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Cover of Kathi Goldmark's Memorial Program June 25, 2012

I wasn't sure what to expect. Carolyn Gauthier and I were seated in Congregation Sherith Israel, one of the most beautiful and historic synagogues in San Francisco, dressed in our best sequins.

The invitation had said, "A Rockin' Party for the Glorious Kathi Kamen Goldmark: Sequins, Leopard Print & Vamp Attire Permitted."

During the service, we learned just how much the Bay Area lost when Kathi Goldmark passed away on May 24, 2012.

She was a truly irrepressible spirit whose ashes in a leopard-skin box were a poignant presence.

Kathi helped Bread & Roses connect with performers. Beginning in Mimi Fariña's day, staff would go to meet nationally touring performers at Sedge Thompson's legendary radio show, West Coast Live (KALW) where Kathi worked and served as co-producer in recent years. She also promoted some of our outreach events on the show.

She helped us book Frederica von Stade who performed an inspiring benefit concert for Bread & Roses in 2011. She also reached out to Nashville-based Marshall Chapman to perform a memorable show at a rehab facility. Kathi was assisting us generally in our efforts to recruit higher profile performers for our institutional shows when she fell ill with cancer.

At her memorial service, Ben Fong-Torres said that what was important to Kathi was "Live music, lots of it and many different genres." Clearly that was why she understood our mission more than most and was so generous in assisting us in various ways.

The highlight of Kathi's experience as a literary escort was organizing a legendary band ***The Rock Bottom Remainders*** composed of famous authors including

Dave Barry
and
Amy Tan
.

At the podium in a leopard skin dress, Ms. Tan said that for Kathi, having fun was paramount.

Their shows were all about

“Connecting with the audience, getting out of your skin and helping other people to get out of theirs.”

She also remembered “Kathi put the giggle in gig.”

The Remainders raised over $2,000,000 for different charities through the years.

During the service, Wesla Whitfield sang a beautiful version of “In My Life” with Mike Greensill on keyboard. At the reception downstairs, Kathi wanted a party with live music. Roger McGuinn of the Byrds kicked off the jam session playing “Mr. Tambourine Man” with members of
Los Train Wreck
. We said hello to many friends including
Kitty Margolis
, Kathleen Enright,
Bud E. Luv
and Mike Kappus from
Rosebud
.

Singer Keta Bil l and music journalist Joel Selvin were there, along with their daughter Carla Selvin. Carla mentioned she is one of three female vocalists in a new band “Garden Party” and that they will be ready for a Bread & Roses concert soon.

Carla shared that it was Kathi who first got her to sing when she was five-years-old.

Thank you Kathi for continuing to connect us with each other and to the next generation of musicians.

By Marian Hubler

We'd love to know, what is your most memorable experience of live music's connecting force?