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## Relay for Life Wins Again!

by Phyllis Chapman



\$109,000 and still counting! That was the amount of money raised at Sierra Madre's fourth annual Relay for Life cancer drive last weekend in Memorial Park. Relay Chair Susan Clifton made the announcement at the closing ceremony on Sunday. In addition to being a great financial success for the vital battle against cancer, the Relay was also a wonderful community and family event.

Close to 500 sponsored volunteers walked laps around the park during the 24-hour Relay. It was an army of families, some with strollers, groups of teenagers, youngsters, friends, husbands and wives, etc.

Sgt. Eric LeClair, team captain for the Foothill Gym Bootcamp Crew, along with crewmembers Trap McPherson and Jessica Mulheim, walked for the entire 24 hours. LeClair said that the experience was awesome – hearing survivor's stories along the way, and meeting other team captains.

Longtime City employee Paul Hagen and his wife Janet, who were morning walkers, said they walked in memory of relatives lost to cancer, and because this was one way our town comes together. The youngest walker was 3-and-a-half-year-old Brian Wolhaupter, whose mother wrote letters for him seeking sponsorship. He raised \$700.

The top team winner for money raised was the Sierra Madre Civic Club "Power of Purple" team, with \$10,817; second was Sierra Madre Elementary School with \$7,725; and third was St. Rita's Stampede with \$7,465.

The Relay for Life organizers want to send thank yous to the many individuals and groups that contributed to the event's success, including: our newspapers and restaurants, the wonderful entertainers, the more than 70 youth volunteers, the corporate sponsors, the energetic teams and many others.

Also, an important part of the Relay was Cancer Control, chaired by Marianne Siberell, which distributed much information about cancer and cancer prevention.

Boy Scout Troup No. 110 posted the colors at the Relay's opening and closing. Mayor Pro Tem Rob Stocky kicked off the activity. Giving support to survivors – and many were present – CEO Dennis Lee of Methodist Hospital saluted survivors for fighting the good fight, and lauded their families for providing support. Cancer survivor Mary Buchan pointed out the importance of early detection.

The most touching time of all was the 9 p.m. Luminaria Ceremony, led by cancer survivor Linda Knowles. In addition to the hundreds of luminaria bags double lining the park walk, each person in the large nighttime crowd held a lighted candle in honor of someone in this battle, and then at the closing of the ceremony walked the last lap.

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## Right to Privacy: Sacred or Suspect?

by Christine Berwick

The passage of the USA PATRIOT Act (short for "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism" Act of 2001) has stirred up a storm of protest over the government's power to investigate Americans without their knowledge. Many have cried out against the violation of our "right to privacy." But do we have such a right? And does the PATRIOT Act undermine that "right"?

While the words "right to privacy" are not found in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights, citizens do have a Fourth Amendment right to protection against "unreasonable searches and seizures" by the Federal government. Our founding fathers drafted that law as a response to the British predilection for barging into civilian homes. Since then, the Fourth Amendment has been interpreted to extend to "[any]where you have a reasonable expectation of privacy," according to Sierra Madre Mayor and attorney Bart Doyle.

Subsequent Federal and State legislation have defined most personal records as "confidential" – including medical, educational and financial information.

The Privacy Act of 1974 provides broad protection for citizens against "unwarranted invasions of their privacy" by Federal agencies. Other laws – from the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act to the Fair Credit Reporting Act to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act – make specific types of information confidential. And individual State legislation goes still further in providing citizens with privacy. California has, for example, strict laws regulating the distribution of both financial and library information.

However, in every case, a federal agent with a court order has the right to review an individual's "private" records. So in one sense, the PATRIOT Act does not authorize the government to see anything it could not access before. What the PATRIOT Act does give Federal investigators is the power of secrecy.

Normally, when they do a [search], they give you notice that you're being investigated," said Doyle. Under the PATRIOT Act, once Federal investigators show that the requested information is related to a terrorist investigation, they aren't required to tell the person under investigation that his records are being searched.

"You don't have the ability to go to court and argue that the search is illegal," said Doyle. "They can conduct secret investigations and you can never go to court to stop that."

Secret government investigations have always been questioned and disputed by various groups of Americans, including The Alien and Sedition Act; the legislation regarding the treatment of German-Americans and Japanese-Americans during the World Wars; and the White House "dirty tricks" scandals of the Watergate investigations. "Once the Federal government starts poking around, building files, these things start getting misused," said Doyle.

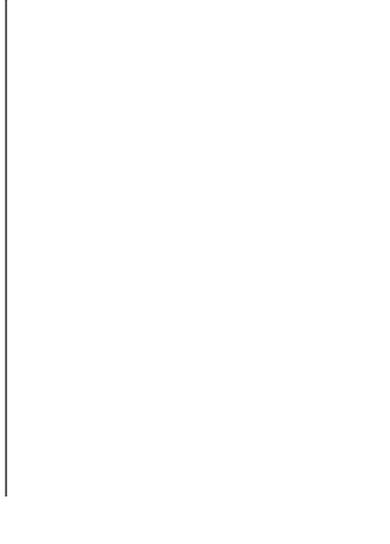
The PATRIOT Act has been a topic of discussion at the last two Sierra Madre City Council meetings. At the Sept. 8 meeting, the Council decided to draft a letter opposing the PATRIOT Act.

The decision came after the members of the Library Board of Trustees expressed their distress over the fact that library records – confidential under California law – can now be investigated secretly.

Dozens of California cities have already issued resolutions denouncing the PATRIOT Act. And this Council's letter was not merely a generalized denouncement of the Act, but a response to how the PATRIOT Act affects the way the City specifically runs its library.

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