

Women of LAUSD

This book is only a small sample of the amazing influence that the thousands of Women Teachers, Administrators, Staff, Contractors and Volunteers of the Los Angeles Unified School District have had on their communities and the world:

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Compiled By: Cintia Bencomo Romero, Contract Curator/Archivist and Collection Manager for the LAUSD Art & Artifact Collection/Archive and Museum, Arts Education Branch, Division of Instruction; cp-cintia.romero@lausd.net

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Dedicated to: Leslie Rabinovitz Fischer (May 11th, 1971 – August 11th, 2016) was the sole person responsible for the management, interpretation, maintenance, and programming of a 100,000-object educational Collection of paintings, ancient artifacts, photographs, historic school furnishings, documents, rare books, films and antique equipment for the LAUSD Art & Artifact Collection/Archive and Museum from 2001 until her passing in 2016. She developed a Collection strategy, policies and programs applying academic and museum skills to make the art education Collection accessible and relevant to a variety of constituencies and audiences in Los Angeles and around the world. From 2001 to 2002 Leslie oversaw the creation of a Community Art Advisory Committee and subcommittees, which defined the mission, and scope of the LAUSD Art & Artifact Collection in conjunction with the 10 Year Arts Education Plan. The Committee expanded the definition, scope and mission of the Collection beyond merely paintings to include thousands of objects that were in jeopardy of destruction, loss and neglect. She oversaw the packing and movement of the Collection from 3rd Street Annex to the School Police building at Roybal Learning Center and designed and established the new official Archive Resource Center. The Archive space, a free community resource, is open and functional to provide community outreach and reference support. She stabilized and expanded the Archive's database and data entry procedures, wrote archival policies and guidelines; sought funding for collection maintenance and preservation supplies, properly re-shelved, reorganized, indexed and labeled by importance, condition and value collection artworks and artifacts; crafted curricula, exhibits and hands-on instructional opportunities and programs utilizing the Collection as a teaching tool to help fulfill the District's mission of educating each student to their maximum potential. By 2006 Leslie single-handedly completed the first comprehensive, systematic inventory and cataloguing of the Collection. In addition, she developed partnerships with numerous education-focused, community organizations that involve loans, publications, and lectures. Such organizations include but are not limited to the UCLA History Geography Project, the Autry National Center, the California African American Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the U.S. General Services Administration, Fine Arts Program. Leslie attended USC and received a Master of Arts in Art History and Museum Studies after completing her Bachelor of Arts in History/Art History at University California, Los Angeles where she was Magna Cum Laude and part of Phi Beta Kappa.

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Leslie Rabinovitz Fischer (May 11th, 1971 – August 11th, 2016) While at



UCLA she had a semester abroad at Syracuse University in Florence, Italy with a concentration in Italian and Renaissance art history. As an adjunct Professor and Bloom Art Walk Project Manager she taught graduate level courses on the History of Public Art (1900-1950) and (1950-present) at the University of Southern California School of Fine Arts, Public Art Studies Master's Program and was a Member of Public Art Advisory and Curriculum Committees. From 1997-2000 she was the City of Los Angeles, Cultural Affairs Department, Public Art Division City Art

Collection Manager and Murals Coordinator. While battling cancer, she continued her work at the City of Pasadena's Art Division and remained active in her community, including participating in pancreatic cancer fundraisers and attending her daughter's bat mitzvah despite her illness. She contributed to projects like the Pasadena Waterfall, a role that connected her deeply with the art community, reflecting her love of art and positive energy. The Pasadena Waterfall is a 47-foot-long interactive public art installation created by artist Alessandro Marianantoni, serving as a gateway designed to promote water conservation and encourage reflection on water usage in a contemporary context. It draws inspiration from the natural Switzer Waterfall in the Angeles National Forest along the Arroyo Seco. She was a member or affiliated with Art Table, American Association of Museums, Museum Educators of Southern California, National Art Education Association, Society of California Archivists and Los Angeles as Subject. Her family includes her husband, Geoff, and their two children, Emily and Alex. She is buried at Mount Sinai Hollywood Hills Memorial Park Court of the Proverbs.

"Mother's Quest Mantra in Honor of Leslie Fischer" August 12, 2016 <https://mothersquest.com/mothers-quest-mantra-honor-leslie-fischer/>

"Kindness in honor of Leslie Fischer (1971-2016)" Posted by Greff Family on August 15, 2016 <https://budgetphilanthropist.wordpress.com/2016/08/15/kindness-in-honor-of-leslie-fischer-1971-2016/comment-page-1/>

Mount Sinai Hollywood Hills Court of the Proverbs, LA-PR-3, 2232, 2_0 Mount Sinai Memorial Parks and Mortuaries GRAVEZ <https://gravez.me/en/deceased/18217FE6-19D7-4CE9-9F60-5AEAEB23013D>

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Mrs. Chloe B. Jones (1844–1930) was a Teacher who lived in Pasadena, became the first woman to serve as Superintendent of Los Angeles City Schools in 1880. Jones came to California from Ohio in 1873 and after a brief time teaching in Santa Rosa, settled in Los Angeles where she taught and then moved into an administrative role.



Harris R. Newmark, "Sixty Years in Southern California, 1853–1913", no page, <https://books.google.com/books?id=957C2uKPxMC&pg=PT80&lpg=PT80&dq=Chloe+Jones+Superintendent+of+LA+City+School&source=bl&ots=gJvFzPyfKy&sig=XrRuX0qAx2BVZ7z-YaKBFwJuxMc&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjJwuz1larYAhVDYyYKHb6KBI0Q6AEITDAM#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

Susan Almira Miller Dorsey (1859–1946) was born in Penn Yan County, New York, in the up-state Finger Lakes resort area. Her father and mother incorporated education prominently in their children's upbringing. Susan was an energetic child, resourceful and detail oriented. She excelled at school, in particular the classical languages, Greek and Latin. Upon turning 16, she applied and entered Vassar College. She received a Bachelor's of Arts in the classics discipline. After working for a short time as a professor of languages at Vassar, she met and married Reverend Patrick Dorsey. They immediately made the transcontinental trip to settle in Los Angeles, California. At an unidentified time within the next nine years, Patrick took the couple's nine-year-old son Paul and deserted Susan in Los Angeles, never to make personal contact again. Without any prospects, Susan applied to a Los Angeles high school and received a teaching position. Within a few years, she became head of the classics department and held that position until 1913, at which time she accepted a position as Assistant Superintendent within the Los Angeles County School District (LACSD). Dorsey remained at this post until unanimously appointed by the all-male school board to become the Superintendent of LACSD in 1920. Dorsey reluctantly accepted the duties, but once in office, she immediately began stamping her legacy on the school District. By 1913, she was Assistant Superintendent of schools. In 1920, she became Superintendent. Her aim, she said, was to "solve vocational problems and train character," The LA Times reported. During Dorsey's nine years at the helm, enrollment increased 275%, The LA Times

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Susan Almira Miller Dorsey (1859–1946) In her spare time, she volunteered in the city's social welfare programs, including in the Chinese community, tending to those with tuberculosis. A temperance advocate, she was a speaker, writer and recipient of numerous honors, degrees and tributes. Dorsey, a prominent progressive educator during the 1920s, has been unrecognized by historians for her contributions to education. She was a self-proclaimed conservative republican, believed in a pragmatic philosophy immersed in progressivism (McGregor, 1949). A conservative fundamentalist Christian and skeptical of government regulation, she ironically embraced philosopher John Dewey's pragmatic education principles and Franklin Bobbitt's progressive and social curriculum models, suggesting that successful curriculum measures must be "social in nature" (McGregor, 1949, p. 82). To Dorsey, academic standards were commendable, but students needed socialization and integration into society. Dorsey managed her education responsibilities according to the circumstances and needs of her particular environment. This theme dominated Dorsey's Superintendence of LACSD. Her worldview matured based upon intrinsic demographics particular to her region of influence, her educational philosophy, and her middle class and religious background. She never compromised on a principle but willingly admitted when wrong and moved forward. She possessed integrity and was known to be extremely ethical in her practices. She led by example, modeling the leadership she expected of others. She hired her own Assistant Superintendents. She re-evaluated school Administrators and immediately became a strong Teacher advocate. Dorsey advocated and secured paid maternity and sick leave for Teachers and initiated a plan to secure health and retirement insurance for all Teachers in LACSD. She improved the school system with modern available technology. She figured prominently in a relationship with the Los Angeles Police Department to have security available for in-school and after-school events. She pushed through several bond referendums of some \$130 million dollars to build new schools. Dorsey advocated and—with community backing—implemented night schools and vocational schools. She also started community colleges and Sloyd Schools to assist the needs of an expanding economic and multicultural community (McGregor, 1949). Dorsey, however, could be strict and regimented with her Teachers. She reevaluated many of the Teachers and made it mandatory that all Teachers in the District achieve teaching certification. None were grandfathered in. Each Teacher was allotted a reasonable amount of time to gain certification, or they faced termination. Dorsey believed in quality education and that it could only be accomplished by quality Teachers controlling the education process.

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Susan Almira Miller Dorsey (1859–1946) Dorsey, though she implemented many benefits for the Teachers, refused to allow them to organize, igniting controversy of the right to collectively bargain. Her angst was that unions would undermine the integrity of the educative process. Dorsey refused to allow political corruption to taint education. Yet, she was not averse to using her office to manipulate and influence the political process to secure materials and new initiatives for the school system. She demanded much from her Teachers and from herself as well. Integrity and accountability were standards of her administrative philosophy. All were to abide religiously within the established educative parameters: no exceptions. Similarly, Dorsey would go to great lengths to shield her Teachers from the press when confronted with sensitive issues until her office had exhausted a thorough investigation. One such incident arose over the abduction and brutal murder of 12-year-old Marion Parker. Dorsey speculatively would have never allowed the incident to play out as it did. According to her niece Susie Miller, who recounted the incident years later, Dorsey staunchly defended her Teacher (McGregor, 1949). In Dorsey's mind, the Teacher in question had suffered enough having to live with the unfortunate incident for her remaining days. Constant public condemnation in the media seemed beyond reason. Dorsey's leadership style was student-centered and humanitarian but always within the framework of established rules and regulations. She exuded enormous business acumen and a firm grasp of management principles. For instance, Dorsey asked the following of any problem to put to her: What is it? Why is it? Moreover, what of it? To avoid a waste of time and talents, it was important to scrutinize any issue vigorously before deeming it worthy of action. Dorsey possessed a simple ethic: "Do each day's work each day" (McGregor, 1949, p. 51). Her thinking is a corollary to modern business gurus James Kouzes and Barry Posner's (2007) admonition to Administrators for taking on too much and not focusing on the immediate needs of the organization. Management professor Peter F. Drucker (1967), writing in *Effective Executives*, would agree with Dorsey suggesting one should tend to immediate needs rather than focusing too far on the future. Dorsey understood that effective leaders got things done and achieved doable goals. To get things done, Dorsey managed projects and delegated them when convenient, but in all cases, she got things done in a timely efficient manner. Dorsey's story, entwined with education leadership and women's study disciplines, suggest women have, when allowed, participated in education management and achieved remarkable successes. Dorsey functioned efficiently and proficiently in a male-dominated political environment, succeeding beyond all expectations.

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Susan Almira Miller Dorsey (1859–1946) She managed controversy and adversaries with equal skill and respect. She refused to engage in petty verbal jousting with adversaries such as muckraker Upton Beall Sinclair. Sinclair took personal issues with Dorsey and her style of education management. Dorsey spoke about her piece and communicated frequently and skillfully with the political apparatus and the community to achieve her initiatives. She left the political bantering to the media, politicians, and muckrakers. Initiatives, however, always focused on student learning and community access to education. Dorsey was politically shrewd, winning her converts and community support for many initiatives despite some controversy. She was confident enough to know what to do, how to do it, and when to do it. She showed great perspicacity with personal and professional issues, knowing when to ask or how to ask but never in a commanding or coercing manner. She possessed the principles of leadership that Peter F. Drucker and other management experts would write about in many books later in the century. Again, if Kouzes and Posner are correct that leadership is based on a challenge or contrary view to the status quo (a vision) and that leaders can be made, it is acceptable to judge Dorsey as a leader. However, Dorsey exemplified certain leadership characteristics that seem to suggest that leadership is more than an aggregate of learned traits and rules intimated by Kouzes and Posner. Dorsey reluctantly accepted the responsibilities of her office, but once there, she arose to the occasion and thrived in her new environment. Dorsey thrived beyond the normative criteria for leadership suggested by Kouzes and Posner. She exhibited a penchant for abstract vision necessary to see LACSD excel above the national norm and to accept innovative direction, building a bridge across the social spectrum of a large, diversified city with needs and expectations heretofore unrealized. The leadership experts are correct that there are certain rules and principles that quantify quality leadership, but there is also an inherent perspicacity to know when and how to initiate an action. Leadership is more than criteria. It is related to people and managing both people and events with discernment. Dorsey was an adept and personable leader who empowered her subordinates but also commanded respect. Simply put, Dorsey led with an unwavering principle. In 1937, Susan Miller Dorsey High School in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles was dedicated in her honor.

Strickland, Joseph Steven and Smith, Samuel J., "Susan Miller Dorsey (1857–1946): Trailblazer for Women School Superintendents" (2011). Faculty Publications and Presentations. 189.

https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/educ_fac_pubs/189

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Susan Almira Miller Dorsey (1859-1946)

Los Angeles School Named After Native of Penn Yan

Penn Yan, Dec. 30—Mrs. Susan Miller Dorsey, native of Penn Yan and a sister of Andrew Miller, of Penn Yan, has been honored by the city of Los Angeles in having a high school named for her.

