



Welcome/Bienvenidos

Letter from the Director/Carta Enviada por el Director



BY CECE PINHEIRO/POR CECE PINHEIRO

QUIZ NITE 2019! Quiz Nite 2019 was held Saturday March 9, 2019 at Holy Cross Hall in Santa Cruz, Sunny's Catering provided an exquisite meal. Yummy!

Many non-profits do numerous fund raisers every year, we do only one, Quiz Nite, it is the one time a year those who support SPIN can come out and help us honor a family with a special needs child. 2019's family of the year is the Sikes family, mom Paris Trudeau Sikes, dad Steven Sikes and their sons Liam and Greyson Sikes! They were honored with a joint Senate/Assembly Proclamation. We are very proud of the Sikes family and were very inspired by their story! Congratulations Sikes family and thank you for all you do, not only for son Liam, but for all the families with kids with disabilities.

A big thanks to our SPIN Board and Advisory Board and all the volunteers who made this possible, especially our Quiz Nite Coordinator Heidi Lister Skelton.

Dear Friends,
It is with great sadness that I dedicate this issue of our SPIN newsletter to Allison Balzer, Allie was one of the inspirations for the creation of our SPIN organization! She died on March 15, 2019 at the age of 32. It is a great loss to our SPIN family and to our

¡QUIZ NITE 2019! Quiz Nite 2019 se llevó a cabo el sábado 9 de marzo de 2019 en Holy Cross Hall en Santa Cruz, Sunny's Catering proporcionó una exquisita comida. ¡Sabrosa!

Muchas organizaciones sin fines de lucro realizan numerosos eventos de recaudación de fondos cada año, nosotros solo hacemos una, Quiz Nite, es la única vez en el año en que los que apoyan a SPIN pueden participar y ayudarnos a honrar a una familia con un niño con necesidades especiales. La familia honrada del año 2019 es la familia Sikes. Paris Trudeau Sikes, Steven Sikes y sus hijos Liam y Greyson Sikes fueron honrados con una proclamación conjunta del Senado y la Asamblea. ¡Estamos muy orgullosos de la familia Sikes y estamos muy inspirados por su historia! Felicitaciones a la familia Sikes y gracias por todo lo que hace, no solo por su hijo Liam, sino por todas las familias con niños con discapacidades. Un gran agradecimiento a nuestra Mesa Directiva de SPIN y nuestro Consejo Asesor y a todos los voluntarios que hicieron esto posible, especialmente a la Coordinadora de Quiz Nite Heidi Lister Skelton.

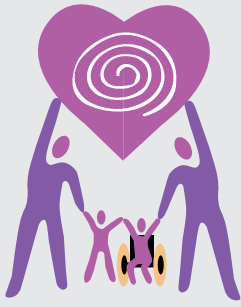
Queridos amigos,
Con gran tristeza dedico esta edición de nuestro boletín de noticias de SPIN a

*...Nurturing
Special Kids'
Potential*



*...Nutriendo
el Potencial de
Niños Especiales*

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2—



Special Parents
Information Network

SPIN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support, information and training to the families and guardians of children with special needs.

Red de informacion para Padres Especiales SPIN es una organización sin fin de lucro dedicada a proveer apoyo, informacion y entrenamiento para las familias y tutores de niños con necesidades especiales.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MESA DIRECTIVA**

- Keri Allen
- Ken Kulpa
- Melinda Luster
- Dee Teutschel
- Tami Woods

STAFF/PERSONAL

So. Santa Cruz County:

- Cece Pinheiro, *Executive Director*
- Elizabeth Chavez, *Parent Support & Training Coordinator*
- Sonia Cervantes, *Special Connections Parent Specialist*
- Tamara Parker, *Special Connections Coordinator*

No. Santa Cruz County:

- Sonia Plageman, *Parent Support Training Coordinator*
- Heidi Lister, *Mentor Parent Coordinator*

San Benito County:

- Ricardo Cornejo, *Parent Support & Training Coordinator*

Director's letter *continued from page 1*

BY CECE PINHEIRO

whole community. She will be greatly missed by all.

“I slept and dreamt that life was joy;
I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted and behold, service was joy.”

