



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

April 2008

Volume 12, Issue 9

What's inside?

- Chapter news and notes / page 2
- Support groups / page 3
- Presentations, workshops, seminars, conferences, forums, and public meetings / pages 4 - 6
- Family events, social events, and fundraising events / pages 6 - 7
- Recreation programs and summer programs / page 7
- Research studies / page 8
- Resources / pages 8 - 9
- News from National ASA / page 9

Next Meeting:

Tuesday
April 29th

7:00 pm

Presidents Message

Thanks to everyone who joined us at our March meeting, which included a discussion about **recreation programs**, led by **Terri Hamrick-Oescheger** with **Special Olympics Anne Arundel County** and **Wendy Scarborough** with **Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Division of Adaptive Recreation**. For further information about the programs and activities provided by Special Olympics Anne Arundel County, please go to <http://www.soaa.md.org> or call **(410) 923-0383**. For further information about the programs and activities provided by the Division of Adaptive Recreation, please go to <http://www.aacounty.org/recparks> or call **(410) 222-7313 ext 3554**.

In acknowledgment of **National Autism Awareness Month**, our April chapter meeting will include a special event to recognize **Hometown Heroes for ASD**. We will celebrate the efforts of the people in our community who go "above and beyond" to make a difference for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and who might not otherwise receive the recognition they deserve. At the meeting we will honor each nominee by presenting them with a framed certificate and sharing information about their contributions and the value they bring to our community. I encourage everyone to join us on April 29th for this very special event. Please remember that the deadline for submitting nominations is **Thursday April 10th**. The on-line nomination form is available at http://www.aaccasa.org/hometown_heroes.php or you can call **(410) 923-8800** to obtain a hard copy of the form.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our **3rd annual Basket Bingo Extravaganza** this **Sunday April 6th at 1:00 pm** the **Elks Lodge** on Defense Highway in Gambrills. Tickets will be available at the door. If you have any last-minute questions about the event, please call **(410) 923-8800**.

In closing, I want to make everyone aware that our current board of directors has been actively recruiting candidates to serve on the board as both officers and at-large board members. We will present the full **slate of candidates** in our May newsletter and hold **elections** at our May chapter meeting.

Bounce for Autism

On **Wednesday April 16th** from **5:00 – 8:00 pm**, **Pump it Up** at 715 E. Ordnance Road in Glen Burnie will hold a special open house in honor of National Autism Awareness Month. A donation of \$10 is requested, and all of the proceeds from this event will be donated to our chapter. For further information or to RSVP, please contact the facility at **(410) 637-6547**.

**** April is National Autism Awareness Month ****

Contact us:

By phone: (410) 923-8800

On the web: www.aaccasa.org



**** Chapter News and Notes ****

Chapter meetings

Our meetings are held the last Tuesday evening of each month (August - November and January - May) at the Ruth Parker Eason School, 648 Old Mill Road, Millersville.

Meetings begin at 7:00 pm 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!!

Calendar of events

Our on-line calendar provides updated information about the many autism-related and disability-related activities and events in our local area. It can be accessed at <http://www.aaccasa.org/calundur.htm>.

2007-2008 Board

President: Linda Carter-Ferrier
Co-Vice Presidents: Alison Hamilton and Jill Zaukus
Treasurer: Mindy Wise
Secretary: Jean Dunaway

Board members: Doug Shade
Ellen MacAlester
Roxanne Sporrer
Lynne Markowitz
Diana Phillips
Laura Phipps
Claudine Intner
Nancy Snyder

Disclaimer/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. AACC-ASA assumes no responsibility for the use made of any information that we publish or provide.

Lending library

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.

Action alerts

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.

Chapter networking/support/resource guide

The guide, available at <http://www.aaccasa.org/images/NetworkingGuide11-07.pdf>, consists of a list of chapter member volunteers who are available to provide information and assistance to family members, friends, professionals, and service providers. If you are a paid member and have experience with any of the topics and would like to provide information and assistance, please contact Alison Hamilton at (410) 451-8015 or hamiltonal@verizon.net.

Where to Start brochure

The brochure provides local resource information for families of children newly diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or families who are new to our area. It is available on our website at <http://www.aaccasa.org> or by calling our chapter phone line at (410) 923-8800.

