

## **Bios of SCPL volunteers and organization partners**

provided by readers, in order of appearance:

- (1) **Tanner Lujan**, SCPL Volunteer for Lego NXT - 10th grade. His home Library is the Live Oak branch.
- (2) **Pakal Gonzalez-Montejano**, SCPL Volunteer on the Advisory Council of Teens - 8th grade. His home library is the Aptos Branch.
- (3) **Rev. Deborah L. Johnson** is the founding minister and president of Inner Light Ministries, an Omnifaith outreach ministry dedicated to teaching the practical application of Universal Spiritual Principles to all of life's circumstances. She is also the founder and president of The Motivational Institute, an organizational development consulting firm specializing in cultural diversity serving the public, private, and non-profit sectors. A life-long social justice activist, Rev. Deborah is the successful co-litigant in two landmark cases in California – one set precedent for the inclusion of sexual orientation in the state's Civil Rights Bill, the other defeated the challenge to legalizing domestic partnerships. A voice for compassion, equality, and reconciliation, her primary focus has been on coalition building, conflict resolution, public policy development, and cultural sensitivity awareness. Connect with her at <https://www.innerlightministries.com/> or <https://www.deborahljohnson.org>
- (4) **Julian Levash**, SCPL Volunteer on the Advisory Council of Teens - 9th grade.
- (5) **Suzanne Willis**, SCPL Volunteer for Cuentame Un Cuento & [Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County](#), Chief Development & Marketing Officer
- (6) **Bryn Calderon**, [Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County](#), Development & Marketing team
- (7) **Jennifer Welling**, [Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County](#), Development & Marketing team
- (8) **Craig Wilson**, SCPL Volunteer - Former Undersheriff and resident of Soquel.
- (9) **Ruben Prieto** - Executive Admin. & Advancement Specialist with [Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.](#) - Born and Raised in Salinas, CA , Palma High School & Hartnell College Graduate. Currently planning on pursuing a B.A. in International Business Fall of '21 at CSUMB. First generation son of Mexican immigrants who worked hard to raise their family under the American Dream. Both parents underwent the application process after many years of undocumented status and were awarded citizenship. They are the fuel of my motivation to provide for my family and children just as my parents for me. I look to work harder, and honor the opportunity of being a proud US Citizen with Mexican/Hispanic Roots. I look forward to being able to help be a part of creating social change now as a part of CAB, which is truly an honor, to be able to serve and help the community.
- (10) **Leonor Mendoza**: Caseworker, Disaster Relief Assistance to Immigrants Program with [Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.](#) - Born in Oaxaca, Mexico and raised in Tijuana, Baja California, MX until she was 9 years old. She then started learning Mixteco at

that age upon returning to Oaxaca. At age 13 her and her family came to the United States where she started working in agriculture. She recently attained her GED, and took classes to be an interpreter of indigenous languages. She enjoys spending time with her children, family, cooking, and assisting her community. She looks forward to starting Cabrillo College.

(11) **Janis O'Driscoll** - SCPL Volunteer for People & Stories - Printmaker, Retired SCPL Assistant Director

(12) **Erika Cortes** is a recent graduate from San Jose State University receiving a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in Mexican American studies. Since her years working at the Educational Opportunity Program at SJSU she has discovered her passion in serving and empowering marginalized communities. Currently, in the role of Program Coordinator, Erika dedicates herself to serving youth in our community who are facing housing instability through the [Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County's](#) Youth Homeless Response Team.

(13) **Martín J. Gómez**, Board President of the [Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries](#). Also is President/CEO of MJ Gómez Associates LLC, an independent consulting firm that was created to support the work of libraries and nonprofit organizations by helping them review and refine their priorities through strategic planning, organization assessment, resource alignment, and executive coaching. Recent clients include the City of Carpinteria, Free Library of Philadelphia, Chattanooga Public Library, the Digital Public Library of America and interim director for the Monterey County Free Library in California.

(14) **Kieren Ficken**, SCPL Volunteer for [Tales to Tails](#) and Special Events

(15) **Dancy Giro**, Board President for the [Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County](#)

(16) **Steve Mead**, SCPL Volunteer for Lego Robotics & Lego Master Builder

(17) **Linda Murphy**, SCPL Volunteer for [Conversations for Change](#) and and has lived in Santa Cruz for 49 years and was a teacher at Branciforte Junior High/Middle School.

(18) **Casey Sustaita-Paz** is a former [Boys and Girls Club](#) member, and now serves as the Music Director for the Live Oak Clubhouse

(19) **Jennifer Sherry** has been with the [Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz county](#) for eleven years and is the Unit Director for the Live Oak Clubhouse.

(20) **Vivian Rogers**, SCPL Volunteer for Special Events

(--) No video reader for slide

(21) **Annette Hagopian** has lived in Santa Cruz since 1974. She and her husband, Robert have two daughters and four grandchildren. She has worked as a volunteer staffer at the [Genealogy desk in the downtown library](#) for over five years, and she is an officer of the GSSCC.

(22) **Les Forst**, [KSQD](#)

(23) **Gary Shapiro** is an educator and radio personality. He is the host of "Shapiro at Large" on [KSQD](#) and [From The Bookshelf on KSCO](#). Gary teaches Film Appreciation at Monterey Peninsula College and taught middle school for thirty years. He is frequently mistaken for Brad Pitt.

(24) **Chris Stacy**, [Santa Cruz Indivisible](#)

(25) **Jill Cody**, MPA, is an author and radio show host ([jillcodyauthor.com](http://jillcodyauthor.com)). *America Abandoned: The Secret Velvet Coup That Cost Us Our Democracy* won two international awards and explains how powerful forces intentionally abandoned democracy, during the past four decades, to bring the country to the struggles experienced today, [americaabandoned.com](http://americaabandoned.com). *Climate Abandoned: We're on the Endangered Species List* is a #1 Amazon Bestseller, won two awards and is nominated for a Reader's Choice Award. It covers topics from biodiversity to zombie myths, [climateabandoned.com](http://climateabandoned.com). [ksqd.org/be-bold-america/](http://ksqd.org/be-bold-america/). Jill has spoken at several of Santa Cruz County Democratic Clubs and at the Santa Cruz Public Library system on both of her books and has an email list for those who would like advance notice of the upcoming topics on her radio program. If you would like an autographed copy of one of her books or be placed on her advanced notice email list for her local radio show, please email her at [americaabandoned@gmail.com](mailto:americaabandoned@gmail.com).

(26) **Rev. Jay Shinseki**, Resident Minister, [Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple](#) & [Watsonville Buddhist Temple](#)