

Santa Cruz Sentinel (<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com>)

Carolyn Livengood: Peninsula Council of Lions Clubs event honors 32

By Carolyn Livengood, For the Mercury News

Friday, April 15, 2016

Peninsula Council of Lions Clubs held its 51st annual Police and Firefighter Awards Banquet -- "Respect, Honor, Integrity" -- on March 18 to honor 32 men and women who put their lives in danger to protect the communities in San Mateo County and the City of Palo Alto.

PCL President Scot Marsters welcomed 350 guests to the gala held at the Crowne Plaza Foster City Hotel, and Steve Penna, owner and publisher of Spectrum Magazine, was master of ceremonies.

Marsters announced that four new Lions clubs -- Redwood City Downtown, San Mateo County First Responders, Silicon Valley, and Silicon Valley Cyber -- have joined Lions International District 4-C4, which encompasses all the Lions clubs in San Francisco and San Mateo counties and the City of Palo Alto, bringing 4-C4's total number of clubs to 47.

The Peninsula Council of Lions is the coordinating council for all of the Lions clubs in San Mateo County and the City of Palo Alto.

Keynote speaker Scotty Jalbert, unit chief with CAL FIRE for the San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit, who has been in fire service for 29 years, talked about the dramatic increase of worsening fire seasons since 2005 and the cost of these fires.

"It doesn't matter if you are in the fire service, law enforcement, EMS (Emergency Medical Services), public health, a dispatcher, or emergency management, we all have something in common, that is to serve and protect the public," said Jalbert.

He noted that while it is seldom that police and fire need to work together, when it does occur, it usually involves a large disaster such as an earthquake, flood, pandemic, gas line explosion, airliner crash, or major wildland fires.

"It's one thing for us firefighters to work around fire wearing our protective gear and having thousands of hours of training," Jalbert continued. "But it's a whole other level of bravery from our police officers, deputies, and traffic officers to get ahead of these fast-moving fires; wearing no protective gear; having minimal, if any, fire training; and to do what? Save civilians by getting them out of the way, by making sure they go to a safe place while keeping others out of the fire area. They do this by going door-to-door, and sometimes driving through fire, risking their lives, doing their duty.

"No matter what our discipline is, we will all continue to do our jobs with integrity, professionalism, and with respect for each other and those we serve." The following awards were presented:

* Area Wide Police Service and also Police Service: Officer Tracey Unga, San Mateo Police Department.

* Police Service: Detective Steve Stump, Pacifica Police Department; Detective Christopher Correia, Palo Alto Police Department; Officer Luis Leyva, Redwood City Police Department; Officer Howard Hoyer, San Bruno

Police Department; Officer Lucinda Gillispie, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office; Inspector Stephen Sysum, San Mateo District Attorney's Office; Captain Ron Carlino, South San Francisco Police Department.

* Area Wide Fire Service and also Fire Service: Firefighter Andy Martinez, San Mateo Fire Department.

* Fire Service: Firefighter Steve Besozzi, Central County Fire.

* Area Wide Police Valor and also Police Valor: Corporal Donald Ray Lewis, Belmont Police Department.

* Police Valor: Officer Jeffrey Egeline, California Highway Patrol; Officer Michael Acosta and Corporal Brian Tidwell, Foster City Police Department; Officer Steven Gonzalez, Hillsborough Police Department; Officer Seann Graham, San Bruno Police Department; and Officer Kathleen Walsh, South San Francisco Police Department.

* Area Wide Fire Valor and also Fire Valor: Captain Matt Samson, Firefighter Heath Kelly, and Paramedic Firefighter Travis Higdon, South San Francisco Fire Department.

* Area Wide Police Heroism and also Police Heroism: Deputies Lance Whitted and Erik Rueppel, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

* Police Heroism: Officers Haney Abdoun and Alex Jose, Bay Area Rapid Transit Police; Officer Jason Wakeman, California Highway Patrol; Sergeant Jaime Romero and Officers Nicholas Douglas and Scott Mackdanz, Menlo Park Police Department; Captain Dave Peruzzaro, Sergeant Dave Ehrlich, and Officers Scott Heinsma and Randy Bickel, San Mateo Police Department.

The Service Awards were presented by PCL Second Vice President Maryah Tucker, Valor Awards by PCL First Vice President John Gill, and Heroism Awards by PCL President Scot Marsters.

