

# UCLA Women & Philanthropy

Celebrating and inspiring women throughout the UCLA community as major donors, leaders and decision-makers

## Celebrating Three Decades of Philanthropy by Women

It all started in 1994 when 15 women came together for a discussion. “During UCLA’s first public campaign, many women donors felt invisible,” Bea Mandel recalls. When a married woman donated to the University, the coding of the campaign’s computing system sent the thank you to her husband. If that woman’s gift was significant enough to elicit an invitation to serve on an advisory board, her husband would get the invitation.

There were problems with how fundraising was structured, too. Mandel says, “It was set up so wherever you made your initial donation, the development director tended to claim you as their donor.” Mandel, who was working on the campaign, would regularly get calls from donors expressing a desire to invest in myriad aspects of UCLA, but were getting pushback.

Those initial 15 women met with female development officers, who understood the value of engaging women donors on a deeper level. Together, they presented reluctant leadership with a direction—hire an outside consulting firm to conduct a series of focus groups with women donors to UCLA to gather unbiased feedback.

Over 350 women were invited to participate. “We were warned we might get about a 10% return of responses,” Mandel remembers. “The invitations hit on a Thursday,



Women & Philanthropy Board Members at the 25th Anniversary Celebration

and by Tuesday, an overwhelming number responded.” For Mandel, what stood out most about those responses was, “These women wanted to be taken seriously as donors, give to the campus at a significant level, and be involved in leadership positions.”

Armed with this information, Women & Philanthropy was founded. Some male naysayers spouted, “Who wants to give to a group of women?” Women & Philanthropy members remained undaunted. Mandel affirms, “We just kept saying, giving *through* this group is an avenue for inviting and enticing people onto the campus so the next time there’s a campaign, people will feel more invested in it.”

Women & Philanthropy’s plan worked. Over the last 30 years, its numbers have grown from 15 to 3,200, its members occupy 400 spots on boards across campus, and so far, members have cumulatively contributed \$4.2 billion in lifetime giving. The program is seen as a role model among university-based women’s-giving programs. Mandel shares, “It’s been a success in ways no one in their wildest dreams thought would happen.”

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## Honoring the Soft Power and Song of Carol Block



on campus: Associate of the Chancellor Carol Block.

This summer, UCLA will see the departure of a serene but mighty presence

With the July 31 retirement of her husband, Chancellor Gene Block, Carol and he will leave their roles with the university and move into their own home in Los Angeles.

The Blocks took residency at UCLA in 2007. Of her role, Carol told UCLA Newsroom, “It’s not a position you’re trained to do; you’re kind of thrown into it.” That being said, she took the reins with aplomb.

Carol’s contributions to UCLA over the past 17 years have been vast. A common theme: empowering women. “There are so many decisions and policies that affect women,” she said in a recent UCLA Newsroom article. “I think women want to be part of the conversation so they can be sure their concerns are being considered and addressed.”

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## President's Message

This spring's newsletter is all about milestones. For Women & Philanthropy at UCLA, we're celebrating 30 years as an organization that's forged a path for other universities on how to engage women on a deeper and broader level in providing

philanthropic support. Being part of that journey has been a source of inspiration and an honor. And being Women & Philanthropy's president for the last two years has made it all the sweeter.

I feel very fortunate that my final President's Message occurs during this monumental occasion. As our cover story shows, our esteemed membership has had a meaningful impact in myriad ways over our 30-year history, and the program has expanded and evolved. Some of Women & Philanthropy's 15 founding members share how we've made our presence known through giving and the effect it's had on them personally.

To that end, we look at how Women & Philanthropy gifts and engagement have furthered the goals of accomplished UCLA faculty members, researchers, and coaches. Among

them: Dr. Andrea Ghez, professor of Physics & Astronomy; Lauren B. Leichtman & Arthur E. Levine chair in Astrophysics and 2020 Nobel Prize winner in physics; Dr. Janet Pregler, director of the Iris Cantor – UCLA Women's Health Center; and Cori Close, The Michael Price Family UCLA Women's Head Basketball Coach.

As you'll read, UCLA is also bidding farewell to Carol Block in her role as Associate of the Chancellor. Happily, she and her husband will remain in Los Angeles, and Carol will remain as a Women & Philanthropy Board Member. I can't think of a better legacy to honor her years with the University and her love of music than through the establishment of the Carol K. Block Endowed Scholarship at The Herb Alpert School of Music. I hope you'll consider participating in this lasting commemoration of Carol's achievements.

As my term comes to an end, I want to express how much I've enjoyed leading the group. I'm excited to share that our new president, Judith Angel, will take over the reins in July. Before that, we'll celebrate our shared history at the upcoming 30th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon on May 1. Here's to continuing to propel change and inspire excellence.

— *Coretta Harris, '83, President, Women & Philanthropy*

## Celebrating Three Decades ...

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On May 1, Women & Philanthropy will be celebrating 30 years of milestones with a luncheon at the Luskin Conference Center's Centennial Ballroom. "Our group of dedicated women have accomplished so much over these many years and have much to be proud of," Joy Monkarsh, one of the original 15 founding members, reflects.

The anniversary celebration will be an opportunity to honor Women & Philanthropy Board Member and Associate of the Chancellor Carol Block as she transitions out of her on-campus role. Join us and toast 30 years of W&P trailblazing! Tickets and sponsorships are available at [giving.ucla.edu/wp30](http://giving.ucla.edu/wp30).

