

# HERS Breast Cancer Foundation

February 2017 Newsletter

## February Forecast

Well, we think it's safe to predict rain, for one thing. What else is happening in February? There's lots to look forward to!

### Dates to Remember:



**April 1, 2017 - Saturday**  
**People with Purpose, A Pink Tie Gala**  
Castlewood Country Club, Pleasanton

[BUY TICKETS HERE](#)

**September 30, 2017 - Saturday**  
**18th Annual Walk/Run**  
5K/10K and Community Expo  
Quarry Lakes Regional Park

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**



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## People with Purpose: A Pink Tie Gala

Please plan to join us **April 1, 2017** at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton for our **2nd Annual Pink Tie Gala** to celebrate People With Purpose. Invite your friends and family and make it a night to remember!

[Tickets are available online.](#)

Each year, we honor several People with Purpose – dedicated community leaders who contribute their expertise and resources to support breast cancer survivors.

**We are excited to announce our honorees:**

**HOPE - Friends of Faith**  
Nonprofit Organization in Oakland

### **EMPOWERMENT - Denise Estrada**

Manager, Women's Imaging and Cancer Services  
Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare

### **RENEWAL - Paul Wotowic, MD**

Plastic Surgeon at San Ramon Regional Medical Center

### **SUPPORT - Janice Florence**

Volunteer of HERS Breast Cancer Foundation

The Support Award is now called the Harriet Despeaux Award, in honor of one of our dear friends. Please read more about Harriet below.

We'll be highlighting these honorees and telling you more about them in the weeks ahead. Please join us at the Pink Tie Gala to celebrate their contributions and the communities they support.

Last year's Gala was a huge success, and a fun night out for all the attendees. Castlewood is a gorgeous venue – the twinkling ballroom looks out over sweeping views of Pleasanton's hills and valleys. Guests will mingle during the cocktail hour, then enjoy dinner and dessert, inspiring speeches from honorees, a fun auction, dancing. Join us to celebrate life, health, and community!

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## **Harriet Despeaux, A Special Friend**



This year we have renamed our People with Purpose Support award in honor and memory of one of our dearest supporters, Harriet Idel Despeaux.

Harriet passed away in 2011 after serving as a dedicated volunteer at HERS Breast Cancer Foundation for many years.

Harriet supported many organizations in our community including Abode Services, Kidango and SAVE. Her dedication to this community and her efforts to make this planet a better place were central to her life.

For us at HBCF Harriet was not just a volunteer, she was a dedicated staff member with high standards. She would only miss our staff meetings if she was out of town. Not only was she a major

resource for the ongoing work of our Programs, she was fun and caring and planned many gatherings where we enjoyed each other's company over good food. Feeding us with her delicious recipes was one of her joys and we looked forward to it each and every time.

Harriet grew up in New Jersey and attended Western Reserve University and the University of Utah at Salt Lake. She worked as an audiologist at Kaiser Hospital in Hayward until 1988, and then she became a real estate agent.

Harriet first came to us as a client after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003. When she heard about an urgent need for volunteer help in the billing office, she offered to help for a few days. For Harriet a few days of serving in an organization she believed in easily transformed into a deeper commitment to HERS. We were blessed enough to have her love and dedication for 7 years. In 2010 at our first People With Purpose event, we honored her with the Renewal Award.

She was energetic and adventuresome, living the beauty of life through travel, scuba diving, tap dancing and of course good food. We will always remember Harriet with a beautiful smile on her face. Her life lessons of living with enthusiasm, having good values in the heart, and serving with generosity will stay with us forever.

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## Live Auction Sneak Peek!

Here are a few more great reasons to join us at our Pink Tie Gala on April 1st:

These items, and many more, will be auctioned off to the highest bidder through silent and live auctions at the gala. All proceeds benefit HERS Breast Cancer Foundation. Keep checking our newsletters for more sneak peeks!



Private dinner for four at your home with Chef Andre Villahermosa.

Private tour of KTVU station with our favorite emcee and local news anchor Heather Holmes.



A condo at Silverado in Napa.  
Three nights, four people.

Tahoe Donner Getaway. Two nights,  
eight guests.



Steve Young autographed football plus an autograph in his new book  
with a message for the winner.

Oakland Ballet – Four tickets to the Nutcracker, plus backstage tour  
and rehearsal invitation.

Dinner for eight at the firehouse in Pleasanton.

***And much, much more!***

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## **Survivor Story: Julie DiBene**

Julie DiBene has been a dedicated HERS supporter and sponsor for many years, and served a term as board member. We are so grateful for the many ways she has made valuable contributions to

the organization.

*Julie was kind enough to share her story with us:*

As most cancer survivors know, breast cancer changes one's life irrevocably. Many of us are mutilated, in constant pain. Our lives are never the same.

It's a funny thing about pain, it beats you down over time, like the weathering of a mountain, who you are changes dramatically and not for the better.



This was me prior to coming to HERS. I had survived Stage II breast cancer, three surgeries in three weeks, four months of chemotherapy and 30 rounds of radiation. They let me keep my breasts, I was supposed to be whole.

But I was not whole, not even close.

When they took the cancer out, they took 16 lymph nodes too. The result was persistent, untreatable (so I thought) lymphedema that beat me down, slowly but surely, over four and a half years. Physical therapy only made the condition worse.

Then I found HERS. In 15 minutes they changed my life. I received top notch care and the proper undergarments to battle the constant pain and swelling caused by not having lymph nodes on one side of my body.

The minute I put on that compression sleeve, I literally sighed with relief. It was better than any pain medication ever could have been. The surprisingly pretty bra was not only functional but it made a huge difference in the amount of swelling and pain that I was experiencing.

As a professional executive in high tech specializing in public relations and marketing communications, I make my living with words but I still find it very hard indeed to express what it has meant to me to go from a life of constant pain and suffering to feeling absolutely normal and pain free for the first time in four and a half years.

To this, giving me back my very life, I owe a debt to HERS Breast Cancer Foundation that can never be repaid.

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**If you are experiencing lymphedema pain, please contact HERS. We can direct you to one of our stores and help you select lymphedema garments.**

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**Check out the Pleasanton Store!**

We welcome you to come visit us at the Pleasanton store. Bring a friend or family member who might be interested in our products and services. At this location, we provide: sales and fittings of bras, post-op camis, prostheses and lymphedema garments; insurance processing; and financial assistance for those who need it.



HERS has been at the Pleasanton location for two years (opened in April 2015). Pam Condy is the Certified Breast Care Specialist on staff. In 2015, we served 60 clients; in 2016 we served 94 clients in 137 visits. We'd like to see those numbers grow in 2017!

The Pleasanton location is open on Tuesdays 10am-5pm.

You can find us at Stanford Health Care Valley Care  
5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Suite 270  
Pleasanton, CA 94588-4054  
Phone: 925-416-6738

[Stanford and Fremont program stores hours and locations here.](#)



## HERS Breast Cancer Foundation

### **Program Stores:**

Fremont \* Stanford \* Pleasanton

(510) 790-1911

[\*\*hersinfo@hersbreastcancerfoundation.org\*\*](mailto:hersinfo@hersbreastcancerfoundation.org)

Click [here](#) to visit our website

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