

Participant Schedule & Bios for Ticking Clock

March 18th

- **Mary Tong** had a long road to motherhood. After being unable to conceive on their own, Mary and her husband tried three in vitro fertilizations. Two miscarriages, the loss of three babies, and a sperm donor later, the Tongs turned to international adoption. An orphanage in Shanghai, China held the key to finding their daughter, now 16.
- **MeL Konrad** was raised by her grandmother and father after her mother was institutionalized when she was 2. She moved from New York to Sonoma County on her own when she was 19. She soon met her future husband of over 30 years. But didn't marry him for 7 years, during which she had an abortion, and made a mutual decision with him not to have children.
- **Jennie Orvino** had one child at the age of 24, and an abortion at the age of 27. She is the grandmother of 2 ½ year old Theodore Joseph, and can't believe her daughter just turned 40! Twice divorced, Jennie has been single since 1996. A long way from retirement, she works in marketing and development at the Santa Rosa Symphony. At night and on weekends she writes poetry, essays and memoir.

March 19

- **Jacquelyn Wells** is an actor, writer and director. For money she works from home for fundraising auctioneers. At age 17, she gave up her son for adoption; found him in 2006; he finally responded in 2010. They have not met; communicating only electronically. She doesn't have any other children.
- **Suzanne M. Lang** is a producer of radio and theater, cartographica and spatial data, but has never produced children. Suzanne graduated from the School of Creative Arts at SFSU with a Master of Arts. She's written original theater pieces in Colorado and California, and currently produces KRCB's A Novel Idea.
- **Candy Danhausen** entered a "traditional" marriage at age 21, had the perfect baby girl at 25 followed by the athletic son 17 months later, and divorced at 35. A Special Ed teacher for 34 years, she now enjoys an active retirement with her second husband, blended family, and 5 grandchildren ages 5-32.

March 20th

- **Astrid Harper** is a divorced single mother of one son who was addicted to drugs and alcohol between the ages of 13 and 34. He cleaned up his act 7 years ago. Astrid had a long career in marketing and advertising and now freelances as a copywriter.
- **Stacey Kerr MD** is a family physician, the author of Homebirth in the Hospital, and a columnist for the Press Democrat. She is passionate about choice and made the decision for life when it was her turn to choose. That decision has shaped her personal and professional life for over 37 years.
- **Sylvia Tepper**, a musician and teacher, gave her baby up for adoption when she was 16. She didn't know she would have no more, in spite of her passionate desire. The mother of 10 foster children and 2 open adoptions, she has no regrets about the ticking clock choices she's made in her life

March 25th

- **Maia Marin**, Qigong practitioner, always believed in motherhood. At 15 she became pregnant; she knew the timing wasn't right. Her single mother passed when Maia was 22; her desire to have children ceased. She married and planned not to have children. Life now finds her happy with 3 step-children and 8 step-grandchildren.
- **Carole Bratton** is a retired small business owner. She is divorced mother of three and a grandmother to four. In the 50's Carole was a pregnant teenager, "an un-wed mother" who was not allowed to keep her child. That experience impacted her life for years, but time does indeed heal all things.
- **Linda Loveland Reid**, director of The Ticking Clock, is also an artist and author of novel, Touch of Magenta. Linda says, "I had my first baby at age 16, not even aware of biological clocks. At 16, I had several ways to approach my pregnancy; keep the baby, have an abortion, or give the baby up. One huge asset was having good parents who I knew would stand behind me. That allowed me to make the decision I wanted....."

March 26th

- **Coleen Picard** is now a cardiac registered nurse. She returned to finish school later in life as a single mother of two, and only recently has begun her new career. Now with 2 almost grown children, ages 15 and 18, she finds herself beginning all over again. With her partner of 4 years, she has suffered 2 miscarriages, and now is happy to report being in her second trimester of what seems to be a healthy pregnancy.
- **Mimi Hedren** is a hands on grandmother who became a mother at the young age of 18, her daughter became a mother at the age of 18. Now her granddaughter is 18 and not pregnant. Mimi is hoping the challenges of becoming a young mother will deter Paige's start with children.
- **Elizabeth Basile** received her Bachelor's and Master's degree at Cal State LA. She taught high school for 30 years, ten years at El Sereno Junior High in Los Angeles, and twenty years at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma. She retired in 1992. Elizabeth was married 40 years, raised 3 daughters, 1 son and has 5 grand children and 3 great grand children.

