



**THE VOICE**  
Anne Arundel County Chapter  
of the  
Autism Society of America  
October 2006 Volume 11, Issue 3

**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 September meeting, which featured a discussion about **research** being conducted at the **Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Epidemiology (CADDE)** of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, led by Dr. Margaret Daniele Fallin (in place of Dr. Craig Newschaffer). For further information about their research activities, please go to <http://www.jhsph.edu/cadde/index.html> or call (443) 287-3563.

Also in attendance at our meeting were representatives from **The League for People with Disabilities**, who shared information about their expanded services, including respite and therapeutic integration. Further information about their programs and services is provided in this newsletter.

Also in attendance at our meeting was chapter member **Syleste Schmedes**, who shared information about the progress of her son's new enterprise entitled "**Garyworld**" (<http://www.cafepress.com/garyworld>), as well as showing us several examples of his work. This online store promotes his original artwork, including such characters as The Monster Chicken and his girlfriend Monstrous Hen. Gary and his family are generously donating a portion of the profit from the sale of these items to our chapter. I offer our thanks to the Schmedes family for their generosity

and encourage everyone to take a look at Gary's artwork, which is available on a wide variety of products.

Our October meeting will feature a discussion about **art therapy**, led by **Cathy Goucher** of Earthwalk Center for Wholeness. Ms. Goucher specializes in art therapy with children and adolescents, particularly those diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. She also has special interests in providing art-based social skills groups for young persons with autism spectrum disorders.

Please note that our meeting will be held on **October 24<sup>th</sup>** (instead of our usual last Tuesday of the month), so as not to conflict with Halloween activities. I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and other service providers, to join us on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Phone line:**  
**(410) 923-8800**

**Web site:**  
**[www.aaccasa.org](http://www.aaccasa.org)**

**Next Meeting:**  
**Tuesday,**  
**October 24th**  
**7:00 pm**

**Presentation on testing skills**

On **Monday October 9<sup>th</sup>** from 7:30 - 9:00 pm, **Individual Differences in Learning** will host a presentation entitled "**Helping each child flourish: the stressless tests skills program**". It will be led by Betty Caldwell and held at Linden-Linthicum United Methodist Church on Linden Linthicum Lane in Clarksville. The presentation will focus on teaching a skill-based approach for overcoming stress. For further information, please call (410) 531-0764 or go to <http://www.gifteddifferentlearners.org>.



### Workshop on the IEP process

On **Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup>** from **6:00 - 8:00 pm**, the **Charles County Public School's Partner's for Success Resource Center** and the **Parents' Place of Maryland** will sponsor a free workshop entitled "**Parents' rights in the IEP process**". It will be led by Melissa Alexander and held at the F.B. Gwynn Center on Radio Station Road in La Plata.

The workshop will review the special education process regulated by Federal law for identifying a child who qualifies for special education and related services or for protection under a 504 Plan, and will provide participants with strategies for negotiating within the special education system. The workshop will reflect the changes in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004.

Registration is required. For further information or to register, please contact **Kim** or **Debbie** at **(301) 934-7456**.

### Gubernatorial candidates forum

On **Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup>** from **9:30 am - noon**, the **Maryland Mental Health Coalition** will present a free Gubernatorial candidates forum at Martin's West in Woodlawn. It will feature Secretary Kristen Cox, Department of Disabilities, representing Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr. and Mayor Martin O'Malley discussing mental health issues.

For further information, please contact **Deana Krizan** at **(410) 235-1178 x 208** or **(800) 572-6426 x 208**.

### AA-SECAC meeting

On **Thursday October 12<sup>th</sup>** at **6:30 pm**, the **Anne Arundel Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee** will hold their monthly meeting at the Board of Education Building on Riva Road in Annapolis.

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

### Meeting about voting

On **Friday October 13<sup>th</sup>** from **10:00 am - 4:00 pm**, the **Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council** is holding a meeting entitled "**Energize the disability vote**" at the North County library on Eastway in Glen Burnie. The purpose is to brainstorm strategies to get more people with disabilities to vote, to explore the issues that drive the disability vote, and to take away the barriers that keep people with disabilities from voting.

For further information, please contact MD SILC at **(301) 585-9771**.

