

University of Arizona Department of Women's Studies
WOMEN'S PLAZA OF HONOR
Significant Historical and Contemporary Women Who Need To Be Honored
(updated 07/14/08)

Acosta, Mary Founder of the Hispanic League of Women

Alexander, Sadie Tanner Mossell (1898-1989) In 1921, she became one of the first black women to receive a doctorate and the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. in economics. In 1927, she became the first African-American woman to be admitted to the State Bar and practice law in Pennsylvania. She was elected secretary of the National Bar Association in 1943, the first woman to hold a national office in the Association.

Angel Charity For Children Women's group whose mission it is to improve the quality of life for children in the Tucson area.

Antone, Mary Ann Elected representative from the Sif Oidak District to the Tohono O'odham Tribal Council Legislative Branch.

Barrett, Barbara Executive and officer of three Fortune 500 companies. In the 1980's she was the youngest appointee to the United States Civil Aeronautics Board. First Republican woman to run for Arizona governor. First woman deputy of the Federal Aviation Commission. Trade advisor to both Presidents Reagan and Bush. She and her husband, Craig Barrett, Intel CEO, gave \$10 million to establish the Honors College at Arizona State University. Currently she serves on the Boards of Raytheon, Exponent Inc. and the Valley Bank of Arizona, where she is Chairman of the Board.

Barnes, Ethel Community builder. Worked with Mt. Calvary Baptist Church as educator.

Batteau, Elgie Mike (b. 1905) Community builder, educator. Pima County Community College Board. Her teaching career began in the fall of 1934 at Dunbar Jr. High School in Tucson, the only school for blacks in grades one through nine between 1913 and 1952. Later she taught at Phoenix Union Colored High School and had a lead role in changing that school's name to George Washington Carver High School. She was the first African American to serve on the Pima Community College Governing Board and the board of the Arizona Children's Home. One of the first black women to graduate from the University of Arizona. Received a Master's degree in Special Education, and was one of the first people to specialize in special education in the Tucson area.

Beilen, Mrs. Charles

Bennet, Pauline

Berry, Michelle

Berry, Rachel Allen First woman elected to Arizona State House of Representatives (1915). Also known for her activism regarding children's issues. After leaving the legislature she served as Chair of the County Child Welfare Board and President of the local Relief Society. Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

Best, Bessie Kidd Early Arizona educator, as Coconino County Superintendent, she was elemental in the formation of a library system for the public schools.

Boice, Margaret Organized the Red Cross in Tucson during the war.

Bombeck, Erma (1927-1996) Widely syndicated columnist, known for her humorous columns about home life and children.

Botzum, Clara Osborne (1894-1986) Elected official and businesswoman. Legislator and advocate for Parker and Colorado River Valley.

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Bragg, Janet (1912-1993) Educated as a nurse, began flying in 1933 and became the second black woman in the U.S. to own a plane. Started a flying club in Chicago that would later send many members to fame as the Tuskegee Airmen in WWII. Though denied the ability to serve as a WASP or a military nurse because of her skin color, she continued her struggle to help blacks gain recognition in aviation. After repeated attempts due to discrimination, she finally succeeded in obtaining her commercial pilot's license, becoming the first black woman to do so.

Brook, Betty

Brown, Polly Hicks (1883-1966) Pioneer, rancher and entrepreneur.

Cashman, Nellie (about 1850-1925) Entrepreneur and business woman. Opened a restaurant in Tucson in 1897, but soon moved to Tombstone where she was known for her charitable work as well as her businesses. Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

Casey, Josephine In Chicago she was an organizer for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (1911?-14). She had previously worked as a ticket agent for the Chicago elevated railroad, was a member of Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America 308 of Chicago, which she helped organize around 1903, and was active in the National Women's Trade Union League. She later worked as an organizer for the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage and the National Woman's Party.

Cedarholm, Caroline Prescott missionary, active in beginning the Arizona temperance movement around the turn of the century, with Lizzie Garrison. Their main efforts were aimed at establishing control over Prescott's famed "Whiskey Row."

Clark, Georgie White (1910-1992) Outdoor woman, businesswoman and pioneer of commercial river travel in the Grand Canyon. Best known river guide on the Colorado River. Pioneered the use of large rubber rafts which turned an elite adventure into a widely enjoyed outdoor activity.

