2nd Annual
JCC SPECIAL NEEDS SYMPOSIUM
A Day of Learning
for Parents and Professionals

Friday, December 9, 2016
8:30am-3:00pm

Dr. Robert Naseef, Keynote Speaker

Location:
Raritan Valley Community College
118 Lamington Road • Branchburg, NJ 08876
Dr. Robert Naseef has practiced for over 20 years as a psychologist. He is a graduate of Temple University, specializing in families of children with disabilities. He is the co-founder of Alternative Choices, an independent psychology practice in Old City, Philadelphia.

As the father of an adult son with autism, Dr. Robert Naseef integrates his personal experiences into his professional expertise on autism and special needs. He writes and speaks from an academically informed perspective, as well as his first hand knowledge. Dr. Naseef has used his resources to counsel parents of children with special needs and to host a variety of group therapy sessions for fathers to express themselves and receive support. Dr. Naseef's first book, *Special Children, Challenged Parents: The Struggles and Rewards of Parenting a Child with a Disability*, has received international recognition. He recently wrote *Autism in the Family: Caring and Coping Together*. He is the co-editor, along with Dr. Cindy Ariel, of *Voices from the Spectrum: Parents, Grandparents, Siblings, People with Autism, and Professionals Share Their Wisdom*. Dr. Naseef has clinical privileges at Penn Behavioral Health, University of Pennsylvania Health System. He is also on the board of the Philadelphia Society of Clinical Psychologists.

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### Keynote Speaker

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### Schedule

**Registration/Vendors/Continental Breakfast**
8:30 - 9:00am

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**Welcome**
9:00 - 9:15am

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**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Robert Naseef**
9:15 - 10:45am

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**Breakout Session I**
11:00am - 12:15pm

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**Lunch/Vendors**
12:15 - 1:30pm

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**Breakout Session II**
1:30 - 2:45pm

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### Who can attend?

This conference is for high school aged students and older. Children 13 and under will not be permitted to attend.

### To Register:

Complete registration form included in this brochure or call 908.725.6994 x201 to register over the phone.
Executive Functions Difficulties and the Special Needs Student
Speakers: Cynthia Allman, Executive Director and Cassie George, Clinical Director/Newmark School
This workshop will discuss executive skills and executive functions difficulties as they relate to the special needs population. Presenters will illustrate how deficits in a student’s executive functions present in the classroom. During the workshop we will explore how executive functions difficulties impact student behavior, and identify strategies to help decrease the effect these issues have on classroom performance.

Ketchup is My Favorite Vegetable: A Family Grows Up with Autism
Speaker: Liane Kupferberg Carter
In this unflinching portrait of family life, Carter offers a mother’s insight into what really goes on in the two decades after her son Mickey’s diagnosis of Autism. From the double blow of a subsequent epilepsy diagnosis, to bullying and bar mitzvahs, Mickey struggles and triumphs along the road to adulthood are honestly detailed to show how one family learns to grow and thrive with Autism. Liane is a nationally known advocate for the Autism community with numerous writings in an array of publications. She is also co-author of the Autism Speaks Advocacy Tool Kit.

It is time to Collaborate
Speakers: Beth Cassidy and Amy Stires
This course will provide practical ideas for the K-5th grade classroom teachers and parents to help with the high energy/motor driven student, student with poor handwriting/fine motor skills, disorganized student, homework struggles.
Beth Cassidy and Amy Stires are Pediatric Occupational Therapists who each have over 25 years of experience.

Guy Stuff -- What Boys with Social Learning Challenges (ADHD, Asperger's, higher-verbal ASD) Need to Learn About Hygiene, Puberty and Sexuality.
Speaker: Ryan Wexelblatt, LSW, CAS
Ryan Wexelblatt is the Director of Center for ADHD in Narberth, Pennsylvania and Northfield, New Jersey. A licensed social worker, school social worker and certified autism specialist, Ryan works with children, adolescents and adults. Ryan and his colleague, Stephen, a special education teacher, co-facilitate programs for boys who present with social learning challenges. Additionally, Ryan works at the Y.A.L.E. School Philadelphia campus. You can learn more about the Guy Stuff program at the Center for ADHD website: www.adhdnj.com.

Untangling the Laws of Special Education
Speaker: Jeff Wasserman
The law regarding, and process for obtaining, special education services in public schools confuses parents, teachers and administrators alike. For parents in particular, the process always seems like an uphill battle. In this session, you will learn about the “nuts and bolts” of the process, and will have an opportunity to brainstorm ideas for how to better navigate your way through it, while working with other caring adults who seek the best possible services for our children.
Jeff Wasserman is a former “big firm” commercial litigator, who started his own practice in part to help guide parents through the special education process, with a personal and caring touch, and a child-focused agenda.

Understanding and Guiding Your Child’s Behavior
Speaker: Dr. Robert Naseef
Dr. Naseef Addresses the challenging behaviors that children with autism exhibit and offers help in guiding them toward more socially appropriate ways of self-expression. Participants also explore practical behavioral approaches to common regulatory issues including activities of daily living.
No Such Thing as Normal

Speaker: Sara Wasserman

What does it mean to be "normal?" This session will address the differences children have and how we as adults can appreciate and value those differences. Tailored to teachers and parents alike, our discussion will help you think about children and their skills in a multitude of ways.

