



**“Creating Connections - One Story at a Time”**

*Gildardo  
Lugo, 6th  
grade student  
Luther  
Burbank  
Elementary  
School*



**In today’s world, Gildardo Lugo  
could be understood or  
misunderstood.**

Luckily, Gildardo is in Ross Hause’s 6th grade class at Luther Burbank Elementary School. Listening for a Change has been working with Ross on a special interview project in collaboration with the Santa Rosa Chamber Symphony Festival of Remembrance program for this school year (see page 2).

Gildardo has learned what real civic engagement means. He recently received two standing ovations from over 200 attendees at the October 28th Santa Rosa School Board meeting. Gildardo voiced student dismay regarding potential financial cuts, saying that if implemented, it will give teachers less time to work with the students who need their time most.

Gildardo and other children like him are our hope for a democratic future as they learn the lesson of having a voice and sharing it with the community.

Dear Friends of Listening for a Change,

Gandhi’s words, **“We must be the change we wish to see in the world,”** are an inspiration to live by. I believe that Listening for a Change makes those changes happen in our world. Whether through its community, school, or business programs, the organization is engaged in creating innovative ways to be the change we wish to see.

In today’s troubled world listening, understanding, respect, and dialogue are of utmost importance. I believe that the most effective means to create equity and social justice are to begin at the local, grassroots level. Change must happen locally to foster much needed global transformations.

Listening for a Change is an organization working to achieve these goals. Like many nonprofits, it is experiencing challenging times and needs your support which may be as a volunteer or by making a yearly contribution. Please join me in endorsing and supporting its mission.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Connie Codding'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Connie Codding  
President, Codding Foundation  
Advisory Leader and Former Board Member

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## Día de los Muertos: Santa Rosa Symphony Chamber Music, Luther Burbank School, & Listening for a Change

To enrich the *Festival of Remembrance* Día de los Muertos concert, students at Luther Burbank Elementary School in Santa Rosa and Listening for a Change worked together to interview, record, and photograph Mexican American family and community members. The families/friends had wisdom to share about their own life experiences as well as wisdom of remembered deceased relatives whose voices the children will never hear.

Digital photographs and audio interview excerpts were displayed for concert guests in the Jackson Theater lobby. Viewers had an opportunity to hear multiple community stories. Each story is a gift.

Included in the photo/interview montage were reflections shared by the students after they conducted classroom interviews. The entire class helped create questions and a panel of student interviewers relayed the inquiries to each guest.

We are especially appreciative to Luther Burbank Elementary School principal Patricia Turner and teacher Ross Hause for their support and hard work in helping make this interview project a reality. With a student body made up of 80% English language learners, the children and their families have much to learn and much to teach.

Listening for a Change's school curriculum *Essence of Acceptance* was the foundation for teaching the children how to conduct oral histories. Lessons included learning how to ask open-ended questions, creating follow-up questions, using appropriate body language, and asking questions from safe-to-sensitive. Phyllis Rosenfield, Executive Director, worked closely with the teachers and students to bring this curriculum to Luther Burbank Elementary School.

Alan Silow, Executive Director of the Santa Rosa Symphony, and Katey Pearson, Education Director for the Santa Rosa Symphony, were instrumental in bringing the three entities together to bring additional relevancy and vitality to the Santa Rosa Symphony Chamber Players' *Festival of Remembrance* performing compositions of Chavez and Revueltas and the local Trio Nuevo Amanecer playing cultural folk music. A spring interview project with additional classes is being planned for the Symphony's Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance) concert.



Student Gloria Aguilera greeting Denia Perez, former Luther Burbank student now at SRJC



Katherine Beltran with her mother. Mrs. Beltran is Mayan-Mexican-American.



Former Luther Burbank teacher Dennis Carrera



Student panel. Left: Stephanie Avelaneda. Below: Stephanie, Katherine Beltran, and Katherine Cardona



## A Few Thoughts from Ellen...



**Board Chair**

*Unfortunately, we've all heard of the troubles faced by nonprofit organizations in our recession economy. Our supporters continue to contribute, but in smaller amounts than previously.*

*This provides a real challenge for small nonprofits like Listening for a Change. As always, we survive on a very small budget and rely largely on the work and contributions of our dedicated volunteers and low paid professionals.*

*We continue to provide all our programs on behalf of human rights and acceptance of diversity in our communities. It is Listening for a Change who brings the subject of human rights globally into our schools through our Essence of Acceptance curriculum. We recently produced the We Listen report based on hundreds of oral histories taken by volunteers participating in our Community Listening Project to share the views of underrepresented community voices. We help businesses and nonprofits reach out to their employees in creative systemic ways to help build connections and improve relationships.*

*Yet, we struggle for resources to continue our vital work for positive change in Sonoma County given the current economic realities.*

*Please contribute whatever you can at this critical point in time and know that we are sincerely grateful for everything you do to help us survive and thrive.*

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Ellen".

