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# **Finding aid for the Making a Difference: Outstanding Women in Grand Rapids History exhibit Collection 264**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections  
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## Table of Contents

Summary Information .....	5
Biographical / Historical .....	5
Scope and Contents .....	6
Administrative Information .....	7
Related Materials .....	7
Controlled Access Headings .....	7
Collection Inventory .....	8
Series I. Exhibit Panels and Ancillary Collection Content. ....	8
Series II. List of Panels, Alphabetically .....	8
Series III. Stories .....	9
Marion Ladewig, 1914 .....	10
Betty Ford, 1918-2011 .....	10
Dorothy Judd, 1898-1989 .....	11
Dr. Pearl Kendrick, 1890-1980 & Dr. Grace Eldering, 1900-1988 .....	11
Madeline La Framboise, 1780-1846 .....	12
Anna Sutherland Bissell, 1846-1934 .....	12
Joan Wolfe, 1929- .....	12
Jacoba Robbert, 1864-1957 .....	13
Connie Sweeris, 1948- .....	13
Helen Jackson Claytor, 1907-2005 .....	14
Eva Hamilton, 1873-1948 .....	14
Dr. Frances Rutherford, 1842-1922 .....	15
Evangeline Lamberts, 1923- .....	15
Nora Carr, 1845-1915 & Nora Husted, 1871-1935 .....	15
Valeria Lipczynski, 1846-1930 .....	16
Emily Burton Ketcham, 1838-1907 .....	16
Hattie Beverly, 1874-1904 .....	17
Marie Kirkpatrick, 1900-1994 .....	17
Rosamund Rouse, 1882-1964 .....	17
Constance Rourke, 1885-1941 .....	18
Viva Flaherty, 1884-1968 .....	18
Mabel Balyeat, 1883-1985 .....	19
Emma Cole, 1845-1910 .....	19

Alice Follett Uhl, 1843-1917 .....	20
Roberta Griffith, 1870-1941 .....	20
Guadalupe Vargas, 1908- & Virginia Moralez, 1943- .....	21
Grand Rapids Chicks, 1943-1954 .....	21
Sr. Mary Ignatius McCord, Sr. Mary Anthony McMullen, Sr. Mary Baptist Feldner. Founders of St. Mary's Hospital, 1893 .....	22
The Women of the Union Benevolent Association, 1846 .....	22
The Founders of St. Mark's Home, 1873 .....	23
Dolores Smith Hruby .....	23
Debra LaShea Perry .....	23
Maria Lund Royce, 1895-1972 .....	24
Eloise Lisle Johnson .....	24
Series IV. Making a Difference Exhibit : Graphics Index. 00.[550].1-37 .....	25
1. Balyeat, Mabel, 1883-1985 .....	25
2. Beverly, Hattie 1874-1904 .....	25
3. Bissell, Anne Sutherland 1846-1934 .....	25
4. Carr, Nora (Mrs. J.C. Carr), 1845-1915 & Nora Husted, 1871-1935. ....	25
5. Claytor, Helen Jackson, 1907- .....	26
6. Cole, Emma 1845-1910 .....	26
7. Flaherty, Viva, 1884-1968 .....	26
8. Ford, Betty, 1918- .....	26
9. Grand Rapids Chicks, 1943-1954 .....	26
10. Griffith, Roberta, 1870-1941 .....	27
11. Grogel, Suzanne Shoep*, .....	27
12. Hamilton, Eva, 1873-1948 .....	27
13. Hruby, Dolores Smith* .....	27
14. Johnson, Eloise Lisle* .....	27
15. Judd, Dorothy, 1898-1989 .....	28
16. Kendrick, Dr. Pearl, 1890-1980 & Dr. Grace Eldering, 1901-1988 .....	28
17. Ketcham, Emily Burton, 1838-1907. Board is buckling .....	28
18. Kirkpatrick, Marie, 1900-1994 .....	28
19. La Framboise, Madeline, 1780-1846 .....	28
20. Ladewig, Marion, 1914- .....	29
21. Lamberts, Evangeline, 1923- .....	29
22. Lipczynski, Valeria, 1846-1930 .....	29
23. Perry, Debra LaShea* .....	29
24. Robbert, Jacoba, 1864-1957 .....	30
25. Rourke, Constance 1885-1941 .....	30

26. Rouse, Rosamund 1882-1964 .....	30
27. Royce, Maria Lund* .....	30
28. Rutherford, Frances, Dr., 1842-1922 .....	30
29. St. Mark's Home, Founder, 1873 .....	31
30. St. Mary's Hospital Founders, Sr. Mary Ignatius McCord, Sr. Mary Anthony McMullen, Sr. Mary Baptist Feldner, 1893. ....	31
31. Sweeris, Connie, 1948- .....	31
32. Uhl, Alice Follett, 1843-1917 .....	31
33. Union Benevolent Assoc., Women, 1846 .....	31
34. Vargas, Guadalup, 1908- & Virginia Morales, 1943- .....	32
35. Wolfe, Joan, 1929- .....	32

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Title:</b>	Making a Difference: Outstanding Women in Grand Rapids History exhibit
<b>ID:</b>	Collection 264
<b>Date:</b>	no date
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5.8 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Making a Difference Collection contains the panels from an exhibit called "Making a Difference: Outstanding Women in Grand Rapids History." It was originally displayed in the Ryerson Gallery at the Grand Rapids Public Library in 1997, in conjunction with the Legacy 1997 celebration. Subsequently, five(5) additional panels were added by the Women's History Council, for a total of some 40 individual women or organizations represented. A list of all the women/panels in this collection is given here, annotated for those women added after the exhibit. Stories used on the exhibit panels have been included in this finding aid, along with brief indexing to the graphics used on the panels.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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This collection contains the panels from an exhibit "Making a Difference : Outstanding Women in Grand Rapids History." It was was originally displayed in the Ryerson Gallery at the Grand Rapids Public Library in 1997, in conjunction with the Legacy 1997 celebration. Subsequently, five (5) additional panels were added by the Women's History Council, and the original board panels were attached to heavier boards. A list of all the women/panels in this collection is given, annotated for this women added after the exhibit.

The scripts on the original panels were written by City Historian Gordon Olson. These scripts have been included in this finding aid, with a copy in the collection. They are given in alphabetical order in the printed collection version, but in no particular order in this finding aid.

Photographs and ephemera items, such as music and music covers, programs, advertising cards, clippings, and documents, were taken from a variety of sources, in the GRPL or elsewhere. Most are unidentified. One section of this finding aid has been created to serve as an information resource on the location and availability of these individual display items, as a source is determined. For example, on the Pearl Kendrick/Grace Eldering display panel, there is a group photo which includes Eldering, but also including Loney Gordon, who in the year 2000 was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame for her work with Kendrick and Eldering. The copy photo used on the exhibit panel was taken from a photo located in the GRPL Archival Collection #34, Kent County Health Department Collection.

Also included in the collection is a copy of the publication *Seven Women Who Made a Difference* from the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council. This publication, made in conjunction with the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame, contains images used on the panels and/or found in the GRPL collections.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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The actual physical contents of this collection are the oversized panels created for the exhibit. No documentation from the preparation of the exhibit exists to document where the images on the panels came from, although several are known to exist in various GRPL archival collections. It is also unknown if all of the original exhibit panels are included in the set documented in this collection.

This finding aid differs from most in that the information described as Series II through Series IV, has actually been provided digitally within this finding aid, as well as in print within the collection materials.

The Series III materials are the brief biographies prepared by former City Historian Gordon Olson. These biographies provided some of the written content used on the panels.

