



## THE VOICE

Anne Arundel County Chapter  
of the  
Autism Society of America

### President's Message

**AACC-ASA meetings are held on the last Tuesday evening of each month at Ruth Parker Eason School in Millersville.**

**Meetings begin at 7:00 pm.**

The **agenda** includes 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. Come check us out!**

**Chapter  
Phone Line:**

**(410) 923-8800**

**Next  
Meeting:**

**Tuesday,  
March 25th**

**7:00 pm**

Thanks to everyone who attended the February meeting, which featured a discussion about how families adapt to and cope with having a family member on the autism spectrum, led by **Kara Goobic** with the **Center for Autism and Related Disorders** at the **Kennedy Krieger Institute**. If you wish to contact Dr. Goobic, she can be reached by phone at **(443) 923-7559** and by e-mail at [goobic@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:goobic@kennedykrieger.org).

Our March meeting will feature a discussion about **dealing with sleep issues in individuals with autism spectrum disorders**, led by **Kim West**, also known as the "Sleep Lady". Ms. West is a licensed Clinical Social Worker in private practice in Annapolis. She provides behavioral sleep consultations to help parents create and maintain healthy sleep habits for their children; her work includes helping parents of autistic children who are dealing with sleep-related problems.

I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and service providers working with individuals with autism spectrum disorders, to join us on March 25th. As always, ample time will be provided for questions and discussion.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer for our **Family and Friends Day** event, which will be held on **Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** from **2:00 – 4:00 pm**. I hope everyone will plan to attend and will also invite to join us the family members, friends, professionals, service providers, and other important individuals who participate in the challenging – and rewarding – job of raising, working with, supporting, and advocating for our county's individuals with autism spectrum

disorders.

On the subject of collaborative efforts, I'm also pleased to announce that the **Maryland Chapters of the Autism Society of America** have developed a web site that includes information about autism spectrum disorders, links to each of the chapters, and a calendar of events. The web site is at <http://www.maryland-autism.org>.

I also want to mention that our chapter will be participating in the **2<sup>nd</sup> Walk F.A.R. For NAAR, National Capital Area Walk for Autism Research**, which will be held on **May 18<sup>th</sup>** at the **Montgomery County Fairgrounds**. At the first event in September 2001 our team, the **Anne Arundel Trailblazers**, raised nearly \$4,000 for NAAR, the **National Alliance for Autism Research**, which provides funding to researchers worldwide in their quest to find the causes, prevention, treatment, and cure of autism spectrum disorders. Look for further information about the event in the April newsletter.

Lastly, I offer my sincere appreciation to board member **Al Neumann** for his recent fund-raising efforts. For the holiday season, his employer **Clark Construction** offered to donate \$50 on each employee's behalf to the charitable institution that they selected. Al promptly selected our chapter for his donation and then took the additional initiative of speaking to many of his fellow employees and identifying those that had not already made a selection and did not have a particular charity that they wished to select. He asked these individuals to consider selecting our chapter for their donations on behalf of his son William. As a result of Al's efforts, Clark Construction donated a total of \$550 to our chapter. Thank you Al!



## Additions to Chapter Lending Library

The following new books have been added to our chapter's lending library:

- \* "Laughing and Loving with Autism", "More Laughing and Loving with Autism", and "Much More Laughing and Loving with Autism" by R. Wayne Gilpin
- \* "Just this Side of Normal" by Elizabeth King Gerlach
- \* "Dear Charlie: A Grandfather's Love Letter" by Earle Martin Jr.
- \* "Asperger Syndrome and Adolescence" by Teresa Bolick
- \* "Biological Treatments for Autism and PDD" by William Shaw
- \* "Inclusion: 450 Strategies for Success" by Peggy Hammeken
- \* "Smiling at Shadows: A Mother's Journey Raising an Autistic Child" by June Waites and Helen Swinbourne
- \* "Teaching Language to Children with Autism or Other Developmental Disabilities", by Mark Sundberg, PhD and James Partington, PhD (donated by Doris and Steve Smith)

### 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.

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
Lucy Clark, Vice President	(410) 349-1882
Karen Orofino, Vice President	(410) 421-5444
Melinda Wise, Treasurer	(410) 721-4562
Liisa Neumann, Secretary	(410) 721-1385

## \* \* Chapter News and Notes \* \*

Our chapter is participating in the **Future Horizons Affiliate Program**. Through this program, when you follow the link on our web site <http://www.aaccasa.org> to the Future Horizons web site and purchase any of their products (books, videos, and conferences), our chapter will receive **20% of the purchase price**. By making your Future Horizons purchases through our web site you will help provide funding for our chapter's projects, activities, and initiatives.

