



**AMPLIFY VOICES &
AKHILANDA WOMEN'S FOUNDATION
PRESENT:**

Beyond Breast Cancer


MOVING FROM PAIN TO PURPOSE

May 11, 2023

6pm - 8pm

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

Photo credit: Angela Jersi Baker (angelindisguiseinc.org)
Photographer is Charise Isis, Founder of The Grace Project (the-grace-project.org)



The journey through breast cancer is a powerful teacher for change. Thank you for joining us tonight to hear eight remarkable women share their powerful stories of transforming pain into power, and fear into unwavering courage. These incredible stories deserve to be heard.

Program

- 5:30** Registration and raffle
- 6:00** Program begins
- 7:45** Speaker acknowledgements
- 8:00** Program ends
- 8:30** Raffle closes

About Amplify Voices

Amplify serves individuals who have lived through specific challenges find empowerment and confidence, feeling seen and heard as they learn to speak powerfully about their experiences. In turn, they give their listeners access to greater understanding and compassion, ultimately breaking down the stereotypes and labels they may carry with them.

Amplify Voices provides no-cost professional speaker training and a public venue for participants to become passionate voices for change and transformation within their communities.

Support more of this important work:



Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor:

AKHILANDA WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

Impact Leaders



DEB SHAPIRO - Amplify Voices Founder

For ten plus years, Deb has been developing the talents and businesses of some of the top credentialed speakers in our industry, including her brother, who was inducted into the Speaker Hall of Fame in 2015. In 2017, Deb created DEBx, a 90-Day Speaker Development Experience, designed to show emerging speakers how to use their voice as a powerful instrument of change. Through onstage appearances and professional recordings, DEBx has touched tens of thousands... and counting. In 2020, using the tools from DEBx, Deb founded Amplify Voices, to discover, develop, and amplify the voices of marginalized communities looking to empower change. Through stage events, speaker circles, and a compelling documentary, *The Journey*, Amplify has given voice to various communities including survivors of sex trafficking and sexual assault, those formerly incarcerated, and women touched by breast cancer.



ANA PINCUS - Beyond Breast Cancer Co-Founder

Ana is the founder of the Akhilanda Women's Foundation, a not-for-profit dedicated to supporting women's organisations worldwide to overcome trauma, loss and pain and reclaim their lives regardless of their background or circumstances. She leads women's circles around the globe, creating space for women to gather, connect, and find community. Ana is also a partner in Docland Films where she produces and directs women-focused content. Of note, she was the Executive Director and Producer for *The Journey* which was released in February of 2023. The film tells the story of three survivors of sex trafficking who were part of the first group of women to go through Amplify's 90-Day Speaker Training Experience.



DR. SHUBHA DHAGE, MD, FACS - Beyond Breast Cancer Co-Founder

Dr. Dhage has treated thousands of patients over the last 15 years as the former Chief of Breast Surgery and Director of the Breast Health Program at Perlmutter Cancer Center - NYU Langone Long Island. She cared for women from over 30 countries, conducted research and published on cancer genomics, health literacy, cancer disparities, and young women with breast cancer. She is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and has served on committees and boards for the WHO, CDC, the ACS Commission On Cancer, and the Young Survival Coalition. She has worked nationally and internationally to advocate for patient education and holistic, patient-centered care. Currently, she is dedicating her time on projects to bring together experts in medicine, nutrition, health and spirituality, to give women a powerful roadmap to rise THROUGH the challenges they face.



DANA BLEDSOE - Beyond Breast Cancer Co-Founder

Dana is setting out on new adventures and back to performing, creating art and constantly exploring natural and integrative ways to keep her stage 4 metastatic breast cancer stable. She is a seeker and believer in the power of the mind to overcome cancer and this quest has taken her all over the world to find different modalities. She is a co-founder of BEYOND BREAST CANCER. She is the founder of IMPERMANACE, a photo essay to rewrite and reshape the views of women with breast cancer. Dana is launching a nationwide photography competition in Australia to reshape how breast cancer advertising is seen. She loves being of service to women with breast cancer so they never feel alone, feel seen and heard and they make choices from a place of power and not out of fear. She is dancing with life in a new way. Breast cancer has been her gift for change.

Amplify Speakers



BRENDA HAMILTON

Brenda has beaten cancer twice and endured multiple setbacks, yet she continues to win! She's been a dedicated wife and companion of 34 years to her husband, a proud and supportive mom to her children. For several years she has been a passionate advocate of health, opening her home to workshops and hosting events, while supporting those that have been affected by cancer. After relocating from Northern California to Arizona, in 2015, the chance to serve as an Executive Board member of Impact One Breast Cancer Foundation(impactone.pink) became official, affording the opportunity to assist in the expansion and development of this unique foundation. More importantly, meeting women where they are in their journey and supporting her in the NOW. Brenda will continue to Amplify her voice to [Make It Happen shopmakeithappen.com](http://shopmakeithappen.com) IMPACTING one woman at a time!



BUFFY PATTERSON

Finding out that I had breast cancer on February 14, 2018, at age 46 - two months after losing my dad to metastatic prostate cancer and 9 days after losing my sister to metastatic breast cancer - was devastating. Seven surgeries and three hospitalizations later, I'm still here, still me. I am healing, yet learning how this new body works. I am not just surviving...I am LIVING every day. I am learning to push myself outside of my comfort zone and take the time to dance everyday, everywhere! I hope to be a source of inspiration for others in this life changing journey, to validate their feelings, to help them realize they are not alone and learn to live this amazing life everyday, while they can! I can't thank my husband and kids enough for the love and strength they have given to me, I wouldn't be here without them.



