



THE VOICE
Anne Arundel County Chapter
of the
Autism Society of America

November, 2002

Volume 7, Issue 4

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, followed by time for open discussion. A refreshment break is followed by a presentation given by the guest speaker. Then time is allowed for a follow-up discussion and further opportunity for group support and socialization.

New members and new ideas are always welcome. Come check us out!

Thanks to everyone who attended the October meeting, which was to include a presentation by **Ben Dorman**, Board Member of the national office of the Autism Society of America. Unfortunately, due to a family emergency, he was unable to attend.

I look forward to being able to re-schedule him for another meeting, so that he will have the opportunity to share information about the priorities that the ASA national organization is focusing on and the proposed plans for reorganization of the ASA, as well as about plans to develop a Maryland statewide ASA organization.

Our November meeting will feature a discussion about psychiatric and psychopharmacological interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, led by **Dr. Elaine Tierney**. Dr. Tierney serves as **Director of Outpatient Psychiatry** at **Kennedy Krieger Institute**, as well as **Assistant Professor of Psychiatry** at **Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine**.

I encourage parents, as well as professionals and service providers working with individuals with autism spectrum dis-

orders, to join us on November 26th to learn more about this subject. Ample time will be provided for questions and discussion.

At our October meeting, we also sought nominations for officers and board members for the upcoming year. **Elections will be held at our November meeting**. Further details about the elections is provided on page 2.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a **flyer** for our upcoming **Holiday Craft Fair**, scheduled for **Saturday, November 30th**. I encourage you to share the flyer with others and help us make this fundraising event a great success!

In addition, we are still seeking contributions of items for the **bake sale table**; if you have baked goods that you can contribute, please contact **Kathleen Edwards** at **(410) 551-2122**.

We have also added a second holiday-related fundraising event: we will be gift-wrapping at **Borders Books and Music** in **Annapolis Mall** on **Saturday, December 21st**. Further details about this event are provided on page 3.

I also want to mention that

last month's newsletter contained an article about **assistive technology disability resource guides** that are available through **Microsoft** at <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/guides/>. Our web guru, **Bary Conner**, upon realizing that these are only available to Windows users, has helpfully located an alternative site for users of Macintosh computers. It is <http://www.apple.com/disability>. There are reportedly resources for Linux and other non-Windows users, too, but we have not, as yet, verified this information.

In closing, I wish to offer condolences to our chapter's immediate past co-president, **Frank Wise**, and his family on the recent passing of his mother. She was a long-standing supporter of our chapter's activities and a frequent participant at our social events; her warm smile and gentle presence will be sincerely missed.

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

*Next
Meeting:
Tuesday,
November 26th*





Upcoming chapter elections

At our last meeting, nominations were received for chapter officers and board members. Based upon the nominations received, the slate of candidates that will be voted on at our November meeting is as follows:

- President:** Linda Carter-Ferrier
- Vice Presidents:** Karen Orofino
Lucy Clark
- Treasurer:** Melinda Wise
- Secretary:** Liisa Neumann
- Board Members:**
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Brian Clark | Patricia Prescott |
| Al Neumann | Chrystal Irving |
| Barbara Johnson | Barb Flook |
| Douglas Shade | David Shibata |
| Roxanne Sporrer | Kathi Foley |
| Ashley Harig | Michael Golonka |

If you would like to vote, but cannot attend the meeting, please send your vote ("Yes" or "No" to accepting the slate of candidates) by mail (AACC-ASA, P.O. Box 1304, Millersville MD 21108) or by e-mail through our web site at <http://www.aaccasa.org>. Please note that you must be a paid member of the chapter to vote.

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.

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- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 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's **lending library** now resides at the **Partners for Success Resource Center**, located at 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 our web site at <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. 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 our web site at <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

Subscribe to our **e-mail action alert** by sending a message through our web site at <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 know of an update for the Resource Guide, please send a message through our web site at <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.

