



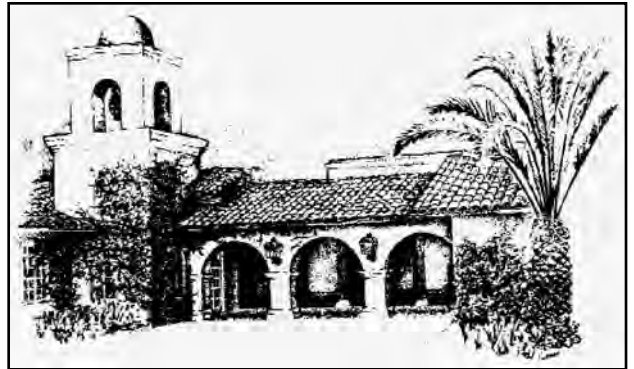
## Mark your calendar !

### *Sunset Soiree at Michel-Schlumberger*

Saturday, September 6th from 5:00-8:00 pm

Don't miss our annual event at the beautiful  
Michel-Schlumberger Wine Estate  
In Healdsburg's Dry Creek Valley

Join us for fine Michel-Schlumberger wines, jazz, food,  
auction, and fun! This lovely blend promises a spectacu-  
lar late summer experience for you and your friends.



## *We Listen* - Report to the Community

It has now been 5 years since Listening for a Change launched its *Community Listening Project* with the support of the **Codding Foundation**, **United Way of Sonoma-Mendocino-Lake**, and the **Volunteer Center of Sonoma County**. Soon, a *We Listen* report to the community will be published sharing some of the insights and wisdom of the interviewees and offering a stimulus for in-depth community conversation.

The program is a collaborative effort to create and introduce to Sonoma County an original concept of teaching ordinary community members how to conduct oral histories and then interview and record one's "neighbors," especially those whom you may not know well. Our focus is in giving voice to ordinary people whose stories and perspectives may not always be heard.

With time, energy and resources from planning team members **Mike Kasper, United Way**; **Connie Codding, Codding Foundation**; **Vince Harper, Community Action Partnership**; **Phyllis Onstad, Volunteer Center**; **Nancy Wang** of the **Chinese American Community Center** and **Phyllis Rosenfield, Listening for a Change**, PowerPoint presentations were made to over 40 organizations across the county inviting participation. A second team of volunteers convened to plan what and how to teach at the workshops.

In 2004, free workshops began at the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County on alternate months, open to any person age 13 to 103. Participants explore culture and learn oral history methodology. Over 200 interviews have been conducted by our volunteers, with additional workshops being planned for the fall. You may have seen one of the posters or film pieces on **KRCB PBS Television** that introduced a few faces and voices.

Over the last year, a team comprised of **Ellen Boneparth, Deborah Perel, Ellen Mundell** and **Phyllis Rosenfield** has been transcribing, analyzing and writing a report to the community. Currently, Listening for a Change is working to find funds to print the report on inexpensive newsprint for wide distribution. A second part of the process is to facilitate conversation groups in neighborhoods, social organizations, workplaces, religious organizations, etc. Please call our office if you know of a group that would like to participate.

The *We Listen* report is a portrait of us all. It invites you to take a look at a picture that does not always receive public attention. Join us and explore how to create a warm, caring, and welcoming community and make our shared vision of acceptance and understanding a reality.

## Service Learning for the Schools

Our *Essence of Acceptance* program and curriculum for grades 8-12 is moving along several roads this spring.

First, we are proud to announce that Listening for a Change and the Service-Learning Department of **Dominican University** in San Rafael are the proud recipients of a national **State Farm Youth Advisory Board** grant. Collaboratively, we developed an innovative proposal that will allow Dominican students to partner/mentor at-risk youth to create and implement Service-Learning oral history projects which will be used as a tool to transform student attitudes and understanding regarding their self image and enhance their motivation relating to their educational goals. The program addresses an overarching need for college students to be engaged in the community, making connections between the academic world and hands-on, practical learning and to become aware of core societal issues and root causes. The grant was written by **Julia van der Ryn, Director of Service Learning** at Dominican, and Phyllis Rosenfield, ED of Listening for a Change. It is for eighteen months and began in January 2008.

