# Welcome to the 201758th Annual Conference ofCALIFORNIA TRANSCRIBERS AND EDUCATORSFOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

#  LEVELINGTHE PLAYING FIELD

#  Of Special Interest to Parents and Families

Our conference has again extended a special welcome to parents and families with children who are blind or visually impaired by offering a No-Charge Registration to current members. We hope you enjoy all the activities and workshops provided especially for you.

# Saturday, March 11, 2017: Youth Institute: *Nothing About Us Without Us*

Sessions from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm; Social from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

# Exhibit Hall Here you will find a myriad of exhibitors offering the latest in assistive technology, as well as educational toys and books. Please take advantage of thisopportunity to learn all about the most up-to-date equipment available

# From the PRESIDENT...

On behalf of the CTEBVI Board of Directors and Conference committee, welcome to our 58th annual conference. Our theme for this year is *Leveling the Playing Field*. It is our hope that you will leave here with the knowledge, skills and determination to encourage and elevate students with visual impairments to successfully meet each challenge, become self-advocates, and swing for the fences.

In order to reach these goals, it takes the dedication of everyone involved in making this conference possible that includes you, the attendee. We count on the feedback we receive at the end of each conference to raise the bar for the next year. At last year’s conference, some of you expressed a desire to have shorter but no fewer workshops so that you don’t feel quite so rushed and that you are able to connect with your fellow attendees. We took those suggestions to heart and that is why many parts of this conference will focus on networking, advocacy and teamwork. With this in mind, we will be getting together for breakfast and general sessions, one hour workshops, and end the day in our Hospitality Suite. Instead of having the Hospitality Suite open during the day when people are on the go, we’ve decided to make it available at night so that you can come relax after a long day and enjoy each other’s company. That’s not all; we’ll still have our welcome reception, lunch, exhibitors’ reception, president’s reception, banquet, and wrap up the conference with our Sunday brunch. Also, the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) will start its spring meeting after our conference on Sunday at 1:00 pm. If you’re still around and you’d like to be an observer, come to the BANA booth and let them know. I hope you all have a great conference and remember to let us know what you think.

Cristin Lockwood

President

# General Conference Information

# On-Site Registration

You may register at the Registration Desk. Please note that on-site registration is nonrefundable. Check-in for pre-conference workshops only:

Thursday, March 9 -8:00 am - 9:30 am

Regular conference registration:

Thursday, March 9-4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Friday, March 10 -6:30 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday, March 11 -6:30 am - 5:00 pm

# Continuing Education Units

CEUs are again being offered with an ACVREP fee of $35, payable in advance with your registration fee. This fee will allow you to earn CEUs for the workshops, keynote speakers, and general sessions held during the conference. Remember to sign-in and sign-out at each session. Certificates will be mailed following the conference via e-mail.

#  Silent Auction

All proceeds of the silent auction go to the *Donna Coffee Youth Scholarship Fund*. This event also provides you with the opportunity to take home some beautiful gifts.

Silent Auction items must be claimed and paid for by the end of the banquet unless other arrangements have been made. Items not claimed will be offered to the next highest bidder. GOOD LUCK!!!

Announcement Board at Registration

Have an announcement or job opening? Please feel free to post it on the board that will be located near the Registration Desk

# Exhibit Hall

Attendance is free to everyone. CTEBVI’s Exhibit Hall offers a large number of vendors presenting the latest in assistive technology, and really neat toys.

The Exhibit Hall will be open on:

Friday - 9:30 am - 6:30 pm

Saturday - 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

# Hospitality Suite - Meet the CTEBVI Board

Wrap up your Friday and Saturday evenings with the CTEBVI board in a lovely setting overlooking San Francisco Bay. Have a drink and share your thoughts on the conference and our organization. Consider this your personal invitation! No-host bar and light refreshments will be provided.

 San Ramon Room

Friday - 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Saturday - 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Social Media

(Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Guidebook icons)

# Letter from the CDE...

CALIFORNIA TRANSCRIBERS AND EDUCATORS

FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

58th CONFERENCE

San Francisco, California

March 9–12, 2017

Dear Friends:

I am honored to welcome you to the 58th annual conference of the California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired. This year’s conference, “Leveling the Playing Field,” will provide professional development opportunities for those working in the field of vision impairment, from directors of special education and teachers of the visually impaired to the paraprofessionals who work to enhance the lives of our blind and visually impaired students. You have implemented the new Unified English Braille code, ensuring access to instructional materials as well as computer-based assessments.

By attending this unique conference, you are demonstrating an extraordinary commitment to educating those who use assistive technology to support life-long learning.

It is critical that students are exposed to the technology that will lead to academic success, preparing them to pursue their careers, participate in the rich cultural life of our state, engage in civic responsibilities, and compete in our global economy. Professionals and parents will be able to better serve visually impaired students by taking advantage of the workshops, keynote speakers, and networking available at this conference. I would also like to welcome students to the Youth Institute, utilizing mentors in a day of interactive mini-sessions designed to guide them toward independent successful futures.

Please accept my appreciation and thanks for your professional contributions in serving our blind and visually impaired students. To the parents and students in attendance, thank you for participating and sharing your experiences to improve and increase opportunities for other families. This team approach leads to success, from which we all will benefit. I extend my sincere gratitude for all your efforts and commitment to the success of our students.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

# Conference Highlights

## Thursday, March 9th

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS (Pre-registration is required. Check-in is 8:00 am - 9:00 am.)

### 1. APH BrailleBlaster: An Innovative New Braille Translation Software

Presenters: Jayma Hawkins and William Freeman

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Salon G-H

BrailleBlaster is a revolutionary program that brings braille transcription into the 21st century. Using the data embedded in NIMAS files, BrailleBlaster does most of the work as soon as the file is opened. It then has all the tools you need to be efficient!

### 2. Making Google Applications Accessible with JAWS: Drive, Docs, Gmail and Classroom

Presenters: Veronica Gunn, Yurika Vu, and Joe Vona

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm (Includes break for lunch on your own)

Location: Bayside I

Join the CSB Assistive Technology Team for a day of all things Google. This workshop will be a hands-on training where all participants will learn to use Drive, Docs, Gmail, and Classroom with JAWS. Many schools throughout California, including CSB, are using Google Education. Come learn how your students with visual impairments can participate in this exciting technology. CTEBVI will provide Wi-Fi for all participants during this workshop. This workshop is limited to 50 participants.

### 3. Getting the Ball Rolling: A presentation and open discussion regarding issues within the field of visual impairments, and beginning the revision of the VI guidelines and braille reading and math content standards

Presenters: Dr. Sharon Sacks with Adrian Amandi, Angela Martyn and Gina Ouelette

Time: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: Bayside I

Join administrative staff from the California School for the Blind in an open discussion regarding some of the issues currently present in our field. We will lead a discussion regarding assessment practices, service recommendations, caseload analysis, and more. While we plan to share best practices throughout the day we want to create an open dialogue as well where input from the field is being taken into consideration in the important revisions under way with the guidelines and braille and math standards. Additionally, we will share and seek advice on improving CSB’s programs and ways to meet the needs of students throughout the state.

### 4. Tour of the Lighthouse for the Blind

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Cost: Free

Location: Hotel Lobby Main Entrance, 1:00 pm

## Leveling The Playing Field Welcome Reception

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Sponsored by: TRANSCRIBING MARINERS *Quality Braille and Large Print* www.tmbraille.com

Huddle up with your fellow attendees to plan your attack of the complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar. Then team up to run some plays across the dance floor to the invigorating beat of Wayne Siligo and the Cheeseballs featuring MVP Ilan Ota.

Location: Salon F Foyer

# Friday, March 10th

## Breakfast - Location Salon F

7:30 am - 8:30 am

Calling all registered members! Get your day on the right track with this complimentary meal.

## General Session I and Guest Speakers - Location Salon F

8:30 am - 9:30 am

## Exhibit Hall/Silent Auction

9:30 am - 6:30 pm

Drop by the Exhibit Hall to browse the vendors and see all the donated Silent Auction items.

## Networking Luncheon - Location Salon F

12:15 pm - 1:45 pm

Take a break to refuel. Catch up with old friends or make a new acquaintance. Compare notes on what you’ve seen and heard this morning.

## SFSU Meet and Greet – Location Bayside II

Friday, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

The SFSU programs in Visual Impairment and Orientation & Mobility invite alumni, current, and prospective students to an afternoon social. Please stop by and say hello! We'll have light refreshments and exciting news to share.

Twitter: @VIProgramSFSU

## Exhibitors’ Reception – Location Exhibit Hall

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Take this dedicated time to visit with the exhibitors, ask questions about their products, get demonstrations and indulge in some delicious hors d'oeuvres. No Host bar. Don’t miss out on a chance to check out the Silent Auction items.

## Hospitality Suite – Location San Ramon

8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Get together with the team to review the day and get the playbook for tomorrow. Light snacks and beverages will be provided with a no-host bar.

# Saturday, March 11th

## Breakfast - Location Salon F

7:30 am - 8:30 am

Calling all registered members! Get your day on the right track with this complimentary meal.

## General Session II and Guest Speakers - Location Salon F

8:30 am - 9:30 am

## Exhibit Hall

9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Drop by the Exhibit Hall to browse the vendors and see all the donated Silent Auction items.

## The Silent Auction - LAST CHANCE!

This is the last chance to get your bids in before 4:30 pm so you don’t miss out on some enticing deals! You can also visit the Exhibit Hall. Browse the booths, talk with exhibitors, see demonstrations on the latest assistive technology, play with the toys, and more!