### 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:

**Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>** from **4:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Fall harvest festival at Kinder Farm Park**

An afternoon of fun, activities, and farm-related displays and demonstrates. The cost is \$25.

**Friday October 20<sup>th</sup>** from **5:00 - 8:00 pm**

**Game night**

The cost is \$20.

**Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup>** from **5:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Halloween happenings haunted house and hayride at Anne Arundel County fairgrounds**

The cost is \$30, which includes fairground entrance fee.

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

### Oktoberfest

On **Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>** from **1:00 - 4:00 pm**, the **Abilities Network Family Empowerment Network** will host an **OktoberFest** at their office on LaSalle Road in Towson.

This family event will include a pumpkin patch, scarecrow making (bring your own clothes), a moon bounce, games, and crafts. Pizza, popcorn, drinks and other refreshments will be available for purchase.

For further information or to RSVP, please contact **Kelly Dunning** at **(443) 562-4772** or **kdunning@abilitiesnetwork.org**.

### Presentation on self-injurious behavior

On **Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup>** from **7:00 - 8:30 pm**, the **Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health** is sponsoring a presentation entitled "**Understanding adolescent self-injurious behavior**". It will be led by Lisa Ferentz, LCSW-C, DAPA, and held at the Howard County central library on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. The presentation will discuss why adolescents injure themselves, the developmental challenges of adolescence, the definitions and manifestations of self-injury, and the developmental challenges that may trigger self-injurious behavior.

For further information or to register, please contact the Maryland Coalition for Families at **(410) 730-8267** or **(888) 607-3637** or **info@mdcoalition.org**.



### **Presentation on helping students with disabilities**

On **Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup>** at **7:00 pm**, the 4th annual Dr. Norma Hauserman-Campbell lecture will be held at the **Norbel School** on Old Washington Road in Elkridge. The presentation, which will be given by clinical neuropsychologist William Stixrud, is entitled **“Promoting self-esteem, self-confidence, and optimism in students with LD and ADHD”**.

The presentation will focus on tools that can help children who struggle in school develop resilience and positive self-regard, including empathy, acceptance, talking back to negative thoughts, emphasizing islands of competence, and providing service to others.

For further information or to register, please contact **Krys Renzi** at [krenzi@norbelschool.org](mailto:krenzi@norbelschool.org) or **(410) 796-6700**.

### **Series of workshops about transition issues**

The **Division of Special Education of the Anne Arundel County Public Schools** and the **Arc of Anne Arundel County** are sponsoring a series of free workshops designed to provide families of students with disabilities who are transitioning from school to adult services with information and resources to facilitate a successful transition. The workshop sessions are as follows:

**October 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 pm**  
**“Transition planning and the IEP process”**  
Marley Glen School on Scott Avenue in Glen Burnie

**November 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 9:00 pm**  
**“Transition night”**  
Marley Glen School  
Over 30 agencies and organizations that provide services to individuals with disabilities in Anne Arundel County have been invited to attend.

**November 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 9:00 pm**  
**“What are my benefits?”**  
Anne Arundel Community College, Careers Building Room 284  
Learn about Social Security (SSI and SSDI) and Medical Assistance.

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 pm**  
**“What agencies can help me?”**  
Anne Arundel Community College, Careers Building Room 284  
Learn about the adult services you may be eligible to receive upon exiting the school system. Presenters will include representatives from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), Division of Rehabilitation (DORS), Providence Center, Opportunity Builders, United Cerebral Palsy, and the Arc of Anne Arundel County.

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**February 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 pm**  
**“Who can help me obtain services?”**

Anne Arundel Community College Careers Building Room 284  
Learn about Service Coordination and how they help obtain and manage services.

**March 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 pm**  
**“Do I really need a guardian?”**

Anne Arundel Community College Careers Building Room 284  
Learn about the pros and cons of guardianship.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 pm**  
**“How can my family help me?”**

Anne Arundel Community College Careers Building Room 284  
Learn about financial and estate planning.

To register for any of these workshops, please contact one of the following persons: **Michele Dilege**, Transition Specialist, at **(410) 222-5481**; **Katy Schieman**, Partners for Success, at **(410) 222-3805**; **Kathleen Flahive**, The Arc of Anne Arundel County, at **(443) 557-0194**.

