

Healdsburg Literary Guild, SHED and Paradise Ridge Winery Present

Gaye LeBaron On Fountaingrove At SHED



Gaye LeBaron on

The Cult, the Winery, The Scandal and the Samurai Prince
from her new book, *The Wonder Seekers of Fountaingrove*

Thursday, January 24th, 2019

7 to 8:30 PM

\$15, includes Paradise Ridge Wine and hors d'oeuvres

Buy tickets: <https://healdsburgshed.com/events/luminarias-gaye-lebaron/>

SHED

25 North Street, Healdsburg

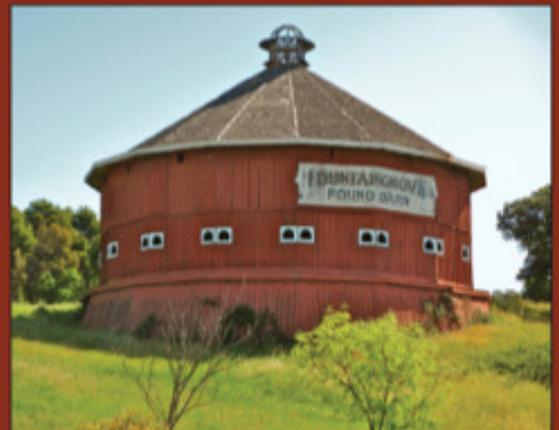
SHED will soon close its unique space in Healdsburg
So come for a last visit



SHED



The Wonder Seekers of
Fountaingrove



Gaye LeBaron & Bart Casey

Gaye LeBaron on Fountaingrove at SHED

Healdsburg Literary Guild, SHED and Paradise Ridge Winery presents Gaye LeBaron talking about her new book, *The Wonder Seekers of Fountaingrove*, in a farewell SHED/Luminarias presentation, on Thursday, January 24th, 2019, 7 to 8:30 PM. Admission is \$15 and includes a seat, a glass or so of Paradise Ridge wine and some bites, and can be purchased at:

<https://healdsburgshed.com/events/luminarias-gaye-lebaron/>

Gaye LeBaron remains not only the preeminent historian of Sonoma County, she ranks as a major factor in shaping the area's history. A daily columnist for the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* for forty years, she "defined Sonoma County at the rate of 1,000 words a day," in the words of Chris Coursey. She retired her daily column years ago, but still writes a monthly history column. The archive of her papers provides material for historians at Sonoma State University. Her popular Sonoma County history course at the Santa Rosa Junior College gave thousands of Sonomans a sense of their place in history. Her latest book, the *Wonder Seekers of Fountaingrove* focuses on the twists and turns of Fountaingrove: a cult, a winery, a utopian colony and a saga of both racial acceptance and rascality. The red round barn that used to stand on the hill a little north of the Mendocino Avenue exit on 101 burned in the Tubbs fire a little over a year ago, one of the last remnants of the Fountaingrove winery. The tale that lies behind that barn looms truly stranger than fiction, involving Kanaye Nagasawa, a Japanese Samuiri wine maker, Laurence Oliphant, a Scottish aristocrat newsman and diplomat, and Thomas Lake Harris, an American charismatic leader of a strange cult with wineries and a marketing operation attached. How these three came to make the Fountaingrove property in Santa Rosa both a major winery and cult center drenched in scandal makes one powerful, eccentric and tragic odyssey.

Paradise Ridge Winery nails it as the perfect match to be serving their wines to accompany Gaye's talk. This Santa Rosa winery shares some history tinged with tragedy. Sited on property adjoining the former Fountaingrove vineyards, the winery, with its sweeping views of the Santa Rosa Plain, its Nagasawa museum, and its sculpture gardens, burned in the same Tubbs fire that consumed the Fountaingrove barn. But Rene Byck and Sonia Byck-Barwick, children of founder Walter Byck are focused on rebuilding and keeping the winery going. The winery, from 1994 to 2017 built a reputation for its wines and for honoring its historic location, and being stewards of the land. Come taste why they will be back stronger.

The Healdsburg Literary Guild (HLG) has produced the Luminarias series at SHED to bring literary luminaries right to Healdsburg. Will Luminarias continue? It is not clear at this time, but come for what may be the last show. For decades the Guild has also enriched Healdsburg's cultural environment through numerous literary arts programs The Guild sponsors the Literary Laureate. It has produced literary programs since 2000 with its Third Sunday Salons, currently held in the Bean Affair coffee shop. The Guild has published numerous collections and chapbooks.

Levin and Company Community Booksellers handles book sales. They have been leaders in Healdsburg's cultural life since Adele Levin, her partner Jacquie Robb and her son Aaron Rosewater opened the bookstore/gallery/gathering place 25 years ago. Innkeeper Lucy Lewand at Camellia Inn has graciously provided guest accommodations for visiting authors. This is indeed a community endeavor.

SHED has announced its closing at the end of January, 2019. Come and give this meteoric temple of exquisite local food, good taste, ingredients and gardening a last hurrah. SHED won the 2014 James Beard Award for restaurant design by incorporating a market, café and community gathering venue in an elegant design that celebrates good farming, good cooking and good eating. SHED recently garnered three awards in the 2018 SF Gate Good Food competition. SHED and the Healdsburg Literary Guild enjoyed their three-year adventure providing scintillating literary evenings at SHED in furtherance of SHED owners, Doug Lipton's and Cindy Daniels' mission to nurture the connection between good growing and good community.