



BCC-ASA News

*Baltimore-Chesapeake Chapter
of the Autism Society of America*

May 2006

Our mission is to share all types of information regarding Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and related disorders. We do not necessarily endorse the information printed in this newsletter.

New Chapter Board Elected at May Meeting

The new board of the Baltimore-Chesapeake Chapter of ASA was elected at the Annual Meeting held on May 4 at Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital. Elected were the following:

Co-Presidents: Eva Williams
Heather Thoms-Chesley

Vice-President: Tony Lorenzo

Secretary: Jane Rossheim

Treasurer: Carol Brown

New Board Members:

- Deanne Brookshire
- Joan DiPietro
- Shelley Kennedy
- Lori Plaza
- Helen Zinreich-Shafer

Returning Board Member:

Hilary Hellerbach

Andrea Schanbacher remains on the board as Immediate Past President.

Elaine Williams will continue to oversee the chapter library, Mary Ellen Curtis will still serve as the newsletter editor, and Will Cassano continues as webmaster of the chapter's website.

Essay Contest Winners!

Congratulations to the following winners of the essay contest co-sponsored by BCC-ASA and BCPS in honor of Autism Awareness Month:

- Jesse Wehner (elementary school)
- Lauren Langmead (middle school)
- William Siegel (parent)
- Emily Schofield (high school)
- Sandy Hoffman (teacher)

And in a tie for the winning essays written by individuals with autism:

- Donte J. Lewis (ind. with ASD)
- Dave Dorsey (ind. with ASD)

Calendar

- May 9 Adult Autism Resource Group, 7:00 p.m.
- May 10 *Social Skills and the Autism Spectrum*, Perry Hall Middle, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- May 10 *IDEA 2004: What's Changed?*, Towson, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- May 16 Balto. Co. ABA/Verbal Behavior Interest Group, Maiden Choice, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- May 16 *Appealing Insurance Denials*, Teleconference, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- May 17 *Dispute Resolution*, Towson, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- May 17 *Advocacy 101 and the new IDEA*, Baltimore, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- May 19-21 World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo, Timonium Fairgrounds
- May 21 *"Imagine the Possibilities - Autism Day"* at Disabilities Expo, 11 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- May 23 *HFA and Asperger Syndrome*, Rockville, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
- May 23 Summer Workshop: *Toilet Training Tips*, Cockeysville, 7:00 p.m.
- May 24 *Transition Planning*, Towson, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- May 26 Autism Super Conference, Cambridge, MD, 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- May 31 *Components of a Successful IEP*, Towson, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- June 1 BCC-ASA Support Group, 7:00 p.m.
- June 7 *Life Care, Financial and Estate Planning*, Baltimore, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- June 13 Adult Autism Resource Group, 7:00 p.m.
- June 20 Balto. Co. ABA/Verbal Behavior Interest Group, Maiden Choice, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- June 25 BCC-ASA Annual Family Picnic, Cascade Lake, 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- June 27 Summer Workshop: *Managing Disruptive Behavior*, Cockeysville, 7:00 p.m.
- July 6 BCC-ASA Support Group, 7:00 p.m.
Program: *Managing Anxiety for Children with ASD*
- July 18 Balto. Co. ABA/Verbal Behavior Interest Group, Maiden Choice, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- July 25 Summer Workshop: *Getting First Words*, Cockeysville, 7:00 p.m.

Annual Picnic June 25

Join BCC-ASA for our Annual Picnic on Sunday, June 25 from noon to 4 p.m. at Cascade Lake in Carroll County, Maryland. Admission is free. Last year, over 100 ASA members from across Maryland attended with friends and family. See the enclosed flyer for more details and directions to the park. Please join us this year for a great time!

July Support Group Program: Anxiety in Children with ASD

The support group on July 6 will feature Bridget Trafton from Abilities Network who will discuss the treatment of anxiety in children on the spectrum. Join us for this informative talk on one of the challenges many of our children deal with daily, and how best we can help them.