Contact information

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

Web masters: Barry Conner and Claudine Intner



Support groups

A **Sensory Processing Disorder parent support group** meets on the first Sunday of each month at 7:00 pm at OT Ventures on Horned Owl Court in Ellicott City. For further information, please contact **OT Ventures** at **(443) 812-6396** or ot_ventures@hotmail.com.

A **support group for parents of students with disabilities** is held on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the Hannah More School on Franklin Avenue in Reisters-town. For further information, please contact **Bob Brown** at **(443) 881-2034** or rbrown@hannahmore.org.

The **Arc of Baltimore support group for parents and caregivers of children with developmental disabilities** is held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm at their office on York Road at Baltimore. For further information, please contact **Katrina Clemons** at **(410) 296-2272 ext 5353** or kclemons@arcofbaltimore.org.

The **Baltimore - Chesapeake Chapter of the Autism Society** holds **support group meetings** on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital. For further information, please go to <http://www.bcc-asa.org> or call **(410) 655-7933**.

A **Southern Anne Arundel County autism support group** meets on the second Monday of each month from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Mayo Elementary School on Mayo Ridge Road in Edgewater. For further information, please contact **Tammy LeBow** at **(410) 336-6104**.

The **Howard County Asperger's support group** holds meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Faulkner Ridge Center in Columbia. For further information, please contact **Elaine McAuliffe** at **(410) 730-0068**.

A **support group for individuals and families affected by Aspergers Syndrome and other autism spectrum disorders** meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Severn Covenant Church on Gambrills Road in Severn. For further information, please go to <http://aspergers.meetup.com/243>.

The **Adult Autism Resource Group** holds monthly meetings from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the home of Ellen Feifarek on Hampton Lane in Baltimore. For further information, please contact **Linda Pearl** at **(410) 769-9500**.

The **Army Exceptional Family Member Program support group** meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Meuse Forest Neighborhood Center in Fort Meade. For further information, please call **Martila Seals** or **Valerie Stanislaus** at **(301) 677-5590**.

The **Anne Arundel County Asperger Syndrome support group** meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at St. Martin 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>.

The **Howard County Autism Society** holds **support group meetings** on the third Thursday of each month. For further information, please go to <http://www.howard-autism.org> or call **(410) 290-3466**.

The **Autism-Asperger Association of Calvert County** holds parent support group meetings on the third Thursday of each month. For further information, please contact AAACC at **(410) 326-5050** or AAACC@asdcalvert.org.

The **Calvert County special needs support group** is a monthly program for caretakers, parents, and guardians of special needs loved ones. For further information, please call the **Therapeutic Recreation office** at **(410) 535-1600 ext 2542** or **(301) 855-1243 ext 2542 or 2675** or go to <http://www.co.cal.md.us/residents/parks/therapeutic>.

The **Autistic Self Advocacy Network - Baltimore chapter** holds monthly meetings for people on the autism spectrum, as well as parents and professionals. For further information, please go to <http://aspergers.meetup.com/256/calendar/7207155> or <http://www.autisticadvocacy.org> or contact **Ari Ne'eman** at **(732) 763-5530** or info@autisticadvocacy.org.

A **parent support group for children with disabilities and developmental disorders** holds monthly meetings at the offices of Frankly Communicating Speech Language Therapy on Old Westminster Pike in Westminster. For further information, please call **(410) 871-2990**.

Abilities Network hosts a monthly **epilepsy support group** in Southern Maryland. For further information, please contact **Danielle Wright** at **(301) 392-3554 ext. 210**.

The **Holistic Moms Network** was founded as a community-building coalition for those interested in natural health and mindful parenting. For further information about the organization and its local chapter in Annapolis, please go to <http://www.holisticmoms.org>. Information is also available by contacting **Cassandra Alls**, local chapter leader, at cbsunshine@mac.com or **(443) 995-2622**.

If you have information about any other support groups in our area, please contact us at (410) 923-8800.



