Bringing positivity to the community

Positive Discipline Community Resources (PDCR), a local social change collaborative working for more thriving families, recently inducted Board Directors Valeria Miranda, Laura Valdez, Yolanda Provoste-Fuentes and Theresa Carifo.

Miranda, executive director of the Santa Cruz Art League and a consultant who focuses on facilitating sustainable growth for nonprofit organizations, teaches graduate level art education at the Academy of Art University. She also teaches men and women in Santa Cruz County jail facilities.

Valdez is founder of Motivando Corazones, which provides positive discipline trainings and consulting, particularly on Spanish-speaking initiatives, throughout the country. She emigrated from Mexico to the U.S. in 1994, and is the first Latina to provide the first certification workshop in Spanish for teaching Parents with Positive Discipline” in 2006 for the Positive Discipline Association.

Provoste-Fuentes is a long-time parent educator at Live Oak Community Resources in Santa Cruz. She is originally from Chile, where she was an elementary school teacher in a poor neighborhood called Region 9 and then at a rural school in the countryside, leading to a lifetime of child advocacy.

Carifo is founder and executive director of Salud y Cultura, Inc. and has a master's in multicultural education and almost 20 years experience in working with youth in various capacities. Carifo also serves as the organization's lead facilitator for Girls' Group, an after-school program for middle school girls.

Earning rank

Claudio Franca Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (CFBJJ) in Santa Cruz recently awarded Black Belt rank to nine long-time students during the academy's recent promotion ceremony. Master Claudio Franca, a 6th-degree black belt and owner of CFBJJ, awarded Black Belt distinction to Santa Cruz residents Chris Balthasar, Chris Lang, Justin Bettencourt, Thomas Tupper and Jim Page; Erick Palomar and Joshua Baudour of Prunedale; Eric Matlin of San Jose; and Danny Patalot of Sunnyvale. The newly appointed black belts have been training under Master Franca for a decade, except for Lang, who has been training for 13 years and is the second woman to earn the distinction under Franca's rigorous program.

In addition to the black belt promotions, CFBJJ awarded higher belt ranks or higher degrees within a rank to more than 400 students, including children and adults, from its Santa Cruz, Watsonville and San Jose academies, and regional affiliates.

Got a story to tell, an event to report, an award to announce? Tell Justine. Email her at sentinelnamedropping@gmail.com.

Contact Dr. Ofrima Gerstein, at 831-476-7666 or visit www.RelationshipMatters.com

A NOTE TO BORROWERS

- Understand that the private lender has given you the money out of respect for your needs and trust in your commitment to repay it.

SUTTER MATERNITY & SURGERY CENTER

Lucero: Dec. 28 at 2:45 p.m., to Laura Arne and Jameson Ross Lucero, Santa Cruz, an 8-pound 2-ounce girl, Geneviève Rose.

Rivera: Dec. 26 at 5:42 p.m., to Kristine and David Rivera, San Jose, a 7-pound 6-ounce boy, Benjamin. 

Griffin: Jan. 1 at 1:55 a.m., to Lindsay Rachel and Korey David Griffin, Santa Cruz, a 7-pound 8-ounce boy, Nathan William.

Guzman: Jan. 2 at 7:18 a.m., to Anitra Laurel and Robert L. Guzman, Ben Lomond, a 6-pound 4-ounce girl, Olivia Avery.

Leys: Jan. 3 at 8:27 a.m., to Jennifer and Nima Leys, Watsonville, a 7-pound 2-ounce boy, Eli."