~Rabindranath Tagore

Allison Balzer, ¡Allie fue una de las inspiraciones para la creación de nuestra organización SPIN!

Ella falleció el 15 de marzo de 2019 a la edad de 32 años. Es una gran pérdida para nuestra familia de SPIN y para toda nuestra comunidad. Todos la extrañaremos.

“Dormí y soñé que la vida era alegría; Me desperté y vi que la vida era servicio. Actué y he aquí, el servicio era alegría”.-

~Rabindranath Tagore



We Want You—Now! A Call for Board Members

Would you like to give back to the community? Would you like to help families of kids with special needs & help SPIN become a stronger organization? If you want to serve on a dynamic & dedicated Board of Directors, then SPIN would like to talk to you.

Please call Cece Pinheiro at 722-2800 for more details.

Allison (Allie) Balzer

Nov. 20, 1986 -- March 15, 2019

A sweet smile, a penchant for poodles, and a wicked love for spicy food---that was Allie. She came into the world in Little Rock, AR, but moved to Boulder, CO, and then to Santa Cruz, CA to be an inspiration for SPIN.

Allie was 8 years old and starting 3rd grade when she entered the Santa Cruz school district. Allie was cortically blind, was non-verbal and needed to be pushed in her wheelchair. Westlake Elementary seemed to be the best school for her—it was in her neighborhood, her younger brother Andy was going there, and they had what was called “partial inclusion”. But her parents soon found out that “partial inclusion” really meant that she would only be allowed in a regular classroom for one period a day. Her parents had been used to total inclusion in Boulder schools of special education students, and it was very sad to realize that the Santa Cruz administration was not going to honor Allie’s IEP and had not made the changes to Westlake’s campus to implement the ADA. (They have since updated their policies regarding special education students.)

So her parents, Mary and Jay Balzer decided to contact a lawyer to help them testify at an educational hearing. They won their case and Allie was allowed to be included in a regular 4th grade class 51% of her day at school.

But another wonderful thing came out of Jay’s and Mary’s advocacy: getting together to talk with other parents of kids with disabilities all across the county, and working together to start SPIN Santa Cruz!! There had been an informal group of parents who had been getting together to exchange information about IEPs and other concerns for a few years, but when other moms, Debbie Wechsler, Lynn Bariteau, Mary McCann-Jenni and Allie’s mom Mary got together, they decided to incorporate as a not for profit, and create a “real” organization! It was a wonderful, difficult, and rewarding journey, and SPIN has proven that it is a necessary and worthy place for parents to go when they need information about special education laws, their child’s disability, emotional support, and recreation in the community.

And community is what life in this world is all about.

Allie went on to Mission Hill Middle School and Santa Cruz High. Then she moved back to Boulder with her family in 2005 and graduated from Fairview High School. She also completed the Transition Program until she was 21. But her lungs were weak, and she passed away in the hospital on March 15, 2019, from pneumonia. She was one of the child-inspirations for the creation of SPIN, and we will miss her always.

Allison (Allie) Balzer

Nov. 20, 1986 -- March 15, 2019

Una dulce sonrisa, una inclinación por los caniches y un amor malvado por la comida picante, esa era Allie. Ella vino al mundo en Little Rock, AR, pero se mudó a Boulder, CO, y luego a Santa Cruz, CA para ser una inspiración para SPIN.

Allie tenía 8 años y comenzaba el tercer grado cuando ingresó al distrito escolar de Santa Cruz. Allie era ciega corticalmente, no era verbal y necesitaba ser empujada en su silla de ruedas. La Escuela Primaria Westlake parecía ser la mejor escuela para ella: estaba en su vecindario, su hermano menor, Andy, iba allí, y tenían lo que se llamó "inclusión parcial". Pero sus padres pronto descubrieron que la "inclusión parcial" realmente significaba que solo se le permitiría asistir a una clase regular por un período al día. Sus padres habían estado acostumbrados a la inclusión total en las escuelas de estudiantes de educación especial de Boulder, y fue muy triste darse cuenta de que la administración de Santa Cruz no iba a honrar el IEP de Allie y no había hecho los cambios en el campus de Westlake para implementar la ADA. (Desde entonces, han actualizado sus políticas con respecto a los estudiantes de educación especial). *CONTINUES ON PAGE 5—*



