



Tim Barron

A native of Ireland, Tim now lives in Benicia with his husband, Todd, and their two teen-age sons, Jordan and Kali. Tim's cancer diagnosis in March 2010 made him appreciate life more than ever and to take advantage of its offerings. As a result, he and his family spend time traveling and going on adventures—but not until homework is finished!

Myrna Belanic

"Life doesn't get any better than this," Myrna says of living in Napa Valley and being cancer free. A registered nurse, corporate and community health educator, Myrna was horrified to find a suspicious dark growth on her body, which was quickly diagnosed as melanoma and equally fast removed via surgery. Today, Myrna, who is always armed with SPF46, protective clothing, hat and sunglasses, is full of gratitude. She's grateful to her doctor, Paul Laband who referred her to the Queen's Cancer Wellness Program and to its stellar team, including Becca, Britta, Sylvia and Tawyna for helping her strengthen her body, mind and spirit. She thanks her loving husband Peter for his support, and believes their beloved George was always by her side.



Kim Brown Sims

A passionate, health care executive, Kim serves Queen of the Valley Medical Center as the VP of Patient Care Services and Chief Nurse Executive. She came to the Queen in 2017 with more than 30 years of experience in adult, women and children's healthcare. Kim is no stranger to cancer—and not just professionally. Her mother was diagnosed with and lost her battle to lung cancer in 1999. Eight years later, Kim was diagnosed with cervical cancer. Today she's cancer free and enjoys traveling with her daughter, paddle-boarding, yoga and photography.





Kori Butler

With two young sons, Kori Butler is always on the go. In April 2016, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and set on a new journey. She will be forever grateful to all of the doctors and nurses at the Queen, as well as her family and friends who supported her on this unexpected path.

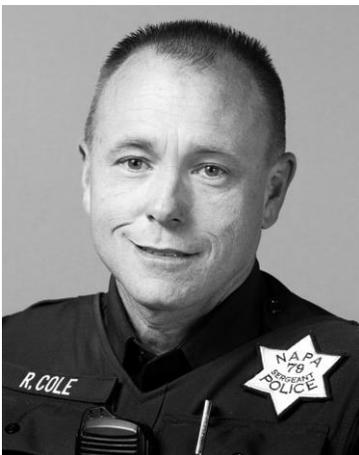
Marisa Capponi

The Cancer Wellness Program's 1000th patient was Marisa Capponi. No stranger to the medical industry, Marisa works for a small pharmaceutical company doing clinical research on new drugs for rare genetic diseases. In December 2016, she had her first routine mammogram at age 40. The result was a diagnosis of Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (DCIS), stage 0 breast cancer. She sums up her experience, "After three lumpectomies I'm doing just fine. I feel like I am one of the lucky ones since I had no chemo or radiation treatments, so I treasure every day." Marisa expresses her gratitude to her husband Dan, son Rocco, daughter Antonella, and all of her friends and family for their love and support.



Ryan Cole

Born and raised in Napa, Ryan had served the community for nearly two decades as a police officer when he was diagnosed with stage four throat cancer. In September 2013 he began his life-saving journey with the Queen's Cancer Wellness Program and is grateful to the many people here who were involved with his treatment and care. He is especially thankful for his family and says, "My family deserves my applause: My wife Lisa for sacrificing her career and giving me her undivided attention and love; my kids, Kourtney and Stephen for all their love and support and for picking up the slack." Ryan also expresses his gratitude for the support he received from his entire family, the Napa Police Department and the community.





Gertie Conatser

Gertie was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia on her first birthday. She was immediately admitted to the University of California at San Francisco, which became her family's home for the next nine months. During that time, Gertie endured six rounds of very strong chemotherapy, countless blood and platelet transfusions and several surgeries. Today Gertie remains in remission and lives life to the fullest with her family.

Lissa Gibbs

Having cancer and recovering from its treatment taught Lissa Gibbs that living life is truly an incredible adventure, one in which every day must be appreciated and celebrated. She is thankful for the skilled nurses and dedicated doctors at the Queen's Cancer Center and California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. She is grateful to her friends and family members, and the Queen's Cancer Wellness Program – for so generously being part of her fascinating and humbling journey. Lissa thanks them all for their work and love, which made a difference for her.



Frances Grasso

Frances was 48 years old when she was diagnosed with stage two, triple-positive breast cancer in 2016. She is grateful to her family and friends for their support as she underwent chemotherapy, surgery and radiation. Frances is also grateful to her team of doctors, the Queen's oncology center and its Cancer Wellness Program for the dedicated support she received during her journey to being cancer-free. Now, Frances focuses on what she loves: being a first-grade teacher, reading, and spending time with family and friends.



