



THE VOICE
 Anne Arundel County Chapter
 of the
 Autism Society of America
 February 2006 Volume 10, 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.

Thanks to everyone who attended our January meeting, which included a discussion about **using video modeling to teach social skills to children with autism spectrum disorders**. The discussion was led by **Sue Klein** of "**Model Me Kids**". For further information about this topic, please contact Ms. Klein at **(888) 232-7715** or info@modelmekids.com.

Also in attendance at our January meeting was **Laura Seebeck**, who coordinated the initiative to have our chapter designated as the beneficiary of the proceeds from the sale of the **Big Vanilla Personal Fitness Trainers 2006 calendar**. As mentioned in our December newsletter, the calendar features the trainers from the Big Vanilla Athletic Club as well as information about autism spectrum disorders and our organization. I am pleased to report that Laura presented us with a contribution of \$465 from the sale of the calendar. I offer our chapter's sincere thanks to Laura for her central role in this project and for this generous contribution.

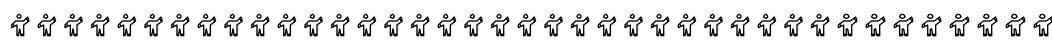
At our January meeting I also shared information about our upcoming **Basket Bingo** event, which will be held on **Saturday May 6th at 12:30 pm** at the **Glen Burnie Moose Lodge** on Crain Highway. To make this event an outstanding success, I ask that you please help spread the word by distributing flyers and by helping us obtain donations of cash, gift certificates, and/or merchandise for the event. Please see the **flyer** and **donation letter** accompanying this newsletter for all of the details.

Our February meeting will include a discussion about **effectively dealing with extended family members**. The discussion will be led by **Lou Aymard, Ph.D.** He is the founding director of the Family Outreach Network and a professor of psychology at Anne Arundel Community College. Dr. Aymard has more than 30 years of teaching and clinical experience working with children and families. I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and service providers, to join us on February 28th.

Phone line:
(410) 923-8800

Web site:
www.aaccasa.org

Next Meeting:
Tuesday,
February 28th
7:00 pm



Summer camp fairs

Chesapeake Family Magazine and **The Mills** are hosting three camp fairs. There will be representatives to share information about overnight camps, day camps, and summer classes for children ages 3 – 18, including programs for individuals with disabilities.

They will be held as follows:

Saturday February 11th from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
 Marley Station mall

Saturday February 18th from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
 Arundel Mills mall

Saturday February 25th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
 Annapolis Senior High School



AA-SECAC meeting

On **Thursday February 9th** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC)** will hold their monthly meeting at the Board of Education Building on Riva Road in Annapolis.

The goal of SECAC is to develop partnerships and facilitate discussion between parents and families, community leaders and organizations, educators and administrators to enhance services and opportunities available to students with disabilities and/or special needs, and to advocate for positive changes in special education within Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

For further information, please contact AA-SECAC at **(410) 224-3122** or AASECAC@fastmail.fm.

Challenger Little League

Registration is being held for the upcoming season of **Challenger Little League** for athletes with disabilities. It will be held at Marley Middle School on **Saturday February 11th, 18th, and 25th** from **9:00 am – 1:00 pm**, and **Wednesday February 15th and 22nd** from **6:00 – 8:00 pm**. The registration fee is \$50 per family. For further information, please contact **Dave Miller** at **(410) 766-4259**.

Celebrating Friends

Celebrating Friends provides social opportunities for young adults (age 16 and older) with cognitive disabilities who are living at home. The upcoming schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday February 12th from 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Just a Thought valentine cards

The cost is \$30, which includes transportation, supplies and snacks.

Wednesday February 22nd from 5:00 – 8:30 pm

Game night - charades, trivia, cards, and other games.

The cost is \$30, which includes transportation and a light dinner.

Saturday February 25th from 1:45 – 6:30 pm

Men's Navy basketball game vs. Colgate

The cost is \$35, which includes transportation and tickets to the game.

Tuesday February 28th from 5:00 – 9:00 pm

Japanese steakhouse

The cost is \$55, which includes transportation and the meal at Sakura in Annapolis.

To register for an event, please contact **Ouida and Melanie Fluck** at **(301) 912-3220** or CFRegs@gmail.com.

