



**ROSALIE RENDU
C E N T E R**

Rosalie Rendu Center ... where seeds are planted
1760 Bay Road, #24, East Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 473-9522 • www.rosalie-rendu-center.org

Spring 2016

Rosalie Rendu Center Advisory Board

Sr. Trinitas Hernandez, D.C.
Executive Director

Sally Falkenhagen
Advisory Board Chair

Nancy Alvarez

Lynn Benas

Sr. Fran Ciluaga, D.C.

Jacqueline Day

Debbie Denton

Carrie Du Bois

Sr. Betty Marie Dunkel, D.C.

Sr. Paule Freeburg, D.C.

Maria Lozano

Martha Perez

Bill Somerville

Marianne Stoner

Melanie Yunk

IN THIS ISSUE

- *Alcatraz Trip*
- *New Advisory Board Members*
- *Friends Breakfast*
- *Partnership with Stanford*
- *Measure A Funds*
- *Homework Club Successes*
- *Thank You Donors*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Looking out the window, as I reflect on the time since my last note, I see many signs of spring. There are flowers in our patio and throughout the city, the children seem to be walking with more bounce in their steps and our adult students seem to have more enthusiasm when in class. This may be due to the new additions to our classes. In this newsletter, you can read all about our new volunteers and the joy they are adding to our programs.

Everyone is talking about and feeling proud of the children who are moving on to high school, college and those graduating from college. At this time of year, the progress made by the RRC students and their families is clear to all of us. All this energy is generated by the loving devotion of our volunteers. The day after our breakfast, our student servers were sharing their experience and as I overheard them my heart was truly warmed. They were sharing how friendly all the board members and guests were compared to past years. Fidelia, who has been around a long time, laughed and said, "They haven't changed, we have!" As the conversation continued, Patty was able to share her feelings that yes, in fact, she had changed. She was no longer quiet and shy; she now felt free to speak in English. Mariana also shared with the class that her doctor told her that her ability to speak English has made her visit so much better, since she no longer needed the assistance of an interpreter.

Words cannot convey the beautiful smiles we see as the ladies share their feelings, joys and sorrows. All this is possible because of wonderful volunteers and dedicated teachers. Maria Lozano our full time teacher and part-time teacher Raheleh Seifoddini are both excellent at their work but more than that; they are mentors and motivators to the students. I cannot forget to recognize our wonderful evening volunteer Rick Anderson, who has been teaching our evening class with great enthusiasm for many years. I love to visit his class because the students perform for me, standing in front of the class and reciting their memorized dialogue. Here again there is much laughter. I think what makes my heart happiest is standing among the students and absorbing the joy and laughter. As one volunteer shared "this is a happy place."

Bless each of you for helping us create this happy place by you time and support. Our garden does not flower without the loving support of many. Thank you so much for making all this possible.

Devotedly Yours,

Sister Trinitas Hernandez, D.C., Executive Director



Sister T



Grateful for a Long Time Donor

Gellert Foundation funds field trips for adult students – this year to Alcatraz.

THE CARL GELLERT AND CELIA BERTA Gellert Foundation supports religious, charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. The Rosalie Rendu Center has been a fortunate longtime recipient of the Foundation's philanthropy.

- Their initial grant in 2004 helped to purchase and complete much needed renovations of the Carriage Manor Apartment complex.
- In 2007, the Tot Spot program was in danger of closing due to lack of funds. Thanks to the Foundation, we were able to hire part time babysitters to care for and teach the children.
- In 2008, monies received from the Foundation helped to fund our adult computer training class.
- In the years 2009 to 2011, the Foundation funded our thriving English Language learning program.
- In 2012, we were able to significantly enhance the adult computer training classes with the purchase of new laptop computers.
- Since 2013, the Foundation has funded fun and successful field trips for our adult

students and their families, building community and providing learning opportunities for the entire family. In 2013, we travelled to the Aquarium on Pier 39, and the Oakland Zoo. In 2014, the Foundation monies allowed us to take over 80 adults and children on an educational field trip to the San Francisco Zoo.

