



Aaron Spencer

Dance instructor assistant, Adaptive and Integrated Dance Classes, Cabrillo College

Aaron Spencer is a fifth generation Santa Cruz County resident. After graduating from UCSC in 2001 in Environmental Studies, Aaron served on the County Commission of Disabilities. In 2007 he participated in a Disabled Youth Leadership program through the Central Coast Center for Independent Living, which resulted in the creation of Disability Awareness Month. He is a and performs at numerous concerts. For the past 2 years he has been an active community organizer through the Live Oak Family Resource Center helping with fund raising, crime prevention and public safety. His

deepest intention is to reciprocate the support that he has received from the community by helping others to live better, more fulfilling lives.



Alden Johanson

Chief Operating Officer, Mount Hermon

Married 38 years to wife Lorna and with three grown children, Alden grew up in Connecticut. He enjoys sailing, travel, music, reading, and home improvement projects. Alden has a BS in Engineering (U. Mich.), MBA (Stanford) and MPA (Harvard).

As Chief Operating Officer, Alden is always on the lookout for “best practices” in other organizations that might be applied to Mount Hermon. Alden has overseen design and construction of new the Fieldhouse and established an extensive volunteer program. He is passionate about creating and operating spaces where Mount Hermon’s mission can flourish, and passionate about maintaining

Mount Hermon’s tradition of aesthetic excellence and environmental responsibility.



Andrew Longsworth

Senior System Administrator, Driscoll Strawberry

Andrew was born and raised in Santa Cruz and is looking for ways to help the community be a successful, healthy, happy place for people to live, work and learn. He has two children attending Live Oak schools, lives in Capitola, and works in Watsonville. He is a Cabrillo graduate who has spent nearly 15 years working in technical positions in the local industries. When he’s not working, he spends time with his kids, plays racquetball, and enjoys the natural splendor of Santa Cruz County.



Argelia Soria

Analyst, County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency – Public Health

Argelia was born and raised in Santa Cruz. Her pride and joy are her two children Isaac and Elsie. She loves to spend quality time with her family. Argelia has worked for the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency Public Health Division for over 9 years. She loves working in Public Health because it allows her to serve the community that she lives in. The greatest benefit she expects to gain from LSCC is to network and develop the community partnerships that are necessary to further emergency preparedness planning efforts.



Bradley D. Olin

Associate Planner/Membership Director , City of Watsonville/Santa Cruz NEXT

A native of Los Angeles and raised with Midwestern values, Bradley Olin moved to Santa Cruz in August, 2006 after completing his MPA program at USC. Bradley was drawn to Santa Cruz by an opportunity to work in Community Development with the City of Watsonville, and passion for a simple lifestyle and strong community. In 2007 he met his wife, Jackie, who has recently embarked on a sustainable local baby food business venture in Santa Cruz. Most recently, Bradley has been responsible for completing the City of Watsonville's Housing Element Update. Bradley is proud to be an active member of his community, serving on the Board of Santa Cruz NEXT as Membership

Director, acting as a Public Works Commissioner for the City of Santa Cruz, and teaching Public Administration courses at National University in San Jose. In pursuit of a career in local government leadership, Bradley hopes that the LSCC program will provide deeper meaning and context to his understanding of Santa Cruz while expanding his personal and professional network.



Carmela Beck

Organic Production Certification Liaison, Driscoll's Strawberry Associates, Inc.

Carmela moved to Santa Cruz County in 2006 to apprentice at the UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) Organic Farm & Garden where she earned a Certificate in Ecological Horticulture. Prior to that, she worked for QAI, an organic certification agency. Before joining Driscoll's she worked for UCSC at the American Indian Resource Center & for the UCSC Educational Partnership Center. In her current position at Driscoll's, she is responsible for maintaining the company's organic certification. Since moving to Northern California, Carmela has lived in Santa Cruz,

Salinas and currently resides in Watsonville. A native San Diegan, she received her B.A. degree in Political Science from UC San Diego. She is passionate about organic agriculture, food justice, down-to-earth healthy living, yoga, and chocolate. Carmela looks forward to learning about the community she lives in, connecting with local fun and inspiring folks and is hoping to establish life-long friendships here in Nor Cal.



