

The Global Sisterhood Comes To Pittsburgh

Written by Tracy Spencer

Have you ever met someone whose life's work was literally centered around inspiring others? Recently I had the opportunity to do just that!

My partner and I here at The Paper were invited to attend and cover The Global Sisterhood's Global Gala in Pittsburgh on March 12th. At the heart of it all we met Dr. Shellie Hipsky, President of Inspiring Lives and Executive Director of the Global Sisterhood, a "new non-profit 501(c) (3), that educates and provides resources and networking for women and girls internationally.

Dr. Shellie's Inspiring Lives Organization provides inspiration to women through her Empowering Women Radio Show, books, and public speaking. The Gala served as a celebration of the first Global Sisterhood Summit that took place earlier that day on March 12th, where more than 50 women from around the globe came together to collaborate, inspire, and learn from each other. These ladies, all featured in Dr. Shellie's best-selling book trilogy, Common Threads: Inspiration, Empowerment, and Balance, are "masterminds" in their field of study and profession. They, like their host, Dr. Shellie, all share a profound love for women and go above and beyond to find a way or make a way to support women, whether it be in support of their rights as veteran's, their right to education, their need for healthcare or just to know that they are beautiful and special as they are, despite social stereotyping.



Host of Hustle and Heart TV, Darieth Chisolm and Dr. Shellie Hipsky, President of Inspiring Lives and Executive Director of The Global Sisterhood. Photo taken by Jackie Capatolla.

With the help of Emmy Award Winner Darieth Chisolm of Hustle and Heart TV acting as emcee for the evening, there were six Inspiring Lives International Award Winners announced as follows: Captain Jaspen Boothe, owner of Final Salute, Inc., which provides homeless women veterans and their children with emergency financial assistance



Winner of the Empowerment Award, Dr. Hetal Gor, with Dr. Shellie Hipsky, and Winner of the Global Sisterhood Award, Cheryl Liew-Chng. Photo taken by The Paper.

to help prevent homelessness, won the **Inspiration Award**. Caryn Chow, who leads women to their empowerment and is considered America's "Love Your Life" coach, won the **Empowerment Award**. Dr. Hetal Gor, Medical Director of Women's Own OB/GYN, won the **Balance Award**. Cheryl Liew-Chng, author of the bestselling book, The 24 Hour Woman, won the **Global Sisterhood Award**. Debra Dion-Krischke, Founder of Inspired Women: Paying it Forward, won the **Inspiring Organization Award**. Hena Gul of Pakistan, who represents all the women around the world who are unable to speak due to adversity, won the **Silent Sisters Award**.

Among some of the other commemorative moments of the evening, there was a Proclamation from Mayor William Peduto read, naming March 19, 2016 Global Sisterhood Day! There was also a silent auction, live music and entertainment, as well as a fashion show. I actually had the privilege of meeting one of Dr. Shellie's favorite Costume and Fashion Designer's, Beth Shari of "Hollywood Glam". Beth is from Bethel Park, Pa, and has known and worked with Dr. Shellie since 2013, when she needed a costume designer for a Broadway

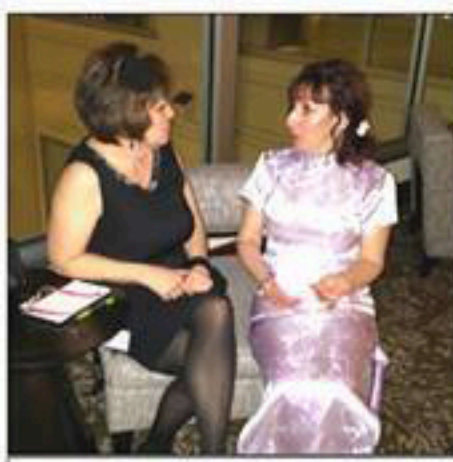
themed fundraiser she was participating in. Beth's passion for fashion lies in helping women feel good in their own skin. When speaking of Dr. Shellie, Beth said, "Her energy and inspiration are infectious"! She said that the Global Sisterhood Summit and Gala was a weekend full of amazing energy and positivity that has inspired her to focus more closely on making her dreams to help women with their personal styling and custom-made fashion become a reality.

In the weeks leading up to the Gala, my partner and I experienced a wide mix of feelings, mostly along the lines of "little fish v. big ocean". The more we learned about Dr. Shellie and the "Global" Gala, the bigger that mix! We were of course excited, nervous and honored to have been invited. There were times that it was difficult to



Ladies of the Global Sisterhood! Photo taken by Jackie Capatolla.

keep our feelings in check and our minds focused on the task at hand. However, one constant throughout this entire journey was that we knew something big was happening! Even before we really realized what all that the Global Sisterhood was about and all that Dr. Shellie had already accomplished, we knew what was about to take place would be life changing! The fact is, we are still being inspired by the ladies of the Global Sisterhood, by their stories, by their constant efforts to reach out to help others and by their belief in each other.



The Paper's own, Shileen Nixon and Beth Shari of Hollywood Glam. Photo taken by The Paper

Dr. Shellie Hipsky's long list of skills, talents, connections and achievements definitely seem to know no limits, that is true. However, even only having met her once, it is clear that what's guiding her is her limitless heart for others and that is what's causing the world wide ripple effect of the Global Sisterhood Movement!

For more information about the Global Sisterhood go to www.globalsisterhoodonline.org.