Shelly Griffiths

"People are stronger than they ever imagined possible," is what Shelly says she learned from cancer. Shelly was diagnosed with breast cancer almost two years ago. Today she is living life to the fullest and enjoying every minute.

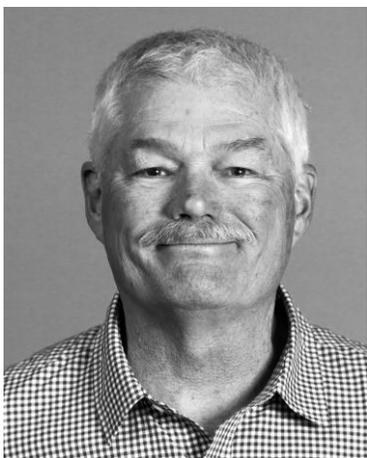
Dolly Grupalo

Until four years ago, I performed at many Relay for Life cancer fundraisers with my tap troupe, Dolly's Tap Dancers. Never did I envision I'd be walking the "first lap around the track" for cancer survivors with my name on a luminary bag. But it happened. I was diagnosed with stage three ovarian cancer. Today, with great gratitude and love, I dedicate my lap on the runway to my "special ops team", which includes my family, friends, medical caregivers and the Queen's Cancer Wellness Center. They all helped me find many silver linings along this sometimes overwhelming journey. With hope, prayers and faith, I am blessed to be a survivor.



Gerald Hasser

Jerry has just celebrated his 26th wedding anniversary with his wife Jean. When Jerry was diagnosed with prostate cancer in December 2015, he began treatment and continues it today to keep his cancer from progressing. Jerry and Jean stay active and happy between their family, which includes five grandchildren, riding bikes, working out at Synergy and traveling.





Jennifer Hefner

Jennifer is delighted to return to the runway at Reach for the Stars, The Queen's Celebration. Having fully recovered from breast cancer last year, Jennifer credits the Cancer Wellness Program with helping her return to perfect health.

Crystal Herrick

Diagnosed with cervical cancer in March 2017, just four days after the birth of her second child, Crystal endured surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. Deemed cancer-free just eight months later, Crystal is now a thirty-year-old, with a full-time job, the proud mama of two beautiful children, a devoted partner, home chef and health fanatic. Her strength comes from her enormous support system, including her doctors, nurses, friends, family and social media followers. She adds, "Thank you Queen of the Valley for all that you do."



Kathy Hutchison

Kathy's family has been riddled with different cancers for multiple generations and she lost her husband to it as well. While she was hoping for a "get-out-of-jail-free card", that wasn't to be; she was diagnosed with cancer in 2011. She says, "I have been very fortunate to be able to seek out the best care and am alive and fighting today because of it. I have been part of the Queen "family" for 11 years and have a strong support system there. I have a son and grandson who keep me truly fulfilled. My family, especially my son, Josh, and my friends are my rock, my lifeline, my support. They keep me laughing—and what could be better than that? I am very blessed and very grateful."



Danielle Irwin

Danielle was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in June 2016 and had a stem-cell transplant 18 months ago. She says, "By the grace of God, my wonderful husband, four kids, amazing church and school community and the awesome doctors at the Queen and UCSF, I am blessed to be here." She likes to share this quote, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That's why they call it the present."

Teresa Johnston

As a young mother and wife, Teresa was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer in 2015. Now in remission, she is a survivor and grateful to many people. She is thankful to her amazing medical team at St. Helena Hospital for their unwavering support. She is thankful to her family, friends and loving community who graciously provided child care assistance, holistic healing treatments and homemade meals for her and her family during her treatment. And she is grateful for the young survivors support group that has helped her adjust to her "new normal" life. Teresa has found that cancer changes people, she says, "it shows us to love more openly and most importantly to live more passionately. In many ways my life is richer now because of it."



Katie Knapp

Katie Knapp was diagnosed with bilateral triple-negative breast cancer on September 22, 2014. After chemotherapy and several surgeries, Katie is now cancer free. Her experience has taught her, "to appreciate every day, and to give and receive all the love I can."



Shundell Langford

Shundell has worked for Queen of the Valley for more than a decade. When she was diagnosed with stage-three breast cancer in July 2016, she underwent a mastectomy with reconstruction. As a longtime employee of Queen of the Valley, she knew she would be alright. In January 2018, Shundell celebrated being cancer free for one year.

