

It is with deep sadness that we remember Ms Winnie Yau Ping Wai (邱秉維老師) ('59), who peacefully passed away on 27 December 2024. Born on 26 April 1941, Ms Yau entered Ying Wa Girls' School in September 1953 at Primary 6 and completed Form 7 in 1961. After two

years of teacher training at Northcote Training College, she began her teaching career at Ying Wa, where she dedicated herself to education until her early retirement in 1996. Following her retirement, she emigrated to Canada, where she continued to embrace life fully.

Ms Yau was more than a teacher; she was a cherished mentor, advisor and friend to countless students. Her passion for Mathematics was matched only by her love for her students. Her classroom was a place of encouragement, laughter and growth.

Beyond academics, Ms Yau was actively involved in various school organizations, including the Christian Fellowship, Student Council and Inter-house Committee. She inspired students to embrace their potential and cultivate their leadership skills, emphasizing the importance of community and service.

After emigrating to Canada, Ms Yau continued to live life to the fullest, engaging in line-dancing and maintaining her vibrant spirit. Her joyful nature and unwavering faith touched everyone around her, leaving a lasting impact on the lives she encountered. She was also a key figure in establishing and running the Alumnae Association Chapter in Toronto, fostering connections among graduates and promoting a sense of community.

The funeral service for Ms Yau was held on 31 December 2024, at the Chapel Ridge Funeral Home, where family, friends and former students gathered to celebrate her remarkable life. Attendees reflected on the joy and wisdom she brought into their lives, sharing heartfelt memories and bittersweet laughter. A memorial website (<https://www.forevermissed.com/winnie-cheung-yau/about>) was also created for paying tributes.

Ms Yau's legacy as a cherished educator and her unwavering faith will continue to resonate within the Ying Wa community. Her involvement in the Alumnae Association Toronto Chapter fostered lasting connections among graduates, ensuring her spirit of camaraderie thrives.

As we honor her memory, let's carry forward her dedication to education, community, and service. The Ying Wa family will forever cherish the impact Ms Yau had on our lives.

Ms Yau to Many, Mom to Me In Remembrance of Ms Yau Ping Wai, Winnie

Amy (Cheung) Greger ('86)

As the youngest of three siblings and the only daughter, I had the privilege of attending Ying Wa Girls' School (YWGS), where my mom, Winnie Yau, was known as "Y" or Ms Yau. My dad, Wilson Cheung, was a dedicated social worker. Both of my parents devoted their lives to helping others and nurturing the next generation, leaving a lasting impact on their communities.

Mom studied at YWGS, returned as a teacher, and supported it after retirement. YWGS was truly my mom's life.

Attending secondary school where my mom taught had its challenges. I was often referred to as "Ms Yau's daughter" by both students and teachers. Mom always knew if I got in trouble! Nevertheless, I cherished my time at Ying Wa and made lifelong friends. I also fondly remember lunch visits with my grandma, sometimes bringing dishes from Home Economics class.

It wasn't until my mom's funeral that I truly grasped her influence on my life. As I listened to tributes from her former colleagues, friends, and students, I realized how much she shaped me. Her passion for helping others and building communities was something I inherited. I dedicate time to volunteering for causes I support and working to build communities. My work ethic and commitment to service are values instilled by my parents, and I am proud to carry on their legacies.

I was fortunate to be blessed with parents who were remarkable individuals who dedicated their lives to making the world better. Their legacy lives on in the countless lives they touched. I am forever grateful for their guidance and the profound impact they had on my life.

To honor Mom's legacy at YWGS, a memorial scholarship has been established. Please consider donating via this [link](#) to support "The Ms Yau Ping Wai Memorial Scholarship."



