



BCC-ASA News

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

November 2006

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

Calendar Close Up

November 2 Support Group to Feature Dr. Andrew Zimmerman

Dr. Andrew Zimmerman, a pediatric neurologist and research scientist at Kennedy Krieger Institute, will present to our chapter on November 2. Dr. Zimmerman is Associate Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He carries out medical evaluations of children and adults who have autism and other neurologically-based behavior problems, and has research interest in the possible relationship between autism and the immune system. Dr. Zimmerman has devoted himself to the needs of individuals with autism and their families for many years.

At the support group, Dr. Zimmerman will be talking with us about current research developments with likely impact on treatment of individuals with autism. He will also talk about recent trends in medication treatments, and will be available to answer questions from the audience following his presentation.

“Greatest Hits” to Appear at December Support Group Meeting

Our regular December meeting will include a Show & Tell of members' favorite Holiday gifts for children on the Spectrum as well as general survival tips for the Holidays. Please feel free to bring in some of the “Greatest Hits” you've found for your child – they may give other members ideas for the season of giving.

Calendar

- Nov. 1 Visual Strategies Seminar, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Holiday Inn, Towson
- Nov. 2 BCC-ASA Support Group, 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Andrew Zimmerman
- Nov. 4 MSDE/Parents' Place Special Training Program, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., New Shiloh Baptist Church
- Nov. 9 BCC-ASA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Towson
- Nov. 10 & 11 Special Education Law & Advocacy Boot Camp, Columbia
- Nov. 10-12 ICDL 10th Anniversary International Conference, Tysons Corner, VA
- Nov. 14 Adult Autism Resource Group, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 15 Use of Behavioral Supports, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Loch Raven High School
Speaker: Suzanne Swindell
- Nov. 21 Balto. Co. ABA/Verbal Behavior Group, Maiden Choice, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- Nov. 29 ARC of Baltimore Family Support Series – Supporting Children with Severe Disabilities at Home, Towson, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- Dec. 7 BCC-ASA Support Group, 7:00 p.m.
Subject: Greatest Hits for Gifts and Holiday Survival Tips
- Dec. 12 Adult Autism Resource Group, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 18 Balto. Co. ABA/Verbal Behavior Group, Maiden Choice, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- Dec. 20 & 21 Picture Exchange Communication System Training Workshop, Towson
- Jan. 4, 2007 BCC-ASA Support Group, 7:00 p.m.

The Co-President's Co-communication by Heather Thoms-Chesley

Well, the holiday season is right around the corner – hopefully everyone is settled into a fall routine. Our chapter has been busy too: coordinating the October and upcoming November trainings for Parents and Professionals (sponsored jointly with the Baltimore County Public School system), planning the Adult Autism Resource Group conference, attending a Regional ASA conference and monthly SECAC meetings, screening a first responders training video, and planning ahead for next spring. Our board hopes that you are finding these events and the information we share with you of value to your families. If you know of different types of programming or some possible twists on things we are doing, please let us know. Questions and comments can be sent to questions@bcc-asa.org, or feel free to call me at 410-882-2146. As always, I encourage people to come out and join us at the monthly support groups. And I continue to encourage people to switch delivery of their newsletters from hard copy to electronic version. Check out the notice on page 2 of this newsletter or go to our website for directions on how to switch over. I look forward to seeing you at a training event or support group.

Did You Know?

BCC-ASA **board meetings** are usually held on the third Thursday of every odd month. For the next meeting only, the board will meet on the second Thursday, **November 9**. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for January 18 and March 15. Please contact Eva or Heather if you are interested in attending. Agenda items may be forwarded to Heather at least one week prior to the meeting.

Recent Donors to BCC-ASA

Thank you to the following donors to our chapter:

The ARC of Baltimore
Joanne E. Finley, M.D.
Casandra & Raymond Hale
The Harbour School
Mark Osteen and Leslie Gilden
Ravens Nest #32

In Memory of Kevin Durm:
The Keniston Family

In Memory of Michael Fowler:
Charlotte Hopkins
Ruth & George Schafer

In Memory of Dennis J. Hopkins:
Charlotte Hopkins

And In Honor of Leonard Leibowitz's
Special Birthday:

Selma and Milton Schlenoff
Sheila and Herb Sweren

Thank You, Raven's Nest #32!

On Tuesday, August 22, Paige Pape and I had the pleasure of meeting with the members of Raven's Nest #32. President Michael Kinney presented a very generous donation of \$2,000 to our chapter on behalf of the Nest. This is the second donation Raven's Nest #32 has made to benefit BCC-ASA's work assisting children and adults with autism and their families. We sincerely thank the members, each and every one.

