



Dolores Huerta

1930 - present

- Leader of the farmworkers movement and led a grape boycott that reached an estimated 17 million people
- Born in New Mexico
- Believed in political organizing to effect change
- She led voter registration drives and fought for economic justice for workers
- While she worked in California most, her efforts impacted the world

“Si se puede.”

– Dolores Huerta, she came up with the phrase that is associated with Chávez

“Dolores helped lead a worldwide grape boycott that forced growers to agree to some of the country’s first farm worker contracts. And ever since she has fought to give more people a seat at the table.”

– President Barack Obama

Ruth Acty

1913 - 1998

- In 1940, she became the first African American teacher in Berkeley public schools
- Born in Oakland
- Taught English to kids and adults, as well as, French, literature and drama
- Worked 50 years as a teacher
- Taught at Longfellow and at Lincoln (now Malcolm X), middle school at Burbank Junior High (now West Campus), and also taught at the Adult School



“Miss Ruth Acty’s significance in the history of the Bay Area is unparalleled.

She represented the best in excellence, elegance, commitment, determination, perseverance and persistence.”

– Robert Haynes, Senior Curator for the African American Museum And Library in Oakland



denise brown

1957 - 2007

- Started as a volunteer parent at LeConte and became a teacher
- Born in Oakland
- Kindergarten teacher and after-school drama teacher at LeConte for ten years
- The LeConte auditorium is dedicated to her
- Her last position was with Berkeley High and the AHA small school program

“denise had a gift for fostering understanding and empathy...”

My children... attribute many of their qualities and values, including empathy, feminism, self-confidence and participation as allies in social justice struggles, to denise’s influence.”

– A former parent who submitted denise’s name



Sylvia Mendez

1936 - present

- Sylvia's parents filed the *Mendez v. Westminster* case so she could go to her neighborhood school
- In 1946, she was eight years old when the landmark court case was won and led to the end of desegregation in California schools
- Her role led to *Brown v. Board of Education*
- Born in Santa Ana, California
- Active civil rights speaker



“This is the history of the United States, of California, this isn’t just about Mexicans.

If you start fighting for justice then people of all ethnicities will be involved.”

– Sylvia Mendez



Mary Tape Mamie Tape

1857-1934, 1876-1972

- Born in Qing, China and San Francisco
- In 1885, Mary fought for Mamie's access to San Francisco's white public schools
- The California Supreme Court sided with the Tapes, allowing Mamie to attend the "Whites only" school, but lawmakers changed laws for segregation
- Moved to Berkeley for its schools

**"I will let the world see sir What justice there is
When it is governed by the Race of prejudice
men! ... I guess she is more of an American
[than] a good many of you that is going to
prevent her [from] being educated."**

– Mary Tape, Mamie's mother, who was the principal driving force in their fight



Ohlone

Indigenous people
Inhabiting Berkeley

- Ohlone were living on this land when Spanish explorers arrived in the late 18th century
- More than 50 distinct landholding groups
- Some artifacts are more than 5,700 years old
- In late 18th century, the Ohlone lived along the coast of the San Francisco Bay all the way to Monterey Bay to the lower Salinas Valley

Vincent Medina, a descendant of Ohlone, wants to “show that we are part of society and we are here.”

“The Chochenyo language had nearly died, and now it will be heard by the largest number of people in the history of the world.”

– Vincent Medina said this in anticipation of a ceremony with Pope Francis, at which he read in the nearly forgotten language



Arcoíris

Rainbow
(From Spanish)

- Escuela Arco Iris was a name suggested by a student last year
- Caused by sun coming through rain
- Symbolizes diversity, loving multiculturalism, and acceptance
- A symbol for the indigenous Inca people in Peru and Bolivia
- A symbol of pride used by the lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and transgender community

“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud”

– Maya Angelou

“Donde termina el arco iris,
En tu alma o en el horizonte?

Where does the rainbow end,
In your soul or on the horizon?”

– Pablo Neruda