

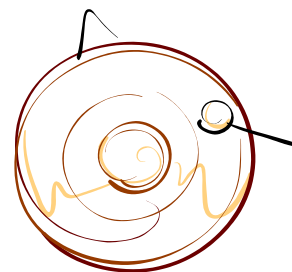


The BCC-ASA News

May 2008

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.

Gong Show Benefits BCC-ASA!



Inside this Issue	
Calendar	3
Details . . .	4
Inclusion Award	6
Winning Essays	8
Annual Picnic	9

You may be dating yourself if you admit to remembering TV's *The Gong Show*, but don't worry - Chuck Barris had nothing to do with *this* "Gong Show. Earlier this spring, **Buck Fowler's Tavern** held their annual Gong Show **in memory of Charles J. Fowler, Jr.**, with proceeds from the event benefitting BCC-ASA. We are most grateful to all the generous customers of the tavern who attended and participated, with special thanks going to Lett's Pleasure Club, John S. Petti, and Judith and Brian Wright. **John and Kate DeAngelis**, owners of Buck Fowler's Tavern and Charles Fowler's daughter and son-in-law, deserve a big round of applause (and certainly no gong!) for designating BCC-ASA as the recipient of the funds raised on this special night. In addition, they proudly enjoyed their son Jake's performance in the Gong Show! Buck Fowler's Tavern is located at 6703 Belair Road in Overlea.

Thank You for your Commitment to the Baltimore-Chesapeake Chapter!



The President's Communication By Heather Thoms-Chesley

Greetings to all. I hope that everyone has had a pleasant spring. It is hard to believe that summer will be right around the corner - time surely passes quickly. It is a time of transition for our chapter with one board finishing its term and new officers joining. It is time for renewal and change, always striving to improve the lives of all those affected by Autism, from the individual, to the family, to the professionals that support them.

I want to take this opportunity to thank three board members who are ending their terms: **Joan DiPietro, Hilary Hellerbach and Tom Hognlund**. All brought dynamic energy and enthusiasm to the board, plus unique insights. **Joan** always shared thoughtful and caring suggestions to propel our board forward, sometimes asking us to stretch our positions and to be very exact in our work. **Hilary** brought her passion for ALL children and families to the board table and helped us envision how Autism fits into to the broader Disability Community and how there are mutual concerns and goals towards which we can strive. **Tom** brought his pragmatic rigor to our board and his opinions were always appreciated. All three worked on separate projects that were of great help to the board in serving the membership. I thank each of them for their dedication to the mission of BCC-ASA and we will miss their input at our meetings.

(continued on Page 2)

I hope each of you have taken a moment to fill out your **dues renewal form**. We are an all-volunteer organization that offers support, social events, trainings and scholarships – all of which are made possible by the generous support of our members and donors. We are not currently engaged in active fundraising so we encourage you, our members, to send in your dues and any extra donation that you can afford at this time. We all recognize that expenses are increasing. You can be assured that your gift will benefit many people in the local Autism Community and will be used wisely by your chapter, BCC-ASA. Thank you in advance.)

Just an additional reminder that May's newsletter will be the last newsletter to be mailed out via the Post Office – beginning in July, we are switching to electronic delivery. We will require your updated email address – please be sure to include this with your dues. *For those of you who do not have access to a computer, or who wish to continue receiving it via Mail, you may send in an extra \$10 with your dues renewal (\$20 total) to have this service continued.*

There are two wonderful opportunities for you to socialize with members of our chapter coming up. May 16th is our first **Pot Luck Social**. What a wonderful opportunity to have a night out and mingle with other families that know exactly the issues you are facing! Being surrounded by others who can relate to the challenges and triumphs Autism brings into our lives will create a time of great support and fun. We hope you can make it. Then, on June 29th, we will hold our **Annual Family Picnic at Cascade Lake**. Each year this event gets bigger and bigger. I know our family looks forward to this special day at the lake is filled with swimming, laughs and, of course, food! See the enclosed flyer for all the details.

