

## Home Page

## Biographies of Women Mathematicians



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Teresa Colter

Welcome to the web site for biographies of women in mathematics. These pages are part of an on-going project at [Agnes Scott College](#) in Atlanta, Georgia, to illustrate the numerous achievements of women in the field of mathematics. Here you can find biographical essays or comments on the women mathematicians profiled on this site, as well as additional resources about women in mathematics. Each time this page is reloaded, a randomly selected photo is displayed to the left (if Javascript is enabled). Click on the image to go to the profile of that woman.

We also welcome contributions of biographical information or essays from those outside Agnes Scott College. If you are interested in contributing an essay, please send your contribution to the email address below. Comments, suggestions, or corrections can also be sent to this address.

- [Names in Alphabetical Order](#)
- [Names in Chronological Order](#)
- [Interactive Timeline \(New!\)](#)
- [Names by Location of Birth](#) (including a Google Map view)
- [Other Resources about Women Mathematicians](#)
- [The First Ph.D's in Mathematics by Women before 1930](#)
- [Prizes, Awards and Honors for Women Mathematicians](#)
- [Birth and Death Anniversaries](#)
- [Photo Credits](#)
- [Search the site](#)

**Did you know?** (See the [Archive](#) for past announcements)

- Congratulations to Stephanie Shi-Ning Mui from Vienna, VA, for receiving the First Place Award at the 2016 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, held May 10-16, 2016, in Phoenix, AZ. Her poster was on "Embedding a Flat Torus in Three Dimensional Euclidean Space" and provided a visualization of the embedded flat torus in the three-dimensional Euclidean space using sinusoidal fractal curves.
- Congratulations to the U.S. team that won second place at the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad in Busteni, Romania, April 10-16, 2016. Read the [MAA News release](#). For information about the competition, including the problems, team scores, and individual scores, see the [EGMO home page](#).

## Logo

Biographies of Women Mathematicians



## URL

<https://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/women.htm>

## Subject

Mathematicians-Biographies-Dictionary

## Accessibility

Free

**Language** English

**Publisher** Agnes Scott College

**Brief History** Subject to research

**Scope and Coverage** Biography of Women in Mathematics sponsors an essay for biographies of contemporary women mathematicians and statisticians in academic, industrial, and government careers.

**Kind of Information** Every entry shows the date of birth, profession, qualification details, reference etc along with photo.

### Verdiana Grace Masanja



October 12, 1954 -

Verdiana Grace Masanja was the first woman from Tanzania to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics. She was born in Bukoba, an urban area of Tanzania on Lake Victoria near Uganda. An excellent student as a child and often the top in her class, she attended Jangwani High School, Dar es Salaam. Although her initial interest was in biology with a desire to become a medical doctor, her abilities in mathematics encouraged her teachers to push her in that direction. She went on to enroll at the University of Dar es Salaam where she earned her degree in mathematics and physics. She also received a masters degree in mathematics at Dar es Salaam. She then left Tanzania to continue her studies at the Technical University of Berlin, earning a masters in physics and then a PhD in mathematics in 1986. Her thesis was on "A numerical study of a Reiner-Rivlin Fluid in an axi-symmetrical circular pipe." Masanja was one of only two women studying mathematics at the university at that time.

Masanja returned to Tanzania where she is now a professor of mathematics at the University of Dar es Salaam. She has become a leading proponent for the importance of secondary education, and in particular for mathematics education for girls and women. She has served as the secretary for the Commission on Women in Mathematics in Africa, as Vice-President for Eastern Africa on the executive committee of the African Mathematical Union, as the chairperson for the Tanzania Education Network, and as the national coordinator of Female Education in Mathematics in Africa. Masanja is also the mother of four children.

#### References

1. Tawiah, Augustina. "Prof Verdiana Masanja Tells Her Story," Junior Graphic, November 23, 2005 ([www.graphicghana.com](http://www.graphicghana.com))
2. [Author Profile at zbMath](#)
3. [Mathematics Genealogy Project](#)

## *Special Features*

- ❖ Links to
  - [Books and Articles about Women in Mathematics](#)
  - [Association for Women in Mathematics](#)
  - [AWM Facebook Page](#)
  
