



Welcome / Bienvenidos

Letter from the Director

Dear SPIN supporters,

Thanks to all of you who have “stepped up to the plate” to support SPIN. We sent out a solicitation letter and you responded. It is imperative we obtain financial support in order to continue the great work of SPIN. Since our last newsletter we have collaborated with Granite Construction and the Surf City Santa Cruz Kiwanis to support our North and South County Mentor Parent Programs. These two amazing enterprises have donated \$5000. each to enable SPIN to coordinate, facilitate and implement this most valuable program. The Mentor Parent Program is where the rubber meets the road. For example, when a parent calls, who has just had a baby with Down Syndrome, we are able to connect them with another family who has a baby with Down Syndrome. They meet and the magic begins. When two or more are gathered for one common cause miracles happen and some of the burden is lifted when each is able to share their experience, strength and hope with another in the same situation.

As you read in the last newsletter on Page 2 SPIN is looking for board members, some of our long term board members are facing term limits, just like our Assembly members in Sacramento, so I have been focusing on helping with board recruitment. I am dedicating this newsletter to SPIN's outgoing board chair Pat Golditch. Pat has been a wonderful mentor and friend as I began my journey as Executive Director for this amazing organization, I have learned a lot from her and she has been a true leader in our community. She has dedicated her life to helping children with special needs and she gives selflessly always. She is someone whom we all should strive to be more like. She will continue on the board through June and then she has agreed to be on our Advisory Board so we will still have access to her vast knowledge.

My friend Rhea, who is 83 years young, lost her race for school board in November. She started out her adult life having a developmentally disabled child, back in the day when services were worse than they are now. She

Carta Enviada por el Director

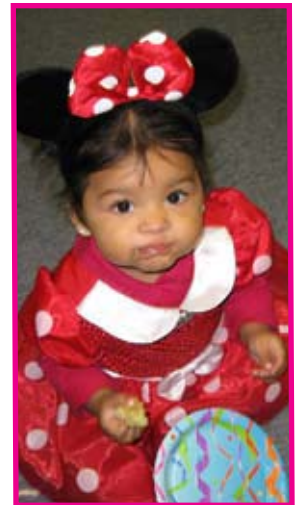
Estimados partidarios de SPIN,

Gracias a todos ustedes que “pusieron su granito de arena” para apoyar a SPIN. Mandamos una carta de solicitud y ustedes respondieron. Es imprescindible que obtengamos apoyo financiero para continuar el gran trabajo de SPIN. Desde nuestro último boletín hemos colaborado con Granite Construction y Surf City Santa Cruz Kiwanis para apoyar nuestro Programa de Padres Mentores en el Norte y el Sur del Condado. Estas dos empresas asombrosas han donado \$5000 cada una permitiéndole a SPIN coordinar, facilitar e implementar este programa tan valioso. El Programa de Padres Mentores es donde todo comienza. Por ejemplo, cuando recibimos una llamada de un padre, que acaba de dar a la luz a un bebé con el Síndrome de Down, podemos conectarlos con otra familia que tiene un bebé con el Síndrome de Down. Ellos se encuentran y la magia empieza. Cuando dos o más se reúnen por una causa común los milagros suceden y parte de la carga es levantada cuando uno puede compartir su experiencia, su fuerza y su esperanza con otro en la misma situación.

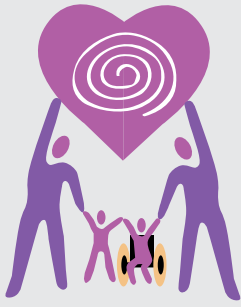
Como ustedes leyeron en el último boletín en la Página 2 SPIN esta buscando miembros para su mesa directiva, algunos de nuestros miembros de largo plazo han llegado a su término, como nuestros miembros de Asamblea en Sacramento, de modo que me he estado enfocando en ayudar a reclutar nuevos miembros para la mesa directiva. Dedico este boletín a la presidenta de la mesa directiva de SPIN Pat Golditch. Pat ha sido un mentor y una amiga maravillosa desde que yo empecé mi viaje como Directora ejecutiva para esta organización asombrosa, he aprendido mucho de ella y ella ha sido un líder verdadero en nuestra comunidad. Ella ha dedicado su vida ayudar a los niños con necesidades especiales y ella siempre da generosamente. Todos debemos esforzarnos a ser mas como ella. Ella continuara en la mesa directiva hasta el mes de junio y después ella ha concordado a estar en nuestra mesa directiva consultiva así que nosotros todavía tendremos acceso a su conocimiento vasto.



