MONROVIA'S CHANGEMAKERS

Combatting Bigotry and Segregation

2017

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Edited by Charlotte Schamadan

Cover photo: Orange Avenue School 1889, Monrovia, California, showing Monrovia's multi-cultural beginnings.

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Dedication

We offer this book to change makers everywhere who have dedicated their lives to helping those in need and to individuals and/or organizations who believe that bigotry and segregation are equally wrong, whether experienced because of a difference in skin color, ethnicity, religion, gender, or intellectual or physical ability. Our aim is to promote the treatment of people as individuals rather than based on a stereotype.

We also dedicate this book to all the contributors and change agents whose stories we've told -- with our love, appreciation, and thanks for allowing us to share your portion of our collective history.

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Acknowledgments

We want to acknowledge the work of so many who have made contributions to our knowledge. Facing the reality experienced is always where members of the human family must begin if they are to eliminate the bigotry and prejudice of the times.

Susie Ling's initial research on African Americans and Mexican Americans in Monrovia shed light on the injustice in our town. Her presentation sparked the desire to ensure that the rest of the story was told about efforts to repair injustice and overcome segregation. Mary Ellen Romney MacArthur's doctoral dissertation on Huntington School -- *De Facto Segregation in Monrovia, California. Almera A Romney and Huntington Elementary School,* Aug. 1993 was another important body of work. It gave us a rich treasure trove of information and insight on both Huntington School and the broader issues of bigotry in Monrovia.

Special recognition goes to Betty Sandford, whose initiative made our project happen. It was her vision and determination that brought together people with different experiences and points of view toward a common goal of telling the stories of people of who had created change in our community. Betty is the quintessential change maker – pro-active, sensitive to the experiences of others, tireless in speaking a sometimes unpleasant truth, and eager and capable of enlisting others -- in the direction of positive change.

We express our gratitude to the many people who provided support, talked things over, read, wrote, offered comments, allowed us to quote their remarks and assisted in the editing, proofreading and design.

Those serving on the ChangeMakers Committee include Steve Baker, Sandy Burud, Francie Cash, Lois Gaston, Ulises Gutierrez, Oka Inouye, Mohna Manihar, Betty Sandford, Charlotte Schamadan, Larry Spicer, Mark Still, Betty Fisher Thomas, Ralph Walker and Joannie Yuille.

We, of course, also want to acknowledge all the individuals who have experienced profound bigotry in our community. Many of those stories will never be told. Even as we honor these particular people who were active in creating change, we are also aware of those others and hope these stories will help turn their tragedies into triumph.

Last and not least, we ask understanding from all of the change makers whose names we have failed to mention at this time and ask for your patience as we recognize that this is only the beginning of identifying and documenting the stories of Monrovia's agents of change.

In Memoriam

It is with profound sadness that the ChangeMakers Committee notes the passing of Joannie Gholar Yuille during the process of creating this book. Joannie's remarkable grace and dignity and devotion to the betterment of society throughout her life and her understanding of the importance of equality and compassion served her, and all her knew her, well.

Preface: The ChangeMakers Project

The ChangeMakers Project was formed to honor those who have worked to bring people together in our community and to act as a catalyst for improving Monrovia's human relations going forward. 'Human relations' is the term we used in the 1950's and 1960's. Later terms were 'civil rights', 'equal rights', 'discrimination', 'prejudice', and 'social justice'. It was always about bigotry -- the unfair treatment of people we think are different.

As an 89 year-old Monrovian, I realized that I am one of the few remaining who can remember from direct experience these early activities to combat bigotry. So it seemed important to capture the stories of what happened before they are lost. Starting with Joannie Gholar Yuille, whom I've known for more than 25 years, I brought together a group of individuals to work on documenting these stories and others. We named it the ChangeMakers Project.

I also realized that this project needed the leadership of younger and more energetic people. We appointed Lois Gaston and Sandy Burud to carry out that role. First, we brainstormed to list the people who were instrumental in making this important change. Like the tale of how we all experience an elephant differently (some see the leg, some the trunk), each saw only part of the whole story. We put our collective recollections together and arrived at a list of the key individuals. It included those who were active publicly or privately and those of different eras. The list continues to grow.

We realized, too, that, besides individuals, there were organizations – some existing (e.g., churches) and some newly created for the purpose of combating bigotry. So this book contains the stories of some of them as well, embedded within the individual recollections.

Our goal was to tell these stories so we don't forget them, but as important, by writing them down, to inform the present, because bigotry still exists, although it has changed shape.

This book is the culmination of the first phase of our work. Even though we have not recorded yet all the individuals who were important in this effort, we hope the stories of these courageous individuals who saw what wasn't right and worked hard to change it will inspire and inform today's citizens to recognize bigotry and work against it.

We hope this will contribute to more work and models to improve our future human relations.

Betty Sandford

Introduction:
Working for Change in Monrovia

by Betty Sandford

This introduction is intended to provide information about the breadth and depth of segregation and bigotry in Monrovia during much of the 20th century -- but also the efforts of many community members of various colors, religions and ethnic backgrounds to highlight the problems and to change them for the better.

To that end, my personal experience may help explain what was happening in Monrovia and why there was a need for change.

I was born into the Monrovia of the late 20s – a time when segregation and bigotry were prevalent and accepted—even by those who suffered from them. If your religion, the color of your skin, your ethnicity or your last name were different from those of the majority population, you understood that your ability to manage your own life was limited.

During my childhood and teens, I remember that there was a separate elementary school for children of color, that they were limited in use of the municipal swimming pool and that their families could only live in certain neighborhoods. If one's religion was other than Christian, even 'white-skinned' persons (the few Jews who lived in the community) were limited as to organizations they could join or offices they could hold and once their children reached their teens, they, too, were limited in their social life and high school organizations they could participate in. To Monrovia's credit and unlike nearby Bradbury, Jews could purchase or rent homes as they wished. But, sadly, students of various colors and backgrounds soon forgot our Japanese classmates after they and their families (many of whom were American citizens) were sent off to camps in 1942.

After WWII things began to change. People of color (many of whom had fought – even died - for their country), expected more when they returned to civilian life. Many white-skinned people, shaken by the holocaust, began to realize the enormity to which bigotry can lead. By the late 50s, Blacks and Whites, Christians and Jews, men and women, began working together and separately, both overtly and indirectly, to understand bigotry and segregation, to improve and

fund our school system, to elect the best of all groups to office and to integrate the schools and organizations in their community.

By the late 50s, the Monrovia Coordinating Council had appointed what I believe, was the first Human Relations Committee in our community, which, with a Mormon, Ali Romney, as president, began to educate and activate the community about segregation and bigotry. Soon after, Bill Brooks, a Black man formed a much larger Human Relations Committee with an integration focus. A Caucasian and retired scientist, Rollie Hawes formed The Alliance for a Better Community to inform and activate the community regarding good local government. (This was the organization which fought the John Birch Society's takeover of the schools and elected Bob Bartlett, Pat Ostrye and Eric Faith to the City Council). The League of Women Voters of Monrovia did a thorough job of studying segregation and bigotry in the community. The NAACP, the school district, some churches and other organizations were involved in various ways. Involved, too, were the Marugg, Faith and Sandford families, the Ostryes, Viola Kentner and Lathrop Hoffman.

Not all went well. In 1959 or 1960, a real estate salesman, working for my dad, sold a house in a "White neighborhood" to a couple of light- skinned and highly educated Blacks and – in a dual attack on a Jew and the Black couple – Monrovians harassed my father, both in person and on the telephone until he attempted suicide.

Several Black women (Eldora Polk, Elmira Enge, Mimi Mency) joined primarily White organizations to spread the word about the reality of prejudice in our community. Blacks and Whites who felt strongly about the issues (Jules and I among them) served on the boards or as active members of several of the organizations. While their activities were not consciously coordinated, groups worked together, playing different but complementary roles.

Even young people were involved in raising awareness and working for change. A group of Black, White, Asian and Hispanic youngsters called themselves the 'U.N. Gang'. One of my daughters helped put together a video on 'The Crisis in the Schools' and another worked on the campaign that elected Mimi Mency to the School Board.

Although some problems are yet to be solved, many were and the people and groups who were responsible for those earlier efforts deserve recognition. Mimi Mency, the first Black person elected to public office in Monrovia, will always be remembered by the School District. Bob Bartlett was not only our first Black mayor, he was a person of knowledge, industry and outreach, who vastly improved a fading community. Many others who contributed to strengthening

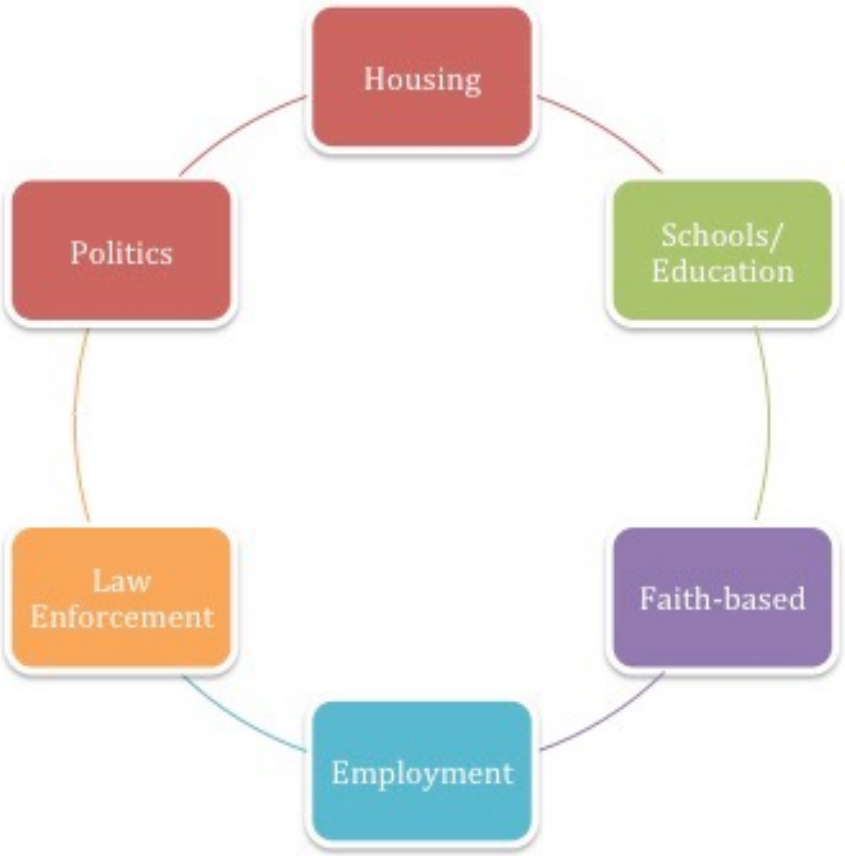
Monrovia as a diverse and active community are no longer with us and the few who remain are elderly or ill.

We eventually integrated the schools and to some extent the community. But I remained involved in human relations activities through the 90s, working with Black and White parents to prepare them for integration, co-chairing a group of Black and White parents who prevented an outside-instigated riot in the high school, chairing the community-wide Centennial celebration, chairing Bob Bartlett's many (and successful) mayoral campaigns, working on numerous child-related activities, serving on the School Board and working on a Dropout Prevention project.

As we move from the last decades of the 20th Century and through the early decades of the 21st, Monrovia's ethnic minorities have become more active on their own behalf and the focus has changed to Hispanics and dropout prevention. Solutions are increasingly sought through running for local office and through community-wide celebrations and events. New activist leaders are improving the lives of many people of different backgrounds—especially children and youth. Monrovians are still working together to make certain that our community remains strong, active and diverse. The ChangeMakers Project is collecting the resources to strengthen the effort.

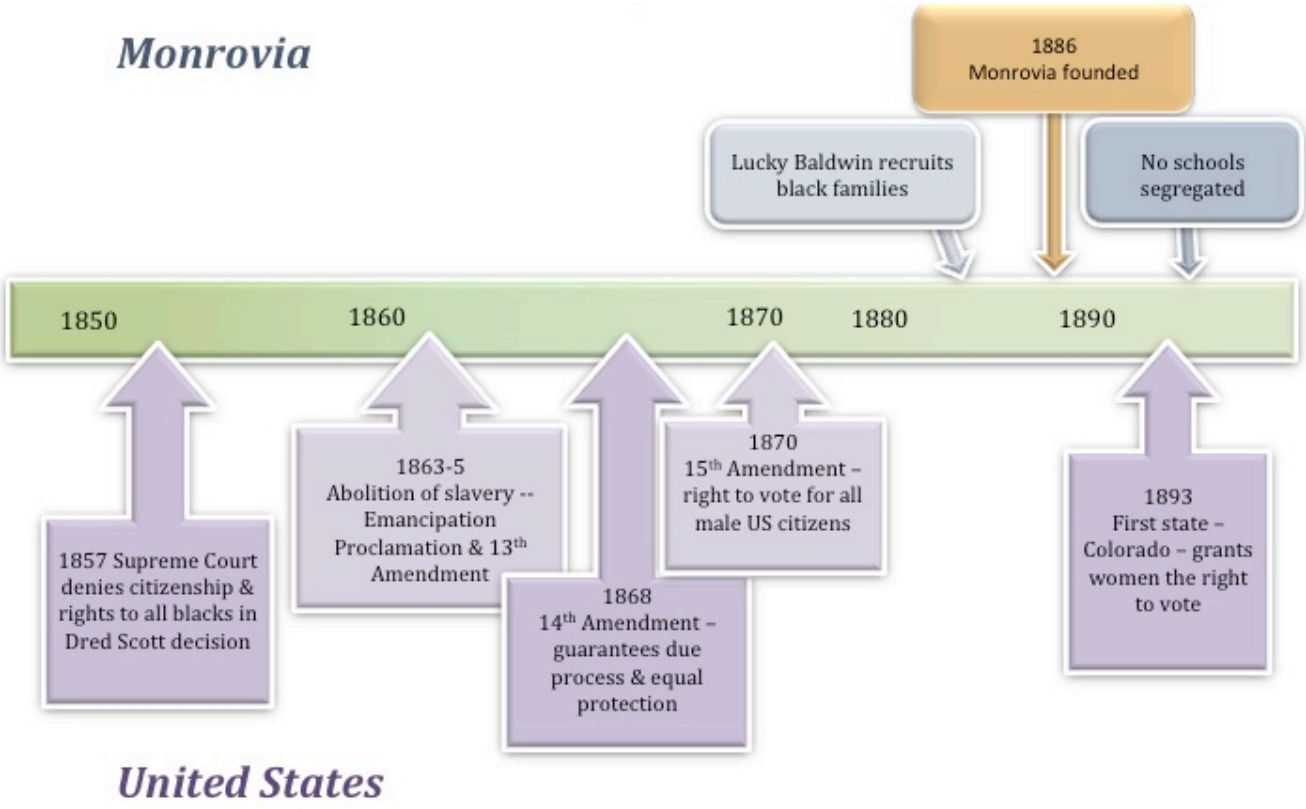
Areas of Impact

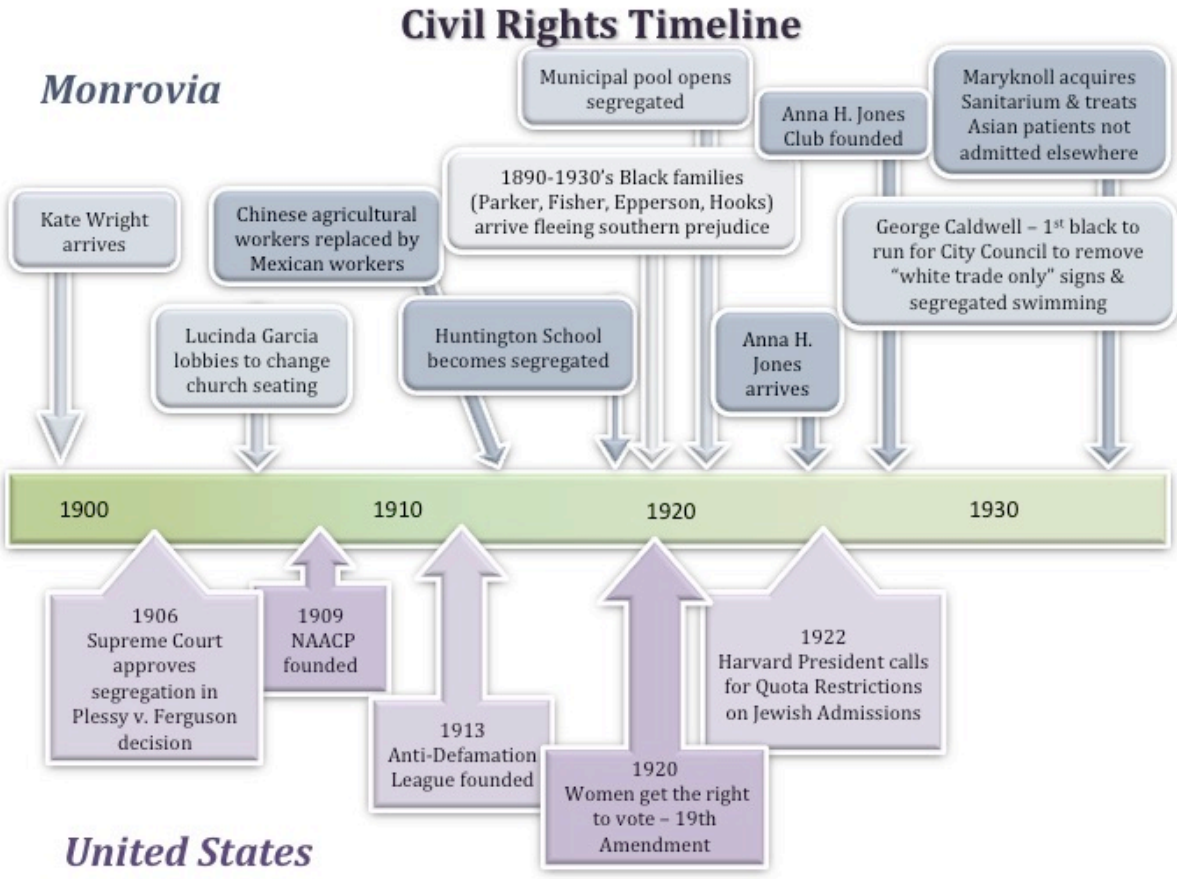
The ChangeMakers written about in this book had an impact on segregation and bigotry in Monrovia in a variety of areas, as shown below. Some individuals had an impact in more than one area.

