



# BCC-ASA News

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

**May 2007**

*The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information regarding Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and related disorders.  
We do not necessarily endorse the information printed in this newsletter.*

## May 3rd Annual Meeting

We will vote on our proposed slate of officers for the 2006-2007 Board of Directors and on proposed by-law amendments, review the BCC-ASA annual report and honor outgoing board members at this important meeting. Also, some of the winners from the "How has autism affected your life?" essay contest will be reading their winning entries! And you'll have the opportunity to enjoy some time with your fellow members while nibbling on all the scrumptious refreshments which will be available!

## Final BCC-ASA/BCPS Program of the 2006-2007 School Year

On May 16th, the **BCC-ASA/BCPS Partnership** offers a Make and Take Session on Visuals Supports. For all the details, see page 3.

## June 7th Meeting Features Music Therapist Terel Jackson

Ms. Terel Jackson, NMT, MT-BC will discuss the clinical applications of conventional and neurologic **music therapy intervention** within the realm of autism spectrum disorders. She will provide an introduction to music therapy, its uses, and its unique impact on the brain. Ms. Jackson will also provide attendees with information for accessing music therapy services, and for implementing musical activities at home. Live demonstrations and media will be used to show attendees how this fun and interesting therapeutic modality can benefit individuals with autism. All are invited to attend!

## Calendar

- May 3 BCC-ASA Support Group, Annual meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- May 3 IEP Workshop Series: *IDEA 2004*, Towson, 10:00 a.m.
- May 4 *Social Skills Training*, Salisbury
- May 7 *Getting the autism disorder diagnosis: Where do you go from here?*, Baltimore, 9:30 a.m.
- May 7 Public Hearing on Md. State Plan for Independent Living, Baltimore, 2:00 p.m.
- May 7 & 8 Picture Exchange Communication System Training Workshop, Baltimore
- May 8 Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- May 10 IEP Workshop Series: *Effective Advocacy*, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
- May 10 *Asperger's Disorder & Autism*, Baltimore Convention Center
- May 15 Baltimore County ABA/Verbal Behavior Interest Group, Maiden Choice, MD, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- May 16 *Make and Take Session on Visual Supports*, Timonium, 7:00 p.m.
- May 17 IEP Workshop Series: *Transition Planning*, Towson, 10:00 a.m.
- May 18-20 World of Possibilities Disability Expo, Timonium Fairgrounds
- May 22 Spring Workshop: *Getting First Words*, Cockeysville, 7:00 p.m.
- June 7 BCC-ASA Support Group, Speaker: Music Therapist Terel Jackson, 7:00 p.m.
- June 12 Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- June 14 Arc of Baltimore Family Support Series: *Networking Picnic*, 4:00 p.m.
- June 19 Baltimore County ABA/Verbal Behavior Interest Group, Maiden Choice, MD, 7:00 p.m.
- June 24 Annual BCC-ASA Picnic, Cascade Lake, Hampstead, MD, 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- July 5 BCC-ASA Support Group, 7:00 p.m.

## Barnes & Noble Fundraiser a Success!

On Saturday April 7th BCC-ASA, in conjunction with the BCPS Office of Special Education, held an awareness day/fundraiser at the Barnes & Noble in Towson. The event lasted all day long and featured two informational tables staffed by members of the two groups. Vouchers were available at the registers and, when used at the time of a sale, provided a donation to BCC-ASA based on a percentage of the net sale. The proceeds will be used to further efforts with the Partnership Project. In addition, we were able to spread the word about our programs and the support that is available to individuals dealing with autism. The management at B&N reported that they received a great deal of positive feedback from the community about this informative event.

**We send a big "Thank You" to Barnes & Noble for their donation and another big "Thank You" to the volunteers who helped to make the day a success.**

## "Imagine the Possibilities - Autism Day" at Disability Expo

Pathfinders for Autism is pleased to once again sponsor "Imagine the Possibilities - Autism Day" at the World of Possibilities Expo on Sunday, May 20th, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. The Expo will provide an opportunity for you to enhance your knowledge and to explore the latest and greatest products, services, technology and resources. This year the event has been expanded to include an outdoor crafts show, food and entertainment. Call 1-866-227-4644 or visit [www.caringcommunities.org](http://www.caringcommunities.org) for more information.

