

Biographies

Maxwell Barrows is a young man with autism who works for Green Mountain Self- Advocates, a disability rights organization in Vermont. As the Outreach Director, he mentors youth and adults with developmental disabilities to speak up for themselves and become leaders. Max connects with people on all levels, advocating for true-inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. In his work, he advances the message that when you meet an individual with a disability, presume competence. Max is currently on the board of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), the national self-advocacy organization. His goal is to travel internationally to spread his messages of true inclusion and self-advocacy. Recently, Max was recognized for his hard work in Disability Advocacy by being honored as a Champion of Change at the White House.

Corina Becker is an autistic and disabled writer, artist, and activist with a B.A. in English who is currently studying at Ryerson University in Disability Studies. She writes *No Stereotypes Here*, and runs *Autistics Speaking Day* and the *Autistic Adult App Project*, as well as contributing writing for *The Thinking Person's Guide to Autism*, *Loud Hands*, and the *Perspectives Anthology*. She is Vice President and a founding board member of Autism Women's Network.

Jennifer Bertrand lives in NH where she is mother to four children. Born with one hand, she has found a different way of doing things throughout her life. She is a volunteer advocate for the Parent Information Center, a certified NH Educator, graduate of the 2010 UNH IOD Leadership Series and 2015 UNH LEND fellowship program, and Policy Chairperson and member of the NH Council on Developmental Disabilities. Jennifer provides information and training related to the legislative process and public policies that impact families through her work as the Public Policy Director at Community Crossroads. She founded the Southern Chapter of ABLE NH, a growing grassroots organization that takes on issues that impact people with disabilities. She believes "*taking direct action even with the tension and conflict it stirs is necessary to move our values forward and realize a dream of dignity, equity, equality, full-citizenship, and independence*" for her daughter Chloe and others who experience a disability. During the 2013-14 legislative session Jennifer successfully coordinated testimony for legislative hearings on behalf of parents and mobilized many stakeholders across the state to contact their representatives in favor of Senate Bill 396 relative to child restraint and seclusion practices. This collaboration and effort led to the successful passage of this legislation. During the 2015 legislative session, Jennifer took a leadership role in educating legislators about the benefits of employing people with disabilities. This, with the support of stakeholders from across NH, led to the passage of the first in the nation law which prohibits the payment of subminimum wages to people with disabilities. Jennifer was the honored recipient of the Hillsborough County Democrats 2014 Grassroots Activist of the Year award.

Larry Bissonnette is a disability rights advocate and artist who lives in Milton, Vermont. He has been painting and drawing since he was a young child and exhibits his art regularly both locally and nationally. His work is in the permanent collection of GRACE (Grass Roots Art and Community Effort), Hardwick, Vermont and in the Musée de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland. Larry is both the subject and writer of an award winning film about his life, called, *My Classic Life as an Artist: A Portrait of Larry Bissonnette* (2005). Most recently, he starred in a feature length documentary directed by Gerardine Wurzburg about adults with autism called *Wretches and Jabberer* (2010). In 1991, Larry learned to communicate through typing and began combining words with his art to express his thoughts and ideas. Over the past 15 years, he has been a featured presenter at many national educational conferences and has written and spoken on the topics of autism, communication and art.

Cynthia Blasko has three children. Her eldest, Grant, 13, has non-speaking autism. His success since 2011 with Facilitated Communication and Rapid Prompting Method has been a

catalyst for what is now a very personal passion for change in our schools and community. Cynthia is now an advocate, trainer, and community collaborator, working to help more children and adults with autism to communicate more effectively. Montgomery County Maryland Public Schools, a district of 154,000 students and over 2,300 with autism, is currently entering into the 3rd year of a successful pilot program she initiated with a fellow group of motivated parents along with the Montgomery County Innovation Lab, a government think tank. She is also the co-founder of Connections through Communication, a monthly social forum that connects typers, families, educators, and therapists from the Washington DC, MD, and VA areas.