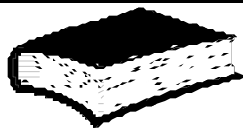


Chapter fundraising event: Gift-wrapping at Borders Books and Music

On **Saturday, December 21st**, our chapter will be raising funds and providing autism awareness at the **Borders Books and Music in the Annapolis Mall (on Jennifer Road)**.

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

If you can staff the table for a **two-hour shift** any time from **10:00 am to 6:00 pm**, please contact **Karen Orofino** at **(410) 421-5444**. If you need directions to **Borders Books and Music**, please call them at **(410) 571-0923**.



Additions to chapter's lending library

Our chapter's lending library is growing by leaps and bounds, thanks in part to purchases made at several recent conferences.

The new items include the following:

- * **A Picture's Worth (PECS and other Visual Communication Strategies in Autism)**, Frost and Bondy
- * **Autism-Asperger's and Sexuality: Puberty and Beyond**, Jerry and Mary Newport
- * **Autism – Now What (The Primer for Parents)**, Abby and Sibley Collins
- * **Biological Treatments for Autism and PDD**, William Shaw
- * **Buster and the Amazing Daisy: Adventures with Asperger Syndrome**, Nancy Ogaz
- * **Crossing Bridges: A Parent's Perspective on Coping after a Child is Diagnosed with Autism/PDD**, Gayhardt, Peerenboom, and Campbell

(continued on next column)

- * **Facing Autism**, Lynn Hamilton
- * **How well does your IEP Measure Up?**, Cullen and Reilly
- * **I Love my Brother**, Connor Sullivan
- * **Inclusive Programming for Middle School Students with Autism and Aspergers Syndrome**, Sheila Wagner
- * **Lisa and the Lacemaker: An Asperger Adventure**, Kathy Hoopmann
- * **Music Therapy, Sensory Integration, and the Autistic Child**, Dorita Berger
- * **Parents' Education as Autism Therapists: Applied Behavioral Analysis in Context**, Keenan, Karr, and Dillenburger
- * **The New Social Story Book**, Carol Gray
- * **The People in a Girl's Life: How to Find Them, Better Understand Them, and Keep Them**, Martha and Kate Downey
- * **Without Reason: A Family coping with two Generations of Autism**, Charles Hart
- * **Too Safe for Strangers**, Robert Kahn

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 our web site at <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

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Also, please remember that we continue to encourage **your contribution** of any books, videos, or other resource material that you are willing to make available to share with others through the chapter's lending library.

To make a contribution, please bring the items to one of our monthly support group meetings or contact the Partners for Success office. Please be sure to write your name on each item, so that we can ensure that your ownership is secure.



Upcoming Life Transitions Seminars

The **ARC of Anne Arundel County** is offering a series of seminars for families who have a child (of any age) with a developmental disability. The sessions are held monthly from **7:00 – 9:00 pm** at **Anne Arundel Community College**, and are free of charge.

The dates and topics for the sessions are as follows:

November 12th

They can definitely hear you now:
Advocacy - - IDEA, 504, ADA – and you

December 4th

Agencies at work:
DDA, DORS – What are they and how do they work

January 15th

Glimpsing the future: Trends in Maryland services

February 5th

Planning ahead: Financial and estate planning

March 5th

Getting your share:
What you need to know about Social Security

April 2nd

High tech options: Adaptive and other assistive technology

May 7th

It's not just a job: Employment and income opportunities

For more information, please contact **Ed Worff** or **Kathleen Flahive** at **The Arc of Anne Arundel County** by calling either **(410) 269-1883** or **(410) 268-8085**. Information is also available at their web site: <http://www.arcofannearundel.org>.

Upcoming Open House

On **Tuesday, November 19th**, the **Family Resource Center** and the **Partners for Success Resource Center** will be holding an open house from **8:00 am - 4:00 pm**. This open house will provide an opportunity for these two programs to share information about the resources and services they have to offer.

Both programs are now located at **Oakwood Elementary School, Portable "B", 330 Oak Manor Drive, Glen Burnie**. For further information, please call **(410) 222-3805**.

