



Yvonne Yao
4/1/1927 to 4/11/2017

Yvonne was born and raised in Guiyang, China. Her early college education was in chemical engineering at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou. She and her future husband were schoolmates in China together with our fellow residents here at SRC, Mae and CK Liu. After teaching mathematics in a high school in Taiwan, Yvonne emigrated to the U.S. in 1952. She returned to graduate school at Lehigh University, PA where she received her Ph.D. in physical chemistry. She wanted to get her advanced degree in chemical engineering but in those days was not allowed to do so since she was a woman. She also did two postdoctoral years at Lehigh and Brooklyn Polytech before joining the research staff at Ford Motor Research Labs in Dearborn, MI. Both she and her husband worked at the Ford Labs for 25 years before they retired to become "gentleman farmers" in Santa Rosa, CA. Before moving to SRC, Yvonne lived with her husband in Rossmore Community in Walnut Creek where he died seven years ago. The Yaos had two sons.

Yvonne has traveled on all the continents. Music and reading are two of her favorite pastimes.