Grant Blasko is a great guy. “Seriously though, it is the privilege of my life to be seen on the same page with some of the presenters here. I am so motivated to help dear autistic people but I am new and nervous in this game.” Grant is 13 years old and non-speaking. He uses both Facilitated Communication and RPM to type independently, as well as feels strongly that daily practice in mindfulness has helped too. Grant attends 7th Grade at Thomas J. Pyle Middle School in Montgomery County, MD, and is in all general education classes. His first instance of his typing in 2011 set the wheels in motion from total school inadequacy to total school inclusion. Grant is a budding author and public speaker who is excited to do more. He has spoken at several Washington, D.C. area autism organization events and Syracuse ICI Summer Institute in 2014. His mantra is, “I try my best to improve one thing each day. The growth mindset has been so important for my progress.”

Lydia Brown is an autistic and multiply-disabled activist, writer, and speaker whose work has largely focused on violence against people with disabilities who have multiple minority identities and experiences. As a person of color and a member of the LGBTQ community, Lydia's work strives to emphasize issues facing people with disabilities from other marginalized groups in particular. Lydia is currently co-president of TASH New England, a board member of the Autism Women's Network, and a public member of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council. Lydia is the lead editor and visionary behind a forthcoming anthology of writings by autistic people of color on autism and race. While a student at Georgetown University, Lydia co-founded the Washington Metro Disabled Students Collective for intersectional disability justice organizing, led multiple campaigns to reform university policies on disability access, served two terms as Undersecretary for Disability Affairs with the Georgetown University Students Association, and was a member of the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities' consumer advisory council. Lydia is a past Patricia Morrissey Disability Policy Fellow at the Institute for Educational Leadership and also worked for the Autistic Self Advocacy Network for several years. Lydia has been honored by the White House, the Washington Peace Center, Pacific Standard, and Mic. Lydia's work has been published in various anthologies, including *Criptiques*, *Torture in Healthcare Settings*, and *QDA: A Queer Disability Anthology*, as well as periodicals including *Tikkun*, *Black Girl Dangerous*, *hardboiled magazine*, and the *Washington Post*. Currently, Lydia is a law student at Northeastern University, and blogs at www.autistichoya.com.

Jamie Burke is 28 years old and a recent graduate of Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the College of Arts and Science. Jamie has used supported typing since age five, and has progressed from supported typing, to independent typing and typing with two hands. At age 12, he became able to use his voice to read his typing and continues to develop useful and reliable speech. He is a frequent presenter at Syracuse University School of Education and also at conferences throughout the United States. Jamie has been invited to England, Wales, and Germany, to speak about inclusion and the process of typed communication and the life-changing impact it can have for those who have difficulty speaking. In the spring of 2002, Syracuse University produced a video written and narrated by Jamie, titled, “Inside the Edge, A Journey to Using Speech through Typing.” This video won the TASH Image Award in 2002, which honors those who challenge stereotypical beliefs of those with disabilities. Jamie is a regular attendee of the Syracuse Symphoria, enjoys reading, theater, vintage movies, swimming, bowling, and hiking. He is a member of the National Honor Society,

and serves on Advisory Boards for the Hussman Institute for Autism and currently is a guest co-editor for the TASH Connections Journal. He has had opportunities to be included in People and Time magazines and CNN. Jamie continues to advocate for typed communication as a gateway to speech, literacy, and connection. He is an active advocate and shares this journey at conferences and classrooms throughout the United States. He attributes much of his life's success to years of innovative therapies, and most importantly, to full access of regular education classrooms.

“Sunny” Cefaratti is a performing pianist/vocalist, co-Director of [The Musical Autist](#), and a mentor to other musical autists and autistic advocates. She was born in South Korea, completely blind, and at 2 years old she was adopted by her family in the United States. She was discovered to have perfect pitch at age 4 and was diagnosed on the autism spectrum at age 13. She finished with a certificate of completion at Maryland School for the Blind at age 21. Sunny spent the next 8 years in a sheltered workshop, earning less than \$1 per week. In March of 2015, Sunny successfully separated from this placement and is in the process of entering Self Directed Services through DDA. In 2011, she and C.J. Shiloh began a 501c3 nonprofit organization, The Musical Autist, an advocacy and service organization which promotes the Neurodiversity Movement through Musical Autist Communities and Sensory Friendly Concerts™. These concerts promote “equal access to the fine arts” and a structured practice of Community Music Therapy with an agenda for social reform.

