

In 1950 she started the French National Committee whose president she remained until 1977.

She was the author of publications on education and directed a French educational Review for about thirty years.

She was a Commander of the Legion of Honour and a Commander of the Lebanese Order of the Cyprus.

She will be remembered as a woman of action, untiring in her commitment, an excellent organiser, talented speaker and a warm and engaging personality.

Simonne Combebias
Secrétaire Générale du CFEP

Paulette Tripotin
Trésorière du CFEP

Madeleine ABBADIE
Présidente du CFEP

Hélène GILABERT
Vice-Présidente du CFEP

Mes chers Amis,

Ayant incidemment appris le décès de Mme Herbinière-Lebert, j'ai immédiatement téléphoné à la Présidente du Comité Français qui vient de me confirmer cette triste nouvelle. Mme Herbinière est décédée le 11 octobre 1985.

Ainsi en peu de temps, l'OMEP vient de perdre plusieurs de ses membres les plus valeureux. Bien que le très grand âge de Suzanne Herbinière-Lebert et le déclin de ses forces depuis plusieurs années nous avaient en quelque sorte préparés à l'annonce de sa disparition, cette nouvelle constitue néanmoins un douloureux événement pour l'OMEP en raison de la très grande place que Mme Herbinière a tenue dans la création, l'organisation et le fonctionnement de notre organisation pendant plus de 30 ans.

Ses engagements dans des entreprises d'envergure internationale avant même la création de l'OMEP, son puissant dynamisme et son rayonnement personnel faisaient d'elle un membre exceptionnel de notre organisation. Il n'est guère d'endroits où je passe, où l'on ne se souviennent avec admiration de son propre passage.

Par son don si particulier de parole elle était comme une bannière claquant au vent car elle portait toujours très haut les couleurs de l'OMEP.

Au moment de sa disparition nos pensées émues saluent sa mémoire avec affection.

Je remercie la Présidente du Comité Français, Madeleine Abbadie, qui fut pendant si longtemps sa fidèle collaboratrice, de préparer pour le Journal de l'OMEP une notice sur l'œuvre de notre chère et regrettée Présidente-Fondatrice.

M. Goutard
Présidente Mondiale

Dr EVANGELINE WARD

1920-1985

OMEP Members throughout the world will be shocked and profoundly saddened by the news of the sudden death of Dr Evangeline Ward of U.S.A., whilst on a visit to Australia.

Dr Ward had been invited to be a principal speaker at the Australian Early Childhood Association Triennial Conference in Brisbane, where she presented two notable papers and participated in workshops and seminars. She made a tremendous impact and her paper 'Educating Young Children for Peace' had been considered the outstanding contribution at the Conference.

Whilst in Melbourne, Dr Ward lectured on the themes 'Educating Teachers for 1985 and Beyond' and the next day she went to Canberra to take a seminar there, intending to return to Melbourne and then travel to China and Japan the following week. Two days later, without any warning, the unbelievable happened, and Dr Ward collapsed and died from a cerebral haemorrhage.

A simple funeral service was organised in Canberra to which some of Dr Ward's Australian friends managed to attend at very short notice, and there will be other services arranged in the USA later.

In addition to being one of the two Elected Members of the Executive Committee of OMEP, Dr Evangeline Ward chaired the Resolutions Commission. She had been responsible for the revision of the Handbook, and also served as a member of the Nominations Commission. Currently she had been working on a forthcoming publication tentatively entitled 'OMEP Directions, 1968-86' which was to coincide with the 40th Anniversary of OMEP to take place in Prague in 1988.

Dr Ward's period of office on the Executive Committee was remarkable for the amount of work that she accomplished, and her great ability, clarity of thought and expression in all the projects that she undertook. Her

intellectual achievements in the US were many, and she was a brilliant lecturer, presenting her subject in an original and compelling manner. Whatever work Dr Ward engaged in, it was always completed ahead of time, and her opinions were not lightly given, but carefully considered.

The first international meeting Dr Ward attended as a member of the US National Committee, was in Warsaw in 1977, and she was at every one held subsequently, often chairing workshops and working extremely hard at all the extra tasks which fall on members of the Executive Committee. At the same time she enjoyed to the full, the activities and events organised by different National Committees, and took every opportunity to learn about the country she was visiting and absorb something of its culture and history.

Dr Evangeline Ward was probably one of the best-loved members of OMEP, and had a warm and spontaneous manner and gift for friendship which endeared her to everyone. It will be hard to imagine OMEP meetings without her charming and courteous presence, always helpful, always constructive, and a gracious representative of her country.

The great tragedy for OMEP is that Dr Ward, having taken early retirement from Temple University, Philadelphia, was preparing to stand as a candidate for more responsible office on the Executive Committee. This would have enabled her to devote her time and intellectual brilliance to further the work of OMEP, in which she wholeheartedly believed.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are extended to her family, her many colleagues and friends, in this great sorrow which has overwhelmed us all.

Gillian Beddington

OMEP Representative to Unesco
Member of the OMEP Executive Committee
Melbourne, Australia
October, 1985

**Lettre aux Membres de l'OMEP de Madeleine Goutard,
Présidente Mondiale**

Vendredi le 18 octobre, 1985

Mes chers amis,

C'est avec une profonde tristesse que je vous fais part des nouvelles que j'ai reçues de Mme. Beddington. Notre chère amie Evangeline Ward est subitement morte par la suite d'une hémorragie cérébrale, le 11 octobre en Australie, où elle venait de faire plusieurs conférences en

réponse à une invitation du comité australien.

