

Fall/Winter 2018



# SHARED VISIONS

*Vista Center empowers individuals who are blind or visually impaired to embrace life to the fullest through evaluation, counseling, education and training.*

## Our Legacy Continues

In our last issue of Shared Visions, Pam Brandin, Vista Center Executive Director, advised us that after 24 years in this position, she is retiring at the end of 2018. In her article, Pam stated “I believe there is a wonderfully talented, caring and capable individual waiting to know that the best job ever is going to be available in early 2019, that s/he will put the finishing touches on an already impressive resume, and throw his/her hat in the ring to be considered for the position.”

A search committee was appointed by the Board President, and after a thorough search, such a leader did emerge. We are thrilled to announce that Karae Lisle is joining Vista Center as our new Executive Director. (Her first name is pronounced like Hooray, but with a K at the beginning.) Karae has met all Vista Center staff at our recent All Staff meeting. Pam and Karae are spending time together as Pam is passing on the important details of leading our extraordinary nonprofit.

**Karae is a charming, no nonsense woman who is eager to work with the staff to advance Vista Center forward, as the need for our services increases. Karae holds an MBA from the Harvard Business School, and has also completed the Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders at Stanford's Graduate School of Business. Karae began her professional work in the for profit world, in the technology sector, and in 2007 transitioned to the nonprofit world. She has a strong background in marketing, fundraising, business development, and successfully led the merger of two local homeless nonprofits to form Life Moves.**

**Pam shared, "I am truly thrilled to have Karae as Vista Center's next leader and know we will continue to thrive in her capable hands."**

**As we approach the end of 2018, we are tremendously grateful for the steady, competent, visionary and compassionate leadership over these past decades provided by Pam Brandin. We also look forward to a bright and exciting future with our new leader.**

### **Shared Paths – Get Moving and Involved with Vista Center's Adult Recreation Programs**

**Are you interested in yoga, Zumba dance classes, hiking or kayaking adventures? How about meeting friends for lunch, playing bingo or attending cultural events? If you answered "yes" or even "maybe" to any of these options, then Shared Paths is for you. With the encouragement and support of Vista Center staff, volunteers, and fellow recreation enthusiasts, you can enjoy some, if not all, of your favorite activities and even explore new possibilities.**

**Join others in the activities listed below and you will connect with like-minded folks who want to keep movement, adventure and comradeship with other visually impaired people in their lives. Below is a list of our activities by branch location and whom to contact at each branch for that activity.**

### **Palo Alto Branch**

- **Yoga**
- **Shared Paths Hiking Group**
- **Kayak Adventures through Environmental Traveling companions (ETC)**
- **Talking Book Club – Please contact Florence LaRiviere at (650) 493-5540 or Ronald Schwartz at (408) 379-8920.**

**For Palo Alto Branch activities or to be added to the Shared Paths email notification list, please contact Valerie Campos at (510) 541-1449 or email at [vcampos@vistacenter.org](mailto:vcampos@vistacenter.org).**

### **San Jose Branch**

- **Get Fit Walk**
- **Ceramics**
- **Beginner Yoga**
- **Cooking Without Looking**
- **Mall Walking at Valley Fair Mall**
- **Basic Sewing Skills**
- **Exercise Class**
- **Accessible Bingo**
- **Zumba Classes are coming to San Jose in January 2019, please contact Valerie Campos at our Palo Alto Branch to learn more and to be added to the Zumba class email list.**

**For San Jose Branch activities, please contact Sergio Alatorre at 408-295-4016 ext. 204 or email at [salatorre@vistacenter.org](mailto:salatorre@vistacenter.org).**

**Santa Cruz Branch:**

- **Get an Earful Book Club**
- **Let's Dance with Katie Bargetto (Ballroom dance class)**
- **Meet, Greet and Eat**

**For Santa Cruz Branch activities, and to be added to their email notifications about social recreation activities, please contact Christy Tall at 831- 456-9788 or email at [ctall@vistacenter.org](mailto:ctall@vistacenter.org).**

### **Vista Voyagers – Fun Times for Vista Youth Group**

**Vista Voyagers has had an exciting start to the school year! September kicked off with a grand adventure where seven students kayaked in Tamales Bay and camped overnight, and over 50 students and family members braved the spooky rides at Great America.**