Upcoming workshop on IEP goals

On **Wednesday, November 20th**, at **7:00 pm**, a free workshop entitled **"Meeting and changing your IEP goals"** will be held at **The Gateway Building**, 2nd Floor, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, **Columbia**.

The workshop is designed for parents who are not sure whether their child is meeting his/her current IEP/IFSP goals or who are considering making changes to the IEP/IFSP. Ideas on how to partner with your team to develop meaningful IEP/IFSP goals will be discussed.

The workshop will be led by **Kelli Nelson** from the Special Education Leadership Project of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council and **Julie Foley** of the Family Advocacy and Parent Education Program.

For further information or to register, please contact the **Family Advocacy and Parent Education Program** by phone at **(410) 465-1193** or by e-mail at FamilyAdvocacy@msn.com.

Upcoming presentation on educating middle school students with autism

On **Thursday, November 21st**, at **7:00 pm**, the **Howard County Chapter of the ASA** is hosting a presentation by **Linda Brandenburg, Principal of the Kennedy Krieger School**, on strategies for educating middle school students with autism.

The presentation will be held at **The Meeting House**, Oakland Mills Interfaith Center, in **Columbia**. For further information, please call **(410) 760-5595**.

Upcoming workshop on social skills

On **Saturday, December 7th**, **Future Horizons** and **The Autism Program of Virginia** are co-sponsoring a full-day workshop on social skills for individuals with Asperger's and high-functioning autism. The workshop will feature **Dr. Tony Attwood** and **Carol Gray**, and will be held at the **Holiday Inn Select in Richmond**.

Registration fees are \$135 for professionals and \$110 for parents. For further information, or to register, please contact **Future Horizons** by phone at **(800) 489-0727** or on-line at <http://www.futurehorizons-autism.com>.



Upcoming DDA Waiting List Initiative conference

A conference addressing the **need to campaign for the continuance of the Developmental Disability Administration's Waiting List Initiative** will be held on **Saturday, November 23rd, from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm**, at the **Sheraton Barcelo Hotel Annapolis**. The conference is sponsored by **The Arc of Maryland** and is supported by a grant from the **Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council**. The conference will feature keynote presentations from the Waiting List Initiative Campaign Co-chairs, as well as strategy sessions and roundtable discussions.

The Waiting List Initiative, which began approximately five years ago, allowed more than 6,000 individuals and families who had been on the DDA's waiting list for many years to receive services. However, at present another 9,000 families continue to be on the waiting list. At the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2003) the current Waiting List Initiative will be over. Without another successful campaign, there will be no additional funds added to DDA's budget to provide services to new families (those on the waiting list and those who are not yet on the waiting list).

For further information, please go to <http://www.thearcmd.org> or call (410) 571-9320 or (410) 974-6139.

Upcoming conference on biomedical interventions

On **Saturday, January 18th**, a conference entitled **"Understanding the biology of autism and related disorders: A guide to biomedical interventions"** will be held in **Wexford, Pennsylvania**. The conference is hosted by **Pittsburgh Biomed**, a parent support group.

The conference will include presentations by physicians and healthcare professionals treating children within the autism spectrum, including Dr. Andrew Wakefield, Dr. Amy Holmes, Dr. Jeff Bradstreet, Dr. John Hicks, Dr. Ken Bock, Kelly Dorfman, and Betsy Prohaska.

Topics to be covered include the following:

- The autism epidemic
- Integrative medicine for autism (DAN! Protocol)
- Nutrition for developmentally delayed children
- Vaccines and autism
- The role of the gut in autism
- A secretin update
- Heavy metal toxicity
- The future of biomedical treatments for autism spectrum disorders

For further information, please contact **Pittsburgh Biomed** by phone at (412) 641-2490 or by e-mail at info@pittbiomed.com. Information is also available on their web site: <http://www.pittbiomed.com>.

Upcoming workshop on Picture Exchange Communication System

Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc., is hosting a two-day workshop about the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) on **Tuesday, December 17th** and **Wednesday, December 18th** at the **Holiday Inn in Towson**.

