

paying \$500 and even \$5,000 to become major underwriters.

"We had 11 ladies who are not on the committee helping us address invitations," says Sandy. "We had volunteers who just wanted to help. When we explained that the only thing we do is address envelopes, they came."

While the response has been overwhelming, Sandy points out that the message of early detection of cancer through self-examination and mammograms is one that is still not reaching enough women.

"Our chief goal is to educate women to get treatment early and to learn about cancer," says Sandy. "That's why we're here. We're gearing this to educate women more than to entertain them."

When Ginny Ueberroth discov-

"I felt good about it," says Ginny, who is also involved in High Priority. "I felt I was able to help people. It's extremely emotional. It takes a lot of energy. The people who don't do well are those who don't have someone."

During her years of counseling women with cancer Ginny saw the disease take its emotional toll on several marriages. The added strain is not going to help a troubled relationship, she says. But it doesn't have to be that way.

"For a lot of couples it makes it stronger," says Ginny, who also had to convince their three daughters that she would be all right. "Peter realized he wanted me around. It shook his whole foundation. It gave us a lot to talk about."

Ginny changed her priorities. She

know where she gets it all."

For Rita, the first two years following the surgery were terrible. She was depressed much of the time. Reconstructive surgery of her breast turned out to be the first step toward recovery, she says.

"I have friends who are going through it now," says Rita, who has two grown children. "I tell them that it gets better. We laugh a lot and cry a lot. Just to be there is the best thing. It really helps when people who have been there are there for you."

Suzanne Pierce, a longtime supporter of Hoag Hospital, joined Circle 1000 three years ago. "Little did I know that I would get sick the next year," says Suzanne, who was diagnosed with bone cancer in 1988. "I'm really excited about the

greatest help."

A few months ago Suzanne volunteered to visit other cancer patients. Her first case was a former nurse. "I have the problem now," says Suzanne, noting that sometimes it's difficult for a patient to identify with someone who had cancer years ago and is considered cured. "It's not over. I'm there now. It's day to day."

Pat Cox is a real success story. It's been 19 years since the Santa Ana Heights resident underwent a mastectomy. The cancer had spread to her lymph nodes. The prognosis was not good, she says.

"People said I wouldn't be here long," says Pat, who also spent 12 years traveling to Mexico to obtain laetrile, an unorthodox cancer treatment derived from apricot pits. "I've been very fortunate."



Ginny Ueberroth



Pat Cox



Sandy Sewell

ered that she had breast cancer in 1976 there was far less public support for women going through the same ordeal. "It was not something that bothered me to talk about," says the wife of former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth. "It's hard for people to hear the word. Cancer used to be a real uncomfortable word."

Ginny was helped by a woman who came to visit her in the hospital. The encouragement from someone who had undergone a mastectomy years before made a difference. As a result, Ginny began counseling other women through Reach to Recovery. She continued the work until the demands on her time became too great due to her husband's involvement in the 1984 Olympics.

began looking long and hard at how she spent her time. Suddenly she wanted to make every day count. She says she no longer feels hemmed in by obligations. She began saying no and started doing what she enjoyed.

"The biggest change is that I always make sure I do what I want to do and not get swept up day to day in what I don't want to do," she says. "Otherwise you feel like you're in a box. I don't do that. I've tried to work real hard on that."

Rita Teller, who is married to businessman Bob Teller and is now involved in the new Heritage Point Jewish Home for the Aged, underwent a mastectomy 11 years ago. Sandy Sewell was the first person she called. "She's just unbelievable," says Rita. "I don't

new cancer center. I didn't think I'd live to see it and now it's going to happen."

Initially doctors offered Suzanne little hope. She says she had not been feeling well for a long time when she discovered a lump on her neck and shoulder. The cancer has since spread to her breasts and lungs and she has undergone chemotherapy and a series of blood transfusions.

"They gave me a death sentence," says Suzanne, thinking back to the grim day in February of 1988. "Not one doctor gave me a chance to leave the hospital alive."

Instead, Suzanne has made every effort to continue enjoying her life. It has not been easy. "I told my doctor yesterday that junk food, Mr. Ed and shopping have been the

Pat has seen plenty of other success stories over the years. There are 82 people with cancer on her prayer list, she says. Nevertheless, the thought of cancer still lingers on her mind.

"If anything goes wrong, even with your little finger, you think it's the cancer again," says Pat, who is married to Alvin Cox and is an active volunteer with Planned Parenthood. "I always tell people not to dwell on it." —JODI CADENHEAD

WHAT: Circle 1000 Founders Brunch

WHEN: 9 a.m. March 28

WHERE: Four Seasons Hotel
BENEFITS: The Hoag Cancer Center

COST: \$100

CALL: (714) 760-5919