



## Launching of Neighborhood Listening Project with Mobile Touch-Screen Computers!



**Listening for a Change is pleased to announce** the launch of a new school/community program, the Neighborhood Listening Project! An innovative merger of our school and community programs, it has a special new feature of incorporating touch-screen computer kiosks to create Neighborhood Listening Stations. Each Neighborhood Listening Station will offer video segments of interviews of community neighbors. The home page will feature faces and names from one's local community. All one has to do to meet a neighbor is to touch their photograph and view a video short as they share perspectives and their story.

Thanks to a small planning grant from State Farm Insurance, the initial programs are beginning with Cloverdale High School and Healdsburg Junior High School. Students are being taught oral history taking

by Listening for a Change staff. Community members from diverse backgrounds and experiences will come to the school sites to be interviewed by small panels of prepared students. Each interview will be video recorded and students will help select segments to be featured on Neighborhood Listening Stations. Student-selected art and music will be incorporated into the display. When twenty-five or more interviews are ready, the pieces will be loaded onto a free-standing touch-screen computer (see picture) and placed in public venues throughout the cities. Venues will include libraries, shopping centers, health clinics, banks, etc.—In other words anywhere people congregate and have time to explore a Neighborhood Listening Station.

People who engage with a Listening Station will have opportunities to come to know their neighbors a little better, thereby beginning to dispel “otherness” and creating a richer, more authentic community. There will be opportunities for Neighborhood Listening Stations users to answer questions and leave comments about their experience and what they have heard. This process is a little like National Public Radio’s “Story Corps,” except with local voices and video images.

Students and other participating adult community members will be in a unique position to ask questions, hear from primary community resources, analyze data, reflect, and if inequities are demonstrated, take action to correct them.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact our office for further



**Jennifer  
Millier  
Board  
Vice Chair**

**On first meeting Jennifer Millier** one is immediately struck by her intelligent, kind, lovely, and competent demeanor. With her beauty and poise, one might assume that this is a young woman who easily moves through the world simply on her exceptional looks—Nothing could be further from the truth.

Born in Capitola, at age four Jennifer moved to the town of Sonoma. Her father, John Millier, worked at that time for Valley Oxygen and Medical Equipment. Jennifer’s parents were one of the many founding families of the Summerfield Waldorf School, helping to build major expansions to the campus in 1987. Following her parents’ divorce, Jennifer moved to Fresno, California.

During her childhood Jennifer was exposed to a spectrum of cultures. She attended nine different elementary and secondary schools in Santa Rosa, Fresno, and Clovis. She ultimately graduated from Maria Carillo High School where she was the high school representative to the Santa Rosa Board of Education in 1999-2000. In high school she lived with her father and stepmother, Lucy Andrews. Jennifer returned to Santa Rosa in 2007 to join the law firm of Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery Jennifer. According to Jennifer, “Sonoma County has always felt like home.”

As an undergraduate Jennifer attended the University of California Los Angeles., She was excited to experience the big city and big campus life. Going from Santa Rosa to UCLA was a huge transformation, but it was her year abroad in Scotland that really opened her eyes—“I had never been out of the US before.” Thirty percent of the University of St. Andrews were international students from countries such as Mexico, Norway, Denmark, and Portugal. Studying international relations and political philosophy, Jennifer found it extremely interesting to hear opinions differing from her own. “I learned about other perspectives on Vietnam and Iraq.” She was in Scotland at the beginning of the Iraq war.

From UCLA, Jennifer went directly to the University of California Hastings Law School in San Francisco.

In law school she volunteered with an after-school tutoring program for children in the Tenderloin. She found it both touching and heartbreaking—“These kids were so eager to learn and so eager to have attention it was incredibly rewarding. I knew how important it was growing up to have people interested in you as a child—Interested in what you were studying, what you were doing. It was an opportunity to give back.”

Jennifer was attracted to Listening for a Change because she appreciated the concept of using oral histories to teach about diversity and to break down social barriers. This effort gives strength to voices that are not listened to: “There’s a significant portion of the population whose voices are not heard on mainstream media, they’re not seen on television nor are their voices heard on radio. There are racial divides, but I think it’s socio-economic in a lot of ways. They don’t live in certain neighborhoods so people have no idea what those people are like.”

Jennifer is excited about engaging the community in the work of Listening for a Change. “The organization embraces people from different backgrounds in our community. It allows and encourages them to speak out whether it’s in the *Community Listening Project* or in bringing in people from different backgrounds into the schools. Opportunities are created to open children’s eyes to significant issues of racism and prejudice.”

If Jennifer could wave a magic wand over Sonoma County, there would be universal health care because, “Access to appropriate medical care cuts down socioeconomic lines and I think everyone has a right to their health.” She also has innovative ideas about how to make the criminal justice system more effective:

“ I’d reform some of the criminal justice system. I think that a lot of misdemeanors and quality

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**Winter/Spring Schedule for  
Community Listening Project  
Interviewer Workshops**

**Saturday, January 15th, 9 A.M.-1 P.M.  
Saturday, April 30th, 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

To enroll call 578-5420.



