

# PACE Setter

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER for EDUCATION  
Connect • Support • Educate



## Lawn Party at the Triton



Join us on  
9/11!

## We Have an Event for YOU!

### Get Your Foursome Together Now!

#### 8th Annual Golf Classic

Friday, May 20, 2016 | Cinnabar Hills

Call your friends and join us at our popular **Golf Classic!** We'll be golfing on Friday, May 20th at Cinnabar Hills in San Jose. This event helps to make PACE's high-quality programs possible. Your \$200 per player ticket price includes:

- 18 beautiful fairways with golf cart
- Full lunch and refreshments
- Tee prizes and exciting on-course contests
- Complimentary swag bag
- Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams
- Raffle and Live Auction
- Dinner and cocktails

Visit [www.pacificautism.org/events](http://www.pacificautism.org/events), or email [events@pacificautism.org](mailto:events@pacificautism.org) for sponsorship opportunities, and to register. Event Chairs Joe Dermer and Tom Marchok look forward to seeing you there! ■



### Celebrate the Outdoors!

#### Lawn Party at the Triton

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016 | Triton Museum

In our ongoing efforts to offer new events, we've planned an afternoon of lawn games, music and delicious food and wine for all of our families and supporters at the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara on September 11th, from 2 to 6pm.

We'll be outside on the gorgeous open garden surrounding the historic **Jamison-Brown House**. We'll have a cornhole tournament, appetizers, drinks, and a silent auction. Local artists have created one-of-a-kind cornhole boards for auction. Since we'll be serving alcohol at the event, we ask that only adults attend. As always, you are welcome to bring guests. Make it a fun afternoon out while you support PACE!

Watch for your invitation in the mail, but please do save the date on your calendar. To purchase tickets, become a sponsor or to make a donation, visit [www.pacificautism.org/events](http://www.pacificautism.org/events), email [events@pacificautism.org](mailto:events@pacificautism.org), or call 408.625.6191. ■

## Goodbye & Thank You, Joe Dermer

By Rachel Palmer, Annual Fund Manager

After nine years of service to PACE on the **Board of Directors**, **Joe Dermer** has completed his term and moves onto the Advisory Board. Joe joined the Board of Directors in 2007 and served as the Board President from 2010-2011. It was a natural progression for Joe to join the Board after his mother, **Sheila Dermer**, completed her Board service. The Dermer family has been highly involved with PACE since the **SPARK Foundation** merged with PACE in 1995. Joe's brother, Josh has been a resident of PACE Matranga House since that time. Joe felt a strong commitment to participate on behalf of his brother and give back to the community at large.

Joe's favorite memory of his time with PACE thus far was shortly before joining the Board in 2007. He was asked to give the keynote address at the annual PACE Gala. Joe spoke passionately about what life was like growing up with a sibling with autism citing some of the more challenging and humorous moments in their family's life. He was very pleased and humbled with the warm reception of the audience at the event.

Joe has been involved in many aspects of the Board and attended many events over the years. He has been especially instrumental in founding the **PACE Golf Classic**, an event that he rekindled (from earlier SPARK days) in 2008. It has blossomed into one of PACE's most



Joe Dermer

anticipated annual fundraising events and Joe has remained a key player in the planning of the event. This year, PACE will be hosting the **8th Annual Golf Classic on Friday, May 20th**.

Looking back at his time on the Board, Joe said he most enjoyed "seeing PACE thrive. Over the nine years, there were expansion of services and inclusion of new programs that enhanced the quality of care and services for individuals with autism and related development disabilities."

When asked about his vision for the future for PACE, he said "for the **Parent Collaborative Home** model to come to full fruition. It is a great strategy for managing care for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities in their adult years. It forges a nice compromise between living at home and institutionalization. This model provides a middle ground for these individuals to become more independent while keeping parents involved in the choice of homes and

Continued on page 3

## Ask a Therapist

By Megan Anderson, M.A. CFY-SLP

**Q:** What is AAC?

**A:** AAC stands for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, and refers to a system that helps an individual communicate. This might be a low-tech (e.g. a binder with picture icons) or a high-tech device (e.g. tablet) depending on the individual's communication strengths, weaknesses and unique needs.