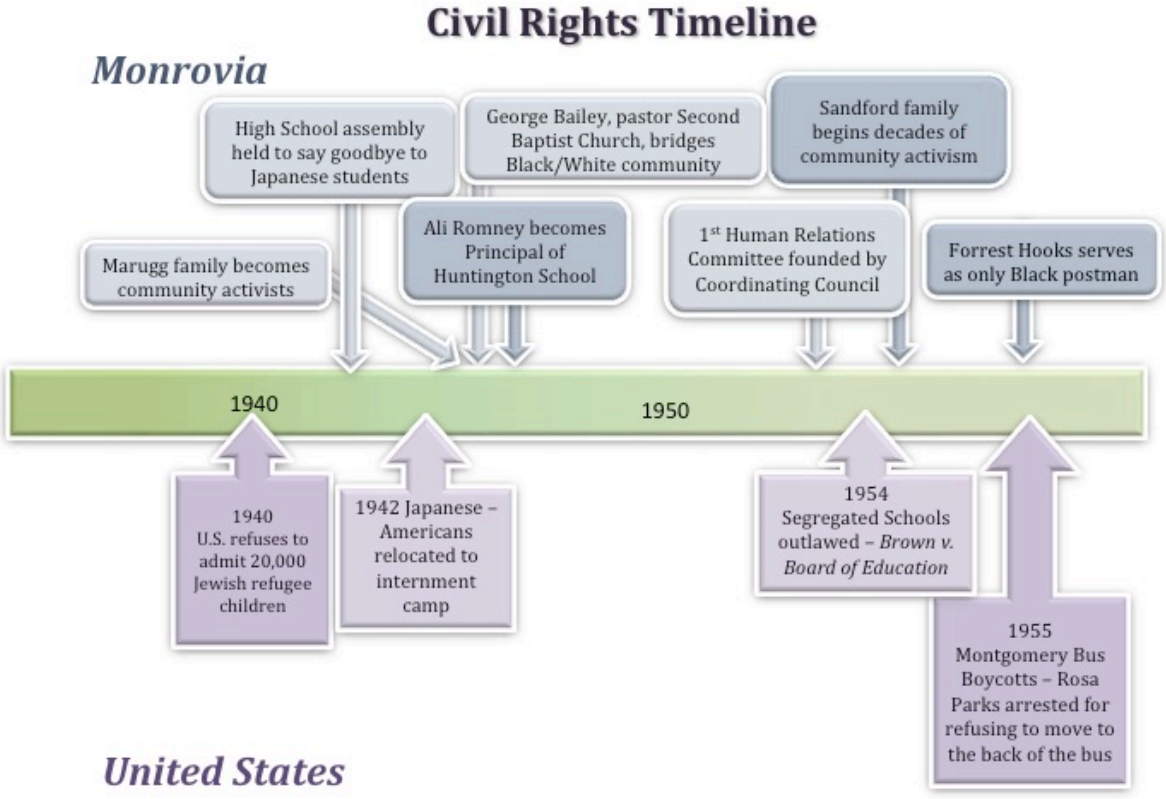


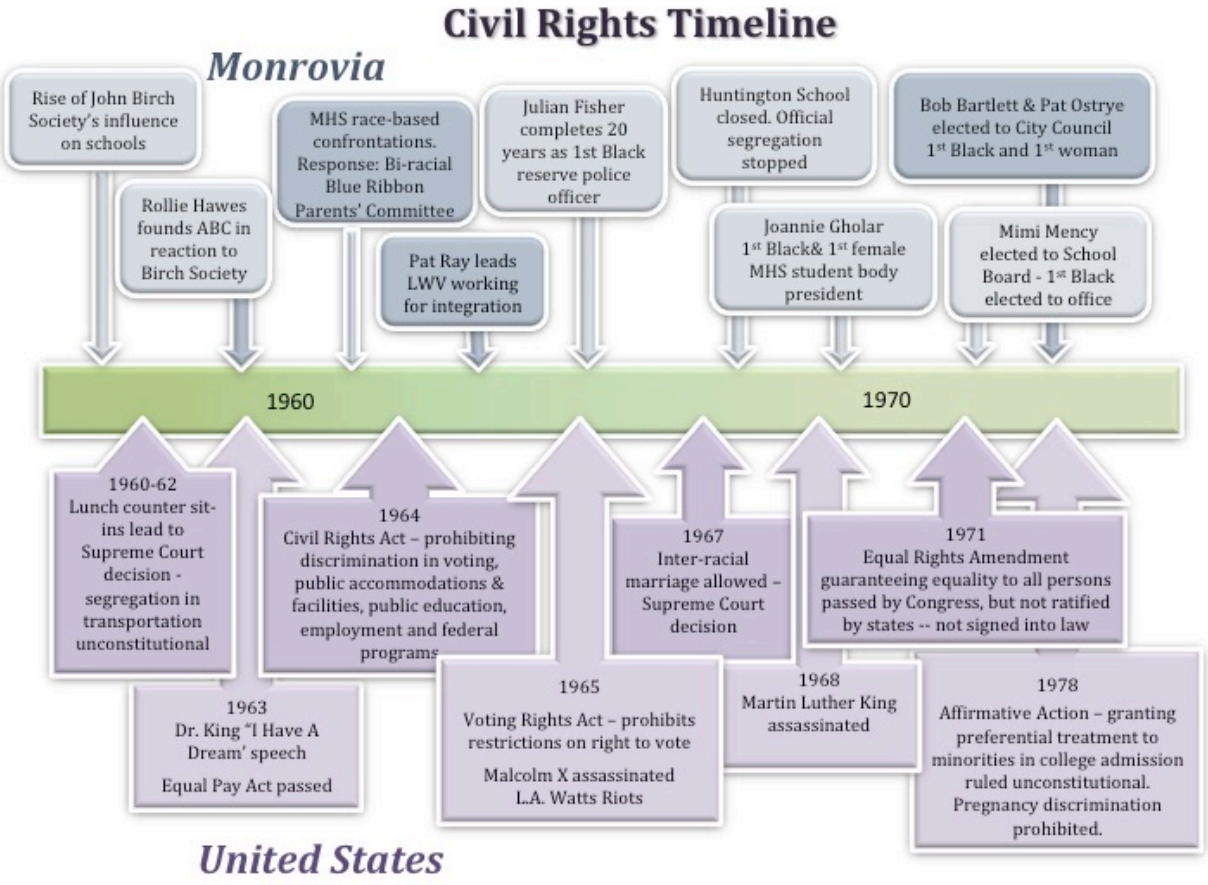
Civil Rights Timeline

This timeline shows the events happening on both the national stage and in Monrovia in regards to bigotry and segregation.



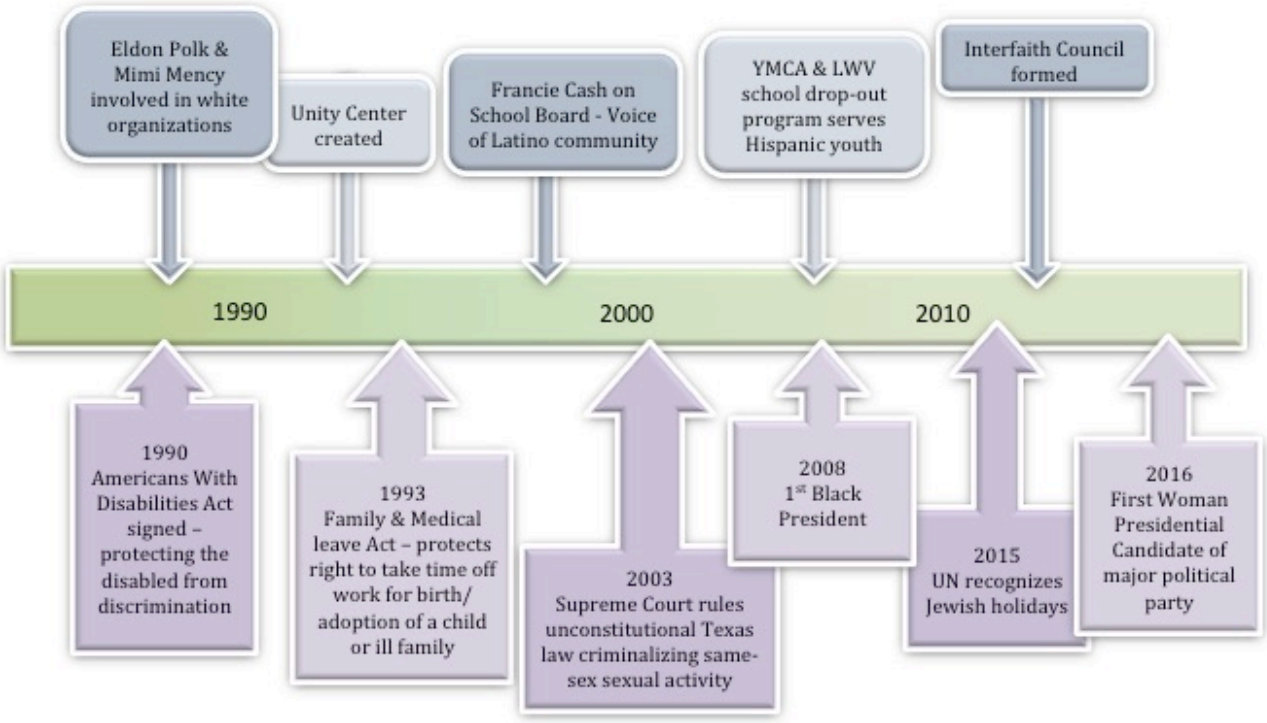

Civil Rights Timeline
Monrovia
Municipal pool opens segregated
Anna H. Jones Club founded
Maryknoll acquires Sanitarium & treats Asian patients not admitted elsewhere
1890-1930's Black families (Parker, Fisher, Epperson, Hooks) arrive fleeing southern prejudice
Kate Wright arrives
Chinese agricultural workers replaced by Mexican workers
George Caldwell – 1st black to run for City Council to remove "white trade only" signs & segregated swimming
Lucinda Garcia lobbies to change church seating
Huntington School becomes segregated
Anna H. Jones arrives
1900
1910
1920
1930
1906 Supreme Court approves segregation in Plessy v. Ferguson decision
1909 NAACP founded
1913 Anti-Defamation League founded
1920 Women get the right to vote – 19th Amendment
1922 Harvard President calls for Quota Restrictions on Jewish Admissions
United States


Civil Rights Timeline
Monrovia
High School assembly held to say goodbye to Japanese students
George Bailey, pastor Second Baptist Church, bridges Black/White community
Sandford family begins decades of community activism
Marugg family becomes community activists
Ali Romney becomes Principal of Huntington School
1st Human Relations Committee founded by Coordinating Council
Forrest Hooks serves as only Black postman
1940
1950
1940 U.S. refuses to admit 20,000 Jewish refugee children
1942 Japanese – Americans relocated to internment camp
1954 Segregated Schools outlawed – Brown v. Board of Education
1955 Montgomery Bus Boycotts – Rosa Parks arrested for refusing to move to the back of the bus
United States


Civil Rights Timeline
Monrovia
Rise of John Birch Society's influence on schools
Rollie Hawes founds ABC in reaction to Birch Society
MHS race-based confrontations. Response: Bi-racial Blue Ribbon Parents' Committee
Pat Ray leads LWV working for integration
Julian Fisher completes 20 years as 1st Black reserve police officer
Huntington School closed. Official segregation stopped
Joannie Gholar 1st Black& 1st female MHS student body president
Bob Bartlett & Pat Ostrye elected to City Council 1st Black and 1st woman
Mimi Mency elected to School Board - 1st Black elected to office
1960
1970
1960-62 Lunch counter sit-ins lead to Supreme Court decision - segregation in transportation unconstitutional
1963 Dr. King "I Have A Dream' speech
Equal Pay Act passed
1964 Civil Rights Act – prohibiting discrimination in voting, public accommodations & facilities, public education, employment and federal programs
1965 Voting Rights Act – prohibits restrictions on right to vote
Malcolm X assassinated
L.A. Watts Riots
1967 Inter-racial marriage allowed – Supreme Court decision
1968 Martin Luther King assassinated
1971 Equal Rights Amendment guaranteeing equality to all persons passed by Congress, but not ratified by states -- not signed into law
1978 Affirmative Action – granting preferential treatment to minorities in college admission ruled unconstitutional. Pregnancy discrimination prohibited.
United States

Civil Rights Timeline

Monrovia



United States

ChangeMaker Stories

These stories of individuals show the variation in effort, breadth of activity and the intersecting nature of what was done by unique, determined and tenacious people often working together.

Foothill Unity Center, Inc.
Helping People, Changing Lives

Josephine Anderson

She created the "go-to" agency for families in need, Foothill Unity Center

Josephine Anderson may not have been the epitome of charm and warmth, but she was the strong and able leader who created and built what has become one of the best known and effective organizations in Monrovia and the San Gabriel Valley. Thanks to Foothill Unity Center, people of all races and religions have received sufficient food for their families and - over the years - school needs for their children and dental and ophthalmological care.

A ChangeMaker

Josephine Anderson was first in taking action to begin what is known today as Foothill Unity Center, the outstanding program we cherish today.

Josephine was in charge of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church's food program in the late 70s when she realized that those needing food were going from church to church seeking help. Feeling that this was both ineffective and wasteful, she called the leaders of the various church programs together and Unity Center was born.

I first met Josephine in the early 80s when she first came to the Coordinating Council meeting to talk about this new program. While

it was obvious that this woman didn't have the personality or skills to recruit support from community leaders, it was obvious that her ideas and her efforts were important. Under the wings of the Monrovia Centennial Committee, Monrovians began to see Unity Center in a positive light and Josephine helped us to develop a Child Care Consortium - one of the follow-up projects to the Centennial.

Meanwhile, Immaculate Conception needed the space and asked Unity Center to leave. While there was a location on Walnut St., near Myrtle Ave., the City Council was reluctant to make the code changes necessary for Unity Center to move in. Pro and con groups approached the Council members on the matter. Josephine spoke to the homeless people, about which merchants and close-by residents were concerned, and successfully urged them to stay away from the area. Dick Singer, then Editor of the *Monrovia News-Post*, wrote a column asking for a leader to come forward to help Josephine and the Unity Center.

"Josephine Anderson may not have been the epitome of charm and warmth, but she was a strong and able leader."

Betty Sandford

I responded and brought together a group of Monrovia and Duarte community leaders who concluded that what Unity Center needed was a Board of Directors. With Dr. Fred Loya (CEO of Santa Anita Family Service) as president, a Board was formed and Unity Center eventually moved into the Walnut location. While Josephine continued to prefer to make her own decisions, Unity Center was on the way to becoming the outstanding program that we cherish today.

Written by Betty Sandford

Robert T. "Bob" Bartlett

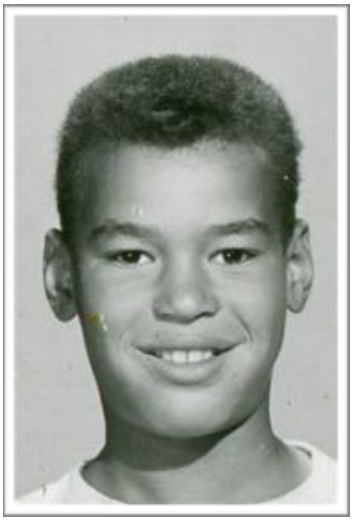
The All-American Man, known as "Mr. Monrovia," locally and nationally.

Bob Bartlett was a native Monrovian, a Black man, an athlete, a thinker - with public relations skills and considerable outreach - who devoted his abilities and experience to the City of Monrovia and the cities of Southern California, the state of California and the entire United States. He inspired people of all races and brought them together to support him and his work.

A ChangeMaker

No other public figure in Monrovia has made a grander impact on this community than Bob Bartlett. He knew his hometown was dying in the 70s and he had the vision, work ethic and heart to make it better.

Bob was a family man who loved and was influenced by his parents. He was born to Ray Bartlett and Mary Gadbury Bartlett and raised in Monrovia by his stepfather, Russell

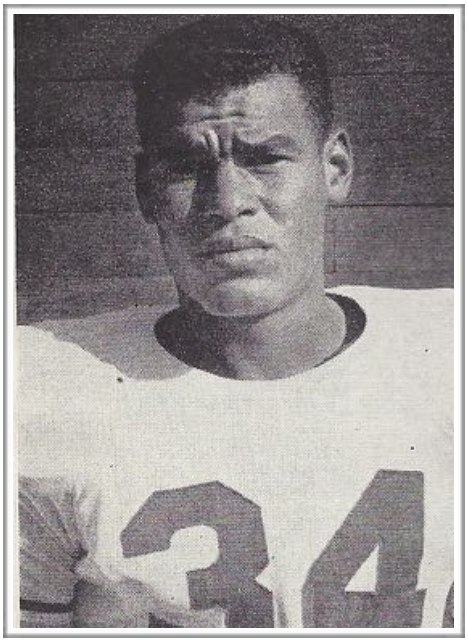


Carr and his mother, now Mary Carr, where he became the oldest of a growing group of Carr children. Bob remained close to his community leader and birth father, athlete Ray Bartlett, all of his life and was also close to his father's friend and teammate, Jackie Robinson, whom Bob referred to as "Uncle." His mother's involvement and concern with Huntington School and education was of great benefit to Bob.

Bob's personal history of athletic success is remembered by attendees of Monrovia-Duarte High School football and basketball games. He was Golden Gloves heavyweight champion for the state of California and coach of the Citrus College Football team.

As a young man, Bob married his sweetheart Katie Tolbert, and they had two children.

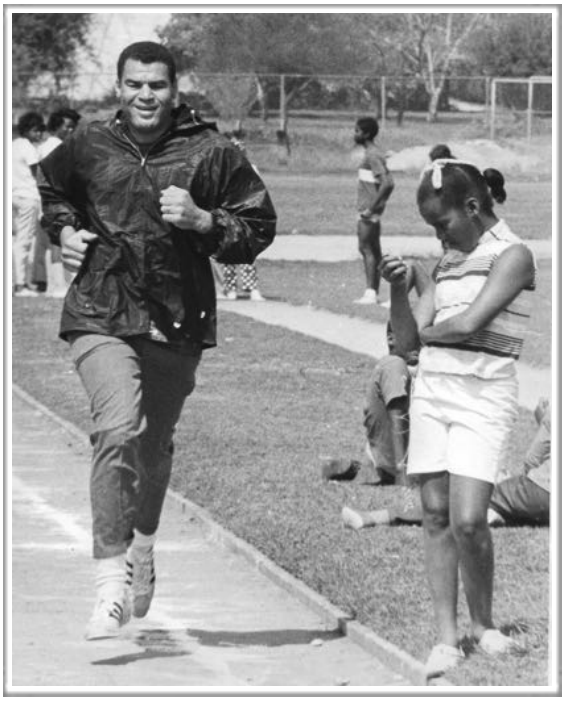
Bob attended Pasadena Community College and Cal State LA, from which he earned a Bachelor's Degree. After college he worked at Aerojet-General and PIE Trucking. When PIE merged with Ryder, Bob became Vice-President for Sales for the trucking company---- traveling all over the country, meeting with major business leaders. That was when Bob realized that he had the knowledge and experience to lead and change his community. Those contacts became valuable assets.



Bob had served as youth President of the NAACP and demonstrated concern for integration of the School District, mentored by Isaac Epperson. Bob ran for Monrovia City Council in 1972 -- and lost by 3 votes. Two years later, supported by the Alliance for a Better Community (now calling itself Citizens for Responsible Government) and with Peter Lippman as Public Relations Director, the team of Bob Bartlett, Pat Ostrye and Eric Faith was elected and began the process of saving a dying city.

Beautification of the downtown area and an emphasis on strong and capable city managers and civic pride began under the threesome—who were the majority of the City

Council. They all served terms as mayor but, eventually, Pat and Eric went on to other community responsibilities and Bob remained on the Council and ran for the new position of elected mayor.



Bob asked me to be his campaign manager, checked with me almost daily from cities around the country, where he was doing business and ran - successfully - for seven terms as mayor. Others worked hard on Bob's campaigns-bolstered by Bob's battle cry. ''It doesn't make any difference who our opponent is, we always run all out."

Another reason for Bob's success is because he was so very good. It was not just the fine City Managers he supported, it was Bob's own vision and personal efforts for the City he loved that brought about the revitalization of downtown Myrtle Avenue, the development of Huntington Oaks Shopping Center and the Hi-Tech corridor along Huntington Drive. Bob brought in Home Depot and Trader Joe's. He was part of the team earning Monrovia's designation as an "All-America City."

Other cities noticed what Monrovia had achieved and consulted with Bob about community redevelopment. Transportation was his major know-how and passion and he devoted considerable time and activity to that and other issues with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the League of California Cities. He served as president of both and served on the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities. And he was a founding director of Foothill Transit Authority to re-vitalize bus routes across the foothill communities.

After Bob's retirement, he continued to serve. He gave much of his time to Foothill Unity Center, even serving as its president, served as alternate for Supervisor Michael Antonovich for the MetroLink, gave time to his church and raised his youngest child, Aria.

Robert Bartlett died in 2015 at the age of 75. Fittingly, the street where he grew up and the new light rail Gold Line maintenance yard have been named for him.

Written by Betty Sandford

"Life is like riding a train through many stations. The destination isn't as important as what you've learned along the way at the stations ... Moving right along!"

Bob Bartlett

Bill Brooks

A triple threat leader - he strengthened education, service and medicine

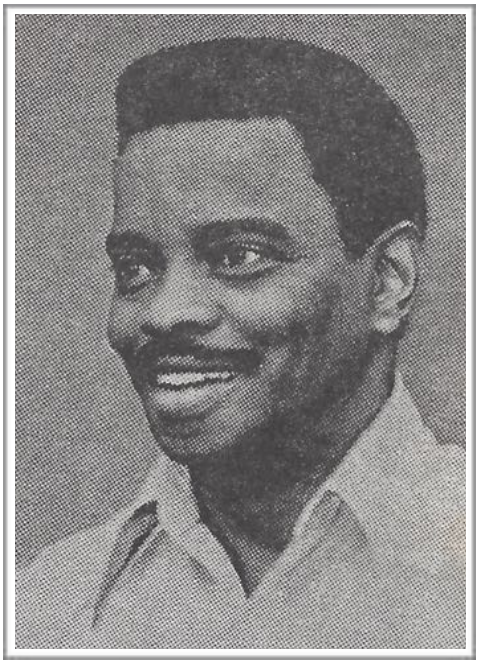
People remember Bill Brooks from three different decades and three different aspects of his life as a change maker. Even those who are aware of all three of Bill's talents -- (1) the Monrovia- Duarte integration leader, (2) the Duarte Rotary president who led the battle to bring women into service clubs and (3) the personnel director for the City of Hope who provided information and advice to those who fought for equity and change -- remember his outstanding ability to work with a variety of people.

