SIGHTINGS
LISTENING FOR A CHANGE

From left, Gayle Bettinelli, Stephany Joy, Bill Bettinelli and Cynthia Deneholz.

THE BUZZ: More than 200 people from a rich array of backgrounds met at Santa Rosa’s gloriously renovated DeTurk Round Barn on Sept. 8 to talk, listen, eat, drink and celebrate progress in dissolving the barriers that divide human beings. It made for the perfect benefit and awards celebration for the nonprofit Listening for a Change.

THE WORK: The “Come Around” event generated about $30,000 for Listening for a Change programs aimed at “promoting understanding and acceptance of human diversity.” Approaches include teaching students about human rights, equipping them to interview people who are different from themselves and have overcome great challenges, and encouraging them to delve into possible solutions to conflicts in the community.

THE CHAMPIONS: Guests at “Come Around” feasted on hearty appetizers and wine, and applauded the efforts by local students and adults to overcome prejudice and intolerance. The Connie Codding Humanist Award went to Dr. Les Adler, who played a lead role in bringing the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to Sonoma State University and other campuses and has been important to Listening for a Change since its inception.

FOR 2013: The “Come Around” celebration will return to the DeTurk Round Barn on Sept. 7.

Photographs by Alvin Jornada