

## THE VOICE

### Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America

March 2008

Volume 12, Issue 8

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#### *Next Meeting:*

*Tuesday  
March 25th*

*7:00 pm*

#### Presidents Message

Thanks to everyone who joined us at our February meeting, which included a discussion about **Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy**, led by **Janelle Love, M.D.** For further information, please contact Dr. Love at **(410) 544-8141**.

Our March meeting will include a discussion about the role of **private speech therapy and occupational therapy services** for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, presented by a representative from **Cypress Creek Therapy**. I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and other service providers, to join us on March 25th.

#### Third annual Basket Bingo Extravaganza!

Fabulous baskets! Fabulous items including:

- Four passes to Disney World!!
- Two roundtrip tickets from Southwest Airlines!!
- Gift certificates from local restaurants and stores
- Tickets for local events

When: **Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Doors open at 1:00 pm, games begin at 2:00 pm

Where: Elks Lodge, 1506 Defense Highway, Gambrills, Maryland  
(Between Rt. 3 Crain Highway and Rt. 424 Davidsonville Road)

Event will include:

- 20 regular games and 3 special games (all baskets are complete sets and filled)
- King Tutt raffle and 50/50 raffle
- Several additional raffles
- Door prizes
- Food and beverage available for purchase

Cost: Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door  
Special drawing for reserving four or more advance tickets by March 20th  
Tickets are available by phone at **(410) 923-8800**  
or on-line at <http://www.aaccasa.org/bingo2008.htm>

Flyers are available at <http://www.aaccasa.org/images/bingoflyer2008.pdf>

Donation letter is available at <http://aaccasa.org/images/donationletter2008.pdf>

Contact us:

By phone: **(410) 923-8800**

On the web: [www.aaccasa.org](http://www.aaccasa.org)



## **\*\* Chapter News and Notes \*\***

### **Chapter meetings**

Our 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 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 Sporer  
Lynne Markowitz  
Diana Phillips  
Laura Phipps  
Claudine Intner  
Nancy Snyder

### **Disclaimer/Options policy**

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### **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

### **Hometown Heroes for ASD recognition event**

In acknowledgment of **April as Autism Awareness Month**, we are holding a special event at our April chapter meeting. The event 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.

You can help us spotlight these heroes and thank them for the value they bring to the lives of individuals with ASD.

We will invite each nominee to attend and will present them a framed certificate and share information about their contributions and the value they bring to our community. We will also share information about the nominees in our chapter newsletter.

To participate, please complete the on-line nomination form at [http://www.aaccasa.org/hometown\\_heroes.php](http://www.aaccasa.org/hometown_heroes.php) or call (410) 923-8800 to obtain hard copy of nomination form. The deadline for submission is **April 10th**.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:hamiltonal@verizon.net).



## 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](mailto: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 Reisterstown. For further information, please contact **Bob Brown** at **(443) 881-2034** or [rbrown@hannahmore.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 Gambrells 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**.



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

On **Monday March 3rd** from **1:00 – 2:30 pm**, the **Center for Autism and Related Disorders** will host a free presentation entitled **"Getting the Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis: Where do you go from here?"** It will be led by Cathy Groschan and held at the CARD office on Greenspring Avenue (3rd floor small conference room) in Baltimore. For further information or to RSVP, please call **Kelly Templeman** at **(443) 923-7680**.

The **Parents Place of Maryland** is hosting a series of free **teleconference workshops** on the topic of **transition from school to adult life**. The schedule is as follows:

**Tuesday March 4th** from **11:30 am – 1:00 pm**  
**"Life after High School - Division of Rehabilitation (DORS) services"**

**March 10th** from **11:30 am – 1:00 pm**  
**"Job development 101: A crash course for families"**

**April 7th** from **11:30 am – 1:00 pm**  
**"DDA New Directions Waiver"**

**April 15th** from **11:30 am – 1:00 pm**  
**"What's health got to do with it? Everything!"**

For further information or to register for any of the sessions, please contact **Rochelle Howell** at **(410) 768-9100 x 104** or **rochelle@ppmd.org**. When you register, materials and dial-in information for the teleconference will be sent to you.

On **Wednesday March 5th** and **Thursday March 6th** from **9:00 - 11:30 am** and **1:00 - 3:30 pm**, the **Baltimore County Public School's Office of Special Education** will host make-and-take workshops entitled **"Picture schedules for the home"** for parents of young children on the autism spectrum. The workshops on Wednesday March 5th will be held at the Resource Center at Campfield Early Childhood Center on Alter Street in Baltimore, and the workshops on Thursday March 6th will be held at the Resource Center at Middlesex Elementary on Bennett Road in Baltimore. For further information or to RSVP, please contact **Debbie Page** at **dpage2@bcps.org** or **Mary Mitchell** at **(410) 887-3660**.

