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Image-Enhancing Sponsorships
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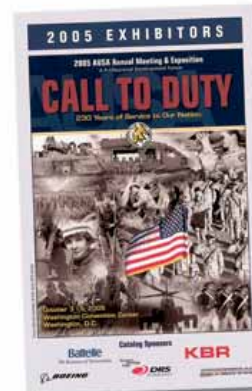


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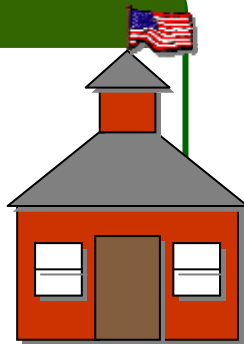
Sponsorship of \$300 is needed to afford an education institution annual access to Americans All®. If more than \$300 is collected annually, these funds will be applied to future years' access. After 10 \$300 payments have been received, additional funds pledged will be turned over to the institution.



\$300 per year

Local education institutions

The \$300 annual participation fee enables education institutions to access resources available from Americans All®.

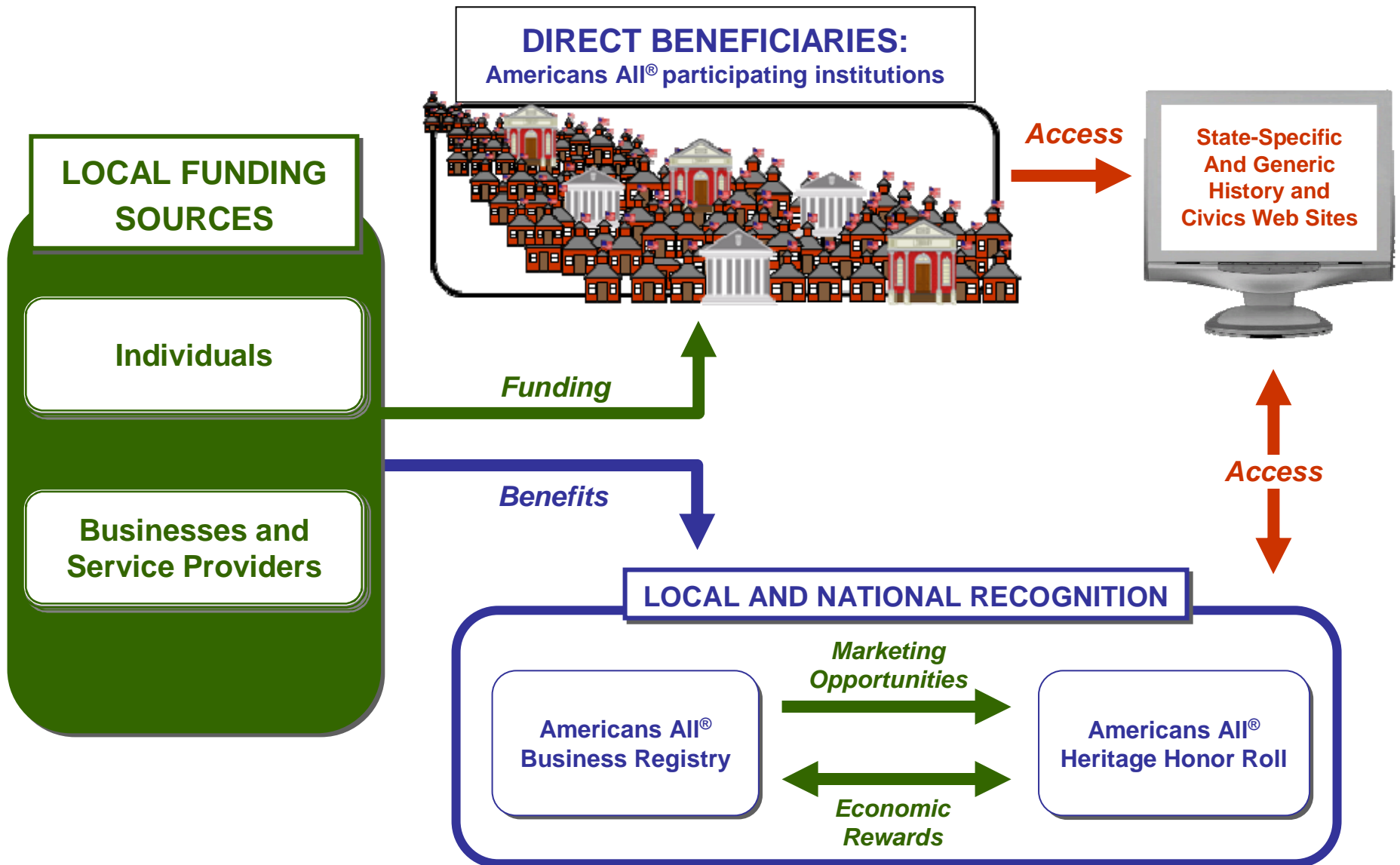


These \$300 contributions from—or on behalf of—the nation's education institutions (K–12 public and private schools, colleges and universities, libraries, preschools, home schooling centers and adult education centers) will help ensure that the funding needed to maintain and expand Americans All® resources will be available for the next 10 years.





Americans All[®] Is a Unique Social Responsibility Program





The Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor

Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court (Retired)

March 26, 1930–



The Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to serve as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. She was appointed by President Ronald Reagan, took her oath of office September 25, 1981, and served for 24 years, retiring July 1, 2005. Justice O'Connor applied a case-by-case approach to matters before the Court; she was deemed a political moderate and demonstrated an outstanding ability to work toward achieving compromise. Although her style was firm and direct, she earned a solid reputation as a disciplined thinker, tireless information gatherer and practical decision-maker.

