



# insider

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, February 12, 2004

## Maria Muldaur Headlines 11th Annual Evolution of the Blues Concert

Maria Muldaur, one of the great ladies of American song, will headline the 11th Annual Evolution of the Blues concert Thursday, February 19, in Burbank Auditorium, on SRJC's Santa Rosa Campus.

The concert, which also features the Mighty Mike Schermer Band and Lara Price, begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door, and advance tickets are on sale at the college's Community Education Office, the Last Record Store in Santa Rosa, Backdoor Disc & Tape in Cotati, Tall Toad Music in Petaluma, and Incredible Records in Sebastopol. Tickets may be ordered by phone with a Visa or Mastercard by calling 527-4372. Phone orders will be held at Will Call and can be picked up the night of the concert.

On the afternoon of the concert Maria Muldaur will present a musically illustrated lecture, "Women of the Blues: The Early Years," from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Newman Auditorium on the Santa Rosa Campus. Tickets for the lecture are \$5 and can be purchased in advance at the college's Community Education Office.

Muldaur has taken her place among the great ladies of American song, from her emergence in the 1960s Greenwich Village folk scene through her Grammy nominated solo work in the 1970's (Song of the Year for "Midnight at the Oasis" and Best New Female Artist) to her Grammy nomination in 2001 for Traditional Blues Album of the Year (for Richland Woman Blues).

Mike Schermer is a veteran sideman—working extensively with Maria Muldaur, Charles Musselwhite and Angela Strehli—and an up and coming bandleader with a new CD release entitled 1st Set.

A newcomer to the Bay Area blues scene, Lara Price and her band are already gaining national attention.

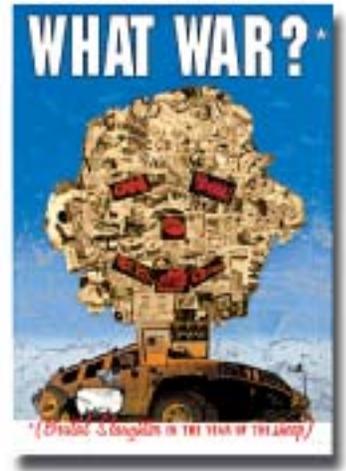
Master of ceremonies for the concert will be Bill Bowker who has been programming American roots music in the Redwood Empire for many years and is host of the award winning weekly "Blues with Bowker" show on KRSH-FM.

## Eye Object: The Art of Political Printmaking Opens Feb. 19

Santa Rosa Junior College will present *Eye Object, the Art of Political Printmaking* in SRJC's Art Gallery from February 19 through April 4. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 4:00 p.m. A reception for the artists will be held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 19 in the gallery.

Participating artists include: Susan Anson, Carol Benioff, Renata Breth, Linda Lee Boyd, Enrique Chagoya, Andres Cisneros, Pele de Lappe, Cosette Dudley, Eduardo Fausti, Anna Godbersen, Art Hazelwood, Elinor Randall Keeney, Barbara Milman, Doug Minkler, Jane Norling, Rich Quade, Louise Stanley, Jos Sances, Akira Thompson, Nikolai Thompson.

The exhibit includes prints that address contemporary social and political issues, as well as issues that cut across time and place. A variety of printmaking techniques will be represented, including etching, lithography, mixed media, and works created on computer in combination with traditional techniques.



## Piri Thomas to Speak Feb. 23

Poet, writer and storyteller Piri Thomas whose autobiography, *Down These Mean Streets*, is an American classic, will give a free, noontime talk, Monday, February 23, in Newman Auditorium on SRJC's Santa Rosa Campus.

"Growing My Poet's Soul: Conversations with Piri Thomas," begins at 12:15 p.m. Born of Puerto Rican and Cuban parents in New York City's Spanish Harlem in 1928, Piri Thomas began his struggle for survival, identity, and recognition at an early age. The environment of poverty, racism, and street crime took its toll. Wounded and arrested while committing an armed robbery, Thomas spent seven years in prison. He rose above his violent background of drugs and gang warfare, and he vowed to use his street and prison know-how to reach hard core youth and turn them away from a life of crime.

In *Down These Mean Streets*, Piri Thomas made *El Barrio* (the neighborhood) a household word to non-Spanish-speaking readers.

Other works by Piri Thomas include his prison memoir, *7 Long Times*, essays, *The Stoop*, and *Shine, Mister?* and a collection of poems. A film about Thomas' life, *Every Child is Born a Poet*, was recently made for PBS and aired to much acclaim at the Mill Valley Film Festival in 2003.

This event is being co-sponsored by SRJC's Arts & Lectures and Multicultural Events Committees. For more information, contact the Community Education Office, (707) 527-4372.



## Employee of the Month Jerry Miller

gives student great contacts. He works to keep the curriculum current to meet employer needs, is committed to finding good teaching staff and the appropriate funding for state-of-the-art equipment, and facilitating student job placement." To Applied Tech/CEST student Sally Cairns "Jerry is the best instructor I've ever had. He cares so much that you understand, he figures out how you learn and explains in a way that you understand."