A Busy Autism Awareness Month for BCC-ASA in April

Autism Awareness Month was launched at the April support group meeting with a talk by Jake Greenspan. In partnership with the Baltimore Co. Public Schools, we held two workshops for staff and parents (the third in the series is May 10). We made presentations to the Balto. Co. School Board and the Special Ed. Citizens Advisory Council. BCPS's *Hand-in-Hand* April edition was dedicated to autism awareness. BCC-ASA and BCPS also held an essay contest (see article at left) and the chapter produced 20,000 autism awareness bookmarks for distribution to 163 Balto. Co. Public Schools and 36 public libraries in Balto. City and Balto. County. BCC-ASA also partnered with Pathfinders for Autism and the Anne Arundel County ASA to place a full-page ad in *Baltimore's Child*, and our members participated in radio interviews on five area stations. Go to www.bcc-asa.org and click on "summary" for a full report of the chapter's Autism Awareness Month activities.

Look for "The Face of Autism"

The Baltimore-Chesapeake and Anne Arundel County Chapters of the Autism Society of America and Pathfinders for Autism have partnered to place a full page Autism Awareness ad in the current May issue of *Baltimore's Child* magazine. *Baltimore's Child* is distributed free of charge and reaches 80,000 families in the metropolitan area.

The ad, titled "Don't Wait and See. Early Intervention Works," aims to increase autism awareness, early evaluation and diagnosis. It features an attractive baby and lists early signs of autism.

The ad was professionally designed for Pathfinders. Advertising costs for both BCC and AAC were funded by the Kevin Durm Memorial Fund. Kevin's parents, Eileen and George Durm, have requested that these funds be used for projects to benefit children and adults with autism and their families in Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties and Baltimore City. Both chapters are truly grateful for this opportunity to educate the public and families of young children in particular.

Be on the lookout for the May issue in supermarkets, doctors' offices and other public locations. *Baltimore's Child* generously placed our "Face of Autism" ad on the back cover. You can view the ad at www.bcc-asa.org. Feel free to download, copy, and distribute!

Thanks for Your Help!

BCC-ASA appreciates the donations we received from:

James and Ellen Buckler

Trellis Services, Inc. in memory of David Moore

Ameriprise Financial, Inc. in honor of Phillip and Diane Hider

And our thanks to these donors who made pledges to BCC-ASA through the United Way Campaign, Combined Charitable Charities (CCC), Combined Federal Charities (CFC) or Maryland Combined Charities (MCC):

Mr. David Framm

Mr. Ronald G. Glodek

Ms. Alexandra E. Good

Ms. Daneen Henry

Ms. Camille Hinmon

Ms. Sharon A. Kazmerski

Ms. Nancy Leitch

Ms. Jannis Rhodes

Mrs. Leona Schmidt

Mr. Thornton T. Smith, Sr.

Ms. Sandra Spears

Pay Your Chapter Dues in May

The \$10.00 fee for membership in BCC-ASA is due from all members in May. This universal due date has been set to reduce confusion for our members on when their membership has expired and to make the collection process easier for our treasurer.

Please fill out the local membership form on page 5 and mail along with \$10.00 to the chapter P.O. Box. If you have paid your local dues since January of this year, your membership is considered up-to-date.

You may also pay your membership fee for the Autism Society of America (National) by using the form on page 5 and sending it to the Bethesda address at the bottom of the form.

Baltimore County Verbal Behavior Group Formed

The Baltimore County Autism and Verbal Behavior Interest Group is a collection of families who are raising children on the autism spectrum and are working with Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) to provide applied behavior analysis/verbal behavior (ABA/VB) programs as part of their children's treatment. The group meets monthly to discuss members' experiences with ABA/VB and BCPS and to share strategies and resources. Discussions are continued throughout the month via a Yahoo distribution group. For information regarding meeting dates, location, directions or how to join, please see the group's flyer on the BCC-ASA website at www.bcc-asa.org/VBIG.pdf or contact Wil Gehne at (410) 719-7273.

