

Yes
She
Can INC.

**ADVOCATES FOR
ADULTS WITH
AUTISM AWARDS**

Recognizing outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to improving the lives of adults with autism spectrum disorders.

September 30, 2020

Virtual Benefit

PROGRAM

Welcome- Marjorie Madfis
President, Yes She Can Inc.

Yes She Can! Women at work. Even virtually.

Honoree Jodi DiPiazza, musical performance

Amy Gravino, Yes She Can Board Member

Welcome- Michael Orth
Westchester County Commissioner
Community Mental Health

Honoree Liane Kupferberg Carter

Honoree Marc Carter

Meet Yes She Can trainees Mara and Mackenzie

Honoree Dr. Peter Gerhardt

Interview with Dr. Temple Grandin

Musical performance – Honoree Jodi DiPiazza

Close – Marjorie Madfis

WELCOME



Dear Friends,

On behalf of Yes She Can Inc. board of directors, I welcome you to our fourth ADVOCATES FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM AWARDS reception. Thank you so much for joining us. We are very grateful for your support of this event and for your attendance honoring our outstanding advocates.

I am so sorry we can't be together in person but while we are physically distant we are socially connected today for a great cause. The funds raised from this event will help support and expand our program for young women with autism as well as social and learning disabilities who want to achieve their potential. We can't do this work without your support. Today we honor advocates: Liane Kupferberg Carter, Marc Carter, Jodi DiPiazza and Peter Gerhardt. Please read their biographies on the following pages. They each are remarkable.

In this journal you will also learn about our generous sponsors and advertisers, and about Yes She Can's program to help young women with ASD and related disabilities gain skills for employment and greater independence.

Our Twitter handle is @YesSheCanInc Please share with any of these:
#YesSheCan #Autism #WomenWithAutism #AutismEmployment
#AutismAtWork

Thank you again for joining us this morning and for your commitment to improving the lives of adults with autism and their families.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie".

Marjorie Madfis
Founder and President
Yes She Can Inc.

The Board of Directors of Yes She Can
congratulates the recipients of the

ADVOCATES FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM AWARDS



Jodi DiPiazza
Gifted musician and
performer, high school
student, self-advocate



Marc Carter
Parent, community
leader, advocate



**Liane Kupferberg
Carter**
Parent, author, advocate



Peter Gerhardt
Educator, author,
adolescent & adult
autism expert

Yes She Can™
DEVELOPING JOB SKILLS FOR YOUNG WOMEN WITH AUTISM.



Pat Salner, Amy Gravino, Marjorie Madfis, Jessica
Markowitz, Debra Solomon, Charles Biener

HONOREE



Marc Carter

Marc is the proud dad of Jonathan and Mickey and happy husband of Liane. He has been actively involved in supporting the autism and disabled communities' efforts in achieving equity status in society.

He serves on the board of directors of several non-profit organizations including Hawthorne Foundation; Foundation for Empowering Citizens with Autism (FECA); NEXT for Neighbors (the housing subsidiary of NEXT for Autism); and Ramapo for Children.

He has also been active in public education as a member of the Scarsdale District School Board, and currently serves on the board of the Mount Pleasant Cottage School District.

Marc chaired the Scarsdale Village Council on People with Disabilities, where he facilitated the development of the disabled citizen first emergency responder alert form. He and Liane co-founded the Scarsdale Alternative League, which provided team-based recreational activities for children with disabilities who could not participate in mainstream Rec Department programs.

Marc is retired from a 40-year career in management consulting, where he specialized in healthcare information system technology planning and delivery and operational process redesign.

He has an MBA in accounting from New York University Stern Graduate School of Business Administration, an M.A. in English Literature from University of Chicago and a B.A. in English Literature from Carleton College.

HONOREE



Liane Kupferberg Carter

Liane is a writer, journalist and advocate for the autism community. She is the author of the award-winning memoir, *Ketchup Is My Favorite Vegetable: A Family Grows Up With Autism*. Her work has been published in the New York Times, Washington Post, New York Magazine, Chicago Tribune, PBS Next Avenue, and many journals, blogs and book anthologies.

Liane was a recipient of the Autism Science Foundation's Caryn Schwartzman Spirit Award, which recognizes excellence in autism advocacy. She wrote the section on Family Advocacy for Autism Speaks' Advocacy Tool Kit, is a New York ambassador for CURE: Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy, and served for 13 years as a board member of Matan, the national voice in Jewish special education.