Where Series I tells the user the physical content of the collection, Series II and Series IV are indexes to that physical content. The two lists in Series II are for the panels originally made in 1997, and those added, which should reflect the total today. Series IV details information on the panel, under the name of each outstanding woman.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Grand Rapids Public Library and Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council. Accession number 00.[550].1-37.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

See the publication "Women in Grand Rapids History : a Guide to Resources in the Local History Department of the Grand Rapids Public Library," 2001, for information on holdings related to women in the GRPL Archives.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Women -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

## Collection Inventory

### Series I. Exhibit Panels and Ancillary Collection Content.

Title/Description	Instances	
Making a Difference ... List of panels.	Box 1	Folder 1
Making a Difference ... Exhibit scripts.[Copy]	Box 1	Folder 2
Making a Difference ... Image availability list.	Box 1	Folder 3
Seven Women Who Made A Difference / Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council. [Copy]	Box 1	Folder 4
Title panel <u>Physical Location</u> : Unboxed	Box 1.5	
Carr/Husted, Claytor, Hamilton, Kendrick/Eldering	Box 2	
Grand Rapids Chicks <u>Physical Location</u> : Possibly housed in Box 2 or Box 3	Box Unknown	
Balyeat, Grogel, Hruby, Johnson	Box 3	
Flaherty, Griffith, Judd	Box 4	
Beverly, Cole, Ford	Box 5	
Kirkpatrick, La Framboise, Ladewig, Lamberts, Robbert	Box 6	
Ketcham, Lipczynski, St. Marks, St. Marys, Vargas	Box 7	
Perry, Rouse, Royce, Sweeris, UBA	Box 8	
Rourke, Rutherford, Uhl, Wolfe	Box 9	
Bissell	Box 10	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series II. List of Panels, Alphabetically

#### General

\*Indicates additions by Womens History Council

#### General

##### Panel List

- 1 Mabel Balyeat, 1883-1985
- 2 Hattie Beverly, 1874-1904
- 3 Anna Sutherland Bissell, 1846-1934

- 4 Nora Carr(Mrs. J.C. Carr), 1845-1915 & Nora Husted, 1871-1935.
- 5 Helen Jackson Claytor, 1907-
- 6 Emma Cole, 1845-1910
- 7 Viva Flaherty, 1884-1968
- 8 Betty Ford, 1918-
- 9 Grand Rapids Chicks, 1943-1954
- 10 Roberta Griffith, 1870-1941
- 11 Suzanne Shoep Grogel\* [No "Story" available here; see panel]
- 12 Eva Hamilton, 1873-1948
- 13 Dolores Smith Hruby\*
- 14 Eloise Lisle Johnson\*
- 15 Dorothy Judd, 1898-1989
- 16 Dr. Pearl Kendrick, 1890-1980 & Dr. Grace Eldering, 1901-1988 [Loney Gordon]
- 17 Emily Burton Ketcham, 1838-1907
- 18 Marie Kirkpatrick, 1900-1994
- 19 Madeline La Framboise, 1780-1846
- 20 Marion Ladewig, 1914-
- 21 Evangeline Lamberts, 1923-
- 22 Valeria Lipczynski, 1846-1930
- 23 Debra LaShea Perry\*
- 24 Jacoba Robbert, 1864-1957
- 25 Constance Rourke, 1885-1941
- 26 Rosamund Rouse, 1882-1964
- 27 Maria Lund Royce\*
- 28 Dr. Frances Rutherford, 1842-1922
- 29 St. Mark's Home, Founder, 1873
- 30 St. Mary's Hospital Founders, Sr. Mary Ignatius McCord, Sr. Mary Anthony McMullen, Sr. Mary Baptist Feldner, 1893.
- 31 Connie Sweeris, 1948-
- 32 Alice Follett Uhl, 1843-1917
- 33 Union Benevolent Assoc., Women, 1846
- 34 Guadalup Vargas, 1908- & Virginia Morales, 1943-
- 35 Joan Wolfe, 1929-
- 36 Title Panel, 2 copies.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series III. Stories

### Scope and Contents

One of the most interesting ways to study history—and the way many non-historians enjoy is through biography. The stories of military leaders and politicians tell us a great deal about leadership, policy, strategy, along with the great events in national history. Those we select to have their stories told also tell us a great deal about what we value and deem most important. Let me give you an idea of what I mean. I want to tell you the stories of three individuals and then have you decide which are most worthy of inclusion in a history of Grand Rapids.

#### Stories

The women whose stories are told in this exhibit demonstrate the many ways citizens can make a difference in the life of their community. They come from fields as varied as government, business, health care, and sports. In time, they cover more than two hundred years of history. Some were trailblazers, the first of their gender to move into positions previously closed to women. Others made a difference through lifelong community service.

This is not intended to be an exhibit of the 30 most influential or outstanding women in Grand Rapids history. Rather these women are representative of the many time periods and fields of endeavor in which women have helped give the community its distinctive way of life. For every woman represented in the exhibit there are others, equally important, who might have been chosen instead. The exhibit marks the beginning of an effort to recognize women's contributions, not the end.

There are, however, certain characteristics that seem to typify all who were selected. To a person, they were goal setters who understood the importance of working steadily and dilligently to achieve their purpose. They also valued education and saw it as one of the tools they needed to achieve their goals. Each and everyone of them understood that contributions of time and resources benefited themselves as well as their community. While they often received personal recognition for their work, they understood the value of teamwork and collaboration and made it an effective cornerstone of their leadership. Finally, they understood the need to break down barriers of discrimination and bias that hold people back and deny the community the opportunity of their energy and their talents. Not one of these women sought special recognition, they all deserve it.

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE : OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN GRAND RAPIDS HISTORY / Gordon Olson, City Historian**

"Making A Difference" was funded, in part, by a grant from the Nokomis Foundation. It was prepared by the staff of the Grand Rapids Public Library's Local History Department. Exhibit design and installation was by Anna Fraser of Heirloom Artistry.

### **Marion Ladewig, 1914**

#### **Biographical / Historical**

Considered the greatest woman bowler of all time, Marion Ladewig earned that distinction by virtue of an unparalleled number of national bowling titles throughout a career that spanned more than 30 years. Because of the extensive media coverage given bowling in the 1950s and 1960s, the eight-time U.S. Open champion emerged as the sport's first media star and helped elevate women's bowling to a more competitive level. She was a nine-time winner of the Bowling Writers Association Woman Bowler of the Year honor, and the only woman ever to win city, state, and national titles in the same season.

Marion Ladewig helped organize the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA), the nation's first women's professional bowling group, and then won its inaugural event in 1960. Four years later, she became the first woman elected to the Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC) Hall of Fame. Throughout her career, Ladewig worked for the Brunswick Corporation, a manufacturer of bowling equipment. As a member of Brunswick's advisory staff of bowling champions, she traveled extensively and promoted her sport through exhibitions and clinics.

Marion Ladewig's professional career became a model and an inspiration for other women to follow. As an athlete she gained widespread recognition and fame, thereby paving the way for women professionals in other sports.

### **Betty Ford, 1918-2011**

#### **Biographical / Historical**

When Gerald R. Ford became president in August 1974, Betty Ford brought an activism to the role of First Lady that had not been seen since the days of Eleanor Roosevelt. She used her prominence to publicize such issues as the Equal Rights Amendment and to gather support for worthy causes such as cancer research, and she seldom hesitated to speak her mind.

Growing up in Grand Rapids, Betty Bloomer graduated from Central High School and was working at Herpolsheimer's Department Store when she married Gerald R. Ford in 1948. An aspiring dancer, she gave up

her own dreams of a career to raise a family and provide support and counsel to her husband throughout his long political career, which was capped by his ascension to the presidency in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

During the Fords' brief tenure in the White House, Betty Ford became well known for her courage and candor in coping with personal crisis. Her public acknowledgment of her own breast cancer inspired others and focused public attention on the dangers of the disease. She also spoke openly about her battle to overcome serious drug and alcohol dependency problems, and in 1982 founded the Betty Ford Center for Drug Rehabilitation at the Eisenhower Medical Center in southern California. In addition to her longtime involvement with the American Cancer Society, the Arthritis Foundation, and programs in support of mental health and underprivileged children, she has become a lay expert on the problems of drug abuse and has provided courage, understanding, and the means of treatment for thousands who have taken her personal example to heart.

## **Dorothy Judd, 1898-1989**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Dorothy Leonard Judd believed wholeheartedly in the importance of good government. She earned her degree from Vassar College in 1920, and taught American history and government at Central High School until her marriage to attorney Siegel Wright Judd in 1922. While in college, she was active in women's suffrage activities, and after the 19th Amendment passed in 1919, she joined the League of Women Voters. Believing that once they got the vote, women should work to improve the quality of government, Judd served as president of the Grand Rapids League of Women Voters chapter in 1926-27, was state chairman from 1927 to 1929, and was a national director from 1929 to 1932.

