

- NEMETH
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**FOCUS ON THE FUTURE**  
57th ANNUAL CTEBVI CONFERENCE

**APRIL 7-10, 2016**

**LOS ANGELES  
LAX AIRPORT MARRIOTT**

# HARNESSING THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) is more than an industry-leading guide dog school; we are a passionate community that serves the visually impaired from throughout the U.S. and Canada. All of our services are provided free of charge, including veterinary assistance as needed.

GDB is a resource for people to get the proper referrals to O&M training prior to acceptance into our program so that when they arrive, they are prepared for success. Our goal is to help understand their mobility options and prepare for a partnership with a guide dog.



- **97% of GDB graduates surveyed are satisfied with the overall program**
- **93% agree they will return for a successor guide**
- **96% would recommend our program to others**

## CTEBVI PRESENTATION

**“Assisting Clients To Become Ready for Guide Dog Mobility and the Guide Dog Lifestyle”**

By Marc Gillard, GDB’s Orientation & Mobility Services Specialist

Saturday, April 9 | 2:45-4:15pm



**Guide Dogs for the Blind**

To learn more, visit [guidedogs.com](http://guidedogs.com),  
or call 800.295.4050.

Welcome to the 2016  
57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of

# CALIFORNIA TRANSCRIBERS AND EDUCATORS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED ***FOCUS ON THE FUTURE***



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## **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.

**Workshops** We are offering a large number of workshops geared toward parents, students, and families on a variety of subjects. These workshops will be presented by professionals in their fields of expertise.

**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 this opportunity to learn all about the most up-to-date equipment available.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

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**W**elcome to our 57th Annual Conference where we will Focus on the Future. From start to finish, this conference is designed to focus your attention on the changes currently taking place in the field of visual impairment. Looking ahead, we recognize the hurdles you (the transcriber, educator, parent, student, consumer and advocate) will encounter. We also recognize that if we face these challenges with a clear vision and determination, the path to success becomes less ambiguous for persons living with vision loss.

The main focus for this conference is on the classroom. The paths to learning come from different media: traditional hard copy print, digital text (using electronic devices) and braille. The symposium and workshops are designed to help the participants gain a better understanding of where, when and how each of these learning tools can be used. The symposium will be followed up by a Twitter lunch the same day and forums on the last day to make sure that if you still have any questions, we will endeavor to answer even after the conference ends. The goal is to provide you with the knowledge to help students along their journey from pre-school to productive adulthood.

CTEBVI is proud to present its inaugural workshop collaboration with the prison braille programs. Please see the descriptions for workshops 201, 303 and 501.

Finally, while you're gathering information and processing the knowledge you've gained from the various workshops, don't forget to take some time to walk through the Exhibits Hall where you'll find products for educational and social growth.

We also hope you will take some time to network with others in the field of blindness and visual impairment at our Welcome Reception on Thursday, Exhibitors' Reception on Friday, our President's Reception on Saturday and join us at the Saturday evening banquet to hear our keynote speaker John Romeo. Also, please don't forget to attend the CTEBVI General Sessions where we conduct the business of the organization. Again, we welcome you all and may you have a wonderful conference.

*Tracy Gaines*

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, April 7 8:00 am - 9:30 am

(regular conference registration)  
Thursday, April 7 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Friday, April 8 7:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Saturday, April 9 7:00 am - 4:00 pm

## CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

CEUs are again being offered with an ACVREP fee of \$35, payable in advance with registration fee. This fee will allow CEUs for an unlimited number of workshops. You will get instructions for receiving certificates after conference. Please provide an email address where you wish the instructions sent.

## 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, braille jewelry, 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 ROOM 110

If you need a place to relax and rejuvenate, visit our Hospitality Suite for light snacks and beverages.

The Hospitality Suite will be open:

Friday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and  
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 11:30 am, and  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## SOCIAL MEDIA



**I long to accomplish a great and noble task; but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.**

*- Helen Keller*



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**TOM TORLAKSON**

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**CALIFORNIA TRANSCRIBERS AND EDUCATORS  
FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED  
57th CONFERENCE  
Los Angeles, California  
April 8–10, 2016**

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to welcome you to the 57th annual conference of the California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired. This year's conference, "**Focus on the Future**," 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. As implementer of the new Unified English Braille code and computer-adaptive assessments, you demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to educating those who use assistive technology to support life-long learning.

California's students live in a technological world made smaller through the Internet and real-time mass communication. 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. By offering a wealth of information and learning opportunities to professionals and parents, they will be able to provide a wider range of options to better serve visually impaired students.

Please accept my appreciation and thanks for your professional contributions in serving our blind and visually impaired students. To 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. You have my sincere gratitude for all your efforts and commitment to the success of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Torlakson".

Tom Torlakson

# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

**THURSDAY, APRIL 7**

## **CTEBVI Board Meeting**

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

## **Pre-Conference Workshops**

(registration in advance required, check-in is 8-9:00 am)

### ***Making Google Applications Accessible with JAWS: Drive, Docs, Gmail, & Classroom Time***

#### **Presenters**

Lead Presenter: Veronica Gunn with Stephanie Herlich, Yurika Vu, and Joe Vona

**Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

(includes one hour break for lunch on your own)

**Location:** Atlanta

**Cost: Free**

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.

### ***CSB "Training Day"***

#### **Presenters**

Lead Presenter: Sharon Sacks with Adrian Amandi and Angela Martyn

**Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

(includes one hour break for lunch on your own)

**Location:** Boston

**Cost: Free**

In a time when school districts seem to be eliminating or cutting services for students with visual impairments, this pre-conference workshop will provide participants with valuable tools for enhancing skills to promote quality service delivery to students. The workshop leaders will review the California Guidelines for Serving Students with Visual Impairments, and provide an in-depth review of caseload analysis strategies. These useful tools will provide a framework for professionals and families to determine the frequency and duration of services. This workshop is interactive. We encourage questions and solution-driven problem solving. This workshop is limited to 50 participants.

## **Pre-Conference Activity**

(registration in advance required)

### ***Grammy® Museum Tour***

**Time: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm**

**Cost: \$20**

**Location: Hotel Lobby meet at 9:45 am**

The GRAMMY® Museum explores and celebrates the enduring legacies of all forms of music; the creative process; the art and technology of the recording process; and the history of the GRAMMY® Awards, the premier recognition of recorded music accomplishment.

Price includes round-trip transportation and admission.

## ***FOCUS ON THE FUTURE***

### **Welcome Reception**

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

**Chicago/Dallas**

sponsored by:

**TRANSCRIBING MARINERS**

*Quality Braille and Large Print*

[www.tnbraille.com](http://www.tnbraille.com)

Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar while you get to know your fellow conference attendees.

Groove to the future vibe with

***Wayne Siligo***  
***and the Cheeseballs***



**SWEETMAN  
SYSTEMS**

*Solutions for People with Visual Impairments*

[www.sweetmansystems.com](http://www.sweetmansystems.com)

818 893-5887

**Sue Sweetman**

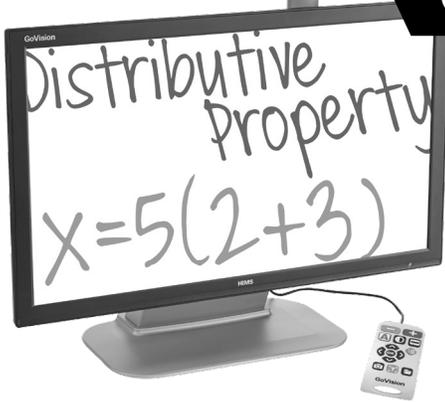
[sue@sweetmansystems.com](mailto:sue@sweetmansystems.com)

# AT Products Proven to Support Excellence in Education and Opportunities in Employment



Visually impaired students have been using HIMS assistive technology products to achieve educational goals and work toward rewarding careers for more than 15 years! **Accommodate your students and clients with low vision and Braille devices they can take wherever they need them** – from the classroom to the library, home to the office and anywhere else they need them!