### **Presentation on estate planning**

On **Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>** from **7:00 – 8:30 pm**, the **Kennedy Krieger Adolescent Transition Lecture Series** will host a presentation entitled **“Special needs trusts”**. It will be led by David Pessin, Esquire (from law firm of Hodes, Ulman, Pessin & Katz, PA) and held at Kennedy Krieger Institute's Green-spring Campus, in the Bowles Building.

For further information or to RSVP, please contact **Jenny Jones**, Resource Network Coordinator, at **(443) 923-2790** or **(800) 390-3372** or [resourcenetwork@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:resourcenetwork@kennedykrieger.org).

### **Asperger support group meeting**

On **Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel County Asperger Support Group** will hold their monthly meeting at St. Martin's in the Field Church on Benfield Boulevard in Severna Park. For further information, please contact **Sue Hayward** at **(410) 544-6661** or go to <http://www.aacaps.org>.

### **Jazzercise fundraising event**

On **Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **2:00 pm**, a Jazzercise fundraising event for Cure Autism Now will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Oak Manor Drive in Glen Burnie. The cost is \$15 per person, which provides one hour of Jazzercise. There will also be a bake sale and raffle, as well as free t-shirts and refreshments. For further information, please contact **Donna Kunkel** at **(410) 437-4265** or [donna2796@comcast.net](mailto:donna2796@comcast.net).



### Presentation on post-secondary education

On **Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>** from **10:00 am - 1:00 pm**, the **Learning Disabilities Association of St. Mary's County** and the **Parents' Place of Maryland** will sponsor a free presentation entitled "**Learning disabilities and post-secondary education: How does it all work?**". It will be led by Glennis Daniels-Bacchus, the Academic/ADA Coordinator for the College of Southern Maryland, and held at the College of Southern Maryland on Leonardtown Road (in Building C) in Leonardtown.

The presentation will focus on the rights and responsibilities of students with learning disabilities in post-secondary education, the role of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 in post-secondary education, and what parents need to know to assist their children in setting them up for success once they exit high school.

Registration is required. For further information or to RSVP, please contact **Missy Alexander** at **(301) 884-4662**.

### Walk for autism

On **Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>** from **8:00 am – noon**, the second **Walk Now Washington DC**, a noncompetitive 5K walk and community resource fair, will be held on the National Mall. The money raised at the walk will support **Cure Autism Now's** mission to find the causes, effective treatments, and a cure for autism through funding essential biomedical research. For further information, please go to <http://www.walknow.org> or call **(888) 8-AUTISM**.

**Claudine Intner**, one of our chapter members and an artist, will be participating in this event. To encourage donations, she is creating original collages for anyone who donates \$50 or more through her team, **Jacob's Ladder**. For further information, please go to <http://www.intner.net/artforautism.html>.

### Seminar on behaviors

**PESI Education** is sponsoring a seminar entitled "**Behavioral interventions for childhood emotional and behavioral disorders: Causes, interventions, and prevention**". It will be held on **Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup>** at the Fairfield Inn by Marriott on Powder Mill Road in Beltsville and on **Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup>** at the Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center in Ellicott City. The seminar will focus on evidence-based behavioral interventions for a wide range of childhood disorders and problems, including autism spectrum disorders, that can be used in outpatient, residential, school, community, and home settings.

For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please call **(800) 843-7763** or go to <http://www.pesi.com>

### Bullying prevention

From **Monday October 22<sup>nd</sup>** to **Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>**, **PACER's National Center for Bullying Prevention** and several co-sponsors are holding the first annual National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week. Their web site - <http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org> - contains activities, lesson plans, awareness building tools, research and other information to help stop bullying.

### Conference on respite issues

On **Monday October 23<sup>rd</sup>** from **8:00 am – 4:00 pm**, the **Maryland Respite Care Coalition** will present their 9<sup>th</sup> annual Respite Awareness conference at the Maritime Institute Conference Center on Hammonds Ferry Road in Linthicum Heights. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call **(240) 453-9585** or contact **Kim Bennardi** at **(410) 767-5634** or [kbennardi@dhh.state.md.us](mailto:kbennardi@dhh.state.md.us).

