

Congregation Beth Ami's
2nd Annual Community Recognition
Banquet & Auction

Honoring

 Gaye LeBaron 

For her
Generous Contributions
to Sonoma County

June 6, 2004

Thank you, Gaye, for your
extraordinary contributions to
our community. Most
important, thank you for your
friendship!!

— Jeanne Schultz

GAYE LEBARON'S BIOGRAPHY

Gaye LeBaron grew up in a small town along the Eel River in Humboldt County. At the age of fourteen her family moved to Sonoma County, settling in Boyes Hot Springs where her stepfather, John Notley, ran a small hardware store. Her name was derived from her father, Guy Andrews, who died in 1942 when Gaye was seven. Her father was a barber by trade but an artist by avocation. He painted landscapes, loved to sing and recite poetry. Gaye inherited her father's love for poetry.

After graduating from Sonoma Valley High School, Gaye attended

Santa Rosa Junior College and then the University of California at Berkeley, graduating with a degree in English and History.

Gaye spent three summers interning at The Press Democrat and was set to take a high school teaching job in Redding, but then a reporter's position opened up at the



paper in September of 1957. Also working at The Press Democrat was a photographer named John LeBaron. Gaye was 18 and John was 25 when they first met at Santa Rosa Junior College when John was on campus as a Press Democrat photographer. The couple married in 1958 and worked together at the paper until John left the paper in 1968 for a position at Santa Rosa Junior College. John and Gaye are one of Sonoma County's most recognized and respected couples.

In Gaye's early days at The Press Democrat she worked as a general assignment reporter covering everything from local politics to the county

fair. Her first column was published on November 23, 1959. She became the paper's community columnist after her first child, Suzanne, was born in 1961. Her son, Tony, was born in 1964. She took a break from 1970 to 1974 to be a full-time mom. Over the years Gaye's column incorporated not only human interest stories, but began to include her views on local issues.

Gaye, along with co-authors Joann Mitchell, Dee Blackman and the late Harvey Hansen, published a two-volume history of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County. The first book, "Santa Rosa, a 19th Century Town", ending with the 1906 earthquake, was published in 1985. "Santa Rosa, a 20th Century Town," published in 1993, begins with reconstruction following the earthquake, the boom years following World War II and ends in 1955.

Gaye continues to write two Sunday columns a month for The Press Democrat. She works from the home she has shared with husband, John, for more than 40 years.



“To the world
you may be one person
but to one person
you may be the world”

--- Anonymous

THE GAYE LEBARON COLLECTION

North Bay Regional and Special Collections
University Library
Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center

Gaye LeBaron wrote close to 8,000 columns for The Press Democrat, most of which required exacting in-depth research. This research generated personal files of enormous value to the community.

In June 2001, Gaye LeBaron donated this collection of approximately 10,000 individual items, filed in over 700 file folders, to the Sonoma State University Library in the Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center. An inventory was performed and the collection was moved into the special collections wing, stored in archival-quality containers.

In 2003, The Gaye LeBaron Collection became part of the Library's online catalog. Also making its debut was The Gaye LeBaron website. Both of these access points provide researchers with basic information about all 700 plus topics. Full text digitization of Gaye's columns and selected items from her files is now in its early stages.

What types of documents are found among Gaye's papers?

Gaye's handwritten notes derived from personal interviews and other primary sources.

Letters addressed to Gaye suggesting topics for her columns

Letters responding to an already published column.

Personal and institutional memoirs.

Research papers.

Articles from numerous publications.

Government and legal documents.

Photographs and drawings.

Brochures and ephemera.

Interest in The Gaye LeBaron Collection is strong, with many students

using this rich historical resource to complete coursework and plan for future research projects. Community members and organizations are using the collection to learn more about their neighborhoods and towns, to gain an understanding of regional and county issues and events, to research prominent personalities, and to gather historical information for books and articles.

Substantial funds to preserve Gaye's papers and to make them accessible have been provided by The Press Democrat, with first-year funding supplemented by The New York Times Foundation. The Sonoma State University Alumni Association donated funds for proposal writing and pre-receipt planning.

The University Library is privileged to play a part in preserving the heritage of the region by maintaining this collection for posterity.

Anyone interested in viewing items from this collection can call the Library (707-664-4152) or visit The Gaye LeBaron website (<http://libweb.sonoma.edu/lebaron/>) to make an appointment.



Starcross South Africa Project

Gaye LeBaron serves on the Board of Directors of Starcross. She has chosen this as her charity of choice to receive a portion of tonight's proceeds. To learn more about the Starcross Community, please read over the materials provided. Your attendance and participation in tonight's auction will help provide orphans a place to live and thrive.