Growing through Fun Activities

SUMMER

RESOURCES * RECURSOS * RECURSOS * RECURSOS

VERANO

Camp Krem- Camping Unlimited

Camping Unlimited is a non-profit organization providing children and adults with Special Needs a full program of recreation, education, fun and adventure.

www.campingunlimited.org
(831) 338-3210

Easter Seals Camp Harmon

Camp Harmon is a residential camp for children and adults with disabilities, ages 8-65.

www.campharmon.org
(831) 338-3383

Lichen Oaks Adaptive Riding Center

www.lichenoaksarc.org
(831) 335-2347

Ride a Wave

Surfing for individuals with special needs

www.rideawave.org
(831) 216-6034

Monterey Bay Horse- manship & Therapeutic Center

www.gombhtc.org
(831) 761-1142

Via Services

Via West Campus offers year-round day and residential programs and other great summer programs.

www.viaservices.org
(408) 243-7861

Music Together

Music and movement for infants, pre-schoolers and their parents

Phone: (831) 462-5195

Shared Adventures

Recreational activities in the community for children and adults with special needs

www.sharedadventures.com
(831) 459-7210

Dancercenter

Dance classes for teens and adults with Special Needs

www.dancercenter.com
(831) 475-5032

Growing Social

www.growingsocial.org
(408) 914-0552

Pajaro Valley Special Needs Conference

Conferencia anual de necesidades especiales del Valle del Pajaro

This year SPIN in collaboration with PVUSD, SARC, SCDD & Head Start held its 5th annual "Pajaro Valley Special Needs Conference" for Spanish speaking parents. The purpose of the conference is to provide information, support and resources for Spanish speaking families about services and the rights of their children with different abilities. We offered three sessions each consisting of nine workshops, participants had an opportunity to attend three of those workshops. This year we were fortunate to have Veronica Aguilar and her son Carlos Vazquez share with us their successes and struggles of navigating the special needs system; it was truly moving. Everyone in attendance had a great time and took with them very valuable information. We are happy to announce that we've decided to make the conference bilingual! This will allow our English speaking families to take advantage of this great opportunity. The conference is FREE for all participants. Participants enjoy breakfast and a resource fair at the end of the conference where they learn about different services offered in the community. We thank everyone that helped and supported this great effort. We invite you to join us and help us spread the word. For more information please contact Elizabeth Chavez at (831) 722-2800.



Este año, SPIN, en colaboración con PVUSD, SARC, SCDD y Head Start, celebró su quinta "Conferencia anual de necesidades especiales del Valle del Pajaro" para padres de habla hispana. El propósito de la conferencia es proporcionar información, apoyo y recursos para las familias de habla hispana sobre los servicios y los derechos de sus hijos con diferentes capacidades. Ofrecimos tres sesiones, cada una de ellas consistió en nueve talleres; los participantes tuvieron la oportunidad de asistir a tres de esos talleres. Este año tuvimos la fortuna de que Veronica Aguilar y su hijo Carlos Vázquez compartieran con nosotros sus éxitos y sus dificultades para navegar en el sistema de necesidades especiales; fue realmente conmovedor. Todos los participantes la pasaron muy bien y se llevaron información muy valiosa. ¡Nos complace anunciar que hemos decidido que la conferencia sea bilingüe! Esto permitirá que nuestras familias que hablan Inglés aprovechen esta gran oportunidad. La conferencia es GRATIS para todos los participantes. Los participantes disfrutaron de un desayuno y una feria de recursos al final de la conferencia donde aprenden sobre los diferentes servicios que se ofrecen en la comunidad. Agradecemos a todos los que ayudaron y apoyaron este gran esfuerzo. Le invitamos a unirse a nosotros y ayudarnos a difundir la información. Para obtener información sobre la siguiente conferencia, comuníquese con Elizabeth Chavez al (831) 722-2800.

Allison (Allie) Balzer *continued from page 3*

Así que sus padres, Mary y Jay Balzer decidieron contactar a un abogado para ayudarlos a declarar en una audiencia educativa. Ganaron su caso y a Allie se le permitió ser incluida en una clase regular de 4to grado un 51% de su día en la escuela. ¡Pero otra cosa maravillosa surgió de la abogacía de Jay y Mary: reunirse para hablar con otros padres de niños con discapacidades en todo el condado y trabajar juntos para comenzar a SPIN de Santa Cruz!

