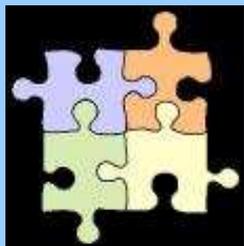


# ASLC NEWS



*"Bringing the pieces together."*

## **Our Mission**

The mission of the Autism Society of Larimer County is to serve as a resource for individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder by providing information, advocacy, public awareness activities and promoting the development of services and resources.

## **Our Board**

**President:**  
*Phyllis Zimmerman*

**Treasurer:**  
*Connie Lucero*

**Secretary:**  
*Andrea McGinley*

**Director:**  
*Sue Stednick*

**Volunteer Coordinator:**  
*Alie Daniel*

**Members-at Large:**  
*Dr. Temple Grandin*  
*Dr. Ann Pendley*

For more information contact:  
Autism Society of Larimer County  
Phone: 970-377-9640  
Email: [aslc@autismlarimer.org](mailto:aslc@autismlarimer.org)  
Website: [www.autismlarimer.org](http://www.autismlarimer.org)

The Autism Society of Larimer County would like to thank everyone who made this year's awareness month a huge success. This April's events reached awareness to a wide variety of community participants.

Our awareness week started out at Barnes and Noble with a insightful presentation from Dr. Temple Grandin. Dr. Grandin is unarguably the most well-known and accomplished adult with autism in the world and a member-at-large of our local autism society. Her presentation provided insight into autism that armed parents, teachers and professionals with a remarkable view of her life on the autism spectrum. Following her presentation Dr. Grandin signed copies of her various books and talked personally with audience members.

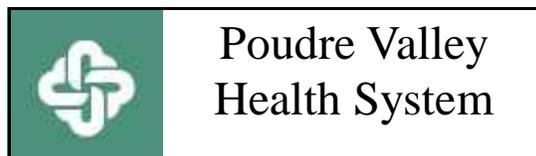
The next evening at the Lyric Cinema Café, Autism the Musical played to a sold out house! This was a great new venue that reached a new sector of the community not directly associated with autism on a daily basis. The two showings were very positively received - opening with a video montage of pictures of our local children on the spectrum and followed by a Q&A session with Sheri and son Tim Allerheiligen.

Charlie Buckley presented "Jo" the bear to the Barnes & Noble story time group with yet another full audience. Charlie Buckley is a licensed speech and language pathologist who has worked with children on the autism spectrum for over 15 years. She has created a fun, loving bear name Jo who teaches a variety of skills through the use of a unique and engaging combination of realistic photos, humor and repetition. Check out her website for some great information and free downloads.

The week's events ended with a jumping good time at Pump It Up Inflatable Party Zone. It was a great time for all who came! Parents had a chance to meet face to face and talk about the many issues that are common among families with ASD. The kids ran, laughed and played until they were exhausted. Pump It Up was a great family venue to promote awareness.

The goal of the awareness week was to increase community awareness and raise funds to provide support for a local family to attend Adam's Camp. The week was a success in both areas thanks to the hard work of volunteers and the generous donation from Poudre Valley Health System.

**Adam's Camp fundraising recipient:**  
**Marianna Drees Kingswood. She will attend the Trailblazer program June 16-22. Stayed tuned for story and pictures of her adventure.**



**Poudre Valley Health System**



*Dr. Temple Grandin*



**The Lyric staff:**  
*Joshua, Ben and Laine*



*Charlie Buckley and "Jo"*

**Having fun at Pump It Up!**



# A-TEAM Leader Accepts New Position

The A-TEAM –Thompson Autism/Asperger’s Parent/Community Group leader Liz Davis will be leaving Thompson School District to take the position of Social Work Coordinator in the Poudre School District’s Integrated Service Department. Liz has worked in the Thompson School district for the past 5 years in the area of social work as well as autism coordinator. She has been integral in helping many families in the

largest and longest running support group. The relation-

ship between Liz and the members of the A-TEAM group has been one of mutual respect and learning. Her leadership will be greatly missed, but the show will go on. The parent planning committee has committed to keep the A-TEAM running and will continue to meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm—8:30 pm at the Thompson Administration Building, 800 South Taft, Room 128 in Loveland. Stay posted for meeting dates and topics. On behalf of the families in the autism community, we wish Liz the best of success and express our gratitude for all she has done!