On **Thursday March 6th** from **6:30 - 8:00 pm** the **Anne Arundel County Social Workers speaker series** will host a presentation entitled **"Toilet training for children with special needs"**. It will be led by Leesa Mann, Ph.D. and held at Central Special School on Stepney Lane in Edgewater. For further information, please contact **Linda Brice** at **(410) 956-5885**.

The **Baltimore County Public School's Partners for Success Resource Center** is sponsoring a series of free workshops. The schedule is as follows:

**Wednesday March 5th** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**  
**"Applying for SSI (Supplemental Security Income)"**  
Ridge Ruxton School on Charles Street in Towson

**Wednesday March 12th** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**  
**"What will happen to my child when I'm gone?"**  
ESS building (Room 123), Greenwood Campus on Charles Street in Baltimore

**Wednesday April 2nd** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**  
**"Exploring guardianship issues"**  
ESS building (Room 123), Greenwood Campus on Charles Street in Baltimore

For further information or to register, please call **(410) 887-5443**.

On **Monday March 10th** from **7:30 - 9:00 pm**, the **Individual Differences in Learning Association** will host a presentation entitled **"Executive function and dyslexia"**. It will be led by Dr. Jane Snider, Executive Director of the Summit School, and held at Linden Linthicum Church in Clarksville. For further information or to RSVP, please contact IDL at **info@gifteddifferentlearners.org**.

On **Monday March 10th** from **3:30 - 5:30 pm**, the **Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)** will host a forum to receive comments on proposed changes to the Medicaid home-and-community-based service waivers (Community Pathways and New Directions) at the Howard County Library's central branch on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. To obtain a copy of the proposed changes, please contact **Catriona Johnson** at **(410) 767-5569**. Individuals unable to attend the forum are invited to submit written testimony by March 10th to: **Catriona Johnson**, Developmental Disabilities Administration, DHMH, 201 West Preston Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201; (Fax) 410-333-7441.

On **Tuesday March 11th** at **6:30 pm**, **Family Support Services of Wicomico County** will sponsor a workshop entitled **"The impact of sensory integration on a child's behavior"**. It will be led by Janet O'Brien, OTR/L, and held at the Holly Center on Snow Hill Road in Salisbury. For further information or to register, please call **Lori Thompson** at **(410) 677-5250**.



The **Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)** and the **State Rehabilitation Council** are holding a series of public meetings to discuss and hear concerns about DORS future plans in light of decreased federal funding and increased demand for services. They will provide information about Governor O'Malley's recent proposal for a \$2.3 million addition to the state budget for DORS, as well as details about the 2009 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. The schedule for the public meetings is as follows:

**Tuesday March 11th from 3:30 – 5:00 pm**  
Deaf Independent Living Assn on Snow Hill Road in Salisbury

**Thursday March 13th from 3:30 – 5:00 pm**  
Prince George's One-Stop Career Center in Largo

**Tuesday March 18th from 3:00 – 4:30 pm**  
Arundel Lodge on Solomon's Island Road in Edgewater

**Thursday March 20th from 3:00 – 4:30 pm**  
Library on Orleans Street in Baltimore

Individuals who are unable to attend one of the public meetings are invited to submit comments by e-mail ([dors@dors.state.md.us](mailto:dors@dors.state.md.us)), by phone (410-554-9435 or 888-554-0334) or by regular mail (**DORS, Attn: Kathi Santora, Staff Specialist, Public Information & Planning, 2301 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218**). Comments must be received by **April 14th**.

On **Wednesday March 12th 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 "**Challenging behaviors**". It will be led by Robin Taplette, BCPS Resource Teacher, and 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](mailto:RSVP@bcc-asa.org) or (410) 655-7933.

On **Thursday March 13th from 6:00 – 9:00 pm**, **LearningRx of Severna Park** will host a presentation entitled "**Unlock the Einstein inside: Applying new brain science to wake up the smart in our children**". It will be led by Dr. Ken Gibson and held at Severna Park Middle School on Jumpers Hole Road. The presentation will focus on how to strengthen cognitive skills. For further information or to register, please contact LearningRx at (410) 439-0355 or [severnaparkseminar@learninrx.net](mailto:severnaparkseminar@learninrx.net).

On **Friday March 14th**, **Awares** will host an **on-line autism seminar** led by Dr Lorna Wing. For further information or to register, please go to <http://www.awares.org/conferences>.

On **Thursday March 13th at 7:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee** will host a presentation about the **Building Bridges autism awareness and education program**. It will be held at the Board of Education building on Riva Road in Annapolis. For further information, please contact (410) 224-3122 or [AASECAC@fastmail.fm](mailto:AASECAC@fastmail.fm).