The Los Angeles Times carried an article as follows, accompanied by a picture of Mrs. Dorsey and the cornerstone of the school which will bear her name:

Two "Talking Books" Placed on Reservation

Penn Yan, Dec. 30—Following a year of unceasing work on behalf of the project, Mrs. Walter A. Henricks of Penn Yan, has succeeded in having placed on Tonawanda Indian Reservation, two "talking books" for two blind Indians.

Mrs. Henricks has succeeded in obtaining the books from the Works Progress Administration, the expressage paid by the Blind Division of Social Welfare of New York State, and the maintenance charges will be attended to by the New York State Association of Lions Clubs, Henry Hand of Binghamton, being director of the division for the blind, of the association.

Mrs. Henricks is now engaged with the arrangements to have the books given to all blind Indians on New York State reservations, numbering about eight, in addition to the two already placed, making a total of ten.

Records for the books are obtained from the Library of Congress at Washington, D. C.

Daniel Griswold

Penn Yan Dec. 30—Daniel Griswold, 93, died at Penn Yan Monday Dec. 28. Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Arthur Brown, Penn Yan; a son, Howard Griswold, Elmira; a sister, Mrs. Frankie Barnum, Elmira; seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He was a member of Co. 1, 12th New York Cavalry, 30th Regiment, New York Volunteers. Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon at East Canton, Pa., with burial there.

Mrs. Mary Hurd

Penn Yan, Dec. 30, Mrs. Mary

"Susan Miller Dorsey, silver-haired dean of Suothland educators and former Los Angeles school superintendent, was honored when members of the board of education gave a new high school her name. She stood beside the cornerstone of the future edifice, Exposition Boulevard and Fafmdale Avenue, while Los Angeles teachers and civic leaders praised her for the part she played in developing the city's public school system.

"Then they carefully set the 100-pound granite block into a corner of the foundation. It proclaimed that the \$765,000 structure shall be named: 'Susan Miller Dorsey High School.'

"In reply to John Dalton, of the board of education, Mrs. Dorsey said: 'If a sense of order and harmony, simplicity, sincerity and truth is instilled in education, the purpose of the present board may be realized. And thus shall my own dream come true.'

"Mrs. Dorsey's own career in teaching was traced by the speakers. They told how the 78-year-old woman began her work at Penn Yan, N. Y., and how she went to Vassar College. Her first job was at tiny Wilson College in Pennsylvania.

"By the time she reached the position of superintendent of Los Angeles schools in 1920, Mrs. Dorsey had been accorded honorary degrees by Vassar, Pomona and Occidental Colleges, University of Southern California, and the University of California. She had ascended from the ranks, teaching classics at the old Los Angeles high school in 1896.

"For nine years Mrs. Dorsey served as the highest officer in the city's school system. Her aim was to solve vocational problems and to train character.

"At the cornerstone laying, guests of honor included members of the board of education, Representative Dockweiler, members of American Legion Post No. 250, who raised the flag for the first time on the new staff; Councilman McAllister, Dr. Frank Bouille, present superintendent of schools, and Dr. Willard Ford, his aide.

"Sponsor for the ceremony was the Midwest Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce under Ray Sparks, president."

Finger Lakes Times,
Geneva, New York,
Wed, Dec 30, 1936
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Susan Almira Miller Dorsey (1859-1946)

★ Chronicle of a woman

The death this week of Mrs. Susan Miller Dorsey should evoke a chronicle. The reason the passing of this remarkable woman should waken comment is not merely the fact that in her lifetime she helped the culture of a city and—in larger measure than is generally known—a nation.

The chief reason for response to Mrs. Dorsey's death is that there is great need, now and henceforth, that we redeem one of our worst sins of omission—omission from our past and present chronicles of the parts played by American women in the building of American civilization.

For, as you read the best history books, the appraisals of events by our best minds, or the current presentations of news of the moment in the daily press, you're struck by the curious way all these accounts ring with an exclusively masculine undertone or are set forth from purely masculine assumptions.

Why do we neglect the role of women? Why, like the Elizabethans, are we prone to fill the American drama's cast of characters with men?

Perhaps the answer is best supplied by bio-geneticist Amram Scheinfeld in his book, *Women and Men*.

Scheinfeld says that "in historical perspective, the few generations of comparative freedom for development which women have enjoyed is but a flash of time compared with their long, dark ages of restraint."

Unable to see the progress women have made, or how much progress they may yet accomplish, our historians and writers and reporters—even, sometimes, when they are women themselves—keep on applying the masculine measure to human affairs.

What is wrong with such an approach is that it ignores the two streams of culture, one masculine, the other feminine, flowing through human existence.

Susan Miller Dorsey's cultural contribution in the field of public education should serve as a reminder of these two strains of achievement which are building American society.

In the early 20's in Los Angeles, Mrs. Dorsey's rise to educational leadership symbolized the changing status of woman—of her emergence in the period following World War I from much of the prejudice and inequality of the past.

The first woman in American to become superintendent of a great metropolitan school system, Mrs. Dorsey's career exemplified the expanding boundaries of woman's world.

For what we were soon to discover—and what this particular woman's success foretold—was that the old concept that "Woman's place is in the home" was a narrow concept.

Even in those days, before the coming of troubled times and another, greater global war to remind us of our place in that larger human habitat, the world, Susan Dorsey's work in our schools bespoke the old truth that home is where the heart is.

As, fortunately, has been the case with generous women before and after her, Mrs. Dorsey's "home" was that modern home which spreads out into the whole community—particularly the community of children whose problems she sought to solve and for whom she sought to devise better training and learning opportunities to fit them for responsible citizenship.

In a very real sense Mrs. Dorsey belonged to the pioneer breed of American womanhood. She was a portent, in this time and in this city, of the massive social changes, the rising societal tides, which have been sweeping always forward toward a more non-discriminatory human order.

It is probably true that we have yet much to learn about what women can best do, about the contributions they can make to culture generally. But we are beginning to get over some of the primitive barriers which for so long have blocked the way to women's development.

We are beginning to realize, as Scheinfeld has pointed out, women can best develop as women when, freed of the compulsion to follow masculine ideologies, to imitate man-made standards, they may come forward unprejudicedly with the special and unique contributions of their own sex.

Science has long ago refuted the old Tennysonian saw that "Woman is the lesser man."

There is no evidence to prove women are inferior in intelligence or intellect to men. And there is much evidence to prove they are far better organisms of survival than the male of species, with greater resistance to disease and better chances for longevity.

In today's world the old premium on brawn has been devaluated and in its place the complexities of modern civilization have placed a new and higher premium on wisdom and human understanding.

In this new world women not merely can, but must, contribute much. Their deep universal kinship as bearers of life is one of the most tangible and hopeful realities out of which ultimately may grow peace and true international understanding.

In her life span of 89 years, Susan Miller Dorsey recognized and became an active part of this new hope. Her chronicle is a chapter in the story of discovery—the discovery that in women's rising status the world is richer.—R.E.G.H.

Daily News

Los Angeles, California •

Fri, Feb 8, 1946

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Dr. Michelle King (March 9, 1961–February 2, 2019) was the first African



American woman to serve as Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, appointed in January 2016 by the Los Angeles Board of Education. King described herself as an LAUSD “lifer.” When she was promoted to superintendent, she said, “I want to be a role model for students who look like me.”

Born in Los Angeles, California, she was a career employee of the District, having taught science and math at Porter Junior High in Granada Hills and was promoted to Coordinator for the math, science and aerospace magnet at Wright Middle School in Westchester before becoming Principal at Hamilton High School, where her leadership led to test scores exceeding annual improvement targets. Dr. King served as Assistant Principal and Principal at Hamilton High School. She then joined the ranks of L.A.

Unified Administrators in positions heading the Division of Student Health and Human Services, Interim Chief Instructional Officer for secondary education and was Superintendent of a Western and Southwestern region of the District. She was Superintendent for Local District West, encompassing schools in the West and Southwest regions of the city. She served as Deputy Superintendent under Superintendent John Deasy before ascending to the top leadership role. Dr. King is credited with pushing the District's graduation rate to record levels and expanding special programs to address the impact of charter schools. Dr. King earned a doctorate in 2017 from the University of Southern California, Rossier School of Education. She has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from UCLA and a Master's degree in Administration from Pepperdine University. She was schooled in the LAUSD, attending Century Park and Windsor Hills elementary schools, Palms Junior High School and Palisades High School. She was chosen by Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines to be his Chief of Staff. She served as Deputy Superintendent under John Deasy and was named Chief Deputy by Cortines in October 2014 when Cortines came back to the District to replace Deasy. She was appointed School Superintendent in January 2016 by a unanimous vote of support from the

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Dr. Michelle King (March 9, 1961–February 2, 2019) LAUSD school Board.

King visited about 100 schools on a “listen and learn” tour to hear from students, Teachers and parents. On school visits, she was treated like a rock star, as students and staff asked to take selfies with her. At the end of her first community meeting, in March 2016, Dr. King said, “I think some of you see the ‘I love LAUSD’ buttons we have on, and that’s what it’s about for me, it’s about being united.”

Dr. Liz Hicks and Dr. King worked closely together at Hamilton High School, and at Local District West. Together they initiated the 10-schools project addressing the needs of African American students in Local District West. When Girls Academic Leadership Academy (GALA) founder Dr. Hicks discussed the idea and vision for GALA, Dr. King stated she was “all in.” Dr. King was familiar with the all-girls model as one of her daughters attended an all-girls school, and she was incredibly supportive as Dr. Hicks navigated LAUSD to approve the founding of the school. Dr. King counted as one of her most important achievements the support for the passage of the GALA school plan and the opening of the school. In March 2019, Dr. Michelle King's name was officially added to GALA. Her daughter was there to speak at the event in her honor. Officially now Girls Academic Leadership Academy: Dr. Michelle King School for STEM. Her family has established the Dr. Michelle King Memorial Scholarship Fund



providing recognition to a GALA graduating senior, accepted to a four-year University, who demonstrates academic excellence, community service and leadership, the principles with which Dr. King led her life and career. This scholarship honors the life of this remarkable woman ensuring that the spirit of her work lives on through the hard work and dedication of our GALA girls. In

February 2019, Dr. King lost her battle with cancer at the age of 57. The LAUSD expressed profound sorrow over her death, stating that her dedication to uplifting every student, family, and employee within the District was unmatched. She was

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Dr. Michelle King (March 9, 1961–February 2, 2019) remembered as a collaborative and innovative leader who broke down barriers to create more equitable opportunities for students. Another LAUSD Administrator remarked that during the 2018 holidays months before her death, Dr. King came into the LAUSD headquarters office in a wheelchair with gifts for everyone. Despite going through a debilitating disease, she kept the holiday spirit and made sure to show how much she cared about her LAUSD community. In a statement, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said, in part: “Dr. Michelle King’s life and career encapsulated what it means to be an Angeleno: excellence, kindness, integrity, service above self. She devoted her entire professional life to students in Los Angeles and led our school District with all of the passion, skill and determination that it takes to be a powerful fighter for young people and their dreams. Michelle’s extraordinary achievements—record graduation rates, putting higher education within reach for all families, and creating new opportunities for our kids to be on pathways to careers—should inspire each one of us to be part of the mission to make L.A.’s schools the best in America.”

“Dr. Michelle King was the first African American woman to be the superintendent of LAUSD and the first woman to hold that title in 80 years.” <https://www.galacademy.org/michelle-king>

“Michelle King Memorial, 02/14/2019” <https://youtu.be/eCFtd0aK0Ds?si=RvbIDdfb0vLn2w1N>

Education Week; “Michelle King, Former Los Angeles Unified Superintendent, Dies at 57”; Denisa R. Superville; February 04, 2019 <https://www.edweek.org/education/michelle-king-former-los-angeles-unified-superintendent-dies-at-57/2019/02>

Statement from the Los Angeles Unified School District On the Passing of Dr. Michelle King; <https://www.lausd.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=4466&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=74005&PageID=1>

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Dr. Michelle King (March 9, 1961–February 2, 2019)



**DR. MICHELLE KING
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**Girls Academic Leadership Academy:
Dr. Michelle King School for STEM**

<https://squareup.com/store/friends-of-gala>

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Ann Averill (1833–1912) was appointed in 1885 to the Board of Education and became the first woman to serve on that body. The field of education was one of the earliest careers deemed appropriate for women. When the Los Angeles public school system began to grow in the mid-1850s, some of the earliest instructors were women: Mrs. Gertrude Hoyt, Mary Hoyt, Mrs. Thomas Foster, Eliza Madigan, Anna MacArthur, Hattie Scott, Frankie Scott, Maggie Hamilton, Clara Jones, and Emma Hawke. By 1890, of the 23 principals of public schools in Los Angeles, 20 were women.

Linda Louise Pixley "A History of Los Angeles Women, 1850–1900"

Fay E. Allen (January 4, 1889–1974) was the first African American woman



to serve on the Los Angeles Board of Education. Allen began her career at LAUSD in 1913 in the Playground Department, then as a Music Teacher at Jefferson High School. Allen was a Director of Choral and Vaudeville groups, intermittently throughout her professional career. In 1937, Allen first ran for a seat on the Board and lost. Allen was not deterred by her initial failure and ran for the seat again in 1939, advocating for standardized, revised and modernized school curriculum, public education beyond just high school, and school board member elections, according to District. In her second campaign, she was endorsed by the

Federation for Civic Betterment, an organization that was considered radical at the time. She served two non-consecutive terms from 1939 to 1943. Allen was sworn in on May 26, 1939, to complete the unexpired term of her predecessor, Margarete Clark. As a music Teacher for LAUSD, she was described as "intelligent, traveled and experienced" in The Los Angeles Times. Her election marked a significant milestone, as she was the first African American woman to hold public office in a major American city. After leaving the board, over twenty years passed before another African American served on the Board of Education.