Carol Johnson

*Administrative Services Manager-General Services Department,
County of Santa Cruz*

Carol and her husband have lived in the Pleasure Point area of Santa Cruz since 1987 where they raised their two now adult children. She became an employee of the County of Santa Cruz in 2002. Prior to joining the County she was the partnership manager for Mid-Coast Medical Health Services for seven years. Carol holds a degree in Business Administration. She looks forward to Leadership Santa Cruz giving her a broader understanding of her community and new ways she can contribute.



Christina Horvat

District Manager, Boulder Creek Recreation and Park District

Christina lives in Santa Cruz with her husband and two teen children. She has been in the field of parks and rec for almost 25 years, and holds an MS in Recreation and Leisure Studies. Most recently, she is proud of what she has accomplished at Boulder Creek RPD in a short time – they were recently named the 2009 Most Outstanding Small District by the California Association of Recreation & Park Districts. Christina believes that LSCC will benefit her by being with other community leaders, evaluating her own personal management style and professional development.



Cynthia Wells

*Director/Child and Family Development,
Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center*

Cynthia moved to Santa Cruz County in 2005. She has a Master's Degree from the University of Oregon in management and international studies, and a Bachelor's Degree in sociology from the University of Hawaii. A former Peace Corps Volunteer, she spent two years in the Philippines working for the Ministry of Health. She is currently the Director of the Child and Family Development Programs for a local nonprofit agency and oversees six programs focused on services for low income or at risk children and their families. Ms. Wells has a daughter living in Los Angeles.



David Baker

Owner, Baker Bros. Furniture & Appliance

David Baker is President and owner of Baker Bros. Furniture and Appliance. David is a graduate of San Diego State University with BS in Finance. David and his wife, Deborah's family now includes a son and 2 daughters. Family is very important to the Bakers as Deborah came from a family of 7 children and David is one of 6. David has served on the Board of Directors for the Pajaro Valley Chamber of

Commerce, Saint Patrick Catholic Church's finance council, is a board member of Santa Cruz County Red Cross and was on the steering committee for the General Plan City of Watsonville. In January of 2007 Baker Bros was named Business of the Year by the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. "Community services a part of our culture in business and life. We have passed this to our kids and employees. LSCC will help give me the tools to be a more effective leader in our community and our businesses. I anticipate that as I travel through life I will be able to more effectively serve on other deserving boards and volunteer for different Government projects. LSCC will help prepare me for this.



David Van Lennep

*Southern Area Forestry Manager, Redwood Empire Sawmills
LSCC attendance sponsored by Santa Cruz Co. Farm Bureau*

A native Californian, David has lived all across the state, from San Diego to Humboldt County. Having been fortunate enough to travel domestically and abroad, a career outdoors became essential, leading to his chosen profession of forestry, a diverse and challenging field. He has been married for 11 years to a loving and talented woman. David's most notable professional accomplishment is realizing the benefits of outreach and education, undertaken by Redwood Empire to improve public perceptions of forestry. David graduated with a B.S. Forestry from Humboldt State University (1992), is a registered

Professional Forester and has worked for the Redwood Empire Sawmills, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and small privately owned businesses. David believes that the leadership program will help him to establish more local business and professional contacts and broaden his knowledge of local business and community issues.



Ellen Yeoman

Board Member, Ecology Action

Ellen was raised in Santa Cruz and has recently moved back to live in the house where she grew up. She has a strong interest in Santa Cruz history and its environment, and she plans to continue to pursue and grow those interests through both paid and volunteer work. With this in mind, she has joined the Board of Ecology Action. She is looking forward to the LSCC experience to increase her knowledge of Santa Cruz and make new contacts to better serve Ecology Action and other endeavors. Ellen recently retired after 31 years with PG&E where she was an environmental specialist with diverse experience in policy, planning, impact assessment, research planning and implementation. She was involved with numerous utility environmental issues including

mitigation banking and land management, siting of renewable energy projects, pesticide management and pollution prevention.



Garrett Milner

Optometrist, Scott Daly, OD / Santa Cruz & Aptos Optometric Centers

Garrett grew up in San Clemente, CA, where he played a lot of basketball and went to the beach with my friends. He attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, majored in English, and competed in cross country and track & field. After graduation, Garrett spent a year

coaching cross and track at his old high school and traveling in New Zealand. He then entered optometry school at the Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton, CA. After graduation, he and his wife moved to Santa Cruz and he joined the practices of Scott Daly, OD. Gafrett's current personal interests include independent, locally owned small business, transportation reform, intelligent urban planning, and quality of life issues. "I hope LSCC will help me learn how to be a positive force in my community instead of a complainer."

