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# Orange

## APPEAL

September | October  
2012

*Fall Fashion  
Fantasy*

2012 Salute  
to Survivors

Pink Pages

Women  
to Watch

Model, Mom,  
Breast Cancer Survivor  
Sarah von Braun





# Salute to Survivors

It's always a spirited session. There are emotional moments. And lots of hugs and good wishes. This third annual photo shoot features brave, beautiful survivors. Most are celebrating their battle against breast cancer, but all share the tales of devastating diagnoses, hair-scaring treatments and journeys in recovery. Fears have turned to joys and tears have turned to smiles. We salute all these ladies for sharing.

## HAIR & MAKEUP:

Gary Lambert & Lauren Lambert

## CLOTHING:

Bella, Winter Park

Continuum, Lake Mary

Dooney & Bourke, Orlando Premium Outlets | International Drive

Gay Harrison Handcrafted Couture Jewelry

Jones New York, Orlando Premium Outlets | International Drive

LaBella Boutique, Winter Park

MaxStudio.com, Orlando Premium Outlets | International Drive

Neiman Marcus, The Mall at Millenia

Rich Hippie, Altamonte Springs

Thread, Winter Park

Tuni, Winter Park

Walk On Water, Winter Park, Lake Mary

Wearable Art, Winter Park

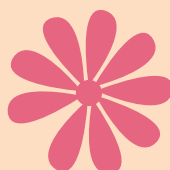
## LOCATION:

Gallery at Interlachen

5510 Lake Howell Rd., Winter Park 407-579-2219

## PHOTOGRAPHY:

Tammy DeLaRosa, [photographyinorlando.com](http://photographyinorlando.com)



## Lynn Minkow

Consultant, the ETCETERA collection

*Diagnosed with breast cancer  
in January 2012*

"I found the lump during a self-examination. I feel so fortunate to have found it rather than waiting for my annual mammogram. I am sure that the cancer would have advanced past stage I if I had waited for the mammogram. I happily share my story with anyone to underscore how important it is to do self-examinations and in hopes that it helps others from more advanced stages of cancer.

Three months after my lumpectomy, I returned to Ashtanga yoga. Five months after the surgery, I went to Machu Pichu and went paragliding off a cliff (thanks to the suggestion of Heather Snively, another survivor!). A positive attitude, and loving friends and family are what helps one get through difficult situations. After cancer news, I intend to embrace life and work on that bucket list. I feel truly blessed that my cancer was caught so early and that it truly is only a 'lump in the road.'"

*Dressed by ETCETERA collection; accessories by  
Gay Harrison Handcrafted Couture Jewelry*

## Geri Bell

Account Executive — corporate meetings  
2nd events industry; active volunteer,  
American Cancer Society

*Two-time breast cancer survivor:  
first diagnosis in January 2000;  
second diagnosis in February 2006*

"In January 2000, by performing a self-breast exam, I found a lump in my right breast and soon after was diagnosed with Stage I breast cancer at the tender age of 30. With my friends and family by my side, weighing the risks of chemotherapy, elective surgeries and breakthrough



Lynn Minkow, Geri Bell and Gay Harrison

cancer treatment, I remained undeterred. My choice was not to be all depressed and sad about it. I did not want to bury myself. I wanted to be a happy person... inside and out. So I marched on.

For the next six years, I followed up with routine check-ups, but then in 2006, I was faced with a second diagnosis of breast cancer, but this time things were much different because the year prior, my mother was diagnosed with stage III ovarian cancer. And after her diagnosis, my mother, my sister and I all went for genetic testing and we all tested positive for the BRCA 1 gene. With this news and with my second diagnosis of breast cancer (still under the age of 40), I opted for a double mastectomy and breast reconstruction surgery.

I chose not to do chemotherapy for a second time following my double mastectomy. Instead I had an elective oophorectomy in order to bring my chances of a third recurrence of cancer down

dramatically. Then on October 31, 2008, after fighting and surviving a five year battle, my mother passed away from ovarian cancer at the young age of 62. It was a long and hard troubling time for all of us, but mom fought until the very end. My mother was the strongest woman anyone would ever have known. I think about her every day and I am so proud of her.

It is now 2012 and I continue to live my life with a positive attitude and outlook on life. I definitely would not choose these circumstances or experiences for anyone however, these were the cards I was dealt and I am playing my hand the best way I know how.

I know that I have experienced and overcome so much at such an early age, however, all of these experiences have made me the positive, energetic, vibrant woman that I believe I am today."