## President’s Reception - Location Salon F Foyer

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Entertainment provided by: Wayne Siligo and the Cheeseballs featuring Ilan Ota

Meet your CTEBVI President, Cristin Lockwood. Socialize and relax with your fellow conference attendees after an intense day of fun and informative workshops. Unwind, relax and enjoy! There will be a No-host bar.

## Leveling The Playing Field Banquet - Location Salon F

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Get ready for a wonderful evening of good food, and good company. Everyone is invited to attend whether or not you are registered for the meal. Separate seating will be provided for non-dining attendees. The Keynote speaker will be David Lepofsky.

David graduated in 1979 with honours from Osgoode Hall Law School with a Bachelor of Laws and obtained a Masters of Law from the Harvard Law School in 1982. He is a visiting professor (part-time) at the Osgoode Hall Law School and an adjunct member of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law.  His career as counsel in the Crown Law Office Civil and Criminal conducting civil, administrative, and constitutional litigation, in addition to criminal appeals in the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, spanned 30 years. He retired from his position with the Ontario Public Service at the end of 2015.

As a disability rights advocate, David is chair of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance and a founding member and co-chair of Barrier-Free Canada, a community coalition that advocates for the enactment of a national Canadians with Disabilities Act.  In January 2016, he became chair of the Toronto District School Board’s Special Education Advisory Committee. This legally-mandatory committee advises the Toronto District School.

## Hospitality Suite Open - Location San Ramon

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Keep the conversation going! Light snacks and beverages will be provided with a no-host bar.

# Sunday, March 12th

## WRAP UP FORUM: THE BALL’S IN YOUR COURT - Location San Ramon

How will you put it into play?

Moderators: Mary Nelle McLennan and Jonn Paris-Salb

8:00 am - 9:30 am

Moderators: Jonn Paris-Salb and Mary Nelle McLennan

What have you learned at conference and how and what will you put into play. How should information be shared with colleagues? What would attendees like to see added to the program in 2018? Be a part of the game plan next year in Los Angeles!

## Complimentary Sunday Brunch, Audiojack Demonstration and iPad Drawing!!! Location – Salon F

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Our Conference concludes with a Complimentary Buffet Brunch (must be pre-registered to eat) and will include General Business Session, III.

While your mouth is occupied, sharpen your listening skills with a demonstration from David Tobin of Audiojack.

Audiojack is an audio based movie that uses sound design to tell a story. There is no video, no use of music or dialogue. Hundreds of sound effects are layered together to activate the listener’s own imagination. Each Audiojack has a specific story, which is never revealed to ensure that there is no wrong answer. It’s up to the listeners to decide what their story will become.

Pre-register for the brunch and not only do you get to enjoy a FREE meal, but you will receive a ticket for a FREE chance to win our drawing.

Transcribing Mariners of Auburn, CA, has generously donated an iPad Mini that will go home with the lucky winner. You must be present to win.

Everyone is invited to attend the meeting whether or not you are registered for the meal. Separate seating will be provided for non-dining attendees.

## Hotel Check-Out

12 noon

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

**Beyond the Walls Workshops!**

**Learning From Men and Women in Prison Braille Programs**

Beyond the Walls is a program idea from John Romeo. John is passionate about braille and the rehabilitative qualities the vocation provides offenders who participate in prison braille programs across the nation. John wanted a way to showcase the wonderfully immense knowledge base inside the prison programs for the greater good of the braille community. He envisioned a program where prison braille programs could create professional-quality, expert presentations for the CTEBVI conference.

At last year’s CTEBVI conference in Los Angeles, we brought that vision to life and hosted three BTW workshops, including one that was telecast live into the conference directly from the prison program. The workshops were packed and the response from attendees was overwhelmingly positive so we brought the program back this year to San Francisco.

We proudly present workshops 101, 201, and 403 as part of our second annual Beyond the Walls program. Workshops 101 and 404 will be telecasted live into the conference and the men and women in these prison braille programs will be personally presenting the materials they have prepared. Please be aware that in the course of the workshops you will see and be seen by the offenders in the program.

# Game Changers

The CTEBVI board would like to extend a special thanks to you who make up our support team. Your exceptional skills and generosity are a labor of love and make this conference possible. You truly are game changers. THANK YOU!

**Volunteered/Donated Time/Services**

Sharon Anderson for being our Treasurer and keeping track!

The California School for the Blind, APH and The LightHouse for the Blind for kicking off our conference with pre-conference workshops and a tour

American Thermoform for donating braille paper

Judi Biller and Sue Reilly, the Dynamic Duo, with Karen Tomlinson and Anne Ward for their hard work making sure this Conference is packed with interesting and relevant workshops

David Forrest for making sure our Audio/Visual works smoothly

Kyejune Lee for being David’s shadow

Tracy Gaines for transcribing the conference program

Dawn Gross for running our Silent Auction

Vicki Garrett our Conference Registrar and Website Administrator

Bonnie Grimm and Jenny Tsimogiannis for coordinating the Exhibits Hall and all things vendor

Olivia Hogue for her endless volunteer work with the Exhibits Hall and Silent Auction

Sarah Holmes for taking time off from school to come be our Girl Friday

Grant Horrocks for being “The Conference Guy”

Alfredo Lima for his invaluable assistance in the Exhibit Hall and everywhere else we need him

Linda McGovern and Vanessa Stenz for coordinating the Registration Desk and volunteers, and thanks to all the volunteers!

Lisa Okikawa for being our Guidebook leader, Facebook keeper and ever-present Tweeter.

Omi Ota for creating our gorgeous centerpieces

Jonn Paris-Salb for creating all the signage for the workshops, monitor packets, CEU credits and “**Youth Institute:** **Nothing About Us Without Us”** and the youthfacilitators

Cath Tendler-Valencia for proofreading the program and registration packet – all in record time!

Transcribing Mariners for donating the iPad mini for the Sunday drawing, sponsoring the Welcome Reception and embossing our braille materials

Joanie Treptow for making large print copies of the program

Alex Tsimogiannis for volunteering his time to put together the Exhibits Hall layout

And a big THANKS to all this year’s Exhibitors for bringing us the latest in assistive technology and other cool stuff and for supporting CTEBVI through their program advertising

*and finally* Another big THANKS to all of our amazing workshop presenters for creating the heart of our conference!

#  Speakers and Musical Entertainment

David Lepofsky, Keynote Speaker

David Tobin of Audiojack, Ilan Ota, *Wayne Siligo and the Cheeseballs*

Symposium moderator and all of our Symposium speakers

And a **special** **thanks** to the team of Cristin Lockwood, our CTEBVI President and Tracy Gaines, Immediate Past-President for working together on the conference program preparation and layout

# Presenters: Curriculum Vitae

## Justin Adams

**Madera County Office of Education, TVI**

Justin is in his second year teaching students with visual impairments. He has been an educator in both elementary and secondary classrooms for the past 12 years.

## Nancy Aguilera

**University of California, Merced, Third Year College Student**

Nancy E. Aguilera was born in Los Angeles, California. Since birth, she was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa, which is a degenerative disease of the retina. She joined Survive or Thrive to help others gain necessary self-advocacy skills to help them thrive, and not just simply survive. She graduated from Narbonne High School with honors, and she attended California State University, Dominguez Hills for two-and-a-half years. Getting married and becoming a mom was such a profound life changing experience for her; she put her abilities to the test, and learned how strong and determined she truly was. Additionally, she was vice president of the School Site Council during the 2013-2014 school year at Valerio Elementary. Recently, she began attending the University of California, Merced as a third year college student with an intended major in psychology.

## Adrian Amandi

**California School for the Blind, Administrator and TVI**

**California Education Resource Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Director**

Adrian Amandi has been at the California School for the Blind since 2005. He spent ten years on the assistive technology team and is currently the Director of the California Education Resource Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, leading a team of education specialists to provide outreach to students and their educational teams throughout the state. Adrian works directly with organizations within our field throughout California and the country. He has an active role within the Principals of Schools for the Blind and Assistive Technology Forum groups.

## Karen Arcos,

**University of California, Irvine, Ph.D. Student**

Karen Arcos is a doctoral student in Psychology with a concentration in Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of California, Irvine. Her research interests include investigating neuroplasticity’s impact on blind individuals’ occipital cortex—the brain area typically associated with vision. She graduated from the University of Southern California with a B.A. in Psychology and a Spanish minor in 2015. Karen is also a totally blind braille reader and white cane user. You can find her volunteering at Blind Children's Center during her free time. As an alumna and junior mentor there, she has experience working with children whose disabilities include blindness and intelligence. Karen co-founded Survive or Thrive because she feels that parents and students need guidance about possibilities after high school and need to learn from the experiences of others with disabilities. Throughout her high school education, she was in two worlds: one was very supportive in encouraging her to pursue her degree at a four-year university, while the other thought doing so was too difficult. She, personally, would like to change what people with disabilities expect of themselves and what society expects of them.

## Lupe Arellano

**Foothill SELPA, TVI**

Lupe Arellano, M.A., has been in the field of visually impairments for 12 years. She is currently an itinerant teacher for visually impaired at the Foothill SELPA, in Glendale, CA and serves on the board of the California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEBVI). She also works with Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind (TLC) as a consultant for their day and residential services programs. Lupe has as also worked at Junior Blind of America (JBA) providing in-home services for children ages 0-3 with visually impairments and multiple disabilities and at the Academy of Music for the Blind (AMB) assisting students in areas such as dance, braille skills, and daily living skills, among other program activities.

## Debbie Bacon

**LightHouse for the Blind, Rehabilitation Counselor**

Debbie Bacon has worked in the field of Education for 20 years with mainstream and special education students. She continues her support of blind and low vision students who seek training in real world work environments. She holds a Master’s Degree in Rehabilitation Services and has been working as a Rehabilitation Counselor, MS/QRP, at the San Francisco LightHouse for five years.