Presentations on sexuality

The **Kennedy Krieger Institute's Adolescent Transition Lecture Series** will sponsor two free presentations focused on sexuality. They will be held at the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Greenspring Campus in the Bowles Board Room on **Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8.30 pm**, and will be led by Patricia Shepley, LCSW-C, Manager of the Social Work Mental Health Program at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. The dates/topics are as follows:

February 15th

"Sexuality: What parents and caregivers of individuals with disabilities need to know"

March 22nd

"Sexuality: What individuals with disabilities want to know"

For further information or to make a reservation to attend either presentation, please contact **Jenny Jones** at **(443) 923-2790** or **(800) 390-3372** or resourcenetwork@kennedykrieger.org.

Asperger support group meeting

On **Wednesday February 15th** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel County Asperger Support Group** will host their monthly meeting at St. Martin's in the Field Church on Benfield Boulevard in Severna Park.

The meeting will feature a presentation by **Nancy D'Imerpio, LCSW-C**, who is developing a social skills group for children ages 8-12 to be held in Severna Park. She is a psychotherapist with over 15 years of clinical experience working with children, families and groups on a variety of issues, including Aspergers Syndrome, ADHD, school problems, and parenting. She has developed a successful social skills program for children ages 8-11 that she has facilitated to assist both diagnosed and non-diagnosed children. Most recently she has developed a program for assisting middle school students with applying social skills.

For further information, please contact **Sue Hayward** at **(410) 544-6661** or go to <http://www.aacaps.org>.

Workshop on behavior management

On **Friday February 17th** from **5:30 - 8:00 pm**, the **Parents' Place of Maryland** and the **Learning Disabilities Association of St. Mary's County** will sponsor a free presentation entitled **"Behavior management at home"**. It will be held at the St. Mary's County Public Library on New Market Road in Charlotte Hall, and led by Gloria Lane, PhD. Participants will learn about a variety of positive strategies to help the children in their lives develop positive behaviors. For further information or to register, please call **Missy Alexander** at **(301) 884-4662**.



Parents-Supporting-Parents Forum

On **Wednesday February 15th** from **10:00 am – 2:00 pm**, a **Parents-Supporting-Parents Forum** will be held at the Maryland School for the Deaf on Old Montgomery Road in Columbia. The event is sponsored by the **Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services**; the **Parents' Place of Maryland**; and the **Abilities Network**. It will share Parents-Supporting-Parents activities throughout the state, and discuss a variety of models for providing parent support. For further information or to register, please contact **Pam Miller**, Family Support Services Coordinator, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services, Maryland State Department of Education, at **(410) 767-1019** or pmiller@msde.state.md.us.

Special Olympics

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

Aquatics: Friday evenings, beginning February 17th, at Annapolis Swim Center on Riva Road. One-on-one swimmers practice from 6:00 - 7:00 pm, munchkins practice from 7:00 - 8:00 pm, and lap swimmers practice from 8:00 - 9:00 pm.

Duckpin bowling: Saturday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, beginning March 4th, at Severna Park Bowling Lanes on Ritchie Highway.

For further information, please contact **Gregg Meade** at **(410) 923-0383** or wmeade@worldnet.att.net. Additional information is also available at <http://www.soaamd.org>.

Support group for college students with Aspergers Syndrome

On **Tuesday February 21st** at **7:00 pm**, the **Aspergers Syndrome Support Group** will meet at Goucher College (in the Soper Room of the Julia Rogers Library). The group is designed to provide support for college students with Aspergers Syndrome. It will help these students meet others like themselves who live in their local area, help them learn new strategies to connect with their community, and help them find answers to difficult issues. For further information, please contact **Gretchen Marcus** at gmarcus@goucher.edu or **Schoen Oakes** at soakes@towson.edu.

Publication about gluten-free diets

Carol's Culinary Cues is a free monthly on-line publication which focuses on gluten-free products and recipes. For further information, please go to <http://www.CarolFenster.com>.

Legislative reception and briefing

On **Thursday February 23rd** from **8:30 – 10:30 am**, the **Arc of Maryland** will host a **Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature** at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. The purpose is for citizens with developmental disabilities, families, providers, and advocates to learn information about issues being presented in the current legislative session, and to provide an opportunity to meet with legislators. The registration fee is \$18. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call the **Arc of Maryland** at **(888) 272-3449** or go to <http://www.thearcmd.org>.