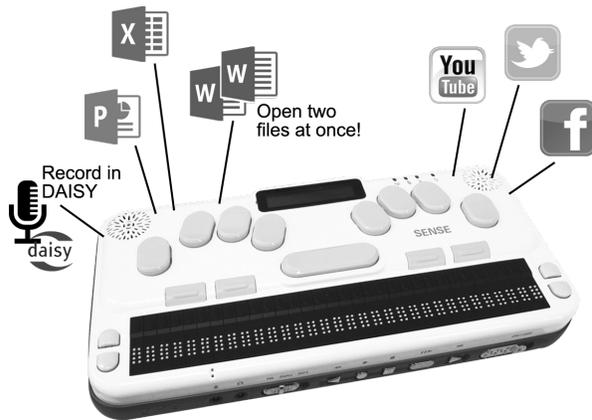
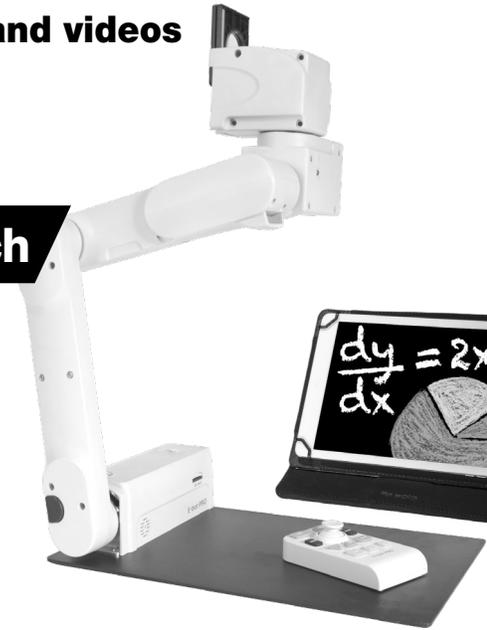
## GoVision Transportable Video Magnifier w/ Speech



- **Sharp HD magnification**
- **OCR scan, listen, then save**
- **Connect with smartphone, tablet, PC or Mac**
- **Open documents, photos and videos**

## E-bot iPad Compatible Video Magnifiers w/ Speech

- **Connect wirelessly to iPad via built-in Wi-Fi**
- **Intuitive touch-screen gesture control**
- **Full-page or screen capture OCR**
- **Quick and easy set-up and pack-away**



## Braille Sense U2 Notetakers

- **Nemeth, Dropbox, Excel and PPT Viewer**
- **Easy and flexible Test Modes**
- **Twitter, Facebook, Google Talk and more**
- **Windows-based command structure**

**Call to schedule a CEU Workshop at your school, or demonstration at your rehab or non-profit agency!**

**Call 888-520-4467 or visit [www.hims-inc.com](http://www.hims-inc.com) to learn more.**

## FRIDAY, APRIL 8

### **FOCUS ON THE FUTURE**

#### **Symposium**

**8:00 am - 10:00 am**

**Salons 3-4**

Please join us for two impactful hours at Symposium II. Five more passionate speakers could not be assembled for your benefit this year. The experts will answer questions about the use of UEB math, Nemeth within UEB, pairing electronic devices used with Smarter Balance and other purposes. The impact of code changes touches the lives of transcribers, educators, parents, and certainly students. These presenters will provide a path to consider for college, career, and independence affecting our students with vision impairments.

#### **Silent Auction Begins/Exhibit Hall Open**

**9:30 am - 6:30 pm**

Come to the Exhibit Hall to browse the vendors and see all the great silent auction items.

#### **Interactive Twitter Luncheon**

**12 Noon - 1:15 pm**

**Suites E-F**

Bring your phone and come prepared to Tweet the talk! We'll expand on questions posed at the Symposium and get your take on the real answers. Luncheon will also include General Business Session, Part 1. Everyone is invited to attend whether or not you are registered for the meal. Separate seating will be provided for non-dining attendees.

#### **Exhibitors' Reception**

**Imperial Ballroom**

**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.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 9

#### **Last Day for Silent Auction**

**9:30 am - 4:30 pm**

#### **Exhibit Hall - Exclusively**

**4:15 pm - 5:00 pm**

This is the last chance to visit the Exhibit Hall. Browse the booths, talk with exhibitors, see demonstrations on the latest assistive technology, play with the toys, and more! Don't forget to visit the Silent Auction table and place your bids for some really great items.

#### **President's Reception**

**6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Imperial Ballroom Foyer**

Entertainment provided by:

**Wayne Siligo and the Cheeseballs featuring Ilan Ota**

Meet your CTEBVI President, Tracy Gaines. Socialize and relax with your fellow conference attendees after an intense day of fun and informative workshops. Unwind, relax and enjoy! No-host bar.

### **FOCUS ON THE FUTURE**

#### **Banquet**

**Suites E-F**

**7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Keynote Speaker: Mr. John Romeo**

*"Inspiration from Beyond the Walls"*



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

## **Need Braille or Large Print?**

### **DON'T PANIC!**

Do you need braille or large print books for your school or district and don't know where to start? Contact our expert staff and we'll help you determine your best options.

For nearly fifty years, Transcribing Mariners has provided textbooks in accessible formats for hundreds of school districts, state departments of education, and other organizations across the nation.

Let us help you solve your next braille or large print challenge!

- **Quick Turnaround**
- **On-Time Delivery**
- **Competitive Pricing**

### **Transcribing Mariners**

tel: 530-823-2209 · fax: 530-823-6063

[www.tmbraile.com](http://www.tmbraile.com)

## SUNDAY, APRIL 10

### FOCUS ON THE FUTURE SUNDAY FORUMS

Come to Learn, Stay to Discuss

8:00 am - 9:30 am

Choose from two fabulous forums to share ideas, challenges, and solutions. Make the most of your last day at conference!

#### Forum 1001

Focus on the Future Transcribers' Forum

*Moderator: Sue Reilly*

Let's focus on sharing transcriber topics related to transcription, training, certification, formatting, contracting, remuneration, supporting teachers/students/clients, and legislation. Come prepared to learn from and support each other!

#### Forum 1002

Focus on the Future Educators' Forum

*Moderator: Jonn Paris-Salb*

Bring your coffee, questions, and ideas as we recap the symposium and focus on the implementation of the UEB adoption and its effect on the ordering and distribution of textbooks.

### Complimentary Sunday Brunch and iPad Drawing!!!

10:00 am - 12 Noon

Suites E-F

Our Conference concludes with a Complimentary Buffet Brunch (must be pre-registered to eat) and will include General Business Session, Part 2.

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.



Sergio Oliva from Braille Institute and his students will give a hands-on demonstration of the skills involved in the Cane Quest competition.

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.

## HOW CANE QUEST WORKS!

Cane Quest is a challenging orientation and mobility contest for students in grades 3-12. Contestants are divided in three categories: Scouts (grades 3-6), Explorers (grades 7-9), and Trailblazers (grades 10-12). Older contestants are given auditory instructions (utilizing a Book Port) and challenged to safely complete secret routes in their communities using proper travel techniques and appropriate cane skills. Scout contestants team up with a sighted teammate (usually a family member) and earn coins as they navigate a route that demonstrates mastery of basic orientation and mobility skills and proper sighted guide techniques, within the boundaries of a school or agency. Contestants are monitored at all times at the event by certified volunteers. Orientation and Mobility Specialists can earn up to five CEUs by volunteering. For more information on how to start a regional event or volunteer please contact Marie Saldivar at [MJSaldivar@brailleinstitute.org](mailto:MJSaldivar@brailleinstitute.org) or 323-210-2593.

