



Mark your calendar !

Sunset Soirée at Michel-Schlumberger

Saturday, August 29th 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,
auctions, and fun! This lovely blend promises a spectacular
late summer experience for you and your friends.*



Two Outstanding Teachers in Alternative Education Schools

Often when teachers learn of Listening for a Change's curriculum, *Essence of Acceptance*, for grades 8-12, one of the first things they say is "This will be wonderful for my high academic students!" We say, "Yes, and it will be a great way to engage your students who are underperforming as well."

County-administered Alternative Education programs serve many children who have extreme needs. At Sonoma County Office of Education's Clean and Sober School in Santa Rosa, teens attending are wrestling with alcohol and/or drug addiction. At Marin County Office of Education's Marin County Community School (MCCS) in San Rafael students are often on probation or are struggling with challenging home and/or personal problems. Listening for a Change has been honored by bringing a version of our *Essence of Acceptance* curriculum, the Interview Project, into these schools for the 2008-09 school year as well as to the Petaluma Community School.

Both Sheridan Gold at Marin County Community School and Becky Downard at Clean and Sober School have been exemplary teachers—the kind who inspire, are what we want and need in the public schools, and who receive very little public acknowledgement for their enormous patience, wisdom, and caring of our children. It takes a very special person to work with these teenagers and both women are quite extraordinary.



Teacher Sheridan Gold and student preparing for an interview at Marin County Community School

Thanks to a generous national grant from the State Farm Youth Advisory Council, Listening for a Change has been partnering with Dominican University's service-learning program chaired by Julia van der Ryn and with Marin County Community School. Dominican sends students to tutor, support, and learn. Led by Phyllis Rosenfield and taught by Caroline Chinn Gonsalves, Listening for a Change has been working with teachers to implement the Interview Project, which includes teaching what human rights and responsibilities are as well as interviewing and oral history skills. In addition to interviews of people who have lost human rights, such as Herb Heller, an

(continued on page 2)

Two Outstanding Teachers in Alternative Education Schools *(continued from page 1)*

Auschwitz survivor, students have also conducted interviews of people who were troubled teens themselves and are now successful community members. We initiated similar programs this year in two Sonoma County Alternative Schools. Visit our website at www.listeningforachange.org to view interview segments conducted by students.

Sheridan Gold, in addition to teaching alternative education classes for 16 years, has helped raise 26 foster children. For Sheridan the foster children and kids at M CCS have a lot in common. She says, "I absolutely fell in love with the kids at this school. I just felt like this was my niche. Maybe I'm here because no adult spent time with me when I was a kid. I got lost and I don't want my students to feel like they're lost."



Sheridan Gold and students during the interview process at M CCS

Sheridan says: "The curriculum is outstanding! The interview skills section has been fantastic. It's helped guide me in my classes. The students benefit because they learn what open-ended questions are, what follow-up questions are and there's a great DVD that shows what not to do and what to do when interviewing. They've learned body language, how to start off the interview with a safety statement, and how to give eye contact while they're talking. They've learned to look at the person while they're talking so that the person feels they're being heard. I highly recommend it (*Essence of Acceptance* curriculum)!"

Becky Downard at Clean and Sober School in Santa Rosa says that in addition to the students having positive interviewing experiences, there is carry-over into other aspects of their lives. She's already seeing that "They're much better coming up with open-ended questions now. I've noticed that even when they're not doing interviews when they're in conversation with me or another staff member, I often hear them using open-ended questions, which has really been unique and kind of cool to experience!"

She's also been impressed by the students' responses to the interviewees. She hears them discussing how cool it was that they shared with them or how transparent and open the interviewees were with the students. "For students to see a level of vulnerability in the speakers has just been huge for us this year—it's so meaningful when they are willing to share what's in their hearts."

"It (the program) really, truly is teaching the tools they need to be good communicators and how to present themselves in a way that makes the speaker feel that the audience is warm, receptive, kind, considerate, and really cares about them and their story. It is so good to see when they truly understand that every single person has a story and every single person

"It is so good to see when they truly understand that every single person has a story and every single person is dealing with some type of pain, or hurt, or hang-up in their life. It doesn't matter what kind of background, what color skin you have—it doesn't matter what socio-economic background. Every person has a story and every person really truly wants to be heard."