PECS is a low-tech functional communication system that provides a way for individuals with autism and other communication impairments to spontaneously and independently request things that they want.

The workshop sponsors are making available a discounted registration fee of \$245 for professionals and \$205 for parents. To receive this discounted fee, you must indicate on your registration form that you learned about the workshop from Sarah Buswell of Pyramid Educational Consultants.

For further information, or to register, please contact **Sarah Buswell** by phone at (703) 421-4001 or by e-mail at sbuswell@pecs.com. Information is also available on their web site: <http://www.pecs.com>.

Upcoming paraprofessional training in autism

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute is offering a training program for students interested in working with young children with autism or other social-language disorders.

Participants will attend a **full-day training session** on **Monday, January 13th**, and then participate in an additional **30 hours of hands-on training** in the **Achievements therapeutic day programs**.

Participants will earn a **certificate** of hours completed with the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Center for Autism and Related Disorders.

For more information, please call **Cathy Weeks** at (443) 923-7881 before December 13th.



Participants sought for eye-tracking study

Researchers at the **National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH)** in Washington, D.C. are conducting a study using eye-tracking technology to learn about how individuals with Autism or Asperger's, **ages 12 - 23**, look at and recognize faces and objects.

Participation involves a **one-hour session at NRH**. During this session, the participant will look at pictures on a computer monitor, while an eye-tracking device continuously records where she or he is looking. There is no contact between the eye-tracking device and the participant. In addition, a **telephone interview** will be scheduled with the participant's parent. This telephone interview focuses on the participant's early development, and takes about an hour and a half.

Participants will receive **\$25** to cover travel expenses. For further information, please contact **Cheryl Trepagnier, Ph.D.**, by phone at **(202) 877-1487** or by e-mail at cheryl.trepagnier@medstar.net.

National ASA launches new web site

The **Autism Society of America (ASA)** has launched its new web site. The new site is more visually appealing, easier to navigate, includes fresh content throughout the site, and offers interactive capability. The site uses the same name: <http://www.autism-society.org>.

ASA's new site has the potential to provide visitors with a personalized view of the site based on their areas of interest - whether they be advocacy, autism research, autism news, ASA events, and the like. In addition, as the site is expanded, visitors will have the ability to receive timely, issue-specific communiqués from the ASA, including action alerts, news updates, event updates, and much more.

Other features of the new site include a newly updated and streamlined autism information section; an expanded section on national, state, and local resources; and a new events section, which includes information about ASA national and chapter events.

Participants sought for study on memory in children with mental retardation

The **Johns Hopkins School of Medicine** is recruiting **6- to 10-year-old children with mental retardation** to participate in a research study about children's memory. The study will involve attending **3 thirty-minute sessions** at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore. Participants will receive a **small gift**.

For further information, please contact **Kami London** by phone at **(410) 614-4970** or by e-mail at klondon1@jhmi.edu.

Participants sought for multi-state autism research study

University of Washington researchers are looking for families with two or more autistic children to participate in a study that seeks to uncover the genetic and neurobiological causes of autism. The study is also designed to create intervention programs for children with autism.

The study will be conducted at cooperating universities and clinics in **California and 14 other states**. Children selected for the study will receive free diagnostic evaluations. Travel and hotel expenses associated with the study will be covered.

For more information on the study or to enroll, please call **(800) 994- 9701**.

National ASA offers holiday evergreens

The **Autism Society of America** has partnered with **Cascade Holiday Evergreens** to offer a great way to participate in helping the ASA while providing beautiful, live, long-lasting holiday greenery for your home or gift giving.

Since 1954 Cascade Holiday Evergreens has been a source of fresh, fragrant, and distinctive wreaths, garlands, and door swags. Your purchase will help support ASA's public awareness, education, research, and advocacy efforts.

It is simple, fast, and easy to do. Just go to <http://www.cascadewreaths.com>. Be sure to include the **code ASOA** when checking out to ensure a portion of the proceeds will go to benefit ASA. All orders must be placed by **November 20th** and will be delivered within the first two weeks in December. All products are unconditionally guaranteed to be fresh upon delivery.

