



**For Immediate Release**

**HADASSAH GREATER ATLANTA PRESENTS THIRD ANNUAL BREAST STROKES  
BENEFITING BREAST CANCER AND GENETIC RESEARCH**

*A.R.T. Fundraiser Set for Saturday, Feb. 25, at The Stave Room at American Spirit Works*

ATLANTA – Once again art lovers, as well as members of the medical community, will be treated to a unique art exhibition and auction at *The Big Reveal*, part of *Breast Strokes, Hadassah Bares All for A.R.T. (Awareness, Research & Treatment)*, presented by Hadassah Greater Atlanta. The highly successful event will display canvas artworks of 35 women who volunteered to have their torsos painted and photographed to raise money for breast cancer and genetic research programs at the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) in Jerusalem, and for breast cancer education, advocacy and prevention in the United States.

*The Big Reveal* will take place on Saturday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m. at The Stave Room at American Spirit Works (199 Armour Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30306) and will honor the accomplishments of the Angels 4 Angels Team - formed in memory of Jill Albert, Lori Fierman and Debbie Sonenshine and their fervent fight against breast cancer - under the leadership of Debbi Chartash, Melody Maziar and Rina Wolfe with honorary chair Gary Bodner, MD, FACOG.

Breast Strokes co-chairs Linda Hendelberg and Linda Weinroth said that the fundraiser has become an exciting event that is eagerly anticipated each year and at the same time allows Hadassah Greater Atlanta to support such important endeavors: Breast Cancer Awareness, Research and Treatment.

This year's honorees for *Breast Strokes – The Big Reveal* are the Angels 4 Angels Team, formed under the leadership of Debbi Chartash, Melody Maziar and continued through the leadership of Rina Wolfe. The team was formed to honor the lives of three outstanding, active women in the Jewish community who lost their fervent fight against breast cancer under the age of 50: Jill Albert, Lori Fierman and Debbie Sonenshine. The fourth angel is for all of the survivors. In 1999, Debbi Chartash and Melody

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Maziar, former college roommates, began walking for the 3-Day 60 Mile Walk for Breast Cancer. Together, they decided to register for this event after Debbi lost a dear friend to breast cancer, age 44, and Melody's colleague from work lost his young daughter to breast cancer. In 2006, after their friend Jill Albert lost her battle to breast cancer, they formed the team Angels 4 Angels, with the hope to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research. In their first year, Angels 4 Angels raised nearly \$260,000, more than any other team in Atlanta. Rina Wolfe, who lost her sister, Lori Fierman, to breast cancer, was an early recruit for the Angels team. Rina was – and is - a tremendous leader, following Debbi and Melody's absence as team leaders. Rina continues to make strides for breast cancer, keeping the Angels 4 Angels team alive for seven additional years. Altogether, the amazing Angels 4 Angels Team raised well over \$1 million.

*Breast Strokes – The Big Reveal's* honorary chair is retired obstetrician and gynecologist Gary Bodner, MD, FACOG, who practiced in Metro Atlanta for 38 years and is an acclaimed artist throughout the United States. BRCA gene mutation testing was recommended to a large number of his patients. One of Dr. Bodner's main interests was to advise breast cancer patients of their risks of other diseases and the implications for family members

The BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations, which are carried among both men and women, can lead to both breast and ovarian cancer. Though the mutations are rare among the general population, Ashkenazi Jewish women – those of Eastern European descent – have 10 times the frequency of BRCA mutations than non-Ashkenazi women, a discovery made by Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) researchers, who also developed a blood test that predicts the presence of harmful BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations in otherwise healthy women.

*Breast Strokes* is a two-part event. Part one, *Paint Day*, took place in November 2016 where 35 volunteer models – many who are breast cancer survivors – were body-painted from neck to navel. Each model and her artist discussed the painting beforehand, and the result was a range of torsos featuring models' and artists' original paintings. Their torsos were then photographed and made into beautiful canvases. All of the artists and photographers donated their time and talent to create these unique works of art.

Part two is *The Big Reveal*, a fundraising art exhibition where attendees can view the body-painted torsos on canvases, enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and help raise funds by participating in the auctions, which will feature, among other things, an autographed Sandy Koufax jersey, many trips including an African Safari and Tuscan Villa, as well as the highly coveted and rare Pappy Van Winkle 15- and 23- year six flight of bourbon.

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One of Hadassah Greater Atlanta's education programs is Check It Out!<sup>®</sup>, a breast health awareness program for young women. Conducted in partnership with Northside Hospital, the program has been presented in local high schools for more than 22 years, reaching some 35,000 students throughout the Atlanta community.

Tickets for the gala are \$54 per person for those 36 years of age or under and \$72 per person for all others through Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. After Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> tickets are \$85 per person. Patron level tickets are \$218 per person. Tickets are available to purchase online at: [www.hadassah.org/events/breaststrokes2017](http://www.hadassah.org/events/breaststrokes2017) or by calling 678-443-2961.

For more information on *Breast Strokes*, visit [www.hadassah.org/atlantabreaststrokes](http://www.hadassah.org/atlantabreaststrokes).

### **About Hadassah**

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, founded in 1912, is one of the largest women's volunteer organizations in the world. Over 330,000 Members, Associates, and supporters strong, Hadassah is now in its second century and is committed to innovative and life-changing medical care and research, women's empowerment, education, advocacy, philanthropy and building Jewish identity – in Israel, America and around the world. Hadassah enhances the health of people worldwide through its support of medical care and research at the Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem. Hadassah has also developed several groundbreaking national grassroots health education programs, including Every Beat Counts: Hadassah's Heart Health Program<sup>™</sup> and Check It Out<sup>®</sup>, Hadassah's breast health education program. For more information, visit [www.hadassah.org](http://www.hadassah.org).

### **About Hadassah Greater Atlanta**

Founded in 1916, Hadassah Greater Atlanta has been serving the Atlanta community for over 100 years. The chapter comprises 3,600+ Members and Associates who come together to raise funds in support of Hadassah's projects in Israel and the United States; to promote issues of women's health and family well-being; to study; to educate; and to have fun. To learn more about the work and mission of Hadassah, contact the Hadassah Greater Atlanta office at 678-443-2961 or visit the web site at [www.hadassah.org/atlanta](http://www.hadassah.org/atlanta).

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