



THE VOICE
Anne Arundel County Chapter
of the
Autism Society of America
December 2004 Volume 9, Issue 5

President's Message

AACC-ASA meetings are held on the last Tuesday evening of each month at Ruth Parker Eason School, 648 Old Mill Road, Millersville. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm.

The meetings begin with introductions and general announcements, along with time for open discussion. A refreshment break is followed by a discussion led by the guest presenter.

Ample time is allowed for questions and follow-up discussion, as well as further opportunity for group support and socialization.

New members and new ideas are always welcome.

**Chapter Phone Line:
(410) 923-8800**

Thanks to everyone who attended our November meeting, which featured a discussion about family training services and individual intensive support services, as well as other home and family support services, led by **Dr. Barbara Allgood-Hill**.

She shared information about the services provided by **Mid-Atlantic Human Service Corporation**, including school consultation services, home consultation services, and behavioral intervention services. For further information about these services, please contact **Dr. Christine Accardo**, Director of Autism and Behavioral Consultation Services, at **(410) 580-0750** or caccardo@ippi.org.

The discussion also included information about **Humanin**, the agency in our region which currently holds the grant from the DDA (Developmental Disabilities Administration) to provide free-of-charge in-home behavioral support services. For further information about these services, please contact **Bill Stanley** at **(410) 381-7171**.

Dr. Allgood-Hill also provided information about the services provided by **Sheppard**

Pratt's Acute Care Unit for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Adolescent Neuropsychology Unit, which provide both in-patient and outpatient care. For further information about these services, please call **(410) 938-3000**.

As always, we will take a holiday break and not hold a chapter meeting in December. Be sure to check our January newsletter for information about the topic of discussion and guest discussion leader for our January meeting.

I am pleased to announce that we have scheduled a fundraising event: we will be gift-wrapping at **Borders Books and Music in Annapolis Mall on Sunday December 12th and Monday December 20th**. Further details about this event are provided below.

In closing, remember that our **autism awareness puzzle ribbon car magnets and cloisonne lapel pins** can make thoughtful gifts for the significant people in your life. To obtain an order form for either item, please go to our web site at <http://www.aaccasa.org> or call our chapter phone line at **(410) 923-8800**.

**No
December Meeting**

**Next Meeting:
January 30th
7:00 pm**

Chapter fundraising event

On **Sunday December 12th from noon to 7:00 pm** and **Monday December 20th from 4:00 – 10:00 pm** our chapter will be raising funds and providing autism awareness information at the **Borders Books and Music** in the **Annapolis Mall** (on Jennifer Road).

We are looking for people who are available to work a **two-hour shift** at the gift-wrap table. In this capacity, you will wrap items that have been purchased at the store, and will accept donations. You will also have the opportunity to share information about autism spectrum disorders and about our chapter.

If you have not yet volunteered, and are able to help staff the table for a two-hour shift during either day, please contact **Mindy Wise** at **(410) 647-0114**. If you need directions to Borders Books and Music, please call them at **(410) 571-0923**.



Disclaimer:

Please note that all information provided or published by the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America (AACC-ASA) is for informational purposes only. Reference to any treatment or therapy option or to any program, service, or treatment provider is not an endorsement by the AACC-ASA.

Special Olympics

Anne Arundel County Special Olympics is a non-profit organization providing sports programs to over 300 eligible athletes, ages eight to adult, with a cognitive delay or developmental disability. There is no cost to participate in any Special Olympics activity. The upcoming season for Anne Arundel County Special Olympics includes the following sports:

Basketball: Monday evenings, beginning December 6th. *Beginning athletes* will practice from 6:00 – 7:00 pm and *more advanced athletes* will learn skills from 7:15 - 8:15 pm at Ruth Parker Eason School, 648 Old Mill Road, Millersville. *Teams* will play from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Old Mill Middle School – South, 620 Patriot Lane, Millersville. Practices continue weekly through February leading to participation in the State Tournament.

