Remember the an-
guished 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
bleed from his grave
marker in Forest Lawn
Memorial Park in the Holly-
wood 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 dis-
course 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 dis-

crimination, and even
murder, have taken over
our country and the world,”
Galisin says.

She hopes her contri-
bution ensures that stu-
dents, as they head into a
world beyond UCSD, “learn
how to treat one another
with respect and dignity,
despite having conflicting
views in challenging situa-
tions.”

The Galinson Campus
Civility Initiative was
started by her late hus-
band, Murray Galinson,
former board chair of the
California State University
system. It operates under
the umbrella of the Na-
tional 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 Philan-
thropy 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 $757,000 (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 na-
tional 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 to-
gether baking and market-
ing bread. Since then, this
burgeoning Homeboy In-
dustries enterprise has
given birth to Homeboy
Farmers Markets, Home-
boy Diner at L.A. City Hall,
Homegirl Café, Homegirl
Catering, Homeboy
Silkscreen & Embroidery,
Homeboy Electronics Recy-
cling, and more.

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

NCRC’s head Steve
Dinkin cites parallels be-
tween their two missions,
adding, “We hope to con-
vince 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 em-
arked on an aggressive
radiation and chemo treat-
ment regimen in Phila-
delphia, where she then was
living.

Survival rates for can-
cers 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 Associa-
tion’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 real-
ize that lung cancer is the
most common cancer
worldwide because pa-

tients often don’t live long

enough to talk about it,
Gatschet had lamented in a
New York Times 2012 pro-
file 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 legis-
lation to protect patients
with pre-existing condi-
tions.

“California is way ahead
of the curve. ... Our legisla-
tors are totally supportive
of increased NIH funding
and don’t want to see the
Affordable Care Act pulled
apart,” Gatschet said dur-
ing 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 civic lesson
at this point in my life.”

— Diane Bell