Her ascent to the nation's highest court was not a smooth journey. None of the major California law firms were willing to hire O'Connor as an attorney upon her graduation from Stanford Law School, though one firm did offer her a job as a legal secretary. This experience redirected her career pursuits to the public sector, where she served as a deputy county attorney (San Mateo County, California, 1952–53) and as civilian attorney for Quartermaster Market Center (Frankfurt, Germany, 1954–57) before entering the private practice of law. Returning to public service, she became an Arizona assistant attorney general in 1965, leaving in 1969 when she was appointed state senator. Justice O'Connor was reelected to two two-year terms and was senate majority leader from 1972 to 1975. She then served as an elected judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court in Phoenix, Arizona, until she was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals in 1979, where she served two years. Nearly two years elapsed before President Reagan nominated her to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart.

Sandra Day O'Connor was born in El Paso, Texas, March 26, 1930. Her parents, Harry and Ada Mae Day, owned a cattle ranch in southeastern Arizona, where she grew up and later wrote a book about her experiences—*Lazy B: Growing up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest*. O'Connor earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University and decided to attend law school when a legal dispute involving her family's ranch stirred her interest in the profession. She met her future husband, John Jay O'Connor, at Stanford, and they subsequently raised their three sons in Phoenix after a three-year stint in Frankfurt, Germany, to fulfill John O'Connor's military service obligation. During her career, she has been active in many civic organizations and has held memberships in numerous professional organizations. In 2001 *Ladies Home Journal* ranked Sandra Day O'Connor the second most powerful woman in America.



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Mia Helene Sutphin

Registered Nurse

August 19, 1974–May 19, 2002



On May 19, 2002, 27-year-old Mia Helene Sutphin died of a reaction to medication she was taking to combat malaria. At the time, she was volunteering at an orphanage for HIV-infected children in Kenya. Although she had been on this assignment for only 10 weeks, she had learned the names of the 80 children. She would make the rounds to the orphanage's six cottages to say goodnight to her charges and took extra care with two boys who were too sick to join the others. Mia created a mural on a wall in the boys' room with figures representing all of the children and named it "Our Children of Nyumbani." The mural will remain there permanently.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, the fifth in a family of seven children, Mia was raised in Ellicott City, Maryland. In 1992 she graduated from Notre Dame Preparatory School in Towson, Maryland, where she began to seriously consider a career in nursing. As a teenager, she had volunteered as a candy striper and also helped out in a homeless shelter. These experiences confirmed her decision to pursue a degree in nursing.

Upon graduating from the University of Delaware as a registered nurse in 1996, Mia accepted a position as a school nurse in Aurora, Colorado. While the pay was not as good as in a hospital, Mia wanted to work with children. She also volunteered her time teaching health and sex education to young single mothers, but a desire to volunteer abroad was growing in her.

Her desire to volunteer abroad led her to the Catholic Medical Mission Board. In 1999 she embarked on an eight-month volunteer assignment at a hospital in India. The 300-bed facility was filled with very ill patients who suffered from diseases such as malaria, leprosy and tuberculosis. Despite several illnesses and a five-day hospital stay, Mia's spirit was never daunted.

When she returned home, she spent two years working in the University of Maryland Medical Center's neonatal and pediatric intensive care units. She also saved enough money during this period for another assignment abroad. She began working at the orphanage in Kenya, where she contracted the malaria that abruptly shortened her dedicated career.

Mia's family has created the Mia Sutphin Foundation to help carry on her legacy. For more information, visit www.miasutphinmf.org.



Honored by: The Mia Sutphin Foundation

School or district sponsored: To be determined

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Albert “Chew” Kullen

Businessman

December 27, 1909–July 30, 1966



Albert “Chew” Kullen was born in Baltimore, Maryland, the oldest of four children. His parents, Sam and Mary Kulchinsky, were Jewish immigrants from Russia and, in addition to a rich appreciation for their heritage, they afforded their children a unique distinction. Although born in different months, each of Chew’s younger brothers, Harry and Sol, were also born on the 27th and his sister, Sarah, married a man born on the 27th.

Chew grew up in Baltimore, but he left high school early to help his parents support the family. He briefly moved to New York City, where he met his future wife, Irene, and they had one daughter, Marilyn. Returning to Baltimore, he began a career in the vending machine business, which then included slot machines. To many, his personality made him seem like a real-life “Damon Runyon” character. Early on, as co-owner of Andrews Vending Co., he learned to cope with the downsides of his job. Like many of his peers, he was investigated by nearly every law enforcement agency concerned about the potential for illegal activity. The results of every investigation were always the same—no racketeering connections, no tax dodging, and no hoodlum activity.

Through sheer charisma and intelligence, Chew soon became the leading spokesperson for the slots industry. Because of his growing prominence in the state’s political arena, in 1946 he and his brothers—who were also making names for themselves in the advertising and printing worlds—changed their last name to Kullen. Kullen was easier to pronounce than Kulchinsky, especially when Chew was advocating for legislation to keep slots legal in the state. More than anyone else, he was statistically aware and verbally vocal about the positive economic effects that slots had on both the county and the state, including generating hundreds of well-paying jobs.

His impact on Anne Arundel County was far greater than just being the most well-known advocate for his industry in the state. He was a tireless campaigner for the North Arundel Hospital, and his efforts, along with those of the machine operators he represented, were driving forces in its creation. He was an annual sponsor of the baseball league and of numerous causes to improve the health and well-being of his fellow county residents. Yet, above all, he was a man who always demonstrated a fairness in his business dealings that even the most formidable critics of his industry admired.