Just a few weeks ago, on a glorious April spring day in San Francisco, we travelled from East Palo Alto by bus to visit Alcatraz National Park. The trip was funded in large part by a grant from the Gellert Foundation. What an adventure for our students and their families it was! More fathers than ever before came on the trip. The boat ride was exciting and the views of the Bay and San Francisco were breathtaking. The impressive individual audio tours gave our students and their families a much appreciated glimpse of history, although most came away saying that they are glad that Alcatraz is no longer a prison.

The Rosalie Rendu Center is truly grateful to the Foundation for choosing our mission of educating, mentoring, and raising the self esteem of the entire family, as a mission worthy of support.

New Advisory Board Members

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE that two former Rosalie Rendu Center students have joined our Advisory Board. You may have followed the progress and successes of both Nancy Alvarez and Martha Perez in the pages of this newsletter. Both are employed as Parent Involvement Workers; Nancy works at Cesar Chavez School and Martha is currently at Stanford's East Palo Alto Academy high school.

Both Nancy and Martha live and have raised their children in East Palo Alto. Nancy says she joined our Advisory Board "because Latina women are not well represented in the community, and that needs to change." She also wants to show that Latina women "care about making their community better and that they are smart!" She currently serves as the only Latina member of the Measure C Citizen's Oversight Committee and was recently chosen as treasurer for the Ravenswood Family Health Center Board. She will begin studying at San Jose State in August, working towards her Bachelor's Degree in social work.

Martha is personally invested in the success of students of all ages in East Palo Alto, as shown by her tireless work at East Palo Alto Academy and Cesar Chavez Academy. Sister Trinitas asked Martha to join the RRC Board. She thought it was a good idea "because Nancy and I know the community well and can answer questions and advise the board about issues in the community".

We are fortunate that these two talented and committed women have chosen to join the RRC Advisory Board. We are grateful for their willingness to participate. Welcome Nancy and Martha!



(Left) RRC students and their families on Alcatraz Island. (Right) Norma and her son.

Friends Breakfast

FRIENDS, VOLUNTEERS, STUDENTS and staff from the Center gathered on April 20 at St. Elizabeth Seton School in Palo Alto for our Friends Breakfast, enjoying home-baked egg and cheese casserole, fruit salad, pumpkin bread, and Hobe's coffee cake.

One of the students from the Center set the tone for the morning, speaking about how the Center improved not only her English language skills, but also taught her to read in Spanish and English by providing special tutoring. Keynote speaker, Edgar Chavez, Director of College Success at Downtown College Prep in San Jose, spoke to the audience about his childhood, growing up undocumented. Edgar's uncertain status fired his desire to be the best student he could be. Edgar went on to graduate with

honors from Stanford University. He is passionate about working with families to help them navigate the many challenges facing recent immigrants, and he shared his appreciation for the work that the Center does to educate the whole family. Advisory Board member Carrie Du Bois, also a member of the governing board for Sequoia Union High School District, emphasized the importance of education for the whole family and asked the audience to join her in supporting that work.

The Friends Breakfast offered a wonderful opportunity for our guests and current RRC students to meet and interact. Emcee Bill Somerville, Sister T, and Sister Fran added to the warm celebration of the successes of the students from the Center.



Maria Lozano (second from right), RRC teacher and Board Member, shares time with the student servers.

Investing in the Future

Collaborating with Stanford on well-being

THIS SPRING, THE ROSALIE RENDU CENTER IS PARTNERING with Stanford University's Haas Center for Public Service and the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education to provide service learning opportunities to its students. The purpose of the course, entitled Well-Being in Immigrant Children and Youth, "is to develop leaders to work with immigrant communities, especially on issues of wellness and education of children and youth." Our students repeatedly cite these two subjects as motivating factors for learning English. Our 10:30 AM class has had the pleasure of welcoming six Stanford students. Their experience was initiated with a tour of East Palo Alto led by George Chippendale and Sister Trinitas where the students gained a better understanding of the city's history and current pressures. A team of four students is focusing on health issues and presenting English lessons on topics such as conversing with a doctor, choosing healthy foods, and integrating exercise into daily life. Building upon the foundation laid by our volunteers Jane Stern (reading) and David Riggs (writing), the two Stanford students are encouraging our students to model the pleasure of reading with their children through reading aloud and writing a personal story to share with their family at our final potluck. Working with our students allows the Stanford students to hear firsthand about the challenges immigrant families face and how they overcome them. They are discovering the importance of supporting the adults in a child's life and validating the value of family to maximize their well-being. The Rosalie Rendu students are helping shape and inform these enthusiastic and gifted future community workers and leaders while practicing and improving their language skills.



