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KANARIK, Rosella (Kanarik). February 7, 1909–.
University of Pittsburgh (BA 1930, MA 1931, PhD 1934).

Rosella Kanarik was born in Bartfa, Hungary, the elder of two children of Sarah (Schondorf) (1886–1961) and Albert Kanarik (1874–1960), both of Bartfa. Her mother had an elementary school education and was a housewife; her father had some high school and was in business. At one point he was in the clothing business and later, in 1930, was proprietor of a restaurant. He had immigrated to the United States early in the twentieth century and then apparently returned to Hungary, where her parents were married in November 1907. Her father returned to the US in July 1912, and she and her mother arrived in September 1913. Her younger brother, Edgar, born in Pittsburgh in 1926, later earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Los Angeles and became a high school teacher, realtor, and investor.

Kanarik wrote that when she was taking her first course in algebra in the ninth grade, she "fell in love with mathematics." Her teacher, Kenneth Clark, "made the subject matter absorbing and challenging, especially word problems–the harder the better. From then on [she] was a mathematics major" (Smithsonian questionnaire 1985). She attended public high schools, first Wadleigh High School in New York City 1923–25 and then the Fifth Avenue High School in Pittsburgh, from which she graduated with highest honor in 1926.

Kanarik attended the University of Pittsburgh, where she has written that she "was most fortunate to have Dr. Montgomery Culver as [her] calculus professor. Not only did he make mathematics fascinating, he also took personal interest in his students." She wrote, "He inspired me and motivated me to go on to do graduate work" (Smithsonian questionnaire 1985). She received her BA degree as a student in the School of Education with high honor in 1930. She had a graduate scholarship at Pittsburgh 1930–34, was an assistant in mathematics 1931–33, and taught at Schenley Evening High School at least from 1931 until 1934. She received her master's degree in 1931 and her PhD with distinction in 1934. Culver, who had received his own doctorate from Pittsburgh in 1927, directed her dissertation.

Kanarik wrote in 1985, "I graduated during the depression. It was almost impossible for anyone, let alone a woman, to find a position in industry, college, or university. I was lucky to get into a high school to teach mathematics." It appears that she taught some at the university, although not in a regular position, and in a high school in Pittsburgh 1932–36.

On July 25, 1936, Rosella Kanarik and Emery Kanarik, her cousin, were married. Emery Kanarik was born in 1909 in Bardejov Spa, Czechoslovakia, attended the College of the City of New York 1926–28, and earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1932 after studying at the Columbia University School of Architecture. Later he was president of the architectural firm Emery Kanarik and Associates, organized in 1952 in California.

The Kanariks had two children, Richard, born in 1937, and Susan Carol, born in 1940, both in Los Angeles. Rosella Kanarik taught in high schools in Los Angeles 1939–46. "In 1946 when there was a great need for mathematics instructors, I was hired as a lecturer at the University of Southern California," she wrote in 1985. She remained in that position until 1952 and while there taught courses at all levels,

from college algebra through a graduate course in analysis. She also taught at a high school in Los Angeles 1951–53, and in 1953 was hired as the first woman member of the mathematics department at Los Angeles City College. She spent the rest of her career there, as instructor 1953–61, associate professor 1961–67, professor 1967–74, and professor emeritus after 1974. She also served as counselor 1956–62. She remarked that she would never have retired if it had not been mandatory when she became sixty-five.

Since her retirement Kanarik has been a member of various retired teacher organizations and has done volunteer work tutoring high school and college students in mathematics. She wrote that it is a labor of love, for she loved teaching at any level. She has also been a member of the UCLA Affiliates, the Los Angeles Women's Architectural League, the Brandeis University National Women's Committee, and Pioneer Women. Kanarik is Jewish and a Democrat and has enjoyed traveling, theatre, reading, playing bridge, and cooking. Emery Kanarik died in 1992, and Rosella Kanarik has continued to live in Los Angeles and to maintain her membership in the MAA. The Los Angeles City College awards the Rosella Kanarik scholarship each spring to a qualifying mathematics student. "This merit-based scholarship was created by a generous donation from Dr. Rosella Kanarik" (Los Angeles City College Foundation, Rosella Kanarik Scholarship).

Organizational affiliations: AMS, MAA, NCTM, Sigma Xi.

Thesis and dissertation:
1931 On solutions of Laplace's equation with four independent variables. MA thesis, University of Pittsburgh. Abstract: *Abstr. of Theses, Res. in Prog., and Bibliog. of Publ.* 7:379–81.
1934 Fundamental regions in S_4 for the Hessian group. PhD dissertation, University of Pittsburgh, directed by Montgomery Morton Culver. Abstract: *Abstr. of Theses, Res. in Prog., and Bibliog. of Publ.* 10:194–200. See also abstract **1934**.

Abstract not listed above:
1934 Fundamental regions in S_4 for the Hessian group. *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 40:803 #346. Presented to the AMS, Pittsburgh, PA, 27 Dec 1934.

References to: AmMSc 8, 9P–11P; AmMWSc 12P–13P, 14–24; WhoAmW 4–9.

Other sources: Smithsonian questionnaire 1985; communications with Los Angles City College Library and University of Pittsburgh Archives; Los Angeles City College Foundation, "Rosella Kanarik Scholarship"; Ellis Island Oral History Project, Series DP, no. 29: Interview of Emery Kanarik by Andrew Phillips, May 24, 1989; AmArch 3 (Kanarik, Emery); US Census 1930 PA; SSDI.

Last modified: July 20, 2009.