



OCTOBER 2014

In Memoriam

Ella Yee Quan

1926 – 2014

Ella Yee Quan was born in Santa Barbara, California in 1926. Ella's grandfather came from China in the 1800's to Virginia City, Nevada where he opened a Chinese laundry, then later moved to Santa Barbara and opened a Chinese herb shop.

After high school, Ella went to nursing school for a year. She married Harry Quan. They moved to Los Angeles in 1946 where their son and daughter were born. She worked as a nurses' aide at Good Samaritan Hospital and as a typist for the Department of Water and Power in the 1950's.

In the late 1950's Ella returned to school as a part-time evening student; that was the beginning of her educational history: a Bachelor and Master's degree in Education and an Elementary and Adult Teaching Credential from California State University at Los Angeles; a Secondary and an Administrative Credential from Mount St. Mary's College and a Bilingual Cross Cultural Credential from the University of Southern California.

Ella's long and illustrious career in education began in 1964 and ended with her retirement in 1989. During those years she served as teacher, assistant principal, and principal in seven schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District, from Chinatown's Castelar School to Kenter Canyon Elementary in Brentwood. Of special interest was the K.E.Y.S. (Knowledge of English Yields Success) Project which was eventually adopted statewide. She developed bilingual materials for teaching English to non English-speaking Asian students of Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, and Samoan descent.

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Ella Quan and Susan Dickson at the recently acquired CHSSC headquarters at 411 Bernard Street in July 1996.



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Ella Yee Quan Continued

Ella's community involvement has included being a den mother and scout leader (Pueblo district); Chaperon, Cabinet Officer of the Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps; President of the Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps Parents Auxiliary; Coordinator of the Chinese Language School; Co-Chairperson of the Lotus Festival; Editor of the Chinese New Year Souvenir Book (for 11 years). She was on the Chinese New Year Committee, Los Angeles Chinese Chamber of Commerce from 1974-1989. In addition to other activities, Ella Quan has been a Board Member of Services for Asian American Youth; Asian Rehabilitation Services; Council of Oriental Organizations; and a member of the Asian American Educators Association and the Asian American Education Commission Task Force.

Ella Quan was a panel Committee Member of the California State Legal Compliance Commission for Curriculum materials; coordinated the Chinatown New Year Carnival from 1965 to 1988; was Founder and President of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California; co-edited *The Golden Years 1938-1988* (Los Angeles Chinatown 50th Anniversary Publication) and co-edited *Gum Saan Journal*, an annual publication of the Chinese Historical Society.

Ella Quan made a significant impact to the society and her community, her presence will be missed. She is survived by sister Mary Young, daughter Cynthia Quan-Trotter, son Richard Quan, daughter-in-law Virginia, grandchildren Matthew, Andrew, Megan, Christopher, Joshua and Sarah Quan. The family wishes to have a private ceremony (immediate family only).

Condolences may be sent to the Quan's home:
321 Avenue 64
Pasadena, CA 91105

Donations may be made in her honor to San Gabriel Presbyterian Church or the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California.



Silent auction cooks: Cy Wong, Irvin Lai, Ella Quan, Marji Lee, Susan Dickson



6th Annual Chinese American Conference at University of San Diego, July 1999
Franklin Mah, Ella Quan, Susan Dickson, Marji Lee and Irvin Lai



Susan Dickson, Ella Quan, and Peggy Wong in 2000