

## **Barbara Ring**

Almost 90 when she passed away, Barbara grew up during the Great Depression and WWII, often sharing stories of food ration cards and metal collection for the WWII effort. She met her husband in high school and after his service in the Korean War, they started a family. In typical Barbara fashion, she simultaneously raised three young children while completing a Bachelor's degree and her Teaching Credential. Her career as an elementary school teacher had just begun when tragedy struck with her husband's sudden passing. Thereafter she balanced her teaching career with the demanding challenge of a single parenting, PLUS she continued her education! By a stroke of good luck, Barbara's University Counselor asked her "to practice writing up an application" for a PhD fellowship at USC, and she was selected out of 60 applicants, eventually adding "PhD" to her name.

As a teacher, Professor of Special Education, School District Psychologist, Education Consultant, and parent, Barbara spent her entire career helping children. She was a fierce advocate for both gifted and disabled children and her commitment to service extended to volunteer work for numerous civic organizations. Barbara traveled extensively as well. Many people don't know she was also a competitive pistol marksman at one time and completed the Laguna Beach Citizen Police academy.

MENSA was a beloved centerpiece of Barbara's life. She traveled to MENSA gatherings every year. When in foreign countries, she stayed with MENSA members and hosted them at her home. Her powerful intellect and good humor made her Annual MENSA Hanukah Latke parties in Portland one of the premier events of the year. So many people came that her floating home on the Columbia River would start to tilt!

She loved her life in Portland, often stepping off her back porch into her kayak for long paddles up the river while bird watching and enjoying nature. Every few years she would hire a tug boat and have her home pulled out of its mooring, rotated, and then put back in so the views from every window would change. She also found time to take her children on family camping trips each summer in the Pacific Northwest, across the deserts of the Southwest, and to visit the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C.

Leaving the icy winters of the Pacific Northwest, Barbara ultimately moved to Laguna Beach. Her early interests in learning were focused on journalism and literature. So too, her activities in AAUW focused on her avid interest for reading and book discussions. Even in her later years, though dealing with physical limitations, Barbara earned our admiration by often hosting our

book discussions and providing an elaborate lunch beforehand. She regularly participated in our recent Zoom book discussions as well.

We will miss Barbara's thought-provoking inquiries and comments as well as her indomitable spirit!