



Earthquake Country **Alliance**
We're all in this together.

School Seismic Safety Seminar Speaker Biographies

Mark L. Benthien

Mark Benthien is Director for Communication, Education and Outreach (CEO) for the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC), headquartered at the University of Southern California (USC). Mr. Benthien received a Bachelor of Science degree in Geophysics from the University of California Los Angeles in 1995, and a Master of Public Policy degree from the USC in 2003. As director for SCEC's CEO program, Mr. Benthien communicates earthquake knowledge in order to increase earthquake awareness, reduce economic losses, and save lives. To do this he 1) coordinates interactions between SCEC scientists and partners in engineering, government, business, and education; 2) manages programs that provide earthquake information and experiential learning at all educational levels; and 4) promotes earthquake preparedness, mitigation, and planning.

Kenneth W. Hudnut

Dr. Kenneth W. Hudnut studies earthquakes as a geophysicist for the DOI / U.S. Geological Survey in Pasadena, California. He serves as Geodetic Coordinator on the U.S. Earthquake Program Council and leads the Southern San Andreas Fault Evaluation (SoSAFE) Project for the Southern California Earthquake Center. In recognition for contributions made to the global navigation and positioning industry, notably his leadership of the new GPS L1C signal design, he was selected by *GPS World* as one of '50+ Leaders to Watch' in 2007. For the USGS Multi-Hazards Demonstration Project, he led the earthquake source design and computer simulations of the ShakeOut scenario, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault. Since receiving his Ph.D. from Columbia in 1989, and his A.B. (high honors) from Dartmouth in 1983, he has published over 80 scientific papers. He is a Visiting Associate in Geophysics on the faculty of the California Institute of Technology.

Lucile M. Jones

Dr. Lucy Jones has been a seismologist with the US Geological Survey and a Visiting Research Associate at the Seismological Laboratory of Caltech since 1983. She is currently serving as the Chief Scientist for the Multi Hazards Initiative in Southern California, developing a new program to integrate hazards science in urban areas with economic analysis and emergency response to increase community resiliency to natural disasters. She is also a Commissioner of the California Seismic Safety Commission, which advises the governor and legislature on seismic safety, by appointment of Gov. Davis in 2002 and reappointment by Gov. Schwarzenegger in 2005. She serves on the California Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council. Dr. Jones has authored over 80 papers on research seismology with primary interest in the physics of earthquakes, foreshocks and earthquake hazard assessment, especially in southern California.

Dr. Jones has received numerous awards, including the Alquist Award from the California Earthquake Safety Foundation, the Shoemaker Award for Lifetime Achievements in Science Communication from the USGS, and the 2007 Award of Merit from the Los Angeles County Emergency Preparedness Commission. Dr. Jones received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chinese Language and Literature, Magna Cum Laude, from Brown University in 1976 and a Ph. D. in geophysics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1981. She is a past Secretary of the Seismology Section of the American Geophysical Union, past Director and past Chair of the Publications Committee of the Seismological Society of America. Dr. Jones, a fourth-generation resident of southern California, currently lives in La Cañada, California. She is married to a fellow seismologist, Egill Hauksson, and they have two sons, Sven, 21 and Niels, 17.

Gary L. McGavin

Gary McGavin, AIA, has over 25 years of experience in the design of public and institutional facilities, including K-12 educational, transportation, healthcare, pipeline, nuclear and military facilities. He has specialized in Seismic Safety Issues and State level client advocacy. He has served for ten years on California's Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission (a direct Gubernatorial appointment). His background includes experience as a staff geologist and earthquake engineer. He has taught geology and soil science at the college level in the Construction Inspection Certificate Program for over 9 years (1978 to 1987). He currently teaches architectural structures at Cal-Poly, Pomona (since 1998). Mr. McGavin was the Architect of Record for the Landers Elementary School which was situated less than 0.4 mi from approximately 12 feet of horizontal offset in the 1992 Landers Earthquake. This facility sustained virtually no damage (cosmetic ceiling tile damage only) and was immediately used as an emergency center by the CDF and Red Cross. Mr. McGavin has served as the Chairman for the LA City Nonstructural Seismic Code Committee. In addition to the above, Mr. McGavin is a member of Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), the American Institute of Architects (AIACC) and the Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH).

