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## On the Cutting Edge: *The WAG* Guide to Top Hair Stylists

By Jené Luciani

When it comes to our trusted stylists, they become more than just our hairdressers, morphing into scissor-wielding psychologists, confidantes, and most important, friends. But what do you do when that relationship is no longer working for you? (Case in point, you asked for that hot new cropped do and you ended up with that Mary Tyler Moore bob.) Sometimes, it's simply time for a change. *The WAG* scoured the counties (Westchester and Fairfield) to find the newest "cutting-edge" talent at local salons. And while we can't promise you a new best friend, you will get a great new do.

### **New Talent at Old Favorites** **"The Blonde Specialist"**

**Stylist:** Lara Belmont

**Where to find her:** Salon O, 239 Mill St., Greenwich, (203) 531-3000,  
<http://www.salono.net/>

**Specialty:** Blonde, believable highlights. Belmont specializes in baliaage, or "painting" highlights freehand. When she does use foils, she applies her signature "mohawk" technique, placing foils at the hairline and working her way back and straight down the head. This works best if you are looking to hide that horrible line of regrowth without making the hair look over-processed. Belmont is not limited to blondes, but can create brilliant brunettes and ravishing redheads as well. Highlights start at \$120.

**Background:** Belmont's career started 10 years ago when she began working for the famed Beverly Hills stylist Jose Eber at his New York City salon. To educate herself even further, Belmont has taken classes through L'Oreal Professional.

**Career Highlights/Claims to Fame:** *The WAG's* own Elsa Brenner is one of Belmont's clients. She has also created highlights for Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Annemarie Lucas, ASPCA specialist for the award-winning Animal Plant series "Animal Precinct."



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### ***That Was Then, This is. . .WOW!***

Yes, you really are looking at the same person! In our January/February issue, we introduced you to our makeover contest winner, Pamela Apollo, a public safety lieutenant and mother of three. The 44-year-old New Rochelle resident had been too busy caring for others (she even donated 11 inches of her hair to “Locks of Love”) to lavish much attention on her health or appearance. Her weight and cholesterol were elevated and her hair was dry and unflattering. She felt self-conscious about her smile, and her feet, while healthy, weren’t up for the rigors of vigorous exercise.

With the help of The WAG’s generous team of experts, Pamela dove into the process of transformation and is now feeling sexy, youthful, confident, and healthier than she’s been in her entire life. “On May 9, my husband and I celebrated our 13-year wedding anniversary,” she reports. “We were married on the beach in Maui. He never thought there was anything wrong with the way I looked before the makeover, but he loves the results. My kids (Caitlin, 12; Michael Jr., 10; and Erin, 8) also love the way their mom looks now. They were all very supportive of the entire process. It is great to feel like I am 20-something with the knowledge and experience of a 44-year-old.”

Here’s how each of our sponsors helped her make this incredible journey:

**Sponsor:** Omar Roth and his creative team

**Where to find them:** Salon O, 239 Mill St., Greenwich, (203) 531-3000,  
<http://www.salono.net/>

**Pamela’s “before”:** Although she had donated 11 inches to “Locks of Love,” the rest of Pamela’s tresses hadn’t been given much attention. “Her hair was really dry and distressed and I thought it was overpowering,” Roth says. “It wasn’t the most flattering shape for her face and body and it needed to be lightened up. She has good bone structure but you couldn’t see it.” And the purplish color was both harsh and woefully out of date. “Ever since I came up from the city, I’ve seen a lot of that eggplant shade. It’s such an ‘80s thing to do and it’s not attractive on anyone. Even if you want to go darker or redder, you’ve got to stay away from purple—it’s very aging.”

**What they did:** Anthony, a colorist at Salon O, replaced the purple with a flattering base color and rich, tone-on-tone highlights. “Given her personality, I didn’t want anything too avant garde or crazy,” Roth says. “We brightened things up but still kept it natural-looking.” Because Pamela had always wanted straight, shiny, silky

hair, Lisa, a stylist at Salon O, treated her hair to the latest and greatest version of the popular straightening systems. "Brazilian hair straightening is a keratin treatment from Coppola that's formaldehyde-free and doesn't dry out the hair at all," Roth explains. "It's a coating that doesn't penetrate the hair shaft but keeps the hair naturally straight and silky even in 90-degree heat and high humidity. After four months, it starts to break down and gradually washes out. There's no root line like you get with other straightening systems." Next, Roth layered Pamela's hair into a new, flattering cut. "It was triangle-shaped: flat on top and shooting out the sides and back. We reversed the tri-angle so it's tighter at the bottom with more height on top. We took weight out of it."

**What Pamela says:** "I've had a few bad hair years. When I was little, other kids used to call me 'witchy poo.' I did get a handle on it with gel and other stuff, but I don't have a lot of time to fuss with my hair, so this is great! Now, my hair has nice shine and no frizziness, so it's easy to deal with. I blow dry it just a little bit and touch it up with a flat iron and it's very silky with a soft, soft feel. I love the finished look and the color. I feel it goes great with all my other changes."