On **Friday March 14th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**, a meeting of the **Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee** will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center on Pennsylvania Avenue NW in Washington, DC. For further information or to register, please go to <https://www.infinityconferences.com/InfiniBase/Registration/Reg.aspx?ptguid=ddb9e76c-9f60-4e3c-bd26-e4b4d6e1b55f> or contact Tanya Pryor at (301) 443-7153 or [pryort@mail.nih.gov](mailto:pryort@mail.nih.gov).

On **Tuesday March 18th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm**, **Anne Arundel County Public Schools' Partners for Success** will host a free presentation entitled "**Individualized education: An overview of the special education process**" at their office 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](mailto:partnersforsuccess@aacps.org).

On **Thursday March 20th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Autism-Asperger Association of Calvert County** will host a presentation entitled "**Autism from an adult perspective**". It will be led by Ruth Snyder (autism advocate and author) and Ari Ne'eman (President of the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network), and held at the County Services Plaza Building (conference room) on Main Street in Prince Frederick. For further information, please call (410) 326-5050 or go to <http://www.asdcalvert.org>.

On **Thursday March 27th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**, the **Howard County Autism Society** will host a workshop on **Pivotal Response Treatment**. It will be led by Drs. Robert Koegel and Lynn Koegel and held at the Kittleman Room (ELB-100) of Howard Community College. Pivotal Response Treatment is a behavioral intervention designed to increase motivation; it has been used to target language skills, play skills and social behaviors in children with autism. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.howard-autism.org> or call (410) 290-6231.

On **Thursday April 3rd from 7:00 - 8:30 pm**, the **Abilities Network's Family Empowerment Network** and the **Howard County Family Support and Resource Center** will co-host a presentation about **potty training for special needs children**. It will be held at the Faulkner Ridge Center in Columbia. For further information or to register, please call (410) 313-7161.



## Family events, social events and fundraising events

On **Friday March 28th** and **Saturday March 29th** from **9:00 am - 4:30 pm**, **Parents of Autistic Children of Northern Virginia (POAC-NoVA)** will host a workshop entitled "**Language intervention for children with autism based on the Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP)**". It will be led by Dr. Mark Sundberg and held at the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College on Little River Turnpike. The two-day workshop will present the VB-MAPP and describe how it is used to develop or improve language and social skills for child with autism spectrum disorders. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.poac-nova.org> or call **(703) 391-2251**.

On **Saturday April 12th** from **8:30 am – 3:00 pm**, the **Parents Place of Maryland** and several disability-related organizations will host a conference entitled "**Around the world of special education in one day**". It will be held at the Judy Center on Main Street in Grasonville, and will include workshops on a variety of topics, including IEPs, the special education process, and coping with stress. For further information or to register, please contact **Bonnie Larrimore** at **(410) 928-2079** or [bonnie@ppmd.org](mailto:bonnie@ppmd.org).

On **Saturday April 12th** from **9:30 am – 2:30 pm**, the **Maryland School for the Blind** will host a **marriage workshop for couples raising a child with disabilities**. It will be led by Shawn Kros, LCSW-C and held at the school on Taylor Avenue in Baltimore. The workshop will focus on ways to help with challenges and stresses, provide coping strategies, ways to work out conflicts, and strategies for finding time for each other. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **Juli Miller** at **(410) 444-5000 ext 489** or [julim@mdschblind.org](mailto:julim@mdschblind.org).

On **Monday April 14th** from **8:30 am – 4:00 pm**, the **Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education (MCIE)** will host a presentation entitled "**Teaching literacy skills to students with significant and multiple disabilities**". It will be led by June Downing and held at the Meeting House on Robert Oliver Place in Columbia. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact MCIE at **(410) 859-5400** or [mcie@mcie.org](mailto:mcie@mcie.org).

On **Monday April 21st** and **Tuesday April 22nd**, **Behavior Analysts and Stafford County Schools** will host a series of workshops for parents and professionals led by James Partington, Ph.D., BCBA. Topics will include teaching language to children with autism or other developmental disabilities and the Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills-Revised (ABLLSTM-R). For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.behavioranalysts.com>.

On **Thursday March 13th**, a **preview show** for the **Baltimore ComedyFest for Autism** will be held at the University of Baltimore's Student Center Theater. The pre-show reception will start at 7:30 pm, and the show will start at 8:00 pm. Acts include standup comics and an improv troupe. Proceeds from the event will go to Pathfinders for Autism. For further information or to purchase tickets, please go to <http://www.ubalt.edu/calendar/EventDetail.cfm?eventId=2877&path=0> or contact **Pathfinders for Autism** at **(866) 806-8400**.

On **Tuesday March 18th** from **5:00 – 10:00 pm**, the **Rockfish restaurant** on Sixth Street in Annapolis, in conjunction with **Pathfinders for Autism**, 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 will be turned down to reduce sensory overload, and a quiet room is available if needed. Reservations are encouraged so that the restaurant can ensure they have adequate staff on hand. For further information or to make reservations, please call **(410) 267-1800**. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Pathfinders for Autism.

