

Village Living Room Talks

AGENDA

8:30 – Breakfast

9:00 – Welcome

9:10 – What Your Car Wants You to Know

9:30 – Car Care Panel Discussion

9:55 – Reading and Your Kids

10:25 – Down Syndrome: A Historical Overview and a Present Look into the Life of my Son, Bentley

10:55 – Unlearn Your Pain: A Look at Emotional Health and How it Relates to Physical Pain

11:25 – Experience and Reality Near the End & End of Life Care Panel Discussion



What Your Car Wants You to Know

This talk will give the information you need to make decisions about taking care of your car, covering purchasing, general maintenance, big repairs, scams and going into detail for common problems.

About the Speaker - Jeff McConnell: My first car broke, I was broke, fixed it with dad's tools. Cars were much simpler back then! 40 years later, my shop's goal is to help the average person keep their car running. Mechanical Engineering Va Tech. Ran shop/school in Nairobi Kenya.

Car Care Panelists

Albert Dennes has a technical certificate in automotive mechanics specializing in engine and differential rebuilds. He is passionate about vehicle performance and motorsports with years of drag racing experience and over 20 track days participating in high performance driver education.

Gareth Markwardt is a former ASE certified mechanic with an associate degree in automotive technology. He specialized on European cars but has worked on just about everything (including motorcycles). He left the automotive industry to pursue a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

Reading and Your Kids

Reading is thinking, but do your kids know that? Learn about ways to promote a love of reading in your children in addition to ways to support their reading development.

About the Speaker: Jessica Dennes is a former middle school English language arts/reading teacher from South Texas. After moving to Tucson, she spent four years training others on how to read with kids in a way that promotes the love of reading. She holds a master's degree in teaching and Teacher Education.

Down Syndrome: A historical overview and a present look into the life of my son, Bentley

If we don't know history- how can we understand the present? Join me as we look into the historical attitudes and cultural shifts about Down Syndrome. From laws, to labels, to deficits, and segregation- let's consider how language and our fundamental beliefs can impact our perspectives.

About the Speaker: Adrienne Crawford facilitates a national program for a local nonprofit focusing on advocacy for and with individuals with intellectual disabilities. She has also attended countless conferences and trainings on various aspects of disability advocacy. Adrienne is the mother of three children: Bentley (10), Clayton (9), and Lillian (7).

Unlearn Your Pain: A Look at Emotional Health and How it Relates to Physical Pain

This talk explores the ways that emotions interact with pain and how they affect our everyday life.

About the Speaker: David Crawford is a dual board-certified physician in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. He worked with Dr. Schubiner in Michigan as he counseled patients on understanding and controlling pain. David works at the local nonprofit Children's Clinics providing primary care to children and adults with complex medical needs. He is also a four-time marathon runner and the father of 3 children.

Experience and Reality Near the End

A brief exploration of the nature and phenomena of death and dying.

About the Speaker: Kevin Sommitz has worked with the elderly and terminally ill for several years, mostly with Agape Hospice. He enjoys helping and families and patients through life's final journey.

End of Life Care Panelists

Corey Gilchrist is a Board-Certified Chaplain (APC) and have worked for the past 7 years in an adult acute care setting, as well as with children who have serious and incurable medical conditions. He holds a master's degree in Counseling Psychology from The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology.

Andrea McCulley has been a Social Worker for almost 20 years, concentrating in the medical field and child welfare. For the last 3 years, I have worked at a local hospital in Palliative Care, helping patients and families plan for end-of-life needs.