

## 2014 SPEAKER BIOS

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**Naomi Angel, Esq.**  
**[Howe & Hutton Ltd.](#)**

Naomi Angel, a partner with Howe & Hutton, Ltd., works with individuals and organizations in the meetings, travel, tourism, and hospitality industries. Additionally, she serves as General Counsel to national and international trade associations and professional societies, providing guidance in the areas of intellectual property, contracts, risk management, business continuity and disaster planning, governance, standards development, certification and accreditation, product liability, antitrust, and international organizational issues. Naomi has appeared before federal and state agencies and worked with national research laboratories, advocating positions on behalf of client associations. She has extensive commercial litigation experience at state and federal levels and is also a trained mediator. Naomi is a frequent speaker for MPI and its chapters, ASAE and its affiliated societies, PCMA, SGMP, ISES, SITE, and other groups in the meetings and hospitality industries. She also regularly writes articles for association journals on a wide range of legal issues of interest. Naomi is a member of the American Society of Association Executives and serves on ASAE's Association Law & Policy Committee; the Association Forum of Chicagoland; and the Chicago Bar Association; and is a past chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Trade and Professional Association Committee. She is a graduate of UCLA and DePaul University College of Law where she was a member of the Editorial Board of the DePaul Law Review and a Judicial Extern for the Honorable Richard Cudahy, U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit.

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**Laura Bell Way, CMP**  
**[Autodesk, Inc.](#)**

Laura Bell Way is the Global Meetings Manager at Autodesk, Inc. In her position she is responsible for the Autodesk Strategic Meetings Management Program, which streamlines the procurement and management of meetings for the entire global organization. As part of the SMM initiative at Autodesk, Laura is including sustainability in all hotel RFP processes and gathers carbon metrics for qualifying meetings. Laura has a twenty year history in corporate meetings and travel, including time as an adjunct professor in the School of Hospitality, Travel, and Tourism at Golden Gate University. She served on the Northern California Board of Site for 4 years, and is currently the Director at Large for the Northern California Chapter of the Green Meetings Industry Council.



**Gisela Bushey**

**SanDisk Foundation and Community Relations**

A non-profit and philanthropic executive for more than 20 years, Gisela Bushey has extensive experience focused on community, philanthropic and corporate affairs, organizational management, funds and infrastructure development. She is a strategic thinker with demonstrated leadership abilities and skill in team-based management, organizational alignment and administration, community relations, program development, communications management, public policy, government relations, advocacy, grant making and volunteer program development and implementation. Her proven ability to identify critical issues, direct strategic planning, and oversee the execution of external relations programs has led to the growth and development of numerous organizations providing critically needed community services.

Since 1990, Gisela has successfully headed fund development, management, community and external relations for nonprofit organizations, developed and implemented the philanthropic/grant making programs for three major Silicon Valley corporations (she currently manages SanDisk, Inc.'s philanthropy and community relations programs worldwide), designed and implemented the organizational, funding grant and loan-making structure for the region's largest housing trust fund, as well as served as Executive Director of the largest CASA (court-appointed child advocate) program in California serving abused and neglected children in foster care.

As a professional with extensive experience in corporate philanthropy, employee and community engagement, funds development and managing non-profit organizations, Gisela brings extensive insight and understanding of the local and international non-profit sectors, non-profit management and organizational development.



**John Chen**

**Geoteaming**



**Danielle DeLancey**

**Super Bowl L Host Committee**

After working for 10 plus years in large scale project management, Danielle joined as the Director of the San Francisco Super Bowl L/LI Bid Committee. Charged with managing the strategy and day-to-day operations of the Super Bowl bid, her responsibilities included establishing relationships with representatives from governmental, sports, business and hospitality sectors and managing the submission of bid documentation and agreements, resulting in a successful bid for Super Bowl L to be held in Levi's Stadium in 2016. Currently, Danielle serves as the Chief of Staff for the Super Bowl L Host Committee working closely with the CEO and team on executing this monumental event.



**Joshua Grimes, Esq.**  
**[Grimes Law Offices, LLC](#)**

Joshua L. Grimes, of Grimes Law Offices, LLC in Washington, DC and Philadelphia, specializes in serving the hospitality industry. His clients include meeting and event planners, associations, trade groups, hotels, restaurants, convention and conference facilities, and tour operators. In his law practice, Mr. Grimes meets the specialized legal needs of hospitality industry professionals. Mr. Grimes work for hotels and meeting facilities includes contract negotiation, franchise and management agreements, property sales, labor issues, and civil litigation. He was in charge of legal matters for the opening of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. A former aide to Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell, Mr. Grimes is Legal Counsel to the Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association and a member of the Academy of Hospitality Industry Attorneys. Mr. Grimes is a frequent author and speaker on hospitality law topics. In April 2008 he spoke at MPI's Gulf Meetings and Events Conference in Dubai and the Gulf Incentive, Business Travel, and Meetings Exhibition (GIBTM) in Abu Dhabi. Mr. Grimes is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and The George Washington University National Law Center. He is admitted to the Bars of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia.

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**Jeff Hurt**  
**[Velvet Chainsaw Consulting](#)**

Jeff Hurt is considered one of the leading authorities in the meetings industry on adult education, conference design, digital events and social media for events and associations. He speaks and blogs frequently about meeting and technology trends, the future of conference education, adult learning and all things meetings at [velvetchainsaw.com](http://velvetchainsaw.com).