Chew Kullen died in 1966 of a sudden heart attack while working at his Glen Bernie office. He left behind a legacy of integrity, honesty and leadership in an industry that would ultimately cease to exist. (Photograph of Chew Kullen and Sam Kulchinsky from the Kullen Family Archives.)



Honored by: Marilyn and Dawn Ehrlich

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Wing Commander George Alfred Harrison

September 4, 1918–October 20, 1987



September 3, 1939—"It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." My father had just been admitted to law school, and Great Britain had just declared war on Germany. September 4, 1939, was his 21st birthday. Overwhelmed by patriotic fever, he declined law school and joined the Royal Air Force (RAF).

Christmas Day 1939—Instead of announcing their engagement, my parents were married. My father trained in Ireland as a pilot, but negative vision tests resulted in his reassignment as a navigator. After training he was posted to Singapore, which would have resulted in a prisoner of war situation. However, due to multiple convoy losses in the North Atlantic, he was posted to Canada. So we spent the war in Canada—never bombed—and, in fact, sent care packages back to England.

Post World War II—My father had a productive and an exciting career with the RAF. He helped implement the George Marshall Plan in Germany. He was exposed to and lived in multiple cultures throughout the world. We were in Egypt during the overthrow of King Farouk and the takeover by Nasser. My father became the commanding officer of RAF Changi in Singapore. His work was honored when he knelt before his queen to receive the Order of the British Empire in 1960.

My father's final assignments were within the intelligence world. He served with NATO for five years and had some fascinating experiences. He had a Russian KGB counterpart with whom he would meet in a safe house in Finland to try and defuse international problems. He was called to America frequently by the Pentagon. It was to America where I, his daughter, emigrated, and we shared so many special times in a country he had always admired. My father died October 20, 1987, after having his last visit with his grandchildren three months earlier.

George Alfred Harrison was one of two children of Elsie and George Harrison, owners of a pub in Manchester, England. He grew up in Manchester and attended Salford grammar school and Manchester University.

Tay Harrison Hahn, George Alfred Harrison's daughter, wrote this biography.



Honored By: Tay Harrison Hahn
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Miriam Colón Valle

Actress and Founder of the
Puerto Rican Traveling Theater

August 20, 1936–



Miriam Colón Valle was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, to a working-class family. At a young age, she moved to the Santurce section of San Juan, where she developed her love for theater. She came to the United States on a special scholarship created for her by the University of Puerto Rico to train at Erwin Piscator's Dramatic Workshop and Technical Institute in New York City.

She became the first Puerto Rican accepted at the famed Actor's Studio and co-founded the Nuevo Circulo Dramatico, the first Spanish-language arena theater in New York. In 1967 she founded the Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre (PRTT). PRTT aims to educate and acquaint the general public with important contributions by playwrights from Latino or Hispanic extraction; to present and produce truly bilingual professional theater; to offer artistic development to emerging and established artists; and, in these ways, to contribute toward the diversity of American theater and national culture. Under her guidance the PRTT has introduced new and significant Latino voices to the professional theater mainstream, sustained a culturally diverse model for playwright development and enrichment, expanded awareness of the theater as a viable career for economically disadvantaged youth, and established a home for Spanish and English language theatrical activity in the heart of the Broadway district.

Her work in film, theater and television includes projects with Raúl Juliá, Marlon Brando, Billy Bob Thornton, Al Pacino, John Sayles and Sally Field. Her stage credits include performances at the Guthrie, the Milwaukee Rep and the Mark Taper Forum as well as numerous collaborations with distinguished Latino theater artists nationwide.

Colón Valle has served on the New York State Council on the Arts and on the Expansion Arts Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts. She has also been a member of the National Hispanic Task Force. As a result of her achievements, both in the theater and as a civic leader, she has received numerous regional and national awards and honors, including honorary doctorate degrees from many universities.

A champion of Spanish, Puerto Rican and Latin American dramatic literatures, Colón Valle has earned many awards, including seven *honoris causa* doctorates, the international Lorca Award, the Obie Award for Sustained Performance and a Special Recognition from the Office of the President of the United States. In 2004 she was featured in "Visiones: Latino Art & Culture," a documentary film airing nationally on PBS. She was also honored with lifetime achievement awards from the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture and the international San Juan Cinema Fest in Puerto Rico.



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Jane Addams

Social Worker and Settlement House Founder

September 6, 1860–May 21, 1935



Jane Addams received national recognition as a feminist, a social worker and the founder of the settlement house movement. She was born in Cedarville, Illinois, the eighth of nine children. Her father was a successful miller and local political leader as well as a state senator and an officer in the Civil War. Because of a congenital spinal defect, Addams was not physically active when young nor truly robust even later in life, though her spinal difficulty was remedied by surgery.

In 1881 she graduated from the Rockford Female Seminary, the valedictorian of a class of 17. During the next six years, she began to study medicine but left it because of poor health. She was hospitalized intermittently, traveled and continued to ponder her future. During a second tour to Europe with her friend Ellen G. Starr, she visited a settlement house, Toynbee Hall, in London's East End. This visit helped finalize the idea of opening a similar house in an underprivileged area of Chicago. In 1889 she and Starr leased a large home built by Charles Hull at the corner of Halsted and Polk Streets. Hull House offered legal aid and medical and child care and also provided classes for immigrants to learn English and vocational skills.