Three Generations of Strong Women: Amy, Aunt Lily, Aunt Annie, 婆婆, and Mom



A young family in 1972: Daniel, Mom, Dad, Amy, and Raymond



2013 Alaskan Cruise: Celebrating the 50th Wedding Anniversary and Dad's 80th Birthday

In Loving Memory of Mrs Cheung Yau Ping Wai, Winnie

Chau Ma Pui Kin Katherine ('55)

When I rejoined Ying Wa in 1972 to serve as Principal, I met a young teacher who greeted me with a broad, cheerful smile. Her warm and friendly gestures soon dispelled my nervous uncertainty of settling in a totally new working environment. That was my first impression of Winnie.

Over the years, we worked closely as colleagues as well as friends. She was always resourceful and quick to find solutions to all kinds of problems, a great support to me as I gradually acquired experiences in dealing with administrative matters.

My sudden attack of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) in 1986 left me almost completely paralysed for two weeks. Many teachers immediately came to help by organising a committee to look after the daily running of the school, some offered medical advice, some rendered personal service. Winnie was one of those who took me to physiotherapy sessions. She even bought me clothing for RA patients. I was deeply touched by her thoughtfulness.

Winnie served Ying Wa with total dedication as a teacher and alumna. She was an efficient organiser/coordinator of Toronto Alumnae Association functions. Her annual visit to Hong Kong to attend Ying Wa's Founder's Day service was a sound evidence of being “身遠心莫離”. She made use of any available chances to raise funds for her alma mater, e.g. by donating all her 70th birthday monetary gifts to Ying Wa's Redevelopment Fund.

Her unfaltering faith in God was an inspiration to her students and friends. She played an active role in her church and 105 Gibson Centre in Toronto, and was most eager to raise funds for them whenever possible.

When I visited Winnie and her husband at their home in January 2023, both of them seemed to be in reasonably good health. It was shocking to know that her heart ailment turned out to be leukemia in November that year, and Wilson's sudden demise in January the following year was another sad blow. Winnie's courage and ready acceptance of these “disasters” were truly admirable.

Winnie's passing is a sad loss to us, yet we give thanks to God for her life and works, and her loving generosity to her family and friends. She will always be fondly remembered.



Ms Yau (3rd from the left) with Ying Wa colleagues in 1985



Ms Yau (2nd from the right) with Ying Wa colleagues in 1989



Ms Yau (top row, 3rd from the left) with Ying Wa colleagues in 1990



Ms Yau's 70th birthday Thanksgiving party, with husband, granddaughter and Ying Wa colleagues



Mrs Chau visiting Ms Yau and her husband in 2023



Ms Yau and Mrs Chau

Thank you, Ms Yau

Chow Siu Fung ('82)

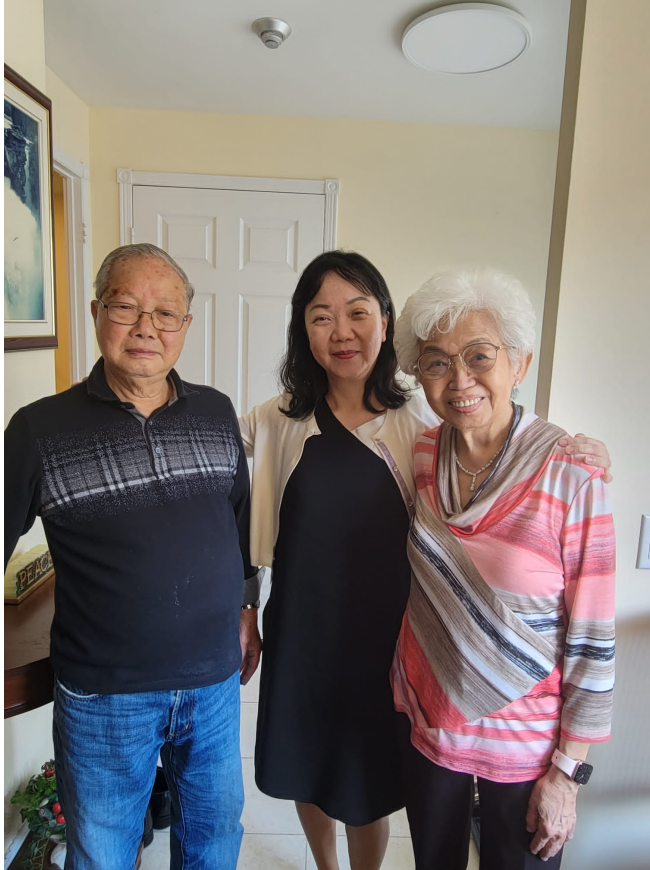
I am writing this message to honor the profound impact you have had on my life. You taught me Religious Education during my time in S1, and I will always remember the Bible game where we learned to locate verses. Your reaction when some of us considered giving up was a pivotal moment for me; you expressed your anger and disappointment, teaching us the importance of respecting the Bible — something I carried with me long before I embraced Christianity.

