

### Honestly Autism Day 2011



And even more HAD . . .



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.



# Calendar of Events

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- May 17 *Encouraging Full Participation in Mealtimes: An Introduction to Eating & Feeding with Children with Autism*, Baltimore, 11:30 a.m.
- May 17 Arc Workshop: *Sibling Issues*, Baltimore, 6:00 p.m.
- May 18 *Shut up about your Perfect Kid*, Baltimore, 6:30 p.m.
- May 19 Arc of Baltimore Guy Talk Pot Luck, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
- May 20 **ASBC Springtime Social at Oregon Ridge**, Cockeysville, 5:30 p.m.
- May 21 Autism: Art Exhibit, Silver Spring, 11:00 a.m.
- May 21 The Shafer Center hosts: Big Kids!, Reisterstown, 12:00 and 1:00 p.m.

- May 26 Parent Group for Parents of Individuals on the Autism Spectrum, Baltimore City, 6:30 p.m.
- May 27 Adults with Autism Social Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.
- June 1 Arc of Baltimore Moms Support Group, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
- June 2 **ASBC Support Group**, Mt. Washington, 7:00 p.m.
- June 3 *Autism: A Journey in Optimism and Opportunity*, Princeton, NJ
- June 4 ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film: *Kung Fu Panda 2*, White Marsh, 10:00 a.m.
- June 7 The Auburn School - Baltimore Campus Information Session, 10:30 a.m.
- June 9 *ASD & Sleep Challenges*, Hunt Valley, 12:30 p.m.
- June 13 Baltimore County SECAC Meeting, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- June 14 The Greene Turtle Fundraiser, Westminster, 11:00 a.m. -until closing
- June 14 Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- June 16 Arc of Baltimore Guy Talk Pot Luck, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
- June 23 Parent Group for Parents of Individuals on the Autism Spectrum, Baltimore City, 6:30 p.m.
- June 24 Adults with Autism Social Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.
- June 26 **ASBC Annual Picnic at Cascade Lake**, Hampstead, 12:00 p.m.
- July 2 ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film: *Cars 2*, White Marsh, 10:00 a.m.
- July 6 Arc of Baltimore Moms Support Group, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
- July 7 **ASBC Support Group**, Mt. Washington, 7:00 p.m.
- July 12 Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.

**For updated events information, visit the BCC-ASA calendar at [www.bcc-asa.org](http://www.bcc-asa.org)**

## Autism Society's Options Policy . . .

Just a reminder that the Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake adheres to the Autism Society's 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 the Autism Society than is advocating for one particular theory or philosophy.*

## Calendar Close-up



### Friday May 20th Springtime Social

Join us for our first-ever Springtime Social at Oregon Ridge! This family fun event is being planned by graduate students in our vice president Kay Holman's Special Education class. We will provide the paper products, ice and drinks. You just bring your family and a picnic dinner. The students have planned some games for our kids (and us parents, too? - come and find out!). For more information and how to sign up, see the flyer on Page 11.

### Thursdays June 2nd and July 7th Support Group Meetings

These will be our "standard" support group meetings where we will share our successes and our challenges, get some helpful advice (and even give some if we can), and be reminded that we aren't alone in dealing with autism. We will have break-out sessions for parents of newly-diagnosed children, and the lending library will be open. As usual, our photo board will be on display (maybe this will be the month – or year? - you finally remember to bring in that adorable photo of your loved one to put up on the board!), lots of literature will be available to bring home, and there will be light refreshments to keep you going at the end of a long day!

**WE'RE BACK ON THE 3RD FLOOR - HOORAY!**

**... AND THE LIBRARY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS AGAIN!**

### Sensory Friendly Movies at AMC White Marsh - Saturdays June 4<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Come join the fun and enjoy some quality time with the kids! First up is *Kung Fu Panda 2*; *The Kaboom of Doom* on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m . . . and, not to be outdone ("out-sequeled"?), *Cars 2* on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Details on Page 13.



### Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> ASBC Summer Picnic

Our annual **Picnic at Cascade Lake** is baaaaaack! Enjoy some swimming, sliding, paddleboating, chatting and socializing with fellow Autism Society members. Paper products, plasticware, drinks and some light snacks will be provided. For more information, check out the flyer on Page 9.

### **Looking ahead . . .**

The **2nd Annual Autism Society of Baltimore Chesapeake Golf tournament** will be held at Quail Valley Golf Course, in Littlestown Pennsylvania, on **Friday August 26<sup>th</sup>**. Last year's event was a huge success in raising funds for ASBC's work and Autism Awareness. The tournament is a 4-person best ball format. This year's tournament will feature: a Long Drive Contest, Closest to the Pin Contest, Putting Contest, Prizes to the top teams, Door Prizes, a silent auction, complimentary breakfast and lunch, and much more. For additional details, or to be a part of this year's event, please contact Scott Greenholtz or Heidi Shoemaker at (410) 596-3811, or send an email to [AAAGolfTournament@gmail.com](mailto:AAAGolfTournament@gmail.com).

Please also use the above contacts if you would like to volunteer at the tournament, or if you would like to be a hole sponsor.

Hope to see you there!

# DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . .

(ABOUT THE CALENDAR ITEMS)

**Tuesday, May 17, 11:30a.m - 12:30 p.m.**

***Encouraging Full Participation in Mealtime: An Introduction to Eating and Feeding with Children with Autism***

Presented by the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) at Kennedy Krieger. Children with Autism often present with food refusal. This presentation will review common feeding problems and highlight research in this area. Practical strategies to prevent feeding problems will also be included. Presenters: Donna Reigstad, Occupational Therapist, and Beth Nottingham, Speech Language Pathologist. Open to parents and professionals. No fee. Location: Center for Autism and Related Disorders, 3901 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore. For more information: Stacey Duvall, 443-923-7680.

**Tuesday, May 17, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Arc Workshop: *Sibling Issues***

Sponsored by The Arc of Baltimore. In addition to a presentation by *Sibshops*, hear a panel of siblings share their experiences of being the sibling of a disabled child. Location: The Arc of Baltimore Employment Center, 6151 Metro Drive, Baltimore 21215. For more information: Becky Hartnett, 410-296-2272x5351, [bhartnett@arcobaltimore.org](mailto:bhartnett@arcobaltimore.org), or [www.arcobaltimore.org](http://www.arcobaltimore.org).

**Wednesday, May 18, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.**

***“Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid”***

Partners for Success: Resource Center for Families, Schools and Community, Baltimore City Public Schools and The Arc Baltimore will present a workshop given by Gina Gallagher and Patricia Konjoian, the authors of “Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid: A Survival Guide for Ordinary Parents of Special Children.” A limited number of attendees will win a signed copy of the book and the authors will be happy to sign personal copies. Signed copies will also be available for \$15 each. Location: The Arc of Baltimore Employment Center, 6151 Metro Drive, Baltimore 21215. To register, contact: Becky Hartnett, 410-296-2272 x 5351, [bhartnett@arcobaltimore.org](mailto:bhartnett@arcobaltimore.org)

**Thursday, May 19, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Arc of Baltimore Guy Talk Pot Luck**

A support group for dads only with discussion of the challenges and joys of having a child with a developmental disability. Meets the third Thursday of every month. Location: The Arc of Baltimore, 7215 York Road, Towson. For more information: Dorothea Nikas at 410-296-2272x5349 or visit [www.arcobaltimore.org](http://www.arcobaltimore.org).

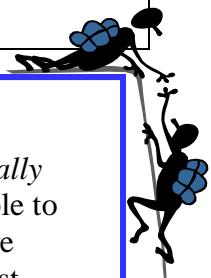
**Saturday, May 21, 2010, 11 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Autism: Art Exhibit**

Sponsored by Alex’s Art Loft (Alex Gabriel Martin, [alex@alexartloft.org](mailto:alex@alexartloft.org)). Now accepting submissions from artists, musicians, poets and entertainers on the Autism Spectrum. Location: Moorenko’s Ice Cream, 8030 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. For more information: [ArtforASD@gmail.com](mailto:ArtforASD@gmail.com).