Brisbane, Foster City, and Millbrae Lions clubs and the San Mateo County Firefighters were platinum sponsors of the event.

Gold sponsors included Burlingame, San Bruno, San Carlos, and San Mateo County First Responders Lions clubs; Financial Rescue LLC; San Francisco Police Credit Union; One Hundred Club of San Mateo County; Lions Eye Foundation of California-Nevada Inc.; Peninsula Council of Lions President Scot Marsters; San Francisco Coordinating Council of Lions Clubs; San Bruno Police Association; Belmont Police Officer's Association; and Julie and Erik Winkler, RE/MAX Investments.

Lions Clubs International, the secular, non-political, largest service organization in the world, was founded by Melvin Jones in 1917. "We serve" is the motto of more than 1.4 million members in 210 countries around the world who are committed to serving their local community, those with vision problems, youths, the disadvantaged, or caring for the environment, such as park improvements.

To learn about Lions Clubs International, go to www.lionsclubs.org.

Earth Day to be celebrated along coast

Pacifica Beach Coalition, in partnership with the City of Pacifica and its residents, invites everyone to participate in its 12th annual Earth Day Celebration, the largest coastal cleanup in the entire Bay Area, on April 23 in honor of "Healthy Waters, Healthy Otters.

From 9 to 11 a.m., more than 7,500 volunteers and 150 community groups will be cleaning up areas all along the San Mateo Coast including beaches, streets, lots, and parks.

Afterwards, there will be an EcoFest, a celebration and educational event in honor of Earth Day, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Linda Mar State Beach south parking lot at Highway 1 and Linda Mar Boulevard.

Building community among volunteers, this annual citywide day of action is dedicated to cleaning up litter both on the shores and in the surrounding area, restoring the native habitat along the coastline, on sites ranging from Fort Funston in San Francisco to Tunitas Creek in Half Moon Bay, and on roads from Highway 35 to the coast. Since 2005, PBC's effort has contributed to the removal of more than 100,000 pounds of waste and well over a million cigarette butts from the local community.

"Litter is a global problem impacting our community," says Lynn Adams, PBC president. "It's finding its way into the ocean, which greatly impacts shorebirds, marine life, and the health of our ocean."

In the past, Earth Day of Action has highlighted local wildlife including the shark, whale, sea turtle, and the Snowy Plover. "This year, we will honor, dedicate our work, and learn about sea otters, the smallest marine mammals whose population is currently rebounding but still threatened with extinction," said Adams.

PBC expects volunteers and guests from all over the state and everyone is welcome and needed. A free, family-friendly event, open to all ages, everyone will find something they will enjoy. The EcoFest will feature scores of eco booths, family activities, petting zoo, food, and entertainment including Golden Bough Celtic Music. Another wonderful addition will be EarthCapades, which travels the country to present performances that combine juggling, music, magic, circus skills, storytelling, comedy, and audience participation to teach environmental science and respect for the Earth.

Guest speaker Lilian Carswell, sea otter specialist, Southern Sea Otter Recovery & Marine Conservation Coordinator, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Long Marine Laboratory at the University of California Santa Cruz will give an interesting talk on sea otters, a treat for all from children to grandparents.

Organized by Pacifica Beach Coalition, the event is supported by: Recology of the Coast; California Coastal Commission's Protect Our Coast; Whale Tail grants; City of Pacifica; County of San Mateo; North Coast County Water; Pacifica Tribune; Pedro Point Surf Club of Northern California; Mazzetti's Bakery; and Pacifica's Environmental Family. The EcoFest stage is sponsored by First National Bank of Northern California.

"The Pacifica Beach Coalition mission is to preserve the ocean, restore coastal habitat and wildlife, and end litter, through advocacy, education, community building, and citizen action," President Lynn Adams said.

Be sure to wear proper clothing (close-toed shoes, hat, and layers) and bring sunscreen and reusable cleanup supplies to reduce waste (bucket, gloves, water bottle, and more) although cleanup supplies will be available for all.

Free parking can be found at Cabrillo School, 601 Crespi Drive, with a free shuttle to the Linda Mar parking area provided by the city of Pacifica.

To learn more, visit Pacifica Beach Coalition at www.pacificabeachcoalition.org.

