



THE VOICE
Anne Arundel County Chapter
of the
Autism Society of America
September 2005 Volume 10, Issue 2

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 August meeting, which included a detailed and informative presentation about **IDEA 2004**. The presentation was led by **Ellen Meyer**, Coordinator of Special Education Compliance and Related Issues with our county's school system, and **Leslie Seid Margolis** with the Maryland Disability Law Center. As part of their presentation, the following sources of information were made available and/or discussed:

The **Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC)** has developed a 2005 interim revised edition of their publication entitled **"Special Education Rights...and Wrongs"**. They will issue interim revised versions as the process of incorporating changes to the statutes and regulations for IDEA 2004 moves forward at both the Federal and State levels. To obtain a copy of the publication, please contact MDLC at **(410) 727-6352**; it is also available at <http://www.mdlebalto.org>.

The **Maryland State Department of Education** has developed a revised **Procedural**

Safeguards/Parental Rights booklet. It is available at <http://www.aacps.org/AACPS/BOE/INSTR/SPCED/procedural safe.pdf>.

Local special education attorney **Wayne Steedman** has developed a publication entitled **"10 tips: How to use IDEA 2004 to improve your child's special education"**. It is available at <http://www.wrightslaw.com/idea/art/10.tips.steedman.htm>.

Our September meeting will include a discussion about **"Building a Bridge: Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders"**, the new awareness and education program being piloted in our schools this year. The discussion will be led by **Susan Marshburn**, Coordinator of Out of Home School Placements for AACPS, who is one of the leaders/coordinators of this new program. 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 27th.

Phone line:
(410) 923-8800

Web site:
www.aaccasa.org

Next Meeting:
September 27th
7:00 pm

News from National ASA: Hurricane Katrina relief information

Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast and has left the rest of the United States stunned and saddened for those who have lost so much. The ASA National Office is deeply concerned about the welfare of families in the autism community who have been affected by this disaster. We pledge a long-term, active commitment in the coming months to helping and supporting families in the autism community during this relief effort. We realize that while the storm may have passed, recovery has only just begun. We are currently assessing the needs of the autism community, setting up our internal operations to manage the volume and nature of requests, and will respond properly and expeditiously. We will regularly report on how we have responded and what the outcomes are.

The ASA staff and members are already playing significant roles on the ground in New Orleans and Houston. We are a community of survivors who are strong-willed and empathetic. There was never a doubt that the autism community would reach out during this difficult time for so many families. Our deepest condolences go out to those in our community that have been displaced by Katrina and who have lost family members and friends to this brutal storm.



Chapter's revised Mission and Vision Statement **By Linda Carter-Ferrier, President**

During the summer our board engaged in several strategic planning activities, including revising our mission and vision statement. For your information, our revised statement is as follows:

Mission

The mission of the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America is to serve as a resource for residents of Anne Arundel County with autism spectrum disorders and their families through education, advocacy, and public awareness activities, and by serving as a liaison to the Autism Society of America.

Vision

AACC-ASA will provide education regarding autism spectrum disorders by:

- * publishing a periodic newsletter focused on providing locally pertinent information.
- * conducting periodic meetings that provide opportunities for emotional support, problem solving, and informational presentations regarding local and/or timely issues.
- * maintaining a web site with links to local, state, and national resources, and maintaining a phone line.
- * providing books and publications for the chapter lending library and local public library system.
- * providing a variety of educational information materials.

AACC-ASA will advocate for persons with autism spectrum disorders and their families by:

- * disseminating information regarding local, state, and federal legislative issues effecting persons with autism spectrum disorders and their families.
- * participating on the local Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee.
- * networking with the local Partners for Success Resource Center, local school system, and local and state disability organizations.

AACC-ASA will act to promote local public awareness of autism spectrum disorders by:

- * participating in awareness programs, events, and activities sponsored by local, regional, and national organizations.
- * organizing local awareness programs, events, and activities.
- * exhibiting at workshops, seminars, and conferences sponsored by the local disability and special education community.