Years later, in the 1990s, I returned to teach at Ying Wa, and had the privilege of re-establishing our acquaintance before your retirement to Canada. Your cheerful smile and boundless energy, always complemented by new and creative ideas, left a lasting impression on me.

Even after your retirement, you kept the school close to your heart. During times of crisis, you were among the first to reach out, offering support and encouragement. Your understanding and trust in us provided the strength and resilience needed to face challenges and painful moments.

I fondly remember visiting you in the summer of 2023, when your health started to decline. It was a wonderful afternoon spent chatting before the alumnae gathering. Through our conversation, I learned about your and Mr. Cheung's deep devotion to church and your commitment to educating the younger generation. I cannot forget your gratitude and steadfast faith, even in the face of uncertainty regarding your health. Your hopefulness, even after Mr. Cheung's passing a few months earlier, reflected a strength anchored in God. You have truly been a living example of Christ's love.

Thank you for being an extraordinary teacher, a mentor and an advisor. Your influence has shaped my journey in ways I will forever cherish.



Visiting Ms Yau and Mr Cheung in August 2023

懷念我的良師益友

徐慧珊 ('90)

開始結緣

Ms Yau 是我中一的數學老師，對於來自中文小學的我，要用英語來學習數學並不容易，但令我印象最深刻的，是三角幾何的一課，重重複複的看著那些三角形，其實我覺得很沉悶，但 **Ms Yau** 卻不厭其煩的反覆給我們解說。回想起來，其實是為我以後的數理學習，打好了穩健的基礎！（後來我也成為數學及物理老師啊！）

就讀中六時，我擔任學生會幹事，**Ms Yau** 是其中一位顧問老師。當時，顧問老師們總是給我們很大的自由度去安排活動，就是我們有比較「大膽」的建議，只要我們能給予充分的理由，她們都會跟我們一起「冒險」，這也成為了我日後擔當學生會及其他課外活動顧問老師時的原則，願意讓學生去嘗試，給她們空間去發揮和成長。

當老師成為同事和好友

我大學畢業後的第一份工作，便是回英華執教，在 Ms Yau 退休前成了同事。由於 Ms Yau 的座位就在我前一排，所以經常都會跟她聊天說笑。她總是很照顧我這位小師妹，有吃的玩的總把我帶上，然後她退休時，連她負責的部份職務也交給我這位新手老師，實在很感激她的支持和信任。

Ms Yau 退休後不久便移居加拿大，雖然我跟她共事只有短短一年，但她每次回來總會預先跟我和一些相熟的同事約好見面，還有她的重要日子，像結婚紀念、大壽，都會預上我的份兒。她不在香港的日子，我們也會互相通訊息聊天，不論生活、英華、信仰，甚至社會情況都無所不談。