Friends of San Bruno Library to hold book sale

The Friends of San Bruno Library is holding a Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 23 at the Library's downstairs community room, 701 Angus Ave. West, in San Bruno. The entrance to the room is located on the Angus Avenue side of the library. You can use the steps off Angus Avenue, to access the community room or if necessary, the library is equipped with a chairlift.

There will be plenty of books available, including children's, fiction, history, biography, science, self-help, art, spiritual, and classics. Individual books are \$1 for hardbacks and 50 cents for paperbacks, with specials as priced.

Bring a bag to fill to the brim with books for just \$6. If you forget a bag, "Friends of the Library" tote bags will be available for \$2 each.

"Help is also needed for setup from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday (refreshments will be provided)," wrote Barbara Rucker, Friends of the San Bruno membership chairwoman in an email. "We will also be setting up at 8:30 a.m. Saturday so you will need to use the back door by the refuse bin. Workers are need for the sale hours as well." To learn more, call the library at 650-616-7078 or email sbpl@plsinfo.org.

Pacific Coast Dream Machines Show planned

The amazing 26th annual Pacific Coast Dream Machines Show -- which benefits the Coastside Adult Day Health Center -- will wow all ages from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 24 at the Half Moon Bay Airport, 9850 N. Cabrillo Highway (Hwy. 1) in Half Moon Bay.

The airport is 20 miles south of San Francisco and five miles north of state Route 92.

The "coolest show on earth" will showcase 2,000 magnificent driving, flying and working machines from the 20th and 21st centuries.

Automobiles on display will range from tricked-out hot rods, dragsters, customs, low riders, horseless carriages, modified imports, street machines and muscle cars to kit, touring, luxury, race and sports cars.

Antique horseless carriages, Ford Model Ts, homebuilt aircraft, tricked-out trucks and motorcycles, Model T fire engines, jet cars, gassers, "green" technology/alternative fuel vehicles, funny cars, and more will peak your interest.

Spectacular skydiving performances from the C-47 with military-style jumps by the experts at Precision Skydiving School in Lodi and a special appearance by 8-year-old Shane Skull Krusher, of Healdsburg, the world's youngest mini monster truck driver, will debut this year. The show's extreme attractions -- freestyle motocross shows, unimotorcycle drags, and monster truck rides -- will also return.

Another highlight will be the "DRIVE Magazine Dream Machine of the Year."

Beckett Media's DRIVE magazine editors will choose a winner from the myriad machines on display to be awarded a special trophy at a recognition ceremony held during the show.

Children's activities will include an ultra-thrilling zip line, Zorbs -- the Human Hamster Ball race track, bungee jump, rock climbing wall, face painting, a remote-controlled NASCAR race track, and other attractions.

All-day live music will feature East Bay Mudd, Cris Cain Band, and Andy Santana with surprise guests.

Plenty of fabulous food and drinks -- The Aviator, a refreshing gin cocktail; Bloody Mary's from Half Moon Bay Distillery; Classic Motorhead Ale from Half Moon Bay Brewing Company plus tasty varietals from Barterra Winery will appease your hunger and your thirst.

"This year's show promises to be as spectacular and fascinating as ever, and we look forward to welcoming visitors to our beautiful Half Moon Bay area for what has grown into one of Northern California's most unique and beloved events," said Chad Hooker, event chairman.

The registration fee to show a car is \$50 and includes a dash plaque and admission for two people. Gates open at 6:30 a.m. for those who have registered their machine or plan to register the day of the show. Register at <http://dreammachines.miramarevents.com/registration.html>.

Spectator admission cost is \$25 per adult (18 to 69); \$15 for ages 11 to 17 and 70-plus; and free for children ages 10 and under. Tickets are available at the gate only. Vehicle and bicycle parking on the airport grounds is included in the admission price.

For details and registration forms, call 650-726-2328 or go to <http://www.miramarevents.com/dreammachines>.

Retired Giants pitcher Jeremy Affeldt to speak at Freedom House gala

Jeremy Affeldt, who retired in 2015 as a relief pitcher with the San Francisco Giants after a 14-year career in major league baseball, will be the guest speaker at the seventh annual Gala being presented April 30 by Freedom House, a leading provider of safe housing and direct services to survivors of human trafficking in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Themed "Strike Out Human Trafficking," the event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1221 Chess Drive, in Foster City to raise funds for The Monarch shelter for adult female survivors that is located in San Mateo County, and The Nest for girls, ages 12 to 17, in Santa Clara County. The program will feature survivor testimonies, live and silent auctions, and a gourmet dinner.