## A Few Thoughts from Daphne...

*In speaking with my teenage daughter on Election Day about the thorny subject of undocumented immigrants, I was impressed by her observation about the debate. "If everyone would just calm down and try to see things from the other person's perspective...." What a great idea! It sounds simple, and in fact it is not complicated to carry out. And it improves discourse tremendously to calm down and listen to others. We need more of that, not only in politics but in our schools, in our workplaces, and in our neighborhoods.*

*I feel lucky to live in Sonoma County not only for its amazing natural beauty and near-perfect climate, but also because it is home to many individuals and organizations working to improve human relations and promote understanding and commonality across race, class, cultural and other divides. We have thriving cultural events, many opportunities to interact with people from different backgrounds, and organizations providing concrete support and resources to potentially marginalized populations.*

*Listening for a Change has had a busy and productive year promoting the understanding and acceptance of human diversity in Sonoma County and beyond. We were privileged to be part of a wonderful collaboration with the Santa Rosa Symphony in a Festival of Remembrance, bringing student-conducted oral histories relevant to the concert themes of Dia de los Muertos and Holocaust remembrance. We are getting quite close to going "live" with our prototype kiosk, the Neighborhood Listening Stations, so we can make our oral history library mobile in an interactive, touch-screen computer that can be moved around the community. We have other exciting projects in the development pipeline.*

*We have also continued to take our Essence of Acceptance curriculum into schools, and to conduct Community Listening Project interviewer workshops for the public. We are looking forward to giving our first annual Jessica Flores-Foster award to a young person working in our community to enhance human relations.*

*Listening for a Change remains relevant in our increasingly diverse community. We depend on contributions to carry out our mission. If you support the work of Listening for a Change, please take a moment to contribute what you can to support our efforts. We sincerely appreciate our donors whose faith and funds have allowed us to grow and take on new challenges over the last 22 years.*

Daphne Beletsis, Board Chair

## 2011 Jessica Flores-Foster Award



**Jessica Flores-Foster  
1971-2009**

The Board of Listening for a Change is proud to announce the presentation of the first annual Jessica Flores-Foster Award to a civically engaged person under the age of 40. In February, the 2011 award will be presented to Davin Cardenas.

The award has been created in memory of our former board member and board secretary, Jessica Flores-Foster. Jessica was a gifted 37-year-old attorney who worked to create a more just and equitable community for all people. The Board selected Davin Cardenas for his history of civic engagement in Sonoma County.

Active in student politics at Sonoma State University, Davin has served as an organizer and board member with the Graton Day Labor Center. He initiated the first organized day labor corner in Sonoma County, spending three years creating an effective job distribution process, general assemblies, leadership development and other services for workers.



**Davin Cardenas  
2011 Award Winner**

In 2005 Davin co-founded the Committee for Immigrant Rights of Sonoma County. The committee focuses on challenging issues facing marginalized communities. Davin is now a member of the Coordinating Council of the organization.

Davin's primary time is now being spent working to establish the North Bay Organizing Project, which seeks to unite institutions and organizations with shared concerns to develop leadership and work on a grassroots level in order to affect public policy. The group is receiving mentorship from the Gamaliel Foundation, the same institute that President Barack Obama worked with in community organizing.

Congratulations to Davin Cardenas, the first Jessica Flores-Foster award winner!



# Sunset Soiree at Michel-Schlumberger was a Beautiful Evening Enjoyed By All!

With Sincere Appreciation to Jacques & Barbara Schlumberger  
for the Generous Donation  
of their Beautiful Michel-Schlumberger Wine Estate and Wines

Save the Date August 27, 2011  
for Next Year's Event at Michel-Schlumberger

Phyllis Rosenfield & Jacques Schlumberger



Checking in with Meg Alexander are Susan Shaw, Todd Taggart & Mary Taggart



Volunteers Deborah Perel, Anne McGivern, & Event Chair/Board Member Erica Bosque

RUP Student Volunteer Tanisha Moore



Mt. Taylor Jazz Project: Ed Buckley, Jim Sorrell, Scott Decker, Scott Rosen & Steve Gallo



Wine Servers Arnie Rosenfield & Geoff Perel



Board Member Jennifer Millier & Josh Lebovits



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**And with Gratitude for the Generous Donations of Bailyn Graphics, La Voz Newspaper, Anne McGivern-Auctioneer, and the Mt. Taylor Jazz Project**



Gayle Guynup & Connie Coddling



Ready for Presentation & Live Auction



Connie Coddling Humanist Awardees Graton Day Labor Center: Executive Director Christina Zapata, Christy Lubin, Eric Franciscom LFAC Board Chair Daphne Beletsis, LFAC Executive Director Phyllis Rosenfield, and Esmeralda Montufar



Board Chair Daphne Beletsis introduces the Graton Day Labor Center



LFAC Board Member Marcos Suarez



Dian Shulkin with Supervisor Efrén Carillo



Aaron Westman & Shirley Hunt Classical Musicians



**Judi Hyman**  
**Our Volunteer**  
**of the Year**

**Listening for a Change received a gift in August of 2009—Judi Hyman**, a professional bookkeeper, asked if she could do payroll and taxes, reconcile the bank statements, create needed monthly reports, and generally take on full bookkeeping responsibilities. This work had previously been a contracted expense for us. Her upbeat demeanor and skilled services have been sincerely appreciated and valued.

