

The Everywhere of Her

Free School Programs



Dolores Del Rio

Katherine Sui Fun Chueng

Charlotta Bass

Welcome to Culver City Julian Dixon Library

Every year The Ebell presents public programs featuring artists, athletes, scholars, scientists, business innovators and political leaders. We partner with other community organizations, and through all our projects our members still work to inspire and empower women, perhaps most notably through more than 100 years of awarding scholarships to students and providing grants to charities that help at-risk women and children in the Los Angeles community.

Culver City Julian Dixon Library is excited to welcome you to this very special performance of *The Everywhere of Her* by librettist Velina Hasu Houston and composer Carla Lucero. We hope that you find these resources and lesson plans helpful.

The Ebell motto is, “*I will find a way, or make one.*”

Meet the Creative Team



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Meet the Creative Team



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Synopsis

The Everywhere of Her highlights three women who made an impact on Los Angeles. Set in Los Angeles in 1932 at an event celebrating Amelia Earhart as the first woman to complete a solo trans-Atlantic flight, Charlotta Bass, Katherine Cheung, and Dolores del Rio meet for the first time and unmask their anonymity.

The written historical record underreports women's history generally, but also the history of women of color specifically. *The Everywhere of Her* is a musical play that speaks to the history of women of color and their work in Los Angeles and beyond.

Scene - by - Scene

SCENE ONE

In this scene, we encounter our main characters in their own worlds, addressing figures unseen to the audience. Dolores del Rio, a famous Mexican movie actress, argues that she deserves a part in an upcoming film, and we learn that she has been invited to sing in a celebration for Amelia Earhart, who is referred to as "Mrs. Putnam" (Earhart's husband's name). Dolores questions why she has to prove herself at this event. Katherine Cheung, a young woman from China, tells her father that she wants to be a pilot, but she agrees to go home and help her mother with dinner. She promises to keep a low profile while attending Earhart's celebration, but says she needs to attend and show everyone she has a place in "their world." Charlotta Bass buys *The Eagle*, a newspaper, and decides to cover Amelia Earhart's flight and celebration. She says, "If the world opens its doors to women, it will open its doors to other kinds of people, too, people who look like us."

SCENE TWO

Charlotta shows her press credentials and tries to make her way into the celebration, keeping her cool when challenged by the doorman. Upon arriving, Dolores, who is also asked to identify herself, claims Charlotta is with her, and they both enter when Dolores explains she is there to perform. Katherine introduces herself to Dolores and Charlotta. She congratulates them on their success with the doorman and says her father was put to work in the kitchen while she sneaked in as a waiter. They briefly discuss what their experiences have been like, and what it means for them to hide their identities as women of color. Charlotta, saying she never hides, exits to use the restroom indoors, which is segregated.



SCENE THREE

Charlotta has picked up a tray of iced teas and comments that when she picks up a tray, nobody looks at her, but if she picks up a pen, it's another story. Charlotta, Dolores, and Katherine chat about their histories and experiences, and the importance of women of color being remembered. Charlotta reminds them that they are not friends, just acquaintances, and Dolores iterates the importance of getting to know one another and developing friendships with others.

SCENE FOUR

In this scene, we hear from each character mostly through song.* In each song, the characters address their identities and how their experiences have made them feel. Katherine explains her dream of being a pilot and making her mark in history, revealing her passion for flight and for teaching other Chinese girls how to be pilots, too. Charlotta muses that she should not cover Amelia Earhart's appearance this evening in favor of other more important issues. Dolores sings about the difficulty of hiding who she really is.

*Many times, when characters are singing to themselves, they reveal their emotions, desires, and dreams.

SCENE FIVE

The characters confront whether they will be remembered in history, and the importance of recognizing the diverse history and ancestry they represent. Dolores indicates her desire to go home and rest, but Katherine and Charlotta encourage her to stay for her performance. Each character encourages the others to be present and be seen while confessing their own concerns and struggles. Dolores takes the stage and speaks to the crowd of onlookers, saying, "Miss Earhart's achievements aside, we don't need planes to fly. Tonight, I've flown in other ways, too." As the applause fades, Charlotta, Katherine, and Dolores sing a reprise of the song, "*The Everywhere of Her*."

