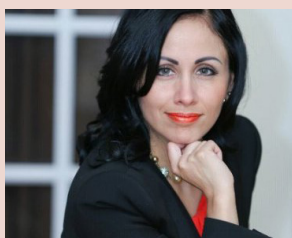


# CaringMatters

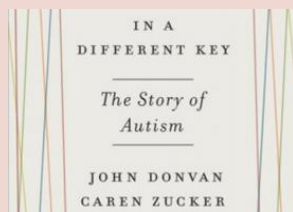
January 2017 Edition



**The Party of the Decade!** CFS's best kept tradition! A great way to ring in the New Year! **Page 3**



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**CFS new After School initiative, and the ladies behind it!**

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# *Caring*Matters



CFS's 2016 Holiday Party

## CFS Holiday Party Celebrates A Decade of Festivities at The Graycliff

Despite plummeting temperatures and frosty December winds, CFS employees and the individuals they care for braved the cold, and for the tenth year in a row, gathered to celebrate the holidays. Held in the stunning ballroom at The Graycliff in Moonachie, upon their arrival, guests were treated to holiday tunes playing in the background by two DJ's from That's Entertainment, who have also been a part of the party for over ten years. A lavish appetizer buffet was set out, and provided hungry visitors with delectable treats before the main course. As the room swelled to over 265 CFS guests, comprised of individuals with their families and CFS employees, the music

increased in tempo and the room took on a party atmosphere. The Entertainment DJ's kept everyone up on their toes and CFS individuals and staff, dressed in their finest party fare, made their way around the dance floor. To top the evening off, gifts that were purchased by CFS Residential Managers, were given out to each CFS service recipient.

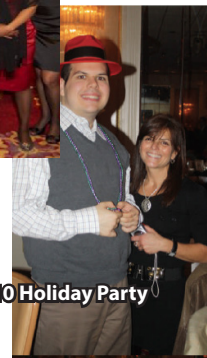
One CFS Mom remarked, "We look forward to this every year. It gives us such joy to see our son out on the dance floor and having such a good time socializing with his peers."

Gail Burr, CFS NJ Operations Manager said of The Graycliff, "They have been very accommodating to us over the years and work with

us to make it a very warm and fun affair. We are happy to have been able to accommodate a growing number of adults and their families who like to attend this festive annual event."



2011 Holiday Party



2010 Holiday Party



# CFS Board Members Complete First Year of Service on Foundation Board

**P**avan Bhati and Joana Goyette are young professionals with demanding careers in the world of finance. Pavan is a Manager of Ernst and Young's Financial Risk Management department and Joana is employed by BNP Paribas in the Hedge Fund Client Service Department. Previous to Ernst & Young, Pavan was a VP and Head of Private Equity Risk Reporting at JP Morgan Chase for seven years, and Joana was an Institutional Client Service Analyst at Russell Investments. Both Pavan and Joana recognized that education would be the key to their success. Pavan graduated from The University of Delhi, Delhi, India with a Bachelor of Information Technology in 2002 and received his Masters of

Science in Tele-communication Management from Oklahoma State University in 2004, and a Certificate in Financial Risk Management from NYU in 2009. Joana completed her undergraduate studies at The University of Washington and achieved a B.A.B.A. Finance Concentration in 2007. She then attained a Certified Mutual Fund Specialist status from The Boston Institute of Finance in 2010 and has passed the FINRA Series 7, Series 63 examinations in 2013. She is currently a CFA Level 1 Candidate, is fluent in Spanish and basic German, and is affiliated with the Russell Multi-Cultural Network, and

the Toast of the Towns Toastmasters Group.

"We were so pleased to have Pavan join the Board of The Center for Family Support. His extensive leadership roles in Technology and Risk Management and talented managed planning skills have helped us navigate the increasingly challenging waters of today's healthcare system to bring our clients the most complete package of services and benefits that they need and deserve," explained Steve Vernikoff, CFS Executive Director.

A firm believer in giving back to her community, Joana has served as a mentor for Big Brothers and Sisters and the Palmer's Scholar's organization; a Tacoma Rescue Mission volunteer, supporting the CFA-organized annual family feed; and

as a volunteer supervisor for Father's Heart Ministries.