Presentations, workshops, seminars, conferences, forums, and public meetings

TASH is sponsoring a web seminar series entitled “Practices to promote inclusion for people with autism across the lifespan”. The schedule of seminars is as follows:

Friday April 4th from 4:00 - 5:30 pm
“Building communication through education, literacy, and support”

Monday April 21st from 1:00-2:30 pm
“The science of autism:
Beyond the myths and misconceptions”

Monday April 28th from 2:00 - 3:30 pm
“A land we can share:
Teaching literacy to students with autism”

Monday May 5th from 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Getting a life:
A 50-year personal retrospective of autism”

For further information or to register, please go to <http://www.tash.org>.

On **Wednesday April 9th at 7:00 pm**, the **Howard County Library** and **Howard County Autism Society** are co-sponsoring a presentation by author Janet Lord Leszel about her novel “**A pebble to polish**”. The event will be held at the George Howard Building (Banneker Room) on Courthouse Drive in Ellicott City. The novel recounts a single mother’s efforts to raise a child with autism, and provides information about autism spectrum disorders. For further information, please call **(410) 313-7750**.

On **Wednesday April 9th from 6:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Arc of Baltimore** will host a presentation entitled “**Transition services: How this fits with the new statewide IEP**”. It will be held at the Arc’s Community Resource Center on York Road in Baltimore. For further information or to register, please contact **Becky Hartnett** at **(410) 296-2272 ext. 5351** or **bhartnett@arcofbaltimore.org**.

On **Wednesday April 9th from 6:45 – 8:45 pm**, a presentation about **Maryland Waiver programs** will be held at the Rockville Library on Maryland Avenue. Information will be provided about the Model waiver, the REM waiver, and the Autism waiver, as well as Community Pathways and the New Directions waiver. For further information or to register, please call **(240) 777-1216**.

On **Thursday April 10th at 2:00 pm**, **Brookes Publishing** is hosting a free webinar entitled “**He reads but he doesn't understand**”: **Supporting the reading comprehension of students with autism**”. For further information or to register, please go to <http://www.brookespublishing.com/autism/webinar/index.htm>.

On **Thursday April 10th at 7:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee** will host a free presentation entitled “**Executive Dysfunction**”. It will be led by Joyce Cooper-Kahn, Ph.D. and held at the Vineyard Community Center on Najoles Road in Millersville. For further information, please contact AASECAC at **(410) 224-3122** or **AASECAC@fastmail.fm**.

On **Wednesday April 16th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm** and **Wednesday April 30th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm**, the **Hannah More School** will host a free two-part presentation about special needs trust funds at their school on Reisterstown Road in Reisterstown. For further information or to RSVP, please contact **Bob Brown** at **rbrown@hannahmore.org** or **(410) 526-5000 ext. 634**.

On **Wednesday April 16th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm**, **Baltimore County Public Schools Office of Special Education** and the **Baltimore Chesapeake Chapter of the Autism Society of America** will co-sponsor a presentation entitled “**Social skills**”. It will be held at Loch Raven High School (auditorium) on Cowpens Avenue in Baltimore. For further information or to register, please contact **BCC-ASA** at **RSVP@bcc-asa.org** or **(410) 655-7933**.

On **Thursday April 17th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**, **Project Access** will host a conference entitled “**Transitioning students with disabilities – meeting students’ needs on the post-secondary level**” at Howard Community College on Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **Dr. Linda Schnapp** at **(410) 772-4625** or **lschnapp@howardcc.edu**.

On **Saturday April 19th from 11:00 am - 2:30 pm**, **Chesapeake Family magazine** and the **Parenting Center** will co-host a free **Education and Enrichment Fair** at Anne Arundel Community College’s student cafeteria. In attendance will be public, private, preschool, parochial, home-school and other educational and enrichment providers, and the Parenting Center will conduct free mini-workshops. For further information, please go to <http://www.chesapeakefamily.com>.