JOIN BCC-ASA for a Pot Luck Dinner **At Trellis!**

Friday, May 16, 2008 @ 7:30 pm



* Childcare (for children ages 3-21) will be provided for registered families, free of charge. This care will be provided by Trellis' trained staff, as a courtesy to our members.

Participants requiring child care must RSVP. Slots are limited and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. A wait list will be created if needed.

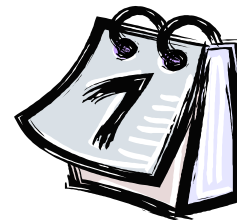
* Each adult is asked to bring a food item to share from the following categories: appetizers, main dishes, side dishes, desserts. Please bring enough of each item to feed eight. Soda and water will be provided, along with cutlery and paper goods.

We hope you will be able to attend!

RSVP & questions to rsvp@bcc-asa.org or 410-655-7933

**Trellis is located at 119 Lakefront Drive, Hunt Valley
www.trellisservices.com**

Calendar of Events



- May 1 BCC-ASA Support Group, Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- May 2-3 World of Possibilities Disability Expo, Gaithersburg
- May 6 *Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis*, Rockville, 7:00 p.m.
- May 10 *Practical Steps to Making Marriage Work While Having a Child with Special Needs*, 9:00 a.m.
- May 12 Baltimore County SECAC, Topic: Special Area Teachers & Special Education: Music, Art & PE, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- May 13 Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- May 13 *Strategies for Children with ASD using ABA*, Rockville, 7:00 p.m.
- May 16 BCC-ASA Pot Luck Social with Childcare, Trellis Services, Cockeysville, 7:30 p.m.
- May 19-22 *Positive Practices in Behavioral Support*, Owings Mills
- May 20 *An Overview of Challenging Behaviors*, Rockville, 7:00 p.m.
- May 20 POAC of Central Maryland, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- May 21 Autism Speaker Series: *Make & Take Session: Visual Supports*, 7:00 p.m.
- May 21 Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee, 200 North Ave., 6:30 p.m.
- May 21 Mt. Washington Tavern Advancing Autism Awareness Benefit, 6:00 p.m.
- June 2 Baltimore County SECAC, Planning Meeting, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- June 3-4 Sensory Integration Workshop, Towson,
- June 5 BCC-ASA Support Group, Topic: Couples, Co-Parenting and Relationships, 7:00 p.m.
- June 9 Towson University Center for Adults with Autism Lecture, 7:00 p.m.
- June 10 Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- June 17 POAC of Central Maryland, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- June 18 Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee, 200 North Ave., 6:30 p.m.
- June 20 Autism Training with Sherry Moyer, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- June 29 BCC-ASA Annual Picnic, Cascade Lake, Noon – 4 p.m.
- July 3 BCC-ASA Support Group, 7:00 p.m.
- July 8 Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.



Calendar Close-up

Our May 1st Support Group will be BCC-ASA's **Annual Meeting** where we will vote on our proposed slate of officers for the 2008-2009 Board of Directors (see the proposed slate on page 6 of the March edition of the *BCC-ASA News*), review the annual report and honor outgoing board members. In addition, some of the winners from the "Celebrating Differences!" autism essay contest will be reading their winning entries! You'll also have the opportunity to enjoy some time with your fellow members and nibble on some yummy goodies.

In June, our topic will be **Couples, Co-Parenting and Relationships**. Join us on **June 5th** as we discover how to maintain and strengthen that most important bond with our spouses. Here is a program that will benefit us as parents and, ultimately, our children.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . .

(ABOUT THE CALENDAR ITEMS)

Friday & Saturday, May 2-3, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo

Presented by Caring Communities, Inc. Location: Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg. Cost: \$3, or free with expo pass available from website. For more information: 1-866-227-4644 or www.caringcommunities.org.

Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

An Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis

Part of Ivymount's Spring Family Workshop Series. An introductory workshop geared towards families with young children newly diagnosed with autism. The goal of this workshop is to provide an overview of the components of ABA. Location: Ivymount School, 11614 Seven Locks Road, Rockville. Cost: \$50. To download a flyer and registration form go to <http://www.ivymount.org/outreach.html>. For more information: Tamara Marder, PhD, 240-441-8282 or tmarder@ivymount.org.