Pascal Cheng has a M. Ed. and C.A.S. in Special Education from the University of Vermont and has worked for over 30 years with children and adults with developmental disabilities in school and community settings. He currently works for the Howard Center in Burlington, Vermont as an educational and communication specialist, providing training and consultation in the areas of augmentative communication, assistive technology and literacy for children and adults with developmental disabilities. He has developed specific expertise in facilitated communication, an augmentative communication method for individuals with limited speech. Through his work with individuals served by the Howard Center and continued training at the Institute of Communication and Inclusion at Syracuse University, he has gained extensive skill and experience in the use of this method of communication. As part of a national network of Master Trainers in Facilitated Communication, he works as a consultant to schools and agencies and regularly participates as a trainer in local, regional and national workshops and conferences.

Barbara Cutler, single parent, author, autism consultant, advocate (since 1969), and service provider who founded her first program for adolescents with autism in 1972, established respite care programs, trained parents and professionals in behavioral programs for their children/students, and consulted with schools and community programs regarding individuals with autism. She has served on various boards and state committees after receiving her A.B. and M.Ed from Harvard (1972) and her Ed.D. in Special Education from Boston University (1990). She helped to develop conferences on autism, including establishing the Northeast Regional Conference on Autism in 1972 and the Autism National Committee in 1990. Dr. Cutler has presented on education, autism, and advocacy in more than half of the states, Canada, Puerto Rico and England. She was instrumental in the design of Chapter 766, the model for the Federal special education law (IDEA). She is deeply committed to human rights and access for all people with disabilities. She is the proud mother of Rob and George Cutler, Rob because of his courage in persisting in spite of challenges related to his autism, and George because of his devotion and commitment to improving the quality of his brother's life.

Robert Cutler was the first President of AutCom who had autism (1999-2002). Since he began to communicate through FC in 1997, he has presented at numerous conferences including Northeast Regional Conference on Autism, Syracuse University, UNH, Fitchburg State College, UMass Medical School, Pennsylvania OMR, MA Dept. of Developmental Services, TASH, the Gunnar Dybwad Memorial at Brandeis University and Herb Lovett Memorials in MA and

Sheffield, England. His published articles address issues of communication, movement disorder, health issues in autism, post-traumatic stress disorder, spirituality, institutionalization, the case against aversives, and community services. For more than ten years he has been mentoring/counseling hundreds of troubled and/or addictive youth in recovery.

Sharon daVanport is an autistic activist and social worker. She is one of the founding board members of Autism Women's Network, and currently serves as Treasurer on the Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council. She is mother of four, two of whom are on the autism spectrum.

Henry Frost is a 16 year-old autistic high school student and nationally acclaimed advocate for inclusion. He currently works as a blogger for Ollibean and was recently a guest lecturer at Princeton University's Seminar for Professor Gerardine Wurzburg's *A History of Disability as Told By Personal Narratives*. In 2012 Henry and his Autistic friends and mentors campaign to take action against disability-based segregation and low expectations encountered by learning disabled students, and to empower others to demand full access to neighborhood-based equal education. In 2013, Henry received the Autistic Self Advocacy Network's Award for service at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Henry has presented at conferences around the country, provided in-depth interviews for *National Public Radio*, *State Impact*, *The Orlando Sentinel*, *Huffington Post* and been quoted in numerous publications. Henry's firm belief that every human being has infinite value and the power to make a positive impact on the world around them is as strong as ever after a medical experience in the spring of 2014. Defying death and medical predictions, he is uniquely qualified to speak to the incredible power of connection and the human spirit. Henry can be found at @istandwithhenry on Facebook and Twitter.

Finn Gardiner is a Black, Autistic, queer community activist with a strong passion for promoting disability rights, LGBT rights and fighting racism, with a strong focus on intersectionality -- no one form of oppression exists in a vacuum. He is a Tufts University graduate in Boston who concentrated in Sociology, and a community activist who has worked with various groups, primarily regarding autistic advocacy, LGBT rights and the intersections between race and disability. He is the Boston Community Coordinator for the Autistic Self Advocacy Network and the 2015 Barbara Wilensky Gopen Fellow with the Institute for Community Inclusion and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council.