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

In looking over the Calendar, do you see a workshop or seminar you *really* want to attend but *really* can’t afford to at present? Keep in mind that each year, current BCC-ASA paid members are able to access funds to offset the cost of trainings, conferences, or workshop attendance. These funds are available from the **Charles Fowler, Sr. Memorial Fund**. To utilize these funds, submit a request before the event detailing the date, the event and funds requested. After the training, submit a copy of the registration form to BCC-ASA, P.O. Box 10822, Baltimore, MD 21234 or electronically to [questions@bcc-asa.org](mailto:questions@bcc-asa.org) and reimbursement will be mailed to you.



## DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)

**Saturday, May 21, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

**The Shafer Center hosts: Big Kids Club!**

Big Kids Club is a free play date program for children ages 4-6 years old, who have conversation skills. Admission is free and families are welcome to enjoy one-hour of respite care. Location: The Shafer Center, 132 Business Center Drive, Reisterstown. To register, call 410-517-1113 or email: [Info@ShaferCenter.com](mailto:Info@ShaferCenter.com).

**Thursday, May 26, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Parent Group for Parents of Individuals on the Autism Spectrum**

Success Transitions and Zaks Autism Consulting are hosting a new group for parents of individuals on the autism spectrum (any age), the fourth Thursday of every month. Providing an opportunity for parents to get together, share strategies, and network. Cost is Free! ADA-Accessible Building. ASL Interpretation available upon request. Location: 1014 West 36th Street 21211. For more information: Susan Hpwarth, 443-676-5366.

**Friday, May 27, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Adults with Autism Social Group**

Social Activity Night for adults with Autism. Please bring a snack to share. Cost: \$3 fee per person, per meeting or \$15 per semester or \$25 per year. Location: Towson University Administration Building, Room 120, located at the corner of York Road and Cross Campus Drive. For more information: Patricia Townes, 410-704-4486

**Wednesday, June 1, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Arc of Baltimore Moms Support Group**

A support group for moms only with discussion of the challenges and joys of having a child with a developmental disability. Please bring food to share. Meets the first Wednesday of every month. Location: The Arc of Baltimore, 7215 York Road, Towson. For more information contact Dianna Morgan at 410-296-2272x5347 or visit [www.arcofbaltimore.org](http://www.arcofbaltimore.org).

**Friday, June 3, 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Autism: A Journey in Optimism and Opportunity**

See article on Page 12 for details.



**Saturday, June 4, 10:00 a.m.**

**ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film**

**Kung Fu Panda 2: The Kaboom of Doom.** Po is now living his dream as The Dragon Warrior, protecting the Valley of Peace alongside his friends and fellow kung fu masters. But Po's awesome new life is threatened by the emergence of a formidable villain, who plans to use a secret, unstoppable weapon to conquer China and destroy kung fu. It is up to Po and The Furious Five to journey across China to face this threat and vanquish it. Rated PG. See flyer on Page 13 for details.

**Tuesday, June 7, 10:30 a.m.**

**The Auburn School - Baltimore Campus Information Session**

Information on the new Baltimore Campus, opening in September 2011. Location: Enoch Pratt Free Library, 5108 Roland Avenue. For more information: Pia Bernardini, 443-552-7553.

**Thursday, June 9, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.**

**ASD & Sleep Challenges**

A presentation in the ASD Brown Bag Seminar Series sponsored by Pathfinders for Autism and Confident Student. Speaker: Mary Tuross, Confident Student. Initiating and maintaining sleep is a common challenge for individuals with ASD. Lack of sleep has a negative impact on mood, attention, memory, motivation, and the general ability of the brain to retain and process information. Ms. Tuross will examine the cognitive effects of sleep, and lack thereof, and introduce strategies to increase the ability of quality sleep. Limited spaces for childcare, ages 2-6, is available for a non-refundable fee of \$20 per child. You must register separately for childcare 2 weeks prior to workshop session. Location: Trellis Services 3164 Lakefront Drive Hunt Valley, MD 21030. For more information: Erin Bell, at 443-622-4955.

## DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)

**Monday, June 13, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting**

Topic: Planning for 2011-2012. This committee is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Board of Education on matters pertaining to students with disabilities in Baltimore County. Membership is open to parents, students, family members, community representatives, members of disability organizations, educators, administrators, and all other interested persons. Monthly meetings during the school year are held in Room 114 of the ESS Building, located on the Baltimore County Board of Ed's Greenwood campus, 6901 Charles St., Towson.

**Tuesday, June 14, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. (closing time)**

**The Greene Turtle Fundraiser for ASBC**

See flyer on Page 12 for details on this inaugural event.

**Thursday, June 16, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Arc of Baltimore Guy Talk Pot Luck**

See May 19<sup>th</sup> listing for more details.

**Thursday, June 23, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Parent Group for Parents of Individuals on the ASD**

See May 26<sup>th</sup> listing for more information on how to register.

**Friday, June 24, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Adults with Autism Social Group**

See May 27<sup>th</sup> listing for details.

**Sunday, June 26, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**ASBC Annual Picnic at Cascade Lake**

See flyer on Page 9 for details.

**Saturday, July 2, 10:00 a.m.**

**ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film**

**Cars 2.** When star racecar Lightning McQueen (voice of Owen Wilson) and the incomparable tow truck Mater (voice of Larry the Cable Guy) head overseas to compete in the first-ever World Grand Prix, Mater gets caught up in an intriguing adventure of his own: international espionage. Rated PG.

**Wednesday, July 6, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Arc of Baltimore Moms Support Group, Towson, 6:30 p.m.**

See June 1<sup>st</sup> listing for more details.



***Happy Father's Day!***  
*Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>*



Will, along with his wife, Melinda Elliott and son Brian, at the autism walk

The Board of the Autism Society of Baltimore Chesapeake and all the members of the Chapter send out a

*BIG THANK YOU* to  
**WILL CASSANO**



. . . who created our website and has been our webmaster ever since 2002 (that's almost a *decade!*). We sincerely appreciate your dedication and commitment to our chapter of the Autism Society through the years. We are truly grateful to you for sharing your time and talents to help our members.

# New Board Elected at Annual Meeting

Our Board of Directors for 2011-2012:

Co-Presidents:

Debbie Page  
David Savick

Vice President

Kay Holman

Treasurer

Mary Ellen Curtis

Secretary

Helen Shafer

Members-at-Large:

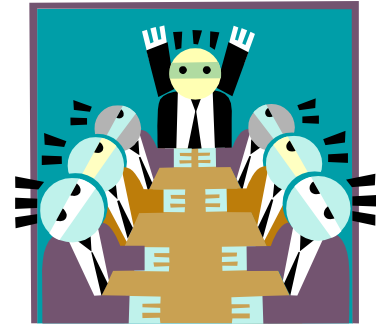
Carol Brown  
Andy Parsley  
Maureen Rushton  
Stephanie Savick  
P.J. Shafer  
Erica Solliday

Honorary Board Member

Heidi Shoemaker

Immediate Past President

Heather Thoms-Chesley



We send a special “thank you” to **Marlo Lemon** who is leaving the board after completing her 2-year-term as a member-at-large. Marlo is a joy to work with and an inspiration to other parents.

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

**Newsletter Editor:** **Mary Ellen Curtis** continues as editor and designer of our bi-monthly newsletters with **Jenny Phillips** editing the calendar.

**Web Master:** **David Savick** has taken on the vital position of webmaster and is overseeing the overhaul of our website. We gratefully acknowledge the years of dedicated webmastering we have received from **Will Cassano**. He has added greatly to the effectiveness of our chapter.

**Librarian:** **Michelle Landrum**

**Adult Autism Resource Group—Ellen Feifarek and Linda Pearl** continue as Co-leaders of this working task force to address the needs of transitioning youth and adults with ASD by working to improve services through increasing the quality, quantity and range of options available to adults with ASD and their families.

**Baltimore County Public Schools/Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake Partnership:**  
**Debbie Page** serves as the Partnership Director.