(continued on next column)

AACC-ASA will act as a local liaison to the Autism Society of America by:

- * promoting membership in the ASA.
- * adhering to all ASA policies and procedures.
- * attending regional and national ASA conferences and workshops.
- * providing referrals to ASA.

Participants sought for chapter projects **By Linda Carter-Ferrier, President**

During the summer our board engaged in several strategic planning activities, including identifying a set of new projects that we would like to pursue. They are as follows:

- * Creating/developing packets of informational materials for newly diagnosed families
- * Facilitating/organizing training for "first responders" (police, fire, EMT personnel) on how to respond to emergency situations that involve individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- * Sponsoring/organizing a one-day conference

In addition to these new projects, we agreed to continue our work on a variety of ongoing projects, including the following:

- * Teacher/school appreciation events for Autism Awareness Month in April
- * Book-store gift-wrapping during the holiday season, for fundraising and autism awareness
- * Dinners and other activities involving local businesses, for fundraising and autism awareness
- * Chapter phone line, to provide resource and referral information
- * Social events for families in our community

Our board is made up of a small group of dedicated volunteers. We know that to achieve success in both the new and ongoing projects, we must have assistance from people in our community. We are asking everyone, whether you are a parent or family member, a professional or service provider, to seriously consider getting involved and participating in the planning, development, or ongoing work of our chapter projects.

Please review the list of projects and ask yourself: "How can I help out? Which project can I get involved in?" After you've asked the question, please answer it by contacting me either by phone at **(410) 551-0655** or by e-mail at thoferri-ers@earthlink.net. I look forward to hearing from you!



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.

Special Olympics

The upcoming season for Anne Arundel County Special Olympics includes the following sports:

Soccer: Monday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 pm, beginning August 29th, at Ruth Eason School in Millersville.

Tennis: Thursdays beginning in October at Annapolis High School.

For further information, please call (410) 923-0383 or go to <http://www.soaamd.org>.

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:

Wednesday September 7th from 5:00 – 9:00 pm

Pizza and games

Come spend an evening eating pizza and playing your favorite game. The cost is \$28; can accommodate up to 8 participants.

Sunday September 11th from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

National Zoo

The cost is \$30; please bring extra spending money for food or souvenirs. Can accommodate 6 participants.

Thursday September 15th from 5:30 – 10:30 pm

Anne Arundel County Fair

The cost is \$35. Come enjoy the lights, music and rides. Please bring extra spending money for food or souvenirs. Can accommodate up to 10 participants.

Saturday September 24th from 6:00 – 10:00 pm

In-house movie night

The cost is \$25. Come enjoy a light dinner, typical movie snacks and a movie (nothing scary or R-rated!)

To register for an event, please contact **Ouida and Melanie Fluck** at (301) 912-3220 or fsoffluc@hotmail.com. For further information, please contact **Kerrie Mansfield** at (410) 923-2882 or [Kerrie@CelebratingFriends.org](http://www.CelebratingFriends.org).

Presentation on verbal behavior

On **Wednesday September 7th at 7:30 pm**, **Families for Intensive Autism Treatment (FIAT)** will host a presentation on "**The eight steps to effective Verbal Behavior teaching techniques**". This hands-on training clinic will be led by Cheryl Christopherson, BS, BCABA, and held at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring.

Participants will learn and practice Verbal Behavior Intensive Teaching Procedures. Participants are encouraged to come prepared with five goals that they are teaching their child and a small bag of stimuli that correlates with these goals.

For further information, please contact FIAT at info@fiatmd.org or (301) 419-8037.

AA-SECAC meeting

On **Thursday September 8th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC)** will hold their monthly meeting; the meeting is held 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 the services and opportunities available to students with disabilities and/or special needs.

For further information, please contact **Frank Wise** at (410) 647-0114 or specialeddad@comcast.net.

