

Anne Addison “Parenting and Team Management Expert”



Anne Addison graduated from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and earned a Masters of Business Administration from Northwestern University's, Kellogg School of Management. She worked for nearly ten years in marketing management for several Fortune 100 companies before she launched her own management consulting practice.

When at the age of three, her son was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Deficit and later with Asperger's Syndrome, a mild form of autism, Anne made a life-changing decision to close her consulting company and turn her business skills towards managing her son's case. Through her abilities to successfully manage a health care and education team and because of her effective personal style, Anne has navigated her son through a heart-wrenching and overwhelming ten years. She led him through educational failures, medication disasters, and more. Today, her son is a strong student in a typical fourth grade classroom and is involved in outside sports, church choir and music. Anne lives in Connecticut with her husband and two children.

Simon Baron-Cohen “Cognitive Neuroscientist”



Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at the University of Cambridge in the Departments of Experimental Psychology and Psychiatry. in Experimental Psychology at Trinity College, Cambridge. Co-director of the Autism Research Centre (ARC) in Cambridge. Director of CLASS, the Cambridge Lifespan Asperger Syndrome Service Holds degrees in Human Sciences from New College, Oxford, a PhD in Psychology from UCL, and an M.Phil in Clinical Psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry Has held teaching and research positions at the Institute of Psychiatry in

London, before moving to Cambridge. Has conducted extensive research into autism spectrum conditions at the psychological, diagnostic, and neuroscientific levels. author of: Mindblindness (MIT Press, 1995), Autism: The Facts (OUP, 1993), Teaching Children with Autism to Mindread (Wiley, 1999), The Essential Difference : Men, Women and the Extreme Male Brain (Penguin UK/Perseus, 2003) and many scientific journal articles · Has edited: Understanding Other Minds (OUP, 1995 and 2001), The Maladapted Mind (UCL Press, 1997), and Synaesthesia (Blackwells, 1997) · Is author of Mind Reading: The interactive guide to human emotions (DVD-ROM).

Maureen Bennie “Multi-Diagnosis with Autism Expert”



Maureen Bennie is the mother of two children with autism ages 3 and 5. She has a B. Mus. from the University of Victoria and was a music educator for 12 years. Her principal instruments are flute and piano.

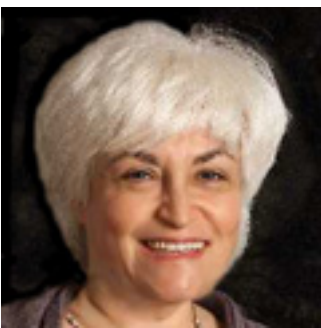
Maureen has spent the past year developing a freelance writing career. She has published over 50 articles in magazines throughout North America such as Canadian Living, Baby and Toddler, Homeschooling Today, The Dollar Stretcher, Western Parent, Alberta Parent, Home Learning Canada, Alberta Forum,

Birthing Magazine, The National Association of Women's Writer's, Vermont Kids, and Autism/Asperger's Digest. She recently completed a book about her experience raising two children with autism and is seeking a publisher.

Ms. Bennie is an organizing committee member for the "Keys to the Treasure Chest" autism conference which takes place annually in Edmonton, Alberta. She is also a Keen board member. Keen is a non-profit organization that raises money for projects in the autism community.

Maureen has been a regular contributor to the Autism Today website for the past 18 months writing monthly articles about issues parents face when raising a child with autism and reviewing new autism materials. She became a partner in the website with Karen Simmons and Ron Hansma in the fall of 2002. She joins the site as Marketing Director. She also represents the company at conferences throughout Canada helping parents and professionals find appropriate autism resources. Maureen resides in Calgary, Alberta, Canada with her children and husband Ron who is a professional pianist.

Judith Bluestone “Holistic Expert”



Judith Bluestone, originator of HANDLEÒ (Holistic Approach to NeuroDevelopment and Learning Efficiency) and the founder of The HANDLE Institute of Seattle, Washington, has more than 35 years of experience in the field of education as a teacher, learning disabilities specialist, and director of pre-school special services, therapist, private consultant, university adjunct faculty, lecturer, and conference presenter. She has extensive experience developing training programs for

educators and neurorehabilitation therapists who interact with children and adults experiencing cognitive, motor, and behavioral difficulties. Judith’s pioneering HANDLE paradigm has proven itself a practical tool for achieving functional outcomes by applying a systems approach to assessment and customized treatment programs for individuals, families, and communities around the world.

