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LOCAL REVOLUTIONARY—Author Joan Swirsky, left, recently published a book documenting the crusade of West Islip resident Lorraine Pace, right, founder of Breast Cancer Help, Inc., and her efforts to raise awareness about the high rate of breast cancer on Long Island.

Map Of Destiny

New Book Praises Locals In Breast Cancer Battle On LI

By Michelle Pirraglia

Shortly after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992, Suffolk County resident Lorraine Pace noticed a pattern emerging. At least 18 other women within the town of Islip also had

the disease, with none of them falling into the established risk factor categories.

"I was just a normal, everyday housewife," Pace recalled, noting that she had begun working in real estate when she was diagnosed. "I lived in West Islip for 50 years, and there was no breast care center in Suffolk County ... There was absolutely

no activism in Suffolk County at the time, and that was frustrating."

Two weeks after getting the news that she had breast cancer, Pace, along with several other women, decided to turn their frustration into a positive

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