*Liz Davis (center) and a few of the active members of the A-TEAM at the annual picnic.*

district throughout her time spent in Thompson School District. One of Liz’s many contributions has been the implementation and organization of the A-TEAM, this area’s

ship between Liz and the members of the A-TEAM group has been one of mutual respect and learning. Her leadership will be greatly missed, but the show

*Thanks Liz!*

## Summer Recreational Opportunities



### LOVELAND YOUTH GARDENS

A great way to cultivate skills, promote stewardship and service in young people through sustainable gardening. For more information [www.lovelandyouthgardeners.org](http://www.lovelandyouthgardeners.org)

### FORT COLLINS ADAPTIVE RECREATION

Adaptive Recreation Opportunities has many quality programs for recreational and leisure fun for all ages. Take a closer look at the great summer schedule at [www.fcgov.com/recreation/catalogs/aro-36.pdf](http://www.fcgov.com/recreation/catalogs/aro-36.pdf)

### LOVELAND PARK AND RECREATION

The *Adapted Recreation Program* offers the following opportunities in an effort to meet the varied recreational needs of the community.

#### The activities and services are:

- Mainstreaming/Inclusion
  - Chilson Center Workouts
  - Specialized Classes
  - Special Olympics
  - Challenger Baseball
  - Adapted Exercise Classes
- [www.ci.loveland.co.us/parksrec/AdaptedRec.htm](http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/parksrec/AdaptedRec.htm)

### HEARTS & HORSES

For information about rider scholarships or if you are a new rider wanting to enroll at Hearts & Horses, please contact Jan Pollema, Program Director at 970-663-4200 or



[handhprogdir@frii.com](mailto:handhprogdir@frii.com)



The CSU Youth Sport Camps are a ten-week day-camp program of sports activities. The 2008 camp season begins on Monday, June 2 and ends on Friday, August 15. Camps run from 9am - 4pm Monday-Friday. One-week sessions are

offered in baseball, basketball, inline hockey, soccer, softball, sport science, and volleyball.

<http://hes.cahs.colostate.edu/CommunityPrograms/YSC/index.aspx>

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# TOP TEN LIST

of coping skills for fathers of children with autism

by:Michael Giammatteo

**1 This is a war! Don't kid yourself.** This will be the most difficult thing you will do in your life—therefore it will also be the most rewarding thing you will do in your life. This is your chance to be a “hero”. You are your child’s champion.

**2 No ego parenting. This is not about you.** This is about your child. Withdrawal is the enemy! Stay engaged. Along the same lines—banish quit! Firstly, your child’s autism is not your fault. If you believe it is, you’ve been lied to. Secondly, guilt will not help your child, it will only get in the way of your helping your child.

**3 Both parents need to cooperatively define their roles.** Whatever works for you is great, but I would suggest that you become as involved as you can. Do your research so that you understand the point of and methodology associated with any interventions you are attempting. That way you will not miss any subtle improvements. It is these small victories that will sustain you—don’t miss them.

**4 Understand from the get go that you will be facing a multitude of small battles and you will certainly win (at least) some of the time.** I use to refer to autism as a dragon that I had to slay. My strategy was to continually waking it by winning small battles—the same method that autism used to take my child. Win enough small battles and the balance of power will shift. That’s common sense.

**5 ACTION + RESULTS = REALISTIC HOPE.** If you are educated in the weapons of war (traditional therapies, bio-medical, diet, etc.) then you can properly evaluate their success or failure rates. This grounds you in reality, allows you start filling in the blank slate of expectations and promotes realistic hope. Banish denial—it is the enemy!

**6 Two year plan.** Go “balls to the walls” for tow years. Then reevaluate.

**7 Do what you know.** If you have a talent, or you can use the skills you have used in your profession to help your child—do it. It will give you great personal satisfaction.

**8 Keep yourself powered up.** That means take a break when you need one. Exercise, a book, a movie, a sporting event—whatever works for you.

**9 Do SOMETHING predictably routine with your child that they will associate with Daddy.** Ninety-five + percent of the time I handle bedtime song, story and take my kid to his weekend therapy session. He expects it of me.

**10 Finally, be conscious of the fact that you are not the only one suffering in this relationship.** How you work that out with the Mrs. is up to you.

*Michael Giammatteo is the proud parent of Vico 11 (autism spectrum disorder) and Culzean 8 (typical). He has acted as a Mentor Dad at the three most recent Autism One conferences. He and his wife, Moira, are actively involved with the TACA support group in California. Michael is the creator of the award winning TeamVico series of music CDs for speech delayed children. TeamVico has performed at fundraisers for Cure Autism now and Autism Research Institute. The first TeamVico CD has been incorporated into school curriculums and is being used by Speech Pathologist nationwide. For more information on TeamVico CDs visit them at [www.teamvico.com](http://www.teamvico.com)*

Reprinted from TACA Spring 2008 Newsletter [www.tacanow.org](http://www.tacanow.org)



## Father's Support Group Coming Soon!

Ever feel a little isolated as a father? Do the guys at work or in the neighborhood not fully understand the struggles of raising a child with special needs? Then you may want to consider joining the ASLC's Father's Support Group. Fathers have a different set of needs and can benefit sharing a common bond with an all male support group. The group will meet in a relaxed environment and focus on providing support, friendship and information with other fathers facing similar challenges. If you are interested in join such a group please email [aslc@autismlarimer.org](mailto:aslc@autismlarimer.org) and share your contact information.