DR. CHRISTINA HIBBERT

Christina is a #1 bestselling author, clinical psychologist, speaker, and thought leader in the areas of maternal mental health, grief/loss/trauma, self-worth & breast cancer. She is the host of Like a Watered Garden podcast and creator of her award-winning website, DrChristinaHibbert.com. Christina began sharing her raw and real "Breast Cancer Warrior" journey on social media in July 2019, when she was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer & the BRCA1 genetic mutation. She was named Most Inspirational Women's Health Professional 2018 & 2019 and won Best in Show: Blog 2020 as a patient leader in the Social Health Network awards. A wife and mother of six, Christina was deeply honored to be named Mother of The Year, AZ 2018. Connect with Dr. Hibbert on Facebook & Instagram @drchristinahibbert. And text the word "WARRIOR" to 55444 to receive free resources related to her address.



JESSICA PEARCE

If you are hiking and see a topless flattie crying under a waterfall, or in a bright pink kayak with her dog, it might be Jessica. She was 30, a year sober, and mid-pandemic when diagnosed with er+/Her2+ IDC and DCIS. Through social media like TikTok, she shares her journey of going flat, cancer treatment as a YA, and navigating mental health struggles. "Life is more fun in rhinestones, so don't let anyone dull your sparkle". With a passion in advocating for AFC awareness, she enjoys sharing resources like notputtingonashirt.org, and books such as "Busting Free" and "Flat and Happy". She's helped organize FRC retreats and even co-started a Sac-Flattie group to create belonging, wellness and fun. "I want to spread courage to those facing similar struggles because courage is contagious". (@sobercancerwarrior)

Amplify Speakers



LAURA ALLRED

Laura was diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago at the age of 33. She has been married to her husband/best friend for 19 years and is a mom of 5 kids with a degree in early childhood education and a yoga teacher certification. She is a foster/adoptive mom and a special needs (autism) mom who is sustained by a deep love of family, nature, life, and God. She feels big and lives passionately—and wishes she had more time in a day to do all things she loves. She tries each day to do something to move her body, her mind and her soul—which usually means reading, hiking, yoga, paddleboarding, or dancing. She lives by the motto, “With God, I can do hard things.” She believes in seeking out the good and the light in life. She is the co-founder of the Brightly Living Foundation (instagram @brightly.living).



SHONI BROWN

Shoni is a New York native, a Health and Physical Educator, Wellness Coach, Oncology Patient Navigator and Advocate for Black Women and Breast Cancer, Lymphedema, Women's Health, Fitness & Mental health... just to name a few. She was diagnosed with Breast Cancer in 2015 after fighting to be seen and heard. She still continues to fight. Shoni wants to help make a change when it comes to healthcare disparities and her goal is to help educate about black women, breast cancer and the importance of self-advocacy. Last but not least, she would like to share her story to help women who are now being diagnosed or will be diagnosed with breast cancer.



SHARON FINKEL

Sharon was diagnosed with triple positive breast cancer in March 2021. While she didn't know it at the time, breast cancer would become Sharon's teacher and the catalyst for transformation that she knew she needed long before her diagnosis, but never imagined could come out of the trauma that is breast cancer. Sharon hopes that in sharing her story with others, that her journey will empower others impacted by breast cancer, or any challenge that you face, to transform your own pain into power and your own fear into courage. Sharon lives in Westport, CT with her husband, Saul, and their two little boys, Leo and Luke. Sharon shares more of her journey and messages of inspiration on social media, for anyone interested in following her story, she can be found on Instagram under the profile “an.earth.mama.”

These women are creating ripples of change... NOW!
And you can too. Are you ready to transform your pain
into purpose? Do you have a life lesson you wish to
cultivate and share to make a difference for others?

If so, go to: amplifyvoices.org/connect

The voices of Amplify are not heard without our committed Wing Women, Advocates, and countless volunteers. Deep gratitude for the vulnerability, love, care, and commitment to those who show up in the various ways they do.

Wing Women

Amanda Brockman
Dyan Cherry
Ivis Sampayo
Karin Del Maestro
Loretta Owen
Mary Serke
Theresa Flores

Advocates

Barb Holland
Hannah Berger
Keelin Washington
L'Tomay Douglas Varlack-Butler
Lisa Ephraim
Marcella Gomez
Nikki Valencia
Sparky Fletcher
Shari Scott
Sharon Lewis

Thank you for joining us tonight.

We hope you will stay involved with Amplify!

We are fortunate to have a strong community of courageous, authentic, and thoughtful individuals who find connection through a common purpose. Thank you to those of you who have trusted us, stood by us, and supported us as we evolve now and into the future.

It takes a lot of work to grow into the vision we have for Amplify. Huge gratitude to those who have provided the crucial financial support to help our flourishing organization in moving forward.

With a full and grateful heart,

Amanda Schneider
Executive Director for Amplify Voices

Join us for Part 2 of:

Beyond Breast Cancer

Saturday, June 10th

1:00 – 3:00 pm AZ/PST

Virtual Event

As you witnessed tonight, breast cancer can transform a woman's ability to connect more deeply with her inner purpose, elevate from the experience, and turn it into a moment of transformation.

Many women experience this but don't have the platform to share their stories, those stories that can empower other women to find the strength to go through their own cancer journey.

Seven additional women will share their stories, similar to this evening, virtually, on June 10th. Will you provide the same listening and support for them?

We are determined to empower others impacted by this disease so they can use their voice to transform pain into power and fear into courage.

We hope you will join us and invite others too.



bit.ly/BBC-Part2

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Barb
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Thank you to these organizations who shared this event with their communities. If you are looking for resources in the breast cancer community, please check them out!