Ellen Boneparth



Santa Rosa City Merit Award for Community Services, Organizations & Business, Nov. 9th: Board Chair Ellen Boneparth, City Councilwoman Jane Bender, Board members Daphne Beletsis and Marcos Suarez receiving the award for Listening for a Change

## Planned Giving

We hope you will consider remembering Listening for a Change in your will or estate plan. Planned gifts allow the organization to grow and flourish and are a wonderful way to continue your personal legacy of support for acceptance of diversity for generations to come.

Our work has just begun here in Sonoma County. With 12 years of civic engagement behind us, we have many years of connecting community ahead. As the county continues to grow and as demographics change, Listening for a Change will be here to weave the stories of our community members and promote understanding of one another.

We value your support and would be honored to be included in the things you care about as you remember the people and projects dear to you. We will put your resources to good use in this community, making it a better place to live and thrive.

Please consult your tax advisor when completing your estate plan. Listening for a Change can be contacted for additional information.

If you wish to include Listening for a Change in your will or trust, the Board of Directors suggests the following language:

"I give \_\_\_\_\_(specific amount, percentage or residuary share) to Listening for a Change, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, federal tax identification number 68-0431904, having its principal offices at 1300 North Dutton Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401, to be used to carry out its programs and services in Sonoma County, California."

### 2010 Schedule for Community Listening Project Interviewer Workshops

Saturday, Jan 16th, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Saturday, April 17th, 9 am.-1 p.m.

Workshops are held at the  
Volunteer Center of Sonoma County,  
153 Stony Circle, Suite 100, Classroom A,  
Santa Rosa

For additional information call 578-5420.

## *Sunset Soirée at Michel-Schlumberger Wine Estate*

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#### **Auction High Bidders:**

Ellen Boneparth & Jim Wilkinson  
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Sherry Catlett

Tamara Dunn  
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**A special thank you to these contributors for venue and services:**

**Jacques & Barbara Schlumberger, Bailyn Graphics, Dharma Merchant Services, KSRO Radio, La Voz, Auctioneers Anne McGivern and Michael Senneff, Mt. Taylor Jazz Project**



The beautiful courtyard at Michel-Schlumberger Wine Estate



The Mt. Taylor Jazz Project, led by Ed Buckley, provided great music



Phyllis Rosenfield and Jacques Schlumberger



Park Avenue Catering provided eye-catching and mouth-watering food



Rosa, Francisco, and Sofia Vazquez

## Auction Item Donors

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Auctioneer Anne McGivern pushing the bid for the Live Auction Board Dinner with Board members, left to right: Marcos Suarez, Daphne Beletsis, Jennifer Millier, Phyllis Rosenfield, Tamara Dunn, Giselle Perry, and Ellen Boneparth



The live auction was spirited, as Larry Moskowitz (#307) and Warren Dranit (#423) and Don Winkle vied for Bill Traverso's Tuscan Wine Tasting, inspired by last year's winner Sandy Brewer and Auctioneer Anne McGivern

Left to right: Heidi Stewart, John Weinstein, Marlene Ballaine, Diane Larson, Advisory Leader Connie Codding, Diane Trembley, Board member Jennifer Millier, and Richard Katzoff





## **Board Member**

### **Tamara Dunn**

Tamara Dunn is practically a native Santa Rosan. In fact, she and her family are quite tied to Bennett Valley, where she lives with high school sweetheart and husband Mark,

a Rincon Valley fireman, and Ashley, their 18 year-old daughter, who is a Santa Rosa Junior College student.

Life wasn't always simple for Tamara. Born in San Francisco, she and her single Mom lived with her grandparents in Mill Valley for the first few years of Tamara's life. When her Mother married, they moved to Beaverton, Oregon. Tamara entered kindergarten when at Fremont Elementary School when she and her mother moved to Santa Rosa. In 3rd grade they moved to Bennett Valley, where she's made a home for herself and family ever since. Tamara is very clear from whom she acquired her resilience and positive attitude:

"My Mom has always been an inspiration. There were a lot of roadblocks for her being a single mother and having a child. There were always plenty of reasons to be a victim, but she never was and she never encouraged that in me. I didn't have a Dad growing up, but that didn't mean that I wasn't loved. We didn't have any money but that didn't mean we couldn't have fun, which we always did. There was never a feeling that bad things were going to happen. It was always it's gonna be alright—I think that's just who I am. For me it takes a lot less energy to go with the positive."