Listening for a Change and Dominican University initiated the first phase of the State Farm grant by piloting with Marin County Community School, which is a high school for students who have been unsuccessful in traditional secondary schools. Introduction to staff and students by **Teresa Ashby, YMCA Program Coordinator** at County Community has helped initiate the program. A special thanks to her and to **Michael DeFrancesco**, history teacher, for being the first to step up and work with their students to try an innovative program.

**Caroline Chinn Gonsalves**, teacher trainer with Listening for a Change, has worked closely with



Facilitator Caroline Chinn Gonsalves, Marin County Community School student Luto Pulu, and Dominican University Student Christine Ross

Phyllis and they have kept an open conversation with Julia van der Ryn and her program assistant, **Jenny Bray**, as well as Dominican instructor, **Christopher Vaughn**, to work out the myriad of details and questions involved in this creative collaboration. It is impressive that Dominican has an innovative and active Service-Learning program and that service is one of the foundations of the University's core values.



Jamaree Saucer, student at Marin County Community School, participating in an interview



Jamaree Saucer on an interview panel for Teresa Ashby, YMCA Program Coordinator at County Community

**Latorras Brickley**, Campus Supervisor at Marin County Community School, being interviewed



(Photos by student Antinikka Jackson)

As a part of the State Farm Youth Advisory Board grant, representatives from Dominican and Phyllis attended two stimulating Service-Learning conferences. The first, the Annual National Service-Learning Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota was primarily for secondary educators and students. **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** was the keynote speaker—He's unbelievably (continued on page 6)

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## A Few Thoughts from Phyllis...



*Looks like many of the national politicians have heard about Listening for a Change and have adapted our understanding of the benefits and importance of transformation and growth. Even the national service-learning conference I attended recently was titled "Youth for a Change"! Are we cutting edge or what??*

*At the Annual National Service-Learning Conference in Minneapolis, one of the featured speaker/presenters was Dr. Pedro A. Noguera. Now at NYU, Dr. Noguera was formerly at Cal and worked extensively with the Oakland schools. One of the concerns he expresses is how to "offer positive role models and social support that can help buffer young people from the pressures with their schools and communities."*

*Inviting positive community role models into the classroom to bridge through story with students is one of the strong features of our Essence of Acceptance program for secondary and college students. With our new collaboration with Dominican University and at-risk Marin teens we are piloting original ways to support young people in connecting with adults with significant stories and wisdom to share. Through the oral history process students come to know people in their community who serve as exemplary role models.*

*Students learn the nuances of how to be an active listener. Included is body language, eye contact, safe-to-sensitive questions, open-ended questions and well considered follow-up questions—All are skills most adults could benefit from practicing a bit more!*

*Through active listening and having multiple opportunities to practice with one another and through interviews with community "models" (including those who may have struggled as teens themselves & are now successful), Listening for a Change is helping create an opportunity for youth to come to know others in a way they have not previously experienced. Dr. Noguera's research demonstrates that experiences like this create a feeling of hope, build confidence, and enable young people to navigate difficult life challenges. If he/she has done it, so can I!*

## Diversity & Engagement: Businesses, Nonprofits & Government Agencies

For a second year Listening for a Change is offering an original, dynamic program to help build collaboration through cultural competency and active listening skills in the workplace.

In addition to workshops for employees, we currently offer consultation for creating a long-term culture of respect and engagement that supports instituting processes that allow for increased active listening. With better understanding comes the capacity for more effective and creative team work toward shared goals as well as greater employment satisfaction. In addition, clients, customers, and patients benefit from employees who are more culturally aware and effective listeners.

Recently, **Caroline Chinn Gonsalves** and **Phyllis Rosenfield** conducted a workshop at **State Farm Insurance Company's** state-wide Diversity Committee and they are preparing for a program with **Medtronic, Inc.** in Santa Rosa.