The **Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD)** is holding a series of **public meetings** to gather information about eight key areas in developing and revising the **State Disabilities Plan**: community integration, housing, employment, transportation, education, family supports, behavioral health, and emergency preparedness. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday April 16th from **9:30 am – 12:30 pm**
Arc of Baltimore office

Wednesday April 16th from **1:30 – 4:30 pm**
Wheaton Library

Tuesday April 29th from **10:00 am – 1:00 pm**
Wheaton Library

Tuesday April 29th from **1:30 – 4:30 pm**
Workforce Technology Center

Comments on developing and revising the State Disabilities Plan will also be accepted by email sent to **mdod@mdod.state.md.us**. All written comments to be considered in the development of the Plan must be received by **Wednesday April 30th**. For further information, please contact the MDOD at **(410) 767-3660** or **mdod@mdod.state.md.us**.

The **Children's Innovative Therapy Group** is holding a series of workshops at the University of Maryland Shady Grove Center on Gudelsky Drive in Rockville. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday April 17th and **Friday April 18th**
from **9:00 am – 5:00 pm**
“**The Affect-Based Language Curriculum (ABLC):
An intensive program for families, therapists and teachers**”

Saturday April 19th from **9:00 am – 5:00 pm**
“**Developmental of oral-motor/speech skills within the
Affect-Based Language Curriculum**”

Sunday April 20th from **9:00 am – 5:00 pm**
“**Functional applications of sensory integration for
speech-language pathologists, families and teachers**”

For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **Diane Lewis** at **(301) 652-2220** or **dianelewisces@aol.com**.

On **Monday April 21st** from **11:30 am - 1:00 pm**, the **Parents' Place of Maryland** will host a free teleconference workshop entitled “**Extended School Year (ESY) services**”. For further information or to register, please contact **Rochelle Howell** at **(410) 768-9100 ext 104** or **(443) 935-1076** or **Rochelle@ppmd.org**.

On **Wednesday April 23rd** the **Arc of Maryland** will host two presentations as part of the Least Restrictive Environment Access workshop series. “**What we need to do and undo to make friendships happen**” will be held from **9:30 – 11:00 am**, and “**Middle and high school inclusion**” will be held from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**. Both will be led by Carol Tashie and held at the Arc's office on Nebel Street in Rockville. For further information or to register, please contact **Judy Terle** at **(410) 859-5400** or **judy@mcie.org**.

On **Wednesday April 23rd** from **6:30 - 8:00 pm**, the **Partners for Success Resource Center** will hold a free presentation entitled “**The top 10 basics of special education**” at their office, located at Oakwood Elementary School on Oak Manor Drive in Glen Burnie. For further information or to register, please contact **Debbie or Katy** at **(410) 222-3805** or **partnersforsuccess@aacps.org**.

On **Wednesday April 23rd** at **6:00 pm**, the **Charles County Parent Center** will host a presentation entitled “**Homework helpers for parents: Focus on strategies for reading comprehension**”. It will be held at the F.B. Gwynn Center on Radio Station Road in LaPlata. For further information or to register, please contact the Parent Center at **(301) 934-7456** or **pfs@ccboe.com**.

From **Friday April 25th** to **Friday May 9th**, the **Infancy and Early Childhood Training Course** will be available on-line. This basic course on the DIR (Developmental, Individual-Difference, Relationship-Based)/Floortime model developed by D. Stanley Greenspan is presented as a series of 15 one-hour video lectures. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to **http://www.StanleyGreenspan.com** or call **(301) 320-6360**.

On **Friday April 25th** and **Saturday April 26th**, the **Arc of Maryland** will hold their annual convention at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn on Shawan Road in Hunt Valley. The event will include workshops on a variety of topics. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to **http://www.thearcmd.org** or call **(888) 272-3449**.

On **Saturday April 26th** from **2:00 - 5:00 pm**, the **Arc of Maryland**, **Maryland State Department of Education**, **Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council**, and **Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education** are co-sponsoring a workshop entitled “**Universal Design for Learning**” at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn on Shawan Road in Hunt Valley. For further information or to register, please go to **http://www.thearcmd.org** or call **(888) 272-3449**.

Family events, social events and fundraising events

On **Saturday April 26th** from **8:30 am – 4:30 pm**, **Parents of Autistic Children (POAC) of Central Maryland** is sponsoring a conference entitled "**Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis and teaching Verbal Behavior in the classroom**". It will be led by Thomas Caffrey and held at the Community College of Baltimore County Catonsville campus on Rolling Road in Baltimore. For further information or to register, please go to <http://www.poacofcentralmd.org> or <http://www.thefate.org>.