Alpine and Cross-Country Skiing: Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 pm, beginning December 2nd, at Ruth Parker Eason School, 648 Old Mill Road, Millersville. Practices continue weekly through February leading to participation in the State Tournament.

For further information or to register, please call (410) 923-0383. Information is also available at <http://www.soaamd.org>.

Presentation on positive behavioral supports

On **Friday December 10th** from **9:30 am – 3:30 pm**, the Developmental Disabilities Administration is sponsoring a free presentation entitled **“Portraits of Autistic Spectrum Disorder: Using positive behavioral supports to change disruptive behavior”**. The presentation will be given by Larry Lipsitz and will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Cambridge, Maryland.

In the presentation, participants will learn the following:

- * The areas of atypical development that are sometimes interpreted as disruptive behavior
- * Different techniques that can change a disruptive behavior into an appropriate functional skill
- * Positive behavioral interventions that can be implemented to replace an atypical behavior

For further information or to register, please contact **Rachel White** at (410) 334-6930 or rwhite@dhh.state.md.us.

Kids holiday workshop

On **Saturday December 11th** from **10:00 am – 2:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks** is sponsoring a workshop for special needs children and their siblings ages 6 to 16. The workshop will be held at both Central Special School and Ruth Parker Eason School.

The workshop will provide the children with a chance to prepare for the holidays by making decorations, crafts, and other fun activities. The children will also have an opportunity to shop at the Holiday Secret Shop for family and friends at minimum cost, with proceeds to go to the scholarship fund of Recreation Deeds for Special Needs.

The registration fee is \$5 per child. For further information or to register, please contact **Wendy Scarborough** at (410) 222-7313.

Summer internship programs

Two Summer 2005 internship opportunities for college students with disabilities are available through the **American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)**, as follows:

The **Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation and AAPD Congressional Internship Program** provides an opportunity for students with disabilities to work on Capitol Hill and acquire valuable work experience that will enrich their academic studies. As congressional interns, participants gain insight into congressional office operations, public policy development, and constituents' roles in the legislative/political processes. Eight students with disabilities will be selected for this 8-week internship. Airfare, summer housing, and stipends will be provided.

The **Microsoft-AAPD Federal Information Technology (I.T.) Internship Program** provides undergraduate students with disabilities, who have a demonstrated interest in I.T. careers, with the opportunity to participate and benefit from highly sought-after federal internships. Ten students with disabilities will be selected to work for a U.S. government agency for eleven-weeks in Washington, DC. Airfare, summer housing, and stipends will be provided.

The submission deadline for both internships is **December 15th**. For further information or to obtain an application, please go to <http://www.aapd-dc.org> or call (800) 840-8844.



Workshop on manding

On **Tuesday January 11th** from **6:30 - 8:30 pm**, the **Aurora School** will sponsor a workshop entitled "**Teaching manding to all learners**". The event will be held at the Aurora School, 205 N. Maple Avenue, in Purcellville, Virginia.

Many children with autism and other developmental disabilities fail to develop adequate language skills in the form of talking. Some children are not even able to make speech sounds, while others can imitate any sound or word they hear. But sometimes even these children do not speak spontaneously or in a way that has meaning to the listener. The first skill a learner needs to develop for functional verbal behavior is manding.

In the workshop, participants will learn the following:

- * Definition of mand
- * Description of the benefits of teaching manding first
- * Explanation of how deprivation and satiation effects motivation
- * Description of how motivative operations (MOs) can be used and manipulated to teach language
- * Explanation of how to begin mand training
- * Explanation of prompt and prompt-fade procedures when teaching manding vocally or in sign language
- * Description of rules for manding
- * Description of how to contrive and capture MOs for beginning and advanced manding

Participants will receive guided notes, sample manding data sheets, examples of graphs used to track manding frequency, and references to articles and book chapters.