## CANE QUEST SHOW CASE AT CTEBVI

To learn how Cane Quest works visit the Braille Institute booth or come to the Sunday morning brunch for a hands-on demonstration of this exciting national program.

## **A very special thank you to all those who supported this year's conference by volunteering their time, talent, and treasure.**

This conference resulted from countless hours of work freely donated by a great many people. The 2016 CTEBVI Executive Board and Board of Directors would like to specifically thank the following:

### **Volunteered/Donated Time/Services**

Sharon Anderson for being our Treasurer and keeping track!

The Gang at the California School for the Blind for producing our pre-conference workshops

American Thermoform for donating braille paper

Patty Biasca and Sheila Bonito for their help coordinating the workshop monitors

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

Boys & Girls Club of Fontana Leaders in Training Program for their volunteer time in the exhibits hall

David Forrest for making sure our Audio/Visual works smoothly

Tracy Gaines for transcribing the conference program

Dawn Gross for running our Silent Auction

Vicki Garrett our Conference Registrar, Guidebook Program 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 coordinating the Registration Desk and volunteers, and thanks to all the volunteers!

Lisa Okikawa for Tweeting and Facebooking her heart out to advance our name and this conference

Omi Ota for creating our gorgeous centerpieces

Jon Paris-Salb for creating all the signage for the workshops, monitor packets, and CEU credits

Liz Perea and her team of volunteers for hosting the hospitality suite

Cath Tandler-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 of our amazing workshop presenters for creating the heart of our conference *and* to all this year's Exhibitors for bringing us the latest in technology and other cool stuff and for supporting CTEBVI through their program advertising.

### **Speakers and Musical Entertainment**

John Romeo, Keynote Speaker

Ilan Ota, *Wayne Siligo and the Cheeseballs*,

Sergio Oliva and his Cane Quest demonstration students

Jon Paris-Salb, Symposium moderator, and all of our Symposium speakers

And a **special thanks** to Tracy Gaines, our CTEBVI President

**Program preparation and layout** by Cristin Lockwood

thank  
you!

# EXHIBITORS

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## **Academy of Music for the Blind**

911 Norumbega Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016  
Phone: 626-358-5379  
Website: [www.ouramb.org](http://www.ouramb.org)  
Contact: David and Gayle Pinto  
[info@ouramb.org](mailto:info@ouramb.org)

## **Access Ingenuity**

4751 Hoen Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
Phone: 707-579-4380  
Website: [www.accessingenuity.com](http://www.accessingenuity.com)

## **Alternate Text Production Center**

1175 Calle Suerte, Camarillo, CA 93012  
Phone: 805-383-0187  
Website: [www.atpc.net](http://www.atpc.net)  
Contact: [braille@atpc.net](mailto:braille@atpc.net)

## **American Printing House for the Blind**

1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206  
Phone: 800-223-1839  
Website: [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)  
Contact: [info@aph.org](mailto:info@aph.org)

## **American Thermoform Corporation**

1758 Brackett Street, La Verne, CA 91750  
Phone: 909-593-6711  
Website: [www.americanthermoform.com](http://www.americanthermoform.com)  
Contact: Patrick Nunnelly  
[pnunnelly@americanthermoform.com](mailto:pnunnelly@americanthermoform.com)

## **A.T. Kratter & Co., Inc.**

12062 Valley View Street,  
Garden Grove, CA 92845  
Phone: 714-799-3000  
Website: [www.atkratter.com](http://www.atkratter.com)  
Contact: Andy Kratter [info@atkratter.com](mailto:info@atkratter.com)

## **Audiojack**

11101 Aqua Vista #110, Studio City, CA 91602  
Phone: 323-333-0347  
Website: [www.audiojack.com](http://www.audiojack.com)  
Contact: David Tobin [david@audiojack.com](mailto:david@audiojack.com)

## **Berryessa Designs**

795 Mary Caroline Drive, San Jose, CA 95133  
Phone: 408-966-2438  
Contact: Mike Ju [mikeju@berryessadesigns.com](mailto:mikeju@berryessadesigns.com)

## **Blind Babies Foundation**

**A Program of Junior Blind of America**  
2381 Mariner Square Drive Suite 275,  
Alameda, CA 94501  
Phone: 510-446-2229  
Website: [www.blindbabies.org](http://www.blindbabies.org)

## **Braille Institute National Programs**

741 N. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90029  
Phone: 323-906-3137  
Website: [www.brailleinstitute.org](http://www.brailleinstitute.org)  
Contact: Sergio Oliva [soliva@brailleinstitute.org](mailto:soliva@brailleinstitute.org)

## **California School for the Blind**

500 Walnut Avenue, Fremont, CA 94536  
Phone: 510-794-3800  
Website: [www.csb-cde.ca.gov](http://www.csb-cde.ca.gov)  
Contact: James Rudder and Annie Turner  
[aturner@csb-cde.ca.gov](mailto:aturner@csb-cde.ca.gov)

## **CAPVI California Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairment**

414 West Mill Street, Ukiah, CA 95482  
Phone: 707-463-2296  
Contact: Anne Ward [inland2wards@gmail.com](mailto:inland2wards@gmail.com)

## **CTEBVI Silent Auction**

Contact: Dawn Gross

**Department of Rehabilitation  
Blind Field Services**

721 Capital Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-558-5480  
Website: [www.dor.ca.gov](http://www.dor.ca.gov)  
Contact: [blindinfo@dor.ca.gov](mailto:blindinfo@dor.ca.gov)

**Duxbury Systems, Inc.**

270 Littleton Road, Unit #6, Westford, MA 01886  
Phone: 978-692-3000  
Website: [www.duxsys.com](http://www.duxsys.com)  
Contact: Neal Kuniandy [info@duxsys.com](mailto:info@duxsys.com)

**Enhanced Vision**

5882 Machine Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649  
Phone: 800-440-9476  
Contact: [amontague@enhancedvision.com](mailto:amontague@enhancedvision.com)

**Exceptional Teaching Inc.**

PO Box 2330, Livermore, CA 94550  
Phone: 925-961-9200  
Contact: Helene Holman  
[info@exceptionalteaching.com](mailto:info@exceptionalteaching.com)

**EyeTech Low Vision**

2193 Aspenpark Ct., Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
Phone: 310-704-5314  
Website: [www.eyetechlowvision.com](http://www.eyetechlowvision.com)  
Contact: John Wolfe [eyetechcanhelp@gmail.com](mailto:eyetechcanhelp@gmail.com)

**Guide Dogs for the Blind Outreach Services**

350 Los Ranchitos Road, San Rafael, CA 94903  
Phone: 415-492-4176  
Website: [www.guidedogs.com](http://www.guidedogs.com)  
Contact: Jane Flower [jflower@guidedogs.com](mailto:jflower@guidedogs.com)

**Guide Dogs of America**

**Admissions/ Graduate Services**  
13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342  
Phone: 800-459-4843  
Website: [www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org)  
Contact: Patty Elizondo  
[paelizondo@guidedogsofamerica.org](mailto:paelizondo@guidedogsofamerica.org)



BAUM

[www.baumusa.com](http://www.baumusa.com)

*Assistive technology solutions for people who are blind or visually impaired*

**VisioDesk - VisioBook's big brother**

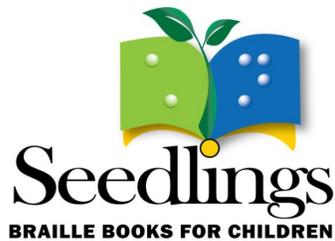
- Foldable, portable battery-powered video magnifier
- 15.6" screen
- Weighs 10 lbs.
- Includes distance viewing
- 6-hour battery life
- Full HD camera/monitor
- Includes carrying case

