

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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MONDAVI TOUR

For the tour, we were fortunate to have a small group. We met Kara Leong on the 21st at 4:00 pm. After introductions, our full attention was focused on our energetic guide and the displays she pointed out. Her talk was not only informative, but entertaining, with personal stories and her sense of humor. It was obvious she loved guiding and her research. Her enthusiasm with the Mondavi Institute (MI) and pride in herself was evident as she spoke.

Kara studied Plant Biology, then Landscape Architecture. She was self-employed and homeowners were pleased with her work. As she attended grad school, she received an AAUW fellow grant and is now doing research on a heritage clone of pinot noir.

The MI consists of many buildings with different purposes. One of the more fascinating rooms was the Sensory Theater. There olive oils, tomatoes, wines, and other foods can be tested for texture, aroma, and appearance. The white tables are transformed into cubicles for each person's privacy and elimination of sound/smell communication between testers. Air is pushed upwards so that no smells linger or spread to others. The room is also used for seminars.

In the outdoor space of a beautiful setting, events around food and wines are offered by invitation only. One night is a BBQ in the Good Life Garden. Another is a taste night for wines. Olive trees have been harvested and replanted to research different oils. There is also a teaching vineyard, where students learn to plant, make trellises, take soil samples, prune, thin, and harvest their vines. They are required to identify wine varieties by the leaf shape, fuzziness, and color (Ampelography). There is also the Oakville Station Vineyard of 40 acres donated by a winery. These wines are so special, they cannot be purchased.

We now understand how complicated winemaking is. Flavor is affected by so many factors: temperature, climate, soil chemistry, geographical location, oak barrel storage (where the oak comes from), and the process itself. To make 1 bottle of wine takes 5 to 6x more volume of water for the cleaning process. That water is recycled up to 46 times. The equipment is very expensive to allow control of temperature to one degree.

Sugar levels are also closely monitored. Once the process starts, students have to be present every day for two months.

Another building houses the tomato pilot plant and milk testing. There is also a microbrewery. Our last stop was the wine room with special collections, mostly donated to UCD. We thanked Kara for a great glimpse into the Mondavi Institute.

Participating were Estelle, her two guests Vivian and Maria, Gail, Leslie and Margo, Marlene, Rhonda, and Juliana. Thank you, Kara. Thank you, Estelle, for arranging this tour.

BOOK CLUB

After the tour, Leslie and Margo, Gail, Estelle, Rhonda, and Juliana met at Crepeville to eat and discuss the book, *I Am, I Am, I Am*. Gail had brought the questions from the back of the book and we discussed various aspects of the reading. (Margo had little to add, but enjoyed her meal also.) The next book was chosen: *Educated*, by Tara Westover. A discussion day will be set for July.

INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

This is a good opportunity to hear from the Tech Trek campers and wish them well. We meet at Season's 11:30-1:30 for an enjoyable meal. Contact Gail to reserve. Meet your 2018-2019 board members and officers.

HUMAN RIGHTS ARTICLES

We hope you are enjoying the writing of Verena Borton, UNA Davis President, as she expounds in the Enterprise on each article of the Human Rights Declaration in honor of its 70th Anniversary. This Sunday's, the 9th installment, is about EQUALITY.

<https://www.davisenterprise.com/features/declaration-at-70-equality-before-the-law/>

TECH TREK

The Tech Trek camp for UCD is July 22-8. Leslie will be hosting the junior counselors at her home on Saturday, the 21st. Help with registration on the 22nd would be greatly appreciated. Two other chances to help and see the action will be on Visitor's Day and Math Night. To volunteer, please contact Gail: gejohnson08@comcast.net.

ANNUAL PLANNING RETREAT

We would like to encourage more input from members regarding programs, events, possibilities and policies, so we invite you to come to the POTLUCK brainstorming session on the 19th at Rhonda's home 320 I at 6:00. Questions, complaints, kudos, suggestions will be welcomed along with yourselves.

The items from above will then be discussed in depth and specific months and coordinators will be assigned at the planning retreat at Estelle's, 747 Plum Lane. Breakfast-y foods from 9:00, then down to business at 9:30 am. *Every member is welcome.*

CALENDAR

June 10- Sunday: Installation Luncheon with Tech Trek girls

June 19- Tuesday: Celebrate the 19th at Rhonda's Brainstorming POTLUCK
6:00pm

June 24- Sunday: Annual Planning Retreat at Estelle's, 9:00 am

July 19- Thursday: Tentative- Book Club discussion

July 22- Sunday: Registration for Tech Trek camp at UCD