The Everywhere of Her

LYRICS

Man, step back and let her step forward
If you haven't heard, we all get a voice
Her words rose up through dirt and fire
Men tried to buy her, but she pressed on

Can we go where we're not wanted?
Undaunted by frowns and stares?
Put our toe in the door as they shut it?
Flout the chill, rise high above it?

The everywhere of her
We're coming your way
The everywhere of her
We're here to stay

The everywhere of her
The everywhere of her
Go on, sigh and make a scene
But check y'self: God don't like mean
We should know each other
Learn to grow together
We should know our inner hopes
Important things we hold close
But true friendship out of thin air?
Yes there's really something there

We can help each other shine
There's power in being aligned
The everywhere of her
The everywhere of her
I'll keep your secrets and tell you mine
Look out for you all the time

You said we couldn't shine like this
You dismissed our skill for finishing
The uphill climb has made us strong
Hard to admit your truth is wrong

We live like we'll be gone at sunrise
The prize is getting the job done
We step up and take the lead
Getting it right, without greed
History open your crossed arms and let
herstory shine
When all the stories get to be told our
world's best defined

The everywhere of her
She's on her own adventure
The everywhere of her
She doesn't need you to defend her

The everywhere of her
There's nothing you need to tell her
The everywhere of her
You can't buy or sell her

The everywhere of her
The reverie of her
Whatever we say, we all say:
The everywhere of her





Historical Context

BACKGROUND: LOS ANGELES, 1930s



In the 1920s, hundreds of thousands of people moved to Los Angeles, mostly by car. The city and surrounding areas had one of the country's largest internal migrations ever recorded. The quick influx of people strained existing structures like housing, employment, and social welfare systems. To make matters worse, housing and public facilities were still segregated and discrimination against women and minorities in job markets was common. However, this

era also brought new opportunities and industries for people of all backgrounds, particularly for women eager to take on new roles outside of the home or traditional labor markets. After women in the United States were granted the right to vote in 1919, women used their voting power to reform city government, pass family protection laws, devote their lives to public service, establish juvenile justice reform, and more. By 1925, Los Angeles was highly regarded for feminism.

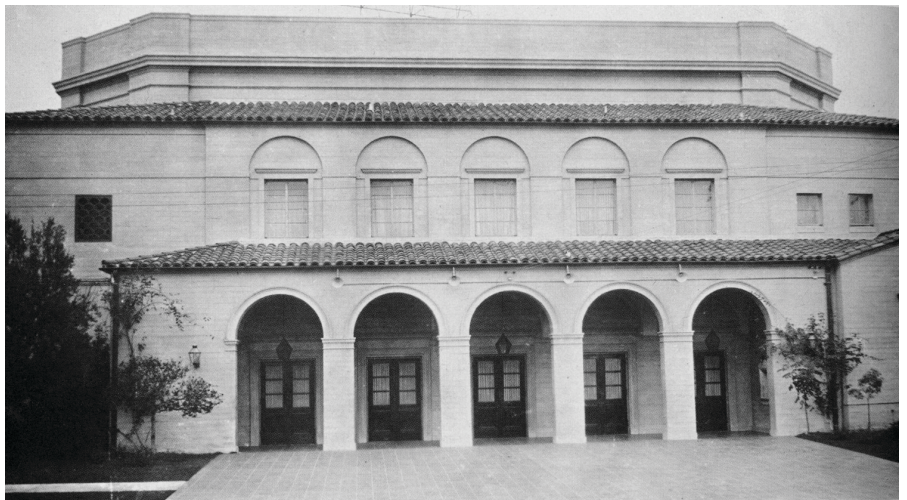


TOP: Looking east up Wilshire Boulevard in Westlake/MacArthur neighborhood, circa 1930s
BELOW: Looking north up a crowded Broadway from 7th Street in downtown LA, circa 1930s