**VarioUltra**

- A *smart* braille display that doubles as a braille notetaker
- Compact, durable, lightweight design
- Refreshable braille cells that feel crisp, and almost paper like
- Whisper quiet, ergonomic braille keyboard
- Supports simultaneous connection with up to 5 devices: 4 Bluetooth, 1 USB
- Pairs beautifully with iOS, Android, PC, Mac devices
- Includes high quality carry case and strap
- Available in 20 cell and 40 cell models

Visit our website at [www.baumusa.com](http://www.baumusa.com) for more information or contact us for a demo at 855-620-7985

**More than  
180 titles  
in UEB!**



- Low-cost braille books for infants to teens
- Choose from more than 1,300 titles
- Unique selection of braille jewelry, gift items

**www.seedlings.org 800-777-8552**  
**info@seedlings.org**  
**14151 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154**

### **Jewelry in Braille**

2713 Avington Court, Murfreesboro, TN 37128  
Phone: 631-875-3558  
Contact: Kelly Fehr [kelly@jewelryinbraille.com](mailto:kelly@jewelryinbraille.com)

### **Junior Blind of America**

5300 Angeles Vista Boulevard,  
Los Angeles, CA 90043  
Phone: 800-352-2290  
Website: [www.juniorblind.org](http://www.juniorblind.org)  
Contact: Allison Burdett [aburdett@juniorblind.org](mailto:aburdett@juniorblind.org)

### **Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

214 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: 415-431-1481  
Website: [lighthouse-sf.org](http://lighthouse-sf.org)  
Contact: Chad Metcalf [chadmea@gmail.com](mailto:chadmea@gmail.com)

### **Lucky Touch Fortune Cookie California School for the Blind**

500 Walnut Avenue, Fremont, CA 94536  
Phone: 510-794-3800  
Contact: Judith Lesner [mavenno1@aol.com](mailto:mavenno1@aol.com)

### **Lutheran Braille Workers**

P.O. Box 5000, Yucaipa, CA 92399  
Phone: 800-925-6092  
Website: [lbwinc.org](http://lbwinc.org)  
Contact: Rose Jaimes [rose@lbwinc.org](mailto:rose@lbwinc.org)

### **National Braille Press**

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Phone: 617-266-6160  
Website: [www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org)  
Contact: Tony Grima [agrama@nbp.org](mailto:agrama@nbp.org)

### **NorthState Assistive Technology**

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Phone: 877-682-0452  
Website: [www.northstateat.com](http://www.northstateat.com)  
Contact: Cory Hanosh [cory@northstateat.com](mailto:cory@northstateat.com)

### **HIMS**

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78728 Phone: 512-837-2000  
Website: [www.hims-inc.com](http://www.hims-inc.com)  
Contact: James McCarthy [sales@hims-inc.com](mailto:sales@hims-inc.com)

### **HumanWare**

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Website: [www.humanware.com](http://www.humanware.com)  
Contact: Kevin Hughes  
[kevin.hughes@humanware.com](mailto:kevin.hughes@humanware.com)

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Website: [www.irie-at.com](http://www.irie-at.com)  
Contact: [sales@irie-at.com](mailto:sales@irie-at.com)

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and the blind can see. - Mark Twain**

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Contact: Amanda Navarrete [info@optelec.com](mailto:info@optelec.com)

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Website: [www.oxnardsd.org](http://www.oxnardsd.org)

Contact: [amgutierrez@oxnardsd.org](mailto:amgutierrez@oxnardsd.org)

**Playopolis Toys**

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Phone: 626-792-2380

Website: [www.playopolistoys.com](http://www.playopolistoys.com)

Contact: Christina Wallerstein

[Christina@playopolistoys.com](mailto:Christina@playopolistoys.com)

**Sweetman Systems**

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Phone: 818-893-5887

Website: [www.sweetmansystems.com](http://www.sweetmansystems.com)

Contact: Sue Sweetman

[sue@sweetmansystems.com](mailto:sue@sweetmansystems.com)

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Phone: 510-234-4984

Website: [www.hcblind.org](http://www.hcblind.org)

Contact: Patti Maffei [pmaffei@juniorblind.org](mailto:pmaffei@juniorblind.org)

**The Seeing Eye, Inc.**

P.O. Box 375, Morristown, NJ 07963

Phone: 800-539-4425

Website: [www.seeingeye.org](http://www.seeingeye.org)

Contact: Chelsea White [whitec@seeingeye.org](mailto:whitec@seeingeye.org)

**ViewPlus Technologies, Inc.**

1965 SW Airport Avenue, Corvallis, OR 97333

Phone: 541-754-4002

Website: [www.viewplus.com](http://www.viewplus.com)

Contact: [liza.foster@viewplus.com](mailto:liza.foster@viewplus.com)

**Wolf Products, Inc.**

106 Purvis Road, Butler, PA 16001

Phone: 724-285-5428

Website: [www.mathwindow.com](http://www.mathwindow.com)

Contact: Roger and Paula Wolf

[wolfproductsinc@gmail.com](mailto:wolfproductsinc@gmail.com)

**YesAccessible!**

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Phone: 626-358-5750

Website: [www.yesaccessible.com](http://www.yesaccessible.com)

Contact: David and Gayle Pinto

[info@yesaccessible.com](mailto:info@yesaccessible.com)

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# PRESENTERS: CURRICULUM VITAE

**Justin Adams and Chester Goodale** have a combined 40+ years in education, though both are new to the field of Visual Impairments. Both are “fix-it” kinds of guys who love a challenge and the “learn by doing” approach. When they recently discovered 12 “broken” brailers in a County Office closet and learned there was not money in the budget for repairing them, they asked themselves what could be done. They found an online Perkins Braille Repair Video, which helped them successfully restore most of the dirty brailers to service!

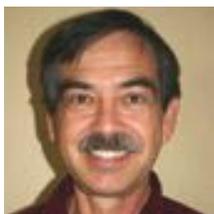
**Stacy Aguilera** is an expert reviewer on the Open Hands Open Access initiative and is currently a lead Host for cohorts conducted by California Deafblind Services (CDBS). She has been affiliated with CDBS for two years as an Educational Specialist. Prior to joining CDBS, she was an educator of students with deafblindness while serving as a deaf/hard of hearing itinerant in numerous school districts.



**Adrian Amandi** is the Director of the California Education Resource Center for Blind/Visually Impaired. He has 10 years as Assistive Technology Specialist at the California School for the Blind.



**Jim Carreon** is a retired Adaptive Technology Teacher from the California School for the Blind. Jim has devoted more than twenty years to helping students learn to access information using various hardware and software products.



**Michael Cheverie** has been a TVI with the Los Angeles Unified School District for 12 years. He has been a STEM teacher for 35 years.

**Keith Christian** is a TVI for Anaheim City School District. He enjoys his job as a TVI, and is enthusiastic about teaching elementary aged students how to use technology to increase their participation in the general education classroom. He thinks it is awesome to see kids get excited about using cool tools to get the job done today and prepare them for the real world that lies ahead.



**Joe Chung** has thirteen years in the vision impairment industry, as well as teaching, training and knowledge of Daily Living Aids and Electronic Low Vision products.

**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 the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) for 24 years where his experiences ranged from providing service to VI students in Early Start and pre-school programs, along with working with students at the elementary and high school level. 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.



**Cathleen Coombs** has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling, both from San Diego State University. She is also a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC). She has 26 years of experience in the field serving individuals with disabilities. She has worked with every disability population, particularly individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those with vision impairments.



**Taylor Cox** is a 7th grade braille student in Huntington Beach. She uses many pieces of technology throughout her school day. Her hobbies include learning new technology, music, jujitsu, and running. She also enjoys writing for the Donna Coffee Scholarship Blog.