A ChangeMaker

Bill Brooks used his intelligence to affect great change in Monrovia, its schools, and ultimately in a national service organization to great acclaim.

Willie Levi Brooks, known as Bill, was born in Alabama in 1932 - the first of six children. After graduating from Dillard University in New Orleans, with a Bachelors Degree, he served as an Army lieutenant in the Korean War.

Bill arrived in Monrovia around 1956 and while he joined the Second Baptist Church, he worked diligently within various churches. He married Lois Farrar in 1957, began a long career with City of Hope in 1961 and he and Lois became parents of Eric in 1962.



As they say – the rest is history!

While the first inter- racial approach to the issues of segregation and bigotry in Monrovia was the Coordinating Council's Human Relations Committee, the larger more focused Committee was the Monrovia-Duarte Human Relations Council, put together by Bill Brooks.

Against a background of violent demonstrations throughout the nation, Monrovia's Committee for the Study of Racial Imbalance opened its meetings to the public exploring views from a variety of community groups including the Monrovia-Duarte Human Relations Council.

While pointing out that the State of California had directed the District to correct racial imbalance in the Monrovia schools, the Racial Imbalance Committee recommended in 1968 a two-pronged attack of compensatory education and partial integration. The School Board could not agree on even partial integration and put its weight behind a massive concentration of federal compensatory education.

By the following year, and with a background of student polarization and unrest in the high school and district administrators facing legal action, a sub-committee of Bill Brook's Human Relations Council offered a complete integration plan to the Board of Education. However, others in the Black community opposed closing the segregated Huntington School.

In 1969, the Board of Education adopted a plan similar to the one proposed by Brooks' Committee. Nine hectic months of planning and public relations were carried out by a small army of volunteers. By

spring of 1970, new school attendance boundaries had been established and by September of that year, school integration came peacefully to Monrovia.

But that wasn't all that Bill Brooks did for integration in Monrovia. He was a Board Member of the Alliance for a Better Community, which succeeded in the retirement of a John Birch Society majority from the School Board. His face appears on the flier promoting Bob Bartlett's, Pat Ostrye's and Eric Faith's election to the City Council. He was later a member of the Board of Directors of the Job Resources Center in Monrovia.

In 1977, Bill Brooks was President of the Duarte Rotary Club during the time it admitted 3 women----against Rotary International rules. While the Club soon doubled its membership, it was expelled from Rotary International and it took years of legal battles, eventually ending up in a Supreme Court ruling in 1987 that decreed Rotary could not exclude women. The actions of Bill Brooks and the Duarte Rotary changed the practices of Rotary Clubs across the US (and in some foreign countries) requiring them to be more inclusive. Today, Bill's and Duarte Rotary's actions have changed all Service Clubs.

By the 80s, Bill's career at the City of Hope had placed him as head of Human Resources. He was known by the employees as capable and effective. In difficult matters, he was both a negotiator and adviser. One group that approached him to discuss problems with job descriptions and salary equity were, with his help, able to achieve significant changes.

"Bill Brooks was an intelligent man who understood the need for inclusion - in human rights education, in service above self and in employee relations."

Steve Baker

Bill Brooks was, indeed, a strong and effective change maker who used his intelligence and knowledge to affect change in a community and its schools, in the service clubs of our nation and in a major medical institution. We are fortunate that he spent much of his life serving our community.

Written by Betty Sandford
with help from Franci Bolen

Francie Cash

Teaching parents to help their children excel

Francie Santellen Cash was born in Monrovia, attended Monrovia schools and devoted much of her adult life to those schools and their students. Although she married a non-Latino, she had a different experience in the Monrovia schools, as a Latina, and found herself bringing what she had learned, to her own children, to Latino children, their parents and the community.

A ChangeMaker

Hispanic families have a great advocate in Francie Cash, as do all Monrovia students. Her commitment to their success reaps rewards for the entire community.

There was a gap to fill in Latino representation and Francie filled it by becoming an advocate for parents and a role model for Latino students.

Francie served as a parent- volunteer for the Monrovia Unified School District for 14 years. She served on Parent Teachers Association, Parent Teacher Students Association, and Booster Club Boards at every grade level. She was the founding president of the Clifton PTSA and helped organize the Monrovia Schools Foundation. She served on the founding board of the Boys and Girls Club of the Foothills, and was a part of the team that earned the "All America City" title for Monrovia.

Francie was elected to the Board of Education in 1989 and served for

14 years. She ran for Monrovia School Board to add a parent's perspective, but without intending to do so, she became the representative and the voice of the Latino community.

Francie realized that, for many reasons, including language and working hard to provide for their families, parents - including many Latino parents - are minimally involved in their children's education and never discuss higher education with their student children.

Unfortunately, many school counselors don't stress opportunities for the future in the absence of parent involvement. She used what she calls her "Minimal Spanish," to translate at school activities.

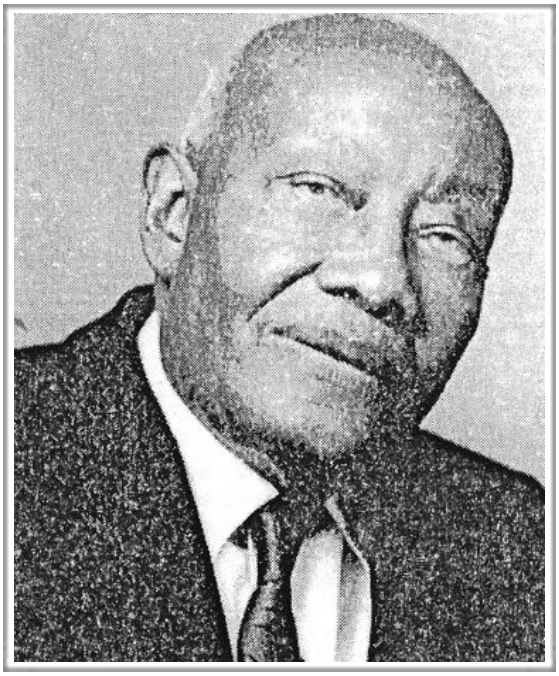
Francie Cash was an active - and activist - board member. She educated and involved her fellow board members. She knew the teachers and staff at every school. She knew all of the administrators. She always governed in a way that showed leadership, inclusiveness and compassion and inspired both the board and the leadership team to reach her goals and their own.

"I don't have the best Spanish-speaking skills, but I know how to communicate well enough to get my points across."

Francie Cash

Francie Cash will be long remembered by all who worked with her and by all of the children and families (especially Latino children and parents) who benefited from her caring and her hard work.

Written by Betty Sandford



Isaac Epperson

Under his determined leadership, Monrovia's NAACP took the lead in integrating Monrovia

Isaac Epperson (known later by family and friends as 'Doll Baby') was born in 1899 in Texarkana, Texas to a family with 5 children. At 16, he traveled to California by train with his siblings and father. His father died en route, but the children were afraid to tell the conductor. When it was discovered, the children were put off the train in Arizona and left with a Black mortician. Eventually they were picked up by their older brother who had come to California before them. He lived for a while with a brother in Oroville.

Isaac moved to Southern California, where he met Leanna, who had traveled from Oklahoma to Los

A ChangeMaker

Local accomplishments attributed to Isaac include the integration of the local swimming pool, job opportunities for Black women in banking, retail and the school district.

Angeles with her sister. They married and bought a home in Venice, California. In 1934 they decided to purchase land in Monrovia, where it would be better for Leanna's health. They bought a large plot of land and built a home. On this land they raised chickens, ducks and pigeons, grew a vegetable garden and had fruit trees.

Elmira Enge and Isaac Epperson - Community Activists from Second Baptist Church.

Isaac worked as butler and chauffeur before moving to Monrovia. Upon moving to Monrovia Isaac began to do janitorial work, sometimes hiring others to help him who needed short term work. Leanna worked as a domestic – the most common job open to Black women at the time.

Once they began living in Monrovia, they found racial practices to be a challenge they had to work around, which they did. There was a significant amount of segregation that Black families experienced – in employment, in where they could live, and where they could shop, and an absence of Black teachers in schools. Still, there was a stable and relatively affluent Black community, made up of citizens who owned nice homes with well-groomed yards and jobs for men and women at factories such as Day and Night, Goodyear and McDonnell Douglas.

"Despite just a formal sixth grade education, Isaac was a well-read man who could recite the Bible scriptures verbatim from memory."

Betty Fisher Thomas
Raised by Isaac and Leanna Epperson

Isaac and Leanna joined Second Baptist Church and Isaac worked closely with the long time pastor, George Bailey. Isaac was a very spiritual man, but also put his faith and his church relationships to work on behalf of his community. When parents were contacted when a Black child had gotten into trouble, Mr. Epperson and Reverend Bailey were the ones called upon by the parents to come counsel the family.

In 1949, a lawyer from the Pasadena NAACP, Mr. Johnson, came to speak to the community about the need for change. The Monrovia Branch of the NAACP was formed and Isaac took the lead – serving on and off as President for the next 20 years. Under Isaac's leadership, the Monrovia NAACP lead the integration of Monrovia's swimming pool, uptown stores and restaurants. The NAACP was responsible for local Black women eventually acquiring jobs in retail stores, banks, the school district, the telephone company and the gas company.

Isaac was key to making this happen by calling on influential individuals and using his powerful oratorical skills to convince leaders of the need for change.

When he spoke, people listened. Isaac, several adults and children had gone to the swimming pool to swim on a day that Black citizens were not allowed to swim. After a few attempts and his pointing out to the City Council that Black taxpayers of Monrovia should be able to swim any day of the week, the swimming pool restriction was removed. He also found Black stockowners of the telephone company and had them get the phone company to give equal consideration to qualified Black job applicants. As President of the NAACP, he insisted the School District hire Black teachers and clerical staff. In short, he used his ability to build solid relationships and his 'warrior-like' determination to create concrete change in the lives of many.

One of the lives he had a profound impact on was Bob Bartlett's, whom Isaac Epperson mentored. Bob Bartlett was President of the Junior NAACP and eventually Monrovia's first Black Mayor.

Isaac Epperson's skills and willingness to play a leadership role in the Monrovia Black community has had a direct and an indirect influence on both the local Black community and on the city of Monrovia that is still felt today.

Written by Betty Fisher Thomas and Betty Sandford

Julian Fisher

A Special Reserve Police Officer who wore the badge with pride

Julian D. Fisher was born in Denver, Colorado on August 9, 1896, but he grew up on Lucky Baldwin's Rancho Santa Anita. He came to Monrovia in about 1909 and remained a Monrovia resident for nearly 70 years until he died in 1976. Julian was so revered as a citizen that the Monrovia City Council closed its meeting in his memory the week of December 23, 1976 and flags at public buildings were flown at half-staff.

A ChangeMaker

Julian Fisher followed in his father's footsteps of his father in recruiting Blacks to Monrovia, where they were educated and skilled in the trades.

His father, John Isaac Wesley Fisher -- a Black man and former slave from St. Louis who was freed at the age of eight -- was the head blacksmith and farrier for Baldwin. He was among the best in the US and a prominent breeder and trainer there. He later became a foreman on the ranch, which was on the property that is now Santa Anita Race Track and the Los

Both photos show Julian as a young boy with his father.

Angeles County Arboretum. Baldwin marveled at John Fisher's horse care abilities and trusted him. Baldwin was so impressed with Mr. Fisher that he sent him to North Carolina to bring back families used to working in the fields; some would become blacksmiths. One of the Baldwin apprentices was his son Julian. Julian had diphtheria and the move to California from Denver with his mother, Annie Brumfield Fisher, in 1900 was thought to be therapeutic. Julian was almost 5 years old , small and frail. At first Julian seemed destined to become a jockey, but as his health improved he outgrew that and became an exercise rider instead. He was quite a good rider and Lucky Baldwin gave him a pony. Julian and his pony won 1st prize in the Rose Parade three years in a row.

In 1915, Julian was the first Negro man to graduate from Monrovia's high school, which was located on Ivy Avenue.

He joined the Army during WWI and served with the 18th Company, 169th Depot Brigade at Fort Bliss, TX. In 1917 he was honorably discharged. He then played semi-professional baseball in Gallup, NM and supplemented his income by working in a coal mine.

When he came to Monrovia, Mr. Fisher was employed by a mercantile company that supplied food and clothing for the Santa Fe Railroad. "If we'd stop at a place to eat that refused to serve me because of racial prejudice, he (J.G. Maxwell, his employer and the owner of the mercantile business) would just walk out," Mr. Fisher said during a newspaper interview. For 12 years he worked at Union Rock Company. Later he worked as a chauffeur and travelled often.

Julius Fisher, seated far right, being recognized by Monrovia city dignitaries, including Chamber Director Bob Wilcox next to him.

Mrs. Morrison, owner of what became Westminster Gardens in Duarte, CA hired Julian as her driver. Julian operated his own business and held various jobs, including his favorite as a reserve law enforcement officer for the City of Monrovia.

While in Gallup, NM he met Gladys Hall, the young woman he married. Their offspring became Monrovia's largest Black family. They had 12 children and lived in Monrovia on the east side of California Avenue just south of Walnut. Their names and birthdates are: Robert-1919, Jack and Vivian-January and November of 1921, Jule - 1923, Paul-1924, Betty -1926, Arlene-1928, William-1929, Alfred-1931, Alice-1932, Sylvester-1934 and Edward-1939.

Their seven boys all served in the United States military. Robert and Edward served in the Army, Jack in the Army Air Corp, Paul, Alfred and Sylvester in the Navy, and William in the Coast Guard. Their four girls, like their brothers, were educated in Monrovia schools. Vivian worked for Monrovia Unified School District for 40 years. Betty Fisher Gadbury was Head of Nursing at Santa Teresita Hospital and volunteered as the nurse for Huntington Elementary School when it was segregated and not funded for health services. Robert was one of the first Black workers in the Monrovia Post Office. He got the job applying through the federal system, because the local manager refused to hire minorities.

"The value of Police Officer Julian Fisher's relationship with the community is as needed, or perhaps more needed, today than it was when he was actively serving this community. Members of the minority community need law enforcement that they trust and believe are more about crime prevention than making arrests."

Gladys was a remarkable woman who kept the family focused, educated and anchored in the Christian tradition. After the children had grown to adulthood, their marriage ended and Julian married Althea, Julius Parker's maternal aunt.
Julian was a highly skilled employee in his own right as a Special Reserve Officer for the Monrovia Police Department for over 20 tears, a position he began in 1942. He was hired to police the Black community and had no authority to stop, search or arrest anyone other than Blacks and Hispanics. Yet, he wore the badge and uniform with pride. His intervention helped his community and inspired others to serve in their country's military, as he and his sons did, and to be active in the community.

He was a member of Monrovia's Second Baptist Church and the American Legion. He supported the Boys Scouts and YMCA and served on the Family Service's and Red Cross Monrovia Chapter's boards. He was active in the Monrovia Day Association for many years and served on the Bicentennial Commission.

In 1971, his granddaughter, Barbara, was the first African American named Monrovia Day Queen. While many others in the Black community held menial jobs as domestics and janitors, members of this family have held non-traditional positions that inspired other young minorities. They have and still are dedicated volunteers and workers, civil servants and community leaders (e.g., Betty Thomas-a MAP leader and nurse trainer) who fight for social change in Monrovia, a cleaner environment and better healthcare for all people.

Julian Fisher Park

The Fisher family story is legendary. Many of the descendants have held leadership positions in the community and many still do. During the early 1950s, when segregation plagued Monrovia and our nation, not only did Julian Fisher earn his SGT. stripes with the Police Department in 1954 but Fisher family members held "respectable" jobs at the local post office, nursing positions in area hospitals, and were classified employees in the Monrovia Unified School District (Huntington Elementary and Clifton Middle schools).

In 1981, Julian Fisher Park located on California and Chestnut Avenues was named and dedicated to this Monrovian's memory. On August 2, 2014 several generations of the Fisher family attended the unveiling of new playground equipment there. One of seven Monrovia parks, it is named after Monrovia's first African-American police officer.

Written by Lois Gaston and Tim Fisher (Julian Fisher's grandson)

Lucinda Garcia

A pioneer in promoting respect for Latino heritage

Lucinda Garcia was not recognized in her lifetime for her fight against segregation in Monrovia, but her contributions to civil rights were honored decades after her death when Olive Avenue Park was renamed in her honor.

A ChangeMaker

Lucinda Garcia was actively working for civil rights in the first half of the 20th century, long before Latinos took up the charge. She was one of an early leader in teaching people about equality.

A committee formed to identify historical figures of Latino heritage chose Lucinda to pay tribute to the city's rich Latino heritage. She was chosen as the historical figure in town most deserving of recognition. The committee quickly zeroed in on Garcia, who was born in 1880 and fought institutionalized racism in Monrovia throughout the 1950s.

"At that time Monrovia, like most of this country, had very clear unwritten boundaries that separated communities," former City Manager Scott Ochoa said. "The Hispanic community was very much an enclave unto itself. I think what really makes her standout ... was

that she was a pioneer in the area of civil rights."

Garcia's most notable battle came against the priest at a local church, which at the time was dominated by the Irish and Italian families. Garcia demanded equal treatment for Latinos, who were kept from participating in many church ceremonies at the time. They were also restricted to sitting in the back of the church. A Hispanic female taking on a priest was a bold step, perhaps even fearless.

Garcia was an advocate for what would amount to equal status in institutions as sacrosanct, at least at that time, as the Roman Catholic Church.

"I think what makes Lucinda Garcia stand out is that she was an early pioneer in civil rights."

Scott Ochoa
Former Monrovia City Manager

A descendant of the legendary Palomares family, which owned property throughout the region, Garcia was known as a Doña, or family matriarch. She held a lot of sway in the local Latino community, and helped to organize neighborhoods to fight against racial injustice both at the church and in local government. She died in 1958 at the age of 78.

The Garcia family continues to flourish in Monrovia and many of Garcia's descendants still live in the city.

The City of Monrovia was proud to honor Lucinda Garcia's legacy with the re-naming of the park and pleased to acknowledge her heritage that was largely ignored in the city's long history.

Written by Sandy Burud

Lois Gaston

A leader in building racial unity for over 60 years

Lois Gaston joined her mother in Monrovia in June of 1949 from her birth home of Taylor, Arkansas. After beginning school in Taylor, she attended 5th grade in San Diego and eventually ended up in Monrovia-Arcadia Duarte High School (MAD), from which she graduated in 1953.

A ChangeMaker

Lois personifies the word "unity" when it comes to human rights through all of her many projects. She is all-inclusive, and all-engaging for families in Monrovia and Duarte.

Lois's experience at MAD was mixed. Usually the only African-American in college prep classes, her weeks were spent with Caucasians and her weekends and summers spent with her Black neighbors and church friends. Her best friend was Mimi Martin Mency and together they worked to improve human relations in a community with segregated swimming pool, housing and movie theatres. Black youth even gathered in a specific spot on the Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte high school campus.

Lois at NAACP National Convention with ACTSO medal winners.

By 1955 Lois and Mimi each married, living in Pasadena and working for Pacific Telephone. In the 1960s her employer loaned Lois to what was then MUSD to assist in race relations. She worked primarily with African Americans and the PTA and felt that there was little interest in change by the District establishment. Even so, Lois and Mimi were both Pacific Bell management when they retired in 1989.

Living in Monrovia, three of Lois's children attended the still-segregated Huntington Elementary School. Oblivious to race, these three played ball in the diverse and integrated Monrovia Youth Baseball League where they were coached by men of all races.

In 1969 Lois and her husband were thwarted in their interest to buy a home in the part of Monrovia they desired because of their race, and ended up by buying in Duarte. It was Monrovia's loss, as Lois became a Duarte leader -- eventually as Mayor and President of the California Contract Cities Association. Over the years Lois has founded a team of volunteers to tutor Monrovia and Duarte High students required to take SAT and ACT exams, served as a consultant to the City of Duarte and Duarte Unified School district for MLK Day programs to promote cultural understanding, and worked on political campaigns to elect candidates who understand and promote human rights.