On **Monday April 28th** from **9:00 am – 4:00 pm**, the **Maryland State Department of Education** and the **Mental Hygiene Administration** will co-sponsor a "**Forum on children with emotional disturbance in educational settings**" at the Sheppard Pratt Conference Center in Baltimore. For further information or to register, please contact Shanda Crowder at **(410) 767-0858** or scrowder@msde.state.md.us.

Ivymount Autism Outreach and Consultation Services will host a series of workshops for families of young children newly diagnosed with autism at the Ivymount School on Seven Locks Road in Rockville. The schedule of workshops is as follows:

Tuesday April 29th from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**
"How to choose effective treatments"

Tuesday May 6th from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**
"An introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)"

Tuesday May 13th from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**
"Teaching strategies for children with ASD using ABA"

Tuesday May 20th from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**
"An overview of challenging behaviors: Why behaviors occur and what are the specific treatments"

For further information or to register, please go to <http://www.ivymount.org/outreach.html> or contact Dr. Marder at **(240) 441-8282** or tmarder@ivymount.org.

On **Friday May 2nd** and **Saturday May 3rd**, **Caring Communities** will host a **Disability Expo** at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg. For further information, please go to <http://www.caringcommunities.org> or call **(866) 227-4644**.

On **Saturday May 3rd** from **10:00 am - 2:00 pm**, the **Parents' Place of Maryland** will host a **Southern Maryland Health TIES (Training, Information, Education, and Support) conference** for parents or caregivers of a child with disabilities or special health care needs at the Southern Maryland Childcare Resource Center on Killpeck Creek Court in Charlotte Hall. For further information or to register, please contact **Missy Alexander** at **(301) 884-4662** or alexander@md.metrocast.net.

On **Wednesday April 9th** from **4:00 – 9:00 pm**, **Five Guys Famous Burgers and Fries** on Mountain Road in Pasadena will hold a fundraising event for **Anne Arundel County Special Olympics**. 20% of all proceeds will go to the organization. For further information, please contact **Jennifer Catterino** at **(410) 437-9135**.

On **Saturday April 12th** at **9:30 am**, the **Howard County Autism Society** and **AMC Columbia Theater** will host an opportunity for families with special needs to see "**Nim's Island**". Tickets are available at the door; doors open at 8:45. Lights and sound will be adjusted and sensory breaks are encouraged, and no previews will be shown. For further information, please contact **Marianne Ross** at **(410) 379-1027**.

On **Saturday April 12th** from **8:00 - 12:00 pm**, the **VFW** in Port Deposit will host a fundraising event for Pathfinders for Autism including live music, dancing, door prizes, raffles, game tables, and a silent auction. For further information or to order tickets, please contact **Kathy Clemens** at **(443) 553-4524**.

On **Saturday April 12th** from **7:00 - 12:00 pm**, the **American Legion** in Towson will host a fundraising event for Pathfinders for Autism including live music, game wheels, raffles, and all the shrimp, oysters, pit beef and ham, salads and desserts you can eat. For further information or to order tickets, please go to <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaID=153390>.

The **Autism Chapter Eastern Shore (ACES)** and the **Delmarva Shorebirds** baseball team are co-sponsoring "**Knock out Autism**" fundraising events on **Saturday April 12th** at the **7:00 pm** game and **Sunday April 13th** at the **2:00 pm** afternoon game. For further information or to obtain tickets, please call **Crystal Holman** at **(443) 614-0344** or go to <http://www.autismsalisbury.org>.

On **Tuesday April 15th** from **5:00 – 10:00 pm**, the **Rockfish restaurant** on Sixth Street in Annapolis will hold a special evening for families living with an autism spectrum disorder. Special gluten and/or casein-free menu items are available, background music is turned down, and a quiet room is available. Reservations are encouraged. For further information or to make reservations, please call **(410) 267-1800**. A portion of the proceeds is donated to Pathfinders for Autism.

If you have information about any other events or activities in our area, please contact us at (410) 923-8800.