**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.

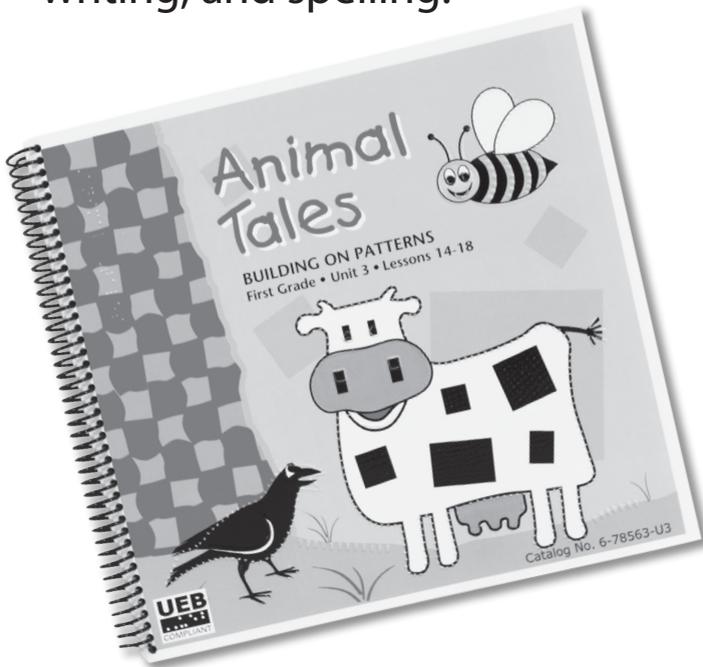


# New! Building on Patterns: Primary Braille Literacy Program

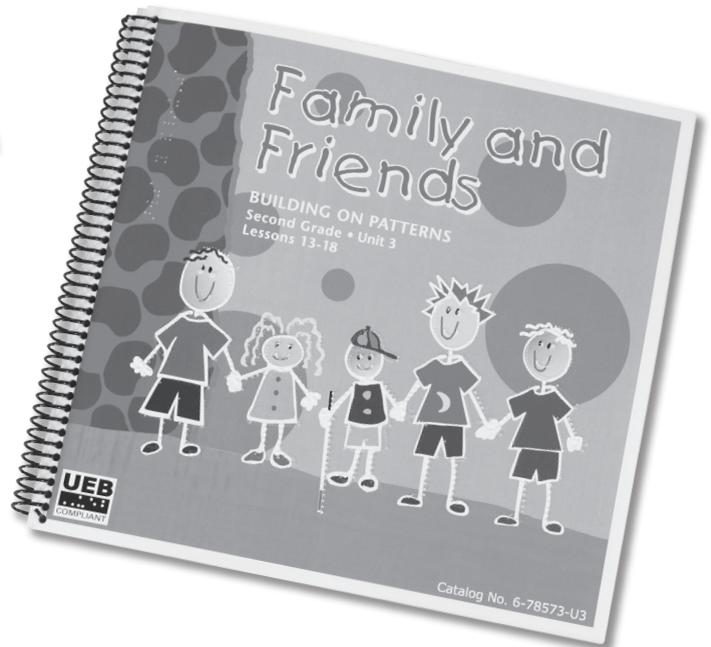


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**Jennifer Dunnam** has twenty-five years of experience with braille instruction and production. Blind herself, she is a certified braille transcriber and also uses braille every day. For nine years she has served as the Manager of Braille Programs for the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute. Under a contract with NLS, she coordinates the administration of courses for persons seeking certification in braille transcribing and proofreading. She is the author of The Slate Book: A Guide to the Slate and Stylus. She serves on the board of the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) and currently serves as its chair.



**Robert Eutz** is the director of the Miami Accessible Media Project. He is certified in Nemeth and UEB (Canada). The men of MAMP have literary and Nemeth certifications and proficiency in MS Word, MS Word, Abbey Fine Reader, and Adobe Pro XI.

**Jennifer Fiero** manages the accounts in 27 western US states and is the national trainer for ViewPlus.

**Jennifer Fisher** is an early childhood/preschool special education program specialist with Southwest Special Education Local Plan Area (SW SELPA) and a master trainer with the Desired Results Access Project. She has taught extensively in early childhood/preschool special education programs for children with IFSPs and IEPs and holds a master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education.

**Tony Fletcher** is a 25 year employee of the LightHouse for the Blind and holds a master's Degree in Special Education with an emphasis in Orientation and Mobility Instruction. Tony has served in many roles for the LightHouse but is most recognized for his long tenure as the Director of Enchanted Hills Camp.



**Laurie Garcia** is the Staff Services Manager II, Division Support and CSMT administration unit, CDE.

**Marc Gillard** is a certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS). His experience includes licensed guide dog instructor and assessor of guide dog schools. He has worked at Guide Dogs for the Blind, (GDB) San Rafael, CA as well as at multiple Guide Dog facilities in Australia.



**Nancy Goldstone** is an early childhood special education coordinating teacher with the Los Angeles Unified School District and a master trainer with the Desired Results Access Project. She has taught extensively in early childhood special education programs for preschool

age children with IEPs and holds a master's degree in Educational Administration/Policy Studies.

**Chester Goodale** and Justin Adams have a combined 40+ years in education, though both are new to the field of Visual Impairments. Both are "fix-it" kinds of guys who love a challenge and the "learn by doing" approach. When they recently discovered 12 "broken" brailers in a County Office closet and learned there was not money in the budget for repairing them, they asked themselves what could be done. They found an online Perkins Braille Repair Video, which helped them successfully restore most of the dirty brailers to service!

**Jake Gross** is a sophomore at California School for the Blind in Fremont, though he and his family live in Camarillo. He is an avid user of NVDA and has even created add-ons for the open source screen reader. In his spare time he enjoys work with various forms of technology, especially older technology, playing with his dogs, eating fast food, and working on his personal website.

**Veronica Gunn**, Technology Teacher, California School for the Blind

**Cyndi Hammonds** is an Associate Information Systems Analyst providing technical assistance to CSMT, CDE.

**Stephanie Herlich, M.A.**, has been a teacher of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility specialist for over 20 years; currently she is an Assistive Technology Specialist for the California School for the Blind in Fremont, CA. She is co-author of Getting to Know You: A Social Skills Curriculum for Students Who Are Visually Impaired and Their Sighted Peers, author of Learning Braille Contractions, and The Mangold Braille Program, Unit 3 UEB, contributing author of Learning to Listen/Listening to Learn, and contributing author of ECC Essentials: Teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum to Students with Visual Impairments. Stephanie was a researcher on the Alphabetic and Contracted Braille Study funded by American Printing House for the Blind.

**Dr. Sunggye Hong**, associate professor of the department of disability and psychoeducational studies and the program coordinator of the visual impairments teacher training program, received both his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Arizona in Special Education/Education of Students with Visual Impairments. He has conducted research in the areas of braille reading, assistive technology, and expanded core curriculum of students with visual impairments. His research agenda is aimed at promoting equal access to educational opportunities including curriculum materials, classroom activities, and other school programs of students who are blind or visually impaired with or without additional disabilities.

**Kevin Hughes** is the West Region Manager for HumanWare. Kevin has led numerous hands-on workshops over the past 14 years with the emphasis on the education market and technology. These training sessions allow teachers to best utilize the HumanWare technologies to meet the curriculum access needs of their visually impaired students.

**Mike Ju** is the owner of Berryessa Designs, a lighting design house and manufacturer with primary business focused on reading lights for seniors with low vision. His core experience is in electronics designs, in particular high frequency semiconductors. Mike became interested in lighting as his eyes started to fade when he turned 43. He started Berryessa Designs in 2009. He was lucky to have the support of people in Low Vision such as MDSupport Group, Braille Institute, and Low Vision Clinics at UC Berkeley and UCLA. He was able to learn what his customers needed and use what he has in terms of engineering skills to create lights to meet their needs.