...Nurturing
Special Kids'
Potential



...Nutriendo
el Potencial de
Niños Especiales



Special Parents Information Network

SPIN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support, information and training to the families and guardians of children with special needs.

Red de Información para Padres Especiales SPIN es una organización sin fin de lucro dedicada a proveer apoyo, información y entrenamiento para las familias y tutores de niños con necesidades especiales.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ MESA DIRECTIVA

Pat Golditch, *Chair*
Amanda Owens, *Vice Chair*
Kalena Allard, *Treasurer*
Margaret (Peg) Gallagher, *Secretary*
Eileen Fuller Garcia
Rebecca Haifley
John Kaster
Ken Kulpa

STAFF/PERSONAL

So. Santa Cruz County:
Cece Pinheiro, *Executive Director*
Elizabeth Chavez, *Parent Support & Training Coordinator*
Sonia Cervantes, *Bilingual Mentor Parent Coordinator*

No. Santa Cruz County:
Sonia Plageman, *Parent support & Training Coordinator*
Nancy Winans, *Mentor Parent Coordinator*

San Benito County:
Monica Sandoval, *Parent Support & Training Coordinator*

Carta Enviada por el Director/ Letter from the Director

CONTINUED—

went into teaching before there were unions for Pajaro Valley Unified School district (PVUSD), started the teachers union there, became their union president, taught their for over 30 years, retired and ran for PVUSD school board, served on the board for a few terms and in Nov. just lost. PVUSD's loss is SPIN's gain! She has agreed with pleasure to be on our SPIN board. Welcome and thank you Rhea and our other new SPIN board members John Kaster and Eileen Fuller Garcia, please read about these amazing people who have just joined the SPIN family in this newsletter. So all is SPINNING right along in the SPIN world and we are giving thanks for all we have. Thanks again for all you do for SPIN.

Mi amiga Rhea, que tiene 83 años, perdió su carrera para la mesa directiva de la escuela en noviembre. Ella empezó su vida adulta teniendo un hijo con una incapacidad de desarrollo mental, en aquellos días cuando los servicios eran peores que hoy. Ella empezó su carrera como maestra antes que hubiera uniones en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pájaro Valley (PVUSD), empezó la unión de maestros allí, llegó a ser la presidente de la unión, enseñó allí por más de 30 años, se jubiló y corrió para la mesa directiva de la escuela de PVUSD, sirvió en la mesa directiva por algún tiempo y en noviembre perdió. ¡La pérdida de PVUSD es la ganancia de SPIN! Ella ha concordado con placer a estar en nuestra mesa directiva de SPIN. Bienvenida y gracias Rhea y a los otros nuevos miembros de la mesa directiva de SPIN John Kaster y Eileen Fuller Garcia Gracias, lea por favor acerca de estas personas asombrosas que acaban de unirse a la familia de SPIN en este boletín. Así que todo GIRA bien por en el mundo de SPIN y nosotros damos gracias por todo lo que tenemos. Gracias otra vez por todo lo que ustedes hacen por SPIN.

The Gift of Love

The SPIN family would like to express their deepest condolences to the Jolley family.

Their son and brother, Justin, passed away on Sept. 13, 2006. Justin was born with Down Syndrome on Jan 10, 1992. Justin was so content in life and was blessed with a beautiful loving family, that not only recognized his gifts but built their strength and foundation around them. Justin was met with many challenges, but because of his supportive family, he was able to meet them. Justin grew up with the confidence he needed. Justin will always be in our hearts. Our love and prayers are always with you Danielle, Rob, Jessica and Jakob.

La familia de SPIN quiere expresar su pésame más profundo a la familia Jolley.

Su hijo y hermano, Justin, falleció el 13 de septiembre del 2006. Justin nació con el Síndrome de Down el 10 de enero de 1992. Justin fue tan contento en la vida y fue bendecido con una familia amorosa, que no sólo reconoció sus talentos pero construyó su fuerza y base alrededor de ellos. Justin enfrentó muchos desafíos, pero gracias a que su familia siempre lo apoyo, él pudo enfrentarlos. Justin creció con la confianza que él necesitó. Justin siempre estará en nuestros corazones. Nuestro amor y oraciones siempre estarán con ustedes Danielle, Rob, Jessica y Jakob.



