



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

September 2004

Volume 9, Issue 2

## President's Message

**AACC-ASA meetings are held on 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 August meeting, which was to include a discussion about the use of communication boards and schedules to be led by **Margaret Calvert**. Unfortunately Ms. Calvert was unable to join us, due to the amount of work that she found herself dealing with on the first week of school! I know we can all understand and sympathize with her circumstances, and I am pleased to report that she will be joining us at our January meeting.

Our September meeting will feature a discussion about the partnership of the "medical model" and the "educational model" for the delivery of therapy services, and the role of parents in this partnership. The discussion will be led by **Elaine Deegan**, a service pro-

vider from Cypress Creek Therapy Associates and **Nancy Kendall**, a school-based service provider. I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and service providers who work with individuals with autism spectrum disorders, to join us on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

I want to make sure everyone is aware that you can pay your **National ASA dues** (both new and renewal) on the ASA web site. By paying your National ASA dues online, you will have your membership processed almost immediately. To pay your National ASA dues online, go to either <http://www.autism-society.org/join> or <http://www.autism-society.org/renew>.

### Special education seminar

On **Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm, **The Parents Place of Maryland** and **Larsen Consulting Services** will present a two-part seminar entitled "**Special education law and regulation: A survival course for parents**". The seminars will be held at the Community Support Services Resource Center, 9075 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, and will be led by Dr. Lawrence Larsen.

The seminar provides an intensive and detailed review of State and Federal laws and regulations that govern the delivery of special education services, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Maryland's special education regulations under COMAR. Several landmark judicial decisions will also be discussed. The registration fee is \$110. For further information, or to register, please call **(410) 768-9100**.

### Anne Arundel County Disability Awareness Day

The **Anne Arundel County Commission on Disability Issues** is hosting its annual **Disability Awareness Day** on **September 14<sup>th</sup>** from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Arundel Mills.

The event is for the whole family and includes interactive exhibits, live entertainment and information on disability issues within the community. County Executive Janet Owens will be in attendance to present awards to disability-friendly businesses within the county. For further information, please call **(410) 222-4383**.

**Chapter Phone  
Line:**

**(410) 923-8800**

**Next Meeting:**

**September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 pm**



### Disclaimer:

Please note that all information provided or published by the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America (AACC-ASA) is for informational purposes only. Reference to any treatment or therapy option or to any program, service, or treatment provider is not an endorsement by the AACC-ASA.

### Asperger Support Group

The **Anne Arundel County Asperger Support Group** meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at St. Martins in the Field Church on Benfield Boulevard in Severna Park. Their schedule of upcoming meetings includes the following:

**September 15th: Dr. Ken Gelfand** will be speaking. He specializes in behavioral interventions for a wide variety of populations, but has particular expertise with Asperger's kids. He is a new psychologist in Dr. Joyce Cooper-Kahn's practice. He is currently the director of outpatient psychology at Mt. Washington and will start seeing clients in Severna Park in mid-to-late August in the evenings and on Saturdays.

**October 20th: Psychologist Cindy Ward-Sandler** will be speaking. She does psychological testing of kids to determine learning disabilities, attention weaknesses, emotional issues, etc. She diagnoses kids and makes recommendations to what parents, the kid, and school can do.

For further information, please contact **Sandy D'Erasmus** at (410) 647-9502 or [LilDaraz27@aol.com](mailto:LilDaraz27@aol.com) or **Sue Hayward** at (410) 544-6661. Information is also available on their web site at <http://www.aacaps.org>.

### Sibshops

The fall session of Anne Arundel County **Sibshops**, a program for kids ages 8 – 13 who have a brother or sister with special needs, will begin on **Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>**. The four-part session will be held from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at Central Special School in Edgewater. The other three days for the fall session are October 16<sup>th</sup>, November 20<sup>th</sup>, and December 18<sup>th</sup>.

The fee for this four-part session is \$30. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please call (800) 999-9442 x 5169.

### Golf tournament

On **Monday September 20<sup>th</sup>**, the 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Alex Open golf tournament** will be held at Rolling Road golf club in Catonsville. The tournament benefits the Gateway School and the LEAP Program of the Kennedy Krieger School. For further information, please contact **Al Krebs**, Tournament Director, at (410) 242-6867.

