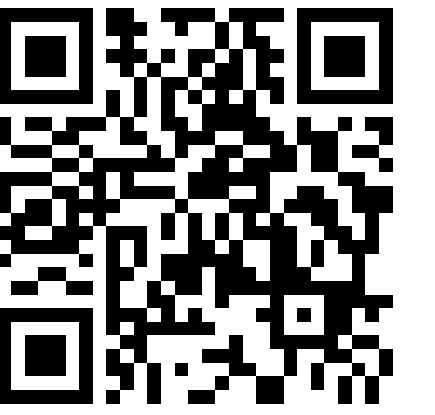


# From a Parking Lot to a Platform for Change: 18 Years of Ovarian Cancer Advocacy and Research Impact



Laurel J. Pracht

Pres. West Valley Ovarian Cancer Alliance

## Our Legacy

In 2007, we held our first golf fundraiser in the golf course parking lot—with plastic chairs, a handful of volunteers, and a shared mission. This first event raised \$1250.



Over 18 years, we've grown into a trusted national partner in ovarian cancer research. Today, we prepare for our 18th Annual Golf Tournament, now a professionally catered event with survivor recognition, research presentations, and community celebration in a large auditorium.

## Investing in the Future

- Resuscitated the LIVES trial, a national study on lifestyle and survivorship.
- Honoring the vision of Dr. Joan Walker, who founded the NRG Health Care Access Fellowship Program to mentor and support the next generation of cancer researchers.
  - Committed \$50,000 to fund a 2-year Fellowship in 2024 for Dr. Stephanie Rieder, whose research focused on equity in genetic testing.
  - Co-sponsored \$25,000 to fund a second 2-year Fellowship in 2025 for Dr. Olivia Lara, whose research focused on ovarian cancer prevention.
- Inspired by Dr. David S. Alberts (1939–2023)—a pioneer in cancer prevention and mentor to our president, Laurel Pracht, and countless others across the research and advocacy community.

## In Loving Memory

**“Not to spoil the ending, but everything is going to be okay ❤️”**

**The 2026 Teal Ribbon Golf Tournament will be held in her honor.**

**Joan was a devoted board member, an avid golfer, and a source of joy and strength to all who knew her.**



Joan Cross-Zurek,  
Board Member & Survivor



Laurel Pracht, Dr. Joan Walker, and Dr. Stephanie Rieder—advocates and researchers united in purpose

## Our Impact

- 💰 \$250,000+ raised for ovarian cancer research
- 🧬 Hundreds of genetic tests will be funded for high-risk individuals
- 📣 Thousands reached through education and outreach
- 💉 \$100,000+ donated to sustain the LIVES clinical trial (GOG-225)
- 🎓 \$75,000 committed to fund two Fellowship for Dr. Stephanie Rieder and Dr. Olivia Lara through the **NRG Health Care Access Fellowship Program** (<https://www.nrgoncology.org/HealthCareAccessFellowship>)

“The NRG Health Care Access Fellowship is helping advance my research into the disparities that hinder equitable care. Collaborating with experts and accessing key resources will be instrumental in shaping solutions for underserved populations.” — Dr. Olivia Lara, MD, MS, 2025 NRG Health Care Access Fellowship Recipient

## West Valley Ovarian Cancer Alliance – Board of Directors



- Laurel Pracht, President
- Karen Watson, Vice President
- Carol Ann Kunz, Treasurer
- Margie Black
- Diana Coplen
- Donna Pease
- Michele Staples



Five board members are cancer survivors. Their lived experience and leadership guide every step of our mission.