Teacher Becky Downard



Teacher Becky Downard and student Julia Nolasco during interview at Clean and Sober School in Santa Rosa

is dealing with some type of pain, or hurt, or hang-up in their life. It doesn't matter what kind of background, what color skin you have—it doesn't matter what socio-economic background. Every person has a story and every person really truly wants to be heard."

Becky observed that all the people that came to be interviewed seemed to say in some way: Each of you matter and your life is precious.

It is uplifting to know that there are Sheridans and Beckys in the world working every day to connect with our children in meaningful ways in both the intellectual and affective domains.

A Few Thoughts from Phyllis...



2009 began well with our publishing of the *We Listen* report in the January 25th Sunday edition of the *Press Democrat*. The positive response was wonderful! If you haven't read it yet, you can find it on our website at www.listeningforachange.org. If you have a group of 10 or more people who would like to participate in a *Community Conversation Circle* discourse about what was said in the *We Listen* report, please contact us—We have a team ready to make this happen! Reading and discussing this publication is a way to reflect on our community and take steps to make it a more welcoming, inclusive place for all who live here.

You may notice some different names on our Board roster since this time last year. We've had a turn-over as several long-term Board friends have moved off making space for new support and energy. We want to extend a special thank you to former Board members who gave so much of themselves including Meg Alexander, Christyne Davidian, Jason Higashi, Anne McGivern, and Victoria Mwangi. New to our team this year are Daphne Beletsis, Jennifer Millier, and Marcos Suarez.

On a much sadder note, since mid-February *Listening for a Change* has lost three dear friends—Board Member Jessica Flores Foster, volunteer Hans (Hank) Cohn, and *We Listen* committee member William (Bill) Hazlewood. Each of these people were so special... They are sorely missed. We send our condolences to their families and loved ones. All who knew them feel deeply appreciative that they were in our lives.

Like many small nonprofits, we're concerned about our future. If what we are doing is important to you, please support our efforts with your time and checkbook. There are multiple ways to get involved and multiple programs that need your financial support as well. Call us and we'll discuss how you can become more engaged in this timely work.

Phyllis

Community Listening Project: Workshops, *We Listen* Report, and Community Conversation Circles

If you haven't read our *We Listen* report released via the *Press Democrat* January 25th, it's not too late! If you'd like a paper copy, come by our office, or let us know and we'll send you one. Or, simply visit our website at www.listeningforachange.org to read and download.

The *We Listen* report is based on over 200 interviews conducted by participants in one of our ongoing free *Community Listening Project* workshops held over the past 5 years. Our neighbors, ordinary community members, were respectfully interviewed to listen to their concerns about how to make Sonoma County a better place for all. Our next workshop is scheduled for October 24th (we take a summer break). If you haven't attended one yet, please call our office to register—You'll be glad you did, as the experience is often transformative for both the interviewee and interviewer.

Would your organization like to participate in a *Community Conversation Circle* about issues raised in the *We Listen* report? Beginning in early February we began making brief presentations to local organizations to invite participation in a *Community Conversation Circle*. Organizations that have been given an experience taste include the **Sebastopol Morning Rotary Club**, the **Oakmont Kiwanis Club**, the **Petaluma Jewish Women's Group**, the **Santa Rosa Exchange Club**, and **Oakmont Sunday Seminar** (June 21st).

Listening for a Change wants to extend a very special thank you to **Jean Schulz** and **Daphne Smith**. Because of their generous support we are able to bring the *Community Listening Project* to all interested people and print and distribute the *We Listen* report.

2009 Schedule for Interviewer Workshops

Saturday, Oct 24th, 9 a.m.-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.



Board Member Ellen Boneparth

Manhattan privilege was the space in which Ellen Boneparth began her dynamic life. Like New York City, Ellen is never inactive for long!

In the fifth grade she transferred to the Beardsley School, where she “received an extraordinarily fine education.” Attending Beardsley through high school, government and politics held a special interest. Wellesley College followed and later a PhD in Political Science from Stanford University.

Growing up in New York City, Ellen says she had no concept of the great outdoors. In fact, she found it rather frightening, when she moved to Woodside with her first husband. “There were animals and poison oak and you were all alone and it was scary!” Paris or Rome would have been fine, but being outdoors was terrifying! Fortunately, that changed and now Ellen even likes to camp (well, sort of...).