### Book Friends meeting

On **Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup>** from **6:30 – 8:00 pm**, **Book Friends** will hold their meeting at the public library located on McKinsey Road in Severna Park. Book Friends is a community book club for persons with or without a disability who are 18 years of age and older. People choose the book they want to share. There is a different theme each month to guide members on what to bring. Other ways to share are through a magazine article, pictures, or from books on tape.

For further information and to reserve a seat, please contact **Chrystal Irving** at Service Coordination at **(410) 923-5751** or [clirving@servicecoordinationinc.org](mailto:clirving@servicecoordinationinc.org).

### Workshop on disruptive behaviors

On **Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup>** from **9:30 am – 3:30 pm**, the **Developmental Disabilities Administration/ESRO** will sponsor a free workshop entitled "**Portraits of autistic spectrum disorders: Stop disruptive behaviors by creating positive ones**". It will be led by Larry Lipsitz, M.Ed., and held at the Holiday Inn Express on Ocean Gateway in Easton.

The workshop will focus on actions that can be taken to change disruptive behaviors and create adaptive ones by providing a variety of examples representing individuals with autism engaging in disruptive behaviors and showing how specific techniques can reduce those incidents and slowly adapt them into functional behaviors.

For further information or to register, please contact **Andrea Jones** at **(410) 334-6936** or [AJJones@dhh.state.md.us](mailto:AJJones@dhh.state.md.us).



### Autism conference

On **Friday October 27<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>**, the **Organization for Autism Research (OAR)** will host their 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference on applied autism research and intervention. It will be held at the Hilton Towers on North Stafford Street in Arlington, Virginia. The conference will include sessions on the following topics:

- \* Cognitive-behavioral intervention for anxiety
- \* Autism, safety, and the criminal justice system
- \* Behavior support
- \* Stereotypic behavior
- \* Social skills training
- \* Promoting independence
- \* Verbal Behavior
- \* Functional academics
- \* Language foundation skills and reading comprehension
- \* Effective early intervention services for toddlers

For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **Sara Pelikan** at (703) 243-9717 or [conference@researchautism.org](mailto:conference@researchautism.org). Information is also available at <http://www.researchautism.org>.

### Workshop on interventions

On **Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>** from **12:30 – 6:00 pm**, the **Howard County Chapter of ASA** will host a workshop entitled **“Visual and behavioral interventions for children with autism in the home”**. It will be led by Robin Allen, PhD, and held at the Howard County central library on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. The workshop will include information about environmental modifications, setting expectations, schedules and routines, rules, chores and responsibilities, coping options, self-care and grooming, reinforcement programs, community activities, and consequences.

For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.howard-autism.org> or call **Debbie Clutts** at (410) 531-7772.

### Presentation on visual strategies

On **Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup>** from **7:30 am – 4:00 pm**, **Cornerstone Communication Center** will sponsor a presentation entitled **“Discovering the possibility with visual strategies: Improving communication, behavior, and social skills in autism, Aspergers Syndrome, and related communication challenges”**. It will be led by Linda Hodgdon, M.Ed, CCC-SLP, and held at the Holiday Inn on Cromwell Bridge Road in Towson. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.quirkroberts.com/tour> or call (248) 879-2598.

### Presentation on behaviors

On **Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>** from **9:00 am – 12:15 pm**, the **Parenting Center and Psychology Department at Anne Arundel Community College** will co-sponsor a presentation entitled **“The obsessive and perfectionistic child: Strategies for parents and teachers”**. It will be led by Dr. Charles Mansueto and held at the college in the Cade Building Room 219.

The presentation will discuss how a child’s struggle for excessively high personal standards can lead to anxiety, phobias or obsessive-compulsive disorders, and deprive children from enjoying school and friends. It will clarify the differences between normal and pathological forms of perfectionism and describe disorders in which perfectionism plays a central role. It will also provide practical strategies and step-by-step guidelines for helping children and adolescents overcome the detrimental effects of perfectionism and obsessive behavior.

For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.aacc.edu/parenting> or call (410) 777-2159 (reference course number CFS 591, Section 901).

### Autism conference

On **Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>** from **8:00 am – 4:00 pm**, the annual **“Circle of support” conference** will be held at Hylton High School on Spriggs Road in Woodbridge, Virginia. The conference will feature presentations by Kathie Snow (“Disability is natural”) and Ben Stillman (“The world needs autism”), as well as workshops on attachment disorder, inclusion, estate planning, art therapy, and assistive technology.