The fee for the workshop is \$10. For further information or to register, please contact the **Aurora School** at **(540) 751-1414** or theauroraschool@aol.com.

Workshop on finding resources for children with special health care needs

On **Wednesday January 12th** from **7:00 - 9:00 pm**, the **Parents' Place of Maryland** and **Jewish Family Services** will sponsor a workshop entitled "**Finding community resources**". It is free of charge and will be held at Jewish Family Services, 5750 Park Heights Avenue, in Baltimore. The workshop will be led by Rochelle Howell, Parent Educator, The Parents' Place of Maryland. The workshop is for parents who have children with special health care needs and is designed to match those needs with local resources. Participants will leave this workshop with a list of contacts.

To pre-register, please contact **Rochelle Howell** at **(410) 574-3750** or **(410) 768-9100** or Rhowelladvocate@aol.com or contact **Ilene Devorah** at **(410) 542-6300 ext. 522**.

Therapeutic recreation programs

The **Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Division of Therapeutic Recreation**, offers a wide variety of programs for people with disabilities. Their upcoming schedule includes the following programs:

Elementary sports skills for children with challenges ages 5 - 12. The program is free and is held at Marley Glen on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 pm for 8 weeks, beginning January 12th.

Fitness fun for children ages 6 - 16. The program is free and is held at both Central Special and Ruth Eason on Fridays from 3:00 - 6:00 pm for 8 weeks, beginning January 14th.

Saturday recreation program for children ages 6 - 16. The program costs \$110 for 8 weeks and is held at both Central Special and Ruth Eason on Saturdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, beginning January 15th.

After school recreation for children ages 6 - 16. The program costs \$100 for 8 weeks and is held at Central Special on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 - 6:00 pm beginning January 11th and at Ruth Eason on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 - 6:00 pm beginning January 10th.

Therapeutic swim programs for youth and adults. There are classes for beginners (ages 3-6 and 6-12) and advanced beginners (able to swim 25 yards), as well as for mentally and physically challenged adults. Classes cost \$50 for 8 weeks and are held at Ruth Eason on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 5:15 - 6:00 pm or 6:15 - 7:00 pm, beginning on February 1st.

Teen club for youth with developmental delays ages 13 - 21. The program costs \$50 for 10 weeks and is held at both Ruth Eason and Central Special on Fridays from 6:30 - 9:00 pm beginning January 14th.

Young adult social club for ages 18 and up. The program costs \$50 for 10 weeks and is held at Marley Glen on Fridays from 6:30 - 9:00 pm beginning on January 14th.

For more information about these programs, please contact **Wendy Scarborough** at **(410) 222-7313**. Information and registration forms are also available on their website at <http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks>.

New web site focuses on inclusion

The new "**Circle of Inclusion**" web site is for early childhood service providers and families of young children. The web site offers demonstrations of and information about the effective practices of inclusive educational programs for children from birth through age eight. For further information, please go to <http://circleofinclusion.org/>.



News from National ASA: New Board Chair

The **Autism Society of America** has announced that **Cathy Pratt, Ph.D.**, director of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism (IRCA) at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community located at Indiana University, has been selected as its new Board Chair. Pratt, who previously served as ASA's First Vice Chair, replaces Lee Grossman.

"On behalf of ASA's Board of Directors, we are thrilled that Dr. Pratt has agreed to accept this position," Lee Grossman said. "She is one of the most highly-regarded leaders among professionals in the autism community, who demonstrates a strong commitment toward educating others about autism spectrum disorders and helping those affected by autism."

Pratt is a nationally-known speaker and presenter on topics related to autism spectrum disorders. She is Co-Chair of the ASA Conference Committee for ASA's National Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders and, in 2004, partnered with ASA to deliver "Racing toward answers in Autism: Latest in biomedical research", the first-ever biomedical conference co-hosted by the ASA. She has sat on ASA's Government Relations Committee and recently joined ASA's Panel of Professional Advisors (PPA). Currently, she serves on a variety of distinguished advisory boards.

