

# HILIBRAND AUTISM SYMPOSIUM

## TENTH ANNUAL UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK HILIBRAND AUTISM SYMPOSIUM

### Fostering Independence for Young Adults With ASD: A Focus on Self-Advocacy, Housing, and Entrepreneurship

#### SPEAKER BIOS

##### **PATRICK BARDSLEY**

is co-founder and president of spectrum designs Foundation located in Port Washington, New York. The motto of the organization is “Exceptional products, made by exceptional people.” Patrick is in charge of the day-to-day running of Spectrum Designs Foundation. He holds a M.S. in special education, with a concentration in behavior analysis from Long Island University. He brings over 10 years of service to teens and young adults with autism. He spends most of his time securing future growth and relationships for the betterment and expansion of the social enterprises under the Spectrum Designs Foundation umbrella.

##### **DR. JUDAH B. KOLLER, PSY.D.**

Dr. Judah B. Koller, Psy.D., is assistant professor of Clinical Child School Psychology and Special Education at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is the chair of the Graduate Division of Special Education and the assistant director and a founder of the university’s new Autism Center. Dr. Koller completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the Autism Program of the Yale Child Study Center and his doctoral work at Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Yeshiva University. His research focuses on autism spectrum disorder and developmental disabilities. Specifically, Dr. Koller is examining the early identification of ASD, as well as the role of parents as potential mediators of intervention.

##### **MARJORIE MADFIS**

Marjorie Madfis is the founder and president of Yes She Can Inc., a nonprofit organization established in 2013. The organization is dedicated to helping young women with autism and related disabilities develop transferable job skills to enable them to participate in the workforce and to increase their independence. Marjorie was inspired to create her organization by her daughter, Isabelle, who was diagnosed in 1998 with PDD-NOS at age two and a half. Prior to this, Marjorie had a 30-year career in corporate marketing with expertise in strategy, branding, and interactive marketing. She holds an M.B.A. from Boston University and a B.S. from University of New Hampshire. Yes She Can provides a job skills development program to young women transitioning from high school as well as in college, and delivers its curriculum through the operation of Girl AGain boutique, a resale shop for gently used American Girl dolls and all their accessories. Girl AGain is located in White Plains, New York.

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## DR. KATHY MATTHEWS

Dr. Kathy Matthews is the vice president of Educational Programs at the Faison Center in Richmond, Virginia, which provides lifespan services to individuals and families impacted by Autism. This program encompasses a full day school, outpatient behavioral health center, early intervention program, and adult and residential services. As part of her position, Dr. Matthews maintains formal affiliations with the Applied Behavior Analysis program at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, and the Department of Behavioral Psychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. She also serves as the CABAS senior behavior analyst at Faison overseeing educational services, research, new program development, training, and outreach. Dr. Matthews is also adjunct professor at the University of Richmond, leading the BACB approved course series, and holds a Virginia license as a behavior analyst. Dr. Matthews currently serves on the Foundation Board of the disAbility Law Center of Virginia, the CABAS Board, and previously served on the APBA Board. Prior to working at the Faison Center, Dr. Matthews obtained her Ph.D. in behavior analysis from Teachers College, Columbia University.

## JESSE A. SAPERSTEIN

Jesse A. Saperstein is an author, autism advocate, and motivational speaker. Jesse has a form of autism called Asperger's Syndrome that gives individuals some profound talents and challenges. He graduated from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in 2004 with a B.A. degree in English. Jesse's story, *Atypical: Life with Asperger's in 20 1/3 Chapters*, was published by Penguin Group (USA) in April 2010 and immediately became a wide-read memoir due to its practical advice and humor. After receiving a grant from the Anderson Center for Autism (ACA) in Staatsburg, New York, Jesse completed his first skydiving jump in front of his community in an effort to eradicate bullying. "Free-Falling to End Bullying in 2012" is now a popular YouTube video. His second book, *Getting a Life with Asperger's: Lessons Learned on the Bumpy Road to Adulthood* was released in August 5, 2014, and focuses on surviving the difficult transition into adulthood. Jesse moved to Albany in June 2015 to live in his first apartment as an independent adult. He serves as the habilitation liaison for the College Experience that is co-founded by Living Resources, Inc., and the College of Saint Rose.

## CORY SHULMAN, PH.D.

Cory Shulman, Ph.D., began her academic career at the School of Social Work at the Hebrew University in 1997, where her research interests are an extension of more than thirty years of clinical work with individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Her primary appointment is in the graduate program in early childhood studies, in which she is the head of the infant and early childhood mental health track specialization. Her research interests focus on children, adolescents, adults with ASD, other neuro-developmental disorders, and their families, and include examining life course trajectories of children with a suspicion of autism, characterizing diagnostic and developmental trajectories and profiles. In addition, she is interested in the degree of satisfaction parents express regarding the services their children receive in an attempt to develop a dialogue among families and service agencies.

## JONAH ZIMILES

Jonah Zimiles is a parent of a 20-year-old with autism. After more than a decade of practicing law at major New York law firms, Mr. Zimiles served as the national director of Planned Giving and Endowments for the Jewish Federations of North America, before resigning to run his son's home program for six years. In 2008, at age 50, Mr. Zimiles graduated with an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School and, together with his wife Ellen, opened [words] Bookstore, a social enterprise that provides vocational training for individuals with autism in Maplewood, New Jersey. Autism Speaks has designated the bookstore as one of 15 model small businesses employing people with autism.