

Return to Ying Wa

Standing right next door to Ying Wa's beautiful new building is a small, three-storied yellow house. I lived there for 12 years in the 1960s and 1970s when I was teaching mainly English and also Religious Education and a little Music at the school. On 13 April, I attended the Prayer Meeting and saw that the house is still there! This made me think of the importance of remembering history while embracing the present and looking forward to the future.

During the past 35 years, I have been living in Shanghai with my Shanghainese husband, George Wang. Therefore, I have had the privilege of visiting Hong Kong and, of course, Ying Wa quite often. I am happy to see it going from strength to strength with each new generation of staff and students.

Betty Barr
Teacher (1957-1972)



曾陪伴我成長達13年的母校，煥然一新，建築設計創新和獨特，外牆巨型校徽刻着「寸陰是惜」，以及課室內的木書枱，都勾起我無限的回憶。

陳純潔 ('65)

新校舍的建築設計富現代感，時尚之餘卻仍保存了大家舊有的回憶。寬敞的空間高聳半山，讓人盡覽維港的美景。

衛智文 ('95)



陳純潔 (左) 與女兒衛智文 (右)

戚惠敏 ('77) 覺得新校舍設計獨特、新穎，但依然仍能保留一些舊有建築，覺得很有意義。希望師妹們更能青出於藍。



阮永怡 ('95) 覺得新校舍很美觀，煥然一新，富有時代感。

程嘉妍 ('05) 感覺很奇妙，亦很感動，新校舍建築宏偉，希望母校日後孕育出更多優秀的學生。



葉靖霖 (4C) 及林悅宜 (4D)* 雖然懷念滿街美食的深水埗，但十分欣賞新校舍的環境，尤其是從圖書館往外觀看盡覽無遺的開揚美景，感覺十分舒適。羅便臣道校舍比深水埗校舍大得多，需要上上落落來回課室、禮堂、籃球場等，但相信大家很快就會適應的了。

(* 出席崇拜時的班別)



▲ 一眾校友會助理協助登記及售賣紀念品



▲ 關翰章校長分享搬進新校舍的挑戰



▲ 校友會詩班落力獻唱

2019 年校祖日 崇拜暨周年晚宴



▲ 一些 1970 年以前畢業的校友和海外校友共聚一堂

一年一度的校祖日崇拜暨周年晚宴，已於今年3月29日星期五假灣仔合和中心7樓薈軒順利舉行。當晚有超過250位校友、老師，以及嘉賓出席，亦是新校舍落成後的首個校祖日，反應熱烈。

晚宴開始前，校友會先舉行周年大會，由校友會主席徐慧珊 ('90)，以及一眾校友會執委報告過去一年的會務。當日亦通過了一項修改會章的特別動議，使校友會執委可由過往連續出任不超過三屆變為四屆，而可出任要職的次數亦由終身兩屆改為三屆，有助校友會的長遠規劃發展。與此同時，新一屆校友會執

委也在選舉中誕生。

當晚的重頭戲，莫過於由關翰章校長分享英華校舍重建計劃的最新進展。關校長播放了新校舍的短片，提及搬回羅便臣道的點點滴滴，不時有驚心動魄的情節出現，但在神的帶領下終能排除萬難，如期於三月正式入伙，為同學提供一個空間更寬敞、舒適和設備更齊全的良好學習環境。

晚宴現場更有各式精美紀念品售賣，每位參與者都滿載而歸！

程德盈 ('05)、葉曉睿 (6C)



Dr. Barr

Sonja Chan '31

Congratulations to Miss Betty Barr, our English, Religious Education and Music teacher, 1959-1972, on having successfully passed her oral defence for her PhD degree at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, in October 2007. Her field is Cultural Studies and her thesis was an ethnographic study of a small group of foreign women, wives of CEOs and diplomats, in Shanghai in 2005. She looked into how the women made sense of Chinese culture in that particular context.

Miss Barr has a word of encouragement for us: "Age is not an obstacle if you have interest and determination. Turning 70 is just another milestone. Don't give up if you also have a dream to fulfill." She now lives in Shanghai with her husband, George Wang.