On **Wednesday April 16th, Bounce Around** on Airport Park Road in Glen Burnie will hold four sessions at **1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 5:30 pm, and 6:30 pm** for children with autism spectrum disorders and their siblings. A quiet room is available. Reservations are required. For further information or to make a reservation, please call **(410) 768-8288**.

On **Saturday April 19th, Teach Autistic Children Today** is holding a fundraising walk at Frederick High School. The funds will be used to help families in need pay for therapy for their children with autism. For further information please contact **Chris Patterson** at keeptrying2fly@yahoo.com or **(301) 788-6074** or go to <http://www.TeachAutisticChildrenToday.org>.

On **Sunday April 20th from 1:00 – 4:00 pm**, the **Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region** will hold their fifth annual **Bowl-a-thon** at the Severna Park Bowling Lanes on Ritchie Highway to provide assistance to families of children with disabilities. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.thearcccr.org> or call **Angie DeMoreland** at **(410) 990-1935**.

On **Thursday April 24th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Book Friends** will hold their meeting at the public library 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. For further information or to reserve a seat, please contact **Chrystal Irving** at **(443) 867-7032** or **Rebecca Raggio** at **(410) 923-5751**.

On **Sunday April 27th from 7:00 am—1:00 pm**, a fundraising event to support autism research at the **Kennedy Krieger Institute** will be held at Oregon Ridge Park. For further information please go to <http://www.roar.kennedykrieger.org/NETCOMUNITY/Page.aspx?pid=193&srcid=-2>.

On **Thursday May 8th at 11:00**, the **Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region** and the **Arc of Maryland** will hold their 10th annual **golf challenge** at South River Golf Course in Edgewater. The event will raise funds for the programs and services provide by the Arc for individuals with developmental disabilities. For further information, please contact **Angie DeMoreland** at **(410) 990-1935** or ademoreland@thearcccr.org.

A group of moms with children in Anne Arundel County Infants and Toddlers and ECI programs gets together to meet other moms, share common experiences and resources, and get out of the house for some food and fun. For further information, please contact **Dawn Dixon** at dawn1477@comcast.net or **(410) 721-1748**.

Recreation programs and summer programs

The **Special Olympics Young Athletes Program** is held every other Wednesday from 4:00 – 5:00 pm at the Ruth Eason School on Old Mill Road in Millersville. It is a free program for children with special needs ages 3 – 5 that provides motor skills activities to encourage young children to participate in group athletic exercises. For further information, please contact **Janis Jank** at jjank@aacps.org or **Eva Tucholski** at etucholski@aacps.org.

OT Ventures will hold a **summer day camp program** where children will participate in multi-sensory activities to improve their social interaction, sense of movement, touch, taste, and sound, as well as fine and gross motor coordination. The program will be led by a multi-disciplinary team of occupational therapists, a speech-language pathologist, and a special education student. For further information, please contact **Jamie Levine** at ot_ventures@hotmail.com or **(443) 812-6396**.

Summer Sensations Camp is a program for children with sensory processing differences. The full-day program includes occupational therapy, speech therapy, music therapy, art exploration, and bike riding. For further information, please call **(410) 997-8081** or go to <http://www.summersensationscamp.com>.

Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Division of Adaptive Recreation is offering a variety of adaptive inclusive summer programs:

Mayo Beach and Lake Waterford Park Day Camps for youth ages 4 through 21 who need a highly structured program with success-based activities.

Sibling and Friends Camp for youth aged 5 – 13 at Mayo Beach or Lake Waterford Park.

Mayo Beach Youth Camp for youth entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade.

Mayo Beach and Lake Waterford Park extended day program at several Summer Fun Centers.

Lake Waterford Preschool Camp for children ages 3 – 5.

Ruth Eason ESY Day Camp

For further information, please contact **Wendy Scarborough** at **(410) 222-7311 x 3554** or go to <http://www.aacounty.org/recparks>.



Research studies

The **Center for Autism and Related Disorders** at the **Kennedy Krieger Institute** is recruiting children with an autism spectrum disorder between the ages of 36 and 54 months to participate in a study looking at the development of memory and learning in children. The study requires two visits, each lasting approximately 2-1/2 hours, where your child will participate in play-based, structured activities, and one parent interview. Participants will receive a written report of your child's development on the standardized assessments. For further information, please call (877) 850-3372 and leave a message referencing the "Autism and the development of relational awareness" study.