\* \* \*

Our chapter's **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 chapter's 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 from our chapter's lending library or from the Partners for Success library, please contact **Partners for Success** by phone at **(410) 222-3805** or by e-mail at [pfsaa@yahoo.com](mailto:pfsaa@yahoo.com). They will provide information about the various ways in which library materials can be obtained.

\* \* \*

Our chapter is sponsoring the sale of two **disability awareness posters** that have been designed by one of our chapter members. These posters illustrate the poems of **John Burns**, a Scottish poet and the father of a daughter with autism. For further information about the posters and how to order them, please go to <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

\* \* \*

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.

\* \* \*

The **Anne Arundel County Resource Guide for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder** is available at <http://www.aaccasa.org>. The version on our web site is updated to keep pace with changes in resource information. If you have an update for the Resource Guide, please send a message through <http://www.aaccasa.org> or call **(410) 923-8800**.

\* \* \*

Become a **newsletter e-subscriber!** You will receive the newsletter earlier. You will also help us control our costs, and thereby allow us to allocate the money we save in printing and mailing costs towards other chapter projects and activities.

To become an e-subscriber, please send a message through <http://www.aaccasa.org>. If you have questions about e-subscriptions, please call **(410) 923-8800** or send a message through <http://www.aaccasa.org>.



### Presentation on NAET treatment for autism

On **Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**, from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Prince George's County Chapter of the ASA** will sponsor a presentation by **Joyce Benjamin, R.N., PA-C, DAN** and NAET practitioner on **NAET as an adjunctive treatment in Autism**. The presentation will be held at **Prince George's Community College**, 301 Largo Road, in Room 3082 of Marlboro Hall.

Ms. Benjamin will speak about and demonstrate **NAET - Nambudripad's Allergy Elimination Technique**. She will also show how to muscle test, and share the importance of allergy elimination to autism treatments.

For further information, please contact **Mike Adams** at **(301) 627-5150** or by e-mail at [N200120744@aol.com](mailto:N200120744@aol.com).

### Public forum about vocational rehabilitation services

On **Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**, from **4:00 - 6:00 pm**, the **Maryland State Rehabilitation Council** and the **Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)** will hold a public forum at **The League for People with Disabilities, Inc.**, 1111 East Cold Spring Lane, in **Baltimore**.

The purpose is to hear comments about the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and to receive suggestions on how DORS can improve services and programs for people with disabilities who want to work. For further information, please go to the **DORS** web site at [http:// www.dors.state.md.us](http://www.dors.state.md.us) or call **(888) 554-0334**.

### Workshop on software for children with Autism

On **Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**, from **4:00 - 6:00 pm**, **Learning Independence Through Computers (LINC)** will host a workshop for parents and teachers of children with autism. It will be led by **Jean Wunder**, LINC Special Education Projects Manager, and held at **LINC's Resource Center**, 1001 Eastern Avenue, Third Floor, in **Baltimore**.

The workshop will examine how technology solutions relate to specific behaviors of children with autism spectrum disorders, and will include a review of commercial and custom-made software to enhance learning skills for these children.

For further information, or to register, please contact **Jean Wunder** by phone at **(410) 659-5462**.

### Camp and Vacation Fair

On **Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**, from **3:00 - 8:00 pm**, **The Arc of Anne Arundel County** is hosting its **4th Annual Camp and Vacation Fair**. The event will be held at the **Sheraton Barcelo**, 173 Jennifer Road, in **Annapolis**.

The event will include information about: day camps; overnight camps; theatre, art, music, and dance camps; Parks and Recreation programs; and travel agencies.

For further information, please contact **Maria Sasso-Eccles** at **(443) 557-0190** or **(410) 757-2973** or **Jaki Starrett** at **(443) 557-0189**. Further information about The Arc of Anne Arundel County is available at <http://www.arcofannearundel.org>.

