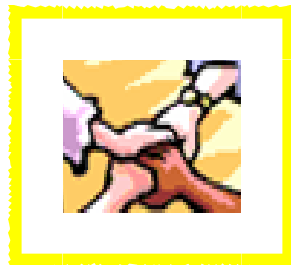




HOUSING RIGHTS, INC.
P.O. Box 12895
Berkeley, CA 94712
hri@housingrights.com
www.housingrights.com



Become a Friend of Housing Rights Today!

Support Housing Rights, Inc. (HRI) by donating time, money or goods. By making a donation, you will continue to receive our "Friend of Housing Rights Newsletter" four times a year, filled with

updates, news, commentary and events

Send us your "tiny ticket" BART (BART) cards cluttering up your desk or wallet with just a few cents on them!).

If you would like merchants that you do business with to donate up to 5% of your purchase amount to Housing Rights, Inc. look up Escrip.org. Safeway, Chevron, and Andronicos's are only a few of the companies participating. Register your debit, credit or membership cards on-line! Our agency number is: 3881345

We are also a proud participant in Albertson's Community Partners program. Our id# is 49001001085. You can register online, at HRI or at your local Albertsons store.

We are a proud member of BABUF (Bay Area Black United Fund) Visit www.BABUF.org. Our number is 227.

We are also a United Way Agency. Consider designating Housing Rights, Inc. next year when you sign up for payroll deduction (our number is 3962.)

Enclosed please find my donation of
 \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___
 As a "Friend of Housing Rights" and you will
 receive quarterly newsletters and be invited to
 our annual reception.
 Please make checks payable to:
 Housing Rights, Inc.
 PO Box 12895, Berkeley, CA 94712
 Name _____
 Organization _____
 Email: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone _____
 We also accept credit cards:
 Name on Card: _____
 Billing address: _____
 Card Number: _____
 Signature: _____
 (We can accommodate installment payments.)
 Or call to donate by phone.

Volume 2, Issue 4

Spring 2004

Friends of Housing Rights, Inc.

Housing Rights, Inc. Celebrates!!!!

Housing Rights, Inc. is celebrating 25 years of service. 25 years is a long time in non-profit years. And to do it right we have planned several 'celebrations'. One of those celebrations is our Lecture Series (see below) and another was our Housing Arts Festival.

April 18, Sunday, Housing Rights, Inc. staff and Board and friends enjoyed performances by Emeryville Taiko (call them, their interactive performance was great! 510-655-6392), the Raging Grannies (another great performance, (they can be reached at Strawberry Creek Lodge) and our own Esteban Allard-Valdivieso, Emilio Marquez and Kori Sanchez. Edith Hallberg read a poem from her rebellious past. (And one of our friends performed a little 'soft-shoe'!) A good time was had by all.

Food was catered by Bluit Catering and the event was organized by Csensational Concepts. Our sponsors were the Port of Oakland, Benita Harris, and Rockwell and Kane.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS and join us for our reception November 4th, 6 to 9 p.m. at the Rotunda in downtown Oakland. We will be honoring Congresswomen Barbara Lee and other local heroes. These other local heroes are tied to our past, our present and our future.

They include: Ron Dellums, Loni Hancock, Nancy Kenyon, Janet Kennedy, John Gioia, Alvita White, Brancart and Brancart, Vickie Lizzaraga, Sue Siegel, Tom Mosmiller, Sheila Burk, Jim Smith and as the Marianne Lawless Hellraiser of the Year...Helen Lima.



Raging Grannies and friends.

Since not all of you attended we want to share some of the entertainment with you:

(Continued on page 2)

Marianne Lawless Lecture Series

Inside:

- **Housing Rights, Inc. Celebrates**
(continued)
- **Marianne Lawless Lecture Series**
(continued)
- **Celebrating the Human Family**
- **Homeownership Information Center (HIC)**

Housing Rights, Inc. is proud to be the sponsor of a series of lectures at Bay Area Law Schools bringing Fair Housing Law Practitioners and law students together. This series is being coordinated by Board Member Shirley Hochhausen a distinguished Fair Housing Law Practitioner herself.

The series has been implemented as an important part of our 25th anniversary year celebration. Our founder, Sharon Mosely was a law student at New College when she experienced housing discrimination first hand as she attempted to find housing for herself and her twin daughters. Our

founding Executive Director, Marianne Lawless, not an attorney herself, recognized the importance of supporting and nurturing attorneys. She was active in the creation and coordination of the East Bay Tenant Bar Association.

