The ginkgo leaf is the symbol of the Carolina Breast Cancer Study. It was selected not only for its beautiful, graceful shape, but also because it is from a tree that will do well even under difficult conditions. This balance of beauty, strength, and persistence seemed a fitting symbol for the women in our study.

About Jeanne Hopkins Lucas...
This study is named in honor of Senator Jeanne Hopkins Lucas, the first African-American female North Carolina state senator, who spent much of her Senate career focused on public education. She was a strong voice for cancer programs in our state as well as a determined breast cancer advocate. Ms. Lucas died of breast cancer in March 2007 at 71 years of age.

In Memory of Senator Jeanne Hopkins Lucas
1935-2007
Why are we contacting you?
- We obtained your name from the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry. All cases of cancer must be reported to the Registry. The Registry can give this information to researchers as long as they let the person’s doctor know about the study. We first checked with your doctor before contacting you.

What does it mean to participate?
Participating in the study is fairly easy.
- Soon, you’ll be contacted by a member of our study staff to answer your questions and see if you would like to participate. If you agree, we will make an appointment for a nurse to come to your home or another convenient location for an interview on a day, evening or weekend that is best for you.
- During her visit, the nurse will ask you questions about your family history, medical history, and physical and emotional well-being. You need not answer all of the questions, but we hope that you will.

Why is this study being done?
- If we can identify underlying causes of breast cancer, we can determine ways to prevent it from occurring.
- And for those women who do get breast cancer, we can offer more effective treatments.

These efforts together will lower the death rate from this disease.

Who is participating in this study?
- About 3,000 women of all races with breast cancer living in 44 counties in North Carolina will participate.

Will you benefit from the study?
- You will receive $75 to do the in-home interview and to donate a blood or mouth rinse sample, and $10 after you complete each follow-up nine-month telephone call.

- The nurse will also collect a blood or mouth rinse sample. The visit will last about two hours.
- Then, once every nine months for the next two years, we will call you to briefly ask about your health and to update our records. These calls will take 10 to 20 minutes each.

This is not a clinical trial.
We will not ask you to take any medicine or drugs, and we will not give any kind of breast cancer treatment.
Your decision about participating will not change your relationship with your doctor, the treatment they recommend, or the medical care you receive.