**ASBC would like to thank all those individuals who worked so hard on the Board and Committees during the past year. Thank you!**

# Annual ASBC Picnic

*Please join us at*

## Cascade Lake

*3000 Snydersburg Road  
Hampstead, Maryland*

*Sunday, June 26th, 2011  
12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.*



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

Visit [www.cascadelake.com](http://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 ASBC.

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 soft drinks and paper goods (no charcoal will be provided this year).

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 3 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, contact Debbie Page via the chapter phone line or email [questions@bcc-asa.org](mailto:questions@bcc-asa.org).*

**ASBC EXTENDS OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THESE RECENT DONORS**

Patrick Banks  
 Sharon Brauckmann  
 Employees Charity Organization of Northrop Grumman  
 Ellen and Chris Feifarek  
 Neil and Shelly Fitzgerald  
 Mary R. Smith

**Upcoming AARG! Meeting**

The next meeting of the Adult Autism Resource Group will be on **Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. AARG, a sub-group of ASBC, meets the second Tuesday of every month at the home of Ellen Feifarek to work on issues that concern adults and transition-age youth with autism. Please call Ellen at 410-583-7633 during daytime hours if you plan to attend.

**Did you Know?**

We are able to accept donations electronically using PayPal from our website on the Donate page <http://bcc-asa.org/BCCASADonate.htm>. Please feel free to leave a message in the field provided by PayPal with any details regarding your donation.

**Welcome, New Members  
 Join Us on the Journey**

The chapter extends a warm welcome to anyone who recently attended their first support group meeting. The Autism Society exists as a resource for parents or anyone involved with a child or adult diagnosed with autism. We understand the challenges of autism and are here to help in any way we can. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

**Check it out!**



Here's a new autism website that features local Baltimoreans, and which is in search of helpful ideas from the autism community:  
<http://www.reallookautism.com/>

**Help  
 Wanted**

**Can't ReMember if You're a Member?**

If you are uncertain as to the status of your membership please send an email inquiry to [questions@bcc-asa.org](mailto:questions@bcc-asa.org) and we can let you know if your membership is current. Our membership year runs from May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>.



*AND REMEMBER, IF YOU PAY YOUR 2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES AT A SUPPORT GROUP MEETING, YOU CAN GET A FREE AUTISM AWARENESS WRISTBAND, MAGNET OR PIN! IT'S A REAL DEAL!*

The Autism Society of Baltimore Chesapeake depends entirely on support and participation from the membership. Please consider joining a committee: Advocacy, Education, Support, Membership or Marketing/PR. Please call our support line (410-655-7933) or email us at [questions@bcc-asa.org](mailto:questions@bcc-asa.org) to learn how you can help. Or, you can print out your very own form to complete at [www.bcc-asa.org/volunteer\\_sign\\_up.pdf](http://www.bcc-asa.org/volunteer_sign_up.pdf).



*Spring is Here!*

*Please join us for a*

***"Springtime Social"***

Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from

5:30-7:30 *at Oregon Ridge Park*

*(under the white tent to the right of the playground)*

We will provide the paper products, ice, drinks, and fun (and games!)  
— you just need to bring a picnic dinner for your family.

Please RSVP to Kay Holman at [kholman@towson.edu](mailto:kholman@towson.edu) so we can get a head count.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

\*This event is being sponsored by the BCC-ASA and planned by graduate students  
in the course SPED 605 from Towson University

# SAVE THE DATE !

Fund Raiser  
Tuesday, June 14, 2011!

