

Autism LifeSpan



Autism Resource of the
North State Community

Winter 2013

REPTILIAN ARTIST T.J. BRYANT

Tyler "TJ" Bryant is a local artist and reptile enthusiast who has combined his two passions in life to create amazing pieces of artwork. His love of art began in an introductory art class that he took while attending Durham High School over 12 years ago, and he continues to develop and expand his skills in many ways. TJ is most well known for his paintings and ceramic pieces, which are often inspired by his seven unique lizards that he cares for. TJ is currently working on paintings of real-life exotic frogs and Western Dragons that he frequently visits at



local reptile supplier and husbandry supply store, Ron's Reptiles. Ron's Reptiles Shop, it's staff, and amphibian inhabitants, have been a source of inspiration and support for TJ in the recent years. One of TJ's current projects can be seen at the Little Red Hen Park & Garden, in the Fairview Shopping Center on East Avenue. TJ has been commissioned by the Little Red Hen to design and oversee the creation of an eight foot tall, ceramic, reptile sculpture. TJ's business, called "TJ's Creations", began by making ceramic pinch pots and planters but has now moved on to making ceramic feeders, water dishes, shelters, and hides, which are used as hiding places in reptile habitats. He began creating these pieces for his own lizards, but has recently branched out and started making them for others. TJ's unique handmade reptile supplies have been noticed by other reptile enthusiasts as well. He has recently connected with a supplier and will be selling his unique ceramic feeders and dishes at reptile shows all over the country!

If you are interested in seeing TJ's work first hand, you can visit his webpage at TJscreationschico.com. T.J. also has an Etsy page with handmade goods, and his Facebook page can keep you up to date on all his upcoming events!

Mark your calendars, because TJ and his lizards will also be attending the **Chico Reptile Show, September 14th 2014**, where he will also be displaying some of his fabulous art pieces. The show will be held in Arts Building at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds. For more information about the Chico Reptile Show, visit www.chicoreptileshow.com



We're Making Changes!

Autism LifeSpan offers community members access to our extensive lending library with a variety of topics related to autism and developmental disabilities. Our lending library has books galore, DVDs, activity books, computer software, and up-to-date news articles. Our goal is to increase awareness and help educate our community!

We have a variety of autism awareness products for sale, including aprons, bracelets, bookmarks, photo frames, iPhone covers, stepping stones, magnets, pins, and jewelry. Proceeds directly benefit local programs that serve children with autism.



We have also updated our website!
www.AutismLifespan.org

Check out our site for an expansive list of local resources, facts and statistics, information about the Lending Library, and information about our newsletters! All of our Autism Awareness merchandise can be purchased through our webpage as well. We update the website frequently so check us out for the latest news and information! To learn more, go to AutismLifeSpan.org

A Special Thank You TO FAR NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTER

In Loving Memory of Janee Nickerson

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Nickerson family.

Autism Fair 2014

We want to say Thank You again to all who participated in and visited the Autism Awareness Fair, 2013.

We are already thinking about the 2014 Autism Fair, making plans for improvements, and taking vendor sign-ups. Please contact us for more information on how to promote your business or organization, supply sensory projects, or donate to the Autism Fair 2014.

Let's make this year the best possible in providing supports and services to all families and individuals with ASD. Contact us at AutismLifeSpan.org

Add your loved one to our Wall of Fame!

Bring your picture of someone with autism by the office so we can scan and return it safely. We'll add it to the faces on our wall.

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Holiday Gifts that are Fun & Engaging

Check out these awesome toys that promote self-help skills, pretend play, motor skills, and cognition!

Basic Skills Puzzle Board

Use this Basic Skills Board to help the bear get dressed! He needs help zipping zippers, tying laces, and closing buttons. Each skill is contained on a separate, wooden puzzle piece, which makes it easy for practicing. This puzzle helps develop fine motor skills and life skills. Rated for children ages 3 and up.

For more information about this toy visit
www.sensorygoods.com



"Basic Skills Board". Photograph. n.d. www.sensorygoods.com. Web. 06 Nov. 2013.



"Bilibo". Photograph. n/a. www.fatbraintoy.com. Web. 06 Nov 2013.

Bilibo!

What is Bilibo? Well, it can be anything you want! This tortoise shell shaped toy is made of high-density polyethylene, which is shock-resistant, weatherproof, food safe, and completely recyclable! It comes in six bright color. Children can use Bilibo to spin, wear it on their head, play in the water, sand or gravel, and pretty much anything else you can think of! There are virtually unlimited ways to play with Bilibo! It arouses curiosity, stimulates senses, and engages the imagination.