## Recent Donors to BCC-ASA

The chapter thanks the following people for their generous gifts:

Heather Crawford & David Goldsmith

Francis R. Landolf &  
Denise M. Markoff-Landolf

H.Z. & P.J. Shafer

Valerie Berkey

Deborah Caldwell

Mary Ellen & Bill Curtis

Mr. & Mrs. Gene DiGennaro Sr.

Angela & Tony Lorenzo

Ann Menser

Rosemary Oktolor

Janet Preis

Stephanie Quaerna

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Spatafore

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Watkins

James and Ellen Buckler

Dena Frenkel of Ameriprise Financial  
in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hider

Jose and Stella Diaz  
in memory of Marjean Funn

Trellis Services, Inc.  
in memory of Gertrude Brandner,  
the grandmother of our employee  
Suzanne Heid

## Did You Know?

BCC-ASA **board meetings** are held on the third Thursday of every odd month. The next scheduled meeting is **May 17th at 7:00 pm**. Please contact Heather if you are interested in attending. Agenda items may be forwarded to Heather at least one week prior to the meeting.

## Next AARG! Meeting May 8

The Adult Autism Resource Group will meet on Tuesday, May 8 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This sub-group of the chapter meets the second Tuesday of every month at the home of Ellen Feifarek, 508 Hampton Lane, to work on issues that concern adults and transition-age youth with autism. Call Linda Pearl at 410-769-9500 during daytime hours if you plan to attend.

## OOOOPS!

Did you forget to complete your survey? Don't worry, there is still time. We want to hear from you – return it today. Don't forget to return your dues, too!!!!

## Huge Thanks!!! by Heather Thoms-Chesley

You know that friendly smile and the laugh; maybe you have heard one of her great anecdotes. All these things and more were always available from **Eva Williams**, our out-going Co-President. I had no idea all the hard work and dedication that was required for running the chapter!!! After serving as Co-President for a year, I now realize; all the meetings, all the emails, all the phone calls that happen in between support group meetings, board meetings, and events. This May, after two years of serving in the role of Co-President, Eva will be taking on the role of Past President. It has been a true pleasure to work with Eva. She is enthusiastic, she has a vision for her family and she honestly and sincerely wants to improve the lives of those affected by Autism. The role of Co-President is time intensive and very demanding, Eva was often responding to emails before the school bus pickup and late into the evening after her two children were off to bed. She lead the meetings, organized events, supported newly-diagnosed families and helped BCC-ASA grow and evolve. We are glad she is continuing her involvement in the chapter - her experience and enthusiasm are a true asset.

## Thank you, AGAIN (!), Buck Fowler's Tavern

Community support is vital to any local organization. We are a grassroots organization serving the needs of those families trying to deal with the day to day challenges of Autism and the professionals and support systems that support those families. To accomplish this goal requires financial assistance: from photocopies to telephone charges, expenses can add up quickly. We are so grateful to receive a **generous donation from Buck Fowler's Tavern, in honor of Charles J. Fowler, Jr.** This continued support allows us to extend our offer of scholarships to members to attend conferences. For more information, please contact the phone line or website.

## Welcome Baby Schanbacher!

Past President Andrea Schanbacher and her husband Brian welcomed little Phineaus Michael Schanbacher into the world on Saturday, Feb. 24. Our congratulations to the happy family!

## The Co-President's Co-mmunication by Heather Thoms-Chesley

It has been a very busy time for the BCC-ASA's Board. April's Autism Awareness activities kept us *very* busy with information tables at the Barnes and Noble in Towson, at the Eastpoint Mall in Dundalk, selling tickets to a family day at an Orioles baseball game (rained out, alas, but check Orioles.com for the make-up game date), co-sponsoring a presentation on the Autism Waiver, and a presentation for the ARC of Baltimore. Essay contest winners presented at the Board of Education meeting and will present at our Annual Meeting. As a new board comes together for the first time May 17, we look forward to the upcoming Board year with excitement for where we can take our chapter within the Greater Baltimore Community. We are excited about reviewing your survey results so we can better support our members and plan future events. The summer will bring many great opportunities to learn, share and support each other.