Historical Context

THE EBELL OF LOS ANGELES

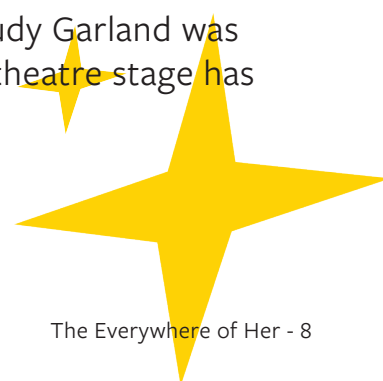
The Ebell of Los Angeles was founded by women, for women in 1894. The non-profit organization remains dedicated to its original mission “to interest women in the study of all branches of literature, art and science and the advancement of women in every branch of culture.” The organization’s philanthropic endeavors include awarding scholarships to students and providing grants to charities that help at-risk women and children in the Los Angeles community. The organization also hosts social and cultural events that inspire and empower. It is a gathering place to connect with artists, educators, authors, entertainers, speakers and politicians. The Ebell has been honored to host diverse and outstanding women such as Amelia Earhart, the last Queen of Romania, and Michelle Obama.



Designed by architect Sumner Hunt, The Ebell of Los Angeles is commemorating its 92nd year on Wilshire Boulevard. With three levels and 75,000 square feet, the renaissance-inspired structure is a noted architectural treasure and registered National Historic Landmark. The building includes a grand dining room, art salon, courtyard garden, and 1,238 seat Broadway-style theater. History resonates throughout the building – the Art Salon was one of the first art galleries in Los Angeles to showcase women artists; Judy Garland was discovered on the Wilshire Ebell Theatre stage; and in nine decades, the theatre stage has been graced by performers ranging from Elizabeth Taylor to Beyoncé.

TOP: The Ebell of Los Angeles from Wilshire Boulevard, circa 1930s

BELOW: Wilshire Ebell Theatre from 8th Street, circa 1933





Characters

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



DOLORES DEL RÍO

August 3, 1904 - April 11, 1983

Born in Durango, Mexico

Maria de los Dolores Asunsolo y Lopez-Negrete - nicknamed Lolita by her family - was a Mexican film actress with a career spanning more than 50 years. She was a star of Hollywood films during the silent era and the Golden Age of Hollywood. Because of her advocacy as a Latin American movie star, many credit her with challenging and breaking hurtful stereotypes and with establishing the Mexican film industry.



KATHERINE CHEUNG

December 12, 1904 - September 2, 2003

Born in Enping, China

Katherine Sui Fun Cheung came to the United States to study music at the age of 17. After becoming fascinated with planes, she quit school and was determined to learn to fly. In 1932, she received her private pilot's license and was credited with being the first Chinese woman to earn such a license in the United States. Soon after, she participated in air shows, performing barrel rolls and other complicated feats. She had dreams of creating a school for women to become pilots, but, after promises to her father to stop flying, the death of her cousin in a plane crash,

and the disappearance of Amelia Earhart, Katherine gave up flying at the age of 38. She died of natural causes.

Characters

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



CHARLOTTA BASS

February 14, 1874 - April 12, 1969

Born in Sumpter, South Carolina

Charlotta Spears Bass was the first Black woman to own and operate a newspaper in the United States. Before he passed away, the founder of The Eagle, John J. Neimore, appointed Charlotta as his successor. Charlotta changed the newspaper's name to The California Eagle and served as its publisher until she retired in 1951. In 1952, she became the first Black woman to run for national office as the Vice Presidential candidate for the Progressive Party. She campaigned with the slogan: "Win or lose, we win by raising the issues."

Bass supported women's suffrage as a means of social change and used The California Eagle to bring attention to the issues faced by Black people, like employment discrimination, racial violence, and segregation.



AMELIA EARHART (does not make appearance)

July 24, 1897 - July 2, 1937 (date of disappearance)

Born in Atchinson, Kansas

Although not present directly in the musical play, Amelia Earhart is an important part of the story.

Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic in 1928 (she was a passenger in a plane that someone else piloted). In 1932, she became the first woman, and the second person, to ever fly across the Atlantic alone. In June, 1937, she set out from Miami, Florida, to fly around the world. She and her navigator, Fred Noonan, vanished on July 2 over the Pacific Ocean.



Themes & Subjects

The Everywhere of Her is a straightforward story featuring complex characters addressing and challenging their expected roles in society. To help identify what the characters are experiencing, some of the themes/subjects of the story are listed below.