With the huge swell of students in his program due to all the layoffs in the technology sector, "Jerry gamely rearranged his schedule and took on additional labs. I often find him working in his office on Sundays," Carmen notes. Students also recognize his dedication. "I feel I am getting an excellent education and will not only have job skills, but support from Jerry if I need it after I've received my certificate," Sally says.

"I'm passionate about what I teach," states Jerry. "I really like teaching, and I enjoy the challenge of taking students from the empty box stage and filling them up with knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform a job that is valuable and rewarding to the public. I set high goals for the students and myself." He notes that his greatest accomplishment at SRJC is "Taking a program that had gone a little sour and bringing it from the past into the present by acquiring new equipment and implementing new curriculum and instruction. I'm proud that our program is now used as the model of other two-year programs throughout the U.S. We must be doing something right. We have success in the industry, and our transfer students are tops in their class. We've built a name for ourselves and that's satisfying." Jerry states that the greatest challenge has been "Staying ahead of the game – technology, equipment, curriculum, software, it's all a matter of choosing the most effective, efficient way to meet industry and student needs. Technology is always changing. It's expensive to run the program with computers, software, and surveying equipment, and remain current."

What others may find surprising about Jerry's job is his strong relationship with private and public local employers. "I know most people in the profession by their first names, so it is easier to match students with employers." It is clear that what Jerry likes most about his work. "When I see the light bulb come on in a student's head. I never get tired of that! It is extremely satisfying to see the students complete their coursework, receive their certificate, and get a job," he says. "The bonus is when they come back and say it was all because of what you taught them. I love my job!"

Jerry is very involved in his field. He presented at California Land Surveyors/Nevada Association of Land Surveyors in 2003; National Engineers Week for six years; CSUF Geomatic Engineering Conference 2000; Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California 2003; the Association of General Contractors-Public Works Night

2002. He also served on SRJC's Staff Development, Accreditation, and Equivalency committees, and substitutes for Larry Bertolini's "voice of the Bear Cubs" as the public address announcer for SRJC home football games. Jerry is a member of the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping, National Society of Professional Surveyors, American Society of Photogrammetry, California Land Surveyors Association, and is a frequent guest speaker for many civic groups in Sonoma County and across the state.

Born in Long Beach, California, Jerry moved to Santa Rosa in 1972 when he was a high school freshman, and graduated from Montgomery High School. He attended SRJC, transferred to California State University, Fresno where he earned a B.S. in Surveying and Photogrammetry. He is a Licensed Professional Land Surveyor by the state of California. Before joining SRJC he spent 17 years locally in private and public civil engineering and land surveying firms, as well as city and county agencies. Since coming to SRJC he has operated a private consulting firm that specializes in all aspects of surveying, mapping, land development, continuing and contract education, and professional licensing examination preparation. Jerry has been married for 21 years to his college sweetheart, Nancy. They have 16-year-old twins, son Kellen and daughter Jeannine. The family also has two pugs, Bandit and Willie. Jerry's hobbies include sports of all types, golf in particular, movies, plays, comedy shows, TV, and trips to Las Vegas.

"Jerry is what instructors in vocational programs should aspire to be – committed, caring, current. He approaches his field professionally and pragmatically. Students learn information they need to find jobs in the field of civil surveying. Jerry is almost too successful as far as his certificate goes, since so many students find great jobs after completing only the first half of the program," Carmen says.

In response to being selected the SRJC Employee of the Month Jerry said, "I was dumbfounded at first, and then a little embarrassed. I'm not really sure why I'm receiving this award for just doing my job, however, I'm very flattered and honored that I have been chosen."

Congratulations to Jerry Miller, Program Coordinator and Instructor in SRJC's Civil and Surveying Technology Program for the Applied Technology Department, for being selected Employee of the Month. His supervisor Carmen Sheldon, Instructor and Program Coordinator of the Applied Technology Department, introduced Jerry at the February 10 Board of Trustees meeting where he was presented with an EOM plaque, season tickets from SRT, complimentary vouchers for the Culinary Café, and other gifts from his colleagues. "I enjoy working with Jerry because he is congenial, works hard on his program, and steps up to the plate. I can depend on him explicitly and respect his opinions when it comes to doing the best for our students," Carmen emphasizes.

Since joining the SRJC staff in 1993, Jerry has been Program Coordinator and Instructor for the Civil and Surveying Technology program, and has also been an Instructor for Cooperative Work Experience/Internships for Architecture/Engineering/Construction students since 1996. "I'm passionate about what I teach and enjoy watching the enthusiasm from the students. I've been blessed with students who really want to learn and enjoy what they're learning. I also like working at SRJC with its excellent instructors, staff, facilities, and equipment." As the only full-time instructor in his area, his key areas of responsibility include: coordinating the civil and surveying technology program; developing and implementing curriculum; hiring adjunct faculty; training, learning, and operating changing software and hardware; researching new and existing equipment, purchasing and maintaining it; budgeting; meeting with advisory committee members; counseling students; and finding employment opportunities for graduates."

Carmen summarizes why Jerry's instruction is so effective. "He is an excellent instructor and makes the extra effort to ensure that the students understand the concepts he's teaching. He is always available to his students, and brings the profession of civil surveying into the classroom. He is in touch with the professionals in this business and



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