**Create opportunities for communication:** Children with disabilities often have fewer opportunities to communicate than their typically developing peers. You can help increase their communication experiences by asking more questions and not anticipating their needs. For example, ask "What do you want?" for a snack instead of offering their usual choice. Even though you may know what your child is asking for, encourage them to use their device. This is great practice for communicating out in the community (where others will not know their needs)!

**WAIT!** Many of the students at PACE benefit from being given time (up to 15-30 seconds) to respond to questions or use their device. It may feel like a long time, but the extra time to process information will help your child to think about and create their own unique response.

**Talk, Talk, Talk:** Our students can benefit a great deal from more

## Tips for supporting your child's AAC use at home

exposure to language, helping them understand how words relate to their actions and their environment. A great way to give your child more language input is to use simple narration during their everyday routine. For example, when your child is eating their favorite snack, you can say, "It's snack time! You're eating pretzels. Yum!" Sentences that are short and clear are the best way for your child to understand new language.

**Praise use of their system:** For many children, it's often easier to grab or point to things they want or are interested in. Your child will need to use communication to interact with people in the community. To encourage your child to use their system, point to their device as a reminder. Be sure and verbally praise your child if they use their device more frequently or with more independence, such as, "Great job using your words!" or "Thanks for letting me know what you want!" This will help your child realize how powerful communication can be with an AAC device.

These are general recommendations on how to support your child's communication. Contact your child's speech therapist to get more ideas on specific strategies. PACE's SLPs are available by phone (408.625.6182) or e-mail. Thank you from all of the therapists to the dedicated and wonderful parents of our PACE students! ■

## Life After PACE

By Kurt Ohlfs, Executive Director

Currently, the average age of PACE School students is approximately 16 years old. This is a good age to begin thinking about what your child might want to do once he or she graduates from PACE (usually at the age of 22). While there are many options to choose from in the Bay Area, parents and caregivers must take some time to consider which **Adult Day Program** would best benefit their child. Parents must also set aside a significant amount of time to tour these programs to determine the best fit for their child.

When your child is 1 to 2 years away from graduation, contact your Regional Center Case Manager and discuss options. Familiarize yourself with programs that are currently available, and consider if the child is best suited for a community-based program versus a day program.

The San Francisco Autism Society, Parents Helping Parents, SCCOE, and others offer fairly comprehensive lists of programs on their websites. Gather what information you can and begin to plan site visits. These programs are constantly changing and offering new services, so keep careful notes.

There are many things to consider when you are **touring a program**. Work with your Case Manager and devise a list of items that are important for your child and your family. You

### Post-Graduation Planning

might want to ensure that they have a behaviorist on staff, vocational programs, or communication devices. Look at each program's ratio of client to caregiver, licensing, and leadership. Determine if **transportation** to and from the center is available. If not, you'll need to plan how your child will be transported daily.

You may be eligible for a **reimbursement** of costs for both the adult day program and transportation from your Regional Center. Check with your Case Manager and review the Department of Developmental Services website for Community-Based Day Programs and Respite Programs reimbursement rates.

There is much to know about this process, and indeed, some transition planning may have already been introduced into your child's IEP if they are aged 14 or older. Your child's classroom teacher, or School Program Director, Silvia Pinto may be able to provide some guidance on what an appropriate program might look like for your child, and I am always available to answer your questions.

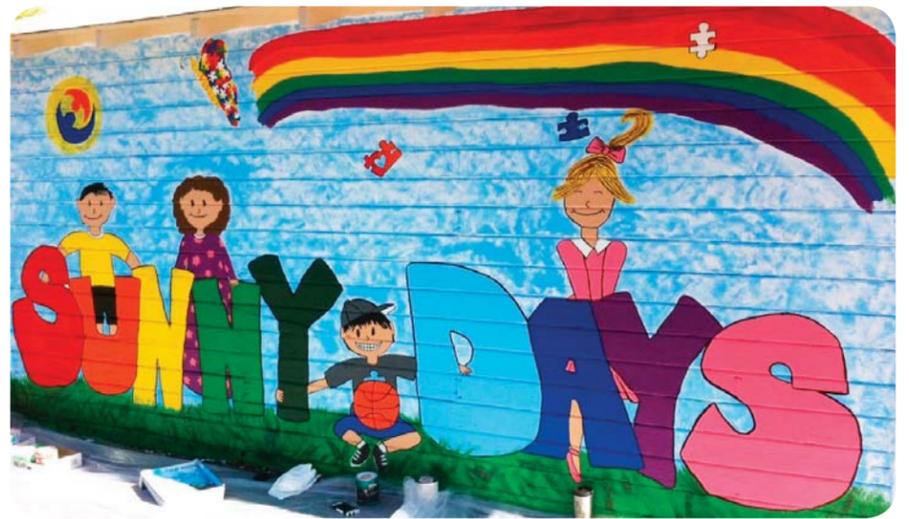
I hope I have inspired you! Finding a quality program for your child is not a simple matter, but with careful planning and support, most families are able to find a placement that meets their needs. ■

