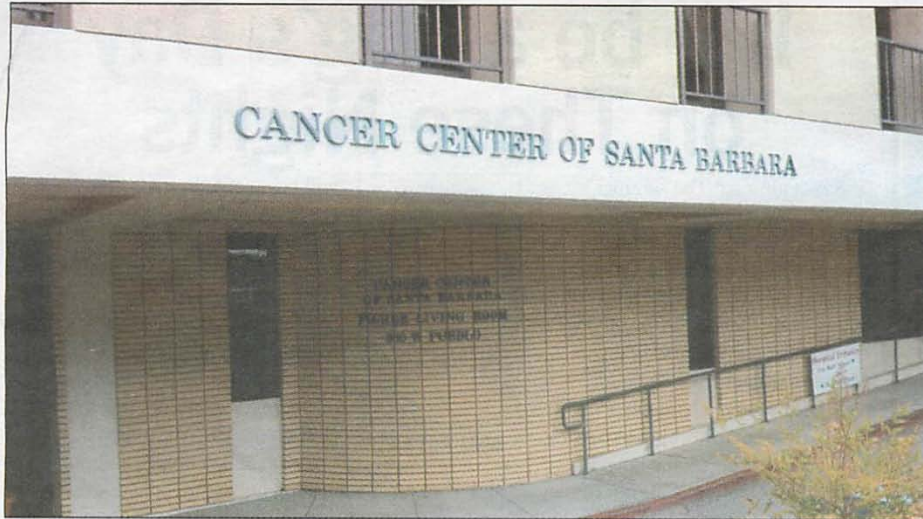


August 12- August 18, 2011
Upbeat – A Compassionate Community



The Cancer Center has served many Montecito residents and currently has several Montecitans on its board.

A Compassionate Community

My friend and neighbor Katie O'Reilly Rogers – landscape architect extraordinaire – has beautified many a home in Montecito. Bringing long-lasting joy to her clients has earned her great respect and adoration. Katie has recently discovered a new kind of joy that was unexpected and has been overwhelming. Katie had surgery to remove a large cancerous tumor in her brain in early April. I have been a part of a neighborhood-wide effort to support Katie and her family in this most challenging time.

"Kate Carter (of Life Chronicles) rallied the neighborhood to bring us meals via www.takethemameal.com," said Katie. "Since April 7 my mom has had to cook only a few times. It is just amazing the way my friends and neighbors have showered me with generosity and help." She pointed out something that bears sharing here. "People feel valued and able to do something bigger than ourselves and are able to rise to the need. This is a great neighborhood and community filled with people who like



ROD LATHIM

being needed and having the opportunity to give back. One of my friends told me that for her, helping cook for us was a great way to pay it forward."

I joined others to drive Katie to daily radiation treatments at the Cancer Center of Santa Barbara. On the way home recently, Katie spoke about the culture of caring and compassion of the staff at the Cancer Center. She commented, "If people treated each other every day like we are treated here at the Cancer Center, the world would be a different place."

The Cancer Center of Santa Barbara is blessed with a visionary, powerful board of directors, many of whom are Montecito residents. They include: Hugh M. Boss – Vice Chairman, James H. Jackson, Les Charles, James A. Shattuck, Christy Walters Kolva, and new Trustees Michael Cooney, Frank Foster and Dr. David Bradford.

The non-profit center is 62 years old and was founded by a patient named Lillian Converse who was determined that people in greater Santa Barbara

should have access to cutting edge technology and wellness services, and not have to drive to Los Angeles for treatments. Indeed we are very fortunate to have such a comprehensive cancer treatment center right here in Santa Barbara. My father and many friends have benefitted from their extraordinary care. Undoubtedly, many of you reading this have had experience with the Cancer Center via a friend or loved one.

I spoke to the Center's PR representative Lindsay Groark, who explained that the Cancer Center's core values are Dedication, Compassion, Professionalism and Integrity. Katie confirmed that the staff was warm, personal and committed to the patient's needs. "Within a few days of treatments, they all knew my name. The staff is like a big family. It is human to human interaction – not nurse to patient."

The Center has created an environment where patients feel safe and comfortable interacting and sharing personal experiences and coping techniques; gaining valuable support from their peers and family members. The Cancer

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Center also has a wonderful wellness program with nutrition counseling, programs and classes in art, yoga, qi gong, tai chi and exercise.

Lindsay Groark shared a story with me of a gentleman that was given a tough prognosis of 6-9 months to live. "He came to us as a very scientific, analytical person. After his surgery to remove a brain tumor, he began taking art classes through our wellness programs. He has transformed and evolved into a new person. He has tapped into the creative aspects of his brain and now enjoys painting. He has discovered new ways to channel a wealth of creative expression and emotions. It has been four years now since his initial, short term prognosis."

Katie O'Reilly Rogers did not anticipate this dramatic turn in her life. No one ever does. But when something earth shattering hits us, it is comforting to know that there are so many people and organizations in our community that thrive on caring and compassion. We all have the power and ability to pay it forward by reaching out to someone in need. Whether it be providing a home-cooked meal, an ear or a shoulder. Those on the giving end receive just as much as the recipient. Join me in sending Katie loving, healing energy.

The Cancer Center of Santa Barbara can always use your tax-deductible support and has volunteer opportunities. Call Stephanie at 898-2116 www.ccsb.org.

Rod Lathim is a native Santa Barbaran. He founded and served as Artistic Director of the award-winning Access Theatre.