News from Washington: IDEA Reauthorization

On Friday November 19th, the House of Representatives and the Senate passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004). The President signed the bill into law on Friday December 3rd. The effective date of the IDEA 2004 legislation is July 1, 2005.

Information about IDEA 2004 from the Committee on Education and Workforce is available at <http://edworkforce.house.gov/issues/108th/education/idea/idea.htm>.

A comparison of IDEA 2004 and IDEA 1997, prepared by Jess Butler for COPAA (The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates) is available at <http://www.copaa.net/content/IDEA97-04COMP.html>. The additions are marked with underlining and italics, and the deletions are marked with strike-throughs. The document is offered in one complete pdf file of 190 pages or in 8 separate pdf files.

A comparison of IDEA 2004 and IDEA 1997, focusing on the five key statutes, is available at <http://www.wrightslaw.com/law/idea/index.htm>. This comparison was prepared by Pete Wright of Wrightslaw. The deletions are marked with strike-throughs and the additions are marked with italics. The documents are in pdf format.

News from Washington: New Medicaid waiver

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson has announced approval of a Maryland demonstration plan to make it easier for individuals with disabilities to remain in their own homes by giving them greater control over a broad array of Medicaid services.

The Maryland waiver, to be called "**New Directions**", is the seventh program to be approved under HHS' new Independence Plus initiative, which makes it easier for consumers to retain more control of home and community-based services. The Maryland "New Directions" waiver will provide services that include respite, supported employment, personal support, transportation, environmental accessibility adaptations, family and individual support services, and assistive technology and adaptive equipment. Participating individuals will be able to select and direct their personal assistants and use a portion of their individual budget for non-traditional goods and services.

For further information about the waiver programs, please go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/independenceplus/>.

Contributions sought for new book

Mona Freedman, Executive Director/Founder of Caring Communities, is soliciting contributions for a book entitled "Living in a World of Possibilities". The book is a compilation of words of wisdom, tips, helpful advice and feelings from the disabilities community.

If you are an individual with a disability, a parent or caretaker, a sibling or service provider, you are encouraged to submit a quote or statement for the book. Plans are to have the book available at the next World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo which will be held in May 2005. To submit your contributions, please go to <http://www.caringcommunities.org/book>.

Participants sought for research study

The **University of Maryland School of Medicine** is conducting a study to compare the sensory preferences of children with developmental disabilities and the sensory preferences of their parent or primary caregiver. The researchers are looking for the parents or primary caregivers of children between the ages of 3 and 10 who have Autism, Asperger's, Down Syndrome or other developmental disabilities to participate in this study, which involves completing an online survey; it takes 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

To participate in this research, please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=44747643444>. For further information, contact **Albert Donnay** at ahd@bcpl.net or **Allison Davis** at ADavis@ArcofAnneArundel.org.



Are you prepared for an Autism Emergency?

by Dennis Debbaudt

from *Autism Risk & Safety newsletter, Fall 2004 edition*
(Reprinted with permission of author)

A leading cause for concern is children and adults with autism who run away or wander from parents and care providers. Tragically, children and adults with autism are often attracted to water sources such as pools, ponds, and lakes. Drowning is a leading cause of death for a child or adult who has autism. Wandering can occur anywhere at anytime. The first time is often the worst time.

Another concern is preparation in the event that you become incapacitated or injured while caring for a person with autism at home or in the community.

To ensure safety and lower risk for a child or adult with autism, parents and care providers will need to become proactive and prepare an informational handout. An informational handout should be developed, copied and carried with you at all times -- at home, in your car, purse or wallet. Also circulate this handout to family members, trusted neighbors, friends and co-workers. The handout will also come in handy if you are in an area other than your neighborhood and are approached by the police.

If wandering is a concern, contact law enforcement, fire and ambulance agencies. Ask your local 911 call center to "red flag" this information in their 911 computer data base. Dispatchers can alert patrol officers about your concerns before they arrive. When we provide law enforcement with key information before an incident occurs, we can expect better responses.