*Dressed by Neiman Marcus; accessories by  
Alexis Bittar from Neiman Marcus*

## Gay Harrison

Jewelry Designer —  
Gay Harrison Handcrafted Couture Jewelry

*5-year breast cancer survivor*

"As the saying goes, 'God laughs while you're making plans!' The date was Tuesday, October 9, 2007, one week to the day before I had planned to leave on a long-planned trip of a lifetime to Bangkok and Kathmandu to hike the Himalayas. I had lost 40 pounds, changed my diet, exercised regularly, only to discover I would be healing from cancer rather than hiking the Himalayas.

Being diagnosed with cancer was somewhat of a 'circle of life' experience for me as my mother had died of thoracic cavity cancer in 2002. That year, I had taken some of her costume jewelry to a local bead bar to repurpose her crystals into a necklace to wear to a party. It was at that moment I found my passion in life and a therapeutic way to grieve the loss of my mom.

Today, 10 years later, my business is thriving and philanthropically driven in memory of my mother and in honor of my surviving cancer."

*Dressed by Rich Hippie; wearing her own jewelry*

## Judy Godorov

Retired teacher

*13-year breast cancer survivor*

"I retired from teaching kindergarten in '99 when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was a big surprise. I had surgery followed by radiation and I have been cancer-free since then. Although my official diagnosis was quite scary, through the help of my daughters and my doctors, I was able to think through the big decisions and felt confident with my course of treatment. I am thrilled to be healthy and cancer-free!

I have been volunteering in kindergarten ever since as an addition in the Orange County school system for the past 13 years. I was in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk and raised money for them, and I have knitted over 200 hats for Give Kids The World. My job is feeding the homeless at the Homeless Coalition on Hughey Street. I play a lot of tennis and volunteer in Eatonville helping boys and girls learn tennis."

*Dressed by LaBella Boutique and Intimates;  
accessories by  
Gay Harrison Handcrafted Couture Jewelry*

## Heather Snively

Owner of Weddings Unique

*Two-time breast cancer survivor:  
first diagnosis in 1997,  
second diagnosis in 2009*

"'Life is not waiting for the storms to pass... it's about learning to dance in the rain.' Breast cancer

is a journey of faith, perseverance and hope. After being diagnosed in 1997 and treated with a lumpectomy and radiation, I thought my journey was over, and it was for 13 years. When I was diagnosed again, I could not believe I would have to go through all of this and more again. Treatment options were more aggressive with a double mastectomy, reconstruction and chemotherapy. It is scary, but it is all about attitude! I have been in the clear for three years now, still aware that every day is a gift.

But my journey is not over — my mother was diagnosed six months after me. She now has metastatic breast cancer, meaning stage IV. Treatments are available, but not a cure. It will be a long road for our family.

This disease is devastating; however, it seems every day there is new hope with clinical trials and new drug therapies. It sounds clichéd but early detection improves one's chances for survival. We owe it to the people we love!"

*Dressed by Bella; accessories by Gay Harrison  
Handcrafted Couture Jewelry*

Judy Godorov, Heather Snively and Sheila McThenia





Leslie Richardson, Lisa Nickchen and Shirley Krauklis

## Lisa Nickchen

Senior writer/editor, Orlando Health

5-year breast cancer survivor

"I feel very fortunate and blessed to be part of a survivors' story. I am forever grateful to the doctors and other medical professionals who gave me hope as well as healing; to family and friends who, in addition to taking care of me, helped take care of my children when I was unable to; and to my husband and children, who kept me going, who kept loving me, and who even embraced my baldness (my husband was even the one who shaved my head for me — on Mother's Day 2007)."

*Dressed by MaxStudio.com, Orlando Premium Outlets — International Drive; accessories by Gay Harrison Handcrafted Couture Jewelry*

## Sheila McThenia

Medical school student at the University of Florida College of Medicine

Five-year breast cancer survivor

"When I was diagnosed with stage III breast cancer at the age of 40, I feared my life was over. But, it wasn't. Here I am, over five years later, and I can confidently say I am stronger and healthier than ever. Just recently, I ran a half marathon, sent three of four of my sons off to college, and am on the path to realizing my long held dream of becoming a doctor. Though Orlando is our home, I am currently a first-year medical student at the University of Florida College of Medicine and plan to work as an oncologist among medically under-served women with cancer."