In her honor and with the support of her family, we have visited the following law schools:

Stanford: Scott Chang, Fair Housing Law Practitioner met with Stanford law students, discussing fair housing

(Continued on page 2)

Lecture Series



Marianne Lawless

law and its application to real people's lives.

Boalt Hall (UC Berkeley): Mary Lee, Fair Housing Practitioner from Southern California (and graduate of Boalt Hall) presented a very personal picture of one advocate's motivation for fighting housing discrimination.

USF: Bonnie Milstein also gave a very personal and compelling 'argument' for practicing 'civil rights' law.

Next up:

Hastings Law School in October and to be scheduled, University of

Santa Clara.

Each attorney participating in this lecture series will be submitting a two page paper that will be included in our Anniversary Book. This book will be published in November for our Annual Reception honoring Congresswoman Barbara Lee and other local heroes. LOOK FOR IT!



Mary Lee

And we celebrate! Housing Arts Festival

Housing

Telephone rings
Line Two
Pick up
Wednesday morning
Turn up receiver
Answer
Control+F, names beginning with "L"
Her name pops up on the screen and
Lo and behold, she's been holding on
the line for months
Mold infected
Inspection rejected
Landlord evicted her with
Cockroach shadows
Projected on mildewy furniture

She's italicized in bold type
She's fighting a 30-day notice that might
Keep her on the streets at night
Files are defiled
While she lights matches to keep mattresses from smelling
Her sons huddle over stoves for warmth

In this report
She is a name
On the phone
She answers

We talk
There is only so much I can do
She is no exception to the rule
And all the lawyers we don't have
Use tools
That lose grip
While people like her are struggling to admit
That their homes are killing them

But I can't hear her words
Over the emotional commotion that goes on
Around me

Everyday
She gets
Constant
Threats
From a slumlord
That charges her and her son more than her neighbors
And make her dial Line 2
Today
I tell her
We're working on it
We're only
So many people
In a cramped office
Playing at superheroes
In a society without them



Emeryville Taiko

She thanks me for hearing
And not just listening
Even though I can't tell her much
But that's enough for now
Her file proves that
We must temper our own steel
And cut through differences until they no longer make a difference

Esteban R. Allard-Valdivieso, 22

Celebrating the Human Family - Spring

"Springtime festivals share common themes of new life, energy and growth:

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Takes place every year between January 21 and February 20. The exact date is fixed using the Chinese lunar calendar, in which a new moon marks the beginning of each new month.

CARNIVAL

Carnivals offer people the chance to get together and enjoy themselves before the period of Lent begins. During Lent, Christians remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness.

N'CWALA

In 1935, the Ngoni tribe, an offshoot of the Zulu in South Africa, crossed the Zambezi River into what is now Zambia. This festival celebrates the tribe's good fortune since then and signals that the harvest can begin.

PURIM

The Purim story is about Queen Esther, who save the Jewish people from massacre by the Haman. The Name Purim means "lots", and refers to the lots that were drawn to decide the day on which the Jews would be killed.

HINA MATSURI

This festival comes from the 12th century, when people made paper figures and cast them into water to rid themselves of illness or bad luck. Today's dolls are thought to come from these early paper dolls.

HOLI

Holi is celebrated on the day of the full moon in the month of Phalaguna (March), when the wheat harvest has been gathered in. Many Hindu legends surround this festival." (Taken from: Celebration! Unicef)

CELEBRATING
THE HUMAN
FAMILY

Home Ownership Information Center (HIC)

NOW OPEN!!

The Homeownership Information Center offers Homeownership Orientation Meetings, Homeownership Counseling, Financial Education Courses and a 'virtual' Information Center. Our services are provided by appointment only at this time. We can be reached (message only) at 510-548-5803 or by e-mail at hic@housingrights.com. We also have a website at hic-at-hri.org

Some of our services are available to

City of Berkeley Residents only. Some require a small fee (such as credit checks) and some, like our public computers and library are available to anyone interested in pursuing homeownership.

Come to one of our monthly Homeownership Orientation Meetings—First Wednesday of each month at 5:30 in the HRI offices. Call to sign up. Space is limited.

Good house hunting!!