Cota, Rosita Teacher and director of Bilingual Education of TUSD. Hosted a children's television program in Spanish for many years. Activist in bilingual education issues.

Cox, Joan Tucson businesswoman in media and advertising.

Daniels, Annie Stakebake Seayrs She was noted for her accomplishments as a teacher and Pima County Superintendent of Schools. A native of Indiana, she came to Arizona in 1904. She is remembered for bringing education to children of migrant workers, and establishing rural schools in Southern Arizona.

Dewhirst, Iris Elected official, community activist in the areas of environmental quality, education and human services. Second woman elected to the Pima County Board of Supervisors. Played a large advocacy role in passing legislation mandating kindergarten in Arizona.

Drachman, Jennie Migel (1859-1927) Pioneer and staunch preserver of Jewish tradition in Arizona's territorial days, active in the Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society.

Elias, Eulalia (1788-1865) Rancher from a distinguished family. With her brother, a priest, managed thousands of cattle and horses from 1833 to 1849 on the Mexican land grant known as the San Juan de Babocomari now in Cochise and Santa Cruz counties. Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

Elle of Ganado (c.1860-1924) Navajo blanket weaver and artist/ demonstrator for the Fred Harvey Indian Department. For twenty years she traveled on behalf of the Harvey Company and the Santa Fe Railway to world's fairs, the Grand Canyon and elsewhere as a culture broker for the Indian Southwest.

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English, Karan Coconino County Supervisor and Arizona's second woman Congressional Representative (1993).

Espinell, Luisa (Ronstadt) (1892-????) Born in Tucson, she became an internationally known interpreter of Spanish song and dance in the 1930s. Performed Hispanic folk music across the US and Europe and gathered Spanish language songs in Spain, Mexico and other countries. She published a collection of Mexican folk music in 1946 under the title "Canciones de Mi Padre" dedicated to her father Fred Ronstadt.

Fathauer, Isabel Shattuck Tucson businesswoman. Keenly interested in U.S. and global political, economic, and social issues.

Ferguson, Mary Her husband George was the founding Rector of St. Philips in the Hills Episcopal Church.

Fly, Mary "Mollie" E. (1847-1925) Photographer and businesswoman.

Forbes, Dorothy Community builder. Long time volunteer for TMC. Advocate for the blind.

Franks, Evelyn Community builder, educator. Initiated the Home Away From Home Program at UA for African American students.

Frohmler, Ana (1891-1971) Elected official. Her career began with an appointment as Deputy County Treasurer for Coconino County, and she won position in her own right from 1922-26. She was the first woman State Auditor in the US and served for twelve full terms until 1950, never having less than 70% of the vote. Ran a close but unsuccessful race for Governor in 1950. Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

Ganoung, Laura Educator.

Garrison, Lizzie Prescott missionary, active in beginning the Arizona temperance movement around the turn of the century, with Caroline Cedarholm. Their main efforts were aimed at establishing control over Prescott's famed "Whiskey Row."

Goldwater, Hattie Josephine Williams (1876-1966) Arizona pioneer, civic leader, philanthropist and one of the first registered nurses in Arizona. Also Arizona's first female golf champion.

Goldwater, Peggy (1905-1985) She was a close personal friend of Margaret Sanger and believed all women should be able to choose motherhood. In 1937, Goldwater and other volunteers founded the Mother's Health Clinic, which ultimately became Planned Parenthood. She often used her own money to support the clinic when it faced insolvency. She was married to Senator Barry Goldwater.

Gorrwich, Jean Tireless board member of the Tucson Symphony. Co-counder of St. Luke's Board of Visitors?

Greer, Sue First woman to serve on the Arizona Board of Regents when it was formed in 1945.

Grunewald, Abbey Businesswoman in Tucson. Founded the Grunewald-Blitz Clinic for Communication Disorders in Children. President of Grunewald & Adams Jewelry for 20 years.

Hakes, Mabel Ann Morse (1840-1909) Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Relief Society.

Hall, Sharlot Mabridth (1870-1943) Writer, poet and historian. Appointed Territorial Historian (1909-1912), she was the first woman to hold territorial office. She founded the Sharlot Hall Museum in 1928 in Prescott, Arizona. Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

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Hance, Margaret Taylor (1923-1990) A Phoenix community builder and elected official, she was the first woman mayor of Phoenix. Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

Harvill, George Garner Community builder. Helped to establish the UA's first foreign student exchange program, created an organization to support wives of foreign students at YWCA and served as its Board president.

