

PACE Setter

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER for EDUCATION

Connect • Support • Educate



Pacific Autism
CENTER FOR EDUCATION

Welcome
Karyn & Dave!



Karyn Caradonna, Human Resource Director, comes to PACE after serving in Human Resources, both in high-tech and non-profit sectors, for over 15 years. Karyn's background covers a full range of HR functions with emphasis in areas of recruitment, on-boarding, employee relations, and reorganizations. Karyn first became interested in the non-profit sector after a pro-bono consulting project at LifeMoves, formerly, InnVision Shelter Network that serves the homeless population in San Jose.

At PACE, Karyn is reviewing all compensation and benefit programs to benchmark PACE alongside other local non-profits to create an appealing and competitive benefits program. Our purpose is to attract and retain the best and the brightest teachers, aides, and therapists. One of her initial accomplishments at PACE is a revised Employee Referral Program. Staffing is an essential element to PACE's success and Karyn is committed to hiring staff who love what they do as much as she does!

Dave Gilbreth, PACE Residential and Facilities Manager, joins PACE after spending the last six years with Via Services as Executive Chef and Services Manager working with and serving people of all ages and all types of different abilities. Dave managed food preparation, nutrition, facility contracts, facility rentals, and was instrumental in developing a plan for an "all-abilities" training kitchen. He brings long-standing relationships with donors and community members to PACE.

Since joining PACE, Dave's Residential and Facility Management projects have included implementing a Recycling and Compost Program at PACE School, Van Maintenance & Service Program for 20 PACE passenger vans, and addressing the school and residential plumbing needs. Dave is a master organizer and manages staff with leadership. He wouldn't ask anyone else to do anything he wouldn't also do himself. Dave has a personable nature and sense of humor. He is a great addition to our team and we are happy to have him at PACE!

PACE 2018 Golf Classic

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER FOR EDUCATION

10th Annual
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th
GET YOUR FOURSOME TOGETHER NOW!



Sign up today to reserve one of our coveted sponsorship opportunities!

PACE 10th Annual Golf Classic Sponsorships

Course Sponsor	\$12,000
Dinner Sponsor	\$7,000
Gear Sponsor	\$5,000
Sign Sponsor	\$3,000
Lunch Sponsor	\$3,000
Beverage Cart Sponsor	\$2,500
Cocktail Hour Sponsor	\$2,500
10th Anniversary Sponsor	\$1,500

Questions? Contact kelliewelch@pacifiautism.org or 408-625-6193

PACE Golf Classic Committee:
Joe Dermer, Tom Marchok, Debbie McCarroll

Ask a Therapist By Dor Zhang, M.S.Ed., BCBA

Q: How can I support my child's expressive language skills?

Expressive language refers to one's ability to communicate to others. It allows an individual to access their wants and needs, as well as achieve an independent and fulfilling quality of life. Here are some tips on how to support your child's communication skills.

- **Provide enough chances for your child to practice expressive language.** As adults, we tend to foreshadow everything a child wants or needs, thereby forgetting to give them the learning opportunities to help them grow. For example, the next time you see your child reaching for something, you can help them to make an appropriate request instead of giving them what they want right away.
- **Prompt your child as needed.** Prompts are supplemental cues that help a child communicate appropriately. If your child is speaking, model the exact words that they should be saying, such as, "I want some milk," or "I see the dog." This will give them the language that they need to help complete an interaction. If your child is not vocal, you can use hand-over-hand prompting to help them communicate, such as using sign language or the PECS system. Eventually these supports can be faded so your child has the opportunity to reach independence.
- **Prompt your child to communicate at an appropriate level.** Sometimes we have the tendency to expect too much. If a child is emitting one word at a time, we should not be asking them to repeat full sentences – it can get quite overwhelming for them!
- **Provide very specific praise when your child is using appropriate language.** This will tell your child what they are doing right, which will help continue that behavior. For example, instead of saying, "Good job," try a phrase such as, "I like how you asked for the milk!" or "Thank you for telling me about the dog."
- **Children often learn through imitation, so it's helpful to model expressive language.** This can take the form of narrating what you or your child is doing and/or sensing. Some children may understand more than they communicate, so showing them how to use expressive language can help build communication skills in the future.

