



M. Lule-Villanueva SFSU

## **Victoria Manalo Draves**

Filipino/English

### **Olympic Diver**

Victoria Manalo Draves (1924-2010) couldn't afford swimming lessons until she was ten years old, even though admission was only five cents. Because she was part Filipino, some swim clubs would not allow her to compete in their meets. Sometimes she was asked to use her English mother's name to hide her Filipino background. She decided that it was not fair and used her Filipino name in all the competitions that she was allowed to enter. She won five United States diving championships. At the 1948 London Olympics, Victoria was the first Asian American female to win gold medals in platform and springboard diving. In the 1960s large numbers of Filipino immigrants arrived in San Francisco. Victoria worked hard to help open the Filipino Education Center for their children. In 2006 a community garden was named after her in San Francisco.