IDENTITY, COMMUNITY, AND BELONGING

“Who am I? How do I fit in? Will other people accept me?” Identity is a complicated choice as we see our protagonists deciding who they want to be and challenging how they are perceived. While self-acceptance can be a hard-won battle, these characters struggle with accepting who they are, bonding with others with similar struggles who can assure them that they will find a way to succeed.

FRIENDSHIP

How we engage with others and support them, how we share our values and dreams, and how we connect with one another to benefit each other is a strong message in this story.

COURAGE IN ADVERSITY

In this story, as in real life, the characters faced immense challenges. How they each maintained their focus and drive to achieve their dreams is an important part of what they share.

DISCRIMINATION AND PREJUDICE

By the 1930s when our story takes place, Los Angeles was already a metropolis with a large and diverse population, but there were still barriers to progress, like discrimination and prejudice. As Charlotta comments, nobody thought anything of her picking up a tray, but picking up a pen is a different issue.

Student Activities

These activities can be used before or after their visit to the performance.

MEETING OUR CHARACTERS

RL.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text.

This worksheet can be broken up into periods, or you can have students decide which character to focus on and they can share with the class. It is anticipated each activity per character will take approximately 15-20 minutes.

KATHERINE CHEUNG'S PLANE - MAP SCALE

4.1.1 Explain and use the coordinate grid system of latitude and longitude to determine the absolute locations of places in California and on Earth.

CLASS DISCUSSION

SL.4.1.A Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.

SL.4.1.B Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.

SL.4.1.C Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.





Meeting Our Characters

It might be difficult to imagine today, but for much of history, women have encountered discrimination in the workplace simply for being women. By the 1930s when *The Everywhere of Her* takes place, many women had employment in all kinds of jobs, but there were still areas, like aviation and the newspaper business, that were still largely filled by men. For years, women, and the men who supported their causes, fought against discrimination and fought for equal employment opportunities and equal pay. Below, we will learn about the women in our story who were fighting to follow their dreams.



Charlotta Amanda Spears Bass (February 14, 1874 - April 12, 1969) was a newspaper publisher and editor and a civil rights activist. She is believed to be the first woman of African-American descent to own and operate a newspaper in the United States. While working for a newspaper called *The Eagle*, its founder John Neimore died, and Bass took on the role of the editor for the paper. She later became its owner after purchasing it for fifty dollars. With the newspaper, which Charlotta renamed *The California Eagle*, Bass discussed the issues that the Black and African American communities faced and worked to improve housing, employment, and voting conditions. In her autobiography, she wrote, “... as I think back I know

that is the only kind of life: In serving one’s fellow man one serves himself best...”

We know that Charlotta dedicated her life to addressing the important issues in her community.

What issues are important to your community today? **Imagine you are a reporter working for *The California Eagle*, and you are covering an important story.** Remember to follow Charlotta’s advice in serving others. (Hint: as you think about your headline, whom are you hoping to help? Just as Charlotta did, you may want to ask your community what is important to them, and what is going on currently. You can start by talking with your friends, teachers, school staff, family members, and other trusted adults, just like a real reporter would.)



Meeting Our Characters



Maria de los Dolores Asunsolo y Lopez Negrete (August 3, 1904 - April 11, 1983), known as **Dolores del Río**, was a famous Mexican actress and was one of the first international movie stars. She became famous during the Golden Age of Hollywood, which started with movies with sound (called “talkies”) in 1927 (before that, films were silent!) and ended with the start of World War II in 1939. This period is called the Golden Age because of the rise in popularity of films and movie stars.