### Music therapy conference

From **Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** to **Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**, the **American Music Therapy Association** will hold their **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** at the **Hyatt Regency in Bethesda**. The three-day event will include numerous workshop sessions, including several on music therapy for individuals on the autism spectrum and music therapy in special education.

Registration fees range from \$140-170 for the full three-day conference and \$90 - \$115 for a single day. For further information, please **Melanie Gard** by phone at **(301) 624-8979** or by e-mail at [melliegard@aol.com](mailto:melliegard@aol.com). Further information about the **American Music Therapy Association** is available at <http://www.musictherapy.org/>.

### Autism workshop

On **Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**, from **8:30 am - 3:15 pm**, the **Hannah More School** will present a workshop entitled **"Hooked on Lemon Drops"**. The workshop is designed for professionals who teach students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders, and will include presentations by **Nancy Schmitt, MEd**, **Joy Henry, OTR/L**, and **Nicole' Ferry, LCSW-C, ACSW, SSWS**. It will be held at the **Hannah More School**, 12039 Reisterstown Road, in **Reisterstown**.

The workshop will include the characteristics that are unique to this population of students, many specific intervention ideas that can be implemented in the classroom or home that target the characteristics and behaviors of students with autism, and information about working with parents.

For further information, please contact **Nancy Schmitt** at **(410) 526-5000 x304** or by e-mail at [nschmitt@hannahmore.org](mailto:nschmitt@hannahmore.org).



## Parents Place workshops

The **Parents Place of Maryland** is sponsoring a series of workshops at **St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks, Leonard Hall Drill Hall, in Leonardtown**. A light meal will be provided.

The schedule is as follows:

- \* **Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 - 9:00 pm**  
"Writing successful IEPs"
- \* **Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30 - 9:00 pm**  
"Focus on goals and objectives"
- \* **Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 - 9:00 pm**  
"Parents rights in the IEP process" and  
"How to be heard and understood"
- \* **Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 - 9:00 pm**  
"Extended School Year" and  
"Technology in the IEP"
- \* **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
"Understanding mediation and due process"
- \* **Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 - 9:00 pm**  
"How to advocate for your child" and  
"When advocacy isn't enough"

For further information, or to register, please contact **Melissa Alexander**, Parent Educator, Parents Place of Maryland, by phone at **(301) 884-4662** or by e-mail at [wmks1983@tqci.net](mailto:wmks1983@tqci.net). Further information about **Parents Place of Maryland** is available on their web site at <http://www.ppm.org>.

## Workshop on the IEP Process

On **Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**, at **6:30 pm**, the **Norbel School** will host "**The ABC's of Navigating the IEP Process**", with guest speaker **Wayne Steedman, Esq.** Norbel School is located at 6135 Old Washington Road, in **Elkridge**. Mr. Steedman, a prominent lawyer for children and adults with disabilities, will discuss key issues that every parent and educator of a disabled child should know about the IEP process. Topics include advocating for specialized services, common IEP terminology, and transitional options for middle and high school students.

The presentation is free of charge and open to the public. Due to limited seating, reservations are required. Please contact the **Norbel School** by phone at **(410) 796-6700** or by e-mail at [rlloyd@norbelschool.org](mailto:rlloyd@norbelschool.org).

## 5K Run and Fun Walk

On **Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at **9:00 am**, the **Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks** will host the **Joe Cannon 5K Run & Fun Walk**. The event will be held at Joe Cannon Stadium, located in **Harmans Park** in Hanover. There will be a 3.1-mile running course and a 1-mile or 2-mile fun walk course.

The event benefits both **Recreation Deeds for Special Needs** and the **North Arundel Hospital's New Oncology Center**. Recreation Deeds for Special Needs is a community-based organization that provides scholarships for camps/programs for people with disabilities, as well as on-going staff training and new ideas for the Therapeutic Recreation program.

Pre-registration fees (prior to March 13<sup>th</sup>) are \$8 for children under 12 and \$15 for all others. All pre-registrants will receive a t-shirt. The **pre-registration form** is available at [http://www.aacpl.net/rp/cannon\\_run.html](http://www.aacpl.net/rp/cannon_run.html) or by calling **(410) 222-7300**. Same-day registration fees are \$18; same-day registration will be held between 8:00 – 8:45 am in front of Joe Cannon Stadium; t-shirts will be given to the first 150 same-day registrants.

