

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION NEW YORK GALA WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

Honoring Musa Mayer

Author, Advocate, and President of the Guston Foundation



Musa Mayer is a survivor, advocate and author of three books on breast cancer. She became involved with the National Breast Cancer Coalition in the early 1990s and graduated from Project LEAD.

Over the next 20 years, Musa's advocacy focused on people living with metastatic breast cancer. She wrote the first patient handbook and many articles for patients and professionals. Her patient surveys helped expand services among support organizations.

As a research advocate, she served on steering and data monitoring committees for clinical trials and patient registries, on FDA advisory committees, and on a Department of Defense BCRP Center of Excellence grant on brain metastasis.

With the U.S. Cochrane Center at Johns Hopkins, she co-authored a free web-course for advocates on evidence-based healthcare taken by thousands of advocates and healthcare workers around the world.

In the past decade, as president of The Guston Foundation at PhilipGuston.org, Musa has worked to ensure the legacy of her father, the painter Philip Guston, publishing several books on his life and work.

Support for the National Breast Cancer Coalition and its advocacy remains close to her heart.

A Tribute to the Legacy of Congresswoman Nita Lowey



Nita M. Lowey was a transformative leader in public service, a lifelong champion for women's health and an amazing breast cancer advocate.

Over more than three decades representing New York in the US House of Representatives, she played a pivotal role in advancing policies that expanded breast cancer research, protected access to care, and upheld science-based decision making.

From the earliest days of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, she was a trusted partner and fierce advocate for its mission to end breast cancer. Her leadership helped move NBCC's agenda forward. She was the primary sponsor of the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act, a staunch supporter of the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program, and a leader on the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act.

Known for her determination and ability to get things done, Nita Lowey brought people together to turn bold ideas into real progress. This tribute honors her lasting impact on the breast cancer movement and her extraordinary legacy of leadership and service.

2026 Grassroots Advocate Award Honorees Nancy Levitan Poorvu and Terlisa Sheppard

Terlisa and Nancy are longtime breast cancer survivors whose personal journeys fuel their unwavering commitment to advocacy. Through decades of leadership and courage they have helped push research and policy forward for all those impacted by breast cancer.