In 2005, Affeldt, an outspoken opponent to human trafficking and a committed servant against injustice, and his wife, Larisa, founded Generation Alive, a Spokane-based nonprofit that is developing a generation of young leaders who are committed to serving others and responding to the needs of their community. "In 2013, he authored "To Stir a Movement: Life, Justice and Major League Baseball," in which he chronicled his passion to demolish the barriers that stand between everyday people and the injustice around them," said a news release.

"In addition, Affeldt has joined CSN Bay Area as a studio analyst for Giants Pregame Live and Giants Postgame Live. He also served as a community ambassador for the San Francisco Giants."

"Jeremy Affeldt is a leading sports figure in the fight against modern-day slavery," said Jaida Im, Freedom House founder and executive director, in the news release. "His pitching abilities helped the San Francisco Giants capture three World Series titles, and his voice continues to bring national attention to the plight of survivors of human trafficking. We are honored to team up with Jeremy at the upcoming Freedom House Gala."

"Freedom House is a pioneer in providing long-term housing and aftercare services to local women and adolescent girls who have endured sexual exploitation, unpaid labor and domestic servitude," Affeldt said in the news release. "I applaud their achievements and look forward to supporting their annual fundraising efforts in April."

Gala tickets are \$150 per person and \$1,500 for a table of 10. Student discounts tickets are available at \$75 per student. For information and to purchase tickets, go to www.FreedomHouseSF.org/Events.

Rebuilding Together Peninsula holding event April 30

Rebuilding Together Peninsula is holding its 27th annual Rebuilding Day on April 30.

Each year on the last Saturday of April, National Rebuilding Day unites the largest nationwide group of volunteers from all walks of life to rehabilitate homes and community facilities. Throughout the Peninsula, around 3,000 volunteers will revitalize and rehabilitate about 40 homes for low-income homeowners and for about 20 community centers that serve those in need by doing free repairs.

Projects may include everything from yard cleanup and painting to skilled plumbing, window and electrical system replacements and flooring repair. Some homes and community facilities are in need of roof repair or replacement; therefore, through April 30, critical funds are being sought for roof-related health and safety repairs.

Volunteers are urged to practice sustainable construction by reducing energy, materials, waste, and water. Teams will insulate water heaters, change incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent lamps, and provide window and door weather-stripping.

Sponsors, who provide financial support as well as a volunteer team that includes a team leader called a volunteer captain, also make a morning snack, water, and lunch available for their team. Although it is common for sponsors to provide project volunteers, it is not mandatory.

Sponsors also have the option of providing their own construction captain if they have an interested skilled volunteer. Rebuilding Together Peninsula, committed to offering a meaningful, well-organized experience, will identify your project and train and support your volunteers throughout the whole process.

At the end of the day, Rebuilding Together Peninsula holds a picnic celebration for all the volunteers. Sponsorship levels are available to meet the needs of every sponsor.

To learn more, donate, become a sponsor, or volunteer, go to www.RebuildingTogetherPeninsula.org or call 650-366-6597.

Job fair planned to honor, encourage hiring of veterans

The State of California Employment Development Department is holding a "Honor A Hero, Hire A Vet" Job and Resource Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 20 at the South San Francisco Municipal Services Building, 33 Arroyo Drive, in South San Francisco.

Active duty military, veterans, National Guard, and reservists returning from active duty are all welcome to attend this free event, which is also open to all job seekers from the entire Bay Area.

Bring your resume to the event, which will include:

- * Finding out about job opportunities.
- * Meeting and interviewing with employers.
- * Learning about dressing for success.
- * Obtaining benefits, training, and career information.

To attend, register at <http://goo.gl/forms/aPppx26BkN>.

The job and resource fair is being held in partnership with:

- * Employment Development Department
- * Veterans Village Inc.
- * Craig Connects
- * California Community Colleges
- * California Department of Veterans Affairs
- * California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
- * Department of Industrial Relations-Apprenticeship Standards
- * Veteran Employment Committees-San Francisco and San Mateo counties
- * Employment Advisory Council-San Francisco and San Mateo counties
- * JobTrain, America's Job Center of California-San Francisco and San Mateo counties
- * and various federal, state, local, and private organizations with San Francisco and San Mateo counties.