Harward, Naomi Markee ASU teacher, social worker and Gray Panthers activist.

Hayden, Sallie Calvert Davis (1842-1907) Wife of the founder of Tempe, AZ, and active in the first stirring of the women's political movement.

Heard, Maie Bartlett (1868-1951) Phoenix philanthropist and community builder. Co-founded Heard Museum, Friendly House and the organization that became the Community Chest in Phoenix. (AWHF)

Hill, Abbie Community builder. A longtime employee of Tucson YWCA, she became director of the Laura Banks Child Care Center, and is active in Mount Calvary Baptist Church.

Hubbell, Dorothy Smith (1899-1993) In 1920 she became a teacher at John Lorenzo Hubbell's Hubbell Trading Post on the Navajo reservation near Ganado. She married his son and ran the post with her husband, Roman, after her father-in-law's death in 1930, and then alone after her husband died in 1957, until the National Park Service took it over in 1967.

Huckel, Minnie Harvey (1871-1946) Behind the scenes business woman and Indian art collector. Daughter of Fred Harvey and wife of John F. Huckel. She was responsible for the establishment of the Fred Harvey Indian Department, which collaborated with the Santa Fe Railway to bring millions of travelers to Arizona and the Southwest.

Jimulla, Viola (1878-1966) Chief of Yavapai Prescott Tribe 1940-1966. She was the first woman to become chief of a North American Indian tribe. Born Sicutuva in 1878, her name was recorded as Viola Pelhame, taking her step-father's surname. She was reared on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. A very religious woman, she became the first Yavapai member to be baptized into the Presbyterian Church and served as Sunday School Superintendent and elder at the Yavapai Indian Mission in the early 1920s. She also founded the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Prescott.

Johnson, Blanche Naomi (b. 1912) She opened the first African American-owned beauty salon in Tucson, which she ran for 24 years, and later served as a deputy with the Pima County Sheriff's Department for 14 years. She is a member and past regional president of the National Association of Colored Women. For over fifty years, she has been a member of the Women's Progress Civic Club and the Eureka Club. She is an active participant with Kino Parkway Neighborhood Club, the YWCA, and the Tucson Urban League.

Kai, Mamie (1915-2000) Marana businesswoman who was instrumental in ending school segregation in Marana.

Keliher, Alice Nationally known teacher, author and educational authority.

Kitt, Edith Stratton (1878-1968) Historian for the Arizona Historical Society. UA alumnae.

Lemmon, Sara Allen Plummer (1836-1923) She spent her honeymoon collecting botanical specimens in the Catalina Mountains near Tucson. According to Will C. Barnes' *Arizona Place Names*, Mount Lemmon was named for Sara Lemmon, the first woman to climb its summit.

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Lewis, Jewell McFarland Cotton farmer, television executive and community builder. Founding member of Arizona Television Corporation, Channel 3, KTVK, Phoenix. Lewis and her husband Del donated \$1 million to the College of Education at UA to establish two endowed professorships. She received a BA from UA in 1950 and a PhD from ASU. She is the daughter of Arizona Governor, U.S. Senator and Arizona Supreme Court Justice, Ernest W. McFarland.

Lockett, Hattie Greene (1880-1962) Community builder, teacher, sheep rancher and archaeologist. UA alumnae, poet and writer of short stories.

Lozen (c.1840-1890) A Chiricahua Apache warrior and sister of Chief Victorio. She formulated and executed strategic war plans working side by side with Apache leaders, including Geronimo, as they fought the US Army in an attempt to save the Apache way of life. She was also a gifted medicine woman, seer and shaman.

Lynn, Ellen First woman postal carrier in Tucson.

Manguia, Dora Community builder. Formed Tucson chapter of the Mexican Blue Cross in 1930 to provide food for the poor during the Depression.

Manuel, Frances (b. 1912) A member of the Tohono O'odham Tribe, she recently co-authored a book on her life story, Desert Indian Woman.

Manuel, Rosilda Lopez Current Tohono O'odham Director of Tribal Education.