### Presentation on autism research

On **Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm, **Eric London, M.D.**, co-founder of the **National Alliance for Autism Research**, will give a free presentation entitled "**State of the Science in Autism**". The event will be held at Globe Hall, Montgomery College, Germantown Campus, located at 2100 Observatory Lane in Germantown.

The presentation is intended for parents, therapists, researchers, service providers and physicians. Dr. London will describe ongoing and new research projects and initiatives, outline his hopes for the future, and discuss the latest information about treatments.

For further information, or to make reservations to attend, please contact **Dale Glass** at (301) 519-0770 or [dglass@naar.org](mailto:dglass@naar.org). Information is also available at <http://www.naar.org>.

### Workshop about Intellitools

On **Tuesday September 28<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, the **Maryland Assistive Technology Cooperative** will host a workshop entitled "**Intellitools extreme: Reaching new heights in curriculum adaptation**". The workshop will be led by **Dan Herlihy**, and will be held at the Savage Volunteer Fire Hall in Howard County.

The workshop is designed for experienced Intellitools users who wish to explore further options for adapting curriculum. Participants will learn to design accessible computer activities that allow students with disabilities to independently perform a variety of tasks.

The registration fee is \$195 for parents/guardians of a child with a disability or instructional assistants/para-professionals, and \$245 for professionals. For further information, including registration materials, please call (410) 792-9901 or go to <http://www.matcoop.org/training.htm>.

### Parents' Place of Maryland e-newsletter

The **Parents Place of Maryland** has introduced an e-version of their newsletter. The e-mail newsletter will highlight timely and brief information you can use, event announcements, and information on upcoming new workshops and expanded services. To subscribe, please send an e-mail to [info@ppmd.org](mailto:info@ppmd.org) with "subscribe" in the subject line.



### Workshop on adaptive play

On **Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, the **Maryland Assistive Technology Cooperative** will host a workshop entitled “**Adaptive play for infants, toddlers and preschoolers: Developing communication and cognitive abilities (with make-and-take)**”. The workshop will be led by **Linda Burkhart** and be held at the Savage Volunteer Fire Hall in Howard County. The workshop is intended for individuals who work with infants, toddlers and preschoolers with disabilities and/or interact with their environment.

The workshop will focus on practical strategies for using adapted play to develop communication and cognition with young children from "light tech" to "high tech". Creative ideas and strategies for teaching basic cognitive and language concepts through play will be shared. Emphasis will be on using technology as a tool to reach IFSP and IEP goals and objectives. Part of the day will be a "make and take" session.

The registration fee is \$100 for parents/guardians of a child with disabilities or instructional assistants/para-professionals, and \$130 for professionals. For further information, including registration materials, please call **(410) 792-9901** or go to <http://www.matcoop.org/training.htm>.

### Seminar on nutrition therapy

On **Friday October 1<sup>st</sup>** from 8:00 am – 3:30 pm, **Cross Country University** will sponsor a seminar entitled “**Nutrition therapy for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**”. The seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn BWI in Linthicum.

The seminar is designed to provide an understanding of the relationship between nutrition, provide information about safe and effective nutritional interventions, discuss the value and limitations of gluten-free/casein-free diets, and present strategies to improve mealtime problems and food refusal. The registration fee is \$179. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please call **(800) 397-0180** or go to <http://www.crosscountryuniversity.com>

### Town Hall Meeting

On **Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup>** from 7:30 – 9:00 pm, the **Family Outreach Network of Anne Arundel Community College** will host a town hall meeting designed to answer questions about child development, parenting, and family life. The meeting will be led by a pediatrician and a child psychologist, who will be available to answer questions about the physical, emotional, educational, or intellectual development of children. The event will be held at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, in Room 219 of the Cade Building. For further information, please call **(410) 777-2159** or go to <http://www.aacc.edu/familynet>.

### Presentation on learning disabilities

On **Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm, the **Learning Disabilities Association of Maryland** will sponsor a presentation by **Rick Lavoie**. The presentation will be held at the Waldorf Jaycee Banquet Hall, 3090 Crain Highway, in Waldorf. Mr. Lavoie will speak on two topics: the impact of learning disabilities on the family, and strategies that work (and don't work) with learning disabled kids.

The registration fee is \$45 if received before September 13<sup>th</sup>, and \$50 if received after this date. For further information, please contact **Missy Alexander** with the **Learning Disabilities Association of St. Mary's County** at **(301) 884-4662**.