Dolores was very proud of her Spanish and Mexican roots, and she also fought against stereotypes and prejudices. She was determined to change how

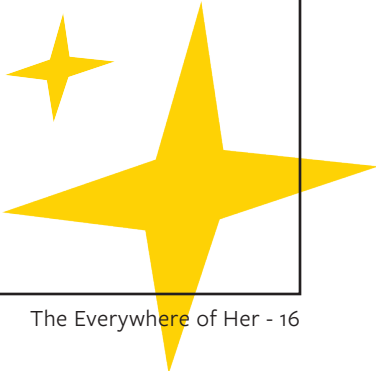
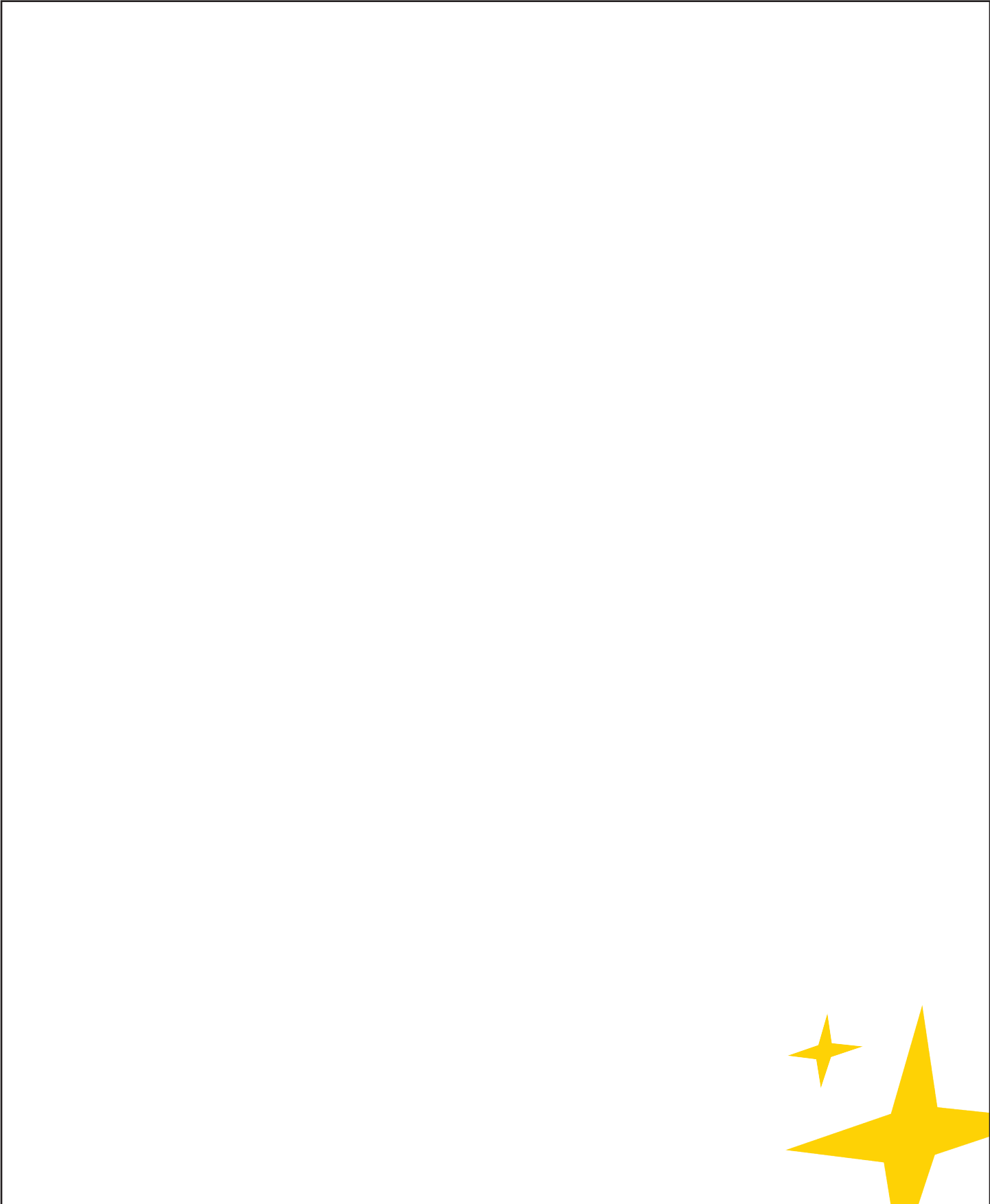
Mexican actors and actresses were cast in movies and was very selective about what roles she accepted. Today, many consider her achievements historic and groundbreaking, and we celebrate actors of all backgrounds in theater, movies, and television.