**"Women & Philanthropy changed my life," Joy Monkarsh says. "It taught me how to be a leader, how to respect myself and others, and how to challenge other women to find their areas of passion at UCLA."**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Melissa Efron Hayek at: [meffronhayek@support.ucla.edu](mailto:meffronhayek@support.ucla.edu) or (310) 794-2389

## Honoring the Soft Power ...

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With that aim in mind, Carol became a member of Women & Philanthropy in 2008 and a Board Member in 2014. As a Board Member, she's cherished "Getting to know members of the Board who are an accomplished, caring, humble, generous group of women."

Carol's love of bringing people together is reflected in the initiatives she instituted at UCLA. Among them, supporting women's athletic events and hosting bi-annual Women's Leadership Luncheons. Her student recitals at the Chancellor's Residence for UCLA staff became an annual mainstay. Additionally, she volunteers at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Carol's reach expands beyond UCLA's borders when leading staff excursions around Los Angeles.

To acknowledge Carol's contributions to UCLA, Women & Philanthropy is establishing the Carol K. Block Endowed Scholarship at The Herb Alpert School of Music in her honor. The fund, which will support students in the music department, is in keeping with Carol's love of music. We ask you to consider supporting the founding of this special fund that will continue Carol's legacy at UCLA at [giving.ucla.edu/wp30](http://giving.ucla.edu/wp30).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Brandon Faber at: [bfaber@schoolofmusic.ucla.edu](mailto:bfaber@schoolofmusic.ucla.edu) or (310) 780-3428

## Philanthropy's Impact: To Infinity and Beyond

Seeing contributions making a difference is often one of the most rewarding components of being a donor. Several Bruin faculty shared how they've achieved big goals with the help of Women & Philanthropy and its members.

For 13 seasons, as The Michael Price Family UCLA Women's Head Basketball Coach, Cori Close has led the Bruins to over 284 victories. Cheering the team along—Women & Philanthropy members. "Many of UCLA Women's Basketball's most generous donors are actively involved with Women & Philanthropy," Close remarks. "Their generosity goes well beyond just the financial impact of their gifts."

One of the basketball program's core values is being lifestyle givers. "Women & Philanthropy sets a tremendous example for the young women in our program of how to positively impact the lives of others."

As the Director of the Iris Cantor - UCLA Women's Health Education and Research Center, Janet Pregler, M.D., knows the necessity of donor funding for public institutions. "We have incredibly dedicated faculty, staff, and students, but need money to pursue innovative work and community partnerships," she comments. "The unwavering dedication of women donors to improving the lives of others is truly commendable and highlights the profound impact that philanthropy can have in shaping a brighter future for women everywhere."



The combination of financial support and engagement can open doors to world-altering achievements. Andrea Ghez, Ph.D., professor of Physics & Astronomy and the Lauren B. Leichtman & Arthur E. Levine Chair in Astrophysics, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2020, has experienced this firsthand.

"Philanthropy plays a critical role in our work with the W.M. Keck Observatory as well as our preparation for the coming era of extremely large ground-based telescopes like the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)," Ghez notes. "The leadership, thoughtfulness, friendship, and generous support of so many women over the years has meant a great deal to me personally and professionally, and has enabled us to open the center of our galaxy as a laboratory for exploring the physics of black holes and their fundamental role in the evolution of our universe."

Ghez adds that the impact of such support expands farther than just UCLA. "Champion support from many women, including several in Women & Philanthropy, has been critical for elevating so much of not only what's been possible within the UCLA Galactic Center Group but for our entire UCLA community of astronomers and beyond."

### Did You Know ...

**Just how far has women's philanthropy come over the past 30 years? Here's a look at our growth, updates on women's giving, and current UCLA demographics.**

- In its first decade, Women & Philanthropy members raised nearly \$50 million for programs across UCLA. Since then, members have contributed over \$4.2 billion in lifetime giving to UCLA.
- Per the Women's Philanthropy Institute, since 1974, women's wealth has risen to 40% of global wealth.
- Women now control about a third—or \$10 trillion—of total U.S. household assets, according to business consulting firm McKinsey.
- Also from McKinsey, an unprecedented amount of assets will shift into the hands of US women over the next three to five years, representing a \$30 trillion opportunity by the end of the decade.
- At UCLA, 60% of current undergraduate students are women and 49% of graduate students; 45.6% of full-time faculty were women in 2022; and 32 female campus leaders are Women & Philanthropy University Leadership Members.

**Development/Women & Philanthropy**

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**Women & Philanthropy is going green!**

Please share your email address at  
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Women & Philanthropy at UCLA is celebrating our 30th anniversary – 30 years of women supporting the University, inspiring one another, and shaping the future of UCLA.

We are honoring Women & Philanthropy Board Member Carol Block, the Associate of the Chancellor, on this momentous occasion.

We hope you can join the festivities!

**AN INVITATION  
TO A CELEBRATION ...**

***Look Who's Turning 30!  
Women & Philanthropy  
at UCLA***



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024**

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Luskin Conference Center  
Centennial Ballroom  
UCLA Campus

**TICKETS**

[giving.ucla.edu/wp30](https://giving.ucla.edu/wp30)