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Fay E. Allen (January 4, 1889–1974) Allen studied music in her native Iowa, Illinois, and Colorado. As a young woman, she would also frequently visit her father in Europe, where she would study piano, pipe organ, and orchestra at the Echol School of Music and Culture in Nice, France. Father and daughter would frequently be invited to play for European royalty including King Gustav of Sweden. Allen later pursued special studies at the University of Illinois and University of California, Los Angeles.

One of Allen's biggest achievements while serving on the Board was in 1941, during discussions regarding the 1941-42 budget. There was a provision in the proposed budget to charge tuition for individuals attending adult education classes. At first, Mrs. Allen was the only one on the seven-member panel who was opposed to the measure. However, after students, Teachers, and citizens (including members of the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee) joined Mrs. Allen in opposition to the tuition fee at a public hearing, the other six board members reversed their support of the proposal. In 1943, Mrs. Allen lost her bid for a third term despite



endorsements from the American Federation of Teachers, Congress of Industrial Organizations, American Federation of Labor, Spanish Speaking People's Congress, SCMWA, and Musicians Union, Local 767. In the primary, Mrs. Allen finished fourth in a race for four at-large seats but was the only one of the top vote getters not to receive a sufficient number of votes to avoid a run-off. On May 4 of that year, she faced Marie M. Adams, the fifth-place finisher, in the run-off. Mrs. Adams was endorsed by the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Daily News*. When backers of Mrs. Allen accused supporters of Mrs. Adams of injecting racial bias into the campaign, the *Times* defended their endorsement by stating, "This newspaper has opposed the election of Mrs. Allen heretofore because The Times has felt that she does not fill the requirements for school administration service. The election of Mrs. Adams is recommended. As in all other ballot recommendations, the suggestions of The Times with respect to Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Adams are based solely on the newspaper's opinion concerning their respective qualifications for office.

Women of LAUSD

Fay E. Allen (January 4, 1889–1974) In contrast, Al S. Waxman, publisher of the *Eastside Journal* wrote a scathing editorial criticizing the campaign of Mrs. Adams, which he felt placed an undue emphasis on the race of her opponent. This was after the paper received a written request by Richmond P. Benton & Sons, a public relations firm representing her campaign, to place a political ad in the Journal. In the letter, the firm indicated that their goal was "to defeat Mrs. Fay Allen, a Negress." In 1954, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn appointed Mrs. Allen to the Los Angeles County Music Commission. She was re-appointed by Hahn for another three-year term in 1957. In 1962, she served as campaign manager in Don Derricks's unsuccessful bid for a seat in the California State Assembly. In a hotly contested seat, Derricks finished third out of eight candidates in the Democratic primary which included Mervyn Dymally (the eventual winner) and Edward A. Hawkins (the brother of the outgoing Assemblyman Augustus Hawkins, who was running for Congress), who finished in second place. Among her many titles include Chairman for the National Negro Congress; member of the Executive Board, National Association of the Advancement of Colored People; Treasurer and original founder of Local 767 American Federation of Musicians; Secretary, adult section Local 430 American Federation of Teachers; member National Education Association; Jefferson and Jordan High School's PTA; American Red Cross awarded special citation by Woodrow Wilson; member of California Race Relations Society; member of Progressive Education Association, member of Board of Directors Friendship Center; member of Sigma Gamma Roh sorority; Assistant Organist, Saint Philips Episcopal Church; and Chairman, women's section, Los Angeles Negro Democratic Club.

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Women of LAUSD

Fay E. Allen (January 4, 1889–1974)

WHO'S WHO IN THE NEW DEAL 125

FAY E. ALLEN
Member, Los Angeles Board of Education

• FAY E. ALLEN was born in Ottumwa, Ia., Jan. 4, 1889—the daughter of S. S. and Eliza (Wise) Weeks.

Ed. in grammar schools of Ia., Ill. and Colo.; high schools, Colo. and Europe; grad., Echol School of Music and Culture, Nice, France; pursued special studies at Univ. of Ill. and U. C. L. A.

Private instr. of music in Los Angeles, 1913-1937; music instr., Playground Dept., Los Angeles schools, 1914-1915; music instr., Jefferson High School, Los Angeles, 1937-1939; asst. mgr., and dir. of choral group (90 voices) over KHJ, 1934-1935; organizer and dir. of the "Allen Syncopators" (dance bands); organist, A-MU-SU Theatre, Los Angeles, 1925-1929; dir. of choral and vaudeville groups, intermittently, throughout her prof. career.

Democrat. Elected mem. Los Angeles School Board, May, 1939.

Mem., Los Angeles Co. Dem. Cen. Com.; State Dem. Cen. Com., 62nd Assembly Dist. Dem. Club, 14th Cong. Dist. Dem. Club, co-ordinator, Los Angeles Co. Negro Dem. Club; chrmn., women's div. of same; mem., So. Cen. Dem. Club.

Chrmn., Nat. Negro Congress; mem., exec. board, Nat. Assn. for Advancement of Colored People; treas. and one of original founders, Local 767, Amer. Fed. of Musicians; sec., adult section, local 430, Amer. Fed. of Teachers; mem., N. E. A., Jefferson & Jordan High Schools, P.-T. A.; American Red Cross, (awarded special citation by Pres. Woodrow Wilson); Calif. Race Relations Society; Progressive Ed. Assn.; mem., board of dirs., Friendship Center; educational adviser, The Marriage Clinic; mem., Sigma Gamma Rho sorority; asst. organist, St. Phillips Episcopal Church.

Her hobbies are dogs, cats and other domestic pets.

During her adult life, Mrs. Allen has assumed the responsibility of rearing six orphan children, one of whom is her nephew.

Bus. address: Board of Education, Los Angeles; resides at 619 East 37th St., Los Angeles, Calif.



FAY E. ALLEN

Received grammar and high school education, Alhambra, Calif.; was awarded A. B. degree, Stanford Univ., 1931.

Recorder, Gen. Land Office of U. S., at Washington, D. C., 1933-1935; resigned to establish N.Y.A. in Los Angeles; remained until end of 1936.

Lifelong Democrat; organized First Voters Roosevelt-for-President Clubs of So. Calif., 1932; was one of organizers of Young Democratic Clubs of Calif., serving as vice-pres., 1932-1933; Nat.

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Women of LAUSD

Leticia Quezada (b. July 12, 1953) was the first Latina member of the LAUSD Board of Education, a historic milestone she achieved when she secured a seat on the board in 1987. Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and raised in Ciudad Juárez, Quezada immigrated to the United States as a teenager and faced significant challenges in transitioning from a Spanish-speaking school system to an English-speaking one. She served on the LAUSD board until 1994, during which time she became the first Latina to be elected President of the Board of Education in 1992. Her tenure was marked by advocacy for bilingual education, increased parent involvement, and the recruitment of bilingual Teachers from Mexico to address staffing shortages.

Before joining the school Board she worked for the Chicana Service Action Center in Los Angeles and as a community relations manager for the Carnation Company. She also served as president of the Comisión Femenil Mexicana Nacional in 1981, chaired Los Angeles County Californios for Fair Representation, and worked as a coordinator and delegate for the 1984 presidential campaign of Walter Mondale.

In 1985, the trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District appointed Quezada to its board, after another member resigned to become City Controller. Although another Latino, J. William Orozco, had previously served on the board, Quezada became its first Latina. She left the board again in 1987, when she secured a seat on the Los Angeles Unified School District Board. As a LAUSD board member, Quezada pushed for an improved bilingual education program, increased parent control in local education, year-round schooling, and allowing non-citizen parents to vote in school board elections. During her time on the board, Quezada opposed lowering academic standards for student athletes and served as a strong advocate for Latinos and immigrants in lower socioeconomic classes.

During Quezada's first year in office, "The Master Plan" was adopted into the school District. The plan called for an increase in the number of bilingual Teachers and Teacher training plans for bilingual assistants to eventually become Teachers. In addition to being a voice for "The Master Plan," Quezada also advocated for a \$5,000 salary incentive for bilingual Teachers and college programs for bilingual Teachers in training. In 1992, Quezada was elected as the President of the Board of Education, and was the first Latina to hold that position. As president, she recruited Teachers from Mexico to make up for a shortage of bilingual Teachers.

Women of LAUSD

Leticia Quezada (b. July 12, 1953) She led the board through some of its most chaotic years, which included a battle against state school vouchers (Proposition 174), Teacher strikes, attempts to break up the District, a controversial redistricting effort that ensured greater Latino representation on the board at the expense of the San Fernando Valley, and \$700 million in damage to District facilities caused by the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Two years after her election to president, Quezada announced that she would step down from the school board. Her departure coincided with the passage of Proposition 187, which forced public schools to bar undocumented children.

In 1992, Quezada ran for a seat in the United States House of Representatives, for California's 30th congressional District, but she lost in the primary to Xavier Becerra. Her campaign had been hurt by losing the support of United Teachers Los Angeles, the local Teachers union which was unhappy with her over a contract dispute. From 1995 until 2002 Quezada was the director of the Mexican Cultural Institute of Los Angeles. In 2003 she joined California State University, San Bernardino as the program manager for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Palm Desert, and in 2008 she became the university's interim director of extension programs in their College of Extended Learning.

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Women of LAUSD

Leticia Quezada (b. July 12, 1953) LETICIA QUEZADA remembers that day 16 years ago when, as a Mexican immigrant fresh out of college with a teaching credential in bilingual education, she applied for work at the Los Angeles schools. She was turned down "flatly," told Los Angeles did not need bilingual Teachers. Today Ms. Quezada greets visitors as the first Hispanic president of the Los Angeles Board of Education, presiding over a school system in which nearly half the students cannot speak English.

She also presides over what is now perhaps the biggest crisis the nation's second-largest school system has ever faced. Six months after the civil disorders and arson that swept Los Angeles, the 641,000-student system is threatened both by insolvency and a strike by Teachers furious over a recession-induced pay cut of 12 percent.

In all this, Leticia Quezada, who migrated to California at age 13 without speaking a word of English, the daughter of a Mexican copper miner who died of tuberculosis at age 33, has emerged as the Teachers' chief nemesis and a forceful advocate for the children of the deprived. "More and more, the color of the school system looks like my family," she said. "Unless someone steps in who has the understanding, the sensitivity and the language skills to speak not only to the children but to their parents, we are going to lose this generation. The little ones, they did not ask to be born into a poor family, to go to a school that does not have a nurse. The problems have gotten bigger. The riots brought lot of anxiety and tension to the surface. Things have gotten more intense and intense. People are beginning to say, 'Forget it, it's not worth it.' They give up and start killing, committing suicide."

Ms. Quezada's journey began in the slums of Ciudad Juarez, opposite El Paso, Tex., from which her mother emigrated to Pittsburg, Calif., near San Francisco, and worked as a waitress. The young Leticia started eighth grade without English, caught up and eventually graduated from high school with honors and attended the University of California at Santa Cruz on a scholarship, then earned a Master's degree in bilingual education. But early on, she said; she decided her calling was not teaching, but the politics of teaching. "A professor instilled in me a sense that rather than helping one child at a time there are bigger things like changing educational policy," she said. "I was always searching for a place to make a contribution to my community through changing policy." To do that, she felt she had to move to a big city with lots of Mexicans. That inevitably led to Los Angeles, which she had never visited. After being

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Leticia Quezada (b. July 12, 1953) rejected by the school system, she did job training, then in 1981 joined the Carnation Company, the Los Angeles-based food maker, as its representative to the national Hispanic community. "We have a tremendous challenge in educating Latino students," she said. "In entry points like Miami, New York and Los Angeles, we believe the best way to educate these students, to get them to graduation, is bilingual education."

Even more contentious has been Ms. Quezada's proposal to let noncitizens vote in school board elections, which would greatly benefit Hispanic candidates inasmuch as Hispanic people are about two-thirds of the school population but only about a third of the voters in Los Angeles. Her proposal drew fire from the leaders of Los Angeles's black community, where frictions have developed with the fast-growing Hispanic population, and she was accused during the recent Congressional primary of promoting illegal immigration.

But she contends that the proposal, shelved for now, is a key to getting parents involved. "Over 70 percent of our parents are immigrants, very likely not U.S. citizens. So many parents are disenfranchised in choosing who will decide on the education of their children. At a time when all reform movements in public education are saying that the only way schools are going to do better is with better parent involvement, this is major form of parent involvement. "Change is very threatening. If you give Latinos the right to vote, what is going to happen to the gains blacks have made? All of us have to get used to the idea of change." In many schools in the riot-scarred South-Central area, the schools are now about half Hispanic, half black. "Children have to learn to live together," Ms. Quezada said. "That is the reality most of us in public office are going to have to start speaking. "I am always going to be committed to the issues of large cities," she said, "to questions of policy rather than personal issues, always looking to the next generation. Education provides the most answers, because if you do a good job in educating children, most of the other issues are taken care of." At age 39, Ms. Quezada has no children of her own and contemplates none. "No, I already have enough," she mused. "I take care of other people's children."

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Women of LAUSD

Maria Guadalupe Evangelina de Lopez (1881-1977)

By: Mariana Brandman, NWHM Predoctoral Fellow in Women's History | 2020-2022

Photo Credit: USC Digital Library. California Historical Society Collection.



Maria de Lopez rallied the crowd gathered at Los Angeles Plaza on October 3, 1911 by giving a speech in favor of woman's suffrage entirely in Spanish, an unprecedented event for the time. An educator, translator, and clubwoman, Lopez helped win the vote for Californian women with her oratory and the writings she translated into Spanish. In addition to her suffrage work, Lopez fought for decades to preserve Spanish- and Mexican-American cultural heritage.