Veronica Marquez

Before her cancer diagnosis, Veronica didn't spend a lot of time paying attention to the little details of everyday—no surprise given that she has four sons who range in age from 10 to 25. But that changed when her cancer was detected and today everything is important to her. Most important are her family, friends and prayer group. Today she spends as much time as possible with her boys and is enjoying each moment to its maximum.



Jared McDaniels

At the age of 2, Jared was diagnosed with All Leukemia. After intensive chemotherapy, spinal taps and two weeks for cranial radiation, Jared won his battle. Today Jared enjoys playing with transformers and playing T-ball with Napa Babe Ruth.



Itzel Esperanza Mendez

Itzel Mendez was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia on August 11, 2009, when she was three years old. She received intensive chemotherapy, made worse by constant allergic reactions, for two and a half years. In 2012, on November 11, when Itzel was almost a year into remission, she experienced a relapse. This started intensive chemotherapy and radiation. On February 11, 2013, Itzel underwent a stem cell transplant, which started a very painful and slow recovery. Itzel has been cancer-free for five years. Today, her family exclaims, "Thank you to God and all our family and friends for always being there. We wish everyone was as lucky as we are."

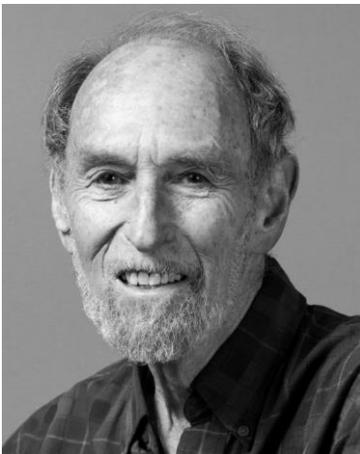
Silvia Mendoza

Silvia Mendoza is quick to smile. And when she talks about her three sons, she smiles a lot. An event assistant for Constellation Wines, Silvia not only smiles but she glows with pride when she explains that her oldest son works with her as a Wine Educator. She's equally proud of her middle son and her youngest, who is in fourth grade and shows an affinity for art. Silvia doesn't dwell on the impact cancer has had on her life, although she says black used to be her favorite wardrobe color, but now it seems sad. But she doesn't stay sad for long, because within a few minutes she is smiling again.



Harris Nussbaum

Harris has been a resident of Napa for 60 years. He loves this Valley and the wonderfully generous people who live here. As a cancer survivor, he appreciates Queen of the Valley Medical Center and the great care they provided. He was a partner at the popular Brewster's and then became an educator for nearly four decades. He's been active in the community including roles founding numerous organizations. He is grateful for the support and caring he's received from the community in return.



Wahu Oseso



A native of Kenya, Wahu has lived in Napa since 2015. A clinical cancer researcher, Wahu was more than familiar with cancer when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 2017. She completed her treatment in December that year at the Martin-O'Neil Cancer Center (MOCC) at St. Helena Hospital where she works. She was referred to the Cancer Wellness Program by her oncologist at MOCC. She says, "I feel very fortunate to have received nutritional, strengthening and lymphedema support." With a 13-year-old daughter, Wahu admits her free time is spent doing what her daughter enjoys, that and reading—she's an avid reader of books of all types.

Sushil Patel

Passionate about holistic approaches before, during and after conventional medical treatment, Sushil decided to "love my cancer away." A diagnose of a rare form of T-cell lymphoma was followed by chemotherapy. During that time, Sushil researched and experimented with holistic therapies to complement his chemotherapy. He is celebrating two years of remission.



Jamie Persinger

A wife, mother of a beautiful girl, and now a survivor, Jamie was diagnosed with breast cancer in July 2015. With much support from family, friends and her medical care team, Jamie just celebrated her one-year anniversary of being cancer free. The Cancer Wellness Program and local survivor groups helped her ease into her life post-treatment and for that she is thankful. Jamie loves baking with her daughter, being active, spending time with family and friends and just enjoying life.



