



THE VOICE
 Anne Arundel County Chapter
 of the
 Autism Society of America
 July 2005 Volume 9, Issue 12

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.

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. We usually take a summer break and don't have a July edition of the newsletter, but there are upcoming events, as well as new resource information, that I want to make sure to share with everyone. Please remember that our chapter meetings are on summer break, and we will meet again on August 30th.

Speaking of summer events, my thanks to the wonderful group of people who attended our **beach party** on June 25th. All of the families who attended had a very enjoyable time – the weather, the food, and the setting were all ideal! Special thanks to **Jacquelynne Shade** for her role in organizing this event.

I also want to offer my thanks to **Doug Shade** for handling one of our chapter's key projects: the **purchase of books for our county's public library system**. We have allocated \$500 for this project, and a list of the books we have purchased is provided below; several copies of each book are being purchased, so that they can be distributed throughout the library system. A bookplate will be placed in each book,

noting that it is a donation from our chapter. Thanks also to **Susan Schmidt**, Head of Materials Management with Anne Arundel County Public Library, for her help on this project.

- * Andy and his yellow frisbee
- * Ian's walk
- * Buster and the Amazing Daisy: Adventures with Asperger Syndrome
- * Siblings of children with autism: A guide for families
- * Views from our shoes: Growing up with a brother or sister with special needs
- * Asperger's Syndrome: A guide for parents and professionals
- * You're going to love this kid!: Teaching students with autism in the inclusive classroom
- * The out-of-sync child has fun
- * Targeting autism
- * What we know, don't know, and can do to help young children with autism and related disorders
- * Thinking in pictures

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

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

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:

Friday July 15th from 6:00 - 10:00 pm - Friday Night Flick
 The cost of this event is \$25. The group (up to 8 people) will go to Kinder Park Farm to enjoy carnival games, contests, giveaways, safety demonstrations and entertainment. The movie "Shark Tale" will be shown at dusk under the stars. Bring spending money for food and games.

Sunday July 24th – Cookout
 The cost of this event is \$28. Come chill and hang out with friends (up to 8 people), enjoy each other's company while eating delectables from the grill, playing games, and having smores!

For further information about the events, please contact **Kerrie Mansfield** at (410) 923-2882 or Kerrie.Mansfield@comcast.net.



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.

New support and training group

Pathways to Parent Support & Training (PPST) is a new parent training and support group in Carroll County for parents and caregivers of children with speech and language delays/disorders. Each group meeting will include a meet and greet, a guest lecture on various topics and a time for questions and answers. Trained professionals and other parents/caregivers will be available to provide support and guidance.

PPST will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the Speech Pathways office located at 532 Baltimore Boulevard, Suite 403, in Westminster.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday July 15th**. The guest speakers will be Speech Pathways Staff Speech-Language Pathologists discussing **"Facilitating and maintaining friendships for your special needs child"**.

To reserve a seat, please contact **Speech Pathways** at **(410) 374-0555** or speechpathways@direcway.com; be sure to include your name and phone number.

Upcoming meetings are as follows:

On **August 19th** the topic is **"How to get your child talking"**. Jennifer Kaley, SLP will discuss how to facilitate language skills in your child based on her training as a Certified Hanen Therapist and the "It Takes Two to Talk" Program.

On **September 16th** the topic is **"Financial planning for families of children with special needs"**. Jason Abosch with FranklinMorris will discuss financial and legal issues facing families of children with disabilities.

On **October 21st** the topic is **"Sensory Integration and the role of the Occupational Therapist"**. Jamie Levine, OTR/L with OT Ventures will discuss the benefits of occupational therapy and sensory integration therapy.

On **November 18th** the topic is **"Playing with purpose"**. Nika Hamblin of Discovery Toys will present on how to select developmentally appropriate toys to facilitate speech, language, cognition, fine and gross motor skills and how to make simple modifications to toys for your special needs child.