For more information visit www.fatbraintoy.com

Bilibo and Magic Moves Wand
can be purchased locally at
the Little Red Hen Gift Shop
897 E. 20th Street, Chico

Magic Moves Electronic Wand

Have fun wiggling and moving around with this Magic Moves Electronic Wand. This magic microphone promotes movement and gross motor skills while developing auditory processing skills and the ability to follow directions. Can you hop like a frog? Stomp like a dinosaur? There are 90 fun, physical commands, twinkling lights, and musical tunes to get kids up and moving! For more information about this toy visit

www.difflearn.com



"Magic Moves Electronic Wand". Photograph. n.d. www.difflearn.com. Web. 06 Nov 2013

Looking For Information and Support?

Jason H. King, PhD, CMHC, DCMHS, will be presenting an important One-Day Workshop Series, *Using the DSM-5 for Accurate Diagnosis & Treatment Planning*. Learn how to maximize the DSM-5 as a guide to aid in accurate diagnosis and treatment of disorders, and how to accurately apply new DSM-5 gender, culture, age-related factors, and lifespan approaches to achieve clinical utility. This workshop is great for Social Workers, Case Managers, Physicians, and more.

The workshop dates are:

January 23, 2014 in Sacramento, CA

January 24, 2014 in San Francisco, CA

February 20, 2014 in San Jose, CA

February 21, 2014 in Oakland, CA

For more information and to register for this workshop call: 800-433-9570 or on-line: www.summit-education.com

Rowell Family Empowerment and the ARC of Butte County Presents:
ASD Parent Support Group

Every 3rd Tuesday of Each Month come and enjoy an evening of food and conversation. Share your experiences about the many diverse aspects of raising a child with autism or at-risk for autism. A main dish will be provided by ARC and families will bring side dishes and enjoy a meal together.

After the meal, **all children, including siblings**, will be able to engage in child-centered activities with ARC support staff. Adults will be able to enjoy a time of refreshment and rejuvenation through adult support. The Support group is held at the **ARC of Butte County--2030 Park Ave**, in Chico.

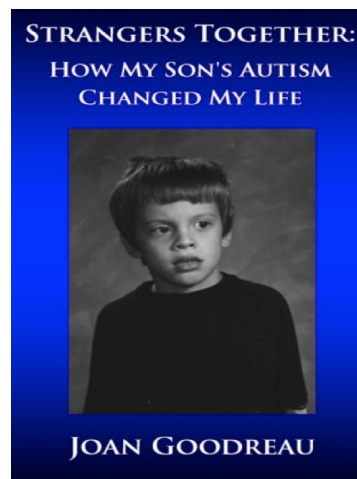
For more information contact:
Erica- (530)774-1509

~ Support Local Authors ~
~ Support Local Nonprofits ~

Local author Joan Goodreau has written a new book called ***Strangers Together: How My Son's Autism Changed My Life***. It describes a family's journey together, told with humor and hope. Joan, a single mother of three, writes about her experiences raising a child on the Autism spectrum. These short real-life stories offer insight into what it is like to raise a child with a disability. Joan lets you get an inside look into her family life, and describes the ups and downs that come with raising a child with Autism.

Terri Todd Ph.D., Assistant Professor at California State University, Northridge calls *Strangers Together*, "An important book for everyone working with children who have a disability. Joan provides a perspective of disability through different lenses and the impact it has on families. Understanding that a child's disability exists outside of the classroom can help teachers' and professionals' as they move toward a team approach to treatment."

It is available NOW in paperback on Amazon, and on your Kindle. **All sale proceeds go directly to Autism Lifespan and Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern California.** Check out this new book, support a local author, and help support your community!



Best Behavior & Family First Two Essential Organizations for the Northstate

When the Chico branch of Advance Kids intervention specialist closed its doors, many families in northern California were concerned about the loss of services for their loved ones. Though Advance Kids is gone, it has created room for new and improved behavior intervention specialists that provide targeted services for the whole family. Two businesses, Best Behavior and Family First, essentially cut out the middle-man by decreasing in-home tutor trainers and increasing parental participation. Best Behavior and Family First are separate businesses that provide similar services to children, adults, and families in the greater northstate.

Best Behavior and Family First provide behavioral interventions for individuals of any age, from early intervention through adulthood. Both organizations provide direct training to families or caregivers who become the main teachers and facilitators of the individual treatment plans. Working with the parents and caregivers directly empowers the family to guide their loved ones to their achieve their highest potential. Best Behavior and Family First are both run by Board Certified Behavioral Analysts who create and implement targeted interventions for interfering behaviors. They can help improve behaviors that are in the home, in the community, at school, work environments, day programs, or residential settings. Best Behavior and Family First improve a vast array of behaviors, from socialization skills, emotional outbursts, aggression, or daily living routines.



**BEST
BEHAVIOR**

embracing social confidence
in children and adults

Best Behavior is based in Redding and provides behavior intervention services to families of individuals with disabilities throughout **Shasta, Tehama, and Siskiyou counties**. Founders Jenna Ball, Adam Yates, and Rebekah Catalano are Board Certified Behavior Analysts who offer group trainings for caregivers as well as direct services for Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) clients. For families in rural areas in Northern California, they provide telebehavioral health services through Connecting to Care.