澳門之旅

2019 年初跟 Ms Yau 閒聊，她告訴我打算回香港，跟同屆同學慶祝中五畢業 60 周年，剛好我也分享了較早前去了澳門，於是她便邀請我跟她的同學一起去澳門，作為她們的紀念旅行，順便照顧一下她們一班「老人家」。2019 年 4 月 10 日早上，我們一起乘坐金巴出發，先去了澳門半島的馬禮遜墓地和附近的地方，又一起吃葡國菜，最後去了氹仔住宅博物館和買手信。一整天裡，各位師姐都十分精伶，健步如飛，走得比我還要快。邊走邊聽著她們分享在英華的日子，還有很多趣事，她們對英華的愛，以及對彼此友誼的珍惜，都令我很感動。感激 Ms Yau 讓我跟她能渡過這開心又難忘的一天。

別了，我捨不得您

2024 年 12 月 26 日我和家人去澳門遊玩，到了東涌準備乘坐金巴，當日 and Ms Yau 一起的情景仿如昨日，在澳門不同地方逛著，總是讓我想起 2019 年之旅的點滴。到氹仔的時候，突然感到扎心，想著或許沒有機會跟 Ms Yau 再來一次了。27 日晚上回程的時候，就收到了 Ms Yau 離開了我們的消息。或許在我鼻子一酸的一瞬間，正是我的心在跟 Ms Yau 道別了。Ms Yau，我捨不得您！您的笑容、您的信心、跟您共渡的愉快時光，都會一直留在我的心中！



1995 年，我 (左一) 因為聖誕聯歡表演而穿上校服，跟 Ms Yau (中) 合照



1996 年攝於舊校舍 4 樓天台花園



2019 年澳門之旅

Our Hidden Talents

Che Kwai Ying, Kristine (車桂英) ('70)

I have known Ms Yau for over half a century. Our first encounter was in 1967 when Ms Yau became my F3 class mistress. Over the years, I immigrated to Toronto, and so did Ms Yau. We met regularly at our Alumnae Association (AA) annual dinners. She played a pivotal role in connecting us with our alma mater in Hong Kong. Her signature smile closed the gaps, both age-wise and status-wise, among all of us.

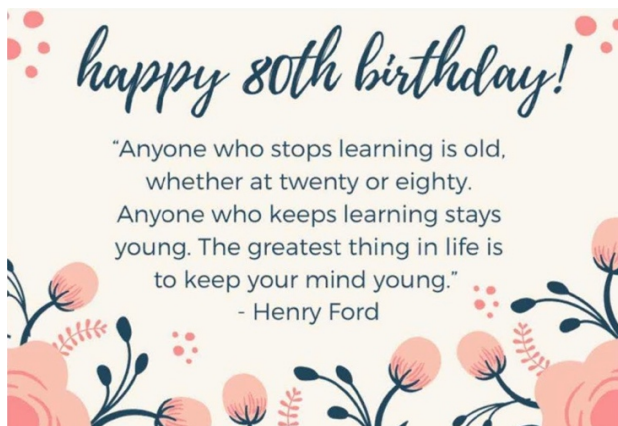
COVID-19

It was in 2021 when COVID-19 was in full gear and people all over the world were homebound that Ms Yau invited us (Class of 1970) to form a committee for YWGSAA (Toronto). She wanted to initiate a Zoom meeting in February to bring our alumnae together to support each other during this time of utter uncertainty. She would invite a doctor, a former YW student, to speak on mental health. Realizing the importance of physical wellness during the lockdown, she would demonstrate exercises that we could do at home. Zoom was a novelty at the time, and we were just relieved when the meeting successfully finished.

80th birthday celebration on April 30, 2021

Soon after, Ms Yau let us, the committee, know that her 80th birthday was coming up in April. She had this ritual of celebrating her significant birthdays when she turned 50, 60 and 70. She would like a Zoom meeting with her family and friends to celebrate her 80th birthday. Easy job, we readily nodded, not knowing what we would be getting into. 😊

We thought it would just be another Zoom meeting: setting up the link and password. After a couple of meetings, we started to realize the magnitude and complexity of work involved. We were literally in a boot camp, busily attending crash courses on Zoom technology.



