, the Foundation disbursed 146 LSLF Discovery Grants totaling \$470,090,000.

In addition, LSLF funded 17 Fully Endowed Fellows at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSKCC). She also handled the yearly stipend awarded to the LSLF Grand Round Lecturer at MSKCC.

Two years after we lost Lauri, Herman came down with AML Leukemia which was the same strain as Lauri's. Lauri lost her battle within seven months



PHOTO: Evelyn Strauss & Evelyn Kannatt



PHOTO: Walter Kissinger

whereas Herman survived over thirty years after his diagnosis. This bears witness to the importance and necessity of the ongoing research we are continually supporting. This year our year end appeal is devoted to Evelyn and Herman Kannatt. They are missed beyond words.

## Walter Kissinger:

Walter and Herb Strauss met in college. Then, Walter became the chief officer of the Allan Group and a leading Long Island philanthropist. Upon Lauri's death we received a check from Walter, who suggested we start a foundation dedicated to medical research in her memory. The rest is history. Walter was Henry's brother. When asked why he did not have the same Bavarian accent Walter jokingly replied "I am the Kissinger that listens". Walter's funding has been continuous throughout the years and has brought additional friends to the foundation. We are grateful to Walter and his family for their continued support over all these years.

*"The Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation (LSLF) has supported researchers at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) for more than 30 years. Evelyn's role in making Foundation grants to MSK over the decades is deeply appreciated by our faculty and staff. Evelyn was among those who deeply understood that each dollar has helped to relieve suffering and lengthen lives affected by cancer. We join you in mourning her loss and celebrating her long life."*

*"It was truly an honor to have personally worked with Evelyn. She was kind, thoughtful and diligent. Her dedication to friends, loved ones, and the mission of LSLF was also always evident. I am glad that her legacy will continue through her many family members, friends, and LSLF's impactful work." - Mary Reed-Holman*

*"I worked with Evelyn for decades. She was always focused and efficient, and flexible, inventive, and funny. We had a great time discussing the applicants, the processes, the dinners, the people, politics, and all sorts of other unrelated items. I will miss her good humor, her optimism, and her dedication to the mission." - David A. Scheinberg, MD*

*"I will remember Evelyn with special affection. Even though we never met in person, our frequent phone interactions were never only about work; she always took the time to chat, discuss some politics, and I loved her eagerness to get to know me better and learn about my culture. I truly miss Evelyn's signature sense of humor, infectious smile, and kind personality, a true lady!" - Yvette Arango*

*"Evelyn will be welcomed by God in the Kingdom of heaven. Much love to her family and friends." - Don Abbott*

## MEET SOME OF THE GREAT PEOPLE BEHIND LAURI STRAUSS LEUKEMIA FOUNDATION



### Laura B. Knepper Executive Director / LSLF Grant Coordinator

Laura joined the foundation 10 years ago as the Executive Director. Graduated with a B.S. in Fashion Merchandising led to working for many well-known fashion companies. When she had her first child, she became a stay-at-home mother for 13 years. She also had her second child within those years.

Laura has been married to her loving husband Doug for over 25 years. Doug has also volunteered his time with the foundation as well as her children Jordan and Alexis.

When the kids became more independent, Laura wanted to go back to work part time and found out the foundation was looking for an Executive Director. In addition, upon the loss of Evelyn Kannatt she has taken on the role of LSLF Grant Coordinator.

She ran the very successful BikeTour/BayWalk for many years with the help of many volunteers.

She loves what she does for the foundation and hopes to continue to raise funds so LSLF can give out grants to the young investigators who hopefully will find a cure.



### Arlene Regan Treasurer

Arlene Regan is a former lawyer-turned Elementary School Teaching Assistant, who devotes all of her time to her two children, Sami and Finn. She was first introduced to the Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation in 2017 when her husband, Kevin, was diagnosed with what they thought was a recurrence of his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The wonderful people at LSLF supported them as they navigated the twists and turns of a heart-stopping cancer diagnosis. Kevin had been misdiagnosed twice initially and was ultimately diagnosed in November, 2018 with Myeloid Sarcoma, a rare and very aggressive subset of Acute Myeloid Leukemia. This news was devastating to their family but they still forged ahead, once again with the support of LSLF.

Sadly, Kevin passed away on February 21, 2021 and their lives were understandably turned upside down. But Arlene and the kids decided to host an annual golf outing in July of 2021 in loving memory of their beloved Kevin. They were so honored to partner with LSLF for this event and have hosted two successful outings with, hopefully, many more in the future. A cancer diagnosis can be life-shattering, as the Regan's can attest, but

an organization like LSLF is there to support, encourage and guide. The money raised at the golf outings has been directed to Kevin's oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center so that, hopefully, one day, we can all live in a world without cancer. That is Arlene's dream and with hard work and dedication to the cause, she's hoping to make it a reality.