In 1893 the nation was in the midst of a severe depression, and Hull House was host to 2,000 people every week. This made Addams realize that to help end poverty, she needed to focus on its root causes. She worked for labor union recognition as well as for legislation to protect immigrants from exploitation, reduce working hours for women, ensure industrial safety and guarantee universal schooling for children.

She was an ardent feminist and also very deeply opposed to the nation entering World War I. She lectured extensively, both in the United States and abroad, in the name of peace. In January 1915, she became chairman of the Women's Peace Party, an American organization, and four months later the presidency of the International Congress of Women convened at The Hague. These actions led to her being expelled from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Yet she found an outlet for her humanitarianism as an assistant to Herbert Hoover. She provided relief supplies of food to the women and children of the enemy nations, the story of which she told in her book *Peace and Bread in Time of War* (1922).

She survived a heart attack in 1926, but she never fully regained her health. She was being admitted to a Baltimore hospital on the very day, December 10, 1931, that the Nobel Peace Prize was being awarded to her in Oslo. She died in 1935 three days after an operation revealed unsuspected cancer. The funeral service was held in the courtyard of Hull House. (Photo shows a singing class at Hull House in Chicago in 1910. Lewis W. Hine Collection, United States History, Local History and Genealogy Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations, Unit 1, photo 82.)



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Polly Bemis (Lalu Nathoy)

Businesswoman

September 11, 1853–November 6, 1933



Polly Bemis (born Lalu Nathoy) was sold by her father for two bags of seed to a group of bandits in northern China when he fell on hard economic times because of the famine of 1871. She was then resold into a form of sexual slavery, smuggled into the United States by a slave trader heading for America. There, she and other girls were sold at a public auction to become wives or prostitutes. Her buyer, Hong King, named her Polly and took her to work in his saloon in a mining camp in Warrens, Idaho.

Despite the conditions, Polly learned to speak English and built her self-respect and dignity. She eventually won her freedom, but it is not clear whether she did so through her courage, sharp wit and the help of friends or because a neighbor who reportedly won her in a card game set her free.

Once she gained her freedom, she ran a boarding house in Warrens, and in 1894 she married Charlie Bemis. They became part of the first group of pioneers to help settle the Idaho Territory, living along the Salmon River that was known locally as the River of No Return. They did not have children, but she was well regarded for her nursing skills and love and care of animals.

Bemis became a legend after her death when her life was documented by Ruthanne Lum McCunn in a biographical novel, *Thousand Pieces of Gold*; her father used to call her his *quianjin*, his thousand pieces of gold. Her final cabin—she outlived her husband by 10 years—is now a museum and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. When the cabin was dedicated in 1987, Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus said, “The history of Polly Bemis is a great part of the legacy of central Idaho. She is the foremost pioneer on the rugged Salmon River.” (Photograph obtained from the Idaho State Historical Society, 71-185.29.)



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Olaudah Equiano (Gustavus Vassa)

Abolitionist and Seaman

c. 1745–1797



Olaudah Equiano was born in West Africa in 1745, in an area of modern-day Nigeria. The son of a local chief, he was kidnapped with his sister when he was about 11 years of age and brought to a Virginia plantation, via the slave market in Barbados. In 1754 he was sold to Michael Pascal, an officer in the Royal Navy. Pascal named him Gustavus Vassa after a Swedish nobleman.

Vassa spent many years on the sea and ultimately landed in England, where he learned to read and write. Although he was a personal servant to Pascal, when battle erupted at sea, his role was that of gunpowder carrier, carrying the powder from the magazine up to the gun decks. Because of his education and experience and the fact that he had been baptized, Vassa believed he was entitled to receive the same compensation as other seaman. He intended on using these funds to purchase his freedom; however, this never happened. After an unsuccessful attempt to obtain his freedom, he was sold in the West Indies' slave market to Robert King, a Philadelphia Quaker, who continued Vassa's schooling. King taught him to become a "gauger"—a person that gauges weights and measures.

By working in this position, Vassa saved enough money to buy his freedom from King and returned to England, where he finally received some of his money from the Royal Navy. Unable to find good work in England, he returned to the sea and made several voyages to the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, the Atlantic and the Arctic.

Once his sailing days were over, Vassa moved back to England and became active in the abolition movement. He was also part of a plan, along with fellow abolitionist Granville Sharp, to set up a colony in Sierra Leone as a home for all the unemployed Africans who were taken from Africa against their will. He was given the job of commissary of provisions and stores, a job that probably made him the first black civil servant in England. The plan was not successful because of the corrupt officials running the program.

In 1789 he published his autobiography, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa*. The book became a best-seller as well as a major antislavery document, and it made him very wealthy. In 1792 he married an English woman, Susanna Cullen, and they had two daughters. (Photograph obtained from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations, 17.)



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Matthew Alexander Henson

Explorer

August 8, 1866–March 9, 1955



Matthew Alexander Henson was born August 8, 1866, to free African American parents on an impoverished tenant farm in Charles County, Maryland. By the time he was 11 years old, both of his parents had died and he lived with relatives. At age 13 he went to sea as a cabin boy, sailing around the world and learning as much as he could about his new trade. Because he experienced racial hostility at sea, he returned to the land and took various jobs, from dock worker to bellhop, to support himself.