Saturday, May 10, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Practical Steps to Making Marriage Work While Having a Child w/ Special Needs

Sponsored by The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region and Abilities Network. Presenter: Shawn Reagle Kros, LCSW-C. Location: Mountain Christian Church, New Life Center, Overlook Room, Mountain Road, Joppa. Respite care available on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you need respite care, please register no later than one week in advance of the session. Cost: \$5/person at the door. For more information: www.arcncr.org or contact Linda Townes at The Arc, 410-836-7177x376, ltownes@arcncr.org.

Monday, May 12, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

Topic: Special Area Teachers & Special Education: Music, Art & PE

Monthly meetings throughout the school year are held in Room 114 of the ESS Building, located on the Baltimore County Board of Education's Greenwood campus, 6901 Charles Street, Towson. For more info.: Jan Thomas, 410-560-2613 or jan560@comcast.net.

Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Teaching Strategies for Children with ASD using Applied Behavior Analysis

Part of Ivymount's Spring Family Workshop Series. Workshop will examine specific strategies that have been shown to be effective for teaching children with ASD through the use of ABA. Cost: \$40 by May 6th, \$50 at the door. See May 6th workshop info. above.

Monday –Thursday, May 19-22, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Positive Practices in Behavioral Support

Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis series of four daily seminars: Nonaversive Behavioral Support and Basic Principles of Positive Programming, Comprehensive Functional Assessment and Advanced Support Strategies, Emergency Management and Reactive Strategies within a Nonaversive Framework, and Assuring Staff Consistency and the Provision of Quality Services. Location: Hilton Garden Inn, 4770 Owings Mills Boulevard, Owings Mills. Cost: \$150, Daily; \$500 for Full Series (4 seminars). For more information and to register: 1-800-457-5575, www.iaba.com or jmarshall@iaba.com.

Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

An Overview of Challenging Behaviors: Why Behaviors Occur and What are the Specific Treatments?

Part of Ivymount's Spring Family Workshop Series. The goal of this workshop is to provide an overview of challenging behavior. The following topics will be discussed: why challenging behaviors occur; assessing challenging behavior; linking intervention plans to assessment, and types of treatments. Cost: \$40 by May 13th, \$50 at the door. See May 6th workshop info. above for details.

Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Parents of Autistic Children of Central Maryland Meeting

POAC of Central Maryland is a training, support and advocacy resource for families regarding Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) programs for children with autism. Monthly meetings to discuss parents' experiences creating and funding ABA programs, to share strategies and resources and to advocate together for needed services. Location: Coldwell Banker Offices, York Road, Towson. For directions and more information: <http://poacofcentralmd.org>.

Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

Monthly meetings throughout the school year are held in the 1st Floor Board Room at the Baltimore City Board of Education's North Avenue offices, 200 East North Avenue. For more information: Wendy Foy, Chair, SECAC at fox_foy@yahoo.com.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (continued)

Wednesday, May 21, 6:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.

Advancing Autism Awareness Benefit

Dinner, drinks and entertainment to benefit children with autism. Event will feature a silent auction, raffles, live music, magic show and appearances by local celebrities. No tickets/purchase necessary. Location: Mt. Washington Tavern, 5700 Newbury Street, Mt. Washington. For more info.: Heidi Shoemaker, 410-207-5031, AAAautism@gmail.com.

Tuesday & Wednesday, June 3-4, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sensory Integration Workshop

Presented by Sensory Street with speaker Diana Henry. For parents, teachers and professionals who work with children experiencing sensory integration difficulties. Location: University Union Building, Towson University. Cost: \$315 for professionals, \$215 for Parent and College Students. Sensory Integration workshop for Pre-Teens/Teens on June 5th also offered. For more information: Ida Zelaya, Ida@SensoryStreet.com or www.sensorystreet.com.

Monday, June 9, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Towson University Center for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Guest Speakers: Dr. Peter Gerhardt, President Organization for Autism Research and Ari Ne'eman, President, The Autistic Self Advocacy Network. For more information: Lisa Crabtree, 410-704-4330, lcrabtree@towson.edu.