As a Board member and Chair of the Nominating Committee for Foothill Unity Center, Lois has recruited strong and effective members to the Board of this organization, which serves families in need. Her contribution to the Unity Center has been such that she received the Unity Center's 2017 Humanitarian Award. She also founded and chairs the Community Mediation Team, which focuses on gang violence prevention. And she has

"Over the years Lois has served as a consultant to municipalities and school districts to enhance the cultural understanding and is still working to promote elected officials who understand and promote human rights."

Left to right: Brad and Margaret Finlay, Marshall Jackman, Lois Gaston, John and Kris Fasana

worked with the Anna H. Jones Club and other organizations to raise scholarship funds and provide mentoring to minority youth.

From 1996-2001, in partnership with Santa Anita Family Service and L.A. County, Lois administered grant funds for the Summer and Youth Programs activities to promote safe and stable families.

I am proud to tell of Lois's activities as they guide us to build on the racial unity and progress that has been made.

Written by Betty Sandford

Ulises Gutierrez

On a journey from hurting to healing to helping

A ChangeMaker

Ulises teaches young people that they have choices to make - good choices - and opportunities for a better life for themselves and their families.

Ulises Gutierrez was class speaker during his secondary school graduation in 2004, from the Monrovia Adult School. He told his audience (classmates, the Superintendent, his Principal and members of the School Board) of his background as a gang member, a drug addict and a high school dropout.

He spoke of an overdose and rehabilitation and the long, difficult on and off process of earning his high school degree. He concluded by declaring that he would devote the rest of his life to helping other young people with similar problems.

While few in his audience may have believed his last statement, Ulises had, indeed, given his listeners a preview of his life. Almost from the time he graduated, Ulises has worked for the Santa Anita YMCA,

working primarily with Latino children at risk of destructive behavior. He and the staff of Monrovia Youth Alliance work to build one-on-one relationships with these youngsters and to strengthen the support of their parents.

Ulises with other Foothill Unity Center Board members, Lois Gaston, Betty McWilliams (Exec. Director) and Reyna Diaz.

Ulises expanded this work through the 'Jesus is Lord Christian Center' and contributed to the success of City and School District programs -- including working with youngsters in Library Park at the Friday Night Family Festivals. He advised and assisted the Pasadena-Area League of Women Voters Dropout Study Committee, serves on the Board of Directors of Foothill Unity Center and Social Model Recovery Systems, promoted the Cinco de Mayo celebrations in Monrovia and has devoted much time to suicide-awareness programs through the group 'Monrovia Healing Connections' and immigration.

"The youth felt abandoned. They were looking for a way out. They wanted to succeed, but they didn't know how."
Ulises Gutierrez

Ulises' work as a change maker for troubled youth continues as he seeks to help and support young men and women in finding jobs and by enabling and encouraging them to become productive members of society.

Ulises Gutierrez has devoted his adult life to the community and schools of Monrovia and to increasing opportunities for the young people and families who need special attention. Thanks to his efforts, today's young Hispanics will play a stronger and more positive role in the future of their community.

Written by Betty Sandford

Roland Hawes
Peter Lippman

They took on the John Birch Society. Guess who won?

Roland "Rollie" Hawes, a retired Caucasian scientist and graduate of Caltech must have moved to Monrovia with his wife, Edna, in the late 50s and Jules Sandford probably sold them their house on Oakglade Drive. Younger and Jewish, Peter Lippman was also a Caltech graduate who moved to Monrovia about the same time and married one of the Danchik girls. We liked both couples but found the Hawes especially intelligent and witty and shared, with them, an interest in food, wine and social concerns.

A ChangeMaker

The "Old Boys" network and leadership model rolled to a dramatic halt with Rollie's organizing skills and scientific approach to moving forward.

We soon learned that Rollie was a strong activist when he formed The Alliance for a Better Community (ABC) to fight a turndown of funding for the schools and the election of three John Birch Society representatives to the Monrovia School Board. My husband Jules and I, the Maruggs, Bill Brooks, Rollie's friend, and fellow Caltech graduate, Pete Lippman and many Monrovians of both political parties quickly joined him.

I became the ABC Newsletter editor and - with the cooperation of the newly appointed Superintendent of Schools and much of the staff and faculty - ABC recruited an increasing number of Monrovians to School Board meetings (we eventually reached 500). We made our feelings known at Board Meetings and eventually attempted a recall of board members known to be John Birchers.

I was outvoted in opposing the recall and, although I participated in the campaign, I was not surprised when it didn't succeed. Voters happily signed the recall petitions but found themselves unable to actually vote people out of office. In any case, the majority threesome eventually succumbed to our attendance at Board Meetings and retired.

Betty Sandford and Rollie Hawes

We replaced the Birchers with three more moderate Board members and achieved sufficient funding for our schools. Although ABC was not overtly a human relations or integration-oriented organization, the makeup of our leadership was, and ABC achievements allowed school integration to move forward. The group's next move was to integrate our City Council.

The leaders of ABC agreed that, under its current "Old Boys" leadership, the City of Monrovia was going downhill. Both Monrovia's reputation and its appearance were making it the laughing stock of the San Gabriel Valley. Our plan was to create a slate of three - a Black person, a woman and a youth -- each with his/her own strong constituency, and to support our best public relations person, Pete Lippman, in his all -out campaign to elect them. We did, and Bob Bartlett, Pat Ostrye and Eric Faith were elected to the Council. Monrovia was changed forever. Thanks, in part, goes to the leadership and vision of two comparative newcomers to our community—Roland Hawes and Peter Lippman.

"Rollie Hawes and Peter Lippman were men in the right places at the right time for Monrovia."

Betty Sandford

Although the Maruggs, the Sandfords, Bill Brooks and other Monrovians bore much of the responsibility for moving Monrovia forward, it was Rollie Hawes and Peter Lippman who showed up in our community at the right time, and pulled us together in the Alliance for a Better Community.

Written by Betty Sandford

BARTLETT-OSTRYE-FAITH Team News

Published by Citizens for Responsive Government Box 756, Monrovia

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2 ◇ FEBRUARY 28, 1974

COMMUNITY FORUM

Bartlett, Ostrye & Faith Answer Citizens' Inquiries

Four questions most frequently asked at coffee hours & by mail:

Q You've been talking about ways to improve the city COUNCIL; how do you feel about the present city STAFF—particularly the police department leadership and the city manager?

A To the best of our knowledge the city department heads are able people who should be retained.

We believe Police Chief Ellis and City Manager Rich Beal are competent professionals; we look forward to working with them.

Q HOW will you make Monrovia government more responsive?

A We will give serious and courteous consideration to various points of view *before* making decisions.

We estimate that the Beverly Hills condominium developers met with city officials more than 25 times before letting the cat out of the bag to the foothills people, who were to be the most affected; the council bought the big beans to run on fixed routes, without giving head to the senior citizens, who were to be the most affected; same with the fire-department merger; and [illegible] *in front of the cart!*

Q You seem to be intelligent and honest, but why are you running TOGETHER? The idea of a slate—you call it a "team"—suggests big-city politics, some kind of takeover.

A Two reasons: (1) We're running against an *incumbent* slate, in a field of ten. As individuals we might be lost in the crowd; as a "team" we stand out, and hopefully present you with a recognizable alternative to "more of the same".

(2) Our "team" candidacy is economical compared with individual campaigns. Campaign costs are high. Voters should appreciate council members who know how to save money by innovation, and our campaign demonstrates this ability.

Postage, printing costs, and volunteer time have been shared. Our funds, obtained as numerous small contributions, would not permit us to reach you effectively if we ran separately.

Q Your first newsletter talks about your accomplishments and your proposed programs, but what kind of PEOPLE are you?

A We hope that some of the citizen statements in this issue will tell you.

Type to enter text

GETTING THEIR NAMES UP IN LIGHTS—by means of the do-it-yourself method—are council candidates Bob Bartlett (on ladder), Pat Ostrye and Eric Faith, at the Crest Theater. The stellar cast of 3 hopes to be a big ballot-box-office attraction — opening soon, at city hall!

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!

Over 700 Monrovians Back Bartlett - Ostrye - Faith Team

The following individuals support Bartlett, Ostrye and Faith.

Robert Bartlett, Patricia Ostrye, Eric Faith Continue Energetic Team Campaign

'WHY FIGHT CITY HALL? - IT'S YOURS!'

Monrovia, February 28 — The special election", and "by acci-

citizens informally for a half-hour

Pete Lippman was a man of big ideas. One of his most successful public relations coups was renting space on the marquee of the old Lyric Theater on Foothill Blvd. to advertise the trio of candidates running as a slate in the 1974 election.

Todd Forrest Hooks

A role model and postman

Todd Forrest Hooks was strong and well disciplined and fought hard for social equality. Born on November 28, 1923 in Los Angeles, California, he was a family man and determined citizen who overcame obstacles of racial bias and discrimination.

He was the fourth of Toddie and Ada Hooks' five children, one of the earlier African American families to settle in Monrovia. Forrest grew up at 224 E. Maple Avenue in a house built on land purchased from the Adams, the first Black land owners in Monrovia.

Forrest attended Monrovia' s public schools - Huntington Elementary, Ivy Avenue and Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte High.

A ChangeMaker

Perseverance was a virtue for Forrest Hooks. His continuous, day-to-day approach and hard work ethic earned him respect among the Black community at a time when there were many racial obstacles to overcome.

In 1943, after graduation, he was drafted into the United States Army, sent to training at Fort MacArthur in Arizona, and served during WWII in the 37th Special Services Company. PFC Hooks was stationed at Camp Kilmer in New Jersey. He served in a racially segregated military that assigned Blacks to battlegrounds but would not train them for combat or give them guns to defend themselves. He was honorably discharged on January 31, 1946. He returned to Monrovia and sent for the lady from New Jersey, Rebecca, who became his wife. On October 18, 1947 Forrest and "Becky" were married in his parent's Maple Avenue home by the Rev. George Godfrey Bailey, the pastor of Second Baptist Church. The young couple faced discrimination and bigotry but raised their two sons, Rodney and Todd, to rise above it.

"My father did a lot to improve human relations in Monrovia even if he felt he could never achieve his own dreams there because of the bigotry and obstacles he faced and being treated as if he was not valued."

Todd Hooks

Rodney, the elder son of Todd Forrest Hooks, recalls that home ownership ran in the Hooks family. As did the name 'Forrest.' Generations before, Warren Hooks, slave-owner and father of an elder Forrest Hooks had acquired 5,000 acres of land in northeastern Texas, known today as Hooks, Texas. Warren gave some of his land to this son Forrest and his grandson Rutillius, who had become freedmen. He gave additional land to these two freedmen for a church and school. Reverend Forrest Hooks was one of the trustees of that land on Aug. 11, 1867; it was used for the the Rebank Church and the first African American public school in northeastern Texas. Rutillius's son was Toddie. Toddie's son was the Todd Forrest Hooks about whom this story is written.

Forrest never went to see the family land in Texas. He pursued his own American dream – a family and home in Monrovia. Their modest home was located on South Canyon just south of Walnut Avenue from the time they were a young

married couple until they moved to Duarte when Mr. Hooks was 75 years old. The practice of "red lining" had kept them from buying a home north of Foothill.

To provide for his wife Becky and their two sons, Forrest gave up his first love – music. Rodney still has the clarinet his father played in a jazz combo while in the Army. A musician's lifestyle was risky and musicians were thought to be unsavory characters. Mr. Hooks was actually an artist, with a deep bass voice and an appreciation for both instrumental and vocal music. Every Sunday morning at breakfast Rodney remembered him turning on a little stereo and the whole family listening to Bach, Beethoven or Michael Jackson. They never talked about it. They just listened. Without the money to go to live concerts, their dad shopped at Safeway Market and used that store's specials to collect the classics.

Forrest and Becky Hooks

Forrest made a choice to embrace the majority culture and not back down. He was not an overt activist, but rather a community partner the members of other cultures could not deny. He was always at meetings, spoke up for himself, and helped older people and children, especially those of his own race, and those who needed care. Mr. and Mrs. Hooks are listed on the donor's plaque at the Santa Anita Family YMCA in Monrovia.

A number of people from the South migrated to Monrovia in the 1950s and early 1960s. His son Todd recalled his 2nd and 3rd grade classes doubling in size at Huntington Elementary during that period. The Hooks boys and their cousins were all told, "You must go to college." They learned how important having a stable family was from their dad. Todd recalls eating dinner with his parents and brother Rodney every day -

praying and being a family. Lois Gaston describes their house with its white fence. “They were like the ideal Caucasian family you saw on television back then.” His uniformed presence reflected his status with a federal job that paid benefits and built toward a pension. He was a powerful role model when other Blacks found it hard to get work other than manual labor or janitorial jobs.

Forrest’s son Todd remembers his dad was positive in spite of the racial biases and segregation he and other people of color experienced at Huntington Elementary School, in the army and in the workplace. After his Army stint, Forrest pursued a civil service job. He went to school to be a tailor but then along with his brother, Arnett, he applied for civil service jobs. Arnett wanted to be a sheriff and got a Training Assistant job in Los Angeles. Forrest was hired by the U S Postal Service as a mail carrier in Los Angeles. He had learned the federal civil service system was “color blind” and applied for a position in Monrovia. Local postmasters did not like that, as Forrest told his sons, because legally they could not prevent hiring minorities. Forrest met the federal job performance and seniority standards and waited for an opening in his own town.

Monrovia’s postmaster was quoted as saying, “No Negro will carry mail out of my post office.” But he had no choice, and thus Forrest was one of the first African Americans to work at Monrovia’s post office. Forrest told his son he felt his co-workers hated him because he was Black and that the Office Manager and employees tried to run him off. His workload was unequal. He had no back up on heavy mail days; he simply had to keep working until he finished his route by himself. There was no technology or motorized delivery carts so he

carried mailbags on his back for years before he got a pushcart. His workday started at 5 a.m. and did not end until he finished his route. During the busy holiday season he worked double shifts.

Todd F. Hooks, left, who was the recipient of an Honorary Life Membership Award from the Huntington PTA shows his pin to Superintendent of Mails, Roy Kirkwood. Hooks is a native of Monrovia and has devoted many years to PTA and civic and youth activities.

—News-Post Photo

In the all-White male locker room at the Post Office no one talked to him. He was excluded from joking and social activities and ate lunch alone. This treatment was not new to him. He had gone through the same in the military. But he felt that he had a family to provide for and he got paid and that was what mattered. Eventually, two postal workers befriended Forrest.

His son, Todd, remembers Ernie Koch and "Uncle Cliffy," who lived on Lemon or Lime Avenue who had a back yard full of all kinds of rocks he had collected. These two White men became his dad's close friends. They spent time together away from work. The Hooks kids and their kids grew up together, reminding Todd of the Jackie Robinson story. After Ernie and Forrest retired, they had a handyman business together.

Over time Monrovia's postal supervisor had to accept Forrest. They never became friends, but he came to respect Forrest because he was an excellent employee and had a friendly, positive attitude no matter how badly he was treated on the job. In contrast to his own mistreatment, Forrest treated Monrovians on his route with respect and courtesy.

Mr. Hooks took the Supervisor's Exam several times. Even though he was intelligent and prepared, he never passed and watched as less qualified employees were given the position. He endured this injustice and kept going, having learned a

painful lesson from his experience as a janitor at the *Daily News Post* in Monrovia. In that job, when he requested that his supervisor ask employees to stop throwing cigarette butts in the urinal, instead of asking the employees, the supervisor fired him. "Don't show people how you really feel or pick a fight," was the lesson Forrest took from that and what he taught his sons.

Mr. Hooks ran into similar obstacles in scouting and chose to form a troop for boys who had been excluded, including his own sons and other non-White youth. He became the first African American Boy Scouts of America leader in San Gabriel Valley. To make sure his sons and their friends got the same opportunities and positive experiences that other youth had he took action, e.g., asking that PSA Airlines fly his troop to San Diego so they could go to the zoo. He was successful; they granted his request. "Go another way." Mr. Hooks said. "Pick and chose your battles. Make things as pleasant as you can." It was through his approach, his endurance and strength that he prevailed and eventually brought about a change.

After he retired from the postal service, Mr. Hooks talked about his feelings about the discrimination he had experienced and how he worked to combat it. He told his children that when he was at MAD (Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte) High School he realized he was equal academically, but he knew he could not attain his dream because of the racial attitudes. The only person Todd ever heard his dad speak a bad word about was a White classmate who did not perform well academically, was rude, and behaved in a way that Forrest found unworthy of respect, but had achieved success nonetheless. He had all of the privileges and entitlements that minorities were denied then, including

easily getting a bank loan to start a business. “My dad never got over being upset about that. We spoke about it many times before he died,” Todd said.

Forrest raised his family with these same values and so each of them carried forward their own positive changes to move their community forward. His son Rodney said at first he was terrified in the all-White environment at college, a place that changed his life. But the proper English he spoke at home in Monrovia helped him fit in with his classmates. How the family spoke was important to his dad. Ebonics were not permitted. “During summers when we were young boys we were not allowed to go outside to play until Todd and I did our multiplication tables. Magazines like *Life*, *Saturday Evening Post, Boys Life* (a scouting magazine), were our pastime,” Rodney remembered. The boys read for hours while lying in the middle of the floor.

He credits his father with stressing the benefits of higher education and building good relationships with everyone. In fact it was a lady on Mr. Hooks’ mail route who recommended Claremont Men’s College (CMC) and helped get the scholarship that allowed Rodney to attend there. At CMC he pursued a degree in Economics and Accounting, before completing a year in Harvard’s MBA Program. He became a highly successful freelance filmmaker and a member of the Directors Guild of America. His film and television projects have included: Debbie Allen’s “Polly”, George Lucas′ cult favorite “Howard the Duck” and “The West Wing” from Warner Bros.

Forrest’s son Todd was educated at Harvard University, earned a B.A. in Government and a Masters degree in Education from UCLA - the result of the value his father put on higher education and the work ethic he taught his children. Todd has had a 20-year career in Redevelopment and Economic Development for Southern California cities - Monrovia, Pomona, San Bernardino, Burbank, and San

HUNTINGTON SCHOOL PTA AWARD
. . . Todd Hooks receives handshake and PTA honorary life award from Melvin Baughman (right) principal.
—Inter-City Newspapers photo

Diego. He then became Economic Development Director for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of Palm Springs, CA. For the past 13 years, he has managed and advised the Tribe on non-hospitality/gaming projects - commercial and residential real estate development, land leasing and acquisition, renewable energy development, and golf course operations.

Todd said he is grateful to his parents, especially his father, for making the choice for family and stability, for fighting to be the kind of family man that contributed to the community and kept positive in spite of racial inequalities. "He did a lot to improve human relations in Monrovia even if he felt he could never achieve his own dreams there because of the bigotry and obstacles he faced and being treated as if he was not valued," Todd said.

Even with the legacy he left his sons, sadly, Forrest apologized to them for never being able to earn the money he felt he was capable of without having to work long hours or extra jobs. His son Rodney recalled both his sons yelling in response, "Are you kidding me?" They knew it was his persistence and character that enabled them to attend the best schools in the nation.

Huntington PTA presents Honor award to Todd Hooks

MONROVIA—Todd F. Hooks is the recipient of the Honorary Life Membership presented by the Huntington PTA.

Hooks has been active in Scouting for the last eight years. Presently he is working with Troop 146 at the Methodist Church.

Todd, as all his friends call him, and they are legion, served with the Monrovia-Duarte Human Relations Council when it was founded. He has been a postal employe for 20 years and also has served as secretary of the Letter Carriers' Association for five years. Presently he is a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

He is a native Monrovian having graduated from M.A.D. High in 1942.

Members of Huntington PTA take pride in having Todd Hooks for their president and that he will serve on the board this next year.

Todd and his wife, Theresa, who is White, have a daughter now in college who is faced with a new form of discrimination. Since she is biracial, Todd said, "When she was younger, through high school she identified herself racially as "Other" on forms giving the choice of "*White*", "*Black*", or "*Other.*"

Now she identifies as a 'Black'." Even so, Todd feels his daughter does not fully understand Black culture, experiencing it more from what she sees in movies or hears in rock music than what her grandfather experienced. Her father has asked her what she will do about racial injustice. She has said that human rights are a priority for her and as a political conservative, she feels that work and accountability should direct one's choices, not the government. It seems clear that the life preparation and training in the Hooks' household to move each in their own way through a changing world has shaped the family for generations,

When Forrest Hooks passed away in 1999, he left an important legacy that helped move Monrovia a step closer to being an inclusive community. His legacy included a Post Office that finally accepted his presence as a long-term, hard-working Black employee, a Boy Scouts organization that at least while he was alive gave boys of color an opportunity to participate, and a White community that got used to seeing a Black man delivering mail every day in their neighborhoods. There was (and is) a long way to go, but his persistence and his positive, hard-working, dignified, and determined presence in the face of severe prejudice played an important part in helping Monrovia evolve. His values and approach were carried forward by his sons and their families, and the positive impact on their classmates and schools can only be imagined.