**Community Action Partnership** is participating in our new Focus Group offering. Small group interviews are conducted and videotaped. The interviewer studies the session, writes a thorough report, and consults with the organization. This process offers an opportunity for organizations to analyze their work culture and make constructive improvements.

Listening for a Change is offering these services to interested organizations. If you know of a business, nonprofit, or government agency who would benefit, please have them contact our office to receive a brochure and fee schedule information.

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*I highly recommend Pedro Noguera's newest book The Trouble with Black Boys...and Other Reflections on Race, Equity, and the Future of Public Education. He speaks to those concerned about our children and our future: "I do hope that readers will identify strategies and approaches that they can apply to achieve similar goals...more empowered to recognize that each of us can play a role in furthering equity through education and less inclined to accept the status quo."*

*Phyllis*

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# Oscar Chavez - From Service Learning to a Life of Service

It isn't often one meets an adult who knows what Service-Learning is (see article, page 2) much less one who has participated in a college Service-Learning program. But then, Oscar Chavez is not an ordinary person.

In the summer of 2007 Oscar became the executive director of Community Action Partnership, taking Helga Lemke's position after her move to state-wide work in Sacramento. Oscar's boyish looks disguise a man who is eloquent, softly passionate, and deeply concerned about acquisition of human rights for all people,

The son of migrant worker parents, Oscar spent his summers working in the hot fields to help support his family. However, in his junior year in high school, he was invited to participate in the Job Training Partnership Act teen summer program sponsored by the Pugh Charitable Trust at California State University Bakersfield. Each day he attended classes and worked at the college - he couldn't believe he was getting paid for getting dressed nicely and working in an air conditioned office!

Each student was assigned an adult mentor. Oscar thinks he was unbelievably fortunate, because the Director of the program, Rita Martinez, became his mentor. Rita took young Oscar under her wing, encouraging him to believe in himself and acquire the notion of active citizenship. He shadowed Rita

**“ We need partners, there's simply no other way. ”**

Martinez, attending meetings, going to conferences, often being the only young person at the table. He was honored when people wanted to know what he and his contemporaries thought. Kids like him didn't ordinarily have opportunities to become involved in something larger than themselves and their families. It was through these early experiences that Oscar became a firm believer in the importance of civic engagement and knew that this was the kind of work he felt passionate about.

When Oscar began his studies at Cal State Bakersfield he continued his participation with the Job Training Partnership Act, but now as a counselor of teens from his home town, Shafter. A major transformative experience was a summer Service-Learning project with the kids. The task was to study a community problem, conduct research, and become civically engaged through action.



**Oscar Chavez, Executive Director of Community Action Project**

Neighbors around a small park had been complaining about the use of the park by the Mexican-American community for soccer games and family outings because they felt too much noise was being made and people were using the bushes to urinate. Oscar's Service-Learning team decided to survey the neighbors within a specified area around the park. They knocked on doors, conducted a survey, had dialogue, took notes, and then wrote a report of suggestions for resolving some of the issues. They met and shared their report with public officials, including the police department.

Oscar says they were initially surprised when people would talk with them at all! He and the high school students had never felt empowered like this before. The neighbors conversed with them, the group came up with suggestions (there was no bathroom at the park), and they shared their findings and received good feedback. For Oscar, this was the beginning of a lifetime of civic engagement. He experienced what it was like to engage, work as a team, and get things done. His philosophy is that real things happen when we engage.

Today Oscar recognizes the value of collaboration and networking and has a real passion for civic engagement. "We need partners, there's simply no other way." The Community Action Partnership's overriding goal of fighting the root causes of poverty may sound lofty to some, but Oscar Chavez knows that change can be effected when we collaborate and begin locally.

# 2008 Reverend James E. Coffee Human Rights Awards

For a third year Listening for a Change was an engaged co-sponsor with the **Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights** and the **Volunteer Center of Sonoma County** to host the Reverend James E. Coffee Human Rights Awards. Each year we honor and celebrate the achievements of individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to human rights in Sonoma County.