Teleconference on postsecondary education

On **Tuesday July 19th** from **3:00 - 4:00 pm**, the **National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET)** will sponsor a free teleconference entitled **"Utilizing Federal financial aid to fund postsecondary education for students with disabilities"**.

Dan Klock, Program Specialist and Policy Liaison with the Federal Office of Student Financial Aid, will present this teleconference to cover issues and resources related to financial aid for postsecondary students with a focus on students with disabilities. Included in the discussion will be general student eligibility requirements, "Ability to Benefit", Title IV programs, and web-based resources.

To participate, dial **(703) 639-1175** a few minutes before the call begins, and refer to the NCSET Teleconference Call if asked by the operator. For further information, please go to <http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences>.

Rally about Autism-Mercury

On **Wednesday July 20th**, the **National Autism Association** and several other organizations will host a rally at the West Front Area of the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. The event will begin with a march at 8:30 a.m., followed by a press conference and rally at 9:30 a.m. For further information, please go to <http://www.momsagainstmcury.org/rally.htm>.

Book Friends meeting

On **Thursday July 21st** from **7:00 – 8:30 pm**, the book club for individuals with disabilities (now known as **"Book Friends"**) will hold their meeting at the public library located at 45 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. The July meeting will be "Friends and Family Night". Participants are encouraged to bring a friend or family member.

Participants are asked to bring a book, magazine article, or drawing of their choice to discuss. Students in need of community service hours or college students studying in the field are encouraged to attend and participate in the book club. For further information and to reserve a seat, please call **Chrystal Irving** at Service Coordination at **(410) 923-5751**.



Have a Great Summer!



New services at Anne Arundel One-Stop Career Center

A **Benefits Planning, Assistance & Outreach (BPAO) Professional** from the **Benefits Resource Center** will be available in the **Glen Burnie One-Stop Career Center** (located at 7500 Governor Ritchie Highway, Suite 307) once a month from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** to meet with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Beneficiaries interested in joining the workforce. Participants can receive assistance with many subjects, including the following:

Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS) subsidy	
Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)	
Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)	
Blind Work Expenses (BWE)	
Student-earned Income Exclusion	
Consumer choice	Impact of employment
Work preparation	Benefits analysis
Scenarios advisement	Work incentives
SSI	SSDI
Medicare	Medicaid
Support and Services	

BPAO's schedule at the Glen Burnie One-Stop Career Center is as follows:

Monday July 25th
Monday, August 29th
Monday, September 26th
Monday, October 31st
Monday, November 21st
Monday, December 19th

Appointments will be every half hour. To sign up, please call **(410) 412-7000**. Please bring to the appointment an Earnings Record from SSA, pay stubs if working or salary information for a potential job, and your Social Security number.

To contact the **Benefits Resource Center**, a project of Making Choices for Independent Living, please call **(410) 444-1400** or go to <http://www.mcil-md.org>.

Autism conference

From **Monday August 1st to Friday August 5th** an Autism Conference will be held at Pennsylvania State University. It is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Bureau of Special Education, the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network, and Penn State University. The registration fee for this 5-day conference is \$50 for parents.

For further information, please go to <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/eff/Autism/default.asp?WhichPage=about>.

Participants sought for training sessions

Clinicians and researchers at the **Kennedy Krieger Institute** need participants to assist in training the administration of the **Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale (ADOS)**. They need participants to come to their office, located at 707 N. Broadway in Baltimore. There are several modules of the ADOS that will be trained. Types of children needed for each module and the date, time, and duration of time required are listed below:

Thursday July 28th at 9:00 am or 1:30 pm

(20 – 30 minute session)

Children 3—8 years old with no speech or simple phrases

Friday July 29th at 9:00 am or 1:30 pm

(20 – 30 minute session)

Children 3—8 years old with flexible 3-word phrases - verbally fluent

Saturday July 30th at 9:00 am or 1:30 pm

(40 – 60 minute session)

Children or young adolescents 7—16 years old who are verbally fluent

Sunday July 31st at 9:00 am or 1:30 pm

(40 – 60 minute session)

Adolescents or adults who are verbally fluent

Parking will be validated. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact one of the following individuals: **Lisa Toole** at **(443) 923-2953** or Toole@kennedykrieger.org, **Eric Boelter** at **(443) 923-2980** or Boelter@kennedykrieger.org, or **Heather Jennett** at **(443) 923-2970** or Jennett@kennedykrieger.org.