Elizabeth J. (Ibby) Grace is an Autistic disability activist and Assistant Professor of Education at National Louis University in Chicago, where she lives in the suburbs with her family. She blogs at tinygracenotes.blogspot.com and is an editor on i.e.: *inquiry in education* (digitalcommons.nlu.edu/ie/) and *NeuroQueer* (neuroqueer.blogspot.com). Her writing can also be found among other places in the books *Loud Hands*, *Both Sides of the Table: Autoethnographies of Educators Learning and Teaching within Disability*, and *Criptiques*. Ibby currently serves on the boards of directors of Society for Disability Studies and Autism National Committee.

Alyssa Hillary is a 23 year old Autistic scholar-activist, engineer, and math teacher.

Mike Hoover, 43, lives in Boulder, Colorado. He was appointed to the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council by three Governors. He currently participates with the Council's Public Policy Committee and CANDO, Collaborative for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Options—an ad hoc committee of the Council. On the local scene, he participates with the Innovations Advocacy Council. He has been on the Autism National Committee Board of Directors and the Colorado TASH Board. He is a founding member of Watch Our Words (WOW Colorado), a trainer in Supported Typing, Inclusion, and Disability Advocacy. Mike works at a brewery, is an artist, and a deacon at his church.

Harvey F. Lavoy, III has worked for Community Developmental Services (CDS), a Division of Washington County Mental Health Services in Montpelier, Vermont since 1994. He has a B.S. in Special Education and has worked in the field of Human Services since 1973. He currently is Director of Communication Training and Resources at CDS and provides education, training and technical assistance to adults and children with complex communication needs as well as their families, support staff, educational teams, schools and agencies. He has been a member of the Vermont Statewide Communication Task Force since 2000 providing statewide trainings, workshops, and conferences to enable adults in Vermont with developmental disabilities to communicate, make social connections, and participate in community life more fully. He is a member of a National network of Master Facilitated Communication Trainers.

Nicole LeBlanc has worked for Green Mountain Self Advocates as Advocacy Coordinator since 2012, representing the voices of people with developmental disabilities, educating legislators, handling Information and Referral inquiries and providing technical assistance to groups and individuals on how to do legislative advocacy. In the summer of 2012, she completed a 10-week internship at the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities through the Washington Center, learning research skills and networking with federal agencies and national advocates. Nicole has been featured in two short films, "Breaking Barriers" and "Vermont is My Home," showcasing Vermonters with developmental disabilities making a difference, working, and living fulfilling lives in the community. She blogs for Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) and writes for the GMSA Newsletter. Known as the "Budget Watchdog" and "Guardian of Inclusion" in the Vermont Statehouse, Nicole is unwaveringly committed to speaking Truth to Power. She continuously scans the Net looking at budget, policy, disability and political news to keep up with what is happening in government.

Eugene (Gene) Marcus lives in Syracuse, NY, where he attended Jowonio Preschool and Syracuse Public Schools. Due to autism, he has never learned to communicate through speech. At age 22 he learned to communicate with FC (supported typing) and soon began research projects with his good friend, Mayer Shevin. They, with Gene as both researcher and subject of research, demonstrated that Gene is the author of his FC writing. Gene and Mayer gave several presentations on FC over the next decade, including in England. Gene and his father have given stories from their lives at TASH conferences, "Close encounters after twenty years." Hear them at TASH in December, 2015.

Jennifer Msumba is an autistic adult who spent most of her teenage and adult years in institutional settings- residential schools, state hospitals and group homes, including the notorious Judge Rotenberg Center. She is a survivor of restraint, seclusion, ABA and skin shock. Jennifer also has Tourette's Syndrome and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. She has recently become involved in self-advocacy and speaking out against the abuses occurring in these facilities. Testifying to the FDA and the DOJ and also presenting on a panel on disability at Georgetown University. She currently resides in a rehabilitation center where she is treated well, has a therapy dog, holds a job and enjoys playing the piano and spending time outdoors and with the staff and her friends.

Shain Neumeier is an autistic person with cleft lip and palate, ectodermal dysplasia and post-traumatic stress disorder. Shain is actively involved in disability rights advocacy through means such as legal, legislative and policy advocacy; public protest; and online community-building. Shain is a staff attorney at Disability Rights New York. Shain's work is focused on promoting self-determination, freedom of choice, and bodily autonomy for disabled youth and adults and against harmful, coercive, or involuntary medical or psychiatric interventions.