## Summer Recreational Opportunities

Continued from page 2

### FUN FUSION THERAPUTIC SUMMER SESSIONS

Speech and Occupational Therapy Sessions Integrated, theme-based play sessions designed to help children with sensory-motor and social-communication challenges in a fun and interactive small-group session. Natural play with peers will be used weekly to foster improved interaction and success in multiple environments.

**WHEN:** Meets twice per week (Tues. and Thurs.) for 4 weeks beginning July 8th.  
Each session is 90 minutes.

**WHERE:** Huntington Hills, Fort Collins

**WHO:** 3-5 year olds meet 8:30-10:00  
6-8 year olds meet 10:30-12:00  
7-9 year olds meet 1:00-2:30

**CONTACT:**

Catherine Bladow, MS. CCC-SLP at [allaboutcom@comcast.net](mailto:allaboutcom@comcast.net)

## Autism on the Web

### FOCUS ON FATHERS



**Parenting your complex child**

A site by a parent for any child with a disability/special needs. You will learn how to start a journal, leading the team, service dogs and skin care. Community resources shares tips on which restaurants are friendly to the disabled community.

[www.parentingyourcomplexchild.com](http://www.parentingyourcomplexchild.com)

**National Center for Fathering**

[www.fathers.com](http://www.fathers.com), (800) 593-DADS

**Colorado Father's Resource Guide**

A resource guide developed by the Colorado Fatherhood Connection that provides resources and suggestions for fathers from fathers. There are great tips on discipline, communication, and activity ideas to do with your child.

[www.coloradofoundation.org/pdf/colorado\\_fatherhood\\_resource\\_guide.pdf](http://www.coloradofoundation.org/pdf/colorado_fatherhood_resource_guide.pdf)

**Be A Fan of Your Kid**

Launched on Father's Day 1998, this site provides dads and other father figures such as step-dads, uncles and grandfathers with a wealth of information on positive fathering skills and a forum to learn from both experts and other dads. It's also a forum for sharing resources, activities, and experiences about fatherhood. [www.BeAFanOfYourKid.org](http://www.BeAFanOfYourKid.org)

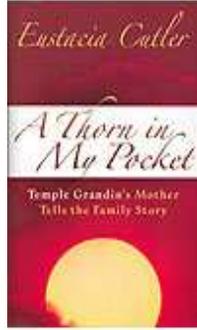
**Families First Family Support Line**

[www.familiesfirstcolorado.org](http://www.familiesfirstcolorado.org), (303) 695-7996

# Special Needs Book Club & Support Group

The Autism Society of Larimer County is excited to announce our new Special Needs Book Club & Support Group. The SNBC will meet every 4th Sunday of the month at 2 pm at **Reader's Cove**. The design of the group is to select a book (fiction or nonfiction) on autism, read it and come together to discuss the book, provide feedback and support for the group. This is a great opportunity for parents, educators, and extended family to get book recommendations and discuss ideas on treatment, education, life or just about anything in dealing autism.

**You are NOT required to have read the months selection to attend meetings.**



family and society ultimately defining the travails of all of humanity.

## **June's Book Selection:** **Thorn in My Pocket**

**By Eustacia Cutler**

The mother of the most famous person with autism today, Temple Grandin, Ph.D., tells the story of her death-lock struggle with medical authorities and her husband to keep her daughter from being warehoused in an institution, delving into myth and reality, angst and guilt,

## **2008** **Special Needs Book Club & Support**

### ***Meeting Schedule***

**June 22**

**July 27**

**August 24**

**Sept 28**

**October 26**

**November 30**

**December Break**

*All meetings take place at **Reader's Cove** located at **1001 E. Harmony Road, Fort Collins** at **2:00 pm on the 4th Sunday** monthly.*

*Contact: Phyllis Zimmerman at [aslc@autismlarimer.org](mailto:aslc@autismlarimer.org) for more information.*

## Great Read

The end of another school year is here and that brings for some parents fear and trepidation in regards to what the next year hold. In

***You can never begin too early to plan for the future.***

Mary Korpi 's book "Guiding Your Teenager With Special Needs through the Transition from School to Adult life provides insight and practical suggestions for parents, educators and members of the community at large. This book is a reminder to each of us that teaching

basic life skills to children with and without diagnosed delays or disabilities, as well as planning for their future, can never begin too early