## Maurice Belote, M.A., Special Education

**California Deafblind Services/San Francisco State University, Project Coordinator**

Maurice Belote has 34 years experience teaching children who are deafblind and providing technical assistance to families, schools, and public and private agencies. He currently serves as Project Coordinator for California Deafblind Services, the statewide, federally funded technical assistance and training project specific to deafblindness. He is also serving his first term as Co-Chair of the National Coalition on Deafblindness and is active in numerous national initiatives to improve services to children and youth who are deafblind. He is inspired everyday by the courage, resilience and determination of the students he serves.

## Julie Bernas-Pierce, M.Ed./VI Credential

**Blind Babies Foundation, A Program of Junior Blind, Program Director**

Julie Bernas-Pierce holds a Masters' Degree and California credential in special education/vision impairment and has spent over 40 years as a Program Director at Blind Babies Foundation and TVI with Mid-Alameda County SELPA.

## Delores Billman, Certified Braille Transcriber - Literary and Nemeth

**Texas Department of Criminal Justice Mountain View Braille, Program Specialist III**

Delores Billman is the Plant Manager in the Mountain View Braille Facility. She has both Literary and Nemeth Certifications. She has worked in the correction field for 40 years. She was just recognized for her commitment to Prison Braille at the American Printing House for the Blind Prison Braille Conference. She has been studying braille and teaching for approximately 20 years at the Mountain View Braille Facility.

## Patricia Camarillo

**Fresno Unified School District, TVI**

Patricia Camarillo stumbled upon the field of visual impairment during her first year teaching and has never looked back. Patricia has been teaching in the field of visual impairment for ten years and is currently an itinerant teacher of the visually impaired in the Fresno Unified School District and previously taught the districts SDC-VI class for one year. Prior to working with Fresno Unified she worked with the Fresno County Office of Education for nine years. Patricia recently earned a master’s degree in Special Education in 2016 and an added authorization in Early Childhood Special Education in 2015 from Fresno Pacific University. She obtained an Education Specialist in Visual Impairment credential from San Francisco State University’s distance education program in 2010. Patricia also received a Multiple Subjects teaching credential in 2005 and a Bachelors of Arts in Liberal Studies from CSU, Fresno in 2003.

## Michael Cheverie

**Los Angeles Unified School District, TVI**

Michael Cheverie has been teaching for over 35 years in the Los Angeles area and for over 20 years in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He began his teaching career as a teacher of Advanced Placement Physics and Calculus at Fairfax High School in West Hollywood. Later, he became the Coordinator of the California Demonstration Center of Mathematics location at Pacoima Middle School in the San Fernando Valley, as well as chair of the mathematics department at Pacoima Middle School. Mr. Cheverie's experience also includes private educational consulting, including work as a traveling teacher with the actresses Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen. He now teaches blind and low-vision students at the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences in Granada Hills, CA.

## Mason Chow

Mason Chow has been an Alternate Format Specialist since 2015. She was in the printing industry for over ten years specializing in media in print and digital form.

## Ralph Cioffi, M.A., Orientation & Mobility, M.A., Elementary Education

**Retired O&M Specialist/TVI**

Ralph Cioffi is currently dually credentialed as both an Orientation & Mobility Specialist and TVI. He serves as the O&M Specialist for CTEBVI.  Previous to his retirement, he worked for a public school district for 24 years where his experiences ranged from providing service to O&M/VI students in Early Start and pre-school programs, along with working with students at the elementary and high school level. Prior to his work for PUSD, he was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Kingdom of Tonga; taught kindergarten for several years in the South Bronx, New York City; and was adjunct faculty at Mt. St. Mary’s College (1993-2009). During that time, he was also Director of the Hilton-Perkins Grant Program at Mt. St. Mary’s College (1997-2003) which acculturated students going into helping professions to the issues of blindness and visual impairment. Cioffi is a graduate of the O&M Masters program at Cal State Los Angeles and holds a Masters degree from Antioch College in Elementary Education.

## Gabrielle Cohen

**California School for the Blind, Assessment Team Member, TVI and O&M**

Gabrielle Cohen has been a teacher of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility specialist for over 20 years, most of those years spent as a member of the Assessment Center at the California School for the Blind in Fremont, CA.

## Taylor Cox

**Dwyer Middle School, Student**

Taylor Cox is an 8th grade braille student in Huntington Beach. She uses many pieces of technology throughout her school day. Her hobbies include learning new technology, music, and jujitsu. She’s looking forward to transitioning to high school next year.

## Jon Crawley, Certified Braille Transcriber - Literary, Formats, and Nemeth

**Transcriber, Transcribing Mariners**

Jon Crawley is a Nemeth, Literary, and Formats certified transcriber.

## Randy Davis, Certified Braille Transcriber – UEB, Formats, Nemeth and Proofreading

**AMAC, Georgia Tech**

Randy is currently a braille specialist with AMAC of Georgia Tech in Atlanta where he is certified in UEB, Formats, Nemeth, and Proofreading. Randy’s passion and enthusiasm for braille for over 10 years has led to exciting adventures and is currently: a training coordinator for two prison braille programs, a National Library Service grader, on the NBA Educator’s and Transcriber’s committee as well as the BANA Braille Formats committee.

## Diana Dennis

**Azusa Unified School District, TVI**

Diana Dennis has served as an Early Childhood Special Educator, Vision Impairment Specialist, Program Director and TVI during her career in the field of early childhood and special education. She is currently teaching an early intervention series as part of coursework at Cal State, L.A., Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments with Azusa Unified School District.

## Greg DeWall

**Society for the Blind, Orientation & Mobility Instructor**

Greg DeWall has been an instructor at the Society for the Blind in Sacramento since 2010. Greg holds a bronze medal in Judo at the Paralympics level. Greg is dedicated to assisting and fostering the independence and growth of all his clients. Greg also oversees Community and Recreation offerings at the Society for the Blind.

## Gaeir Dietrich

**High Tech Center Training Unit (HTCTU), Director**

Gaeir Dietrich is the director of the High Tech Center Training Unit (HTCTU) of the California community colleges, and the system-wide trainer for Section 508 compliance. Gaeir has served on the advisory boards for AHEAD, Bookshare, DIAGRAM Center, the Alternate Text Production Center (ATPC), and the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC). In 2010-2011, she served as the chair for the national Advisory Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) in Postsecondary Education. She is a contributing author to *Beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act*, published by NASPA.

## Faith Dunham-Sims, M.A., Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist

**The Hatlen Center for the Blind, Job Readiness Program Instructor**

Prior to joining The Hatlen Center team in 2011, Faith Dunham-Sims taught for over ten years in a public school setting and with adult learners in the private sector. Faith serves as a Master Teacher for the SFSU Orientation and Mobility Teacher Preparation Program and is the Internship Supervisor for that program. She is ACVREP certified, and served two terms as a nationally appointed member of the Orientation and Mobility Subject Matter Expert Committee for ACVREP. Faith was instrumental in developing The Hatlen Center Job Readiness Program, running weekly small group classes and facilitating the placement of some students in paid part-time volunteer opportunities in the community. Faith has a Master’s degree in Special Education and a Rehabilitative Services Credential in Orientation and Mobility from San Francisco State University.

## Leslie Edmonds

**Sonoma County Office of Education, Assistive Technology Professional, TVI**

Leslie Edmonds has been a Teacher of the Visually Impaired for 11 years and an Assistive Technology Professional for two years. Leslie works with students ages 3-22.

## BJ Epstein

**LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Project Manager, MAD Lab**

BJ Dietz Epstein has been an accessibility consultant for over ten years and brings that experience to her work in the MAD Lab at the LightHouse for the Blind. BJ designs and creates tactile and audio-tactile maps and graphics for the MAD Lab. Her design work on the Accessible BART Station Maps recently won a 2016 MTC Excellence in Motion Award for improving mobility for blind and visually impaired transit riders. She is also passionate about tactile literacy training and wants to teach everyone to read the *Language of Lines*.

## Rachel Feinberg

**The Hatlen Center for the Blind,** **Assistive Technology and Braille Instructor**

Rachel Feinberg graduated from The Hatlen Center in 2011, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Counseling from Bob Jones University in South Carolina. Rachel received her A+ certification in computers in 2014 and enjoys tinkering with, building, and troubleshooting computers. Rachel specializes in teaching internet research skills, use of MS Office products, and a variety of screen readers.

## Tony Fletcher, M.A., Special Education w/emphasis in Orientation & Mobility

**LightHouse for the Blind, Enchanted Hills Camp and Retreat, Director**

Tony Fletcher current works at the LightHouse for the Blind in San Francisco. He has served in many roles with the agency beginning with the Youth Coordinator position in 1989. His role as Enchanted Hills Camp Director began in 1998. He received both Liberal Arts B.A. and Special Education M.A. at San Francisco State University. He lives in San Francisco with his wife, two children and best pals Jimmy and Nicholas.

## Richie Flores, Master’s in Rehabilitation Counseling

**LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Youth Services Coordinator**

Richie Flores hails from the great state of Texas. Retinoblastoma, cancer in the retinas, was the cause of Flores’s blindness at the age of three. Flores owes much of his independence and success developing as a blind person to the support of two driven older sisters, a hard-working father and a loving mother who dedicated over 30 years to the education system. Richie has dedicated much of his talents and abilities to improving the lives and impressions toward blindness in his work. As a graduate of Texas Tech University Master’s in Rehabilitation Counseling Program, earning a degree in History from Texas A&M University, and a graduate of the Louisiana Center for the Blind, Flores enthusiastically seeks the opportunity to increase the potential to engage youth to compete equally in the classroom and increase the blind’s role in the workforce. Flores firmly believes that by providing proper training and innovating access the blind can achieve security, equality, and opportunity. This belief drives his work. Currently he is a Youth Services Coordinator at the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired in San Francisco. Over the past ten years, Flores has maintained a consistent productive position in a variety of capacities concerning Youth Programs under the direction of five Presidents of the National Federation of the Blind of Texas. He also has several years of experience as a teacher of life-skills for students with disabilities at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Richie is proud to take part in guiding blind students toward vocational rehabilitative enrichment, higher education, internships, and employment. Richie is on the Board of Directors of the National Beep Baseball Association, which is an international adaptive sport for the blind. Flores won a World Series championship ring in this sport as a player for the Austin Blackhawks in 2014.