**Dr. Francisco Vazquez** of Sonoma State University was the keynote speaker. Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, and educated in the United States, Dr. Vazquez has had one foot in one culture and one in the other since the age of five. As a scholar of Mexican American issues, Dr. Vazquez invited the audience to consider challenging current issues in his presentation titled: "The Latino Community: The Canary in the Mine of Human Rights"

A sincere appreciation to these sponsors: **Agilent Technologies, Clover Stornetta Farms, St. Joseph's Health System of Sonoma County, Jean Schulz, Spaulding, McCullough and Tansil, LLP, Structure for Success Business Solutions, The Pasta King, and The Wicked Uncles.**



Dr. Francisco Vazquez, keynote speaker, below



Top row above: Melissa Hatheway, Rialto Cinemas, Phyllis Rosenfield, James P. Foster, Postive Images, Francisco Vazquez, SSU (keynote speaker), Sarah Lawrence, Sarah's Group Homes, John Way, CAP Sonoma, Karen Erickson, 2006 Volunteer,

Bottom row above: James McCue, Becoming Independent, Art Ibleto, Mehari B. Haile, 2007 Youth award, Mike McGuire, Healdsburg City Council, Steven Harper, Shomrei Torah, Isabelle Quinonez, Migrant Education, Larry Carlin, Shomrei Torah, Marie Sparks, West County Community Action

Top to bottom: Commissioner Chris Rhode presenting wards to Mehari B. Haile (2007 Youth), Marie Sparks (2007 Volunteer) and Mike McGuire, Healdsburg City Council for the Day Labor Center (2007 Public Sector)



A delicious buffet dinner was served



The Wicked Uncles provided jazz accompaniment

## Welcome to New Grantors

Listening for a Change is striving to become a financially stable nonprofit organization that can expand and continue its acceptance of diversity programs today and for many years to come. Currently, we rely on grants, fund raising, fee for service, and individual contributions.

As anyone who has volunteered with us knows, we are a highly efficient, bare-bones organization. Every dollar raised is well allocated. We offer a special thank you to our major funders as well as each of our smaller donors—We need you all.

Welcome to new grantors:

**Angeles Arrien Foundation for Cross-Cultural Education and Research 2008** for support of our *Community Listening Project*. They are supporting us because our program “offers skills, programs, and practice, which build communications skills that lessen conflicts and socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic tensions.”

**State Farm Youth Advisory Board** for a grant supporting our project with Dominican University’s Service-Learning program to work with at-risk Marin teenagers through engagement in active listening and oral history to enhance educational equity, image of self and community, and access to resources and positive role models. The interview experiences deepen understanding of human rights and responsibilities and the youth role in the community.

The grant is for an 18 month period. Listening for a Change is a 40% recipient and has begun work with Marin County Community School and Dominican University instructors and students in an original co-interviewing project.



State Farm presents grant check to Dominican University and Listening for a Change: (left to right) Jason Higashi, Board Member of Listening for a Change & State Farm Insurance Field Compliance Coordinator; Amelia Chapman, Fire Underwriting at State Farm Insurance Company; Bal Claire, State Farm Agent in San Rafael; Phyllis Rosenfield, Executive Director of Listening for a Change; Julia van der Ryn, Director of Service-Learning at Dominican University; & Sherry Volk, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Dominican University

## *Service Learning* (continued from page 2)

charming and upbeat! The other impressive speaker/presenter was **Pedro Noguera**, professor at NYU (formerly at Cal). Dr. Noguera is one of the most important voices on education reform and diversity in the United States and is an advocate for a strong, vibrant public education system. A leading urban sociologist, his scholarship and research focus on the ways schools are influenced by social and economic conditions. You may be interested in reading his most recent book, *The Trouble with Black Boys and other Reflections on Race, Equity, and the Future of Public Education*.