Thank you Gaye for the joy you provide
through your column

Bill Katsaros and The Trophy Room
toast you for the award
you receive tonight.

We hope to have the pleasure of reading
your "Old-Older" Game
for many more years

Congratulations for an
award well deserved!!



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CONGREGATION BETH AMI THANKS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

There are so many generous people attending this evening's festivities. The Congregation extends its heartfelt thanks to all of you who are here to honor and celebrate Gaye LeBaron.

Gaye LeBaron has been a member of the community for many years and has contributed through her time and efforts to the enrichment of Sonoma County and all who visit and those of us lucky enough to call Sonoma County our home. Gaye has been writing articles rich in history and current events for the Press Democrat for over forty years, as well as having written her own book on the history of Sonoma County. Her impact on the community is immeasurable. Her gifted style of writing has ensured that future generations will come to know Sonoma County and its rich history. She deserves all our thanks for this incredible gift!

Gaye has also generously donated her talents to many of our local non-profit organizations. She is an amazing example of the difference one person can make in this world! Gaye's husband, John, has also inspired many students and community members through his work as a gifted photography instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Tonight marks the second annual "Benny Friedman Community Recognition Award." This specific award is presented to people who exemplify the standard of giving that Benny has set within our community. We are happy to honor Gaye tonight.

The monies that have been raised through this event are dedicated to education and development at Congregation Beth Ami and to Starcross of the North Bay, providing homes in South Africa to so many needy children. These donations will enable us to continue special programs and community involvement. As Gaye has conveyed through her writings, we are all connected and should work together to make the world a better place for all.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS

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MESSAGES

Girl Scouts of Konocti Council congratulate you on your well deserved award. Thank you for all of your work

Norma and Evert congratulate you and thank you for being the voice of Sonoma County

Thank you for introducing us to the real Sonoma County. Congratulations.

— Nancy and Bob Aita

The true facts about Gaye — Columnist: outstanding, funny and factual.
Tennis: mean, sly, wants to win —attitude is questionable.
Habits: occasionally gets thrown out of upscale restaurants — especially in Oregon.

— Bob and Rachel Sinai

Verne & Raynore Paule and Family join in community recognition of Gaye LeBaron, outstanding journalist

A sincere “Thank You” for the information and enjoyment your column has provided throughout the years!

— Helen Dresser

The only thing that George W. Bush and I still have in common is that we sky dived at 70.

— Whitey Sterman from the Press Democrats

“When I think of Gaye, I think of the Press Democrat as a whole because she has always been the most important part of it in my life.”

— Hugh Coddling

It has been an honor to serve you and a pleasure to know you.

Doris Johnson, Mac’s Deli

Many thanks to Gaye LeBaron for her tremendous contributions to Sonoma County:

- Building community as its premier journalist, and
- Maintaining its heritage as its premier historian.