## William Freeman

**American Printing House for the Blind, Software Quality Assurance Analyst and Braille Transcriber**

William Freeman started at the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) as a braille transcriber. He is an NLS Certified Transcriber and also has NBA Formats Certification. Through his position as a transcriber he was one of the first testers of BrailleBlaster before eventually becoming the main tester for all APH technology products. His knowledge and love of braille has given him a unique perspective in his approach to software testing and helped ensure that APH software is accessible to those that require braille.

## Laurie Garcia

**Department of Education/CSMT, Staff Services Manager II/Ex-Officio Trustee, California**

Laurie Garcia has been the manager and overseeing the CSMT for over five years. She has worked for the California Department of Education for over 16 years in various capacities, but the majority in the Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division, which also includes the CSMT unit.

## Sally Garlick, M.A., Special Education/VI, O&M, Educational Leadership

**Willamette Educational Service District, TVI/O&M Specialist**

Sally Garlick graduated in education at a time when teachers were a glut on the market. Instead of finding a position, she raised a family and opened a tax office, becoming enrolled to represent taxpayers before the IRS and instructing at tax seminars. Working with children, however, has always been her first priority, and when public service spots started encouraging new teachers, she decided to return to her roots. In the course of updating her 30 year old teaching certificate, she discovered VI and jumped into the profession. Over the past 16 years, indulging a desire to see more of this country, she has taught in Texas, southern and northern California, and eastern and western Oregon. She has gone through degree programs at four universities and taken courses at five others. Coming into teaching as a second career and with a wide range of educational influences, she hopes to bring an interesting perspective to the playing field.

## Chester Goodale

**Madera County Office of Education, TVI**

Chester Goodale is in his fourth year as a TVI with Madera County Office of Education. He has been an educator for over 30 years, with prior teaching experience as a bilingual elementary classroom teacher and as a Migrant Education Resource Teacher.

## Jen Goulden, M.A., Linguistics, Certified Braille Transcriber - Proofreader (UEB), EDP

**Crawford Technologies, Inc., Quality Assurance Specialist**

Jen Goulden has over ten years' experience in the field of document accessibility with the Government of Canada and then as a consultant with Crawford Technologies. She holds a Master's degree in linguistics from the University of Ottawa and is a certified braille transcriber/proofreader. She speaks English, French and Spanish, and brings together her knowledge of accessible document production as well as her experience as a consumer. Before joining Crawford Technologies as a full-time employee, Jen worked for the Government of Canada as a human resources advisor in employee performance management. She plays the piano, is an avid reader, and loves to travel.

## Cindy Green

**California School for the Blind, TVI**

Cindy Green is a Teacher of the Visually Impaired, working at California School for the Blind with students in the Applied Academics Transition program. Cindy learns from her students every day in providing instruction to support learners’ specific requirements, as well as which technologies are appropriate for each in accessing the general curriculum, as well as the ECC.

## Maureen Green

**California School for the Blind, Teacher Specialist (Speech Language Pathologist)**

Maureen Green, M.S., CCC-SLP, is a Teacher Specialist for the Assessment Center at California School for the Blind. In addition to her work at CSB, she has worked as a speech pathologist and as a learning disability specialist in hospital, community college, and public school settings. She has extensive experience working with individuals with vision impairment, with and without additional disabilities, and has contributed at workshops supporting parents who wish to help their children become more independent.

## Radhika Grover, Ph.D., Computer Engineering, M.S., Electrical Engineering, B.S., Electrical Engineering

**SPEL Technologies, Inc., CEO**

Radhika S. Grover is the CEO of SPEL Technologies, Inc. She has over two decades of experience working on and supervising diverse projects that are related to the classroom, industry, and community, including those that involve creating applications and products for people with visual impairments or autism. She has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in computer engineering and electrical engineering at Santa Clara University and University of California, Santa Cruz Extension. She is the author of the book *Programming with Java: A Multimedia Approach*, which was published in 2011.

## Jessica Groves

**Orientation Center for the Blind, Acting Administrator**

Jessica Grove is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor with a Master’s Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Specialization in Working with Late Deafened and Hard of Hearing Adults. Jessica joined the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) in 2012 as the Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-Qualified Rehabilitation Professional (SVRC-QRP) at the Orientation Center for the Blind (OCB) in Albany, CA. In September 2014 she was promoted to Assistant Administrator for Programs/Services and has been honored to serve in the role of Acting Administrator for the past year.

## James Gump

**LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Youth Services Coordinator**

Jamey Gump works tirelessly to create and implement programming for youth and transitional age students. Jamey is in his twenties and has been connected to the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired for nearly his whole life. Beginning in middle school, Jamey was associated with Enchanted Hills Camp, in Napa, as a camper. Four years later, he became a camp counselor and played a major role in training future camp counselors. Jamey, who is blind due to achromatopsia, came to Enchanted Hills Camp to enjoy nature, learn blindness skills, but most importantly, to help foster a community of friends and mentors who are also blind. Camp helped him enter the blindness world with confidence, cane first, so that he could partake in the greater world more richly. He has been a LightHouse Youth Services Coordinator for four years and is an excellent role model to dozens of blind and low vision youth around the Bay Area and beyond.

## Veronica Gunn

**California School for the Blind, Assistive Technology Specialist**

Veronica Gunn is a TVI and an Assistive Technology Specialist at the California School for the Blind.

## Cyndi Hammonds

**California Department of Education/CSMT**, **Staff Information Systems Analyst**

Cyndi Hammonds is currently the Staff Information Systems Analyst for the Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional, Resources Division of the California Department of Education. She has extensive experience in implementing and managing large software projects in addition to providing technical support for the past 27 years, with seven years spent in elementary education. She is the primary support contact for the Instructional Materials Ordering and Distribution System (IMODS) and the Clearinghouse for Specialized Media and Technology (CSMT).

## Cory Hanosh, B.S., Psychology

**NorthState Assistive Technology, President**

Cory Hanosh has been involved in technology integration for over 25 years. The last nine years have been dedicated to enhancing vision systems for the visually impaired. The release of his Revolution and Revo2Go systems have given the user’s additional independence and functionality and given students the ability to do more with less obtrusive products. In turn, the students are more apt to use these technologies since they look more mainstream. Mr. Hanosh continues to look at ways to provide the visually impaired state of the art solutions. He travels statewide providing technology assessments/recommendations to students and districts.

## Nicole Harris

**University of California, Santa Cruz, Senior in Community Studies**

Nicole Harris is a senior at UCSC with a major in Community Studies, emphasis in Economic Justice graduating in 2017. She had the honor and privilege of completing her field study at the LightHouse for the Blind and Visual Impaired in San Francisco focusing on the impact of the Employment Immersion and Youth Employment Series Program. Nicole Harris was not only named Pfister Scholar but also was President of the Associated Students of Skyline College. Her dedication and commitment to the community fostered a desire to look at the multiple intersections that affect the quality of life of many. She has a passion for arming individuals with the tools they need to change their lives and loves to facilitate conversations that will spark growth and change within the individuals in the space. Nicole’s latest projects have been focusing on creating inclusive spaces on college campuses for student with disabilities. By acknowledging the multiple intersections with all of us, we can create understand which is the catalyst for change.

## Jayma Hawkins

**American Printing House for the Blind**, **Braille Transcription Services Supervisor**

Jayma Hawkins is the Braille Transcription Services Supervisor at the American Printing House for the Blind. Jayma has been a NLS Certified Transcriber since 2002. She has NBA Formats Certification, and specializes in the transcription of early literacy textbooks and materials. Jayma holds a Bachelor of Science degree in the Administration of Justice from Eastern Kentucky University. Her current role at APH is to train new transcribers, support staff in additional braille certifications, and support the transcription program at the Kentucky Correctional Institute for Woman and to train transcribers across the country. Jayma also is a lead trainer and transition specialist with the Braille Transcriber Apprentice Program for APH. Jayma works with ex-offenders from across the United States in successful re-entry into society as well as teaching them skills to be successful transcribers outside of prison. Jayma is a member of CTEBVI, Visual Aid Volunteers of Florida (VAVF), is a member of the National Braille Association (NBA), and is the Vice-Chair of the Computer Assistive Transcription Committee for NBA.

**Betty Henry, Ph.D., Nationally Certified School Psychologist**

**California School for the Blind, Teacher Specialist (Psychologist)**

Betty Henry has been a Teacher Specialist for the Assessment Center at California School for the Blind since 2006. In over forty years as an educator, she has worked closely and effectively with other school professionals to address the developmental and learning needs of children.