Opening page of the Zoom birthday party

Lofty Goals

There would be 10 groups of attendees: the Yau family, the Cheung family, friends from school, colleagues from teaching, friends from Hop Yat Church.....

She divided her life into 4 phases: childhood, student, teacher, and retirement. She wanted to have a photo album set up reflecting these phases with her narrating on the side. When she showed us her picture albums, we were bewildered: hundreds of hardcopy pictures. After many rounds of meetings, she agreed to reduce the number of pictures to a manageable size and these pictures were scanned and arranged accordingly.



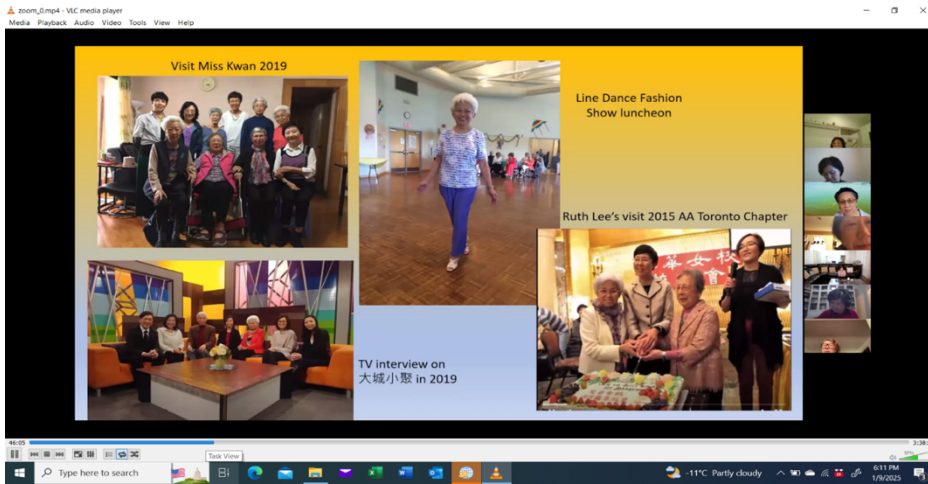
There would be video clips: her granddaughters playing a piano recital, her son and daughter-in-law singing a duet, her friends and colleagues saying a few words....

There would be live interviews with Mr Wilson Cheung (Ms Yau's husband), Ms Barr in Shanghai, and Rev CC Lee in Hong Kong...

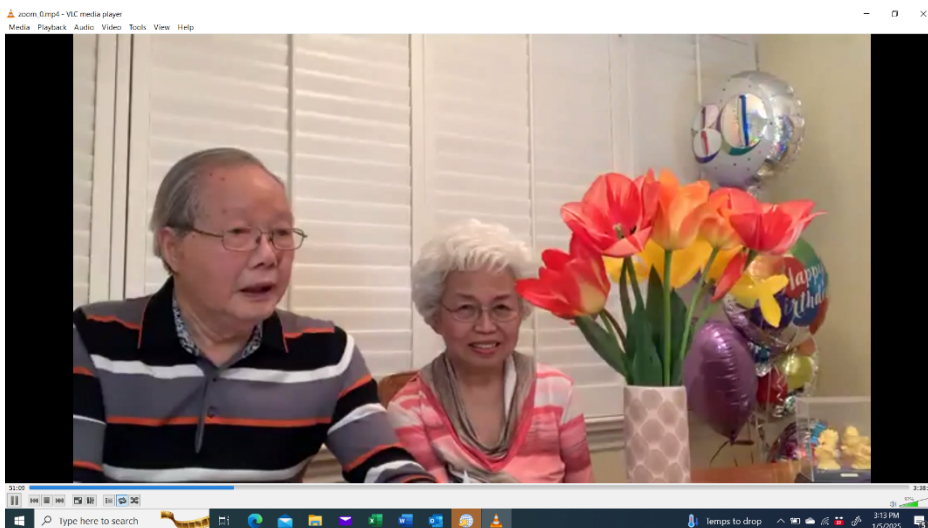
Ms Yau and Rev Lee had the same birthdays. Therefore, both Ms Yau and Rev Lee would like to be in the spotlight, celebrating their birthdays live on screen.