During a lifetime devoted to public service, Judd widely influenced the quality of government on both the local and state levels. She worked to reform Michigan's voter registration laws and establish the merit system in state and local government. She served on the state Civil Service Study Commission in 1936 and, in 1939, led a successful movement for the adoption of a constitutional amendment establishing the Michigan Civil Service. She served as the chairman of the state Civil Service Commission in 1965. Locally, Judd published a text titled *Our City Government* which was used in Grand Rapids schools and served as a model for similar texts throughout the country. She also helped organize the Citizens Action reform movement that unseated Mayor George Welsh and several commissioners in 1949. Grand Rapids owes much of its reputation for good government today to the efforts of Dorothy Judd.

## **Dr. Pearl Kendrick, 1890-1980 & Dr. Grace Eldering, 1900-1988**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Dr. Pearl Kendrick and Dr. Grace Eldering developed a vaccine for whooping cough that all but eliminated a deadly childhood disease. Employees of the Michigan Department of Health, they began working on a whooping cough vaccine after seeing the ailment's deadly results firsthand. Kendrick, a microbiologist, began working for the health department in 1920, coming to Grand Rapids in 1926 to establish the department's Western Michigan Branch Laboratory. She began research on whooping cough in 1932, enlisting the help of Eldering, a bacteriologist. Together they devised a program of research and conducted lab experiments. Field testing was done in their off hours, as the health department was understaffed and there were no extra funds for research.

Once their whooping cough vaccine had been proven successful and was in general use, Kendrick and Eldering turned their attention to other children's diseases, successfully combining shots for diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus into a single DPT inoculation that has since been routinely given to millions of children to prevent these terrible diseases.

Without benefit of large budgets and elaborate laboratories, Dr. Kendrick and Dr. Eldering produced a lifetime legacy that will be long remembered. Their research dramatically improved health conditions for children throughout the world.

## **Madeline La Framboise, 1780-1846**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Born of French and Indian ancestry, Madeline La Framboise was one of the most successful independent fur traders in early Michigan history. Described as a "beautiful, brave, and spirited" young woman she married fur trader Joseph La Framboise, and together they established a trading business along the Grand River and built a trading post near the present community of Ada.

In the fall of 1806, while Madeline, Joseph, and their children, Joseph and Josette, were trading at a village near Muskegon, Joseph was shot and killed by an Ottawa named White Ox. Instead of returning to Mackinac Island Madeline took over their business, expanding it to include posts throughout the western and northern portions of Michigan's lower peninsula. She earned from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year at a time when \$1,000 was about what a good, experienced trader could expect. It was becoming increasingly difficult, however, to compete with large companies, and in 1818 La Framboise sold her business to John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company, staying on to manage her post for its new owners for three years before retiring to Mackinac Island.

In retirement she taught herself to read and write French and English, and began a second career, teaching children at St. Anne's Parish on the island. In addition, her gifts of money and property were one of the parish's main means of support. Determined and indomitable, she successfully made her way in a decidedly man's world. At her death, she left a financially secure family and a solid enduring reputation as an outstanding businesswoman and well-respected community member.

## **Anna Sutherland Bissell, 1846-1934**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Anna Sutherland Bissell was an innovative, progressive businesswoman who built a small carpet sweeper company into an international giant. Her business career began with her marriage to Melville Bissell and their move to Grand Rapids from Kalamazoo in 1871 to expand their crockery and china business. They were a well-matched team. Melville was a skilled inventor and craftsman, and Anna understood marketing and business development. After Melville developed a functional carpet sweeper in 1876, Anna sold their product from town to town, building a broad customer base. When a fire struck the first manufacturing plant in 1884, it was Anna who secured loans from local banks to keep the business going.

After Melville's death in 1889, Anna became chief executive officer and over the next 30 years built the company into the largest firm of its kind in the world. She initiated progressive labor policies, including workers compensation insurance and pension plans, long before these were widespread in industry.

The mother of five children, Anna shouldered civic as well as family responsibilities, founding the Bissell Settlement House, which provided aid and education to needy women and their families. She also extended her personal commitment and financial support to the Blodgett Home for Children, the Union Benevolent Association (now Blodgett Memorial Medical Center) and the Clark Memorial Home. In 1991 Anna Bissell's work brought her an honored place as the only woman in the Junior Achievement of Michigan Great Lakes Business Hall of Fame.

## **Joan Wolfe, 1929-**

## **Biographical / Historical**

A Detroit-area native who moved to Grand Rapids in 1960, Joan Wolfe was instrumental in coordinating the activities of Michigan environmental groups to insure passage of several major pieces of environmental legislation. Her volunteer work with local environmental organizations firmly established her reputation as an ardent environmental advocate.

As environmental consciousness grew in the 1960s, Wolfe saw several volunteer environmental groups working for similar goals and concluded that they needed to join together if they hoped to bring about meaningful change. In 1968 she founded the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, the first regional environmental coordinating organization in the United States, and served as its first chair and then became its executive director from 1971 to 1973. Determined to reverse the environmental blight she saw in the state, she spearheaded the drive to enact Michigan's landmark Environmental Protection Act in 1970. The first bill of its kind in the nation, it soon became a model for similar legislation in other states.

With a statewide reputation for environmental advocacy, Wolfe became the first woman to serve on the state's powerful Natural Resources Commission from 1973 to 1982, and in 1977 became the first woman to chair the agency. Her book *Making Things Happen: A Guide to Members of Volunteer Organizations*, has been described as "required reading for... people involved in all forms of volunteer work." As it sets forth the principles of collaboration and organizing political activity that enabled her to help bring about changes in Michigan's environmental laws, the work serves as a blueprint for community activism in whatever form it takes.

## **Jacoba Robbert, 1864-1957**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Jacoba Robbert was the woman behind the movement to create Pine Rest Christian Hospital. While her husband, John, a Christian Reformed minister, was serving the First Kalamazoo Reformed Church, she began conducting religious meetings at the State Mental Hospital located there. As she worked with patients, Robbert became convinced that people with mental disabilities would benefit from spiritual care. Holding no official position in her church, she nevertheless began working to persuade its leaders to support her idea. In 1906, she published an article in the Dutch-language newspaper, *De Wachter* coupling her call for the establishment of a Christian mental institution with a challenge: "Can there be true healing of the soul without the Great Physician?"

Slowly, support grew for the idea of a church-associated hospital, and in 1909, Robbert was one of 70 men and women who gathered at LaGrave Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids to lay the groundwork for the 1910 founding of the Association for the Christian Care of the Mentally Ill in North America. In December the 173-acre Cutler farm south of Grand Rapids was purchased as the site for the Christian Psychopathic Hospital. Its first patient was admitted a year later.

Although, as a woman, she was not permitted to serve on the hospital's board of directors, Robbert continued to work on the institution's behalf, urging women in the Dutch Reformed community to embrace the idea that Christian mental care is a "field of work for our women and young girls." Through her efforts, Jacoba Robbert demonstrated that one person with a powerful idea can make a difference.

## **Connie Sweeris, 1948-**

### **Biographical / Historical**

One of the nation's outstanding women table tennis players, Connie Sweeris also took part in a key moment in 20th-century diplomacy--an effort to improve relations between the United States and China that came to be known as "Ping Pong diplomacy." In 1971, Connie, along with her husband, Dell, and other members of the U.S. Table Tennis Team were invited to make China a stop on their Asian tour. The team played two exhibitions, before standing-room-only crowds of 18,000 in Peking and 5,000 in Shanghai. Because China had been closed to

western visitors since the end of World War II, the U.S. team's visit was the most important news story of the day in both countries, featured in nightly newscasts and national magazines.

Connie Sweeris was at the top of her game that year. Ranked number one at the age of 23, she achieved a rare triple crown sweep of women's singles, doubles, and mixed doubles titles at the 1971 U.S. Open Championships. At the same time, her husband, Dell, was one the nation's dominant male players. The couple combined to win 25 national championships. In 1987 they were inducted together into the U.S. Table Tennis Hall of Fame, and in 1996 they were inducted into the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame. Of all the honors they have earned, surely one of the most treasured is the role they and their sport played in starting the process that would ultimately bring about, in 1978, the restoration of full diplomatic relations between the United States and China.