## Stephanie Herlich, M.A., TVI, Orientation & Mobility Specialist

**California School for the Blind, Assessment Center Coordinator**
Stephanie Herlich has been a teacher of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility specialist for over 20 years. Currently she is the Assessment Center Coordinator at the California School for the Blind in Fremont, CA. She is the author of *The Mangold Braille Program, Unit 3 UEB and Learning Braille Contractions*, published by Exceptional Teaching; co-author of *Getting to Know You: A Social Skills Curriculum for Students Who Are Visually Impaired and Their Sighted Peers*, published by the American Printing House for the Blind; contributing author of *Learning to Listen Listening to Learn*, published by American Foundation for the Blind; contributing author of *ECC Essentials Teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum to Students with Visual Impairments*; and co-author of CSB’s *BrailleNote Taker Guide (Apex & Braille Sense)* providing step by step, easy to follow instructions as well as lesson plans incorporating the Common Core and ECC standards. Stephanie was a researcher on the Alphabetic and Contracted Braille Study funded by American Printing House for the Blind.

## Vanessa Herndon

**California School for the Blind, TVI**

Vanessa Herndon is the lead teacher of an Applied Academics classroom at the California School for the Blind.

## Cheryl Hewlett

**Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, Braille Transcriber/Assistive Technology Support**

Cheryl Hewlett has 15 years experience working as a Braille Transcriber and provides assistive technology support to the students in Nevada County. Working in a small rural county afforded Cheryl the opportunity to work closely with students, families, and special education support staff at our many district schools.

## Ann Hinshelwood, M.A.

**Nevada County Superintendent of Schools**, **VI/O&M**

Ann Hinshelwood has been a teacher in special education for 33 years. For the past 28 years she has worked as a TVI/O&M instructor in Sacramento and Nevada counties. Ann completed a 3-year program through California Deaf-Blind Services to assist districts with assessment and program planning for deaf-blind students. For 14 years, Ann and an incredibly dedicated team of educators led by Lois Harrell coordinated the Northern California Blind and Low Vision Olympics. Ann continues in this fantastic field for the wonderful students!

## Helene Holman

**Exceptional Teaching, Inc.**, **President, CEO**

Helene Holman is the President, CEO of Exceptional Teaching Inc., a company founded by Dr. Sally Mangold. Exceptional Teaching Inc. has provided high quality products to individuals with special needs for over 40 years. Over the past 18 years Ms. Holman has collaborated with teachers, parents and industry leaders to create products that benefit individuals who are blind and visually impaired.

## Kevin Hughes

**HumanWare, West Regional Director**

As West Regional Director for HumanWare Kevin Hughes is responsible for consultation, training and support on the HumanWare Technologies for the visually impaired. Kevin has been with HumanWare for 15 years in this capacity, working closely with Vision Programs to support their students at many districts throughout his territory.

## Christine Jones, M.B.A.

**Benetech, Senior Education Program Manager**

Christine Jones is a Senior Education Program Manager at Benetech, a nonprofit whose mission is to empower communities in need by creating scalable technology solutions. She has more than two decades of experience in nonprofit program management, education, and technology marketing. Since joining Benetech in 2009, Christine has conducted outreach and delivered Bookshare training nationwide. In her current role, she interacts extensively with people with disabilities as well as the educators and other professionals who support them. She partners with state education leaders and other organizations to bring about improved outcomes for people of all ages who have disabilities. Christine earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master’s in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

## Greg Kehret

**LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Director, MAD Lab**

Greg Kehret has witnessed the evolution of the LightHouse’s alternative media capabilities from his fledgling days as Program Coordinator of Broadcast Services for the Blind to his current position as Director of the Media and Accessible Design (MAD Lab) where the focus is on producing world-class tactile graphics and 3D educational objects for the blindness community. Greg recently accepted a 2016 MTC Excellence in Motion Award on behalf of the MAD Lab for their pioneering development of Accessible BART Station maps to improve mobility for blind and vision impaired transit riders.

## Bennet Kim

**Department of Rehabilitation/Blind Field Services, Rehabilitation Specialist**

Bennet Kim completed a Master’s of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling at California State University, Fresno (CSUF) in December 2009. She also obtained various certificates such as: Certificate of Rehabilitation Research Institute for Underrepresented Populations (RRIUP) Certificate of Completion for Deaf/Blindness Certificate in the course of study as a Vision Specialist. Her 10+ years of experience as a Rehabilitation Specialist, Rehabilitation Supervisor, and Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-Qualified Rehabilitation Professional (SVRC-QRP), have given her an opportunity to formulate, develop and implement departmental policies in order to provide, improve, and expand vocational rehabilitation services including academic planning for consumers. It has also given her an opportunity to establish and manage relationships with community rehabilitation programs and other partners, including identification of issues and bringing the appropriate program and DOR staff together to address them.

## Neal Kuniansky

**Duxbury Systems, Inc., Director of Marketing**

Approximately 20 years working in braille production, translation and transcription around the world, Duxbury Systems, Inc. Director of Marketing Neal Kuniansky has been working in the blindness field for 25 years. Beginning with the old Telesensory Systems, Inc. working primarily on training end users on OsCaR, VertPlus, braille embossers, and other related technologies, he went on to Optelec as the New England sales rep, and eventually to Duxbury Systems. This varied work experience has given him the opportunity to work on many braille production, education, and other related projects around the world including India, Bangladesh, Russia, China, Ecuador, and elsewhere. Neal's passion is enabling individual literacy as a tool of freedom and personal empowerment.

## Jerry Kuns

**California School for the Blind, Fremont, CA, Adaptive Technology Teacher, Retired**

Jerry Kuns has been involved with information access issues since the mid 1970s. He worked with some of the industry's leading product developers to affect solutions for employment and education. He retired from the California School for the Blind as an Adaptive Technology Teacher in September of 2014. He continues to work tirelessly to promote braille literacy and the use of information access tools.

## Ann Wai-Yee Kwong

**University of California, Santa Barbara, Ph.D. Student and Graduate Researcher**

Ann Wai-Yee Kwong is a Ph.D. student with a visual impairment with particular emphasis in education policy and Special Education, Disabilities, and Risk Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2015, she received her B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Education from UC Berkeley as a Gates Millennium scholar. Prior to her attendance at UC Santa Barbara, she worked as an education technician intern in Washington, DC disaggregating student suicidality data and analyzing its negative impact on both student and school excellence. In her free time, she enjoys experimenting with new recipes, volunteering, as well as spending time with friends and family. In 2014, Ann testified at the U.S. Senate hearing to advocate for herself and others, informing policy makers of the attitudinal and tangible societal barriers which limit the potentials of people with disabilities. Her research interests include: curriculum development for transition age youth with disabilities, self-determination, and cultural implications of professional and family partnerships. She is currently collaborating with the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities on designing and implementing curricula to increase competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities and their families. In addition, Ann co-founded Survive or Thrive, an experience-based support group and mentoring program by and for individuals with disabilities, where she designs and facilitates workshops as well as mentors youth and their families. In a professional capacity, she also serves on various boards including the California Department of Rehabilitation's Blind Advisory Committee and the Association on Higher Education And Disability. Through her research and advocacy, Ann hopes to continue empowering others to envision, define, and achieve their future aspirations.

## Cindi Laurent

**Volunteer Braille Services, Coordinator**

Cindi Laurent has been transcribing braille since 1997. She is currently the Coordinator for Volunteer Braille Services in Minnesota. She has served on the board of the National Braille Association for seven years and is the current chair of the NBA Formats Committee. She served on the BANA board as the NBA representative for several years and is now the chair of the BANA Formats Committee. She is certified in Literary, Nemeth and Formats and has received the Letter of Proficiency in UEB from the Library of Congress. She has also received certificates in UEB from CNIB and Australia.

## Chelsey Laurito

**Helen Keller National Center, Senior O&M Specialist; Saint Johns University, Doctoral Student**

Chelsey Laurito is a trained TVI & COMS currently working at Helen Keller National Center for Deaf Blind Youths and Adults. She is currently pursuing a Psy.D. in School Psychology at Saint John’s University in Queens, New York. Her research interests include psycho-educational assessment in individuals with sensory loss, implications of sensory loss on mental health, and best practice for instruction to enhance learning in the classroom.

## Patricia Leetz, M.S., Rehabilitation Psychology

**Department of Rehabilitation/Blind Field Services, Staff Services Manager 1**

Patricia Leetz has a Master’s of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Psychology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has worked as a Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-Qualified Rehabilitation Professional (SVRC-QRP) for 13 years at the Department of Rehabilitation with people who are blind. She now serves as a supervisor at the Department of Rehabilitation/Blind Field Services.

## Judith Lesner, Parent

**CAPVI, Board Member and Parent Advocate**

Judith Lesner worked in the Residential Program of the California School for the Blind for over 30 years but in certain circles is probably best known as the mother of Jacob Lesner-Buxton. She was a long time member of the board of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) and is currently on the board of its California chapter, CAPVI. She is also co-chair of the Blind Babies Foundation Professional Advisory Committee. She is the founder of the Lucky Touch Braille Fortune Cookie Company.

## Jacob Lesner-Buxton, M.S.W.

Jacob Lesner-Buxton is a person with cerebral palsy and low vision who is a community organizer in Santa Barbara. In his job, Jacob helps communities on the Central Coast advocate for disability rights. Jacob also enjoys writing articles, doing yoga, traveling and going to movies.

## Kyle Logsdon

Kyle Logsdon has been an Alternate Format Specialist since 2011. He is an expert in information technology and vector-based graphic design.

## Edward Long

**A&E Low Vision Products, Partner, San Francisco State**

As a partner at A&E Low Vision Product, Edward Long has over 15 years of hands-on low vision experience working with students, veterans, and seniors. Edward has extensive experience with electronic magnification, OCR, and the latest low vision devices for the visually impaired.

## Remy Long, Bachelors Degree

**A&E Low Vision Products, Partner, San Jose State**

As a partner at A&E Low Vision Product, Remy Long has over five years of hands-on low vision experience working with students, veterans, and seniors. Remy has extensive experience with electronic magnification, OCR, and the latest low vision devices for the visually impaired.

