

Barry  
[\(Log Out\)](#)  
[My Profile](#)  
[Help](#)  
[English ▼](#)  
[English ✓](#)  
[Español](#)



A Nonprofit Connecting Family and Friends When Health Matters Most

**CaringBridge**

## **Peter Klingenberg's Journal**

**Thursday, September 22, 2011 7:38 PM, CDT**

... here we go ....

A synopsis of where we are ....

After 10 months of trying to find out why Peter was experiencing so much pain, we ended up with a cancer diagnosis. Eventual chest x-ray followed by CT scan and then biopsy showed cancerous activity in the right lung, including into a few ribs.

First oncology appt was last week. The best part of which was being able to get effective pain meds - which have helped to drop his pain level significantly.

First chemo was this past Tuesday. So far so good.  
Next chemo treatment is scheduled for this coming Tuesday.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Monday, September 26, 2011 6:32 AM, CDT**

round 2 starts later today with labwork. Chemo is scheduled for tomorrow morning, and a white blood cell boost injection on Wednesday.

We have had a wonderful weekend with our friends Barry and Dagmar, who flew in from California to visit.

More later ....

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Tuesday, September 27, 2011 8:28 PM, CDT**

today was round 2 of chemo.

so far, so good. Peter is wiped - very low energy level. According to the chemo nurse, this is to be expected. She also said that most of her patients do not report bad nausea side effects, so we are keeping our fingers crossed.

Since Peter has a white cell booster injection scheduled for tomorrow, we are spending another night with our friends Roy and Elizabeth in Harker Heights. Not only does it mean we only have a 25-30 min drive to the hospital, but we also get to enjoy another of Elizabeth's wonderful dinners.

We should be home by tomorrow evening.

Thank you for all of your wonderful message postings in the guestbook.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Wednesday, September 28, 2011 5:22 PM, CDT**

We are back home.

The neulasta (white cell booster) injection was not as painful as we had been told it might have been.

Looking forward to a visit this weekend from my sister Suze and my mom, and Anna. Next week we just have a doc appt - no chemo.

We love reading all of your messages, and are strengthened by your support.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Sunday, October 2, 2011 9:26 PM, CDT**

Peter did endure a couple of days of increased pain after the last round of chemo and the neulastin injection. The chemo nurses had told us to expect that he would have some bone pain, in addition to general fatigue, due to the effects of the meds on his bone marrow. By Friday, this additional pain was backing down.

The highlight of the weekend was not only that Anna was here for homecoming weekend, but that my mom and sister Suze were here as well.

Even quick visits allow for conversations on the patio and a chance to catch up, which is always welcome.

At the moment, we just have a doc appt scheduled for Tuesday. I'll post another update after that.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Tuesday, October 4, 2011 6:53 PM, CDT**

Today was appt day.

Everything went ok. Since so far Peter has tolerated the chemo reasonably well, Dr Frankel has ordered another round. So, next Tuesday and then the following week, we'll be doing a "rinse and repeat".

This upcoming round of chemo will then be followed by a CT on Nov 1 in the morning and another appt appt with Dr Frankel in the afternoon.

I'll keep posting updates a couple times a week.

Thanks to all of you for all of your messages and support.

Time for a glass of wine and to chill for the evening.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Friday, October 7, 2011 6:03 AM, CDT**

With no chemo treatments this week, Peter has enjoyed the return of his taste buds and appetite to a more normal level.

The weather also cooperated, and we had dinner on the patio last night with our neighbors, Chris and Debbie.

The pain meds are continuing to do their job of keeping pain at a tolerable level.

It's been a pretty good week.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Wednesday, October 12, 2011 6:46 AM, CDT**

Peter had another chemo treatment yesterday afternoon. This was a single drug treatment so it didn't take too long. We expect a repeat of the increased feelings of fatigue and some loss of appetite, but hopefully that will be it. On our way home, we met our friends, Scott & Robin Nix, for dinner in Waco - an enjoyable ending to the day.

We made "cancer sucks" t-shirts for the chemo nurses last week. Yesterday, they told us that they had worn them this past Saturday when they conducted a breast and prostate cancer screening. One of the nurses told us that this was especially noteworthy since they are usually required to wear scrubs/uniforms when on duty. Who knows, we may have launched a new product line ;-)

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Sunday, October 16, 2011 5:57 PM, CDT**



Well, Peter is working on a new look - a Kojak impersonation. Once it is fully developed, maybe I'll be able to talk him into letting me take a picture to post ;- ) ... for the time being though, you'll just have to do some visualization.

Jennifer came up on Friday afternoon, and brought Juliana with her. She, Peter & Phil reviewed the work that Phil has done so far in revamping our website, while Juliana and I went to see "Dolphin Tale" in 3-D and then spent a little time on the swings at one of the city parks.

