

RACHEL'S FRIENDS BREAST CANCER COALITION

Can everyday products like cosmetics and household cleaners cause cancer?

Ask questions at the **free** Portland premiere of a new documentary film.

No Family History: Environmental Links to Breast Cancer



Thursday, May 13, 7 - 9 p.m. (doors open at 6:30)

Kaiser Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate Ave., Portland

- Q & A with director Sabrina McCormick, PhD, following the film
- Ride the MAX Yellow line or park free on site.

Sponsored by Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition

Co-sponsors: Clara Jean Foundation, National College of Natural Medicine, Northwest Health Foundation, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility,

See the preview on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?sKY87Flm2gg.



Congress debates five bills to strengthen toxic chemical monitoring

***Moving from awareness to strong public policy, corporate accountability,
and individual action dedicated to
eliminating environmental causes of cancer***

Approximately 82,000 chemicals are used in the U.S. yet only about 200 of them have been checked for safety. Only five chemicals have been banned because of health and safety concerns.

Thousands of toxic chemicals that were never tested for safety are in common consumer products – toys and baby bottles, food and soda can linings, mattresses, computers, shampoos, lotions and more.

Americans are exposed daily to chemicals through manufactured products, food, and the air we breathe.

Biomonitoring evidence proves that people are polluted, too. The U.S. Centers

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for Disease Control and Prevention, Washington (State) Toxics Coalition, and the Oregon Environmental Council found toxic chemicals in the blood and urine of Americans. Babies are born with hundreds of chemicals in their blood. This increases their risk of prostate and breast cancers, diabetes, heart disease, lowered sperm counts, early puberty and other diseases and disorders.

What You Can Do

Call, e-mail, or fax your U.S. senators and representative. Say that you're a voter in his/her district. Ask them to make cancer prevention a top priority by supporting five environmental health bills pending in Congress:

- **Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).** Studies by the National Academy of Sciences and the Environmental Protection Agency, among others, revealed that the current TSCA law overseeing toxic chemicals does not adequately evaluate the chemical hazards of con-

sumer products or control chemicals with proven risks. TSCA, 33 years old, has never been updated. The United States has not even outlawed asbestos! Asbestos is a carcinogen banned in 52 countries, but it's legal here, even in toys! Lung cancer and mesothelioma cancer are caused by inhaling asbestos fibers.

- **Ban Poisonous Additives Act of 2010,** H.R. 1523/S.593 would ban bisphenol A (BPA) from food and beverage containers. BPA is a manufactured estrogen linked to breast cancer and other serious health problems. It is used in plastic baby bottles, water bottles, linings in metal cans, and infant formula cans. BPA leaches from containers into food and then into people.
- **Coordinated Environmental Public Health Network Act of 2010,** H.R. 3426, would create a national tracking sys-

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Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition is a non-profit Oregon advocacy organization dedicated to lowering the incidence of breast and other cancers by reducing our exposure to environmental carcinogens. We do this through education, legislative action, and organizing for change on behalf of Oregonians.

We honor Rachel Carson, a biologist and writer who died of breast cancer. Her 1962 book *Silent Spring* exposed the dangers of pesticides.

We support the **Precautionary Principle (better safe than sorry)**. We should act **now** to reduce our exposure to known and suspected carcinogens even if cause and effect relationships are not firmly established.

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Mail a check with your name, address, and e-mail to the PO box above.

We appreciate your donations. Thank you!

- **Northwest Health Foundation** for a grant supporting our May 13 event, "*No Family History*"
- From **Ann Aldrich** in memory of **Nancy Cross Aldrich** who succumbed to her third bout with breast cancer on January 10, 2010
- From **Kaye Exo** in memory of her mother, **Eleanore Dittman Schwarze**, who died of breast cancer in June 2001 and "whose spirit lives on in me and other family members"

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tem that would combine data from disease registries, environmental pollution reports, and bio-monitoring programs to shed light on links between cancer and other chronic diseases and pollution in the environment. It would provide potentially life-saving information to public health policymakers.

- The **Endocrine Disruption Prevention Act** would create a multidisciplinary research program to improve understanding of endocrine disruption, design and develop research protocols to identify endocrine disrupting chemicals, and determine if the chemicals are safe.
- **Expanded Food and Drug Administration authority over cosmetics.** We need federal legislation to ensure the safety of cosmetics and other personal care products. They are currently unregulated and often contain chemicals linked to cancer and other health concerns.

Food Industry Threatens to Kill Food Safety Bill if BPA Restrictions Included

The Grocery Manufacturers Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and other food industry groups say they will kill the Food Safety Modernization Act if it restricts toxic [bisphenol A](#) (BPA) in food packaging and containers.

Legislation sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-CA, seeks to ban BPA from all food and beverage containers regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Feinstein said: "I feel very strongly that the government should protect people from harmful chemicals. BPA should be addressed as a part of the food safety overhaul."

Janet Nudelman from the Breast Cancer Fund said,

"Who [is the Senate] accountable to — an industry that is fighting science and consumer demand, or infants, kids and pregnant women . . .?"

"Who [is the Senate] accountable to — an industry that is fighting science and consumer demand, or infants, kids and pregnant women who need to be protected from this toxic chemical? Food-based exposures to BPA have been restricted in five states and 13 more are considering doing the same. . . Everyone, regardless of where they shop or what state they live in, should have access to BPA-free food products. Only Congress can ensure that."

Call, fax, or e-mail your U.S. senators' offices. Say you're a voter and you want them to co-sponsor and support the **Food Safety Modernization Act**.

Cleaning for a Reason – and it's free!

The Cleaning for a Reason (CFR) Foundation offers one free housecleaning per month for four months for women aged 18 or older who are currently receiving treatment for any type of cancer.

The application process opens at 12 noon Central Time (**10 a.m. Pacific time**) Monday through Thursday and accepts a maximum of

50 applications each day Monday through Thursday.

To register, open www.cleaningforareason.org, complete the application, and ask your doctor to fax a note confirming your treatment to the fax number on the last page of the application. A CFR cleaner in your ZIP code area will call to arrange the service.

Thank you, volunteers!

Liandra Chapman, Marilyn Grendele, Myra Himmelfarb, Mark Williams

Rachel's Friends
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Research Links Cell Phones and Brain Tumors

“Academic studies with data over 10 years are consistently finding an increased risk of tumors,” says Environmental Working Group Senior Scientist Olga Naidenko, Ph.D.

Two studies raise alarm about the long-term impact of cell phone radiation, especially on children and heavy users.

- Using a cell phone for a decade “approximately doubles the risk of being diagnosed with a brain tumor on the same side

of the head as that preferred for cell phone use.” [Surgical Neurology](#), September 2009

- Data from 23 international studies show “evidence linking mobile phone use to an increased risk of brain tumors, especially among users of 10 or more years.” [Journal of Clinical Oncology](#), October 2009

<http://www.ewg.org/cellphoneradiation/fullreport>