Participants sought for Maryland Youth Leadership Forum

High school students entering their junior and senior years can apply for this year's Maryland Youth Leadership Forum, which will be held from **July 18 - 21** at **Bowie State University**. The event provides an opportunity for young people with disabilities to experience an intensive forum emphasizing leadership, independence, and personal and career goal setting.

Students are selected to attend the Forum based on: the applicant's accomplishments and leadership potential (academic achievement, community service and participation in school and community activities); disability diversity; ethnic and racial diversity; and geographic representation. Applications are available at <http://www.md-ylf.org> or by calling **Independence Now** at **(301) 277-2839**. The deadline for applications is **February 28th**.

Seminar on assistive technology in the transition process

On **Thursday March 2nd** from **9:00 am - 4:00 pm**, the **Maryland Technology Assistance Program, Maryland Assistive Technology Co-op**, and **Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services** are sponsoring a seminar about the role of assistive technology in the transition process. It will be held at the Workforce and Technology Center on Argonne Drive in Baltimore.

The seminar will focus on students with disabilities who need assistive technology to finish high school and to make a successful transition to work or college. Participants will recommend strategies for inter-agency cooperation and systemic changes to make assistive technology more available, affordable and usable for students as they enter the adult world. The registration fee is \$39 for professionals, and \$19 for individuals with disabilities and family members. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **MD TAP** at **(800) 832-4827** or jvollmer@mdod.state.md.us.



Workshop on difficult behaviors

On **Saturday March 4th** from **9:00 am - 12:15 pm**, Anne Arundel Community College's **Family Outreach Network** and Psychology Department will host a workshop entitled "**Managing the oppositional and defiant child**". It will be led by Dr. S. Peter Resta and held in Cade Building Room 219. The workshop will focus on practical strategies for dealing with the oppositional and defiant child, what makes a child oppositional, and what relevant interventions can be used to enhance compliance. It will also focus on family circumstances that exacerbate oppositional tendencies and dealing with siblings and other family members who are affected by the situation. The cost of the workshop is \$40. For further information, or to register, please call **(410) 777-2325** (Course CFS 563, section 201).

Presentation on language and communication

On **Wednesday March 8th** at **7:00 pm**, the **Norbel School** will host a presentation entitled "**Language in the real world**". It will be led by Linda Spencer, Ph.D. and held at the school, located on Old Washington Road in Elkridge. The presentation will focus on the effects of social context, play, and cognitive development on communication. For further information or to register, please contact krenzi@norbelschool.org or call **(410) 796-6700**. Information is also available at <http://www.norbelschool.org>.

Book Friends meeting

On **Thursday March 9th** from **6:30 - 8:00 pm**, the book club for individuals with disabilities will hold their meeting at the public library located on McKinsey Road in Severna Park. The book club is for persons with disabilities who are 18 years of age and older and are generally independent in their self-care. For further information and to reserve a seat, please call **Chrysal Irving** at Service Coordination at **(410) 923-5751**.

Pathfinders for Autism's new website

Pathfinders for Autism has a completely renovated website (<http://www.pathfindersforautism.org>) with a wealth of resources in an easy-to-use format. It contains an integrated search function that will direct you to informative articles, workshops and conferences, and resources in communities throughout Maryland. In addition to health care, camps, recreation, and other services, the new database features autism waiver providers, home program consultants, products, and more. Users can now look for providers within a specified radius of their zip code. Pathfinders for Autism continues to provide free information and referral. Call **(866) 806-8400** to speak with an experienced staff person or email info@pathfindersforautism.org for a personal response to your concerns.

Kick-off brunch for Walk for Autism Research

Walk F.A.R. for NAAR is the signature fundraising event of the National Alliance for Autism Research. The Walk is a family fun day to raise awareness and funds to support autism research. It includes free food, entertainment, kids' activities, autism information exchange tent, and a stroller-friendly two-mile walk route.

On **Saturday March 11th** from **9:30 - 11:30 am**, a **kick-off brunch** for the **National Capital Area Walk** will be held at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center. The Walk will be held on **Sunday May 7th** at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. For more information or to register, please go to <http://www.autismwalk.org/wdc>.

On **Saturday March 18th** from **9:30 - 11:30 am**, a **kick-off brunch** for the **Baltimore Walk** will be held at the Hayfields Country Club in Hunt Valley. The Walk will be held on **Sunday June 4th** at Burdick Field of Towson University. For more information or to register, please go to <http://www.autismwalk.org/baltimore>.

