

# *In loving memory of Carol Young*

*October 29, 1947 - December 22, 2009*



In 1997, Carol had to have emergency surgery to correct abdominal pain and her carcinoid cancer was finally diagnosed when her primary tumor was removed from her terminal ileum. Because carcinoid is an extremely rare, and often misdiagnosed, disease, it took her two years before she found another person with carcinoid. In 2000, she co-founded the monthly South Bay Carcinoid Support Group. Soon after she became involved and found great friendship, continuing education and support with the SEA4Carcinoid Group in Glendale, CA. She attended monthly meetings with both groups every chance she was able.

Over the next 12½ years she became a very active and involved patient peer advocate and educator. She spent much time, effort and energy in educating herself and others. She helped counsel over 60 people that had been diagnosed with carcinoid over the years. It was always her passion to help people and share everything that she could. She was a consummate researcher and teacher. She wanted everyone to know whatever she did – including medical doctors and nurses – she educated quite a few of them on the specifics of carcinoid. She was passionate about educating and informing people and answering any and all questions anyone, patient or professional, inquired about. Carol had an amazing aura about her. People loved and appreciated her calm, supportive countenance. She always had such wonderful insight and helpful ideas and tried to be of assistance to anyone in need. She was a consummate student of life and everything that it entailed...she was always interested in educating herself and learning everything she could...but she didn't stop there, she loved to pass along and share all of her knowledge with others.

Carol used every avenue at her disposal to fight back against this disease – utilizing acupuncture, meditation, spiritual healers, relaxation techniques, music and laughter to complement her medical treatments. She received twice-monthly injections of Sandostatin LAR, underwent three chemoembolizations to her liver and had two heart valves replaced due to carcinoid heart disease. She encouraged other 'Noids to get educated, decide the right treatment for themselves and to always be optimistic. Her positive, optimistic attitude and approach to life are what helped to sustain her and keep her strong throughout these difficult years. Carol had amazing strength and resilience and kept her optimism almost to the very end. Her can-do, fearless, jump-right-in attitude was a treasured gift that she shared with all.

Her determined fighting spirit propelled her into helping others as she courageously fought to overcome the obstacles of her disability and disease. Carcinoid is called "the good-looking cancer" and because she always looked so good and "put-together" no one really understood the true extent of her pain or the toll her disease was taking on her. Carol loved and lived life to the greatest extent that her disease allowed and was a true inspiration to many. Carol will be remembered as loving, thoughtful, knowledgeable, insightful, compassionate and kind to all who knew her. She will also be remembered for her infectious smile, loving spirit and gentle soul.

After her long and courageous battle over many years and her numerous hospitalizations in 2009, Carol eventually succumbed to the damage the years of carcinoid and its syndrome had done to her body. Although her will, her spirit and her resolve were still very strong all the way to the very end, her body finally had all it could handle. Surrounded by her family, she passed away on December 22, 2009 and will be forever loved and missed by many.