



THE VOICE
Anne Arundel County Chapter
of the
Autism Society of America
February 2005 Volume 9, Issue 7

President's Message

AACC-ASA meetings are held 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

Next Meeting:
February 22nd
7:00 pm

Thanks to everyone who attended our January meeting, which featured a discussion about the use of communication boards and schedules, led by **Margaret Calvert**. In addition to sharing examples of picture schedules and similar items, Ms. Calvert shared information about her own experiences as the parent of an individual on the autism spectrum and as a special education teacher.

Also in attendance at our January meeting was **Dori Storin**, a new service provider in our county who shared information about her experience and the services she provides for children on the autism spectrum. Further information about Ms. Storin is included in this newsletter.

In addition, in attendance at our January meeting was **Penny Parker Reisler**, a chapter member who recently started an Ebay auction service called "**Annie's Auctions 4 Autism**". She shared information about the service and provided brochures. Further information about this service is included in this newsletter.

Our February meeting will feature a discussion about using rhythm-based activities as a therapy modality for individuals on the autism spectrum and their family members, led by **Dorinda Adams**. Her presentation will include a demonstration of rhythm-based activities. She will also share information about drum circle activities and events being held in our local area, and about ways that drum cir-

cles can be developed for use by individuals on the autism spectrum.

Ms. Adams is a licensed graduate social worker who specializes in child welfare and adult services programs. Her work includes group trainings and facilitation at many different levels and she has recently begun incorporating the use of rhythm in these events. I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and service providers who work with individuals with autism spectrum disorders, to join us on February 22nd.

I'm pleased to report that an **updated list** of the items in the **chapter's lending library** and related items in the **Partners for Success library** has been prepared and posted to our web site. It is available at <http://www.aaccasa.org>. As a reminder, to request any of the items please contact **Partners for Success** at (410) 222-3805 or pfsaa@yahoo.com. They will provide information about the various ways that library materials can be obtained.

In closing, I am pleased to share that we have received a donation from Jack Ellis for \$500, in memory of **Pat Hayden**. Mrs. Hayden was the grandmother of **Hayden Benzinger**, a young man with autism who lives with his mother Zoe in Annapolis. We offer our condolences to Mrs. Hayden's family and thank Mr. Ellis for this generous contribution to the chapter in her memory.

New service provider

Dori Storin is a tutor and licensed daycare provider in Anne Arundel County. She is available to provide the following services for children with an autism spectrum disorder: one-on-one tutoring in the child's home, shadowing at the child's school, socializing the child in public, and full/part-time and hourly care in her licensed home for children ages 2 to 12. For further information, please contact Ms. Storin at (410) 729-0594 or Doristor11@aol.com



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.

Conference on emergency preparedness and response for individuals with disabilities

The **Maryland Department of Disabilities** is co-sponsoring free conferences on emergency preparedness and response for individuals with disabilities in Maryland. The conference will be held on **Thursday February 10th** in Montgomery County and on **Thursday April 28th** in Baltimore.

The conference will provide training and technical assistance on appropriate emergency preparedness and planning for individuals with disabilities. It is designed for people with disabilities, their families, service providers, advocacy organizations, government agencies, business leaders and emergency planning and response personnel. The conference will provide an opportunity to identify specific needs of individuals with sensory, cognitive, mobility and behavioral/mental health challenges, and offer an opportunity to share with the responder communities the expertise that individuals with disabilities possess related to their needs during an emergency.

For registration information, please go to <http://www.MDdisabilitypreparedness.org> or call (202) 338-7158, ext. 205. For further information, please contact **JoAnne Knapp**, MDOD's Director of Emergency Preparedness, at (410) 767-3647 or jknapp@mdod.state.md.us.

Presentation on executive functioning deficits

On **Monday February 14th** at 7:30 pm, **Individual Differences in Learning** will sponsor a presentation entitled "**Multisystemic training for students with deficits in executive functioning: A comprehensive approach involving teachers, parents, students, and their peers**". The presentation will be led by **Dr. Christine French** and will be held in the meeting room of the East Columbia Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way, in Columbia.