If services, aids, and/or alternate formats are needed by individuals with disabilities, requests must be made prior to the event by calling the EDD, an equal opportunity employer and program, at 415-749-7503 (voice). TTY

users may call the California Relay Service at 711.

For information, call Steven Ledford at 415-749-7580 or German Alvarado at 650-688-6336.

Lifeguard training course to be offered in Brisbane

The City of Brisbane Community Pool is presenting an American Red Cross 2016 Lifeguard Training Course from 6 to 10 p.m. May 13 and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 14-15 at the pool located at 2 Solano St. in Brisbane.

Based on the American Red Cross Lifeguarding Program, this course will certify students in lifeguarding, CPR and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for the Professional Rescuer, and First Aid.

Students must be at least 15 years of age by the last day of class and pass a prerequisite test (swim 300 yards continuously, tread water for 2 minutes with no hands, retrieve a 10-pound brick from 8 feet and return it to a designated spot).

Attendance is required at every class. All classes cost \$185. To register, go to <http://brisbane.ca.org/community-pool>.

For details, call Jeff Franco at 415-657-4320.

Joe's of Westlake reopens as Original Joe's Westlake

Joe's of Westlake, an anchor of Daly City from 1956 to 2014, has been reopened as Original Joe's Westlake under new ownership after a two-year closure and after undergoing an extensive renovation by the owners of Original Joe's, San Francisco quintessential Italian-American dining destination.

The iconic Daly City institution has undergone a complete front-to-back interior remodel, including the kitchen and all dining spaces, and also exterior and landscaping improvements.

"Our family is honored to revive such a treasured dining spot beloved by so many families, including our own," said co-owner John Duggan. "Family is the foundation of our business, and we hope that is reflected in what we've recreated here. The stories shared with us by local neighbors and far-off visitors, spanning generations about the significance of this restaurant, are beyond heartwarming." The collaborative design effort between co-owner Elena Duggan and Arcanum Architecture is to bring about mid-century America in the likes of Palm Springs, Las Vegas and Beverly Hills. Original Joe's Westlake's 300-seat dining room evokes the spirit of the original restaurant with signature leather booths in olive green in the main dining room, pimento orange upholstered benches in the Cascade Room, and deep redwood accents throughout.

"Sputnik light fixtures scattered about transport guests to Westlake circa 1960, while the terrazzo flooring and custom table tops complement the space with a modern flare," said a news release. "Additional notable elements include restoring the 16-seat counter overlooking the exhibition-style open kitchen, three fireplaces (including the original in the bar), and the addition of windows in both the Cascade Room and Bar & Lounge, enhancing both dining areas with natural light." "Our goal is to emulate Westlake's comfortable familiarity, synonymous with the Joe's brand, blending our deep-rooted histories together," Elena Duggan expressed. "There needs to be a balance between the past and present in every aspect, from the food and service, to the design and dcor. We hope any guest who returns feels at home once again -- I think we've achieved that." Located at 11 Glenwood Ave. in Daly City, Original Joe's Westlake is serving lunch and dinner from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week. Reservations will be accepted in the near future at 650-755-7400 or at Open Table: www.originaljoessf.com.

Skyline College president, five others honored by African American Regional Educational Alliance

Regina Stanback Stroud, Ed.D., president of Skyline College in San Bruno, and five other African American female presidents and chancellors in the Bay Area, were honored with the prestigious Mary McLeod Bethune Leaders of Distinction Award on March 19 by the African American Regional Educational Alliance.

The award holds particular significance because Mary McLeod, the first African American female college president in the United States, opened the doors to the Cookman Institute for Men in 1923, which became a co-ed high school located in Daytona Beach, Fla. Transformed over the years, the school became affiliated with the Methodist Church in 1923; a junior college in 1931; and, in 1941, a four-year college, renamed Bethune Cookman College, when the Florida Board of Education approved a four-year baccalaureate program in liberal arts and teacher education.

The college was one of the few places that African American students could pursue a college degree. McLeod remained with the college until 1942. In 2007, the board of trustees changed the name again to Bethune-Cookman University in recognition of the institution establishing the first graduate program.

A champion for students, Stanback Stroud has dedicated her life to not only improving the lives of students through education, but she also believes in advancing and exposing all students to the possibilities that are available to them by obtaining higher education degrees or certificates.