A longtime community activist, she co-founded CHILD, the special education PTA in Scarsdale, co-authored a parent resource handbook for the school district, and with her husband Marc created the town's sports league for children with special needs. She continues to serve on the inclusion task force at Westchester Reform Temple.

Liane and Marc are excited to be one of ten founding families in Westchester launching the northern expansion of Spectrum Designs, a screen-printing business that employs individuals on the autism spectrum, which will open its doors in Pleasantville in 2020.

Liane has a master's in journalism from New York University and a B.A. in English from Brandeis University. She and Marc met at Club Med, got engaged two weeks later, and are the proud parents of two adult sons. School of Business Administration, an M.A. in English Literature from University of Chicago and a B.A. in English Literature from Carleton College.

HONOREE



Jodi DiPiazza

Jodi is a graduate of the Mannes College of Music Preparatory Division of The New School in New York City where she was accepted into the Mannes composition honors program at age 10.

She is a senior at the Newmark High School in New Jersey. She studies composition, conducting, piano, voice, and music theory. She was accepted into the Mannes composition honors at age 10. She also studies jazz piano, guitar and songwriting.

In 2010 at the age of 9, Jodi wrote and performed a song, “*Heroes of Autism*”, for Toys R Us, as part of an Autism Speaks fundraising campaign, which generated over \$3 million.

In October, 2012, Jodi performed a duet with pop star Katy Perry on “The Night of Too Many Stars”. Televised on Comedy Central, more than \$4 million was raised for autism education. An internet sensation, this performance received so much media and attention that Jodi has been featured in media all over the world. Most importantly to Jodi, she appeared in both Bop and Pop Star magazine. She has received thousands of emails, letters and cards, speaking of the hope and inspiration this performance has given to parents of children with autism, and since then she has appeared at over 100 charitable events for The Arc, Autism NJ, Louis Armstrong Foundation, Children’s Aid and Family services, the Alpine Learning Group, Autism Speaks and many others.

She returned two more times to “Night of too Many Stars”. In 2015 she performed a duet with “Weird Al” Yankovic of his song “Yoda”, this performance also went viral. In 2017 she performed Rise up with Cynthia Erivo backed by Questlove and the Roots.

Awards: Multiple finalist in the ASCAP Young Composers Awards 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016. Winner of the Young Composer National Composition Competition 2019. Winner of the NYC NATS Classical Singer High School Girl 2019

In her spare time Jodi enjoys advocating for autism, visiting Disneyworld, writing stories, drawing, and playing in the school band and chorus.

Jodi was diagnosed with autism at the age of 2.

HONOREE



Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D

Peter is the Executive Director of the EPIC School in Paramus, NJ.

Dr. Gerhardt has nearly 40 years of experience utilizing the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis in support of adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorders in educational, employment, residential and community-based settings.

He is the author or co-author on a number of articles and book chapters on the needs of adolescents and adults with ASD and has presented nationally and internationally on this topic.

Dr. Gerhardt serves as Co-Chairman of the Scientific Council for the Organization for Autism Research and is on numerous professional advisory boards including the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies.

He received his doctorate from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey's Graduate School of Education.

OUR TEAM

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Laura Galbraith, Work Skills Coach
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Sarah Hillesheim, Girl AGain Associate

VOLUNTEERS

Theresa Crawford, Work Skills Coach
Fran Coleman, Psy.E., Work Skills Coach
Pamela Eliach, MD, Work Skills Coach
Heather Pugni, Girl AGain merchandising assistant
Emily Koevary, Peer mentor

Yes She Can Is a nonprofit organization dedicated to:

- Helping young women with autism spectrum disorders and related social and learning disabilities develop transferable job skills leading to employment and greater independence
- Enlightening our business community to be more inclusive of people with autism in the workforce.

Our Challenge: 80% of adults with autism are unemployed – regardless of intellectual ability or academic success. Yet, most have the desire to be productive and included in the workforce.

Specialized training: Our program is implemented in an authentic business, Girl AGain, a resale boutique for American Girl dolls. Trainees are given an immersive learning experience where they are directly taught business processes, communication skills, and emotional regulation strategies—all necessary to be successful in a job. Professional staff and volunteers provide coaching, career counseling, and peer mentoring.