Friday, June 20, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Autism Training with Sherry Moyer

Sponsored by Pathfinders for Autism and presented by Sherry Moyer. First in a series of trainings to be conducted in 2008. Presentation will cover the biology and characteristics of autism, the range of challenges for persons depending upon where they are in the spectrum, distinction of ASD from other disabilities, and the implications and challenges as it pertains to assisting persons with ASD in vocational rehabilitation. Location: 2301 Argonne Drive. For more info.: mpemberton@dors.state.md.us or 410-554-9381.

Summer 2008 Camps for Kids

Summer Camp Offered for 3-7 Year Olds

The Shafer Center for Early Intervention in Reisterstown is offering a 5-week summer camp session from June 30th to August 1st this year. Camp runs 4 days per week, 3 hours per day with morning and afternoon sessions available. Call 410-517-1113 for more information.

Sensory Camp Offered in Columbia

Summer fun is being offered at the Sensation Station Camp with opportunities for children to enhance their abilities by engaging in a variety of sensory experiences, fine motor games and crafts, obstacle courses, water fun, basic cooking skills, self help skills, and bicycle riding – all while forming peer relationships and social interactions. For ages 3-12, the camp is run by two occupational therapists. Weekly sessions available from June 16th through August 22nd. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Deadline for registration is May 1st. For more information call Mary Johns at 410-772-5399.

100 Day Kit for Newly-Diagnosed Families Available On-Line

The Autism Speaks 100 Day Kit is created specifically for newly diagnosed families, to make the best possible use of the 100 days following the diagnosis of autism. The kit contains information and advice collected from trusted and respected experts on autism as well as from parents of children with autism. There is a weekly week by week plan, as well organizational suggestions and forms that parents/caregivers can use to help with the paperwork and phone calls, as they begin to find services for their child. To download the kit, visit http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/family_services/100_day_kit.php

On-line Magazine, Positively Autism, Available

Positively Autism is a free online magazine that celebrates the positives: abilities, talents, achievements, and success stories of children on the spectrum! Free resources include visuals supports, games, data sheets, lesson plans, and more. To learn more and to read a sample issue, visit <http://www.positivelyautism.com>.

In Memorium

Several donations to BCC-ASA were received **in memory of Lucille Reeger**. We gratefully acknowledge these donors' generosity:

Margaret M. Amelia
Margot Anne Amelia
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Banks
Katherine Berman & Wendy Anthony
Molly Glassman
Catherine Strappelli

In addition, BCC-ASA has received a donation **in memory of Marjean Funn, Teacher, Administrator and Advocate for the Autism Community**, from Mrs. Stella Diaz. We appreciate Mrs. Diaz' ongoing support of our chapter.

The ARC of Baltimore School Inclusion Award 2008

Many of us realize the struggles many of our children face with peer integration, social acceptance and making friends. Of course, there are examples of kids with ASD that have minimal issues with Social Skills. However, the usual thought is the more profoundly affected the individual the larger the barriers are to successfully integrating these children into the various social settings.

Over the past five years I have heard many reasons why Victoria could NOT be included in her regular neighborhood school or in the regular education classroom. After all, Victoria is non-verbal except for those loud shrieks she lets out (enough to make you jump sometimes - they are so loud and startling). She has no purposeful use of her hands due to the repetitive hand wringing that leaves her unable to hold a cup, a spoon or a pencil, though she is able to stop the wringing long enough to bang on table tops with all her strength or knock over a pile of papers or someone's glass of water!!! In addition, Victoria is not toilet trained or time trained yet at the age of ten. Another barrier to inclusion became her new seizure disorder that joined our list of other "things" in November 2006. You see, Victoria has Rett Syndrome, one of the rarer forms of Autism, and to put it lovingly is a true "Hand Full". You see I can say all these deficits easily, as they are the obvious barriers to including her, but the less obvious things are the reasons why she should be included.

