

## HONORING 25 YEARS OF WOMEN LIGHTING THE WAY

Revolutionary. That's the word Joy Monkarsh '61 uses to describe Women & Philanthropy at UCLA.

In 1993, Joy and 14 other women began conducting small focus groups, asking over 300 women donors, volunteers and alumna: "Do you want to learn and grow as philanthropists?"

The response, they discovered, was a resounding yes. The following year, in 1994, Women & Philanthropy at UCLA was established, and the group went to work on campus developing a new program.

**"Women & Philanthropy simply changed my life — I made long lasting friends and did things I never would have thought of before, and for that I am grateful."**

— Joy Monkarsh, Women & Philanthropy at UCLA Founding Member

**Reflecting on the past.** "We put this idea out there and women just loved it," says Joy, recalling that only 25 years ago, men were automatically acknowledged for a charitable gift. In fact, she once ordered basketball tickets, and the thank you note was addressed to her husband.

"This group is how my mother's identity as a philanthropist in her own right, based on her own passions, began," says Joy's daughter Julie Monkarsh Gadinsky '88, also a donor to UCLA.

Bea Mandel '61, another one of the 15 founding members, has been a trailblazer on campus. "I knew there were more women out there who wanted to be involved" says Bea, who served as the first female president of the UCLA Alumni Association, among many other positions. "It was clear to me from the beginning that this wasn't just about philanthropy but about getting women involved at a meaningful level."

**Making an impact today.** Today, that group has grown to over 2,500 members. Women now sit on nearly every board on campus. And the group that began by collectively giving \$340,000 to the University has grown to nearly \$1 billion in donations.



From left to right: Anne-Marie Spataru, Randi Greenberg, Ilana Greenberg, Joy Monkarsh, Julie Monkarsh Gadinsky, Elaine Mandel Peters, Bea Mandel, Cara Davidoff

"Women & Philanthropy at UCLA has emerged as a national model for other institutions," says president Anne-Marie Spataru '78 MBA. "From the beginning, we were deciding where our passions — singular or multiple — lay, and this caused others to rethink their philanthropic efforts." Indeed, this group supports every field of study, from north to south campus.

"Whatever you want, you can find it on campus," says member Randi Greenberg, who worked as a nurse at UCLA for 30 years and now volunteers on Bruin Day, makes gift baskets for the Guardian Scholars Program (for foster youth) and supports multiple global health initiatives. "Every department has needs, and everything is so appreciated."

**Focusing on the future.** With a new generation of women philanthropists — like Cara Davidoff '08 — already doing remarkable things, the group is excited about its future.

"I was welcomed to UCLA with open arms," says Cara, who joined UCLA women's swimming when the swim program at Tulane University was cut because of Hurricane Katrina's damage. Cara now supports UCLA women's swimming and also serves as a young alumni representative on the Women & Philanthropy Board.

Not surprisingly the daughters of Bea, Joy and Randi — all UCLA alumni — were inspired by their mothers' examples as well as the values encouraged at UCLA.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS



2019 is an exciting year for UCLA. In addition to celebrating the University's centennial anniversary, this year also marks the 25th anniversary of Women & Philanthropy at UCLA. I'm thrilled to welcome you to this issue of our newsletter, which highlights this significant milestone in our group's history.

In our cover story, we give you a small glimpse of women from different generations who support UCLA in a variety of ways. Their driving passion: making an impact on the University — and in the world. I hope you enjoy reading their thoughts about the importance of investing in UCLA and perpetuating a legacy of giving time and treasure. I invite you to mark June 19 on your calendar for our festivities, which you can read about below. Also, in honor of these important UCLA celebrations, we've compiled fun facts for our Did You Know column on page 3 about the ways in which women have helped transform the University and beyond over the years.

As we did for our 20th anniversary, we will once again be encouraging the support of "Philanthropy as Civic Engagement," an undergraduate course that teaches the next generation about the value and process of philanthropy. I've personally attended several of these classes and found it extraordinary to see the culmination of a quarter-long class where students learn how to be diligent, intentional and effective with their financial giving. In fact, students have consistently reported that this is one of the most meaningful courses they've taken at UCLA.

It's hard to believe that when Women & Philanthropy was established in 1994, only a few women held leadership roles on campus. Today, we play such a major role in every area of discipline. I look forward to honoring this work and celebrating 25 years of impact with you on June 19.

Anne-Marie Spataru  
President, Women & Philanthropy



## JOIN THE FESTIVITIES: JUNE 19 — A MILESTONE EVENT

"Individually, we all have our passions, but it's the totality of what this group has meant to the campus that's worth celebrating as we turn 25," says founding member Bea Mendel.

Plans are in full force for the celebratory gathering on June 19. The luncheon, which commemorates 25 years of women lighting the way throughout the University, will bring together Women & Philanthropy members, campus donors, leaders and other University and community partners to celebrate the impact of women at UCLA.

### Among the highlights:

- **A conversation with Sherry Lansing**, the first woman to ever head a major film studio when she was appointed president of 20th Century Fox in 1980. Sherry, who will receive our inaugural Women & Philanthropy Icon Award, serves on the UC Board of Regents and is the founder of the Sherry Lansing Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to cancer research, public education and encore careers. Caroline Nahas '70, vice chair of Korn Ferry, will facilitate a discussion with Sherry.

- **Inspiring message from Shari Staglin '66**, owner and leader of Staglin Family Vineyard and brain health/mental health advocate and visionary, who will receive the first Women & Philanthropy Alumna Award. Shari and her

husband, Garen, recently received the 2018 Edward A. Dickson Alumni of the Year Award and have helped lead the UCLA Depression Grand Challenge.

