

**Soroptimist International of Glendale**  
**21st Annual Bras for a Cause**  
*Sweet Dreams Are Made Here*



**Honoree of the Year**  
*Janet Hamilton*

**Bra Support Award**  
*Ann Marie Smith*

**Master of Ceremonies**  
*Ardy Kassakhian*

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**

**Soroptimist International of Glendale**  
**21st Annual Bras for a Cause**

**Welcome**

*Ilena Blicher, V.P. Fundraising*

**Greetings**

*Heather Watson Ghermezian, President*

**Master of Ceremonies**

*Ardy Kassakhian*

**Awards to Honorees**

**Honoree of the Year** *Janet Hamilton*

**Bra Support Award** *Ann Marie Smith*

**Decorated Bras Awards** *Kathy Lefkovits*

**Live Auction** *Ardy Kassakhian*

**Raffle Drawing**

**Thank You for helping us to make a positive change  
for the future of many Women and Girls**

## Welcome from Ilena J Blicher, Fundraising Chair



Welcome to *Sweet Dreams* the 21st Bras for a Cause. We are thrilled that you are here to participate in and support us in our mission to have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls not only in our area but also worldwide.

The idea of decorating Bras started 21 years ago with Kathy Lefkovits. She wasn't quite sure initially how we could raise

money by doing this. When she presented the project to her Soroptimists sisters, one of the first comments was "but this is Glendale", intimating that it would not fly here. With a short time other members there started saying "I can see making a bra that looked like.." and so on. That idea has flourished and as the old cliché states, "all the rest is history." Thank you Kathy for this gem of an idea.

Among the things I was taught as a child was that "to save a life is to save the world."

I would like to paraphrase that as "to improve the future of a woman or a girl is the first step in improving the world,"

## Greetings from President Heather Watson Ghermezian



Welcome to Soroptimist International of Glendale's 2024 **BRAS FOR A CAUSE!** To our attendees, sponsors, advertisers, bra creators, auction donors and supporters, our heartfelt gratitude for being part of our event this year. By doing so, you are furthering the dreams and future successes of women and girls who might not otherwise have the resources to achieve their goals.

This year marks Soroptimist International of Glendale's 81st year of service to women and girls by providing them with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. The funds we raise through this evening's event benefits some of the most courageous, and inspiring women we will ever know. And by being here with us and supporting our cause, YOU join a movement of volunteers, sponsors, and donors who are helping women and girls in our local communities achieve their dreams and goals.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to recognize our honorees who, as you will hear, have demonstrated their tireless commitment to improving the lives of women and girls in our community.

## Honoree of the Year Janet Hamilton



This year's Honoree of the year, Janet Hamilton has been an amazing supporter of SIG since joining us in 2006

On Janet's graduation from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Marriott Hotel offered her a job. The Marriott at LAX was the first one on the West Coast fifty years ago. They were an excellent company, whose policy was to hire from within. Janet was trained by them in management and allowed to hone new skills with a series of career promotions. She was the Employee Cafeteria Manager responsible for feeding 1,000 employees, then Food Production Manager and finally responsible for Purchasing and Receiving products for all their restaurants and banquets. Their training gave her the skills to be Assistant Food Service Director for St. Jude Hospital Fullerton and ultimately, USC

Purchasing Manager for Hospitality Services on both the Health Science and the main campuses.

Because Janet was a young woman in a male-dominated industry, she has always been passionate about helping women especially, but really *all* my employees to excel. Many good people assisted and supported me throughout her career, and she wanted to return the favor.

In 1996, she retired to travel and work with several philanthropies: Soroptimist, PEO and Knights of the Vine, all of which provide scholarships. In addition, Janet has served on the Foundation board at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, watching it grow in quality and services. She has also served on the Glendale Committee for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. "Whenever possible, I provided my skills for fundraising and held multiple offices in all but one." Thank you Janet for all you have done for so many. You are indeed one in a million.

## Bra Support Awardee AnnMarie Smith



Most of us met Ann Marie year's ago when she would bring the Bra that had been created by the cancer survivors at the Cancer Center of Adventist Health Glendale. At first we assumed that she was the creator alone of the bras, she very quickly advised her that we were wrong and that she merely helped them. In her own words, we see the humility of a special individual

"Thank you very much for this honor on behalf of the "Sheros" of Glendale Adventist Health.

I have the privilege of teaching art for the lovely ladies/Cancer survivors of Glendale Adventist Cancer Care Center under the gift from the Adventist Foundation and have participated in Bras for A Cause since 2017. I am just the facilitator of their work from the talented hands of the ladies who attend my Adventist art classes. This distinguished award is shared with these amazing women who began in 2013 - under Kimie Cho, and have each year produced a creatively themed Bra thanks to the generosity of Glendale Adventist Health Cancer Center, Karen Grotefend, Nicole Kalout and their predecessors. This award belongs to them."

"Thank you so much for your generosity and the opportunity to attend this year's exciting event."

Thank you Ann Marie for sharing your talents with not only your students but with all of her tonight.