## **Helen Jackson Claytor, 1907-2005**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Leader of the national YWCA and a tireless and lifelong advocate for civil rights and racial equality, Helen Jackson Claytor was born and educated in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Graduating cum laude from the University of Minnesota with a degree in teaching in 1928, she took a job with the YWCA in Trenton, New Jersey, because few teaching positions were open to African Americans.

In 1943, an assignment to conduct a YWCA survey on race relations brought her to Grand Rapids, where she met Dr. Robert Claytor. Moving to the city after their marriage later that year, she became active in the local YWCA. In 1949, she was elected its president, the first African American woman to lead a YWCA branch anywhere in the nation. Elected to the YWCA's national board of directors in 1946, she served two three-year terms as its president, from 1967 to 1973.

During her presidency, Claytor took a leading role in the drafting of the 1967 YWCA Purpose, which called for the "elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary." The purpose has been renewed by every YWCA convention since 1967. Determined to oppose racism in Grand Rapids, Claytor agreed to serve on a committee appointed in 1952 to study racial problems in the city. The committee's careful work led to the creation of a Human Relations Commission, which has evolved into the Office of Equal Opportunity, an integral part of city government. Helen Claytor's quiet leadership, her commitment to the principles of the YWCA, and her determination to put an end to racial discrimination stand as an inspiration to all women.

## **Eva Hamilton, 1873-1948**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Eva McCall Hamilton was the first woman elected to the Michigan legislature after the passage of the state's women's suffrage amendment in 1920. A native of St. Clair County, she was a school teacher and civic activist who continued her support of women's rights after marrying advertising executive Charles B. Hamilton and moving to Grand Rapids. Active in the local women's suffrage chapter, Hamilton studied local and state public issues and often acted as spokesperson for the group. On several occasions, she went to Lansing to lobby legislators and testify before legislative committees.

Hamilton continued to support the work of the League of Women Voters after the suffrage amendment passed. Nominated by the Republican Party in 1920 as their candidate for Kent County's 16th district state senate seat. She was elected in November, in the first general election in which women were permitted to vote, and sent to the highest ranking office of seven women to win contests around the state. Perhaps her best-known legislative achievement was the Mothers Pension Act, which provided funds for mothers who had lost sons in World War I.

After serving one term in the Senate, 1921-1922, Eva Hamilton returned to Grand Rapids. She did not, however, lose her interest in politics and women's issues, remaining active in the League of Women Voters and in the Republican Party. In 1946, on the 25th anniversary of her taking office, she was honored with a ceremony at the

state capitol. Two years later hers was the first woman's portrait hung in the legislative chambers. Its presence honors a lifetime of achievement and public service as an educator, social activist, and law maker.

## **Dr. Frances Rutherford, 1842-1922**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Frances Rutherford was a trailblazer for women in the medical profession. After receiving her medical degree in 1868, she opened a practice in Grand Rapids specializing in gynecology and pediatrics. The first woman doctor in Grand Rapids with a degree from a recognized medical college, she was appointed city physician in 1870, the first woman in the United States to hold such a position. Grand Rapids at the time was a rapidly growing city of 16,000, and as city physician Rutherford was responsible for providing medical services to indigent residents, controlling the spread of contagious diseases, and attempting to bring about improvements in sanitation. She remained in the post for three years before resigning in protest over her low pay. After leaving the city position, she became a staff member of the Union Benevolent Association Hospital, which later became Blodgett Memorial Medical Center.

Rutherford also blazed a trail in professional medical organizations. In 1872, she was one of the first three women physicians admitted to the Michigan State Medical Society, the first state medical society to accept women members. Later, she held elective offices in the city and state associations and was the first woman to serve as a state delegate to a national American Medical Association meeting. Interested in cultural organizations for women as well, Rutherford was also one of the founders of the Ladies Literary Society.

From the beginning of her career as one of the nation's first college-trained physicians to her pioneering roles in state and national medical organizations, Dr. Frances Rutherford led the way for generations of women physicians to come.

## **Evangeline Lamberts, 1923-**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Evangeline Lamberts was the first woman elected to the Grand Rapids City Commission. In 1961, 111 years after the city was chartered, Lamberts defeated three-term commission veteran Robert Blandford by nearly 1,000 votes to become the second ward commissioner, a position in which she served until 1965.

A native of Lansing, Lamberts graduated from Eastern High School and attended the University of Michigan, where she majored in nursing. A year after their marriage in 1949, she and her husband, Dr. Austin Lamberts, moved to Grand Rapids. She soon became a well-known community activist and a leader in the drive for annexation to the city of the North Park section of Grand Rapids Township. She also helped to spearhead an effort to secure better treatment for juvenile offenders.

As a city commissioner, Lamberts advocated the formation of an industrial committee to attract industries to the area, and urged an approach to urban renewal that promoted neighborhood rehabilitation and preservation. An active member of the League of Women Voters, Evangeline Lamberts put into practice her belief that women should have an equal role in all levels of government. Her foray into elective politics opened a door through which many women have subsequently passed.

## **Nora Carr, 1845-1915 & Nora Husted, 1871-1935**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Nora Carr and Nora Husted were a mother and daughter team that founded and operated a Grand Rapids cosmetics business for over 50 years. When the elder Nora Husted moved to Grand Rapids from Lowell, Michigan, in 1885, shortly after she and her first husband had divorced, she opened a boarding house to earn money to care for her

five children. To bring in more income, she began to make soap and perfume in the family kitchen and, with the help of her children, sold her products door to door. Later, after marrying James C. Carr, she sold the boarding house, but kept her toiletries business.

In 1895 Nora Carr founded the Marietta-Stanley Company to manufacture and sell her cosmetics. Adopting the product name "Sempre Giovine" (Italian for forever young), she built a manufacturing plant on Grand Rapids' West Side that employed 70 workers at its peak. When Mrs. Carr died in 1915, her daughter and namesake Nora assumed management of the company. In addition to running the business, Husted was active in many local organizations, including the Zonta Club, Women's City Club, and St. Mary's Catholic Church. Following Nora's death in 1935, a second sister, Elizabeth, took over the firm, eventually selling it to a Chicago company, which kept the plant going until 1951, more than a half-century after its founding.

At a time when women were discouraged from working outside the home, Nora Carr and Nora Husted and their long-running enterprise showed the way for future women entrepreneurs.

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## **Valeria Lipczynski, 1846-1930**

### **Biographical / Historical**

For 60 years, Valeria Lipczynski was a tireless advocate for Polish-Americans in Grand Rapids. She was a social worker, tutor, translator, midwife, nurse, intermediary with local officials, and godmother to numerous children.

Coming to Grand Rapids from Poland with her husband, John, in 1869, she quickly became a recognized community leader. By the 1870s she was the Grand Rapids correspondent for several national Polish newspapers, writing about the opportunities West Michigan offered to new settlers. She and John sponsored 40 other Polish immigrant families to come to Grand Rapids and helped them find housing and employment.

During her lifetime, Lipczynski helped create many local and national Polish organizations. She was co-founder of the Wiarus Society, the first Polish organization in West Michigan, and she participated in the organization of three Grand Rapids Catholic churches, St. Mary's, St. Adalbert's, and St. Isidore's. She was also a founder of the Society of Polish Ladies, which in 1899 became the first women's organization admitted to the Polish National Alliance. In 1901 Lipczynski became the first woman elected to the National Alliance's board of directors.

Valeria Lipczynski's organizational and leadership skills were matched by few others. Many modern organizations trace their roots to her efforts, and her name is revered by many Polish American families for whom she made the adjustment to a new home in a new country a little less difficult.

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## **Emily Burton Ketcham, 1838-1907**

### **Biographical / Historical**

For her entire adult life, Emily Burton Ketcham worked for women's suffrage. Born in Grand Rapids, she attended public schools and a private school operated for a time by St. Mark's Church, and at the remarkably young age of 15 began teaching in the public schools. Determined to further her own education, she left Grand Rapids after teaching several terms to enter Henrietta Seminary in Rochester, New York, and later Mary B. Allen's school for girls. She continued to live in New York after completing her education, and it was there that she first became interested in the women's suffrage movement. When she married Smith G. Ketcham in 1867 and returned with him to Grand Rapids, she brought her zeal for women's suffrage with her.

Founder of the Susan B. Anthony Club, which was the Grand Rapids branch of the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association, Emily Ketcham was also active in state and national organizations. She served three terms as president of the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association and was a member of the executive board of the National American Suffrage Association. Through her work for women's right to vote, she developed lasting friendships

with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, and in 1899 she persuaded the national organization to hold its convention in Grand Rapids.