Here are just a few of the movie posters featuring Dolores del Río.



On the next page, design a poster for *The Everywhere of Her* (remember to include Charlotta Bass and Katherine Cheung).

In the space below, design a poster for *The Everywhere of Her* (remember to include Charlotta Bass and Katherine Cheung along with Dolores del R  o).





Meeting Our Characters



Katherine Sui Fun Cheung (December 12, 1904 - September 2, 2003) earned her pilot's license in 1932, making her the first woman from China to earn a pilot's license in the United States. Her name "Sui Fun" means courage and long life in Chinese. After moving to the U.S. in 1921, she studied music at University of Southern California, the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music, and California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. One day, her father taught her to drive a car in a lot next to an airfield. "I don't see why women have to stay in the kitchen, when instead they could learn to fly," she later said in an interview. After earning her license, Cheung learned to perform stunts, like barrel rolls and spiral

dives, and joined a number of flying organizations. Throughout her career, her achievements have been documented and honored in magazines, newspapers, and exhibits.

On the next page, help Katherine decide where she wants to fly. To help refresh your memory about maps and longitude and latitude, read the helpful hints below.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Latitude measures North and South (so the lines run horizontally from the equator).
- Longitude measures East and West (so the lines run vertically from Greenwich)
- To write latitude and longitude correctly, write latitude first, followed by a comma, and then longitude. On the map on the following page, Los Angeles is about 34 degrees N, 118 degrees W.
- To measure distances on a map, find the scale (it's usually located in a corner). In this case, we will measure the scale with a ruler.

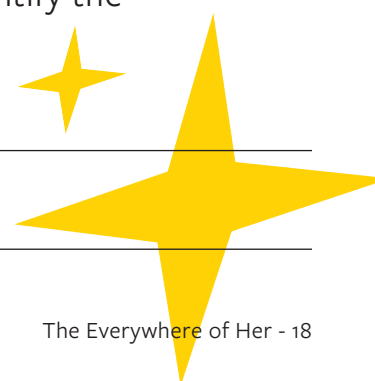


Using the scale and a ruler, how many inches is 120 miles on the map? _____

If Katherine's plane takes off from Los Angeles, which cities can she reach before she has to refuel?

Katherine wants to fly from Los Angeles to Santa Cruz. First, help her identify the coordinates (latitude and longitude) for Santa Cruz.

Next, how many times will she need to refuel? _____





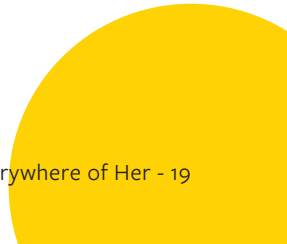
Text - Based Questions

Referring back to the paragraphs about Dolores del Río, Charlotta Bass, and Katherine Cheung, answer the following questions. Be sure to use complete sentences.

Who owned and operated a newspaper?

Who was from Durango, Mexico?

What did Katherine Cheung's name, "Sui Fun", mean in Chinese?



Women in History

MAKING THEIR MARK

BACKGROUND

History is full of important figures, men and women, who helped shape our world and the events of today. However, women's achievements have not always been recognized in the same way. For example, the majority of public statues in the United States are of men. In 2011, The Washington Post announced that of the 5,193 public statues of historic figures in the United States, only 394 are of women.

Today, we know the importance of recognizing and remembering those before us, and certainly, there have been many women who impacted their communities who should be remembered.



LEFT: This statue in Milford, New Hampshire celebrates Harriet E. Wilson, the first Black American woman to publish a novel in the United States.



RIGHT: This monument inside the U.S. Capitol shows the busts of women's rights pioneers Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony. The uncarved block behind them is said to be reserved for the first woman president.



Women in History

MAKING THEIR MARK

INSTRUCTIONS

Students will receive this activity sheet, a stamped postcard, a pencil, crayons, and markers. Please instruct students to put their name on the postcard. Addresses can be added once back at school.

ACTIVITY

Imagine you have been hired to create a monument dedicated to a woman in history. You can choose Dolores del R o, Charlotta Bass, or Katherine Cheung (or, with your teacher's help, select a different historical figure and include them below).