Justin Jolley
JAN. 1992 TO SEPT. 2006

special needs/ necesidades especiales

Act Globally, Think Locally

BY ZOE FOLGER

December 13, 2006: an ordinary day for most of us but a momentous occasion for people with disabilities worldwide. The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities yesterday, marking an extraordinary right of passage in the disabled civil rights movement.

This is the first convention of the twenty-first century that recognizes disability as a human rights issue. The International Disabilities Caucus represents more than 600 million persons with disabilities worldwide, 80 percent of them from developing countries, often in extreme poverty and social exclusion.

This convention acknowledges people with disabilities on an equal basis with all other citizens. For example, it attempts to make education, medical care and employment accessible. Further, it aims to protect girls and women from abusive practices, such as forced sterilization and institutionalization based on disability. People with disabilities will be guaranteed rights to life, legal protection, property ownership, control of their financial affairs and privacy.

Why might a teenager like me or a reader like you be concerned with this? It seems to me that every incremental step toward raising awareness about the plight of people with disabilities is a step in the right direction. Since I have a brother with a severe disability and I know something about the barriers he faces in society, I have a strong bias in favor of protecting his rights. It is the duty of civilized nations to protect their most vulnerable citizens by granting them equal civil rights.

Actúe Globalmente, Piense Localmente

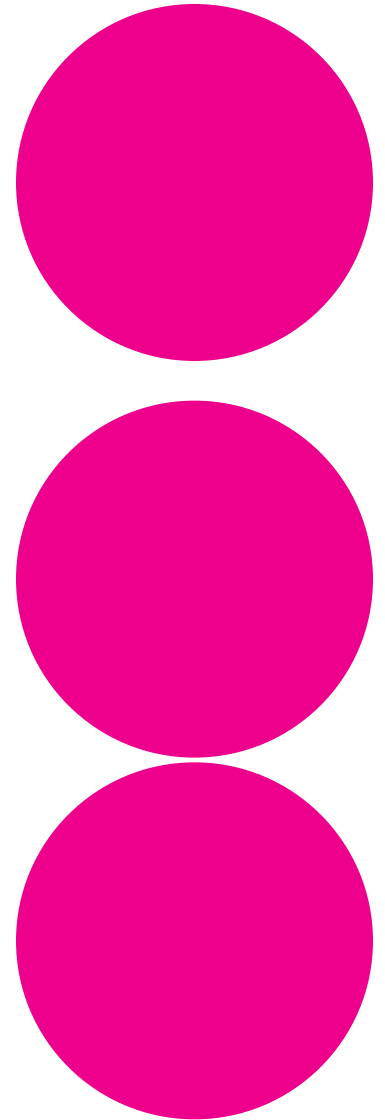
POR ZOE FOLGER

13 de Diciembre del 2006: un día ordinario para la mayor parte de nosotros pero una ocasión de gran importancia para personas con incapacidades por todo el mundo. La Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas adoptó la Convención Completa e Integrante Internacional en la Protección y la Promoción de los Derechos y la Dignidad de Personas con Incapacidades ayer, marcando un derecho extraordinario en el movimiento civil de los derechos para los incapacitados.

Esta es la primera convención del siglo veinte-uno que reconoce la incapacidad como un asunto de derechos humanos. El Comité Internacional de Incapacidades representa más de 600 millones de personas con incapacidades mundialmente, el 80 por ciento de ellos de países que aun se están desarrollando, a menudo en pobreza extrema y exclusión social.

Esta convención reconoce a personas con incapacidades en una base igual con todos los otros ciudadanos. Por ejemplo, procura hacer la educación, el cuidado medico y el empleo accesibles. Aún más, se propone proteger chicas y a mujeres de prácticas abusivas, tal como esterilización forzada e institucionalización basada en la incapacidad. Las personas con incapacidades tendrán garantizados los derechos a la vida, la protección legal, ser dueños de propiedades, el control de sus asuntos financieros y privacidad.

¿Por qué una adolescente como yo o un lector como usted debería preocuparse por esto? Me Parece a mí que cada paso de incremento hacia aumentar el conocimiento acerca del apuro de personas con incapacidades es un paso en la dirección correcta. Como yo que tengo a un hermano con una incapacidad severa y yo sé algo acerca de las barreras que él encara en la sociedad, yo tengo una tendencia fuerte a favor de proteger sus derechos. Es el deber de naciones civilizadas proteger a sus ciudadanos mas vulnerables otorgándoles igualdad en los derechos civiles.



support groups/ grupos de apoyo

Support Groups — *(SPIN sponsored)*

Down Syndrome Support Group:

Led by Megan Donnelly and Ken Kulpa. Contact Ken at 662-2610 for more information.