### Transition workshop

On **Tuesday October 12<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00 – 9:00 pm, the **Anne Arundel County Public Schools** and the **Arc of Anne Arundel County** will host a presentation entitled “**How can I achieve my goals?**” The workshop is designed to help individuals and families of persons with disabilities plan for their future.

For further information, including details on the location, or to register, please call **Debbie Wetzel** or **Katy Schieman** at the **Partners for Success Resource Center** at **(410) 222-3805**.

### Resource Network workshops

The **Resource Network** of the **Kennedy Krieger Institute** is sponsoring the following workshops:

“**Creating a healing presence and healing ourselves**”  
**Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup>** from 3:45 - 8:15 pm

The workshop takes teachings from ancient eastern wisdom and applies them to the roles of health care providers and educators. This is done through exploring the healing relationship between a nurse/educator/therapist and a child.

“**Chronic pain in children: A multidisciplinary approach to assessment and treatment**”  
**Thursday November 11<sup>th</sup>** from 3:45 - 8:15 pm

Chronic pain in children is a significant health care problem for children as well as for the family and community. The workshop will introduce the participant to a multidisciplinary approach to assessing and managing chronic pain in children.

Both workshops will be held at the Kennedy Krieger Green-spring Campus in the Bowles Board Room. The registration fee for each presentation is \$85. For registration information, please contact **Darlene Shumaker** at **(410) 298-1993** or [Shumaker@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:Shumaker@kennedykrieger.org).



## Conference on emergency preparedness and response for individuals with disabilities

The **Maryland Department of Disabilities** is sponsoring a free one-day conference focused on incorporating planning by and for individuals with disabilities into the emergency planning activities currently taking place in communities around the state.

The conference is intended for individuals with disabilities, families and advocates, service providers and agencies, emergency management personnel, first responders, business and government personnel, and volunteers. Through a series of informational and hands on sessions, participants will gain knowledge, tools and materials to integrate this planning into their own personal, organizational, business and community efforts.

The conference will be made available in four locations throughout the state:

Eastern Maryland Region

**Tuesday October 19<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Chesapeake College, Wye Mills

Western Maryland Region

**Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup>** from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Robinwood Medical Center, Hagerstown

Southern Maryland Region

**Friday November 12<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
College of Southern Maryland, La Plata

Central Maryland Region

**Monday November 22<sup>nd</sup>** from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Howard Community College, Columbia

For further information, please call **(800) 637-4113** or **(410) 767-3647** or go to <http://www.MDdisabilitypreparedness.org>.

## Presentation on emotional intelligence

On **Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 am – noon, the **Family Outreach Network** and the **Psychology Department of Anne Arundel Community College** will sponsor a presentation entitled “**Teaching people skills to children and adolescents: Boosting emotional intelligence**”. The presentation will be held at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, in Room 219 of the Cade Building. The presentation will focus on ways to take the best research about interpersonal skills and incorporate it into best practices for children and families. It will also discuss the ways that training can be used to help develop emotional intelligence.

The registration fee is \$55. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please call **(410) 777-2159** or go to <http://www.aacc.edu/familynet>.

## Therapeutic recreation programs

The **Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Division of Therapeutic Recreation**, offers a wide variety of programs. Their upcoming schedule is as follows:

**Elementary sports skills for children with challenges:** Children ages 5 - 12 develop the basic sports skills and socialization skills necessary to prepare them for inclusion in community sports teams. The program is free and is held at Marley Glen on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm beginning September 22nd.

**Saturday recreation program:** Children ages 6 - 16 develop social skills, play adaptive sports, do arts and crafts, and other special activities. The program costs \$110 for 8 weeks and is held at Central Special and Ruth Eason on Saturdays from 9:30 am – 2:00 pm beginning September 18th.

**After school recreation for children:** Children ages 5 - 13 participate in group games, crafts, and sports to develop better social skills, broaden their recreational interest, and improve their physical fitness. The program costs \$100 for 8 weeks and is held at Central Special, Marley Glen, and Ruth Eason on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 – 6:00 pm beginning September 21st.

**Swim programs:** Youth and adults with disabilities participate in instructional swim classes. There are classes for beginners and advanced beginners, and for adults. Classes cost \$50 for 8 weeks and are held at Ruth Eason on Tuesdays or Thursdays beginning September 21st.

