

Susan L. Senator

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Work Experience

Director of Autism Adulthood Services and Outreach 2012–present

CCCAID (Community College Consortium for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities) Fairfax, VA. Meet with Congressional and White House staff and officials to discuss autism and ID adulthood legislation and issues around community college accessibility. Appear on panels at relevant conferences. Write public relations and press pieces.

Author and Freelance Writer 1985–present

Wrote two autism parenting books, *Making Peace With Autism*, Trumpeter, 2006 and *Autism Mom's Survival Guide* Trumpeter, 2010. Published over 100 articles to international, national, regional, and local journals and newspapers, on the subjects of autism, parenting, education, and politics. Wrote autism family novel: *Dirt*, Stellated Publications, 2011.

Blogger 2005–present

“Susan’s Blog,” at susansenator.com. Winner 2011 and 2012 Babble.com Top 25 Autism Blogs, 2005-present, with nearly 10,000 hits a month.

Public Speaker 2003–present

50+ conferences, workshops, parent talks, 2005-present. Autism parenting expert on radio and national television, including NPR, The Today Show, CNN, and MSNBC.

Adjunct Professor, Suffolk University, English Department, Boston, MA 2008–present

Public Relations Assistant, Cambridge Technology Group 1987–1988

Advertising Assistant, Jordan Marsh, Boston 1986–1987

Professional Associations

ARC of the US, Autism Now Board Member, 2011–2012

Boston Higashi School, Advisory Board Member, 2011–present

Advocates for Autism in Massachusetts, Board Member, 2004–2005

Massachusetts Coalition for Authentic Reform in Education (MassCARE) Founding member, 1999–2007

Brookline School Committee member, 2001–2006

Brookline PAX (Progressive Alliance) Board Member, 1999–2012

Brookline Special Education Parents Advisory Council Co-Chair, 1999–2001

Coalition for Brookline Autism Parents, Founding Board Member, 2006–present

Brookline Town Meeting Member, 2006–2009

Massachusetts Association of School Committees Member, 2001–2012

Massachusetts Association of Special Needs Parent Advisory Councils Board Member, 1997–2000

Publications

Books

Making Peace with Autism: One Family's Story of Struggle, Discovery, and Unexpected Gifts (Trumpeter/Shambhala, Boston, 2005, paperback, 2006). Winner, *Exceptional Parent Magazine* Award of Distinction, 2007

The Autism Mom's Survival Guide (For Dads, Too!): Creating a Balanced and Happy Life While Raising a Child With Autism (Trumpeter/Shambhala, Boston, 2010).

Dirt: A Story of Gardening, Mothering, and Other Messy Business (Stellated, 2011).

Articles, Essays, and Columns

Washington Post op-eds: "My Autistic Son's Step into the Wider World – Through Facebook," (August 2012); "Tiger Mother to an Autistic Son," (December 2011); **and eight others**, 2003 to 2010.

On Faith at Newsweek/Washingtonpost.com: "Apology as a Rite of Passage," (February 2009); "What's Missing in the R-Word Debate," (August 2008); "Motherhood's Heaven and Hell," (October 2008); "Grief as Prayer," (July 2008)

Huffington Post: "Everyone Deserves a Kidney," (January 2012), "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," (January 2007), "A Mother Knows Best," (November 2006), "The Kindness of Strangers," (December 2006)

New York Times: "The Subject of the Sibling," *Lives, Sunday Times Magazine*, (February 2010); "Home Alone," *Sunday Times Education Life*, (August 2004)

Boston Globe: "My Autistic Son Leaves the Nest," (May 2012); "Shriver's Can-do Spirit," (August 2009); **and six others**, 2002 to 2008

WBUR Commentaries: Boston's NPR affiliate, "Eunice Kennedy Shriver," (August 2009); "Moving On: The Lincoln-Sudbury High School Tragedy," (January 2007); "Eunice and Me," (November 2007); "Supreme Injustice," (November 2006)

Essays: "Eunice and Me," in *Educating Exceptional Children*, 12th ed, Kirk/Gallagher/Coleman, Houghton-Mifflin, college textbook for educators, (November 2008); "First Friend," in *This I Believe, On Love*, (November 2010); Foreword, *Being There With ASD*, by Robert Parish, Wiley (March 2008)

Education Week: "The Autistic Kid Who Has Everything...And It's Still Not Enough," (October 2003), reprinted in *Teacher Magazine*, (November 2003); "A Class Act," (February 2004)

Pennsylvania Gazette: "The Magic Pebble," (July 2002)

Advance for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists: "Skill-building in Preteens with Autism," co-authored with Sheila Carrier, MS, CCC-SLP (September, 2002)

Exceptional Parent Magazine: Served a term as Contributing Editor. Authored “Technology and Employment,” (November 2000); “Choosing Toys for a Child with Autism,” (October 2000); **and three others**, 1997-2000

Brookline Tab: columnist since 1998

Distinctions, Honors, and Media Highlights

- **Featured as the Cover Story, University of Pennsylvania Alumni Magazine (*Pennsylvania Gazette*),** (August 2011)
- **Vinfn “Outstanding Educator” Award,** (September 2010)
- **Voice of America,** “Autism Survival,” (April 2010), among 14 other regional and national radio interviews, (March, April, and May, 2010)
- **Today Show,** “Battling Autism: One Family’s Story,” (October 2005)
- **State Dinner guest at the White House** in honor of Eunice Shriver and Special Olympics, (July 2006)
- **Exceptional Parent Magazine’s Award of Excellence,** (April 2007)
- **ABCNews.com,** health website focusing on autism, (July 2008)
- **MSNBC,** “Coping With Autism” (December 2005)
- **CNN,** Interview, (October 2005)
- **NPR Weekend America,** Interview with Barbara Bogaev, (October 2005)
- **Parents’ Journal** radio, (October 2005, and November 2006)
- **Voice of America Radio,** (October 2005)

Keynotes, Lectures, and Conferences (partial list)

- New York State ARC Annual Conference, Keynote (October 2012)
- Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change, Panelist (September 2012)
- Lesley College Reading and Book Signing (May 2012)
- Autism Commission (Governor’s Special Commission) Panelist (May 2011)
- Hebrew College Special Educators’ Conference (May 2011)
- Unitarian Church of Wellesley (January 2011)
- Somerville Special Needs Parents Association (January 2011)
- Southern Maine Autism Society Annual Conference (March 2011)
- Department of Public Health, State of Wyoming, “Early Intervention Educators Conference,” Cheyenne, WY (August 2009)
- Harvard Medical School with Cambridge Medical Alliance, Cambridge, MA (November 2007)
- Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD (April 2007)

- Minnesota Autism Society, Minneapolis, MN (March 2006)
- Federation for Children with Special Needs, Boston, MA (March 2006)
- Sudbury Valley Jewish Special Educators Conference, Acton, MA (March 2006)
- The Barber Institute, Erie, PA (January 2006)
- The Autism Acceptance Project, Toronto, Canada (October 2006)
- Wisconsin Autism Society, Milwaukee, WI (April 2006)
- The Hattie Larlham Institute, Mantua, OH (February 2006)
- The May Institute, Randolph, MA (May 2006)

Education

Master of Arts, December 1985, 19th-century Russian and European History, University of Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Arts, May 1984, Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania

Other Interests

Raising and enjoying my three sons, the oldest of whom has severe autism. Mountain biking, gardening, bellydance.