## Amanda Lueck, Ph.D.

**San Francisco State University, Professor Emerita**

Amanda Hall Lueck, Ph.D., is a Professor Emerita of Special Education and Communicative Disorders at San Francisco State University with a specialty in Visual Impairments. She has worked in the field of visual impairments for over 40 years. At the University of California, Berkeley Low Vision Clinic, Dr. Lueck coordinated education and rehabilitation services, working with people of all ages in that clinic setting. She has been a teacher in California and Wisconsin, and she was the Director of the Assessment Center for the Visually Impaired, an outreach unit of the California School for the Blind. She has been a Fulbright Professor to Nepal where she introduced various aspects of low vision services, and she has also been a consultant in other developing countries. Dr. Lueck has developed numerous publications and has presented worldwide. Amongst other publications, Professor Lueck is the editor of the book, *Functional Vision: A Practitioner's Guide to Evaluation and Intervention*, published by AFB Press, is a co- author of a book for the American Printing House for the Blind, *Developmental Guidelines for Infants with Visual Impairment: A Guidebook for Early Intervention*, and is co-editor, with Professor Gordon Dutton, of *Vision and the Brain: Understanding Cerebral Visual Impairment in Children.*

## Julie Maier, M.A., Special Education

**California Deafblind Services, Educational Specialist**

Julie Maier is an Educational Specialist for California Deafblind Services and provides technical assistance to families of children with deafblindness and the children’s school teams. Julie also serves as the Program Coordinator for an OSEP-funded personnel preparation project "Specialization Program in the Education of Learners who are Deafblind " in collaboration with the Moderate-Severe Disabilities Program at San Francisco State University. In addition to her work with CDBS, Julie has been a faculty member in the SFSU Department of Special Education since 1999 and been involved in the in the field of special education in the area of moderate-severe disabilities since 1987. Julie has presented at numerous conferences on the topic of meaningful assessment for children with multiple disabilities and deafblindness, including the 2015 International TASH Conference, the 2015 International CHARGE Syndrome Conference, and the 2016 German CHARGE Syndrome Conference. She has also written or co-authored several published articles on the topics of assessment, self-determination, collaborative partnerships between families and school teams, and social supports.

## Angela Martyn

**California School for the Blind, Principal of Education Programs**

Angela Martyn, M.A., is the current Principal of Education at the California School for the Blind. Angela has 26 years experience teaching blind and visually impaired. She has worked at the Orientation Center for the Bind teaching living skills, and as an itinerant teacher of students with visual impairments and orientation and mobility specialist for students birth-22 years of age. She has authored chapters on the education of students with visual impairments with an emphasis on functional living skills acquisition. She believes in empowering students to reach their full potential both academically and functionally.

## Mike May, M.A., International Studies

**Sendero Group, President/CEO**

Mike May is co-founder and CEO of Sendero Group, developers of the first accessible GPS for the blind in 2000 and distributors of various adaptive technologies. He has been the principle investigator on several U.S. federal grants as he works with numerous organizations to advance wayfinding technologies around the world.

## Jessica McDowell

**Marin County Office of Education, TVI**

Jessica McDowell is a Teacher for the Visually Impaired and O&M Specialist working for Marin County Office of Education. She is currently serving as CTEVBI's Assistive Technology specialist. VI teachers are constantly trying to keep up with new technology and tools and she appreciates being part of CTEVBI and a community of teachers who share ideas. She always tries to work toward finding efficient solutions for her students--whether the answer is high tech or low tech. She believes that assessment of student's skills and needs, the learning task or activity, and the environment and supports are key to finding the right tools. Assistive Technology can help our students work efficiently and increase social engagement.

## Neal McKenzie

**Sonoma County Office of Education, Adaptive Technology Specialist-Visually Impaired**

Neal McKenzie began his career as a paraprofessional for an academic braille student for five years. Neal began working for Sonoma County Office of Education as an Adaptive Technology Specialist and has a certification from CSUN. Neal works with students in preschool through high school.

## Ramona Mclaughlin, M.A., Education, TVI

Ramona Mclaughlin participated in the EDD Director's Disability Advisory Committee during her 20 year tenure at EDD. She has been working as a TVI in Southern California for six years.

## Tina Michaud

**California School for the Blind, TVI**

Tina Michaud is a Teacher of the Visually Impaired at the California School for the Blind in Fremont, CA. Tina teaches an Adult Life Skills Class in the Transition Program and strives to ensure her students are well versed in accessing technology appropriate to individual need and promote independence and success both in the classroom and in the real world.

## Laura Millar, Masters of Public Health and Masters of Human Sexuality

**LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Sexual Health Services Program Coordinator**

Laura Millar works as the Sexual Health Services Program Coordinator at the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired in San Francisco. She graduated from San Francisco State University with a Master’s of Public Health (2009) and a Master’s of Human Sexuality (2014). Laura’s current research focuses on how people who are blind and low vision learn about and navigate sex and intimate relationships. Through her work at the LightHouse, she offers workshops, trainings and in-services for individuals who are blind or low vision, their family members and the organizations that serve them, ensuring that sexual health information and services are comprehensive, inclusive and accessible for everyone.

## Charles Mize, Certified Braille Transcriber - Formatting, Nemeth, and Literary Proofreading

**Georgia Braille Transcribers, Lead Transcriber**

Charles Mize is a trainer and lead transcriber for the Georgia Braille Transcribers in Macon, Georgia. He began his braille studies in November 2007. Mr. Mize is certified in literary braille, literary braille proofreading, textbook formatting, and mathematics braille. His considers his specialty to be the Nemeth Code although he is well versed in tactile graphics. He authored a tactile graphic training manual, *Introduction to Mathematical Diagrams*, which is used by Central Georgia Technical College as an On-The-Job (OTJ) certification course.

## Jamie Murdy

**West Orange County Consortium for Special Education, TVI and O&M Specialist**

Jamie Murdy is a Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Specialist in Huntington Beach. She has been teaching students with visual impairments for the past 7 years. Prior to that, she worked for Sendero Group where she worked with Accessible GPS and other technology for the blind and visually impaired.

## Caryn Navy, Ph.D., Mathematics

**Duxbury Systems, Inc., Senior Technical Staff**

Caryn Navy grew up using Nemeth Code from elementary school through her math work in graduate school and teaching math to sighted students. Among her roles at Duxbury Systems, she has worked on developing and supporting the tools for producing braille math in DBT as well as those in MegaDots. She is currently a consultant to the BANA Technical Math Committee.

## Paul Nguyen

**Stanford University, Alternate Format Specialist**

Paul Nguyen, B.S., Alternate Format Specialist, has a background in Business Administration: Management Information Systems. Has been at Stanford since 2010. He is skilled in the creation and implementation of Microsoft Word macros.

## Tammy Nixon, Certified Braille Transcriber - Literary

**Texas Department of Criminal Justice Mountain View Braille, Assistant Plant Manager**

Tammy Nixon is the Assistant Plant Manager for the Mountain View Braille Facility. She has her Literary Certification. She has worked in the corrections field for approximately 21 years. She has studied and taught Literary, Textbook, UEB, and Tactile classes for the Transcribers at the Mountain View Braille Facility for seven years. She will be presenting the Beyond the Walls Workshop prepared by the Mountain View Transcribers.

## Lisa Okikawa, M.A.

**West Orange County Consortium for Special Education, TVI**

Lisa Okikawa is currently a teacher of students with visual impairments for the West Orange County Consortium for Special Education in Huntington Beach and serves on the CTEBVI board. Lisa is an advocate of performing arts education for students who are blind and visually impaired. She received a Broadway League Apple Educator Award and is the recipient of grants from Center Theatre Group (LA) and the National Education Association advocating literacy-based theatre education for students with visual impairments. Lisa's article, Putting It Together: Musical Theatre & Literacy for Children with Visual Impairments was published in *The Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness* (2012). She is a frequent speaker in the field of blindness/visual impairments including engagements at the American Printing House for the Blind (APH); the Junior Blind of America (Los Angeles); conferences: CTEBVI (LA & SF), Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired and Getting in Touch with Literacy. At these conferences, Lisa shares information about the importance and effects of implementing theatre education and the Expanded Core Curriculum into the school day. Prior to her career in education, Lisa held positions in the entertainment industry including Manager of New Media/Publicity for NBCUniversal and E! Networks. She is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara (B.A. in Theatre; minor in English); California State University, Los Angeles (M.A. in Special Education/Visual Impairments). In fulfillment of her Master’s degree, she assisted in the development of an APH efficacy study of a reading intervention program for students who read braille and completed her thesis entitled, “An Examination of Attitudes and Experiences Related to the Development of Literacy for Braille Readers.”

## Gina Ouellette

**California School for the Blind, Director of Student Services and Admissions**

Gina Ouellette is in her eleventh year with the California School for the Blind. She worked as a School Psychologist for fourteen years, nine of which were spent working with blind and visually impaired students at CSB. Gina is currently the Director of Student Services and Admissions at CSB, and oversees related services, referrals and admissions, and CSB’s WASC accreditation efforts.

## Jonn Paris-Salb, M.A., Education

**California Department of Education, Consultant**

Jonn has been a classroom teacher for 20 years, a principal for 12 years, and has worked at the Department of Education for over 10 years. Jonn is very experienced in special education, assistive technology and transition resources.

## Michael Parker

**Access Ingenuity, Owner**

Michael Parker currently owns and operates Access Ingenuity, an assistive technology resource in the Bay
Area. He has a master’s in mechanical engineering and is always up for a challenge in mathematics. He helps and supports students and their educational teams in determining appropriate technology and learning how to use it.