Gary Bencomo

*Vice President, Administration
Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California*



Gary was born and raised in Fresno and attended California State University, Fresno, where he received a Masters in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science. He moved to the San Francisco bay area in 1986 and has lived in Santa Cruz County for the past six years. Most of his career has been spent in the Human Resources field where he worked for companies such as Network Appliances, Sun Microsystems, Cobalt Networks, Cisco Systems and Tandem Computers. Three years ago Gary left the high tech industry for the nonprofit sector. In his current role with NIAC, he is responsible for the company's strategic vision for staffing, organizational development, employee relations and training/development,

compensation, and benefits and facilities management. Gary sees LSCC as a way to learn more about his "adopted" home and to build a local network with people who are like-minded in their interest in building a better community. Gary and his family live in the Santa Cruz mountains near the Summit. He enjoys hiking, gardening, photography, yoga and "all things" Grateful Dead in his spare time.

Jensen Devaurs

Foodservice Sales Coordinator, Driscoll's



Jensen is a recent transplant to Santa Cruz County. He was born and raised in Shaver Lake, a small mountain community about 25 miles East of Fresno. Jensen has one younger brother (Nick) who he currently shares an apartment with at Sea Cliff Beach. He is a graduate from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, in Agribusiness, one of his proudest accomplishments. As a new resident of the county, LSCC is a great opportunity for Jensen to connect with my new community. He enjoys an active outdoor lifestyle, of skiing, snowboarding, surfing, fishing, golf and simply being outdoors. Jensen is a passionate advocate of agriculture and hopes that he can share his passion with the new community leaders he will meet and interact with in LSCC.

Joe Grimaldi

Pastor



Father Joe was born in Manhattan, N.Y. At 17, he joined a religious order (The Christian Brothers). In 1962, he received a BA in French; in 1970 an MA in French; in 1983 an MA in Administration; in 1989 a MA in Theology; and in 1995, a JCL in Canon Law. Fr. Joe has been principal of two schools; Damien HS in Honolulu and Brother Rice HS in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He was the Vicar General and Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Honolulu covering all of the Hawaiian Islands.

Presently, he is pastor of the Holy Eucharist Church in Corralitos, drawing people from as far as Salinas and Santa Cruz. "Knowledge of the county helps my ministry."



Kerry Beuthin
Consultant, Kerry Beuthin Consulting

Kerry Beuthin has been assisting Bay Area nonprofit agencies with fundraising for more than 15 years. She is credentialed as a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), has a healthcare and community health education background, and has spent a significant amount of time working with healthcare, social and human service organizations. Kerry is a seasoned development professional with well-rounded experience and success in all facets of the fundraising process. Over the course of her career, Kerry has raised millions of dollars through grants, events, and annual fund and major gift campaigns. In early 2009, Kerry moved to La Selva Beach from the Oakland/Berkeley area and recently got married. Kerry hopes to gain valuable insight and information about the unique issues facing the Santa Cruz County residents and help to find innovative solutions. She also is looking forward to meeting new friends and colleagues.



Kim Pursely

Kim received her Certificate of Communications and Business Management from West Valley College and attended Cabrillo College, where she achieved her Certificate in American Sign Language. As Youth and Special Markets Sales Manager at the Boardwalk for the past four years, Kim promotes special events and coordinates non-profit and corporate discount programs. Prior to this, Kim enjoyed professional adventures such as being a SCUBA diving instructor for the deaf, catering director for Seascope Golf Club, and executive assistant for the SC Mountains Winegrower's Association. A San Lorenzo Valley local since the age of five, Kim graduated from SLV High and purchased her first home, in Felton, this past spring. Her daughter Anika, carries on the tradition, starting kindergarten at SLV Elementary this year. Kim hopes LSCC will enable her to connect more deeply with the community and further her contributions to Santa Cruz County.