March 27th

- **Elaine Webster** is a staff writer for the on-line publication Greener Living Today. Her recent book, Jesse's Tale, is about life with her adopted greyhound. When she's not writing, she works at Sonoma County Department of Child Support Services. Elaine and her husband, Blake, are child-free by choice.
- **BiBi Small** immigrated to the US in 1954 from her native Sweden. In 1959 she met and married a recent Berkeley grad and soon became the mother of three sons – while her husband studied law and worked nights to support the family. BiBi retired from the US Attorney's in 1997. She recently moved back to this area after 11 years in Cancun, Mexico.
- **Melissa English** was born and raised on a Spiritual Community in TN called The Farm. She received her Bachelor of Fine Art degree in Painting and Drawing in 1997 from Cal State University, Chico, and has been painting since. She married in 2005 and had a son, Jaxon, in 2007. A daughter, Katalina, was born in November of 2010. Her commitment to community keeps her active and fuels her passion for sustainability and environmental education.

March 31st

- **Emily Winfield** is a retired teacher, living with her husband, Edward, of 28 years. Emily gave birth to her daughter when she was 38; her own mother was 36 when Emily was born; it might be that Lia, her daughter, continues the late 30's pattern for child-rearing. Emily balanced teaching and mothering with support of: Edward, mother-in-law and the Waldorf community.
- **Carolyn Coyman** is a semi-retired special education and bilingual educator. Ever since she can remember, she has wanted to be a mother but waited until she was 38 to begin this journey. She has two grown daughters who enrich her life more than she ever could have imagined. Both are in graduate school. Her mother recently joined their household.
- **Joan Hawley**, a veteran actor in Sonoma County with Sixth Street Playhouse and Cinnabar Theatre for 38 years, is delighted to be a part of this ensemble of wonderful women bringing to life these experiences of the real women interviewed during "The Ticking Clock Project". She welcomes the opportunity to share her story, alongside those offered by our audience members.

April 1

- **Mary Gannon Graham**, works as an actor, singer, and director, also teaches drama to children and other abled adults. Mary an "Evil Bodacious Step Mother" officially in 2003, unofficially for the last 15 years. She became pregnant three times in her early 20's, with one mis-carriage and two abortions, choosing career over motherhood. Mary now feels she has the three babies she lost in the persons of her amazing step children.
- **Katy Raddatz** is a senior mother of Max, now 22. As in many of life's Big Moments, Katy asks herself, "Wow! How'd THAT happen so fast?" Katy suspects she'll ask that same question on her deathbed, but she doesn't fear dying. Katy was a newspaper photographer for 32 years.
- **Renee Russo** was a virgin because of religion until age 21, she became pregnant the first month she became sexually active. After an abortion and birth control, she married and had two children. Divorced him and 5 years later met and married a second husband and became pregnant again. Her husband was arrested one month prior to the child's birth, and for the next 18 years, she raised three children as a single mother.

April 2

- **Carole Barlas** is the mother of two adult children and grandmother of two boys. She has struggled with parenting, decisions about unwanted pregnancies, and maintaining 40+ years of marriage. She has a doctorate in Adult Transformation and Learning and has taught at university level. Carole is currently a figurative and landscape artist and an acting student.
- **Nell Hergenrather** is 36 and mother to 3 young girls ages 5-10. She studied painting at the University of California at Santa Barbara has continued that discipline as an art teacher in Sebastopol. Nell continues to pursue her fine art career, albeit slowly, and shows her work at many local venues.
- **Lois Pearlman**, theater artist and journalist, had three abortions in the 1960's-1970s. She gave birth to one perfect baby girl just before Labor Day in 1983. She was 38 years and delivered by Caesarian section. She was devastated by her body's inability to have a baby "the right way," but quickly fell in love with her child, and they have lived happily ever after!!

April 3

- **Jane Person** resides in Petaluma. She is divorced. At the age of thirty-nine, she became pregnant and miscarried. She chose not to become pregnant again. For thirty years Jane was a social worker in Children's Protective Services, assisting parents to safely and lovingly provide for their children.
- **Phyllis Alabona** is retired. She has three grown children, three grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, and eight great grand-children. A divorced mother of three young children in the middle sixties, Phyllis worked three jobs to support children. At age 72 Phyllis received her first degree at the SRJC with honors and a scholarship. Volunteers, writes, and continues her education.
- **Molly** is 19 years old, the youngest participant, and has a beautiful baby born three months ago...