While working at a hat shop, he met Robert E. Peary, then a young naval lieutenant, and joined him as a valet on his expedition to survey a canal across Nicaragua. Henson learned a great deal on the voyage and became Peary's right-hand-man. During the 1870s many explorers were competing to be the first to reach the North Pole. For more than 20 years, Peary and Henson struggled to attain that goal, finally succeeding on their seventh attempt. On April 6, 1909, as Henson, Peary and four Inuit (Eskimos)—Ootah, Egingwah, Sipsu and Ooqueah—neared their destination, a problem arose. Peary was physically ill or had frozen feet, so he was forced to ride in a dog sled. Henson was sent ahead as a scout but, as he reported later, realized that he had "overshot the mark," meaning his footprints were the first on the North Pole. Although he went back immediately and got Peary, this caused a major rift in their once solid relationship.

During his adventures in the Arctic, Henson became a legendary figure among the Inuit and fathered a son, Anauakaq, with an Inuit woman. He learned to speak their numerous dialects, mastered the art of hunting and could outlast most of them on long treks in the 70-degrees-below-zero temperatures and the howling winds of the Arctic nights.

After returning from the North Pole, Henson could not get a good job. Four years later President William Howard Taft assigned him the title of clerk in the New York Customs House, a post he held for 23 years. During those years Henson attended Harvard University and earned a master's degree. Recognition finally came in 1937, when he was elected to the International Explorers Club in New York, and in 1944, when he received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Yet he did not achieve full recognition for his Arctic exploits until after his death in 1955. After a successful campaign by S. Allen Counter, a Harvard professor, in 1988 the remains of both Henson and his wife were moved to a location near Peary's monument in Arlington National Cemetery. In October 1996 the United States Navy commissioned an oceanographic survey ship, the U.S.N.S. *Henson*, in his honor. The National Geographic Society awarded Henson its highest honor, the Hubbard Metal, November 6, 2000.



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Jovita Idár

Journalist and Political Activist

1885–1946



Jovita Idár was a journalist who wrote about the problems of Mexican Americans for Spanish-language newspapers in Texas. She was born in Laredo, Texas, one of eight children, to a small newspaper publisher. In 1903 she received a teaching certificate from the Holding Institute, a Methodist school, and began teaching school in Ojuelos. She was not provided with the proper resources, however, and became frustrated that she could not help her students. She resigned and began writing for her father's newspaper, *La Crónica*, believing she could make more of a difference in improving the lives of Mexican Americans.

During this period, there was a great deal of social and educational discrimination against Mexican Americans, deteriorating economic conditions, lynchings and a loss of pride in the Mexican culture. *La Crónica* supported reforms to correct these conditions. The paper also supported the 1910 Mexican Revolution, and Idár went to Mexico as part of La Cruz Blanca (the White Cross) to nurse the wounded on both sides of the battle.

In 1911 she and her family organized a large educational and cultural conference, El Primér Congreso Mexicanista (The First Mexican Congress), to discuss the troubling social, economic and educational issues facing their people. One month later, a major outcome of the meeting was the creation of Liga Femenil Mexicanista (the League of Mexican Women), which focused its work on education for poor children. A co-founder of the group, Idár became its first president.

Upon her return from Mexico, she went to work for the newspaper *El Progreso*. This career was short-lived, however, because an editorial criticizing President Woodrow Wilson and the Texas Rangers for dispatching troops to the Mexican border resulted in the rangers destroying the paper's presses. She returned to *La Crónica* and after her father died in 1914, she ran the paper's operations.

In 1917 Idár married Bartolo Juárez and moved to San Antonio, Texas, where she became editor of *El Heraldo Cristiano*, a publication of the Rio Grande Conference of the Methodist Church. She continued her social activism and organized El Club Democrata within the Democratic Party to help politically empower the Mexican American community. In 1920 she established a free kindergarten and became an interpreter for Spanish-speaking patients at the local hospital. She and her husband did not have any children. (Photograph obtained from the Institute of Texan Cultures, 84-596.)



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Emma Lazarus

Poet

1866–1925



Emma Lazarus wrote the poem “The New Colossus” in 1883 to inspire public support for the Statue of Liberty, which she called the “Mother of Exiles.” The poem was solicited by William Maxwell Evarts as a donation to an auction that was held to help raise funds for the construction of the Statue’s pedestal. The poem failed to attract much attention and was not part of the opening of the Statue in 1886. It remained in obscurity until Georgina Schuyler, a friend of Lazarus, succeeded in having the poem engraved on a plaque and mounted inside the pedestal in 1903. Lazarus’ words, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,” came to symbolize the meaning of the Statue of Liberty.

Born in New York as the fourth child in a well-to-do family of seven children, she was one of the first successful Jewish American authors and considered an important poet of the nineteenth century. There is not much information available on her private life and therefore little explanation as to why, despite her privileged upbringing, education and academic success, she did not marry. Not a great deal was written about her until interest in the Statue of Liberty was renewed with the approach of its 100th anniversary. Yet much of the writing came from contemporary authors working without primary source documents, so the mystery still remains.

Her parents, Moses and Esther Lazarus, were descendants of America’s first Jewish settlers, those arriving from Spain and Portugal. Emma Lazarus had a great deal of pride in her Sephardic heritage and even began translating the works of Jewish poets from German to English. Her father, a successful sugar refiner, was not religiously observant and the family gradually integrated into New York’s wealthy, fashionable Christian society.

Although there was no evidence that she ever experienced religious discrimination, the Grand Union Hotel’s refusal in 1877 to admit Joseph Seligman reaffirmed her belief that prejudices existed beneath the politeness of wealthy society. When the Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants began arriving in mass to escape from anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, Lazarus became active in the movement to provide the education they needed to become self-supporting in their new home. She also was active in what would later be called the Zionist movement, advocating for a separate Jewish homeland.