Lisa Todd
*Departmental Administrative Analyst, Santa Cruz/San Benito County
Regional Department of Child Support Services*

Lisa is a native Santa Cruzian, but in 1986 she moved to Seattle where she spent the next 14 years. There she earned a BA in Sociology (1990) from the University of Washington, worked in the securities financial sector for brokerage firms and credit unions and married her husband, David Dunbar. Though appreciative of the Northwest, she convinced him they needed to move back to sunny Santa Cruz. In 2001, she joined the Santa Cruz/San Benito County Regional Department of Child Support Services as a Departmental Administrative Analyst. She is a board member for the Santa Cruz County Employees' Credit Union and has two rambunctious and wonderful children. As a working parent, public servant, and community member, she experiences daily the joys and challenges of balancing work, family, economic and community needs. She hopes LSCC will provide the insight into balancing these worlds while providing avenues to positively contribute and affect them.



Mary Casillas

Director of Imaging Services, Dominican Hospital

Mary came to Dominican Hospital in March of 2007. Before that, she was the director of Imaging Services at St. Louise Regional Hospital in Gilroy. Mary is very passionate about managing people and loves to empower others to follow their own dreams and to stretch their goals and grow their careers. Mary received an AS Degree in Radiologic Technology from Cabrillo College and a BS in Management from the University of Phoenix. She is currently starting her Master's in Healthcare Administration. She is excited to learn more about Santa Cruz County and be involved in community activities to help promote wellness and healthcare. She has lived in Hollister all of her life, and attended Leadership San Benito County in 2005. Mary is Mom to a 20

-year old daughter, Laura, who is currently a sophomore at CSU Stanislaus.



Michael C. Watkins

County Superintendent of Schools. Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Michael was born and raised in Oakland, California. He attended California State, Hayward and received a B.A., his teaching credentials, and a Masters. He began teaching in 1971 as an intern with the Teacher Corps. In 1980 he moved to Aptos with his wife, son and daughter and began working at the County Office of Education. He was elected County Superintendent of Schools in 2006. Michael has a long history of giving back to his community whether coaching youth athletic teams or with his membership on various boards focused on youth. Attendance at Leadership Santa Cruz is an opportunity to broaden his experiences and network with

people in various new business arenas. Michael has used this experience along with Focus Ag to develop Inside Education, an opportunity for community members to learn more about all aspects of education.



Phil Wowak

Sheriff – Coroner, County of Santa Cruz

Phil moved to Santa Cruz from New York while on winter break from college in 1980. He met his wife Christina during that initial visit and they married in 1987. Phil's career in law enforcement began shortly after moving to Santa Cruz, beginning as a volunteer Capitola Police Officer in 1982 and becoming the Santa Cruz County Sheriff in 2009. After learning about Leadership Santa Cruz, Phil committed to the program because he believes his role as Sheriff is to be responsive to our community interests. By participating in Leadership Santa Cruz he hopes to meet and develop relationships with current and future leaders of our community. "In doing so I believe I will gain a broad perspective about our community, which will assist me in doing the best I can to make Santa Cruz a safe place for everyone.



Piret Harmon

Principal Administrative Analyst, City of Santa Cruz

Piret was born and raised in Estonia. Her life changed significantly when she moved to the United States. It was a challenge to leave behind everything she knew and step into a new environment, unfamiliar traditions and unknown set of rules. Now, 15 years later, Piret owns a home with her husband Ed in Scotts Valley, raises a daughter who is starting high school this fall, and has a fulfilling career at the City of Santa Cruz Water Department. She has an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering and an MBA, and has filled diverse positions in both, private and public industries.

The two most valuable beliefs Piret gained through the experience of moving to California were acceptance and positivity. "It is never too late to try fresh ideas, face new challenges, widen one's horizons, make a contribution, and leave a footprint one can be proud of."



Rachel Ann Goodman

District Director for Bill Monning, 27th Assembly District, State of California

Rachel has lived in Bonny Doon since 1993 and has two teenaged kids. She is inspired by thinkers such as James Houston, who write so eloquently about a "sense of place." She has a strong interest in creating venues for community conversations about things that matter. Rachel spent 20 years as a radio journalist and documentary producer, doing everything from talk show hosting to science editorial to travel writing. Rachel has a Peabody Award, but is most proud of the "Pataphysician of the Year" plaque from KUSP. She taught journalism at Cabrillo and then became Bill Monning's press person. Now, as his

District Director, she sees great benefit from LSCC in meeting more of the key players in local politics and better understanding the issues facing us here.