Judith received the most illustrious award offered by her alma mater, Case Western Reserve

University, when she was honored as their Distinguished Alumna in June 2002. The award recognized her outstanding contribution to the human condition through her cutting-edge treatments for neurodevelopmental disorders. She is listed in Who's Who in American Education 1992, 1994, and 1995. The program she developed and guided for early identification and treatment of neurodevelopmental obstacles to learning won the 1989 National Award for Early Childhood Education in the state of Israel.

Judith holds a special passion for working with the Autism Spectrum Disorders, since she has personally made the journey from autism and other neurological disorders as well. In *The Churkendoose Anthology: True Stories of Triumph over Neurological Dysfunction*, published by The HANDLE Institute in 2002, there are four cases of children with autism with insights from Judith into their conditions from a holistic perspective. Judith's second book, *The Fabric of Autism: Weaving the Threads into a Cogent Theory* is scheduled for publication the summer of 2003.

Andy Bondy & Lori Frost *“Psychologist - Speech, language pathologist, developmental disabilities expert”*

Andy Bondy, Ph.D., has over 30 years experience working with children and adults with autism and related developmental disabilities. For more than a dozen years he served as the Director of the Statewide Delaware Autistic Program. He and his wife, Lori Frost, pioneered the development of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). Based upon principles described in Skinner's *Verbal Behavior*, the system gradually moves from relatively simple yet spontaneous mending to tacting with multiple attributes. He has designed the Pyramid Approach to Education (with Beth Sulzer-Azaroff) as a comprehensive combination of broad-spectrum behavior analysis and functional communication strategies. This approach aims to help professionals and parents design effective educational environments for children and adults with developmental disabilities within school, community, and home settings. He is the co-founder of Pyramid Educational



Consultants, Inc., an internationally based team of specialists from many fields working together to promote integration of the principles of applied behavior analysis within functional activities and an emphasis on developing functional communication skills independent of modality.

Lori A. Frost, M.S., C.C.C. is a speech/language pathologist certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She has nearly 20 years experience working with children with limited communication and severely challenging behavior. She is co-developer of the Picture Exchange Communication System, a unique augmentative communication system that has been used widely with children and adults who have difficulty using speech as a primary mode of communication. She has led regional, national and international conferences and workshops. She consults to numerous schools and programs worldwide regarding the development of functional communication skills for children and adults with

autism and related disabilities.

Jean-Paul Bovee “*Singer with autism*”

Jean-Paul Bovee is a 34 year old man on the autism spectrum. He has an M.A. in Medieval History from the University of Kansas and an M.A. in Library and Informational Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Currently, Mr. Bovee is an information specialist at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute for Human Development: Missouri Developmental Disabilities Resource Center.

He was diagnosed at the age of 3 and a half and again at the age of 6 with Early Infantile Autism and Childhood Schizophrenia. At the time of the diagnosis, doctors said that he was not capable of anything. Well, that is obviously not true. Mr. Bovee has also recently got engaged to a lady named Debbie Montgomery and they are getting married in July, 2003.



Leslie Broun “*Academic Development Expert*”



For the past nine years, Leslie Broun has worked for the Peel District School Board in Ontario as an Itinerant Resource Teacher for children who have special needs. As an Itinerant Teacher, she works with teachers and teaching assistants of children who are mainstreamed in regular classroom settings. Previous to this, Leslie taught a congregated class of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders for seven years and developmentally disabled adults for three years. Her credentials include a B.A., B.Ed. and M.Ed. and a Specialist

Certificate in Special Education. She has also taught Additional Qualification courses in Special Education for York University and Developmental Disabilities for the University of Western Ontario. Her on-going professional focus is the development of practical and effective visual learning strategies and materials for teaching skills in literacy and mathematics to children who have Autistic Spectrum Disorders and other developmental disabilities.

"Along with an emphasis on the development of communication, social and behavioural skills, the development of academic skills is also crucially important for the children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. The question of how to teach these skills often arises - how

do we do it? what do we use? what do the materials look like? My on-going mission has been the creation, compilation and organization of materials and methods that are practical, cost-effective, aid in curriculum modification, and follow a developmental sequence that teaches to the visual learning style of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders."

Jennifer Buchanan *"Music Therapist"*



Jennifer Buchanan, MTA: is the owner and Senior Music Therapist of the JB Music Company and Past President of the Canadian Association for Music Therapy (CAMT). Jennifer has been practicing music therapy in Calgary for over 11 years providing music therapy services to diverse populations including children, adolescents and adults with neurological impairment, mental health issues and developmental learning challenges. She is active as a session instructor at the University of Calgary and Mount Royal College, and has lead many workshops aimed at supporting each person's quality of life and creative spirit.

Bill Davis *"Safety Advocate"*



Bill is our Resident Safety Advocate Expert who tirelessly and purposefully advocates for those without a voice to insure safety awareness is understood and respect is fostered for those with Autism spectrum disorders without a voice.