**Cheryl Kamei-Hannan, Ph.D.**, is a co-author of Reading Connections: Strategies for Teaching Students with Visual Impairments. She is an associate professor at California State University Los Angeles and the Coordinator of the Education Specialist Credential in Visual Impairment and Blindness. She has authored many articles on literacy and technology for students with visual impairments. Her most recent project has been to lead a team of experts in collaboration with Braille Institute of America, to develop the iBraille Challenge mobile app, a mobile reading intervention and assessment program that supports literacy.

**Jerry Kuns** has been involved with information access issues since the mid 1970s. He has 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.



**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.

**Judith Lesner** is the proud parent of Jacob Lesner-Buxton.



Judith worked in the residential department of the California School for the Blind for 30 years and helped to raise many students who were visually impaired or blind. She is presently retired and serves as the co-chair of Blind Babies Foundation Professional Advisory Committee, on the board of CAPVI, is treasurer of the CSB Parents and Friends Association and advisor to the Lucky Touch Braille Fortune Cookie Company.

**Jacob Lesner-Buxton** is an alumnus of CSB, OUSD, California State University, Monterey Bay and California State University, East Bay .

**Patti Maffei** is the Executive Director of Northern and Central



California Services at Junior Blind, supervising and ensuring the success of Junior Blind's two major programs in the region, Blind Babies Foundation and The Hatlen Center, as well as transition services state-wide. Prior to assuming this role in 2015, Patti had been the Program Director for The Hatlen Center since 2006, following 15 years of experience as an Orientation & Mobility Instructor. She is the author of Quick & Easy: Expanded Core Curriculum, published by (APH) in 2014, and has been an expert reviewer and consultant for APH projects. Patti holds a master's degree in Special Education and a Rehabilitative Services Credential in Orientation and Mobility from San Francisco State University. She is ACVREP certified in Orientation & Mobility.

**Debi Martin** has been a TVI for 33 years, O&M for 17 years, and a Guide Dog puppy raiser for 10 years. The puppies that she has raised have become an integral part of her curriculum.



**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 US federal grants as he works with numerous organizations to advance wayfinding technologies around the world.



**Dr. Bennett McAllister** graduated with Honors from California State University, San Bernardino with a degree in Social Science before attending graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley. There, in 1979, he received his B.S. degree in Physiological Optics and, in 1981, his doctorate in Optometry. His clinical background runs from general private practice, pediatrics and contact lenses to low vision care and surgical pre- and post-op for cataracts and LASER surgery. Currently, he is Chief of Primary Care Services at Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry.



**William McCann** is the President of Dancing Dots, Braille Music Technology.

**James McCarthy** is President of HIMS, Inc. based in Austin, Texas. He has a B.A. from the University of Redlands and an M.B.A from the American Graduate School of International Management. He has worked in the field of Assistive Technology for 33 years and is a legally blind user of video magnifiers for over 40 years.



**Debby and Larry McFatter** are the parents of Gavin McFatter, an alumnus of CSB.



**Gavin McFatter** is an alumnus of CSB and is living independently.



**Ramona McLaughlin** worked for the Employment Development Department for 20 years managing crucial program eligibility interviews with applicants and employers. While she was there, she accepted the opportunity to participate in the Director's Disability Advisory Committee where she navigated conversations focused on work place concerns of state employees with disabilities. Most recently, she has worked as a TVI at Corona Norco USD.



**Beth Moore** is a retired Teacher of the Visually Impaired from Saddleback Valley USD. She has a M.A. in Education and is a Family Resource Specialist at the Center for the Partially Sighted.



**Yolanda G. Moreno** is the Director of Multiple Disability Services, Inc.

**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 five 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** has worked on Duxbury Braille Translator (DBT) development involving math for quite some time. Before and after earning a Ph.D. in math, she taught math to sighted students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and at Bucknell University. She has been serving on the BANA task force for creating guidelines for producing Nemeth Code in UEB context.



**Nancy Niebrugge** is the Associate Vice President of National Programs for Braille Institute. She has been leading The Braille Challenge for more than ten years, helping grow the program from a regional Southern California event to a national contest that includes more than 1,000 contestants in more than 40 sites throughout North America.

**Lisa Okikawa** is currently a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments for the West Orange County Consortium for Special Education in Huntington Beach, CA and serves on the board for CTEBVI. Okikawa is an advocate for theatre education for students who are blind & visually impaired and has been acknowledged for her work by the Broadway League and Los Angeles' Center Theatre Group. Her past conference presentations include: CTEBVI, Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired, Getting In Touch With Literacy, and participation in a presentation at the American Printing House for the Blind. She is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre and minor in English and completed both the credential and masters programs in Special Education/Visual Impairments from California State University, Los Angeles.



**Cindy Olmstead** is the President/CEO of Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund. MBTF is a full braille transcription production facility and their main product is K-12 textbooks. They are located in the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility. Presenting are:

**Dennis Littleton** has been a Transcriber since 2007. He is certified in Literary and Nemeth and is a Nemeth instructor, lead worker in Nemeth, and liaison for MBTF graduates.

**Carlos King** - Transcribing since 2010, he is certified in Literary and is a Literary and Formats instructor, and lead worker in Literary and UEB transitioning.

**Jason Armour** has been a Transcriber since 2007. He is certified in Literary and Nemeth. He's a tactile and CorelDraw instructor and was Lead Worker in the Graphics Department.

**Mitchell Keil** has been a Transcriber since 2009. He is certified in Literary, Formats and Nemeth.

**Lorenzo Harrell** has been a Transcriber since 2008. He is certified in Literary and Nemeth.

**Dennis Pogarch** has been a Transcriber since 2008. He is certified in Literary and Nemeth.

**Katrina Ostby** has been an independent braille transcriber since 2003. Katrina works from NIMAS or publisher PDF files, but scans and OCRs books when those resources are not available or have insurmountable flaws. Katrina is certified in Literary and Nemeth Code, as well as 2012 Braille Formats.



**Ilan "The Featured Cheese" Ota** has become a well-known fixture at CTEBVI conferences over the past few years. His life in music began as a four-year-old in a play and sing program which led to his first formal lessons on the violin. Three years later, Ilan was accepted into the prestigious Northwest Boys Choir in Seattle, WA, where he remained as an active member for many years. At the age of 15, his focus moved to drumming and percussion quickly became his passion. Following a full scholarship at the Los Angeles Music Academy in Pasadena, CA, Ilan and his mother relocated to Southern California where he began concurrent studies in braille music and piano at the Southern California Conservatory of Music. Ilan is currently continuing his studies with Grant Horrocks, while establishing his career as a keyboard/vocalist and composer throughout the Los Angeles area.



**Allen Pan**, graduate of USC is a self-described "Freelance Engineer, Electrical Mercenary, and Imagination Man." Allen has invented "Conductak," his specially designed solderless conductor.

**Dr. Linda Pang** graduated from Southern California College of Optometry. After graduation, she pursued advanced training in low vision rehabilitation at the renowned Lighthouse International in New York City. She has published a book, The Lighthouse Clinician's Guide to Low



Vision Practice. Currently, Dr. Pang is the Chief of the Vision Rehabilitation Service and an assistant professor at Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry. She spends most of her time in the Eye Care Center training optometry students about the humanistic approach to patient care and guest lectures in various didactic courses.

**Jonn Paris-Salb** was a classroom teacher for 20 years, principal for 12 years, and has been with the Department of Education for nine years. Currently Jonn is the Assistive Technology Consultant. Jonn serves on the CTEBVI board, Braille Challenge Advisory, and Assistive Technology Advisory for the Department of Rehabilitation.