La morte d'Evangeline est une grand perte pour l'OMEP car c'était un des plus brillants, compétents et assidus de nos membres. Elle aurait encore pu beaucoup contribuer à nos activités et elle nous manquera fort, autant pour son amitié que pour ses talents.

En hommage à sa memoire, le Comité australien publiera les trois discours qu'elle a fait dernièrement en Australie. Nous tiendrons tous beaucoup à cette publication, bienqu'aucune publication ne fasse valoir son remarquable talent d'oratrice.

Au nom d'OMEP je voudrais remercier le Comité australien et la Vice-Présidente Régionale Marian Clegg pour avoir représenté l'OMEP aux funerailles organisées à souhait de la famille.

Dans une lettre à Dr. Joyce Huggins, j'ai exprimé notre angoisse et nos condolences au Comité National des Etats Unis qui a perdu un de ses membres les plus valeureux.

**Carta a los miembros de la OMEP de Madeleine Goutard,
Presidente Mundial**

Viernes, 18 de octubre de 1985

Queridos amigos/as:

Con profunda tristeza os comunico la terrible noticia recibida de Mrs Beddington: Nuestra querida amiga Evangeline Ward ha fallecido repentinamente de hemorragia cerebral el 11 de octubre en Australia, donde acababa de pronunciar varias conferencias en respuesta a una invitación del Comité Australiano.

La muerte de Evangelina es una gran pérdida para la OMEP, pues ella fue uno de nuestros más brillantes, competentes y dedicados miembros. Podría haber contribuido todavía muchísimo a nuestras actividades, y notaremos su falta con tristeza, echando de menos su amistad tanto como sus talentos.

Como homenaje a su memoria, el Comité Australiano publicará las tres recientes charlas que dió en Australia. Todos nosotros guardaremos como un tesoro esa publicación, pero desgraciadamente ninguna publicación será capaz de hacer justicia a sus singulares dotes de oradora.

En nombre de la OMEP, expreso mi gratitud al Comité Australiano y a la Vicepresidenta Regional, Marian Clegg, por haber representado a la OMEP en los funerales, que han sido organizados con arreglo a los deseos de la familia.

En carta al Dr. Joyce Huggins he expresado nuestro profundo pesar y solidaridad al Comité Nacional de Estados Unidos, que acaba de perder uno de sus miembros más valiosos.

from Madeleine Goutard, World President

My dear friends,

It is with the deepest sadness that I forward to you the terrible news received from Mrs Beddington. Our dear friend Evangeline Ward died suddenly from cerebral haemorrhage on the 11th of October, in Australia where she had just given several lectures, responding to an invitation from the Australian Committee.

Evangeline's death is a great loss for OMEP because she was one of our most brilliant, competent and devoted members. She could have still contributed very much to our activities and we shall miss her sadly, missing her friendship as much as her talents.

As an homage to her memory, the Australian Committee will publish the three recent speeches she gave in Australia. All of us will treasure this publication very much but unfortunately no publication will be able to give justice to her remarkable talents as a speaker.

In the name of OMEP, I express our gratitude to the Australian Committee and to the Regional Vice President Marian Clegg for having represented OMEP to the funerals which have been organized according to the wishes of the family.

In a letter to Dr Joyce Huggins, I have expressed our deep sorrow and sympathy to the National Committee of the United States which is losing one of its most valuable members.

Note: A Memorial Fund in Evangeline Ward's name has been set up by the US National Committee. For information contact USNC President, Joyce Huggins.

From: Bettye Lewis-Underhill, U.S.A.

Expressions of shock, sadness and disbelief at the sudden death of Dr Evangeline Ward of the USA poured into the office of OMEP United States National Committee President, Joyce Huggins from all over the world.

The request was made of me that this be a review of "Van's" professional life and so it is. But the words of love and loss and appreciation for the woman that Van was must come first.

From former OMEP President, Margaret Roberts, 'She will be much missed by all those who knew her, worked with her and appreciated her many gifts — her warmth and her energy and her lively mind, her sincerity and her compassion, all attributes the world so badly needs.'

From Janis Blakey of Canada, 'Personally, I shall never forget Evangeline's wonderful smile and the endearing way in which she made all of those around her feel comfortable and welcome. She left a very deep impression on me and I shall always treasure the time I spent with her.'

From Audrey Curtis from London, 'She was such a dynamic personality, full of enthusiasm and zest for living. OMEP has lost a loyal and committed supporter and the children of this world a true friend.'

My own sense of loss of a dear friend, colleague, and on many occasions, a fellow conspirator has been overwhelming. She gave me strength and encouragement as she did to everyone who knew her. She justified the definition of a "true leader" as one who achieves her goals by helping and inspiring others to do the things they do best. I miss her!

But what of Evangeline Ward? What did she do in the 65 years of her life that prompted such sadness and feelings of great loss in so many? Dr Ward believed in people and spent most of her life serving young children. She was a professor of Early Childhood at Temple University where she inspired graduate and undergraduate students to be the best that they can be. Van's students number in the thousands and are located around the world and across the United States. Many of them were at the Memorial service on November 1st in Philadelphia.

She first appeared at an OMEP International meeting in Warsaw in 1977 as a member of the U.S. National Committee and attended everyone after that. One of her special pleasures was to learn all she could about the country she was visiting and absorb something of its culture and history.

Personally and professionally Dr Evangeline Ward was a very special person. The loss of her leadership will be sorely felt for many years partly because of her personal warmth and partly because of all those things she planned on doing but didn't have time to do.

Evangeline had a dream! Let us follow in her footsteps and "EDUCATE YOUNG CHILDREN FOR PEACE!"