Conference on transitioning youth and adults

On **Saturday March 11th** from **9:00 am - 4:00 pm**, the **Howard County Chapter of ASA** will host a conference entitled "**Coming of age: Designing supports with transitioning youth and adults with autism**". The conference will be held at Howard County Community College. It will highlight best practices in services and supports for adults with autism, and will provide information and tools about developing services with adults with autism and related disabilities. The conference will feature the following speakers:

Stephen Hinkle is a young man with autism who discusses issues related to education, transition, self-advocacy, and self-determination.

Tec Chapman has extensive experience in the areas of person-centered planning, positive behavior supports, assistive technology, autism, transition, employment, self-determination, Social Security & Social Security Work Incentives, and public policy development.

Jeff Strully is the Executive Director of Jay Nolan Community Services, an agency supporting people with autism spectrum disorder and other challenging behaviors in Los Angeles and the surrounding counties to live, work, play and learn in the community.

The registration fee is \$35. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please go to http://www.howard-autism.org/pn/pages/adult_services_march06.pdf or call **(410)-760-5595**.



Position Announcement

The **Howard County Chapter of the ASA** is seeking a part-time **Project Coordinator** to work with it and its partners, the national office of the Autism Society of America and the Law Enforcement Awareness Network of the United States, to develop and pilot a model, replicable Victims with Autism Assistance, Education, and Training Program. The project will:

- * Create, pilot, and evaluate a model curriculum for victim assistance agencies.
- * Create a guide for ASA chapters on working with their local victim assistance agencies and enhancing community-based victim assistance services.
- * Develop fact sheets and brochures for the autism community and victim assistance agencies.
- * Disseminate the curriculum, materials, and resources throughout the country through the ASA's network of over 200 chapters, its website and database, and through partnerships.

The coordinator must be current in their knowledge of ongoing promising practices in autism and related disorders. The coordinator will be responsible for a wide range of activities, including developing written materials on autism for crime victim serving professionals, individuals with autism, families, and chapters of the Autism Society of America; coordinating conference calls, meetings, and training events; researching services and supports for individuals with autism who have been the victim of a crime; and developing relationships with local and state crime victim serving organizations. Applicants must have excellent verbal and written communication skills, as well as basic research and computer skills, and must be able to work independently. The start date is negotiable. The coordinator will be expected to work 16 hours per week from their home.

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, writing sample and references. Individuals with disabilities and family members are encouraged to apply. The salary is \$15/hour. This is an 18-month grant-funded, contract position with no benefits. Continued employment is dependent on future funding. Please send application materials to **Catriona Johnson**, 7231 Cadence Court, Columbia, MD 21046 or e-mail catriona@comcast.net.

New toolkit for organizing records

The **Parents' Place of Maryland** has developed a "**Parent Toolkit**" to help organize educational and health records for children with disabilities or special health care needs. The toolkit contains tabbed dividers to insert in a notebook so that the records are portable and easily available. The toolkit also include tips and information for being your child's best advocate. To obtain the toolkit, please send \$7.50 to Parents' Place, 801 Cromwell Park Drive, Suite 103, Glen Burnie, MD 21061. Further information is available by calling **(410) 768-9100**.

News from National ASA: The Generations Club

The **Autism Society of America (ASA)** has launched a new membership initiative, **The Generations Club**, to address the special interests of grandparents of individuals with autism and parents of adults with autism. Generations Club members will receive all of the standard ASA membership benefits, as well as the following:

- * A 5% discount on all ASA merchandise.
- * Online networking through a members-only community to share stories and advice and chat 24/7. It will also periodically offer an "Ask the Expert" chat with professionals in the autism community.
- * A new "Generations Club Corner" section in the Advocate to allow members to share stories, tips, and other autism-related information.
- * A registration discount at the National Conference, as well as access to a hospitality suite for networking, discounts to conference events, and the opportunity to participate in a "Grandparents Only" session.
- * A free gift book by Kathy Labosh on topics for grandparents and parents of adults with autism, including helpful hints and resources covering the lifespan.
- * An invitation to participate in a Grandparents Day on the Hill to bring together members of Congress on the Autism Caucus and Generation Club members for a discussion on issues of importance to them.