Maria Guadalupe Evangelina de Lopez was born in Los Angeles in 1881, at Casa Vieja, her family's home at the San Gabriel Mission. She lived there with her parents, Juan and Guadalupe, and several siblings. Throughout her life she also went by Lupe, Eva or Marie. Her father, a blacksmith, was born in Mexico and was descended from the prominent Lopez family. Lopez graduated from Pasadena High School in 1897 and then studied at the Los Angeles State Normal School (which would later become UCLA) to be a Teacher. She started her career teaching English as a second language at Los Angeles High School and soon began working as a translator. In 1902, she was the youngest instructor on staff at the University of California.

Lopez returned to San Gabriel to live with her mother and siblings following the death of her father in 1904. In the 1910s, Lopez and her sister Ernestina ran their own Spanish-language school out of their home as a side business, in addition to frequent translation work. Eventually Lopez taught at UCLA, possibly the first Latina ever to do so.

Lopez was active in her local Votes for Women Club and became president of the College Equal Suffrage League in 1911. She played an important role in the campaign to enfranchise California's women by translating suffrage materials into Spanish in order to reach Hispanic women. At a 1911 Votes for Women Club rally in Los Angeles Plaza, Lopez took the stage and spoke in support of woman suffrage in Spanish,

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Maria Guadalupe Evangelina de Lopez (1881-1977)

reportedly the first in the state to do so. She then traveled the region, distributing suffrage posters and literature and giving speeches, all in Spanish. Lopez authored a forceful opinion piece in the *Los Angeles Herald* on August 20, 1911, arguing that California could not call itself a democracy while disenfranchising half its citizens.

On October 10, 1911, the suffrage proposition passed, and California became the sixth state in the nation to approve suffrage for women, nine years before the passage of the 19th Amendment. Lopez was among the women considered by leading suffragists in Los Angeles to serve as a representative from California to the 1913 Woman Suffrage Parade in Washington, D.C. In 1914, Lopez returned to political advocacy, translating materials in support of labor-related initiatives on that year's ballot into Spanish. After World War I broke out, Lopez left her teaching job to aid the war effort. She first went to New York City, where she took courses in auto mechanics and flying. She then went to France to work as an ambulance driver. In 1918, the French government cited Lopez and three other American women for bravery after the chateau-turned-hospital where they were stationed was bombarded by enemy fire and the four worked all night carrying wounded soldiers to safety. Lopez married Hugh Lowther, a fellow educator who worked as a professor at Occidental College. After her marriage she was often referred to as Maria de Lopez Lowther or Maria de Lopez de Lowther.

In addition to her suffrage work, Lopez was an avid clubwoman in the Los Angeles area. She helped to found the Woman's City Club of Los Angeles, and belonged to the Woman's College Club, the Woman's Business Club, and the Executive Board of the High School Teachers' Association of Los Angeles. In the 1920s and 1930s, Lopez served as the Spanish instructor for the Spanish section of the Ebell Club, a cultural and philanthropic women's organization in Los Angeles. A devoted Teacher, Lopez worked hard to educate the public about California culture and to promote Spanish-language instruction, popular causes among Spanish-descended clubwomen of the era. From the 1920s to the 1940s, Lopez was a sought-after guest speaker for a wide range of organizations, often hosting them in her family home in the San Gabriel Mission, now known as the Lopez-Lowther Adobe. Lopez also served as the 17th president of the UCLA Faculty Women's Club from 1937 to 1938. Lopez died on November 20, 1977 in Orange, California. She is buried at San Gabriel Christian Church in Los Angeles.

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Maria Guadalupe Evangelina de Lopez (1881-1977)

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Maria Guadalupe Evangelina de Lopez (1881-1977)



A news clipping from an Oct. 6, 1918 copy of the Los Angeles Evening Herald celebrates María de López for her brave efforts, along with three other women, in the aftermath of a bombing at the French Chateau she worked at. | California Digital Newspaper Collection, University of California, Riverside Center of Bibliographical Studies and Research

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Women of LAUSD

Maria Guadalupe Evangelina de Lopez (1881-1977)

**ONE HURT IN BLAZE IN
CHEMICAL CO.'S
PLANT**

One man was cut by falling glass and a portion of the plant of the Electric Chemical Co., 181 W. 7th-street, was destroyed by fire shortly before noon today. E. F. Weaver, who was injured, is a speedy recover. The loss to the building was about \$20 and \$25 worth of materials were burned. The origin of the blaze has not been determined.

Although the damage was not great, the flames could be seen at a distance of several blocks when they first broke out. The fire was fed by combustible material in the shop and the sparks caused high.

Workers attempted to extinguish the blaze when it first started and a window was broken and fell upon him.

**50,000 PUPILS ENROLL
IN L. A. SCHOOLS; TAX
BUILDINGS' CAPACITY**

Miss Maria de Lopez, Teacher of Spanish, Who Has Been Instrumental in Opening the Second School in the City for the Education of the Poor, Addressing a Group of Mexicans in the Plaza

More than 50,000 pupils enrolled in the city schools this morning. By the end of the week the superintendents estimate that a maximum enrollment of 70,000 will be made—45,000 in the elementary, the rest in the intermediate and high schools.

This morning high school students began forming lines long before 7 o'clock, though few of them have been turned away. The greatest surpluses were crowded high schools are pupils in the 29 classes. At 12 o'clock high school 125 were crowded and about sixty turned away. Eventually, if the pupils cannot find places in the high schools, they will be registered at the nearest intermediate schools.

At Manual Arts high school the first senior class in the history of the school is registered, twenty-five pupils in all. The new main building was occupied.

Maria de Lopez, teacher of Spanish, headed the daughter of a long line of dons.

**L. A. HAS GREATEST
GAIN IN ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Los Angeles not only possesses the largest number of school children of any city in California, but also shows the greatest increase in attendance at the elementary schools, according to the figures of Job Wood, statistician for Edward Hyatt, the state superintendent of schools. Without the present enrollment today, there were 61,921 children in the elementary schools of Los Angeles an increase of 223 over 1911. The total increase in the state was 17,000, so that Los Angeles' increase represented 26 per cent of the total.

Who makes YOUR Clothes?

**No frowzy freaks
of former fashion
nor styles of by-
gone days abide in
these shops of
ours.**

**Our modern
tailoring is a
source of wonder**

An article in the Los Angeles Evening Herald published July 29, 1912 lauds Maria de López for her work in opening a school "of the poor," the second of its kind in Los Angeles. The news story's feature photo captures de López addressing a group of Mexican students in a plaza. | California Digital Newspaper Collection, University of California, Riverside Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research

Women of LAUSD

Maria Guadalupe Evangelina de Lopez (1881-1977)



A portrait of the Los Angeles High School faculty, where de López taught Spanish, taken on May 7, 1907. | USC Libraries Special Collection and California Historical Society

Women of LAUSD

Helen Agcaoili Summers Brown (May 16, 1915 – January 25, 2011)

is often referred to as "Auntie Helen", was a Pilipino-American educator and Librarian. She was an educator at the LAUSD for 34 years, where she worked to help Pilipino-American children connect with their heritage and educate all students about Pilipino culture. She graduated from Manila Central High School in 1934. Her family moved to Arcadia, California soon afterward, where Brown enrolled in Pasadena City College. After choosing to write a report on the Spanish influence on Manila, Helen found no resources in the college's Library or the public Library, and completed the assignment using her father's scrapbooks and memorabilia. The experience inspired her to become a lifelong collector of resources about Pilipino culture including Pilipinx books, pamphlets, photographs, and artifacts that served as the foundation of the Pilipino American Library enriching scholarship related to the Pilipinx community. Brown transferred to the University of California, Los Angeles, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Education in 1937 and a Master's degree in Social Work in 1939. She is the first known Pilipino to have graduated from UCLA. Brown was an early supporter of Asian American Studies at UCLA; she was a member of the interim steering committee that drafted the proposal to establish the Asian American Studies Center in 1969. During World War II, she worked as a welder before becoming a third-grade Teacher for LAUSD. She first worked as a substitute Teacher, before teaching full-time. Brown taught third grade at schools within the District and other lower grades for eight years. While Brown enjoyed teaching, she felt confined by the school curriculum, and applied to become a Pupil Personnel and Attendance Counselor. In an oral interview in 1993 she said "...the District never identified us as social workers, they called us – Oh, I've been called a truant officer, I've been called a child welfare worker, I have been called an attendance worker, but finally towards the years when I was retiring then they called us Pupil Personnel workers (chuckles) – Finally began to give us a very positive identification. So, I was part of that movement." Brown worked for LAUSD for thirty-four years before retiring in 1974. During her time at LAUSD, she lobbied the District to recognize the specific needs of Pilipino-American school children. She also lobbied on behalf of Pilipino-American school Teachers, working to increase the number of Teachers and to see them promoted within the system. In the late 1960s she joined a group known as Asians Coming Together (ACT 1). She also founded the Filipino American Reading Room and Library (PARRAL) in 1985 in the basement of the Filipino Christian Church. After securing a larger location in 2000, the Library moved to Temple Street and changed its name to the Filipino-American Library where it served the community for over

Women of LAUSD

Helen Agcaoili Summers Brown (May 16, 1915 – January 25, 2011)

another decade. A short documentary titled *"Got Book? Auntie Helen's Gift of Books"* was created by Florante Ibanez in 2005 to recognize Brown and the founding of the Filipino American Library. In the film, Brown is interviewed by her son and discusses her upbringing in the Philippines as a mestiza. When the Filipino American Library closed, the collections were sent to the Echo Park branch of the Los Angeles Public Library and the University of Southern California Libraries. The USC Libraries have digitized materials in the Filipino American Library Collection, including materials written in English, Tagalog, and Ilocano. Brown and her family lived for over fifty years in Hermosa Beach, California and spent her last years in an assisted living residence in Hermosa Beach and died there on January 25, 2011.

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[Got Book?](#) 9-minute video documentary about Brown and founding of Filipino American Library (2005)

[Get to know Fil-Am education pioneer Helen Agcaoili Summers](#) 3-minute video about Brown from [Balitang America](#) (2020)

[Filipino American Library Collection](#) materials from the USC Digital Library

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Women of LAUSD

Helen Agcaoili Summers Brown (May 16, 1915 – January 25, 2011)



Helen and William after their wedding reception in Boulder City, Nevada. The couple couldn't get a marriage license in Los Angeles because Helen was Pilipina, and they went to Boulder City to marry.

Women of LAUSD

Soledad Coronel (b.1826-?) Don Ygnacio Coronel took charge of public schools and his daughter Senorita Soledad, played the harp and was the first female and music Teacher in 1838. Soledad Coronel was one of the children of Ygnacio Coronel and his wife, Maria Josefa Francisca Romero (1802-1871). Soledad Coronel was the sister of Antonio Francisco Coronel and a daughter of Ygnacio Coronel, a prominent settler and politician in early Los Angeles during the Mexican Alta California period. Ygnacio Coronel, was a schoolmaster and a former corporal in the Spanish cavalry. He migrated to Alta California in 1834 as part of the Híjar-Padrés Colony, bringing his family, including his sons Antonio and Manuel, and daughters, among whom was Soledad. She was also the sister of Antonio F. Coronel, who served as the fourth mayor of Los Angeles and later as California State Treasurer.

Soledad Coronel

Soledad Coronel, a young Mexican woman, was the first female teacher in Los Angeles in 1838, and the first to introduce music in the schools. Her father founded one of the first schools in the pueblo before the Mexican-American War. She is remembered during #LatinxHeritageMonth.

 **LOS ANGELES UNIFIED CELEBRATES** | **LATINX HERITAGE MONTH**

C. Alan Hutchinson, An Official List of the Members of the Híjar-Padres Colony for Mexican California, 1834, The Pacific Historical Review, Vol. 42, No. 3 (Aug., 1973), pp. 407-418, University of California Press.

<https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/e/b/Lucy-S-Webb-California/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0260.html>

Women of LAUSD

Bessie Bruington Burke (March 19, 1899–May 7, 1968) was the first



African American Teacher and Principal hired by the Los Angeles public school system, making her a pioneering figure in the District's history. Born Gladys Bessie Bruington with alternate birth year of January 26, 1891 (California Death Index). She married Chester Burke in 1925, son of well-known African American Actress Cora Brooks Burke. Burke was raised in the North Hollywood area, where she attended Berendo Elementary School and graduated from Polytechnic High School in 1911. She attended Los Angeles State Normal School, which later became University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). When the Teacher's exam was given for the Los Angeles City School District, Burke scored seventh out of 800

applicants. She earned her teaching credential in 1911. A year before Burke earned her teaching certificate, the 51st Street School (later renamed Holmes Avenue Elementary School in 1922 after a fire) was built in a Los Angeles African American community known as Furlong Tract. While the students were African American, the Teachers and Principal were White Americans. At that time, discrimination prevented the hiring of African American Teachers. Public schools in Los Angeles were not segregated by law, but rather racial geography. Despite Burke's high score on the Teacher's exam, it took pressure from the community to hire her as a Teacher at the 51st Street School in 1911. In 1918, she was promoted to Principal of the same school, becoming the first Black Principal in Los Angeles. In her first year as Principal, she oversaw five Teachers and about 100 students. By 1928, she had sixteen Teachers working for her, with a school enrollment of 450. She later became the first Black Principal of a racially integrated school in the District when she was appointed Principal of Nevin Avenue Elementary School in 1938. Her efforts to break the color bar were supported by the Forum, an African American civic organization headquartered at the corner of Eighth and Wall Streets. For a number of years, she was Principal of the Virginia Road Elementary School at 2925 Virginia Road in West Adams. Burke served in various leadership roles across four elementary schools including Ascot Elementary and 49th Street Elementary School within the Los Angeles

Women of LAUSD

Bessie Bruington Burke (March 19, 1899–May 7, 1968) City School District and retired from the Los Angeles Board of Education in 1955 after 44 years of service. “Mrs. Burke used to make us toe the line, and it wasn’t hard since most of the youngsters were afraid of her,” recalled Paul Postell, who attended 51st Street school. “She was one of those Principals who didn’t have to say much. She would just look at you. You weren’t even allowed to giggle in the hall.” Her quiet, firm manner had tremendous strength and when she spoke, people listened. Her energy and thoroughness were phenomenal. It is the Bessie Burkes of the world who makes the saying “Teachers are born, not made,” meaningful.