### RuRu Liao-Sim Board Member

I became involved with the Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation (LSLF) back in 2016 when my daughter, Morgan was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). She was a few months into her two plus year treatment when we saw posters about LSLF's Charity Bike Tour. My friends wanted to form a team for Morgan and walk in her honor. We raised over \$3,000 that first year. Team Morgan also continued to walk and raise money for LSLF for the next three years until unfortunately the pandemic occurred.

I am happy to report that Morgan has been in remission since May 2018 and is coming up to her 5th year out of treatment which is a big deal in the cancer world. She is currently thriving

as a 4th grader at Daly Elementary and she loves to dance, play softball, play piano and draw. She adores her big brother, Nate who is a 7th grader at Weber Middle School who loves to play videos games and piano.

I moved to Port Washington when I was a 2nd grader and after graduating from Schreiber, I went to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Science and a Master's degree in Hospitality from NYU. I moved back to Port when Nate was 18 months ago because I knew that Port was a great place to raise children. Having grown up in Port, I love that LSLF is a charitable foundation in our community. LSLF provides grants to researchers who are doing cutting edge work to bring us closer towards a cure for blood cancers and related cancers. Just a few decades ago, the cancer that Morgan had was considered 100% fatal.

Today, the survival rate for ALL is upwards of 90%. I wholly believe that Morgan is alive today because of foundations like LSLF and I am forever in their debt. While the pandemic put a damper in a lot of fundraising efforts, I am excited to help revitalize LSLF's events and continue to bring awareness to blood cancers and related cancers so that we can say we cured cancer sometime in the near future. I am truly honored to be a Board Member for the Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation. Until a cure.



2022-23

**LSLF** Lauri Strauss  
Leukemia  
Foundation

► **Discovery Grant Recipients**



**Andrew Lane, MD, PhD**

Andrew Lane, MD, PHD, who was given a LSLF Discovery Grant in 2012, while he was at DFCI, studies plasmacytoid dendritic cell neoplasm (BPDCN), an aggressive and uncommon blood cancer that has some of the features of leukemia and lymphoma which also presents itself with characteristic skin tumors. "My goal is to figure out what makes BPDCN tick and translate that knowledge to new therapy", said Lane, who is now the Director of Dana-Farber's Blastic Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Neoplasm Center.

As an update to his illustrious career, we are delighted to announce that the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) has awarded him and two fellow researchers at DFCI \$1,359,000 in career development grants towards their work developing and refining treatments for blood cancers.

We are gratified that our LSLF Discovery Grant in 2012 helped lead him to such a promising future in researching cause and cure of these devastating illnesses.



**Martin Tallman, MD**

Our Medical Advisory Board member, Martin S. Tallman, MD has relocated from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) to Lurie Cancer Center at Northwestern Medical University, Chicago, Illinois. He has accepted the position as Director of Faculty Mentorship and Career Development as of June 1, 2022.

With the ability to zoom today, we are gratified that he will remain an active member of our LSLF Advisory Medical Board.

In this regard when you donate to our foundation you will always be able to contact a grant recipient directly. You will know exactly where your money goes.



**Martina Cardillo, Ph.D**

**North Shore – LIJ Feinstein Institute  
for Medical Research Manhasset, NY**

*"CLL's and ABC's: Studies of Shared Phenotypic and Functional Features"*



**Lingbo Zhang, Ph.D**

**Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory,  
Cold Spring Harbor, NY**

*"Targeting Metabolic Vulnerabilities as Novel Therapeutics for Acute Myeloid Leukemia"*



**Olga Dashevsky, Ph.D**

**Dana-Farber Cancer Center,  
Boston, MA**

*"CRISPR Studies to Define Response vs. Resistance Mechanisms to Natural Killer Cells for Myeloma/Plasma Cell Leukemia Cells with Defects Conferring T Cell Resistance"*



**Salime Benbarche, Ph.D**

**Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center, New York, NY**

*"A Novel Gene Therapy Approach to Eliminate Spliceosome Mutant Leukemia"*



**Eyton Stein, MD**

**Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center, New York, NY**

*"Targeting the Genetic and Epigenetic Basis of Myeloid Malignancies"*

► **LSLF Fellow**

**LSLF fellowship is fully endowed at MSKCC**



**Dammeng Luo**

**Memorial Sloan-Kettering  
Cancer Center, New York, NY**

*"Peptidomimetic Conjugate Drugs for Leukemia"*



## Bone Marrow Drive Was A Success!

Over the past 13 plus years the Kannatt-Gapinski family has been honoring the work and memory of Nina's parents Evelyn and Herman Kannatt and supporting the LSLF by working with *Be the Match* and hosting National Bone Marrow Registration Drives at community events in Jacksonville Florida. The drives have traditionally been held in conjunction with high school swimming events with the goal of not only registering donors but to educate and raise awareness of the incredible work of medical researchers and the strides that have been made in the search for a cure for Leukemia and related Blood Cancers. Although most high school students are not yet old enough to join the National Registry. It is our hope that by educating them early, they will join the registry as soon as they are eligible.