Recently I participated in a 3-day ASA Chapter Leader retreat, and was surrounded by over 70 leaders from all over the country, all running ASA chapters; different sizes, with different services and resources, but I learned that we were really all there for the **SAME REASON** - we want to improve the life of someone we know and love that is affected by Autism. At this time of year we are electing a new board and renewing our dues with BCC-ASA. I want you to realize that your \$10 dues plays an important role in improving the life of someone affected by Autism. You are stating that you are part of a community, that you are not alone in dealing with Autism. Together we will make things better, we will work to improve the education of students with ASD, we will let our elected officials know where the money needs to be, we will continue to support families and individuals touched by Autism and we will continue to provide resources and information for families, professionals and the community at large. Join us as we journey this road together!!

I look forward to seeing you at a support group meeting, a joint BCC-ASA/ BCPS training, a future family event or online. If you have any questions/comments, or want to volunteer, please feel free to contact me at 410-882-2146 or [thomschesley@verizon.net](mailto:thomschesley@verizon.net). All the best until next time.

Baltimore County Public Schools Office of Special Education  
in conjunction with  
The Baltimore Chesapeake Chapter of the Autism Society of America



Is pleased to present continuing education for all educators, parents, professionals and community members to....

***“Make and Take It” Night:  
Pictures, Symbols and Tools***

This session will help you understand  
the use of a visual schedule  
& social scripts.

*(You will also have the opportunity to make these items.)*

Date: **Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
Time: **7pm-9 pm**  
Presenters: Marsye Kaplan, M.S., CCC-SLP, Assistive Tech Team Leader  
Jeanne Noorisa, MS, Special Educator, Assistive Tech Team  
Location: Timonium Support Building, 1940 G Greenspring Drive  
Timonium, Maryland 21093

**Reservations are required!!!!**

There are a limited number of spaces. Hurry and register now.  
Contact the Resource Center for Families and Schools  
@ 410-877-5443

Save the Dates:

June 7<sup>th</sup>: 7-9pm: Music Therapy, BCC-ASA Meeting; Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital  
June 24<sup>th</sup>: BCC-ASA Annual Family Picnic: Cascade Lake (Hampstead, MD)

## **Proposed Board for BCC-ASA 2006-2007**

Listed below are the nominees for the 2006-2007 Board of Directors. The slate will be voted upon at our annual meeting on May 3rd. We will also be voting on our new mission statement: "It is the mission of BCC-ASA to improve the lives of those affected by Autism."

Tony Lorenzo, who was listed as the nominee for Vice President on the mailing sent in April, had to regrettably withdraw his name from this year's slate of officers. Mary Ellen Curtis has accepted the nomination for that position for the upcoming year.

### **Executive Board for 2006-2007 (elected for 1 year terms)**

#### **President: Heather Thoms-Chesley**

Heather has been a board member for the past 6 years, serving as Treasurer prior to taking on the role of Co-President last year. She is a homemaker and the mother of four. Victoria, her oldest, is 9½ years old and has Rett Syndrome.

#### **Vice-President: Mary Ellen Curtis**

Mary Ellen has been on the board for several years and has served as Secretary in the past. Her younger child, Laura, is 10 years old.

#### **Past-President: Eva Williams**

Eva, after ably serving as Co-President for two terms, will now fulfill the role of Past-President. She is a former school teacher and the mother of two. Jake, her younger child, is 6 with ASD. She has served on the board for the past 4 years.

#### **Treasurer: Carol Brown**

Carol joined the board two years ago and has been a member of BCC-ASA for many years. Carol has served as Treasurer for one year. She works for Baltimore County, and her son Curtis is 12.

#### **Secretary: Helen Zinreich-Shafer**

In the second year of her board membership, Helen has agreed to take on the role of Secretary. She is a proprietor of multiple businesses; dealing in medical supplies and early intervention for pre-school children. She and her husband P.J. are the proud parents of two – their 4½ year-old son, Hayden, has ASD.