Among the many awards was the Apple of Gold award given by the Teacher’s Association on Teacher’s Remembrance Day and she was honored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority as “Outstanding Woman of 1939”. In December 2023, Mount Saint Mary’s University in Los Angeles awarded six educators with the first “Bessie Bruington Burke Excellence in Black Teaching Award.” The award is for educators who, like Burke, demonstrate expertise in teaching, a passion for social justice, and a deep commitment to their students. In recognition of her legacy, the intersection of 52nd Street and Holmes Avenue was designated as Bessie Burke Square in 2024. In addition to her work as a Teacher and Administrator, Burke volunteered for a number of civic organizations and was active in the community. She was also a humanitarian, involved with organizations such as the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA); the executive board for National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Native California Club; the League of Allied Arts; Assistance League of the Stovall Foundation; Sojourner Truth Industrial Club (founded in 1904 to improve the low wages and bad working conditions faced by black women); Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and working to advance the rights and representation of people of color and women. According to the 1941 City Directory, she lived at 1351 W. 37th Street, Los Angeles. The house still stands and is in good condition. She passed away in 1968 and is buried in Angelus Rosedale Cemetery; her tombstone simply lists her name beneath the word “Educator.”

McGraw–Hill Education By The Way, “Black History Month: Bessie Burke’s Education Legacy”, February 22, 2024

<https://mhebtw.mheducation.com/2024/02/22/black-history-month-bessie-burkes-education-legacy/>

Holmes Avenue Elementary School History, “First Black Teacher in Los Angeles”

https://holmesavees.lausd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=3795044&type=d&pREC_ID=2452918

LA Times Article, “Honoring L.A.’s Black Founders” by Cecilia Rasmussen, Feb. 13, 1995.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20210209135155/https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1995-02-13-me-31591-story.html>

Women of LAUSD

Bessie Bruington Burke (March 19, 1899–May 7, 1968)

UCLA Newsletter 2018, "Inspiring People in Black Bruin History"

<https://newsletter.alumni.ucla.edu/connect/2018/feb/black-history/default.htm#bessie>

Find a Grave, memorial page for Bessie Bruington Burke (26 Jan 1899–7 May 1968), Memorial ID 72703849, citing Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA; Maintained by Ann (contributor 46964942)


<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72703849/bessie-burke>

CALIFORNIA NEGRO DIRECTORY 1942-1943

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BESSIE BRUINGTON BURKE. Principal at Nevin Street School, Los Angeles, Calif. A native Californian of pioneer parents, Mrs. Burke has applied herself diligently to the tasks demanded by the years and has given without thought of praise. She has not advanced through favoritism, but by preparation and hard forthright labor. Receiving her early education in the public schools of Los Angeles, Mrs. Burke is a graduate of Los Angeles State Normal Teachers' College, U. C. L. A.; holds the bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Southern California and has studied at Columbia University in New York.

Mrs. Burke is the first Colored teacher to be appointed in the Los Angeles City Schools and was transferred from Holmes Ave. School where she was principal for many years to the Nevin Street School. She is one of the very few Colored principals of the Race in the state and for many years was the only Negro principal of any school with a mixed student body in the United States! The naming of Mrs. Burke to this large graded school offsets severe criticism and the general idea that a Negro would only be appointed principal of a local school where the whole teaching personnel are members of the race and that the majority of students also Negroes. At the Holmes Ave. School from which she was transferred, 90% of the teachers were Negroes. In her new assignment, of the 25 teachers on her staff, six are Negroes. The administrative staff of the school was not affected by the new appointment. Like other metropolitan urban centers in the country where racial populations have gradually shifted, the Los Angeles Board of Education is keeping abreast of changing conditions, by adjusting their education system for the best interest of all citizens. She has made an enviable work as a community servant aside from her work as an educator. She is a member of the Girls' Reserve Council of the Y. W. C. A.; the executive board of the N. A. A. C. P., the Educational Commission of the Women's Political Study Club; the International Commission and the Principals Club of Los Angeles. Socially, she is widely known as a member of the California Club and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She was honored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority as "The Outstanding Woman of 1939." Res. 1351 W. 37th St., Los Angeles, Calif.



BESSIE BRUINGTON BURKE

"The Official Negro Directory and Classified Buyers Guide (1942-1943)" by New Age Publishing Company, 1942

https://archive.org/details/The_Official_Negro_Directory_and_Classified_Buyers_Guide_1942-1943

Women of LAUSD

Bessie Bruington Burke (March 19, 1899–May 7, 1968)



Title: Bessie Bruington Burke, Principal. Location/Accession: S-008-825 120 Description: Photo taken of Bessie Bruington Burke (far left corner in back) standing with the graduating class, when she was Principal of Holmes Avenue School. Photo dated: June 1924.

Credits Los Angeles Public Library Shades of L.A. is an archive of photographs representing the contemporary and historic diversity of families in Los Angeles. Made possible and accessible through the generous support of the Security Pacific National Bank, Sunlaw Cogeneration Partners, Photo Friends, California Council for the Humanities, the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, and the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation.

<https://tessa2.lapl.org/digital/collection/photos/id/78639/rec/1>

Women of LAUSD

Jackie Goldberg (b. November 18, 1944) was born in Los Angeles and is a former educator and politician who served as a member of the LAUSD Board of Education for District 5 from 2019 until her retirement in December 2024. She previously served on the LAUSD Board from 1983 to 1991, during which she was elected board president twice, first in 1989 and again in 1990. She returned to the board after winning a 2019 special election following the resignation of Ref Rodriguez. In January 2023, she was elected board president once more, succeeding Kelly Gonez, and was re-elected to the role in December 2023.

A Los Angeles native raised in Inglewood; she graduated from Morningside High School. Goldberg began her career as a Teacher in the Compton Unified School District, where she taught social studies—including U.S. and world history, government, economics, and women’s studies—for 17 years. During this time, she developed a reading program that significantly improved student achievement in reading. Her arrest during the 1964 Free Speech Movement at the University of California, Berkeley, initially prevented her from being hired by LAUSD, leading her to start her teaching career in Compton instead. In 1964, following “Freedom Summer” in the south, her classmate was arrested on UC Berkeley campus solely for advocating justice on campus. In response, Jackie refused to allow her classmate to be taken to jail, and she organized thousands of students to surround him until he was released 32 hours later. She earned a Bachelor’s degree from UC Berkeley, where she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and later obtained a Master’s degree from the University of Chicago. Beyond her LAUSD service, Goldberg served on the Los Angeles City Council for the 13th District from 1993 to 2001, becoming the first openly lesbian person elected to the council. During her tenure, she authored the city’s Living Wage ordinance and advanced domestic partner benefits. She later represented the 45th District in the California State Assembly from 2000 to 2006, where she chaired the Assembly Education Committee and passed legislation granting LGBT couples rights like married spouses. Outside of City Hall, with her life partner Sharon Stricker, she founded the LACER after-school program, which offers academic help, sports, arts, music and other enrichment. Upon returning from Sacramento, she served as a faculty advisor at UCLA’s Graduate School of Education. After rejoining the LAUSD Board in 2019, she led efforts to reduce the school police budget by \$25 million in 2020 and co-led the board’s declaration of LAUSD as a sanctuary District for immigrants and LGBTQ+ students and staff in 2024.

Women of LAUSD

Jackie Goldberg (b. November 18, 1944) She also focused on improving public access to Board meetings and facilitating negotiations during the 2023 Teachers' strike. Goldberg announced her retirement in August 2023, stepping down at the end of 2024 after a career in public service spanning more than four decades.

Los Angeles Times "George McKenna and Jackie Goldberg, lions of LAUSD, retire after fiery careers"; Howard Blume; December 26, 2024

"Jackie Goldberg: A Titan of Progress in LA"; City of Los Angeles; Posted on 12/09/2024

<https://cd13.lacity.gov/news/jackie-goldberg-titan-progress-la>



Women of LAUSD

Jackie Goldberg (b. November 18, 1944)



L.A. City Councilmember Jackie Goldberg advocates for a living wage ordinance outside of L.A. City Hall in 1997 in front of supporters. (Courtesy of Jackie Goldberg)



L.A. school board President Jackie Goldberg holds up "The Great Big Book of Families" and reads it from cover to cover during a board meeting in June 2023, daring critics to find anything offensive in its pages. (Wally Skalj/Los Angeles Times)

Women of LAUSD

Betty Plasencia (1941–1981) Betty Plasencia died before her work was done



but her name on the school reminds everyone about who she and Betty Plasencia Elementary School stand for. She was raised in Los Angeles and graduated from Belmont High School. She came to work at Cortez Street School in 1969 as an Educational Aide. Plasencia loved this school and loved this community

working hard to make both better places for children. She helped to organize the Library, parent associations, youth activities, and neighborhood walk for Teachers to acquaint them with the community. But most of all, she was known for helping children and young people. It was her dream that they all grew up to become successful adults. Involved with The Holy Rosary Boys- a club to keep children out of gangs she raised money to support local families through a soapbox derby "The Beaudry 500". She was the Leader of "Concerned Parents and Us" which organized the Harmony Bowl, the annual football game between Rampart police and the neighborhood youths. On July 1, 1982, Cortez Street School was renamed Betty Plasencia Elementary School.



To help keep Plasencia's dream alive and to help everyone remember that the school is to gain knowledge and the desire to become a lifelong learner, one of the Teachers designed and executed a beautiful ceramic mural. The mural contains pieces donated by students, parents, community members, staff members, and many others. It truly contains parts of all of us. This wonderful work greets us as we enter the school. The artist and Teacher who created the mural was Mrs. Cheryl Thomas; assisting Mrs. Thomas with the execution of the mural was another very dedicated employee, Mrs. Anne Norbut.

https://web.archive.org/web/20190706013235/http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Plasencia_EL/Description/Description/Betty_Plasencia_Bio.html

<https://web.archive.org/web/20251023182859/https://belmontalumni.org/img/plasencia.jpg>

Women of LAUSD

Evelyn Thurman Gratts (1906–1996) known as “Mrs. Belmont” was a Parent Volunteer, School Advocate, Community Activist honored with an LAUSD resolution naming three schools in the Westlake District in her honor. Gratts STEAM Early Education Center, Para Los Ninos Evelyn Gratts Primary School and Gratts Learning Academy for Young Scholars (GLAYS). Born in 1906, she was a native Angeleno who attended Union Avenue Elementary School, Virgil Middle School, and Belmont High School, where her advocacy for students began early in her life. She became a tireless volunteer in the Los Angeles Unified School District, dedicating decades to improving education and community safety. Her efforts included organizing a parent group to combat gang fights at Belmont High School and playing a pivotal role in bringing the Head Start program to Los Angeles. She also championed the opening of the first integrated swimming pool in the Echo Park area and founded the Westlake Hills Senior Citizens group, serving as its President. Gratts was known for her unwavering commitment to social justice and community uplift, even after personal tragedies such as the 1946 justifiable homicide of her abusive husband, Robert Gratts. She maintained a strong presence in civil rights activism and was known to have interacted with prominent leaders like Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr.. Her legacy was honored posthumously when Belmont Elementary School #5 was renamed Evelyn Thurman Gratts Elementary in her honor, making it the first school in the Los Angeles Unified School District to be named after a living person. The school, located at 309 Lucas Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90017, continues to be supported by her family through events like the 5th Grade culmination ceremony and scholarship awards. She passed away in February 1996 at the age of 89, just weeks after learning the school would bear her name.

A Lasting Legacy: The Indomitable Spirit of Evelyn Thurman Gratts, "Mrs. Belmont"

https://glayses.lausd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=3783910&type=d&pREC_ID=2448515

LA Weekly; A Fitting Legacy: Gratts Elementary honors woman who devoted life to schools. By

Ramona Ortega; Sept. 12, 1996 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/la-weekly-tribute-to-evelyn-thurman-grat/120956915/>

Women of LAUSD

Evelyn Thurman Gratts (1906–1996)

A Fitting Legacy

Gratts Elementary honors woman who devoted life to schools

BY RAMONA ORTEGA

Only one name was ever really considered for the new elementary school in the Belmont neighborhood near downtown. And it wasn't that of a celebrity, a president or a rich man, but Evelyn Thurman Gratts, a soft-spoken, determined woman who shared the neighborhood's triumphs, tragedies and evolution for her whole 89 years before her death in February.

Gratts became a parent volunteer at a Belmont-area school in 1939, and she never stopped. For longtime residents it's a strange feeling not to see Gratts reading stories to young grade-schoolers or patrolling the halls to keep order during this week's traditional opening of the school year. Just last fall, she disobeyed doctors' orders and left her sickbed to lobby successfully for plans to build a new Belmont High School and community center. "The complex, I think, is a wonderful thing," Gratts told school-board members at a September meeting in a weakened, but no-nonsense, iron-willed voice. She particularly favored plans to include a senior center so that other seniors like her could then just "walk out and do volunteer work. We all want to do something."

The Belmont complex was merely the most recent cause for a woman who came from a family of distinction. Gratts' family moved to Los Angeles in 1885, helping to establish an early prominent neighborhood of African-Americans. Her father, Thomas H. Thurman, was a blacksmith, boarding-house owner and minister. He housed his extended family on at least 10 Belmont-area lots that he owned.