For more behavioral management tips go to www.porchlighteducation.org



Faces
BEHAVIORAL SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN

Faces Behavioral Services
Redwood City Clinic
650.622.9601

- Children 18 months -12 years old
- ABA therapy under the direction of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs)
- Individual & social skills
- In home therapy, in clinic, or at school

Jacqueline Cardoza, Intake Coordinator
408.785.0102 | intake@facesforkids.org

www.facesforkids.org



Little Faces
BEHAVIORAL SERVICES
AT SUNNY DAYS PRESCHOOL

Little Faces Behavioral Services
Sunny Days Preschool, San Jose Clinic
408.551.0312

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy-based model
- Children 18 months - 6 years old
- AM & PM clinic hours available
- Extended preschool day option available

PACE SWEATSHIRTS

Order yours today and support PACE!

\$30



<http://bidpal.net/sweatshirts>

A Message from the President of the Board

By Tom McGovern, President, Board of Directors

After serving on the PACE Board of Directors for 4 years, I am honored to help guide the agency into the future as the new board president. I moved to the Bay Area in 1983 to work for HP before choosing my lifelong career in commercial real estate. With a 14 year old daughter on the autism spectrum, autism is part of my life, and now, so is PACE. For any of you with children affected by autism, you know the search for help is endless and it's never easy. At times, it feels like there is no hope, but the journey is just too difficult without hope. Nothing diminishes my hope more than dealing with the lack of coordinated resources and help.

My personal mission in working with PACE is to not only ensure that we continue to serve those affected by autism, but also that we create new programs that provide support ---and HOPE--- to parents and families. We are making great strides in this area and I am excited about the work our team is doing!

Our ambitions are high and the challenges are countless. We will always work to bring support and hope to our families. We are continually focused on improving the resources available and bringing new resources that are greatly needed but not yet available to the market. I welcome and invite you to join us to make a difference in bringing our programs to life. Please reach out to us about becoming a board member, committee member, or donor. We look forward to hearing from you!

PACE Board of Directors

Tom McGovern, President
David Setti, VP
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Music Therapy @ Sunny Days Preschool



Walk into Sunny Days preschool classroom on a music morning and you may hear the soft strumming of a guitar as Music Therapist, Donja Graham leads the children through a "Hello" tune and encourages them to greet each other in song. Or you may see children happily drumming on individual small drums as they practice paying attention and listening to different rhythms. This is Music Therapy, the "skillful use of music and musical elements by an accredited music therapist to promote, maintain, and restore mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health." (MTO)

The idea of using music as a healing tool goes back to ancient times. National associations for Music Therapy were founded in the mid-twentieth century and in 1983 the Certification Board for Music Therapists was created to strengthen the credibility of the profession.

At PACE, grant funding has made it possible for us to include Music Therapy in our therapeutic tool bag along with Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and a variety of other therapeutic modalities. Music therapy uses evidence-based interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a specific therapeutic relationship. Donja uses musical techniques with our students to enhance a wide variety of skills including: speech, cognition, emotional expression, attention, focus, social, and communication skills. She has observed that, for children on

the autism spectrum struggling with communication challenges, music becomes a bridge for supporting and shaping their communication efforts. Studies show that music actually helps build and strengthen neurological connections.

Donja's inspiration for becoming a therapist originates from a deep desire to help her younger brother with autism. Growing up in Canada she developed her musical talents on the piano achieving level 8 in the Royal Conservatory of Music. Later, in university, she majored in Music Therapy with demonstrated proficiency that also included a rigorous clinical component.

At Sunny Days Preschool, Donja is able to collaborate with the classroom teacher to understand her goals for each student and to facilitate those objectives musically. In the few months she has been at PACE, Donja has seen students' increased ability to sit and focus during a music session, make eye contact, and in one case say "hello" for the first time. These seemingly small achievements add up to larger successes as our youngest students develop their ability to regulate, communicate and relate to the world around them.

For more information about the profession of Music Therapy go to www.musictherapy.org.



The Porchlight Education Series is a free eLearning training approach that offers solutions to common daily challenges a parent or caregiver may confront in the world of developmental disabilities.

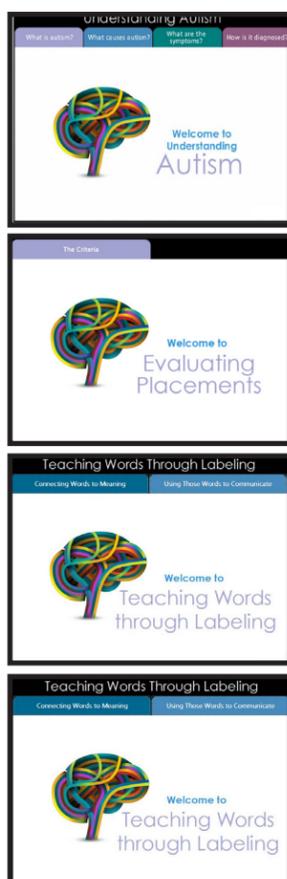
Where can you begin to gather the resources necessary to teach your child? Porchlight Education Series will give you some ideas on how you can embark on this journey.

