



# SHARED VISIONS

**SUMMER 2017**

## **VISTA CENTER'S TECHNOLOGY USER CONFERENCE SET FOR SEPTEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> IN MOUNTAIN VIEW**

Save the date for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Visually Impaired Persons Technology User Conference (VIPTUC). We will be returning to Fenwick and West LLP in Mountain View, a great venue for this exciting conference. Details are as follows:

**When: Saturday, September 30, 2017**

**Time: 10:00AM – 3:30PM (Registration begins at 9:00AM)**

**Where: Fenwick & West LLP**

**801 California Street**

**Mountain View, CA 94043**

This **FREE** conference is for individuals who want to learn more about how Smart Phones can have a powerful impact on the daily lives of those who are blind or visually impaired.

**Space is limited. Therefore please pre-register before September 22 to reserve your space and to receive a complimentary lunch. To register, you may call Vista Center at 650-858-0202 ext. 110 or send an email to [viptuc@vistacenter.org](mailto:viptuc@vistacenter.org). Kindly advise us of the number of participants who will be attending.**

**Presentations will be packed with information about applications designed for Smart Phones that improve your quality of life. Walt Raineri, IOS Power User, will be presenting “Adaptive Sports Technology for the Blind Athlete”. Walt has presented at all of our technology conferences and his presentations are memorable. Walt is a highly skilled athlete in many sports and his love of technology for improving his performance is contagious.**

**We will also hear from a panel of Vista Center Technology Program staff members who will be discussing the topic, “There is an App for That”. These panelist, who are highly skilled instructors for our clients, will be sharing their favorite applications including GPS apps for the blind and visually impaired, text to speech apps and other favorites they use every day.**

**Our third presentation will be offered by another Access Technology Specialist, Ernie Molina, who will be presenting “Meet Alexa, Your Personal Assistant”. This device developed by Amazon has entered the homes of blind and visually impaired individuals nationwide and has a huge following. After Ernie’s presentation, we will be raffling off two Echo Dots, so two lucky individuals will be taking Alexa home.**

**In addition to the planned presentations, participants will have the opportunity to meet and learn about the offerings by the major technology vendors. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time to try out the latest technology.**

**Register early to reserve your space. Past participants will let you know that you will enjoy every moment of the 2017 VIPTUC!**

## **A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE VISTA CENTER TEAM**

**Kristin Green, LCSW is the new Supervisor of the Social Services Team at Vista Center. Kristin earned her Masters in Social Work from UCLA and has worked with children, teens and adults. She recently worked at the Veterans Administration conducting research of veterans with PTSD and at a counseling center in San Jose where she supervised therapists getting their clinical hours for licensure. You may reach Kristin at 650-858-0202 ext. 115.**

**David Hoffman has also joined the Social Services team as our new Social Worker as of July. David is a recent graduate of the Masters in Social Work Program at San Jose State and has also served as a past Vista Center board member. David, who is visually impaired, travels to his Palo Alto office every day with his guide dog, Calvin. David and Calvin enjoy assisting existing and new clients. You may reach David at 650-858-0202 ext.131.**

**Son Kim is our new Access Technology Specialist based in Palo Alto. He is a certified computer technician professional and takes joy in learning new advancements in the computer world. Son uses access technology every day of his life and enjoys sharing what he knows with both new and experienced users. You may reach Son at 650-858-0202 ext. 180.**

## **WHAT'S NEW IN SOCIAL SERVICES AT VISTA CENTER**

**In addition to the new members of our Vista Center Social Services team, it is timely to share updates with you about**

upcoming programs and an overview of our various support groups held both at our Palo Alto office and throughout the community.

**Choices and Changes – Adjustment to vision loss class in Palo Alto is open to adults with visual impairment and their family members (if the client is enrolled) and is led by Vista Center's Social Services staff. This class introduces clients to services, equipment, and resources available to help in adjusting to vision loss, and increases understanding of the adjustment process. The next series of classes will be offered in October in our Palo Alto office, with dates to be set in our Santa Cruz office. If you are interested in learning more, or to enroll, please call Kristin Green for Palo Alto classes at 650-858-0202 ext. 115. For Santa Cruz, please call Ana Bedingfeld at 831-458-9766.**

**Support groups are a great way to connect with others who are visually impaired to share tips, concerns and strategies as well as emotional support and to build a community of like-minded people. Vista Center offers many support groups to meet our clients' needs. Here is a list of the support groups we offer.**