Emily Burton Ketcham did not live to see the passage of the 19th Amendment, but she trained and inspired many others who carried her work to a successful conclusion.

## **Hattie Beverly, 1874-1904**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Hattie Beverly was Grand Rapids' first African American public school teacher. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she moved to Grand Rapids with her parents when she was a year old. An outstanding student, she dreamed of becoming a teacher, and of traveling throughout the United States and to foreign countries.

Beverly graduated from Central High School in 1895. At that time Grand Rapids, like many larger school systems, trained many of its own elementary school teachers, and two years later she became the first African American to enter the Grand Rapids Public School teacher cadet training program. When she completed her training in 1899, some members of the school board questioned whether an African American should be permitted to teach, and for a time it seemed her appointment would be denied. Fortunately, more reasonable voices prevailed, and in June 1899 she was hired to teach at Congress Elementary School.

In 1902, Hattie married Major E. Robinson. Because married women were not permitted to teach in those years, she was compelled to resign from her position. At the same time she was suffering from complications of tuberculosis she had contracted in her youth. A stay in a New Mexico sanitarium failed to bring about an improvement in her health, and she died late in 1904.

Hattie Beverly's life and teaching career were tragically brief, but she is a model nonetheless. Today, Grand Rapids students study her life as an example of how determination and education are important paths to a desired goal.

## **Marie Kirkpatrick, 1900-1994**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Marie Kirkpatrick was an outstanding furniture designer who mastered all aspects of her profession. She was recognized by her peers not only for her ability to produce conceptual designs, but for her work in providing the accompanying detail drawings and construction specifications as well. She learned her profession from her father, Arthur Kirkpatrick, who was a well-known Grand Rapids furniture designer and teacher.

After graduating from South High School in Grand Rapids, Kirkpatrick studied at Grand Rapids Junior (now Community) College and then trained as a designer in her father's studio. In 1929, she married her distant cousin, Russell Kirkpatrick, a furniture designer who had studied at the Chicago Art Institute and then become a partner in Arthur Kirkpatrick's studio. The couple worked together in her father's studio and took over its operation when he died in 1941. Marie was in charge of the sketching and designing department and designed case goods--dining and bedroom suites--while Russell designed upholstered furniture and chairs and prepared construction details for the studio's designs. Sought out by many manufacturers, Marie opened an office in High Point, North Carolina, and also spent part of each year working in Toronto, Canada.

Marie Kirkpatrick's prominent place in the world of furniture design was acknowledged in 1946 when she was named a fellow of the Industrial Designers Institute, one of only four women to be so honored. Locally, she was named Woman of the Year by the Grand Rapids Business Women's Coordinating Committee in 1951, and she served for more than 20 years on the Kendall College of Design board of directors.

## **Rosamund Rouse, 1882-1964**

## **Biographical / Historical**

The first full-time medical social work director at Blodgett Memorial Medical Center, Rosamund Rouse devoted her life to caring for children with physical disabilities. Her interest was first sparked in 1907 when she became a charter member of the Mary Free Bed Guild. The guild was founded to provide a free bed at Blodgett Hospital for needy patients, and Rouse served as its president from 1907 to 1911 and from 1913 to 1921.

In the 1920s, as a result of caring for soldiers wounded in World War I, physicians and hospitals developed new and better treatments and therapy that they began applying to the civilian population. Dr. John Hodgen of Blodgett Hospital established a special clinic for children, and in 1926 Rouse was assigned to work with him. It was through Rouse's association with the clinic that the Mary Free Bed Guild became interested in children with disabilities. That interest led, in 1930, to the establishment of the Mary Free Bed Convalescent Home, which ultimately evolved into today's Mary Free Bed Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, one of the finest physical rehabilitation facilities in the nation.

In addition to children's physical recovery, Rouse was interested in their education and vocational training. In 1923, she helped start a special school for children with disabilities in a wing of the Stocking Street School. In 1958 Rouse was presented with the distinguished service award of the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults. Throughout her years of service, Rosamund Rouse set a standard for personal and professional commitment to the care of children with physical disabilities that few others have matched.

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## **Constance Rourke, 1885-1941**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Constance Mayfield Rourke was the first cultural historian in the United States to recognize the importance and origins of American culture, including the fine arts, folk art, and folk traditions. Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Rourke graduated from Central High School in 1902. She continued her education at Vassar College, where she taught for several years after graduation before returning to Grand Rapids in 1915. As an independent scholar living and writing in Grand Rapids, Rourke helped found the American Studies movement. She believed in the importance of "living research," and traveled throughout the country to find and record the rich contributions to American culture made by various ethnic groups, farmers, miners, cowboys, and women. Rourke wrote seven books and more than 100 articles and reviews focusing on America's popular culture.

Her first book, *Trumpets of Jubilee*, published in 1927, focused on the famous Beecher family--the Rev. Henry Beecher and his daughter, Harriet Beecher Stowe. A year later her second book *Troupers of the Gold Coast*, recounted colorful tales of actress Lotta Crabtree and the mining camps of the California gold rush. Her 1931 book, *American Humor: A Study of the National Character*, introduced a new field of study to American scholars. At the time of her death in 1941, she was working on *The Roots of American Culture*, an examination of previously unstudied regional, ethnic and religious groups. She was also the editor of the Federal Art Project's *Index of American Design* published in 1937.

Constance Rourke lived during the time when the United States was a bumptious, rollicking nation emerging as a world power, and made up of people from wildly different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Rourke was the first scholar to study these roots and see in them a distinctly American character.

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## **Viva Flaherty, 1884-1968**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Viva Flaherty was a social activist, humanitarian, and labor crusader who provided encouragement and support to Grand Rapids workers in the first decades of the 20th century. A Grand Rapids native, she attended Central High School, Vassar College, and the University of Michigan before taking a position at the Bissell Settlement House in Grand Rapids in 1903. Several years later she left for New York City to work with newly arriving immigrants on

Ellis Island and at the Union Settlement House. In 1910, she returned to Grand Rapids and went to work as social outreach secretary for Fountain Street Baptist Church.

Always an outspoken champion of the underdog, her convictions led her to support the furniture workers in their 1911 strike against their employers. This stance placed her in direct opposition to the church's pastor, Alfred Wishart, who took the side of the factory owners, many of whom were his parishioners. As a result, Flaherty resigned her position at the church. When the strike was over, she wrote a detailed account titled *History of the Grand Rapids Furniture Strike, with Facts Hitherto Unpublished*, a defense of labor's position.

In addition to her strong pro-labor sentiments, Flaherty was also opposed to American entry into World War I and along with 12 others, was arrested for distributing anti-draft literature. Brought to trial by a zealous federal prosecutor, all defendants were found not guilty of the charge of conspiring against the federal government.

After the trial, Flaherty again left Grand Rapids, continuing her social work career in Baltimore and then in California. Somewhat mellowed in later years, she taught at private schools in Royal Oak and Grand Rapids. Throughout her long career, Viva Flaherty worked with thousands of immigrants and laborers. Certainly to those who benefited from her efforts, her memory was not soon forgotten.

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## **Mabel Balyeat, 1883-1985**

### **Biographical / Historical**

In the early years of the 20th century, most rural areas in Kent County had no library service. Determined to make the opportunity to read for information or for pleasure available to every Kent County resident, Mabel Balyeat became a leader of the movement begun in 1927 by the Kent County Federation of Women's Clubs to create a county-wide library system. A year later the women's clubs were joined by the Kent County Parent-Teachers Council led by Mrs. Adolph Krause of Rockford, and together they formed the Kent County Library Association.

Unfortunately, the nation was plunged into economic depression just as the association was organized, and no local funds were available to start a county library system. In 1934, however, Balyeat learned of a New Deal program which provided funds for recreational activities. Convincing authorities of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration that reading was recreational, she secured sufficient funds to hire a supervisor and seven librarians. Next, Balyeat spearheaded a program to secure donated books from area individuals and organizations, including the Grand Rapids Public Library. By 1935, the library association had a collection of 2,500 books and operated 19 library stations in schools, grocery stores, and gasoline stations throughout the county.