Ms Yau would like to meet all guests and have a picture taken with each group at the end of the meeting. One of us would escort her from one breakout room to the next to do PrintScreen.

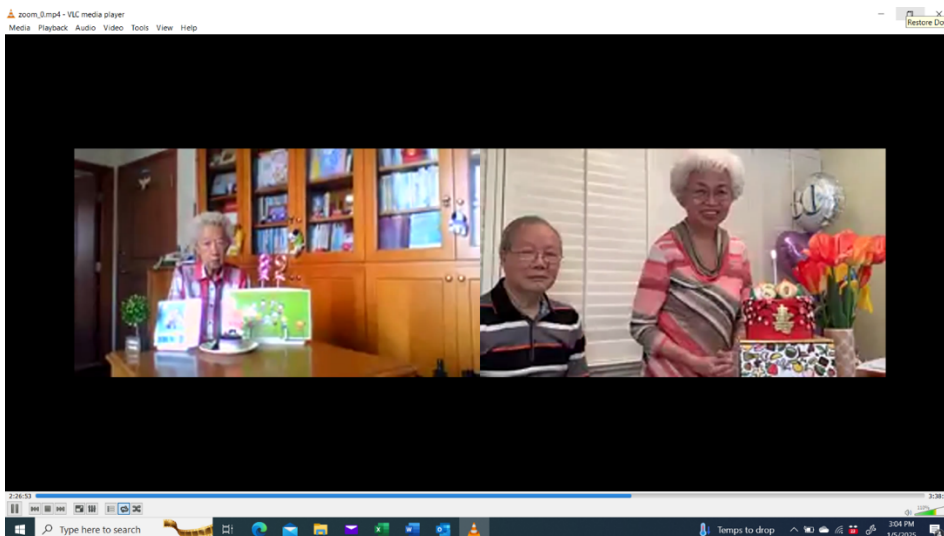
We were overwhelmed by the number of 'fans' who wanted to JUST say a few words. In the end, we had to put in a time limit; otherwise, the meeting would never end. 😊



Ms Yau narrating on her retirement life



Mr Wilson Cheung speaking about their 50+ years of marriage



Rev CC Lee and Ms Yau sharing a split screen to celebrate their birthdays

Tight schedule and lack of technical skills

As you can see, the four of us (the AA committee) were all turning 70. Modern technology was not our forte. While we felt challenged, we were determined to help Ms Yau continue her landmark birthday celebration ritual.

We were fortunate to collaborate with her church and the 105 Gibson Centre. The virtual birthday party took place on April 30, 2021, successfully, with an attendance of more than 200. We would like to thank them wholeheartedly for their unwavering support and help!

The meeting, originally scheduled for 2 hours, lasted for 3.5 hours.

Afterthought

In retrospect, this 'production' was phenomenal, but we did it. We are just glad that we had this opportunity to work closely with Ms Yau. Witnessing first-hand her relentless learning has greatly inspired us. To say that she was resourceful was an understatement. No doubt, she was a leader in the true sense of the word. She knew exactly what she wanted, and was way ahead of her time and peers.

Ms Yau, you have a special place in our hearts. We thank you for the opportunity of knowing you and working closely with you. We will miss you. RIP.

Hello, Miss Yau

Elizabeth Yip ('71)

Getting to know you

My name is Elizabeth Yip (Liza) (葉潔華), but you always called me Eliza. I first met you in 1967 at the morning assembly in the gym of the YW old campus on Bonham Road when I was a new student of Form II. I was not your student during my high school years, but your warm and friendly smile left a mark in my heart.