Students with executive functioning deficits often have difficulty with organization, time management, self-regulation, attention, working memory and planning. Dr. French is completing her postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital and is involved in designing multisystemic methods for intervening with students with executive function deficits. This multimodal training targets executive functioning skills (planning and initiation, organization, attention, self-monitoring, self-regulation, inhibition, and working memory) for intervention to facilitate the academic and personal success of the student.

The fee for this presentation is \$5. For further information, please contact **Trish Budd** at GiftedLDandADHD@aol.com



Bowl-a-thon "Fun-Raiser"

On **Sunday February 13th** from 1:00 – 4:00 pm, the **Arc of Anne Arundel County** will hold it's 2nd annual **Bowl-a-thon** at the Glen Burnie Lanes in Glen Burnie. Funds raised will benefit the Arc's Rainbow Fund, which supports families in need of respite and emergency discretionary funds.

Bowlers under age 21 are asked to raise at least \$20 in pledges, and adults are asked to raise at least \$50 in pledges. Lunch, shoes, and three games of bowling are included for all bowlers who raise the minimum pledge amount.

Participants are also sought to sponsor lanes for a donation of \$100. Sponsors will be acknowledged in the Arc's newsletter and annual awards banquet and sponsor signs will be posted at each sponsored lane.

For further information, or to obtain pledge forms, please contact **Michelle Huff** at (443) 557-0189.

Presentation on eating issues

On **Wednesday February 16th** at 6:45 pm the **Montgomery County Chapter of the Autism Society of America** will host a free presentation by **Linda Nolan**, OTR/L, about eating issues. The presentation will be held at the Montgomery Primary Achievement Center, 10611 Tenbrook Drive, in Silver Spring.

Ms. Nolan, co-founder of Kids Therapy Works and Over the Rainbow Camp, will address issues related to children who refuse to eat, are repulsed by food, have difficulty chewing or have selective diets. Her presentation will address the sensory and motor reasons for food avoidance, the difficulty in mechanics of eating, and interventions to improve tolerance for taste and textures, general relaxation techniques, and interventions to facilitate the structures involved in the mechanics of eating.

For further information, please contact **Montgomery County Chapter of ASA** at (301) 652-3912 or go to <http://www.autismmontgomerycounty.com/>.



Speaker series

The **Friendship School**, a non-public special education school in Eldersburg (Carroll County) is sponsoring a free speaker series. The events will be held at the school on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm**.

February 16th

Holly Nelson, pediatric occupational therapist
“**Fun and functional tips for handwriting success**”

March 16th

Gregory Rubin, psychotherapist
“**Working with children and their families**”

April 20th

Dr. Vince Culotta, neuropsychologist
“**Attention disorders and learning differences**”

May 18th

Dr. Teresa Ankney, head of Friendship School
“**A parent's journey in advocacy**”

For further information, please call **(410) 552-6880**.

Workshops about behavior issues

On **Wednesday February 16th** from **7:00 - 9:00 pm**, the **Parents Place of Maryland** will conduct a free workshop entitled “**Putting the positive in your child's IEP: Functional Behavioral Assessments and positive behavioral support**”. The workshop will be held at the Jewish Social Service Agency, 6123 Montrose Road, in Rockville, and is co-sponsored by the **Jewish Social Services Agency** and the **Arc of Montgomery County**. For further information or to register, please contact **Jamell White** at **(301) 990-6880, ext 321**.

On **Tuesday February 22nd** from **7:00 - 9:00 pm**, the **Parents Place of Maryland** and the **FAPE program** will conduct a free workshop entitled “**Preventative strategies for students with challenging behaviors**”. The workshop will be held at the Columbia Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, in Columbia. For further information or to register, please call the FAPE office at **(410) 465-1193**.

For further information about Parents Place of Maryland workshops, please call **(410) 768-9100** or go to <http://www.ppmmd.org>.

Presentations on adolescent transition issues

The **Kennedy Krieger Institute's Adolescent Transition Lecture Series** will include the following free presentations, which will be held on **Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 pm** in the Bowles Building Board Room at the Greenspring Campus:

February 16th “**Using public transportation and learning to drive**”

March 9th “**Consent training and decision making**”

April 13th “**Putting transition into the IEP**”

May 18th “**Sex and sexuality**”

June 15th “**Financial and estate planning**”

For further information, or to register, please contact the **Resource Network** at **(443) 923-2790**.