On **Wednesday March 19th**, **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 and will be accepted through the morning of the event on a space-available basis. For further information or to make a reservation, please call **(410) 768-8288**.

On **Wednesday March 19th** from **7:00 - 9:00 pm** a **Mom's Night Out** will be held at Faith Community Church on Riedel Road in Gambrills. Formed by a group of moms with children in Anne Arundel County Infants and Toddlers and ECI programs, the group gets together once a month to meet other moms, share common experiences and resources, and get out for the house for some food and fun. For further information or to RSVP, please contact **Dawn Dixon** at [dawn1477@comcast.net](mailto:dawn1477@comcast.net) or **(410) 721-1748**.

On **Thursday March 20th** 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 **Saturday March 29th**, **Caring Communities** will host a **charity gala** with a Mardi Gras theme at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore. For further information or to order tickets, please go to <http://www.caringcommunities.org> or call **(866) 227-4644**.

On **Saturday March 29th**, the **Joe Cannon 5K Run and Fun Walk** will be held at Joe Cannon Stadium on Ridge Chapel Road in Hanover. Registration starts at **8:00 am** and the 3.1-mile race and 2-mile and 1-mile walks start at 9:00 am. A 'quarter carnival' will also be held from 9:30 - 11:00 am. The event benefits **Recreation Deeds for Special Needs**, a nonprofit organization that provides camp scholarships, adaptive equipment, training, and volunteer support for people with disabilities. For further information or to register, please go to <http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks/joecannonevent1207.cfm> or call **Wendy Scarborough** at **(410) 222-7313**.

On **Saturday March 29th** at **8:00 am**, the **Bowen Foundation for Autism** will host a **5K Run/Walk** at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. All proceeds from the event will be used to raise awareness and to fund autism prevention, treatment, education, and research efforts in Maryland. For further information or to register, please go to [http://www.bowenfoundation.org/getinvolved\\_events.asp](http://www.bowenfoundation.org/getinvolved_events.asp) or contact **Molly Alton Mullins** at **(410) 271-3469** or [mollyalton@yahoo.com](mailto:mollyalton@yahoo.com).

On **Saturday March 29th** at **9:30 am**, the **Howard County Autism Society** and **AMC Columbia 14 Theater** will host an opportunity for families with special needs to see "**Dr. Seuss's a Horton Hears a Who**". Tickets are available at the door; doors open at 8:45. Lights and sound will be adjusted, sensory breaks are encouraged, and no previews will be shown. For further information, please contact **Marianne Ross** at **(410) 379-1027** or [rossfda@hotmail.com](mailto:rossfda@hotmail.com).

On **Tuesday April 1st** from **4:00 – 6:00 pm**, the **Pump it Up facility** on Troy Hill Drive in Elkridge will host a "**Bounce for Autism**" event. Parents, siblings, and friends of individuals with autism spectrum disorders are encouraged to form "sock squad" teams to bounce and raise funds for the **Autism Society of America**. For further information, please go to <http://www.autism-society.org> or call **(410) 579-1122**.

On **Wednesday April 16th** from **5:00 – 7:00 pm**, the **Pump it Up facility** on Ordnance Road in Glen Burnie will hold a special event for children with autism spectrum disorders and their siblings and friends. Proceeds from the event will be donated to **AACC-ASA**, and they will be accepting donations for our chapter during the entire month of April. For further information or to RSVP, please contact the facility at **(410) 637-6547**.

## Recreation programs, therapy groups and social skills groups

The **Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks** will hold an **open house camp fair** on **Saturday March 15th** from **10:00 am – 2:00 pm** at the Arundel Olympic Swim Center and on **Saturday April 5th** from **10:00 am – 2:00 pm** at the North Arundel Aquatic Center. There will be information about day camps, summer fun centers, adaptive recreation and inclusion, as well as specialty camps. For further information, please call **(410) 222-7313**.

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](mailto:jjank@aacps.org) or **Eva Tucholski** at [etucholski@aacps.org](mailto:etucholski@aacps.org).

The **Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Division of Adaptive Recreation**, offers a variety of programs for individuals with disabilities. Their upcoming schedule for spring includes the following:


- Therapeutic adaptive riding
- After school recreation for children
- Creative activities after school for children
- Teen club for youth with developmental delays
- Young adult social club
- Saturday recreation program
- Challenger baseball

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

OT Ventures in Ellicott City is offering the following therapy groups:

- Get your engine going
- Munch bunch
- Socialites
- Write-on

For further information about any of the groups, please contact **Jamie Levine** at **(443) 812-6396** or [ot\\_ventures@hotmail.com](mailto:ot_ventures@hotmail.com).



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**

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**Estrasnick@aol.com**