After the death of her father, she began to travel, spending time in Europe in 1885 and 1887. She was seriously ill when she returned from her September 1887 trip and passed away two months later. (Photograph obtained from the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-53145.)



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Rihei Onishi

Journalist and Rice Farmer

Dates Unknown



Rihei Onishi, a journalist for the *Jiji Shimpo*, a Tokyo daily newspaper, first came to the United States with his wealthy wine-merchant cousin, Toraichi Onishi, in 1903. They were impressed with the possibilities of growing rice in Texas and purchased approximately 300 acres of land near the property of the Saibara's, a Japanese rice-farming family that had already settled in the area.

Onishi was instrumental in leading Japanese immigrants to Texas. In 1903 he returned home and brought the first group of rice-farming immigrants to Texas the following year. During their first year of operation, they grew a Japanese short-grained variety of rice that was respected for its hearty nature. That type of rice grew very well in the rich Texas soil and yielded a far greater output than was produced by other Texas rice farmers.

The farming venture soon became well known, but the fact that most of the immigrants who populated the Onishi farm were men created a problem of stability. Without wives, the men could not be expected to remain on the farm and build their own future in Texas. To resolve this problem, Onishi returned to Japan in 1909 to recruit women who would marry his workmen. Many of the women who returned with him came to be known as "picture brides," because they agreed to marry men they had never met. Their only "contact" came from photographs that were exchanged between the prospective bride and groom. Once both parties were in agreement, a wedding ceremony was held in Japan (without the groom) that enabled the bride to go to America. This wedding process was critical after 1908, because the Gentlemen's Agreement made it impossible for Japanese women to enter the United States unless they were married to American men.

The Onishi family continued to prosper during the era of World War I. However, when the Great Depression hit and the price of rice dropped, many Japanese rice farmers failed and they left Texas. The ones who remained formed an organization to pool their money and loan it to those who most needed help. By this time, Rihei Onishi had moved his family to Massachusetts and only his sons remained in Texas. (This studio portrait was taken c.1910 and was obtained from the Institute of Texan Cultures, 86-299.)



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Susan LaFlesche Picotte

Physician

1865–1915



Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte was the daughter of Chief Joseph LaFlesche, or Iron Eye, the last of the great chiefs of the Omaha tribe. Her mother was Mary, or One Woman, daughter of Nikuma, princess of the Iowas. She received her early education on the reservation and attended the Elizabeth Institute of Young Ladies in New Jersey, graduating in 1882.

For the next two years, she worked on the Omaha reservation and then attended Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia. Becoming the first woman to receive federal aid, she entered Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and in 1889 she graduated first in her class. She was the first Native American woman to become a licensed physician.

After obtaining her degree, she interned for one year and then returned to her birthplace, the Omaha Indian Reservation, where she devoted her life to the interests of her tribe and helped the Omahas build a better, more healthy future. Her contribution to her people was so significant that she became a leader of the Omahas, though traditionally they had never followed a woman.

In 1894 she married Henry Picotte and relocated to Bancroft, Nebraska, where she raised two sons and established a private medical practice that served both white and nonwhite patients. Dr. Picotte, like her father before her, worked hard to combat alcoholism among the Omahas, and in 1906 she led a delegation to Washington, D.C., to lobby for the prohibition of alcohol on reservations. She was a member of the Nebraska State Medical Society, served on the board of the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs and was an active lobbyist at the state level for improved health laws for all people. In 1913 she opened a hospital in the reservation town of Walthill, Nebraska; hospital staff treated both white and nonwhite patients. The hospital was named for her after she died. (Photograph obtained from the Nebraska State Historical Society, L164-81.)



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Chief Plenty Coups (Alek-Chea-Ahoosh)

Chief of the Crow Nation

c. 1847–1932



Chief Plenty Coups was the last traditional chief of the Crow Nation because after his death, it was agreed that no other Crow could match his many achievements. At the time of his birth into the Mountain Crow tribe, near Billings, Montana, the Crow Nation and many other major Native American tribes were enduring great hardships. They had contracted many unfamiliar diseases due to contact with white settlers; the bison herds were exterminated; and their land holdings were reduced by treaties designed to provide land for Western settlement and commercial opportunities for mining, timber and trappers. Tribal wars increased to compete for the remaining ancestral lands not taken by treaty.

As a young man, Plenty Coups began having visions. His vision that the bison herds would be destroyed, that cattle would cover the plains and that the wind would blow down all the trees, save one, guided his path in life. For him, this meant that the white man would take over the lands and that all the tribes—except the one that learned to work with the white man—would perish. He earned a lasting reputation as a warrior while still a young man. By the time he was 26, he had counted at least one each of the many coups (or acts of bravery) the Crows demanded of a war chief—striking the first enemy in battle, capturing a gun, taking a tethered horse from an enemy camp and leading a successful war party.

His eloquence, bravery and leadership skills led to his becoming chief of the Crow Tribe in 1876. He led General George Crook's Native American scouts, perhaps keeping the soldiers from the fate suffered by Custer's army that same year at Little Big Horn. Chief Plenty Coups was one of the first of his tribe to become a rancher and merchant and a role model for how to adapt to the changing times. He continued his active support of the United States, urging young men to join the United States Armed Forces in World War I.

Elected "Chief of Chiefs" by his peers, he represented all American Indians at the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery November 11, 1921. As a gesture to help heal the wounds of the past, he donated part of his land to create a park where all people could live in harmony. After his death in 1932, the land became Chief Plenty Coups State Park with his home, his grave and a museum. (Photograph by De Lancey W. Gill, 1913. National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, 3404-B-1.)