**Michael Parker** currently owns and operates Access Ingenuity, an assistive technology resource in the bay area. To boot he has a master's in mechanical engineering and is always up for a challenge in mathematics.

**Saroj Pathak** and her son are founders of the non-profit organization, Explorabox. They have developed engaging science kits designed to be used at school and at home. Saroj has more than 50 years experience in engineering, technology, robotics, and teaching.

**Sue Parker-Strafaci, M.A., ECSE** holds a master's degree in Special Education/Early Childhood and has spent over 35 years in the field of Early Intervention as a Child Development Specialist. She has been the Director of Child Development Services for Braille Institute for the past eleven years.



**Damian Pickering** was mainstreamed as a blind student and graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Mary's College of California. A veteran of the Blindness Tech industry, he has represented Freedom Scientific, Humanware and currently serves as Regional Sales Manager for HIMS, Inc. Damian is grateful for the doors technology has opened in his life. He believes there is always room for new and better products, but there is also room for all of us to improve our mastery of the products we have.

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**Stephanie Pieck** holds a degree in piano performance from Ithaca College. She was a semifinalist in the Tenth International Competition for Blind Musicians in Prague and received the 2006 Vivian Nelson Prize from the National Federation of Music Clubs. A passionate advocate of braille and music literacy, she has worked to increase the number of blind students participating in the music exams program of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.



**Ben Pomeroy** is the Director of Digital Services, Braille Institute of America.

**Leila Ricci, Ph.D.**, is an Associate Professor, California State University, Los Angeles

**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.



**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 transit, from school to adult life. She was the President of AERBVI, and has served on numerous boards.

**Tori Schladen, M.A.**, Early Childhood Education, is Director, Family Resource Project, Center for the Partially Sighted.

**Lore Schindler** has been teaching for over 30 years, with the last eight years as the technology coordinator for the Visually Impaired Program in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

**Rob Schulenburg** taught for nine years at the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in the Elementary, Middle, and High School Departments. He left Arizona to join the Peace Corps where he worked on special education curricula and policy development for Ministries of Education in Central America and the Caribbean. Returning to the States he now works for Junior Blind, a non-profit dedicated to positively impacting the lives of

youth with visual impairment. His role as Director of Transition Services has Rob assisting in designing curricula and workshops to serve transition age youth in California.

**Diane Sheline:** After completing graduate work at San Francisco State University, Diane began working with students with visual impairments in 1981. She is the author of Strategy To See: Strategies for Students with Cortical Visual Impairment, and developed her website of the same name, Strategy To See. At this time, Diane continues to work primarily with students with CVI and conducts many teacher and parent trainings every year on strategies to use with this population.



**Wayne "The Big Cheese" Siligo** A consummate "musician's musician," Wayne has performed extensively throughout his career, both as a soloist and a sideman, in a wide spectrum of venues. Wayne is no stranger to CTEBVI; he currently serves on our Executive Board, has presented workshops at conference for many years, and has published numerous articles concerning music education for the visually impaired. His award winning Jazz Ensemble at the California School for the Blind continues to perform regularly for various state functions and conferences.



**Ting Siu, Ph.D.**, is a part-time itinerant TVI from the Bay Area, and is also an adjunct lecturer in the Vision Impairment program at San Francisco State University (SFSU). Ting earned a Ph.D. in special education from UC, Berkeley and indulges a social geeky side in researching social media as professional development and developing effective strategies for improving TVIs' use of technology. She also provides education and consulting support in accessibility issues to a number of community organizations including universities, technology developers, and vision-related researchers.



**Seanarae Smith, M.A.**, is a Curriculum Expert, California State University, Los Angeles.

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



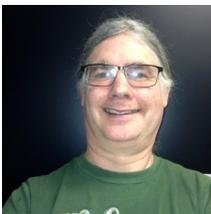
**Theresa Stern** is Vice President of Outreach, Admissions and



Alumni Services for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and has worked in the field of blind rehabilitation for over 20 years. Theresa is visually impaired and travels with her Guide Dog, "Wills."

**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.

**Peter Sullivan** is Vice President of Development (CTO) of Duxbury Systems, Inc. and product manager for the Duxbury Braille Translator (DBT).



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

**Arif Syed** has been working at The Hatlen Center in various capacities for over eleven years, from bookkeeping to IT to teaching. He has received training in multiple adaptive technologies and programs, has attended and participated in many conferences and workshops, and strives to stay on top of technology trends. He graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.S. in Environmental Science.

**... we're a profession that doesn't use the word "impossible." Instead, we have been a profession that, for years, has discovered how to solve impossible tasks, how to use the creativity that permeates our profession, how to think so far out of the box that we amaze our friends and colleagues!**

*- Phil Hatlen*

**Richard Taesch** has been the CTEBVI Music Specialist since circa 1993. He is the founder and retired chair of Braille Music Division at Southern California Conservatory of Music (SCCM est. 1971). He is also the founder of the Music Education Network for The Visually Impaired – MENVI (est. 1997). He has authored "An Introduction to Music for the Blind Student" series and A Blind Music Student's College Survival Guide (free download – [www.menvi.org](http://www.menvi.org)). Richard is a NLS certified music transcriber and has been a music educator since 1961.

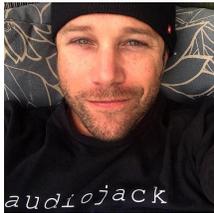


**Dr. Bill Takeshita** is an optometrist who specializes in pediatric low vision care. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry as well as the College of Optometrists in Vision Development. He is currently the chief of optometric services at the Center for the Partially Sighted and an adjunct professor of the Southern California College of Optometry.



**John Taylor** became involved with tactile graphics in 2010, when he joined the staff at ViewPlus, focusing on customer/technical support and marketing for their tactile graphics embossers. John was named Product Manager at Irie-AT Inc. in 2015 and since has become the nation's main support agent for the TactileView Tactile Graphics Design Suite. The majority of John's time is dedicated to traveling the United States to train schools and other agencies on use of tactile graphics for supporting STEM students who are visually impaired.

**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 10 years.



**Guy Toles** is the Braille Services Manager for AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center and works with the ""Beyond the Walls"" project. Presenting with him are:

- C. Stone** - Literary, Nemeth, Textbook Formatting certified (UEB pending)
- C. Harris** - Literary, Textbook Formatting certified (Nemeth & UEB pending)
- J. Turner** - Literary, Nemeth certified
- C. Casas** - Literary certified
- Y. Espinoza** - Literary certified (UEB pending)

**Joanie Treptow** served 26 years as a school braille transcriber and five years as an independent contractor. She served CTEBVI as president from 1999-2000, is a past Tactile Graphics Specialist and current Large Print Specialist.



**Caleb van Docto** is the Director of Services at Lions Center for the Blind in Oakland, CA. He holds a Master's of Special Education with an emphasis in Visual Impairments from San Francisco State University, and is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist. His work focuses on research and teaching strategies addressing cyclic and endemic issues of poverty, educational access, and social equity within the blind and low vision communities of the San Francisco Bay Area.



**Sharon von See** is the Braille Coordinator for TechAdapt, Inc. She has been a certified braille transcriber for 25 years. As a partner with the American Foundation for the Blind Textbooks and Instructional Materials Solutions Forum and Member of the AFB Joint Technology Task Force: Braille Production; TechAdapt collaborated in development of the NIMAS file standard.



**Joe 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 a master's degree in special education: visual impairments. This is

his first presentation at CTEBVI and he is excited to be able to participate in such a wonderful event!