Ellen Feifarek
Past President, BCC-ASA

Next AARG! Meeting Nov. 14

The Adult Autism Resource Group will meet on Tuesday, November 14 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.

New On-line Group about Autism and Insurance

A new on-line group has been formed to discuss coverage of autism and concurrent issues. Open to all members of the autism community, the purpose is information sharing, ideas for working within the system of insurance provisions, and finding ways of ensuring coverage. Visit the group on-line at autism_insurance_information@yahoo.com.

NICHD Brain & Tissue Bank for Developmental Disorders

Responding to the critical need for a human tissue repository, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) established the Brain and Tissue Bank for Developmental Disorders in 1991. Its mission is to advance research of developmental disorders by systematically collecting, storing and distributing brain and other tissues for research dedicated to the improved understanding, care and treatment of individuals with developmental disorders. If you are interested in registering yourself or a loved one to become a tissue donor, call Project Coordinators Christine Wade-Mariani and Melissa Larkins at 1-800-847-1539, or visit the Bank's web site at www.btbankfamily.org.

National Park Service Offers Free Access Passport

The National Park Service offers a FREE "Golden Access Passport" to citizens or permanent residents who are permanently disabled. This pass allows the disabled person and any accompanying passengers in a private car to get into any National Park for free. There is no charge for the pass – simply ask for one the next time you visit. Proof of eligibility may be required. There are two National Parks right in our area: Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore, and Hampton National Historic Site in Towson. Visit www.nps.gov for more information.

**To contact BCC-ASA
call 410-655-7933 or e-mail us
at questions@bcc-asa.org**

Get Your Newsletter by E-Mail

Sign up now for **Bccasanews** and have your BCC-ASA newsletter delivered to your e-mail inbox before it is printed and sent by US mail. Here's how to sign up:

To subscribe to Bccasanews, send an email to Bccasanews-request@bcc-asa.org and, on the Subject line type: subscribe.

To unsubscribe to Bccasanews, send an email to Bccasanews-request@bcc-asa.org and, on the Subject line type: unsubscribe

Or you may visit <http://seven.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/bccasanews> and subscribe or unsubscribe there.

BCC-ASA Board Members Attend Monthly SECAC Meetings by Heather Thoms-Chesley, Co-President

As a continuation of the partnership between our chapter and the school system, P.J. Schafer and I will attend each meeting of the Special Education Citizen's Advisory Council for this school year. These meetings are a forum between parents and school officials. The October meeting addressed how various members of the school team could work together to support increases in Social Skills development. There were various members of the Department of Student Support Services present including Dale Rauenzahn, Executive Director, and Pasty Holmes, Director. Additionally, supervisors of Psychological Services, School Social Work, and the Coordinator of School Counseling were present.

The presentation was a broad overview of how the different departments can contribute to help students increase their social skills. Within the schools, Speech Language Pathologists could work directly with the student through groups to foster social skills. The SLP could use different strategies such as Social Stories, scripting role playing and/or direct social skills instruction. The guidance counselor could also support the SLP and the classroom teacher through peer groups, direct counseling and consultation. The school psychologist could collect and interpret information about the student's learning and behavior to enable effective IEP intervention and support. In the 48 schools that have a School Social Worker, this team member could address social skills from a Social/Emotional Competencies direction through awareness of self and others, positive attitudes and values, responsible decision-making, and social interaction.

Here are some online resources available:

www.behavior.net	www.pbismaryland.org
www.mhsource.com	www.mhand.org
www.wrightslaw.com	www.nasponline.org

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

THE USE OF BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS IN MULTIPLE SETTINGS

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

WHEN & WHERE:

Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2006

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

Location: Loch Raven High School
1212 Cowpens Ave., Towson

PRESENTER: Suzanne Swindell, BCPS

Suzanne Swindell works as a Resource Teacher for the Alt-MSA and Autism program in the Office of Special Education. Ms. Swindell will explain the principles of Functional Behavior Analysis and how Positive Behavioral Supports can help with challenging behaviors.

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

Directions to Loch Raven High School: Take the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) to exit 29A (Loch Raven Blvd./Cromwell Bridge Road). Turn left on to Cromwell Bridge Road. Turn left on to Cowpens Avenue. Loch Raven High School is at the corner of Cromwell Bridge Road and Cowpens Avenue.

*Please RSVP to Mary Mitchell, mmitchell4@bcps.org by Monday, November 13, 2006.
Reservations are on a first come first served basis.*

UPCOMING TOPICS IN 2007:

March – Communication

April – Autism Overview

May – Creating Visual Supports

Dates and sites to be determined.