The adolescent Evelyn was adventurous, athletic, ambitious and precocious. She chauffeured for Carol Lombard and Clark Gable. And she managed boarding houses that gave refuge to black performers who were turned away elsewhere. She even worked as a masseuse and, in her later years, was known to leave the stands on

the spot to help treat injured high school athletes.

The family's modest prosperity allowed Gratts to devote her life to volunteer causes and five children, but it didn't insulate her from personal tragedy. On November 3, 1946, Gratts shot and killed her abusive, estranged husband, Robert Gratts. She was immediately arrested, but the death was ruled a justifiable homicide. In a roundup of violent deaths, a black-community newspaper wrote, "Gratts is said to have entered Mrs. Gratts' room and slapped her across the face. She drew the revolver from under her pillow and shot him, through the heart, killing him instantly, according to neighbors."

Robert Gratts was known for his temper, recalls daughter Tommie Mallet. "I guess that night he told her that after he was done with her he was going to do something to us. I believe they found his fingerprints around her neck." In the decades since, few people outside the family would ever learn of the incident. Evelyn's son Kermit Gratts notes that in 1946, domestic violence was considered a private family matter.

Evelyn Gratts did not let this personal misfortune halt her activism. Her local eminence made her a natural leader of civil rights marches as well as protests against police misconduct. In her labors, she met other, legendary black leaders such as Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1966, Gratts spearheaded a drive to set up Echo Park's first Head Start, the acclaimed program that prepares needy children for grade school. At the time, "few people had ever heard of Head Start," says Yvonne Nishio, a board member of the Foundation for Early Childhood Development, a Los Angeles-based charity. "Many people didn't even believe in teaching children that young." Gratts raised parents' awareness and also helped raise tens



of thousands of dollars in support money in state and federal grants. "She found us a site in the basement of a church, where there is still a classroom," says Nishio.

In 1981, Gratts championed the successful drive for a community swimming pool and fought to keep the admission free. She regularly organized parent advisory committees and Christmas and church parties. Her community credits include founding the Westlake Senior Center in 1975 and serving as the executive officer until last year.

This mother of five and grandmother of 13 never cursed, smoked or drank, notes daughter Evelyn Cathirell. "She taught us the importance of manners and said, 'If nothing else, good manners will take you anywhere.'" At the same time, when Gratts set about something, she brooked no back talk, and did not hesitate to admonish leaders such as current schools Superintendent Sidney A. Thompson and former Mayor Tom Bradley,

whom she remembered as children. "I knew you back when before you were mayor," she would tell Bradley, who was among some 200 mourners at Gratts' funeral.

Gloria Soto, a Belmont parent, recalls that "Evelyn approached me at a meeting, introduced herself and said, 'Welcome to the family.' She took me under her wing." Soto went on to head the community advisory board at Belmont High School. Gratts' unflagging, inclusive volunteerism continued as the neighborhood changed from predominantly African-American to Latino. Soto, a Latina, helped lead the call to honor Gratts, a black woman.

Gratts learned that a school would bear her name two weeks before her death of heart failure. Says cousin Jean Brown, "She was so proud of the school being named after her. It was all she could talk about."

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<https://www.newspapers.com/article/la-weekly-tribute-to-evelyn-thurman-grat/120956915/>

Women of LAUSD



Theresa Ann Derchan is a longtime Teacher who has spent over 36 years teaching at Osceola Street Elementary School in Sylmar, Los Angeles. She teaches fourth-grade students and was honored as one of five women featured in a new mural unveiled at the school on August 18, 2025. The mural celebrates influential women leaders, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Kamala Harris, Los

Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, and human rights activist Rigoberta Menchú, with

Derchan being recognized for her significant impact on her students and the school community. Principal Jose Velasquez described her as a "heroine" and emphasized her profound influence, noting that her inclusion was a natural choice due to her dedication. She hopes the mural inspires students to believe in the importance of their own voices and that they too can strive for anything, regardless of their background. She added that to be on the same wall as other important female figures "...is absolutely amazing. These are women that I know a lot about, that I've always looked up to as being leaders in the community, and now to be considered slightly among them is

overwhelming and just so amazing that I have no words for it." Some of her students from last year's class even had a hand in painting her in the mural. Derchan humorously recounted how one student excitedly told her how she got to paint her and made sure to keep out her gray hairs. Derchan said the mural is one of the biggest highlights of her career, and hopes that when students see it, they understand the message that their voice is important. "[I'm] a regular Teacher amongst a vice president, a Supreme Court justice and a mayor, so it's wonderful for students to see that they too can strive for anything," she said. "It doesn't matter where you come from or what you do. ... All of us are important."



Theresa Derchan (left) at the unveiling of a mural at Osceola Elementary School that includes her portrait, Aug. 18. (SFVS/el Sol Photo/Gabriel Arizon)

"Osceola Elementary Unveils Mural Honoring the Voices of Women" by Gabriel Arizon, San Fernando Valley Sun/El Sol, August 20, 2025 <https://sanfernandosun.com/2025/08/20/osceola-elementary-unveils-mural-honoring-the-voices-of-women/>

Women of LAUSD



Krisztina Anahid Tokes is the Chief Facilities Executive (CFE) for the LAUSD, a role she has held since 2023 after serving as Deputy Chief Facilities Executive for over six years. Ms. Tokes joined Los Angeles Unified in 2005 as regional Development Manager and oversaw the development of over \$1.3 billion of new school and modernization projects in the South and Southeast areas of Los Angeles. In 2011, she was appointed the Director of Facilities Asset Management Branch where she was responsible for planning the allocation of \$7.8 billion of the District's capital bond program, led the strategic plan to prioritize \$4.2 billion to modernize existing school sites and oversaw approximately \$2 billion of funded projects in design and development. As Branch Director, Tokes was also responsible for managing the District's assets and led the District's initiative to develop affordable work-force housing projects, joint-use health clinics, and various greening initiatives on District property. In 2017, she was promoted to Deputy Chief Facilities Executive. Tokes has 25 years of experience in large-scale building programs and projects and has worked for private clients and public agencies at the federal, county and local level on large-scale civic improvement projects and joint-venture partnerships. She holds a Master's in City Planning from the University of California Berkeley and a Bachelor's in Architecture from the University of Southern California. As CFE she oversees the planning, design, and construction of school facilities, including the District's \$33.1 billion capital bond program, and manages the maintenance and operations of LAUSD's over 1,300 schools and centers. She supervises approximately 3,400 professionals across planning, development, real estate, design, construction, inspection, and maintenance and operations. She is responsible for directing efforts related to major modernization projects, such as the \$274 million renovation at John F. Kennedy High School, which includes the removal of 19 aging portable classrooms and the construction of new, state-of-the-art classrooms and science labs. Tokes has also been involved in seismic retrofitting projects to ensure school buildings meet safety standards, particularly in older structures. She has emphasized the importance of voter-approved bonds and the recent Measure US property tax increase, which will fund up to \$9 billion in school construction and renovation projects over the next several decades, with nearly \$5 billion allocated to renovations like those at Kennedy High. AIA, Los Angeles, "City Leaders Reception Breakfast with Facilities Services Division, LAUSD", September 22, 2023 <https://web.archive.org/web/20231129163249/https://www.aialosangeles.org/event/breakfast-w-krisztina-tokes-alix-walsh-obrien-faia-facilities-services-division-laUSD/>

Women of LAUSD

Mary Emily Foy (July 13, 1862 – February 21, 1962) was the first woman head Librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library, appointed to the job in 1880 at the age of 18, having graduated the previous year from Los Angeles High School. She served in this role for four years, during which she established a Dewey Decimal catalog system, managed Library accounts, hosted the Ladies Reading Room, refereed chess games in the Newspaper Room, and settled bets on trivia questions, such as the authorship of Webster's Dictionary. Her appointment followed the dismissal of two previous male Librarians, John C. Littlefield and Patrick Connolly, whose shortcomings led the Library board to vow to appoint a "lady Librarian". Foy, the daughter of merchant Samuel Calvert Foy, secured the position by canvassing all 15 City Council members after seeking advice from her neighbor, Mayor John Toberman. She spent the summer of 1880 in the San Francisco Bay area, learning Library practices from Librarians in San Francisco and Oakland. After her tenure ended in 1884, Foy continued her education, attending the California State Normal School in Los Angeles and Woodbury Business College. She later taught at Alameda School in Downey, Eighth Street School in Los Angeles, and by 1903 was teaching at Los Angeles High School. Newspaper columnist John Adams, writing in the *Downey Eagle*, said that Foy was a "strong-willed woman" who "campaigned for Woodrow



Wilson during his national political career and fought for decades for the California Progressive Movement and Women's Rights". She was listed in the 1913 yearbook of Los Angeles High School as a "prominent club woman and suffragist". She held leadership roles in several organizations, including Vice President of the Political Equality League, Secretary of the Votes for Women Club, and President of the California Woman's Democratic League. She was a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions in 1916 and 1920, and in 1934 ran unsuccessfully for Congress in the 15th Congressional District. At age 95, she was named "California Democratic Woman of the Year" by the California Democratic Party.

Women of LAUSD

Mary Emily Foy (July 13, 1862 – February 21, 1962) Foy had a deep interest in history and archaeology, being a founding member of the Southwest Museum and the American Institute for Archaeology, and organizing the California

Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. She founded the First Century Families, an organization dedicated to descendants of Los Angeles settlers from its first 100 years, which still exists today. Her legacy is honored through the Mary Foy California Room in the Los Angeles Central Library, established in 1962 on what would have been her 100th birthday, though the room was not included in the Library's 1986 reconstruction after fires. Anyone curious about this great lady can find citations to magazines and newspaper articles along with a Biographical sketch in Miss Foy's own hand at the History desk of Central Library which is open to the public. "The Mary Foy California Room no longer exists in the new building only



because the new design makes California history books more accessible to the public, not out of neglect for Miss Foy's memory. No longer are books kept in locked cases as was done in the old Library's California Room, but are available for browsing by Library patrons. The Mary Foy California Room collection and the California Subject and Biographical Index remain one of the great resources for students and scholars of California history. Mary Foy's memory is alive and well at Central Library in downtown Los Angeles. One only needs to ask a Librarian."-Glen Creason, LAPL Reference Librarian. In 2020, the Los Angeles Public Library commemorated Foy's accomplishments by installing a plaque in her honor in the Rotunda of Central Library. She died on February 21, 1962, at the age of 99, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. Upon her death, Foy became the first and only woman to be laid in state at Los Angeles City Hall. The house where she was born and lived is designated as Los Angeles Historical Cultural Monument No. 8. Her papers and correspondence are archived at the Autry Museum of the American West and The Huntington Library.

Women of LAUSD

Mary Emily Foy (July 13, 1862 – February 21, 1962) As one longtime friend and writer penned following her death, "The history of this area has been written, in part, by the man and women who were taught and inspired by Mary Foy."

"LOS ANGELES HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, 1875 to 1885", Originally published in the SCGS Searcher, March 1987 pp 58-59, Written by Wilma Harper

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"Leader of Women's Movement taught locally" By John Adams, August 20, 1993. The PaperInk presents The Time Traveler as published in The Downey Eagle.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20120205191135/http://thepaperink.com/1993/93tt0820.htm>

"Library recalls Mary Foy: But still no room" By John Adams, February 11, 1994. The PaperInk presents The Time Traveler as published in The Downey Eagle.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20120205191120/http://thepaperink.com/1994/94tt0211.htm>

Title: Mary E. Foy Abstract/medium: 1 negative : glass ; 5 x 7 in. or smaller. Bain News Service, publisher - Library of Congress Catalog: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2014702212> Image

Download: <https://cdn.loc.gov/service/pnp/ggbain/22200/22273v.jpg> Original

url: <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2014702212/>

LAPL Blog, "Octavia Lab Presents Hidden Heroes" Andrea Borchert, Thursday, October 8, 2020. Written with the help of Vi Ha, Mayra Cervantes, Amanda Mellor, Richard Acero, Christina Rice, Stella Mittelbach, Nicholas Beyelia, Ani Boyadjian, Bob Timmermann, Jimmy Tokeshi and Imani Harris.

https://www.lapl.org/sites/default/files/LAPL_HIDDEN_HEROES_COLORING_SHEETS_2020_Mary%20Foy.pdf

Women of LAUSD

Dr. Virginia Uribe (December 20, 1933–March 30, 2019) *"Every young person has a right to a sense of self-respect and dignity. In public education we serve the needs of all our students. Some are gay and lesbian and we need to serve them too. We're supposed to be teaching them to live in an increasingly diverse society. This shouldn't be a place where prejudice is fostered. It's where discrimination should be fought."* -Dr. Virginia Uribe, Founder, Project 10 (LA Times Interview, 1984)

Dr. Uribe's interest in the issues faced by lesbian and gay youth in schools began while doing research for her Ph.D. in psychology. A survey of the 10 largest school Districts in the United States revealed a startling lack of support services for this target population. Not long after, she noted that an openly gay student at Fairfax High School named Chris had dropped out after he was continually harassed by fellow students. Further investigation showed that Chris had been kicked out of his home at age 14 after telling his parents he was gay. Fairfax was the fourth high school he had left after sexual harassment proved too much for him. This incident served as the catalyst for Dr. Uribe who then spent months putting together counseling advice from experts that subsequently formed the foundation of what is now Project 10 (the name comes from the Kinsey sex research theory that 10% of the population is gay). Almost immediately after its inception, the Traditional Values Coalition headed by Rev. Louis Sheldon, attacked Project 10 and Dr. Uribe through the media, through the State Assembly Education Committee which threatened to stop all funds coming to the Los Angeles Unified School District, and through phone calls registering displeasure from Sen. Jesse Helm's office in Washington, D.C. After a 6.5 hour long hearing in June 1988, at which the School Board refused to disband the Project 10 program, threats from the state legislature failed to materialize. Although initially unprepared for the attacks, Dr. Uribe soon found herself transformed into a formidable and vocal human rights activist.