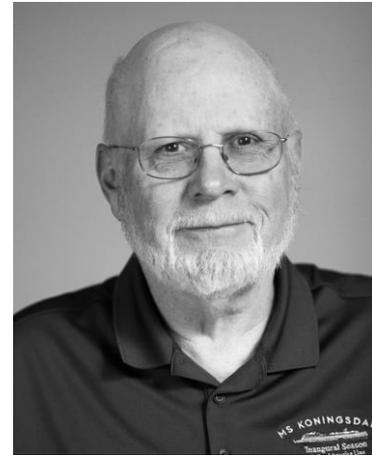


Carolyn Ingraham Petersen

After being declared cancer-free, Carolyn, a Napa native took to the hills! To hike. Carolyn was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015 and underwent treatment and surgery to remove the cancer. Since then she has maintained a high-fiber diet and exercises regularly, hiking in the Napa hills. She says, "A positive attitude and positive friends helps a lot."

Charley Pettigrew

Charley moved to Napa in 1968, after serving in the military in Vietnam. Now retired, he had a long, industrious career as a structural ironworker, building high-rise steel structures and bridges. Charley and his wife have two grown children who are both married and have four energetic grandsons between them. These four boys delight the senior Pettigrews.



Ana Ramos

Ana loves to sew, garden and cook. As a married mother of a 16-year-old son, she juggled all of these activities with her job at Sutter Home, where she's worked for the last decade. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer in July, 2017, she focused her attention on fighting it. The Cancer Wellness Program, her family and friends motivated and encouraged her and today she is cancer free with more time to do the things she loves once again. "I am very thankful to God that I am cancer free."

Jonathan Robinson

When Jonathan Robinson received a diagnosis of cancer in 2015 it was almost one year to the day he moved to Napa. He feels incredible gratitude to be in a place of such beauty amongst a community of friendly, generous and supportive people during his long post-surgical recovery process. He thanks the Queen of the Valley, Kaiser Permanente Napa-Solano, his wife and two daughters for his health.

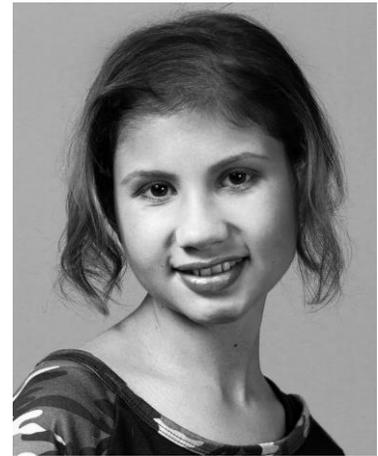


Kolton Rockwell Smith

Kolton is a third-grader who has been cancer-free for eight years. He loves playing with nerf guns with his brothers, hanging out with friends and being on the swim team.

Mikyla Ross

Mikyla, a freshman at Napa High School, is a strong-willed teenager with a fiery personality that has propelled her through many difficult challenges as an adolescent. Diagnosed with medulloblastoma (brain cancer) at age seven in 2010, Mikyla completed a year of aggressive chemotherapy, stem-cell transplant and radiation. She has been in remission since 2011. At 15, Mikyla enjoys expressing herself through art, practicing hip-hop dancing, and working with dogs as a volunteer at the Napa Animal Shelter. She is proud of herself for how far she has gone to meet and exceed her goals.



Natalie Schiefferly

Natalie was not yet five when she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. She underwent chemotherapy for three and half years, completing treatment in the fall of 2010. Today she is a sophomore at Justin-Siena High School, where she enjoys playing soccer and spending time with her friends.



Violette Siegal

Violette says of her experience, "I don't have the answer why I got breast cancer. I was very healthy and active. But it forced me to stop and look deeper inward and to pay attention to what's going on in my life."

Jennifer Z. Winters

For Jennifer, the fight mode of beating cancer last year is very different than becoming familiar with her body after chemotherapy. Diagnosed with stage three breast cancer in 2016, Jennifer is cancer-free today. "After a long battle, it's a wonderful feeling to be cancer free, yet I feel like a very different person. The change is mostly good, but adapting to my chronic ailments from chemotherapy is the hardest part,"

Jennifer says trying to describe how she feels. She says, "Having the support of the Cancer Wellness Program has been so comforting. I feel like no matter what happens, there is help if I need it. I'm so grateful that I'm alive to raise my amazing 12-year-old redhead Christine. Thank you Queen of the Valley."



Michele Wissa

A 50-year resident of the Napa Valley, Michele loves the opportunity to be involved with its community. She has done so through volunteer work and in paid positions and in the five decades of living here she's seen Napa evolve in several ways. She now lives in the Carneros region with her fiancé, Chris Gerne and feels grateful for all the support she received from the Valley's cancer care networks. She says to all of them, "Thank you, everyone 😊"