Bill's message is simple, "Don't hurt my child." His presentation describes autism and its characteristics. It explains why emergency responders might be called to a scene involving an autistic person, what they might encounter, and how to communicate and interact with a person afflicted with autism.

Gabrielle Devyn *"Asperger's adult"*



I am 23 years old and a college student. I always was aware that I was different, but did not know about Asperger's until I self-diagnosed two years ago. What is there to tell about me? I am a writer and a photographer, I am studying sociology/anthropology—as someone with HFA, this is what I do, anyway—I might as well have a degree in it. Naturally, I am also interested in Psychology. I want to be a writer/photographer and to show people how I see the world. Maybe the way I see things

can help people understand the things from another perspective.

Often another perspective is what is needed. I come from California and I live near my mother. I have been on my own for years and, though it is sometimes very hard, I hold a normal job. In addition to my studies, I am striving to recognize my differences, not as disabilities, but often as strengths.

More and more I am realizing that I can't just ignore the fact that I am different and pretend it isn't so—yet that I can't beat myself up over it, either. In order to live well I must see and acknowledge the differences not as bad, but just as different, and to understand that the best gift that I have to give the world is my uniqueness.

Lori Ernsperger “Curriculum and Instructional Strategies Expert”



Dr. Lori Ernsperger is from Henderson, Nevada where she is the owner of Autism and Behavioral Consulting. Lori received her doctorate in Special Education from Indiana University. She has over 17 years of experience in the public schools as a classroom teacher, administrator, and behavioral consultant. She is recognized as an expert in the field of autism and behavioral disorders.

She consults with school district personnel and parents in order to provide effective educational programs and best practice strategies for students with autism and behavioral disorders.

Liane Gentry “Political Activist”



Liane Gentry Skye is the stay at home mother of four wonderful children, two of whom have autism. Her articles and essays regarding autism have appeared in such venues as Autism Today, Autism/Asperger's Digest, Guideposts, Angels on Earth, and The Myrtle Beach Sun News.

Ms. Skye's first book, Turn Around, Bright Eyes, Snapshots from a Voyage out of Autism's Silence chronicles her son's and communicating, and ultimately speaking with help of the Picture Exchange Communications System.

What time Ms. Skye doesn't spend mothering and writing, she spends advocating for free, fair, and appropriate autism services for South Carolina's public school students with autism. She thinks she's gotten rather good at it.

Peter Gerhardt “Adults with Autism Issues Expert”

Dr. Peter Gerhardt is Executive Director of Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism which operates the Martin C. Barell School in Levittown, NY. The Martin C. Barell School provides educational services and supports to learners with autism, ages three to twenty-one, and their families.

He is the author or co-author of articles and book chapters on the needs of adults with autism spectrum disorder, the school-to-work-transition process and analysis and intervention of problematic behavior. He has presented nationally and internationally on these topics. He currently serves on the Professional Advisory Boards of the Autism Society of America, MAAP Services, NJ COSAC, QSAC, and ASPEN. In addition, Dr. Gerhardt is the Chairperson of the Scientific Council of the Organization for Autism Research (OAR).

Previously, Dr. Gerhardt was a Research Asst. Professor at the Rutgers University Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology with an appointment as the Director of the Division of Transition and Adult Services of the Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center. It was in this capacity the he co-founded the Douglass Group, a social skills and support service for adults with Aspergers Disorder or High Functioning Autism.

Dr. Gerhardt received his doctorate from the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education.

Keith Goulden “Pediatrician”

Dr. Keith Goulden graduated in Medicine from the University of Western Ontario in 1980, and interned at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. He trained in Paediatrics and Child Neurology at the IWK Hospital for Children in Halifax, and then in Developmental-Behavioural Paediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY. He began his academic career at Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Janeway Child Health Centre, and has been an Associate Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Alberta for the past 10 years. In 2002, he was appointed the Director of the University's Division of Neurodevelopmental / Neuromotor Paediatrics and the Clinical Director of Capital Health Authority's Regional Neurodevelopmental Program. Dr Goulden is also a member of the Applied Developmental Neurosciences group (Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta), and of the Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network. He has been involved in clinical neurodevelopmental paediatrics in Edmonton at both the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital and at regional Level II Clinics, with a particular interest in children with autism and their families.

Temple Grandin “Autism Visionary”



Temple Grandin, PhD., is a gifted animal scientist who has designed one third of all the livestock-handling facilities in the United States. She also lectures widely on autism - because Temple Grandin is autistic, a woman who thinks, feels and experiences the world in ways that are incomprehensible to the rest of us.