Workshop about neuroscience

On **Thursday September 15th from 7:45 am – 4:00 pm**, Dr. Daniel Amen will conduct a workshop entitled "**New skills for frazzled professionals: Lessons from neuroscience on hard-to-treat patients**". The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Select on Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda.

The same workshop will also be held on **Friday September 16th from 7:45 am – 4:00 pm** at the Radisson at Cross Keys on Falls Road in Baltimore, MD.

For further information, please call (800) 258-8411 or go to <http://www.iahb.org>.





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:

After school recreation for children: Children ages 5 - 13 participate in group games, crafts, and sports to develop social skills, broaden recreational interests, and improve physical fitness. The program costs \$100 for 8 weeks and is held at Central Special on Mondays and Wednesdays and Ruth Eason on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 - 6:00 pm, beginning September 12th/13th.

After school playgroup for children: Children ages 4 - 6 participants in group games, crafts, and sports to develop social skills, broaden recreational interests, and improve physical fitness. The subsidized program costs \$5 for 8 weeks and is held at Marley Glen on Wednesdays from 3:45 - 6:00 pm, beginning September 14th.

Fitness fun for children: Children ages 6 - 16 achieve fitness and social skills through creative movement and play. The subsidized program costs \$5 for 8 weeks and is held at Central Special and Ruth Eason on Fridays from 3:00 - 6:00 pm and at Marley Glen on Mondays from 3:45 - 6:00 pm, beginning September 12th.

Saturday recreation program Children ages 6 - 16 develop social skills, play adaptive sports, create arts and crafts, and participate in other special activities. The program costs \$100 for 8 weeks and is held at Central Special and Ruth Eason on Saturdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, beginning September 17th.

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 13th.

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 8 weeks and is held at Ruth Eason and Central Special on Fridays from 6:30 - 9:00 pm beginning September 16th.

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 8 weeks and is held at Marley Glen on Fridays from 6:30 - 9:00 pm, beginning on September 16th.

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

Participants sought for Youth Advisory Committee

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) for the National Council on Disability (NCD) is conducting a nationwide search for new members. The YAC, a 12-member advisory committee ranging in age from 16-25, is recruiting members from cross disability sectors, diverse cultures and in under-represented areas of the country.

The YAC ensures that NCD's policy recommendations and activities give consideration to the perspectives of young people with disabilities. NCD is an independent federal agency, made up with 15 executive members appointed by the president, and their responsibility is to make recommendations to the President and Congress on issues affecting Americans with disabilities. NCD's overall purpose is to promote policies, programs, practices, and procedures that guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability; and to empower Individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.

The recruiting process will close **September 18th**. To submit an application, please send a resume, a letter of recommendation, and a cover letter pointing out your leadership experiences and your disability-oriented experiences. Please submit these by e-mail to youth@ncd.gov or by regular mail to Youth-YAC Recruiting, National Council on Disability, 1331 F Street, Suite 850, Washington, DC 20004. For further information, please contact **Isaac Huff**, YAC Chair, at I.Huff@superaleja.org or **Rebecca Hare**, YAC Vice-Chair, at harer@iel.org. To learn more about the YAC, please go to <http://www.ncd.gov>.

Presentation on RDI

On **Monday September 19th** from **7:00 - 9:00 pm**, the **AS IS Group of Northern Virginia** will host a presentation entitled "**Introduction to RDI - Relationship Development Intervention**". It will be presented by Allan Gilbertson and held at the Lubber Run Recreation Center, Room 201, on North Park Drive in Arlington, Virginia.

RDI is a parent-centered treatment program for Asperger's, Autism Spectrum Disorders and related disorders. Through RDI, parents learn to facilitate social, emotional and cognitive development of their children. Developed by Dr. Steven Gutstein of the Connections Center in Houston, RDI can be helpful for individuals of all ages, and is a customized program tailed to specific needs. For more information about RDI, please go to <http://www.rdicconnect.com>.

For further information, or to RSVP, please contact **Lucia Claster** at (703) 276-0748 or aclaster@aol.com.



