Join us for our 2010 Sunset Soirée!

Saturday, September 11th
from 5:00-8:30 pm

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

Experience fine Michel-Schlumberger wines,
live music, food, auctions, and fun! This
fine blend promises to be a scintillating
late summer experience for you and your
friends.

Holocaust Rememberance: Stories at the Edge of Life

This spring, Listening for a Change was again invited to collaborate with the Santa Rosa Symphony’s Festival of Remembrance concert series at the Jackson Theater. In the fall we worked with Luther Burbank Elementary School for “Una Celebración del Día de los Muertos: Music for Mexico’s Day of the Dead” and we recently completed a dynamic oral history interview project with Healdsburg Junior High for the “Music at the Edge of Life: In Remembrance of Jewish Composers Who Perished in the Holocaust”

Listening for a Change worked with over 60 8th grade students teaching how to conduct oral histories, culminating in four interviews with Jewish Shoah/Holocaust survivors who live in Sonoma County. Listening for a Change’s school curriculum Essence of Acceptance formed the foundation for teaching the students. 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 (continued on page 2)

“Everything is related. For them to be able to start to see how we can relate what we do in our lives to some event that has occurred—it makes history real, and it makes it meaningful. And, when they do this, it projects a hope for tomorrow.”

-Pat Sabo,
Healdsburg Junior High Teacher

Students at Healdsburg Junior High School interview Holocaust Survivor and Sonoma County resident Alfred Batzdorff
Stories at the Edge of Life
(continued from page 1)

Director, worked closely with HJH teachers Pat Sabo and Lillian Fonseca to bring this curriculum to 8th graders at Healdsburg Junior High.

Healdsburg Junior High students prepared to interview Holocaust Survivors by practicing their listening skills and interviewing skills with each other in small groups led by teachers and fellow students.

The Holocaust survivors interviewed by the HJH students were Vera Korkus of Santa Rosa, Alfred & Susanne Batzdorff of Santa Rosa, and Irv Piotrkowski of Petaluma. The survivors shared stories from their childhoods, their experiences during and after the Holocaust, and their present-day lives in Sonoma County. Vera Korkus entered Theresienstadt as a fourteen-year-old and was sent to Auschwitz after the International Red Cross visited the false-fronted community the Nazis wanted the world to see. Alfred Batzdorff escaped to England on a Kindertransport at age sixteen and was able to help his parents and brother flee Nazi Germany. Susanne Batzdorff’s family escaped to the US late in 1948—Her mother’s sister was the famous Edith Stein, who has since been made a Catholic Saint. Irv Piotrkowski’s mother was the sole family survivor of Auschwitz and his father was hidden by some kind Polish neighbors in a cramped attic for over two years.

The students at HJH experienced additional insight into the feelings of those who experienced the Holocaust through music that was performed for them by musicians from the Santa Rosa Symphony. The students had the opportunity to listen to a performance of string quartet music written by Viktor Ullmann and Pavel Haas, two composers who perished in Theresienstadt. Coincidentally, Vera Korkus, one of the survivors interviewed by the students, survived the same camp where this music was written. The string quartet performance featured violinists Aaron Westman and Tyler Lewis, violist Meg Eldridge, and cellist Shirley Hunt. The musicians took special care to explain and inform the students about the music as they played.

Listening for a Change created a short documentary film about the students’ experience learning about the Holocaust through their first-hand experience interviewing the survivors as well as listening to the music. The film, titled “Stories at the Edge of Life”, features selections from the interviews conducted by HJH students, as well as musical excerpts from the Santa Rosa Symphony performance. In addition, the film includes interviews with two teachers and six students capturing their reflective thoughts about the experience.

It is unique for a creative collaboration like this to occur in our community and we are most appreciative to the Santa Rosa Symphony, Alan Silow Director & Katey Pearson Education Director and to Pat Sabo and Lillian Fonseca of Healdsburg Junior High for their dedicated teaching of our children.

