



## Ruth Steffan Bell

November 16, 1913 - December 31, 2014

Ruth Steffan Bell was born in Haddonfield, New Jersey, and spent her childhood in Los Angeles, eventually attending Manual Arts High School there. She finished high school in Palo Alto, her father having taken an editorial position at Stanford University Press; and while an art education student at San Jose State College, met and married Stanford graduate Havrah Bell.

The couple spent most of their life in Oakland, then moved to Santa Barbara in 1987, not long after the death of their younger son, Douglas Bell of San Francisco. In the later years of her long life, and after the death of her husband in 1988, Ruth Bell became Cottage Hospital's oldest volunteer in point of age, and one of the oldest as to hours of service (over 8,400 hours), known especially for the sense of color and design she brought lovingly to the making of cradle quilts, just as she had to homemaking.

Mrs. Bell is survived by her son David of Orland; by grandchildren Mark Bell of NY, Lauren Bell of Lebanon, PA and Adam Bell of Eugene, OR; by great greatgranddaughters Kateri Schappert and Bridget Bell of New York and Sofia Bell of Eugene; and by great great grandchildren Michael, Carson & Charlotte Schappert of New York.

# Cemetery Details

## Santa Barbara Cemetery

901 Channel Drive  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
(805) 969-3231

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JAN 13. 1:00 PM (PT)

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901 Channel Drive  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
(805) 969-3231

# Tribute Wall

CG

“ Dear Family of Ruth Steffan Bell,

*Our prayers are with you at this time of death for your dear Ruth. Ruth is a blessing to countless people. At the Music at Trinity afternoon community outreach concert series, Ruth shared her gracious presence, and welcomed people. She new the multi-generational background of so many people. She was connected with so many people in our community because of her dedication to service.*

*David Gell at Trinity Episcopal Church was so appreciative of Ruth.*

*With condolences,  
Carolyn Gell*

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**Carolyn Gell** - January 14, 2015 at 06:04 PM

VA

“ *I will miss seeing Ruth at the Nordstrom Cafe. I have worked there 5 years and she was my most favorite "regular" customer. Although we had not seen her in awhile, I always enjoyed seeing her in the afternoon and would sit and chat and listen to her talk about her day at the hospital or other stories of her past or of her family she was so proud of. One of my fondest moments was once during fiesta she came to lunch wearing a beautiful spanish dress and jewelry that had been a gift to her many years earlier. She even twirled for me so I could see how pretty it looked! She was a beautiful, kind, and joyful lady and I will miss having her brighten my day at the cafe.*

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**valeri** - January 14, 2015 at 12:58 PM