



Craig K. Comstock

Craig K. Comstock took his last breath on March 20, leaving behind a long letter expressing gratitude for many aspects of his life. He was 80 years old. About ten years ago, he was diagnosed with a rare hereditary, progressive, debilitating disease.

Retiring to Ashland on the first day of the current millennium, Craig lived here longer than in any single previous place, including the town where he grew up, White Plains, north of New York City.

In retirement, he studied meditation with a local Buddhist teacher, took part in a small men's group associated with the Mankind Project, hosted 101 episodes of a TV show of conversations with "people doing admirable things," wrote over 236 articles for internet sites (mainly Huffington Post), and completed the writing of three books which he referred to as the "gratitude trilogy," consisting of *Gift of Darkness: Growing Up in Occupied Amsterdam* (a biography of the adolescence of a Jewish friend whom he met a half a century later), *Enlarging Our Comfort Zones: A Life of Unexpected Destinations* (memoir honoring curiosity), and *Better Ways to Live: Honoring Social Inventors, Exploring New Challenge* (social commentary).

In his later career, Craig served mainly as a coach for authors who wanted to write their own books, and earlier as co-director of the William James Center for Adult Development at the Wright Institute in Berkeley and for five years in the 1980's as director of a foundation with the single goal of helping to end the Cold War.

As a "book creation coach," he offered confidentiality to his clients, but is free to name Vicki Noble, author of *Motherpeace*, Bob Hoffman, founder of a week-long process about the patterns that we learn in our families of origin, Margot Anand, who wrote *The Art of Sexual Ecstasy*, and Paul Rogat Loeb, author of *The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear*. His own earlier books included *Sanctions for Evil: Sources of Social Destructiveness* (done with psychologist Nevitt Sanford, and published by Beacon Press) and a pair of books on peace-making, *Citizen Summitry* and *Securing Our Planet* (both with entrepreneur Don Carlson and published by Tarcher). Craig also wrote *Faculty Development in a Time of Entrenchment*, subject of an article in the *New York Times*.

His higher education included Harvard College and several graduate schools including Stanford University where he created a special program in "literature and social thought." In college, while editor of the *Harvard Crimson*, he persuaded John F. Kennedy to propose in his campaign for the Presidency, a program that eventually became the Peace Corps.

After college, Craig spent a year abroad as a Knox Fellow. Apart from Europe, he later lived in North Africa, and traveled to Japan, Russia and Central America. From 1966 through 1999 he made his home around the San Francisco Bay Area, except for a few years in Manhattan.

In his immediate family, Craig is survived by his wife, Shoshanah Dubiner, a painter, and his siblings, Kani, Bruce, and Barbara, all of whom live in Ashland.