## Susan Pelbath

**Orientation Center for the Blind, Acting Assistant Administrator**

Sue Pelbath is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor with a Master’s Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Specialization in Rehabilitation Technology. Sue worked in High School Special Education for many years before she was hired by the Department of Rehabilitation Blind Field Services Division in 2014. She began working as the Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-Qualified Rehabilitation Professional (SVRC-QRP) at the Orientation Center for the Blind in 2015. For the past six months, Sue has been the Acting Assistant Administrator for Programs/Services in addition to her role as SVRC-QRP.

## Rio Popper

**High School Student**

Rio Popper is a 10th grader in Redwood City. She has become a routine presenter at Northern California CTEBVI conferences and has shared her wealth of experience being blind and navigating the waters of the core and expanded core curriculum. She now is actually in the water almost daily as she has become an active rower and exercise enthusiast. As always she is excited to share her experience and knowledge the other students, their families, and professionals within our field.

## Sue Reilly, Certified Braille Transcriber

**San Diego City Schools, Retired**

Sue Reilly has been a certified transcriber for almost 40 years. She has served in a variety of roles in CTEBVI, including representing CTEBVI on the board of the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) for 17 years. She was a member of BANA's task force for the transition to Unified English Braille (UEB). Since retiring from the San Diego City Schools, she has enjoyed many opportunities to volunteer for both CTEBVI and
BANA.

## John Romeo, Certified Braille Transcriber - Literary, Textbook and Nemeth

**Full Cell Braille, Owner**

John Romeo is the program coordinator for "Beyond the Walls" and is the owner/operator of Full Cell Braille, Inc. He has been transcribing print to braille for over 20 years. John is certified in literary, textbook, and Nemeth codes.

## L. Penny Rosenblum, Ph.D.

**University of Arizona, Project Director/Professor of Practice**

Dr. Penny Rosenblum is a Professor of Practice at the University of Arizona where she prepares teachers of students with visual impairments. She is the Project Director for AnimalWatch Vi: Building Graphics Literacy (2016-2019) which is a three-year project funded by the US Institute of Education Sciences. Previously she was the Project Director for the AnimalWatch Vi Suite project. She has been a teacher of students with visual impairments for 30 years and has been preparing teachers for 18 years. Dr. Rosenblum publishes widely, presents both within the U.S. and internationally and has many interests including tactile graphics, braille literacy, abacus instruction, non-driving and social skills. She lives in Tucson with her husband Dennis and enjoys bicycling, hiking, and time with friends.

## Richard Rueda

**Society for the Blind, CareersPLUS**

Richard Rueda has worked in the field of Blindness and Low Vision since 1992. He has worked with the Intercommunity Blind Center in Whittier, the Junior Blind of America in Los Angeles, Department of Rehabilitation as the statewide Transition Coordinator since 2001, served as Director of Community Services at the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired in San Francisco from 2010 through 2011. In the autumn of 2011, Richard returned to the Junior Blind serving as their new Director of Transition Services for northern and Central California. Richard has facilitated professional workshops and seminars for CTEBVI since 2004. Richard also presents on employment solutions for blind and disabled persons at national and International conferences. In late 2010, he was invited to speak at a conference in Taipei City, Taiwan on Barriers to employment. In 2016, Richard continues to work with various agencies in consulting on best practices in serving blind and low vision youth. Richard also serves as Past President of the Northern California Chapter of AER International (Association & Education of Rehabilitation of the Blind). He serves on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the California School for the Blind, the statewide Deafblind Advisory Committee, and the Department of Rehabilitation’s Transition Council committee. He co-authored *Insights Into Low Vision*, with Dr. Bill Takeshita.

## Sharon Sacks

**California School for the Blind, Superintendent**

Dr. Sharon Z. Sacks is the Superintendent of the California School for the Blind. Prior to her appointment at CSB, Sharon was a full professor and the coordinator of the teacher preparation program in blindness and visual impairment at California State University, Los Angeles. Sharon has published widely and presented nationally and internationally in the areas of social skills instruction, psycho-social implications of visual impairments and transition, from school to adult life. She has been President of AERBVI, and has served on numerous boards.

## Sheryl Schmidt, M.A.

**San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, TVI**

Sheryl Schmidt received her B.A. in Liberal Studies from the University of La Verne. After two years of teaching third grade she began course work to become a VI teacher at Cal State LA. She has been a TVI for 23 years. Sheryl also holds a M.A. in Early Childhood Low Incidence Disabilities.

## Komal Shirore

**SPEL Technologies, Inc., Lead Software Developer**

Komal Shirore is the Lead Software Developer at SPEL Technologies, Inc. Her areas of expertise include Python Java, Javascript, and other computer programming languages.

## Yue-Ting (Ting) Siu, Ph.D.

**San Francisco State University, Assistant Professor**

Ting is a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) and assistant professor in the Visual Impairment Program at San Francisco State University. Her mission aims to improve TVIs' access to resources and align tech developments with classroom implementation and accessibility needs. She can be found on Twitter @TVI\_ting or lurking around the nearest ping pong table.

## Tamar Solomon, M.S., CCC-SLP

**California School for the Blind, Teacher Specialist (Speech Language Pathologist)**

Tamar Solomon, M.S., CCC-SLP, is a Speech Language Pathologist who works at the California School for the Blind (CSB) where, following her experiences in the hospital, public school, and private practice, she has found her passion working with the blind and VI population. During her three years at CSB, Ms. Solomon has worked to foster a collaborative model with colleagues across disciplines in order to identify the unique and diverse speech and language needs of the VI population.

## Justin Steinberg, M.A., Special Education, Visual Impairments

Justin Steinberg is a recent graduate of the Visual Impairments program at San Francisco State University. He is visually impaired from motor nystagmus and is on the autism spectrum. He received the Graduate Distinguished Achievement Award from San Francisco State in the spring of 2016. He enjoys playing music, volunteering with Challenger League soccer and baseball, which gives children with disabilities opportunities to play sports and he also enjoys tutoring students in Algebra, English and other subject areas.

## Robert Stepp, Ph.D.

**Braille2000, LLC, Owner**

Dr. Robert Stepp is a frequent presenter at CTEBVI. He is the designer of the Braille2000
system.

## Greg Stilson

**HumanWare Blindness Products, Product Manager**

Greg Stilson has been with HumanWare since 2006. During this time he has held positions on both the Technical support and sales teams. He currently is the Product Manager for HumanWare's blindness product lines, working out of Wisconsin. Being blind since birth, Greg was an avid user of assistive technology during his educational career and continues to use all different types of technology today.

## Robert Sweetman, M.S.

**Sweetman Systems, CEO**

Sweetman Systems has been providing assistive technology to people with visual impairments since 1989. Bob Sweetman honed his assistive technology skills during his 15 years as an attorney and as the technology instructor with Junior Blind of America and Sweetman Systems. He earned a B.A. from Stanford University, a J.D. from UC Davis, and an M.S. in Assistive Technology from Cal State Northridge.

## Sue Sweetman

**Sweetman Systems, CFO**

Sweetman Systems has been providing assistive technology to people with visual impairments since 1989. Sue Sweetman graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and spent six years as a high school agriculture teacher before transferring her passion for "learning by doing" to folks with visual impairments.

## Arif Syed, B.S., Assistive Technology Certificate

**The Hatlen Center for the Blind, Technology Department Coordinator**

After earning a B.S. in Environmental Science at U.C. Berkeley, Arif Syed came on board as the Hatlen Center's Office Manager, bookkeeper, and IT support in February 2004. In 2008, Arif was promoted to half-time Development Associate and half-time Office Manager. In addition, after completing a number of workshops on website development, he became the webmaster. His affinity for technology led him to assisting and teaching in The Hatlen Center technology lab and in 2014 he was promoted to Coordinator of the Technology Department full time. By placing a strong emphasis on productivity software, Arif prepares Hatlen's graduates for college and joining the workforce.

## Bill Takeshita, Doctor of Optometry

**Braille Institute, Associate Professor**

Dr. Bill Takeshita is an optometrist who specializes in low vision rehabilitation for children. He was in practice for 17 years before he developed a retinal disease that resulted in blindness in 2009. Dr. Takeshita's personal experience of transitioning from being fully sighted to totally blind has allowed him to learn how to overcome the difficulties of being low vision.

## David Tobin, B.S.

**Audiojack, Creator**

David Tobin created Audiojack and has been working with educational programs all over the world to help student engagement and achievement. He has worked to create custom programming and content for over the past 11 years.

## Joan Treptow, Braille Transcriber

**Treps Consulting & Braille Service**

Joan Treptow has been a braille transcriber for 26 years, working six years as an independent contractor. She has served CTEBVI as president 1999-2000, past Tactile Graphics Specialist, current Large Print Specialist.

## Garrison Tsinajinie, M.A., Special Education

**University of Arizona, Doctoral Student**

Garrison Tsinajinie is of the Black Streak Wood People (Tsi’naajinii) born into the Big Water Clan (Tótsohnii) from the Navajo Nation. Garrison completed his Special Education M.A. in 2011 at the University of Arizona. After completing his M.A., he worked as an Itinerant Teacher of the Visually Impaired with the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind ­ Eastern Highlands Regional Cooperative for five years - primarily serving students between ages 3­21 on the Navajo Nation. Garrison is a former McNair Scholar, and a current National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities (NLCSD) Scholar. Garrison currently is a first year doctoral student in the special education program at the University of Arizona. As an undergraduate, Garrison conducted research exploring self-determination theory and independence among American Indians with visual impairments. His current interests include conducting research to justify the improvement of services and funding for children and adults with visual impairments in native rural communities.