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Augustus F. Sherman

Registry Clerk, Ellis Island

1866–1925



Augustus Sherman worked as a registry clerk with the Immigration Division of Ellis Island from 1892 until his death in 1925. Not much is known about his private life. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1866 and came to New York in 1892 to begin working at Ellis Island. He was responsible for registering immigrants, which he did at the examination desk and, though he did his job extremely well, he was never promoted to inspector. He was described by his colleagues as being “very well dressed and mannerly” and also as being “full of fun and mischief.” A dedicated bachelor, he cherished the children of his close friends, who remember him fondly as “Uncle Gussie.”

Dock workers at Ellis Island knew that one of the first things newly arriving immigrants did when they arrived at Battery Park, at the tip of Manhattan, was to discard their old clothing, exchanging them for New World garments. This was at the insistence of their recently assimilated relatives, who felt that looking foreign by wearing strange clothing was not a good way to begin life in their new country.

“Gus” Sherman knew this as well and wanted to capture the immigrants in photographs before the changes began. His was a simple request to the staff who worked in the building where the immigrants were processed: “If you see an interesting face, an arresting costume, contact Gus Sherman immediately!” There could never be too many to photograph or anything too strange or exotic to capture on plate.

Sherman’s photographs, which were used not only in official government reports but also in articles in *National Geographic*, provide a hint of the man. A sense of curiosity kept him interested in taking pictures of immigrants for more than 25 years. His photographs are very moving. The hopes, fears, aspirations and anxieties of the immigrants can be seen in their eyes. They had nothing to return to if rejected. Their old world was changing rapidly because of war, famine and annexation. The new world was forging ahead. Immigrants were caught in the middle. Sherman captured these people as they would never look again and as they might want to forget they had ever looked.

His photographs, almost forgotten after his death, became public in 1969 when they were gifted to the National Park Service by his niece, Mary Sherman Peters. It did not take long to recognize the historical significance of the collection. His photographs illustrated the elaborate national costumes and folk dresses of the new arrivals and showed the variety and richness of the ethnic and cultural heritages that came to form this nation.



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Emma Tenayuca

Labor Organizer

December 21, 1916–July 23, 1999



Emma Tenayuca was born in San Antonio, Texas, one of 11 children, and lived with her grandmother to ease the burden on her family. When she was a young, distinguished student at Brackenridge High School, Tenayuca was struck by the differences between what she read about life and the realities she witnessed around her every day. After graduating in 1934, she took a job as an elevator operator and dedicated her life to improving the treatment of poor people.

She first became aware of working people's struggles when she learned about the strikes at the Finck Cigar Company. To show her support, she joined the picket line and was arrested. An energetic leader, she is best known for her fiery speeches and union organizing work in San Antonio. Her desire to free Hispanics from the exploitation they suffered in local labor markets led her to join the Workers Alliance in 1936 and the Communist Party a year later. In 1937 she became general secretary of the Workers Alliance.

Tenayuca was very active in the pecan shellers' strike of 1938, one of the longest and most bitter strikes of the Great Depression. Most of the pecan shelling in the country was done in San Antonio, where workers were typically paid about six cents per pound of pecans. Tuberculosis was rampant, generally believed to be caused by the fine dust put into the air during the shelling process. Working conditions were substandard, with poor cleaning facilities and inadequate rest rooms.

When a decision was made to cut wages in half, 12,000 workers struck. Tenayuca was asked to be the strike representative, and she was granted permission to speak at the Municipal Auditorium at a Communist party meeting held August 29, 1938. The meeting turned into a violent riot when thousands of people, all opposed to the Communist party, broke into the meeting and began throwing rocks and bricks. She escaped but was the constant recipient of death threats.

Because of the riot and of her being blacklisted, Tenayuca moved to San Francisco and obtained a teaching certificate in 1952. She returned to San Antonio in the 1960s and taught at the Harlandale School. She earned her master's degree in education from Our Lady of the Lake University in 1974 and retired in 1999. (Photograph shows her standing on the steps of San Antonio City Hall, c. 1938, and was obtained from *The San Antonio Light* Collection, Institute of Texan Cultures, 1541-D.)



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Sojourner Truth

Abolitionist and Women's Rights Activist

c. 1797–November 26, 1883



Sojourner Truth was born c. 1797 as "Isabella" to Elizabeth and James Baumfree, slaves on a Dutch settlement owned by Colonel Johannes Hardenbaugh, in Swartekill, Ulster County, New York. One of 12 children, she spent her early years serving various masters and never learned to read and write. In 1810 she was purchased by John Dumont and, after being prevented from marrying a man of her choice, in 1817 she married another slave, Thomas, owned by the Dumonts. The couple had four children: Diana, Peter, Elizabeth and Sophia.

In 1799 New York State began a process to abolish slavery, which would occur July 4, 1827. Truth was promised her freedom by Dumont in 1826 if she fulfilled certain obligations, which she did. He went back on his word, however, and she escaped with Diane, leaving her other children behind because they were not freed by the emancipation order until they met certain legal requirements. She then gained domestic employment with Isaac and Maria Van Wagenen in Wagondale, New York, and began work to secure the freedom of Peter, who had been illegally sold into slavery in Alabama. After months of legal proceedings, she won a landmark lawsuit to recover her son.

