



**DIANE BELL** Columnist

## Who can argue with a \$5 million donation to promote civility?

Remember the anguished plea of **Rodney King**: “Can we all just get along?”

The L.A. victim of police brutality spoke those words 27 years ago, and they still plead from his grave marker in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in the Hollywood Hills.

Instead of preaching hatred or violence against law enforcement, King, who passed away seven years ago, emphasized building bridges.

Today, San Diegan **Elaine Galinson** is doing her part to help future generations get along. She has donated \$5 million to endow a program that’s now promoting civil discourse among 1,700 student leaders on the UC San Diego campus so it can continue in perpetuity.

“We are at a moment in our history that much respect seems to have gone away, and hate and discrimination, and even murder, have taken over our country and the world,” Galinson says.

She hopes her contribution ensures that students, as they head into a world beyond UCSD, “learn how to treat one another with respect and dignity, despite having conflicting views in challenging situations.”

The Galinson Campus Civility Initiative was started by her late husband, **Murray Galinson**, former board chair of the California State University system. It operates under the umbrella of the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC) in San Diego and has expanded to more than 10 universities in the western United States.

Civic leader **Malin Burnham**, who has worked with the center for years, also is concerned about civility. He was honored with NCRC’s 2019 Philanthropy in Peacemaking award on Saturday.

“We have to have more civility,” Burnham stressed.

“We don’t have to agree with each other, but we can, at least, listen and learn.”

Before the event was over, 229 attendees dug deep into their pockets to make a paddle-raise pledge totaling \$575,000 (including a \$300,000 assist from **Bob Payne**) for another center program. This one aims at halting the “pipeline to prison” by offering counseling, training and life skills services to redirect young offenders to a positive path before they ruin their lives and futures.

That is the life passion of Father **Greg Boyle**, named NCRC’s 2019 national peacemaker.

Through his Homeboys Bakery, which opened the same year that Rodney King said “Can we all just get along?,” he invited gang members off the streets and put them to work together baking and marketing bread. Since then, his burgeoning Homeboy Industries enterprise has given birth to Homeboy Farmers Markets, Homeboy Diner at L.A. City Hall, Homegirl Café, Homegirl Catering, Homeboy Silkscreen & Embroidery, Homeboy Electronics Recycling, and more.

Boyle’s enterprises don’t just pay wages. The side benefits include intervention services: mental health and legal advice, drug counseling, job training, tattoo removal, life skills instruction and charter high school classes.

NCRC head **Steve Dinkin** cites parallels between their two missions, adding, “We hope to continue to work together on some things.”

**Lung power:** **Nancy Gatschet** is a survivor. The Point Loma resident, who owns a dog walking/pet sitting service, is one of the lucky ones. In 2006, after being diagnosed with small cell lung cancer, she embarked on an aggressive radiation and chemo treatment regimen in Philadelphia, where she then was

living.

Survival rates for cancers like hers are less than 30 percent, but Gatschet’s shotgun approach paid off, and she later tested as cancer-free.

Ever since, the former bank executive, who moved to San Diego six years ago, has been using her lungs to speak out for others. On Wednesday, she was one of American Lung Association’s LungForce Heroes, — men and women touched by cancer — from 50 states who were in Washington, D.C., to lobby Congress for more research on lung cancer, the No. 1 cancer killer.

Many people don’t realize that lung cancer is the most common cancer worldwide because patients often don’t live long enough to talk about it, Gatschet had lamented in a New York Times 2012 profile of cancer survivors.

Wednesday, she met with U.S. Rep. **Barbara Lee** and key staff members of Rep. **Doris Matsui** and U.S. Sens. **Dianne Feinstein** and **Kamala Harris** (all Californians) to plead for a \$41.6 billion budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and for legislation to protect patients with pre-existing conditions.

“California is way ahead of the curve. ... Our legislators are totally supportive of increased NIH funding and don’t want to see the Affordable Care Act pulled apart,” Gatschet said during a Capitol Hill phone interview. “I worry about under-served communities making health insurance choices on cost alone and then finding out when they need advanced care that it’s not covered.”

Gatschet, 65, added that she’s “thrilled to death to be getting this civics lesson at this point in my life.”

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