

Educator and Churchwoman

Beloved Educator Taught French on TV

Eleanor Kormann Bingham, known in the Washington area for her work as a teacher of languages and interfaith activities, died on December 30th in California at the age of 97.

Born in New York City in 1908, Mrs. Bingham graduated from Hunter College at age 19 and began her lengthy teaching career at Tilden High School in New York. After moving to Washington, D.C. in 1947 with her husband, the late Alfred J. Bingham (Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland), and children, she taught French at Mrs. Cook's School now the Sheridan School. In 1952, under the auspices of the D.C. Public Schools, Mrs. Bingham created an innovative program of French lessons for children and appeared weekly on television for a year. Later she helped develop the FLES (Foreign Languages in Elementary Schools) program in Montgomery County. During the years 1954 to 1968, Mrs. Bingham taught in the Montgomery County Schools, first at Woodlin Elementary, then German at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School where she was affectionately known as "Frau Bingham."

Volunteer and community activities included the League of Women Voters in the 1950s and, after her retirement, Church Women United of Greater Washington, of which she served as President. A particular focus of her energies was interracial and interfaith understanding. For almost fifty years Mrs. Bingham and her husband were devoted members of the First Baptist Church of Washington, D.C. and its music and community outreach programs.

Eleanor Bingham is survived by her sister, Elsie Stahl of New Jersey; her brother, John Kormann of Chevy Chase, Md; two

daughters, Rosalind "Bunny" Smith of Takoma Park, Md. and Diana Earley of Chicago, Ill.; grandchildren Deirdre and Liana Smith, and Sean, Jonathan, Aaron, and Noah Albrecht; and twelve great-grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will take place on Saturday, January 28, 2006, at 10:30 AM at the First Baptist Church of Washington, 16th and O Streets, N.W.

Contributions may be sent to Habitat for Humanity, 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA 31709 or the First Baptist Church/ Eleanor Bingham Memorial /Child Care, 16th and O Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.