### **At-Large Board Members (elected for 2-year terms: 3 new two-year terms start each May)**

#### **New Board Member: P.J. Shafer**

P.J. has offered to serve on the Board alongside his wife, Helen. He is a financial planner and attorney, and, together with Helen, is responsible for opening the Shafer Center for Early Intervention. He, along with Co-President Heather Thoms-Chesley, has been attending the Baltimore County Special Ed Citizens Advisory Counsel as a representative of the BCC-ASA for the past year.

#### **New Board Member: Janet Preis**

Janet is Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at Loyola College. She is an Ed.D. and a CCC-SLP.

#### **New Board Member: Debbie Page**

Debbie has a son with autism who just turned four and is an Instructional Aide for the Early Intervention program.

#### **Returning Member: Hilary Hellerbach**

Hilary returns to another year as a Board member. Hilary is the mother of three, and the Social Worker at Battle Monument School.

#### **Returning Member: Joan DiPietro**

Joan is an R.N. working in the field of clinical informatics. She is the mother of two – her older son Philip, 8 years old, has ASD.

#### **Returning Member: Shelley Kennedy**

Shelley currently teaches a pre-K Non-Categorical class in the Baltimore County Schools and is a Case Manager for Trellis Services, an Autism Waiver provider.

### **BCC-ASA Members Serving on Non-Board Positions:**

**Newsletter Editor: Mary Ellen Curtis** continues as the editor of our bi-monthly newsletters.

**Web Master: Will Cassano** continues as our webmaster, keeping our website up to date and replying to requests for information.

**Librarian: Elaine Williams** will again be our librarian screening the many books on the market.

**Adult Autism Resource Group – Ellen Feifarek and Linda Pearl** will continue to head this working task force addressing the needs of those individuals 21 and older that have exited the school system.

**BCPS/BCC-ASA partnership: Elisa Hartman** continues as Chair of this valuable partnership.

BCC-ASA would like to thank all those individuals who worked so hard on the Board during the past year. Thanks go to retiring board members Andrea Schanbacher, Tony Lorenzo, Jane Rossheim, Lori Plaza and Deanne Brookshire. Our chapter is driven by the vision of our membership, and volunteers such as these continue to help our organization move forward.

## Hats Off to Local Authors!

The Essay for Autism 2007 contest was a smashing success this year! We had thirty contestants whose diverse talents made the task of choosing winners quite challenging. We thank each of them for sharing their thoughts and feelings with us and devoting their time and effort to entering the contest. The Partnership Committee (eight members) selected seven first place winners who each received a \$40 prize. First place in the Elementary category went to Julia Armstrong (Rodgers Forge Elementary) for her essay, "My Brother Billy." First place in the Middle School category went to Krystal Roach (Pikesville Middle School), for her essay, "A Close Relationship." First place in the High School category was awarded to Samantha Cordell (Eastern Tech High School), for her poem and first place in the Individuals with Autism category went to Daniel Greenberg (Sudbrook Magnet Middle School) for his poem, "I Have Autism." In the Parents category, Kelly Jednorski won first place for her poem about her son Sparky. In the Professionals category, Roni Elizabeth Dinkes won first place for her poem and in the Grandparents category, Charles Duffy won first place for his poem called, "Mommy." In addition, there were four Runners-Up: Stacy Choi, Kassidy Shanahan, Lucy Gussio and Sean McMachan, Jr. Look for all the winning entries in this and future editions of the newsletter. Congratulations to all the contestants and look for the flyers for the 2008 Essays for Autism contest in January. This contest is sponsored by the Partnership Project, a joint effort of the BCC-ASA and the Baltimore County Public Schools Office of Education.

### Winning Entries in our Essay Contest

Here are four of the winning entries from BCC-ASA's "How has autism affected your life?" Essay Contest. We will publish the remainder of the winning essays in future editions of *The BCC-ASA News*:



#### ***My Brother Billy***

by Julia Armstrong

4th Grade, Rodgers Forge Elementary

My brother Billy is very nice and he has autism. Autism means, for my brother, that he cannot speak and he does things a little different. He speaks with some sign language and something called a "Tech Talk."

