

## **Remembering Barbara Kahn (1929-2020)**

Board President Mialisa Bonta and Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi jointly acknowledge the passing of former Board of Education Trustee and President Barbara Kahn.

Barbara Miraim Kahn (Pollack) was born in New York on January 12, 1929. Barbara's whole life embodied community activism and service to others. Barbara fought for equity and racial justice for the majority of her life.

Always an excellent student, Barbara graduated high school at 16 years old. She was a member of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and was arrested in Washington, D.C. during a peaceful sit-in protesting discrimination in theaters and restaurants, and she also participated in protests against federally owned swimming pools being segregated. Barbara attended New York University, and when the family could no longer afford her tuition, she transferred to Brooklyn College. She earned her Master's Degree from Boston University.

In Alameda, where she raised her children Sylvia and Kenneth, Barbara was a founding member of HOPE (Housing Opportunities Provided Equally) – which worked to check racial discrimination in complexes that were required by law to provide equal access – before the fair housing laws were passed in California, and she participated in a sleep-in at Franklin Park to protest housing discrimination.

In addition, Barbara was a member of the Brown Bags, a group of six women who fought for opportunities in local schools for children with special needs and children who were economically disadvantaged.

Barbara spent years working to better the lives of people as a social worker. Despite her children being grown, she continued to be an advocate for public education, founding the Stand for Children chapter in Alameda, and speaking about the lack of equity in Alameda's West End schools.

Not satisfied with the quiet life of retirement, Barbara served on the Measure A (Parcel Tax) Oversight Committee, she sat on interview panels for district leadership positions, she was a strong voice on AUSD's various curriculum advisory committees, and she participated in AUSD's Master Planning groups. In 2012, at the age of 84, Barbara ran for and was elected to the Alameda Unified School District Board of Education. She was unanimously elected President of the Board in December of 2014, where she worked diligently to bring equity to schools in Alameda's West End.

Barbara is survived by her daughter, Sylvia Kahn, son-in-law, Daniel Salsbury, grandchildren Evan and Bennett (Peach), her dog Zoey, son Kenneth, sister Leila Schneider of New York City, niece and nephew Emily and Adam Shneider, and great niece and nephew Rebecca and Noah Bonneville and their father David.

A celebration of Barbara's life will be held in the future. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alameda Education Foundation, PO Box 1363, Alameda, California 94501. Please highlight in the memo that it is in memory of Barbara Kahn.

The AUSD family will always hold deep appreciation for Ms. Kahn for her lifelong work on behalf of schools and communities. In the wake of her passing, we will take inspiration from her many contributions as we strive to better serve students and families.