Samuel Porter Cooley

Production-Research Technician, Northern District, Driscoll's

Upon graduation from Cal-State University Chico in May of 2009, Sam returned to the central coast to begin a career in agriculture, continuing a long-time family tradition in the Pajaro Valley. One of his proudest accomplishments was landing a job after graduation, considering the downward spiral that the economy was experiencing. "I think it showed me that my hard work had paid off which was a great relief!" Sam feels that by participating in LSCC, he will get a broader view of how the rest of the county operates. He also looks forward to meeting the different people that represent all the industries in the county. "I feel the program will open up not only new possibilities for my career, but also new possibilities in the greater Santa Cruz County area."



Silvia M. Diaz

Chief Financial Officer, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Inc. (PVPSA)

Silvia was born in Guanajuato, Mexico and came to the United States when she was 14 years old. She received her B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from San Jose State University. Silvia lives in Watsonville with her husband, Rafael and their three children, Natalie, Jessica and Eric. She has worked for non-profit agencies for the last 18 years. Working for agencies that provide services to the community has given her knowledge of the needs of the community. After working for 10 years for Legal Aid Society of Santa Cruz County, Silvia joined PVPSA, which has given

her the opportunity to grow in her profession by exposing her to the different aspects of managing a non-profit agency. "By participating in LSCC, I want to increase my knowledge in other aspects and issues in this community so that I can better serve the agency that I work for and at the same time serve the community as whole."



Teresa Kidwiler

Manager, Telemetry Care Unit, Dominican Hospital

Teresa has a BA in Biology from the University of California at Santa Cruz, a BSN from San Jose State University, and an MSN from the University of Phoenix. She is the manager of the telemetry care unit at Dominican Hospital and enjoys the daily challenges of providing quality care to our community members. Leadership Santa Cruz County is an excellent venue for meeting and networking with other leaders representing many different professions. It is her hope to meet and work with these leaders to make our community safe, healthy, productive, and prosperous.



Teresa Landers

Director of Libraries, Santa Cruz Public Libraries, City of Santa Cruz

Teresa moved to Santa Cruz in July 2009 to become the Director of Libraries. She grew up in New York, but has lived in Colorado, Washington, Arizona and Oregon since graduating Williams College in 1976 with a degree in History and Latin American studies. She also has Master's degrees in Library Science and Organizational Management. As a newcomer to Santa Cruz, she has not yet become involved in any volunteer activities, but in the past held leadership positions in the Oregon Library community, volunteered at a soup kitchen and with a program to neuter feral cats. She loves animals, cooking, hiking and learning new languages. She has two grown children, with her first grandchild due this year. She is looking forward

to participating in LSCC so she can get to know her new community and determine how she can best contribute.



Tibi McCann



Tina Shull

Council Affairs Manager, City of Santa Cruz

Tina Shull is Principal Analyst for the Santa Cruz City Manager's Office and Council Affairs Manager for the Mayor and City Council. She earned her B.S., magna cum laude, from the University of Idaho and her Master of Public Policy degree from Georgetown University. She is currently completing her J.D. in the evening program at Santa Clara University School of Law. In her spare time, Tina enjoys running, reading and exploring Santa Cruz County's incredible state parks and open space areas. Tina is thrilled to join the Leadership Santa Cruz County community to not only engage in current regional issues but to meet other professionals who work throughout the County.



Tom Held

Captain, Capitola Police Department

Tom moved from the San Francisco Bay Area to Santa Cruz County in 1989 to begin his career in law enforcement as a police officer for the Capitola Police Department. Since starting with the Department, he has worked many assignments and has promoted his way up to his current position of Captain. In 1998 he obtained his BA in Management from Saint Mary's College and graduated the FBI National Academy in 2006, class 227. Tom resides in Capitola with his wife, a lifelong Santa Cruz County resident, and his two children. He enjoys spending time with his family and coach's girls' softball and little league baseball. He is also a Board Member for the Capitola/Soquel Chamber of Commerce. Through LSSC, Tom is interested in learning more about Santa Cruz County and hopes to develop relationships with other community leaders.