After emigrating to Toronto, Canada, we often met at the Alumnae Association Annual Dinner gathering. You, a dedicated mentor, and an advisor of the Toronto Chapter of the Alumnae Association, were popular. I really got to know you better and better when Caroline Kwok Fei Ying ('68), Irene Hui Yuen Yin ('71) and I visited you at the Shepherd Terrace Senior

Residence on January 1, 2024. We spent a joyful afternoon together, laughing, chatting, and reminisced about our good old days at Ying Wa. Later on, you moved into assisted senior living at Amica in Unionville, which was just a 10-minute walk from my home. Since then, I had the opportunity to visit you frequently.

Mother-Daughter

The time we spent together was cozy and genuine, feeling like we were mother and daughter. You would work on your phone, while I prepared health drinks and fruits for you. Your many friends and students brought you lots of healthy and nutritious food and snacks, so you never ran out of them. I also accompanied you to your appointments with a herbalist doctor in Scarborough, until you decided not to continue. Did you remember the first time we decocted Chinese medicine in your bathroom? The pot we used was not large enough, so when the herbs and water were boiling, they spilled over and made a mess. From then onwards, I would prepare the medicine at home with a stockpot, and bring it over to you. Even when your health started to deteriorate, and you were losing your appetite, you still tried your best to finish the food prepared for you. I really admire your virtue of not wasting food.

Class of 1971's Reunion at Amica

You were super excited when we, Class of '71, arranged a gathering for our reunion at Amica's function room on July 24. As usual, you were dressed smartly in colour coordinated white T-shirt with a light blue jacket. You also had your hair styled at the in-house salon. We spent a joyous afternoon together. There was a total of 19 participants at this event, including you, Miss Lily Chow, and local and overseas alumnae from the 1960s joining us.

Till we meet again

I last visited you in the morning of December 24, but unfortunately, you were asleep. I did not want to disturb you and left shortly. I planned to visit you again on December 27. However, when I switched on my phone that morning, I saw the sad news that you had just passed away. I was sad at first, but then I knew where you had gone and you would be enjoying your new life with your Lord.

I told you once that you were God's reply to my prayer as I was uncertain about my future before my retirement in March 2024 – my new assignment is you. Miss Yau, a temporary farewell to you until we meet again in the Lord's home. I am honoured to have this opportunity to accompany you throughout 2024.



Ms Lily Chow visiting Ms Yau with a DIY birthday card



Ms Yau cutting her birthday cake



Caroline Kwok Fei Ying ('68) bringing YW gifts for Ms Yau



From left: Wendy Poon ('76), Elizabeth Yip ('71), Ms Yau and Livia Lo ('75)

永遠懷念 Ms Yau

趙鳳儀 ('77)

Ms Yau 是我中二的班主任和數學老師，十三、四歲的我，見到衣著優雅，又不老套落後，常常面露笑容的她，很容易令人想親近，既尊敬又崇拜她。

我在多倫多校友會服務近十年，和 Ms Yau 接觸的機會多了，發覺她很有活力，永遠 Go Go Go，家庭、教會、line dance 和英華的事令她的日程排得滿滿，很忙碌，真是退而不休，多姿多彩。

就校友會而言，Ms Yau 是大家的永遠名譽顧問、精神領袖，很自然便可以凝聚各人，是在校友會事務上的背後推動力。

母校要原址重建，需要大量籌款時，我驚訝於 Ms Yau 的人際網絡，遍及世界各地校友，她也認識，如數家珍。很多次，有遠遊計劃的外地校友由於 Ms Yau 的關係，順道到多倫多參加校友會的聚餐。本地的校友，她全部也認識，真是不得不佩服她的交遊廣闊和記性。

在 Ms Yau 的帶領和提議下，我們的校友會兩次超標，籌得超過十二萬加幣，在新校舍捐出兩個房間，是一個令人意想不到的數目。

在 Ms Yau 身上，我們真真正正認識到校歌中的「身遠心莫離，英華女校」，她用超過六十年的時間，服務英華，可說是用一生去貢獻，將這一句校歌，發揮得淋漓盡致。

現在 Ms Yau 和丈夫在天家重聚，雖然我們有不捨，但更多的是美好回憶，有幸認識。在 Ying Wa girls 心中，Ms Yau 永遠就是 Ms Yau，地位無可替代。

Forever in Our Heart, Ms Yau!