When asked why she chose The Center for Family Support to volunteer for, Joana said, "My passions are about people and giving second chances to those who otherwise would have been forgotten. I have been fortunate to have had many informal mentors growing up such as teachers, counselors, friends, and community members who believed in me, although my

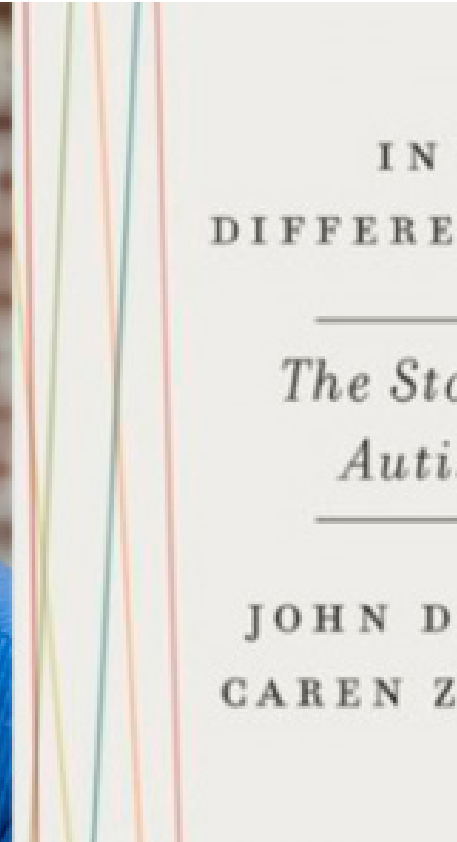
surroundings and statistics suggested I should fail. Because there were those who were willing to take the chance on me, I've been able to achieve what many, including myself, never thought possible. As a result, I want the opportunity to contribute my education, experience, and skill-set to others who are making a difference and

especially to those who need us." "I have enjoyed working with these young professionals on the Foundation Board. Their high energy and enthusiasm has helped us raise the annual fund raising goal and awareness of the CFS name and what we do is resonating with more corporations than ever before," explained Barry Haber, CFS Director of Development. "I am looking forward to an even stronger year in 2017 and I thank Joana and Pavan for their dedication," he continued.

**"I'm passionate about people and giving second chances..." - Joana Goyette**



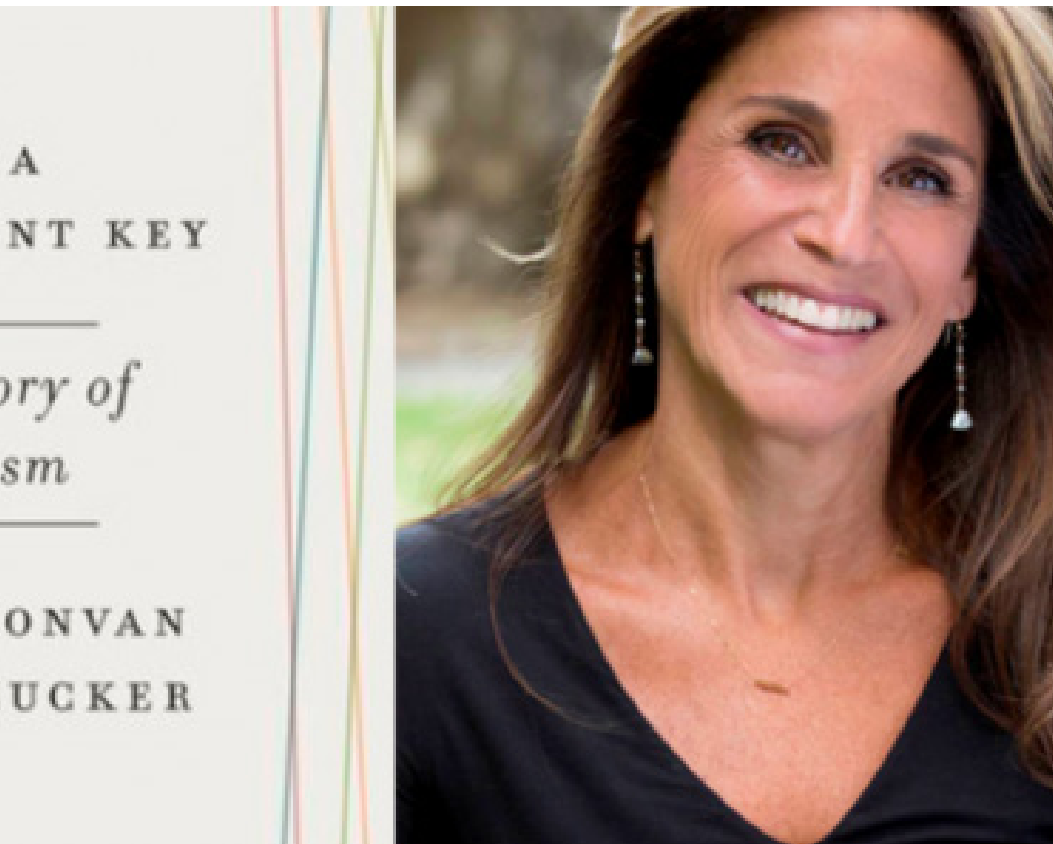
## Greenwald to Provide Opening Remarks at Special Author Event