Information will be posted on the BCC-ASA website at www.bcc-asa.org

Winning Entries in our Essay Contest

Below are the final two winning entries from BCC-ASA's "How has autism affected your life?" Essay Contest. You can find the other winning essays in the July and September 2006 editions of *The BCC-ASA News*.

Boys are Always Late Talkers **By William J. Siegel**

Winner, BCC-ASA Essay Contest, Parent category

If there was ever a phrase I wish I never heard spoken, it was: Boys are always late talkers. This was advice that I wish was never taken: Be patient, he will catch up.

First there is a healthy pregnancy followed by a healthy baby boy. Many smiles and much laughter from mom, dad, and baby. Large at birth, growing more each day. Speech is coming one word at a time between giggles, coos, and more smiles. Beautiful boy with head full of brown, curly hair. Everything is on schedule up until 18 months. Happy pediatrician, happy parents. Then something changes. "Have you noticed that there are no more words, much babbling and the long stares of concentration?" Doctor, grandparents, friends, and others say not to worry, boys are always late. Then there is the fascination with the vacuum cleaner. Long sessions of back and forth, stop to remove the hose and put it back. Constant motor sounds. We take away the vacuum, a stick substitutes with added motor sounds. The kitchen floor is vacuumed for 25 minutes before we intervene.

Still more encouragement from the doctor and nurse, don't worry any day now, we hear this at every visit. Three months before three years old, we seek help from specialists who tell us we should have come when he was two. Still more denial from family and friends. After many tests, long talks, many books, websites, and literature, we realize that he has autism. What now, will we have a Rainman for a son? Are we never to hear his voice again? Will he be independent of us? Will there be a high school graduation, college, wedding to a lovely wife who will give us a grandchild?

And then we see it, the video. Our beautiful boy with head full of brown, curly hair not acting like the rest of the three year olds, not interested in the same things or even other children. Running in circles and hand flapping. This is when reality hits. I have to fight back a rush of emotion and a wave of tears. After the flood of emotion, my resolve and acceptance begin to set in. I needed to see this. To see what a child with autism looks and acts like. This is my child, my son, whom I love and would lay my life down for.

I accept but I do not give up. As his parents we choose to take charge of this therapy. We know the road ahead will be long and hard, filled with sleepless nights, missed vacations and "Oh when was the last time we had a night out?" To add to the anxiety, his little sister will be two in a few months. How long do we have to hold our breath to see if she follows his path? No matter how hard the fight, he is worth it; he is still our curly haired boy full of laughter with the big grin. No Rainman for our son, we will settle for no less than a Temple Grandin, or maybe a Bill Gates.

Riding the Train

By Sandy Hoffman, Baltimore County Infant and Toddler Educator

Winner, BCC-ASA Essay Contest, Teacher category

Riding the train from Baltimore to Chapel Hill, North Carolina several years ago, I was looking forward to my week at the TEACCH Program to learn how to help children who were part of the exploding population diagnosed with autism. Glancing out the window during this stifling, arid day, I noticed a truck barreling down a dirt road toward the train. I joked to the person seated next to me – "That truck is going to hit this train."

The next moment, the jolt of the impact was no joke. The lights went out. The people screamed. The babies cried. There was no electricity. It was hot. It was scary.

During the confusion of the following few moments, the parents seated across the aisle became pale with fright. "What happened to our kids? Where are they? Are they hurt? Are they afraid? How are they?"

A while earlier, their two children had walked back into the snack car – an innocent trip for drinks and chips. The snack car had been de-coupled from the train as the truck hit the train. The train went forward, but the snack car was nowhere in sight. The parents had no idea if their children were safe. They had no idea where they were. They had no idea when – or if – they would return.

During the next week, as I listened to Dr. Marie Bristol explain Autism, I reflected on the similarities of the disorder and the experience on the train. Suddenly, for no specific reason, children are cut off from their families – disappearing into the unknown – and have no way to communicate their needs, emotions or location.

During the years since this memorable ride on the train, professionals have researched and experimented on the most effective means to bring children back from the "snack car." I have been touched by so many parents riding this train trying to bring their children back from the unknown. Many of these parents – Ellen Feiferek, Mary Ellen Curtis, Paige Pape, Gene DiGennaro, Gary Bull, Lori Plaza – are active members of BCC-ASA. They, as well as many other families of children on the spectrum, have taught me invaluable lessons about life. They love and nurture their children as they continue to ride the train – pondering the eventual destination.