For: The Autism Society Baltimore -Chesapeake (ASBC)

Time: 11:00 am -1:00 am

Where: The Greene Turtle  
830 Market Street  
Westminster, MD 21157  
Phone # 410-871- 1524

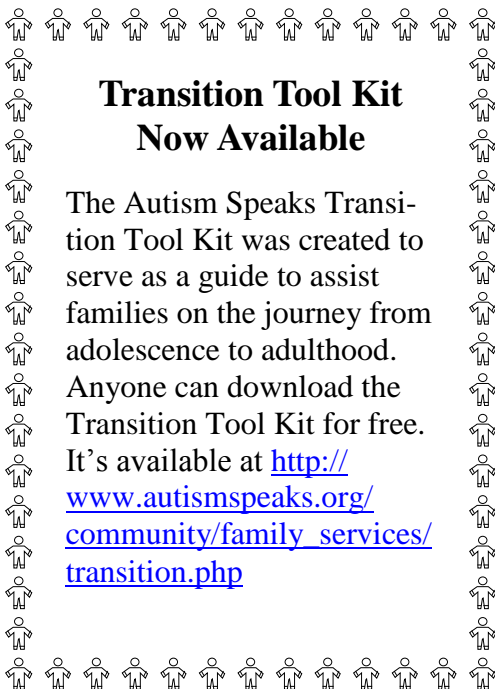
- 10% of the day's sales will be donated to The Autism Society of Baltimore -Chesapeake
- The ASBC will be selling their autism merchandise
- A Silent Auction
- A 50/50 Raffle



## Camp Fairlee Manor offering Special Autism Sessions

Easter Seals Camp Fairlee Manor, near Chestertown on the Eastern Shore, is offering two special week-long sessions for kids and teens with autism. The sessions are June 12-17 and July 31 - August 5, and include canoeing, swimming, high ropes course, rock wall climbing, camping, fishing, horseback riding, arts and crafts, hayrides and much more. There is a one-to-one counselor/camper ratio and individual programs tailored to each camper's needs. A sensory room is available.

For more information, call 410-778-0566 or visit [www.de.easterseals.com](http://www.de.easterseals.com).



## Transition Tool Kit Now Available

The Autism Speaks Transition Tool Kit was created to serve as a guide to assist families on the journey from adolescence to adulthood. Anyone can download the Transition Tool Kit for free. It's available at [http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/family\\_services/transition.php](http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/family_services/transition.php)

## A Little Far Afield, but It Should be Worth the Trip *Carpooling, anyone?*

**Autism: A Journey in Optimism and Opportunity**, a presentation at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Eden Autism Services Princeton Lecture Series, will feature guest lecturers **Ami Klin, Ph.D., Sarah Spence, M.D., Ph.D. and Lynn Kern Koegel, Ph.D.**, three highly-regarded professionals in the field of autism. In addition, there will be a question/answer panel featuring the guest lecturers, Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D., Marie Bristol-Power, Ph.D. and other authorities in the field. The symposium will be held on **Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Reynolds Auditorium, Princeton University**. Cost is \$75 (see page 5 for information about scholarship opportunities through the ASBC's Charles Fowler, Sr. Memorial Fund which would cover this cost for members). For more information on the session and to register, visit [www.edentraining.org](http://www.edentraining.org).

# Sensory-Friendly showing of:

## Kung Fu Panda 2

### Saturday, June 4, 2011

### 10:00 am

AMC Theatres® and The Autism Society have teamed up to bring families affected by autism a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis.

With Sensory Friendly Films, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>AMC Columbia Mall 14</b></p> <p>10300 Little Patuxent Parkway</p> <p>Columbia, Md 21044</p> <p>410-423-0510</p> | <p><b>AMC White Marsh 16</b></p> <p>8141 Honeygo Blvd.</p> <p>Baltimore, Md 21236</p> <p>410-933-9428</p> |
|---|---|

For tickets to this unique experience, please visit the theatre's box office the day of the event.



Note: when attending the movie, remember to ask for the *sensory-friendly showing* – there may be other showings of the same movie going on at the theater but they will not be sensory-friendly!



### Check out this video . . .

Autistic man has trouble with the national anthem - but then something amazing happens. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and enter "National Anthem Fenway Park". Too bad it happened to be the Red Sox and not the Orioles . . .

