

WRITTEN BY LAURA  
HINE, LIZ LOGAN AND  
SUSAN B. NOYES

PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
JOHN REILLY

HAIR + MAKEUP BY  
ELIZABETH ARDEN RED  
DOOR SPAS



# best dressed

W O M E N O F 2 0 1 1

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nyone who has ever been to a charity event with North Shore families knows that it's easy to be stunned by all the gorgeous, stylish women living in our communities. But what really makes some of these women beautiful is their generosity and commitment to supporting organizations that touch lives. For our Best Dressed issue this month, we asked five exceptional local women to open up their hearts as well as their closets.

ILLUSTRATION BY SKATIE NOYES



## Karen Gray

*Lake Forest*

A stylish blend of personality, looks, artistry and organizational skills put Karen Gray of Lake Forest at the top of modeling and advertising careers before she achieved philanthropic success as past President of the Women's Boards of the **Field Museum** and the **Boys and Girls Club of Chicago**, Executive Committee member of the Women's Boards of **Northwestern** and the **Art Institute**, and Opening Night Gala Chairman of **Lyric Opera's** Women's Board. She supports the **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)** and **Women In Need Growing Stronger (WINGS)**. Her paid and volunteer work is as impeccable as her style.

Karen has raised great kids, too. Her son, **John**, is a senior at Northwestern, and her daughter, **Allie**, is a Dartmouth freshman.

Although Gray is now deeply embedded in Chicago's civic life, she didn't grow up here. She was an Ohio beauty who found her way to New York City's famed **Wilhelmina Models**. Gray then worked in the Chicago advertising world, where she rose to be an associate creative director and vice president at **Leo Burnett**, winning awards for Superbowl ad campaigns for McDonald's and Hallmark.

"I love Chicago!" Gray declares. "After 30 years, I call it home."

Gray is youthful, well-rounded, and big-hearted. Her style is classic. "Very tailored and simple, often with an addition of one special accent piece," she explains.

"I'm old school with my favorite designers, though I'm also comfortable in jeans. Oscar and Valentino are difficult to beat." She adds with a grin, "And I also love Chanel, of course!"

—SBN



## Ann Waris

*Glenview*

**A**nn Waris has been involved with **Loyola Academy** “forever.” That’s what happens when you’re a committed volunteer. She got involved when daughter **Mary Cate**, who’s now 25, started attending and continued through son, **John**, 21; daughter **Eileen**, 19; and the youngest, **Clare**, who graduated in May.

“It will be a change,” Ann admits with a laugh, as we talk about the family no longer having a student at Loyola. Among her many volunteer positions at the school, she’s worked on the Loyola Ramble, which is the big fundraiser, as well as girls lacrosse, which required a lot of parent involvement when it was a club sport.

Beyond her children’s high school, Ann is also involved at **Misericordia**, where her 51-year-old brother has lived for eight years. “It has let him be as independent as he can be,” she says.

She chaired the fashion show last April, which was a perfect match for her interest in style.

“I keep it simple,” she says. “Since I’m petite, I shy away from big patterns.”

When talking about her style icons, she mentions Michelle Obama and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. She loves the classic style both women have taken and made their own. She admits that occasionally her daughters will talk her into a purchase: “I have to make sure the dress isn’t wearing me!”

Favorite designers include Kay Unger, Trina Turk, David Meister. “And I love Kate Spade!” she says. Her daughters saw her looking longingly at a particular Kate Spade bag and surprised her with it for Mother’s Day.

A fitting present for a mom who has been so devoted to her children, their school and her family.

—LH







## Andrya Smith Pearson

*Vernon Hills*

**A**ndrya Pearson, a mother of two teenagers and a marketing manager at **All-state**, describes her style as “classic chic.”

“I love classic designs and colors, and highlighting my style with bold and fun accessories,” she says. “I try to have one accent point that really strikes—a shoe, a color, a purse ...”

She likes wearing black and white, or navy and white, and her favorite stores include White House Black Market, Nordstrom, Ann Taylor and Talbots.

When she’s not busy working and raising her two daughters, Andrya actively supports **Midwest Young Artists**, a full-curriculum, pre-college youth music school, with her husband, Patrick, who is the orchestra director at **Oak Park and River Forest High School** and a conductor for MYA.

“I’m an advocate,” Andrya says. She contributes by recruiting kids and attending events, among other activities.

The Pearsons, who have been involved with MYA for 16 years, also sponsor an underprivileged child through Young Music Scholars, a program that Patrick helped found, and they have been sponsoring a child in Kenya through the anti-poverty organization Compassion International.