In September of 2022 we once again hosted a drive at the 2022 Byron Plapp '08 Invitational Swim Meet. The meet is held



PHOTO: Greta Lofgren & Harsha Rajendran. Greta is Byron's cousin & Harsha is her husband

each year in loving memory of Byron Plapp, a dear family friend, US Army Officer, and former West Point swimmer, who lost a hard-fought battle to T Lymphoblastic Lymphoma in March 2015. Byron was an amazing young man with a love for his country and swimming that was infectious. He inspired his teammates to work hard, persevere and succeed.

Nina had the opportunity to speak at this event and share both Byron's story as well as the story of her father's successful battle with Leukemia almost 40 years ago (medical trials that were successful and gave him an extra 30 plus years of life). Sharing these stories helped to raise awareness of the urgent need to add more committed donors for the over 12,000 patients who do need a marrow transplant each year. The event was a success in that we educated many, registered several people and countless others indicated that they would join the registry when they turn 18.

## Kevin Regan Memorial Golf Outing July 18th, 2022

The 2nd Annual Kevin Regan Memorial Golf Outing benefiting the Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation was held at Port Washington's North Hempstead Country. Unfortunately, the weather did not hold up for the golfers, but everyone enjoyed the day and dinner. The event was held in honor of the life of a man who meant so much to so many and was taken from everyone at an early age of 47. Kevin passed away from Myeloid Sarcoma, a rare subset of Acute Myeloid Leukemia. The 1st Annual Memorial Golf Outing raised

\$20,000 which in turn was awarded to Kevin's physician, Eytan Stein, toward his project "Targeting the Genetic and Epigenetic Basis of Myeloid Malignancies". We look forward to managing our 3rd Annual Kevin Regan Golf Outing and your continued participation. This year we raised \$22,000 and another grant will be disbursed in 2023 in Kevin's memory. As in years past at many events, our LSLF board member, Laura Sweeney, generously donated the top prize of an iPad toward the event's ongoing raffle.



PHOTO: Regan Family

## PLEASE HELP US MEET OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL!

DONATING IS EASY - CREDIT CARD (ONLINE) • CHECKS/STOCK • BANK TRANSFER\* • MONTHLY GIFTS\* • MATCHING GIFTS

Pay by check here, please make check payable to: Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation. Credit Card payments online visit LSLF.ORG

→ SELECT DONATION LEVEL:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  \$3,000  \$5,000  OTHER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV / CVC: \_\_\_\_\_

Tributes (Acknowledgment will be sent to honoree and receipt will be mailed to donor) Credit Card\*  MASTERCARD  VISA  DISCOVER

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is fully tax deductible as no goods or services have been provided.

We accept matching gifts! A monthly gift is an easy way to donate and if you wish you can setup a monthly gift schedule, or bank transfer.

PLEASE E-MAIL [LSLF@LSLF.COM](mailto:LSLF@LSLF.COM) OR CALL (516) 767-1418 FOR MORE INFORMATION



# Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation

382 Main Street #106  
Port Washington, NY 11050

(516) 767-1418 | Telephone  
(516) 767-1606 | Fax  
lsf@lslf.com | E-Mail

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
FLUSHING, NY  
PERMIT 1807

## OFFICERS

Evelyn I. Strauss	President
Douglas M. Atkin	Vice Chair
Lloyd J. Braun	Vice Chair
Julie R. Safran	Executive Vice President
Arlene Regan	Treasurer
Melissa Ostrove	Secretary
Charlotte Rosenblatt	Chair, Executive Committee
Laura B. Knepper	Executive Director / Grant Coordinator
Herman Kannatt	In Memoriam
Herbert H. Strauss	President In Memoriam

Learn more about the Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation

**VISIT [LSLF.ORG](http://LSLF.ORG) FOLLOW [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)**



**Lauri Strauss**

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

### LSLF MISSION

Our mission is to find a cure for leukemias, lymphomas, Hodgkin disease, myelomas, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and allied cancers by means of awarding young researchers with LSLF Discovery Grants towards innovative research projects. We conduct marrow donor drives, promote cord blood donations, and present a yearly Grand Round Lecture at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

### DISCOVERY GRANT FUNDING

Our grants supply seed money to innovative research projects at many of the country's most respected medical institutions. Each project represents one important piece of the puzzle toward understanding leukemias, lymphomas, Hodgkin disease, myelomas, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and allied cancers. To date, we have awarded 146 grants totaling \$470,090,000, sponsored 90 marrow drives, 24 Grand Round Lectures and funded 17 Fully Endowed LSLF research fellows working on 20+ projects at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Subsequently, many grantees have generated well over \$700,000,000 in additional funding, publishing significant papers, winning research awards, and contributing directly to newly approved treatments and protocols now in use.

The **Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation** is a tax-exempt, non-profit humanitarian organization. It was created in memory of Lauri Strauss, a vivacious young woman who died of leukemia at the age of 26.

A copy of our annual report may be obtained by writing to the foundation, or The Office Charities Registration, State of New York, 162 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12231.