— From the Board of Directors of
Congregation Beth Ami

GAYE LEBARON'S RECOGNITION DINNER MENU

RECEPTION

Hors D'oeuvres Served on the Patio

Vegetable Samosas

Vietnamese Vegetable Rolls

Caramelized Onion and Blue Cheese Tarts

Smoked Trout and Horseradish Aioli

DINNER

FIRST COURSE

Spring Vegetable Terrine

Served on a bed of Baby Greens

MAIN COURSE

Salmon and Halibut Rose

Or

Vegetarian Entrée: A Layered Risotto Tower

Served with

Fingerling Potatoes and Leeks

and

Sugar Snap Peas

Country Style Breads

Provided by Grace Baking Company

DESSERT

Chocolate Praline Torte

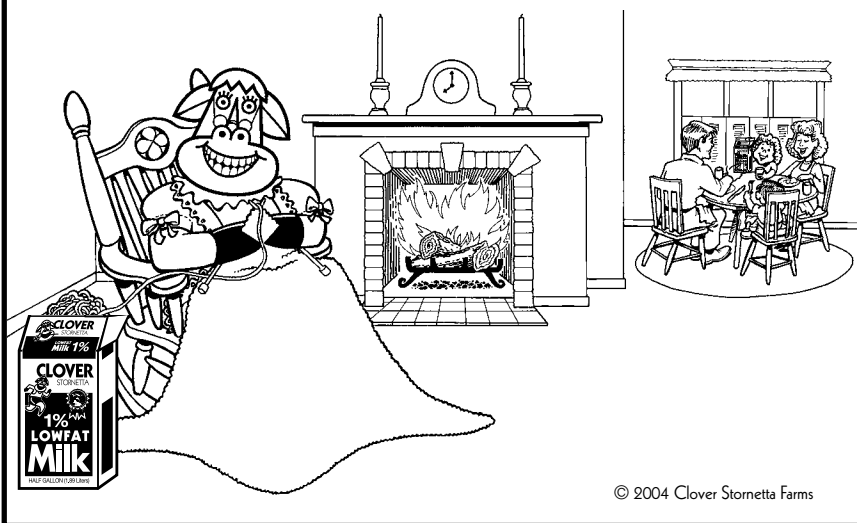
Coffee and Tea

PROGRAM

Patio Wine and Hors D'oeuvres Reception	
Martini Bar	Provided by Trophy Room
Greeting and Motzi	David Ballo Congregation Beth Ami
<i>Please refrain from eating until the blessings have been recited</i>	
Master of Ceremony	Keith Woods, Executive Director, North Coast Builders Exchange
Dinner	Park Avenue Catering
Music by	City Lights String Quartet
Auction	Bruce Campbell, Auctioneer
Award Ceremony	Keith Woods
Special Video	Rick Krigstein, Videographer
Award Recognition	Jon Simkovitz, President, Congregation Beth Ami
Award Presentation	Benny Friedman
Closing	

*John & Gaye,
Thank you for
making our
community a...*

Clo's Knit Family



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The attorneys and staff of
**ANDERSON, ZEIGLER,
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& GRAY**

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Join in honoring Gaye
LeBaron for her
commitment to the
community.

Ed Crocker *Michael D. Mace*
Chris Maccia *Scott Zeigler* *Barbara D. Gallagher*
Janis & Justin
Margaret of Elliott
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Carolyn Post
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GRAY**

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50 Old Courthouse Square, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 707.545.4910
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Gaye—

Many thanks to you and
John for your innumerable
contributions to our
community.

Geary, Shea, O'Donnell &
Gratton

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Dear Gaye,

*Thank you for giving us a sense
of place. We look forward to
again being part of this annual
event.*

Jim Ford

The Fifth Resource, Inc.
<http://www.fifthresource.com>





**Solutions *for* Humans
congratulates
Gaye LeBaron**

for her many years of contribution to the quality of life in Sonoma County and for making us aware of our past and present history in Sonoma County.

Thank you for your wonderful stories about the Sonoma County Jewish Community and our community members Benny Friedman & Everett Shapiro.

Thank you for honoring Congregation Beth Ami and Starcross.

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Gaye LeBaron*

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JUSTICE
FOR ALL

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from

JUSTICE for ALL

A new non-profit foundation,
dedicated to the memory of Berenice and Herman
Jacobs,
to support the civil rights and liberties of residents of
Sonoma County

613 4th Street, Suite 207, Santa Rosa

Phone: 528-7888

Judith Huff, Founder and Executive Director

Michele Hecht, Administrative Director

Best wishes from the Hyman Family



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Warmest Congratulations, Gaye

**A BIG DRUM ROLL
FOR GAYE!**

(And a Big Tootsie Roll for Trent)

Fondly,
Phyllis & Everett
Tad & Debbie
Shapiro

Gaye,

My favorite quote of yours!

“Not since the days of the speakeasies has lower Fourth Street been so up. Is it that they’ve added one successful restaurant and the whole block has taken off like the Gold Rush? Well, it’s not quite as simple as that although there is no denying that the success of the Omelette Express has been a big contributing factor.”

Thanks!
Don Taylor’s
Omelette Express
112 4th Street, Santa Rosa

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS

EVENT COMMITTEE

Michele Hecht, Chair

Ellen Perry, Co-Chair and Auction Chair

Bill and Suzie Friedman, Honorary Co-Chairs

Sanford Bressick, Sponsorship Chair

Judi Rosenthal, Volunteer and Raffle Chair

Adrea Moss, Program Design

Leanne Schy, Invitations

Suzie Friedman, Decorations

Bud and Jackie Katzel, Donations

Kyle Marsh, Advertising and Mailing

Gaye



*As our chronicler of the
community for forty years,
congratulations on
receiving the*

*2nd Annual
Community Recognition
Award*



*From your friends
and co-workers at*

**The
Press**
DEMOCRAT

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEBARON FAMILY

Once more, we are sharing our wife and mother with others. We have become accustomed to this. Wherever we go, people she's never met stop and introduce themselves, because they consider her an old friend.

How does this make us feel? Well, proud, of course. But what strangers don't know is that, well apart from her professional life, she has given us even more reasons to be proud.

As a wife, a mother and a grandmother, she has been very bit as successful!

We love you Mom,

John, Suzi, Tony and
Trent