We have among us Doyens in the early care and education field. They are a special group of leaders held in high regard with a true place of respect as mentors to our generation. They have dedicated their lives to making a difference for young children and their families, professionally and personally. They have led with vision, determination, generosity of spirit, and an unceasing commitment to lifelong learning. Their contributions continue to provide both momentum and a foundation to our field.

Exchange magazine launched the Exchange Leadership Initiative in November 2014 to recognize leaders and leadership in our profession. Since then Exchange has recognized 243 leaders in the field of early care and education. ELI is now undertaking a search in coordination with our Exchange Strategic Partners and other national organizations for our Doyens. We will continue our recognition of these influential professionals who lead in different capacities and circumstances, individuals diverse in gender, race, life situation, culture, experience, age, and world view.

We begin with recognition of our first group of Doyens. We acknowledge the vision, determination, and generosity of spirit that are hallmarks of their leadership. We honor them for their lifetime commitment to young children and families.

Paula Jorde Bloom
Wheeling, Illinois
Professor Emerita, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership at NLU

Paula Jorde Bloom is Professor Emerita and founder of the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership at National Louis University. She received her master’s and doctoral degrees from Stanford University. Bloom has taught preschool and kindergarten, designed and directed a child care center, and served as administrator of a campus laboratory school. She is the author of numerous journal articles and several widely-read books including Avoiding Burnout, A Great Place to Work, Blueprint for Action, Circle of Influence, Making the Most of Meetings, Workshop Essentials, Leadership in Action, Inspiring Peak Performance, and From the Inside Out. Bloom’s research interests are in the areas of organizational climate, occupational stress, job satisfaction, staff development, and other early childhood workforce issues. She has been a pioneer in the area of early childhood program assessment and authored the Early Childhood Work Environment Survey and the Early Childhood Job Satisfaction Survey. With her colleague, Teri Talan, she also developed the Program Administration Scale and the Business Administration Scale for Family Child Care.
Barbara Taylor Bowman  
Chicago, Illinois  
Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development, Erikson Institute

Barbara Taylor Bowman is the Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development at Erikson Institute. She is one of the institute’s founders and served as its president from 1994 to 2001. She has over 50 publications and her specialty areas are early education, cultural diversity, and education of children at-risk. She was chief officer for early childhood education at the Chicago Public Schools from 2004 to 2012 and consultant to the U.S. Department of Education in 2009. Bowman has worked on a number of research and training projects, including those on Native American reservations, in St. Louis Public Schools, and in Chicago Child-Parent Centers. She has served on numerous professional boards and committees, including the boards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, of which she was president (1980–82), the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (1997–2002), panels for the National Research Council (she chaired the committee on early childhood pedagogy), and committees for Black Child Development Institute. Honors include six honorary doctorates, the McGraw Hill Prize in Education, the Sargent Shriver Award for Equal Justice, the Chicago Historical Society Jane Addams award, and a Golden Apple for Community Service.

Effective Practices in Early Childhood Education: Building a Foundation (2017). She has served on numerous advisory boards including the National Research Council’s Committee on Early Childhood Mathematics, which produced a landmark report, “Mathematics in Early Childhood: Paths toward Excellence and Equity.” She is board chair of the HighScope Educational Research Foundation. In 2014, the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership at National Louis University recognized Bredekamp with its Visionary Leadership Award. She has been a visiting lecturer at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia; Monash University in Melbourne; University of Alaska; and University of Hawaii.

Margie Carter
Seattle, Washington  
Author and ECE Consultant

Starting her career as a primary school teacher, Margie Carter moved into early childhood education to co-found a parent co-op when she was in need of child care for her young son. Growing up a white child in the segregated south in the 1940s and living in Asia in the 1960s cemented her commitment to overcoming bias and systemic racism. Strong influences on her work include Paolo Freire, faculty at Pacific Oaks College, African American writers too numerous to mention, Parker Palmer, Deb Curtis, educators in Reggio Emilia and Aotearoa, New Zealand, and a host of courageous educators and administrators who work against the odds every day to expand our limited thinking about quality and equity. Carter has helped launch the Worthy Wage movement, co-authored seven books with Deb Curtis, produced early childhood education training videos with Ann Pelo and Sarah Felstiner, worked as a college instructor, and traveled widely to speak and consult across North America, New Zealand, and Australia. A long-time contributor to Exchange, Carter promotes an understanding of how early childhood programs shape the identity of children and teachers for better or worse. We can do better!