While with the Van Wagenens, she became "overwhelmed with the greatness of the Divine presence," converted to Christianity and became a Methodist preacher. After working with a group of evangelists, she moved to New York City, and in 1843 she changed her name to Sojourner Truth. Short of funds, she moved to Massachusetts and began a career as a traveling preacher. The following year Sojourner joined the utopian Northampton Association of Education and Industry and befriended many of the abolitionist reformers of her time. She lived with one of the association's founders, George Benson, and began dictating her memoirs to Olive Gilbert. Her book, *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave*, was published in 1850 by William Lloyd Garrison.

In 1850 Benson's cotton mill fell on hard times. Sojourner purchased the house, using the income she received from the sale of her book and as a preacher. Four years later, at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, she delivered her famous "Ain't I a Woman" speech. She took that slogan from one of the most famous abolitionist images of her time, that of a kneeling female slave with the caption: "Am I Not a Woman and a Sister?"

A strong believer in women's rights, abolition and nonviolence, Truth was a powerful and an effective speaker. In 1857 she sold her home in Northampton and moved to Harmonia, Michigan. During the Civil War, she supported the Union and helped care for wounded soldiers and newly emancipated African Americans, urging them to learn to read. In her later years she campaigned for western land grants for former slaves. She died at age 86 in her Michigan home in 1883.



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Mariano Vallejo

Author, Military Commander,
Politician and Rancher

c. 1808–1890



Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo (1808–1890) was a leader in the struggle for statehood for California. During his lifetime, he witnessed three nations rule California. Born to a wealthy family in Monterey, California, the eighth of 13 children, he entered military service at age 16. A soldier when Mexico took over California from Spain in 1826, Vallejo (va-YAY-ho) supported Californíos (native-born Californians) who rebelled against the Mexican governor. In 1829 he led a successful mission against a band of runaway mission Indians. In 1831 he was named commander of the presidio in San Francisco. In 1835 he was appointed commandant of the fourth military district and director of colonization of the northern frontier, the highest military command in northern California.

His next major accomplishment came when Governor Jose Figueroa asked him to lay out a *pueblo* at the Solano mission and authorized him to free the Indian workers and distribute the mission lands and assets to settlers. This colonization plan was designed to prevent further extension of the Russian establishment of Fort Ross. As a reward for his success, he was given approximately 44 acres in the Petaluma Valley to develop as his own private *rancho*. This agricultural empire and his already-established civil and military powers made him one of the wealthiest and most influential men of his day in California.

In 1841 the Russians decided to abandon their outposts at Bodega and Fort Ross and offered to sell the fort to Vallejo. After several months of delays in the negotiations, the fort was purchased by John Sutter. This setback reinforced Vallejo's belief that California would be better served if it were ruled by the United States rather than Mexico City. In 1846 a group of unruly frontiersmen "attacked" the *pueblo* of Sonoma, arrested Vallejo and imprisoned him in Sutter's fort. They then raised a newly designed flag—the Bear Flag—over Sonoma. Within a month, the U.S. flag was raised in California, and the new officials released Vallejo and allowed him to return home. Sadly, he found that during his imprisonment and loss of power, his *rancho* was looted of its cattle, horses and other assets by the Bear Flaggers and Captain John C. Fremont. Despite this action, Vallejo sided with the Americans in the Mexican War (1846–1848).

In 1848 Vallejo was one of eight Californíos elected to the California Constitutional Convention. He then served three terms in the state legislature. Because his lands had been granted by the Mexican government, he spent much of the next decade successfully defending his land rights. He wrote his multivolume history of California to document the role played by Californíos. The town of Vallejo, California, bears his name. (The photograph was obtained from Bancroft Library, Portrait 1.)



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Sarah Winnemucca (Thocmetony)

Author and Activist

c.1844–1891



Sarah Winnemucca was the daughter of Chief Winnemucca of the Northern Paiute People and granddaughter of Chief Truckee who guided John C. Fremont during his 1843 to 1845 expedition across the Great Basin to California. Her Paiute name was Thocmetony, which means shellflower, and when or why she chose the name Sarah is not documented.

Winnemucca developed a great skill for learning languages and because of her grandfather's relationship with the Fremonts, she soon became one of the few Paiutes of her time to read, write and speak English. She is also the first Native American woman known to secure a copyright and to publish in the English language. Her book, *Life Among the Paiutes: Their Wrongs and Claims* (1883), is an autobiographical account of her people during their first 40 years of contact with explorers and settlers.

Her language skills also enabled her to work as an interpreter and a translator for the U.S. Army and for the government agencies at the reservations. In 1878, when the Bannock Indians revolted and were being pursued by the U.S. Army under the command of General Oliver Howard, Winnemucca volunteered for a dangerous mission. When she discovered that her father was among a group of captives held by the Bannocks, she entered Bannock territory and led the captives away to army protection in a three-day ride over more than 200 miles of rugged terrain. For this and other notable acts, she was named chief of her tribe.

She was married to Lieutenant Edward C. Bartlett and later to Lewis H. Hopkins, an Indian Department employee, who helped her write her book. She spent most of her adult life calling public attention to the terrible treatment of Native Americans under United States government policies and lobbied Congress to improve conditions for her people on the reservation they had been forced to occupy. She traveled, wrote extensively and delivered more than 300 speeches before both European American and Native American audiences on the difficult situation facing the Paiutes and other Indian nations. Because of her visibility, she gained audiences with President Rutherford Hayes and Interior Secretary Carl Schurz; those meetings led to the passage of congressional legislation enabling the return of Paiute land. Unfortunately, that legislation was never enforced. In 1883, she retired from public activity. (Photograph obtained from Nevada Historical Society, 79.)



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