“"The music really moved them, because they had already heard a couple of the interviews, and already heard about the pain and tribulations. When they heard certain parts of the music, they knew what it was reflecting. They knew the historical foundation for the piece, so it made them feel [the music] in a totally different way."”
-Lillian Fonseca, Healdsburg Junior High Teacher

“I do think and I do know that things still happen like this, and I think that now, having an African-American president really helps establish a lot of things with other races in America.”
-Adrian Sierra, Healdsburg Junior High 8th Grade Student

“I learned from Vera... You shouldn't feel pity for yourself... You should stand tall. You shouldn't say, ‘Why is this happening to me?’... It's like a mist, you'll find your way.”
-Evelyn Romo, Healdsburg Junior High 8th Grade Student
I am writing with 3 large pits in my stomach—The most recent is the tragic destruction of the Gulf of Mexico from a malfunctioning oil derrick spewing thousands of gallons of oil each day… I have fond memories of camping vacations on Pensacola Island running among the dunes and through the labyrinth of Fort Pickens.

As for the other two pits, one is a large twin from two wars we're currently fighting and the other is a tough one from the financial crisis. What can be done to digest such hard, overwhelming truths?

The only thing I find helpful (though not a solvent) is to focus on planting seeds capable of growing, flourishing, and nourishing rather than spreading hard pits in places they should never have been. I like to think the innovative, modest projects of Listening for a Change are nurturing for our communities.

One recent example is the collaboration of Healdsburg Junior High, the Santa Rosa Symphony, and Listening for a Change. (pages 1-2) Community members came to the school, the school reached out to the community, and the symphony drew everyone together with their Festival of Remembrance. Some children said their lives had been forever affected. The reflections by the interviewees, students, teachers, and later the audience at the Jackson Theater viewing the DVD reminded me that the present and future is not dark. It is my hope that these same youth will become civically engaged and ready to address some of the challenging issues that they will surely face in the future. It is these youth who will bring light to the future.

Please join us in our efforts to plant and nurture more small seeds.

LFC in Education: Exhibits that Reach into the Community

Listening for a Change will be piloting an exciting new educational program that will bring together elements of our school curriculum, Essence of Acceptance, and the Community Listening Project. The program we imagine will offer middle school and high school students in Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Petaluma, and Santa Rosa a rare opportunity to learn oral history-taking techniques, conduct interviews of community members, document the process through audio, photo, and video, and finally to have all of their work showcased on an interactive electronic kiosk.

After working with Listening for a Change staff in the classroom (or in an after-school program) to learn critical listening and interviewing skills, students will seek out a diverse representation of community members to interview. Groups of students will interview these individuals in the classroom, and will document the entire process through audio recording, photographic work, video, and other forms of art. The resulting documents from their interview process will form the basis of interactive exhibits, which will be loaded onto state-of-the-art electronic kiosks. These kiosks, which feature a 19-inch touch screen, will be placed in visible public places, such as banks, shopping centers, and health care facilities, as well as more traditional venues such as libraries and museums. (continued on page 6)

2010 Schedule for Interviewer Workshops

Saturday, October 23, 2010: 9am-1pm
Saturday, January 15, 2011: 9am-1pm

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
through a really interesting trial court one Summer and got to sit. I worked for a federal district court there that helped keep me focused. It seemed like a feasible path to support myself. Law school was pretty grueling, but I did some really interesting jobs while I was there that helped me focused.

I worked for a federal district court one Summer and got to sit through a really interesting trial while I was there. It was a highway head-on accident, between a guy who was drunk and the plaintiff. The plaintiff was a man with an incredibly interesting job, which was that he would get dropped by helicopter in remote areas to look for diamonds. He was a geologist, and he would dig and see if the area was promising, worth returning to, etc. He was pretty badly injured in the collision, and it was something that was going to seriously affect his physical capabilities. He got a fair bit of money, several hundred thousand dollars, but the interesting thing was that at the end of it... both sides looked as if they had lost. Obviously, the plaintiff expected much more and the other guy expected much less. Now, as a seasoned attorney, I know that's often the case. It was very eye-opening to me then, to discover that there's not necessarily a winner and a loser.

How did you choose law as a profession?