I am a grateful survivor. I am acutely aware that I am here thanks to the grace of God, the excellent treatment I received from my medical team at Florida Hospital, the extraordinary care provided by my friends, and the unwavering support of my husband and my family."

*Dressed by Continuum*

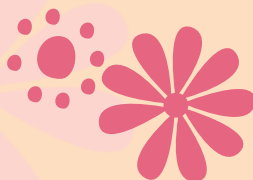
## Leslie Richardson

Kindergarten teacher, Rosemont Elementary; wife, and mother of Katie and Sam

Two-year breast cancer survivor

"There is always something to be grateful for. I was so shocked when my diagnosis came back. I never thought this could happen to me. I really didn't have room in my schedule for cancer. I quickly learned how incredible my family and friends are and how grateful I was for all the support. My six months flew by, I was grateful for the strength that others provided, for the time to rest and heal, grateful for my kindergarten class that made me smile every day, and the family and friends I am so blessed to have."

*Dressed by Wearable Art*



## Shirley Krauklis

Retail shop owner of Annabelle Hart

More than 20-year breast cancer survivor

"I am a breast cancer survivor of 20 years. I was diagnosed in 1990. I was a vice president with Jacobson's buying team at the time and in shock that this had really happened to me and that I might have to rearrange my life. MD Anderson was new in Orlando at the time and I was fortunate enough to have Dr. Clarence Brown as my oncologist."

Breast cancer has never defined me or limited me in the last 20 years. The most beautiful part of the experience is the love and support that you receive from family and friends. I found it overwhelming that so many people reached out to me with love and concern. The best advice I was given at the time of my surgery was 'now is the time to let someone else be strong!' I pass those words of wisdom on to anyone who seeks my counsel when facing cancer."

*Dressed by Walk On Water; accessories by Gay Harrison Handcrafted Couture Jewelry*

## Rosemary DuRocher

Retired guidance counselor  
20-year breast cancer survivor

"In 1992, I found a lump in my breast four months after a clean mammogram. As my husband and I were getting ready for a trip, I decided to have another mammogram. I wasn't allowed to leave the hospital without calling my doctor. I had a biopsy three days later and a mastectomy a week later. This was followed by chemo and five years of Tamoxifen. I believe that I am so fortunate not to have had recurrence.

You do what you have to do, one day at a time. People have said to me that I was so strong or that my outlook on life must have changed. I really don't think that. In some ways, I was one of the lucky ones. I was surrounded by the love of family and friends. I had adequate insurance. I had wonderful doctors. I did what I had to do."

*Dressed by Jones New York,  
Orlando Premium Outlets — International Drive;  
accessories by Gay Harrison Handcrafted  
Couture Jewelry*

## Cindy Kaplus

Owner of My Journey, a chic cancer boutique;  
real estate sales agent

*Diagnosed with breast cancer June 2011*

"Finding out that you have cancer, the 'C' word is something you think will never happen to you. Breast cancer is that horrible disease other women get. You go to events to raise awareness. You help raise money for other woman who are fighting breast cancer. It is not something you get! The ground drops out from under you when you hear the news; you cry that you don't want

to lose your hair. You cry that you don't want to lose your breast. Then it hits you that you could lose your life. When that happens you flip your hat around and go into fight mode. Cancer will not take my life. Cancer will not win in this fight! Cancer has picked the wrong woman to mess with!

After five surgeries, four rounds of chemotherapy and loads of scans and tests, I am happy to say that I am cancer free. I appreciate my family and friends who have been so amazing to me. I am so blessed to have them in my life. They say walking through cancer is a journey and that everyone's is different. My journey was not easy but I didn't walk it alone; I was held up by the love of my family and friends."

*Dress from Thread;  
wearing her own jacket and accessories*

## Jennifer Abell

Global sales coordinator at Loudmouth Golf  
*Diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in  
December 2009;  
in remission for a little over two years*

"There are some things in life that are just beyond our control. These are often the toughest to endure; however it is important to invest our energy into things we can control. One of the most important of these being attitude. A positive attitude makes all the difference in the world. I am extremely blessed to have such a wonderful support group through my family and friends. They inspired me to stay strong and keep smiling."

*Dressed by Tuni*



Rosemary DuRocher, Cindy Kaplus and Jennifer Abell



The art that appears in these images are on display at The Gallery at Interlachen at 5510 Lake Howell Road, Winter Park. These paintings are: *The Study of Water II*, Basa; *The Study of Water III*, Basa; *Swath IV*, Bonner, and *Siblings IV*, Horan.