## The Preschool Program is Expanding!

By Karen Kennan, Assistant Executive Director

The Sunny Days Preschool program is growing! We are pleased to announce that starting in the late Spring we plan to offer our inclusive morning program 5 days a week, Monday--Friday. In the coming months we will also be looking at the possibility of expanding our hours and, if need continues to grow, opening a second classroom.

Do you have a preschooler who is ready to start school in an inclusive supportive program that is individualized and tailored to your child's specific needs? We have a few spots currently available in our Sunny Days morning classroom for children 3-6 years of age. Call 408-551-0312 for more information and to arrange a campus tour. ■



*"PACE is an organization that is very close to my heart. My son was privileged enough to be a student at their Sunny Days program for a few years during which time he flourished. I have no idea where he would be today with his development without the care and direction offered by PACE."*

*~ David Setti, PACE Board Member*

## Developing Independent Play Skills

By Deb McClellan, Marketing & Communication Manager

The **Porchlight Autism Education Series** provides parents and caregivers a resource for better understanding their child with autism and developing many different skills. This free online series focuses on education and solutions to help with positive behavioral change, increasing developmental skills and building new communication skills at home. The Learning Modules are designed and written by PACE staff therapists. One of our most popular learning modules is **"Independent Play Skills."**

For children with autism, playing independently can be challenging because they have limited social and communication skills, and often engage in repetitive behaviors that restrict their ability to play creatively and with other children. While independent play skills is a broad topic and may require input and planning from your child's therapist, our module talks about a few things you can do to encourage your child to de-

velop these skills. **View the module at [www.porchlighteducation.org](http://www.porchlighteducation.org)**, and select "Learning Modules" at the menu at top. Click on "Daily Routines" – Independent Play Skills is at the end of the listings.

It is important for you to teach your child how to play independently for several reasons. First, play is a way for a child to learn new skills and develop themselves. Children develop their interests, and gross and fine motor skills through play. They also learn how to solve problems for themselves, and how to appropriately interact with others through play. Second, children who can play independently develop a sense of confidence in their own abilities and are more independent in other areas of their daily life.

Find out more at [www.porchlight-education.org](http://www.porchlight-education.org). ■

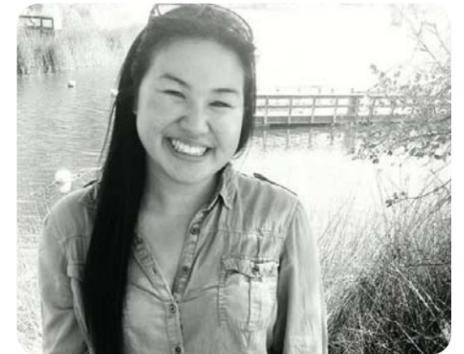
**Porchlight**

## The News @ Faces

By Karen Kennan, Assistant Executive Director

We'd like to welcome our newest Faces therapist, **Elise Tran**! Elise is working on becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), and took her exam in February. Elise is a graduate of University of Washington where she studied Applied Behavior Analysis and received her Masters in Special Education. In addition to her early intervention training at an inclusive preschool in Seattle, she worked closely with families from multicultural backgrounds throughout her college career and is a strong advocate for supporting parents and new therapists in the education field.

Elise has already stepped up and taken on the job of **Porchlight webinar host**. She guided parents and caregivers through an hour-long webinar detailing the steps of creating "Independent Play Skills" for children on the autism spectrum. See the article to the left for a detailed description of the free online learning module. All Porchlight webinars are free, and are moderated by staff working in the area of their expertise.



Elise Tran

The Faces program offers 1:1 behavioral therapy for children and their families in the South Bay and Peninsula regions. Under a team of skilled clinical supervisors, behavior therapists provide instruction and support for clients as well as behavioral coaching for families.