## Thank you to our Sponsors

### Emerald

*Adventist Health Glendale*      *Janet Hamilton*  
*Los Angeles Cancer Network*      *Sandy & Doug Schultz*

### Ruby

*State Assemblymember Laura Friedman*

### Sapphire

*Carol Ann & Alasdair Burton*      *Glendale Association of Realtors*      *YMCA of Glendale*

### Pearl

*Rita Boccuzzi*      *Paula Devine*      *Georgette Green*  
*Glendale Management Association*      *Susan Hunt*  
*State Senator Anthony Portantino*      *Kathryn Van Houten*      *Susan Wolfson*

### Turquoise

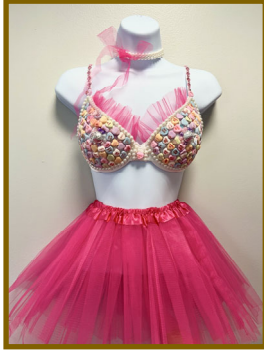
*Supervisor Kathryn Barger*      *Bobbie Brundige*      *Stela Fejtek*  
*Anita Gabrielian*      *Glendale College Foundation*  
*Tina Marie Ito*      *Jean Kagan*      *Mary Lotz*      *Carl Povilaitis*

### *Thank you to Our Bra Judges*

*Glendale City Clerk Dr. Suzie Abajian*  
*Glendale Police Chief Manuel Cid*  
*Rosa Navas American Cancer Society*

# Decorated Bras

**#1 The Glen Oaks Bra of Your Dream**



**Creator: Evelyn Sanchez & Alenoush Hartenian**  
**Sponsor: Glen Oaks Escrow/Evelyn Sanchez**

**#2 Bee Cancer Free**



**Creator: Katherine Bulovic**  
**Sponsor: Jean Kagan**

**#3 Grandma's Jewelry Box**



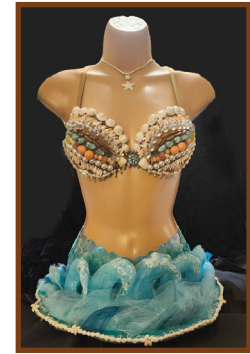
**Creator: Stephanie Beaty**  
**Sponsor: Lola Abrahamian**

**#4 Cancer Sucks**



**Creator: Liat Shore, Zoe Howard**  
**Lisa Gladstone, Kathy Lefkovits,**  
**& Carroll Ropp**  
**Sponsor: Chevy Chase Estates**  
**Garden Club**

**#5 Sweet Dreams...Seven Seas**



**Creator: Nancy Scott**  
**Sponsor: Carol Ann Burton**

**#6 The Journey Begins**



**Creator: Michelle Wakeland**  
**Sponsor: Carol Ann Burton**

**#7 Belle et Le Bete**



**Creator: Caitlyn Brown**  
**Sponsor: Kathryn Van Houten**

**#8 Sweet Dreams with Dr. Seuss**



**Creator: Veronica Haynoski**  
**Sponsor: Debi Rettenmeier**  
**In Memory of Chester &**  
**Nancy Haynoski &**  
**Ruth Rettenmeier**

## Decorated Bras

**# 9 Bee All You Can Bee**



**Creator: Jennifer Bentson-Gebel**  
**Sponsor: Jane Karageorge**

**#10 Italian Vacation**



**Creator: Cari Pelayo & Rita Boccuzzi**  
**Sponsor: Jean Kagan**

**#11 Heavenly Dreams of Chocolate**



**Creator: Daniela Linsel-Janoian**  
**Sponsor: Jennifer Bentson-Gebel**

**#12 Who Let the Dogs Out?**



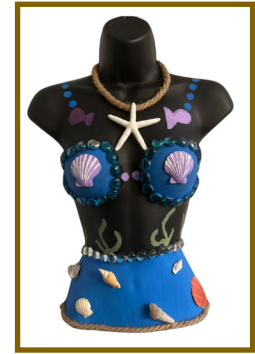
**Creator: Cari Pelayo & Soraya Ely**  
**Sponsor: Dia\ne Lambillotte**

**#13 Dreaming of Second Chances :  
Give the Gift of Life**



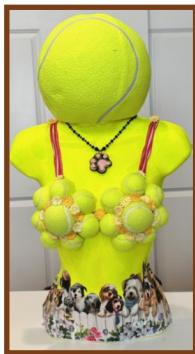
**Creator: Isela King**  
**Sponsor: Renal Support Network**

**#14 Under the Sea**



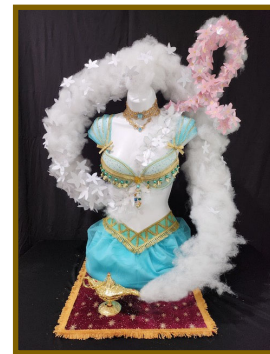
**Creator: Cari Pelayo & Soraya Ely**  
**Sponsor: Susan Riechel**

**#15 Dreaming of Bacon, Balls & Walkies**



**Creator: Lori Hartwell**  
**Sponsor: PawsFurHelp**

**#16 I Dream of Genie**



**Creator: Kimie Cho**  
**Sponsor: Adventist Health Cancer Center**  
**In Honor of all Cancer Survivors**  
**In Memory of departed friends**