**Yurika Vu, M.A.**, has served in the field of blindness as an orientation mobility specialist and vision rehab specialist for over eight years and currently works at the California School for the Blind as an Assistive Technology Specialist. Previously, she worked at the Western Blind Rehab Center in Palo Alto, CA as a Computer Access Technology Specialist working with veterans and active duty service members. She was published as a co-author in the Journal of Visual Impairment: Neurological Vision Rehabilitation: Description and Case Study.

**Anne Ward** is the mother of an adult son with rod/cone dystrophy and nystagmus, and the grandmother of a boy with cerebral palsy and cerebral visual impairment. She is the Northern California Co-chairperson of CAPVI. Panel members are to be announced.

**Roberta Williams and Jennifer Hirsh** are TVI/O&Ms in Monterey County. With over 50 years combined experience they are long time teachers and collaborators, and first time CTEBVI presenters. They have incorporated STEM activities as part of a unique ESY summer program.



**I believe that the experience that I have had in my lifetime demonstrates how important are the early acquisitions of braille skills, facility in mobility, a knowledge of print practice, and good attitudes. Equipped with these skills, a blind person can progress as far as his motivation, his ingenuity, and his talent will permit.**

*- Dr. Abraham Nemeth*

# SHADOW

## A VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENT

Students who are visually impaired are a very small part of the total population of 6,235,520. Mobility around the campus, use of assistive technology, reading of braille, interactions with peers is often quite isolating. It is hoped that by spending a day as a shadow one of these students you will better understand their unique educational and social needs.



### PREPARE

Pick a day, clear your calendar, select a student.



### SHADOW

Tag along with your student from the first to last bell.



### REFLECT AND SHARE

Turn your observations into insights.



### ACT

Translate your learnings into action with an online mini-course.

Please consider becoming involved in this opportunity.

The Shadow a Student movement helps to inform those who participate surprises in the student world, informs social issues, academic challenges, and how a student navigates a day. To learn more, go to <http://shadowastudent.org/>. The site contains videos, reflections from participants, and may be useful in planning on a school-wide basis.

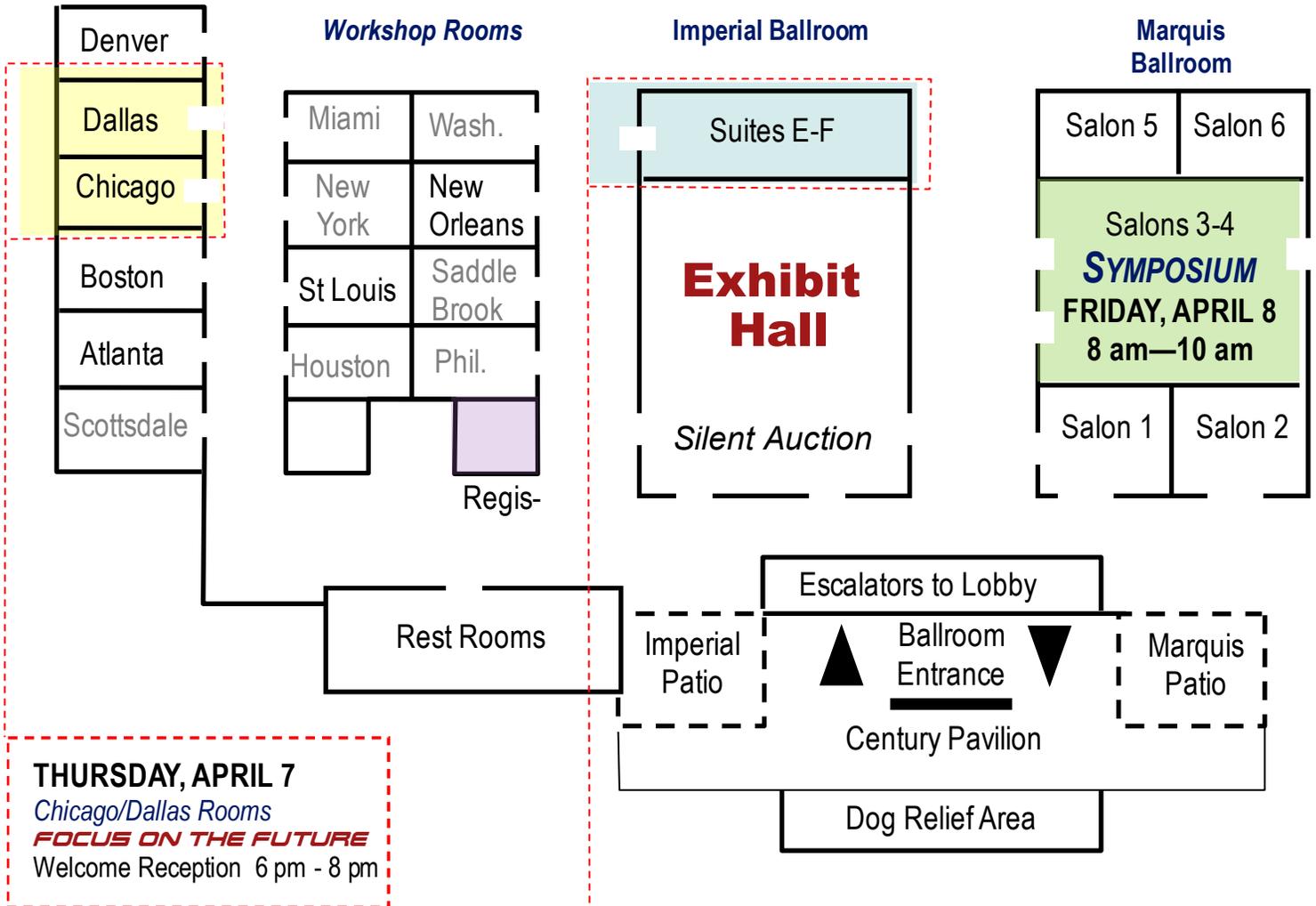
## FROM BEYOND THE WALLS

***From Beyond the Walls*** is an innovative idea from John Romeo, program coordinator of *From Beyond the Walls*, and owner/operator of Full Cell Braille, Inc., in Burlington, Iowa. John is also an Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) for Southeastern Community College in partnership with Southeast Iowa WORKS. John is extremely passionate about braille and the rehabilitative qualities the vocation provides offenders who participate in prison braille programs across the nation. He wanted to showcase the immense knowledge base inside the prison programs for the benefit of the entire braille community.

We proudly present workshops 201, 303 and 501 as our inaugural presentations in the *From Beyond the Walls* program. We hope and expect *From Beyond the Walls* programming to be a part of our conferences for many years to come.

# MAP OF HOTEL

## *Ballroom Level*



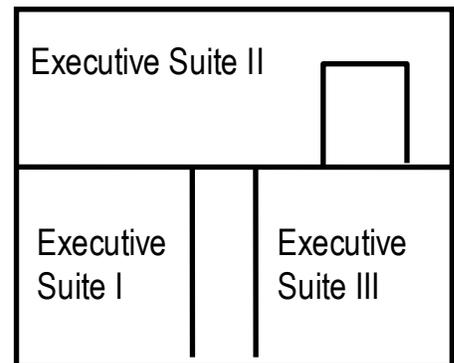
**THURSDAY, APRIL 7**  
*Chicago/Dallas Rooms*  
**FOCUS ON THE FUTURE**  
 Welcome Reception 6 pm - 8 pm

**FRIDAY, APRIL 8**  
*Imperial Ballroom Suites E-F*  
 Twitter Luncheon 12 Noon - 1:30 pm

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9**  
*Imperial Ballroom Suites E-F*  
**FOCUS ON THE FUTURE**  
 President's Reception 6 pm - 7 pm  
 Banquet 7 pm - 9 pm

**SUNDAY, APRIL 10**  
*Imperial Ballroom Suites E-F*  
 Complimentary Brunch 10 am - Noon

### *18<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR*



*Additional Workshop Rooms*

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