Written by Lois Gaston, based on interviews and information provided by the Hooks' family -- Todd, Rodney and Deborah Hooks

Anna H. Jones

A civil rights activist and educator who inspired the Anna H. Jones Club

Anna H. Jones was born in Chatham, Ontario, the daughter of Emily Francis Jones and James Monroe Jones. Her father was one of the first black graduates of Oberlin College, finishing in 1849. Her father was a gunsmith and engraver who, with his brother Elias Toussaint Jones, was involved with John Brown's Canadian abolition activities. Anna H. Jones attended university in Michigan, and graduated from Oberlin College in 1875.

Her extended family reflected the values of their parents of high level accomplishment, intellect and the importance of higher

A ChangeMaker

Anna H. Jones was a leader of women, whose life inspired the creation of the Anna H. Jones, Colored Woman's Club, chartered in Monrovia, CA, under the National Council of Colored Women's Clubs Inc. In 1932, it was organized to provide service to the community, fellowship with women, and financial support to students bound for college.

The Anna H. Jones home at 2444 Montgall Ave., Kansas City, Missouri, circa 1920s.

education. Her sister Sophia Bethena Jones (1857–1932) became a medical doctor, and "the first black faculty member at Spellman College" and founder of the school's nursing program. Her sister Fredericka Florence Jones (1860–-) also became a teacher.

Anna's commitment to higher education began when she taught school in Canada, in Indiana and St. Louis, in Jefferson, Missouri, at Wilberforce University in Ohio, and from 1892 to 1919 in Kansas City, Missouri.

She was the principal of Douglas Elementary School – the first Black female hired in that city. Miss Jones was a charter member of the Federation of Colored Women, worked in the YWCA, helped establish the Book Lovers Club, was a member of the University Extension Society of Kansas City, and a representative to England in 1900. Miss Jones was a refined and cultured social activist. Her prominence and position did not shelter her from racial prejudice. She bought a home in Kansas City. Her white neighbors were determined that she not live there. They intimidated her with written threats and bombs. Anna's amazing courage caused her to fight for her civil rights and continue to live there until she was ready to relocate.

"Miss Jones was a refined and cultured social activist, yet her prominence did not shelter her from social prejudice."

Lois Gaston

She moved to California and settled in Monrovia where she continued pursuing her passion of promoting education and advocating for social change and justice. She founded the Anna H. Jones Club around 1920. Miss Jones died March 7, 1932 at age 77 in Monrovia. She and her sister are buried at Live Oak Memorial Park.

Some of the Monrovia properties owned by Anna H. Jones and her immediate family are still owned and lived in by her descendants.

Some of them attended the 75th Anniversary Benefit Banquet on September 28,1966 held at Second Baptist Church.

OBERLIN COLLEGE

Holland

'75—Ann ~~Hawley~~ Jones passed away at her home in Monrovia, Calif., March 7. She had been in poor health for several years. Miss Jones began teaching at the age of 18 in St. Louis. She went from there to Wilberforce University, and taught also at Lincoln Institute in Jefferson City, Mo., returning later to Wilberforce as dean of women. She taught a number of years in Lincoln High School, Kansas City, Mo., was principal of Douglass School there for several years, but was returned to the High School at her own request, where she taught until the members of her family decided to make California their home and she resigned to join them. Miss Jones enjoyed several coveted honors in education during her lifetime, chief among which was being a representative to the Educational Congress in London, England, in 1900, when she read a paper widely proclaimed for its merits. After her retirement from school work, she led a very quiet but studious life to the end.

ERIFIED

Alumni Magazine
July 1932

The Anna H. Jones Club focuses on promoting education and providing financial assistance to students who strive to attain high academic achievements in vocational fields and at secondary, graduate and post graduate levels. Although a small local organization, the Anna H. Jones Club has maintained a prestigious reputation for decades. Among its network of prominent, distinguished persons are personal contacts of Anna Jones and distinguished Negroes who came to her Monrovia home, including Ralph Bunche, Ambassador to the United Nations, and renowned journalist, educator and civil rights activist W.E.B. DeBois.

The Monrovia Club has had several hard working change maker presidents. Miss Jennie Lockett was active with the Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. at the state and national levels. Most prominent is probably Monrovian Eldora "Dodie" Polk who assumed the presidency from Mattie Bouler in 1959.

In 1966, the club reactivated its scholarship fund which grants college scholarships to young Black women. Traditionally, a breakfast to generate revenue was held on the third Sunday of May each year, usually in the cafeteria of Huntington Elementary or Santa Fe Middle schools. Over time, Eldora hosted backyard dinners and formal teas at her home on South California Avenue. The diverse guest list included persons of all races - judges, elected officials, religious leaders, average citizens and supporters from throughout Monrovia and surrounding areas.

Scholarships were awarded from as early as 1953 up to the present day. A relative of Anna H. Jones, Edwin Thompson, a Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte [MAD] High School graduate, was a scholarship recipient as was I. A long list of recipients have benefited from these scholarships. On February 1, 1966 at the Howard Johnson Hotel in

Monrovia, the Anna H. Jones Club published a partial list of recipients. Many have been very successful in their professions and careers.

In 1911, Anna H. Jones wrote to W.E.B. Du Bois describing the discrimination faced by African Americans who had moved into her neighborhood. The letter can be read in full on this page: http://credo.library.umass.edu/view/full/mums312-b006-i298.

Anna H. Jones' descendants attended the club's 75th Anniversary Benefit Banquet on September 28, 1996 held at Second Baptist Church. Miss Jones died March 7, 1932 at age 77 in Monrovia. She and her sister are buried at Live Oak Memorial Park.

Written by Lois Gaston

Photo of members, 1972: Standing, l to r, Elmira Engs, Bessie Wigley, Ruby Berry, Althea Fisher, Marie Bowler, Juanita Corbin, Eldora Polk, president. Seated, Virginia Sibley, Bertha Wright, Ollie Barrow, Thelma Darden and Heather Montgomery.

Janice Marugg
and the Marugg Family

A family effort of hard work and community commitment

The Maruggs were an outstanding and well-known local family who played multiple and key roles in the struggle against bigotry and segregation in Monrovia.

Kathryn Marugg, Jan's mother-in-law, was a much loved kindergarten teacher at the segregated Huntington School, who worked closely with Principal Allie Romney, purchased many of the items used by her classes and sponsored the sixth grade Science Club. After she retired, I spent a few wonderful years working with this bright and delightful woman on research of the rapidly changing and decolonizing Africa, for the League of Women Voters of Monrovia.

Kathryn's oldest son, Jerry, was elected in

A ChangeMaker

Jan Marugg used her perky sense of humor to great advantage in capturing the attention of audiences, then leading them to the important points she wanted to make about equal rights.

1957 to the Monrovia City School District on a platform calling for change and with an agenda influenced by his mother and Allie Romney. Although the Board approved a reduction of the tax-rate which would cut the school's resources, change was on the way. In 1960, a new liberal reform-oriented board (including Marugg) was elected and the separate (and not equal) elementary district came to an end. The Board spent its first months searching for a Superintendent for the new Monrovia Unified School District.

The elections to fund the new District and to elect the Board to run it, proved a catastrophe for the schools with the proposed funding turned down and three members of the John Birch Society elected to the Board.

We love horse racing and were partners in owning part of a horse. I'm just not sure which part!" Jan Marugg

A community organization (Alliance for a Better Community) was developed in response to the situation and together with such groups as the School District, itself, the Bill Brooks - led Human Relations Commission, the League of Women Voters of Monrovia, the NAACP and various churches and individuals educated the community and fought for change.

Jerry Marugg and his wife Janice joined Rollie Hawes, Pete Lippman, the Sandfords, Bill Brooks and others in leading the Alliance, which eventually saw appropriate funding for the schools and an end to segregation and –later- the election of a progressive majority (including a Black man, Bob Bartlett) to the City Council.

Janice Marugg was probably the best known and most influential member of the family. She was born Janice Elizabeth Glotfelty, and lived most of her life in Monrovia, a city that became the focus of her passionate and tireless efforts in improvement and development.

At age three, Jan developed polio. As tragic as that may seem, it made her stronger and more determined to excel in life, and to help others. As she grew up, Jan learned to ride horses and that skill became a part of her rehabilitation and a lifelong love of horses that led to

horseracing, a hobby she shared with her husband.

As a young girl, Jan often played ball in the street on Primrose Ave. with the Marugg kids and others, not realizing that she would eventually marry Jerry in 1962. Jan and Jerry were inseparable for 56 years.

Jan attended Monrovia schools and enjoyed many friendships along the way. She attended Occidental College, earning a degree in Early Childhood Education. Through it all, Jan's sense of humor was evident. In college a friend once asked her if she wanted to go on a blind date. Her response: "How blind is he?" He was Jerry Marugg.

Jan volunteered her services to many organizations in Monrovia, and also became the Executive Director of the Monrovia Chamber of Commence for 13 years. In her role and with strong connections in the business community, she became a key leader in the redevelopment of the city enhancing the work of Monrovia's Mayor, Bob Bartlett. She revitalized the Chamber, making it the key organization in Monrovia. Her work was recognized by the National Association of Chamber Membership Directors when it selected Monrovia's Chamber as No. One in the nation.

It was not uncommon to see Jan appear at City Council meetings to speak in support of local business owners seeking to improve their work in town. She also spoke in favor of civil rights issues and the need to include all residents in the city's future.

In 1970, when most of Monrovia's retail stores and cohesive spirit were languishing, Jan became a vocal advocate of taking Monrovia in a new direction.

In addition to her work, she was a strong leader and volunteer for such organizations as the Santa Anita Family Service, the Friends of California Libraries, the Monrovia Guild of Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Many Monrovians remember Jan as a woman who selected

appropriate individuals for leadership roles in the community and then prepared and trained them for the job and responsibility. During her youth, Jan twice plucked me from obscurity to appoint me to boards she chaired. In later years, I realized the impact Jan had on encouraging me and many others to seek their best results as leaders and mentors to Monrovia's future.

Written by Betty Sandford

Mimi Mency

From model family to model citizen

Mimi Luvenia Martin was born on November 13, 1932 in Monrovia, in her uncle's car traveling along Huntington Drive while her mom was in route to the hospital. The eldest of two daughters born to Eugene and Narrey Martin, Mimi attended Huntington Elementary, and Clifton Junior High before graduating from Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte (MAD) High School. She later attended Pasadena City College before marrying at an early age.

A ChangeMaker

Mimi Mency was admired for taking a good, hard look at what was happening right in front of her, and having the fortitude to do something about it. She was larger than life.

During Mimi's adolescent and teen years her parents owned a home just a few doors north of Huntington Elementary School on Canyon Boulevard. The Martins were an American dream family back then – pillars of the community and church leaders; a working father who drove a big "made in the USA" Buick with a shiny chrome bumper; a stay-at-home mom who prepared home cooked meals from scratch everyday; two active girls

with silky, long braids that extended below their waistlines; a family with a garden, fruit trees and ducks in the back yard and a piano in the living room. They were involved in youth programs and civic affairs as much as they could be given the segregated state of affairs back then.

The Martin family lived in this modest neighborhood until shortly after Mimi was married and gave birth to Sherrilyn. When Mr. and Mrs. Martin relocated to the county area of Duarte in the 1960s, their home and swimming pool became the place for Mimi and her sister Lavada's friends, now married with children, to spend many a weekend and holiday. It was here that Mimi remarried, this time to the love of her life, George W. Mency, Jr. on June 13, 1965. They had a house built on Fig Avenue. It is filled with Mimi's uniquely purchased treasures and Christmas ornaments, all of their treasured stories and fond memories.

Mimi's business career started in 1955 at Pacific Telephone on Green Street in Pasadena, CA. She excelled over the years from a telephone operator in Pasadena to a management position in Los Angeles and retired from AT&T- Lucent Technologies in December of 1989.

It only seemed natural that Mimi was concerned about the racial tensions that plagued her alma mater, Monrovia High. Civil rights, even in her hometown, was a hot topic in the late 1960s. Every five to eight months, violence would erupt on campus between students, eventually resulting in 16 students being injured in two days of fighting in March, 1969. Mimi and other parents patrolled the campus. That unrest prompted her to the decision to run for school board. She was first elected to the Monrovia Unified School District's Board of Trustees in 1972, and served in that capacity until 1984, twice as President.

Among Mimi's accomplishments was her leading the fight for the Black Student Union (BSU) to have a club on Monrovia High's campus. When told that would not be allowed, Mimi's response was "over my dead body." She persevered and years later, in 2008, the Monrovia High BSU honored Mimi for her efforts on their behalf.

"No Black Student Union? Over my dead body!"

Mimi Mency

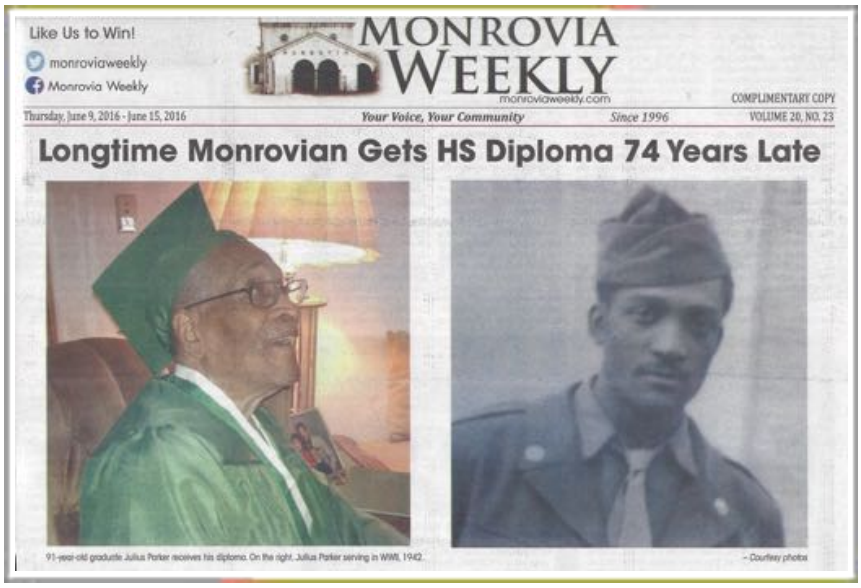
Mimi continued her active service after retiring from the Monrovia Board of Education. In 1985, she was appointed City of Monrovia Planning Commissioner, and received the Mary Wilcox Award in 2001 for her dedicated service to the Boys and Girls Club and youth programs. She served as Treasurer for all of Bob Bartlett's campaigns for Mayor and participated in Betty Sandford's campaigns for the School Board. Monrovia Chamber of Commerce honored her with its Iris Award/Citizen of the Year in 2002. an award given to the Monrovian whose contributions were made over an extended period of time. She also helped organize and present Monrovia's entry into its successful All-America City award competition.

For years, Mimi was Monrovia's "go-to" person for information or help related to fighting bigotry and segregation. She was a mentor to young people who chose to work in the field.

Los Angeles County gave her an Older American Volunteer Award in 2004. On Tuesday, June 21, 2011, Mimi slipped peacefully away with Lavada sitting by her hospital bedside.

Mimi, first student on the right, second row, was in Almera Romney's first class at Huntington School

Written by
Lois Gaston and Betty Sandford



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Longtime Monrovian Gets HS Diploma 74 Years Late

91-year-old graduate Julius Parker receives his diploma. On the right, Julius Parker serving in WWII, 1942. – Courtesy photos

Julius Parker

A champion for justice, rallying families for equal access to education for Black children

This story actually begins before Julius Parker's family relocated to Monrovia, CA in 1933. He was born in Guthrie, Oklahoma on November 7, 1924, the eldest son of Ollie Wigley and Julius Parker. His mother was a trained teacher who received her training from Kansas Teacher's College in Emporia, Kansas.

A ChangeMaker

As a member of the human family, Julius worked to fight for social justice, find solutions to better the lives of others and be a role model for all.

At an early age, his parents divorced and his mother later married Elmer Barmore, a pullman porter who worked for Santa Fe Railways. In 1931, the couple decided to leave Guthrie to move to Monrovia where Elmer's aunt, Fannie Goodwin, lived and was a member of Second

Baptist Church. They decided to leave Julius and younger sister, Dorinda, with their grandmother while his mother and stepfather got settled.

In 1933, Julius and Dorinda left Guthrie and their grandmother and arrived at 533 East Cypress Ave., Monrovia, California, the modest home of their mother and step-father. After two years, the family was finally living together in California.

Julius and Dorinda started school at the segregated Huntington Elementary School in Monrovia. Their stepfather was working for Santa Fe Railway while their mother, feeling that it was not fair for Elmer to have the sole financial responsibility of providing for his stepchildren, worked like many Black women, as a domestic worker. Her teaching license was not accepted in California.

"I viewed my mother as the female Martin Luther King, Jr."

Julius Parker

Julius' mother, Ollie Barmore

In the 1930's, Monrovia's Blacks lived in close proximity to each other. This area included north of Huntington Drive - Maple Avenue, Almond, Walnut, Duarte Avenue (Royal Oaks) between Canyon on the West to Shamrock to the East and South of Huntington Drive - Cypress, Date (Cherry), Plum (Los Angeles) between Ivy Avenue to the West and Shamrock to the East. Black and Hispanic children attended Huntington Elementary School, Ivy Avenue School (now Clifton Middle School) and Monrovia Arcadia Duarte (MAD) High School.

Before long, Elmer and Ollie bought their first home (Julius' childhood home) at 514 East Maple Avenue within the area where Blacks resided.

Julius recalls that his mother, Ollie Barmore, was an amazing woman and mother. She was an educated, principled, religious woman and a champion for social justice. It was from her example that he began witnessing how to live one's life as a tenacious advocate of fairness and justice. Julius vividly recounted his first realization of the racial divide in Monrovia and how his mother was an example of

standing firm for what was right] as he shared an historic event in his life that occurred in 1933.

Pvt. Julius Parker, U.S. Army

"It was a Friday afternoon and the neighborhood was alive with kids outside playing, having a great time! Then suddenly Julius felt what seemed at first like a slight jolt. 'Was the ground moving?' he thought. No, the ground beneath him was shaking! We kids didn't know what was happening in fact we thought it was fun. You know like a roller coaster! That is until we saw our parent rush out of our homes shouting for us to come inside." It was an earthquake, at 5:54 pm, March 10, 1933, magnitude 6.4 and named the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake.

Julius later remembers how the neighborhood parents were talking about the earthquake damage at Huntington School. ″Of course all us kids wanted to see how bad it was. So they went to see for ourselves.″ When they saw Huntington School, He recalls thinking, "Our school is gone. What are we going to do?"

The parents felt their children could not go back to Huntington School. It was simply too damaged and unsafe. They should go to one of the other schools until Huntington was repaired or the district built a new school. But the District decided that while Huntington Elementary was being repaired classes could be held there in parts that were not "too" damaged. Huntington parents did not agree with this decision. They felt that Huntington School students should be able to attend one of the other schools, the schools for Whites, while Huntington was being repaired.

Julius' mother believed that Black children being forced to attend a school that was damaged and not allowed to attend a White school was not fair! Ollie and a small band of families were not accepting this fate for their children. These families developed a plan. They would not send their children back to Huntington School until it was rebuilt. The families were threatened with jail time if they continued to keep their children out school, and a few of the fathers were jailed!

However, the threat of jail, jail time, and the loss of income, forced the protesters to send their children back to substandard school. Except for Ollie Barmore and friends, they proceeded with the plan; each family became responsible for teaching the children. The mothers would take their day off and all the children would go to one location and receive their instruction. So many of the mothers were trained teachers but unable to work as teachers in California. This went on for about a year. The NAACP of Pasadena stepped in and took the case to court asking that Huntington school be rebuilt and not just repaired. The court ruled in favor of the Black families and the NAACP.