## "Links to Language" training seminar

On **Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** and **Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**, **HELP Associates** will be sponsoring a "**Links to Language**" training seminar at the **Holiday Inn**, 3400 Ft. Meade Road, in **Laurel**. The seminar will be led by **Pamela Payne, M.S., CCC/SLP**.

The seminar will provide training in the Links program, which is used to treat the pre-language/cognitive and language/cognitive skills of children with several diagnoses, including language disordered/delayed, autistic spectrum disorder, apraxic, and developmentally disabled. The Links program has been developed for preschool and elementary-age children who need to establish attending skills, and build competence in auditory memory, auditory processing, and syntax. The training is designed for both parents and therapists, and the Links program requires no more than two to four hours of intervention each week.

The fee for the two-day training session is \$385. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please contact **Pamela Payne** by e-mail at [pampayne@linkstolanguage.com](mailto:pampayne@linkstolanguage.com). Further information about the Links program is available at <http://www.linkstolanguage.com>.



## Public hearings on proposed regulations for the use of restraint, seclusion, and time-out in schools

Currently, Maryland does not have statewide regulations or policies governing the use of restraint, seclusion and time-out in schools. Last year, because of an increasing number of calls about these issues and because of the death of a 17-year-old residential treatment center student while in prone restraint, the **Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC)** initiated legislation to address the use of these restrictive measures in schools. The legislation (**House Bill 569**) ultimately passed and required the appointment of a task force to develop regulations. The task force met from July to November of last year, and developed proposed regulations.

The **State Board of Education** has approved the proposed regulations for publication in the **Maryland Register**; the publication date is scheduled for **March 7th**. On or after that date, the proposed regulations, **COMAR 13A.08.04, "Student Behavior Interventions"** will be available at [https://constmail.gov.state.md.us/comar/dsd\\_web/mdregister\\_web/mdregister.htm](https://constmail.gov.state.md.us/comar/dsd_web/mdregister_web/mdregister.htm).

Subsequent to their publication, a series of **public hearings** are scheduled to provide the public with an opportunity to orally comment on these proposed regulations. The public hearings in our local area will be held as follows:

- \* **Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 9:00 pm**  
Workforce Technology Center,  
Dining Hall Conference Room  
2301 Argonne Drive, **Baltimore**
- \* **Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 9:00 pm**  
Anne Arundel County Public Schools Board Room  
2644 Riva Road, **Annapolis**
- \* **Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 9:00 pm**  
Easton High School Auditorium  
723 Mecklenberg Avenue, **Easton**

Persons wishing to make **oral public comments** must register in advance by contacting **Andrew Wilson**, Maryland State Department of Education, by phone at **(410) 767-0858** or by e-mail at [awilson@msde.state.md.us](mailto:awilson@msde.state.md.us) no later than 4:00 pm the day prior to the scheduled hearing. Each registered presenter will have 3 minutes to present their testimony and should bring a written copy of their comments.

(continued on next column)

**Written comments** may be sent to **Donna Riley**, Policy and Resource Specialist, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services, Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 or via facsimile at **(410) 333-8165** or via e-mail at [driley@msde.state.md.us](mailto:driley@msde.state.md.us). Written comments must be received no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

For additional information, please contact **Donna Riley** at **(410) 767-0858** or by e-mail at [driley@msde.state.md.us](mailto:driley@msde.state.md.us).

## Special Olympics Summer Sports

**Special Olympics Anne Arundel County** is offering a variety of sports for their summer season, including the following:

\* **Bocce ball** begins on **Monday, March 31st**, from **6:00 – 7:30 pm**, at Marley Glen School. Some Saturday practice times will be required.

\* **Softball** begins on **Monday, March 31st**, from **6:00 – 7:30 pm**, at Marley Middle School.

For further information, or to pre-register for these sports, please contact **Ken Schieman**, Sports Director, by phone at **(410) 695-2760** or by e-mail at [kkschieman@yahoo.com](mailto:kkschieman@yahoo.com).