Special Olympics

The upcoming season for **Anne Arundel County Special Olympics** includes the following sports:

Swimming: Friday evenings, beginning **February 18th**. Beginning swimmers needing skills development and intermediate swimmers requiring one-on-one support will meet at 6:30 pm, and athletes capable of swimming multiple laps will jump in at 8:00 pm at the Arundel Olympic Swim Center on Riva Road in Annapolis. Practices continue weekly through June leading to participation in the State Tournament.

Duckpin bowling: Saturday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, beginning **March 5th**, at the Glen Burnie Bowling Center on Ritchie Highway in Glen Burnie. Practices continue weekly through June leading to participation in the State Tournament.

For further information, please call **(410) 923-0383** or go to <http://www.soaamd.org>.

New adult support group

Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D., is facilitating a new support group for **adults with Aspergers or High Functioning Autism**. The first meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday March 2nd** in the evening at Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Allegheny Avenue, in Towson.

For further information, or to indicate your interest in participating, please contact Peter at Pfgerhardt@aol.com.

Reminder from National ASA: Member addresses

Each year the National office of the **Autism Society of America** spends thousands of dollars re-mailing issues of the Advocate and other materials because members did not provide them with address changes. Please be sure to notify National of your address change.

The fastest and simplest way to do this is by going to <http://www.autismsociety.org/update>.



Television series about autism

NBC's **Today show** will run a 10-part series on autism beginning **Monday February 21st**, airing at **8:10** and **9:10 am**. The series will look at autism from a variety of angles, with segments exploring topics such as etiology, diagnosis, treatment, educational programs, affect on siblings, and how to be an advocate for your autistic child.

In conjunction with the Today show series, CNBC is airing a four-part series beginning **Tuesday February 22nd**. Segments will air at **12:30** and **1:30 pm** during CNBC's Power Lunch program. Titled "**Autism: Paying the price**", the series will focus on the financial implications of the disorder, with segments on the financial impact on families, the roles of government and private funding for research, the opportunities in healthcare and pharmaceuticals and autism in the workplace.

Both the NBC and CNBC series will feature interviews with leading members of the autism community, from researchers and physicians to activists, educators and parents.

IDEA public meetings

The **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)** is hosting a series of public meetings to seek input and suggestions for developing regulations based on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004. The public meeting in our area will be held on **Thursday February 24th** from **1:00 - 5:00 pm** and from **6:00 - 8:00 pm** at the Academy for Educational Development, Academy Hall, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., in Washington, D.C.

Individuals can register to comment at the door, on a first-come first-served basis. Registered individuals will have two to five minutes to comment, depending upon the number of individuals registered. The intent is to ensure that all who wish to provide public comment have the opportunity to do so. Individuals can provide oral and written comments at the meetings; written comments that accompany oral remarks are optional.

Written comments or suggestions can also be submitted electronically to comments@ed.gov or mailed to **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services**, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Potomac Center Plaza, Room 5126, Washington, D.C., 20202-2641 by **February 28th**.

To obtain a copy of the new law, please go to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) website at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html>, and follow the link to The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

For further information about the public meetings or public comments process, please call OSERS at **(202) 245-7468**.

Developmental Disabilities Day

On **Friday February 25th** from **8:30 – 10:30 am**, the **Arc of Maryland** and several other statewide disability organizations will host a legislative reception and briefing for the annual **Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature**. The event will be held at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis.

The event provides an opportunity for individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, service providers, and advocates to meet with legislators to discuss critical disability issues. Participants are encouraged to schedule meetings with their local legislators. There is also a scheduled Senate budget hearing on the Developmental Disabilities Administration for 1:00 pm on that date.

The fee for the event is \$18. For further information, or to obtain a registration form, please contact the **Arc of Maryland** at **(410) 571-9320** or go to <http://www.thearcmd.org>.

Walk FAR for NAAR

On **Saturday May 7th** at **2:00 pm** the **National Capital Area Walk FAR for NAAR** (National Alliance for Autism Research) will be held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. The **kick-off brunch** for this Walk will be held on **Saturday February 26th** from **9:30 – 11:30 am** at the Marriott Conference Center near the White Flint Mall in Bethesda. The brunch will feature Lisa Matthews speaking on "The Gift of Hope."

