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GENTRY

SOUTH BAY

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Leading by Example

Gentry Profiles 13 Amazing South Bay Women

Home Grown

Interview with Monterra's Basil and Roger Mills

Toni Welch Torres



By Stephanie Beasley, Emily Heitmann, and Jennifer Massoni

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Gentry profiles 13 outstanding South Bay women who give their all as mothers, friends, doctors, entrepreneurs, athletes, writers, actors, students, volunteers, and captains of industry.

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Harmony and Balance — Marina Lighthouse

Feng Shui: the ancient Chinese practice of placement and arrangement of space, which is claimed to achieve harmony with the environment. Marina Lighthouse: an intellectual woman whose sole purpose is to bring peace and tranquility into your home.

Lighthouse is a definition all her own. A Los Altos native and practitioner of Feng Shui design who has long been fascinated by Eastern philosophy. But it wasn't until 1991 that her fascination turned into a vocation. "When my friend decided to implement Feng Shui design into her home, she said, 'Marina, this is so you.'" Yet Lighthouse remained skeptical. But after she noticed her friend's life beginning to prosper, she changed her mind. She began to immerse herself in Feng Shui design, traveling to China five times, enrolling in the Shelter for the Soul Institute where she was certified as a practitioner, and studying directly under H.H. Grandmaster Lin Yun Rinpoche, the spiritual leader of the Modern School of Feng Shui.

Since 1998, Lighthouse has provided consultations for private clients looking to remodel their home and corporate clients with office spaces in need of a redesign. "Your space is a metaphor for your life and body, so you look at the chi, or the energy, of the space," explains Lighthouse.

Recently, Lighthouse's opinion was sought for an interesting client. "I got this mysterious phone call asking me to meet a client at an industrial space. As I pull up, I see a collection of Mercedes Benz's 2005 models and six German designers," Lighthouse recalls. Turns out the designers wanted to see how Feng Shui the cars' designs were. "It was a very interesting consultation," Lighthouse says with a laugh. And was the design of the cars up to her Feng Shui standards? "I gave them the thumbs up."

When Marina is not meeting with German designers, she can be found hosting the first live-stream Feng Shui network on the Internet, www.radiofengshui.com, or maintaining her Feng Shui website where she spreads good chi, one computer at a time.