In her unprecedented book, *Thinking in Pictures*, Grandin delivers a report from the country of autism. Writing from the dual perspectives of a scientist and an autistic person, she tells us how that country is experienced by its inhabitants and how she managed to breach its boundaries to function in the outside world. What emerges in *Thinking in Pictures* is the document of

an extraordinary human being, one who, in gracefully and lucidly bridging the gulf between her condition and our own, sheds light on the riddle of our common identity.

Raun K. Kaufman “Adult Parenting Expert”

Raun K. Kaufman is an international speaker, writer and teacher for The Son-Rise Program® at the Autism Treatment Center of America™. In his work with families, children, and professionals, Mr. Kaufman brings a distinctive qualification to the realm of autism treatment—his own personal story of recovery.

At 18 months, Raun was diagnosed as severely autistic. Although advised to institutionalize Raun, his parents, authors/teachers Samahria and Barry Neil Kaufman, created an innovative home-based, child-centered program in an effort to reach their son. Their work, which developed into a unique methodology now known as The Son-Rise Program, enabled Raun to



recover completely from his autism, transforming him from a mute, withdrawn child with a tested I.Q. of less than 30 into an outgoing, social boy with a near-genius I.Q. Raun's story was recounted by his father in the best-selling book *Son-Rise: The Miracle Continues* and was the subject of an award-winning NBC television movie *Son-Rise: A Miracle of Love*.

Mr. Kaufman graduated from Brown University with a degree in Biomedical Ethics. Mr. Kaufman currently works at the Autism Treatment Center of America and is an integral member of The

Son-Rise Program that began with him. He has discussed The Son-Rise Program, autism treatment, and his own perspectives as a person recovered from autism in radio, television, Internet, and print interviews. He has lectured internationally to thousands of parents and professionals. He presented at the National Autism Society of America conference in Indianapolis in July 2002 to a standing room only crowd.

Norm Ledgin “Autism Historian”



Norm Ledgin is the author of two books about Asperger's Syndrome and father of a young adult with that condition. His first book, *Diagnosing Jefferson*, became one of the top-selling biographies of the nation's third president shortly after its publication in 2000. A follow-up work in 2002 titled *Asperger's and Self-Esteem* examines lives of a dozen historical figures in science and the performing arts. Their achievements were exceptional despite strong traits of Asperger's. Ledgin is a native of New Jersey, has degrees in journalism and political science

from Rutgers, and has had careers in traffic safety education and journalism. He lives in Kansas and has also lived in Louisiana, Illinois, Missouri, and New Mexico. He is working on a book aimed at the mainstreaming of people with developmental differences.

Lisa S. Lewis “Dietary Expert”



Lisa S. Lewis is a co-founder of ANDI, the Autism Network for Dietary Intervention. ANDI publishes a quarterly newsletter on the subject of diet and autism and serves as a clearinghouse for diet-related information. She has presented workshops in all over the United States. In New Jersey, Dr. Lewis has given presentations and workshops at COSAC and the State Department of Education. She often speaks to school districts and parent-run organizations. Dr. Lewis is the author of the books *Special Diets for Special Kids (Future Horizons)* and

Special Diets for Special Kids Two. She has written many useful articles and brochures on diet related topics. She has an article featured in the book *Biological Treatments for Autism and PDD* edited by Dr. William Shaw. She is a contributor to *The Autism and Asperger Digest* and *Sully's Living Without Magazine*. Dr. Lewis is the mother of an autistic child who has benefited greatly from dietary intervention. Dr. Lewis received a doctorate in biological anthropology from New York University, where she studied genetic variation in two species of African monkey.

Connie Marks *"Toilet Training Expert"*



I am a parent of four children, and I have three grandchildren. My youngest son, 14 year old Kyle, has autism. I have been involved in working effectively together with parents and professionals within the autism community for 12 years. My training includes PECS, TEACCH, PRT, Discrete Trial, and Behaviour Modification. Author "Toilet Training: Is Your Child Ready?" *Autism/Asperger's Digest* July-August 2001 Positions Held: Director, San Diego Autism Society Past President, San Diego Chapter Autism Society of America Past President and

Founder, East County Chapter, Autism Society of America
Member, Institute for Children, Series I (San Diego County Office of Education, Autism Task Force) Member, Children's Hospital and Health Center, Anderson Dental Center, Task Force Past Vice Chairman, East County (San Diego, CA) SELPA (Special Ed Local Planning Area) CAC (Community Advisory Committee) Community Advisory Committee Representative to the East County SELPA (San Diego, CA) representing the Santee School District, Santee, California. Offering a complete service line devoted to parents and professionals involved in the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Teresa A. May-Benson *"Occupational Therapist"*

Teresa A. May-Benson, MS, OTR/L, Research Director of Occupational Therapy Associates-Watertown, P.C., is a well-known lecturer on sensory integration theory and intervention. She has a special interest in and extensive experience with autism, particularly older students and adults. She is a recipient of the Margaret Bauman Outstanding Service Provider Award for her work with adolescents and adults with autism. Ms. May-Benson received her bachelors degree from Ohio State University and her master's degree from Boston University with a concentration in sensory integration and school system therapy. She is currently a Maternal and Child Health Fellow in the Doctoral Program in Therapeutic Studies at Boston University completing her dissertation work on ideational praxis. She has recently authored two book chapters on praxis.