- **Valorie Kondos Field '87**, who recently marked her final season as head coach of UCLA women's gymnastics, will be honored as an Impactful Campus Leader. Valorie has led UCLA to seven NCAA championships and has been equally inspirational off the floor, teaching young women how to find their own leadership potential to make a difference in the world.

- **Judith L. Smith**, who began her UCLA career in 1969 as an assistant professor in Physiology Science and was named the first dean and vice provost for Undergraduate Education in 1996, will be recognized as an Impactful Campus Leader. Judith created "Philanthropy as Civic Engagement," a course for which Women & Philanthropy is helping to raise much-needed funds. She was recalled from a brief retirement to help launch the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music and became its founding dean (2016–2019). Not quite ready to retire completely, she expects to be working full time in the Chancellor's Office next year.

"We're thrilled to recognize these remarkable, accomplished women," say event co-chairs Judith Angel and Susan F. Rice. "It promises to be an afternoon of celebration and inspiration."

*To purchase your ticket, become a sponsor or make a gift to the "Philanthropy as Civic Engagement" course, please visit [giving.ucla.edu/wp25](http://giving.ucla.edu/wp25).*



## DID YOU KNOW?

**Smart, strong and accomplished. Visionary women have been blazing a trail since the University's earliest days. Below are just a few fun facts highlighting the accomplishments of UCLA women.**

- UC Regent Margaret Sartori, who voted in 1923 to add a third year to the Southern Extension, helped cut the strings from UC Berkeley and drive UCLA toward independence.
- UCLA's first Bachelor of Arts degrees in the College of Letters and Science in 1925 were awarded to 100 women and 24 men.
- Agnes de Mille '26, who graduated at just 19, went on to become a famed choreographer of the film *Oklahoma!*
- Ann Meyers Drysdale '79 was the first female to receive a four-year athletic scholarship at any university, and the first woman to be drafted into a professional basketball league.
- Yvonne Brathwaite Burke '53 was the first woman and the first African American ever to serve on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1979.
- Elinor Ostrom '54, M.A. '62, Ph.D. '65 won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2009 — the first and only woman to do so.
- Almira "Mira" Hershey's \$300,000 donation in 1931 built the first residence hall on the Westwood campus, still known as Hershey Hall.
- Susan Wojcicki MBA '89 has been the CEO of YouTube since February 2014, was involved in the founding of Google, and became Google's first marketing manager in 1999.
- In 2009, Kirsten Gillibrand J.D. '91 was appointed to the U.S. Senate to replace Hillary Rodham Clinton, who became U.S. Secretary of State. Kirsten is now a 2020 presidential candidate.
- Anna Lee Fisher '71, M.D. '76, M.S. '87 was the first female Bruin astronaut in 1978 and the first mother to go into space in 1984.
- The first female black director to have a film nominated for Best Picture at the Academy Awards (*Selma*) and also Best Documentary Feature (*13th*), Ava DuVernay studied at UCLA from 1990–1995.
- Lulu Wolf Hassenplug was the founding dean of the School of Nursing and created the first undergraduate baccalaureate nursing program west of the Mississippi in 1949.
- Four of the 13 women judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit are graduates of the UCLA School of Law [Dorothy Wright Nelson '53, Kim McLane Wardlaw '79, Sandra Segal Ikuta '88, Jacqueline Hong–Ngoc Nguyen '91].
- Carol Burnett, 1951–1954, became the first woman to host a variety show, *The Carol Burnett Show*, which ran 11 seasons, won 27 prime time Emmys and was named one of "The 100 Best Shows of All Time" by *TIME* magazine.
- The women's water polo team took the Bruins into the record books in 2007 as the first school to win 100 NCAA team championships.



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"Philanthropy was instilled in me by my mother and what I expected of myself," says Bea's daughter, Elaine Mandel Peters '89, J.D. '92, a judge who has served on the board of the UCLA School of Law and now mentors young law students. Julie Monkarsh Gadinsky remains active in leadership development at Hillel, aiming to get young students involved in politics. And Ilana Greenberg '17, now a graduate student studying public health at Emory University, credits the undergraduate course "Philanthropy as Civic Engagement" as instrumental in teaching her how to evaluate organizations and understanding how to give.

**More than philanthropy.** Despite its groundbreaking accomplishments, what the members truly celebrate can't be quantified. "It became about more than the giving," says Joy. "I began to believe in myself as a woman and a leader; it made me a different person."

"Women & Philanthropy opens doors to the campus for you in a way that nothing else does," says Bea. "It's wonderful to be part of a group of people so remarkable, so engaged, so thoughtful. We look forward to inspiring more women to join us."

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## *Celebrating 25 Years!*

**Wednesday, June 19, 2019  
11 am – 2 pm**

**UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center  
Centennial Ballroom**

**Tickets and Sponsorships:**  
[giving.ucla.edu/wp25](http://giving.ucla.edu/wp25)

**Questions:**  
[wmnphil@support.ucla.edu](mailto:wmnphil@support.ucla.edu) or (310) 206-4391

***Making an Impact. Making a Difference.***

**Women & Philanthropy at UCLA celebrates and inspires women throughout the UCLA community as major donors, leaders and decision-makers.**

To join this dynamic group, email us at  
[wmnphil@support.ucla.edu](mailto:wmnphil@support.ucla.edu) or call **310.794.2389**.

To find out more about our programming and to be inspired,  
visit our updated website: [women.support.ucla.edu](http://women.support.ucla.edu).