



Building Bridges

FRIDAY
APRIL 13TH
2018

8:30 AM-2:30 PM

UJA-Federation of New York
130 EAST 59TH STREET, 7TH FL.
NEW YORK, NY 10022

A conference to promote coordination of services from Healthcare providers, NGO's and Government agencies for **Youth with Disabilities**

SPECIAL CARE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Organized by the Russian-American Dental Association in partnership with the Alpha Omega Foundation



OUR PARTNERS:



The Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity and its Foundations is an established network of highly accomplished dental professionals who, through its Global Oral Health Initiative, seek to improve the human condition by reaching out to the needs of dental health, education, research, and care worldwide.



radacampaign@gmail.com

Russian American Dental Association (RADA), www.russianDentists.org, is a national nonprofit organization with 501c (3) charity status. RADA is devoted to humanitarian and community work, as well as assisting dental professionals in their career goals, and providing education and research in the dental field. RADA sponsors and organizes charity events, holds medical professional conferences, offers Continuing Education courses and advises practitioners and organizations on the medical profession.

AGENDA

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| 8:30am – 9:15am | Conference registration/Breakfast |
| 9:15am – 9:30am | Introductions |
| 9:30am – 10:45am | Panel Discussion I |
| 10:45am – 11:45am | Featured organizations presentations |
| 11:45am – 12:30pm | Working lunch |
| 12:15pm – 12:30pm | Special presentation by the Blue Card/ AO-Henry Schein Cares Holocaust Survivors Oral Health Program |
| 12:30pm – 1:30pm | Featured organizations presentations |
| 1:30pm – 2:30pm | Panel Discussion II |
| 2:30pm – 2:45pm | Closing remarks |

CONFERENCE MODERATOR

Yola Nash, M.S. Conference moderator, is a TV/Radio and special events host and producer, national speaker on CPR. Currently an on-air personality on WABC Radio, hosting and co-producing her own The Yola Nash Show (#1 Talk Radio Station in the country) and conducting WABC Video show On-Camera Exclusive Celebrity Interviews with A-list celebrities, entrepreneurs, experts, and other world-renowned guests.


In her successful career in media she has interviewed high profile guests: Billy Joel; Courtney Love; Priscilla Presley; Barry Manilow; Grammy Award Winning Jazz Superstar Chris Botti, Emmy Award Winning Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson; The Dog Whisperer Cesar Millan; Lech Walesa, Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of Poland; Michael Bloomberg, and James McGreevey, to name a few.

As a producer Yola worked with such stars as: Tom Hanks, Mike Tyson, Robert Redford, Evander Holyfield, Winona Ryder, Fran Drescher, Isabella Rossellini, Tony Braxton, Richard Dreyfuss, among many others.

Yola is an accomplished singer (sung for the Pope John Paul II, topped US AC Radio Charts – Top 40.) She is a recipient of a special "Commendation of Heroic Action" from the Governor of NJ, Richard J. Codey for saving a performer's life.

PANELISTS

Courtney Haas, Esq. Special Education attorney, is an experienced litigator who practices special education law as a full time attorney with the Law Offices of H. Jeffrey Marcus. She graduated from law school in 2010 with a fellowship in Child Advocacy from Hofstra University and immediately began her career in special education. She practices as a special education attorney representing



families all over New York state. In addition to this, Courtney previously received the New York City Teaching Fellowship and taught students with special needs in special education prior to her current practice as an attorney. In addition to being a licensed attorney and former special education teacher, Courtney is a certified special education mediator who has successfully mediated cases between families and school districts.

Courtney's fate as a special education education attorney was sealed in 2012 when her son, Elliott, was diagnosed with a combination of two very rare genetic syndromes. As a mother of child with special needs, Courtney understands the struggles her clients face and the need for support in both the community and school setting.

Dr. Dyan Hes is Medical Director of Gramercy Pediatrics in New York City and a Director of the American Board of Obesity Medicine. She is Board Certified in both pediatrics and obesity medicine. In addition, she serves as Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

Dr. Hes completed her B.A. in Public Health at The Johns Hopkins University and studied medicine at The Sackler School of Medicine, University of Tel Aviv. She completed her residency in Social Pediatrics at New York's Albert Einstein School of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center.

An active advocate for pediatric and adolescent nutrition and weight management, Dr. Hes was honored by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz for her efforts to combat obesity among Brooklyn youth. In 2006, she served as an Expert Witness at the New York City Department of Health Hearing to Ban Trans Fat in Restaurant Food. Dr. Hes is particularly interested in obesity in special needs children.

Dr. Hes has served as a medical expert on CBS This Morning, NBC News, ABC News, CNN, NY1, Inside Edition, and FOX News. In addition to being included in New York Magazine's 2013 Top Doctors, she was named one of New York's Top Doctors by Castle and Connolly yearly since 2011.

Allen Finkelstein, DDS is CEO of Bedford HealthCare Solutions and the former Chief Dental Officer of AmeriChoice/United Health Group insuring over 3.5 million lives in dental government coverage (CHIP/Medicaid).