Morénike Giwa Onaiwu is a board member of the Autism Women's Network, where she is Project Coordinator for a forthcoming anthology on autism and race by autistic people of color. Born in the US to immigrant parents, Morénike's advocacy journey began with middle and high school stints as a volunteer tutor; later, she served as an undergraduate working with

refugee children in a housing project and as a mentor in public schools. After graduating with a BA in International Relations, Morénike, spent several years in the non-profit sector working with a variety of disenfranchised groups, including women, at-risk teens, and refugee families. In recent years, she has channeled the majority of her advocacy in volunteer community work. Morenike currently chairs the Global Community Advisory Board for the NIH Division of AIDS (DAIDS) funded AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), which is the world's oldest and largest international community HIV clinical trials program. Morénike is a Houston Project-Wide Part D community advisory board member and has also previously chaired the Houston Ryan White Planning Council in addition to chairing its Operations and the Quality Assurance Committees and various Ryan White workgroups. She is a member of the advisory board of the AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth, and Families. Morénike formerly served on the CDC-funded elimination of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission US Working Group and the Families and Schools Together Project. She was one of the founding members of the Houston Area Partnership for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). She is the founder of the former Positive Playdates, a playdate group (now merged with a local nonprofit) that connected HIV affected families and refugee youth, and of the newly launched Advocacy Without Borders, an initiative to reduce disparities through education, community advocacy and self-empowerment. Additionally, Morénike is currently involved in a variety of leadership efforts related to Ryan White HIV/AIDS Part D Program advocacy. Morénike, is currently completing a graduate degree in Developmental Disabilities and will follow up with a doctoral program focusing on developing leadership skills within underrepresented groups such as disabled individuals and recent immigrants. She is mother of to six beautiful biological and adoptive children; together they comprise a multicultural, multinational, neurodiverse, HIV affected family of color. She blogs about her life at Who Needs Normalcy.

Mary Quintanilha, a sixth grader at NH's Great Brook Middle School, spends her time learning, skiing, participating in chorus, hanging out with friends, and opening the hearts and minds of her school community to welcome and support all members. She recently returned from visiting her family in Brazil.

Linda Rammler has more than 40 years of experience in the field of disability, including inclusive education and communities, conducting independent educational evaluations, and consulting with teams and families on inclusive education, right to communicate (she is a facilitator), and positive behavior supports for all learners. She is particularly interested in individuals who have labels of autism spectrum differences and gives workshops on all of these topics with particular reference to autism. Linda is Technical Assistance Director at the University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental, Research and Service. She is the spouse of a person with disabilities and has been an adoptive parent and foster parent of youth with behavioral health needs. Linda has a Master's degree in special education from University of Hartford and a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Yale University.

Christopher Rueggeberg joined the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities in October, 2013, as their new Policy and Planning Director. He is a lawyer and mediator and has over thirty years of legislative and governmental relations experience. Chris began his career with the NH Legislature, where he drafted legislation for the House and Senate. Prior to joining the Council, he represented state and national nonprofit organizations on environmental and social justice issues before NH House and Senate committees, the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, and state agencies. Chris also has administrative rulemaking experience writing rules for the New Hampshire Department of Education on disability and special education issues. Chris understands the balance that needs to be struck between advocacy and education on behalf of NH citizens with developmental disabilities. He works in the areas of education, employment, health care, housing, and transportation to make sure that persons with disabilities are able to be independent, be productive, and be fully included in their communities.

Beth Ryan is the parent of a sassy, non-speaking Autistic daughter. She is part of the Parenting Autistic Children With Love and Acceptance administrative team and a participant in the Boycott Autism Speaks movement.

Mary Schuh directs the National Center on Inclusive Education (NCIE) at the UNH Institute on Disability and serves as a member of the National Leadership Consortium of the SWIFT Center. As a faculty member of the University of New Hampshire, Mary helps to prepare future teachers to welcome and engage families and to teach all students in typical school and general education environments.

Jennifer Paige Seybert earned her C.A.S. (Certificate in Advanced Studies) and her Master's degree in Disability Studies and Cultural Foundations in Education from Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. She is employed with Networks for Training and Development, Inc., a non-profit training/consulting organization with offices in Valley Forge, Philadelphia and Sunbury, PA.