For further information about Special Olympics Anne Arundel County, please contact **Gregg Meade, Area Director**, at **(410) 923-0383** or go to their web site at <http://www.soamd.org/>.

## "Brain Gym" workshop

On **Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**, from **5:30 p.m. - 9:00 pm**, the **Learning Disabilities Association of St. Mary's County** will sponsor a **"Brain Gym" workshop**. It will be held at the **St. Mary's County Governmental Center**, Russell Meeting Room, in **Leontown**. Admission is free, and a light supper will be provided.

The workshop will focus on helping children to focus and helping them draw out their full potential as learners. It will present quick, fun exercises to help children ready themselves for learning and activities that can enhance reading, writing, thinking, self-awareness and home study skills. It will be led by **Sonia Hinds**, RN, MSN, CS-P, of Chesapeake Beach Professionals.

For further information, or to register, please contact **Melissa Alexander** by phone at **(301) 884-4662** or by e-mail at [winks1983@tqci.net](mailto:winks1983@tqci.net).



## Showing of "Refrigerator Mothers"

On **Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**, from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Howard County Family Support and Resource Center** and the **Howard County Chapter of the ASA** will host a showing of the award-winning documentary "**Refrigerator Mothers**", followed by a discussion and special presentation. The event will be held at the **Faulkner Ridge Staff Development Center**, 10598 Marble Faun Court, in **Columbia**.

For further information, please call **(410) 760-5595** or go to <http://www.howard-autism.org>.

## Internship programs for college students with disabilities

The **American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)** has announced two internship programs for college students with disabilities. These internship programs are designed to provide students with real, valuable work experience that will enhance their academic studies and job prospects. Both programs are paid internships. Housing and transportation to and from Washington, D.C. will be covered.

\* The **AAPD Congressional Internship Program** will provide students with disabilities the opportunity to work on Capitol Hill to obtain first hand knowledge of the legislative and political process. This program is jointly funded by Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF) and Independence Technology, a Johnson & Johnson company.

\* The **Microsoft - AAPD Federal Internship Program** is for students with disabilities who have an interest in pursuing IT careers. It will provide an opportunity to participate in IT-focused internships at federal agencies in Washington, D.C. The Microsoft-AAPD Federal Internship Program is made possible through a grant from Microsoft, and will be administered by AAPD.

The application submission deadline is **Monday, March 17th**. The **applications** are available on AAPD's website at <http://www.aapd-dc.org>.

For further information, please contact **Olegario "Ollie" Cantos, VII**, General Counsel and Director of Programs at AAPD, by phone at **(800) 840-8844** or by e-mail at [GeneralCns1@aol.com](mailto:GeneralCns1@aol.com).

## Participants sought for research on Augmentative and Alternative Communication

**Mary Jo Cooley Hidecker, M.A., CCC-A/SLP**, with the **Department of Audiology & Speech Sciences** at **Michigan State University** is recruiting parents of young augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) users to participate in a research study on family factors that may affect successful AAC use.

She is specifically looking for the parents of children with a severe communication disorder who are between 1 to 6 years old, who have not started kindergarten, and who have used their current or latest AAC system for 6 -12 months. The AAC system may include the use of sign language, communication pictures, communication boards, communication books, and voice output devices.

Parents will be asked to complete the following:

- \* A case history form which describes the AAC system and demographic information such as age, occupation, and AAC user's diagnosis
- \* A rating scale on how AAC has affected the family's life
- \* The AAC Family-Paradigm Assessment Scale on how the family accomplishes daily activities.

Participants will be paid \$15 for approximately 60-90 minutes of their time. For further information, please contact **Mary Jo Cooley Hidecker** by phone at **(517) 355-9721** or by e-mail at [hidecke1@msu.edu](mailto:hidecke1@msu.edu). Information is also available at the project web page: <http://www.aacfamily.msu.edu>.

## Publication focuses on the role of Paraprofessionals

A publication entitled "**Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders: The Role of the Paraprofessional**" is available from the **University of Minnesota, Institute on Community Integration**. It includes both an instructor curriculum (\$25) and student guides (\$15).

For further information, please call **(612) 624-4512** or go to <http://ici.umn.edu/products/>.