  - [Archives of the Newsletter of the Association for Women in Mathematics](#)
  - [European Women in Mathematics](#)  
[Archives of the Newsletter of the European Women in Mathematics Association](#)
  - [Women in Mathematics](#)
  - [Women in Maths Videos](#)
  - [Women in Maths Community Facebook Page](#)
  - [Committee for Women in Mathematics](#)  
[femmes & mathématiques](#)
  - [African Women in Mathematics Association](#)  
[Women Mathematicians in the Academic Ranks: A Call to Action](#)
  - [Pioneering Women in American Mathematics: The Pre-1940 PhD's](#)  
[Women Doing Mathematics](#)
  - [Emmy Noether Lecturers](#)
  - [Biographies of Women Mathematicians](#)
  - [The Untold History of Women in Science and Technology](#)
  - [Posters Celebrating Women in Mathematics](#)
  - [Girls' Angle: A Math Club for Girls](#)
  - [MacTutor History of Mathematics](#)  
[The Davis Archives: Mathematical Women in the British Isles, 1878-1940](#)
  - [Black Women in Mathematics](#)
  - [A Brief History of Women and Mathematics at Wisconsin](#)
  - [4000 Years of Women in Science](#)
  - [Distinguished Women of Past and Present](#)
  - [The Ada Project](#)
  - [The Women of ENIAC](#)
  - [Women In Mathematics](#)
  - [History of Mathematics](#)
  - [Women in Math \(WIM\) at UMCP](#)
  - [Women of NASA](#)
  - [Contributions of 20th Century Women to Physics](#)
  - [Archives of Women in Science and Engineering](#)
  - [Women Nobel Prize Laureates](#)
  - [The Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association](#)
  - [The PDK Poster Project](#)
  - [Women in Astronomy: An Introductory Resource Guide to Materials in English](#)
  - [10 Famous Women Scientists in History](#)
  - [Grandma Got STEM.](#)

- [American Women in Science Before the Civil War](#) etc in Resource section.
- ❖ Links to Google map.
- ❖ The site contains an option of photo credit that is from where the photo has been taken is mentioned

### Arrangement Pattern

Surname of women mathematicians are arranged alphabetically

### Alphabetical Index of Women Mathematicians

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

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**[Interactive Timeline](#)**

**A**

- [Maria Gaetana Agnesi \(1718-1799\)](#)
- [Florence Eliza Allen \(1876-1960\)](#)
- [Annie Dale Biddle Andrews \(1885-1940\)](#)
- [Hertha Ayrton \(1854-1923\)](#)

**B**

- [Clara Latimer Bacon \(1866-1948\)](#)
- [Grace M. Bareis \(1875-1962\)](#)
- [Nina Karlovna Bari \(1901-1961\)](#)
- [Ruth Aaronson Bari \(1917-2005\)](#)
- [Mabel Schmeiser Barnes \(1905-1993\)](#)
- [Charlotte Barnum \(1860-1934\)](#)
- [Lida Barrett \(1927- \)](#)
- [Agnes Baxter \(1870-1917\)](#)
- [Lulu Hofmann Bechtolsheim \(1902-1989\)](#)
- [Alexandra Bellow \(1935- \)](#)
- [Suzan Rose Benedict \(1873-1942\)](#)

Chronological indexes are there like

### Chronological Index of Women Mathematicians

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The choice of what century to use is a bit subjective. For the sake of this index I have listed each woman by the century of her

**[Interactive Timeline](#)**

**Eighteenth Century and Before**

- [Theano \(6th Century B.C.\)](#)
- [Hypatia \(370?-415\)](#)
- [Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia \(1646-1684\)](#)
- [Emilie du Chatelet \(1706-1749\)](#)
- [Maria Gaetana Agnesi \(1718-1799\)](#)
- [Caroline Herschel \(1750-1848\)](#)
- [Sophie Germain \(1776-1831\)](#)
- [Mary Fairfax Somerville \(1780-1872\)](#)

Biographies are arranged according to location.



Hilda Geiringer von Mises

## Geographic Index of Women Mathematicians

Country (or state) where each woman was born.

**Born in the United States:** [Google Map](#)

**Born Outside the United States:** [Google Map](#)

(The distinction is only because Google Map has a limit of 100 locations per map.)

### United States

#### California

- [Annie Dale Biddle Andrews \(1885-1940\)](#)
- [Lao Genevra Simons \(1870-1949\)](#)
- [Jean Taylor \(1944- \)](#)
- [Margaret Wright \(1944- \)](#)

#### Colorado

- [Claribel Kendall \(1889-1965\)](#)

#### Connecticut

- [Elizabeth Dickerman \(1872-1954\)](#)
- [Christine Ladd-Franklin \(1847-1930\)](#)
- [Clara Eliza Smith \(1865-1943\)](#)
- [Abigail Thompson \(1958- \)](#)

#### Georgia

- [Margaret Jarman Hagood \(1908-1963\)](#)

#### Illinois

- [Clara Latimer Bacon \(1866-1948\)](#)
- [Dorothy Lewis Bernstein \(1914-1988\)](#)
- [Josephine E. Burns \(1887-??\)](#)
- [Ruth Gentry \(1862-1917\)](#)
- [Anna Stafford Henriques \(1905-2004\)](#)
- [Mary Frances Winston Newson \(1869-1959\)](#)

Entries are arranged by Other Resources about Women Mathematicians The First Ph.D's in Mathematics, Biographies of Women before 1930, Prizes, Awards and Honors for Women Mathematicians, Birth and Death Anniversaries.

***Remarks***

This is one of the good reference tools of mathematician. Searching may be done in different way. Information retrieval through this reference tool is so easy.

***Comparable Tools***

- Black women in Mathematics  
(<http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/wmad0.html>)

***Date of Access***

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