**Teen club for youth with developmental delays:** Teens (ages 13 – 21) get together with peers for dancing, games, parties, and socialization. The program costs \$50 for 10 weeks and is held at Ruth Eason and Central Special on Fridays from 6:30 – 9:00 pm beginning September 17th.

**Young adult social club:** Young adults (age 18 and up) get together with peers for fun, socialization, and other planned activities. The program costs \$50 for 10 weeks and is held at Marley Glen on Fridays from 6:30 – 9:00 pm beginning on October 1st.

**Therapeutic riding:** Instructors teach horsemanship to youth and adults. Students, using safety equipment, learn to control a horse. Students improve coordination, physical strength, balance, posture, and self-confidence. Classes are available for intermediate riding, for youth, and for preschoolers. Classes are held at the Oak Crest Farm in Harwood on Mondays beginning September 13<sup>th</sup> and at the Windsor and Murphy Stables in Andover on Wednesdays beginning September 15<sup>th</sup>. Costs vary.

For more information, please contact **Wendy Scarborough** at **(410) 222-7311 x3554**. Information and registration forms are also available at <http://www.aacounty.org/recparks>.



### Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee

Do you wish to make a difference in the education of students with disabilities? You are invited to attend the monthly meetings of the **Anne Arundel County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC)**. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the Board of Education Building on Riva Road in Annapolis.

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

For further information, please contact **Frank Wise** at (410) 647-0114 or [flwise@comcast.net](mailto:flwise@comcast.net).

### Award program for children and youth with disabilities

The **Foundation for Exceptional Children** established the “**Yes I Can! International Awards Program**” in 1981 to acknowledge the achievements of children and youth with disabilities; to overcome barriers caused by public misconceptions; to encourage children and youth with disabilities to seek their highest potential; and to increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of people with disabilities.

Each year children and youth with disabilities are recognized for their accomplishments through the “Yes I Can! International Awards Program”. Three “Yes I Can!” nominees will be recognized in each of the following categories:

- \* Academics
- \* Arts
- \* Athletics
- \* Community Service
- \* Employment
- \* Extracurricular Activities
- \* Self-Advocacy
- \* Technology
- \* Independent Living Skills

The twenty-seven award winners will receive a bronze statue and other recognition at the CEC Annual Convention in April 2005 in Baltimore. Each individual nominated for an award will receive a certificate of achievement personally inscribed with his/her name suitable for framing.

Nominees must be between 2-21 years old. Each nominee is eligible in only one category. Each applicant must be nominated by two people, who must select the same category. Nominations for the 2005 awards must be submitted by December 20<sup>th</sup>.

For further information, or to obtain nomination forms, please go to <http://yesican.cec.sped.org/awards/index.html>.

### CDC asks for public comment on Vaccine Safety Program

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** is currently reviewing its vaccine safety activities and is now accepting public comments regarding the current state of the agency's vaccine safety program. In June, the Director of the CDC, Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH, held a meeting to seek individual opinions regarding the agency's vaccine safety program. In an effort to obtain broader input from the public, the CDC has posted on its web site the same objectives and information provided to the individuals attending the meeting and is now requesting public comment. The CDC has also posted the presentations made at the meeting on the web site.

To access the information and to provide feedback, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/od/vaccsafe/>. The deadline for submitting public comments is October 12th.

### New guide for parents about No Child Left Behind Act

The **National Center for Learning Disabilities** and **Schwab Learning** have created a guide to **No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**. Entitled “**Making the ‘No Child Left Behind Act’ work for children who struggle to learn: A parent's guide**”, the document addresses the special issues, challenges, and opportunities facing parents whose children are struggling to learn. The guide describes several key parts of NCLB that can be used by parents to improve educational services for their children. Highlights include: the law's emphasis on accountability, NCLB's mandate of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all schools, what these requirements mean to students and their parents, and what happens if a school does not make AYP.

The guide is available at <http://www.ld.org/NCLB> or <http://www.schwablearning.org/NCLB>.

### Position announcement

**Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children (CSAAC)** is seeking an **Executive Director**. CSAAC is a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to develop and administer model services for individuals with autism. The organization's mission is to access and develop all available community resources to assist individuals with autism achieve their personal and educational goals, achieving employment and maintaining a quality of life within the community. Headquartered in Rockville, Maryland, CSAAC has 700 employees and a \$19M operating budget. For more information, please refer to <http://www.csaac.org>.