Roger Meyer “Employment Expert”



Roger Meyer is author of *Asperger Syndrome Employment Workbook* (2001). Roger completed his BA at the University of Minnesota in 1964. He has additional graduate education in law, political science, adult education, counseling, social work, and disability employment development. Returning to civilian work life after a three-year Army enlistment he began a succession of volunteer careers.

His counseling career began at a young adult drop-in center in the Haight Ashbury of San Francisco. As a union cabinetmaker for 26 years, he was a shop steward, taught apprentices, participated in contract negotiation committees and coordinated member social services during labor actions. For ten years he was a mediator in a citywide neighborhood community mediation program. He co-authored training manuals and developed casework and panel mediation techniques for dealing with property disputes and group conflicts.

He moved to Portland, Oregon in 1989 and left the building trades in 1998. While writing his book, Roger became a private wrap-around case manager for adults with disabilities and their families. His work combines a person-centered approach with cognitive behavioral techniques focusing on concrete life-changing outcomes. He represents clients before the Social Security Office of Hearings and Appeals and is a special education consultant and disability advocate. He maintains a private mediation practice specializing in disability and employment-related disputes.

In 1998, he founded the Portland AS adult support group and co-founded Oregon Parents United--a special education forum for parents of children with hidden disabilities. With two others he co-administers ASPIRES, an international list serv supportive of partners in AS relationships. In 2000 he began co-facilitating the first AS partners group where one or both members of the couple are on the autistic spectrum.

Richard Mills *“Therapeutic Interventions Expert”*



Richard Mills is the Director of Services for the National Autistic Society in the UK. He is responsible for all NAS schools, colleges, residential and day programmes for adults across the UK. Richard was also involved in setting up the NAS early intervention programme "EarlyBird", the Autism Services Accreditation programme and in 1995 opened the Hayes Unit, the first secure residential treatment facility for adults with Asperger syndrome. His professional training and background is in applied psychology and social work and he has held positions

in the National Health Service, Social Services and higher education.

Richard has been involved in numerous government advisory groups on autism. He has worked as a consultant for the National Development Team for learning Disability, and is now working closely with the British Institute of Learning Disabilities [BILD], particularly on training and physical interventions. He is a member of the Autism Accreditation Standards Panel.

Richard has worked overseas and in 1995 was appointed specialist consultant to the Eden Foundation Malta, where he has overseen the development of their autism programmes, particularly early years. At present he works with Dr Lorna Wing on their follow up study of women with autistic disorders, detained in secure hospitals. He currently chairs the NAS research group on ageing and autism. In 1991 Richard was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has recently been appointed Director of the Autism Research Trust and will be working closely with Professor Simon Baron-Cohen of the Autism Research Centre at Cambridge University.

Simon Murch *“Paediatric Gastroenterology Expert”*

Simon Murch is Senior Lecturer and honorary Consultant in Paediatric Gastroenterology at the Royal Free and University College School of Medicine, London. His research background is in mucosal immunology, and much of his early work was based on the role of macrophage products such as TNF- α in intestinal and lung inflammation. He is academic director of the Centre for Paediatric Gastroenterology, and tries to combine a busy clinical practice with laboratory research. He is director of the Paediatric Food Allergy clinic, and has additional interests in Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Coeliac Disease, autoimmune enteropathy and protein-losing enteropathy. He and his team first developed an awareness of intestinal problems in autism in the mid-1990's, and eventually published in collaboration with Andrew Wakefield a paper in the Lancet, which was influential in raising awareness of gut problems in autistic children. His subsequent work has been based on formal immunological characterisation of the lesion, and he hopes that some context can be established, to determine just which child has a relevant and potentially treatable gastroenterological component.

Jerry Newport “Asperger’s Socialization Expert”

Jerry Newport is a "late-bloomer", autism-wise. He was born August 19th, 1948, exactly two years after President Clinton. Unlike Clinton, Jerry inhaled a mild mix of Asperger's Symptoms, mixed with enough savant skills to avoid diagnosis until 1995. Raised in New York by two teachers, Jerry has a B.A. in Math from University of Michigan.