Alert your neighbors: The behaviors and characteristics of autism have the potential to attract attention from the public. Law enforcement professionals suggest that you reach out and get to know your neighbors.

- * Decide what information to present to neighbors
- * Plan a brief visit to your neighbors
- * Introduce your child or adult or a photograph
- * Give your neighbor a simple handout with your name, address, and phone number
- * Ask them to call you immediately if they see your son or daughter outside the home

This approach may be a good way to avoid problems down the road and will let your neighbors:

- * Know the reason for unusual behaviors

- * Know that you are approachable
- * Have the opportunity to call you before they call 911

Knowing your neighbors can lead to better social interactions for your loved ones with autism.

Prevention: If wandering is an issue for your family, consider contacting a professional locksmith, security company or home improvement professional.

Autism Emergency Contact Handout Model

- * Name of child or adult
- * Current photograph and physical description including height, weight, eye and hair color, any scars or other identifying marks
- * Names, home, cell and pager phone numbers and addresses of parents, other caregivers and emergency contact persons
- * Sensory, medical, or dietary issues and requirements, if any
- * Inclination for elopement and any atypical behaviors or characteristics that may attract attention
- * Favorite attractions and locations where person may be found
- * Likes, dislikes -- approach and de-escalation techniques
- * Method of communication, if non-verbal-- sign language, picture boards, written word
- * ID wear - jewelry, tags on clothes, printed handout card
- * Map and address guide to nearby properties with water sources and dangerous locations highlighted
- * Blueprint or drawing of home, with bedrooms of individual highlighted

For further information, please contact **Dennis Debbaudt** at (772) 398-9756 or ddpi@flash.net. Information is also available at <http://www.autismriskmanagement.com> and <http://policeandautism.cjb.net/>.

Happy Holidays!



Anne Arundel County Chapter
 Autism Society of America
 P.O. Box 1304
 Millersville, MD 21108

Postage
here

**** Chapter News and Notes ****

We have available for purchase **autism awareness puzzle ribbon cloisonne lapel pins** and **car magnets**. The ribbons are available for \$6 at our meetings and \$7 through our web site; the car magnets are available for \$4 at our meetings and \$5 through our web site at <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

We are participating in the **Future Horizons Affiliate Program**. Through this program, when you follow the link at <http://www.aaccasa.org> to the Future Horizons web site and purchase any Future Horizons-published books and videos or purchase a conference registration, our chapter will receive **40% of the purchase price**. We will also receive 20% of the purchase price on any non-Future Horizons books and videos. By making your Future Horizons purchases through our web site you will help fund our chapter's projects and activities.

Our **lending library** is located at the **Partners for Success Resource Center**, Oakwood Elementary School, Portable "B", 330 Oak Manor Drive, Glen Burnie. To see a full listing of the items available from our lending library, as well as related items available from the Partners for Success library, please go to <http://www.aaccasa.org>. To request an item, please contact **Partners for Success** at **(410) 222-3805** or pfsaa@yahoo.com. They will provide information about the various ways in which library materials can be obtained.

Subscribe to our **e-mail action alert** by sending a message through <http://www.aaccasa.org>. It is an easy way to learn the latest information about Federal, State, and local legislative initiatives, lobbying efforts, or other action items related to autism and disabilities.

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 Autism Society of America
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Melinda Wise, Vice President/Treasurer (410) 647-0114
Jean Dunaway, Secretary (410) 721-1385

AACC-ASA Options Policy:

All information provided or published by the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America (AACC-ASA) is for informational purposes only. Reference to any treatment or therapy option or to any program, service, or treatment provider is not an endorsement by the AACC-ASA. You should investigate alternatives that may be more appropriate for a specific individual. AACC-ASA assumes no responsibility for the use made of any information published or provided by the AACC-ASA.