



Alba Witkin 1919-2014

This month we honor the incredible Alba Witkin, a long-time Schools Fund donor, who passed away on December 26. Civic activist, humanitarian, and philanthropist, Alba's contributions to the Berkeley community are unparalleled.



"Alba Witkin stood out among philanthropists for her common sense, passion, and generosity for causes she believed in. Her focus on youth brought her to the Schools Fund over thirty years ago. Grants from the Witkin Charitable Foundation built an expanded Rosa Parks, enhanced Longfellow Auditorium, provided gap funding for the music program, stocked school libraries, and in recent years strengthened the BUSD preschool program with books and supplies. Alba's optimism and commitment to those in need serves as a model for all of us." — Mary Friedman, Schools Fund Board Member

You can read more about Alba Witkin's remarkable life on [Berkeleyside](#).

Berkeley Symphony Honors the Schools Fund

The Schools Fund has been a funding partner for Music in the Schools for over twenty years. We are pleased to share that this year's Music in the Schools Luncheon will be honoring the Schools Fund for our long-time support. [Join us](#) on February 2 at the Bancroft Hotel to celebrate this amazing program!



Berkeley Symphony's [Music in the Schools](#) provides music education for more than 4,200 elementary school students. From over 200 classroom sessions, 21 in-school concerts, and opportunities to rehearse and perform side by side with Berkeley Symphony musicians, Music in the Schools is invaluable for developing young local musicians.

Teacher Summer Fellowships Applications Open Soon



Teacher Summer Fellowships support teachers to undertake a significant summer learning project of their choosing that will add greater depth, understanding, and breadth of perspective to their teaching practice. Applications for 2015 Summer Fellows will open on Friday, January 30;

they are due March 2.

Read about 2014 Summer Fellowship projects [here](#).

Featured Friends & Family Grants

[Friends & Family Grants](#), our new crowdfunding site exclusively for Berkeley teachers, has several projects currently looking for funding. From classroom equipment to books to field trips, we have 20 projects open for donations.



Hopkins preschools teacher, Michael McLaughlin, has 3 grants up on Friends & Family! The first grant, [Music and Movement in Preschool](#), is for purchasing instruments and dance-related materials for Michael's classroom. [Preschool Dramatic Play](#) is for realistic props and costumes so students can work on social skills, team work, language development, and self-help skills through dramatic play. And [Exploring the Nature of our World](#) is for materials in the new Science and Discovery Area of Michael's classroom.

Help make Michael's (or another teacher's!) grants a reality by donating to [Friends & Family](#) today!

2015 Spring Luncheon: Tickets on Sale!

Get your tickets now for our biggest event of the year:
2015 Schools Fund Spring Luncheon
Friday, May 8

It's not too early to purchase tickets or sponsor a table. Learn about our various levels of sponsorship and complete your commitment form [here](#). Or you can purchase individual tickets [here](#).



We will be announcing our 2015 Honorees soon, stay tuned!

Upcoming Volunteer Orientations



Looking to give back to the Berkeley community in the new year? [Attend a Volunteer Orientation](#) to learn about the variety of opportunities we have for volunteering in our schools. From assisting with classroom science projects to getting muddy in the school garden to tutoring in after school programs, Berkeley Schools Volunteers can find something for you.

Curious about what it's like to be a volunteer? Visit our [volunteer page](#) and check out a [couple videos](#) from current volunteers talking about their experiences!

Upcoming Orientations:

Wednesday, January 28: 12pm–1pm

Friday, February 6: 1pm–2pm

Additional orientations available for UC Berkeley students