The special introductory membership fee is \$75 through March; in April the membership fee will increase to \$100. Introductory members will also receive a specially-designed tote bag proudly displaying the new Generations Club logo. For further information, please go to <http://www.autism-society.org/generations>.

Book on managing Special Needs Trusts

"**The Special Needs Trust Administration Manual: A Guide for Trustees**" is a reference guide for individuals who are administering, or considering administering, a Special Needs Trust for a person with disabilities. It explains the rules that govern Special Needs Trusts and how those rules relate to the many government benefit programs that assist people with disabilities. It explains how a trustee can use trust funds to meet the medical, recreation, and transportation needs of a person with disabilities without risking the benefits of government programs. For further information, please go to http://www.disabilitiesbooks.com/special_needs_trust/index.html



Happy Valentines Day



Participants sought for study on employment issues

The **National Council on Disability (NCD)** is conducting a study that will gather information from a wide range of sources and stakeholders regarding the issues that persons with disabilities encounter in seeking and maintaining employment. Rutgers University Program for Disability Research is facilitating this discussion for NCD via an online bulletin board. The online discussion will focus on policy and program recommendations for employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Participants can choose whether they want to read information, respond to issues, or raise issues on this online discussion. For further information, please go to <http://www.ncdadaemploymentstudy.com> or contact **James Schmeling** at (319) 335-8458 or **Mark Quigley** at (202) 272-2008.

New positive modeling strategies materials

A company called “**Special Kids**” has created **Step-By-Step Behavior Models** to help children with developmental and learning disabilities acquire positive social, self-help and/or behavioral skills through visual media that model desired actions and attitudes, provide cues or prompts, and specify the sequence of events necessary to accomplish the task. The Behavior Models are presented in numbered, worded, illustrated sequence of actions from start to finish. Through visual (pointing) or verbal (spoken number or action) prompts from others, the children learn to associate the illustrated actions in their proper sequence. Gradual removal of prompts enables the children to ultimately accomplish the task independently. For further information, please call (800) **KIDS-153** or go to http://www.special-kids.com/skill_modeling.cfm

New resource on ADA provision

The **U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** has issued a new question-and-answer-style document about a little-known but significant provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that protects applicants and employees from discrimination based on their association with people with disabilities. The "association" provision of the ADA prohibits an employer from discriminating against an applicant or employee who has a known association with an individual with a disability. This prohibition covers hiring, firing, and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment. For example, an employer may not refuse to hire someone because of an unfounded fear that the individual will be excessively absent or unproductive because of the need to care for a child with a disability. The document, entitled "**Questions and answers about the association provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act**", is available at http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/association_ada.html.

New disability awareness web page

MTV has launched a web page to provide education about disability and discrimination. It is called "**Everything you've always wanted to know (but been afraid to ask) about interacting with people with disabilities**" and is available at <http://www.mtv.com/thinkmtv/features/discrimination/murderball/index3.jhtml>.

Person-centered planning resources

Person-centered planning is a process-oriented approach that focuses on the individual and their needs by putting them in charge of defining the direction for their lives. For individuals interested in learning more about this approach, Jamie Robinson, LHPDC, has put together the following resources:

Cornell University -

The person-centered planning education site

<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/ped/tsal/pcp/index.html>

Virginia Commonwealth University person-centered planning self-study course

www.vcu.edu/rtrcweb/techlink/courses/course3/opening.html

Institute for Community Inclusion: More than just a job: Person-centered career planning

<http://www.communityinclusion.org/publications/pub.php?page=ib16>

Building authentic visions: How to support the focus person in person-centered planning

<http://www.communityinclusion.org/publications/text/rp15text.html>

National Center on Workforce & Disability/Adult

Starting with me: A guide to person-centered planning for job seekers

http://www.onestops.info/article.php?article_id=189%82%22cat_id=4

PACER Center Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights

<http://www.pacer.org/tatra/personal.htm>

New respite care kit

Caring Communities is offering a respite care program kit which includes the curriculum to train teens and adults to care for children with disabilities and to manage a respite referral network. For further information, please go to <http://www.caringcommunities.org/caringkit>.