Moving to Southern California after college, Jerry spent three decades in San Diego and Los Angeles. Prior to seeing "Rain Man" in 1989, he was unaware of autism. Jerry's first wake up call came after he multiplied 4343 by 1234, in a movie theater, faster than "Rain Man" responded on screen. Prior to this self-discovery, Jerry's major interests were politics, sports, music and nature.

Since 1991, Jerry has been active in the autism community. He served on the board of directors of Autism Society of Los Angeles and it's agency, PDH Inc During that tenure, Jerry founded an adult support group, AGUA (Adult Gathering, United and Autistic) Jerry also met Mary Meinel, his future wife, at an AGUA Halloween meeting. Jerry recently was part of an NPR program, "The Infinite Mind "and has been interviewed on many radio talk shows.

Today, Jerry lives in Tucson, Arizona with wife, Mary, who is also a savant with Asperger's Syndrome. Mary is a mother of two independently living sons and is a grandmother.

Jerry writes and speaks about adult issues in autism. He also works seasonally at H&R Block and does freelance accounting. Jerry's first book is now in it's second printing; "Your Life is Not a Label: A Guide to Living Fully with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome" He and Mary co-wrote "Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and Sexuality".

Nathan Ory “Cognitive Behavioral Psychologist”

A registered psychologist, Nathan Ory has worked in Victoria, British Columbia since 1978 with children and adults with mentally handicapping conditions. He has specialized in those clients with autistic features, extremely challenging behavior, and/or diagnosis with a concurrent mental illness.

Since 1990 he has been a member of a multi-disciplinary mental health support team on Vancouver Island (Island Mental Health Support Team) which assists persons to remain in their community settings. He describes his roles as including functional behavior analysis, direct counselling, caregiver training about the effect of an individual's cognitive limitations on that person's coping ability, prescriptive behavioral strategies and emotional management

strategies.



Nathan contributes a bi-monthly article to the websites autism-spectrum.com and autismtoday.com. He has published the book *Working With People With Challenging Behavior*. He has also produced seven video-tapes of presentations based on chapters from this book.

Stephen Shore

William Shaw “Biomedical Interventions Expert” Autism Conferences Online Presenter

William Shaw PhD received a Ph.D. in biochemistry, genetics, and human physiology from the Medical University of South Carolina. He is board-certified in the fields of clinical chemistry and toxicology by the American Board of Clinical Chemistry. He is now the director of The Great Plains Laboratory for Health, Nutrition, and Metabolism in Overland Park, Kansas specializing in metabolic and nutritional factors in a wide range of human diseases but with a special focus on the causes of autism and PDD.

The last seven years of Dr Shaw's research have been devoted to research on the metabolic, infectious, nutritional, and immunological causes of autism. Dr Shaw has been the keynote speaker at the National Autism Society of America National Meeting, the National Meeting of



the American Association for Environmental Medicine, and the National Meeting of the American Academy for the Advancement of Medicine and has spoken to numerous groups about autism and has provided medical training about autism in virtually every state in the United States and in England,

Scotland, New Zealand, Indonesia, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Spain, Venezuela, Mexico, Costa Rica, Canada, and Brazil. Dr. Shaw along with several co-authors recently published the second edition of his book "Biological Treatments for Autism and PDD. What's going on? What can you do about it?", a comprehensive and easy to read guide to the most current research and medical therapies for autism and PDD.

Stephen Shore

Jonathan Sicoli “Pre-teen with autism-Asperger’s”

Jonathan Sicoli is a twelve-year old boy with high functioning autism. He is currently enrolled in Jean Vanier Junior High School and is attending this regular school with support. Jonathan was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder at the age of three and was given the label of autism when he was five. He began reading when he was two with his first read word was "recycle". When Jonathan was in grade six, he played on the Sherwood Park Cougars Football Team and won the "Player Of The Week" award for his outstanding efforts.

Jonathans interests are computer, Nintendo, play station and other sorts of electronic games. He also enjoys swimming and climbing. His goal in life at this time is to design hovercraft



and be an inventor. Jonathan is very articulate and is able to express his thoughts and feelings verbally and in his writings. He was recently a guest of the "A Channel" in Edmonton to talk about what it is

like to have autism. He lives with his five other siblings and both of his parents in Alberta Canada.