Sara Wasserman is the Early Childhood Director at the JCC Blaustein Early Childhood Center. As a former faculty member at Montclair State University, she is well versed in teacher education, early childhood, inclusive education and the disability rights community. Please visit SJW Consulting for more information.

Special Children, Challenged Parents, Caring Professionals: Building Partnerships

Speaker: Dr. Robert Naseef

Strengthen the parent-professional relationship and work together more effectively. Drawing from personal and professional experience, Dr. Naseef guides professionals and parents in learning strategies to overcome emotional and developmental challenges both special children and parents may encounter.

Helping a Child Develop and Utilize Sensory-Supportive Coping Strategies

Speaker: Jennifer Ellis Walters

Workshop attendees will explore the link between childhood anxiety, behavioral manifestations and, often hidden or misunderstood, sensory processing difficulties. Different environments and applicable coping strategies will be discussed, demonstrated and adapted to fit a wide range of children’s needs.

Jennifer Ellis Walters has worked in mental health agencies and school programs providing psychotherapy services. Jennifer also works with clients on the autism spectrum and with special needs to better understand their strengths and limitations. In addition, Jennifer collaborates with the caregivers. She currently works for JFS of SHAW.

Now What are We Going to Do?

Speaker: Cheryl Sunshine-Figliano

Ideas for play dates, toy choices, leisure time and community activities for children of all ages. So often children with special needs spend countless hours in therapy, working with tutors, doing homework etc., but what about all the “other” times of the day? This workshop will provide practical and concrete suggestions on helping your child fill their “free time”. We will talk about setting up successful play dates, looking beyond the face value of typical toys/games and making them “work” for your child, setting up routines and schedules that incorporate leisure time. Finally we will discuss resources in the community that can provide a variety of activities for children of all ages to enjoy.

Cheryl Sunshine-Figliano is a special educator with 30 years of experience. She has taught a variety of ages and disabilities throughout her career. In addition she is the mom of two children on the autism spectrum. She brings the unique perspective of sitting on “both sides of the table”.

To Medicate or Not...That is the Question

Speaker: Hayley Cohen, M.D

This talk is intended to open up a discussion of a question without an easy or absolute answer. We will discuss the pros and cons, risks and benefits, of medicating and will avoid conclusions of right and wrong. Dr. Cohen will provide some food for thought to foster the personal decision-making process of parents and children, with their doctors.

Hayley Cohen, M.D., is a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist with over 20 years of experience in outpatient psychiatric care. She currently is in private practice in Springfield, NJ and is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Cohen is a past president of the NJ Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and remains active on its executive board. She has received multiple patient recognition awards, most recently the 2015 Vitals Patients’ Choice Award.
## Registration Form

**$100/person  $125 after November 23**

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

Cell: ___________________________________________

Email: ___________________________________________

- [ ] Professional  - [ ] Caregiver

Profession: _______________________________________

Place of Employment: _____________________________

## Payment

- [ ] MC  - [ ] Visa  - [ ] American Express

Check/Card #: ___________________________________

Name on Card: ___________________________________

Expiration Date: ___________________  CVV #: ____________

Signature: _______________________________________

Please make checks payable to “JCC”. Mail to JCC, 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807  Att: Symposium

## Session Choices

*Please choose your top 3 choices from each breakout session (Put number 1, 2 or 3 in boxes)*

### Breakout 1

- [ ] Executive Functions Difficulties and the Special Needs Student  *Cynthia Allman and Cassie George*
- [ ] Ketchup is My Favorite Vegetable: A Family Grows Up with Autism  *Liane Kupferberg Carter*
- [ ] It is Time to Collaborate  *Beth Cassidy and Amy Stires*
- [ ] Guy Stuff -- What Boys with Social Learning Challenges (ADHD, Asperger’s, higher-verbal ASD) Need to Learn About Hygiene, Puberty and Sexuality  *Ryan Wexelblatt, LSW, CAS*
- [ ] Untangling the Laws of Special Education  *Jeff Wasserman*
- [ ] Understanding And Guiding Your Child’s Behavior  *Dr. Robert Naseef*

### Breakout 2

- [ ] No such thing as Normal  *Sara Wasserman*
- [ ] Special Children, Challenged Parents, Caring Professionals: Building Partnerships  *Dr. Robert Naseef*
- [ ] Helping a Child Develop and Utilize Sensory-Supportive Coping Strategies  *Jennifer Ellis Walters*
- [ ] Now What are We Going to Do?  *Cheryl Sunshine-Figiano*
- [ ] To Medicate or Not...That is the Question  *Dr. Hayley Cohen*

- [ ] If you need to show proof of Professional Development hours, please check here and a certificate will be available for you at the end of the conference. Earning Professional Development hours will be subject to you receiving your district/supervisor approval.
Sponsorship and Vendor Opportunities

Please reply by November 20

**Title Sponsor: $10,000**
Name will appear on Event Brochure, E-Blasts, in-house TV, social media sites and on signage the day of Symposium. Business website will be linked from JCC website on Symposium webpage and on JCC Preferred Vendors webpage. Sponsorship fee includes complimentary display table, five admissions to Symposium and Full Page ad in Special Needs Resource Guide, which will be distributed at event and posted on the JCC website for one year.