Tamara took notice of Listening for a Change when Connie Coddling and Phyllis Rosenfield came to the Volunteer Center to talk with then Executive Director Wes Winter.

"I was really interested in the idea of hearing what other people's stories are—Listening to other people's challenges and questioning the idea that people instantly think they know something about someone before they actually sit and talk with them. I was always raised that there's diversity in the world and that everyone has something to give. So, I would love for that to be a bigger part of people's lives."

Initially, Tamara's career began in the Santa Rosa business world. With Mike Runyan at his Food 4 Less stores Tamara was introduced to community service. Mike was involved in many community service activities. As Mike's Executive Assistant, Tamara represented the stores on multiple committees.

Tamara helped in Mike Runyan's campaign for City Council in 1996. She got to know Patrick (Pat) Kilkenny,

the President of the National Bank of the Redwoods. When Mike sold his stores, Pat offered Tamara a Human Resources position at the Bank. While at the bank Tamara participated in the Volunteer Center's Human Race Committee. With her involvement she met Karen Johnson, the dynamic Executive Director of the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County.

At National Bank of the Redwoods she also participated in Leadership Santa Rosa, which was a transformational experience. She came home from the "Human Services Day" at Leadership Santa Rosa and told her husband, "Now I know what I want to do!"

In 1998 Karen Johnson offered her the opportunity to work at the Volunteer Center. She and her daughter were well prepared for the Volunteer Center: Tamara and Ashley had been delivering "Giving Trees" since Ashley was 3!

Tamara found Karen Johnson's Volunteer Center leadership inspiring—"She just made things happen. There was never a roadblock, though there might be a detour."

With her current position as Development Director for Hanna Boys Center in Sonoma, Tamara has multiple opportunities to listen and learn about other communities. Hanna Boys Center has 60 years of service in helping make a real difference in the lives of high risk teenage boys. The best part for Tamara is getting to know the kids and hearing their stories. She loves it when a young man proudly comes to her and glowingly tells her that he just got a "B" in algebra on his report card.

**One reason Tamara is involved with Listening for a Change is that she is concerned about divisions among Sonoma County residents. Through her work at Hanna and other life experiences, community separations have become evident and she thinks that reaching out to others is an important aspect of the solution. Volunteering and coming elbow to elbow with our neighbors is something Tamara lives.**

"I think there's definitely a divide in Sonoma County. It's a little frightening because I think it's getting bigger and bigger. There are people that have a lot and there are people that have very little. It's being involved in youth organizations and Hanna Boys Center that I've seen the divide. We all have basic needs. If you take out the status, you take out the money—It comes down to basic need. If we could all just remember what that basic need is, I think we'd all be better people."

For Tamara at events such as the Human Race, the entire community comes together from all walks of life. "It's that synergy of community. But, on a day to day basis, overall it doesn't feel like there's that feeling of working together on things. It would be nice if there was more of that."

Listening for a Change agrees and thinks our community would be a better place if there were more civically engaged people like Tamara Dunn helping to create the synergy so needed by all.

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## Thank you to our Major Funders:

Daphne Smith Fund of Community Foundation Sonoma County  
Summitt State Bank

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### A Sincere Thank You to All of Our Friends and Supporters Who Have Given So Generously from May 2009 through November 2009:

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#### In Memoriam:

**In memory of Albert S. Cahn, Jr.**, from Margery Cahn  
**In memory of Vivian Frye** from Ed & Leyah Brosbe, Carolyn Metz  
**In memory of Lenore Gilmore** from her daughter Adrien Davis and Joel Fine  
**In memory of Kerin Lieberman** from Sparkie & Joe Spaeth  
**In memory of Warren E. Olson** from Maurine Olson  
**In memory of Phillip Rubins** from Linda Bornstein, Herb & Ellen Brosbe, Gary & Barbara Greensweig, Perry, Johnson, Anderson, Miller & Moskowitz, Adele Pickar, Phyllis & Arnie Rosenfield, and Martin & Marlene Stein

#### In Celebration:

**In honor of Bernice Fox** for her special birthday from Janet Harris & Harry Sandler  
**In honor of daughter Jessica Mullins-Thomas'** birthday from Liz & Mike Mullins

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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. The exhibit can also be viewed at [www.listeningforachange.org](http://www.listeningforachange.org).

· LISTENING FOR A CHANGE ·  
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