It was kind of a practical decision. I didn't really know any lawyers, no one in my family was a lawyer, I didn't have this drive to become a lawyer from the age of three like some people do. I didn't want a PhD because I didn't want to be in academia and mixed up in the politics of the university system. I thought, “What are my skills? What are my options?” Law seemed kind of obvious - I love to argue, it matched with my love for reading and writing, and it seemed like a feasible path to a method of supporting myself. Law school was pretty grueling, but I did some really interesting jobs while I was there that helped keep me focused.

I relocated from the East Bay was the lack of diversity, and then even more so, having kids in school and this whole idea of the town being separated into quadrants, and how the better schools with better scores are in certain quadrants...

I guess I just feel like an organization that has such a basic uncomplicated mission as getting to know your neighbors, talking to people and seeing them for who they are, understanding how their background might affect their life and what they bring to the community... Is something our community is in desperate need of.

What was it like to raise your family in Sonoma County?

It's been a little challenging because my kids have two mothers. I'm separated from my ex, but we are very much raising the kids together and we're blatantly raising them as a lesbian family. We've both been at every parent-teacher conference and every open house, and we walk in early in the year and say “Just so you know, my kid has two moms!” As my kids get to be teenagers, I thought it would be really hard for them. Kids go through that very self-conscious period... they don’t want to be different, they don’t want to stand out. My daughter, as it turns out, has kind of embraced that difference. She was very outspoken about the Proposition 8 campaign in her middle school. She's just become vice president of the gay-straight alliance at her high school. She turns out, has kind of embraced that difference. She was very outspoken about the Proposition 8 campaign in her middle school. She's just become vice president of the gay-straight alliance at her high school. She's just become vice president of the gay-straight alliance at her high school. You don't have to put yourself out there like that, but she’s choosing to have a visible role.

What are some improvements you envision for our community?

Tolerance, education, integration... There's a lot of concern about how undocumented people are being...
We’re Part of the Human Race!

On Saturday, May 8th, Listening for a Change turned some heads again with a rather noticeable team wearing bright blue and orange ears holding giant Q-tips—A metaphor for being better, more open listeners, with nothing to obstruct one’s capacity to hear.

At our Marketplace booth we distributed our new brochure as well as other material and explained to visitors what we do.

Best of all, it was a great way to have fun and do some fund raising! If you enjoy being a bit silly, we’d love to have you join us next year—

Thank you to our Donors and Corporate Sponsors

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Thank you to Those who Contributed Financially to Each of Our Walkers!

“I just feel like an organization that has such a basic uncomplicated mission as getting to know your neighbors, talking to people and seeing them for who they are, understanding how their background might affect their life and what they bring to the community…. Is something our community is in desperate need of.”
-Daphne Beletsis, Board Chair

**Beletsis Interview**
(continued from page 4)

I certainly wouldn’t say that Sonoma County is united on that issue, but I certainly see some support among the non-minority communities for immigrants and undocumented people. We live with these people and they are a part of our community and they contribute to our community, and they do a lot of things that a lot of people who have other options don’t want to do or aren’t willing to do. To accept the fruit of their labor, to have them here in our fields and our vineyards and cleaning our homes and doing a lot of the gruntwork, and then to turn around and say, “Oh, but you shouldn’t have any medical care or education or housing,” doesn’t feel right to me.

**What do you do for fun?**

I really like to be outside, hiking, walking, looking at the birds... and I have a 16-month-old dog named Bella. She likes to walk and go to the beach, and she goes to obedience training because she needs to learn some manners. I’m having a lot of fun with her. I also like to camp and travel with my kids. We have a big trip to Africa coming up in less than a month!

**What will you do in Africa?**

We will be with a group of 14 people in Northeastern Tanzania where our group leaders have built a clinic. There is a very high mortality rate among women and children in this area, especially pregnant women going through childbirth. The woman who put together this tour has been to Africa many times, traveled in eighteen different countries, and served in the Peace Corps... she raised 40 thousand dollars and built this clinic. It’s very much a “three cups of tea” kind of story. We will actually see the ribbon-cutting ceremony for her clinic and meet the people that live in the area.