Your monument should celebrate this person's achievements so that they will be remembered. You should create something that is respectful to their memory and acknowledges their accomplishments. In the spaces below, answer the questions, and then draw your monument.

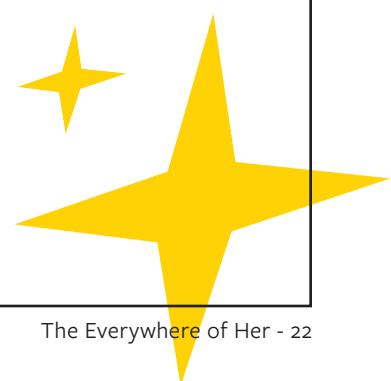
Who is your monument dedicated to?

Why did you select this person?

Where will your monument be placed? Why?

What will your monument say on the plaque?

In the space below, draw the monument you designed for your historical figure.





Crossword

This crossword has the names of just some of the important women in history (there are many more!).

K M Y T B N E N Q H Z P F G A P Q K S V
 A C H O R I A C O D E T E C M I H U L E
 T P Q X T A V M M T A V M O I Q S S L K
 H O A S X Y H P B E R S X J K A J A E N
 E V J E V W M R W U Y A J K N M G S W T
 R X F P R O T A A S T I B B T N T W B B
 I S G A D E G C B E E T A A I G F I A E
 N B W P Z A E E S B A N E T R P U T D C
 E I R U C E I R A M T I H I W A H S I A
 J F M A L H E T R H D G L X R Z L M A L
 O L S M W M O J O P I E E E D R U C E E
 H A Y N H K B N X N C C P T M N A F V V
 N V V L N X Y B E V C O W N B A N H W O
 S C N U G J F C D N B U X N E F F S V L
 O M J W D H N S P O R H N J U E D Y Z A
 N M A I X E R O S A P A R K S E A Q T D
 K H T U R T R E N R U O J O S Q O E L A
 D E E O J M A L A L A Y O U S A F Z A I
 X K L Z R W E R P V F X O Z N I Z O N C
 H F N I L K N A R F D N I L A S O R K N

Ada Lovelace

Ida B. Wells

Rosalind Franklin

Amelia Earhart

Junko Tabei

Rosa Parks

Clara Barton

Katherine Johnson

Sacagawea

Florence Nightingale

Malala Yousafzai

Sojourner Truth

Harriet Tubman

Marie Curie

Susan B Anthony

Crossword Key

K M Y T B N E N Q H Z P F G A P Q K S V
A C H O R I A C O D E T E C M I H U L E
T P Q X T A V M M T A V M O I Q S S L K
H O A S X Y H P B E R S X J K A J A E N
E V J E V W M P W U Y A J K N M G S W T
R X F P R O T A A S T I B B T N T W B B
I S G A D E G C B E E T A A I G F I A E
N B W P Z A E E S B A N E T R P U T D C
E I R U C E I R A M T I H I W A H S I A
J F M A L H E T R H D G L X R Z L M A L
O L S M W M O J O P I E E E D R U C E E
H A Y N H K B N X N C C P T M N A F V V
N V V L N X Y B E V C O W N B A N H W O
S C N U G J F C D N B U X N E F F S V L
O M J W D H N S P O R H N J U E D Y Z A
N M A I X E R O S A P A R K S E A Q T D
K H T U R T R E N R U O J O S Q O E L A
D E E O J M A L A L A Y O U S A F Z A I
X K L Z R W E R P V F X O Z N I Z O N C
H F N I L K N A R F D N I L A S O R K N

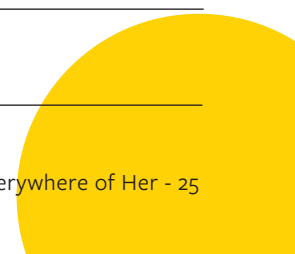




Send a Thank You!

In the space below, draw your favorite scene from *The Everywhere of Her*, and explain why it was your favorite. Be sure to thank the performers and Culver City Dixon Library!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a favorite scene from the play.



Acknowledgements

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The Everywhere of Her educational materials written by Andréa Fuentes, Ed.D.
Use of these materials is granted for educational purposes only.

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