## Emerald Sponsor

*The John S. Hamilton Family*  
*wishes to celebrate*  
*Soroptimist International of Glendale*  
*for their years of commitment*  
*to community service*  
*and*  
*for breast cancer awareness*  
*in the Glendale area*



**Congratulations on your  
21st Annual Bras For a Cause,  
and for your  
ongoing commitment to  
helping women and girls  
in our community and  
around the world  
to live their dreams**

***Doug & Sandy Schultz***

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# Ruby Sponsor



## Laura Friedman

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*The Glendale Association of Realtors® is proud to support Soroptimist International of Glendale For the Investment You Make in The Livelihood of Women Everywhere!*



## Bras for a Cause!



# Sapphire Sponsor

# Pearl Sponsors

*Congratulations  
to SIG for a  
great year of  
Fundraising  
under the able  
guidance of  
Heather Ghermezian*

*Carol Ann &  
Alasdair Burton*

Dear Friends,

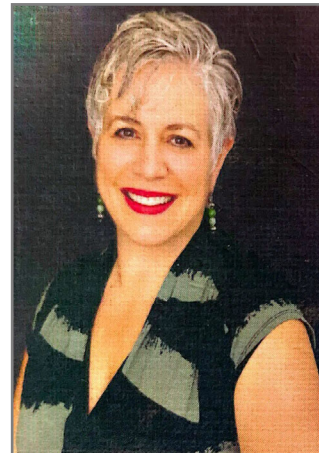
It is a pleasure to join you in celebrating 21 successful years! As I come to the end of my tenure in the State Legislature, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your years of serving the needs of all women, both here and abroad.

Sincerely,



*State Senator, 25<sup>th</sup> District*

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# Pearl Sponsors



*May our lives  
be filled with  
Sweet Dreams*

*Hon. Paula Devine*



**Glendale Management Association**

**Congratulates**

**Honoree**

**Janet Hamilton**

**& Bra Support Award Winner**

**Ann Marie Smith**

**Kathryn Van Houten**

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***Congratulations !  
21 years and counting***

***Susan Wolfson***

Our community is strengthened by  
Soroptimist International of Glendale!

Thank you for uplifting women and girls  
and helping them achieve their dreams.





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Congratulations to deserving honorees  
Janet Hamilton and Ann Marie Smith!



*Kathryn*  
**BARGER**

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***Janet Hamilton***

and

***Ann Marie Smith***

for supporting the educational  
and career development  
of women and girls

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# Humankindness brings us together.

Dignity Health - Glendale Memorial Hospital joins in the celebration of the Soroptimist International of Glendale's 21st Annual Bras for a Cause. Thank you for supporting women and girls on achieving their dreams.



**Hello humankindness**<sup>®</sup>

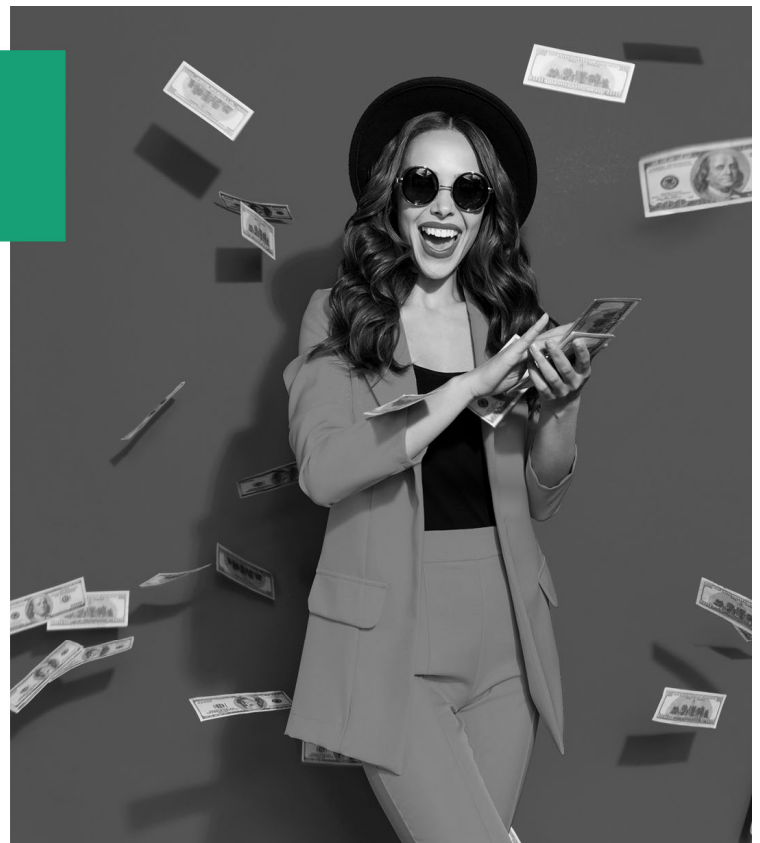
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