Balyeat saw her dream of a unified county system realized in 1936 when the Kent County Board of Supervisors officially established the Kent County Library and appointed her to its five-person board of directors. Elected president, she continued to serve until 1946. Mabel Balyeat lived to be 102, and before her death she saw the opening in 1971 of a new central headquarters for what is now the Kent District Library.

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## **Emma Cole, 1845-1910**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Emma Cole was a pioneering naturalist and teacher who instilled in her students a love of the outdoors and a respect for the flora of West Michigan. Throughout her 26-year teaching career, she was a favorite instructor at Central High School, where she instilled an appreciation for nature and a love of flowers in countless students.

Educated at Cornell University, and interested primarily in botany, she traveled extensively in Europe, visiting famous gardens and arboretums. For a time, she worked in the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, which was associated with the botanical department of Harvard University.

Beyond her teaching, Cole's greatest local contribution to the annals of natural science was her botanical work entitled *Grand Rapids Flora*, published in 1910, which for the first time catalogued, described, and illustrated

hundreds of local plants, and even today serves as a valued resource for the study of West Michigan plant life. As a part of her research, Cole gathered local plant specimens into an herbarium that is now part of the collections of the University of Michigan, where it is still used for research and study.

Cole was an environmentalist well ahead of her time, and her love of nature prompted her to leave a bequest for funds to endow a series of yearly lectures on botany and floriculture to be held each year in Grand Rapids. Even death would not prevent her from perpetuating a respect for the environment and love of nature in the generations to come.

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## **Alice Follett Uhl, 1843-1917**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Alice Follett Uhl was one of nine Grand Rapids women, talented musicians all, who in 1883 founded the St. Cecilia Music Society, an organization dedicated to promoting the study, performance, and appreciation of music throughout the community. Grand Rapids was growing rapidly in the last decades of the 19th century, and the members of St. Cecilia believed that a proper concert hall was an essential addition to the community's cultural life.

During her years as president of St. Cecilia, from 1888 to 1894, Alice Uhl played a major role in marshaling the support and raising the funds that would enable the society to build a "simple and dignified temple of music," complete with a 670-seat recital hall. When it was opened in June 1894, the building was the only such facility in the United States owned and operated exclusively by women. Since then, many of the world's finest musical artists have performed in the hall, and the building itself has become a community center for performances, lectures, and meetings. In April 1899, the hall was the site of the annual convention of the National Women's Suffrage Association.

Active in many local and national organizations, Alice Uhl was a member of the Sophie de Marsac Campau chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and an honorary member of the Ladies Literary Club. But music was her first love, and after working to create the National Federation of Women's Music Clubs, the first successful effort to unite clubs across the nation, she became its first president.

More than 110 years after its founding, the St. Cecilia Music Society and its landmark building remain integral parts of the Grand Rapids cultural scene, testimony to vision of Alice Uhl and the society's co-founders, and the dedication with which they pursued their dream.

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## **Roberta Griffith, 1870-1941**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Roberta Griffith was co-founder of the American Association of Workers for the Blind in 1905, compiler of the first braille dictionary, a six-volume work, and co-founder and first executive secretary in 1913 of the Association for the Blind and Sight Conservation in Grand Rapids.

Griffith lost her sight as a small child and was educated in schools for the blind in Michigan and Ohio. Following high school, she entered Western Reserve University in Cleveland on a scholarship, becoming the first blind person to attend the institution. After graduating in 1900, she moved to Grand Rapids to be near her mother.

Working as a writer and a real estate agent, she became an advocate for improved care and education for people with vision disabilities. She led the fight for state legislation mandating the compulsory use of nitrate of silver as an antiseptic in the eyes of newborns, an important means of preventing infant sight loss in those days. Believing that schools should offer equitable education opportunities to blind students, she created braille classes in public schools, trained braille teachers, and sponsored a braille club open to both students and adult learners.

The Association for the Blind and Sight Conservation was Griffith's greatest achievement, dominating her activities from its founding until her death. Now called Vision Enrichment Services, the agency serves several counties in western Michigan with low-vision clinics, rehabilitation and mobility instruction, discussion groups, and preventive programs such as glaucoma testing. On the occasion of its 75th anniversary, the agency paid homage to its founder by stating: "It is doubtful that any other agency has been led by a more courageous person than Miss Roberta A. Griffith. Her example should inspire us all."

## **Guadalupe Vargas, 1908- & Virginia Morales, 1943-**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Guadalupe Vargas and Virginia Morales represent two generations of concern for the welfare of Grand Rapids' Mexican American community. Born in Mexico and raised in Texas, Guadalupe came to Grand Rapids with her husband, Daniel, in 1941 seeking employment and education opportunities not available in their native Southwest. Soon, they became leaders of the area's small, but growing, Mexican American community, working through the Catholic Church to provide basic needs to newly arrived families. Guadalupe and Daniel visited migrant worker camps, bringing food, clothing, and religious classes to those in need. They also helped establish the Chapel of our Lady of Guadalupe, which offered masses and other religious services in Spanish, and when the church sent priests and nuns to aid the migrant workers, the Vargas home became their headquarters.

Virginia Morales carries on the tradition established by her mother. As manager of Clinica Santa Maria, a St. Mary's Health Services clinic, she is nurse, counselor, teacher, translator, and social worker to many in the area's Spanish-speaking community. Opened in 1990, the clinic serves over 1,000 patients each month with a staff of six nurses and medical assistants and 25 volunteer physicians. The clinic offers everything from prenatal care and childhood vaccinations to dental care and treatment for adults.

As a child, Virginia Morales watched as her mother provided assistance and care to Grand Rapids' growing Spanish-speaking community. As an adult she has carried on the lessons taught by her mother's example.

## **Grand Rapids Chicks, 1943-1954**

### **Biographical / Historical**

The Grand Rapids Chicks were a women's professional baseball team that thrilled local fans with outstanding play in the late 1940s and early 1950s. They were part of a World War II-era experiment to insure that fans had games to watch and teams to cheer for if President Franklin Roosevelt canceled the 1944 major league baseball season because it was not essential to the war effort. Although the major league season did in fact continue, the All American Girls Professional Baseball League prospered as well before succumbing in 1954 to television, competition from other sports, and bad management.

At 75 feet, basepaths were shorter, and pitchers initially threw underhand or sidearm, but in all other aspects the game was baseball, and local fans responded enthusiastically to their team. In one instance, a crowd of 10,000 turned out for a championship game at South High field, where the Chicks played most of their home games. Always a strong team, the Chicks won the league championship in 1947 and 1953.

Best player on the Chicks team was Connie Wisniewski, a tall, right-handed, former softball pitcher who won 27 games in her rookie season, a record 32 games in her best year, and holds many other league pitching records. When league rules were changed to permit overhanded pitching, Wisniewski became a .300 hitting outfielder for the remainder of her career.

After the league folded, several of the Chicks made their homes in Grand Rapids. Today older fans remember their exploits and flock to see them at public appearances. A new generation of young women comes, too, seeking to meet the trailblazers who helped prepare the way for succeeding generations of women athletes.

## **Sr. Mary Ignatius McCord, Sr. Mary Anthony McMullen, Sr. Mary Baptist Feldner. Founders of St. Mary's Hospital, 1893**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Sr. Mary Ignatius McCord, Sr. Mary Anthony McMullen, and Sr. Mary Baptist Felder came to Grand Rapids in August 1893 to establish St. Mary's Hospital. Health-care services were desperately needed in the booming city, which had a population of more than 60,000 by then. A two-story frame house had been given to the Catholic church in memory of Mrs. Mary McNamara, and the three members of the Order of the Sisters of Mercy had been called to transform it into a hospital.

Before long the three sisters had converted the home into two first-floor wards, with additional rooms on the second floor and even in the attic. Private rooms were provided at a rate of \$10 to \$20 per week, and beds in the ward were offered at \$1 per day. Sixty-nine patients were cared for in the first year.

The three founding sisters, with Sr. McCord serving as the hospital's first Sister Superior, Sr. McMullen as the Sister Portress in charge of housekeeping, and Sr. Feldner as Supervisor of Surgery, laid a solid foundation. By the end of its first decade, the hospital had added a three-story wing and acquired a nurse's dormitory and a maternity department. As Grand Rapids continued to grow, it was clear a new, larger St. Mary's Hospital was needed. The 1911 dedication of a five-story, fire-proof stone building, featuring 42 private rooms, two large wards, operating rooms, and an emergency room, brought to a close the first phase of rapid development set in motion when the sisters arrived in Grand Rapids less than 20 years earlier. Thanks to their pioneering work, St. Mary's Hospital was well positioned to continue growing and adapting to the changing health care needs of the citizens of Grand Rapids.