Victoria may be non-verbal and have significant cognitive impairments (I think her last testing put her cognitively at an 18-month-old level) and she can be self-injurious, banging her head against the wall, pulling at her own long hair and biting at her hands until they sometimes bleed. I realize all this and deal with it daily but there is more to Victoria than her challenges. I see Victoria light up with smiles and laughter when familiar people stop by for a visit. I observe Victoria come over to friends that are like family and lean against them for a hug. I see her laugh and laugh when any one of her three brothers is in a "Time-Out." Oh yeah, she is aware of her surroundings, she knows what is going on, and she recognizes people. Victoria has a keen way of knowing when someone likes her or is bothered - uncomfortable being around her. She senses that and her behaviors show it. She loves seeing people she has known all her life. There are two other girls who were born around the same time as Victoria and they have all grown up together. Victoria gets so excited to see them - it is obvious to everyone around that she enjoys having friends.

That is what started me on the journey to have Victoria included with her peer group. Victoria attends a fully segregated day school, Ridge Ruxton, which serves her wonderfully and meets all her needs, except for one; there are no typical peer models (a.k.a. normal kids). I really wanted Victoria to learn how to behave and interact with her peers. I wanted her to learn that in school you have to be quiet and wait your turn and I wanted her to be exposed to a larger group of people. In a nut shell, I wanted her to be included!!

Understand that the past five years have been bumpy and rough sometimes leaving me wonder why I even bother advocating for such a lofty notion. After all, she does great at Ridge Ruxton, as it really is a great school. But over the past five years I have watched one giant thing happen. Over the past five years of Elementary School, Victoria has been with the same group of kids each year. The same kids began to know Victoria and enjoyed spending time with her when she was at Harford Hills Elementary. I have to point out that the last few years the IEP team all agreed that Victoria could meet her goals the best when included for specials. So Victoria starts her day at Ridge Ruxton, then her aide and she travel to Harford Hills for a special, then return to Ridge Ruxton for the remainder of the day.

Every year the ARC of Baltimore offers awards for various topics. They annually offer an award to professionals that foster inclusion. These professionals may include teachers, administrators, personal assistants. This year I wanted to nominate not the adults, but rather Victoria's classmates. The children are the ones who really made school inclusion work. I am pleased to announce that the Harford Hills Elementary 5th Grade class WON the 2008 School Inclusion Award.

The real heroes of this saga are Victoria's classmates who over time have learned to understand Victoria's loud and occasionally alarming noises, ignore her banging on the desk tops, embrace her presence and recognize her as their peer. This to me is the true example of inclusion working as we idealize it.

Is Victoria's school situation all we envision for the future? No, but it is a change in the right direction. Change comes in small steps and the Harford Hills Graduating class has experienced what acceptance and openness truly means. Victoria's success is not measured by test scores but by personal impact. The truth of Victoria's impact is Sophie, while at the bus stop, asking if Victoria is coming to Harford Hills today. The impact is seen in Daisy asking to help Victoria maneuver the terrain to walk to the playground. The impact is seen when three girls work together to help Victoria climb up the playground equipment and stand on top with everyone else. The impact of inclusion is when Grayson says "hello" and waits for Victoria to hit her Voca to say hello in response.

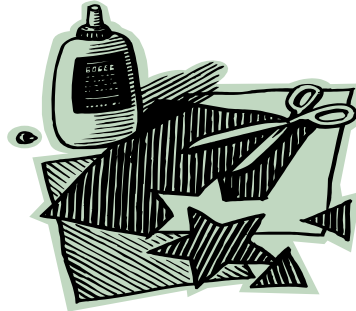
Congratulations to the children who showed us adults how it really gets done!

- Heather Thoms-Chesley

National ASA Options Policy . . .

Just a reminder that BCC-ASA adheres to the ASA options policy that states *no single type of program or service will fill the needs of every individual with autism and that each person should have access to support services. At the very core of parent choice philosophy is the belief that no single program or treatment will benefit all individuals with autism. Providing information and education to help in decision-making are more highly regarded at ASA than is advocating for one particular theory or philosophy.*

*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 & community members to . . .*

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

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

- Date:** **Wednesday May 21th, 2008**
- 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.
Reserve your spot at RSVP@bcc-asa.org or 410-655-7933

Below are three of the winning entries from BCC-ASA's "Celebrating Differences" Essay Contest. Look for more winning essays in future editions of *The BCC-ASA News*.