New NIDS Network newsletter

The **Neuro-Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (NIDS) Research Institute** has published their first newsletter, entitled "The NIDS Network".

The newsletter is available on-line at http://www.nids.net/pdf/nids_newsletter.pdf.



Anne Arundel County Fire Department provides Disabilities Support Program

Our county's Fire Department, through their **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division**, has a **Special Care Patient program**. Through this program, families can complete a **form** that provides important information about the individuals in their home who have special needs; the information includes any major problems that they may have, as well as details about their medications and allergies.

This information is entered into the **EMS' computer-aided dispatch system** and is made available to EMS personnel should they need to respond to an emergency at that home. By learning pertinent information about individuals with special needs before they arrive on the scene of an emergency, EMS personnel are thus better able to understand and respond to any issues that may arise because of the person's disability.

To learn more about this program, or to obtain a Special Care Patient information form, please call **(410) 222-8340**.

Best Buddies program helps promote friendships

Best Buddies is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment. Their programs include the following:

Best Buddies Middle and High Schools pairs students with their peers in special education in mutually enriching one-to-one friendships.

Best Buddies Colleges pairs people with intellectual disabilities in one-to-one friendships with college students.

Best Buddies Citizens pairs adults with intellectual disabilities in one-to-one friendships with adults from the corporate and civic communities.

E-Buddies matches people with and without intellectual disabilities in e-mail friendships. Participants are matched based on age, gender, distant geographical locations, and common interests. Participants agree to e-mail each other once a week for a year.

For more information, please contact **Best Buddies Maryland** at **(877) MD-BUDDY** or visit their web site at <http://www.bestbuddiesmaryland.org>.

Fairlee Manor offers respite weekends

In addition to providing summer camp opportunities for individuals with disabilities, the **Fairlee Manor Recreation and Education Center**, located on **Maryland's Eastern Shore near Chestertown**, offers respite weekends during the year.

Their **Respite Weekend Program** provides outdoor recreation, fun, and friendship for children, teens, and adults in a camp setting. Program activities vary by group age and ability, and may include sports and games, nature activities, creative arts, outdoor adventure activities, field trips, and more. Program participants reside in cottages, dormitories, or cabins. Each weekend program runs from **Friday evening** (6:00 – 7:00 pm) to **Sunday afternoon** (1:00 – 2:00 pm), and the fee for each weekend program is \$225 per person, which includes housing, meals, programming, and supervision.

Their schedule for respite weekends for the 2002 – 2003 season includes the following:

Kids: December 20 – 22
January 31 – February 2
April 11 – 13
May 2 – 4

Teens: December 6 – 8
January 17 – 19
February 28 – March 2

Adults: January 2 – 7
February 14 – 16
March 28 – 30

For further information or to obtain an application, please contact the **Fairlee Manor Recreation and Education Center** by phone at **(410) 788-0566** or by e-mail at fairlee@dmv.com. Information is also available on their web site: <http://www.fairleemanor.org>.

New guide to health care insurance plans

Baltimore HealthCare Access, Inc. has published "**Gateways to Health Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs: A concise guide to understanding your health plan and accessing the health care your child needs in Maryland**". The guide provides information about health insurance, choosing a health plan, and appealing denials of care.

To obtain a copy of the guide, please call BHCA at **(410) 649-0521 x 3007**. It is also available on-line at <http://www.bhca.org/publication/>.

Anne Arundel County Chapter
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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 _____

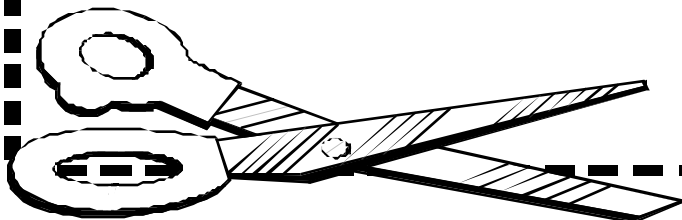
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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".
Membership includes chapter newsletters!**