## Niels van Weele

**INDEX Braille, International Sales Manager**

Niels van Weele has served the international braille and low vision community since 2001, first with ALVA, then BAUM Retec Germany, having worked with high quality desktop magnifiers, reading machines, and braille and speech solutions for challenging school and workplaces.

He is now with INDEX Braille Sweden, acting as International Sales Manager. Niels is well-known throughout the world as an international expert in braille-orientated assistive technologies and now brings his experience to the industry-leading team at INDEX.

## Danny Thomas Vang

**San Francisco State University, Bachelor’s Student**

Danny Thomas Vang is a student at San Francisco State University majoring in Social Work and minoring in Economics. He wishes to combine the two aforementioned disciplines to conduct policy analysis and program implementation in poverty, sustainable housing, and gainful employment with an emphasis on cultural and structural barriers. Outside of the academic arena, he enjoys cooking, watching anime, and spending time with family and friends. Prior to his attendance at San Francisco State University, Danny was the founder and president of the Advocates for Students with Disabilities, a student representative for the President’s Committee on Disability and Access, and a student representative for the Services for Students with Disabilities Student Advisory Committee at Fresno State. In addition, he was afforded the opportunity to study British government and politics at Imperial College in London, England. Danny was suddenly thrust into the disability community when he was diagnosed with glaucoma and cataracts at the age of fifteen. With a newfound visual impairment, he feels at ease utilizing a white cane and screen reader. Survive or Thrive had positively impacted his academic growth when he was a participant, so he has since collaborated with the facilitation of biannual workshops and assisted mentees with reaching their post-secondary goals.

## Joseph Vona

**California School for the Blind, TVI, Assistive Technology Specialist**

Joseph Vona is an assistive technology specialist at the California School for the Blind in Fremont, CA and a Teacher of the Visually Impaired. He studied at San Francisco State University for a VI Credential and this is his fourth year teaching and second year at CSB.

## Yurika Vu, M.A., VRT/O&M

**California School for the Blind, Assistive Technology Coordinator**

Yurika Vu has received her Master’s degree in Vision Rehab Therapy from Western Michigan University and Orientation and Mobility credential from San Francisco State University and has served in the field of blindness for almost a decade. She currently works at the California School for the Blind as the Assistive Technology Coordinator. Previously, she worked at the Western Blind Rehab Center in Palo Alto, CA as a Computer Access Technology Specialist working with visually impaired veterans and active duty service members. She was published as co-author in the Journal of Visual Impairment: Neurological Vision Rehabilitation: Description and Case Study. Yurika is co-author of CSB’s *BrailleNote Taker Guide (Apex & Braille Sense)* providing step-by-step, easy to follow instructions as well as lesson plans incorporating the common core and ECC standards.

## Anne Ward, Parent

**CAPVI, Northern California Co-Chairperson**

Anne Ward is the mother of a visually impaired man, Patrick Ward. She has been his advocate for many years. She realizes that most parents of kids with visual impairments are very anxious that their children grow up to be happy and productive, self-confident and employed, "normal" adults. Her son, age 33, has a B.A. in Liberal Studies from CSUMB, has a specialist credential from SFSU in the field of visual impairments. Anne has been involved with CAPVI for many years.

## Dave Wilkinson, M.A.

**HIMS, Inc., National Education Manager**

Dave Wilkinson is the National Education Manager for HIMS. He is a lifelong advocate for braille and is a lifelong user of assistive technology. Previously Dave has held positions with HumanWare and Freedom Scientific. He has presented nationally and internationally on a wide breadth of topics.

# Conference All-Star Team Roster

## **Cristin Lockwood** is the President of CTEBVI. She is a third generation Certified Braille Transcriber, following in the footsteps of her grandmother, Peggy Schuetz, and aunt, Vanessa Stenz. She currently resides in Edmond, Oklahoma with her husband, Mike, and their four children. Cristin grew up in California and graduated from UC Davis with a BA in psychology. She also serves on the board of Transcribing Mariners.

## **Maureen Reardon**, Vice President, is a native Californian, whose primary home has been the San Francisco Bay Area. With twenty five years direct experience in the field of visual impairment, and fifteen years of practicing law, she is now retired. She enjoys theater, travel, and the freedom afforded by retirement. She is proud of her long affiliation with CTEBVI, and looks forward to another successful conference.

## **Sue Reilly** joined CTEBVI (CTEVH) in 1984 and has served on the board of directors and conference committees in many capacities since 1986, including *JOURNAL* editor for eleven years; president of CTEBVI from 1994 to 1996; and CTEBVI representative to BANA for seventeen years. In 2002 she received the CTEBVI Distinguished Member award. Sue received her certification in literary braille transcription from the Library of Congress in 1986. Her career was spent in the San Diego Unified School District, until her retirement in 2009. She continues to stay active in both CTEBVI and BANA. Currently she is the CTEBVI Secretary and conference workshop co-chair, and serves as BANA’s Administrative Assistant.

## **Sharon Anderson** has been Treasurer for CTEBVI since 2006. In 1985, she began working as an aide for the Garden Grove Unified School District in California. Sharon has been their transcriber since 1996.

## **Lupe Arellano** is a TVI with the Foothill SELPA in Glendale, CA.  She also works with the Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind (TLC) as a consultant for their Day and Residential Services programs.  Lupe started her career in the VI field with Junior Blind of America’s Infant Program.

## **Judi Biller** retired recently after 25 years as a transcriber for Oceanside USD and San Diego COE. She is CTEBVI Membership Chair, Gifts & Tributes Chair, Workshop Co-Chair, and incoming Secretary. She currently works the front desk at an acupuncture clinic and volunteers for Canine Companions for Independence and for the California Welcome Center. Judi also keeps busy with her two grown children and six grandchildren and many grand-dogs.

## **Tracy Gaines** is the immediate past president and current CTEBVI BANA representative. After working for Braille Institute as a transcriber, she now works as an independent transcriber.

## **Vicki Garrett** became a Certified Braille Transcriber after working most of her career as an Executive Assistant, Office Manager and starting an accounting home business. Vicki is a former board member. In addition to her duties as conference registrar, she is also the CTEBVI website administrator.

## **Bonnie Grimm** is a Certified Braille Transcriber working for Clovis Unified School District. She is a Past President of CTEBVI. Bonnie has been the Exhibits Chair along with her daughter Jenny Tsimogianis for the past 9 years.

## **Dawn Gross** is a UEB and Nemeth Braille certified transcriber and mother of three children. Her eldest is a blind high school sophomore.  Ms. Gross is currently the Braille Program Manager at the Alternate Text Production Center (ATPC) providing accessible materials in braille for the California Community College Districts and other clients.  She also serves as the ATPC representative to the Braille Authority of North America.

## **Dr. Sunggye Hong** is associate professor of the department of disability and psychoeducational studies and the program coordinator of the visual impairments teacher training program at the University of Arizona. He received both his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Arizona in Special Education/Education of Students with Visual Impairments. He took a faculty position in the Department of Special Education at San Francisco State University where he served as a coordinator of the visual impairment program. He has conducted research in the areas of braille reading, assistive technology, and expanded core curriculum of students with visual impairments.

## **Grant Horrocks** was the Academic Director and Co-Chair of the Braille Music Division of the Southern California Conservatory of Music through 2013. He also developed music outreach programs for special education students which continue today throughout the Los Angeles Unified School District. He first started presenting at CTEVH conferences in the mid 1990’s and began his first term on the CTEVH Board of Directors in 2002. During his second term as CTEBVI President in 2010, he assumed and maintained the position of ongoing conference chair and has since rejoined the Board in 2016.

## **Lisa Okikawa** is a TVI with the West Orange County Consortium for Special Education in Huntington Beach, CA.  She is an advocate of performing arts education for BVI students and has worked with *Center Theatre Group* (Los Angeles) to study the effects educational-based musical theatre has on BVI students.  Lisa is also the Donna Coffee Youth Scholarship chairperson and the thumbs behind CTEBVI’s social media accounts.

## **Donald Ouimet** is Chief Programs Officer at Junior Blind of America in Los Angeles. With nearly 40 years of experience in education, specializing with children who are visually impaired and multi-disabled, He is responsible for oversight and administration of all of the programs of Junior Blind. Prior to joining Junior Blind, he was the Director of Oregon School for the Blind, as well as a teacher, program coordinator and an administrator at Maryland School for the Blind. He has a master's degree in Special Education from the University of Maryland and completed his vision training at Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

## **Jonn Paris-Salb, M.A., has been a California Department of Education Consultant** for over 10 years; a classroom teacher for 20 years; and a principal for 12 years. Jonn is very experienced in special education, assistive technology and transition resources.

## **Peggy Schuetz** is the Director of Operations for Transcribing Mariners in Auburn, CA. Peggy started transcribing as a volunteer back in 1982 and now runs the company with her daughter, Vanessa. Although most famous for her body braille, Peggy also serves on the board of FPVI at Folsom and Volunteers of Vacaville prison programs.

## **Wayne Siligo** is the Director of Music at the California School for the Blind in Fremont, CA. He has been involved with CTEBVI since 1980 and is still participating in performances for our conferences and other activities for state agencies.

## **Yue-Ting Siu** is a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) and assistant professor in the Visual Impairment Program at San Francisco State University.

## **Vanessa Stenz** is the Production Manager at Transcribing Mariners. Vanessa is in charge of the Conference Registration desk. She also serves on the board of the Folsom and Vacaville prison braille programs.

## **Karen Tomlinson** is currently a teacher of the visually impaired with Los Angeles Unified School District. Her VI resource room is at the Nobel CMS in Northridge, California.



**58th Annual Conference of**

**CALIFORNIA**

**TRANSCRIBERS AND EDUCATORS**

**FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

**First Floor**

 

**hotel map**

**first Floor**

**SECOND Floor**