Do you know someone who enjoys working with children, has a passion for learning and is interested in the science of behavior? We are always looking for new staff members to join our team. Call **408.625.6176** for information or to apply. ■

## Ways You Can Help

Please consider making a donation to PACE in one of the following ways:

• Secure online donations can be made directly to PACE on our website at [www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org).

• Donate by mail by sending your contributions to **1880 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050**.

• Donate by telephone by calling **408-245-3400** and using your credit card to make a contribution.

• Double your gift with an employee matching gift contribution.

• A donation made in someone's honor is a lovely way to acknowledge someone special and also support PACE.

• To include PACE in your workplace giving options, please contact [development@pacificautism.org](mailto:development@pacificautism.org).

• View the **PACE Wish List** here: [pacificautism.org/donations/pace-wishlist/](http://pacificautism.org/donations/pace-wishlist/).

## Safety-Care at the PACE School

By Cindy Adrian, M.A., BCBA

**Editor:** We asked Cindy Adrian to describe staff safety-care training. Here's her excellent overview.

About me: I started work at PACE in 2012 as a Behavior Support Associate, I received my masters degree in **Applied Behavior Analysis** in 2014, and became a Board Certified Behavior Analyst in 2015.

In the 3 years I have been at PACE we have used a behavior mitigation training program by QBS, Inc. called **Safety-Care**. Safety-Care gives our staff the tools to help prevent and manage challenging behaviors. All PACE instructional aides, teachers, and therapists are trained in Safety-Care. All of our Behavior Support Associates and I are Safety-Care Trainers. All trainers are trained by a QBS, Inc. Master Trainer once a year. The trainers train all the staff once a year during our August in-service days and there are refreshers throughout the year. All new staff are required to go through Safety-Care training within the first few weeks they start a PACE.

Safety-Care focuses on preventing, and then, as needed, managing challenging behaviors. We train our staff to scan our students' environments for possible triggers and to identify possible signals that our students are communicating. The majority of Safety-Care training is about prevention by meeting our students needs and providing our students with opportunities to communicate their desires.

Safety-Care trains us to have a least to most approach when it comes to managing challenging behaviors. Staff are required to make use of all of their training on preventing and minimizing challenging behaviors before physically managing challenging behaviors. If a student becomes escalated to the point that they are seriously putting themselves or others in danger, then we use Safety-Care stability holds. Stability holds are used only when necessary and we release the holds as soon as it is safe to do so. We document all holds using the Student Incident Report and parents/caregivers are informed as soon as possible.

Safety-Care aligns well with PACE's commitment to being proactive and compassionate. Staff are reminded throughout the training program that the purpose of Safety-Care is to use preventative strategies that promote dignity and respect. Our goal is to help our students reach their fullest potential and Safety-Care provides our staff with the tools to create a safe and educational environment.

If you have any questions about safety techniques used at the PACE School, please feel free to contact us at 408.245.3400. Everyone on the PACE behavior team does an amazing job and we thank them greatly for their efforts. ■

## Residential News

By Janice Morreira, Residential Director

The Cupertino Rotary "Adopt a House" program has initiated a plan to provide much needed ongoing maintenance at our two Cupertino children's group homes. The Rotary will support the PACE facility manager's efforts and be proactive about tackling maintenance and operating issues. Rotary representatives will first conduct a walk-through of both of the Cupertino homes, and then organize a sub-committee.

Home Administrators will prepare a list of maintenance and operating concerns that they have for each of the homes, helping to prepare for the walk through. Facility managers will also provide the Rotary team with a copy of the monthly Safety Check List that is used during the monthly walk-through. Once all of these steps have taken place, the Rotary team will prepare a list of recommendations, and work with residential team at each home on developing a strategy for how and when to address ongoing maintenance issues.



## Cupertino Rotary "Adopt a House" Program at PACE!

Additionally, the Rotary team will explore the practicality and possibility of solar options for the homes. Administrators will provide the working sub-committee with the utility bills for the homes (for the past year), and the Rotary team will create an analysis of use. The Cupertino Rotary has completed several larger scale projects for PACE programs over the years through their partnership with Rebuilding Together.

Our residential team is very much looking forward to working with the Rotary on this ongoing maintenance project. We thank the Rotary team for their continuing support of PACE and hope they know how much we appreciate their help.