Hubo un grupo informal de padres que se habían estado reuniendo para intercambiar información sobre los IEP y otras inquietudes durante algunos años, pero cuando otras madres, Debbie Wechsler, Lynn Bariteau, Mary McCann-Jenni y la madre de Allie, Mary se reunieron, decidieron incorporarse como una organización sin fines de

lucro, y crear una organización "real"! Fue un viaje maravilloso, difícil y gratificante, y SPIN ha demostrado que es un lugar necesario y digno para que los padres vayan cuando necesitan información sobre las leyes de educación especial, la discapacidad, el apoyo emocional y la recreación de su hijo en la comunidad

Y la comunidad es de lo que se trata la vida en este mundo.

Allie asistió a Mission Hill Middle School y Santa Cruz High. Luego se mudó a Boulder con su familia en 2005 y se graduó de Fairview High School. Ella también completó el Programa de Transición hasta que tenía 21 años. Pero sus pulmones estaban débiles, y falleció en el hospital el 15 de marzo de 2019, a causa de una neumonía. Ella fue una de las inspiraciones infantiles para la creación de SPIN, y la extrañaremos siempre.

thank you/ gracias

Quiz Nite Donors/ Donadores para el evento de Quiz Nite

A Painted Cottage
Adam & Katrina Lippman
Alfaros
Alladin Nursery
Annieglass
Aptos Feed
Bargetto
Becka York
Big J's Pizza
Boulder Creek Golf
Brian Iles
Cadillac Café
Café Cruz
Café Rio
Café Sparrow
Cece Pinheiro
Chaminade
Christopher Allen
Cinnamon Bay
Corralitos Coffee
Corralitos Market
Cremer House
Dave Kramer Urner
Debby Weschler
Debra & Edward Menges
Dee Teutschel
Dig
Dr. Sukuma
Drea Batteast
Eileen Fuller
Gilroy Gardens
Gizditch
Hat Company
Heather Gorman
Heidi Skelton

Hide Out
Hot Yoga Aptos
Hope Rhode
JBella
Joan & Eugene Hill
Ken Kulpa
Keri Allen
Leon Canerot
Linda's Seabreeze
Lupulo
Manresa
Marianne's
Marini's
Marquez Jumpers
Mary Balzer
Mary Beth Phillips
Melinda Iuster
Melissa Lanctot
Nicholson Winery
Palapas
Parish Publick House

Pasillas Tires
Pat Golditch
Roaring Camp
Robbie Dalimonte
Santa Cruz Boardwalk
Santa Cruz Warriors
Sante Adairius Brewery
Santa Arcangeli Family Wines
Shadowbrooks
Shear Joy Salon
Sue Howe
Soquel Vineyards
Sunny's Catering
Tami Woods
The Hair Studio
Wonderland Toys

A special thank you to our
volunteers, Val, Julie, Rebecca
and Mia



thank you/ gracias

Donors/ Donantes

Anne & Thomas Stickle
Building for Generations
Caroline's Non-profit Thrift Shop
Central California Alliance for Health
Community Foundation-Eckhardt
Chandler Fund
Cory L. Ybarra
Eileen Fuller
Jacob Young Financial, Inc.
Joan & Eugene Hill
John & Shirley Gallagher
Mary Balzer
Mary Beth Phillips
Penny L. Stroud & Richard Louis Pam
Quail Lodge & Golf Club
Rebecca R. Jordan
Seascape Golf Club
Sigma Alpha Chapter Omega Nu
Spring Hills Women's Golf Club
Susan Lantis

*In memory of /
En memoria de*

*Allison
Balzer*



**SPIN now has a
Facebook page.**

Please look us up
"Special Parents
Information Network"
and LIKE our page to
receive updates and
announcements.