For further information, please contact **Adam Smith** at [asmith@strategicperformance.net](mailto:asmith@strategicperformance.net).



### Participants sought for face processing study

The **Catholic University of America** in Washington D.C. is conducting a study using eye-tracking technology to learn about how individuals with Autism or Asperger's, age 12-23, look at and recognize faces and objects.

Participation involves one session at The Catholic University of America and takes about two hours. 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. The participant will also be given clinical measures of face processing, visual/spatial processing, and social and communication skills.

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.** at **(202) 319-5780** or [trepagnier@cua.edu](mailto:trepagnier@cua.edu).

### Contributions sought for book

By Sheri Briley

My 12-year-old son, Andrew, was recently diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. We spent 10 ½ years struggling with misunderstanding his special needs and wondering at his idiosyncrasies, fighting with schools, family and friends to demand better discipline and drugs. So many of his quirks and foibles have been explained when given the frame to put it all into perspective.

I'm sure you all have had similar experiences, and have a ton of stories that you chuckle over relating to autism. I know I do (watering his hair so that it grows faster, believing that he'll be kicked out of Scouts because he couldn't flush the toilet at camp, etc.) Now's your chance to share those stories, uplift and encourage others within the Autism Spectrum, and raise funds for research. I'm looking for stories from auties, parents, sibs, other family, friends, teachers, caregivers, doctors, anyone touching the life of someone under the autism umbrella. I'm also looking for poetry by persons on the spectrum. I am collecting stories related to autism to be published as a book. I have not yet contracted with a publisher. If anyone has publishing contacts, please forward them to me also. Even if no one picks it up, I will publish it on my own. I hope to be able to pay for submissions, but I can't promise that yet.

Please send your stories to me as soon as possible at [aspie\\_pride@yahoo.com](mailto:aspie_pride@yahoo.com)

### Participants sought for study

**Autism Classroom Connections (ACC)** is a multimedia program designed to educate typically developing peers about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The program consists of a video and facilitator's guide that assists with the presentation of the materials in the classroom. The goals are to 1) increase knowledge and understanding about ASD in typical peers; 2) promote empathy and pro-social behavior by typical children toward children with ASD; and 3) decrease teasing, foster social acceptance, and improve the quality of life of children with ASD.

With funding from the National Institute of Mental Health, the developers of AAC are conducting a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the ACC program in general education classrooms. During this study, presentations using the ACC intervention will be given to peers in the child's classroom. Parents and teachers will be asked to complete questionnaires before and after the presentation. Peers may also complete questionnaires to assess their knowledge about ASD and attitudes towards children with ASD.

Parents, teachers, administrators, and/or advocates of a child with ASD can conduct the presentations. All materials will be provided for the presentation, including the ACC video, and all participants will receive between \$50 and \$100 for their time. Currently they are recruiting children with autism, ages 8 to 11, and their families to participate in the study. In the near future, they will be recruiting children with autism and Asperger Syndrome, ages 8 to 15, and their families.

If you are interested in participating in this study or would like more information, please contact **Amanda** at **(240) 645-1064** or [aziegert@danya.com](mailto:aziegert@danya.com)

### 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 6 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 are done free of charge. The duration of the study is two to three sessions conducted on separate days.

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



### Information on oral health for individuals with developmental disabilities

The **National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)** has a new publication series entitled **“Practical oral care for people with developmental disabilities: Making a difference”**. The publications, which are available free of charge, aim to equip dental professionals with the basic information they need to provide oral care to people with mild or moderate developmental disabilities.

The publications provide practical management strategies for office-based dental care and information to support home-based oral hygiene. They include background information on developmental disabilities and address oral health problems common in people with these disorders. Treatment strategies emphasize adapting standard care procedures to accommodate the needs of special care patients. The series includes the following items:

- \* Continuing education: Practical oral care for people with developmental disabilities
- \* Practical oral care for people with Autism
- \* Practical oral care for people with Cerebral Palsy
- \* Practical oral care for people with Down Syndrome
- \* Practical oral care for people with Mental Retardation

The series also includes a publication for caregivers, entitled “Dental care every day: A caregiver’s guide”.

