



FOREST HOME CHAPEL

is among Ithaca's earliest Christian Fellowships, and from the beginning served as a broadly ecumenical church which affiliated with the United Methodist Church in 1915. The Chapel welcomes all who seek a church community whose worship and service affirm the spirit of Christ. We encourage you to join us for 10:00 am Sunday morning services, and welcome your participation in mission projects, theological discussions, choir, and social fellowship. Our scale is small but our outlook is broad.

www.foreshomechapelumc.org

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At the time of her death in 1973, Pearl Buck had published over 70 books. She was active in American civil and women's rights movements; established Welcome House in 1949 which to date has assisted in the placement of over 5000 children; founded the East and West Association, dedicated to cultural exchange and understanding between Asia and the West; and set up the Pearl S Buck Foundation which provides sponsorship funding for thousands of children in half-a-dozen Asian countries. 🌸

OUR THANKS to our occasional neighbors, John Foote and Kristin Rupert, for both initiating and following up on today's program.



PEARL BUCK'S CORNELL YEARS:

**A Bridge Between her Life in China
& Here in the United States**



Saturday, November 1, 2008

2:00 PM

**Forest Home Chapel
Ithaca, N.Y.**

Pearl S Buck: A Brief Biography

The 70th Anniversary of Pearl S Buck's Nobel Prize for Literature has presented this opportunity for Forest Home Chapel to celebrate and learn more about the third American and first American woman to win this prestigious prize.

This Chapel has an historical connection with Pearl Buck. When she and her first husband, John Lossing Buck, came to Ithaca in the mid-1920's, they lived in our parsonage for 6 mos and elsewhere in the community as well. John received his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Cornell in 1933 and Pearl received her MFA in 1926. Using information gleaned from her years in China, Pearl's MA thesis formed the basis for her novel, The Good Earth.

Both John and Pearl were raised in China by missionary parents. Pearl spoke Chinese and English, and though she spent most of her life until 1933 in China, she did make occasional trips back to visit family in West Virginia and to attend college. She met Cornell graduate John Buck in 1915; they married in 1917 and relocated to rural Anhui province. It was in this impoverished community that she gathered material to use in her stories about the real people of China. The subsequent tragedies and dislocations which Pearl suffered in China in the 1920s also served as material for her books.

While Ms Buck began publishing stories and essays about China in the 1920s, it was her second novel, The Good Earth, that became the best-selling book of both 1931 and 1932, and won a Pulitzer Prize and adaptation as a movie by MGM. She was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1938 "for her rich and truly epic descriptions of peasant life in China and for her biographical masterpieces."

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PEARL BUCK'S CORNELL YEARS: A Bridge Between her Life in China & Here in the United States Lecture by Valerie Smith



Today's presenter is Valerie Smith, avid historian and docent at Green Hills Farm, Pennsylvania, the longterm home of Pearl S Buck. Valerie's talk is enriched with material from her recent Buck Footprints Tour, visiting significant sites in Pearl Buck's life in China. In 1976, the Smith family adopted a Korean son from Welcome House, the agency founded by Pearl S Buck in 1949. Valerie met and was inspired by Ms Buck almost 50 years ago, and since then has taught three of Ms Buck's great-granddaughters in school.

ALSO with us today is Allison Lossing Buck, granddaughter of John Lossing Buck and his second wife, Lomay Chang. A senior in Theater Arts at Cornell, Allison and her father, Paul, also took the Footprints Tour. While in China, Allison and her father attended a symposium at Nanjing Agricultural University where a portion of the activities was devoted to Dr Buck's work there. Paul was invited to speak about Dr Buck's life and career after he left China in 1944. On behalf of the Pearl S Buck Foundation, Allison spoke about her grandfather for the opening of a new museum site in Kuling at a symposium in Ms Buck's name.

PHOTO: Pearl S Buck with a Welcome House child in the 1960s; courtesy of <http://www.english.upenn.edu/Projects/Buck/tour.html>

 **PLEASE join us for a reception downstairs after the talk.**