Upon retirement from the LAUSD in 1998, Dr. Uribe put the in-school operations of Project 10 into the very capable hands of Gail Rolf and then began her new role as the major fundraiser for Friends of Project 10 Inc., which funds the Models of Excellence scholarship, the LGBTQ+ Youth Prom, and the first annual Models of Pride conferences. Friends of Project 10 Inc. was formed as a 501c3 nonprofit organization to develop a broad based foundation of support for the program in the District, and to expand its reach outside the District.

Women of LAUSD

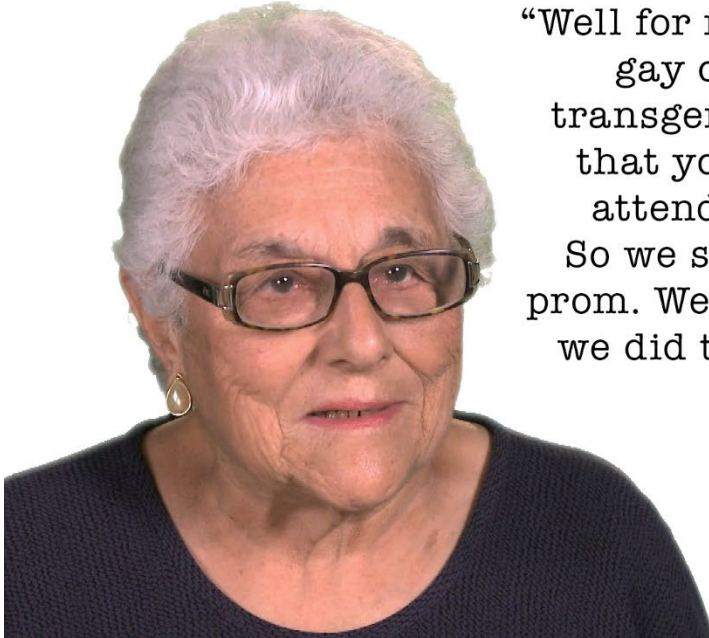
Dr. Virginia Uribe (December 20, 1933–March 30, 2019) Friends of Project 10 Inc. and the Gay and Lesbian Education Commission work together to produce the first District sponsored "Models of Pride" gay youth conference at Occidental College in October 1993. Project 10 currently has groups or contact people in the majority of LAUSD's high schools. Over the years it has expanded to include middle and continuation schools. Portions of the Project 10 model are replicated in schools across the country.

Uribe was born in Los Angeles, and lived her entire life in Pasadena, California. She grew up in an Italian family, living with parents and her grandparents in the same household. She went to Catholic school throughout elementary school, high school, and college. Her grandparents were immigrants and "intensely" patriotic and believed the United States to be a land of opportunity. Their sense of fairness, working class sensibilities, and liberal ideals shaped her world view. Uribe felt that her family was supportive of her throughout her childhood, which gave her the mindset and strength needed to advocate for youth. Uribe felt her deepest attractions towards women. During her time as a student, she found herself sexually attracted to nuns at the Catholic schools she attended. While these desires remained mostly hidden, Uribe believed that some of the other female Catholic students had similar desires towards nuns, based on their behavior while in their presence. She eventually married a man, as that was the expectation in those days, but the marriage ultimately ended in divorce. She was the mother to two children and a grandmother to two children. Later in life, she met Gail Rolf in 1988, and they were later married in October 2008, and remained together until her death.

Among numerous awards, she received commendations for her pioneering work from the National Education Association, the US Senate, the California State Assembly and State Senate, the Mayor's office of the City of Los Angeles, GLADD, the LA Gay & Lesbian Center, CSW/LA Pride, Long Beach Pride, the LA Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the LA County Human Relations Commission, Lambda Legal, the City and County of Los Angeles, the Stonewall Scholarship Committee of United Teachers Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the City of West Hollywood, Vox Femina LA, and Stonewall Young Democrats. Uribe was awarded the NOGLSTP GLBT Educator of the Year Award in 2009. One of her proudest moments was when she was informed by the White House, during President Obama's tenure, that she was a finalist for the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Women of LAUSD

Dr. Virginia Uribe (December 20, 1933–March 30, 2019) In June 2019, Uribe was one of the inaugural fifty American “pioneers, trailblazers, and heroes” inducted on the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor within the Stonewall National Monument (SNM) in New York City’s Stonewall Inn.



“Well for many years, if you were gay or lesbian or bisexual or transgender... there was no way that you could be yourself and attend a regular school prom. So we started having the LGBT prom. We held it off campus. And we did that for about 15 years.”

- Dr. Virginia Uribe



"Dr. Virginia Uribe". The Lavender Effect. 2015-05-12. Retrieved 2017-05-21.

<https://thelavendereffect.org/projects/ohp/virginia-uribe/>

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https://www.lapl.org/sites/default/files/LAPL_HIDDEN_HEROES_COLORING_SHEETS_2020_Virginia%20Uribe.pdf

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Women of LAUSD

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus (September 21, 1884 – July 13, 1967) in 1916 at age 32 became Principal of Abraham Lincoln High School in Los Angeles – the first woman Principal of a California high school. In 1947, in order to provide affordable health insurance for retired Teachers, she founded the National Retired Teacher's Association (NRTA). In 1958, Dr. Andrus co-founded the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). She served as the new organization's first President and Editor of its first magazine, *Modern Maturity*. AARP went on to become one of the nation's largest and most influential advocacy organizations and now counts nearly 39 million members.

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus was born on April 21, 1884, in San Francisco, California, and raised in Chicago when her father moved the family there to study law. It was a tumultuous time – the famous Pullman Strike of 1894 threw Chicago into chaos after federal troops crushed the railroad workers' uprising – with vast gaps between the Gilded Age millionaires and the poor. As a young girl, Dr. Andrus was moved by those at the top who tried to spread the wealth: She revered the late Peter Cooper, a wealthy industrialist and inventor turned philanthropist who founded a New York college offering free night classes to everyone, regardless of race or background. What made a great impression on her, she said later, was "his love for, and service to, folks whom he might never have known." Dr. Andrus was among the very few women who went to college in 1900. She spent a year at the University of Chicago before joining a Teacher training program at an affiliated school, the innovative Lewis Institute on Chicago's near-West Side. After earning a four-year degree in 1903, she immediately joined the faculty and taught English and German there for seven years – a busy, exciting time for the young Teacher. While working at the Lewis Institute, she discovered Hull House, a settlement house cofounded by the heiress Jane Addams. It was located in an impoverished neighborhood where immigrants (Italian, Irish, German, Greek, Russian and Polish) could find support and a place to live. Hull House offered night-school classes for adults in subjects such as English and citizenship. Dr. Andrus volunteered there and, she would later recall, "I learned there to know life intimately and to value folks of different races and creeds." She remembered her time in Chicago as "happy and wonderful," but that part of her life came to an end in 1909, when she and her father grew ill (records don't specify the nature of the illness). The family moved – temporarily, they thought at the time – to a small town in Southern California, Santa Paula, so the two could recover. Dr. Andrus rebounded, but her father grew worse.

Women of LAUSD

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus (September 21, 1884 – July 13, 1967) He was diagnosed with atrophy of the optic nerve, a progressive disease. After moving back to California, she received her Master's degree from the University of Southern California in 1928 and a PhD from USC's School of Education in 1930. She never married and with no children of her own, she devoted her professional life to educating the children of others who needed special encouragement. The family ended up staying in California, and Dr. Andrus eventually took a job teaching English at Manual Arts High School, a new school for working-class students in the growing new metropolis of Los Angeles. She taught English and German in several high schools. Then, in 1916, when the Principal of Eastern High School (later renamed Abraham Lincoln High School with her help) moved on, she was appointed to fill the position. The school's diverse student body spoke 32 languages, including Spanish, Italian, Russian and Chinese. During her 28 years as Principal, Dr. Andrus focused not only on education, but also on knitting the diverse student body and their families together through community service projects – a novelty at the time. Dr. Andrus used the high school in the evening, inviting shop keepers, carpenters and other parents to serve as guest educators – teaching each other new skills. "Our student body became a part of the larger social movements of Lincoln Heights. Our athletes became the coaches and sponsors of their respective elementary schools. Training rules kept prospective delinquents in bed at bedtime to qualify," Dr. Andrus wrote. "Recognition for civic performance satisfied and fed the drives of youth, which like age, wants to be needed, to be praised and be 'a member of a team.'" She turned the school around and placed a huge wrought iron gateway to the school with the words OPPORTUNITY at the top. Everyone who entered had to pass underneath. "In an age of hard-nosed, gruff male Principals," reported the Los Angeles Times, "[Ethel Andrus] might have passed for Marian the Librarian. She was a red-haired, bespectacled, soft-spoken educator... whose success came from building close relationships with both Teachers and students. A former Teacher once said of her: 'When you spent time with Ethel, you felt you'd had a drink of strong, heady wine.' Single and childless, Dr. Andrus served as a mother figure to many of her students and a friend to others. She once said, 'I never met a child who couldn't embrace me.' She treated pupils with firmness and affection that produced extraordinary results." One unruly student reported years later, "Somehow...you found yourself acting the way she wanted you to!" (Los Angeles Times, Dec. 14, 2003) Another former student, the actor Robert Preston, recalled: "The big iron scroll on the Abraham Lincoln High School gate through which we passed read: 'Opportunity'. Isn't it amazing that we didn't know until we walked out: Opportunity had red hair!"

Women of LAUSD

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus (September 21, 1884 – July 13, 1967) Dr.

Andrus taught her students to take pride in their family heritage. Her goal was *“to bring each student a sense of his own worth by treating him with dignity and respect, by honoring his racial background not as a picturesque oddity, but as a valued contribution in the tapestry of American life.”* She instituted school activities that built leadership skills while breaking down cultural barriers. She established a program of community service that instilled self-esteem and confidence through service to others. As a result, the school’s delinquency and drop-out rates fell dramatically. The Los Angeles County Juvenile Court awarded Dr. Andrus and her school a special award for success in youth crime prevention. In 1940, the National Education Association published her programs as a model for other schools to follow in reducing delinquency and racial/ethnic conflict. Dr. Andrus’ efforts to improve the lives of her students didn’t stop at the school gate; she worked to improve the community as well. Dr. Andrus was responsible for renaming the neighborhood “Lincoln Heights” and its park, “Lincoln Park”. Working with business leaders, she established Lincoln High School as a community center that reached out to immigrant families through their children. She started an Opportunity School for Adults, which raised the educational level and English skills of parents and other adults living in the neighborhood. To set an example, Dr. Andrus went back to school herself, furthering her own knowledge as an educator. In 1930 she received her Doctorate from the University of Southern California this includes Doctor of Education (EdD) –one of the first women to do so. She then taught education classes at UCLA, USC, and Stanford during summer vacations–inspiring a whole generation of future Teachers. Not only was she the first woman high school Principal in California, she helped found the California Association of Secondary School Administrators and served as its first woman President. In 1944–after 40 years in education with 28 years as Principal of Lincoln High School–Dr. Andrus retired to care for her ill mother. She was 60 years old and had she done nothing further in life, she would still be remembered as a noted educator and humanitarian. But Dr. Andrus’s mother inspired her to take up the cause of others in her retirement. “You thought your work was done when you gave up youngsters,” her mother told her, “but it’s only the beginning.” How true that would turn out to be! Dr. Andrus retired with a pension of \$60 per month, to care for her seriously ill mother. Like so many women then and now, she left work to become a full-time caregiver. Around this time Dr. Andrus began volunteering with the California Retired Teachers Association. She learned from a local grocer, 30 miles outside of Los Angeles, that an older woman who came to his store needed food, eyeglasses, and dentures.

Women of LAUSD

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus (September 21, 1884 – July 13, 1967) With the address in hand, Dr. Andrus set out to visit her on a cold, drizzly day. The address led her to a sizable bungalow where no one was home. Puzzled, she inquired with a neighbor, who suggested she check on the old woman who lived “out back.” “Out back” was a chicken coop. Dr. Andrus knocked on the door of the windowless shack. The occupant, wearing a ragged coat, slipped through the door and closed it behind her. Upon learning her name, Dr. Andrus recalled the woman’s reputation as a Spanish Teacher of some distinction. Once settled on the front seat of Dr. Andrus’ car out of the rain, the woman told her story. Sales opportunities for the scenic acreage she had bought over time as an investment had been diminished by the Great Depression. While the retiree still had her \$40 monthly pension, she could not afford decent housing or health care. Dr. Andrus got mad and then she got organized. When she started searching for health insurance for retired Teachers, she discovered it was a herculean task, and realized she needed a group. In 1947, at age 63, she formed the National Retired Teachers Association and set about obtaining decent living standards and affordable health insurance for them. There was no Medicare yet and most insurance companies saw covering older people as a costly risk. After being turned down by 42 insurance companies, finally in 1956, Dr. Andrus found a company willing to take a chance on health care for older adults. The retired Teachers’ health plan and the organization’s focus on financial security were such hits that, in 1958, Dr. Andrus created a new organization – now known as AARP – to serve the needs of non-educators. In 1954 at the age of 70, she moved to Ojai, CA, to start a residence for retired Teachers: Grey Gables of Ojai. In addition to NRTA and AARP, you could add the passage of Medicare to Dr. Andrus’s accomplishments. Signed into law on July 30, 1965, by Lyndon Johnson it took the pressure of Dr. Andrus and AARP to bring about the bill’s final passage. From 1963 until 1967, she divided her time between Ojai and Long Beach. Of course, much of her work involved traveling to Washington DC and various state capitals to advocate for the elderly and for all this she took no pay. While she was busy lobbying politicians in Washington, D.C. (Lora Lana remembers her mother and Dr. Andrus living out of suitcases for weeks at a time), she also kept close touch with her people in Ojai. When a Nordhoff Teacher, Herb Smith, and his wife were stricken with polio, Dr. Andrus spearheaded the fund-raising effort that paid for their house to be retrofitted for the wheelchair-bound couple. Dr. Andrus cut quite a figure around town, says Anne Friend Thacher, who began working for both the NRTA and the AARP maintaining membership files. “No one called her Ethel. She had this striking red hair and was a very smart person.”