Family First is based in Chico and provides behavior intervention services to families in **Butte, Glenn, and Tehama counties**. Dave Charlon, M.A. and Jonathan McCabe, M.A., B.C.B.A, began Family First, which provides assessment, early intervention services, home and community ABA based intervention, and Parent Training services.



Both service providers work with individuals through Regional Centers and through private insurance contracts.

For more information about **Best Behavior**, call (530) 232-0845, or email: information@bestbehaviorllc.com. They can also be found on the Web at www.bestbehaviorllc.com

For more information about **Family First**, call (530) 717-3200, or visit their website at www.familyfirstsolution.com

“...THAT’S ME TOO!”

By Local Radio Personality, Mike Fishkin

Last year, I had the pleasure of serving as introductory narrator for the Focus Film Festival short film “...that’s me!” produced by Doug Churchill, which focused on people with developmental disabilities and their work. Well, this year, I had the pleasure once again to be in a sequel he produced, “...that’s me too!” which this time consists of stories illustrating family, friends and relationships heard from their own voices, yours truly included.



Seeing the results of this new film, I was moved by the advice we gave to people watching it -- family, friends, developmentally disabled or not. I got many takeaways from the film, all of which were clearly up my alley. For instance, from Joe and Kyla Gardner and their children, I learned that one has to have love and patience. For without the latter, you’ll be all caught up in frenzy. If you have a hissy fit, you should take a time out, which is what I’ve learned to do to. I’ve also learned that relationships can be like a rollercoaster – they can go up and down, round and round, some parts scary, some parts not. Yet my relationship with family and friends has been really good over the years, in spite of it all, as I shall explain when I get to my part.

Learning from Diane Manwill and her worker, Patty, when you have problems you can talk to someone. One should not feel afraid to communicate. I do the same thing with my Friendship Circle facilitators, namely Charlotte and Pam, who give me ample support as well. Diane says that there are all kinds of disabilities, but just because we have a disability does not mean we aren’t a whole person. I certainly would agree. We can do the same things in life, it just might take a little longer, but we still adapt. I know, because in life, I have learned to adapt to so many things.

Other stories in the film illustrated the same principles of patience and unconditional love, namely from Stephen Bell and his son, and from Charlotte Davis and her mother, Katrina. The latter relationship illustrated that you can learn a lot from a son or daughter with a developmental disability which can be shown in a positive way.

When it came around to me, my narrative showed I still had unconditional love for my brother Joshua, even though he teased me a lot over the years. Yet he should never feel bad because I still love him, as much as I love my mother, who unconditionally loves me for who I am. There are a lot of people who know my voice from KCHO radio, which is an important part of my life. I want people to understand who I really am, and how I try to reach out to others.

The film concluded with this bit of advice: never use autism or any developmental disability as an excuse for where you might have gone wrong. I know that, because I have had problems understanding the world around me and my reactions to it. If you can’t learn from your behavioral mistakes, then there’s no sense in making them. I have learned to overcome what has been called “learned helplessness” and to use my brain to get myself on track and successfully learning from all the experiences over my lifetime.

All in all, “...that’s me too!” is a very positive and moving film that takes the idea of showing “who we are” and takes it a step further. Again, I am proud to be part of this project and would recommend this, along with the prequel, to those who want to see that people like me are human, too.

P.S. – You can watch “...that’s me!” and “...that’s me too!” online at dougchurchill.com/films.



Photograph by Doug Churchill

Breakfast with Santa

The Little Red Hen will be hosting its annual **Breakfast with Santa fundraiser!** Bring the whole family and enjoy a yummy pancake breakfast and refreshments. Santa will be available to listen to all your holiday wishes, and Mrs. Claus has a special goodie-bag with surprises for every child! There will be a photographer available to take pictures of your family with Santa, and a fun art project for the young and young at heart.

The Little Red Hen will have amazing baskets and goods in a silent auction. All proceeds from the auction and breakfast directly support programs and services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Come enjoy the festivities of the season and support a wonderful cause!

Saturday, December 21st

Eagles Hall
1940 Mulberry St.
Chico, CA 95928

9am-1pm

Tickets available at all five
Little Red Hen locations
or at LittleredHen.org

Adults: \$7.50
Children under 12: \$3.50
Children under age 3: FREE!



Meet & Greet Support Group

Meet & Greet is for parents and caregivers of people with developmental disabilities. It gives parents a chance to build relationships, share stories, develop a support group, and have an enjoyable evening with other adults.

If you would like to be on our Meet & Greet mailing list, please email your name and address to Nicole@autismlifespan.org.



Like Us On Facebook!



Autism Lifespan has been updating our Facebook page and we would love for you to check us out! We want to keep you up to date with local events, conferences, and news. We would also love to hear your stories, share photos, and answer any of your questions. Making a connection with the community is important to us, and social networking helps make this happen! Like our page to see our latest posts.