On **Sunday June 5th** at **2:00 pm** the **Baltimore Area Walk FAR for NAAR** will be held at Towson University. The **kick-off luncheon** for this Walk will be held on **Friday March 11th** from **11:30 am - 1:30 pm** at the Hayfields Club in Hunt Valley. The luncheon will feature Christine Bakter speaking on "Parents as Partners in Research."

To make a reservation for either kick-off event, please call the NAAR office at **(301) 519-0770**. For further information about these events, please go to <http://www.naar.org>.

Arc of Maryland Day on Capitol Hill

On **Wednesday March 2nd** the **Arc of Maryland** is holding a special event on Capitol Hill. Families, self-advocates, and members of the Arc of Maryland's Governmental Affairs Committee and staff will meet with the Maryland Congressional Delegation to discuss federal legislative issues of importance to persons with developmental disabilities. As part of this event, the Arc will schedule appointments for participants to meet with their Congressional members.

For further information, please contact **Gail Alexander** at the **Arc of Maryland** at **(410) 974-6139 x 21**.



Workshops on Maryland's New Directions waiver

TASH is sponsoring free training workshops for individuals with disabilities and their families and/or supporters who are interested in self-directing services and interested in learning more about the **New Directions Waiver** as a vehicle to accomplish that goal.

The New Directions Waiver will open for enrollment in July of 2005. The Waiver is a new initiative that will allow recipients to take control of and self-direct their service plan, their budget, and their support services.

The workshops will cover the following subjects:

- * Overview of the Maryland New Directions Waiver
- * Person-centered planning as the cornerstone of self-direction
- * Individualized budgeting, support brokers, and fiscal intermediaries
- * How to choose service provider under this waiver

The workshops will be offered as follows:

Saturday February 26th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Southern Region DDA office in Laurel

Saturday March 12th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Chesapeake Center in Easton

Saturday March 19th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Hampton Inn in Hagerstown

For further information, or to register for one of the workshops, please call **Edward** or **Dan** at (410) 828-8274 or (800) 482-8274 or go to <http://www.tash.org/mdnewdirections>.

Presentation on helping children

On **Wednesday March 2nd** (re-scheduled from January 19th) from 7:30 - 9:00 pm, the **Ivymount PTA** will sponsor a free presentation by **Gary Clark**, LCPC entitled "**Transforming difficult children**". The event will be held at the Ivymount School in Rockville.

Mr. Clark is a family therapist who uses The Nurtured Heart Approach. This approach gives parents and teachers a clear understanding of how a challenging child responds to normal ways of parenting and why traditional methods actually make the situation worse. It also provides a set of strategies designed to turn the challenging child around to a new pattern of success.

For further information or to register, please contact the **Ivymount School** at (301) 469-0223.

Focus groups on health care transition issues

The **Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs** is sponsoring focus groups on the topic of health care transition. The goal is to learn more about the unique challenges faced by young people with special health care needs and their parents.

The focus group sessions are designed to obtain input from youth ages 13 - 20 with different levels of medical, physical or emotional conditions or cognitive disabilities, and from the parents of these youths. Each participating family will receive a \$50 honorarium.

The focus group sessions are being held as follows:

Saturday February 26th at 2:00 pm
Baltimore/Harford County

Saturday March 5th at 2:00 pm
Baltimore City

Saturday March 12th at 2:00 pm
Montgomery/Prince Georges County

For further information, or to register to participate, please call the **Kellidge Group** at (866) 341-3462.

Summer camp fair

On **Saturday March 5th** from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, **Chesapeake Family magazine** will sponsor a **summer camp fair** at Annapolis High School, 2700 Riva Road, Annapolis. Representatives from overnight camps, day camps, and summer classes for kids ages 3-18 will be available to answer questions about their programs and services.

For further information, please call (410) 263-1641.



Camp, recreation and respite fair

On **Sunday March 6th** from 1:00 - 4:00 pm, the **Arc of Baltimore** and **Baltimore's Child** will sponsor a **camp, recreation and respite fair**. The event will be held at Ridge Ruxton School, 6916 N. Charles Street, in Baltimore.

