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Mission

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

Programs

Listening for a Change works to achieve its mission through two dynamic programs -Essence of Acceptance and the Community Listening Project – and an exhibit, Sonoma County Survivor Project. Each is a catalyst for change in achieving acceptance of diversity in our schools, neighborhoods and greater communities.

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.

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.

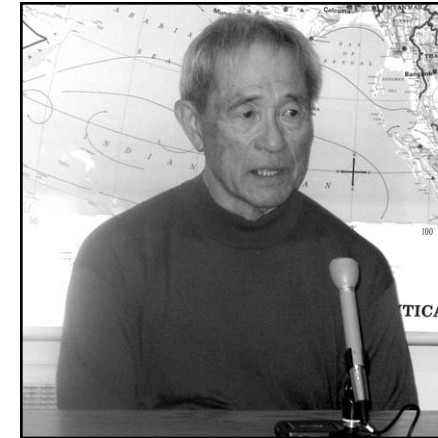
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Los Angeles Unified School Districts teachers Jacqueline Lopez, Phyllis Haybashibara, Janet Ho, and Pat Husain conduct a workshop interview with Mr. Kay Inaba who was interned during World War II as a Japanese American teenager.

Expanding the Reach of *Essence of Acceptance*

The Board of Listening for a Change envisions offering the *Essence of Acceptance* program to a numerically and geographically broader audience. Do you know teachers in Central or Southern California who would like to participate? Educators in other states? Please contact us if you do!

We believe that the *Essence of Acceptance* curriculum fulfills an important need—Who else is teaching an understanding of human rights and responsibilities; how to conduct an oral history; how to reach out into the community to interview someone who's lost rights (linked to studies) and how to support student participation in a meaningful Service-Learning activity?

With its well-written, extensive lesson selection and support video, Listening for a Change is in the process of offering new workshops for teachers. This curriculum works especially well with Social Studies, Language Arts, and Service Learning classrooms grades 8-12. History is brought alive through interviewing someone linked to classroom studies who has experienced a loss of human rights. There are multiple reflective and critical thinking activities

to help young people become civically engaged with issues that are occurring in the world today. The Service-Learning component allows them to reach out into the community and take action. In late July and early August Listening for a Change participated in a three-day workshop at Sonoma State University (SSU) with the Center for the Study

“The whole process and curriculum (*Essence of Acceptance*) has been broken down into small usable and adaptable parts. It clarifies and makes the concept of Human Rights accessible to students.”

Janet Ho
Manual Arts High School
Los Angeles Unified School District

of the Holocaust and Genocide titled “Exploring our Common Humanity: Integrating Genocide, Holocaust and Human Rights into the Curriculum.” Teachers came from all over Northern California, a few from Central, and one *(continued on page 2)*

Community Listening Project Update

If you haven't attended one of our free *Community Listening Project* workshops at the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County, call our office today and sign up for one of the upcoming sessions. Participants learn in four intense, fun hours how to conduct authentic oral histories. Active listening isn't something our dominant culture has emphasized and everyone benefits from the practice. You'll return home transformed and motivated to take a recorder and interview a neighbor who has different life experiences (that means anyone!). For more details visit our website at www.listeningforachange.org

Community Action Partnership (CAP) recently invited us to conduct a short training with their Diversity Committee and we are honored to do so. Many companies, non-profits and government agencies have Diversity Training for their employees. Listening for a Change is in the process of creating a brochure and offering to conduct portions of this training for employees. Employees can interview one another and build better understanding and acceptance of diversity in the workplace. Additionally, employees who work with the public will become more sensitive and aware of the needs of their clients and customers. Do you know an organization that might be interested? If so, please

contact our office. We can use your help as we move into relatively new territory.

Schedule for Community Listening Project Workshops

Workshops are conducted on Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

December 2

February 3

April 7

June 2

The above workshops are held at the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County
153 Stony Circle, Suite 100
Santa Rosa

For additional information call 578-5420

Expanding the Reach of *Essence of Acceptance* (continued from page 1)

from Los Angeles! Dr. Myrna Goodman and Jennifer Norton taught the Genocide and Holocaust component and Phyllis Rosenfield and Caroline Chinn Gonsalves taught the *Essence of Acceptance* component.

Listening for a Change has made inroads into Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), which is now requiring all students graduating in 2007 to have had a minimum of one semester of a Service Learning activity. We were honored to introduce our workshop and curriculum to teachers in June and October and are in the process of planning additional workshops to meet the needs of their student population.

Listening for a Change has been able to offer these workshops thanks to your generous donations and grants from State Farm Companies Foundation, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, and Holocaust Memorial/Education Fund of the Jewish Community Endowment.

“ This session was extremely worthwhile to me. Learning how to set up a sequence of safe-to-difficult interview questions, revising questions to be less leading and more open-ended, and keeping in mind all technical details has made me more confident that I can orchestrate student-led interviews in the classroom....I know I have to train my students to LISTEN to the responses and to each other's follow up questions.”

**Phyllis Hayashibara
Venice High School
Los Angeles Unified School District**

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**Board
Member
Anne
McGivern**

Anne McGivern has traveled several long roads with many turns since her childhood in Worthington, Ohio. As one of six children in an Irish Catholic household, she aspired at age 10 to become a nun and held that desire until age 21.

In a household where adults suffered from the disease alcohol can bring, it wasn't always easy to find someone who nurtured you in a genuine, accepting way. Anne's elderly Bostonian grandfather stands out as someone who was deeply religious and kind to her. She believed in his goodness and felt the same about his older friends who would come to visit at the New Hampshire summer home. They were kind and playful and this meant a lot to her.

