



Where There is *LIGHT*...

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY
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It is 1978...a Persian family arrives in California from Iran in the springtime. Their nine-year-old daughter smells flowers in the air.

Within Pacific Palisades beats the heart of a female-founded company known as Sanari Candle. Named for her two children, Sanam and Aria, thoughtfulness is infused into every microgram of this candle's evolution . . . from the ingredients to the sourcing, the production process and the packaging.

Conceived by the radiant Rebecca Aghalarpour, this three-year-old company produces multi-use candles made entirely with natural ingredients and a whole lot of love! Mother, daughter, sister, wife, business-woman, and cancer survivor, she is driven by challenge and compelled to give.

Rebecca says her spiritual study was ignited only about 10 years ago as she began to focus on tools to master things like patience, forgiveness, observation and stillness. She recounts, however, that as a young girl, she observed that her father was spiritually connected to the earth. "He grew his own vegetables and fruit trees and talked to the plants." She watched intently while he also modeled a life of giving. She feels deeply that her yearning to give has been directly inspired by the way he lived a life of constant generosity and sharing of his blessings. "He is the root from which I have grown." As she grew, Rebecca was always looking for a way to deepen her contribution.

In 2015, after years in the branding, fragrance and beauty businesses, the international men's fragrance for which she and her husband were the exclusive US distributors



LEFT TO RIGHT:
THE GLASS CONTAINER FOR THE CANDLE MAKES THE PERFECT WINE GLASS. REBECCA IN HER HOME



TOP TO BOTTOM: CLEAN WARM GLOW OF SANARI CANDLES, FROM CANDLE TO WATER GLASS, REBECCA SURROUNDED IN LOVE AT THE BEACH



was purchased by L'Oréal. She had been seasoned with scientific experience, creative direction, FDA regulations, and an introduction to essential oils. She felt she had the experience necessary to research the root of her own product idea.

The combination of her experience, leading a healthy lifestyle, and having a keen understanding of impure chemicals commonly used in beauty and home products, led Rebecca to rid her home of anything remotely toxic. Excellent timing this was, because it was then that she

came face to face with a cancer diagnosis (thanks to early detection) that only propelled this mission to eliminate toxins in her life. Her research taught her that many traditional candle manufacturers use bleach to make the wax white, artificial coloring, synthetic fragrance, animal byproducts, and chemicals such as paraffins in the production of scented candles. Rebecca warns, "A conventional candle company with a monopoly on the market can control information that gets released about its product, so consumers are often misled by the company and even 'regulations,' without

knowledge of what is really looming in their home that may be harming their family."

Not wanting to forfeit the serenity that candles provided in her home, Rebecca set out to create candles free of toxins...something that had never been done. She thought that if she could formulate an all-natural candle with 100% plant-based ingredients, she could extinguish a carcinogenic culprit creeping into millions of homes. But what if she could go beyond removing the danger to health? What if she could produce a candle that could essentially promote health and become a way of life?

The Sanari team took shape when fellow Palisadian, David Altshuler, took the helm as CEO. Rebecca's husband and partner, Mazi, a much loved Palisadian business owner, was in place as President...and the flame of Sanari Candle was lit.

Sanari sources all its ingredients from farmers who produce non-genetically modified organisms, which means no pesticides are used. The farmers even use non-gasoline powered equipment. Their fair-trade processing facility staffs employees who are in

great need of work, as well as the disabled community. Sanari gives back 5% of its profits to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, which sponsors free mammograms while also educating and helping women to detect cancer at an early stage.

Mindful of everything, the company carefully chose the vessel that houses the Sanari candle. It's made from recycled glass and is actually designed to be reusable as a drinking glass. When your uniquely hand-poured, eco-friendly candle has burned down all the way, just add some soap and hot water to wipe out the small amount of oil at the bottom, wash, and use it for wine or water. "The idea is to waste nothing, leave nothing, make no trash,"



SINCE YOU CAN CONTROL
THE ENVIRONMENT IN YOUR
HOME, WHY NOT FILL IT
WITH SOMETHING GOOD
FOR YOU?

-REBECCA AGHALARPOUR

Rebecca shares. Even the box housing this little treasure has been designed with recycled paper and is printed with soy ink.

Essential oils extracted from fruits, herbs and flowers, such as mint, jasmine, ylang ylang, basil, cocoa bean and pomegranate, are used as her palette. Blending 7-11 oils in order to create one natural subtle scent is her style. The citrus base purifies the air, while eliminating unwanted odors. It promotes many health benefits at once; achieving a sense of calm, improving sleep. Rebecca finds it even sharpens her focus while working.

Extensive burn testing led Rebecca to choose a 100% cotton unbleached wide wick. It produces a clean, pure, long-lasting burn, and the symbolism of the triangular shaped flame represents mind, body and spirit.

At one point in our chat, Rebecca's eyes flicker a bit like a flame and she says, "Neshama." I wait. Her long dark eyelashes drop down, then up. A smile erupts on her face. She explains that it is the Hebrew word for soul: "We believe that the oil pulled from the plants and used in the candle is the soul

of the plant." She continues, "This candle offers a delivery system, not only for the plant's healing properties, but as a connection to the earth." I can feel her father smiling.

After her family moved here from Iran, that nine-year-old girl grew up in Malibu, so the beach is in her blood. Her upbringing in a Persian home was a controlled environment. Longing to have command of her own choices, future and experiences, Rebecca struggled with that part of her culture. She tried to balance expectations of who she was to be on the inside of her home, with who she actually was in the outside world. She says about Sanari, "since you can control the environment in your home, why not fill it with something good for you?"

Essential oils may be the main ingredient whipped up into these Sanari Candles, but essential to the magic in each, is most definitely the essence of a woman compelled to give.

Available for purchase at [Pharmaca](#) and at [sanaricandle.com](#)

PICTURED ABOVE: REBECCA AT SUNSET