Sue Bredekamp
Cheverly, Maryland  
Early Childhood Education Specialist,  
Independent Early Childhood Consultant

Sue Bredekamp, Ph.D., is a consultant on developmentally appropriate practice, curriculum, teaching, and professional development for state and national organizations. She is the editor of NAEYC’s best-selling, highly influential publications on Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs, and she developed and directed NAEYC’s accreditation system. She is the author of an introductory text, Don’t Fence Me In: An Introduction to Early Childhood Education (2017). Sue has been a consultant to the National Association for the Education of Young Children and to the American Association of Child Care Teachers, and she served as a member of the board of directors of the National Child Care Association and Children’s Defense Fund of Minnesota. Sue helped launch the Minnesota Child Care Licensing Project and was its director from 1994 to 2001.

Deb Curtis
Seattle, Washington  
Toddler Teacher, Adult Educator, and Author,  
Epiphany Early Learning Preschool

Deb Curtis is a passionate advocate for children and childhood and the adults who care for them. She began her career in early childhood when she was 17 years old, working in the first Head Start program in her community in 1969. She has worked ever since with children and teachers in early childhood settings all over North America, Australia, and New Zealand. She has been a child care teacher, assistant director, college instructor, Head Start education coordinator, consultant, and author. After years of working with adults, she went back to work directly with children 15 years ago. She has a bachelor’s degree in communication and a master’s degree in human development from Pacific Oaks College and is the author of nine books related to working with young children. Her experiences have led her to a deep respect for children and their abilities, and a lifelong commitment to work in their behalf. Deb currently works as a mentor toddler teacher at Epiphany Early Learning Preschool in Seattle, Washington. Observing children to study their points of view and sharing the stories of this remarkable time in their lives is her intellectual, emotional, social justice, and spiritual work.

Louise Derman-Sparks
Pasadena, California  
Anti-bias Education Author and Consultant

Louise Derman-Sparks always wanted to be a teacher. As a child she mostly played school with an easel as a “blackboard” and imaginary students. At that time, she had in mind being a primary school teacher. Then, in 1963, she joined the Ypsilanti Perry Preschool Project and was hooked on early childhood education. Derman-Sparks loved the children’s curiosity, energy, intelligent ideas, and joy in life. Several other factors influenced her focus on anti-bias education: growing up in a social justice activist family; parenting two adopted children of color, who are now adults working in human services;
teaching at Pacific Oaks College and, through it all, engaging in social justice work. She learned that early childhood education appreciably contributes to the development of children and adults with the self-knowledge, desire, confidence, and skills to join in creating diverse, inclusive, peaceful, and just societies. That belief has been her guiding light throughout her varied roles in early childhood education: teacher of children and adults, writer, consultant, speaker. All along, Derman-Sparks has been taught, stretched, and supported by amazing human beings in the U.S. and internationally. She thanks them all for their friendship and inspiration.

Ellen Galinsky
New York, New York
Chief Science Officer, Bezos Family Foundation
Senior Research Advisor, Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

Ellen Galinsky is the chief science officer for the Bezos Family Foundation and a senior research advisor for the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Her life’s work revolves around identifying important societal questions, conducting research to seek answers, and turning the findings into action. Career highlights include researching and writing a book about exemplary child care (The New Extended Family), then using the lessons learned to help found the Family Center at Bank Street, and in serving as president of NAEYC. She wrote a book on how parents grow and change as adults (The Six Stages of Parenthood) and used that knowledge with the parent support movement. Seeing how important work-life issues are, she co-founded and served as President of Families and Work Institute, helped to create the major ongoing studies of the changing workforce and workplace, and then When Work Works, an awards program in all 50 states, now a program of SHRM. Based on her book, Mind in the Making, training and materials have been created for parents and professionals on promoting executive function skills at the Bezos Family Foundation.

