

Remembering Lillian

by Barbara Bruxvoort

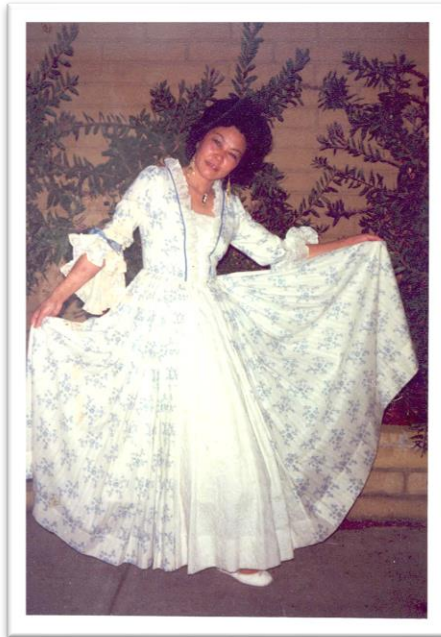
I was asked by my friends from both Lakeside Presbyterian Church and Changs International Folk Dancers to write something about our beloved Lillian Eng.

As I was thinking about what to say, so many flashes of memory, mental pictures, and actual pictures float to the surface. What I notice most as I remember this journey are these common threads: passionate enthusiasm, persistence, and faithfulness. In all of these, Lillian was fierce. She fiercely shared the things that gave her the most joy. She wanted everyone – from lifetime friends to people she had just met – to share in her joy.

Lillian held on tight to the people and activities she loved. She persisted in sharing, no matter what. She brought family and friends to both church and to dancing over the years. In my case, she brought me to dancing. Once upon a time, Lillian, my husband Joel, and I were singing together in the Lakeside Church choir back in about 1991 and Changs Folk Dancers was starting up a beginners' class. She wanted us to come to the dance class. She often told us how much we would like it. As part of her campaign, she started to teach me an advanced dance, the Vrtielka Czardas, [pronounced VRATELKA CHARDAHSH].... in the choir room of a sister church.... right before a joint concert.... while we were already in our choir robes. This scene always makes me smile. After several years, I did learn the dance and it was a privilege to be her partner.

She never missed a chance to share in other people's interests. She showed my youngest child how to crochet. We once talked about gardening, and before I knew what had happened, I was at her house learning how to take oregano cuttings.

True to her history as a costume designer and dance performer, Lillian always was well dressed for all occasions and loved it when others were also. It was a deep disappointment to her when women started wearing pants to dance events instead of the



Lillian Eng in 1976.

colorful, swirling skirts that she loved. Her favorite purple shawl made many appearances at Changs' events and she would dress stylishly from coat to shoes for church on Sunday.

Her faithfulness to the lifetime friends she made was an inspiration. She would visit church and folkdance friends who were down or needed help with the same commitment she showed to sharing the activities she loved.

Her persistence in attending dance events, family celebrations, and Lakeside church carried her through into great old age, past challenges that would be insurmountable for many. We were so blessed to be able to dance with her through this journey.



Rest in peace, Lillian, and in her spirit, let us all go and share our passions and joys with our families and with our friends – the ones we have now and ones we have not yet met.