Representatives from local and out-of-state day and sleep-over camps, vacation programs and respite care opportunities will be available to answer questions about their programs and services.

For further information, please contact **Diana Mattingly** at (410) 296-2272 ext 5337.



Joe Cannon 5K Run and Fun Walk

On **Saturday March 19th** the **Joe Cannon 5K Run and Fun Walk** will be held at Joe Cannon Stadium, located at Harmans Park in Hanover. Registration begins at **8:00 am** and closes at 8:45 am, and the race starts at **9:00 am**. The event benefits three causes: **Recreation Deeds for Special Needs Scholarship Fund**, the **North Arundel Hospital Oncology Center** and **Friends of Joe Cannon**.

Participants can choose from a 3.1-mile running course or a 1-mile or 2-mile walk course. Race awards will be given by age categories and awards will be given to the individual and group with the highest amount collected and turned in on Race Day.

The event will also include a Quarter Carnival from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, hosted by Recreation Deeds for Special Needs. Bring your quarters for fun and a good cause. Their goal is to raise enough money from this event to send 20 children and youth with special needs to summer camps and to assist with scholarships to other recreation opportunities offered through the Department of Recreation and Parks.

The registration fee is \$20 and \$5 each for three additional participants in a family or group; participants are encouraged to collect sponsors and raise additional funds.

For further information please go to <http://www.aacounty.org/recparcs/joecannonrun.cfm> or call **Wendy Scarborough** at (410) 222-7311 ext. 3554.

Take a Break program

The **Coordinating Center** has announced that the **Take a Break program for respite care in Anne Arundel County** has been funded again this year. This program is funded by a grant from the **Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**, and is designed to give families a short break from the daily care that they provide to their children with special health care needs.

Interested participants must apply as soon as possible. Funding is limited and applications are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Eligible participants are parents of a child with a special health care need who is 18 years of age or younger and is a resident of Anne Arundel County. The request for funding can be for a one-time-only respite care event or for one summer or enrichment camp session, and cannot exceed \$500.

To obtain an application form, please call **Juli Lausch** or **Laurie Barrow** at the **Coordinating Center** at (410) 987-1048 or send an e-mail to jlausch@coordinatingcenter.org. Be sure to provide your mailing address, so that an application can be mailed to you, as they are not available in electronic format.

Workshop on peer relations and play

On **Wednesday April 20th** from **9:00 am – 4:30 pm**, the **Howard County Chapter of ASA** and the **Autism Asperger Publishing Company** will sponsor a workshop entitled **“Enhancing peer relations and play in children on the autism spectrum: Integrated play group models”**. The workshop will be led by **Dr. Pamela Wolfberg** and held at the Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane, in Clarksville.

The workshop is for practitioners, parents, caregivers, and service providers of children with autism spectrum disorders who are preschool through elementary-school age. The workshop will include information about the Integrated Play Groups model, and methods for guiding children’s peer socialization, communication, play, and imagination. It will also include information on designing supportive play environments.

Dr. Wolfberg is an assistant professor of special education at San Francisco State University and is co-founder of the Autism Institute of Peer Relations and Play. She is the creator of the Integrated Play Groups model, and the author of “Play and imagination in children with autism” and “Peer play and the autism spectrum: The art of guiding children’s socialization and imagination”.

The registration fee for the conference is \$125 for professionals, \$90 for parents or students, and \$60 for individuals with an autism spectrum disorder. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.asperger.net> or call (913) 897-2632. Registration materials are also available at <http://www.howard-autism.org>.

Town Hall Meeting

On **Thursday April 21st** from **7:30 – 9:00 pm**, the **Family Outreach Network of Anne Arundel Community College** will host a free town hall meeting entitled **“My child needs counseling: Navigating the mental health maze”**. The meeting will be led by a panel of childhood mental health professionals and will be held at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, in Room 219 of the Cade Building.

The meeting is designed to answer questions about accessing emotional support and counseling for children and finding the right counselor or therapist for a child. Topics to be discussed will include play therapy, who is best suited to evaluate a child’s psychological needs, how long counseling takes, what type of professional is qualified to counsel children, and the use of medication in relation to counseling.