At the Catholic boarding school Anne attended as a teen, she again found acceptance and welcoming from the elderly nuns who cooked in the kitchen. "They were tiny, little things who I could have real encounters with. They would tell me what their lives were like that day and they asked who I was and didn't judge. They were interested in me being genuine."

For Anne McGivern, who became a prominent gerontologist, her experience "having all the frills gone, being genuine with no tricks" is where her priority of making connection with fellow human beings and Listening for a Change come together.

Today Anne sells real estate with Creative Property Services and is active as a mentor with Positive Images. She became involved with Listening for a Change after Judi Rosenthal interviewed her for our *Community Listening Project*. She then attended one of the workshops and became active in our work. As a lesbian woman she has experienced misunderstanding and prejudice in the community and workplace. "It completes the loop of a lifelong theme for me—Having genuine encounters with people. It's what gives my life meaning."

"What fascinates me is that when we're all at home we hang out with people that are a lot like us

because it's very comfortable. And we need that—that's home base. And then we buy a ticket to Yugoslavia or China and we come back and what are the stories we tell? 'Oh I had the most marvelous experience with this complete stranger on a train in India. He told me about his children and how his mother died and how his wife was sick and that was the best part of my whole trip!' Do we have to buy a ticket to India to have this experience? Maybe some of us do. Certainly some of us have come home and are more inclined to do it across the street. Can we do that here? Yes! Yes, we can do it—it's such a paradox!"

"I think people are enormously lonely because they're not having these encounters. We don't have the skills. Nobody is teaching it, nobody's training for it. I don't think we have a culture that mirrors back to us the joy of that kind of experience. I do think people are starving for it....The curriculum is fabulous! The opportunity to reach a lot of people is untapped!"

"Somehow we have to create opportunities for people to experience that joy of the genuine encounter. People don't know it's possible unless you set the stage or create the opportunity or exposure. I see that as our (Listening for a Change) work: creating ambassadors."

"I think people are enormously lonely because they're not having these encounters. We don't have the skills. Nobody is teaching it, nobody's training for it. I don't think we have a culture that mirrors back to us the joy of that kind of experience. I do think people are starving for it....The curriculum is fabulous! The opportunity to reach a lot of people is untapped!"

Anne is a spiritual person who believes that "...goodness does exist. Spiritual experience is an immersion into that goodness." For her, connecting with others does just that.

A Few Thoughts from Phyllis...



Have you heard about the most recent Global Freezing Alert? As if there's not enough to worry about, it's what's happening in the area of human rights. If you scan any newspaper, you'll read that across the world "otherness" is exaggerated, emphasizing our separateness. Whether it's nationality, race, religion, gender, or something else—you're different and therefore less than/better than your neighbor.

Listening for a Change aspires to help warm up the community. In fact, with frozen relationships there's less likelihood of solving shared concerns such as global warming.

To our Board and supporters, it seems imperative that we have the capacity to hear one another—This takes patience, openness, and a willingness to share and trust. Our programs invite each of us to slow down and take time to simply hear someone else, take their perspective into one's consciousness, turn it over, and examine what it means. When this occurs, there is the potential to grapple with problems.

People often ask me, "What are you going to do with these interviews?" The interview in and of itself "does" something. Honoring and preserving the story "does" something, creating opportunities to share the story "does" something, and analyzing the stories for what's on people's minds "does" something.

So "do" something with us—Learn how to conduct an oral history and join us in community building efforts. We need you!

Phyllis

Welcome and Good-bye to our Dedicated Board Members

Listening for a Change would like to welcome three new Board Members: **Jessica Flores**, **Anne McGivern** and **Tamayra Hulme**. We are most appreciative of the broad talents and energy they bring to our organization. Jessica is an attorney who is the Family Law Facilitator for the Sonoma County Superior Court, Anne is a gerontologist turned realtor with Creative Property Services, and Tamarya is a former executive with Motorola, Inc., and recently a customer service administrator with Calix in Petaluma.

We want to say a very special thank you to **Connie Coddington** who has served our organization for four years and will continue as an active member of our Advisory Committee. Connie's passion for human rights issues and business acumen will be missed.

Reverend James E. Coffee Human Rights Awards Event

For the third consecutive year Listening for a Change is participating in the Rev. James E. Coffee Human Rights Award event—First as a winner in the non-profit category, and for the past two years as a co-sponsor with the Commission on Human Rights and the Volunteer Center.

Please mark your calendar for **Friday, December 1st at 6:30 pm**. The event is to be held at the **Mary Agatha Furth Center, 8400 Old Redwood Highway in Windsor**.

The Keynote Speaker is State Assembly member, Mark Leno. Leno is known for his ground-breaking legislative work in the areas of marriage equity, expansion of solar power, support for foster youth, and programs that protect victims of domestic violence.

After the awards presentation there will be music, desserts, and beverages. Ticket prices for adults are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. For youths up to age 18, tickets are \$5. For ticket information, please contact the Commission on Human Rights 565-2693.



Our Fiesta Fantastica event was a great success!



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Cammie Wagoner & Mondo welcomed one and all ...



Below, Werner & Tamara Berg and David Karpilow at Silent Auction Table 4.



Above, Tom Garrett and Kristen Berger at the food tables.



Board Member Jessica Flores and Peggy Spaulding enjoyed the chocolate fountain.



At right, Javier Salmon and the Cuyuy band kept things lively, as did Ana Zavala and her tango dancers, below.



Ruth Robinson accepted the Connie Codding Humanist Award on behalf of her late husband, Rabbi Michael Robinson.



SSU's Sarah Dove (center) spoke briefly about integrating Community Listening Project workshops into her classes. With Executive Director, Phyllis Rosenfield, and Board Chair, Jim Leddy.



Board Member Tamarya Hulme, Carl Van Dyke, and Board Member Christyne Davidian



Auctioneer Chris Costin at work!