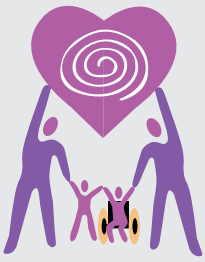
**SPIN on
Instagram**

Families are invited
to follow us on
Instagram.
Our name is
spin_santacruz

Donations made in Memory of Allison Balzer/ Donaciones en memoria de Allison Balzer

Alice Horowitz,
Amy Helsel & Jeremy Swerling
Amy Schlotthauer & Brian
Harms
Bette L Hess
Beverly & Robert Isman
Constance A Holsinger
David Okuji
Dushanka & Joel Kleinman
Elissa & Gregory Dente
Ellen & John Gille
Elizabeth Shoeman
Emily & Jack Rudd
Gale & Timothy Boonstra

Harold Goodman
Jan Chu
Jana Ward
Jane & Wayne Zirkin
Johnny Simmons
Linda Grey
Melvyn A Golden
Robin H Abourizk
Ruth Allukian
Ruth Carol Cushman
Sarah N Green
Stanley H Helsel
Reginald Louie & Anne Hench
Wendla A. Underhill



Special Parents Information Network

Mailing address/Domicilio
P.O Box 2367
Santa Cruz, CA 95063
Email:info@spinsc.org

So. Santa Cruz Co Office
294 Green Valley Rd.Ste. 313
Watsonville, Ca 95076
Phone: (831)722-2800
Fax: (831)722-2580

No. Santa Cruz Co Office
740 Front Street, Suite 175
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060
Phone: (831) 423-7713

San Benito Co Office
640 A McCray Street
Hollister, CA 95023
Phone: (831) 722-2800

Support Group Meetings

GET CONNECTED! CHECK OUT SUPPORT INFO

SPIN All Disabilities Parent Support Group

Join the group for special speakers and topics, as well as receive informational and emotional support from other parents. Meets the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10am-12pm at 820 Bay Ave. Capitola. Call Heidi at (831) 234-0990 or heidilister@att.net for more info.

Grupo de Apoyo Para Todas las Discapacidades

Quiere recibir apoyo de personas que entienden su situación entonces venga a nuestras juntas y haga nuevas amistades. Las reuniones son el tercer sábado de mes de 10:30am-12:30pm en las oficinas de Head Start, 225 Westridge Drive, Watsonville. Llame a Elizabeth Chavez al (831) 722-2800 o echavez@spin-sc.org para más información.

San Benito Parent Support Group

If Parents are interested in The San Benito County Support Group; please contact Ricardo Cornejo at (831) 722-2800 or rcornejo@spinsc.org for more info.

SPIN ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP:

This group is open only to parents or family members in the Santa Cruz and San Benito counties of Central California. To participate, go to this webpage: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/spinsc> Follow the directions to join. Be sure to tell us your first and last name; city where you reside, and child's disability. This is to protect our group and keep it local.

Your information will be kept confidential by the moderator. Our group email is: spinsc@yahoo.com Contact Heidi Lister at 423-7713 or heidilister@att.net for more info.

Autism/ Asperger Support Group

Meets the Second Tuesday of every month. 7:00-9:00pm at Hope Services in downtown Santa Cruz. Contact Heidi at heidilister@att.net for more info.

Special Connections Support Groups

Support group for Spanish speaking families meets the first and third Wednesday of the month starting at 10am at the Watsonville Public library. Contact Sonia Cervantes at (831) 331-8394 or socervantes@yahoo.com . Support group for English speaking families meets first and third Thursday of the month starting at 11am at the Struck Center in Santa Cruz. Contact Tamara Parker at (831) 722-2800 or tparker@spinsc.org for more info.

PARENT / COMMUNITY LED SUPPORT GROUPS:

C.H.A.D.D Support Group for Parents of children with AD/HD. Contact Judy Brenis for more information about this informationalgroup at 831-684-0590 or visit their website: <http://www.chadd.net/436>

Parents in Transition Contact Julie Rienhardt (831) 419-5511 julieyr@yahoo.com for more info.

NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) Contact Emily Chapman at ebc73@comcast.net or (831) 476-1020 for meeting place and dates. Or go to their website: <https://www.namisc.org/nami-family-support-groups.html> for more information.

SPIN is a member of "FEDC" – California Family Empowerment Disability Council

Current Resident or



Special Parents Information Network (SPIN)

P.O Box 2367
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063
Email:info@spinsc.org
Website:wwwspinsc.org