**Keynote Sponsor: $7,500**
Name will appear on Event Brochure, E-Blasts and on signage day of Symposium. Business website will be linked from JCC website on Symposium webpage and on JCC Preferred Vendors page. Sponsorship fee includes complimentary display table, four admissions to Symposium and Half Page ad in Special Needs Resource Guide, which will be distributed at event and posted on the JCC website for one year.

**Lunch Sponsor: $3,500**
Name will appear in Event Brochure, JCC website, E-Blasts and on signage day of Symposium. Business website will be linked from JCC website on Symposium webpage and on JCC Preferred Vendors page. Sponsorship fee includes complimentary display table, three admissions to Symposium and Quarter Page ad in Special Needs Resource Guide, which will be distributed at event and posted on JCC website for one year.

**Breakfast Sponsor: $2,000**
Name will appear in Event Brochure, JCC website, E-Blasts and signage day of Symposium. Business website linked from JCC website. Signage will be displayed day of event. Sponsorship fee includes complimentary display table at Symposium, two admissions and Business Card ad in Special Needs Resource Guide, which will be distributed at event and posted on JCC website for one year.

**Event Sponsor: $300:**
Name will appear on JCC Symposium webpage. Signage will be displayed day of Symposium. Ad in Special Needs Resource Guide, which will be distributed at event and posted on JCC website for one year.

**Resource Guide Business Ad: $200**
The Special Needs Resource Guide will be distributed at event and posted on JCC website for one year and will be available at the JCC. This guide will include businesses and services geared toward individuals and families with Special Needs.

**Vendor Display Table $150:** (Limited Opportunities Available.)

**Patron $180:** Family Name will appear in Special Needs Resource Guide which will be distributed at event and posted on JCC website for one year.

**Resource Guide Ad and Vendor Table: $325 (Save $25)**

All Donations in Support of the Event are Appreciated.
Sponsorship and Vendor Registration Form

Please reply by November 1

Date:__________________

Contact Name: ________________________________________________

Business Name: ________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________

Daytime Phone: ___________________________ Cell: __________________

Email: _________________________________________________________

Website: _______________________________________________________

Please Select Sponsorship Opportunity:

☐ Title Sponsor: $10,000
☐ Keynote Sponsor: $7,500
☐ Lunch Sponsor: $3,500
☐ Breakfast Sponsor: $2,000
☐ Event Sponsor: $300
☐ Special Needs Resource Guide Ad: $200
☐ Vendor Display Table: $150
☐ Resource Guide and Vendor Table: $325 (Save $25)
☐ Patron: $180

Total Amount: ____________________________

Logo accepted for signage, please send a high resolution jpeg or pdf to: celgrably@ssbjcc.org.

☐ Check#_______  ☐MC  ☐Visa  ☐American Express

Card #: ________________________________________________

Name on Card: ________________________________________________

Expiration Date: ________________  CVV #: _______________________

Signature: __________________________________________________

Please make checks out to “JCC”.
Mail to JCC, 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 Att: Symposium
Sponsorships Questions: Debbie Golden, 908-725-6994 x210; dgolden@ssbjcc.org
The JCC is a non-sectarian, non-profit social service agency located in Bridgewater, NJ and is an agency of The United Way of Somerset County. The JCC provides a wide variety of special needs programming to individuals of all ages and disabilities, right here in our local community. Proceeds raised from the Special Needs Symposium will benefit Special Needs program initiatives and services offered at the JCC. Such initiatives include the Special Olympics Swim Team, Prom for Adults with Special Needs, a respite program and individual assistance to children attending the JCC Blaustein Early Childhood Center and JCC Camp Ruach. We will begin an adult internship program in early 2017. Your support will allow us to have an even greater impact in our local community this coming year.

Thank you to our Committee:
Adena Feinstein – Chairperson
Barbara Drew
Cheryl Figliano
Ellen McCloskey
Elise Prezant
Marjorie Slass
Jennifer Walters
Paige Silberfein - Staff Liaison

About the JCC
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Testimonials
Your symposium was one of the best that I have been to! I thought that the day was extremely well executed, your staff was friendly, and your breakout sessions were relevant to multiple different professionals who work across different age groups. I look forward to attending another one in the future!

Melanie Dominko-Richards, M.S. CC-SLP, Speech-Language Specialist

As one of the vendors that attended the JCC Special Needs Symposium in 2015, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in such a remarkable and inspirational event. This symposium demonstrated the unique commitment and drive of our special needs community and families here in NJ.

Carolyn DeStefano, PT and Valeri Pessirlo, OTR, ExerSense LLC.