Gluten-free and Casein-free recipes from Doris Smith

Here are 2 flour mixes that behave like wheat flour. These were circulated on the GFCFKids@yahoogroups and are slightly different from the mix that Betty Hagman "The Gluten Free Gourmet" uses. Place the mixes in clearly marked containers. Keep refrigerated if brown rice flour is used. Note that one mix contains xanthan gum. Don't feel limited by the flours listed. Try switching them out with other flours such as arrowroot, amaranth, quinoa, sweet rice flour, mesquite flour and others that can be found on the market.

Flour Mix #1

4 cups brown rice flour
4 cups white rice flour
4 cups tapioca flour
2 cups potato starch
1/2 cup soy flour
1/2 cup garbanzo bean flour
3/4 cup cornmeal
1 box cornstarch

Flour Mix #2

1 cup brown rice flour
1-1/4 cups white rice flour
1/4 cup potato starch flour
2/3 cup tapioca starch flour
3/4 cup sweet rice flour
1/3 cup cornstarch
2 tsp xanthan or guar gum

This is one of my son Jacob's favorite recipes:

Banana Cake

1/2 cup casein-free margarine, softened
1-1/2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 cup casein-free sour cream or yogurt
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups gluten-free flour mix
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon xanthan gum
2 medium bananas, mashed

Cream the margarine and sugar. Add the eggs, sour cream/yogurt, and vanilla. Combine this with the flour mix, baking soda, and xanthan gum. Stir in the bananas. Spread the mix in a greased 15x10 baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Cool, and then frost or glaze.

This is one of my favorite breakfast recipes:

Stove Top Breakfast Rice Pudding (serves 2)

1/2 cup raw basmati rice
1 cup of clear juice (apple or white grape) or casein-free milk
1/4 cup chopped apples, raisins or dates
1/2 cup casein-free yogurt or tofu
1/8 teaspoon vanilla
1/4 cup maple syrup
1 tablespoon mild-tasting oil, like corn
1/4 cup chopped nuts (if tolerated)
1/4 cup of dried fruit like apricots can also be added. I've also added a mashed banana.

(continued on next column)

Wash the rice with cold water. Place the rice, juice/casein-free milk, fruit, and vanilla in a frying pan. Bring this to a boil, then reduce the heat and cover and simmer on low for 10 minutes. Remove it from the heat, stir and set it aside for 10 minutes. Put the yogurt/tofu, syrup and oil in a blender, and process until smooth. Pour this over the rice mixture and toss it lightly. If needed, add a bit of hot water for a creamier consistency. Sprinkle with nuts.

New bullying prevention website

PACER (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights) has created a **Kids Against Bullying** website (<http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org>) for children in second through sixth grades to help them learn how to respond to bullying. It includes animated characters, celebrity videos, kid videos, Webisodes, games, contests, stories, artwork, poems, and more. Children with disabilities are integrated throughout the website.

New autism website

The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** has developed an **Autism Research Network website** (<http://www.autismresearchnetwork.org>) to provide a single source of information about the two major research networks that it supports in understanding and treating autism: **The Collaborative Programs of Excellence in Autism Network** and the **Studies to Advance Autism Research and Treatment Network**.

Social Security benefit eligibility information

The **Social Security Administration** has an easy-to-use web-based tool that can be used to determine if an individual might be eligible for benefits from any of the programs they administer, including SSI and SSDI. For further information, please go to <http://www.ssa.gov/best>.

New resource on autism in Spanish

"**Los Trastornos del Espectro de Autismo de la A a la Z**" is a new comprehensive book that explains the essential information parents and professionals need to understand and help a child with autism. It is available at <http://www.asdatoz.com>.

New brochure on NCLB

The **U.S. Department of Education** has developed a new free brochure entitled "**No Child Left Behind: What parents need to know**". It summarizes the principles of the 2002 law and defines key terms. It is available at <http://www.ed.gov> or by calling (877) 4ED-PUBS (Identification number EAT0264P).



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**, as well as autism puzzle piece **bracelets/wristbands**. They are available for \$5 at our meetings and \$6 by mail; order forms are available at <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

We are participating in the Affiliate Programs of **Future Horizons** and of the **Autism Asperger Publishing Company (AAPC)**. Through these programs, when you follow the link at <http://www.aaccasa.org> to their web sites and purchase their products, our chapter will receive a portion of the purchase price. By making your Future Horizons and AAPC 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 partnersforsuccess@aacps.org. 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

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