Andrya, who gets some of her fashion sense from her daughters, is enjoying emerging from what she calls “the mom phase,” when all her clothes were just comfortable. She says, “They’re not spitting up on me anymore, so I’m rediscovering fashion, and my style.”

—LL



# Theresa McCay Boutross

*Barrington*

**W**ith her glamorous looks and slender figure, you might think Theresa Boutross belongs on TV—and you wouldn't be the first. In fact, Theresa was fired by Donald Trump on season five of the NBC's "The Apprentice."

"It was a joke," the therapist and mother of two recalls of being on the show. The most exciting part was being selected, she says.

As for her personal style, Theresa aims for "classic simplicity, with an edge." She prefers to shop on vacation in boutiques where she can find pieces that can't be found anywhere else. At home, her favorite designers are Dolce & Gabbana, and Sergio Rossi and Giuseppe Zanotti for shoes.

Theresa practices marriage and family therapy at the **Center for Intra-Spection**, the private practice she founded, and, with her family, she supports no-kill animal shelters and adoption causes. She adopted both her son, 3, and her daughter, 1, after struggling with infertility for seven years. She's currently working on a book about the experience, and looking for a publisher for a children's book she wrote about adoption.

"I have the children I'm meant to have," she says. "I wouldn't change a thing."

—LL







## Deborah Jarol

*Winnetka*

**D**eborah Jarol serves on the Medical Research Institute Council of Children's Memorial Hospital because, "every year you get to reinvent yourself." She's held numerous volunteer positions on the council, but what excites Deborah is what might be next.

It's a philosophy that also extends to her sense of style—interior design, gardening and fashion—she loves to discover the next thing.

"I consider my style up-to-date," she says. "I was in Paris and saw a skirt that only cost 30 Euros, but I knew it would be fabulous." She now wears that skirt with a Chanel jacket and other couture pieces.

"If you have an eye for quality, you can mix and match, whether it's flowers, cooking, or clothes," she says.

Deborah has lived in Winnetka for about three years, having moved from nearby Glenview. Her children, Ashley and Bradley, have both launched their own careers. And Bradley is now on the Medical Research Junior Board Foundation of Children's.

"The board is given phenomenal input," she says of her 12 years there. "You listen to the doctors and decide who to fund based on what they want to do."

Outside of her charity work, Deborah is a passionate baker who offsets her love of decadent carrot cake with an equal devotion to Zumba. Her other loves? Canyon Ranch Hotel and Spa in Miami and Neiman Marcus.

She's also devoted to Saks, and with the retailer, she hosted a Ralph Lauren Blue Label fashion show in her home for about 50 friends. "I don't want retail to die," she says. Because Deborah knows there's an amazing skirt, hidden in a little shop, just waiting to be discovered.

—LH





### BEST DRESSED JUDGES

Dania Leemputte: Northwestern University Settlement House; Anne Mueller: Northwestern University Settlement House; Sue Hemlich: Northwestern University Settlement House; Melissa Babcock: Joffrey Ballet, Women's Board President; Cindy Mancillas: The Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center, Sponsorship for The Fashion Show; Debra Beck: The Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center, Chair of The Fashion Show; Mimi Mitchell: The Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center, President of Woman's Board; Susan Ditzler: Misericordia, Co-Chair of Misericordia Women's Auxiliary Fashion Show; Shannon Ridgeway: Westfield Old Orchard; Stacey Barrins: American Cancer Society Women's Board, Chairwoman of Board; Bonita Friedland: American Cancer Society Women's Board, Fashion Show Chair



### ON OUR COVER: (left to right)

**KAREN GRAY** Dress by David Meister, \$568, earrings by Carolee, Bloomingdales; **DEBORAH JAROL** in her own dress; **ANN WARIS** Dress by Oleg Cassini, \$199, Lord and Taylor, earrings by Alexis Bittar, Bloomingdales; **THERESA MCKAY BOUTROSS** Halter dress by Diane Von Furstenberg, \$545, earrings by Alexis Bittar, Bloomingdales; **ANDRYA SMITH PEARSON** Dress by Tadashi Shoji, \$328, earrings by Carolee, Bloomingdales. Earrings from Bloomingdales.

Fashions from **WESTFIELD OLD ORCHARD**.

### meet the stylist



**Suzanne Newman**  
Suzanne Newman is the founder of Find Fashion Happiness. For two years Suzanne has partnered with

Westfield Old Orchard Shopping Center to offer personal shopping and stylist services.

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640 CENTRAL AVENUE  
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