Asperger support group meeting

On **Wednesday September 21st** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel County Asperger Support Group** will hold their monthly meeting; the meetings are held at St. Martin in the Field Church on Benfield Boulevard in Severna Park.

For further information, please go to <http://www.aacaps.org> or contact **Sue Hayward** at **(410) 544-6661**.

Workshops about individuals with developmental disabilities

On **Thursday September 22nd** and **Friday September 23rd** from **8:30 am – 2:30 pm**, the **Arc of Washington County's Intensive Behavior Management Program** will host two workshops about individuals with developmental disabilities. Both will be presented by Dave Hingsburger and be held at the Grand Venice Hotel in Hagerstown. Thursday's workshop is entitled "**Sexual victimization of people with developmental disabilities**"; it will look at the causes, as well as prevention strategies. Friday's workshop is entitled "**Self concept and people with developmental disabilities**"; it will focus on the approaches and interactions used by professional staff and how these affect people with developmental disabilities.

The registration fee is \$25 for each day's workshop. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **The Arc of Washington County/IBMP** at **(301) 791-9580** or wcarbamp@erols.com.

Workshop on Affect-Based Language Curriculum

On **Thursday October 6th** from **9:00 – 3:45 pm**, the **Eastern Shore Regional Office of the Developmental Disabilities Administration** and the **Autistic Children's Support Group of Worcester County** are sponsoring a free workshop entitled "**The Affect-Based Language Curriculum (ABLC) at home, the clinic, and at school**". The workshop will be held at Dove Point in Mount Hermon Road in Salisbury, and will be led by Diane Lewis, MA, CCC-SLP.

The Affect-Based Language Curriculum (ABLC) was developed to help children with disorders of relating and communicating who require an intensive program to learn these skills. It combines Floor Time with developmental language therapy supported with sensory preparation, oral-motor exercises, and augmentative communication. The workshop will present the framework and terminology of ABLC, as well as how it is implemented. The workshop will also present ways to adapt curriculum to a variety of settings (home, clinic, and classroom).

For further information, or to register, please contact **Rachel White** at **(410) 344-6930** or rwhite@dhmh.state.md.us.

Assistive technology grants

The **ERIC Fund** is offering a total of \$10,000 in award grants to children and adults with disabilities in the metropolitan DC-area to assist them in purchasing the assistive technology, devices or equipment they need to live more independent lives.

The application is due by **October 7th**. Applications are available at <http://www.ericfund.org>. Awards will be given only to the individual for whom the device or equipment is intended; cash awards will not be made to school systems, disability organizations or programs. If you have any questions about the application form or the award program, please call **Heidi Kurtz** at **(202) 518-0292**.

5K Autism Walk

On **Saturday October 15th**, **Cure Autism Now (CAN)** will hold a 5K Autism Walk and community resource fair. The event will be held at FedEx Field in Landover. Check-in time begins at 8:00 am, and the walk begins at 9:30 am. Walkers are encouraged to set a \$150 minimum fundraising goal. Proceeds from the walk support CAN's mission to find the causes, effective treatments, prevention, and a cure for autism. The money raised will enable CAN to fund biomedical research and innovative treatments.

For further information, please go to <http://www.walknow.org> or call **(888) 8AUTISM**.

Workshop on teaching children with Autism

On **Monday October 17th** from **8:30 am – 4:30 pm**, **Parents Of Autistic Children (POAC)** will sponsor a workshop entitled "**Teaching children with autism: A public school model**". The event will be held at the Four Points Sheraton in Aberdeen, and led by Thomas Caffrey, M.Ed., BCBA.

The workshop will illustrate how the principles of ABA that emphasize the teaching of verbal behavior are being applied effectively in classroom settings to teach children with autism language and other important skills. Participants will learn strategies to build rapport with the learner, select the most appropriate form of communication for a child, capture and contrive motivation, teach functional communication skills, utilize behavioral principles to reduce and manage problem behavior, provide individual and group instruction in the natural environment, transition learners from the natural environment to intensive teaching, and develop basic teaching templates for early, intermediate, and advanced learners.

