

# POWER *of* PLACE

LEARNING COMMUNITIES



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Every March, in honor of National Women's History Month, the **National Women's Hall of Fame** honors 10 women who have effected positive change in the world. This year's **winners** include physicians, civil rights activists, scholars, and a tennis champion. **Previous hall-of-famers** have included Louisa May Alcott, Maya Angelou, Sandra Day O'Connor, Amelia Earhart, Rosa Parks, Sacagawea, Harriet Tubman, and Oprah Winfrey.

This year Peggy McIntosh, the founder of the National SEED Project, one of our cherished partners, is on the list for coining the term "white privilege" and generating an enduring body of work. Clearly, she is in excellent company. We could not be more proud.

Women's History Month traces back to 1857 when American women in New York City protested working conditions in the textile and garment industry. The declaration of International Women's Day in 1911 eventually led to the establishment, in 1980, of Women's History Week. In 1987, at the request of women's organizations, museums, libraries, youth leaders, and educators throughout the country, the **National Women's**

**History Project successfully petitioned Congress** to devote an entire month to celebrating women's accomplishments. **This year's theme** is "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion."

So many extraordinary women have inspired me over the years – far too many to list here. But I decided to challenge myself to identify three American women from the past who have influenced my thinking and inspired me as a community builder and social justice advocate.

**Jane Addams**. I first read about Addams in middle school. She was a social worker, a public administrator, and a reformer recognized as the founder of the social work profession in the United States during the Progressive Era. In 1931, Addams became the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. What impressed me most was her involvement in the settlement house movement. Addams co-founded Chicago's Hull House, which provided extensive social services to poor, largely immigrant families. Addams challenged the one-size-fits-all nature of the education system; she wanted Hull House to offer people time, space, and tools for thinking independently and creatively. Addams' talents as a community builder and her devotion to the humane treatment of people regardless of their "station" in society continue to inform my thinking about how to humanize our education system.

**Marva Collins**. I first learned about Collins while watching a 1979 episode of "60 Minutes," and was mesmerized. This black Chicago school teacher founded the Westside Preparatory School on the second floor of her home, frustrated by how students of color were treated by the education system. There, students were assumed to be brilliant and capable of deep learning. Over the years, critics lashed out at her, insinuating that Collins was a "hoax" and "too good to be true." Sixteen years after the first episode aired, "60 Minutes" returned to Westside Prep 16, bringing Collins together with the school's alumni for a reunion. All the adults who had been her students were gainfully employed; some had reached the pinnacle of their chosen fields. You can see it for yourself in this **video**. Years later, I learned that Collins was a "warm demander," someone who shows utmost respect for students, holds high expectations, and infuses the classroom environment with both discipline and love. Thanks to Collins, I aim to braid together rigor and relationships, and recognize that the most effective learning environments for students (and adults, for that matter) make room for both.

**Barbara Myerhoff**. My great-aunt Nell (herself a pioneering woman) introduced me to Myerhoff, an anthropologist who helped shape the field of social-cultural anthropology by uniquely combining social science analysis and narrative storytelling. She first studied the Hoichol Indians of Northern Mexico, focusing on a pilgrimage that was an annual ritual. I fell in love with her book, "**Number Our Days**," about elderly Jews at a Senior Center in Venice, California. The research was supported by a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation and, in 1979, was included as one of the year's 10 best Social Science books by the *New York Times*. A documentary film of the same name won an Oscar for best short documentary. What I most appreciated about Myerhoff, who died of cancer at 49, was her warmth and deep appreciation of those whose lives she documented. She did not position herself above them but walked alongside them as an equal participant. I took her stance to heart when interviewing middle and high school teachers in Massachusetts for my doctoral dissertation.

I could name so many more, including contemporary women who inspire me every day. Many of you are on that list.

Which women, past or present, are in your personal hall of fame? Feel free to email me with stories at [jfeinberg@powerofplacec.org](mailto:jfeinberg@powerofplacec.org) or use **this Jamboard** to post the names of those who have influenced you and tell us how they've been an inspiration.