**Low Vision Senior Support Group: Sterling Court in San Mateo the first Monday of the month from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Please contact Kristin Green, LCSW for more information at 650-858-0202 ext. 115.**

**Low Vision Senior Support Group: Vista Center in Palo Alto the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month from 1:30PM to 3:00 PM. Please contact Lynda Johnson, LMFT for more information at 650-858-0202 ext.178.**

**Spanish Speaking Low Vision Support Group: Vista Center in Palo Alto on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Please call John Faustino, Outreach Coordinator, for more information at 650-858-0202 ext.128.**

**Working Age Support Group 1: Vista Center in Palo Alto on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Please call Lynda Johnson, LMFT for more information at 650-858-0202 ext. 178.**

**Working Age Support Group 2: Vista Center in Palo Alto on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. This group is currently closed. But you can call Lynda Johnson, LMFT for more information at 650-858-0202 ext. 178**

**Cypress Center Low Vision Support Group: Cypress Center in San Jose on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Please contact Lynda Johnson, LMFT for more information at 650 858-0202 ext. 178.**

### **SHARED PATHS – SOCIAL RECREATION IS TAKING OFF AT VISTA CENTER**

**Summer in the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas is a great time to get out with friends. Vista Center is growing in numbers of participants and in the activities that are being offered in our client communities.**

**In our Santa Cruz service area, there are opportunities for clients to meet and walk by the beautiful Monterey Bay. Other events offered this summer include “Making Art in the Park,” “Meet, Greet, and Eat,” and attendance at audio described movies in the local theatres. In the planning stage are opportunities to attend live music events and yoga classes.**

**On the Palo Alto side of “the hill,” we continue with monthly hikes as part of the Shared Paths program. Kayaking in San Francisco Bay is slated for August, a Santa Cruz mountains retreat in September, and self-defense classes are scheduled for October, with more activities planned for the Fall. Audio described theatre performances at TheatreWorks are planned into the new year.**

**If you are interested in receiving more information about any of these various Shared Paths, call Vista Center at (650) 858-0202 ext. 184. Leave your name, phone number, and email address to receive details about upcoming events.**

### **TECHNOLOGY CONTINUES TO THRIVE BOTH IN PALO ALTO AND SANTA CRUZ**

**Son Kim, our new Access Technology Specialist in Palo Alto, is busy meeting with clients one-on-one to help them learn how to get the most from their own Smart Phones and also to introduce them to accessible software for their PCs or Mac computers. All sessions are by appointment only and you can reach Son by calling 650 858-0202 ext. 180. He also provides instruction and/or demonstrations on a variety of devices and software programs.**

**The Santa Cruz Technology team has something for everyone in the coming months. iPhone classes will be offered in September for Beginner and Advanced users. The staff will also be launching a series of two-part workshops. Topics for the workshops will cover VoiceOver Calendar, KNFB Reader, and Voice Dream Reader on KNFB Reader. To inquire about details or to enroll in any of the Santa Cruz technology offerings, please call the Santa Cruz office at 831-458-9766.**

## **A NEW APP BY MICROSOFT**

Microsoft has released Seeing AI — a smartphone app that uses computer vision to describe the world for the visually impaired. With the free app downloaded on the iPhone, a user can point their phone's camera at a person and it will say who they are and how they are feeling. They can also point it at a product and it will tell them what it is. All of this is done using artificial intelligence that runs locally on their phone.

The app's most basic functions are carried out directly on the device itself. This means they can be accessed more quickly and in situations where there is no stable internet connection. However, Seeing AI's experimental features — like describing an entire scene or recognizing handwriting — require a connection to the internet. Contact the Access Technology Teams in Palo Alto or Santa Cruz to learn more about this exciting new app.

## **THE STORE AT VISTA CENTER – A GREAT PLACE TO MEET MANY NEEDS**

Come visit The Store at Vista Center to learn about and try a wide variety of products for low vision and blind customers. Our staff will assist you in selecting the perfect products to match your needs, or those of a loved one.

The Store in our Palo Alto office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information call 650-858-0202 extension 135. The Store in our Santa Cruz office is open Monday-Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For more information call 831- 458-9766.





for the blind and visually impaired

**FREE MATTER  
FOR THE BLIND  
OR HANDICAPPED**

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### **How to Contact Us**

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