Amelia Gambetti
Reggio Emilia, Italy
Reggio Emilia Approach Liaison and Consultant

Amelia Gambetti was an educator in the Reggio Emilia Municipal Preschools for 25 years and worked with Loris Malaguzzi, the founder of the Reggio Emilia Approach. She worked on the creation of The Hundred Languages of Children and “The Wonder of Learning” Exhibitions. When Amelia Gambetti was Reggio Children International Networks Coordinator, she served on boards of Reggio Emilia Institute, Sweden; Red Solare, South America; NAREA — Istituzione, Scuole e Nidi Infanzia Municipality of Reggio Emilia; and on the board of the World Forum Foundation.

Gambetti was a visiting lecturer at the University of Massachusetts and collaborated with schools in Washington, D.C., Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. She has presented extensively in Italy and in North America, Northern Europe, South America, Asia, the Middle East, and South Africa. Her experiences were published in books including Making Learning Visible, The Hundred Languages of Children, In the Spirit of the Studio, Bringing Learning to Life, “The Wonder of Learning” exhibit catalog, and in magazines including Rechild, Innovations, and Exchange. Currently, Gambetti is Reggio Emilia Liaison, consulting for the REA, and collaborating with schools in Florida, Washington, D.C., Indiana, Oklahoma, Minnesota, and California.

Lella Gandini
Northampton, Massachusetts
Consultant in Early Childhood Education, Liaison Reggio Emilia Schools


Janet Gonzalez-Mena
Fairfield, California
Retired Early Childhood Educator

Janet Gonzalez-Mena never intended to go into early childhood education. But when a neighbor talked her into putting her children into preschool, that did it; she was sold on early education! She never left ECE after that. To get qualified, Gonzalez-Mena earned a master’s degree from Pacific Oaks College. She eventually ended up teaching full-time in the early childhood program at Napa Valley College. She also consulted and conducted trainings, including being part-time faculty, for WestEd’s Program for Infant-Toddler Caregivers, and served on the faculty for the Early Childhood Equity Institute in San Francisco. While she was teaching and training, she was also writing books. Gonzalez-Mena focused first on infancy, then went on to author and sometimes co-author many more books, most aimed at teachers, caregivers, and parents — often with an emphasis on diversity. She studied under some of the greats in early childhood education; among her teachers were Lilian Katz, Betty Jones, Magda Gerber, and Anna Tardos. The latter two were infant/toddler specialists.
Luis A. Hernandez
Miami, Florida
Early Childhood Education Specialist, Western Kentucky University

Luis A. Hernandez, training and technical assistance Early Childhood Education Specialist, holds a master’s in bilingual/multicultural education from the University of San Francisco. Hernandez brings solid expertise based on his work history in Head Start, child care, pre-K programs, colleges and universities, child care resource and referral administration, and professional development design. At Western Kentucky University, his work focuses on a wide range of early childhood education and professional development topics. His expertise includes early literacy, dual language learning, adult learning practices, changing demographics and diversity, and early childhood management and leadership topics. As a regular presenter and keynote speaker at national, state, and local conferences, Hernandez is highly regarded for his motivational and energizing presentations. In addition, he recently published his first book, Learning from Bumps on the Road, focused on leadership topics in early childhood education. The book is a compilation of presentations and conversations with three fantastic leaders in the field.

Hernandez is active in a number of organizations that support children and family interests. At the National Association for the Education of Young Children, he has been active in the accreditation process, and developing professional and leadership development opportunities. He currently serves on the advisory board of the McCormick Tribune Center for Early Childhood Leadership, the United Way’s Center for Excellence in Early Childhood, and serves on the board of Parents As Teachers. He has served on the boards of the Florida Children’s Forum, the Child Care Workforce, National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Parent Services Project in California, and the National Latino Children’s Institute. For Hernandez, an area of work and professional interest centers in advancing the goals of the World Forum on Early Care and Education. Lastly, he is proud to serve as trustee on the board of Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, his undergraduate alma mater.