In addition, Phyllis and Dominican University instructors Julia van der Ryn, Jenny Bray, and **Lynn LoPresto** attended the Continuums of Service Conference in Portland, Oregon from April 17-18, which is sponsored by the Western Region Campus Compact Consortium, a coalition of public and private colleges and universities across the nation that work to support implementation of service-learning at the college level. There were many stimulating presentations and sessions. **Raj Jayadev**, founder of **De-Bug** in San Jose, was inspirational with the community work his nonprofit is producing: a bi-lingual magazine (all teen written), a weekly radio show, and a weekly television show to provide a platform for the South Bay’s least heard voices—low-wage workers, the unemployed, the formerly incarcerated and immigrants. His programs are run in collaboration with local colleges and universities, a model important to examine carefully and expand upon.

Listening for a Change is excited about the development of a new program for Diversity Clubs in high schools across Sonoma County with the **Commission on Human Rights of Sonoma County**. We have begun planning with **Commissioners Judy Bryce and Marie Sparks**, with special support from **Margaret Martin, Commission Director**. The plan is to conduct workshops with the Diversity Club members on what human rights are, how we can uphold them in our community and how to conduct oral histories of people who have experienced a loss of rights. The emphasis will be on how to become civically engaged so that rights for all are protected.

Through **PBS KRCB television/radio’s** invitation, Listening for a Change continues its involvement with an innovative program for Sonoma County Latino Youth called “**Tenemos Una Voz.**” Our role this summer is to conduct oral history workshops for teens. The young people will then interview their family members and neighbors. A mobile computer kiosk is being purchased to share the stories, photographs and art work of the students. This is a piece of a larger exhibit of student art work that will be displayed in downtown Santa Rosa this fall.

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## Thank you to our Major Funders:

Angeles Arrien Foundation  
Daphne Smith Fund of Community Foundation Sonoma County  
State Farm Youth Advisory Board

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## A Sincere Thank You to All of Our Friends and Supporters Who Have Given So Generously from November 2007 through May 2008:

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Francisco & Rosa Vazquez

Sapir & Jane Weiss

### In Celebration

*In celebration of Phyllis Rosenfield's birthday*

Rose & John Batzdorff, Ellen & Herb Brosbe, and Hillary & Chris Costin

*In celebration of Hank Cohn's birthday*

Ken & Eva Berg, Joan Sennett & Dick Tewes

*In celebration of the birth of Gabriel Shalom Mundell Trilling*

Ellen & Herb Brosbe

### In Memoriam

*In memory of Gert German*

Ellen & Herb Brosbe

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## Community Listening Project

### Fall/Winter Schedule for Interviewer Workshops

Saturday, Sept 20th, 9 A.M.—1 P.M.

Saturday, Nov. 22nd, 9 A.M.—1 P.M.

Saturday, Jan. 10th, 9 A.M.—1 P.M.

Workshops are held at the  
Volunteer Center of Sonoma County,  
153 Stony Circle, Suite 100, Santa Rosa  
For additional information call 578-5420

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### Mission

Listening for a Change promotes understanding and acceptance of human diversity through education, oral history and the arts.

### Programs

*Essence of Acceptance* uses the techniques of oral history and the arts in a comprehensive curriculum to teach empathy and awareness of our common humanity in secondary schools.

*Community Listening Project* trains members of diverse community cultural groups to take oral histories of other groups as a means to cross boundaries and build community.

*Diversity & Engagement* is a program for businesses, nonprofits and government agencies which teaches attentive listening skills and cultural awareness to help employees interact more effectively.

*Sonoma County Survivor Project* is a traveling exhibit of photographs and oral histories of Sonoma County residents who survived a dramatic loss of human rights. Exhibit can also be viewed at [www.listeningforachange.org](http://www.listeningforachange.org).

*You're invited!  
Sunset Soiree at Michel-Schlumberger  
Sept. 6, 2008*

1300 NORTH DUTTON  
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· L I S T E N I N G F O R A C H A N G E ·