Women of LAUSD

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus (September 21, 1884 – July 13, 1967) Dr.

Andrus also brought her nephew, Lincoln Service, along with his young daughters, Barbara and Suzanne (Sandy) Andrus Service, to Ojai in 1954. The girls were seven and eight. Dr. Service served as the Gables' medical staff. "We just loved Ojai," Barbara says. "It was rural, and very beautiful, and very different from Glendale." Even with Ojai's laid-back country feel, Dr. Andrus insisted on proper decorum in dress and bearing. "One time she drove me down to Long Beach to go clothes shopping," Sandy Service says. "We went into several stores where I would sit on the sofa and they brought out clothes for me to try. She would always pick these fancy silk suits. I said, 'Nana, people in Ojai don't dress like that.'" She said, "*A lady is a lady no matter where she lives.*" Her partner, Leonard Davis, formed his own insurance company, Colonial Penn, which offered low-cost health insurance to all AARP members. Needless to say, his association with AARP turned into a goldmine. After paying AARP a royalty for each policy sold, Leonard Davis and Colonial Penn reaped huge profits. At one point Davis appeared in Forbes' list of the 400 wealthiest Americans. But, Ethel Percy Andrus' spirit of selfless service and giving must have affected him, too, for he became one of America's great philanthropists. One of his projects was to expand Dr. Andrus's work in researching the needs and capabilities of the elderly. In 1973 he established The Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center at the University of Southern California Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, the oldest and largest existing professional school of gerontology. Among Dr. Andrus' many accomplishments is a stint as a faculty member at Chicago's Lewis Institute, a predecessor of Illinois Institute of Technology and she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993. The Extra Mile National Monument in Washington, D.C., selected Dr. Andrus as one of its 37 honorees. The Extra Mile pays homage to Americans like Dr. Andrus who set their own self-interest aside to help others and successfully brought positive social change to the United States. Although AARP is non-partisan, and doesn't support political campaigns, it has a powerful presence in Washington DC and the state capitals. It lobbies on issues that are important to older Americans—and is supported in its lobbying efforts by its large membership base; nearly one in five voters are AARP members! During her years as leader and spokesperson for AARP, she scored many important legislative victories and also improved Social Security, secured tax benefits for seniors, instituted cost-of-living increases for pensions, outlawed mandatory retirement, and ended discrimination against the elderly. These are all things we take for granted today, but they were not easy victories at the time.

Women of LAUSD

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus (September 21, 1884 – July 13, 1967) For all of her success in building two national organizations, Ethel Percy Andrus' most important achievement was in changing America's image of retirement. "As it is," Dr. Andrus observed in 1958, "when you leave a job, they often just give you a gold



Ethel Percy Andrus speaking at an NRTA/AARP convention

watch, and all you can do is look at it and count the hours until you die. Yet think of all the grand things we can do that youth can't. Think of all the things we already have done.

Someday, the retired citizens of this country will have the dignity they deserve." In numerous editorials and speeches Dr. Andrus promoted retirement as the beginning of one's creative life—not the end of it. "Creative energy is ageless," she would say; it is focusing on

ourselves and our own problems that defeats

us. Retirement is an opportunity to move beyond ourselves by serving the needs of others and, in so doing, be fulfilled as human beings. She urged seniors, "Retire, not from—but to service!" Through her dedicated efforts, Dr. Andrus brought millions of retirees out of their isolation and back into the mainstream of American life. She encouraged these retirees to find part-time jobs, go back to school, travel, get involved, and most of all to volunteer in their communities. She built a gateway over the entrance to retirement and framed it with a single word: "Opportunity". When Ethel Percy Andrus died in 1967, she was interred in a small garden at Ivy Lawn Cemetery in Ventura; one of many eulogies was written by the President of the United States, Lyndon Johnson: "The life of each citizen who seeks relentlessly to serve the national good is a most precious asset to this land. And the loss of such a citizen is a loss shared by every American. In Ethel Percy Andrus, humanity had a trusted and untiring friend. She has left us all poorer by her death. But by her enduring accomplishments, she has enriched not only us, but all succeeding generations of Americans." Here are some of her favorite quotes: "I have been thinking a great deal lately about old age. Old age, Ethel, needs care as youth needs care, but it needs something more. It needs the desire to live, to continue planning and striving hopefully, to keep working at something worthwhile, and then when, at last, old age becomes dependent, it needs someone to still care or, if there is no one to care, there should be community care, which can make it easy to help those who now cannot help themselves to keep their dignity and their self-respect." "What I spent is gone, what I kept I lost, but what I gave away will be mine forever." "Three principles: collective purpose, collective voice and collective purchasing power."

Her motto, "To serve and not be served" is still the motto of AARP.

Women of LAUSD

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus (September 21, 1884 – July 13, 1967)



Title: Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, Principal of Abraham Lincoln High School, Los Angeles, 1936. **Date created** [circa March 6, 1936] **Publisher:** Los Angeles Times Collection **Program:** OpenUCLA Collections **Description:** Possibly related to "Educator Wins Honor: Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus to Represent West Coast in National Group," Los Angeles Times, 27 Feb 1936: A2. Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus is seated at a table, facing the camera. She holds a sheet of paper in both hands in front of her on the table. Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus was the first woman Principal in California, working at Abraham Lincoln High School in Los Angeles. She went on to found the National Retired Teachers Association, and later expanded that organization to become the AARP.

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections Local

identifier: uclamss_1429_12902 **ARK:** ark:/21198/zz002hn0km

<https://digital.library.ucla.edu/catalog/ark:/21198/zz002hn0km>

Women of LAUSD

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus (September 21, 1884 – July 13, 1967)



Ethel Percy Andrus at AARP's Dynamic Maturity Pavilion, New York World's Fair, 1964

Women of LAUSD

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus (September 21, 1884 – July 13, 1967)

“A Lasting Legacy: How Ethel Percy Andrus's Vision Continues to Shape Aging” AARP Oregon

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Quarterly, Posted on April 25, 2012. <<https://ojaihistory.com/the-age-of-reformation-the-founding-of-aarp-in-ojai/>>

“Ethel Percy Andrus California's Pioneering Educator & Advocate for Senior Americans” Los Angeles Almanac.

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<<https://www.laalmanac.com/people/pe30ea.php>>

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<<https://www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/ethel-percy-andrus/>>

Women of LAUSD

Daisy Marguerite "D.M." Hughes (January 24, 1883– July 15,1968)



Artist who specialized in landscape and still life and was an art teacher, Daisy Marguerite Hughes was born in Los Angeles, California. Her family was able to provide her with a rich and varied art education. She studied with C. P. Townsley, first director of the Otis Art Institute, at the University of California at Berkeley, L. E. Garden Macleod at the Los Angeles School of Art and Design, University of California and then traveled to New York City to study with, Ralph Johonnot, C.P. Townsley, Rudolph Schaeffer, George C. Brown, and George Bridgeman at the Art Student's League. In 1925 she went to Europe to study, and painted in Paris and the South of France where she exhibited in the French Salon

of 1927. She returned to the United States and exhibited at the Babcock Gallery in New York and at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts Show in 1930. George Elmer Browne's classes were taken over by Hughes where she taught artist such as Pauline Boutal. In Boutal's book she wrote that "Miss Hughes is very polite, sensitive and a great help to us with her advice." Hughes asked students to find a subject and paint it in under an hour, then come back for a critique. She signed her drawings and paintings D.M. Hughes, believing that art works by women would not be purchased. Hughes travelled a great deal; always maintaining her home in Los Angeles. She was an art teacher at Burroughs Middle School and other Los Angeles Public schools from 1936 to 1962. A collection of her papers is in the Smithsonian Archives of American Art. Her painting "Wrecking Old Chinatown" (1951) was featured in the exhibition, "Something Revealed: California Women Artists Emerge, 1860-1960" at Pasadena Museum of History in 2019. Hughes was a member of the California Art Club, the California Water Color Society, the Provincetown Art Association, the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors, the American Federation of Arts, and the Los Angeles Art Association. Her works are held by the Provincetown Art Association, the University of Southern California, and Chrysler of Southern California. Her exhibitions include California State Fair, 1891, 1926; California Art Club, 1919-36; Painters & Sculptors of Los Angeles, 1920-37; Art Teachers Ass'n of So. California, 1922-24; National Academy of Design, 1926, 1929, 1933, 1936; Babcock Gallery (NYC), 1928; Galeries Georges Petit (Paris), 1928 (solo); Paris Salon, 1928; Allied Artists of America (NYC), 1929; California WaterColor Society, 1930-35; Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art.

Women of LAUSD

Daisy Marguerite "D.M." Hughes (January 24, 1883– July 15,1968)



Daisy M Hughes the artist was a student and then teacher at the Louise & Gordon MacLeod's Los Angeles School of Art & Design in the early 1890s. Miss Hughes is front row, far left, white blouse & dark skirt.

Women of LAUSD

Daisy Marguerite "D.M." Hughes (January 24, 1883– July 15,1968)

LOS ANGELES ARTISTS
McDOWELL, EVELYN
Los Angeles Times (1923-1995); Aug 16, 1928; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times
pg. A4

LOS ANGELES ARTISTS

BY EVELYN McDOWELL

American artists have been to the fore in Paris this summer. In the first place, there was our own Los Angeles girl, Daisy Hughes, who held a "one-man" show in the Galeries Georges Petit for three weeks in July. It was with quite a thrill that I saw her name emblazoned on a big poster on the Boulevard de la Madeleine announcing her exhibition near at hand.

On entering the rooms devoted to Miss Hughes's show I was struck at once by the happiness of her pictures. Most of the pictures in this exhibition were painted under southern skies. Provence, the Riviera, Corsica, Italy, North Africa, Spain, all have furnished scenes for her brush. Fifty-six pictures were shown, about equally divided between oils and aquarelles, and she had a number of others not put on exhibition.

Among the oils shown here were three which were hung in the Spring Salon in Paris: "Sidi-Bou-Said, sur la Montagne Rouge" in 1927, and "L'Allee Espalion" and "Marche a Venise" in 1928.

A well-known Paris critic says: "Miss Daisy M. Hughes' palette is full of finesse, which gives her meridional landscapes great charm. Those of Corsica do not fall below the best in any respect, and she renders in them all that could be desired of the somewhat wild parts of the island. The atmosphere of the Provence landscapes, in which the artist envelops the views of Espalion and of St. Paul du Var, suffice to show her true understanding of nature, which varies so much with the region presented. . . . The water colors of Miss Hughes, very broadly treated, are of interesting craftsmanship."

The Artistic Supplement of Le Figaro devoted considerable space to a review of Miss Hughes's exhibit and reproduced one of her pictures.

I was glad to see several of Miss Hughes's pictures marked "Sold" before the end of the exhibit. She has been spending several weeks this summer painting some of the picturesque landscapes of Brittany. Her happy, work-filled holiday is drawing to a close, and she will return to Los Angeles soon to resume her high-school teaching. It is to be hoped that Los Angeles art lovers may have an opportunity to see some of her work after her return home.

McDOWELL, EVELYN. "LOS ANGELES ARTISTS." *Los Angeles Times* (1923-1995), 16 Aug., 1928, pp. 1. ProQuest, <https://login.lapl.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www-proquest-com.lapl.idm.oclc.org/newspapers/los-angeles-artists/docview/162205925/se-2>.

Women of LAUSD

Daisy Marguerite "D.M." Hughes (January 24, 1883– July 15,1968)



School of Art and Design

The Los Angeles School of Art and Design will resume work in all branches January 2 under the following faculty: L. E. G. Madern, figure and landscape; John R. Rich, portrait and figure; James E. McBurney, composition; A. S. Calder, sculpture; Daisy M. Hughes, drawing; Dr. W. T. McArthur, anatomy.

The first class in anatomy for this term will be on Saturday afternoon, January 4.

The life classes under the new professor, John H. Rich, will begin Thursday morning, January 2.

Los Angeles Herald Newspaper Archives December 29, 1907 Page 10. <https://access-newspaperarchive-com.lapl.idm.oclc.org/us/california/los-angeles/los-angeles-herald/1907/12-29/page-10>

Women of LAUSD

Daisy Marguerite "D.M." Hughes (January 24, 1883– July 15,1968)

Duguay, Louise. "Pauline Boutal: An Artist's Destiny, 1894–1992". Canada, University of Manitoba Press, 2015.

Edan Hughes, "*Artists in California, 1786–1940*"

Jules Heller; Nancy G. Heller (19 December 2013). [North American Women Artists of the Twentieth Century: A Biographical Dictionary](#). Routledge. ISBN 978-1-135-63882-5

["Daisy Marguerite Hughes sketchbooks and papers, 1928–ca. 1968 | Archives of American Art"](#). Aaa.si.edu. 2016–12–14. Retrieved 2017–02–03.

["Extraordinary California Women Artists Working from 1860 to 1960"](#). Hyperallergic. 2019–02–20. Retrieved 2019–02–27.

Southern California Artists (Nancy Moure); American Art Annual 1919–33

Who's Who in American Art 1936–62; Artists of the American West (Doris Dawdy); Women Artists of the American West

Directory of the Personnel, Los Angeles City School District, 1929.

Los Angeles Times, 7–16–1968 (obituary)