Ellen was a Political Science professor at San Jose State University for 11 years, at which time she helped start the Women’s Studies program and was its Director for two years. “It was probably the best academic experience I had because it was a brand new field and everybody was very excited.” They were developing creative curricular and research ideas. Previously she had never really looked at gender differences and public policy and how they affected men and women differently. “It was difficult because research in the mid 70’s on women’s issues was not considered quite legitimate and they had to fight to get the system to recognize that their research was as valid as anyone else’s.” Ellen edited and helped write Women, Power, and Policy. She says that unfortunately many of the issues raised are still issues and a lot of the solutions suggested to the public policy problems have not been adopted. “We haven’t changed the world yet.”

Nowadays the issue that engages Ellen the most passionately is gun control. She was recently elected Chair of the California Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, and if you’re her friend your email is filled with news and calls to action. The focus this year is to regulate the sale of ammunition. Ellen says “Anyone can buy ammunition—There are no controls. . . . Currently, it is easier to buy ammunition than allergy medicine.”

Prior to moving to Santa Rosa ten years ago, Ellen and her husband, Jim Wilkinson, lived in Hawaii (which Jim loved) and before that Greece (which Ellen loved). Both agreed they were too far away from “home” in the U.S. and coming to Northern California was the compromise. Ellen and Jim met while both worked for the U.S. State Department. Ellen’s service was in Washington D.C., the United Nations in New York, and in Greece for a total of 7 years, and Jim served in Australia, West Germany, Thailand (he’s a great Thai chef!), Russia, East Germany, at the State Department’s Mission to the United Nations in New York, and in Hawaii as the civilian advisor to the Pacific Command for 31 years.

Ellen loves Sonoma County because it feels like a caring community. She learned what that meant when she was in a near fatal car collision on Brush Creek Road in December of 2005. People came forward to bring food, books, flowers, and cards. She was truly touched, especially since many were people she barely knew. For Ellen “It really solidified my feelings about Santa Rosa.”

This year Jim and Ellen have been teaching a model U.N. program at Roseland University Prep and also teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). Her involvement in these two programs has given her insight into the lives and expectations of people who are recent immigrants as well as how complex it is to secure scholarship funds and resources for teens to move onto a college track.

Ellen was an active committee member for our *We Listen* report and is especially concerned about the divide among the socioeconomic groups and European Americans and Mexican Americans in Sonoma County. “There’s a feeling among most middle and upper middle class people like myself that this is a community with very few problems and that’s simply not true.”

“There are very few groups that are willing to look at the problems in Sonoma County whether they have to do with race, income, disability, sexual orientation, age, or ethnic background. **So Listening for a Change was the ideal place for me to get involved because it was looking at all of the things that I thought needed attention. I don’t know anybody else who is doing what Listening for a Change does, at least not on such a broad scale. What I appreciate is that it sends the message about the value of diversity and the value of different groups throughout the community.**”

Listening for a Change is fortunate to have Dr. Ellen Boneparth actively involved in guiding our programs into the future.



We're in the Human Race for Sure!!

On Saturday, May 9th, Listening for a Change participated in the **Volunteer Center of Sonoma County's** annual Human Race. Nonprofits invite their supporters to walk or run around beautiful Spring Lake and raise funds for their organizations.

At our booth at the "Marketplace," Listening for a Change distributed our *We Listen* report, as well as bottled water donated by **Fountaingrove Lodge**.

As you can see, we had a lot of fun with our entry in the "Caterpillar Contest" as an "Ear-y Caterpillar." After all, We are Listening for a Change!



Flo Hoffenberg



Marcos Suarez



Phyllis Rosenfield and Susan Curry



Ellen Mundell



Ed Buckley



Thank you to our Donors and Corporate Sponsor

Walkers/Runners/Supporters

Rose Batzdorff	Louisa Leavitt
Ellen Breisacher & Steve Beckwith	Stacy Lynch
Ed Buckley	Asher, Kirsten & Avi Miller
Susan & Jerry Curry	Jennifer Millier
Tamara Dunn	Ellen Mundell
Caroline & Regan Gonsalves	Tom O'Halleran
Lisa Hardin	Phyllis & Arnie Rosenfield
Stokes	Anne-Jeanne Rothchild
Flo & Dan Hoffenberg	Anne Shepherd
Tamarya Hulme	Marcos Suarez, Blanca Rodas & Emma Suarez
Judi Hyman	Elee Tsai
Jayne Johnson	Wes Winter
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2009 Human Rights Awards Celebration

On January 17th **Listening for a Change** again partnered with the **Commission on Human Rights** and the **Volunteer Center of Sonoma County** to present the annual Human Rights Awards Celebration to recognize, honor, and celebrate the outstanding contributions made on behalf of human rights in our community.