The Teen and Adult Support Group:

Led by SPIN staff member, Sonia Plageman. Group meets the third Thursday of the month at The Dominican Education Building from 7:15-8:45pm. Contact Sonia at 479-9341 for more info.

(NEW)All Disabilities Parent Support Group

(physical, medical, developmental, neurobehavioral, etc.) Led by SPIN staff member Nancy Winans. We will meet as a group and can divide up into chat groups for particular disabilities. Begins in February. Contact Nancy at 423-7713 for more information about meeting place and date.

Support Groups — *(parent-led)*

Autism Support Group

Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at the Bay School. Contact Dawnie Rocca at 475-5228 for more information.

Facilitated Communication (FC)

Meets the 1st Thursday of the month. Email at webweaver@skyhighway.com for more information.

Tourette Syndrome Support Group

Meetings will begin again in February. Contact Nancy at (831) 454-8692 or Cindy at (831) 426-5648 for more information.

(NEW)Hearing Impaired Parent Support Group

Begins in February. Led by mentor parent of hearing impaired child. Leave message for Nancy at 423-7713 and you will be contacted by the facilitator with details.

TO GET HELP STARTING A NEW SUPPORT GROUP, CONTACT NANCY WINANS AT 423-7713.

Best Wishes for 2007



(left to right)—Nancy Winans, Sonia Plageman, Cece Pinheiro, Sonia Cervantes, Elizabeth Chavez. Not Pictured: Monica Sandoval

Mentor Parent Program/ Program de Padres Mentores

NANCY WINANS, MENTOR PARENT COORDINATOR/ COORDINADORA DEL PROGRAMA DE PADRES MENTORES—
SONIA CERVANTES, MENTOR PARENT COORDINATOR/COORDINADORA DE PADRES MENTORES—

S PIN'S Mentor program has expanded! We now have many trained mentors for both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking parents of children with disabilities.

Need a mentor? This SPIN program matches parents of children with disabilities to “veteran” or experienced parents of special needs children. Mentors act as kind of a buddy and are helpful whether you are dealing with a new diagnosis or facing a particular challenge dealing with special needs issues. Parents who would like a mentor to help with informational and emotional aspects of parenting a special needs child may call SPIN at (831) 722-2800 or (831) 423-7713 for more information.

Consider becoming a mentor! Remember what it was like when you were searching for or finding a diagnosis, or dealing with IEP's, doctors, or other issues for your child? Now you can help others get through the same experience and expand your skills in the process. Call SPIN to get more information about becoming a mentor.

Pass the word! Please inform your friends, educators, health care workers, and fellow professionals about our program and refer anyone wanting a mentor, wanting to become a mentor, or needing more information about the program to SPIN. We appreciate your help in spreading the word about our expanded role in supporting parents of children with disabilities!

El Programa de Padres Mentores esta creciendo! Ahora ya contamos con padres mentores voluntarios que le pueden asistir en Ingles o Español, y que tienen la experiencia de criar un niño con alguna necesidad especial.

¿Necesita un Mentor? SPIN lo puede poner en contacto con un padre mentor que tiene un hijo especial como el suyo. Este padre orientador es un apoyo emocional para usted, que tratara de ayudarlo, con el reto de criar un hijo con alguna discapacidad. Si usted esta interesado en recibir este apoyo de un padre Mentor o necesita mas información por favor llame a SPIN al (831) 722-2800 o (831) 423-7713.

¿Le gustaría ser un padre Mentor! Usted recuerda aquellos momentos retantes por los que paso cuando encontraron el diagnostico de su hijo, o que hizo en su primera junta de IEP, o quizás como manejo la situación con doctores, terapeutas y mas profesionales, y desea compartir estas experiencias y sentimientos con otros padres que comienzan con estas situaciones? Llámenos para obtener mas información de cómo ser un Mentor.

Apreciamos su ayuda para correr la voz acerca del programa, pues nos gustaría que cada padre que necesita el apoyo lo tuviera y que cada padre quien estuviera interesado en ayudar también pudiera ayudar. ¡Con su colaboración estamos seguros que lo lograremos! Esperamos su llamada.