During the building of the new Huntington School, Julius and others became the first Black students in Monrovia to attend all-White Santa Fe Elementary School. Santa Fe School was the first integrated elementary school in Monrovia. The community had gone through a crisis but emerged successfully with a victory. This all occurred in Monrovia years before Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, KS. This victory benefited the entire community putting into motion a town that willingly desegregated **all** the schools in the City of Monrovia in the 1960s when the rest of America was beginning to struggle with this issue. It's easy to understand why Julius Parker now sees his mother as Monrovia's "Female Martin Luther King, Jr."

However, before long Julius found himself amidst yet another crisis. He remembers his experiences going to Huntington school as perfect; it was so comfortable, familiar. It was fun! His "home school" experience was enriching and an adventure, but attending Santa Fe School was just difficult. Many of the white parents were not happy to have the Huntington students attending their neighborhood school and that rubbed off on their children. They were not friendly. The result was tension between the children. Julius remembers one day he and a White boy got in a fight. The White custodian rushed in to stop the fight. "But we kept swinging at each other," Julius shared. "The custodian just couldn't stop us." To Julius' surprise, the custodian lifted his foot and kicked him, to get him to stop. Julius was shocked. So shocked that he left school and ran home to his mother. Julius related, "Mother couldn't believe that custodian had kicked

me! This was unacceptable!" Her solution was to again contact the one organization that worked for justice for Black people, the NAACP. The custodian was taken to court and Ollie Barmore won a settlement for the inappropriate treatment of her son. Julius recalls his mother's purpose was not to "get money," but to send a message, Black children must be treated with respect and parents must support - no - demand that respect using the proper channels. Such a tenacious woman!

What seemed to be such small acts back in the 1930s became the catalyst for the future of desegregation in Monrovia schools headed by Ollie Barmore, Julius Parker's mother. Spotlighting the need for Black children to be treated with dignity and respect by all members of the school community and the community-at-large, had a birthplace in some of the incidences of those times. But the rallying of families in supporting a high standard of education, as well as equal access for Black children, was paramount in these cohesive family units. Her actions really pushed the community forward!

Ollie's focus on education was always strong. When Julius entered into MAD, he was serious about getting a well-rounded education. He played in a band and was becoming an accomplished musician. He also loved to work with his hands and was extremely creative. He had big plans for his future. However, his plans were interrupted. Taking the lead from his mother's example, Julius was a champion of justice in his own right. In 1941, with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, America entered World War II and Julius' time at MAD ended. As an 18 year old in his senior year, he dropped out of school and enlisted in the US Army. He chose to sacrifice his hopes and dreams to serve the country that he loved. He quickly realized that his fellow countrymen did not share the same feeling towards his service. He became keenly aware of the bigotry and prejudice that existed in the military. What did he do about it? He and of his fellow Black soldiers worked hard to do their best in all the menial tasks assigned to them. Julius, however, also was able to serve in the band and played with some of the greatest Black musicians at the time. He made the best out of his experiences and hoped that when he returned home life would be better for the Black man.

Members of the MUSD Board of Education presented Parker with his diploma inside his Monrovia home on June 7. – *Courtesy photo*

When the war was over, Julius returned to Monrovia and married Hazel. They raised four children with their same moral compass. Over the years Julius Parker became a quiet mentor of the children in the neighborhood, always providing advice, love and support to those aspiring to be good neighbors, good husbands or wives and good parents. Always focusing on the importance of education and wishing there would have been a way for him to complete school. He was never able to complete that final semester of high school. That was the one thing that he regretted.

But on June 7, 2016 the Monrovia Unified School District's Board of Education awarded this lifelong Monrovia resident, Julius Parker, his diploma at the commencement ceremony at MHS. However, at 91 years old, Mr. Parker was not able to attend the commencement ceremony because he just does get out much anymore. So the School Board came to him. In a brief ceremony at his home he was presented his diploma by Board President Rob Hammond, Vice President Bryan Wong, Trustees Terrence Williams and Ed Gilliand, Superintendent Dr. Katherine Thorossian, and MHS Principal, Kirk McGinnis. During the actual ceremony, Monrovia City Council Member, Larry Spicer, re-presented the diploma acknowledging Julius Parker as "a pillar of this community and a mentor to its young people."

When Mr. Parkers was asked his thoughts about his journey through life while living in Monrovia, he shared that the struggle is not over and just like in the 1930's the individual and family must retake the helm to support children and their education. This means being present! Support the education of all children. Do whatever it takes to assure that all students have equal access. Instill within children the desire to strive for excellence in all things. Don't tell children to make excuses. Help them to look for the solutions that they can control. These individual, family acts in unity with other like minds will keep the community of Monrovia ever advancing in our collective struggle to eliminate bigotry and prejudice.

Mr. Parker concluded, in other words, as a member of one human family, commit to be a role model for other members of the community. Fight for social justice. Don't place blame. Work on solutions. Become a change agent. Julius stated that he has learned people can do anything they put their minds to. He said, "I know that one person can make a difference when that happens. Our separate but collective actions can lead to positive changes. But we all need to call ourselves into account each day and get involved! At the end of each day we need to assess how we were *Champions of Justice* for that day."

Written by Joannie Yuille based
on an interview with Julius Parker

Eldora Polk

An organizer and the face of the Anna H. Jones Club

Willie Eldora Fluker was born on August 9, 1915 in Franksville, Washington County, Alabama to Evander and Mary Donaldson Fluker. She was the fifth of eight children, two boys and six girls. She began her education in Franksville, Alabama Public Schools. Eldora married Floyd Howell of Cornton, Alabama. They moved to St. Stephens, Alabama to live and work.

Eldora and Floyd had six children - Zeola, Floyd Jr., Othello, Grady Floyd, James Edward and Roy Joseph. The Howells moved to Mobile, Alabama for better employment and later to Monrovia, California. The Polk family's Monrovia home was at 1221 S. California.

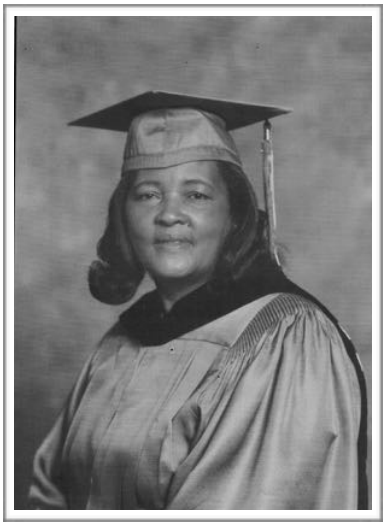
A ChangeMaker

From registering voters in Alabama, to leading Monrovia by teaching church classes, feeding the hungry and serving on the boards of multiple organizations, Eldora saw the needs of many and worked to fulfill them.

The Polk home on California Ave. was the site of many Anna H. Jones Club activities.

She wanted better education and work opportunities for herself and her children. It is not surprising that she went back to school and graduated from Monrovia High in the same class as her youngest son, Roy. She also earned an Associate Arts degree from Citrus College in 1976.

Eldora was active in church and community wherever she lived. In the 1940s she had worked on voters' registration for the NAACP in Alabama. She was also a member of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs headquartered in Washington, DC. In Monrovia, she energized the Anna H. Jones Club. As president, she led the group to its most profitable and visible years of service, including the 75th Anniversary celebration in 1996.



With her cousin, Bill Brooks, she brought a new sense of worth to the Black community and reached out to all of Monrovia for support. Eldora's significant activity in Monrovia provided a positive picture of the Black community. Her strong leadership of the Anna H. Jones Club gave White Monrovians an opportunity to show their support of the Black community in return.

She received Monrovia's key to the city and the prestigious Chamber of Commerce Iris Award for her civic involvement. Years of diligent service with Santa Anita Family Service, Meals on Wheels, League of Women voters, Friends of the Library, Community Relations Committee, and various city commissions led to her being honored by Los Angeles County in 1987 as one of six Older Americans of the Year. That same year, the Monrovia Centennial Committee named Eldora the recipient of the Century Recognition Award for Community Service.

"Helping somebody is where I get my joy."

Eldora Polk

God called her home on Thursday, March 12, 2015. Eldora often said, "Helping somebody is where I get my joy." She put her words into action until her health prevented her from doing so several years ago.

Written by Lois Gaston

Pat Ray

and the League of Women Voters of Monrovia

Pat Ray was an outstanding woman who headed the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Monrovia study of Human Resources after the document, "Development of Human Resources," was adopted at the LWV US Convention in 1964.

A ChangeMaker

Pat Ray proved that any organization with visionary leadership can lead the way to changing social mores for the better.

The Monrovia Committee, lead by Pat, researched and published a groundbreaking two-part report entitled "Who Lives Here," which analyzed 1960 Census tract data for Monrovia and Duarte, and focused on the implications of new civil rights legislation with its emphasis on the local schools.

According to Mary Ellen Romney MacArthur's August 1993 Dissertation, "De facto Segregation in Monrovia, California, Almera A. Romney and Huntington Elementary School," the League's report shattered the decades of silence and half-truths that had veiled facts about Monrovia and Duarte citizens of color.

Studied and adopted by the local League membership, presided over by Betty Sandford, the report "sponsored by a group of the town's best educated and influential women, irreversibly uncovered the issues and altered Monrovia's perception of itself."

Pat Ray devoted the next few years to attending school district and other meetings devoted to the integration process, sharing

information and supporting efforts to inform Monrovians. Before an Operation Head Start program was adopted by the Monrovia District, Pat began one and recruited other Leaguers to staff it. She represented the League in reporting the organization's views to the Committee for Study of Racial Imbalance.

"Pat Ray was instrumental in achieving integration of the Monrovia schools and community."

Betty Sandford

Pat, by research and development of a report that received the support of her fellow League members and, eventually, the community of Monrovia, was certainly one of those most instrumental in achieving integration of the Monrovia schools and community.

Written by Betty Sandford

Almera Romney

A fighter for equality who helped all children excel

Almera "Allie" Romney was a Caucasian Mormon woman who believed her faith dictated that all children, regardless of their ethnicity, should be treated equally. Over the 17 years of her tenure at Huntington School as a teacher and then principal, she fought her boss -- the school superintendent, her church, city officials, and the local newspaper to draw resources and attention to give these children a good education. She single-handedly transformed Huntington Elementary School – the segregated school that all children of color in Monrovia were forced to attend – from a disgracefully under-resourced and physically unsafe school where children were considered incapable of learning, to a school where children received an excellent education and thrived academically and socially.

A ChangeMaker

Allie Romney is the prime example of what a teacher/ principal/administrator should be, and could be, as a champion of what students can achieve.

She had come from rural Utah and never known a Black person before she came to Huntington School. When she came on staff in 1946, she needed a job to financially support her family and so she took the only open teaching job in the district. At that time Huntington was a 'stopover' school -- an undesirable place to work through which teachers moved quickly to 'better' schools. She changed that and nearly everything else at Huntington.

"Many people of color were afraid to come to committee meetings to tell of their problems so Allie Romney taped their responses about difficulties in finding jobs and the indignity of not being able to try on clothes at local stores."

Betty Sandford

A first grade teacher for 3 years, she became principal in 1949 and stayed until 1963.

When she arrived, Huntington was the only school that Black, Hispanic and Japanese children could attend in Monrovia. It was given only the cast-off books. And while she came to a new facility, it was the only school in the district without a cafeteria. Huntington was not only substandard in comparison with other schools in its physical facilities and lack of food service, but also its share of district expenditures per pupil, its teacher-pupil ratio, and lack of school buses. It had the largest class sizes in the district and a revolving door of teachers.

The study of the Monrovia schools that eventually documented the disparate treatment of Huntington was essentially made invisible by the Superintendent. He continued to believe that these children were qualitatively different and not able to learn. He and the local newspaper editor kept Huntington's mistreatment out of the public eye. They also kept invisible the progress achieved under Ms. Romney's leadership that proved his theory wrong.

Over time, Ms. Romney recruited a team of great teachers who stayed and built a great learning environment. They created an engaging approach to teaching reading that achieved outstanding results. She was an effective disciplinarian who balanced that with music, picnics, and performances that engaged parents, proud to see their children's talents on display.

One of the outstanding teachers she brought into the school who stayed until she retired was Katherine Marugg. Ms. Marugg's son would eventually serve on the School Board and her daughter-in-law, Jan Marugg, would become the first female Executive Director of the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce, and a much loved and powerful agent of change in Monrovia. Her story is included in this book as well.

Ms. Romney became a heroine to the parents, whose children had been enduring an inferior education. One parent who expressed her appreciation was Mary Gadbury Carr, whose son -- a student of Ms. Romney -- was Bob Bartlett ,who would become the first Black mayor of Monrovia. Ms. Carr had experienced the racism of that time first hand. She had come to Monrovia in the 1920s and remembered as a child seeing a cross burned in front of a small residential court on Huntington Drive by the KKK, whose meeting in Monrovia drew 190 people. She also remembered that Black citizens of Monrovia could not get dental care. They were refused treatment by all local dentists, including two longtime City Council members.

Ms. Romney had three children. When her husband died suddenly in 1951, she became a single parent of an 8, 13, and 16 year old, with no insurance, no property, no car, and a lot of debt. She couldn't afford help at home even as she worked tirelessly to rebuild the school. Her personal resources were so slim that she fought to pay her own bills, and had to cancel her children's health insurance to make ends meet.

She built a strong bond among the Huntington community who became her emotional support, and she and others created a connection across race lines that had not existed before.

The Huntington School

Her influence spread outside the school. Ms. Romney in the 1950s led the Monrovia Human Relations Committee, a project of the Coordinating Council. According to Betty Sandford, who was the Committee's Secretary, Ms. Romney was 'the first and only Chair'. "The Committee attempted to identify problems faced by Monrovia's minority residents, and to seek better racial understanding in the community. Sandford remembers that Monrovia's young people of color were afraid to come to committee meetings to tell of their problems, so Romney taped their responses, which center on their difficulties in finding local employment and the indignity of not being allowed to try on clothes in local stores. The *Monrovia News-Post* gave little coverage to the committee's efforts."
(*De Facto Segregation in Monrovia, California* Mary Ellen Romney MacArthur, 1993)

"She was a great lady. She cared so much about Black kids. We couldn't have made it down there without her. She and all the teachers at Huntington - they were all White - were so dedicated. Just great people."

Mr. Norman Ross
Janitor at Huntington for 20 years

Ms. Romney served as the President of the Coordinating Council in 1951 and on the Board of Santa Anita Family Service of Monrovia, a new organization that resulted from her work and others' to create a community welfare bureau. She was a charter member of the Monrovia League, a group of influential women organized 'to take an active part in community welfare work, rendering service where needed.'

During the time that Huntington was a segregated school, Ms. Romney used her mighty talents and energy to ensure that the children received the education they deserved. When she retired, the school was closed and the district was finally integrated in 1970 -- the result of pressure from many, especially Almera Romney.

Her daughter's brilliant and fascinating doctoral dissertation on her mother's role at Huntington details the incredible odds she faced, the state of bigotry in Monrovia at the time, and her powerful accomplishments. It is available in the Monrovia Public Library and well worth reading.

The above material is excerpted from *De Facto Segregation in Monrovia, California. Almera A Romney and Huntington Elementary School,* Mary Ellen Romney MacArthur Aug. 1993. Ph.D. Dissertation.

Written by Sandy Burud

Almera with her first class of students at the segregated Huntington School

Betty Sandford
and the Sandford Family

Savvy and tireless advocates for human rights.

I title this the Sandford Family, not Betty Sandford nor the Zelkowitz Family, because that's what it was--even though my parents and I were involved. My newly married parents had started Jack's Quality Shoe Store in downtown Monrovia in 1925, and were active and devoted members of the community. Although my mother (Marion), as president of the Wildrose PTA, created the first free lunch program and many remember my dad as one who provided kindness and funding to individuals in need, I have no recollection that their efforts were aimed at persons of color or those suffering from bigotry.

A ChangeMaker

Betty Sandford does nothing lightly. Her approach to leadership and change-making is to forge full-speed ahead, making a thoughtful, powerful and fearless approach to getting the job done right.

We all experienced some anti-Semitism -- sometimes overt, sometimes thoughtless but to the Sandfords at least it served as a prod to our involvement in fighting all bigotry and segregation.

Jules and Betty with Senator Joe Biden in the 1990s

As a youngster, I was aware that people of color were segregated in the schools, swimming pool and housing. I suffered my own stress at being expected to sing Christian religious songs in school and was aware that my parents and I were limited in our social life and organizations we could join. I lost male Christian friends as I became an attractive teenager, and I remember Monrovia's Japanese families being sent off to camps.

Nevertheless, my first real recognition of bigotry and my need to respond came through a meeting of the Coordinating Council in the 1950s.

By that time, I was married and the mother of two, my parents having moved us to Los Angeles in the early 40s, so that my sister Charlotte and I might have the opportunity to date and eventually marry.

Back in Monrovia, and now a college graduate, I had been recruited by such organizations as League of Women Voters of Monrovia and B'nai Brith, and represented them in the Coordinating Council.

In the late 1950s, a Black commissioner from the LA County Human Relations Commission spoke to Coordinating Council members of local Black-White issues and encouraged the development of a Monrovia Human Relations Committee. Allie Romney and I were among those volunteering for such a committee-with Allie (Principal of Huntington School) as President, I as secretary and a few Black and White men as members. Because they were afraid to speak directly to us, Allie recorded several Black young people, who voiced their concerns - including the fact that Black women couldn't try clothes on

before purchase at McBratney's Department Store on Myrtle Ave. We next used the development of a new library in Monrovia, Liberia (Africa) to develop a program of Black-White book collection in our own Monrovia.

"Webster defines 'Humanitarian' as: a philanthropist; one who has regard for the interests of humankind; one who is benevolent. There is no better candidate for the Cathy Hotchkiss Humanitarian Award than Betty Sandford."

During this period, Jules started law school, graduating in 1960, the year our third child was born. In 1961 he joined Emmet Patten as a partner and they soon developed the law firm known as Patten, Faith and Sandford.

Soon, a much larger and more focused Human Relations Committee was formed by a Black man -- Bill Brooks, and I was one of those who joined. And, with Arcadia and Duarte forming their own high schools, Monrovia combined our elementary and high school districts to form MUSD. But other things did not change. When a white Christian real estate salesman working for my father sold a house to a light-skinned Negro couple in a "White neighborhood," Monrovians harassed my Jewish father until he attempted suicide. My oldest child entered public school and found it necessary to ask me to tell her teacher not to expect her to sing Christian religious songs.

But the thing that awakened the public was the creation of the first Monrovia Unified School District budget. Although developed by a large bi-partisan group and advocated by three members who chose to run for school board, both the budget and the candidates were strongly beaten by three John Birch Society candidates.

Immediately, the Alliance for a Better Community (ABC) was formed. It was led by Caltech-schooled retired scientists Roland Hawes and Peter Lippman, with the Sandfords, Maruggs, Bill Brooks and other community leaders who joined with school leaders and personnel to fight the majority on the School Board and to ensure sufficient funds to run the District. Although the issues were not voiced as pro and

con integration, integration was now a goal of the District and integration obviously demanded increased funding.

Betty with Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley

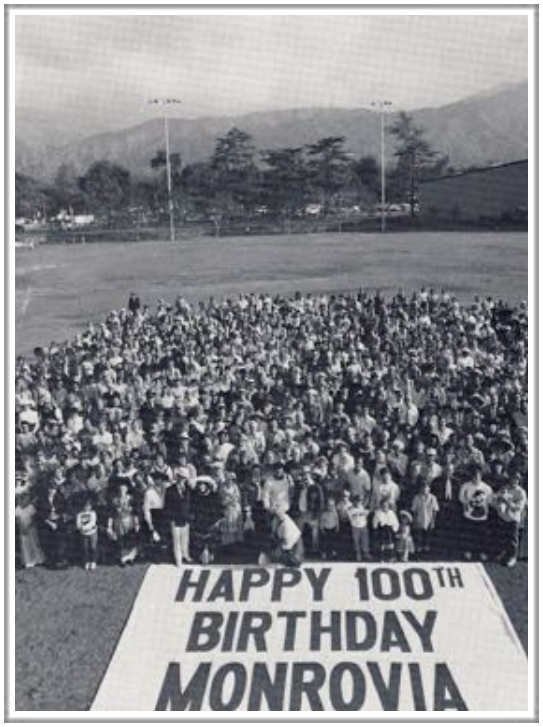
Although school personnel were threatened over the telephone and although ABC was unsuccessful in a recall, the recruitment of Monrovians to attend School Board meetings reached 500 at one Board Meeting. The obvious disagreement of the audience with the Board majority, eventually ended with the retirement of all three Birchers, the election of a new majority, sufficient funding and integration.