Subjects in the Module Series include:

- Exercise
- Going Out to Eat
- Sibling Interactions
- Visiting the Doctor
- Glossary of Terms
- Basics of Behavior

PACE now has an extensive library of 50 modules and new modules are added monthly.

www.porchlighteducation.org



By: Marta Weinstock, Marketing and Development Manager

PACE welcomes Dor Zhang, M.S.Ed., BCBA. Dor started her career during her time in college with the Americorps' Jumpstart program, an early education program focused on improving literacy, social, and emotional skills, and serving under privileged youth in the Los Angeles community. She was a 1:1 aide for children and teaching them individually felt uniquely special.

She continued to apply her studies and energy to early education and worked with a Clinical Supervisor that changed her life with dedicated mentorship. She fell in love with Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy and the development strategies behind the teaching techniques. For the first time she understood "why using the strategies worked like science". She quickly earned a Graduate Certificate in ABA and then went on to receive her Masters of Education in ABA (BCBA).

After earning her BCBA, Dor exclusively focused on early Intervention for children ages 18 months- 3 years. She accepted

a management role as Regional Director and for the first time and worked directly with speech and occupational therapists. Although Dor was initially intimidated to work with children, Dor is passionate about her work helping children overcome learning obstacles. She discovered the benefits of working with this younger age group as it is such an influential development time for children and the results of early intervention were remarkable.

With amazing mentors and education, she has landed in a career working with children of all abilities. Meredith Loscialpo, PACE's Faces Clinical Director, was Dor's former supervisor and mentor. Meredith introduced her to PACE during her most recent job search. Working with a diverse population of individuals from the early intervention program at Little Faces and Sunny Days Preschool, to the older students at PACE School, and Faces Behavioral Services is an opportunity for Dor to expand her field of teaching ABA.

Ways You Can Help

• Make a donation

By Mail: 1880 Pruneridge Ave.
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Online: www.pacificautism.org

By phone: 408-245-3400

• Double your gift- **make a matching gift contribution.** To include PACE in your workplace giving options, please contact **development@pacificautism.org**.

• Go to www.escrip.com and enter PACE's ID number: **472692** to register your credit and reward cards.

• Choose PACE on **Amazon Smile** (smile.amazon.com)

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

PACE School: Community as a Classroom

By Michelle Myers and Kaberi Bhattacharjee

One of the cornerstones of student education at PACE is community integration. All seven of our classes participate in some form of community outing at least once a week. We visit parks, libraries, museums, grocery stores, and several job sites for vocational practice.

Our vision statement is "a world in which people of all abilities live fulfilled lives," and this includes being active members of our community. In the safety net of our school campus, we teach foundational skills to build core competencies in the areas of behavior, self-regulation, communication, and job skills. There is no better place to practice these skills than at real sites in the community.

Some of our most successful job sites are maintained by the upper grades and post-senior program, where outings are a part of the daily routine. We are grateful for Best Buy, Salvation Army, and Santa Clara Community Center; these relationships have been going strong for over nine years and partner with PACE for job skill training and education for our students.



On Mondays, seven students work at Best Buy in Mountain View. They are responsible for sorting office recyclables and dusting shelves. Salvation Army equips our students with practice for stacking chairs; our students focus on following directions as well as getting a workout! At Santa Clara Community Center, some students fold papers while others shred papers. We know that these opportunities relate directly to success after graduation in finding meaningful work in their adult day programs.

The post-senior students also go to 7-Eleven, Costco, and Smart & Final, to practice the independent Living Skills (ILS) of shopping for groceries. They collect lists from all the classrooms, select the correct items from the shelves, checkout, and then distribute the groceries to each classroom back at school. These skills that seem simple are very complex and can be integrated into family living and learning how to be safe in a public environment.



Residential News

By Marta Weinstock, Marketing and Development Manager

A huge welcome to Dave Gilbreth as our new Residential Director responsible for the operations and management of the 6 PACE group homes. Dave attributes the success of the Residential Program over the years to the incredible team of dedicated and hard-working administrators: Sabra, Ida, Naward, who all care immensely for our clients and always put our residents' health and safety needs first.