SPIN Advisory Board Recommendations

We invite you to participate on our SPIN Advisory Board. This is a good way to serve our special needs community without having to attend meetings or do a lot of fund raising. SPIN Advisory Board members will be listed in the SPIN newsletter. SPIN Advisory Board members serve as advisors to the current SPIN Board and Executive Director. It is recommended that all SPIN Advisory Board members attend at least one SPIN event per year. Advisory Board members are also invited to the Annual Dinner and the yearly Strategic Planning Board retreat. There are no requirements to be an Advisory Board member, only suggestions. You were asked because you are a leader in our Community and we respect your contributions and would be honored if you consider becoming an Advisory Board member. Advisory Board member terms are negotiable. You will be one of 10 members.

SPIN's New Advisory Board Members—

Dave Kramer-Urner, CCS Supervising Therapist
Debbie Wechsler, RN MPH
Shawn Bouchard, Behavior Specialist PVUSD
Lisa French- Psychologist

Mary McCann-Jenni, Vice President Controller Granite Construction
Florene Poyadue, R.N. MA.
Mitch Jackman-Lawyer

announcements/ anuncios

*Alone we can
do so little.
Together we can
do so much.*

HELEN KELLER



*Solos podemos
hacer poco.
Juntos podemos
hacer mucho.*

HELEN KELLER

EILEEN FULLER GARCIA has been a teacher in Pajaro Valley Unified for many years and retired in 2004. She always welcomed children with Special Needs into her classroom. Eileen has been to many SPIN functions not only to support the organization but also to become more informed as she has an 8 year old grandson with “special needs.” She has recently married and has the support of her new husband. Eileen is excited to be an active Board member.

EILEEN FULLER GARCIA fue maestra en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pájaro Valley durante muchos años y se jubiló en 2004. Ella siempre dio la bienvenida a niños con Necesidades Especiales en su aula. Eileen ha asistido a muchas funciones de SPIN no sólo para apoyar a la organización sino también para informarse más ya que ella tiene un nieto de 8 años con “necesidades especiales”. Ella se ha casado recientemente y tiene el apoyo de su nuevo marido. Eileen esta emocionada de ser un miembro activo de la Mesa Directiva.

JOHN KASTER lives with his wife Patricia and daughter Sydney and their 4 cats in Santa Cruz. His 25 year career in software development led him to Santa Cruz 10 years ago, where he started working for Borland Software Corporation. He now works for the Borland subsidiary called CodeGear, based in Scotts Valley. His family has benefited from SPIN services for the past 3 years. He enjoys volleyball, cycling, swimming, and dancing with his daughter. He is looking forward to serving on the board.

JOHN KASTER vive con su esposa Patricia, su hija Sydney y sus 4 gatos en Santa Cruz. Su carrera de 25 año en el desarrollo de software lo dirigió a Santa Cruz hace 10 años, donde él empezó a trabajar para la Corporación de Software de Borland. El ahora trabaja para el filial de Borland llamado CodeGear, que esta localizado en Scotts Valley. Su familia se ha beneficiado de los servicios de SPIN por los últimos 3 años. El goza el voleibol, el ciclismo, la natación, y bailar con su hija. El esta feliz de ingresar a la mesa directiva de SPIN.



RHEA DeHART is a retired educator and a parent of 5 children. As a resident of Santa Cruz County for over 40 year, she has first hand knowledge of the educational opportunities and challenges facing parents and students. She is also well aware of the challenges facing any family with a special child. Her family navigated the rocky road of resources- Stanford Child Development Center, Duncan Holbert, San Andreas Regional Center and Porterville State Hospital. She has championed Healthy Start, Migrant Head Start, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance and Truancy Dropout Prevention because these programs have a direct impact on family life and well being. Welcome Rhea!

RHEA DeHART es una educadora jubilada y madre de 5 hijos. Como un residente del Condado de Santa Cruz por más de 40 año, ella tiene conocimiento de primera mano de las oportunidades y desafíos educativos frente a padres y estudiantes. Ella también esta enterada de los desafíos frente a cualquier familia con un niño especial. Su familia navegó el camino rocoso de recursos- Centro de Desarrollo de Niño de Stanford, Duncan Holbert, El Centro Regional de San Andreas y el Hospital del Estado de Porterville. Ella participo en Healthy Start, Migrant Head Start, Prevención del Valle de Pájaro y Ayuda de Estudiantes y Prevención de Abandono de ausentismo porque estos programas tienen un impacto directo en la vida y el bienestar de las familias. Bienvenida Rhea!

We Want You— A Call for Board Members

Would you like to give back to the community? Would you like to help families of kids with special needs & help SPIN become a stronger organization? If you want to serve on a dynamic & dedicated Board of Directors, then SPIN would like to talk to you. Please call Dave Kramer-Urner at 423-9129 or Cece Pinheiro at 722-2800 for details.