Renowned Experts At Expo's "Autism Day"

Pathfinders for Autism is pleased to present "Imagine the Possibilities - Autism Day" at the World of Possibilities Disability Expo on Sunday, May 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. The day will feature exhibitors, resources, and workshops. Guest speakers will include Wolf Dunaway, Craig Newschaffer, Peter Gearhardt and Larry Lipsitz. Call 1-866-227-4644 or visit www.caring_communities.org or www.pathfinders_forautism.org for more information.

2nd Annual Baltimore Walk for Autism Research

The 2nd Annual Baltimore Walk for Autism Research (formerly "Walk Far for NAAR") will be held at Towson University on Sunday, June 4. Chapter Co-President Eva Williams and her husband Dave are co-chairs of the event along with Susan and Tim Watkins, and BCC-ASA members Tony Lorenzo and Melinda Elliott are on the 2006 Walk Committee. Last year 2,000 walkers in Baltimore raised \$166,000. This year there will be moon bounces, art projects and face painting for the children and an autism information exchange tent for the adults. Everyone can enjoy good food and a two-mile stroll on flat, paved pathways as they help leave a lasting imprint on autism spectrum disorders.

Volunteers to help on Walk Day are also needed. Individuals, groups, and families are welcome. Students may earn Community Service hours for their work at the Walk. To sign up for the 2006 walk or to volunteer to help, visit www.autismwalk.org/baltimore or call 301-519-0770 for more information. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. followed by the walk at 2:00 p.m. The Walks for Autism Research in the Baltimore-Washington area have raised over 2.2 million dollars over the last four years!

2006 Primary Gubernatorial Candidates Forum to be Held

The Maryland Disabilities Forum with Maryland's Crossdisability Community will present the 2006 Primary Election Gubernatorial Candidates Forum on Disabilities on Friday, May 19 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Exhibition Hall at the Fairgrounds in Timonium during the World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo. Montgomery Co. Executive Doug Duncan, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., and Martin O'Malley have been invited to attend, during which time they will be asked to address their respective platforms on disability issues. For further information about the Md. Disabilities Forum, contact Chad E. McCrudden, Event Chairperson, at 410-444-1400, x 10 or MDForum@aol.com.

Next AARG! Meeting May 9

The Adult Autism Resource Group will meet Tuesday, May 9 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the home of Ellen Feifarek, 508 Hampton Lane. Call Linda Pearl at 410-769-9500 during daytime hours if you plan to attend.

Annual BCC-ASA Picnic



Please join us at
Cascade Lake

*3000 Snydersburg Road
Hampstead, Md*

*Sunday, June 25th, 2006
12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.*



*Swimming • Water slides • Playground • Paddleboats • Fishing
Horseshoe pit • Exclusive pavilion use • Hiking trail • Arcade • Charcoal grills*

Featuring a therapeutic toy exchange!

Donate a toy that your child no longer uses. Maybe you will find a new toy that will make your child's day!
All toys will be displayed on a table at the pavilion.

Visit www.cascadelake.com for more information on the park

Directions

From Baltimore: I-695, exit 19 to I-795 to Rt. 30N to Hampstead, left on Rt. 482, right on Snydersburg Rd.

OR

I-83N to Mt. Carmel Rd (Rt. 137) to Rt. 30N to Hampstead, left on Rt. 482, right on Snydersburg Rd.

From Westminster: North on Rt. 27, right on Rt. 482, left on Snydersburg Rd.

Details:

When arriving at the Lake, tell the entrance attendant that you are with the Autism Society and how many people you have. All admission fees will be paid by BCC-ASA.

Each family is responsible for their own food. Charcoal grills are available for outdoor cooking. There is also a concession stand available to purchase hot/cold foods. The chapter will provide charcoal, soft drinks and paper goods.