For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call (703) 730-3124.

### Presentation on special diets

On **Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>** at **2:00 pm**, the **Baltimore area celiac support group** will sponsor a free presentation about **gluten-free diets**. It will be led by Jax Peters Lowell (author of “The gluten-free bible: The thoroughly indispensable guide to negotiating life without wheat”) and held at the Harbour Hospital on Hanover Street in Baltimore. For further information, please call **Mary Scott** at (410) 821-1082.

### TASH conference

From **Wednesday November 8<sup>th</sup>** to **Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>**, the annual TASH conference will be held at the Baltimore convention center. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.tash.org> or call (410) 828-8274.



### Special education conference

On **Friday November 10<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>**, the **Howard County Autism Society**, the **Howard County Family Advocacy and Parent Education Program**, and the **Parents' Place of Maryland** will sponsor a **Wrightslaw special education law and advocacy "boot camp"**. It will be led by Peter and Pamela Wright and held at Howard County Community College, Instructional Lab Building Multipurpose Room First Floor in Columbia.

The conference will focus on special education law and how to advocate for your child so that he or she gets the education that they deserve. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call **(410) 760-5595** or go to <http://www.howard-autism.org>.

### Autism conference

From **Friday November 10<sup>th</sup>** through **Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>**, the **Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders (ICDL)** will hold their annual conference at the Hilton McLean in Tysons Corner, Virginia. The theme of this year's conference is **"Raising the ceiling for children with autism and disorders of relating and communicating"**.

The conference will include presentations by T. Berry Brazleton, Stanley Greenspan, Serena Wieder and Ricki Robinson, as well as presentations about the CDC consortium report on early identification and preventative intervention, biomedical interventions, improving creative thinking and social skills through the arts, and using DIR in school. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.icdl.com> or call **(301) 656-2667**.

### Autism conference

On **Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>** from **8:00 am – 6:00 pm**, **Community Pharmacy** and **DAVID and SAM** (Daresay Autism: Very Integrated Directions and Similar Autoimmune Disorders) will sponsor a conference entitled **"Autism and lyme: Advocacy, bio-medical, and life plan interventions"** at Salisbury University. It will include presentations by a pediatrician, clinician, behavioral therapist, attorney, and nurse. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.davidandsam.org> or call **(410) 749-1899**.

### New website for services

The **Network of Care for Children and Families** has launched a new website (<http://www.networkofcare.org>) to help parents find insurance, day care, and other services for their children. It includes mental and behavioral health resources in Anne Arundel County.

### Job announcement

**Community and home supporters** are needed for an active 21-year-old in the Takoma Park area who needs supports at home and work on weekdays, evenings, and weekends. He likes to get out and enjoys people, hiking, swimming, and music. He needs both part-time and relief supporters. Experience working with people with developmental disabilities will be very helpful. Driver's license is required.

Please send resume to **Philip Shaer** by e-mail ([phil@sharedsupportmd.org](mailto:phil@sharedsupportmd.org)), by fax **(301-685-6539)**, or by regular mail (341 S. Burhans Boulevard E, Hagerstown MD 21740). For further information, please call **(443) 955-1384**.

### Participants sought for research study

**Drs. Stewart Mostofsky and Melissa Goldberg** of the **Kennedy Krieger Institute** and **Johns Hopkins School of Medicine** are recruiting children with high-functioning autism between 8 and 12 years of age to participate in a study of attention, learning, memory, and motor skills. The study involves paper and pencil tasks, computer activities and an MRI of the brain. None of the tests are harmful or painful and they are all done free of charge. The study involves 2 - 3 sessions conducted on separate days.

Participants will receive a \$50 check and a picture of their brain. Parents will receive a report summarizing the IQ testing administered to their child. For further information, please contact **Megan Roeder** at **(443) 923-9254**.

### Updated publication on special education laws

The **Maryland Disability Law Center** has updated their publication entitled **"Special Education Rights and Wrongs"**, a 54-page handbook for parents, to reflect changes in IDEA 2004. It includes information about the following subjects:

- \* Identification (the evaluation process)
- \* Special education (free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment)
- \* Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- \* Related services
- \* Amount of services and placement (least restrictive environment, non-public placements)
- \* Extended school year services (ESY)
- \* Due process hearings and other ways to resolve disagreements
- \* Suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary actions.