If you are interested in learning more about the PACE residential program, please contact me, Janice Morreira at 408.625.6172. ■



## Joe Dermer

Continued from page 1

services provided." PACE implemented the first Parent Collaborative Home in March of 2015.

Joe's advice to someone thinking about joining the PACE Board of Directors is "if you have heart and passion for giving time, talent and resources to a worthy organization; in my view, this is one of the best ways to help the autism and the developmentally disabled community." The entire PACE community has benefitted from Joe's devotion and exceptional service. Executive Director, **Kurt Ohlfs** commented "I am deeply indebted to Joe's dedication and Board leadership spanning almost a decade. Joe has been a champion for the community and PACE's clients through his clear mission focused guidance on the Board." ■



Need a gift for Mother's Day or Father's Day? Making a donation in honor of someone is a lovely way to show your appreciation. And it's easy! Donate online at [www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org), call 408.625.6191, or email [development@pacificautism.org](mailto:development@pacificautism.org).

## Welcome New Board Members!

By Deb McClellan, Marketing & Communication Manager

We'd like to welcome our three newest board members to the PACE family. **Tom Marchok** is a Senior Director of Corporate Development at Cisco Systems. He has worked in the technology industry for over 25 years - including past roles at Intel and Qualcomm. He earned a PhD in Computer Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, and is a CFA Charterholder. Tom is married with two teenage children, one of whom has autism, and resides in Mountain View, CA. An avid golfer, he has been actively involved with PACE as the co-chair for the PACE Golf Classic, (along with veteran Board member Joe Dermer) for the past three years. His areas of interest at PACE include finance and investments as well as specialized (precision) ABA education programs.



**Sarah Mudgett** is a sales specialist whose professional responsibilities have included sales and promotions

of medical devices and pharmaceutical products to offices, doctors and pharmacies. Sarah originally came to PACE in May 2014 as a fundraising and event volunteer for the annual Gala, and has assisted the PACE marketing department part time by doing outreach to local school districts and agencies. She says; "I fully believe in the mission and vision that PACE presents and I want to be part of continuing the legacy. I have seen first-hand how PACE can help the students and their families in a positive way. I can bring a strong background of sales, marketing and fundraising to PACE."



Our most recent board member, **Debbie McCarroll** is currently the Director of Marketing and Business Development for Sequoia Wealth Advisors in San Jose. She joined their Financial Planning Team with over 30 years in the banking industry. Debbie has

been involved with and served on the Board of Directors for many non-profit organizations in San Jose and Santa Cruz including: Opera San Jose, Silicon Valley Business Forum, Sacred Heart and Hope Rehabilitation Services. She is a current member of the Santa Cruz Rotary Club and a member of San Jose Chamber of Commerce. Debbie joined the PACE Board because she believes that "this segment of disadvantaged people need to have advocates to live a productive and dignified life."



The entire PACE team welcomes all three and we're looking forward to serving our community together for many years to come! ■



• Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and enter PACE's ID number: **472692** to register your credit and reward cards. PACE will receive a percentage of the money spent on your purchases when using preferred merchants.

• Donate your old vehicle to **Donate for Charity!** Call 866-392-4483 or use their website [www.donateforcharity.com](http://www.donateforcharity.com). Donate for Charity handles all the details and distributes the net proceeds to PACE!

• When you shop on **AmazonSmile** ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to PACE.

**PACE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Tax ID 77-0259858.** Contributions to PACE are tax-deductible as specified by the current tax law.



## PACE Setter

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**Contributors:** Cindy Adrian, Megan Anderson, Karen Kennan, Deborah McClellan, Janice Morreira, Kurt Ohlfs, Rachel Palmer

**Executive Director:** Kurt Ohlfs

**The PACE mission:** To enhance the lives of people impacted by autism, through innovation, exceptional education and compassionate care.



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## Be Stylish and Support PACE!



The artist behind the popular jewelry maker, **the ROPES of Maine** has created **original PACE bracelets!** These beautiful bracelets in PACE colors are available now! Each bracelet is individually handcrafted from authentic marine rope and hardware. You may have seen this jewelry in local specialty shops, J.Crew, or elsewhere. **\$70 for either style:** Kennebunkport (blue) or Camden (tan). **Order** via email [development@pacificautism.org](mailto:development@pacificautism.org), at [www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org), or call (408) 625-6191. 100% of the profits go to PACE and a portion is tax-deductible. ■

## Have You Thought About Adding PACE to Your Will?

Will you be visiting your financial planner this year? Consider discussing how you can leave a legacy that will sustain PACE long into the future by including our organization in your estate plan. Your donation will help PACE “connect, support and educate” by ensuring high-quality therapy, educational and residential programs for children and adults with autism, now and into the future.