## New publications about dispute resolution in special education

The **Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE)** has released five new publications. CADRE encourages the use of mediation and other collaborative strategies to resolve disagreements about special education and early intervention programs. The new publications are as follows:

- \* "Beyond mediation: Strategies for appropriate early dispute resolution in Special Education" by Edward Feinberg, Ph.D., Jonathan Beyer, J.D., and Philip Moses, M.A.; Forward by Judy Schrag, Ed.D.
- \* "Using participant feedback to evaluate and improve quality in mediation" by Timothy Hedeon, Ph.D.
- \* "The impact of parent/family involvement on student outcomes: An annotated bibliography of research from the past decade" by Susanne Carter
- \* "Considerations for mediating with people who are culturally deaf" by Annette Leonard, Deb Duren, and John Reiman
- \* "Considering mediation for Special Education disputes: A school administrator's perspective" by Nissan Bar-Lev, Sam Neustadt, and Marshall Peter

For further information, please contact **CADRE** by phone at (541) 686-5060 or go to <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/index.cfm>.

## New web site to gather comments about disability research needs

The **U.S. Department of Education** has announced the development of a new web site (<http://www.icdr.us/>) by the government's **Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR)**; it is designed to gather comments and recommendations on research needs for Americans with disabilities.

The ICDR produced the site to help ensure that federal research efforts meet the needs of the disability community. It is designed to serve as a catalyst for information sharing and be a source for recommendations to the president and Congress on policies and priorities related to disability and rehabilitation research. It will also increase awareness of federal disability research activities and make new research outcomes more available to the public.

## New HHS grant to aid people with disabilities in Maryland

**Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson** has announced \$2.5 million in grants to five states to help people with disabilities in those states become and stay competitively employed. Each of the states (Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina) will receive **\$500,000** to support efforts to increase services and supports to workers, as well as help others return to work without the fear of losing health coverage.

The grants will help the states build the systems they need to allow individuals with a disability to purchase health coverage through Medicaid at affordable rates. The grants can be used to support systems that provide personal assistance and supports. Such assistance can include help with bathing, dressing and other activities at home or on the job. States can also use the funds to reach out to people with a disability, train staff in new employment possibilities and improve transportation or other support programs that allow people with a disability to become productive members of the American workforce.

## New listserv about sensory integration

A new listserv has been developed for the discussion of sensory integration. Its purpose is to share information, education, and therapy related to sensory integration as well as to provide support for families dealing with sensory issues, children having behavioral and/or neurological difficulties, identifying triggers, and looking at solutions.

To join, please go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sensoryintegrationgroup/>.

## AIT services available

**Jackie Rockwell**, a speech-language pathologist and audiologist trained by Dr. Guy Berard in **Auditory Integration Training (AIT)** with over 10 years experience doing AIT with individuals with autism, is available to come to Maryland to provide Berard AIT for a group of 5 or more families. Ms. Rockwell also offers Interactive Metronome Training, also for a group of 5 or more families.

For further information, please contact **Jackie Rockwell, Giant Steps Therapy Center**, by phone at (800) 952-0288 or by e-mail at [giantsteps@earthlink.net](mailto:giantsteps@earthlink.net). Additional information is available at <http://www.giantstepstherapycenter.com>.

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

Postage  
here



### Membership Application

Clip and return with check to:  
Anne Arundel County Chapter  
Autism Society of America  
P.O. Box 1304, Millersville, MD 21108

*Join us!*

*Dues are only  
\$10 per year!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

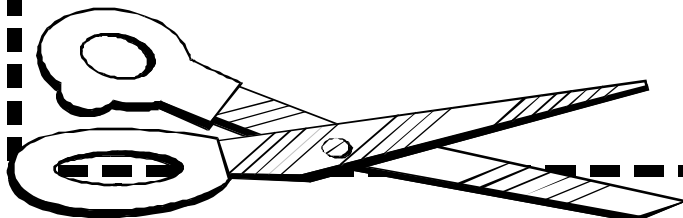
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Interest:  Parent  Self-Advocate  Friend  Relative  Professional

Dues: \$10 per year. Please note that you must be a member of the national organization to hold voting membership in the local chapter. Join the Autism Society of America today by calling: (800) 3-AUTISM.



Clip and return with your check  
payable to "AACC-ASA"