Alice Sterling Honig
Syracuse, New York
Professor Emerita, Syracuse University

Alice Sterling Honig, Professor Emerita at Syracuse University, received her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Syracuse University. As a professor, she created courses in language and cognition, cross-cultural study, prosocial and moral development, and observation and assessment, and was awarded the Chancellor’s Citation for Academic Excellence. For six years, she served as research review editor for NAEC’s Young Children. For over 35 years, she taught a national one-week Quality Infant/Toddler Caregiving course each summer. Honig has published over 650 articles/chapters. Among her more than two dozen books are Infant Caregiving: A Design for Training (with J. R. Lally); Parent Involvement in Early Childhood Education; Risk Factors in Infancy (Ed.); Playtime Learning Games for Young Children; The Best for Babies: Expert Advice for Assessing Infant/Toddler Programs; Little Kids, Big Worries: Stress-busting Tips for Early Childhood Classrooms; Experiencing Nature with Young Children: Awakening Delight, Curiosity, and a Sense of Stewardship; and Literacy, Storytelling and Bilingualism in Asian Classrooms (Ed.). In China, she was honored to present the first Dr. Alice S. Honig Award to a Chinese pediatrician. She received the Central New York Psychological Association award for "outstanding lifetime contribution and service."

Elizabeth Jones
Los Angeles, California
Faculty Emerita, Pacific Oaks College

Elizabeth (Betty) Jones arrived in Pasadena, California, in 1954 as a preschool teacher at Pacific Oaks Friends School and became an active participant in the creation of Pacific Oaks College, which was accredited in 1959 and has continued to grow ever since. Teaching adult students in human development and early childhood education, she experienced an extraordinary play environment for teachers of adults as well as of children. Thinking by writing, she collaborated with colleagues in creating books and articles on play, emergent curriculum, and adults as active learners. Her books include The Play’s the Thing, Master Players, Playing to Get Smart, Emergent Curriculum, The Lively Kindergarten, Growing Teachers, Teaching Adults, and Teaching Adults Revisited. Retiring in 2010 as Faculty Emerita, she has continued an active professional role. Jones shares the vision of Pacific Oaks’ Quaker founders — to create a more peaceful world; a world that begins with little children and that gains continuity through elders’ reflections on lives lived. Her latest reflection, "A Meditation on Peacemaking," can be found in this issue of Exchange.

Lilian G. Katz
Urbana, Illinois
Professor Emerita, University of Illinois

Lilian G. Katz was born in London, England (10 minutes before her twin sister). Her family moved to the U.S., she completed high school in Los Angeles, and attended Whittier College (California) for two years. She married Boris Katz, moved to San Francisco, and completed her bachelor’s degree at San Francisco State College before having three children. Katz participated in local cooperative nursery schools and then became a teacher at a local parent-cooperative nursery school. She enrolled in graduate school at Stanford University where she completed her doctorate in developmental studies in 1968. Katz accepted a position on the faculty of the University of Illinois that same year, from which she retired in 2000. She served as the director of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Early Childhood Education at the University of Illinois, and continues to work in the Children’s Research Center. Katz has lectured in all 50 U.S. states and in 57 countries and has an extensive list of publications. She was a Fulbright professor at the University of Hamburg in Germany and has been a visiting professor and lecturer at universities in Australia, the West Indies, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, and Portugal.
the work of its program for Infant/Toddler Care for Child and Family Studies, where he has directed intervention on children in low-income settings. Cur-}

Edgar Klugman
Newtonville, Massachusetts
Professor Emeritus of Early Childhood Education

Edgar Klugman, Ed.D., is a professor emeritus of early childhood education and care at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachu- setts, one of the nation’s premier training institutions for early childhood and elementary educators. A policy development specialist, Klugman is a charter member of the Play, Policy, and Practice Interest Forum within the National Association for the Education of Young Children. In addition, he has served in national, regional, and local roles as well as a member of the NAEYC governing board. A collaborator on several important conferences, he has written several influential publications in this field. He has been a member of the Early Childhood Advisory Council to the Commissioner of Education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, helping to craft successful policies to form community collaboration on behalf of children and families. Klugman has also appeared as an expert witness on child and family issues before state legislatures and is the co-founder of Playing for Keeps. He is investigating intergenerational living in caring communities as a way to expand life choices for community members at each life stage.