WOMEN AT WORK

Women at Work. Trainees build job skills while working on all aspects of the business. Tasks include:

- Preparing, pricing and displaying merchandise in the boutique.
- Helping customers, conducting transactions, and tracking inventory.
- Assisting at customer events, e-mail marketing, website development.
- Using video conferencing to collaborate with coaches and peers
- Exploring employment, writing resumes, building networking skills

Learning to be a successful employee. While working on tasks trainees learn:

- How to collaborate and problem solve with peers.
- How to ask for help and to take responsibility
- How to manage frustration and anxiety.
- Understanding the unwritten social rules at a workplace: “the hidden curriculum”.

Yes She Can is ***seeking support:***

- Program participant referrals
- Board members
- Volunteers
- Grants

Visit Girl AGain Boutique
4 Martine Ave.
White Plains, NY 10605
GirlAGain.com
914-358-1460



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Yes She Can **board of directors** for their commitment to the success of our organization.

Paul Piwnicki, chief engineer, doll furniture repairer, sandwich maker, trash collector, fundraiser, chauffeur, and cheer leader for Yes She Can, husband of Marjorie and father of Isabelle.

Kat Nemec, principle of Studio Kat who has designed this journal, and has been our brand spirit having designed our Yes She Can and Girl AGain logos.

Laura Galbraith (coach), **Claire Salama** (trainee), and **Sarah Hillesheim** for converting the program to a digital version.

Volunteer coaches: **Fran Coleman**, **Theresa Crawford**, and **Pamela Eliach** who collaborate with our staff coaches and support our trainees at Girl AGain.

Emily Koevary, Scarsdale High School student, volunteering as peer mentor every Thursday afternoon.

Our landlords at The Seasons: **Mitch Benerofe** and **Steve Lehrman**, who have generously donated a portion of our rent at Girl AGain boutique.

Pro Bono Partnership, who provides free legal services to Yes She Can.

Our distinguished **honorees**: who are sharing your experiences as advocates for autism.

And thank you to all our guests for joining us today to support Yes She Can.

Thank you, Marjorie Madfis, for
your leadership
and unwavering commitment
to the autism community.

**Jesse & Joan
Kupferberg Family
Foundation**



Liane, Jonathan, Marc, and Mickey Carter

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Congratulations to this year's honorees

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*With admiration, respect and heartfelt
appreciation*

*We congratulate the 2020
Yes She Can Honorees*

Marc Carter

Liane Kupferberg Carter

Jodi DiPiazza

Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D.



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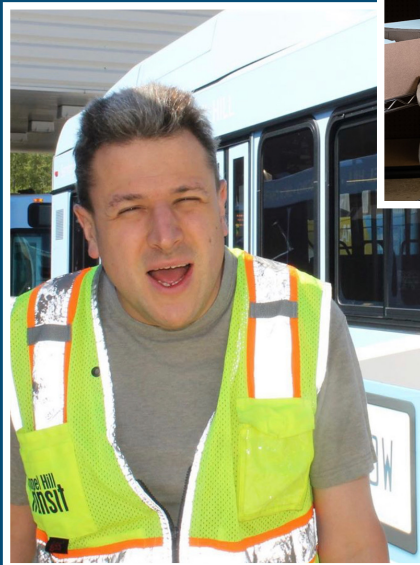
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MESSAGES

100 Percent Beads is thrilled to work with Yes She Can – together making beautiful jewelry. From Pam Moskowitz, Founder and Designer.
100percentbeads.com

Mara, It's so wonderful to see all your accomplishments since working with Yes She Can. We are so proud of you. They are well beyond the 20 words that we have to express the many gains you now excel in. Love Ma Irene and Pa Hank

Mara, we are all so proud of the fantastic progress you made as a Yes She Can trainee. Your stamina and confidence continue to soar. We love you, Mom, Dad, Lynn, Andrew

Isabelle, thank you for being my inspiration for founding Yes She Can. Because of you, we have helped so many other young women. You have been a great example to many others. Love Mom and Dad

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CO/LAB THEATER GROUP is a non-profit arts organization that provides individuals with developmental disabilities a creative and social outlet through theater arts.

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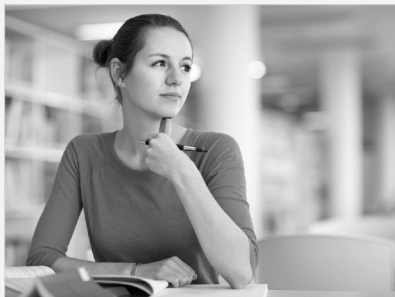
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We thank

**Jodi DiPiazza, Peter Gerhardt,
Liane Kupferberg Carter & Marc Carter**
for their advocacy for adults with autism

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Congratulations, Peter, on this well – deserved honor!