In community,

## Be a Part of the Showcase for Learning



Celebrate with us on May 8!

2023-24 ECLE  
Showcase of Learning

*Want to get involved? Here's how:*

**Share:** Host a display table

\* **Speak:** Share your story on stage

**Perform:** Sing, dance or play music

\* **Attend:** Just be there to learn, celebrate and enjoy with your peers

*Learn more about how you can get involved [here](#)*

**Where:** Peabody Essex Museum, Salem

**When:** Wednesday, May 8 | 4:30-7:30 pm



Questions? Email us at [info@powerofplacelc.org](mailto:info@powerofplacelc.org)

Register **[today!](#)**

## Don't Miss These Learning Opportunities



**Tackling Test Anxiety**

Looking for strategies to support your students who struggle with testing anxiety? Join The Teacher Collaborative for Tackling **Test Anxiety with Teach for Wellness**, a **free, virtual webinar on Wednesday, March 27 from 4-5pm.**

Whether you're curious about how testing anxiety impacts your students or hungry for tools and resources, come to fill your toolbox to feel well-equipped to support your students this testing season.

**[Learn more and register here](#)**



## **Landmark College's Online Certificate Program**

LC Online's Learning Differences and Neurodiversity (LDN) certificate is an online, post-baccalaureate professional development program for educators and professionals who work with students with ADHD, autism, learning disabilities such as dyslexia, or executive function challenges. The program uniquely integrates current research findings with evidence-based practices, classroom strategies, and technologies. Courses offer the convenience of online learning as well as the opportunity to interact with an engaged cohort through video conferences and discussions.

**[Learn more and apply](#)**

## **Follow Power of Place on Social Media**

**Power of Place is on  
[LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)!**

Follow us for photos, links to resources, upcoming opportunities, and more.



## **Save the Date**

**ECLC Summer Institute**  
Thursday, August 8  
Beverly, MA

**ECLC 2024 Fall Gathering**  
Election Day, Tuesday, November 5



*Access the updated 2023-2024  
Learning Agenda here.*

## Resources from the Field



### Seeing People as Individuals Reduces Political Hostility

In the United States, political polarization seems to be at an all-time high these days. Some Americans even have trouble seeing political opponents as human beings, worthy of care and concern. This inter-party hostility can threaten our relationships, as when we stop speaking to family and friends because of political differences. But it also affects our democracy as a whole. If we think people with other political viewpoints are not worthy of our care and respect, if we “hate” them more than we “love” our own side, how can we listen to each other and cooperate on solving social problems?

Read the full study [here](#).



### Landmark study shows that ‘transcendent’ thinking may grow teens’ brains over time

Scientists at the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education’s **Center for Affective Neuroscience, Development, Learning and Education (CANDLE)** have **shown for the first time** that a type of thinking, described as a developmental milestone of adolescence, may grow teenagers’ brains over time. Engaging in this type of thinking involves analyzing situations for their deeper meaning, historical contexts, civic significance, and/or underlying ideas.

Read the full study [here](#).



### A Brief but Spectacular take on building trust in school

**Valor Collegiate Academy** in Nashville encourages students to share what’s going on in their lives and to accept support, creating what they call a community of care. We hear from high school teacher Natalie Nikitas and Valor students as they give their Brief But Spectacular take on building trust at



### A “good life” for every student: High schools embrace many pathways to success

Beginning in 2022, Arizona State University’s Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) and Columbia University’s Center for Public Research and Leadership (CPRL)—with support from the Barr Foundation—began studying innovations in six public high

school.

Watch the video [here](#).


schools in New England. They wanted to know what success meant for students and the adults in their lives, and how schools were making changes—including before the pandemic—to ensure every student had the opportunity to learn and thrive.

Read the full report [here](#).

## Just for Fun

# On this squirrel scale, how do you feel today?



 Class Critters

@1classcritter

*Do you have something to share with your fellow educators?  
Send it to us at [info@powerofplace.org](mailto:info@powerofplace.org).*

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