Martin, Patricia Preciado (b. 1939) Patricia Preciado Martin was born and raised in Tucson, AZ. She graduated with honors and a BA in elementary education from the University of Arizona in 1960 and has been active in the Mexican- American community of Tucson, including development of the Mexican American Project at the Arizona Historical Society. Preciado Martin taught at the junior high and high school levels during the 1960's. During this decade she also joined the Peace Corps and served in Belize. She has published six books including recently published Amor Eterno.

McCormick, Ada Pierce Donated funds to build the Ada P. McCormick Building, which houses the UA Poetry Center and the Little Chapel of all Nations.

Mitchell, Pauline Started several organizations.

Mondschein, Ruth Civil servant. Worked for US in the fields of disabled and disadvantaged children, the arts and international education. Helped to establish Linkages, a program that builds bridges between businesses and people with disabilities.

Montoya, Guadalino First public health clinic nurse (in AZ?)

Morelos, Velia Community builder. Active in Tucson's Hispanic community.

Mulhern, Elsa Paine (1909-2000) Active in the Republican Party on all levels. Appointed to the Arizona Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Received the Arizona Theater Company Gregory Award for Lifetime Service. YWCA Lifetime Achievement Honoree.

Munds, Frances Lillian Willard (1866-1948) Leading Arizona suffragette. First woman state senator (1915) in Arizona and second woman state senator in the US. Ran for Secretary of State in 1918. Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

Navasie, Joy (Frog Woman) (b. 1918) A noted Hopi-Tewa potter.

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Nichols, Mary Newspaper writer.

O'Donnell, Sister Eugene

Oldaker, Elizabeth S. (1884-1975) Historic preservationist and founder of the Arizona Museum.

Osting, Doris Founded girls' school in Tucson.

Pack, Phoebe She and her husband, Arthur, built the Ghost Ranch Lodge in Tucson in 1941. She supported her husband in his positions as co-founder of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, creator/editor/publisher of Nature Magazine and founder of Ghost Ranch Living Museum in New Mexico.

Parsons, Bonnie Pershing May (General Pershing's sister) Ft. Huachuca?

Pickrell, Ann

Pincus, Jane She was a Congressional Union representative sent to Arizona by Alice Paul to instigate a campaign against inertia on suffrage in 1914. She ran the Phoenix office, campaigning against the party in power at the time and the two men dedicated to women's suffrage: Representative Carl Hayden and Senator Marcus A. Smith.

Pomeroy, Mary Annetta Coleman (1862-1946) She came to Mesa to 1881 with her husband, Elijah Pomeroy. She was among the earliest settlers in Mesa and very active in church affairs. Her husband was Bishop of the first Latter Day Saints ward organized in Mesa. Mrs. Pomeroy was a diarist and kept a record of her struggles to accept and obey the dictates of the church and her husband on the issue of polygamy. Sharon Niederman quotes from Pomeroy's diary in A Quilt of Words.

Porter, Bernice Walkley (c.1902-1983) Owner of Desert Gardens Nursery, which became the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

Post, Mary Elizabeth First public school teacher in Arizona territory in Ehrenberg and Yuma (1872-3). Yuma now has the Mary E. Post Elementary School. Arizona Women's Hall of Fame

Quiroz, Mercedes Shibell One of two women, and the only Mexican-American woman who was part of the first graduating class at UA (1897).

Rebeil, Julia Marie (1891-1973) Musician. After graduating from St. Joseph's Academy and studying classical piano and violin in Chicago, Paris and New York, she embarked on a concert career, returning in 1920 to join the UA faculty, where she became head of the Piano Department.

Reynolds, Florence First woman to serve as principal of a Tucson high school at Pueblo High.

Richey, Thamar (1858-1937) Teacher among Native Americans all over the country, she came to Tucson at age 65 and started an elementary school for the Pascua Yaqui, worked tirelessly to help the children and make the public aware of their poverty.

Riley, Mary Valasquez (1908-1987) First woman elected to the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council (1958). Community builder.

Roberts, C. Madge First woman appointed to the University of Arizona Board of Regents (1916). She was the wife of the appointing Governor's election opponent.

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Robinson, Rhea (1915-2002) Spent years teaching in Afganistan and Ethiopia. In Tucson, was an active member of the Skyline Women's Club, a docent at the Desert Museum, worked for the Brewster Center and was a member of the P.E.O. sisterhood.