Special Day at Big Glen Burnie Carnival

On **Tuesday August 2nd** from **10:00 am – 12:00 noon**, the **Glen Burnie Improvement Association** will host a **Special Day Matinee** at the **Big Glen Burnie Carnival**. This event, which they have hosted each year since 1991, provides an opportunity for families with special needs to attend the carnival at no charge during a mid-week morning. For further information about the carnival, please go to <http://www.gbia.org>.

Web site for transportation-related issues

The **Federal Interagency Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility** provides a web site "**United We Ride**" which is a one-stop information resource on all federal programs funding human service transportation.

For further information, please go to <http://www.UnitedWeRide.gov>.



Workshop on managing problem behaviors

On **Thursday August 25th and Friday 26th** from **8:30 am – 4:00 pm**, **Parents Of Autistic Children of Northern Virginia (POAC-NoVA)** will host a workshop for parents, therapists and educators entitled **“Managing problem behavior in school and home settings”**. The workshop will be conducted by Thomas M. Caffrey, M.Ed., BCBA and held at a location (to-be-determined) in Northern Virginia.

During daily routines modification of teaching procedures are not always possible as a method for reducing problem behavior. The requirements of everyday life sometimes demand that children learn to comply with the directives that are given to them. Parents and teachers work on insuring the compliance of children with routine demands without problem behavior to allow them to be successful in less restrictive environments.

The registration fee is \$175. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please call **(703) 391-2251** or send an e-mail to workshops@poac-nova.org.

Disability Awareness Day

On **Saturday August 27th** from **1:00 – 4:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel County Commission on Disability Issues** is hosting its annual **Disability Awareness Day**. This free event will be held at the Centre at Glen Burnie on Ritchie Highway (formerly known as the Glen Burnie Mall).

The event is for the whole family and includes interactive exhibits, live entertainment, and information on disability issues within the community. County Executive Janet Owens will be in attendance to present awards to local businesses that have demonstrated their commitment to the community’s disabled citizens through employment opportunities and public access.

For further information, please contact **Bill Anderson** at **(410) 222-4383** or go to <http://www.geocities.com/disabilityday>.

Participants sought for survey

A new company, **Explorations Unlimited LLC**, will be developing multimedia/multisensory kits to prepare children with autism and related challenges to take part in a wide range of non-academic activities in school and in the community, from sports to cultural experiences to religious services. As part of their planning process, they have created surveys for parents, therapists and educators. Their hope is to find out how best to design their products to make them as useful and accessible as possible for parents, educators and therapists.

Interested participants are asked to go to <http://www.lisarudy.com/explorationsurveys.htm> to learn more about their work and to fill out a survey form.

Participants sought for Maryland Health LEADers Program

The **Parents’ Place of Maryland** is holding a new **LEADers (Leadership Education and Advocacy Development) program**. Participants will be parents of a child with special health care needs, a chronic illness or a developmental disability. The program is to help parents who feel confused by all of the rules and paperwork involved in the health care of their child, who feel frustrated by the lack of support or answers to their questions, or who are unaware of services available to help them and other parents like them.

This educational training project focuses on giving parents the tools and information to navigate the health care system and advocate for the rights of children with special health care needs. Participants will serve as community leaders and experts in the field of health care advocacy for children with disabilities. There is no cost to apply and participate. The program consists of 7 day-long sessions from October 2005 – May 2006.

The topics covered in these sessions will include:

- * Access to health care resources
- * Choosing the right health care plan for your child
- * Understanding and navigating Managed Care system and how to obtain needed services from your Managed Care Plan
- * How to appeal insurance denials
- * Understanding Medical Assistance/Medicaid
- * The Health Landscape in Maryland: who are the players? Medical professionals, government agencies, lawmakers, and parents
- * Advocacy: How to make the systems more responsive to families – laws, regulation, legislation

The deadline for applications is **September 9th**. For further information, or to obtain an application, please contact **Sarah Eby** at leaders@ppmd.org or **(410) 768-9100 ext 107**.