Whatever the destination, the truth is that the ride has taught us that whether or not the car is connected to the train, these children know that they are connected to their families. No matter how wide the separation, the love remains true and strong.

Educational Concerns Addressed at October Support Group Meeting by Hilary Hellerbach, BCC-ASA Board Member

[Ed. Note: For those unable to attend the October meeting, here is a summary of the information covered.]

At the BCC/ASA support group meeting on October 5, the participants benefited from dividing into four small groups to discuss various educational concerns. Each group was given a list of possible discussion questions and some literature pertaining to their topic. They were then asked to report to the entire group at the end of the meeting.

One group talked about how to impact IEP goals. This group came up with a number of goals they would most like their children to work on including behavioral responses, imaginative play, and social skills. They talked about the importance of making sure goals are measurable, concrete, and attainable, and about ways to advocate for children. Examples of this included: sending goal suggestions to the school and demanding a draft IEP well before team meetings, maintaining communication with teachers, contacting the system placement or compliance officer, keeping a paper trail, video or audio taping the child doing work, attending Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee meetings, and contacting family resource or parent involvement offices in the school system.

Another group talked about how to help children with transitions to new schools, classes or programs. They discussed using a timer to give children preparation time and a cue that a change is coming, and having a comfort item (ideally many of the same one in case one gets lost) to take with them from one place to another. To help prepare for big transitions they discussed talking with the child about the changes, using picture symbols, and observing new classrooms and talking with teachers ahead of time to familiarize them with the child's usual symbols and routines.

A third group talked about Parent Involvement and Collaboration with Teachers and Therapists. Communication via daily email or communication book was discussed as well as in-person follow up if communication breaks down. Other ways to maintain communication include: attending parent/teacher conferences, PTA meetings, and back to school nights, volunteering at the school, building relationships with parents of other children in your child's class, and letting teachers know how much their work is appreciated. The importance of consistency between home and school was also discussed. Ways to improve this included making sure your child gets enough sleep, providing structured activities at home (e.g., homework from school), and following a schedule that uses identical cues at home and at school.

The fourth group discussed inclusion. They discussed the importance of including children with autism with typically-developing peers from early on to build social competence and familiarity both for peers and themselves. As regards educational programs, they spoke about inclusion especially during special area classes such as art, P.E., music, and recess as there was some concern that the pace may be too fast during more academic classes. They also discussed the need for teacher support and training to effectively support inclusion. When talking about the overall community and inclusion, they spoke about the programs at Port Discovery and how it may be helpful to generate a list of community-based inclusion activities, commenting also that in addition to benefiting children with autism, inclusion helps their typically-developing peers have increased sensitivity, tolerance, and acceptance of others who are different from themselves.

All of the discussion groups during this meeting were active and worked hard to address the issues. Feedback in general was that this was a useful session.

Reflections on ASA by Heather Thoms-Chesley, Co-President

In Virginia Beach, ASA hosted a regional leadership training conference. Presidents from our state chapters who attended included the presidents of the Anne Arundel County, Howard County and Baltimore-Chesapeake chapters (our chapter was represented by me). As you may (or may not) know, our group is an affiliated chapter of the Nationwide organization – Autism Society of America. The ASA is the oldest and largest grass-roots membership organization, with more than 200 chapters and over 50,000 members nationwide.

Each chapter within this vast network is unique; however, there are many similarities among the ASA chapters. Your ASA chapter is your Autism Community – we connect you with other families, resources and the latest information on autism. We support each other on this journey. We are a community of hope and we are there for you so you can be there for your loved one!

At the National ASA level, the board of directors and staff are focusing on five core goals for the upcoming year:

1. Increasing awareness,
2. Increasing funding for Autism research,
3. Strengthening Autism resources,
4. Improving education services for ASD and
5. Providing critical services for ASD

ASA is working hard with 26 other autism communities to seek passage of the Combating Autism Act. To tell your local representative that you feel the federal government needs to take action on this bill, go to the ASA website www.autism-society.org, navigate to the advocacy section, then to the Strengthening Autism Research link that will deliver you to the Combating Autism Act information sheet. At the bottom of this page is *Take Action Now* – when you click this you can directly contact your government representative. It took me less than 30 seconds to support an important piece of legislation. This could still be passed in the lame duck session if we continue to let law makers know how important it is.

Just remember BCC-ASA, just like the National Autism Society of America, has one main driving mission: **to support ALL those affected by autism.**

National Conference, Part One

by Elisa Hartman, BCC-ASA Member

The Autism Society of America's 2006 National Conference, *Lighting the Way to Hope, Navigating to Success and Solutions*, was held from July 12 - 15, and I was fortunate enough to be the representative from our Baltimore-Chesapeake chapter.