Karen Simmons "Large Family with Autism Expert"



"Karen Simmons is a mother of six and the author of Little Rainman, a story of autism told through the eyes of her son. A gemologist by trade, Karen shifted gears to working full time in the autism community after a near-death experience. She is the founder of AutismToday.com and is active worldwide in promoting a deeper and more personal understanding autism and Asperger's Syndrome. Her home is in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

"Little Rainman, Autism Through The Eyes of a Child", was published in 1996, by Future Horizon's, Inc. "Little Rainman" was written to raise awareness of the early warning signs of autism and to gently explain autism to her son Jonathan and those involved in his life. Her book is a best seller in the autism field. She has since published two additional titles, Surrounded By Miracles, and Peace of Mind For Autism CD. As we entered the new millennium she launched a new online business specifically for the autism community called AutismToday.com. Today this user friendly, quick service brings the latest news, articles, search and list, Resident Experts, author quest, and much more and is visited by over 350,000 visitors monthly.

She is also the founder of the K.E.E.N. Education Foundation. The mission of KEEN Education is to build a life for children with exceptional needs in order to lead to their fullest, socially included potential. Karen is also an international presenter and has been featured in international publications such as "Womans World".

Bart Stevens "Special Needs Planning"



Bart has been providing estate planning services since 1972. He is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, N.J. and a U.S. Army veteran.

Bart founded Bart Stevens Special Needs Planning in 1993 exclusively to educate, provide information, and assist families in planning for the future care, supervision, and security of their loved one with special needs. He is one of the first planners to have earned the professional designation of Chartered Lifetime Assistance Planner (ChLAP) from the National Institute on Life

Planning for Persons with Disabilities.

In 1979 he and his wife, Barbara, moved from Morristown, New Jersey to Scottsdale, Arizona where they reside with their two dogs. Barbara is also a writer whose first book, *Not Just One In Eight - Stories of Breast Cancer Survivors and Their Families* was published and released nationally in October 2000.

Bart is a nationally recognized speaker at local, state, national and international conferences. These organizations include the National Autism Society of America, National Down Syndrome Society, National Down Syndrome Congress, National Spina Bifida Association, and TASH. He also conducts educational seminars, provides individual planning assistance and group planning workshops throughout the United States. He has written articles for publications including *The Advocate* (The Autism Society of America's newsletter) and *Paraplegia News*. He has been a guest on radio and television shows. He has also been interviewed by *The New York Sunday Times* (1/9/00); *Mature Outlook Magazine* (12/00); *Kiplinger Reports* (Fall 00); *The Washington Times* (3/27/01); and *The Chicago Tribune* (10/01). Bart authored the Life Planning brochure for the National Down Syndrome Society. He is the author of groundbreaking new book, *The ABC's of Special Needs Planning* and *The Special Needs Planning Kit*© do-it-yourself planning system. He has worked with over one hundred organizations, support groups, government agencies, school districts and professional groups nationwide.

Darold Treffert “Gifted Savant Expert”



Dr. Treffert completed both his medical training and psychiatric residency at the University of Wisconsin Medical School in 1962. He then joined the staff of Winnebago Mental Health Institute in Oshkosh, Wisconsin where he developed the Child-Adolescent Unit. In 1964 he was named Superintendent of the facility, a position he held for 15 years. Following that, Dr. Treffert was both in private practice and served as Executive Director of the Fond du Lac Community Developmental Disability, Mental Health and

AODA programs.

Dr. Treffert has had a long interest in Autistic Disorder including research on the epidemiology of that condition. He is also an internationally recognized researcher on savant syndrome. In 1989 he published the first comprehensive book on that remarkable condition entitled

"Extraordinary People: Understanding Savant Syndrome. The book, with an epilogue update, was re-issued by iUniverse.com in April/00.

Dr. Treffert has published widely on Savant Syndrome, and Autistic Disorder, the most recent being an article entitled Island of Genius in June, 2002 issue of Scientific American. He has had numerous media appearances on these topics including Sixty Minutes, Today, Oprah, Larry King, Discovery and a number of other documentaries. He was a consultant to the movie Rain Man in which Dustin Hoffman portrays an Autistic Savant. He maintains a very popular and respected web site on savant syndrome at www.savantsyndrome.com. Dr. Treffert is a Clinical Professor at the University of Wisconsin Medical School and is on the staff of St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Diane Twachtman-Cullen “Educational Programming Expert”

