

Bernice Porter (Mrs. Rutger) was described as a gregarious person who loved to entertain. Her husband operated a plant nursery on property that is today known as the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Although Bernice Porter was a Vassar graduate, friends said “she could dig in the garden with the best of them.” After her husband’s death, she deeded their land to the City of Tucson with the caveat that she be allowed to live on the property for the rest of her life. Freda Johnson, current LWVGT President, recalls attending League meetings with Bernice Porter at the Gardens.



Margaret Higgins Sanger (Slee) was educated as a nurse and became a strong advocate for “birth control,” a phrase that she coined. An important caveat is that her tubercular mother went through 18 pregnancies, with 11 live births in 22 years and died at the age of 49. Sanger herself survived “Federal indictments and hundreds of raids on her clinics; she traveled the world dispensing information about birth control and lived to see much of the world accept her view that family planning is a basic human right.” She sought to “create equality between the sexes by freeing women from what she saw as sexual servitude.” Margaret and her husband, oil tycoon Noah Slee, joined her physician sons, Stuart and Grant Sanger, in Tucson in 1934. When in town, she was known for her lavish parties; a granddaughter described her as a woman who “loved champagne, daiquiris, flambéed dessert, and great salads that she made at the table.” In 1965 the U of A awarded her an honorary doctor of humanities degree. Margaret was awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor by President Lyndon Johnson in 1966 and also nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. She died in Tucson of heart failure in 1966.

Georgia Scott aka Georgia Jackson: Her husband, Dr. Fred Newton Scott, was a prominent linguistics and English language professor at the University of Michigan. Georgia Jackson was one of his students who became his second wife and they moved to Tucson when he retired in 1927. Georgia was the first woman to serve on the editorial staff of “*American Boy*” magazine and later became editor of the “*Literary Digest*.”



Grace Sternberg (Mrs. Jay) (1902-2000) and her husband, a noted portrait photographer, moved to Tucson from New York. She was a founder of the Tucson Museum of Art and also was involved with the Tucson Festival Society, the Tucson Symphony, the Nature Conservancy, and the beginning of the Arizona Theater Company. In a 1997 interview, Grace recalled that she had been treasurer of the League of Women Voters and after the first year the organization had \$90 in the bank. She was a close friend and traveling companion of Margaret Sanger and chaired the founding of a birth control clinic in Tucson which was reported to have provided advice to 3,000 women during the 6 years it existed. Grace Sternberg received the Henry Quinto Lifetime Achievement Award from Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona. A nephew related a story at her memorial service about one of her trips abroad; he said that she rode a camel on one trip wearing her hat and gloves. Another friend quipped that “the camel was probably thoroughly briefed because Mrs. Sternberg was very opinionated.”

Dorothea Stevens (Mrs. Stanford) Her husband was an acclaimed artist. They were “snowbirds” who arrived in Tucson from the East Coast in 1936 and later built a house and studio on Elm Street.

Elizabeth Stokes (Mrs. Harold P.) worked with Georgie Forbes on the League Foreign Relations Committee.