## Advice for Maintaining Relationships and Staying Connected

from Individuals writing to the Autism Speaks Blog

Having a child on the spectrum can feel isolating enough. Don't be afraid to tell people about your child. Everybody knows someone touched by Autism or Asperger's! You never know how you might help someone else by simply opening the door. -Heather

As a sibling of someone with autism, the best advice that I could give is to teach the other children or child in your family what autism is and how to be the best support and role model for their sibling with the diagnosis. Ultimately, they can be a wonderful teacher, peer model and friend to your child as they grow up into adulthood and contribute to keeping the family strong through this journey. – Elif

Being a sibling to an Autistic child, especially being the only and oldest (such as myself) I recognize the importance of family relationships. Be honest and involve siblings with all decisions. Offer lots of private time because they do lose out on experiences when bringing an Autistic child to places such as Disney or even having friends over are too stressful. Be upfront about the responsibilities we will someday face but be cautious. I realized at 12 that someday my parents will be gone but small steps ease this realization. An open dialogue and allowing siblings to have a passion or hobby they can be immersed in is helpful. You may sense resentment at times and things may be said but never doubt that we love our siblings and will do anything for them. –Natalie

More to come, next edition . . .



Our 2<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Honestly Autism Day (HAD)** was held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was a *huge* success with **400 attendees!** The all day conference was presented by **The Partnership Project** which is a collaboration between the **Autism Society of Baltimore and Baltimore County Public Schools**. HAD was a day devoted to understanding autism. Parents, family members, professionals and people with autism came together to listen, ask questions and learn from each other.

Heartfelt thanks go to **The Partnership Project Committee Members** who spent countless hours making this day come alive!

**Sara Egorin-Hooper**  
**Adrienne Gleason**  
**Kay Holman**  
**Marlo Lemon**  
**Debbie Page**

**Maureen Rushton**  
**Stephanie Savick**  
**PJ Shafer**  
**Heather Thoms Chesley**

And, **Honestly Autism Day** would not have been the success it was without our team of dedicated **volunteers**:

**Hyun Chae**  
**Nick Commadori**  
**Mary Ellen Curtis**  
**Cassie Downey**  
**TJ Forrester**  
**Raymond L. Frazier**

**Raymond S. Frazier**  
**Eileen Frazier**  
**Joanna Frazier**  
**Donna Gosnell**  
**Deborah Herman**  
**Karen Johnson**  
**Rob Page**

**David Savick**  
**Erica Solliday**  
**Susie Swindell**  
**Robin Taplette**  
**Briahna Temple**  
**Maryrita Wittstadt**

### *More Thanks . . .*

- ◆ To all of the truly inspiring **Speakers** for your dedication and commitment to the autism community!
- ◆ To the amazing **Student Panel** for your honesty and courage!
- ◆ To all of the **Vendors** who took the time to make their information, products and services available!
- ◆ To musician **Bill Hooper** for sharing his incredible talent!
- ◆ To **Pathfinders for Autism and Starbucks of Towson Town Center** for keeping our coffee cups filled!
- ◆ To special guest **LaVonnya Gardner** for teaching us about living with autism!
- ◆ To **Christopher Kendall** for giving us a fantastic logo!
- ◆ To photographer **Ray Frazier** for helping us capture every moment!
- ◆ To **New Town High School** for the incredible support!
- ◆ To **Santoni's Market** in Glyndon for a delicious breakfast and lunch!

And to **ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED** for giving **Honestly Autism Day** meaning and making the day such a huge success!

And to Our Wonderful Sponsors, *Thank You!*



### Officers and Board Members

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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 next support group meeting will be **Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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. (which is just past the on-ramp from southbound I-83). Go north on West Rogers Ave.; the hospital is on the right.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

#### AUTISM SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE-CHESAPEAKE

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (**required for newsletter delivery**): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

If you prefer to receive a hard copy of the chapter newsletter by mail, please check here  and add an additional \$10 to your dues payment to help offset the cost of printing and mailing.

Additional donation to BCC-ASA: \_\_\_\_\_ Thank You!

Make checks payable to BCC-ASA and mail to:

**BCC-ASA, P.O. Box 10822, Baltimore, MD 21234**

#### Please note:

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

**ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00**

**CIRCLE ONE:**

Individual with Autism

Family

Professional

Student