J. Ronald Lally
Sausalito, California
Co-Director, Center for Child and Family Studies, WestEd Program for Infant Toddler Care

J. Ronald Lally received his doctorate in educational psychology with a focus on infancy from the University of Florida and a post-doctoral certificate of infant testing from the Child Development Research Centre in London. While at the University of Florida, he directed one of the first home visiting programs for infants in the U.S. He was a professor at Syracuse University and chair of its Department of Child and Family Studies. At Syracuse University, he ran the Family Development Research Program, a longitudinal study of the impact of early intervention on children in low-income settings. Currently he is the co-director of the WestEd Center for Child and Family Studies, where he has directed the work of its program for Infant/Toddler Care for 30 years. He also is the director of “For Our Babies,” a national movement advocating for the rights of babies. Lally consults internationally on programs and policies for infants, toddlers, and their families. He has produced 20 videos on quality infant/toddler care. He is one of the founders of ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants Toddlers and Families and served on the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee that developed Early Head Start.

Joan Lombardi
Washington, D.C.
Director, Early Opportunities, LLC

Over the past 45 years, Joan Lombardi has made significant contributions in the areas of child and family policy as an innovative leader and policy advisor to national and international organizations and foundations and as a public servant. She served in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the first deputy assistant secretary for Early Childhood Development (2009–2011) in the Obama administration, and as the deputy assistant secretary for Policy and External Affairs in Administration for Children and Families and as the first commissioner of the Child Care Bureau among other positions during the Clinton administration. Outside of public service, Lombardi served as the founding chair of the Birth to Five Policy Alliance (now the Alliance for Early Success) and has dedicated many years to promoting leadership and advocacy for young children in the United States and around the world. She currently serves as senior advisor to the Bernard van Leer Foundation on global child development strategies and to a range of foundations on domestic early childhood issues, including the Buffett Early Childhood Fund.

M.-A. Lucas
Bethesda, Maryland

M.-A. Lucas, founder of the U.S. Army Child Care System from 1980 until her retirement in 2011, was asked about her program vision during the job interview. Her response... “the Army Child Care Program would become a model for the nation!” This was a bold aspirational statement, because military child care programs were considered “the ‘ghetto’ of American child care.” Working collaboratively with military service and Department of Defense counterparts, military leaders and members of Congress, their collective vision included: delivering the right number of high-quality child options in the right places at the right cost for families and the military. Has this vision been realized? Many agree. “I hold up Military Child Care as the most exemplary federally funded effort in early childhood education.”

“The Military Child Development Program is a model for the nation for providing high-quality affordable child care.”

“The Military’s systemic approach to child care provides a model for addressing the problems of both affordable and quality care.”

Lucas previously served on the NAEYC Governing Board, as executive director of the Early Care & Education Consortium and is currently on First Children’s Finance and the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership Advisory Boards. Her latest efforts involve the L.E.A.D. Early Childhood Collaborative and the Military-State Child Care Pilot Project Beyond the Gates.

Evelyn K. Moore
Washington, D.C.
President Emeritus, National Black Child Development Institute

Even as a young inexperienced teacher, Evelyn K. Moore was concerned because so many African American children were being assigned to special education classes based on test scores. At the time she joined the Perry Preschool Program as a teacher, Moore did not realize that she would become a pioneer — working with others to make preschool available to millions of children. Perry provided evidence that helped to establish programs like Head Start.

Moore joined the War on Poverty program initiated by President Johnson. She became special assis-
tant to Wilbur J. Cohen, former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. Working with others, Moore crafted a proposal that was funded by the Ford Foundation. This was the launch of the National Black Child Development Institute, which she headed for 36 years. Moore’s vision was and still is that if the country provided high-quality early learning experiences for African American children, the achievement gap would become something of the past. In recent years, her pioneering work and dedication to the cause of early childhood education enabled her and NBCCI to have an impact on both state and federal legislation. This is a legacy of which she is proud.