Jenn went home yesterday afternoon, and I met Katie at our 1/2 way point this afternoon to drop off Juliana, so Peter and I are getting the house back to normal and getting focused on the upcoming week.

Chemo on Tuesday, another neulasta injection on Wed and then a week off to let Peter regain some energy and appetite again.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Wednesday, October 19, 2011 6:59 PM, CDT**

Hi all,

We're back home after another round of chemo followed by a neulasta (white cell booster) injection this afternoon.

Hoping that the side effects will be about the same as last time and that his energy and appetite will start to bounce back next week.

We appreciate all of your continued support and prayers.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Monday, October 24, 2011 8:47 AM, CDT**

Not much to report. We had a peaceful weekend.

No treatments or appointments this week, so we are treading water til next week when we have a CT and doc appt scheduled.

We'll update if anything changes.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Friday, October 28, 2011 6:38 AM, CDT**

What was going to be a pretty quiet week turned out to have a fair amount of activity. In addition to the usual phone calls, letters and cards from our dear and thoughtful friends, we had a visit from Eddy & Julia, who drove over from East Texas and spent Wednesday night with us. Then, shortly after they left, we got a call from our friend Richard, who lives in Austin but had been in Dallas on business. He also took the time to drive to our house and spent several hours here. It was great to be able to sit and talk with them all.

Refocusing on life's true priorities, one of the biggest being close friends and family, is one

of the blessings that comes from facing this crisis.  
You all truly mean so much to us.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Wednesday, November 2, 2011 6:19 AM, CDT**

Another nice weekend with friends and family. Our friend Detlef flew in from Germany on Saturday for a week-long visit. Jenn & Josh picked him up at the airport and then stayed for the weekend.

He was with us yesterday for our round of appts. Labwork results were good, but ct results were not. The chemo treatments that Peter has had so far have not done anything to slow the tumors.

So, we now have an appointment with a radiologist for Tuesday of next week. Art, (our oncologist) is recommending a round of radiation treatments with new chemo at both the beginning and end of the radiation cycle. We'll know more about the specifics of that and the new schedule after the appt on Tuesday.

Keep your cards, letters, e-mails, phone calls, prayers, etc. coming - we appreciate them all ... as we appreciate all of you.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Tuesday, November 8, 2011 5:58 AM, CST**

This past weekend brought visits from Anna & Katie, Juliana and Trae. The presence of grandchildren meant that the house was upside down for a couple of days with boppies, bottles, Juliana's "office", dolls, etc. It was wonderful - and exhausting ;-)

We also said good bye to Detlef who headed home on Sunday. It was so good to have him here and we are grateful to him for making the effort to come, and to Sylvia, Manuel & Regina for being so generous in sharing his time.

We're headed to the radiology consult this morning. I'll post another update later today or tomorrow.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Wednesday, November 9, 2011 5:13 PM, CST**

Yesterday we had the consult appt with the radiology oncologist. Her recommendation was for Peter to undergo 2 weeks of radiation therapy alone - without chemo. This should allow them to administer enough radiation to reduce the size of the 2 main tumors which are causing the most pain, which in turn will, hopefully, allow Peter to back off the pain meds at least a little.

He'll start the next round of chemo after the radiation.

Also - a p.s. to my notes from last weekend - I forgot to mention that Peter's cousins Karl & Beverly Koob also stopped by for a visit on Sunday - in the middle of our grandchildren chaos.

I also did post a few of the pictures that we've taken over the last couple of weeks, so some of you who don't all know each other can put some faces to names.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Tuesday, November 15, 2011 7:48 AM, CST**

We are back in Killeen, this time for the entire week as Peter starts radiation treatments, once again appreciating the hospitality and home cooking at Roy & Elizabeth's. The hope is that by the end of the week the 2 tumors that are being targeted will begin to shrink and that should reduce his pain.

We had another wonderful weekend thanks to dear friends.

Garry & Beverly Cole (& Dusty the dog) drove over from their home in Louisiana on Friday. In true form, Beverly came with a home made butter pecan bundt cake, dirty rice and Louisiana meat pies!

It was great to be able to just sit and visit with them for a couple of days.

Shortly after they left on Sunday, Tim & Brenda Rothenbush, friends from Granbury, stopped by. They were followed by Billie & Roy Kinnard. It was so nice to be able to spend time with everyone.

There could not have been a better way to go into another week of treatments.

We are blessed by and so grateful for all of your love, prayers and support.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Wednesday, November 23, 2011 4:02 PM, CST**

Back home today after another round of radiation treatments. The radiation oncologist says that it feels as though the tumors are shrinking, even though Peter has not yet experienced any noticeable reduction in pain. She theorizes that there may be one or more fractures in the ribs that have been affected by the tumors that could be the cause of the pain. It's a little soon to schedule another CT scan - that will likely happen a few weeks from now in order to allow enough time for the radiation and next week's chemo to be fully effective.