Our services will continue to be needed in the next 50-60 years.

Bequests from families like yours will ensure a strong future of service.

If you have already made a gift to PACE in your will or trust, please let us know so we can thank you and recognize your generosity. To learn more about how you can make a legacy gift to PACE, contact Karen Kennan, Assistant Executive Director, at 408-625-6176 or e-mail [karenkennan@pacificautism.org](mailto:karenkennan@pacificautism.org). All inquiries are confidential and without obligation. **Thank you!** ■

Help spread the word about PACE programs and services! Follow and share on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/pacificautismce](http://www.facebook.com/pacificautismce)

## PACE School Graduate will Perk You Up!

By Deb McClellan, Marketing & Communication Manager

PACE School graduate, Joseph Yitzhak Jacobson has a job at Perks Coffee in Sunnyvale. Joseph notes, “I am an amazing barista in training at Perks Coffee shop at the school district 589 West Fremont Ave Sunnyvale CA 94087! We do take credit cards and cash! We sell cards for \$2, pastries, dog biscuits for \$5 that another business called K-9 Crunchies, espresso, iced tea, iced coffee, cafe latte, mocha, cafe americano, and cappuccino! I am a barista in training on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 12:00pm! Please stop anytime you would like during my shift!”

We are all so proud of Joseph and have visited him on the job on several

occasions. I can attest to the fact that the K-9 Crunchies dog biscuits are a delicious treat for your pooch – my dog devoured them in record time!

Perks Coffee & Tea is a work-based learning site located at the District Office of the Fremont Union High School. The program services special needs and at risk students from Cupertino, Fremont, Homestead, Lynbrook and Monta Vista High Schools and alternative programs.

If you're in Sunnyvale on a Monday or Wednesday morning, give Perks a try. They do great coffee and treats there. ■



### PACE Board of Directors

Welcome New Members!

Paul Lacy, President  
Tom McGovern, VP  
David Setti, Treasurer  
Kurt Ohlfs, Secretary  
Jeff Fallick  
Lisa Grisalin  
Harry Lopez, Esq.  
Tom Marchok  
Debbie McCarroll  
Sarah Schwartz Mudgett

## PACE Spring Events!

By Rachel Palmer, Annual Fund Manager

The PACE Youth Leadership Committee (YLC) has planned their second annual “**Light It Up Blue**” concert at Santana Row set for Saturday, **April 16th, noon-4pm**. The concert will include performances by Bay Area youth musicians who donate their time. Members of the YLC will have outreach booths at the event with information about PACE and activities to raise awareness about autism.

You don't want to miss the **OmRun** at Quarry Lakes Park in Fremont on **Sunday, April 24th!** Om Run 2016 is a community building event that is aimed at bringing the larger Bay Area Chinmaya Mission families together for a day filled with fun activities for the whole family. Om Mela features a petting zoo, carnival games and many more new attractions. The event offers mouth-watering food options, a 5K Run/Walk, 10K Run/Walk and a Half Marathon.

The PACE School is holding an **Open House on Friday, April 29th, 5-7pm!** This popular event is open to the public, with a focus on PACE families. We'll have farm animals from

*Event Proceeds Benefit PACE!*

**Animal Assisted Happiness** in a petting zoo plus delicious food, music and activities for the kids. This is your chance to meet our teachers, therapists and staff in a relaxed atmosphere. Bring the entire family!

Support PACE while getting a great workout at the **Zumbathon® “Party in Blue for Autism”** at ClubSport, 800 Embedded Way, SJ, 95138, **Saturday, May 7th 5-6:30pm!** Join Zumba® Jammers Meli Kirkwood, Annalisa Brown, Cecilia Mills, Claudia Lira, and more for this high-energy benefit for PACE! Doors open at 4pm, and **tickets are only \$20** in advance, \$25 at the door. Get your tickets here: [www.zumbaforautism.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.zumbaforautism.brownpapertickets.com).

**More on these events here:** [www.pacificautism.org/home/events](http://www.pacificautism.org/home/events). ■



**April is Autism Awareness Month**