## **The Women of the Union Benevolent Association, 1846**

### **Biographical / Historical**

The Union Benevolent Association was a women's organization formed 151 years ago to serve the needs of the city's sick and needy. At the time, rapid urban growth had created unprecedented sanitation problems. Unsafe drinking water, haphazard garbage disposal, and annual spring floods led to outbreaks of disease that threatened large segments of the population. Those who could afford physicians were treated in their homes, but the poor and destitute were, for the most part, left to fend for themselves.

In December 1846, a small group of women gathered to form the Female Union Charitable Association, later renamed the Ladies Union Benevolent Association to address some of the prevailing problems. Charlotte Cuming was the organization's first president and Mary Almy Church its secretary. Initially concerned with all aspects of charity work, the members visited potential charity cases throughout the city. In 1858 they formed the Grand Rapids Orphan Asylum Association, and during the Civil War they devoted most of their attention to caring for sick and wounded soldiers.

After the Civil War, in 1873, association members voted to establish a "home and hospital for the infirm, the sick, and the needy." Opened first in the former Cuming home, the hospital was nearly always full. A decade later, the association embarked upon a \$30,000 fund drive for a new, larger Union Benevolent Association Home. Grand Rapids' first fully equipped hospital opened its doors on February 23, 1886. Later renamed Blodgett Memorial

Medical Center after its largest benefactor, today's hospital proudly traces its roots to that small group of women who gathered long ago to improve the quality of life for the citizens of their community.

## **The Founders of St. Mark's Home, 1873**

### **Biographical / Historical**

St. Mark's Home was established in 1873, when eight women of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, headed by Mrs. E. P. Fuller, organized a "church home" to provide care for some of their aging members who were without means to care for themselves. The first St. Mark's Home was a small house donated to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, in memory of their son, Charles, who had died in 1872. The Fullers soon provided a larger building, and in 1876, the institution was renamed St. Mark's Home and Hospital.

Within 15 years of its founding, St. Marks Home and Hospital had provided care for 2,500 persons, and it was clear that a larger, better-equipped facility was needed. Help came in the form of a gift of cash and land totaling more than \$30,000 from industrialist Richard Butterworth. With the Butterworth gift, and additional funds raised in the community, a new \$50,000 hospital was opened in 1890. Four years later it was renamed Butterworth Hospital. Constantly growing demands for hospital services led to the construction of a new hospital that was dedicated in 1926.

When they gathered to organize the first St. Mark's Home, the eight women who were its founders could not have imagined that, in slightly more than 50 years, their institution would grow from a small residence housing a few elderly patients to the large, multi-million dollar Butterworth Hospital edifice that still dominates the city's skyline from the top of the Michigan Street hill.

## **Dolores Smith Hruby**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Although the field of music composition has traditionally been dominated by men, Dolores Smith Hruby has lived her life there. By the age of four she was a student at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago; by her senior year she had conducted her high school choir in one of her own compositions. Dolores Hruby's musical education was interrupted early and late by Depression, world war, and the demands of marriage and motherhood, but she returned to the Chicago conservatory as an adult to study with famed former Grand Raptidian Leo Sowerby. Hruby's professional career was then shaped by post-Vatican II Catholicism, especially the introduction of choral programs into local parishes. Her new choir soon became the area's best and Hruby published one of the first post-Vatican II choral masses, her "Mass to Honor St. Elizabeth." In 1969 Hruby left her career and renown in Chicago to move with her husband, Norbert, to Grand Rapids where he became president of Aquinas College. Since then she has finished a master's degree, revamped the music program at St. Jude Catholic Church, conducted choir camps and festival choruses--all the time continuing her award-winning compositions for piano and choir, to date over 100 pieces published by some ten presses. She has been a mainstay of the national Choristers Guild, publishing articles and conducting clinics; and in 1983 she received the Alleluia Award from the Diocese of Grand Rapids, an award never before granted a practicing church musician. Today Dolores Hruby is known locally and nationally as a choir director and a composer of sacred music.

## **Debra LaShea Perry**

### **Biographical / Historical**

At just thirty years of age, Grand Rapids' Debra Perry has been drawn to the bosom of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, one of the world's largest music associations and whose recordings often place high on gospel charts. In 1992 Perry joined the Muskegon Westshore Chapter of GMWA. By 1997 her versatile talents on some thirteen instruments, especially bass, keyboards, and drums, had made Perry a member of the national convention's house band. In 1996 GMWA's Women of Worship selected and performed her arrangement (with

brother Gerald) of the Lord's Prayer as the lead piece on that year's CD recording. Perry's "I'll Give You Rest" was chosen for the group's next release, and her composition "Ask It in Jesus' Name" was performed at the convention's 1997 New Music Showcase. A graduate of Creston High School and Calvin College and a student participant in St. Cecilia Music Society programs, Debra Perry began her formal training on piano at age eight. Before that, however, Perry benefitted from her mother's early guidance on the piano and the deep roots of family music tradition. The James Family Singers, including her mother Alma, began performing together in Mississippi in 1957.

Debra Perry currently teaches in Grand Rapids Public elementary schools, is music minister at First Community African Methodist Episcopal Church, gives private lessons, and conducts choirs assembled community-wide, especially during African American History Month. Debra Perry's musical ideas sometimes develop from dreams. Surely the career she is shaping from her talent and determination is the stuff of dreams.

## **Maria Lund Royce, 1895-1972**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Maria Lund Royce's talents found outlet throughout her life in both the worlds of manufacture and music. Her idea for adjustable dollies under washpails founded a family business, Royce Rolls Ringer Company, and her life as a composer produced 150 pieces of music, ranging from conventionally feminine lyrics to more developed string quartets. A 1913 graduate of Union High School, Maria Lund had studied piano from age nine and interrupted her later active life as a performer by train trips to Chicago to study with Leo Sowerby.

Royce's musical education included self-study groups like the Bards which brought together lyricists and composers to hone theoretical skills and study verse form. As a force at St. Cecilia Music Society, Royce gave back to the Progressive tradition that formed her. She composed, performed, and organized programs from the "ultra-moderne" to Madonna music at Christmas. She was a member of the St. Cecilia Quintette and accompanied numerous visiting artists.

During the 1930s she taught music to deaf children and directed a Campfire Girls orchestra and the Children's Playhouse at the same time she composed music to be performed at WPA concerts featuring Michigan composers. But her music was also programmed in the company of Brahms. At a time when women often were encouraged to limit their performance to the domestic arena, Maria Lund Royce gracefully combined her business life, musical talent, and family dedication.

## **Eloise Lisle Johnson**

### **Biographical / Historical**

Music teacher, composer and historian Eloise Lisle Johnson spent her young professional life in her natal state, Ohio. A voice major at Mount Union College, she composed and performed radio programs for children as "The Lullaby Lady" and published "The Land of Pretend," developed from these radio shows. First she taught in rural Ohio schools, then supervised music for a large Cleveland suburb, and later trained teachers at Case Western Reserve and Kent State in Ohio and Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania before moving to Grand Rapids in 1968. Here Johnson ended her teaching career, but not before composing and staging musical productions of "A Christmas Carol," "The Pied Piper," and "Jean La Fitte, Pirate-Patriot." The latter production grew out of Johnson's master's thesis for Ohio State University, a study of American folk heroes including song compositions useful in both music and cultural education. Johnson later published some of these songs and several articles on music education and the history of American women in music. Eloise Johnson's life in music composition and programming extends well beyond the school classroom. Wherever she has lived she has been affiliated with local music societies as well as the National Federation of Music Clubs. National archivist for the latter, Johnson also served as long-time president of St. Cecilia Music Society in Grand Rapids and as author of its centennial history.

