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Between These Walls

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Sal Chiappe is a Case Manager at Moores UCSD Cancer Center, working with Dr. Sarah Blair and Dr. Michael Bouvet in Surgical Oncology. He has been a nurse for the past 23 years, but has a number of other interests, which include writing poetry, history, politics, and music. He also compiles an electronic newsletter for the Cancer Center, called Capstone, four times a week.

*Between these walls of angst and light
I saw the ghosts
Of all my fears*

*Crash upon me like tears of stone
I was surrounded by strangers
And run-away machines
Trapped in the cosmos
Of particle beams*

*My life was shrinking
And I wanted to scream
I battled to banish the ghosts
That stalked my dreams*

*In my silence
I felt the hand
Of a stranger
Who soon became a friend*

*A friend whose words
Resolute and sure
Enabled me with the strength
To embrace life and to endure*

*Between these walls of angst and light
I came here alone
Prepared to die
Yet found compassion in a nurse's eyes
I rose refreshed*

*To smile and give thanks
Knowing with certitude
That when I died
I would not die alone*

Between these walls of angst and light