Researchers at the **Children's National Medical Center** continue to seek children and adolescents ages 5 – 16 (weighing 154 pounds or less) with autism, Asperger's disorder, or another pervasive developmental disorder to participate in a new **drug study**. Participants will receive a complete physical examination by a medical doctor who is an ASD specialist, a complete neuropsychological assessment, regular vital signs measurements, a cardiac evaluation, specialized laboratory tests, and one low oral dose of an experimental drug. Participants will be required to come into the doctor's office for five visits over the course of one week and must be able to tolerate a total of eight blood drawings over the course of those visits. Reimbursement for time and travel is provided. For further information, please contact **Elaine Williams** at efwillia@cnmc.org or (202) 476-2245.

Children and adults (ages 3 – 60) with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder (autism, PDD-NOS, or Aspergers) are sought to participate in a 12-week research study to evaluate the possible effectiveness of a new **vitamin/mineral supplement** in reducing the symptoms of autism. The study is being conducted by James Adams, Ph.D., Professor of School of Materials at Arizona State University, and Sharon McDonough-Means, M.D., Developmental Pediatrician. For further information and to obtain an application form, please go to <http://autism.asu.edu>.

The **National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)** is seeking participants for a variety of clinical trials studying various aspects of Autism Spectrum Disorders. A comprehensive listing of these research studies is available at <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/trials/autism-spectrum-disorders-pervasive-developmental-disorders.shtml>. Information about additional research studies on autism being conducted by the National Institutes of Health is available at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>.

Resources

The **YMCA** and the **Arc of Prince Georges County** have partnered to develop a program that provides **inclusive child-care** for children ages six weeks to five years with chronic medical conditions. The program combines quality nursing care with inclusive education and socialization. Through this program infants and children with heart, breathing, or feeding problems will receive educational and therapeutic services aimed at preventing developmental delays through early intervention. For further information, please contact **Judy Tribby** at (240) 308-9186 or jtribby@thearcofpgc.org.

Zalimar Bocanegra has joined the **Parents Place of Maryland** to provide information, resources, and support to **Latino families** who have children with disabilities. Zayli will help families understand their rights under IDEA, provide training workshops in Spanish, and support families through the IEP process. She can be reached at zayli@ppmd.org or (410) 768-9100 ext. 109.

The Division of Specialized Care for Children at the University of Illinois at Chicago has created a web site called "**Build your own care notebook**" in conjunction with the National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs. The web site is designed to assist families in building their own care notebooks for their children with special needs. It allows parents to select different versions of care notebooks and put them together to build their own customized care notebook. For further information, please go to http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/tools/care_notebook.html.

Autism Speaks has launched a '**100-Day Kit**', a personalized resource to assist families in getting through the critical time following an autism diagnosis. It includes basic information about autism and dealing with the news of a diagnosis, as well as local resources. It also provides insight into getting services for a newly diagnosed child and explains various available treatment options, and provides a week-by-week action plan, a glossary of terms, a safety plan, and a list of recommended books and web sites. For further information, please go to http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/family_services/100_day_kit.php.

Perspectives Social Learning provides a weekly e-mail tip about supporting social skills development for youth on the Autism Spectrum. For further information or to sign-up for this resource, please go to <http://www.socialperspectives.com> or contact **Julie Wilson** at (269) 720-1435.



The **National Autism Association** (<http://www.nationalautismassociation.org/helpinghand.php>) has a grant program for families of children with autism who are in financial crisis. If you are a family residing in the United States with a child on the autism spectrum aged birth to 18, you may qualify for the grant. The maximum you may request is \$1,500. Money from the grant may be applied only to biomedical treatments, supplements or therapies for your child with autism, and the money is paid directly to vendors, not to families. Similar grants are offered to families by **Act-Today for Autism** (<http://www.act-today.org/grants.html>), **Autism Family Resources** (<http://www.autismfamilyresources.org/needassistance2.htm>), and **United Healthcare Children's Foundation** (<http://www.uhccf.org>). Money from these grants does not go directly to families, and may be used only for autism treatments and related costs.