Winter 2007—

Donors/Donantes

Granite Construction
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Ross J. & Nancy L. Miller- in honor of
Mr. and Mrs. Dana H. Lee
Jo-Ann L. Birch
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Dale & Caren Spencer
Rick & Mimi Harron
Linda Kishlansky
Lisa De Faria
Spring Hill Womens Golf Club
Jennie Jet, MD
A. Barbara Devlin &
Barbara J. Campbell
Ernest & Sandra Benz Williams
Jack Corsiglia
Wendy Laird
Alma Donato
Kassondra Knight
Ken Kulpa
Jay & Mary Balzer-in honor of
Allison (Allie) Balzer
Charles & Carol Russell
Terri Fette-in honor of Amy Fette
John & Ann Dizikes
Robert W. & Carol Albrecht
Cathy Simmons & Gregory Segesman
Lindsay Properties LLC
Bruce Lee Peterson &
Mary Ellen Peterson
Lynn G. & Susan M. Hilden

Tom & Amanda Owens-in honor of
James Owens
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Carla Miller & George Arthur
Paula Maziar
Laura Martin
Julie K. Goudie
Caralyn L. Steinberg
Patty & Craig Zoccoli
Master Car Wash
Dr. Colin W. Frogley
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Pediatric Therapy Center, Inc.
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The Allison Lee Condit Foundation
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Play it Again Sports
SCAB
Jerry & Marilynne Newton
Stephen Ferro & Lauri Lewis
John & Lisa French
Edward & Pat Golditch
Margaret & John Gallagher
Shirley R. Doolittle
Fred & Sonia Plageman
Darlene Wilcox
Eileen Fuller & Jose Garcia
Kathee McFarland
Walter & Lisa Eissmann
Michael & Kalena Allard
Mark Stone

Dan & Rebecca Haifley-in honor of
Betty Krantz
Jon & Jill Winston
First Collateral Services
Marc Lander
The Bagelry
Lisa Peterson
Deborah Wechsler & Jeff Mabert
Lillian Pinheiro in memory of
George Pinheiro

Speakers/Presentadores

Shawn Bouchard
Nancy Birang
Maria Aviña
Saraswati Bryer-Bass
Jay Williams
Loni Allen



Buying or Selling Real Estate? Financing a Home?

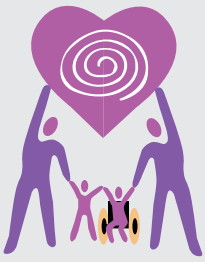
Refer **LandByTheSea.com**

Mention SPIN before the close of escrow & Ken Kulpa
will donate up to \$5,000 in your name to SPIN!

Call Ken Kulpa for details (831) 684-2000

www.

LandByTheSea.com



**Special Parents
Information Network**

Mailing address/Domicilio
P.O. Box 2367
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063
Email: info@spinsc.org

So. Santa Cruz Co Office
294 Green Valley Rd. Ste. 313
Watsonville, Ca 95076
Phone: (831)722-2800
Fax: (831)722-2580

No. Santa Cruz Co Office
740 Front Street, Suite 175
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060
Phone (831)423-7713

San Benito Co Office
P.O. Box 2367
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063
Phone: (831)638-1967

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—

Up-coming SPIN Events and Workshops

WORKSHOPS—

February 2007-
Sibling Workshop

February 2007-
Relationships/Keeping it
together while parenting
your special needs child

UPCOMING EVENTS—

February 15, 2007-
Special Needs Trust presenta-
tion by local attorney
Jeff Bosshard, Hosted by
The Teen and Adult Support
Group. For more info. please
contact Sonia Plageman
@ 479-9341

April 21, 2007-
Shared Adventures of Santa Cruz
invite you to save the date for
their Third Annual DAY IN THE
SKY in Watsonville.

MARCH 10TH, 2007

“QUIZ NITE”
FUNDRAISER DINNER

Event at Seascap Golf Club in Aptos.
Make plans to host a table of friends and have a fun evening
of trivia, celebrity mc, dinner and prizes. Call SPIN for more info.

March 2007

Learning Disability

CONFERENCE 2007

—Coming Soon—

SPIN is a member of “CAFEC” – The California Association of Family Empowerment Centers on Disability – www.cafec.org



Special Parents Information Network (SPIN)

P.O. Box 2367
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063
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Website: www.spinsc.org

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