喜與百歲人瑞合照



欣逢李麗婷老師百歲大壽，李清詞牧師、陳嫻英、霍恬士、校友會副主席黎育輝及李老師親友同往卓健屯門護老院為她獻上祝賀。李麗婷老師早年於英華教授初中美勞，已於七十年代退休。



葉王易安 副校長

葉翠雯 '03

無論是甚麼行業，被訪者都總會被問到當初為什麼會投身於此，答案或許會是興趣，又或許會是更好的挑戰，但最特別的還是「其實當初也不是自己選擇投身這行業的，一切都是緣份吧。」

於英華執教鞭的機緣

葉王易安副校長於1975年加入英華這個大家庭，而在英華服務了三十多年，將於下個學年退休，回想起當初投身英華這個大家庭，原來是始於前任校長周馬佩堅女士，「那時快開學前一位老師臨時請辭，周校長便打電話給正在修讀博士學位的我，然後，一教便是三十多年。」筆者聽到這個答案，第一個反應是攻讀博士似是要向研究學問的路發展，與教書是截然不同的範疇，為什麼葉副校長最後會選擇留在英華？「學生是最大的扯力讓我留在這裡吧，所以第一班任教的學生也是最難忘的，特別是學生受教，這是對我最大的支持和鼓勵，相信這就是與英華的緣份吧。」葉太本身在香港大學攻讀植物病理學的博士研究，在處理行政以前一直任教中三至中七的生物及中四、五的人體生物。

從前線到行政的改變

如果當初是學生令葉副校長留下來，那現在擔任的是支援的行政工作，如果能再選擇，葉副校長會是留守前線還是為前線老師做好行政支援呢？「我想如果真的可以再選擇，我會較喜歡留在前線，因為在前線教書，能享受互相學習以及和青年人相處的關係。」那現在葉太可有任教任何班級呢？「每星期中一、四及五班的聖經堂，當然難以和從前的課堂比較了，不過現在的行政工作都是很好的，因為有一班好同事一起努力，所以我還是很感恩的。」

享受每一天在英華的日子

由當初突然執起教鞭到放棄博士學位，在英華春風化雨三十載，退休後的葉副校長最想做的會是甚麼呢？副校長的回答正如筆者對她多年的印象---恬淡安寧。「如平常心，萬事都有開始到完結，每人都有不同經歷，若是開心，每天都是在享受人生。只有不喜歡一件事你才會想放下，然後希望有新開始。」筆者因為副校長這番話而感動不已，是因為享受每天的日子，所以離別不會是難過的事。「離開不代表失去回憶，但我會珍惜與學生的相處，同事間一起工作互相支援體諒。英華是一種文化，是前人的心機，所以是不會忘記的。」筆者深信學生的一句話，同事間一句的鼓勵都是英華留給副校長的最快樂美好的回憶，也藉此衷心感激葉副校長多年來對英華的貢獻。

尊重別人，表達自己

對於英華同學，葉副校長希望她們不要怕錯，要「Be proud of your views」。勇於表達自己的意見，同時也要有批判精神，更要有包容的心，接納別人的意見，互相討論才能有所進步。同時要充實自己，擴闊視野才能讓自己在這個講求實力應變力的社會中佔一席位。行萬里路出外交流當然可以擴闊視野，但這不是唯一的方法，「身在香港這個福地，機會是自己爭取的，好像通過互聯網就可以漫遊古今中外，又或者多看課外書也是增長知識的好方法，不過也要懂得選擇，要有要求和品味，選擇閱讀材料，只要肯就一定能找到機會的。」

雖然只是短短一小時的訪問，但筆者卻是獲益良多，再一次感謝葉副校長在百忙中抽空接受訪問，祝願葉副校長身體健康，身心康泰。



A Tale of Two Hearts:

Shanghai Boy Shanghai Girl by George Wang and Betty Barr

Shanghai has always had its fair share of fame, glory and class. Right now, it is the center of economic boom in China, boasting opportunities that make Hong Kong envious. Betty Barr, born to a missionary family in Shanghai, was a teacher for 13 years at Ying Wa until 1972. Her quiet life took unexpected turns since leaving Ying Wa. In this book, the struggle and triumph of George, her husband, as Shanghai Boy, and her equally compelling story as Shanghai Girl, unfolds. Betty Barr shares her reflection on this book with us below.