Involved in this solution with ABC were the NAACP, Bill Brook's Human Relations Committee, various churches and the League of Women Voters of Monrovia. The latter, with me as President and Pat Ray as study chair conducted a thorough study of Black-White issues in our community. Later Pat developed a Head Start program in the community and recruited me and others to manage it.

In the meantime, some high school students - the U.N. Gang, my daughters (Randy and Leslie who had both suffered from verbal anti-Semitism) and others - were researching the issue of segregation in the schools, making a video to tell the story, and helping to elect Mimi Mency as the first Black member of the School Board. I had been involved in preparing parents for school integration and co-chaired a biracial group of parents who prevented a post-integration riot in the high school.

Once the school issue was solved, ABC devoted its attention to the City. A coalition of three candidates was put together – a youth, a woman and a Black - and thanks in part to an outstanding public relations campaign initiated by Pete Lippman, the three (Eric Faith, Pat Ostrye and Bob Bartlett) achieved an overwhelming victory and retained their seats for years. My husband Jules and I were strongly

involved in the election and Jules served as advisor to Bob Bartlett and the others.



Monrovians gather to celebrate at the Centennial Country Fair, 1987.

Simultaneously, with my efforts in Monrovia, I devoted time to foreign policy issues through the United Nations Association, the US Committee for UNICEF and the Bilateral Nuclear Freeze Campaign. Trips to Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Israel, Guatemala and Mexico expanded my understanding of poverty and how to help those suffering from neglect.

My Monrovia-related social concerns for the next several years focused on children and youth, and especially early education for low-income and minority youngsters. Starting with Unity Center and Centennial-advocated child care issues, I culminated these concerns with six years on the School Board.

Those of us who were considered inappropriate for membership in the Tennis Club (at that time the social center of the community) considered starting our own club. We never did, but a member of an old family who had been snubbed for marrying a Mexican woman became President of the John Birch Society and the Jewish Sandfords gave their time and energy to fighting bigotry and segregation.

Betty named Shirley Temple Black U.N. 25th Anniversary Chair for California

In the 1970s, Jules and I were invited to join the Tennis Club. Our answer was, "Thanks, but no thanks. You should have asked Jack and Marion (my parents)." I doubt if that segregated organization still plays a role in the social hierarchy of Monrovia.

"Life is not what you accumulate, but what you give away."
Betty Sandford

After my years as Chair of the Monrovia Centennial activities, the City honored me "for bringing people and cultures together as a community." In the late 80s and early 90s, I devoted several years to electing and retaining Bob Bartlett as a strong and effective mayor for the City of Monrovia. I also conducted an essentially one-person campaign to keep community prayers from reflecting only one religion.

While my early human relations efforts were focused on Black-White issues, during my years on the School Board I became aware of Hispanic-related issues and focused on making parent education available to Hispanic parents.

After I left the School Board, I chaired a Dropout Prevention Study for the Pasadena-area LWV and found myself involved in another predominantly Hispanic issue. Jules continued as an advisor to community leaders for the remainder of his life.

In one of Betty's favorite projects, as Chair of the Monrovia Centennial Committee, 1986-87, members dressed in period finery and celebrated their success by riding a replica of the old mule-drawn trolley in parades in Monrovia and Pasadena.

In my late 80's I initiated the ChangeMakers project to celebrate the ongoing struggle of people of all genders, colors, ethnicities and religions against bigotry. The Sandford family has continued this struggle throughout their lives.

Written by Betty Sandford

Larry Spicer

A role model of growth from volunteer to social justice advocate

As a lifelong Monrovian, Larry Spicer has always called Monrovia home. He learned the value of respecting others from his parents. But he also experienced the reality of segregation in Monrovia firsthand.

He grew up in a family with two brothers, Samuel and Richard and two sisters, Jo Ann and Janet. They lived at 433 E. Los Angeles St. in Monrovia. As a young child, Larry saw his parents -- Samuel and Geneva -- always helping others. He recalls them helping family and friends by bringing them to live in their home, sharing meals, and giving food or financial assistance.

A ChangeMaker

Among Larry Spicer's strengths is his willingness to "be there" for everyone. Combining his multitude of volunteer activities with his calming and common sense demeanor, Larry sets a fine example of giving back at its best.

His parents worked for the County of Los Angeles as foster parents for almost ten years, taking care of children whose parents were incarcerated for abuse or drugs. Later, his parents started their own foster care business – the 'Spicer Small Family Home' -- caring for ambulatory and non-ambulatory clients for over 30 years. His family was also active in Monrovia's Second Baptist Church, giving service to that faith community.

"As a young child, I always saw my parents helping others with living accommodations, food, financial assistance, whatever was needed. Their good work inspires me to this day."

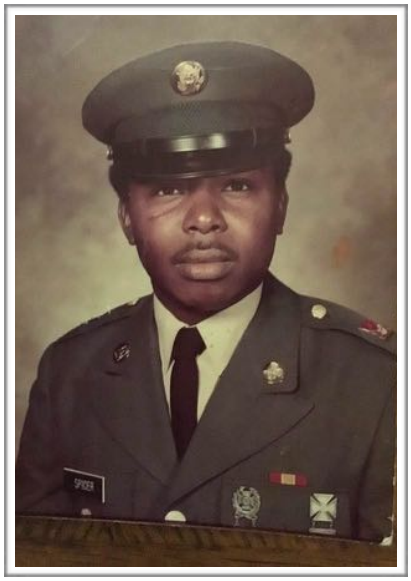
Larry Spicer

Bigotry was a fact of life in the Monrovia Larry grew up in. He said he was taught by his parents to "Love everyone, but just not to 'cross the line.'" – the unwritten 'line' (Olive Avenue) that separated the area where the Whites could live and circulate, from the area where Blacks and Hispanics could.

Larry attended Monrovia public schools from kindergarten through high school. At Huntington Elementary, a segregated school, his classmates were all African-Americans or Mexican-Americans. Although the school classrooms were segregated, the after-school parks and recreation programs were not. In those places, Larry and his African-American friends competed against all-White elementary schools in the district. Little League baseball was also not segregated. Larry noted the irony that African-American students were allowed to compete against the White students in sports, but not learn together with them in a classroom.

When Larry began Clifton Middle School, he experienced his first integrated school environment. All the children he had been playing against from the segregated elementary schools in the district were now together.

When he entered Monrovia High School, he encountered demonstrations during his freshman, sophomore and junior years. He knew not to participate for fear his dad "would put the leather piece to me." His dad's refrain was, "We send you to school to learn, not to demonstrate." The demonstrating students wanted more African-



American staff -- teachers, bus drivers, administrators and a club of their own because they weren't allowed in other clubs. Larry shared, "My senior year at Monrovia High School was a good year. Finally, all of the changes that we wanted had happened. We now had African- American teachers, bus drivers, and administration. We also had our own club -- the Black Student Union (BSU)."

In 1973, Larry enlisted in the United States Army and served our country honorably for 21 years. He wanted to see the world and to travel, and the Army provided opportunities for service outside the USA. In the military he became an expert Nuclear Biological Chemical specialist and received 15 military awards and decorations. After retirement, Larry earned an Associate of Arts degree in Applied Business Management from Excelsior College in Buffalo, New York.

Larry and his wife Delphine have been married for 22 years (in 2016) and are among the proudest parents in town. They have three children, each one a high-achieving academic honor student educated in the Monrovia public schools.

Larry and Delphine on their wedding day..

After being raised by parents who had dedicated their lives to serving others, and choosing a career that puts his life on the line in service to others, the natural next step in Larry's life was service to his community, Monrovia. His earlier experiences with bigotry and segregation and a desire to make Monrovia a more inclusive community for people of all backgrounds motivated him to be part of all kinds of organizations and eventually to be one of the City's leaders at the highest level.

His service to his community began as a parent volunteer in his children's schools. At Bradoaks Elementary, he was a Watch Dog Dad and a POP (Peace on Patrol) at Clifton Elementary School and Monrovia High School. Larry shared, "I was active in the Y Life-Friday Night Live Project for local youths. I began as a Red Cross Volunteer and Chair of the Boys Scouts of America Nominating Committee for the Lucky

Larry as a Tournament of Roses "White Suiter," January 2, 2017

Larry talks with Ralph Walker at the dedication naming part of Royal Oaks Ave. in Bob Bartlett's honor

Baldwin District and a board member for 'Make A Difference Day'. I am a graduate of the MAP (Monrovia Area Partnerships) Leadership Academy. I was a member of the Monrovia Police Citizen Committee, a member of the Community Mediation Team (CMT), a partnership of committed Monrovia, Duarte and LA County Leaders and Stakeholders, focusing on crime prevention and gang violence reduction. I am a graduate of the Community Violence Intervention Prevention Institute." Larry is also a special volunteer with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, known as a "White Suiter."

Even as he reached out across the city, he has always stayed close to his church, Second Baptist, where he has been an active member for 58 years.

Larry described his rise to the City's leadership, "During the gang shootings, I was asked by then Mayor Rob Hammond to get involved. From being an involved volunteeri in the neighborhoods, I decided to apply for the Planning Commissioner position. I was appointed as a Commissioner and served for three years. Then I was appointed as a Council Member for a year to fill the vacancy left vacant by Clarence Shaw, who was called to Active Duty. After being an appointed Council Member for a year, I decided to run for the position and was elected to the Council in April of 2013." In April, 2017, Larry was re-elected to his second term on the City Council.

In thinking about what needs to happen now, Larry's belief is "we need to continue working together as a team to be inclusive and keep the whole community involved with city activities. To continue with programs like the MAP (Monrovia Area Partnership) that continue to bring us together." Larry embodies the spirit of hopefulness combined with hard work necessary to make that a reality.

Written by Charlotte Schamadan

U.N. Gang and MYBL
& Other Young ChangeMakers

Multi-ethnic students work to bring racial equality to MHS

Even children – at least teenagers – served as change makers during the late 60s and early 70s. Prominent among them were a group of boys who referred to themselves as the 'U.N. Gang.'

The ChangeMakers

A racial mix of students join forces to change the prevailing attitude to Monrovia High School, setting the stage for integration and unity among future leaders.

Even before high school and the U.N. Gang, the early sixties had seen interracial mixing through the Monrovia Youth Baseball League (MYBL) -- "a place where race did not matter."

Lois Gaston's three sons, Harold, T.K. and Bruce, Todd Hooks, Fred Terry, Andy Bourne, Larry Spicer, David Carter, Doug Hopper, Chipper Johnson, Bobby and Johnny Price, Arnie Willett, Tony Oberdin, Larry and Jim Stavrolakis, Chuck Ochoa, Ricky Price, Dale Smith and Bobby Vance and many others all participated. A few of these went on

to become adult change makers and most continued interracial friendships throughout high school and into adult life.

"No one is too young to fight against bigotry and segregation."

Betty Sandford

One cannot withhold credit for the fact that MYBL was the place where many racially mixed personal relationships started -- from the sponsoring organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis and A&W Root Beer and such coaches and recruiters as Theodore and Calvin Bourne, Woodrow McCormick, Mr. Nyland, Mr. Perry and Mr. Steve Balber . In fact, MYBL was the only fully-integrated group at the time including all - the players, the coaches and the business sponsors.

Since the MYBL experience had been shared by many junior high and high school students -- along with dramatic and sometimes violent events at the national and state level and frustration at the slow pace of integration in their own community---it is not surprising that the existence of the U.N. Gang on campus met with a mixed response from their fellow students.

Later, an informal group of students became know as the U.N. Gang. It was made up of two Blacks -- Marcus Lewis and George (Butch) Gadbury, two Japanese-Americans – Marvin (Oka) Inouye and Gary Morishita and one Caucasian -- Dan Gephart. They spent some of their time at the Sandford house because they felt comfortable there and because there were always girls there -- the two Sandford daughters and their friends as well as their Italian exchange student sister.

The boy's experience at Monrovia High was mixed. On the one-hand, Marcus and Butch were disparaged by the Black Student Union for being "Uncle Toms" and their parents felt it necessary to intervene. On the other, they were able to bridge the different social and political groups on campus. They had friends in student government among athletes, cheerleaders and members of the marching band, as well as members of such clubs as the Monarchs, Madquins and even the BSU. The fact that Marcus was elected President of the Monrovia High Boy's League in his senior year is a fitting conclusion to this part of the story.

But all of these people were individuals and several played separate change maker roles. During their senior year, Mike Murphy, Stephanie Harris, Randy Sandford and Marcus Lewis interviewed School District officials and put together the film, 'Crisis in Monrovia Schools." A few years later another Sandford daughter, Leslie, worked on Mimi Mency's campaign for the School Board. Pictures of Dan Gephardt, Marcus Lewis, Oka's father-Kaoru, Butch's father -George, Leslie Sandford's friend, Lisa Boulton, and future husband, Cisco Lobaco, appear on the major promotional piece for the Bartlett, Ostrye, Faith Campaign for City Council and Gary Morshita worked on Bob Bartlett's campaigns for Mayor.

Beginning in the 60s, many young Monrovians of various races and religions devoted their time and talent and recruited their family and friends for achieving integration in the schools and city of Monrovia They showed that no one is too young to fight against bigotry and segregation.

Written by Betty Sandford

Ralph R. Walker

Using the media to advance human rights

Ralph R. Walker was born Chicago, Illinois, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Loyola University. It was there he learned the role the media plays in the community and came to believe that the media always has the last word.

A ChangeMaker

Ralph is a vocal proponent of encouraging people to get up and get involved. He doesn't leave the important work to others. Involvement is a sacrifice, both physically and mentally.

The 1978-79 blizzard led Ralph and his family to migrate to Pasadena, California where he eventually hosted a local TV show called "The Book Beat" that aired on Channel 56, a public access station. His most renowned guests were Muhammed Ali and Rosa Parks. At a book signing at Pasadena's Vroman's Book Store he had met Ali and asked him to come to an event at the Independent People's Black & Latino Bookstore. When Rosa Parks appeared at the KPCC radio station show hosted by Larry Mantle, Ralph got permission to be on site and persuaded her to

Ralph volunteering for the Monrovia Historic Preservation Group's Old Homes Tour, May 2016

come to the bookstore as well.

When Ralph married his wife, Judy and they had daughters, Rasheeda, Miriam and Rachel, Ralph felt it even more important to be conscious of the surrounding neighborhood. He was aware that nearby Pasadena was starting to become too much like Chicago - not as caring or safe as it had been. So the Walker family moved to Monrovia in 1988 and lived on Lemon Avenue in Monrovia near Wildrose Elementary School and Clifton Middle School.

Ralph ventured into TV production and broadcasting, and used the medium to get both sides of the stories about racial issues that he felt needed to be told.

He learned more about how the City worked by attending Monrovia's first Leadership Academy.

Ralph applied for a new job as a buyer for MUSD - for which his earlier 15 years experience working in a company that purchased high security items for the military had prepared him, but he was not hired. He felt his race had impacted the hiring decision and the incident was mentioned in a series of local newspaper articles:

1996 *Pasadena Star News*-Public Access

• July 2, 1998 "Is Society Failing Its Young People?"

As Ralph became more of an activist, he helped coordinate memorable events focused on human relations and reported on them. Ralph's opinion of

Monrovia's human relations social barometer became more visible at the Martin Luther King Day Celebration in events at Recreation Park at the Boys and Girls Club. Dignitaries attending included Mayor Bob Bartlett, local clergy, e.g., Dr. William Dillard and South African President Nelson Mandela's niece. A tree was planted to commemorate the importance of the event, although it was later removed.

Ralph was one of the first leaders to meet the Tzu Chi Buddhist Compassionate Relief Organization and welcome them to town. The group organized in Monrovia on October 19, 1991. Ralph felt their coming to Monrovia was met with resistance. He was impressed when they stepped forward to help the family of Maurice Johnson, an African-American man who died on Thanksgiving Day. Emelbra LeBlanc, a Monrovian, called Ralph to ask for help. Ralph contacted the Tzu Chi, and they funded the Johnson funeral expenses.

Ralph interviewing for KGEM

Ralph remains active with the local cable television station, KGEM, serving as a local talk show host/interviewer, and roving reporter covering local events and interviewing people on air, including Monrovia's first (and so far, only) African-American Mayor, Bob Bartlett, who hosted Bill Clinton on his visit to Monrovia in 1996.

"The media always has the last word!"

Ralph Walker

One story that Ralph has felt important to tell was the Mark Edward Allen story, the mysterious dying of a young Black teen incarcerated in the Monrovia jail. In his view, it was Mark's death on Nov. 17, 1971 that sparked the eruption or unrest in Monrovia that eventually brought change to the education, police and social systems in this community.

Ralph has certainly contributed to freedom of expression in Monrovia. Ralph now feels honored and accepted, a feeling that started with how

Monrovia celebrated the life of Buffalo Soldier Lt. Colonel Allen Allensworth at Monrovia's Historical Museum, which Ralph was part of the planning.

For his work, Ralph has been honored with various accolades:

1999 Community of the Foothills Producer of the Year

2000 Members Choice Award from the viewers

2001 Members Choice Award from the viewers

2001 W.A.V.E. - Western Access Video Excellence, Meet the Mayor, Lara Laramendi Blakely

2009 Monrovia City Council Award for 15 Years of Service to the community through KGEM.

One of the things that Ralph feels is important is for minorities, particularly African Americans, to pass on their cultural history to the younger generation and to other cultures to enrich the lives of future Monrovians.

Written by Charlotte Schamadan and Ralph Walker

Aunt Kate's home at 528 E. Cypress, Monrovia

"Aunt" Kate Wright

A saint, and Aunt for everyone

"Aunt" Kate Wright was born into slavery in Lexington, Kentucky on October 19, 1857. She attended school as a child and was able to read and write, something not true for all African-Americans of her generation.

A ChangeMaker

Aunt Kate Wright was known throughout the medical community for taking in the very ill and caring for them regardless of race. Most of her tubercular patients were White, a few Blacks, and Japanese. Race did not matter, giving them the best of treatment, did.

Little is known of Aunt Kate's family life prior to coming to Monrovia, although she appears in the United States Federal Census of 1880 in Lexington, working as a nurse. Sometime after 1880, she became a domestic servant of the household of the Rev. John Van Meter, a Presbyterian minister in Lexington. She was living with the family in 1900 in Clinton, Missouri, with her son, Marshall Wright. Due to his wife's health, the Rev. John Van Meter left his pastorate in Clinton and came to Monrovia in 1901, where he served the First Presbyterian Church for one year. Aunt Kate and her son came with them.

In 1902, John Van Meter and his wife moved to New York City where their son was in medical school. Aunt Kate remained in Monrovia,

and spent the rest of her life here. Her mother, Eliza Baker, also came to Monrovia after the death of her husband. She died here in 1918 at the age of 95 and is buried in Live Oak Cemetery.

After the Van Meter family left Monrovia, Aunt Kate supported herself by working for the family of the local superintendent of schools, Nathan F. Smith. She left a lasting impression on his daughter, Lorena Smith Holmes. Even after the Smith family moved from Monrovia, Aunt Kate would visit them in South Pasadena, taking the Red Car and carrying with her a basket full of her famous beaten biscuits. The earliest record of Aunt Kate's residence in Monrovia is in the 1908-1909 Monrovia City Directory, where she is listed as living at 528 E. Cypress Avenue. She lived on Cypress for the remainder of her life.

About 1904, Aunt Kate had a religious conversion, and out of that experience came the conviction that she was to devote her life to the care of the sick and indigent. She asked for donations of lumber and labor to build small cottages on her property, where she tended to patients suffering from tuberculosis who had no family or resources to assist them. She also asked for donations of food and nursing supplies for her patients. Without financial resources herself, Aunt Kate believed "the Lord would provide." And time after time assistance would come from unexpected sources.

"If ever there was a Saint, it is she."

Lorena Smith Holmes

Aunt Kate carried out her mission for some 30 years, until her health failed under the burden of work she had undertaken and she was forced to retire from her ministry.

For many years, Monrovians donated to a special fund so that Aunt Kate could prepare baskets for the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The local newspaper published an account of the donations to her fund as an encouragement for others to give as well.