Mr. McGavin has worked for Wyle Laboratories as an Earthquake Engineer (projects included the Alaska Pipeline and nuclear power plants, Trident Submarine, B-1, etc.) 1973-1979, Ruhnau McGavin Ruhnau Associates 1979 - 1990, HMC Group 1990 - 1995, and since 1995, has operated his own firm, Gary L. McGavin, AIA in San Jacinto, CA. He is the author of numerous works including *Earthquake Protection of Essential Building Equipment*, John Wiley and Sons, Inc. and coauthored the newly published FEMA 454 *Designing for Earthquakes – A Manual for Architects*. He has a B.Sc. in Geology (UC Riverside, 1973) and a Masters of Architecture (Cal-Poly Pomona, 1978).

Hillary S. Mendelsohn

Hillary Mendelsohn is Executive Director and founder of Team SAFE-T A California Partnership for Safety and Preparedness. Mrs. Mendelsohn is also Co-Chairman of The Industry Task Force, a group of concerned citizens that joined together after 9/11 to focus on how communities could better prepare themselves for an emergency. Mrs. Mendelsohn sits on the Board of Directors of several non-profits including; The California Council for Humanities; Children Uniting Nations (CUN), a non profit organization dedicated to providing quality mentoring relationships based on academic achievement, for children at risk and in the foster care system; and C.O.A.C.H. for Kids, an organization that provides mobile medical units run out of Cedars Sinai Hospital providing basic health care to children in low income areas of Los Angeles.

Mrs. Mendelsohn is also the CEO of thepurplebook, LLC a lifestyle media company, publishing a series of books called *thepurplebook: The Definitive Guide to Exceptional Online Shopping*, creator of www.thepurplebook.com and an online shopping authority as a consultant and for the media. Hillary is a graduate of the University of California Los Angeles and is a Los Angeles native. She is married to Michael Mendelsohn, the founder and CEO of Patriot Advisers, an entertainment investment firm and she is mother of two children.

Darline P. Robles

Darline P. Robles, Ph.D., was appointed County Superintendent of Schools in June, 2002. As executive officer for the Los Angeles County Office of Education, she leads the nation's largest regional education service agency, serving 80 K-12 school districts that educate 1.7 million students. She also serves as ex-officio member of Los Angeles Universal Preschool and, over her 30-plus-year career, has received many recognitions and honors for service to her community and her work to ensure a quality education for all children. Earlier, Dr. Robles was chief of the Salt Lake City School District, where she was successful in closing the achievement gap and significantly reducing the dropout rate. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in history at California State University, Los Angeles; her Master's Degree in education from Claremont Graduate School; and her Doctorate in education policy and administration from the University of Southern California.

Daniel Shapiro

Daniel Shapiro has practiced structural engineering in California for almost sixty years. His career included work on power plants, bridges, high-rise apartment buildings, laboratories, schools, churches, libraries and various military and government buildings. He is most well known for his specialized work on the seismic rehabilitation of existing buildings and bridges. After his January 1949 graduation from the University of California Department of Civil Engineering he worked with several engineering and construction companies before founding in 1965 the San Francisco based structural engineering company now known as SOHA Engineers. Through his work as a structural engineer and his extensive volunteer services, Mr. Shapiro has contributed significantly to the seismic safety of California and its citizens and to the nation.

Bob Spears

Bob Spears has been an employee of the Los Angeles Unified School District since 1973. He has worked as a teacher and coordinator at Franklin and Taft High Schools and then as an Assistant Principal at Fremont and Bravo High Schools. He has been in charge of School Safety and the Plant at most of his administrative assignments.

At the same time Mr. Spears was a member of the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department where he became a Captain, Assistant Chief for Training, and Chief of the Department. As part of his Fire Department training he has taken many classes in the Incident Command System (SEMS) and has managed large incidents using ICS.

In October, 2003, Mr. Spears became the Director of Emergency Services for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

David F. Thorman

David Thorman, AIA, is an architect with over forty years of experience in the design and construction industry, with the majority of his work being in K-12 and community college program/construction management. He was a senior vice president and group leader for 3D/International, Inc., managing their northwest region program/construction management offices. Prior to 3D/International, he managed the northwest region as a regional vice president for Kitchell CEM, Inc.

His career began at CRSS, a nationally recognized architectural, engineering, and construction management company, where he held many leadership positions in architecture, planning, interiors, and program/construction management during his twenty-two year tenure. Mr. Thorman is a registered architect in California and a member of the American Institute of Architects. He is a retired United States Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander. He lives in Sacramento.

Mr. Thorman was first appointed as California's State Architect in April 2005 and was confirmed in February 2006. In March 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger reappointed him to continue serving as State Architect, and he was reconfirmed by the State Senate on September 7, 2007. He serves on the California Seismic Safety Commission and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Advisory Board.