C. J. Shiloh, MT-BC, is a disability rights advocate, co-Director of [The Musical Autist](#), and Neurologic Music Therapist in the Baltimore/Annapolis region of Maryland. In 2011, she and Sunny Cefaratti began a 501c3 nonprofit organization, The Musical Autist, an advocacy and service organization which promotes the Neurodiversity Movement through Musical Autist Communities and Sensory Friendly Concerts™. These concerts promote "equal access to the fine arts" and a structured practice of Community Music Therapy with an agenda for social reform. She created a free continuing education course at [Music Therapy & Neuro Ed](#), to educate and challenge music therapists on topics neurodiversity, presuming competence and the political agendas of various autism organizations.

Kassiane A Sibley was diagnosed Autistic in 1986 and began advocating for Autistic people in 1999, progressing to broader neurodiversity & Disability Rights activism as the years go by & the scope of the problem becomes more clear. Kassiane has presented on a wide variety of issues at local, national, and international autism events and writes firey passionate harsh truth on the Radical Neurodivergence Speaking blog. In addition to securing civil rights for all people, Kassiane is working towards a neuroscience degree with the goal of doing respectful quality of life research & introducing researchers to the neurodiversity paradigm. This is how she describes herself: Kassiane is a vintage 1982 autistileptic former gymnast current dance & cat enthusiast who has lost track of all her writing & activism projects.

Heather Thomas is an autistic activist and anthropologist in training. She is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology at UC Irvine, where she studies community building and communication practices among autistic adults in California and online.

Tracy Thresher is a native Vermonter who lives and works in Vermont. Tracy began using supported typing in 1990--one of the first individuals with autism in Vermont to be introduced to it. He has presented at local, statewide and national workshops and conferences. He has consulted with local schools and also mentors high school students. Tracy holds memberships on the Vermont Communication Task Force and the WCMHS Communication Alliance, the Imagine the Future VT state Task Force and does freelance work for Green Mountain Self-Advocates. He also works with the Institute on Communication and Inclusion at Syracuse University as a Master Trainer. Tracy and his friend Larry Bissonnette travel promoting their documentary *Wretches & Jabberers* in an effort to change the World's view of disability to one of positivity.

Email: rightsrus@wcmhs.org Blog: www.wretchesandjabberers.org/tracy

Emily Titon is an autistic disability rights activist who is President of AutCom, on the board of TASH national, an at-large member of the Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council, and a founding member of OccupyJRC. Emily is interested in human rights and abuse prevention.

Mark Utter is a native Vermonter who has a form of autism and types to communicate. When Mark was first introduced to a form of alternative communication called "supported typing" he found it tedious and did not see much use for it. One day Emily Anderson asked him if he would consider using supported typing with her to write some lines for the play, "I'll Fly Away."

Through this experience Mark found that he could use Supported Typing to share his story and asked Emily to support these efforts. In addition to his film and guided discussions, Mark has also facilitated several workshops, has started a blog and has a new writing project in the works.

Ariane Zurcher is a writer, public speaker, artist, award-winning jewelry designer and mother. She blogs with her daughter, Emma, about autism on their blog, [Emma's Hope Book](#); about art, design, marriage, parenting, inspiration and life on [Where Art & Life Meet](#); and on a variety of topics for the [Huffington Post](#). Ariane's writing has been published in *Allure*, *Elle Magazine*, *Options*, *XX1st Century*, *Aspen Magazine*, *Aspen Times*, *Special Needs Parenting*, *Parenting Magazine* and many others. She was the voice of Barb for the audiobook, *I Might Be You* by Barb Rentenbach and Lois Prislovsky, wrote the foreword to Judy Endow's book, *Painted Words: Aspects of Autism Translated*, and has given presentations at a number of conferences and schools around the country.

Emma Zurcher-Long was born in 2002. She is a public speaker, a writer and is Autistic. Emma cannot have a conversation with spoken words. She communicates by typing and wishes people would "listen to my writing voice, but they listen to my talking voice instead." Emma's writing has been published on her blog, [Emma's Hope Book](#), *Special Parent Magazine* and HALO's 2014 edition of *Voices*. Emma has given presentations at autism and disability conferences and at schools around the country.