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**David Nour**  
**[The Nour Group, Inc.](#)**

David Nour is the thought and practice leader on Relationship Economics® - the quantifiable value of business relationships. In a global economy that is becoming increasingly disconnected, The Nour Group, Inc. has attracted consulting clients such as KPMG, General Reinsurance, HP, Amerinet, Siemens and over 100 marquee organizations in driving unprecedented growth through unique return on their strategic relationships. David

has pioneered the phenomenon that relationships are the greatest off balance sheet asset any organizations possesses, large and small, public and private. He annually delivers 50 global keynotes at leading industry association conferences, corporate, and academic forums.

He is often a guest lecturer at the Goizueta Business School at Emory University and Georgia Tech's College of Management. He is an active member of several professional organizations, including the Association for Corporate Growth (ACG), National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD), and the Society of International Business Fellows (SIBF). David's unique perspective and independent insights on Relationship Economics® have been featured in a variety of prominent blogs and publications including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Knowledge@Wharton, The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Association Now, Entrepreneur and Success magazine. He is the author of several books including the best selling Relationship Economics (Wiley), Connect Ability (McGraw-Hill), The Entrepreneur's Guide to Raising Capital (Praeger) and the newly released Return on Impact – Leadership Strategies for the Age of Connected Relationships (ASAE).

An Eagle Scout himself, David is passionate about youth with his foundation's support of the Centennial Scouting movement, Junior Achievement, One Voice – aiming to create peace in the Middle East, and the High Tech Ministries. A native of Iran, David came to the U.S. with a suitcase, \$100, limited family ties and no fluency in English! He earned an Executive MBA from the Goizueta Business School at Emory University and a BA degree in Management from Georgia State University.

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**Christopher Romero**  
**[Stop Hunger Now](#)**



**Karen Sanders Noe**  
**[Stop Hunger Now](#)**

Karen Sanders Noé is the Director of Corporate Relations for Stop Hunger Now, an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and other support to the hungry and impoverished around the world. Stop Hunger Now offers hands-on service programs, providing CSR opportunities to both local and global organizations. She is a twenty year hospitality industry veteran, managing a consulting firm as an event planner for corporations and non-profits in the Silicon Valley. She received her CMP and led Meeting Professionals International Northern California Chapter as President in 1991.

Karen later served as Executive Director for various non-profits and led mission trips to Mexico to build houses for families in need. She helped to establish Stop Hunger Now's Northern California location in 2013 and recently returned from India where over 60,000 meals were packaged and distributed to the hungry. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from San Jose State University.



**Rosie Spaulding**  
**[Super Bowl L Host Committee](#)**

As Vice President of Event Planning and Operations, Rosie's primary focus is the creation, operation and delivery of both the public experiences and numerous ancillary events that will take place both during Super Bowl L and in the preceding two years. Having recently joined the team, Rosie is currently working on securing venues and the initial planning and development phase for these events.

Rosie has more than 10 years experience leading, marketing and delivering world-class sporting events within Olympics, the America's Cup, Volvo Ocean Race and Modern Pentathlon World Cup. A keen sports enthusiast, Rosie enjoys cycling, hiking, surfing and kite surfing in the Bay Area.



**James Spellos, CMP**  
**Meeting U**

James Spellos is the President of Meeting U., a company specializing in helping people become more productive and comfortable with technology. Jim is certified as a Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS). He is a recognized expert in the field of technology for business professionals, delivering nearly 200 seminars annually on how to become more productive and efficient using technology applications. He is a faculty member at New York University, teaching in the School of Professional and Continuing Studies since 1990. Jim joined the undergraduate faculty in 2002. Through Meeting U., Jim publishes a monthly technology e-letter named Techniques.

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**Tracy Stuckrath, CSEP, CMM, CHC**  
**Thrive! Meetings & Events**

Tracy is a certified event planner and meetings manager whose personal mission is to “make the world healthier one event at a time.” She is also one of 15 million Americans with food allergies. Combining her more than 20 years of eventplanning experience and food allergies, Tracy founded Thrive! Meetings & Events in 2010 to educate the hospitality industry on how to successfully accommodate dietary needs at events. Prior to opening Thrive!, Tracy spent her career in corporate America creating and managing events for two Olympic Games, consumer and trade magazines, an auto auction company and two trade associations. To stay abreast of industry trends, she is an active member of the International Special Events Society, Meeting Professionals International, Women Chefs and Restaurateurs, International Association of Culinary Professionals, Gluten Intolerance Group and the Food Allergy Research & Education. In her spare time, Tracy works part-time at Cook’s Warehouse working and interacting with local and national chefs.

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**Shawna Suckow, CMP**

**[SPIN Senior Planners Industry Network](#)**

Shawna Suckow, CMP, was a corporate planner for seven years, and owned her own company, COMPASS Events for 10 years before founding the Senior Planners Industry Network in 2008. In 2012, her first book, Planner Pet Peeves, was published. Today, in addition to running SPIN, she consults with suppliers all over the world to teach them how planners really think, act, build relationships, and make buying decisions. Her goal is to help bridge the communication gap between planners and suppliers and help each understand the other better. She speaks domestically and internationally on the secret languages of planners and suppliers, CSR, social media, sponsorship strategies, the impact of meetings, Meetings 3.0 (the future of meetings), supplier marketing strategies, and current industry issues. More info at [www.shawnasuckow.com](http://www.shawnasuckow.com).

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**Molly Walsh, CMP**

**[Key Events](#)**

Molly has more than two decades of experience in sales, marketing and event planning, which includes co-founding an event management company and a software startup that targeted Fortune 500 companies. In her present position, she is the Vice President, Business Development at Key Events, a full service meeting and event company based in San Francisco, producing global programs for corporate clients. Molly demonstrates her commitment to the industry through many leadership positions including Past President of the Northern California Chapter of Meeting Professionals International. Currently, Molly is the Director of Education for the Northern California Chapter of Green Meeting Industry Council.

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