If your child is a "runner", you may want to have him/her wear a red shirt. We will be on the lookout for children with red shirts who are without an adult.

There are three water slides in the lake. In order for children to use the "deep" sections of the lake and the tallest slide, they must pass a swimming test given by the lifeguard on duty.

**Any questions? Call the Chapter Phone: 410-655-7933
Picnic will go on, rain or shine.**

*Volunteers are still needed to help with set up, to greet people as they arrive, or to help with clean up.
To volunteer, call Andrea Schanbacher at 410-467-6225*

*Baltimore County Public Schools, The Office of Special Education
and
The Baltimore-Chesapeake Chapter of the Autism Society of America
are pleased to announce a special training:*

SOCIAL SKILLS FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

**PARTICIPANTS: All interested parents, educators, para-educators
and early intervention assistants**

WHEN & WHERE:

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Perry Hall Middle School

PRESENTER: Kama J. Dwyer, SLP

Kama works at Cockeysville Middle as a Speech Language Pathologist. She received her Master's Degree from Loyola College. She has worked for Baltimore County since 1995, worked with an autism program at the elementary school level for five years and currently works with middle school age students with Asperger Syndrome. She has worked extensively on social skills and social stories.

There is no fee to attend and all are welcome. A limited amount of funds are available for transportation. To access transportation assistance, contact Heather Thoms-Chesley at 410-882-2146.

Directions to Perry Hall Middle School: Take I-695 to Exit #31C (White Marsh Boulevard North). (Be in the left lane approaching Exit 31C). Follow signs on White Marsh Boulevard to US 1 North/Perry Hall for 1.7 miles to Belair Road, North. Turn left at the stop light and drive .3 miles on ramp to Belair Road. Drive 1.4 miles on Belair Road to Ebenezer Road. Turn right onto Ebenezer Road at the light. Go .3 miles on Ebenezer Road to the school on the left.

*Please RSVP to Mary Mitchell, mmitchell4@bcps.org by Monday May 8, 2006.
Reservations are on a first come first served basis.*

Series of Free Presentations at Abilities Network, Towson

The following topics will be covered at a series of free workshops in May presented by Abilities Network's Family Empowerment Network and the Parents' Place:

May 10, 10 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
IDEA 2004: What's Changed?

May 17, 10 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
Dispute Resolution

May 24, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Transition Planning

May 31, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Components of a Successful IEP

Sessions will be held at the Abilities Network in Towson. For information or to RSVP, contact Ann Walker at 410-828-7700. Students involved in their transition planning are welcome to attend on May 24 with their parents.

Trellis Summer Series

Trellis Services will offer free summer workshops at their clinic at 150 Lakefront Drive in Cockeysville. To reserve your place call (410) 785-3845 or email info@trellisservices.com.

May 23 - 7 p.m: Toilet Training Tips

June 27 - 7 p.m: Managing Disruptive Behavior

July 25 - 7 p.m: Getting First Words

CONFERENCE NEWS

Tues., May 16

Baltimore County Autism & Verbal Behavior Interest Group

See article on page 2 for details

Tues., May 16, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Appealing Insurance Denials

Free teleconference sponsored by Parents' Place of Maryland and Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development. Register by May 9. Call 800-394-5694 or e-mail Rhowelladvocate@aol.com.

Wed., May 17, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Advocacy 101 and the new IDEA

Kennedy Krieger's Adolescent Transition Lecture Series. Presenters from Equal Justice Works Fellow and Md. Volunteer Lawyers Service. Free. Location: KKI Greenspring Campus. Contact Jenny Jones at 443-923-2790 or go to resourcenetwork@kennedykrieger.org.

Friday to Sunday, May 19-21

World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo

Fri. 10:00 a. m.-5:00 p.m.,

Sat. & Sun. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

(Autism Day - Sunday, May 21)

Presented by Caring Communities, Inc. Free expo at Md. State Fairgrounds, Timonium. For info, call 1-866-227-4644 or go to www.caring

communities.org. Also articles on page 2 of this newsletter.