You make a difference in the lives of the EPIC Students.

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NEXT for AUTISM would like to congratulate Jodi, Peter, Liane and Marc for your unique and important contributions to the autism community.

We would also like to recognize Yes She Can for the important work you do to help young women with autism find meaningful employment.

NEXT
FOR **AUTISM**

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INNOVATING

www.NEXTforAUTISM.org



**Integrate Autism
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congratulates *Yes She Can*
and the recipients of their
*Advocates for Adults with
Autism* award for their
excellent work in
supporting autistic adults!



Helping organizations identify, recruit and retain
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CONGRATULATIONS YES SHE CAN INC!

and honorees
**Liane Kupferberg Carter
& Marc Carter**
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CONGRATULATES THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

Marc Carter

Liane Kupferberg Carter

Jodi DiPiazza

Peter Gerhardt

Thank you for your commitment to
enhancing the quality of life for individuals
on the autism spectrum!

AndersonCenterForAutism.org



**The
Pinnacle
School**

Congratulations to the
2020 honorees.

We are grateful for your
contributions to the
adult autism community.

We appreciate the work of
Yes She Can
to help young women with
autism and learning
disabilities achieve their
potential.

Pat & Andy Salner

Congratulations

to all 2020

Advocates for Adults
with Autism
honorees.

Compliments to **Yes She Can**
and Marjorie Madfis for the
dedication to open work for
young women with ASD by
empowering them to tend
and grow the seeds of their
own future.

Jensen Perez Family



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The Asperger/Autism Network (MNE) helps people with Asperger's or similar autism spectrum and neurodiverse profiles build meaningful, connected lives. We provide individuals, families, and professionals with information, education, community, support, and advocacy all in an inclusive atmosphere of validation and respect.

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Information, Advocacy, and Community Resources*

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Yes She Can, Inc.*

*For Their Tireless Commitment and
Dedication to Supporting Young Women
with Autism and in Celebration of Their
Advocates for Adults with Autism Awards*

Congratulations to All the Honorees!

MENTAL HEALTH NEWS EDUCATION
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VIRTUAL EVENT CREDITS

This virtual event could not have happened without our amazing video producer, **Philippa Wharton**.

Philippa first came to Yes She Can in 2015 to produce a story for the local TV station about our program and Girl AGain boutique.



She loved our mission, and Philippa and Marjorie found that they made great creative partners. In fact, they won the “Oscar” at the first NonProfit Westchester Film Festival for Best Story Telling.

Philippa has produced all our videos that you can see at yesshecaninc.org which beautifully show how our program has impacted out trainees and our community.

This event really tested our creative and technical skills. Because we all had to be physically distant, we had many separate pieces to create and to put together including recorded contributions from all our honorees, an interview over Zoom, and our fund appeal.

Thank you, Philippa for an outstanding job.

The event was live streamed through our production company, **VeeKast**. Thank you to **Donvil Collins** and your team for making this event possible through VirtEventPro™ technology.



A LEGACY

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

The Olmstead Supreme Court Decision 1999

Considered the most important civil rights decision for people with disabilities in our country's history, this United States Supreme Court decision was based on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The Supreme Court held that people with disabilities have a qualified right to receive state funded supports and services in the community rather than institutions.

The Court found that the ADA required the placement of patients with developmental disabilities in **integrated settings** when they are medically cleared for such settings, they express a desire for such settings, and the resources are available.

The majority opinion in this 6-3 decision was written by Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Without this decision, many if not most people with developmental disabilities, including autism, would not be able to participate in programs like Yes She Can.

People with developmental disabilities can now self-direct how funds for supports and services are allocated. They can choose to use those funds for job skills development, and for coaching in supported employment. Learn more at www.olmsteadrights.org

Thank you, Justice Ginsberg.



WE THANK YOU!

Board members Amy Gravino, Charlie Biener, Debra Solomon, Jessica Markowitz, Marjorie Madfis and Pat Salner are all very appreciative that you joined us this morning to honor our advocates and to learn how we are helping young women with autism achieve their potential.

And, we are so very grateful to all who have made donations to help us continue our work.

If you have not had a chance to do so, you can still have an impact.

Text to 970-840-9000 type YSC (space) your \$ pledge (space) your name (optional)
Or go to yesshecaninc.org - click on Donate

Thank you!

Be well. And please stay in touch.

We miss you.

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