

## **Ken Hogarty**

Doctor Ken Hogarty, who lives in SF's East Bay with his wife Sally, retired after a 46-year career as a high school teacher/principal. He also taught graduate classes collegiately. Since, he has had short stories, essays, short plays, memoirs, and comedy pieces published in *Underwood*, *Sport Literate*, *Sequoia Speaks*, *LYRA*, *Cobalt*, *Woman's Way*, *Purpled Nails*, *the S.F. Chronicle*, *Doubleback Review*, *MacQueen's*, *Bridge Eight*, *the Under Review*, *Word's Faire*, *Wingless Dreamer*, *The Kelp Review*, *Good Old Days*, *Robot Butt*, *the Satirist*, and *Points in Case*, among other publications. His recent novel, *Recruiting Blue Chip Prospects*, received good reviews. You can find out more about it, as well as view other published works, at [Kenhogarty.net](http://Kenhogarty.net).

## **Choice Hospital Memories**

Though prognoses among some 16 patients in our Kaiser Hospital's "chemo room" had turned dark, the room hemorrhaged light, albeit artificial. My wife Sally returned to "our station" after another long bathroom trip. Her wheeled metallic yard arm, with its IV infusion drip -- poison killing poison -- hanging like low fruit, trailed her like her breast cancer diagnosis.

A smile, however, lit her beautiful face, later seen on national TV commercials. During our third session, I finally understood why she took so long returning circuitously from bathroom trips.

She stopped to lift the spirits of patients, alone and awake.

Months later, she bled out onstage during a children's Christmas play. Sally finished the performance. I met her in the holding room before an emergency surgery.

Her blood pressure was probably lower than mine, but I intuited she was miffed when the anesthesiologist, rushing past her gurney with his head down, responded perfunctorily to her. Her last words floated in the air: "I'm a child of the '60s. Hope you have good drugs."

Sally's fiery, red-haired, female surgeon leaned in to answer for him: "No worries. We have some good shit." Laughing, my wife got wheeled into her successful surgery.