Larry Schweinhart
Ann Arbor, Michigan
President Emeritus, HighScope Educational Research Foundation

Larry Schweinhart has been an early childhood program researcher and speaker throughout the United States and in countries around the world. He conducted research at the HighScope Educational Research Foundation in Ypsilanti, Michigan, from 1975 to 2013; served as its president from 2003 to 2013; and is now president emeritus. He has directed:

- the HighScope Perry Preschool Study, which establishes the beneficial long-term effects of high-quality early childhood education in which children plan and carry out their own learning activities.
- the Michigan School Readiness Program Evaluation through age 19, which shows that effective early childhood education can be widely achieved.
- HighScope’s Head Start Quality Research Center, which explored how to bring high-quality early childhood education to Head Start.
- the development and validation of the Child Observation Record, which measures how much children achieve in all types of early childhood programs.

Schweinhart received his doctorate in education from Indiana University in 1975. He and his wife are enjoying their current stage of life and are continuing to contribute to the development of two children and five grandchildren.

Diane Trister Dodge
Longmont, Colorado
President, Dodge Family Fund

Diane Trister Dodge began her career as a preschool and kindergarten teacher, the education coordinator for Head Start and child care programs in Mississippi and Washington, D.C., and as director of national projects in education and human services. She founded Teaching Strategies in 1988, with the mission of enhancing the quality of early childhood programs by providing the most effective resources in curriculum, assessment, professional development, and family connections. Dodge collaborated with valued colleagues to develop the resources now widely used in Head Start, child care, and pre-K programs across the county. She served on the Governing Board of NAECY (1990–1994), the Center for the Child Care Workforce (1995–2002), and the D.C. Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development (1984–2009). In 2004, Dodge received the Bank Street College Alumni Association Recognition Award for outstanding accomplishments in the field of education, and in 2010 she was inducted into the Association of Educational Publishers Hall of Fame for her lifetime contributions to education. She and her family created the Dodge Family Fund to improve the chances that children in low-income families can succeed in school and in life.

Yasmina Vinci
Alexandria, Virginia
Executive Director, National Head Start Association

As a seasoned leader in executive and policy roles, Yasmina Vinci’s professional experience and capabilities have delivered improvements in the lives of children at national, state, and local levels. Vinci came to the National Head Start Association after several years as principal and founder of EDGE Consulting Partners. At EDGE, Vinci pursued local, national, and global projects that utilized the knowledge, experience, and connections of her years in human services and child care, in order to enhance the capacity of organizations to thrive as competent, strategic entities capable of influencing policy. She founded EDGE after receiving her master’s in public administration from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.

Vinci’s experience is grounded in service as executive director of a child care program serving low-income families. As the first executive director of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (now Child Care Aware of America), she led NACCRRA’s transition from an all-volunteer association of fewer than 200 resource and referral agencies to a powerful national network of 860+ community organizations. In state government, she supervised Head Start research, administered the federal Dependent Care Grant, and planned for New Jersey’s implementation of the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Vinci currently serves on numerous advisory boards, is a member of the World Forum on Early Care and Education, and is one of Moneyball for Government’s Nonprofit All Stars.

Edward Zigler
New Haven, Connecticut
Professor Emeritus of Psychology; Emeritus Faculty; Director, Emeritus, The Edward Zigler Center in Child Development & Social Policy

Edward Zigler received his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1958. He founded and is Director Emeritus of Yale’s Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy, one of the first centers in the nation to combine training in developmental science and social policy construction. He conceptualized the School of the 21st Century, which has been adopted by more than 1,300 schools in 20 states. Working with state governments and private foundations, he has played a central role in generating the momentum toward establishing universal preschool education. Zigler is the author, coauthor, or editor of over 800 scholarly publications and 40 books. He helped to plan several national projects and policies, including Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Family and Medical Leave Act. In the early 1970s, he served as the founding director of the U.S. Office of Child Development (now ACYF) and Chief of the U.S. Children’s Bureau.