It is available at <http://www.mdldbaltimore.org/publications.htm>. One copy is available free per family by calling the MDLC Publications Line at **(410) 727-6352 ext. 245**.



### **New NIMH research program launches autism studies**

The **National Institute of Mental Health** has launched three major clinical studies on autism; they are the first products of a new, integrated focus on autism.

One study will define differences—both biological and behavioral—in autistic children with diverse developmental histories. Increasingly, scientists are considering the likelihood of "autisms," that is, multiple disorders that comprise autism. These studies seek to better define the subtypes within autism. Children with regressive autism appear to develop normal language and social skills but then lose these with the onset of autism before age 3. Non-regressive autism, the more common form of the disorder, begins early in life, possibly before birth, with evidence of subtle deficits throughout development. Children with these two forms of autism will be compared with those who have other developmental disorders, including various forms of developmental delay, as well as children with typical development. In addition, researchers will study a subset of the children in this study to investigate environmental factors that may trigger symptoms of autism.

In another study, NIMH researchers will examine the use of the antibiotic minocycline to measure its usefulness in treating regressive autism. Past research suggests that autism may be linked with changes in the immune response that cause inflammation in the brain. Minocycline has known anti-inflammatory effects and has been shown to be helpful in other brain disorders such as Huntington's disease.

The third study will address the theory that autism may be treated successfully by chelation therapy, which seeks to remove heavy metals from the blood. Chelation is more commonly used to treat lead toxicity, but currently many families seek the treatment to try to remove mercury and other metals from their autistic children's blood. This is based on the belief that many cases of autism were caused by exposure to thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative previously used in childhood vaccines. This controlled study will test the efficacy and safety of chelation for children with autism spectrum disorders.

For further information about these NIMH research studies, please go to <http://ClinicalTrials.gov>.



### **New publication on NCLB and IDEA**

The **National Center on Educational Outcomes** has developed a booklet entitled "**NCLB and IDEA: What parents of students with disabilities need to know and do**". It is available at <http://education.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/Parents.pdf>.

### **The League expands services**

The **League for People with Disabilities and Camping and Therapeutic Recreation (Camp Greentop)** have expanded their services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Their autism services programs are designed to focus on what each participant can do. With the assistance from trained professionals, participants work to achieve their individual goals.

There are two opportunities to utilize respite services through The League. First, participants can take part in Camp Greentop, a summer camp for kids and adults with disabilities, as well as The League's winter camping programming. Both of these camping programs are licensed by the state of Maryland and Camp Greentop is accredited by the American Camp Association. Second, participants can receive respite services through The League's in-home program, where qualified professionals will come to the home and provide respite care.

The League is also starting a therapeutic integration program this month, which is an after-school program that will be held from 3:00 – 7:00 pm weekdays at their East Cold Spring location in Baltimore. Participants will take part in activities such as swimming, cooking, sports, and fitness activities while incorporating social skills and self-esteem building. This program is open to both Autism Waiver and private pay participants.

For further information, please contact **Jonathon Rondeau** at (410) 323-0500 ext. 366 or **Kristin Rocks** at (410) 323-0500 ext. 376. Information is also available at <http://www.leagueforpeople.org>.



### **Publication about Maryland Medicaid services**

The "**Maryland Medicaid Home and Community-Based Long Term Care Services booklet**" describes Medicaid services that are designed to help individuals who are at risk of institutionalization remain in their homes. It describes the range of home and community-based services available through Medicaid and can help consumers, families, and health care professionals make informed decisions about long-term care services.

The booklet includes information about the waiver for children with autism spectrum disorder, the Community Pathways Waiver, the New Directions waiver, the Living at Home waiver, the Model Waiver for Medically Fragile Children, the Medical Assistance Personal Care program, and the Employed Individuals with Disabilities program.

The booklet is available by calling **Lisa Kelemen**, RN, MSN, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at (410) 767-5095 or by going to [http://www.hcbs.org/files/97/4800/2006\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.hcbs.org/files/97/4800/2006_booklet.pdf).



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](mailto: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>**

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**Disclaimer/AACC-ASA Options Policy:**

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. 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.