

### **Avenidas honors lifetimes of achievement 2009**

High spirits matched the soaring afternoon temperatures at the 20th annual Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement Awards benefit on May 17. The event, held in Eric and Elaine Hahn's shady garden, honored seven people for their outstanding achievements and community leadership.

At least 300 friends, family members and former honorees saluted the honorees, sampled Beverly Aarts' delicious appetizers, applauded the Gunn High School Jazz Combo and enjoyed the very Palo Alto event planned by co-chairpersons Cathy Kroymann and Mike Kasperzak.

It was the 40th anniversary of Avenidas, the Palo Alto-based senior citizens center. Before sharing historical highlights, President and CEO Lisa Hendrickson said, "The mission of Avenidas is to facilitate 'successful aging.'" Gary Fazzino, known as "the Palo Alto historian," was master of ceremonies.

Ray Bacchetti, a retired administrator at Stanford University and the Hewlett Foundation, smiled when he talked about his current volunteer work with the Palo Alto Police department. "The fun part is I get to live a little boy's fantasy, to drive patrol cars to the car wash," he said.

Jill and John Freidenrich were recognized for contributions in public and private sectors. John co-founded the Freidenrich & Ware law firm, Bay Partners and Regis Management Company; Jill founded Breast Cancer Connections. Stanford has been the recipient of much of their philanthropy.

Norma Hesterman, activities coordinator at Gunn High School for 20 years, has helped children as an educator and founder of Adolescent Counseling Services. She and her family also provided a home for 21 foster children.

Sharon Hofstedt was recognized for her contributions during her illustrious 20 years as a nurse. She has served on boards of local non-profit organizations including Avenidas, Samaritan House, Peninsula Stroke Association, Women's Recovery Association and more.

For 30 years, Tom Jordan has been a leader in the environmental movement, both in his legal career and through volunteer projects, including Committee for Green Foothills, Save the San Francisco Bay and the 1993 Governor's Blue Ribbon Committee on unified environmental law.

Don Seiler founded a high-powered accounting firm and became a leading fundraiser and board member for many nonprofits. His motto: "We serve people, not numbers."

Seen applauding the honorees were Fran Codispoti, Judy and George Marcus, Peggy and Dalal Yogen, Marcia and Fred Remus, Jeanne and Leonard Ware, Shirley and Leonard Ely, Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement honorees Ray Bacchetti, John and Jill Freidenrich, Norma Hesterman, Sharon Hofstedt, Tom Jordan and Don Seiler, at the May 17 event.

Menlo Park-based Peninsula Volunteers partnered with Books, Inc. to present a child authors salon. More than 200 children, parents and grandparents turned out for the May 17 “Books Are Treasures” event at Little House in Menlo Park.

All the young authors and artists in attendance who had submitted original books and drawings were called to the stage to receive Certificates of Recognition for their work.

Seen showing off their certificates were authors Will Scott, Nikki Scott, Jeffrey and Samantha Frenkel-Popell, Victor Laguna and Jack Cooper.

More than 30 Peninsula schools were invited to participate in the project. Drawings and books from classes at Trinity School, Hoover School in Redwood City, Woodside Elementary, Philips Brooks and Sacred Heart were displayed.

Authors, illustrators and a filmmaker were headliners. The program began with a reading by author Sheralee Iglehart and her large puppets which she used to animate her books —“A Very Special Birthday” and “Three Cheers for Kangarooslow.”

First-time participants were artist Gloria Lapuyade, authors Dr. Francisco Jimenez, Krista Skehan, Ali Bahrapour, artist and poet Belle Yang and illustrator Diana Speiker. Returning authors included Caryn Huberman- Yacowitz, Elissa Haden-Guest, filmmaker Mark Gordon and illustrators Ashley Wolff and Elisa Kleven.

Guests seen sampling popcorn, meeting the authors and having their books autographed were Nancy Carter with granddaughter Megan Carter; Up-C Scott with grandchildren Julia and Sabine Scott, who volunteered as an aide at the event; Mary Young and her grandchildren Billie and Charlotte Hallenbeck; Mary Piniella with granddaughter Leighton Shively; Erin Tacy and her sister Lisa Bergamo with Amelia Tacy; Zena Mal-lari with her family; and Elisa and David Tu and their children Alia, Kawaika and Maia Tu.

Event founder and chairwoman Amalia Popell said she knew the salon was a success when a father told her last year’s Salon taught his son to like reading.