The 2009 Awards Celebration recognized and highlighted the contributions of: **Dr. Lorna Catford**, Professor at Sonoma State University, for her extraordinary efforts on behalf of autistic families; **Ms. Margo Warnecke Merck**, President of the Board for **Community Housing Sonoma County**, for her tireless efforts to provide housing for extremely low income individuals with disabilities; the **Gong Family of G&G Market**, who provide work with meaning for those who have developmental disabilities and those who do not speak English; and the **Committee on the Shelterless**, who provide a therapeutic environment where people have the chance to recover from past trauma and the plight of homelessness.

LFC
Board
Chair
Wes
Winter



Young singers from
Community Baptist Church

Chris Rohde,
Vice Chair
Commission
on Human
Rights, Jody
Lau of the
Gong Family,
and Wes
Winter



Earth Day at Roseland - Día de la Tierra

On April 26th, Listening for a Change was invited to participate in the first Día de la Tierra (Earth Day) in el Zócalo Rosas (Roseland). Our small role was to interview attendees about how they think Roseland's environment and community could be improved. Brief on-the-street interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

The inspirational force for this first event was **Evelina Molina** of the **North Bay Institute of Green Technology**, with support from other nonprofits such as **Go Local** and green businesses such as **Living Earth Structures**, **Harmony Farm Supply and Nursery**, **Oliver's Market**, **Friedman's Home Improvement**, **Santa Rosa Tool Library**, **Restorative Inc.**, **Emerisa Gardens**, **Alvarado Street Bakery**, and others.

It was a wonderful first event—Next year plan to join us all!



Aztec Danza Mexica Coyolxaugui performing



Earth Day organizers City
Council Person Veronica Jacoby
and Evelina Molina, Youth Green
Jobs Sonoma

Thank you to our Major Funders:

Community Foundation Sonoma County - Schulz Donor Advised Fund
Daphne Smith Fund of Community Foundation Sonoma County
State Farm Youth Advisory Board

A Sincere Thank You to All of Our Friends and Supporters Who Have Given So Generously from November 2008 through May 2009:

\$1000-\$1,999

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John Weinstein & Heidi Stewart

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Summit State Bank

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Hank Cohn
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In Celebration:

In honor of Bernice Fox's 80th birthday from Evelyn Gurevitch, Susan Miller, and Sylvia Sucher

In Memoriam:

In memory of John Fauld from Rheba and Philip Rubins
In memory of Vivian Frye from Leah Mundell and David Trilling
In memory of Marian Poliwoda & Igor Soltes from Bernard and Maria Soltes
In memory of Rabbi Michael A. Robinson from Ruth Robinson

Listening for a Change Loses Three Dear Friends

With great sadness and the joy of having known them, we remember

Jessica Flores Foster, Board Member & Secretary (March 8, 1971 - February 19, 2009)

Jessica was loving, bright, energetic, generous, and had a wonderful infectious laugh. Taken from life much too early, leaving a husband and 8 month old child, she was an asset to our Board and organization. A proud Latina woman and lawyer involved with social justice issues, our entire community has suffered a loss.

See article in Spring/Summer 2007 Newsletter at www.listeningforachange.org/news.html

Hans (Hank) Cohn, Volunteer (May 7, 1928 - April 13, 2009)

For over 4 years Hank offered his extensive computer knowledge and created copies of interviews for the *Community Listening Project*. A retired social worker who devoted his professional life to helping foster children, he was himself an orphaned Jewish German "Kindertransport" child rescued by a small group of Pennsylvania Quakers.

See article in Spring/Summer 2006 Newsletter at www.listeningforachange.org/news.html

William (Bill) Hazelwood, We Listen Committee Member (February 19, 1948 - March 6, 2009)

Shared concerns for more effective communication and high risk children brought William to Listening for a Change. A Director/Producer for KPIX and KQED, instructor at San Francisco State University, award winning journalist, and founder of Sojourna Productions, he had much to teach and share with us all. Though William lived a full life, all the contributions he'll not be able to make will be sorely missed.



Jessica Flores Foster

Courtesy of Press Democrat
& Charlie Casell



Hank Cohn



William Hazelwood

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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.

You're invited!
Sunset Sotree at Michel-Schlumberger
August 29, 2009

1300 North Dutton Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

· LISTENING FOR A CHANGE ·