In the meantime, since Peter's appetite is still pretty good most of the time, we will enjoy cooking and eating this Thanksgiving weekend.

Our best wishes to all of you - safe travels, happy times with friends and family and all of the good stuff that comes with Thanksgiving!

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Thursday, December 1, 2011 3:59 PM, CST**

Peter had his last radiation treatment on Tuesday. He had chemo treatments yesterday, today, and the last one, for now, will be tomorrow. We'll then head home and he should have 3-4 weeks with no treatments. The radiation oncologist is confident that the tumors that were being targeted have indeed shrunk. We are waiting to find out if there will be a ct scan scheduled within the next couple weeks, or if it makes more sense to wait until after the next round of chemo, which will probably be at the end of the month.

We were able to meet with the palliative care doc today who reviewed the pain meds that Peter is taking and has given us a new set of meds which will hopefully do a better job of keeping his pain in the tolerable zone. She has also prescribed a new one that may help to reduce the fatigue and give him a little more energy.

So far, he is still feeling ok, and still has an appetite - for which we are very grateful.

All in all we are definitely hanging in there ... and looking forward to more time with friends and family as the holidays approach.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Friday, December 9, 2011 6:52 PM, CST**

We have enjoyed a week at home with no treatments - just one trip to a nearby hospital for labwork - results were good.

The side effects from the radiation and chemo (mostly extreme fatigue with some nausea) seem to be winding down.

We are hopeful that the next couple of weeks will provide the opportunity for Peter to regain some strength and energy - not to mention enjoy more time with friends and family. The next round of chemo should be scheduled for after Christmas, with new CT scans about a week or so after that.

The kids and grandkids are all on strict orders to stay healthy and to take their vitamin C regularly, preferably with some organic herbal tea ;-)) so that they can all be here for at least part of Christmas weekend

Anna will be home on Sunday and will stay through Christmas. It will be great to have her home - and to help put up decorations.

Wishing all the best for all of you....

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Monday, December 19, 2011 6:30 PM, CST**

Just a short note to let you all know that we are doing ok. Weekly labs showed Peter's white count had dropped - pretty standard side effect from the treatments. It requires more vigilance in keeping distance from anyone who is, or might be, sick. So far we have managed to keep him from coming down with a cold or the flu.

Hoping that his white count rebounds before the next round of chemo, which is next week, Wed, Thurs, Fri.

We are looking forward to time with the kids this weekend.

Merry Christmas to all of you!

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Wednesday, December 28, 2011 10:33 AM, CST**

We hope that all of you had as wonderful a Christmas celebration as we did. We had kids and grandkids, great food, movies, popcorn and presents!

I posted a few new photos.

We are back in Temple this week for 3 more days of chemo treatments.

Here's to 2012.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Thursday, January 12, 2012 8:14 PM, CST**

Sorry for the long hiatus .... Peter had a CT scan on Jan. 3, and we met with his oncologist afterwards. Unfortunately, the CT showed that the chemo and radiation treatments have not been effective in stopping the cancer - all of the tumors are still growing.

The good news is that Peter is still feeling pretty good, and the pain meds are still helping.

We know that cancer is nothing, if not unpredictable, so we are not curling up in the corners just yet. We are working at putting a little more energy into prioritizing our lists and getting done what we can. Since taking our granddaughter, Juliana, to Disney was very close to the top of the list, that trip is now booked, including dinner with Cinderella in her castle ;-)

We'll see how we feel after the Disney trip .... and are hoping to be able to also squeeze in another trip to San Francisco.

.....

Our business is entering 2012 on a fairly positive note so far ... we are holding our breath to see if the positive trend holds out.

.....

We continue to be blessed with a strong and loving community of family and friends.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Sunday, March 4, 2012 10:24 PM, CST**

I have certainly neglected updating this site for a while ....

We have been in more or less of a maintenance mode for a while.

We took our granddaughter, Juliana, to Disney in Orlando in late Jan. In spite of the fact that she had an ear infection incubating, we still managed to get some very sweet pictures of her with various Disney princesses and characters.

A week after returning from Disney, we headed to northern California - 1-1/2 days in Napa followed by 1-1/2 days in San Francisco.

Hans & Jackie Koob were able to meet up with us in Napa, where we also were able to see friends, Barry & Dagmar.

My sister, Susanne, and her husband, Yahya, met us in San Francisco.

We pretty much ate our way through that weekend - it was very nice!.

For the most part, Peter was able to enjoy both trips.

The rest of February went pretty well - a few ups and downs, but generally, pretty good.

Unfortunately, this past week has not been good. Due to the lesions on his spine, Peter has developed spinal cord compression. The symptoms became dramatically apparent Monday

morning when Peter's ability to stand and walk was suddenly very limited.

