

# A ribbon of hope for cancer patients

**CANCER** from page 1

idea has resonated with thousands of people throughout the country and the world, many who feel for the first time in their lives that they can take some control and 'do something' to solve the mystery of the breast cancer," Swirsky stated. Swirsky's book is available for purchase on the website [www.mapofdestiny.com](http://www.mapofdestiny.com) and all profits from book sales are donated to Pace's organization, according to Distler.

Their four-pronged mission also tackles advocacy, education and fund raising for research and diagnostic equipment. "We provide complimentary care, not medical care, to treat the disease," Distler said. "We look at the whole person, not the cancer patient. That's our attitude."

While the organization provides free yoga and art classes, reflexology and education on nutrition, they also address environmental factors with a hands on approach. Similar to Pace's mapping project, they are currently working with Islip Town on a project to reduce the use of chemical weed killers in order to help protect the environment.

"We worked with the Cornell Cooperative Extension on a 'crack and craves' weed control program that started in Lindenhurst," Distler said. "We [also] worked with a biologist to treat 10 slots along a roadway in Lindenhurst."

They used 10 different weed prod-

ucts to see if they could find one that is safe for the environment, but just as effective as the leading brand of weed killer sold in stores. Their study brought back results showing Scythe, a non-chemical environmentally safe product, was that effective.

Although this type of research is a significant aspect of the organization's grassroots approach to helping their clients, they are also focused on providing Long Islanders with updated diagnostic equipment in area hospitals.

"People are experiencing five to six month waits for digital mammography appointments," Distler said.

In response to the long waits for the digital technology, Distler said Pace's organization has begun a clothing recycling program to raise revenue towards purchasing the equipment.

"Through a \$250,000 grant from [State] Senator Trunzo's (R-Brentwood) office, money from the bins, and a lease agreement with GE, the company that makes the machines, we purchased Long Island's first digital mammography machine about six to seven years ago," Distler said.

The pink recycling bins can be found scattered throughout the grounds of LLJ in Bay Shore and the ribbon cutting is scheduled 12:30 p.m. For more information about Breast Cancer Help Inc. and the programs offered at the Long Island Help and Wellness Center, call 661-7223 or visit [www.breastcancerhelpinc.org](http://www.breastcancerhelpinc.org). For the Spanish hotline call 473-3658. ■