Rubel, Dorothy Community builder. Advocate for a liberal education program for adults. Prepared proposal for UA Humanities Seminar Program which now offers a humanities education to all age groups. Housing activist in Chicago.

de Sedillo, Maria During WWII, she transcended traditional familial roles to perform public work for the war effort. She rallied forty women to produce 9,000 surgical dressings for the Red Cross in just thirty-six hours.

Sekaquaptewa, Helen (1898-1990) Hopi writer and poet.

Shaw, Anna Moore (1898-1975) Writer and social worker. A Native American, she helped preserve culture and improved working conditions among Pima Indians. (AWHF)

Slaughter, Cora Viola Howell (1860-1941) Tucson pioneer, rancher and great-great-granddaughter of Daniel Boone.

Smedley, Agnes (1892-1950) Attended Tempe Normal School in 1911 and 1912. Controversial because of the causes she supported, which included Indian independence. She was a foreign correspondent in China for American and German periodicals and marched with the Red Army. Among her numerous publications are *Daughter of Earth* (1929), *China Fights Back* (1939) and *Battle Hymn of China*.

Solomon, Anna Freudenthal (1845-1933) With her husband, helped to develop the Gila Valley area of Arizona. Solomon, AZ is named for them.

Sternberg, Grace (1902-2000) Photographer, homemaker and community builder in Tucson for 60 years.

Strange, Gertrude

Strubinger, Margaret Hickey (1902-1994) Nationally known writer and editor of the Ladies Home Journal. Retired in Tucson.

Summerhaves, Martha Military wife in 1870s Arizona. Author of the classic memoir, *Vanished Arizona*.

Thomas, Tommie Community builder. Wrote proposal for the emergency food and clothing bank which culminated in the Arizona State Food Stamp Committee, which brought food stamps to Arizona.

Toles, Elsie (1888-1957) Educator in Bisbee, and elected Cochise County School Superintendent. In 1920 she was elected the first woman State Superintendent of Public Instruction. She made uniform teacher certification standards for the state and increased state aid to schools. (AWHF)

Udall, Louise Author of *Me and Mine, The Life Story of Helen Sekaquaptewa*, a 1969 book done in collaboration with this Hopi woman (1898-1990). It is on the UA Press all-time top 50 bestsellers list.

Van Dyke, Joan Playwright, mime and actor.

Vargas, Ofelia Community builder in Tucson's Hispanic community. Served as a member of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission for 10 years.

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de Vasquez, Carmen Soto (1863-1934) Community builder, businesswoman. Founded and operated Teatro Carmen in Tucson 1915-1924. For several years it was the leading Tucson theater, performing all the best plays written in the Spanish language.

Ward, Lea Ramirez Community builder. Started Kino Mission Tours.

Waukena, Annie Dodge (1910-1997) First woman member of the Navajo Tribal Council (1951), serving for 30 years. As Chairman of the Tribal Council's Health and Welfare Committee, her main concerns were health and child welfare. She launched campaigns against tuberculosis, trachoma, bad sanitation, alcoholism and peyote use. Among her many awards, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom Medal from President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1963.

Wells, Christine ASU Emeritus Professor of Physical Education. Conducted tests on women which ultimately allowed them to run the marathon (26.2 miles) in the 1984 Olympics. Prior to her research, it was argued that women could not run long distances. Her research convinced everyone we could -- and we did. . In 1995 she received the American College of Sports Medicine Citation Award.

West-Rogers, Linda A real estate sales manager, she has been conducting a one-woman food drive in her Tucson neighborhood since 1997.

White, Bettie Second woman to serve on the University of Arizona Board of Regents.

Winsor, Clarissa Brown (1880-1974) First curator of the Yuma Territorial Museum on Prison Hill. She collected and displayed thousands of artifacts relating to Yuma and Arizona history. In 1961 she was named Yuma County "Man of the Year."

Woody, Clara Thompson (1885-1981) Arizona historian and writer.

Young, Ola (1869-1966) 50 years postmistress in Pleasant Valley and rancher during famous feud there.

Zeckendorf, Julia Frank (1840-1896) Tucson community builder, active in the Jewish community.

Zozaya, Julia Soto (b. 1926) Community builder, member of the League of United Latin American Citizens, she established Arizona's first 24- hour Spanish language radio station KNNN in Phoenix (1981).

Zepeda, Ofelia (b. 1952) Poet Laureate of Tucson. Recognized poet, educator and linguist known for her work to preserve O'odham traditions, language and culture.