



23845 McBean Parkway  
Valencia, CA 91355

October 2023

Dear Friend,

We all know that doing self-breast examinations monthly is important, but I started to let that slip. In July 2022, when doing my self-exam I felt a small pea-sized lump. I wasn't really sure what I was feeling. I decided to make an appointment with an OB-GYN to get their opinion. When I got into her office in late July, she was struggling to even feel this lump and dismissed it as nothing more than a fatty tissue build up. I was not confident in her response and told her that I have known my body for 57 years, where she was just now meeting my body. I knew this was something more and wanted to get another opinion.



Lisa Passamonte Green, Co-Owner of Visual Terrain and international lighting designer

I was referred to the **Sheila R. Veloz Breast Center** in August. The technicians doing each procedure in the examination room were so kind and professional, and went out of their way to make me as comfortable as possible. As I was waiting in the examination room, I felt like it was taking a long time. Anjali Date, MD, walked into the room insisting that I had a biopsy done that day. I was hesitant but she convinced me to not put this off. As I was getting prepped, Colleen, the Nurse Navigator, came into the room and talked to me about what to expect. Colleen ended up staying in the room with me, holding my hands during the biopsy. Colleen made me feel like I was with a friend and cared for in this very vulnerable moment. **I couldn't imagine doing this biopsy alone.**

A week later I received a call from my primary care doctor. I instantly knew something was wrong. We have known each other for years and he struggled to deliver my diagnosis. He confirmed what I had already suspected: that I indeed had breast cancer. In that first moment, I didn't have time to truly process what this meant for me. My doctor and Colleen both gave me a list of all the breast surgeons in the area and from the lists I found Dr. Amanda Woodworth. She was so knowledgeable and put my mind at ease when discussing my options. I was diagnosed with both Stage 1 Invasive Ductal Carcinoma (IDC) and Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (DCIS) as well as Paget's Disease of the Breast, which effects roughly 4% of breast cancer patients.

When it came time for my surgery, I found myself very lucky. Typically, when you look at having the cancerous cells removed, you would have follow-up surgeries for reconstruction. However, while Dr. Woodworth was removing 13 1/2 cm of cancerous tumors from my right breast, Dr. Tran was performing a reduction on my left breast. Once all of the tumors were removed, Dr. Tran was able to move over to my right breast and finish the reconstruction. This allowed me to have essentially three surgeries at once. I started my radiation treatment with May Lin Tao, MD, in December and ended up celebrating the holidays with the entire oncology team.

Looking back on my journey, the one thing that stood out the most was the care and compassion I received from everyone involved in my breast cancer journey, especially the staff at the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Center. From the very first moment I stepped into the office, I felt fully supported and treated with such compassion. From holding my hands during the biopsy, to helping connect me to my surgeon, and at the end of my radiation treatment, helping identify cancer support groups to attend. **I appreciate receiving all of my care right here in Santa Clarita. Please schedule your mammogram today!**

Gratefully,

*Lisa Passamonte Green*

Lisa Passamonte Green  
Grateful Patient and Breast Cancer Survivor

Colleen Audra Arevalo, RN, Breast Nurse Navigator, Lisa Passamonte Green, and Anjali Date, MD, Medical Director Sheila R. Veloz Breast Center and Senior Partner Tower Imaging Medical Group



**My journey can be summed up to this: you know your body best and when you think something is off, you should go to the best for care and treatment. I was surrounded by the most supportive and compassionate people in the field of breast health.**

**In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I am asking that you lend your support to the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Center – where every patient is cared for with compassion and every hand is held.**

**Lisa Passamonte Green**  
*Breast Cancer Survivor*

*Above: Anjali Date, MD, Lisa Passamonte Green, Colleen Audra Arevalo, RN, and Amanda Woodworth, MD Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery and Director of Breast Health Keck Medicine of USC/Henry Mayo Cancer Program.*

*Below: Lisa with her oncologist May Lin Tao, MD. Dr. Tao is a clinical Associate Professor, Radiation and Oncology and the Medical Director Keck Medicine of USC/Henry Mayo Cancer Program.*



**Please make a gift in support of the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Center and join us during the month of October at events with community partners. All of the details can be found at [henrymayogiving.com](https://henrymayogiving.com)**

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