For further information, please call (410) 777-2159 or go to <http://www.aacc.edu/familynet>.



New Ebay auction service

Penny Parker Reisler, one of our chapter members, recently started an Ebay auction service called “**Annie’s Auctions 4 Autism**”, which is named after her 7-year-old daughter.

Ms. Reisler is an Ebay Traders Assistant, and the service is designed to help people sell their items on Ebay. A key feature of this service is that an optional 10% of each sale will be donated to the charity of the seller’s choosing, with a preference for donating to autism charities in general and donating to our chapter in particular.

For further information about this service, please contact **Ms. Reisler** by phone at **(410) 787-0886** or **(443) 904-4969** before 7:00 pm or by e-mail at pparker1221@msn.com

New social skills group

Carolyn Huff of **Empowerment Solutions** in Severna Park is forming **social skills groups for adolescents** with Aspergers Syndrome, attention deficit disorder, social anxiety, and social-communication problems. The groups will focus on a variety of skills, including the following:

- * Body language skills such as eye contact, posture, and facial expressions
- * Voice quality skills such as tone, volume, pitch, rate, and clarity
- * Conversational skills such as greetings and introductions and initiating and holding conversations
- * Assertiveness and dealing with teasing and bullying
- * Cooperative skills, friendship management, self-regulation, empathy, and conflict management

The groups will meet once a week for 1 ½ hours, most likely on an evening from 5:00 - 6:30 pm or 7:00 - 8:30 pm Monday through Thursday. The sessions will continue for a least one year and possibly longer; at least 70 skill sessions have been planned. Each group will consist of 5 – 6 individuals to allow for adequate individual attention. Every eight weeks Ms. Huff will meet with the parents as a group to review and process what their adolescents are doing and how they’re doing. The charge for each weekly session will be \$50, which in most cases can be covered in part by health insurance.

For further information, please contact **Ms. Huff** at **(410) 647-6745** or carolynwhuff@comcast.net. Ms. Huff will be sharing information about these new groups at the **February 16th** meeting of the **Anne Arundel County Asperger Support Group** [Go to <http://www.aacaps.org> or call **(410) 544-6661.**]

Peer trainers sought for New Directions waiver

TASH is seeking individuals with disabilities who are self-advocates, as well as parent advocates, to **train and mentor participants on the New Directions waiver**. Their primary role will be to assist individuals in their local area to self-direct services under this new Medicaid waiver program.

Responsibilities include the following:

- * Co-facilitating trainings in their local area
- * Conducting follow-ups to insure that individual plans are carried out
- * Attending regional team meetings with TASH staff and other stakeholders
- * Coordinating with regional DDA office to identify and recruit individuals enrolling in the waiver
- * Coordinating with Regional DDA office for resources and materials related to upcoming events and trainings
- * Serving as a resource to individuals and families by providing ongoing support to participants
- * Keeping track of project activities and expenses related to the project

The position is expected to involve 10 - 15 hours per month of work on project activities. Schedules and activities will be coordinated with the project co-directors. A monthly stipend will be paid for project activities. For more information or to apply, please contact **Edward Willard** at **(410) 828-8274 x 109** or ewillard@tash.org.

Participants sought for study

Alison Weissman with the **University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities** is conducting a study about the **psychosocial health of siblings of children with an autism spectrum disorder**. The study investigates which factors of the siblings’ relationship and family situations relate to better psychological health.

To participate, one parent will complete written questionnaires about the child with an autism spectrum disorder and about the family. The parent must be a member of an autism support group or listserv. In addition, one sibling will be asked to talk about their brother or sister with an autism spectrum disorder during a telephone interview.

For further information, please contact **Ms. Weissman** at aweissma@nursing.upenn.edu.

Tax benefit information

Schwab Learning has developed a web page of information about tax benefits for parents of children with disabilities. It is at <http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=969>.



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**. They are available for \$5 at our meetings and \$6 by mail; order forms are available on 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.

**Anne Arundel County Chapter
 Autism Society of America
 P.O. Box 1304, Millersville, MD 21108
 (410) 923-8800 <http://www.aaccasa.org>**

Linda Carter-Ferrier, President (410) 551-0655
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.