Good Things

By Daniel Greenberg
7th Grade, Sudbrook Magnet Middle School

What good is there in being autistic? Well, a lot of good, actually. Allow me to explain.

First, if you have a family member that's autistic, he/she will help improve your tolerance skills. Consider this: There are lots of different ethnic groups on the face of the Earth. What one culture considers okay, another culture may find it to be . . . a little hard to get at first. For example, in Japan, people usually don't look at people of authority while talking to them. But in America, eye contact during a conversation is crucial. Basically, being with a person who has autism helps you understand that people are different and that people should accept that.

Next, being with a person who is autistic helps you learn more about that person. For example, say your older brother is autistic. You can learn from him that he hates loud noises, which is why he'll always reject tickets to a rock concert. And if the person with autism is of the curious kind and tears apart at everything, you will know what measures to take.

Also, a person with autism is not only that, but a moral reminder. He/she reminds you that the world is not perfect. War still exists, people still hate each other, and people just can't seem to get along. This message compels you to take action and tell people to be kind to one another and pay attention to every passing second of their lives.

To sum everything I've said into a few words, there isn't really anything great about a person with autism, not that they can do things other people can't. But until they can find a cure for autism (which I hope won't happen), people with the condition remind everyone else about themselves, the world, and everything else. Not in words, but by the look in their eyes.



Brian

Photo by Heather Cassano
11th grade, Garrison Forest School

This piece depicts one of my brother's "habits." These habits are a basic part of having autism. I know that Brian's world has to be perfectly in line for him to feel comfortable. After taking a photograph of him acting out one of his habits (writing numbers one through twenty on a dry erase board), I asked him to write his name at the bottom. Brian's handwriting is so distinct that it tells a lot about his personality. His handwriting, both in the photograph and on the piece, bring a piece of himself to the photo. This is my brother, Brian, and he is autistic.

All I Really Need to Know, I Learned From My Son on the Autism Spectrum

To My Son, Noah

- All I really need to know, I learned from my son on the autism spectrum...
- To love unconditionally, out of which comes self-worth.
- To examine my life in light of real priorities.
- To look at the big picture so that the details no longer overwhelm me.
- To question the status quo as a precursor to challenging it.
- To use my voice to advocate for those we cannot hear.
- To cheer for the underdog who will eventually come out on top.
- To write with words that will make a lasting impression.
- To study with a passion for that which I will not be receiving a grade.
- To worry less about what people think for they do not walk in our shoes.
- To take the time to smell the roses which can lead to the most lasting memories.
- To see the glass as half full, out of which comes hope for the future.
- To embrace my faith upon which I will always have God to depend.
- To embrace a diagnosis that has made me a better mother, teacher, and friend.

All I really need to know, I will continue to learn from my son on the autism spectrum . . . Thank you for teaching me life's most important lessons, Noah.

Poem written by:
Stephanie Savick, Parent of Noah Savick (a beautiful child on the autism spectrum)



Annual BCC-ASA Picnic

Please join us at
Cascade Lake

3000 Snydersburg Road
Hampstead, Maryland

Sunday, June 29th, 2008
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 about 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.

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 Helen at 410-356-6363 or Debbie at 410-869-0612

Officers and Board Members

President: Heather Thoms-Chesley
Past President: Eva Williams
Vice President: Mary Ellen Curtis
Secretary: Helen Shafer
Treasurer: Carol Brown
Board Members: Joan DiPietro
Hilary Hellerbach
Tom Hogleund
Debbie Page
Janet Preis
P.J. Shafer
Newsletter: Mary Ellen Curtis
Website: Will Cassano

Chapter Phone: 410-655-7933

Website: www.bcc-asa.org

E-mail: questions@bcc-asa.org

Support Group Meeting

The next support group meeting will be **Thursday, May 1st** at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital. Support group meets on the **first Thursday** of every month. Childcare is *not* available.

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.

Borrowed any good books lately? Don't forget to check out BCC-ASA's extensive **Library** during Support Group meetings. Whether you choose an eye-opening autobiography by a person with autism, a guide for dealing with daily dilemmas or a book that helps children understand autism, you're sure to learn something new!



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