



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock
County Administrator

Beth Gabor
Manager of Public Affairs

625 Court Street, Room 204 • Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8195 • FAX (530) 666-8193
www.yolocounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2014

Contact: Beth Gabor, Manager of Public Affairs
(530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

Panel Discussion on Raising Children with Special Needs October 11

(Woodland, CA) – In collaboration with UC Davis and the Campus Community Book Project, the Yolo County Library is presenting a panel discussion on parenting children with special needs, featuring local parents and authors Dale Flynn, Andy Jones and Kate Duren. The forum will take place on Saturday, October 11, noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Blanchard Room of Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library, located at 315 E. 14th St. in Davis.

The UC Davis' Campus Community Book Project was initiated to promote dialogue and build community by encouraging the campus and surrounding communities to read the same book and attend related events. This year's project focuses on disability awareness with the book, *Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism*, by acclaimed researcher of animal behavior, professor, inventor and bestselling author, Temple Grandin.

Dr. Dale Flynn is a UC Davis emeritus faculty member who conducts a medical/humanities reading program for Cal Humanities at the Sacramento VA Hospital. Her children's picture book, *A Very Special Athlete*, about a boy who participates in the Special Olympics, was inspired by her son, Adam. Dr. Andy Jones is the current Davis Poet Laureate and a UC Davis faculty member. He hosts The Poetry Night Reading Series and "Dr. Andy's Poetry and Technology Hour" on KDVS. He and his wife, Kate Duren, recently published a book of poetry and essays, *Where's Jukie?*, which presents the joys and challenges of raising a child with special needs. Kate is a writer, blogger, Bringing Baby Home Certified Gottman Educator and consultant for new parents who runs the new parent support group at Mother and Baby Source in Davis. Both books can be found at the Yolo County Library.

"We are excited to partner with UC Davis on such an important topic," said Yolo County Librarian Patty Wong. "Parenting is never easy and, while parenting children with special needs can offer some of the most uplifting rewards, it can also provide some of the most heart-rending challenges. Our panel discussion is an opportunity for parents and the community to gain greater awareness and understanding of special needs children and their families."

From October through February, numerous Campus Community Book Project activities are planned, including films, lectures, panel discussions, courses and workshops, book discussions and family events, culminating in Temple Grandin's visit to the Mondavi Center on February 10. For a schedule of activities and other information, visit: <http://occr.ucdavis.edu/ccbp2014/index.html>. For more information about the Yolo County Library, visit: www.yolocountylibrary.org, or connect with the Yolo County Library on Facebook at www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org.

###