AutismLink has formed a **new yahoo group** where parents can discuss marital troubles, divorce, and raising a child(ren) with autism spectrum disorder as a single parent. For further information, please go to http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/Autism_Divorce/join.

The **National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities** has an on-line training module about options for **dispute resolution**. It is available at <http://www.nichcy.org/training/contents.asp#ThemeE>.

The **U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR)** recently issued a policy letter addressing **students with disabilities' access to advanced programs**. OCR reaffirmed that section 504 and Title II of ADA require that qualified students with disabilities be given the same opportunities to compete for and benefit from accelerated programs and classes as are given to students without disabilities. The letter can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/print/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-20071226.html>.

A recent report from the **National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities** focuses on which accommodations are appropriate for which students and how accommodations affect student learning and performance on tests. It is available at http://research.nichcy.org/NICHCY_EE_Accommodations.pdf.

Wrong Planet (<http://www.wrongplanet.net>) is the web community designed for individuals (and parents of those) with Asperger's Syndrome, Autism, ADHD, and other PDDs. They provide a discussion forum, an article section, a blog, and a chatroom for real-time communication.

A new **Bilingual Autism Resource Guide** is available for free at <http://www.asdAtoZ.com>. It provides a directory of the best web resources available in Spanish with site descriptions in both English and Spanish.


The **MouseTrial Autism Software Database** (http://www.mousetrial.com/autism_software_database.php) is a free resource for parents and professionals listing software for autism treatment.

News from National ASA

The **Autism Society of America** and **MeadWestvaco Consumer and Office Products Group** have partnered to design an **autism-themed Cambridge Planner** in honor of **National Autism Awareness Month**. The planner went on sale at 1,000 Wal-Mart stores nationwide on April 1st. The planner was specially designed by ASA for parents and caregivers to help manage the many informational and scheduling challenges of caring for an individual with autism. Features include a specialized notes page with space for care provider contact information, current prescriptions and a checklist of important documents, as well as a page of stickers for doctors' appointments, support group meetings and other important events throughout the year. The planner also includes general information about the disorder, early signs, and how to find help and support. A portion of all proceeds from the sale of the planner will benefit ASA.

The **Autism Society of America's national conference** will be held from **July 9th – 12th** at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. The conference will include over 150 educational sessions addressing a wide range of issues, including early intervention, education, employment, behavior, communication, social skills, biomedical interventions and others, across the entire lifespan. For further information, please contact ASA at **(301) 657-0881 ext. 110** or conference@autism-society.org.

The **Autism Society of America** recently re-launched its web site (<http://www.autism-society.org>). New features include personal stories from family members, professionals and people on the spectrum; useful lessons; grassroots advocacy initiatives; and information from top experts to help families and people on the spectrum through every stage of life. More interactive features are planned, including a community board and social networking options. Individuals interested in sharing the story of what they learned in their journey with autism, to be featured on the centerpiece of the new home page, are asked to e-mail editor@autism-society.org.



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

Postage
here

We have available **autism awareness merchandise**, including puzzle ribbon lapel pins and car magnets, autism puzzle piece bracelets and wristbands, as well as many other wonderful items. They can be purchased at our meetings or by using the order forms at <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

We participate in **Affiliate Programs** with **Future Horizons** and **Autism Asperger Publishing Company**. Through these programs, when you follow the link at <http://www.aaccasa.org> to their web sites to make purchases, our chapter receives a portion of the purchase price.

The **Garyworld** online store (<http://www.cafépress.com/garyworld>) promotes the original artwork of chapter member Gary Schmedes Jr., including such characters as 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.

Donation commitment

Beth Strasnick, one of our chapter members and the parent of a child with autism, has initiated a fund-raising effort to help our chapter's awareness, education, support, and advocacy efforts.

Beth has committed to donate \$250 to AACC-ASA for every referral through our group that results in a sale, and to increase the donation to \$500 if she sells your home and helps you buy a new home.

Beth Strasnick

Century 21 Results Realty
7231 Ritchie Highway, Suite A, Glen Burnie
Cell **(410) 294-7723**
Office **(410) 590-1395**
Estrasnick@aol.com