New IRS ruling about deducting tuition costs for special education schools

This IRS notice expands the deduction for medical expenses associated with disabilities to include tuition. The ruling in this case involves dyslexia. It presents information about special education and about attending special education schools. The IRS notice of ruling is available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-wd/0521003.pdf>.

Further information about this topic is available at <http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=969&f=search>. In addition, IRS Publication 502 provides general tips from the IRS on medical expenses. It is available at <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p502/index.html>.



Foundation offers assistance

Mid Atlantic Medical Services, LLC (MAMSI), a subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group Incorporated, has a **Children's Foundation** to provide financial assistance to families with children age 16 or younger who have health care needs not covered by their private health insurance. To be eligible, families must live in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, or North Carolina and be covered by a commercial health insurance plan.

Grants up to \$5,000 are provided to pay for speech therapy, physical therapy and psychotherapy sessions, and for medical equipment such as wheelchairs, custom body braces and hearing aids. Grants can also be used to help with the costs of experimental treatments. The criteria for consideration are as follows: Will the medical service benefit the child? Is the cost a significant burden on the family's financial resources?

To apply for assistance, interested participants must submit a completed application. To obtain an application form, or for further information about the Foundation, please go to <http://www.mamsi.com/d/am/cf/index.jsp>. Information is also available by contacting **BarbaraKay Smerko**, Executive Director, at (301) 838-5613.

Booklet for caregivers

Jackie Igafo-Te'o of **Bridges 4 Kids** has created a free on-line booklet entitled "All you need to know about me: a personal information guide from families to childcare providers". It is designed to provide important information to caregivers of individuals with special needs.

For further information, please go to <http://www.bridges4kids.org/pdf/AllYouNeedToKnow.pdf>.

New publication on future planning for people with developmental disabilities

A new DVD and workbook have been developed to help families that include a member with developmental disabilities design a plan for the future. The DVD follows the stories of several families as they attend a future planning class and begin the process of making difficult life decisions. The workbook integrates with the DVD, providing families or caregivers with a permanent spot to record important life information. Parents of children with developmental disabilities can use this program with their child to create a record of important information and as a planning tool for the future. Sons and daughters can be active participants in creating "My Life Book".

For further information, please go to <http://www.lookiris.com/products/lifebook>.

New adult services report

The **Autism Society of Delaware** has developed a report entitled "Best practices for services for adults with Autism". It is available at <http://www.delautism.org>.

New publications about challenging behaviors

The **Center for Evidence-Based Practice** has created three new handouts that provide professionals and family members evidence-based recommendations on a variety of topics. The new handouts are as follows:

- * Supporting infants and toddlers with challenging behavior
- * Linking social development and school readiness to behavior
- * Program practices for promoting the social development of young children and addressing challenging behavior

The handouts are available at <http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/resources.html#handouts>.

New behavior analysis website

The **Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis (MABA)** has developed a website. For further information, please go to <http://www.marylandaba.org>.

New online training for student notetakers

Free online training of student notetakers is available. There are three modules that take about 90 minutes to complete. Although this program emphasizes taking notes for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, it can be used to take notes for students with many other disabilities.

For further information, please go to <http://www.netac.rit.edu/onlinenotetakertraining.html>.

New Special Education Association

The **National Association of Parents with Children in Special Education (NAPCSE)** is a new national association for parents of children with special needs. NAPCSE will provide special education news updates, laws, information, resources and a forum to help parents become their children's best advocate. It will also provide an Ask the Experts resource, where members will have the opportunity to ask professionals in the field very specific questions pertaining directly to their children.

For further information, please go to <http://www.napcse.org>.



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 **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 partnersforsuccess@aaccps.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.

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 Autism Society of America
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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.