Tues., May 23, 6:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.
High-Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome

Presented by Ivymount School, Rockville
Speaker: Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Kansas School of Education. Seating limited. RSVP to Katie Alexander at 301-469-0223 or visit www.ivymount.org.

Friday, May 26, 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Autism Super Conference

Sponsored by Future Horizons, Inc. Speakers: Temple Grandin, Ph.D., Sheila Wagner and Rebecca Moyes. Location: Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay, Cambridge, MD. Cost: \$110 for family members/students, \$135 for professionals, \$75 for persons with ASD. For more information: 1-866-727-0670 or www.fhautism.com.

Wed., June 7, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Life Care, Financial & Estate Planning

Part of Kennedy Krieger's Adolescent Transition Lecture Series. Presenters from the Coordinating Center and an attorney. No charge. Location: KKI's Greenspring Campus. Contact Jenny Jones at 443-923-2790 or go to resourcenetwork@kennedykrieger.org.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM
BALTIMORE-CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER ASA**

MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$10.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Child's Name: _____ Child's Birthday: _____

Child's School or Program (Optional): _____

Would you prefer to receive the chapter newsletter:

By U.S. mail? By e-mail? Both?

Additional donation to BCC-ASA: _____

Make checks payable to BCC-ASA and mail to:
BCC-ASA, P.O. Box 10822, Baltimore, MD 21234

CIRCLE ONE:

Individual with Autism

Family

Professional

Student

Please note:

BCC-ASA does not share information on our members with any other organization.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM
AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

FROM: Baltimore/Chesapeake Chapter

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

CIRCLE ONE:

Family: \$40.00

Individual: \$30.00

Student: \$15.00

Professional: \$100.00

Mail to: Autism Society of America, P. O. Box 96223, Washington, DC 20090-6223
Remit payment with this form

Officers and Board Members			Support Group Meeting
Co-Presidents:	Eva Williams Heather Thoms-Chesley	410-529-8722 410-882-2146	<p>The next support group meeting will be Thursday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital. The support group meets on the first Thursday of every month.</p> <p>Directions to Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital: <u>From North of Baltimore:</u> Take the Beltway (I-695) to the Jones Falls Expressway (I-83) south. From I-83, take the Northern Parkway exit, 10B West. Make a right turn off the exit ramp and make an immediate right turn onto West Rogers Ave. (the first street off the exit ramp). Go north on West Rogers Ave.; the hospital is on the right.</p> <u>From Baltimore and South:</u> Take the Jones Falls Expressway (I-83) north to the second Northern Parkway exit, 10B West. Turn right onto West Rogers Ave. (the first street off the exit ramp). Go north on West Rogers Ave.; the hospital is on the right.
Vice President:	Tony Lorenzo	410-679-4067	
Past President:	Andrea Schanbacher	443-629-9137	
Secretary:	Jane Rosshiem	410-356-0880	
Treasurer:	Carol Brown		
Board Members:	Deanne Brookshire		
	Joan DiPietro		
	Hilary Hellerbach		
	Shelley Kennedy		
	Lori Plaza		
	Helen Zinreich-Shafer		
Newsletter:	Mary Ellen Curtis	410-337-5017	
Website:	Will Cassano	410-833-7096	
Chapter Phone: 410-655-7933 Website: www.bcc-asa.org E-mail: questions@bcc-asa.org			

Mark your calendars now for
Sunday, June 25, 2006 from noon to 4:00 p.m.
and make plans to join the Baltimore-Chesapeake Chapter for our
Annual Picnic at Cascade Lake
Bring the whole family and enjoy a day of fun and friendship!

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Baltimore, MD
 Permit #5672

Autism Society of America
 Baltimore-Chesapeake Chapter
 P.O. Box 10822
 Baltimore, MD 21234