



**Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter**  
**October 2023**

# 3 Year Anniversary



## 1,095 Days and Counting!

I cannot believe it, but it has been three years since I embarked on my journey to share our experience living and loving someone with Autism Spectrum Disorder, (ASD). Truthfully it was not planned. It is hard to remember where we were in 2020 -now-BUT then- AMID COVID-we were isolated, paranoid, fearful and uncertain. Our family, like many others, transitioned school into our homes, altered and/or carved out spaces in our homes and lived every second in our homes without traditional human experiences. Surreal!

If we are all honest none of us knew what we were doing. We tried new hobbies, we zoomed ourselves silly, and I must have personally walked six to eight miles a day! Just when I thought I would lose my mind balancing our new normal I began to journal. It was freeing. Although I was talking to myself, it did not take long for me to realize that our story mirrored so many others. Sharing helped people understand and invest in a more meaningful way. When I look back it brings an incredible perspective.

**“My Advice is: You always have to keep persevering.”**  
*Temple Grandin*



Our life in real time, sharing resources and discovering inspirational stories healed me during a rough period

*Thank you for the many many emails, cards, calls, and conversations. Thank you for seeing and hearing our story and most importantly spreading the word.*

**Here is a look back at 1,095 days and counting!**

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**I'VE BEEN BUSY  
BLOGGING**

**I'VE BEEN BUSY  
PODCASTING**



**Ok - I am late for a REASON**

This blog is here for a good reason - I had my 100th birthday last year and I can't remember anyone other than my husband and I!



**Oh To Be 103!**

Thinking it is ridiculous that I am 103. I don't think about how I feel the year I turn 103. It is my husband's birthday. Simple!



**Where did the TIME Go?**

I remember everything about the day. The 100th year when I was born. The day of my birth. I can't believe it's been 100 years. Trying to find time!



**Unexpected Blessing!**

In 2016, we were blessed with an unexpected blessing in the middle of our lives. A blessing that I will appreciate for the rest of my life.



**Count Your Blessings one-by-one!**

Today I can't help but smile with my heart. Although I usually don't smile, today I'm smiling. I'm smiling because I'm smiling.



**So I lost a friend**

So I lost a friend. I lost a friend from the time I was in high school. I lost a friend who was a very beautiful, kind, and smart person.



**Be Cognizant of What You Pray For**

Be cognizant of what you pray for. Our daughter is a nurse and she can't see the best of the best. She can't see the best of the best.



**Never say No!**

Never say no to our daughter. She has been begging for years to go out and see the world. She has been begging for years to go out and see the world.



**The World is smaller than we think- 2 Days in Dublin**

The World is smaller than we think. 2 Days in Dublin to husband and I. Had a 10 day vacation in Europe. In Ireland.



**I have to say it was a GOOD Day!**

I have to say it was a GOOD Day. This is my 100th birthday. Our family had a wonderful day. It was a wonderful day.



**Just Another Day**

Just another day. My 100th birthday and I am not sad. This is my 100th birthday. I am not sad. I am not sad.



**A Weekend of Rest**

A weekend of rest. My 100th birthday and I have a lot of things to do. I have a lot of things to do. I have a lot of things to do.



**Friendship is Fuel for the Soul**

Friendship is fuel for the soul. This is my 100th birthday. I have a lot of things to do. I have a lot of things to do.



**The Year of Jordan!**

The Year of Jordan. My 100th birthday and I have a lot of things to do. I have a lot of things to do.



**This is what happiness looks like!**

This is what happiness looks like. My 100th birthday and I have a lot of things to do. I have a lot of things to do.



**Laurie Hill**

Laurie is a writer, speaker and activist for neurodiversity and an able bodied person. Learn how to live with her adopted daughter with neurodiversity.



**David Moran**

David Moran is the Executive Director at the office of the Public Defender for the 1st Judicial Circuit. David speaks about how he has been inspired to help others from an early age.



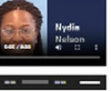
**Kim Kurazovich & Kelli Mendillo**

Kim and Kelli are a family like me sharing their story and amazing technology. It's so!



**Tiffany Ford**

Tiffany is a long time St. Pete senior leader who has shared her time and talent with hundreds of building therapists.



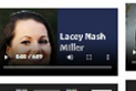
**Nydia Nelson**

Nydia Nelson is the Academic Chair of Mathematics at St. Petersburg College. She is also the Director of the St. Petersburg College Center and the St. Petersburg College Center.



**Judy Owen**

Judy Owen shares her experience with her son.



**Lacey Nash Miller**

Director of Development at Academy Prep Center of St. Petersburg.



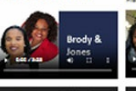
**Alissa Puntanen-Burdle**

Learn about Alissa's passion for helping others and how the St. Pete Free Clinic benefits the community.



**Chantell Miles**

Conversation with Chantell Miles, Executive Director of Pace Pinellas.



**Brody & Jones**

John Brody and Shannon Jones. What they are doing through service organizations to impact our community.



**Jaih and Kim Jackson**

An insightful conversation with Dr. Jaih Jackson about mentoring young leaders through the academic club.



**Vicky Westra, Chief Executive Officer - Autism Skills**

Vicky talks about helping people with autism prepare for employment since 2010.



**Belinkia Berry, Acting Dean of St. Petersburg College of Workforce Development and Dr. Cynthia Johnson, Director of Economic Development for Pinellas County.**

A great discussion on growing jobs in Florida.



**Sean King, Director of Government Relations and Advisory for Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pinellas County.**

Great information about Habitat for Humanity's program for providing affordable homes and ownership opportunities for our employees.

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