She has received multiple awards for her efforts, including in Grand Rapids the YWCA Tribute Award in the Arts (1989) and the Festival '91 Arts Council Award.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series IV. Making a Difference Exhibit : Graphics Index. 00.[550].1-37

### 1. Balyeat, Mabel, 1883-1985

#### Panel Items

##### Panel Items

- 1 Sketch by Lovits? P.S.A.
- 2 Kent Co. Library book mobile, copy of sketch?
- 3 Ribbon cutting at headquarters – copy of clipping
- 4 Kent Co. Press, vol. No. 1, 1936 – partial copy of front page

### 2. Beverly, Hattie 1874-1904

#### Panel Items

##### Panel Items

- 1 Portrait Photo
- 2 Congress School

### 3. Bissell, Anne Sutherland 1846-1934

#### Panel Items

##### Panel Items

- 1 Portrait photo
- 2 Bissell Carpet Sweeper Col. composite photo
- 3 Bissell "Cyro" bearing ...
- 4 No. 101 postcard, Children's Home
- 5 Image, Bissell House, Ottawa St., copy of printed image with children in front/windows

### 4. Carr, Nora (Mrs. J.C. Carr), 1845-1915 & Nora Husted, 1871-1935.

#### Panel Items

##### Panel Items

- 1 Sempre Giovine ad cards, copies
- 2 Photo "J.C." and Nora
- 3 Ad from publication?
- 4 Composite image of 5 office views.

- 5 Enlarged office view of Mrs. Carr at her desk
- 6 Enlarged office view of Shipping Room.

## 5. Claytor, Helen Jackson, 1907-

### Panel Items

#### Panel Items

- 1 Portrait photo
- 2 Photo of 3 African American women walking down the street
- 3 YWCA postcard
- 4 Silent March group, image from clipping

## 6. Cole, Emma 1845-1910

### Panel Items

#### Panel Items

- 1 Portrait photo
- 2 Central High School (photo by Perkins & Co. with class standing in yard)

## 7. Flaherty, Viva, 1884-1968

### Panel Items

#### Panel Items

- 1 Portrait photo
- 2 The Great Strike of 1911 image from clipping, taken from 1911 Strike Scrapbook.

## 8. Ford, Betty, 1918-

### Panel Items

#### Panel Items

- 1 Portrait photo, Coll. & Coll. 185
- 2 Photo in gown, with hands on back of chair, near table, chandelier, ...

## 9. Grand Rapids Chicks, 1943-1954

### Panel Items

#### Panel Items

- 1 Team photo, guy in stands right.
- 2 Bean Risinger? Ready to toss
- 3 Program

4 Two baseball cards

## 10. Griffith, Roberta, 1870-1941

### Panel Items

#### Panel Items

- 1 Photo, she at desk
- 2 School building, Michigan School for the Blind, Lansing image

## 11. Grogel, Suzanne Shoep\*,

### Panel Items

#### Panel Items

- 1 Photo
- 2 Singing City Newsletter
- 3 Card. First Methodist Church, Evanston, Ill.
- 4 Messiah Program
- 5 Unidentified Church Image
- 6 Choral group, clipping

## 12. Hamilton, Eva, 1873-1948

### Panel Items

#### Panel Items

- 1 Political ad
- 2 Flyer
- 3 State Capital clipping
- 4 "Vote for Woman's Suffrage," with Doughboys image
- 5 "The Woman's Reason flyer"

## 13. Hruby, Dolores Smith\*

### Panel Items

#### Panel Items

- 1 Portrait photo
- 2 Choral group, color photo
- 3 Music page "Mass to Honor St. Elizabeth.
- 4 Sheet music covers. "Song of the Birds" and "Three piano pieces for beginners"
- 5 Children's Choir, color photo

## 14. Johnson, Eloise Lisle\*

## **Panel Items**

### **Panel Items**

- 1 Photo, at piano, WHBC
- 2 Image clipping, color, with Blanchford School group
- 3 Music, Paul Bunyan
- 4 Clipping, Portrait photo, b/w

## **15. Judd, Dorothy, 1898-1989**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Portrait photo
- 2 Our City Government
- 3 Two sheets

## **16. Kendrick, Dr. Pearl, 1890-1980 & Dr. Grace Eldering, 1901-1988**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Photo, Kendrick in Lab, Robinson Coll. 125-
- 2 Portrait Photo, Grace Eldering, Coll. 185-
- 3 Group photo, including Loney Gordon far left seated, Eldering seated behind desk, and other unidentified. Kent Co. Health Dept. Coll. 34-34-

## **17. Ketcham, Emily Burton, 1838-1907. Board is buckling**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Portrait sketch, copy
- 2 Suffergette Group photo
- 3 Four ephemera items

## **18. Kirkpatrick, Marie, 1900-1994**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Photo, standing with drawing on board
- 2 Photo, with group, mostly men, dining

## **19. La Framboise, Madeline, 1780-1846**

## **Panel Items**

### **Panel Items**

- 1 Copy of Cabin Sketch

## **20. Ladewig, Marion, 1914-**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Photo, seated at desk with bowling ball
- 2 Photo, signed, Bowling at lane
- 3 1996 Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame Induction Program cover

## **21. Lamberts, Evangeline, 1923-**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Copy of Poster in Coll. 224
- 2 Headshot from newspaper, Mrs. Austin Lamberts
- 3 Clipping

## **22. Lipczynski, Valeria, 1846-1930**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Newspaper Portrait photo
- 2 Polish Nat. Alliance clippings
- 3 Image, St. Adalberts
- 4 Image, St. Isidore's

## **23. Perry, Debra LaShea\***

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Photo at piano
- 2 Women of Worship, album cover?
- 3 James Family Singers, album cover?
- 4 Music. Ask It in Jesus Name & I'll Give You Rest

5 Three Sheet music covers

## **24. Robbert, Jacoba, 1864-1957**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Portrait photo, but from newspaper?
- 2 Images, Cutler Farmstead, 1st Home of Pine Rest

## **25. Rourke, Constance 1885-1941**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Portrait photo
- 2 Book covers: Davy, Crockett, American Humor, Audubon

## **26. Rouse, Rosamund 1882-1964**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Photo, she at desk
- 2 Photo, with Estelle Wolfe, Mary Free Bed
- 3 Photo?, children at Mary Free Bed, ca. 1940, w. dog in basket
- 4 First Mary Free Bed Convalescent Home, image from a newspaper?

## **27. Royce, Maria Lund\***

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Portrait photo
- 2 Image clipping, Saint Cecilia Quintette
- 3 Music. Under the Hollyhocks & Bittersweet
- 4 Three programs

## **28. Rutherford, Frances, Dr., 1842-1922**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Photo, Operating Room, 1900.

2 Photo, Ledyard Block

## **29. St. Mark's Home, Founder, 1873**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Photo, Operating Room, 1893
- 2 Photo, Mrs. E.P. Fuller
- 3 Image clipping, Butterworth Hospital, car & horse/carriage on street in front
- 4 Gothic "St. Mark's Home"
- 5 Rules for Patients

## **30. St. Mary's Hospital Founders, Sr. Mary Ignatius McCord, Sr. Mary Anthony McMullen, Sr. Mary Baptist Feldner, 1893.**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Clipping with all three each in a separate image
- 2 Newspaper image, First St. Mary's Hospital
- 3 Newspaper image, Nurses training class lecture
- 4 Newspaper image?, St. Mary's Hospital, ca. 1945

## **31. Sweeris, Connie, 1948-**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 1996 Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame Induction Program cover
- 2 Two images, clippings, of Sweeris at China Ping Pong match
- 3 Photo, color, Group with Nixon
- 4 Portrait photo, color

## **32. Uhl, Alice Follett, 1843-1917**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Copy of oil portrait?
- 2 Postcard 206, St. Cecelia Building

## **33. Union Benevolent Assoc., Women, 1846**

## **Panel Items**

### **Panel Items**

- 1 Postcard 103, UBA Hospital
- 2 Two clippings, images from sources unknown.
- 3 1st Blodgett Graduating Class – We probably have an original photo for this one.
- 4 Lawyer Preston at UBA

## **34. Vargas, Guadalup, 1908- & Virginia Morales, 1943-**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Photo of both, color
- 2 Vargas?, color
- 3 Two photos of West Michigan Migrant Workers, Rooks Negative Collection 230, unprocessed.

## **35. Wolfe, Joan, 1929-**

### **Panel Items**

#### **Panel Items**

- 1 Portrait photo
- 2 Photo, color, graduation, with Gerald Ford

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)