Stanback Stroud epitomizes the tenets of the award she was presented. As she stated in her "President's Welcome" on the Skyline College website (www.skylinecollege.edu/presidentsoffice/), quoting author bell hooks, "Teaching to Transgress":

"The academy is not paradise. But learning is a place where paradise can be created...In the field of possibility we have the opportunity to labor for freedom, to demand of ourselves and our comrades, an openness of mind and heart that allows us to face reality even as we collectively imagine ways to move beyond boundaries, to transgress. This is education as the practice of freedom (page 207)." "I urge you to practice until you get it right," Stanback Stroud also wrote on the website. "Get an education as if your life and the lives of future generations in your family depend on it -- because they do." Mary McLeod Bethune, known as the "First Lady of the Struggle," devoted her career to improving the lives of African Americans through education, political and economic empowerment. Stanback Stroud has a similar goal, which encompasses all students who attend Skyline College.

The other five award recipients are: Joi Blake, Ed.D., president, College of Alameda; Jannett Jackson, Ph.D., chancellor, Chabot/Las Positas Community College District in Dublin; Alecia A. Decoudreaux, Ph.D., president, Mills College in Oakland; Helen Benjamin, Ph.D., chancellor, Contra Costa Community College District in Martinez; and Elnora Webb, Ph.D., executive vice chancellor, Strategic Planning and Advancement, Peralta Community College District in Oakland.

Monique August is new director of USO Bay Area at San Francisco International Airport

Monique August, who has more than 18 years of experience with Bay Area nonprofits in operations, fundraising, programming, and management, became the new center director of USO Bay Area at San Francisco International Airport as of March 21.

Prior to the USO, August was executive director of Choose College Educational Foundation Inc. in Oakland for six years. Before that, she worked 10 years as director of contracts and program development for R.T. Fisher Educational Enterprises Inc., also in Oakland, and from 1998 to 2002, she was assistant director of San Jose Cal-SOAP (Student Opportunity & Access Program) on the campus of San Jose State University in San Jose where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology in 1998, and a Master of Social Work with a concentration in children, youth and families in 2002. August has also received nonprofit business management training through California State University East Bay Continuing Education Program and Compasspoint. In addition, she has obtained certification in domestic violence counseling and extensive training in teen drug and alcohol abuse. She has worked with families and communities in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

"Monique brings not only a wealth of professional knowledge and experience but a great deal of enthusiasm for the USO and our mission," wrote Amy Eilts, USO Bay Area operations & programs manager, in an email.

33 honored as graduates of HIP Housing self-sufficiency program

San Mateo County-based HIP Housing celebrated the achievements of 33 graduates of its Self-Sufficiency Program on March 23 at the Sobrato Center for Nonprofits in Redwood City.

Minh Ngo, executive director of My New Red Shoes, said the nonprofit has had a long partnership with HIP Housing and was proud to host the event that was attended by about 100 people, including state Senator Jerry Hill and San Mateo County Supervisor Carole Groom.

The graduates, who were each presented a \$25 gift card from an anonymous donor and a lei made and presented by Brownie Girl Scout Troop 63514 of San Mateo-Foster City, are:

Ashley Amerson; Kimberly Anne Catahan and Jose Francis T. Mission; Gina Cooper; Rocsana Enriquez; Malia Fau; Baraka Gambo and Sahibou Oumarou; Monique Graves; Erika Guizar; Naomi Havercamp; Ayanna Haysbert-Wright; Sara Jara; Guadalupe Lara; Ferry Mae and Melchor Asister Panugaling; Rene Meafua; Virginia Meafua; Angela Montes; Lea Palomar; Rebecca Pearson; Janet Puckett; Mary Ruth Robles; Maria Romero-Garcia; Karlia Silva; Harold Smith; Kalolaine Teaupa; Myrna Trujillo; Erin Turner; Monica Vasquez; Brianne Vella Guerra; Mercedes Zaldumbide and David Saenz Monique Graves, who grew up in East Palo Alto, became a teenage mom and ended up homeless, received the Circle Award and \$250 for her exemplary work in reaching her educational goals and giving back to the community by creating her own nonprofit, Lauren's House 4 Positive Change Inc.

"The mission of Lauren's House 4 Positive Change Inc. is to provide a safe space for at-risk children, youth, and families from San Mateo County, preparing young people for success in life by exposing them to the beauty and possibilities of their lives despite their hardships," said Grave. "Lauren's House was give back and impact the community of East Palo Alto by giving hope to those who see no way out and breaking the cycle. All seems to work out, if you keep at it." Now a single mother of two and an aspiring high school teacher, Graves recently received her Associate of Arts degree in psychology from Foothill College and has been accepted to transfer to San Jose State University in the fall. She also was recently awarded the Soroptimist International Live Your Dream award.