At the Friends Breakfast (L to R): Bena Vohra (Junior League incoming Community VP), Wendy Haesemeyer, Board Member Marianne Stoner, C. Pekelsma, Margaret London and Board Member Melanie Yunk.



(Left) Keynote speaker Edgar Chavez. (Right) A warm welcome from Sister T and an RRC student.



**ROSALIE RENDU
C E N T E R**

Closing the Technological Gap Through Measure A Funds

IN NOVEMBER OF 2012, SAN MATEO COUNTY voters approved the Measure A ballot initiative, a sales tax of one half cent paid on purchase of goods and services. This measure was approved for a period of 10 years in order to ensure quality of life, by retaining critical facilities and services such as child abuse prevention, 911 dispatch, fire prevention, after-school library reading/ homework programs, keeping parks open and more. Last year, Rosalie Rendu Center applied for and received Measure A funding for the After School Homework Club and ESL programs. With this funding, the RRC is able to make critical upgrades to our classrooms. A new SMART Board has been purchased and will soon be ready for use by our teachers and students. The Center has also been able to purchase a new printer to replace its nearly 10-year-old printer. The Measure A funds have allowed us to make significant improvements to the way our students are taught and we are excited to have this new technology in the classroom.

Homework Club Successes

"SISTER T ALWAYS WATCHED OUT FOR ME. She was like a second mother," says Miguel, who is graduating from Junipero Serra High School this year and plans to attend Notre Dame de Namur University this fall. Miguel first met Sister T when his family moved into Carriage Manor Apartments, and she encouraged him to attend the Home Work Club. Miguel credits the help that he received from the Center with making him the best in his class in math and improving his writing skills in English. At Serra, Miguel was deeply intrigued by his biology classwork on the brain. He plans to major in psychology and minor in biology at Notre Dame de Namur, then go on to study neurology.

Robert, another young man who attended the Home Work Club at the Center, is about to complete his junior year at UCSB, majoring in art with a minor in business. Robert is considering extending his education for an additional year in order to earn a teaching credential. He would also like to do a study abroad program, perhaps in Japan, before he finishes his degree.

Sister T has mentored and encouraged so many students of the Center. All of us involved at the RRC are so proud to see the success of so many students.

Thank You

Thank you to our friends who supported us from April, 2015 through April, 2016. Our apologies if we have missed anyone. Please let us know if we missed your name inadvertently.