**How will you describe who you are and where you’re from to people in Africa?**

I don’t know. I don’t know if we will be meeting a lot of English speakers. We’ll bring stuff to barter with, like baseball caps, school supplies, chocolate, and nuts. We’ve been told that Soccer is really big there. I’m so excited for my kids – they’re going to meet kids who aren’t worried about whether they have the latest cell phone or iPod, they’re going to meet kids who don’t have a soccer ball or even a toothbrush. We’re also trying to learn a few Swahili words so we can at least say “Hello” and “Thank you” and “Where’s the bathroom?” I don’t know that I’ll be having any conversations really in depth about what our life is like. But we’re going to try to take some pieces of our life with us.

**Kiosks**
(continued from page 2)

Over time, the content of each individual kiosk will rotate and change. The kiosks themselves are moveable and can be transported and installed in a variety of locations.

Listening for a Change already has several businesses and nonprofits who have expressed interest in “hosting” a kiosk, including Coddingtown Mall, Summit State Bank, and Santa Rosa Community Health Centers (formerly Southwest Community Health Center). We are currently conducting outreach to implement this program in various communities as well as exploring funding sources. If you or your business would like to support this new program in any way, please contact our office.

**2010 Nonprofit Conference Participation**

On March 26th Listening for a Change was an active participant in the Volunteer Center Sonoma County’s 2010 Nonprofit Conference, an all-day event held at the Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel in Santa Rosa.

Participants heard topical presentations by keynote speaker and social researcher Paul Ray and a luncheon presentation by internationally known fundraiser and author Kim Klein. Three workshop sessions with a wide choice of topics and presenters were offered to all attendees.

Listening for Change presented “The Art of Listening—Tune Up and Tune In!” during the first afternoon session to a full room of over 30 people. The premise of the presentation was that we live in a world of talkers, and few are skilled in the art of listening. We invited participants to learn how becoming a better listener can improve relationships with clients, donors, staff, board, and the community-at-large. We guaranteed “take-away” skills to improve one’s capacity to be more openly attuned to others.

Our organization is honored to have been invited to be an integral part of this dynamic Volunteer Center of Sonoma County.
Thank you to our Major Funders:
Daphne Smith Fund of Community Foundation Sonoma County
Summit State Bank

A Sincere Thank You to All of Our Friends and Supporters
Who Have Given So Generously from November 2009 through May 2010:

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In Celebration:
In honor of Arnie Rosenfield’s retirement from Fred and Sandy Brewer, Marty and Joyce Griffin,
Well wishes to Phyllis Rosenfield from Reed and Nancy Ferrick, Judi Hyman, Carol and Paul Kurtz
In honor of Molly and John Bass from Leah Mundell-Trilling and David Trilling

In Memoriam:
In memory of William Hazelwood from Philip Beard
In memory of Mike Hirsch from John and Carroll Hirsch
In memory of Philip Rubins from Joy Gordon, Judi Hyman, Lou and Sandy Menachof, Ellen and Michael Mundell,
Deborah and Geoff Perel, Pete and Eve Rubins, Mary and Todd Taggart, Cynthia and Sydney Wexler

2010 Jessica Flores-Foster Award Nominations

In October, 2010, Listening for a Change will present a first time award in memory of our former Board Member and Board Secretary, Jessica Flores-Foster, who died of cancer February 19, 2009 at age 37.

Jessica was a dynamic Family Law Attorney who mentored many youth in our community, including current Board Member, Marcos Suarez. Unafraid to face the forces of discrimination, Jessica said:

It is the conversation that we have with other people. I think it’s challenging people. As uncomfortable as that is, really challenging people and pushing their buttons in a positive but critical sort of way and understanding our own actions and what we do. Let me lead by example and talk to you along the way.

We are creating this award to honor a person each year who is energetic, creative, challenging of the status quo, and contributing to our communities.

Do you know a person under forty who fits this description? If so, please contact our office to receive an application explaining why you believe this person should receive the 2010 Jessica Flores-Foster Award.
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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.