For further information about the publications, or to order copies of the free publications, please call **(301) 402-7364**. You can also order publications by going to <http://www.nohic.nidcr.nih.gov/poc/Index.aspx>.

### Information about autism for health care professionals

The **North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System** has developed a brochure, entitled **“Your next patient has Autism”**, for the many health professionals- nurses, physicians, technicians and others - who provide services for children on the autism spectrum. It is especially designed for those who only occasionally treat this population.

The material was developed because physical assessment, diagnostic imaging, and a variety of other interventions may induce extreme fear and anxiety in autistic children. Their behavioral responses to such experiences often interfere with needed care, and increase the risk of physical and/or psychic trauma. The brochure provides a brief synopsis of autism, together with specific recommendations for managing the special needs of these patients in the context of in-patient or out-patient healthcare. The brochure is available to download/print at <http://www.northshorelij.com/body.cfm?id=2536&oTopID=2536&PLinkID=159>.

### New "ADA Game"

The **"ADA Game"** is a new training, leadership, and community-building resource for anyone interested in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the rights of people with disabilities. The "ADA Game" challenges players with multiple-choice questions about the law and how it is applied to real-life situations. Players who answer questions correctly earn points; these points can be applied to individual or group advocacy efforts. Players can use their points to make one of eight virtual "cities" in the Southeast Region more accessible for people with disabilities. Players can also discuss advocacy strategies or other ADA issues on the discussion boards.

The "ADA Game" is fully accessible and easy to play. It is a powerful training and advocacy tool for anyone interested in disability policy, personal advocacy, or community enrichment. Players work together to improve accessibility in their virtual "cities" in the areas of program access, public accommodations, transportation, employment and communication. Players can also build their individual leadership scores in the areas of collaboration, ADA knowledge, problem solving, persistence and charisma. Players win the "ADA Game" by working together to build partnerships for accessibility in their virtual communities.

For more information, please go to <http://www.adagame.org>.

### Parents Place of Maryland workshops

The **Parents Place of Maryland** presents workshops free of charge to parents of children with disabilities. They offer special education workshops on the following subjects:

- \* “Parents rights in the special education process”
- \* “Writing successful IEPs—Focusing on goals and objectives”
- \* “Advocating for your child in special education – How to be heard and understood”
- \* “Resolving conflicts in special education – Understanding procedural safeguards”
- \* “Putting the positive in your child’s IEP – Functional behavioral assessments and positive behavioral support”

For more information on workshops being offered near you, and to see the upcoming schedule for these workshops, please call **(410) 768-9100** or go to <http://www.ppmid.org>.

# Welcome Fall!



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 ribbon cloisonne lapel pins**. They are currently available for a price of \$6 each when purchased at our meetings and \$7 each when purchased through our web site at <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

We are participating in the **Future Horizons Affiliate Program**. Through this program, when you follow the link at <http://www.aaccasa.org> to the Future Horizons web site and purchase any Future Horizons-published books and videos or purchase a conference registration, our chapter will receive **40% of the purchase price**. We will also receive 20% of the purchase price on any non-Future Horizons books and videos. By making your Future Horizons purchases through our web site you will help fund our chapter's projects and activities.

Our **lending library** is located at the **Partners for Success Resource Center**, Oakwood Elementary School, Portable "B", 330 Oak Manor Drive, Glen Burnie. To see a full listing of the items available from our lending library, as well as related items available from the Partners for Success library, please go to <http://www.aaccasa.org>. To request an item, please contact **Partners for Success** at **(410) 222-3805** or [pfsaa@yahoo.com](mailto:pfsaa@yahoo.com). They will provide information about the various ways in which library materials can be obtained.

Subscribe to our **e-mail action alert** by sending a message through <http://www.aaccasa.org>. It is an easy way to learn the latest information about Federal, State, and local legislative initiatives, lobbying efforts, or other action items related to autism and disabilities.

**Anne Arundel County Chapter  
 Autism Society of America  
 P.O. Box 1304, Millersville, MD 21108  
 (410) 923-8800 <http://www.aaccasa.org>**

**Linda Carter-Ferrier, President (410) 551-0655**  
**Melinda Wise, Vice President/Treasurer (410) 647-0114**  
**Jean Dunaway, Secretary (410) 721-1385**

**AACC-ASA Options Policy:**

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