Before joining HIP Housing, another speaker, Kimberly Catahan, told how she, her partner Francis, their baby and her sister were living in a one bedroom apartment. She was accepted to the City College of San Francisco nursing program but, unfortunately, was laid off her job and, since Francis was the only one working, his income was not enough to support them so she search online for help and found HIP Housing.

"We started the Self-Sufficiency Program in September 2013 and it was a huge help to us," said Catahan. "Since HIP Housing paid 60 percent of our rent for the first six months, we were finally able to focus on school without worrying so much about rent costs. HIP Housing helped us with budgeting, learning to save money, and provided us with the coaching we needed to keep going with our dreams." Catahan completed nursing school in December 2014, passed the national exam to become a registered nurse, and started her first job as an RN in April 2015 at Pacifica Nursing and Rehab Center in Pacifica.

"I worked there three months, got good experience, and then got another job at San Francisco Jewish Home with even better pay!" continued Catahan. "I just recently became a full-time employee. My partner now works at San Francisco General Hospital as a certified nursing assistant after completing his certification in sterile processing technician at Skyline College, and he is now preparing for the state test to become licensed. I hope to continue my education to be my bachelor's degree in nursing." Created in 1991, the Self-Sufficiency Program helps low-income families to break the cycle of poverty and transition to self-reliance, recognizes the most difficult barriers families face, finds affordable housing, and develops the skills that lead to sustainable employment. With the soaring cost of housing and the widening gap in incomes in San Mateo County, the program becomes even more critical. In 2015, 3,870 people contacted HIP Housing for help.

"The Self-Sufficiency program has an 85 percent graduation rate," said Carolyn Moore, program director. "This year's graduates saw an 850 percent average increase in their savings, and, through financial coaching and

support services, their incomes increased by 61 percent on average through the course of the program."

"The annual HIP Housing luncheon will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Self-Sufficiency Program, and announcing an inspired plan for keeping this program strong and sustainable in perpetuity, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. June 3 at Sofitel San Francisco Bay, 223 Twin Dolphin Drive, in Redwood City," stated Kate Comfort Harr, HIP Housing executive director.

"Former Senator Wendy Davis will be our guest speaker. Wendy may be best known for being the first woman filibuster on the Senate floor but she is also known for having been a low-income single mom who rose above her circumstance to become a Harvard Law School graduate, a mayor, and a senator for the state of Texas. She is passionate about affordable housing and exercised great political will to champion it in her state...but she is equally passionate about helping women to be strong and independent so they can move out...and stay out of poverty."

For information about ticket cost, sponsorships, and HIP Housing, call Judy Fong at 650-348-6660 or email jfong@hiphousing.org.)

Books Inc. chosen as Bookstore of the Year by Publisher's Weekly

San Francisco-based Books Inc., which operates 11 bookstores in the San Francisco Bay Area including two at San Francisco International Airport that are branded as Compass Books, was recently chosen as "Bookstore of the Year" by Publisher's Weekly, the international news platform of the book publishing industry.

The oldest bookstore in the West, Books Inc. traces its history back to the Gold Rush days of 1851, when Anton Roman struck it rich in Shasta City, Calif., and set himself up in the business of selling books. Changing ownership in 1946, the bookstore was renamed Books Inc. The bookstores at SFO can be located post-security in Terminals 2 and 3.

Books Inc. will receive the award at Book Expo America being held May 11-13 at McCormick Place in Chicago.

"We congratulate Books Inc. for this milestone achievement," said Airport Director John L. Martin in a news release. "More than 50 percent of food, beverage, and retail businesses at SFO are owned by small and local businesses whose offerings reflect the unique nature of the San Francisco Bay Area, and we are proud to make concepts like Compass Books available to our global customers. Our congratulations go out to the Book Inc. team for this national recognition from the respected staff of Publisher's Weekly.

If you have any news tips about our county communities, call or fax Carolyn Livengood at 650-355-5533 or e-mail her at carolynlivengood@sanbrunocable.com.

URL: <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/general-news/20160415/carolyn-livengood-peninsula-council-of-lions-clubs-event-honors-32>

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