"What makes me happiest about this book is that George's story of his childhood in a poor, working class family in Shanghai has at last been published. He wrote it more than ten years ago and we sent the manuscript to a number of publishers but without success. We think it is an important story for Western readers, in particular, because it describes the depths and desperation of poverty which, as one of our readers has written, are usually hidden from Western eyes.

Since the book is about our two parallel childhoods in Shanghai and it ends in 1949, our later lives are mentioned only in Afterwords to explain how we eventually got together. My thirteen happy years in Hong Kong at Ying Wa are therefore mentioned only in passing but I hope that my Ying Wa connections will not take that to mean that Ying Wa was not important to me. It was – and still is. And I hope that this book will help them to understand China as it was in the 30s and 40s – and is today.

To find out how your former teacher found romantic happiness at the age of 51 – through correspondence between Scotland and Shanghai – you will have to read the book!"

Betty Barr



To order the book, please contact Shirley Cheng at YWGS Office, Tel. 2546 3151

A Letter from Miss Thomas



I taught history at Ying Wa Girls' School for four years until I left in 1971. I retired this summer, having taught in at least nine different schools during my career spanning the UK, HK, and South Africa.

I met my husband, John, in Hong Kong, where he worked on the Plover Cove Water Scheme, and we were married in London in 1972. He has been a civil engineer and management consultant and his work has taken him to many parts of the world, with the result that we have lived in New Zealand, and in Lesotho in southern Africa. In New Zealand of course we had the pleasure of being able to spend much time in the company of Miss Margaret Moore and I also renewed my friendship with Mrs Joyce Yao Ho – both being former Ying Wa teachers whom readers might remember.

Other former Ying Wa colleagues with whom I am still in touch include Miss Margaret Pilkington and Mrs Daphne Beale in UK, and Miss Betty Barr who now lives in Shanghai. I still have the pleasure of hearing at Christmas from Wong Mo Wah and Tang Ping Yee, alumnae of Ying Wa, and John and I have tremendously appreciated the friendship of Yung Wai Yee, our bridesmaid in 1972. John and I visited Hong Kong at Christmas 1996 and one of the memories which I shall greatly cherish was a lunch of Ying Wa alumnae.

One advantage of retirement is that one can set one's own targets. One of mine is to keep in touch with good friends made at Ying Wa and my hope is that the school and its alumnae will continue to flourish as they have done in the past.

Miss Thomas (Mrs Margaret Davies)

A Letter from Miss Moore



Miss Margaret Moore from New Zealand, our Geography and History teacher, taught in Ying Wa from 1964 to 1974. Her wavy short hair, twinkling eyes, and the fast pace she walked around the school are well remembered.

Since leaving Ying Wa I've been doing lots of different things! I came to Auckland with my mother (my father died in Hong Kong at the end of 1969) and taught geography, social studies, etc for 13 years. After my mother suffered a bad stroke in 1985, I had to change from full time to supply teaching. Then, after she died in 1992, I took a five-month trip to visit friends and relations in Hong Kong and Britain before returning to Auckland to teach English as a Second Language, which I have been doing ever since.

I have fond memories of the Exploration Club which I started. I enjoyed taking the group to more out-of-the-way parts of Hong Kong that they

would otherwise not visit. I remember one occasion when we walked around the western end of Lantau Island, beyond Fan Lau fort, aiming to catch the last ferry from Tai O (before the days of the road there). The villagers coming the other way kept telling us we would miss the ferry. I decided to run the last part, jumped onto the boat crossing the stream and called to a policeman just as the ferry was about to leave. He delayed the ferry a few minutes rather than face the prospect of housing 20 or so young girls & a mad foreigner at the police station for the night!!

It was fun to join in the 30th anniversary party of the 1972 graduation classes in October 2002. Ruth Lee (the present principal and my former student) also kindly showed me around Ying Wa. The new library and computer facilities are most impressive. My best wishes to all my former Ying Wa colleagues and students.

Miss Margaret Moore

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