The registration fee is \$50 for parents and family members and \$100 for professionals. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.poac.net>.



Autism conference

On **Monday October 17th** and **Tuesday October 18th** from **7:00 am – 5:00 pm**, the **Kennedy Krieger's Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)** will present their annual conference on autism. The theme of this year's conference is **“Early detection and intervention in infants and young children: From neuroscience to intervention”**; it will be held at the Sheppard Pratt Conference Center in Baltimore.

Presentations will include the following topics:

- * Neuropsychological features of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- * The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers
- * A prospective look at the emergence of autism in infancy
- * Epidemiologist's perspective on early detection of Autism
- * Iowa's S.T.A.R. plan for screening Autism in toddlers
- * Evidence-based practice from early intervention program for toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- * Pivotal Response Training for children with Autism
- * Developing individualized treatment protocols for children with Autism

The registration fee for one day is \$100 for families and students and \$130 for professionals, and the fee for two days is \$190 for families and students and \$250 for professionals. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.autismconference.kennedykrieger.org> or call **(443) 923-7590**.

Workshop on teaching verbal behavior

On **Monday October 17th** and **Tuesday October 18th** from **9:00 am - 5:00 pm**, **Parents Of Autistic Children of Northern Virginia (POAC-NoVA)** will host a workshop entitled **“Teaching verbal behavior in the natural environment”**. The workshop will be led by Holly Kibbe, BCABA and Cherish Twigg, BCABA and held at Marymount University, Ballston Conference Center, in Arlington, Virginia.

The workshop is designed to provide consultants, therapists, and parents with guided practice in teaching children with autism of all skill levels in the natural environment. Participants will view videotapes and practice effective instruction, and will learn to develop natural environment programs.

The registration fee is \$395. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please contact **POAC-NoVA** at workshops@poac-nova.org or **(703) 391-2251**. Information is also available at http://www.poac-nova.org/newsmanager/news_article.cgi?news_id=298.

Disability Mentoring Day

Wednesday October 19th is **Disability Mentoring Day**, a nationwide event that promotes career development for youth with disabilities. Both public and private employers are encouraged to provide one-on-one mentoring for students to learn about the preparation necessary to qualify for a range of employment opportunities.

The U. S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy is the lead agency for federal sector participation in Disability Mentoring Day, and the American Association of People with Disabilities is the national coordinating body. For further information, please go to <http://www.dmd-aapd.org>.

Conference on gifted learners with disabilities

On **Thursday October 20th** from **6:00 – 9:00 pm** and **Friday October 21st** from **7:30 am – 3:00 pm**, the **Maryland State Department of Education** will host a conference on gifted and talented education entitled **“No child left back: Optimal achievement for all”**. The conference will be held at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Hanover Parkway in Greenbelt. One of the areas of emphasis in the conference is twice exceptional gifted learners with disabilities.

The registration fee is \$25 for Thursday, \$60 for Friday, and \$75 for both days. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **Dionne Reed** at **(410) 767-0805** or dionner@msde.state.md.us. Information is also available at <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/00001781/tamyrpunaysplsjaegqwgtykdgshmur/GTconferenceregistration.pdf>.

Respite Awareness Day conference

On **Monday October 24th** from **8:00 am – 3:45 pm**, the **Maryland Respite Care Coalition** will sponsor their 8th annual **Respite Awareness Day conference**. It will be held at the Maritime Institute Conference Center on Hammonds Ferry Road in Linthicum Heights.

The conference will include presentations on the following:

- * Caring for the caregiver: How to take good emotional care of yourself
- * Parents as advocates in the IEP process
- * Respite resources
- * How to manage stress and prevent burnout

The registration fee is \$20. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please contact **John Garrett** at **(301) 475-5652 ext. 126** or jgarrett@arcsomd.org.