<i>Cris Adair</i>	<i>Robert and Virginia Glockner</i>	<i>John Orcutt and Martha Edwards</i>
<i>Lucie Marie and Keith Albee</i>	<i>Barry and Claire Goss</i>	<i>Michael Michael Pacelli</i>
<i>John and Marlene Arnold</i>	<i>Dean and Michele Grason</i>	<i>Marc and Ragni Pasturel</i>
<i>Terry L. Atkinson</i>	<i>Robert Grassilli</i>	<i>Carmen and Nicholas Pekelsma</i>
<i>Susan A. Barkan</i>	<i>Nicolas and Amika Guillaume</i>	<i>Chris and Naomi Peters</i>
<i>Ignacio and Theresa Barragan</i>	<i>Daniel Hackett and Cynthia Beeger</i>	<i>Beatrice Peterson</i>
<i>Missy Bechtel</i>	<i>Wendy Haesemeyer</i>	<i>Philanthropic Ventures Foundation</i>
<i>Lynn and Daniel Benas</i>	<i>Irene Haggerty</i>	<i>Lynn and Michael Pierce</i>
<i>Carolyn Brennan</i>	<i>Connie Hamaguchi</i>	<i>Mary Ellen Ratner</i>
<i>Anne Callahan</i>	<i>Richard and Susan Hancey</i>	<i>Garrett and Jennifer Rice</i>
<i>The Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation</i>	<i>Rev. George Hazler</i>	<i>William Rice</i>
<i>Victor and Barbara Carranza</i>	<i>Stephen Henry</i>	<i>David and Sue Riggs</i>
<i>Jennifer Castello</i>	<i>Clifton L. Herndon</i>	<i>Thomas and Mary Schnaubelt</i>
<i>Carmina Chavez</i>	<i>Felix Herndon</i>	<i>Schniedwind Family Trust</i>
<i>Tatiana Cherwinski</i>	<i>Ann Idzik</i>	<i>Todd Schroeder</i>
<i>George and Ruth Chippendale</i>	<i>Bob Jones and Laura Roberts</i>	<i>Madalyn M. Schwartz</i>
<i>Colin and Kathleen Cho</i>	<i>Elizabeth Karl</i>	<i>Martha Schwarz</i>
<i>Sister Fran Ciluaga, D.C.</i>	<i>David and Maureen Kennedy</i>	<i>Stanley G. Scott and Willis Marie Scott</i>
<i>George Clark and Susan Williams-Clark</i>	<i>Peter C. Kono, DDS</i>	<i>Silicon Valley Community Foundation</i>
<i>Jan Colosimo</i>	<i>Thomas and Kathleen Kraft</i>	<i>Deborah Lupton Evans Skidmore</i>
<i>Caroline Cooke</i>	<i>William and Donna Krepick</i>	<i>Bill Somerville</i>
<i>County of San Mateo Daughters of Charity Foundation</i>	<i>Mildred Lee</i>	<i>Heloise Stewart</i>
<i>Jacqueline Day</i>	<i>Alan and Jean Limbach</i>	<i>Marianne Stoner</i>
<i>Paul and Deborah Denton</i>	<i>Terri Lobdell</i>	<i>Lisa and Tom Tayeri</i>
<i>Colleen Devlin</i>	<i>Margaret and Craig London</i>	<i>Union Bank N.A.</i>
<i>John and Sandra Dhuey</i>	<i>Ron and Marilyn Long</i>	<i>Anne Vitullo and Jonathan Poe</i>
<i>Grant and Carrie Du Bois</i>	<i>Sister Rita Maher</i>	<i>Benazir Vohra</i>
<i>Duane Bay and Barbara Noparstak</i>	<i>Sidney Marks</i>	<i>Alexandra and Randall Von Feldt</i>
<i>Sr. Betty Marie Dunkel, D.C.</i>	<i>Perry Marlon</i>	<i>John and Gloria Wallace</i>
<i>Alain and Rosemary Enthoven</i>	<i>Lori McBride</i>	<i>Elizabeth Weal</i>
<i>Craig and Sally Falkenhagen</i>	<i>Lucy McCrary</i>	<i>Jan Woolsey</i>
<i>Jonathan and Allison Felder</i>	<i>Patrick and Nancy McGaraghan</i>	<i>Kent and Melanie Yunk</i>
<i>Margaret Feuer</i>	<i>Pam McGovern</i>	<i>Anna Zara and Robert English</i>
<i>Anne Fillin</i>	<i>Bud McLellan</i>	
<i>Anita Fiorini</i>	<i>Jon and Danielle Mewes</i>	
<i>Chrisi Fleming</i>	<i>Chiseche Mibenge</i>	
<i>Sister Paule Freeburg, D.C.</i>	<i>Mark and Elizabeth Moragne</i>	
<i>Albert and Barbara Gelpi</i>	<i>Terri Muschott</i>	
	<i>Jo Jean Nuanes</i>	
	<i>Karen O'Leary</i>	
	<i>Mary O'Connor</i>	
	<i>John and Cecile O'Driscoll</i>	

