



INTEGRATED CARE CENTER Room Name Recognition Biographies



Sylester “Syl” Flowers, R. Ph., an innovative pharmacist, was founder and chairman of Oakland’s Ramsell Corporation. Throughout his career as a pharmacist, scientist and entrepreneur, he was committed to full-service, community-based pharmacy and to his inner-city clients.

On January 8, 1964, he realized his dream of opening his own community-based pharmacy, The Apothecary, in Oakland. Three years later, he founded the Ramsell Corporation. He went on to own six Bay Area pharmacies, but in keeping with his belief in individually owned community pharmacies, he sold all but one of them to his managers, retaining only The Apothecary.

Beyond his many awards and honors, including being named in 2008 to the California Pharmacy Hall of Fame, Syl Flowers served on many boards, including that of Walden House, one of our founding organizations. Years later, his son Eric served on the board of our other founding organization, Haight Ashbury Free Clinics.

The Pharmacy is named for Sylester Flowers through the generosity of his son Eric, daughter-in-law Hillary, and grandchildren Zachariah, Ezekiel, and Azura.



Dr. George “Skip” Gay was an anesthesiologist in tie-dyed shirts, bell-bottoms and love beads who called San Francisco home and, with founder Dr. David Smith, helped pioneer drug treatment and free medical care at the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic.

Dr. Gay was drawn to San Francisco from Chicago by the 1967 Summer of Love music scene and set up a private anesthesiology practice. But he was so captivated by the emerging hippie culture of the city that he closed his practice, sold his red Corvette and began volunteering full time at the Clinic. A Renaissance man descended from generations of physicians, he spoke Greek, German and Latin, was an accomplished artist, and loved the Grateful Dead.

He developed techniques for treating heroin addiction at the Free Clinic – working closely with Dr. David Smith, and started Rock Medicine with promoter Bill Graham in 1973 to care for patrons at Grateful Dead and Led Zeppelin concerts in Golden Gate Park. Skip’s wife, Penny Miller, RN, preserves his legacy today as a faithful Rock Medicine volunteer provider for over 30 years.

The Rock Medicine Office is named for Skip through the generosity of his brother-in-law Edward Miller.