A fourth generation San Franciscan, Judi attended the University of California at Davis earning a degree in Child Development. Now she regrets not having become a Certified Public Accountant, because not long after graduation she realized that she professionally preferred working with numbers. Unlike children, numbers are concrete, cut and dry. You can work with numbers to line up properly and stay that way!

As a child, Judi’s family drove through Sonoma County on the way to their get-away home near Clearlake. She loved learning to water ski with her identical twin sister, Sandy, and her brother, Ron. Judi has many fond memories of times at the lake. On Memorial Day weekend, when Judi was 18 and a freshman at UC Davis, the family was spending their traditional family time at Clearlake. Suddenly, her 45-year-old father was struck by a heart attack and died. The traumatic shock, pain, and grief took years to move through.

Judi has known about Listening for a Change’s work since 1991 when she saw the Sonoma County Survivor Project exhibit at the Sonoma County Museum (visit [www.listeningforachange.org](http://www.listeningforachange.org) to view today). As a Jewish woman, she was moved by the work and said, “I like to think that I am accepting of others, but one thing I don’t tolerate is others around me who are not accepting or tolerant.” Prejudice is abhorrent to her.

“Why can’t we just all get along?” a Rodney King quote is one of Judi’s favorite. Judi said, “I have a hard time with people who think they’re better than someone else. I try hard to always remember that in my life.”

Becoming involved in her community has helped Judi develop and grow. She’s donated large amounts of time to the Jewish Community Federation, Congregation Beth Ami, and Jewish Family & Children’s Services. For ten years she worked at the Catholic Charities Homeless Shelter fixing dinner in the kitchen twice a month.

It was a great experience. You go in there and you realize that there are a lot of people who need a lot of help. It makes me incredibly grateful for everything that I have. It’s just a whole different world for people who are living in a homeless shelter and realizing their need for food to be provided on a daily basis.

Judi recently enrolled with the Volunteer Center Sonoma County to be a reader with high need kids. She says, “I try to have a positive influence where I can.”

A Sonoma County resident for 22 years, Judi raised her two children Elana & Adam here. Elana recently married. Elana, her husband Joe, and Adam all live in San Francisco. Judi loves Sonoma County’s diversity & being outside a large metropolitan area. She appreciates being close to nature, parks, bike trails, running groups, and hiking.

At age 56 she has recently begun competing in marathons. Her can-do, positive attitude is infectious!

**Jennifer Millier**  
*(continued from 2)*

of life crimes are drug & alcohol related crimes. All these problems falling under that umbrella could really be better and more permanently resolved through appropriate rehabilitation, drug counseling, and job counseling. There needs to be a focus on bringing people back from the edge. Especially people that don’t have the money, don’t have the family, don’t have the assets just to go to rehab or pull themselves out of situations that can spiral and effect the community as a whole. Setting up appropriate rehab or social support network or facility to help those people would, overall, help the community.”

Not surprisingly, Jennifer’s favorite aspect of the law is study of the U.S. Constitutional provisions that protect civil rights.

“It’s interesting how in the last 100 years the Constitution has either evolved or been amended or been interpreted by Justices to really protect the rights of the disenfranchised and the

**Jennifer Millier**  
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## Thank you to our Major Funders:

Daphne Smith Fund of Community Foundation Sonoma County  
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### A Sincere Thank You to All of Our Friends and Supporters Who Have Given So Generously from May 2010 through November 2010:

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#### In Celebration

In honor of **Ellen Brosbe's 60th birthday** from Tad & Debbie Shapiro

In Celebration of **Lou Menachof's 80th birthday** from Dan & Flo Hoffenberg

In honor of **Arnie Rosenfield's Retirement** from the Superior Court Bench from his many friends attending his retirement party

#### *Jennifer Millier*

(continued from page 6)

rights of minorities and those that don't have political voice or power to get through Congress what they need and what they're entitled to. People always criticize activist judges, but those are my favorite. It's the constantly evolving area of law—20 years ago it was never envisioned that the equal protection clause would apply to protect same sex marriage or marriage equality. Now that's a solid argument that's going to be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in the next year or

so. It's interesting to see how a concept or a principal in the Constitution can be applied to evolving social situations.]]

In addition to practicing law, Jennifer is a serious runner who often participates in local marathons. So, keep your eyes on this talented young woman. She's off and running in ways that will impress and benefit our community!

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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).

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AVENUE  
1300 NORTH DUTTON

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