Aunt Kate died on October 13, 1937 after a brief illness and was buried in Live Oak Cemetery next to her mother. The editor of the local newspaper wrote the following in his column:

"News has just come of the passing of Aunt Kate Wright. I can well remember, in the early days of Monrovia, when local physicians gave free treatment and Aunt Kate free board and lodging to sufferers from tuberculosis who were unable to pay for care. I have seen a dozen or more lying in their little one-room cottages on Aunt Kate's property, mostly whites, but with an occasional Negro or Japanese, and getting the best treatment she could give them. She served all alike, regardless of color, nationality or creed. Aunt Kate, of the Negro race, was a saintly character, and during the past score of years that she labored here she had hundreds of friends among Monrovia's pioneers who realized and valued her worth. A few days ago when we were informed of her serious illness, we found her reading her Bible, and cheerful as ever. The world, to her, was a good place to live in and a grand place to do the work of Her Master."

Written by Steve Baker

Joannie Gholar Yuille

An agent of change who valued all people and modeled her beliefs seven days a week

A ChangeMaker

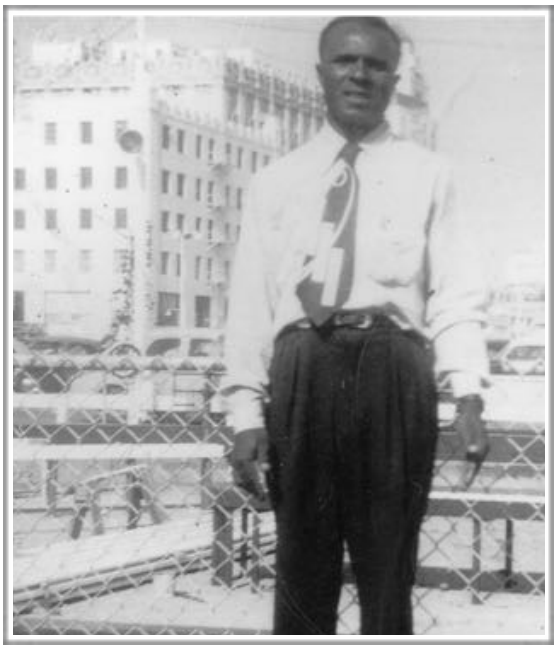
Using her strengths of strong religious belief and the sanctity of all humanity places Joannie's leadership skills in high regard. People hear what she has to say, and more importantly, they listen and act on her words.

Jonnie Bell Gholar was born in Los Angeles, California on Friday the 13th of March 1953. Bad luck? Her parents John and Annie Bell Gholar felt it was the luckiest day of their lives. Her parents had five children — Jonnie, Barbara, Larry, Janet, and Steven. Jonnie is only 11 months older than her sister, Barbara Ann. They were raised as twins and lived in Monrovia on Sherman Avenue until about 1956, when her parents bought a house at 134 East Cypress Avenue in a segregated part of town. In addition to mostly Blacks, there were Mexicans (the Tinocos), Caucasians (Miss Birdie and her adult son), and a Japanese

family (Marvin "Oka" Inouye). It was an integrated neighborhood.

Her parents were members of Second Baptist Church at the time of Jonnie's birth. As a young child, she remembers attending, but as she got older her parents became disenchanted with the fact that Sunday mornings all over the community were so segregated. Before too long the family converted to the Baha'i Faith and moved from a Black to a multiracial church.

The Gholar girls attended pre-school at the Presbyterian Church on Foothill Boulevard, where they were the only Black children. A year later, Jonnie went to Santa Fe Elementary, the only integrated elementary school in Monrovia. It had been integrated for several years and most of the discomfort was in the past.



Joannie's father, John Davis Gholar, President of Laborer's Local 492

However, bigotry and prejudice would at times flair its ugly head. Joannie still remembers an event as if it happened yesterday. She recalled, "By this time, I had added an ″a″ to the spelling of my name and dropped the 'Bell'. I was Joannie Gholar and pretty popular. At Santa Fe, we all had friends of every race. Although I must admit, I could not quite figure out how my school friends never accepted an invitation to come to my home. Our only problems seemed to be kids who moved into the area, those who were not accustomed to attending an integrated school. A tall blond pretty White girl that everyone wanted to have as a friend openly did not like Blacks. She would ask other White students, ″Why do you play with them?″ ″Is she your friend?″ ″I would never have a N friend!″

Joannie continued, "It's interesting how there seem to be major incidences that occur in one's life that stick. I think I had my first real lesson that there were people who saw me as "different" when I was in 5th grade. It evokes very strong feelings of shame and embarrassment. I was having lunch outside with a large group of friends that happened to be White, talking, laughing being kids. This relatively new White student was also

sitting in the same area. I decided to move to another group of kids sitting in the vicinity. I was pretty social.

As I walked past this new student, she stood up looked over her shoulders at the kids she was sitting with and before I realized what was happening, she lifted up my dress and shouted "Let's see how she hides her tail". It seemed as though everyone one broke into laughter. I wanted to die! I was so embarrassed, humiliated. I had just been likened to an animal. I didn't know what to do. So I just ran into the restroom and stayed there until the bell rang.

Then I had to make that long walk to line up for class. It felt like all eyes were on me. I heard giggles, whispers. I never said a word to my teacher but I felt that she knew what had happened to me at lunch. In fact, I didn't speak for the rest of the afternoon in anticipation of making the long walk to where my mother picked me up every day.

When school was out and I opened the door to our car my mother looked at me and said, "What's wrong?" In the safety of our car, out of sight of the eyes of my classmates, I burst into tears. We drove around Monrovia as I told my mother the whole story.

I remember how she waited patiently for me to share everything, never telling me to stop crying or not to be upset. By the time I finished we were in front of our house. We sat in the car. I was all cried out and silent. My mother took my hand and said, 'You are a smart, beautiful, Black girl. You come from a long line of smart, beautiful people. There are some ignorant people who do and say things out of their ignorance. It is important that we do not react to ignorance with ignorance but with dignity, because God has created you and you are a noble being. So is this little girl. She just has not discovered her nobility. You can help her by not treating her badly like she did you. Treat her better than you would treat yourself. Be proud of that while you pray for her to become her noble self.' Joannie continued, "I remember that so vividly because I heard this all my life. I feel that's how I have always looked at life's circumstances."

Joannie has no idea what the girl's consequences were but Joannie learned to appreciate her own mother's love and support. "She would not allow anyone to humiliate me. Rather than become a victim, I learned I could be an *agent of change*," Joannie said.

She fretted about going to Clifton Junior High School. All of Monrovia's public elementary 7th graders attended that school. Things began to change for her there. The majority of friends she had gone to Santa Fe with were White. On campus that first day she and many of her friends were anxious and excited but happy to reconnect. But it seemed each day more of her White "friends" avoided her and ultimately stopped talking to her. They did not want to include Joannie, their Black friend. Where was everyone? Until one day it was only Joannie at their morning before-school hang out spot. She was alone. Joannie saw one friend who walked the other way and ignored her calls. Then she noticed small racialized groups of students. She recalled, "As I approached one group where I saw some of my White friends along with other Whites whom I did not know, they began to disperse and walk away. My old friends had found new friends and did not seem to want to include me, their former Santa Fe Black friend. As I walked away, I saw a small group of Black students that I had started to see as I walked up to school each morning. I stopped where they stood and they welcomed me. For the second time in my short life I became keenly aware that I was different and because of the color of my skin there might be those who did want to be with me."

Joannie was confused by how skin color seemed to separate her from others. She remembered lessons she had learned and how her mother put a positive twist on this event. She said, "Joannie, being accepted in a group becomes very important to people. Not every one has the courage to withstand the pressure to conform. It sometimes takes people time to figure out how to stand strong for what is right. Give your friends a chance to figure this out. Also, you must understand that they all have their own journey." Determined not to be a victim,

she sought out new people and met three new girls -- Nisey, Joyce and Nettie -- who are still her good friends.

In spite of living in a prominently African American section of Monrovia, Joannie was intimately exposed to diverse cultural relationships early in her life. As a young child, Lena Pinkerton, a White Baha'i friend who lived north of Foothill Boulevard in a Caucasian area of Monrovia, mentored Joannie. Along with the Gholar family's strong emphasis on education, this woman made a lasting impression on her and helped spark her thirst for learning, fueled her passion for the Arts and commitment to helping others. When the opportunities came, Joannie also tutored younger children. Joannie set goals. People liked her and she liked all people. Helping others made her happy and she enjoyed discovering new things. It was during this time a deaf child moved in the house next door. Joannie said, "Everyone was afraid of the child but not me. I was curious so I would play with the child through the chain link fence that separated us. This went on for several months and then the family moved. I was so touched that I made a decision then to become a Speech and Language Therapist so I could to work with deaf children."

Joannie's involvement in student government and speech at Clifton Jr. High continued as she matured. She excelled in public speaking, traveled and competed successfully all over California with Monrovia High School's Speech Team.

However, the 1960s and 1970s brought challenging change, not only in Monrovia, but also in our country. It was a time of racial tension that caused many to question old standards and seek to develop new ones. It was another time of emancipation for Blacks from the Jim Crow era. Suddenly Joannie became aware that her ″perfect″ Monrovia was also in need to repair.

Friends suddenly found themselves as foes and not always sure how they got there. Too many times these confusing thoughts erupted into hate and violence. "They were sad and confusing times for me,

who had always lived in an integrated community, who always had friends on both sides of the racial lines," she said.

Joannie recalled "I remember going to school on the day before spring break in my junior high school year, and although not a member of Monrovia High's Black Student Union (BSU), I went to their meeting. They spoke about the possibility of a fight before spring break. I knew if my parents ever felt that I participated in the organization of a fight, I would be in big trouble. So when my father got home from work, I told them what might happen at school the next day. My parents felt that I should have used my influence (sure!) to convince the BSU not to fight and were disappointed in me. My idea was not to go to school, but they insisted I go and try to defuse the anger. That was my plan. But I never even had the opportunity to implement my plan. The fight seemed to erupt at the very beginning. For me it was a nightmare -- friends, fire, and fights -- and then we were sent home and it was over.

James and Joannie

Diverse groups were brought together to find solutions and at this low moment for me, we came together, worked toward solutions, appreciated each group's opinions and created unified actions to move forward. I felt so honored to be selected as one of the many agents of change."

Changes started happening for Blacks at Monrovia High! Later that spring, Joannie was elected Student Body President - the first Black female to hold this honored position; Denise Matthews was elected Song Girl, Diana Price - Varsity Cheer Leader, Joyce Hurst - Head Pep Cat, Arthur Buckley-Senior Class Vice President, Barbara Gholar - Majorette, Annette Webber - Homecoming Princess. A united student body changed the climate and Monrovia High School became a campus that began to value all its people.

Joannie attended the University of Redlands, where she graduated and earned her Speech and Language Pathologist credentials a year early. There she met James Curtis Yuille from South Central Los Angeles who had never lived in an integrated community. By 1975, they married and moved to Monrovia. By 1976, she and James had a daughter - Ruhiyyih Nikole, the first of their three children.

Her past experiences and her parents' words "Don't complain, be the *agent of change*" propelled her into service for family, friends, her church and Monrovia - her community. She was a wife, homemaker, and volunteer. At Wildrose Elementary School, Joannie was a PTA member and officer. At Monrovia High she worked with Big M Boosters, Girls Basketball Boosters, Girls Volley Ball Boosters and the MHS Show Choir. She received PTA Honor Service awards from both Mayflower Elementary and Monrovia High.

Her tireless volunteerism in City of Monrovia was focused on the needs of children. At a Monrovia Town meeting, she and Betty Sandford realized they both were concerned about the government's interest in children when making decisions. They formed a small group with a goal to make Monrovia a child development-centered community. The Monrovia Reads Project is an indirect outcome of Betty and Joannie's initial meeting.

Joannie was appointed to the Baha'i National Education Task Force to help develop a spiritual Pre-school through High School educational curriculum. There were 15 lesson planning guides developed and published and a six-volume storybook series. Baha'i children and youth in Monrovia, as well as communities worldwide, now benefit daily from this curriculum.

Diagnosed with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH), a rare incurable lung disease in 2009, Joannie felt like a victim for over a year until she was given an invitation to participate in a new program -

Monrovia Area Partners (MAP). She began to see herself instead as an agent of change. Her mental attitude became more powerful than her physical limiations.. Since that first meeting, she has led MAP Neighborhood Conferences and helped the youth develop their leadership skills. Covered subjects include anti-bullying and building self-esteem for Monrovia's children, adults, and seniors. The program brings greater understanding of unity in the community. She also serves on the city's Community Services Commission.

In 2011, the idea of an Interfaith Council of Monrovia was presented to Joannie during a conversation with city employees. The idea of having various faith-based congregations in Monrovia work together to serve our community was intriguing. She asked another MAP leader, Alena Uhamaka, Pastor of the United Methodist Church of Monrovia and Bobbi Rahmanian, a fellow member of the Baha'i faith and a former member of the Arcadia Interfaith Council who had recently moved to Monrovia, to assist with this project. They decided to annually host an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service in November and on the National Day of Prayer in May. Canned goods and monetary donations for Foothill Unity Center, a local non- profit organization, are collected during both events. Their first Thanksgiving service was held Thursday, November 21, 2013. Interfaith Council has continued to grow. Currently there are 18 members representing the Buddhist, Islamic, Baha'i, Jewish, and Christian (Protestant and Catholic) communities.

Joannie is a long-time member of the Monrovia-Duarte Black Alumni Association and the Monrovia High School Alumni Association. For several years, she has planned, staffed and coordinated Black History projects that include all of Monrovia's public schools and the community at large. Her vision was to make each event a "teachable moments and life changing experience". The Black History programs are hosted in Monrovia's public schools so all children can envision the many contributions of African Americans. Hopefully these images will help shield them from prejudice and bigotry.

James and Joannie's children and the children of Monrovia grew up in a community where there were many examples of people of African

descent in leadership roles. The Yuilles had African American teachers, principals, counselors, a mayor, as well as loving parents who were also devoted to promoting excellence in all things. Regardless of what color you were, there were examples of human equality present.

Due to the political agenda of late in our nation, the youth of Monrovia went through a period where diversity had waned. The Arts Festival grew out of that. It allows all children in Monrovia to have a positive interaction, using art as one of the mediums, so they understand and appreciate the contributions of African Americans.

"Over the years, Monrovians have embraced the idea of recognizing and celebrating the contributions of ALL people. Let's keep it up!"

Joannie Yuille

This project has expanded and is an example of Monrovia's progress by its residents and our elected officials. From the very first event city staff and elected officials have been supportive and encouraging by promoting attendance and attending Black History events. Thus, modeling tolerance and a community - the 'Gem City of the Foothills' - that is inclusive and appreciative of its diversity. In 2017, Monrovia Unified School District honored Joannie with its "Golden Apple" award in recognition of the success of her involvement in the community's Black History programs.

Despite physical challenges due to PAH, Joannie, is still employed by the Baldwin Park Unified School District. A Speech and Language Therapist, she is a leader in her profession, holds special certificates as a Race Unity Trainer and Teacher Trainer, has been named Service District Teacher of the Year, is a member of the California Teachers' Association and also serves as a PAH support leader for a group that meets six times a year in Monrovia. She has made a concerted effort to educate as many Monrovians as possible about this rare disease in order to help with early diagnosis, has organized three successful walks and raised over $40,000 to date.

In 2015, Joannie received an "Unsung Heroines" award from United States Congresswoman Grace Napolitano for her community service, noting that her volunteer efforts are not limited to Monrovia. She has assisted with Habitat for Humanity projects and for years, with

members of her family and the Baha'i Community, organized Southern California youth to help with the Special Olympics program. She developed a training program about how to be a selfless servant to the athletes and understand their various abilities. Each year 50 young people stay at Gholar families' homes and ride in a chartered bus to the Special Olympics for a day of service, fellowship and fun. In 2015, Joannie's group helped at the World Games. Responsible for getting hosts to escort basketball teams on and off the court, Joannie has interfaced with coaches, athletes, as well as parents, folks from all over the world.

Joannie summarizes, "Over the years, so much has changed. I feel that as a community and as individuals, Monrovians have embraced the idea of recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of all people. I am proud of the community for becoming more proactive in identifying challenges and working on solutions before they reach a crisis-point. I also believe that we are seeing far more tolerance of diversity. I see an appreciation of diversity as a strength of Monrovia's society.

Joannie was honored as a Distinguished Woman of the Year 2015 by Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D-CA), 32nd Congressional District.

But as the same time it is clear in 2017 we still have a long way to go. It continues to be a work in progress. I find my children and grandchildren are still experiencing prejudice and bigotry in Monrovia. When my daughter, Ruhiyyih attended Wildrose School, they assumed I was her unwed mother. At MHS, she was unable to be a lead in a show due to her race. My son Justin went to Mayflower Elementary School and faced discrimination. At Clifton, he encountered prejudice. He, too, has his own story of racism at Monrovia High School. Monrovia, we have the same issues with different players at the same schools, Mayflower Elementary and Clifton. My grandsons, Justin and Tristin are subjected to what my family now has had – four generations of racism and bigotry."

"My religion, profession and volunteerism reflect my desire to bring people from diverse backgrounds together in harmony. Personally, I don't consider myself a 'ChangeMaker'. I'm just Joannie doing Joannie," she added, "I m committed to continue working so the gains of previous years don't slip through our community's fingers. I believe it is important to hold on to the principles, to the integrity witnessed in planning and organizing for the future. Monrovians must live to serve the entire populace and uphold the actions that have come to be recognized as the 'Monrovia way' of doing things. The community as a whole needs to see itself as a changemaker. And as individuals, we must always use the measuring stick of social justice to raise our standards."

Joannie closed with these words, "As we celebrate how far we have come, we need to realize we still have a long way to go to achieve our desired goal. We cannot be satisfied with our accomplishments to date. We have to continue to identify how individually we must improve ourselves. We have to engage in true friendships and fellowships by stepping out of our comfort zones. To make room for hospitality in our lives. We need to be of service to each other. As an African American woman, I need my White brothers and sisters to speak out about the injustices of our society with those that you call friends.

I, as a woman of African descent, need not tolerate the sweeping generalization often spoken about people who are racially or socially different than me. We need to see the community as a beautiful rainbow and make it our goal that all members of the rainbow are represented in every aspect of our personal life and our community. We need to all take up the banner of the African proverb ″It takes a village…″ by being productive members of the village."

Written by Joannie Yuille and Lois Gaston

Conclusions

What Do We Still Need to Do?

Because bigotry still exists even though much progress has been made, we gathered a collection of thoughts about what still needs to be done. These are samples we offer in the hope that they will inspire readers to build on the list and on the work done by the change makers we've written about here.

Larry Spicer:
We need to elect leaders who are capable of having a wide lens of vision to see and speak for all the stakeholders in the community. We need to keep our vision on the weakest residents because we are only as strong as our weakest link.

Bob Bartlett:
Treat people with respect. You need people to buy-in to what you want to accomplish.

Isaac Epperson:
Hang on to history. The files of the Monrovia NAACP were lost.

Ulises Gutierrez:
Keep fostering one-on-one relationships with troubled youth.

Betty Sandford:
Continue to take the work of civil rights and human rights seriously. The minute we take our eyes off the process is the minute we lose all we've accomplished.

Ralph Walker:
Minorities, particularly African-Americans, are not passing the cultural history to its younger generation and to other cultures. We need to stay vigilant.

Joannie Yuille:
We need to be of service to each other. As an African-American woman, I need my White brothers and sisters to speak out about the injustices of our society with those that you call friends.

Acronyms

ABC	Alliance for a Better Community
BSU	Black Student Union
HRC	Human Relations Committee
KKK	Ku Klux Klan
LWV	League of Women Voters
MAD	Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte (original name of first area high school)
MUSD	Monrovia Unified School District
MYBL	Monrovia Youth Baseball League
NAACP	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
PFC	Private First Class, United States Army
PTA	Parent Teachers Association
PTSA	Parent Teachers Student Association
U. N.	United Nations
WWII	World War II
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

A Special Invitation

From months of research, writing, collecting materials and talking with Monrovians about our human rights history, it became clear that there remains much more history to share.

Please consider this collection of stories and histories as just a beginning.

We invite you to contribute to the effort to keep Monrovia's civil rights history alive so that these vital collections of the past can inform future generations who will carry on and create greater equality among Monrovians, and indeed, the world.

We hope you will join us with your own memories and recollections of life in Monrovia as it relates to Change Making. What did you do, whom do you remember learning from about social injustice?

Who were your teachers, your families, your mentors, your adversaries?

Let us know. We're listening.

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