Dr. Finkelstein is a member of the American Dental Association, the Essex County Dental Association and the dental associations of the States of New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island. He serves on the New Jersey Dental Medicaid Advisory Committee, New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island Coalitions of Oral Health, the Center for Health Care Strategies, American Friends of the Hebrew University New York Board Advisory, the Board of the Children's Health Project, the Vice Chairman of the Shils Entrepreneurial Education Fund of the American Dental Association, a member of the New York Academy of Sciences, a member of advisory board for Healthy Smiles-Healthy Families Oral Health for Children in California's Healthy Families Program and member of the Board of Advisors for



the Children's Dental Health Project, Washington DC.

Dr. Finkelstein is a former Post Preventive Dental Officer at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, receiving the Army Commendation medal for the Preventive Dental Program developed to reduce caries and emergencies for the US Army Dental Corp during the Vietnam War. Dr. Finkelstein served on the Forensic Staff at the New York City Medical Examiners Office after September 11th and currently is an advisor to the New City Department of Health for the New York Cares Health Improvement Program.

Dr. Finkelstein is currently an adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at New York University, College of Dentistry, Senior Advisor for Oral Health Strategies adjunct faculty member of the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health at Still University, a member of the Harvard University School of Dental Medicine Leadership Council, a member of the Global Dental School Alliance and a member of the Visitor's Board of the Kornberg School of Dentistry at Temple University. Dr Finkelstein testified before the Domestic Policy Subcommittee on and Government Reform in the United States House of Representatives on "Evaluating Pediatric Dental Care under Medicaid" and advised Congressman Elijah Cummings of Maryland on the Child Health Insurance Plan Reform Act on dental coverage.

Gili Rechany, MA, BCBA, LBA, SBL, has been educating, consulting, and training professionals and parents in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis for the past 16 years in the US and abroad. She is a board certified, licensed behavior analyst and school building leader. She is an administrator in American Healthaide Care, an agency devoted to providing webinars and professional trainings as well as direct behavioral health services to individuals on the spectrum. She is the Educational Director for Shema Kolainu Hear our Voices, a school and center for children with ASD servicing all five boroughs in NYC. Giliserves on the planning committee for Icare4autism an international Autism organization that assists countries all over the world in Autism education, services and workplace preparation.

Beth Diviney, Ph.D., BCBA, LBA is a behavior analyst who consults in health care clinics, early intervention centers, schools, homes and other community based programs throughout the New York tri-state area in the USA. Beth received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from SUNY at Stony Brook where, under the supervision of Dr. Ted Carr and his graduate students, she discovered the field of Applied Behavior Analysis. She earned her M.A. in Experimental Psychology at LIU, and Ph.D. in Applied Psychology at NYU. Beth is a peer-elected Past President of the NYS Association for Behavior Analysis, and Director New Initiatives at icare4autism (International Center for Autism Research & Education). She is a cofounder of the Premier HealthCare Training Institute, serves on several advisory committees and presents at nationally and internationally held professional conferences. Her research and practice focus is on the health and well-being of families, learning, autism and related disorders, and the integration of behavior




analysis with parenting, education, medical and dental care.

Mariette J. Bates is a Distinguished Lecturer at the CUNY School of Professional Studies and the Academic Director of Disability Studies programs. Dr. Bates began her career as an advocate for the institutionalized mentally ill, before becoming the Program Director at One to One, a foundation where she was responsible for the grant making program, training and technical assistance to grantees.

In 1983, she co-founded the Maidstone Foundation, working on systems change advocacy for unserved and underserved populations of New York and the country. Dr. Bates worked with over 500 community-based non-profits on Board development, fundraising, and strategic planning. From 1989 to 2018, Maidstone provided direct services to Russian speaking immigrants with disabilities, supporting families caring for disabled family members in Queens and Brooklyn. Maidstone also supported Pedihabilidad, a program providing physical therapy for children with disabilities in Tena, Ecuador, and the Cross Mentoring project, supporting development of nonprofits through fundraising and planning assistance. Dr. Bates taught at the City College's Center for Worker Education from 1993 – 2008, developing coursework Disability Studies, Philanthropy and Non-Profit Management. She became the Director of the Disability Studies Program at the School of Professional Studies in 2008, launching the Master of Arts in Disability Studies in January of 2009, the Bachelor of Arts in 2012 and the MS in Disability Services in Higher Education in 2016. Dr. Bates holds a bachelor's degree from Empire State College, a Certificate from Columbia University's Institute for Not-For-Profit Management and a Ph.D. in Philanthropy and Developmental Disabilities from the Union Institute. She has received numerous awards, including the Marvin B. Sussman Dissertation Prize, Outstanding Alumna awards from Empire State College and the Union Institute, Leadership Awards from parents' groups and the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, the 2007 Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award from the City College's Center for Worker Education, and Congressional recognition for outstanding service to the community. She is the stepmother of a 53-year-old man who was in Willowbrook State School and now lives in a group home in the Bronx.

