

Our Authors Study Club of Los Angeles, Inc. Senior Legacy Recognition Program

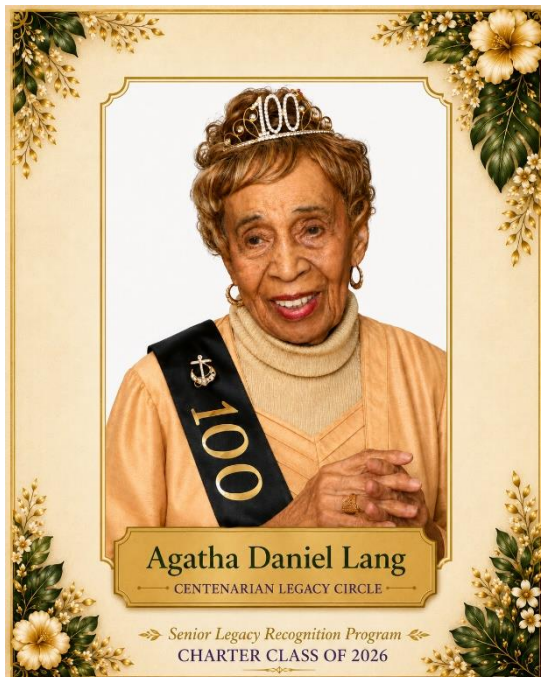
Name: Agatha Daniel Lang

Recognition Category: Centenarian Legacy Circle

Recognition Class: Charter Class of 2026

Inducted: August 1, 2026

Recognized By: Our Authors Study Club of Los Angeles, Inc.



For more than a century, Agatha Daniel Lang has embodied the enduring values of scholarship, faith, service, and educational excellence. Her remarkable life reflects the experiences of a generation of African American women who overcame barriers through determination, embraced education as a lifelong calling, and devoted themselves to strengthening their families and communities.

The Our Authors Study Club proudly recognizes Mrs. Lang as a distinguished member of the Centenarian Legacy Circle, honoring a woman whose century of life has been defined by perseverance, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to helping others.

Growing up in New Orleans during the era of segregation, Mrs. Lang learned early that education represented far more than academic achievement. It was a pathway to opportunity, independence, and service. Her family shared that conviction and encouraged her to pursue every educational opportunity available.

That commitment led her to Gilbert Academy, one of the South's most respected boarding schools for African American students. Founded shortly after the Civil War, Gilbert Academy earned a national reputation for preparing young men and women to become educators, ministers, physicians, civic leaders, and professionals at a time when educational opportunities for African Americans remained severely limited.

Attending Gilbert Academy required both courage and determination. As a young woman, Mrs. Lang traveled by public transportation, taking a couple of buses and a ferry boat to personally present her case for scholarship assistance. Confident in her abilities and determined to continue her education, she successfully secured the financial support she needed. That experience strengthened her independence, resilience, and appreciation for the transformative power of education, values that remained with her throughout the next century.

Following her graduation from Gilbert Academy, Mrs. Lang continued her education at Clark College, now Clark Atlanta University, one of the nation's distinguished Historically Black Colleges and Universities. There she prepared for a career in education, joining a long tradition of African American teachers whose influence extended far beyond the classroom.

It was also during her college years that an unexpected train journey changed the course of her life. While returning to Clark College after spending Christmas with her family in New Orleans, she met a young serviceman named Charles J. Lang aboard the train. Charles was returning to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was stationed. What began as a chance meeting between two young people traveling in the segregated South blossomed into a lifelong partnership built upon faith, education, service, and a shared commitment to improving the lives of others.

Mrs. Lang answered the call to teach with both compassion and vision. Recognizing the importance of a child's earliest learning experiences, she became involved in the development of preschool education at a time when early childhood programs were only beginning to gain widespread recognition. She understood that building confidence, curiosity, and a love of learning during a child's earliest years could shape a lifetime of achievement.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Lang viewed education as an act of service. She believed every child deserved the opportunity to learn, grow, and realize their potential, regardless of circumstance. Her work helped lay the educational foundation upon which countless young learners would build their futures.

Her husband shared that same passion for education and preserving history. Dr. Charles J. Lang became an accomplished educator, historian, photographer, and community leader whose distinguished career complemented Mrs. Lang's own dedication to learning. He served as Professor of Education and English at West Los Angeles College, an Audio Visual Media Communications Specialist, and founder and

director of the Vassie Wright/Pearl Williams Multicultural Oral History Center, where he worked to preserve the voices and experiences of African Americans for future generations.

Dr. Lang's career extended well beyond the classroom. He participated in documenting African American history through projects associated with NASA and the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH), while also serving as a military and historical photographer. His work helped preserve important chapters of Black history that might otherwise have been lost. In recognition of his contributions to education, history, and public service, he received numerous honors, including the Tuskegee University Distinguished Alumni Merit Award and a County of Los Angeles Commendation for outstanding civic and educational achievement.

Dr. Lang also devoted himself to Our Authors Study Club, serving as Second Vice President and later being recognized as a Pioneer Member. Historical programs and organizational records document his leadership in advancing the Club's mission of promoting the study, preservation, and celebration of African American history through educational programming and community engagement.

Together, Agatha and Charles Lang created a remarkable legacy of scholarship, faith, education, and service. While Mrs. Lang devoted her career to nurturing the minds of young children during their earliest years, Dr. Lang inspired college students, preserved African American history, and helped document the stories of those whose contributions shaped our nation. Their lives stand as a testament to the power of education to transform individuals, strengthen communities, and preserve history for generations yet to come.

Today, as Our Authors Study Club welcomes Agatha Daniel Lang into its Charter Class of the Centenarian Legacy Circle, we celebrate not only her extraordinary longevity but also the enduring legacy she and Dr. Lang built together. Their shared commitment to education, historical preservation, faith, and community service reflects the very principles upon which Our Authors Study Club was founded. Mrs. Lang's story reminds us that true leadership is often found in the quiet, steadfast work of preparing others for success while inspiring future generations through lives of purpose and service.

The accompanying restored portrait was created from an original photograph taken during Mrs. Lang's Pre-Centennial Kick-Off Celebration aboard Royal Caribbean's *Ovation of the Seas* during a seven-day Mexican Riviera cruise in July 2025. More than 70 family members and close friends gathered to celebrate the beginning of her 100th birthday year, honoring a remarkable woman whose century of life has touched generations. The celebration reflected the love, admiration, and legacy she has cultivated through a lifetime of faith, family, education, and service.