Diane Twachtman-Cullen is a communication disorders specialist and licensed speech-language pathologist specializing in autism, Asperger syndrome, and related conditions. She holds an MA in speech-language pathology, a Sixth Year Diploma in early childhood special education, and a Ph.D. in special education. She is the author of chapters on high-functioning autism and Asperger syndrome in the Division TEACCH series published in 1998, and in Communication and Language Issues in Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorder: A Transactional Developmental Perspective, edited by Amy M. Wetherby and Barry M. Prizant, published in May, 2000. She is also the author of three books, A Passion to Believe: Autism and the Facilitated Communication Phenomenon; Trevor Trevor, a metaphor for children designed to increase the sensitivity of typical peers toward their classmates with special needs; and How To Be A Para Pro: A Comprehensive Training Manual For Paraprofessionals. Her newest book entitled, How Well Does Your IEP Measure Up? was co-authored with her daughter, Jennifer Twachtman-Reilly, M.S., CCC-SLP. Dr. Twachtman-Cullen's column, Straight Talk About Language and Communication is a regular feature of the Autism - Asperger's Digest Magazine. She also serves on several professional advisory boards, including the Panel of Professional Advisors of the Autism Society of America, ASC-US (Asperger Syndrome Coalition of the United States), and ASPEN (Asperger Syndrome Education Network). She provides consultative services and training seminars internationally, on a variety of topics related to autism spectrum disorders and language development. Information about her publications may be obtained by contacting the Starfish Specialty Press website at www.starfishpress.com. Dr. Twachtman-Cullen's consultation agency, ADDCON Center is located in Higganum, Connecticut.

Jennifer Twachtman-Reilly “Speech-Language Pathologist”



Jennifer Twachtman-Reilly is a speech-language pathologist who specializes in working with individuals with autism spectrum disorders and related language disorders. She currently provides evaluation and consultation services / training through the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Consultation Center.

Ms. Twachtman-Reilly has presented her clinical work at state, regional, and national conferences and has traveled nationally to provide on-line training / consultation and a variety of professional workshops. She has served as the Programs chair on the Executive

Board of the Rhode Island Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is currently serving this organization as its Continuing Education Administrator.

She is the co-author (with Diane Twachtman-Cullen, Ph.D.) of the book *How Well Does Your IEP Measure Up? Quality Indicators for Effective Service Delivery* (Starfish Specialty Press, 2002) and the author of the chapter "Improving the Human Condition Through Communication Training in Autism" which appears in the book *Contemporary Issues in Behavior Therapy: Improving the Human Condition* (Plenum Press, 1996, J. R. Cautela & W. Ishaq, Eds.)

Maria Wheeler "Inclusion Expert"



Maria Wheeler is an educational and behavioral consultant based in Dallas, who serves various school districts, educational agencies, and families throughout Texas and nationally. She provides on-site behavior intervention planning and consultation for educators serving students with autism and other neurobehavioral disorders, as well as on-site coaching for in-home trainers, parent training, and professional development training.

Donna Williams "Author and Artist with Autism"



I was born in 1963, in the inner city mangle of urban Australia in the days when 'autism' was unheard of even though the condition had always existed. I grew up in a family with more challenges than my own and spent most of my first 24 years with undiagnosed milk allergy, dairy/gluten intolerance and Salicylate intolerance.

But I'm more than an 'autie'. I'm Donna (it took me most of my childhood to connect with that name or that any name was inherently linked with the feel of a person). I'm wild and woolly, with an incredible naughty streak, prone to phobia and compulsion with a great determination to strive for balance and detachment yet a great love of connection and discovery.

I'm a consultant to schools and do workshops and lectures, catering to the Education Authority, Social Services, the National Health Service and the Autistic Societies as well as the general public. At my first US talk (Connecticut) I came out and sat and cried for the first five minutes. The audience was silent and patient and I was so moved they didn't try to control me or talk to me, they just let me be, they trusted. I honored that respect and

eventually got to my feet and read the pages I couldn't understand in this state of shutdown until the words began to have meaning. In between I looked up, cried again and continued. They taught me I could dare to be me before others no matter what.

Pat Wyman “Learning Styles Expert”

Pat Wyman has been a teacher for over 25 years. She has a Masters Degree in Education and is totally committed to helping all children be successful. She is now an Instructor of Education at California State University, Hayward, Continuing and Extended Education Division. She trains teachers throughout the country and offers on-site workshops backed by over 13 years of successful pre and post test student data showing that over 50,000 students have raised their grades to A's and B's.

As a Reading Specialist, she is especially interested in solving reading problems, so she offers free diagnostic reading tests and individual correction kits. Further, she teaches another course called Dramatically Improving Student Reading Results on improving student reading results both on the Cal State campus and on school



sites.

Pat is also interested in how nutrition affects learning. Her book, *What's Food Got To Do With It* lists 101 Natural Remedies for Learning Disabilities and explores how food allergies can cause ADD and ADHD learning disability.

Her new book, *Learning vs. Testing* discusses solutions to the learning-testing mis-match and offers breakthrough information to help all children succeed in school.

The Center for New Discoveries in Learning provides information, learning strategies and a variety of educational resources, which insure that all children will be successful in school. This information is based on exciting new discoveries about the nature of learning and individual learning styles. Through the information she makes available, specific strategies are provided for use in all subject areas to insure total success in school and immediately raise any child's self-esteem.