**Many expanded core curriculum skills were taught including: Navigating unpredictable terrain by hiking up a gravel trail, traversing grass, and moving through a sandy beach (safe travel); setting up tents, cleaning dishes on the beach, and cooking meals outside (independent living skills); and challenging themselves by putting aside their fears and riding roller coasters which were new to them. Other students stepped up to the plate and joined groups with peers they had never met before (self-determination).**

**The Voyagers will be ringing in the holiday season with a Pajama Holiday Potluck Party! Students and families will enjoy quality time together munching on a tasty meal while watching the critically acclaimed film “Pick of the Litter” complete with audio description.**

**For youth ages 5 to 22, please contact Bethany Small, Director of Youth Services at [bsmall@vistacenter.org](mailto:bsmall@vistacenter.org) to learn more and join the activities.**

**Vista Village is a parent group designed for parents of youth who are visually impaired. Parents meet to learn about Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Department of Rehabilitation programs designed for youth, and for general support and encouragement from fellow parents. For more information, please contact David Hoffman, Social Worker at [dhoffman@vistacenter.org](mailto:dhoffman@vistacenter.org) or call 650 858-0202 ext. 131.**

### **Vista Center Santa Cruz Honored by City of Aptos Chamber of Commerce**

**Vista Center Santa Cruz was honored to have been selected as Organization of the Year 2018 by the Aptos Chamber of Commerce. Board Member Patrice Maginnis sang the National Anthem at the annual awards dinner on Friday, October 26. Vista Center was well represented with two tables full of wonderful supporters. Christy Tall, Santa Cruz Branch Manager, accepted proclamations from California State Assemblyman Bill Monning, Congressman Jimmy Panetta and Santa Cruz County Supervisor Zach Friend.**

**\$1500 GRANT AVAILABLE THROUGH THE BARBARA RHODES ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY FUND**

**Silicon Valley Council of the Blind, a chapter of the California Council of the Blind, is now accepting applications for the Barbara Rhodes Adaptive Technology Grant. Launched in 2010, this program annually awards a grant of up to \$1500 to a blind or visually impaired person, age 16 or older, living in Santa Clara, San Mateo, Santa Cruz or San Benito Counties, who can best demonstrate the need for adaptive technology that will improve his/her quality of life or advance his/her educational and/or employment opportunities.**

**Examples of items that the grant might fund include, but are not limited to: hearing aids and audiologist fees, mobility aids (like white canes) and payment for mobility instructors, adapted mobile devices, adapted computers, repair of adapted computers, magnifying systems, medical aids, and bar code readers.**

**For more info about the Barbara Rhodes Technology Grant, call 888-652-5333 or email [svcb@onebox.com](mailto:svcb@onebox.com). You may download an application form by visiting the web site [www.svcb.cc](http://www.svcb.cc). All applications must be postmarked by February 28, 2019 to be considered by the committee.**

**The Store at Vista Center – A Great Place for Holiday Shopping**

**Come visit The Store at Vista Center to learn about and try a wide variety of products for low vision and blind consumers. Our staff will assist you in selecting the perfect gift for a loved one.**

**Just to name a few, we have talking key chains, talking clocks, a talking scale, dome magnifiers, hand held magnifiers, pocket lighted magnifiers, kitchen aids, mobility aids and organizational aids, which are all very useful gifts. If you are unsure of what to buy, we also have gift certificates available in any denomination you choose.**

**The Store in our Palo Alto Branch 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 San Jose Branch is open Monday-Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For more information call 408-295-4016.**

**The Store in our Santa Cruz Branch is open Monday-Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For more information call 831- 458-9766.**

### **Switch to Email Version of Shared Visions**

**Clients who have requested the email version of Shared Visions always receive the issues, as compared to those who receive the large print version. Due to cost restraints, only clients served in the past year will be eligible for the large print version. If you have email, you will never miss an issue. Please send your name and email address to Alice Turner at [aturner@vistacenter.org](mailto:aturner@vistacenter.org) to switch to the email version.**



**FREE MATTER  
FOR THE BLIND  
OR HANDICAPPED**

for the blind and visually impaired

**2500 El Camino Real  
Suite 100  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
[www.vistacenter.org](http://www.vistacenter.org)  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

**Palo Alto Branch  
2500 El Camino Real, Suite 100, Palo Alto, CA 94306  
650-858-0202 or 800-660-2009**

**San Jose Branch  
101 N. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128  
408-295-4016**

**Santa Cruz Branch  
3315 Mission Drive, Suite B, Santa Cruz, CA 95065  
831-458-9766**

Learn more or donate at [www.vistacenter.org](http://www.vistacenter.org)