He is eleven years old – a year and a half older than me. In a lot of ways, though, I'm more like an older sister than a younger sister. I push him in his wheel chair when he has trouble walking. I can see it in his eyes when he is hungry and I bring him snacks. I like to help my brother and he likes it when I help him.

Billy is the most honest person I know. Whether he is happy or sad, he never pretends to act differently than what he feels.

He likes to be in places that are familiar to him. He likes playing in the water. That means we try to go to places he knows, especially places where he can swim. I like to swim, too, and our favorite place is the beach.

Sometimes it is hard to have a brother with autism. My mom has a lot of people who help our family care for Billy. That way we all get what we need and live as normally as possible.

I love my big brother and I know he loves me.



#### ***A Close Relationship***

by Krystal Roach

8th Grade, Pikesville Middle School

My brother Jonathan is autistic. Sometimes he has a hard time. That's where I come in. I am Jonnie's sister and I help him.

Helping Jonathan is hard because you need materials like a loud voice, quick running pace, and patience. A quick pace is needed because sometimes Jonathan runs away and I can't let him get hurt. Also, I have taught him to do lots of things like run, climb, sing, etcetera, and I need to be patient because sometimes it takes a while. Finally, I need a loud voice to discipline him when he is wrong so he doesn't get in trouble again.

Now I am not saying I do everything for him and he does nothing for me. Jonathan has opened up a new world for me. He has showed me that everyone should be accepted. I probably wouldn't have been able to realize the aspect of this without him. Jonathan has made it possible to meet new people all the time because he says hello to everyone! Also, with Jonathan he makes everyone's day better, even me! When I am down all I need is one of his big hugs and kisses and I am fine. Jonathan is an inspiration on everyone's life, especially mine and I love him soooo much. I am proud to have Jonathan as my brother. He makes my life much funner to live in, by singing to me and my family and his beautiful artwork. When people make fun of him, all I say is, "He's autistic and you leave him alone or me and you are going to have a problem." My brother is my best friend and I wouldn't know what to do without him.

## More Winning Essays

### ***My Brother***

by **Samantha Cordell**  
9th Grade, Eastern Tech High School

They don't understand him  
They just don't know  
It's not that hard,  
Or maybe it is  
Just have patience  
Talk to him  
Give him a chance to let you in  
You don't know what you'll find  
Until you do  
It's more than you think  
It's more than you anticipate  
All that love  
All that love, knowledge, and wisdom  
They don't see it  
It's hidden  
It's hidden because he doesn't know how  
He doesn't know how to show it  
But someday  
Someday someone else will see  
He will make a difference  
He will change the world  
He is an inspiration to all  
Especially me  
He is my Brother

### ***I Have Autism***

by **Daniel Greenberg**  
6th Grade, Sudbrook Magnet Middle School

If affects my thoughts  
It affects my brain  
It affects me as if I am traveling by train  
The world passes by  
Through thick and through thin  
The greatest battle I face is the battle within  
I can't do anything  
I cannot change this  
My life is weird yet no one can arrange this  
I have autism  
It starts as a baby  
I'm very resistant  
The people want me to smile  
They're very persistent  
As a toddler, it's hard  
To form letters into words  
Nobody can change this  
Those who try are absurd  
It grows into adulthood  
With repetitive behavior  
It'll go on forever  
With my own distinct flavor  
I have autism  
There are ways we can manage  
Having this strange disorder  
With classes and therapists  
All within the border  
There's no kind of cure  
But we can make it through  
With the help of good people  
Good people like you  
Be aware of autism  
And watch out for the signs  
Like resisting a person  
Or no sounds of any kind  
I have autism

## **IEP Facilitation is Now Available**

The Maryland State Department of Education and Community Mediation Maryland have partnered to sponsor IEP Facilitation, a new program available in Baltimore County. This program offers professionally trained facilitators free of charge to IEP meetings.

The purpose of facilitation is to help IEP team members communicate effectively and to assure the meaningful involvement of all participants in the IEP team process. Facilitators are not employees of the school system and do not serve as advocates. They are highly trained in fostering positive communication and are experienced in the IEP team process. They volunteer their service and remain independent and impartial. Their role is to support team members in developing and maintaining collaborative relationships and a mutually agreed upon IEP. Facilitation is a voluntary process.

