

A Tribute to Beth Grimes

—Ann Wilkes

I met Beth Grimes at a Redwood Writers meeting in 2004. We both raised our hands to indicate our interest in forming a critique group and pow-wowed after the meeting. What a poised and gracious lady. That's what struck me immediately. Beth and I, and a few others, shared our works with each other for many years, meeting from house to house.

Beth was born and raised in Kansas. I'll never forget her story about having to add the yellow dye—by hand—to the oleo and being sent off to school with sandwiches made with the dreaded stuff.

I wish you all could have met her. The words that only begin to describe Beth are kind, hospitable, independent, loving, charitable, and gracious. Beth cared about justice and defended the underdog. In her early years, she stood—or sometimes "sat (in)"—for them. And she drew her pen at their oppressors. Together with her husband Oz, Beth embraced the anti-war and anti-nuclear movements of the 60s to the point of getting arrested at protests on six occasions.

She didn't let age stop her. She continued to write letters to the editor or opinion articles for online outlets or the local newspaper. She also started her own blog after joining Redwood Writers.

Beth often spoke of her grandchildren. Together with her granddaughter Emma, she wrote a complete draft of a young adult science fiction adventure, *Zorkon 7*, set on another planet with indigenous aliens, marauding enemies, and dangerous bear-like animals. I hope Emma takes up the project on her own one day, because it deserves an audience. And if she's anything like her grandmother, it will truly sing.

When I asked Beth's daughter Karen what advice she most remembered receiving from her wise mother, she said that, rather than dispensing advice, her mother "led by example, by demonstrating kindness and respect to everyone. She felt strongly that we all have a responsibility to our fellow humans and to all life on the planet, especially to those who cannot speak for themselves."

Beth will be missed and remembered by many. I know that I'm a better person for having known her.



NorCal News

The **NorCal Group**, a collection of enthusiastic folks from the ten northern California CWC branches, has been formed to provide a forum for sharing among branches and promoting common interests. The group's mission is to improve the ability of branches to better assist their members along the path toward successful writing and publishing. They meet bimonthly in Oakland. All CWC members are welcome to attend. You can visit their website at www.cwcnorcalwriters.org.

The NorCal Group is currently involved in two major events: 1) The rollout of the Publishing Pathways website and 2) Planning the second annual Leadership Conference. The **conference**, planned for May 5, 2012, will focus on "The Magic of Membership" and will cover the advantages of membership and member recruitment and retention, as well as how to develop members' skills in both leadership and in their craft. Attendees will discover how to generate the vitality that makes a writers club outstanding. The conference will wrap up with a wine tasting social where members can meet people from other branches and exchange ideas.—**Mary McElroy**, RW Representative to the NorCal Group.



Publishing Pathways

The NorCal Group has created a new website to assist CWC members with publishing and marketing their work. The website publishingpathways.com contains current information regarding publishers, agents, ebooks, and the publishing process. It also provides information on how to market your work and how to create platforms. Finally, it lists valuable resources and people who can assist you with marketing/publishing.

Members who wish to access this information may do so in two ways: They may access the website directly, or they may contact the Publishing Pathways Mentor for assistance. The Redwood Writers Publishing Pathways Mentor is Mary McElroy. You can contact her at maryemcelroy@yahoo.com or by calling 707-545-5313.

Members may also offer their services as editors, speakers on marketing/publishing, marketing/publishing consultants, or providers of other services related to marketing/publishing. Members who wish to offer their services via the website should
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