Seminar about social relationships

On **Thursday October 27th** and **Friday October 28th**, **Northern Speech Services** will host a seminar entitled **“Building authentic social relationships for late-talking children with Autism, Down Syndrome and other delays”**. The event will be held at the Shady Grove Conference Center in Rockville and led by Dr. James MacDonald.

Dr. MacDonald will present a responsive-teaching, child-world approach to interaction and social play, nonverbal communication, social uses of language, conversation, and civil behavior. The goal is to help children build their social and communicative lives.

The registration fee for professionals is \$269 and for parents is \$109. To register or to obtain registration materials, please call **Northern Speech Services** at **(888) 337-3866**. Information is also available at <http://www.nss-nrs.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/NSS.woa/wa/Seminars/detail?id=1000485>.

Job fair

On **Thursday October 27th** from **12:00 – 4:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel County One-Stop Career Center** and **Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC)** will host a job fair. The event will be held at the Center at Glen Burnie (formerly known as Glen Burnie Mall on Ritchie Highway). Over 60 employers are expected to attend; free seminars will be given on interviewing and resume preparation.

For further information, please go to <http://www.aawdc.org> or contact **Sara Muempfer**, Disability Navigator/Youth Program Manager of AAWDC at **(443) 677-6594** or smuempfer@aawdc.org.

Workshop about sibling issues

On **Saturday October 29th** from **9:00 am – noon**, the **Family Outreach Network** will host a workshop entitled **“What about me? Parenting the sibling of a special needs child”**. The workshop will be held at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold (in room CALT 107), and led by Lou Aymard, Ph.D.

The workshop will explore the family life and emotional needs of siblings of special needs children, and offer concrete steps on how to nurture and raise these siblings to become healthy adults.

The registration fee is \$25. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please contact **Anne Arundel Community College** at **(410) 777-2325**; please reference course # CFS521-901. For further information about the Family Outreach Network, please call **(410) 777-2159**.

Autism conference

On **Friday October 28th** from **8:00 am – 5:00 pm** and **Saturday October 29th** from **9:00 am – 4:30 pm**, the **Organization for Autism Research (OAR)** will host their 3rd annual Applied Autism Research and Intervention Conference. The theme of the conference is **“Education and intervention across the life span”** and the event will be held at the Hilton Towers in Arlington, Virginia. On Friday the sessions will focus on current research and research-to-practice. On Saturday the sessions will focus on Autism and High-functioning Autism/Asperger Syndrome.

The registration fee is \$50 for one day or \$90 for both days before October 1st and \$75 for one day and \$125 for both days after October 1st. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **Caitlin McBair** at cmcbair@researchautism.org or **(703) 351-5031**. Information and registration materials are also available at <http://www.researchautism.org/conf.asp>.

News from National:

ASA launches new branding effort and initiatives

The **Autism Society of America (ASA)** has launched a new branding campaign, which includes a new logo, a makeover for its web site (<http://www.autism-society.org>) and a new initiative (<http://www.gettingthewordout>) targeted at corporate donors and those outside the autism community.

The new ASA logo combines traditional patriotic colors with autism's symbolic puzzle pattern along with a modern design, reflecting ASA's loyalty to its roots and dedication to the new age of autism. ASA's web site has been transformed into the online source for "The Voice of Autism," ASA's new tagline. The site is now easier to navigate and full of new interactive components, making it more user-friendly. The "Getting the word out" initiative is designed to portray the realities of autism that are not currently communicated to the general public.

For further information, please call **(800) 3AUTISM**.

News from National: ASA postage stamp

The **Autism Society of America (ASA)** has announced the creation of an ASA postage stamp, now available for purchase on the ASA web site at <http://www.autism-society.org>.

The \$.37 stamps, which celebrate ASA's 40th anniversary with the 40th anniversary and ASA ribbon logo design, are sold in sheets of 20 stamps per sheet at a cost of \$20 and are usable in the U.S. Postal Service. These stamps are only available via the ASA web site ("shopping cart"). A portion of the sale price goes to ASA awareness programs.



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. 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:

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.