Thank you to our donors! The Residential Program is always an ongoing project. All of the resources that go into maintaining the needs of our homes and our residents can be overwhelming. With the generosity and thoughtfulness of our donors, we recently were able to purchase a new refrigerator for the Matranga Group Home. We are putting out a request for anyone connected with friends or family in the community to roofing contractors. The Meadows Group Home has been under repair and could use a new roof! We are grateful for any help with this project

and for the support of the Residential Group Homes.

Events and holidays are highlights for our staff and residents. We enjoyed many Thanksgiving and Christmas parties in the homes. Thanks to all of you who attended and made these events special.

Thanksgiving 2017



Hands On Bay Area 2017



We are looking forward to the 2018 summer parties, thanks to the Scales of Justice Lions Club and the Sunnyvale Elks, volunteers, and donors!

The Scales of Justice Lions Club will be hosting a BBQ for the adult group homes and the Sunnyvale Elks will be hosting a BBQ for the children group homes. For more information or support of the residential program contact: DaveGilbreth@pacificaautism.

PACE's Youth Leadership Committee

By Kellie Welch, Fund Development Associate

According to the Corporation for National & Community Service, it is estimated that 15.5 million or 55% of youth, ages 12 - 18, participate in volunteer activities. In 2008, PACE realized there was an immense population that was willing and wanting to serve the community, but needed opportunities to serve. From there, the Youth Leadership Committee (YLC) was formed. Since 2008, YLC has developed into an annual youth volunteer program for local high school students from around the Bay Area. The goal of YLC is to help spread autism awareness in order to encourage an inclusive environment for those in the autism community, while also giving the students an opportunity to develop their own leadership skills.

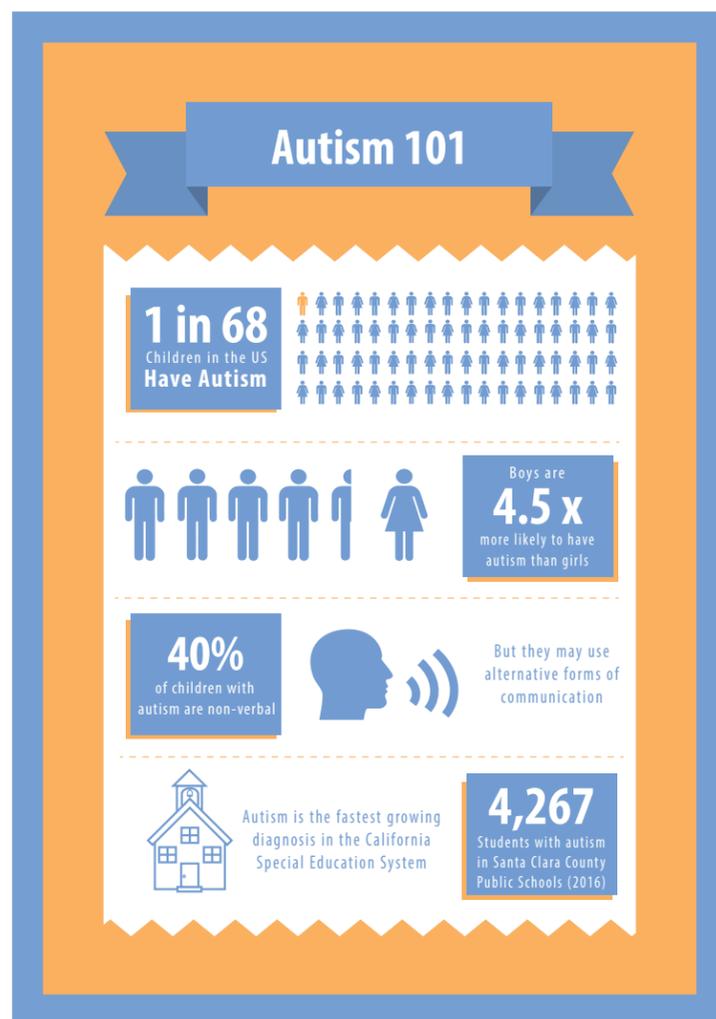
As part of YLC's mission to spread autism awareness in their community, the YLC developed an interactive workshop, "Operation Enable". This workshop allows teens an opportunity to experience 'what it would be like' to have autism. Through this

demonstration, they hope to build better community acceptance and awareness of the difficulties that individuals with autism face.

As April approaches, YLC is getting ready to host their **4th annual "Voices for Autism" concert on April 14th 1:00-5:00PM in Santa Ana Row**. This concert brings in local youth musical groups who perform on stage to raise money for PACE. It is a great way for the Youth Leadership Committee to develop the philanthropic spirit in other youth in the community by giving them an opportunity to do what they love, while also supporting a great cause. Last year was the most successful year, raising over \$1000. We hope to have your support on April 14th to make this year even better than the past.



APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH



Did you know that fewer than 30% of Americans have up-to-date legal wills?

FREEWILL

PACE has a partnership with FreeWill to give you a free, easy way to make a legal will.

www.freewill.com/PACE



PACE Setter

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Marta Weinstock, and Kellie Welch

Executive Director: Kurt Ohlfs

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




SWIM TEAM

TUESDAY, APRIL 10th
7PM \$10/ticket
Cubberley Theater, Palo Alto

www.pacificautism.org



Special Needs Trust Seminar
May 2, 2018
2-4PM & 6-8PM
The Elk Lodge, El Camino Real, Palo Alto

"How a Special Needs Trust Works"

www.gilfix.com

Great Givers: Michael Gilfix

By: Karen Kennan, Assistant Executive Director



Great Givers come in many varieties. Some volunteer their time, talents and ideas; some make in-kind donations of much needed materials and equipment; and some make generous financial contributions to support our ongoing mission. Over the years, PACE has benefitted from the generosity of many donors and volunteers who have provided our agency with priceless support. In this issue of PACE Setter, we're pleased to acknowledge Michael Gilfix who knows how important it is to support the causes and programs that make a difference in the life of the community.

Attorney Michael Gilfix is a nationally known authority in the fields of estate planning, elder law, and Special Needs Trusts. Along with Myra Gerson Gilfix, he is a founding partner in Gilfix & La Poll Associates LLP in Palo Alto. Following his graduation from Stanford University Law School and wanting to give back to the community, in 1973, Mike created the first free legal aid program for elders in the nation and then served as its director for the next ten years. That program, Senior Adults Legal Assistance (SALA) still thrives in Santa Clara County today.

A few years after creating SALA, he also started the Disability Law

Services (DLS), providing advocacy and support for individuals with physical disabilities. He is a co-Founder of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) as well as the California Law Center on Long-Term Care, and he is a Certified Legal Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust, and Probate Law. Mike is also an Advisory Board Member of the Academy of Special Needs Planners (ASNP) and of Elder Counsel.

It was while working with SALA that Mike kept encountering elders who needed long-term care services but had no understanding of the cost or how to pay for such services. This was long before long-term care insurance existed and before Medi-Cal would pay for the cost of nursing home care. Seeking to provide the underserved with a voice, Gilfix & La Poll Associates developed their legal expertise focusing on long-term care, special needs and Medi-Cal planning. They've recognized that both populations (elderly and special needs) have historically lacked representation and influence. They strive to empower consumers with enough information to understand and make good choices about long-term care issues and options. Today the firm

specializes in and is recognized for its expertise in estate planning, tax, special needs, and elder law.

While committed professionally to assisting under-represented populations, Mike also believes that individuals with means have a responsibility to give back to the community. He encourages his team to volunteer their time for things that will have positive impact in the community. The firm sponsors numerous nonprofit activities in the community and encourages clients to leave at least one percent (1%) of their estate to charitable organizations by reducing their legal fees.

Mike and his wife Myra have provided generous support to PACE over the years, making financial contributions to our annual fund raising campaigns and participating in PACE Galas and events. In addition, the firm has generously supported our Golf Classic with annual sponsorships and participation.

Our partnership with Gilfix & La Poll has grown through PACE's participation in the firm's annual Special Needs Trust seminar. Held annually, this seminar provides vital information for any family that seeks to establish a secure long term financial and life plan for their special needs family member. Many families of children with autism consider planning for their child's financial future a huge concern. Most parents worry about what will happen to their

child after they are gone. Their concerns include their child's living arrangements, quality of life, expenses, medical care, and long term security. A special needs trust can be immensely helpful for families of children with special needs because it helps to protect inherited assets and does not count against eligibility for other social service benefits.

As an individual committed to working with the special needs community, Mike Gilfix realizes how vital the need is for programs like PACE and how important it is to advocate on behalf individuals who lack representation. For his commitment to community, his support of our events and for his financial generosity, Mike Gilfix exemplifies what it takes to be a "Great Giver."

This year's Special Needs Trust Seminar will be held on Wednesday, May 2nd, 2-4pm & 6-8pm at the Elks Lodge on El Camino Real in Palo Alto. Those interested in attending can find additional information at www.gilfix.com.

For additional information about Special Needs Trust, please see our Porchlight Module (Creating a Special Needs Trust) at www.porchlighteducation.org/creating-a-special-needs-trust/.