Daniela Climaco, MA, BCBA, LBA is a Licensed, Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) who has been passionately working with children on the Autism Spectrum, their families and communities for over 10 years. Daniela attended Columbia University, Teachers College, and received a Master's Degree in Intellectual Disabilities and Autism. She then completed her Advanced Post-Master's Behavioral Analysis Degree at Florida Institute of Technology. She is also a certified General and Special Education teacher for Grades, 1-6. She began her studies and passion for working with children on the Autism Spectrum while studying at Binghamton University and working at the Institute for Child Development, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis. She is




dedicated to changing the lives of children and their families with special needs. Daniela has extensive experience in social skills development and supervised special needs camps, enrichment classes, and social skills groups. She currently is a BCBA in Queens, NY working with multiple children and their families on the Autism Spectrum. Her expertise includes working with verbal and non-verbal clients ages 3-18, in home, school and community settings. Her passion lies in quality of life development. This includes community skills, activities of daily living skills, language development, improving family dynamics, parent training, training other professionals in the field, conducting, scoring and reporting assessments, writing behavior plans, and systematic curriculum building. Daniela is dedicated to enhancing and enriching the lives of children with special needs and their families in order to help them live a more fulfilling life.

Sharon Plafker Artz, PsyD, parent advocate, is a stay-at-home mother for her three teenage sons, two of whom are on the autistic spectrum. Sharon had intended to resume her career as a clinical psychologist after having children, but her boys' special needs were significant and she chose instead to focus solely on her family. Over the years, she has advocated in her community for increased program development for the growing population of special needs children and teens. She has served on the Board of Directors at the Jewish Community Center of Central NJ and also sits on the Advisory Board of the Kean University Occupational Therapy Clinic. In addition, Sharon created a soap company as a job training vehicle for her sons. Eventually she transferred the company to a not-for-profit organization that maintains the original mission to provide vocational training for teens with special needs.

Jason Grant Shela was born and raised in London, England. He won an international scholarship and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Baruch College, City University of New York. He then earned a Master's Degree in International Relations from New York University. Jason received a Steven Spielberg Scholarship for international study at the Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland and a post graduate scholarship at Yale University. He became the first Englishman to be elected a Fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency in Washington D.C. Jason is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Golden Key and Beta Gamma Sigma, the National Academic Honor Society for Business Administration in the United States.

He served in the Royal Air Force Cadet Corps. Jason played competitive soccer for Wingate FC, and captained the Governor's Island Championship team and coached & captained New York Select. He captained the Yale University Graduate Soccer team. He played rugby football in England for Wasps RFC, Fulham Rugby League FC and has represented Middlesex County, London and Great Britain at the Maccabiah Games.

Jason parlayed his love for sports and arts into serving Special Needs Community. A committed youth sports educator for 3 decades, Jason is a founder of The British




Soccer Academy, which has become one of the largest youth sports programs in New York City and was voted PSAA High School Coach of the year by his peers and led his teams to the NYC Public Schools City Championship & multiple Uptown City Championships. He developed a transformative soccer program for children aged 3-18 with special needs across the spectrum and currently coaches the programs at MBC & CPELC. The Soccer Goodwill Festival Program, which Jason founded, aims at building links between players, their families and the wider community. He is an expert in educational curriculum development and policy and has advised students and their families find the right school and college.

In addition, Jason created and developed innovative Creative Performance & Radio Broadcasting programs for K-8 and developed a Musical Creative Lab Program for Sight-Impaired & Special Needs Teenagers. He is Director of Original Productions at the Children's Acting Academy and founder of My Generation Theater. He has produced, written, directed and performed in over 100 music and theatrical shows and is the recipient of Ascap Composition Awards. He has written original music for Fox TV, HBO & Sirius Radio. In January 2017 he became Educational Programming & Creative Director at The Joseph Skakun Project, a creative and educational non-profit dedicated to bringing history and culture alive through the performing arts. Jason is committed to the Special Needs Community and developing socially responsible initiatives within the framework of sports, music, theatre & the arts.

Jason was recently honored by AHRC for his many years of dedicated service for creating sports programs for thousands of kids across the spectrum. In June 2018 he will be honored by the Park East Community & School with his wife as Parents of the Year.

Harvey Levy, DMD, MAGD, practices general and hospital dentistry in Frederick, Maryland, where he advocates and emphasizes comprehensive dental care for individuals with anxiety or special-needs. He graduated from Tufts Dental in 1974, two-year GP Residency in Rochester, practiced in Michigan, taught at Hospital Univ of Penn, and now teaches at University of MD Dental School. Dr. Levy has authored 40 publications and presented courses and webinars to thousands, all linked to drhlevyassoc.com

Dr. Levy has earned Mastership and five Lifelong Learning Service Recognitions by the Academy of General Dentistry along with nine fellowships, five diplomate certificates, and board certification in Integrative Medicine. His work with special-needs patients has earned him the AGD Humanitarian Award, the ADA Access to Care Award, the Maryland Governor's Doctor of the Year Award, the Maryland State Dental Association's First Humanitarian Award, Morgan State Public Health Award, Special Care Dentistry's Saul Kamen Award, Tufts Univ Distinguished Achievements Award, and the honor of running the 2002 Olympic Torch representing patients with special-needs.



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The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation

<http://www.ao.org/holocaust-survivors-programs/>



<https://sps.cuny.edu/>



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Building Bridges

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