悼念邱秉維老師 「春風化雨 薪火相傳」

保慧思 ('91)

當我得知邱秉維老師 (Ms Yau) 病重時，一如眾師姐妹，心裏忐忑不安。後來噩耗傳來，我更是悲痛莫名，腦海裏盡是從前與 Ms Yau 相處的點滴。當我看着紀念網站 (<https://www.foreverMsed.com/winnie-cheung-yau/about>) 上的留言時，我更渴望去認識，去了解 Ms Yau——我最尊敬的師長。

Ms Yau 在英華就讀小六至中七，從羅富國教育學院畢業後便回母校任教至退休。她常以身為英華女兒而自豪。在 2024 年 12 月 31 日的安息禮拜和上述紀念留言裏，我才知道她不單熱衷教學，還經常勇於接受挑戰。她曾任教宗教、科學和數學，並帶領基督徒團契。還記得她曾因擔任學生會的顧問及與王權老師籌組公民教育小組而自豪。

Ms Yau 是我們中四、中五的班主任，教我們數學。面對我們這班對數學充滿挫折的文科生，她總耐心地、溫文爾雅地列舉例子和講解題目，令我們重拾學習數學的自信。放假時，她還邀請我們到她在則仁中心的宿舍相聚，一起分享她的家庭趣事，一起玩樂。當時的快樂情景仿如昨日，至今老師的音容猶在，我還沉浸在她的關懷和親切之中。

我素來知道 Ms Yau 對教會充滿熱誠，在今次的安息禮拜裏更知道她是一位善牧。她曾向家人、親友和學生傳道，她對傳道的熱忱實在令人敬佩。Ms Yau 退休移民到多倫多後，與丈夫張振邦先生積極參與華人基督教會事工和擔任 105 Gibson 中心的義工，週末還以中文任教數學課。她退而不休，生活多姿多采。據吳克定牧師所說，Ms Yau 那份良善忠誠的態度和對教會的熱切支持深深感動了他，謂她真的做到了“Don't count the days. Make the days count.”。

還記得 Ms Yau 曾在英華的早會分享她喜歡的一首詩歌《神未曾應許》，她分享歌詞的一字一句，特別以「神卻曾應許……危難有賴，無限的體諒，不朽的愛。」去勉勵我們。當她患病時，她一如當日的分享，全心信靠主的慈愛和眷顧，信德堅強，沒有動搖，對生命充滿熱誠、感恩。Darwin 牧師 (Ms Yau 的姨甥) 勸勉教友仿效 Ms Yau 的善良，繼續為教會出力。校友也分享 Ms Yau 退休後積極統籌校友會多倫多分會工作，為母校籌款，力行「身遠心莫離」的精神，成為我們英華女兒的榜樣。

願我們承傳 Ms Yau 那份慷慨無私、積極樂觀的精神，熱愛生命，熱愛教會，熱愛母校。共勉之。



1963 年，Ms Yau 在羅富國教育學院畢業後便回來母校任教



The Staff — December 1964.

1964 年 12 月的教師合照：Miss Silcocks (第一行 右六)、Miss Jenkins (第一行 左六)、Ms Yau (第二行 右六)



Ms You 和家人慶祝其結婚 60 週年和丈夫張先生 90 歲生日



吳克定牧師分享 Ms You 最喜愛的花生漫畫 (此圖摘自 Pinterest)



Ms You 在通訊軟件中經常使用的貼圖