We are currently in Scott & White Hospital where Peter is undergoing radiation treatments (5-day series that started on Friday) with the hopes of shrinking the lesions and reducing the pressure on his spine.

We plan to be back home by no later than Wednesday .... and will take it from there.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Tuesday, March 6, 2012 7:17 AM, CST**

We are still at Scott & White and Peter has been transferred to the in patient hospice program.

The effects of the cord compression along with pain levels that require ever increasing doses of very heavy duty pain meds mean that going home is just not an option. After a very rough night Sun night -Mon morning, meds have now been adjusted so that Peter's pain level is back to a tolerable level.

We were incredibly blessed to have all 5 kids + one of our grandchildren in the room all at the same time yesterday. Our extended family of friends are also making there way here. Having everyone's support is wonderful.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Wednesday, March 7, 2012 9:23 AM, CST**

We have been in a reasonable holding pattern since Monday afternoon. Pain levels are pretty well controlled. Peter is awake and making phone calls for some of the day .... not sure how he's doing that with all the pain meds running through his system! I'll keep you posted.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Friday, March 9, 2012 5:08 AM, CST**

Yesterday and last night were pretty peaceful. Peter's pain levels are still pretty well controlled and he is able to sleep.

The holding pattern continues.

We continue to have visits & phonecalls from so many friends and family.

Thank you all for being here in body and in spirit. We are blessed to have such a community to lean on,

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:37 AM, CDT**

I wish that I had something new to tell you.....

Tomorrow will be the 2 week mark for this hospital stay. Peter's pain levels continue to be

pretty well controlled.

We are managing our new reality with the ongoing support of friends, family and employees (who really fall into both of those previous categories as well) and my occasional day trips back and forth to Granbury.

Care packages of home cooked meals, Starbucks Chai and the occasional bottle of red wine from Katie, Jenn, and some of our friends who live nearby have been a great comfort ;-)  
It's a relief to not have to rely on the hospital cafeteria!

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Friday, March 16, 2012 7:18 AM, CDT**

We are still here, at Scott & White. Peter's pain is being well controlled and he is able to rest comfortably most of the time.

The support from the staff here, both "regular hospital" and the hospice team, along with our family and friends keep us going.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Sunday, March 18, 2012 4:49 PM, CDT**

We have had a peaceful Sunday that included visits from Katie with Juliana & Trae; followed by our friends Eddy & Julia; then Jennifer, Roy & Elizabeth; and Cliff & Sherry; and ending with Anna who stayed for a while before heading to Katie & Charles' to have dinner & hang out with the kids before she heads back to San Antonio.

The focus continues on keeping Peter comfortable with his pain under control. Knowing that you all are with us in body, spirit, and prayer makes the days a little easier.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Tuesday, March 20, 2012 7:57 AM, CDT**

It was a stormy night here, but we were both able to get some sleep. Peter is a little weaker and his breathing is heavier. He continues to be comfortable with his pain at manageable levels.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Friday, March 23, 2012 5:52 AM, CDT**

We are still making our way down this long, slow road. Peter's breathing is about the same, but he is sleeping most of the time. It has been nearly 2 weeks since he last ate and several days since he had anything to drink. We are amazed that he is still holding on .... although knowing him, maybe we shouldn't be! Wondering if he's holding out so he can deliver a final set of instructions to all of us. The support from family and friends continues to be as strong as ever - we are so grateful for all of you.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

**Sunday, March 25, 2012 1:53 PM, CDT**

We are home.

Anna and I in Granbury with Peter's spirit and the oh so many memories all around us. His last days were peaceful. As our granddaughter, Juliana, said, It's Opa's turn to be our guardian angel now.

We are planning a memorial service in a couple of weeks. As soon as I have things set, I will post the information here.

[Sign My Guestbook](#) [Read Tributes](#)

[Become a fan on Facebook](#)

[Follow @CaringBridge on Twitter](#)

[Find us on YouTube](#)

## **[About](#)**

[Our Service](#)

[Mobile](#)

[History](#)

[Our Mission](#)

[Careers](#)

[Financials](#)

## **[Share Our Service](#)**

[Create a Site](#)

[Visit a Site](#)

[Advocate](#)

[Tell a Friend](#)

[Share CaringBridge](#)

[Store](#)

## **[Partners](#)**

[Healthcare](#)

[Insurance](#)

[Nonprofit](#)

[Promo Materials](#)

[Request Information](#)

[Alliance Application](#)

## **[Newsroom](#)**

[News Releases](#)

[Media Coverage](#)

[E-newsletter](#)

[Awards](#)

[Ratings](#)

[Donate](#)

## [Donate](#)

[Matching Gifts](#)

[Give at Work](#)

[Fundable Projects](#)

[Planned Giving](#)

[Ways to Give](#)

[Impact of Giving](#)

## [Contact Us](#)

[Help Center](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Copyright Policy](#)

