

# Co-op Culture

Good news for the autism community

January 2012 - Issue #53



Arizona Autism United



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In this issue...

## Upcoming Events

[AZA Family Event with Golden Retrievers](#)

January 21  
Local park (Phoenix area)

[ISP Preparation Workshops for AZA Families](#)

January 23  
AZA United (Phoenix)

[Free Training for AZA Employees & Families: Motivating Kids to Try New Foods](#)

January 26  
AZA United (Phoenix)

[Hab-M Parent Orientation](#)

January 28  
AZA United (Phoenix)

[Helping Hands Parent Orientation](#)

January 28  
AZA United (Phoenix)



## Annual Autism Conference Returns this February

Registration is now open for the 2nd annual **Community Autism Conference for Parents & Professionals**. [Click here](#) to visit the conference website for all the details, or [click here](#) for a PDF flyer with the full schedule and registration form.

This conference will be unlike any other. There will be multiple tracks of stimulating presentations from some of our best local experts, hands-on activities, a theatrical performance, an art show, horses and dogs, activities for kids, a cooking class, free catered lunch on a 360-view rooftop, a cocktail reception, and...dare we say it...**MORE!**

Our special guests from out-of-state this year include:

- **Jon Bailey, Ph.D.**, from Florida State University. Jon is **one of the most well regarded Behavior Analysts in the world** and an [expert on ethics](#). He will draw from his decades of experience to help parents and professionals in all fields by analyzing an unexpected source of influence: Steve Jobs.
- **Actor-comedian Mike Guido** will join us from California to do his **theatrical performance about having a daughter with autism**. "[A Real Man](#)" has been getting rave reviews around the country as funny, heartfelt, and utterly unique. This show is one-of-a-kind!

**Early registration discounts are available until February 10**, but space is filling up quickly. Additional discounts are offered to AZA families and AZA employees, and a limited number of **scholarships are available for parents in Arizona**. Visit the conference website for more details or contact us at [info@azaunited.org](mailto:info@azaunited.org).

Community Autism  
Conference for Parents &  
Professionals  
February 17 & 18  
Disability Empowerment  
Center of AZ (Phoenix)

Contact us for more  
information on any of these  
events!

## AZA Online



Make a [Donation](#)

See our 2011 [Annual Report](#)

View [Staff Contact Info](#)

View [Schedule of Trainings](#)

Download [Materials](#)

Apply for a [Job](#)

Recruit a [New Habilitator](#)

Learn about [Hab-M](#)

Explore the [Lending Library](#)

Learn about [School Services](#)

## Link of the Month



Parents and therapists can  
now get ABA tips 24 hours a  
day from CARD's new web  
show, Skills LIVE.

[CLICK HERE](#)



## Get to Know Your Conference Speakers

This year's Community Autism Conference for Parents & Professionals features a range of talented speakers and experts in different fields from around the state. Visit the [Speaker Bios](#) page on the conference website for more details. Here are a few you won't want to miss:

**Marti Baio**, Speech & Language Pathologist

[Baio Enterprises](#)

Presentation topic: **Facilitating Social Interaction**

**Raun Melmed**, Developmental Pediatrician and Medical Director

[The Melmed Center](#) & [SARRC](#)

Presentation topic: **Recent Advances and Clinical Experience**

**Dr. Robin Blitz**, Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician

[Phoenix Children's Hospital](#)

Presentation topic: **Partnering with your Doctor**

**Dr. Dan Davidson**, Behavior Analyst & Project Director

[Northern Arizona University, Institute for Human Development](#)

Presentation topic: **Function-Based Interventions for Students**

**Dr. Joseph Gentry**, Psychologist and Behavior Analyst

[Gentry Pediatric Behavioral Services](#)

Presentation topic: **Intervention Strategies for Eating Problems**

## Grand Opening for the Sports & Fitness Center

Have you heard about **SpoFit**, the new sports and fitness center for people with disabilities and their families? Take it from us - it is AMAZING! Located on the same campus as AZA United's home base (the Disability Empowerment Center), SpoFit is a state-of-the-art facility with basketball courts, weights and exercise machines, swimming pools, a rock climbing wall, and lots of great fitness classes to join. Membership is very affordable and available to any person with a disability and their family, as well as all AZA United employees. At SpoFit, children and people with autism can participate in all kinds of fitness activities in a highly supportive environment that is built for accessibility. For more information, visit [www.SpoFit.org](http://www.SpoFit.org). Come by for the grand opening on February 24 and 25



We at AZA United are now planning a **summer program for kids at SpoFit**. More details are coming soon, but if you're interested now please send an email to [summer@azaunited.org](mailto:summer@azaunited.org).

**SpoFit will also be a part of AZA United's conference next month.** On Friday, we'll have **hands-on classes for habilitators**, parents or other professionals to learn techniques and activities for doing **yoga and sports games** for kids with autism, either one-on-one or in group settings. **On Saturday, kids are invited!** We'll have yoga and sports games for kids of all ages in the morning, and **rock climbing** in the early afternoon. **Parents attending the conference can sign up their child and siblings for just \$5 each.** Kids will need to be accompanied by an adult (such as a habilitator or another family member). This is a unique opportunity and we hope to see many of you there! For more details on the conference activities at SpoFit, visit the [Special Activities](#) section of the conference website.



### **Jon Bailey & Mary Burch Host Ethics Workshop**

The AZA United Program Team is very excited to welcome two rock stars in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to Arizona - Jon Bailey & Mary Burch! Known across the world among behavior analysts, the [Bailey & Burch](#) ethics guidebook for practitioners is one of the most commonly referenced sources on the topic. Dr. Bailey is also known as an excellent presenter and a student of *Presentation Zen*, a favorite book of AZA's executive director (which he discovered via Jon). Dr. Bailey will be the keynote speaker on Friday at the AZA conference, but BCBAs and other interested professionals can attend a pre-conference CEUs workshop with Bailey & Burch on Thursday, February 16. For more information or to register, [click here](#). This workshop is being collaboratively hosted by AZA United, SARRC, and AZ ABA. All participants will be invited to join the presenters for dinner after the workshop. Tell your friends!

**Join us for the Great Hearts Awards**



Please join us for a ceremony and cocktail reception on **Friday night, February 17**, for the 2nd annual Great Hearts Awards. **All AZA families, employees, and conference guests are invited** to honor the the hard work and dedication of our habilitation therapists. A few of our team members will be sharing some memorable stories from their experience. This is a great event for employees to connect and share your passion for what you do to help children with autism and their families. Also sharing stories this year will be Aaron Blocher-Rubin, Executive Director of AZA United, and **special guest Rich Maston, Clinical Director of Lauren's Institute for Education (LIFE)**. This event is free and includes catered hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Contact us at [RSVP@AZAunited.org](mailto:RSVP@AZAunited.org) to let us know you are coming, and feel free to **bring a guest**. For more event information, visit the [Special Activities](#) section of our conference website. Join us for a night to remember!

Thanks for all you do, and don't forget to tell us what else we can do...for you!

## Picture of the Month!

Got a great picture? Share the love!  
Families, email us at [pictures@AZAunited.org](mailto:pictures@AZAunited.org)