Either a parent or school can request a facilitated IEP meeting, but a parent must agree to the process. For more information on the project, please contact the Area Specialist for your region at 410-887-3660:

**Northwest** (Linda Prucino)

**Southwest** (Anne Dorsey)

**Central** (Rosemarie Lehner)

**Northeast** (Melissa Lembo)

**Southeast** (Janice Jacksits)

Or you may contact Kim Patton of the Baltimore County Mediation and Resolution Center at 410-964-9405.

# Annual BCC-ASA Picnic



Please join us at  
**Cascade Lake**

*3000 Snydersburg Road  
Hampstead, Md*

*Sunday, June 24th, 2007  
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](http://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 Heather Thoms-Chesley at 410-882-2146*

## **CONFERENCE NEWS**

**Thursday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.-Noon**

***IDEA 2004: Changes to IDEA & An In-Depth Look at Parental Rights***

IEP Workshop Series sponsored by Abilities Network. Presenter: Julie Foley, Special Ed. Mgr. for Parents' Place of Md. Location: Abilities Network, 8503 LaSalle Rd., Towson. Free, but registration is required. Call 410-828-7700, x1259.

**Friday, May 4, 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

***Autism/Asperger's Conference on Social Skills Training***

Presented by Future Horizons. Dr. Jed Baker, creator of the Social Skills Picture Book, will speak on social skills training & frustration management for children. Also featured will be a young-adult panel with Alex Gilpin, Scott Lambeth and Hope Holman. The Fountains Conference Center, Salisbury, MD. Family member \$110, person with ASD \$75, Professional \$140. For more info: 1-800-489-0727 or [www.FHautism.com](http://www.FHautism.com)

**Monday, May 7, 9:30 -11:00 a.m.**

***Getting the autism disorder diagnosis: Where do you go from here?***

Presented by the Kennedy Krieger's Center for Autism and Related Disorders. Leader: Cathy Groschan, LCSW-C. Location: KKI Center for Autism and Related Disorders, 3rd Floor conference room, 3701 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore. For more info or to RSVP: Tiffany Williams, (443) 923-7880 or [williamsti@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:williamsti@kennedykrieger.org).

**Mon. & Tues., May 7-8, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

***Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) Training Workshop***

Sponsored by Pyramid Educational Consultants. Location: Holiday Inn Inner Harbor. Cost: \$425. For more information: 1-888-732-7462 or <http://www.pecs.com>.

**Thursday, May 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

***Effective Advocacy: Understanding a Parent's Role in the Special Education Process***

IEP Workshop Series sponsored by Abilities Network. Presenter: Julie Foley, Special Ed. Mgr. for Parents' Place of

Md. Location: Abilities Network, 8503 LaSalle Rd., Towson. Free, but registration is required. Call 410-828-7700, x1259.

**Thursday, May 10, 8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

***Asperger's Disorder & Autism: An Update on Understanding and Interventions***

Presented by the New England Educational Institute. Speaker: Ami Klin, Ph.D., Yale Child Study Center. Location: Baltimore Convention Center. Cost: \$149. For more info, call Carolyn at 413-499-1489x1 or go to [www.neei.org](http://www.neei.org).

**Tuesday, May 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

***Baltimore County ABA/Verbal Behavior Interest Group Meeting***

Location: Hope Presbyterian Church, Maiden Choice, MD. For more information, see the group's flyer on the BCC-ASA website at [www.bcc-asa.org/VBIG.pdf](http://www.bcc-asa.org/VBIG.pdf).

**Thursday, May 17, 10:00 a.m.-Noon**

***Transition Planning***

IEP Workshop Series sponsored by Abilities Network. Presenter: Julie Foley, Special Ed. Mgr. for Parents' Place of Md. Location: Abilities Network, 8503 LaSalle Rd., Towson. Free, but registration is required. Call 410-828-7700, x1259.

**Friday, May 18: 10:00 a. m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Saturday and Sunday, May 19 & 20: 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

***World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo***

***Autism Day: May 20***

Presented by Caring Communities, Inc. Location: Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium. Cost: \$3, or free with expo pass available from website. For more information: 1-866-227-4644 or [www.caringcommunities.org](http://www.caringcommunities.org). Also see article on Page 2 in this newsletter.

**Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.**

***Spring Workshop: Getting First Words***

Sponsored by Trellis Services. Location: 150 Lakefront Drive, Cockeysville. Free, but reservations required. For more info or to RSVP: 410-785-3845 or [info@trellisservices.com](mailto:info@trellisservices.com).

### **Public Hearings to be held on Maryland State Plan for Independent Living**

The Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council and the Division of Rehabilitation Services is holding a public hearing to obtain comments on the proposed Maryland State Plan for Independent Living (available at <http://www.mdsilc.org> ). The Baltimore-area hearing will be held Monday, May 7th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the MCIL office, 3011 Montebello Terrace, Baltimore, 21214.

If you cannot attend the public hearings but would like to offer comments on the proposed plan, please send them by fax to (301) 585-6619, by e-mail to [Kimball.gray@verizon.net](mailto:Kimball.gray@verizon.net), or by regular mail to Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council, 8605 Cameron Street, Suite 510, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

### **Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities Seeking Nominees for Awards Program**

The Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities has announced that their 17th Annual Awards Ceremony and Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 17 this year. The Commission is seeking nominees who will be honored at the event which recognizes individuals, agencies, families, and businesses in Baltimore County for achievements and contributions by and for its citizens with disabilities. Award categories have been developed in seven areas specific to the work of the Commission: Housing, Education, Employment, Legislation, Public Relations, Transportation, and Universal Access.

If you are interested in nominating an individual, please obtain a nomination form from the Commission Office by calling 410-887-3580, or the form can be downloaded from the Commission's web site at [www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/community/commission\\_on\\_disabilities/index.html](http://www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/community/commission_on_disabilities/index.html) (click on "Disability Awards"). The deadline for submission of nominations is June 25, 2007.

## LOOKING IN THE BCC-ASA LIBRARY

### The TOP TEN for May 2007

by Elaine Williams, BCC-ASA Librarian

*There are so many excellent books in our chapter library (available for members to check out at support group meetings), that I wanted to list some that are especially helpful. With more new books coming out all the time, watch for more reviews in the next newsletter.*

Fouse, B. & Wheeler, M., A treasure chest of behavioral strategies for individuals with autism. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons, 1997

Lentz, K., Hopes & Dreams: An IEP guide for parents of children with autism spectrum disorders. Shawnee Mission KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Co., 2004

Lowell, Jamie & Tuchel, Tara, My Best Friend Will. Shawnee Mission KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Co., 2005

Myles, Brenda S., Trautman, M., & Schelvan, R., The hidden curriculum: Practical solutions for understanding unstated rules in social situations (book and accompanying DVD). Shawnee Mission, KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Co., 2004.

Notbohm, Ellen, Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons, 2005.

Quill, K.A., DO-WATCH-LISTEN-SAY: Social and communication intervention for children with autism. Paul H. Brookes, 2000

Small, M. & Kontente, L., Everyday solutions: A practical guide for families of children with autism spectrum disorders. Shawnee Mission, KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Co., 2003

Stanford, A., Asperger syndrome and long-term relationships. London: Jessica Kingsley, 2003

Weiss, M.J. & Harris, S., Reaching out, joining in: Teaching social skills to young children with autism. Woodbine House, 2001

Willey, Liane Holliday, Asperger syndrome in the family: Redefining normal. Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley, 2001

### MEMBERSHIP FORM BALTIMORE-CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER ASA

**MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$10.00**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's School or Program (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer to receive the chapter newsletter:

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Chapter Phone:** 410-655-7933  
**Website:** [www.bcc-asa.org](http://www.bcc-asa.org)  
**E-mail:** [questions@bcc-asa.org](mailto:questions@bcc-asa.org)

### Support Group Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 3** at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital. The next regular support group meeting is June 7. The support group meets on the **first Thursday** of every month.

#### Directions to Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital:

##### From North of Baltimore:

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.

##### From Baltimore and South:

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.

**Mark your calendars now for**  
**Sunday, June 24, 2007 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!**

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