**B**arbara Greenwald, Associate Executive Director of The Center for Family Support, will provide opening remarks at The Caldwell Public Library (268 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell) and will welcome Caren Zucker, author of *IN A DIFFERENT KEY: The Story of Autism*, for the special author and book signing event on Saturday, February 11, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

More than seven years in the making, *IN A DIFFERENT KEY: The Story of Autism* by Emmy Award-winning correspondent John Donovan and Peabody and Emmy Award-winning television news producer Caren Zucker offers new insight into some of the seminal moments of the past century: the rise of the disability

rights movement, deinstitutionalization, the effort to mainstream those on the spectrum, breakthroughs in neuroscience and our understanding of the mind, and the birth of the neurodiversity movement. Donovan and Zucker, whose own families have been affected by autism, have been on the front lines of reporting on the social, medical, and legal aspects of autism since 1999, even before it became a national topic of conversation. Their groundbreaking ABC News series, *Echoes of Autism*, launched in the early 2000s, was the first regular coverage of autism on network television. Their article "Autism's First Child," which planted the seed for this book, was a finalist for the 2011 National Magazine Award in Profile Writing. As Donovan and Zucker explain, it is strik-



ing to see how ordinary people—so often parents who were merely following an instinct to do right by their children—were at the forefront of creating major social change and a realignment in the priorities of scientific research. Equally fascinating is how, in time, autistic people became full participants, even leaders, in this civil rights movement. **IN A DIFFERENT KEY**, now in paperback, presents autism as a revealing lens on society's too gradual, and still-evolving, acceptance and celebration of those who are different. "As a human services agency deeply committed to helping those adults with autism lead productive and meaningful lives, we are pleased to be able to deliver opening remarks at the upcoming book signing event and we congratulate authors

Caren Zucker and John Donvan on such a fine volume of work. This book could be recommended to our families to help them gain a better understanding of what autism is, where the diagnosis originated, what treatments have been used in the past and what is being said about individuals with autism today," remarked Greenwald. Seating is limited so please contact the Caldwell Public Library to reserve your seat at 973-226-2837.

**"... helps [our families] gain a better understanding of what autism is...."-  
Barbara Greenwald**

# CFS Monthly: *Community*Leaders

**W**ith the holidays behind them, families find themselves once again immersed in school-related activities and The Center for Family Support's (CFS) After School Program is no exception. Located on Willowbrook Road near the New Springville section of Staten Island, this program is open to children, ages 5-10, who need extra support to succeed in their daily classroom setting. The After-School Program also provides respite for the children's primary caregivers, in a warm and caring atmosphere.

"The students are here on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and each of them has unique needs and talents. We work on their homework and then incorporate some physical activity and a craft that serves as a teaching moment. For instance, we just finished making pumpkins out of orange construction paper. The children learned about the color orange, harvesting pumpkins in the fall and all

of the many things you can do with a pumpkin such as make a pie or decorate one for Halloween," explained Lydia Godoy, MS., Ed., who is the head teacher of the CFS After-School Program. "The children get one-on-one attention and we are very in tune with their needs," she continued.

Currently, the CFS After School Program has a few openings for the 2016-2017 school year. If you are interested, or know of a child who might like to attend the program or would like additional information, you can contact Nancy Lombardo, Respite Waiver Supervisor, at [718-667-4263](tel:718-667-4263) ext. 111 or [nlombardo@cfsny.org](mailto:nlombardo@cfsny.org).



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