The first day I attended the Chapter Leaders Workshop and was pleased to learn of many new initiatives undertaken by ASA. The National Board has decided to develop a Panel of Individuals on the Spectrum, similar to their Panel of Professional Advisors. This panel will be a part of the Board and contribute to strategic planning. The Board has undertaken a strategic planning process under the direction of one of their members, Andres Filippi. They are evaluating questions such as, "What are the right things to do and why?," "Are we aligning our resources with our goals?," "Are we effective, and how do we know?," "Are our goals measurable?," and "Have we defined our priorities so that when funding, resources and capacity become available, we are ready to act?" Cathy Pratt, the ASA Board Chair, reported that ASA will be revising the Options Policy, as it is often a source of misunderstanding. Once revised, a presentation will be developed about the changes.

Since the first priority of the strategic plan is Advocacy, ASA has hired Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, LLP to assist in its public policy and lobbying efforts at the national level. The goal of this partnership is to enhance ASA's profile on Capitol Hill, increase the government's investment in autism research, identify new treatments and strengthen existing programs. In addition, ASA has hired Vanguard Communications, a Media Relations firm for non-profits, to help them develop a communications plan. Materials developed for local chapters to use with local media efforts were distributed by a Vanguard representative. The other four priorities in the strategic plan are: Education, Services, Support and Research.

Jennifer LeFever, Director of Information and Referral, unveiled a new series of informational brochures for families and professionals called, "Living with Autism." The first four brochures were titled *Puberty, Establishing Healthy Sleep Patterns, Sibling Issues, and Supporting Positive Behavior in the Classroom*. These brochures will eventually be available by downloading from the National website. The next four brochures in the series, each about a different transitional stage between ages 3 and 21 years, will be published in the October issue of the *Autism Advocate*.

Lee Grossman, ASA President and CEO, announced that ASA has recently received a \$100,000 grant from the John Merck Fund – a New York charitable trust with no financial ties to the vaccine company – for a project that will focus on the question, "Are neurotoxins and other environmental health concerns the culprits in damaging the gene construct and triggering the symptoms known as ASD?" A special *Autism Advocate* Health issue will be devoted to exploring this topic.

Rounding out the day-long meeting, the Howard County Autism Society discussed its work in the area of crime victims with autism, and chapter leaders from around the country spoke about activities of which they were most proud.

Grief, Loss and Autism

by Hilary Hellerbach, BCC-ASA Board Member

As a school social worker I have had the privilege to work with many families who have children with developmental challenges and other special needs including autism. These families have taught me many things about resilience, life's priorities, and about grief and loss. As a result of this as well as my own personal experiences with grief, I was motivated to read and to attend a number of workshops on the subject. In this article I will share some ideas and philosophies about grief that have been helpful to me and to those with whom I work, in the hope that others will find them useful as well.

When a child is diagnosed with a disability, it would make sense that their family might experience many things including numbness, powerlessness, sadness, anger, loss, guilt, and fear. All of these are feelings often associated with grief. However, there are some unique challenges in coping with this grief that are important to acknowledge and respect. A diagnosis of a "disability," "syndrome," or "chronic condition" in a child often means the loss of earlier hopes and dreams for that child. This can mean a loss of family expectations which can be further complicated if the parents hold on to feelings of guilt for somehow causing or genetically passing on the disability. As there is no physical death to mourn, this loss is often not openly acknowledged, publicly honored, or socially accepted. As the child grows older and may not reach developmental milestones (walking, potty training, talking, peer relationships, graduations, driving, jobs, and marriage) along with typically-developing peers, grief for what might have been is often revisited by families. Additionally, reminders of limitations such as IEP meetings, doctor visits, and ordering new adaptive equipment may bring up feelings of loss. The question is, how best to cope with and care for one's self during these times?

It is helpful to remember that there is no "right" way to grieve, and that we all experience grief differently. People react to grief physically (headaches, heart racing, stomach complaints), cognitively (forgetfulness, confusion), spiritually (questioning faith), and emotionally (shock, denial, fear, guilt, depression, etc.). Some people focus strongly on feeling (crying, yelling, and talking to get feelings out) and some focus strongly on doing (physical activity, keeping busy, thinking rather than talking). All of these ways to respond to grief can be useful if they work, but can be problematic if we get stuck and it impacts negatively on ourselves and those around us. Much of the literature on grief points to stages that one must go through to heal; however, given the non-finite nature of the grief described here, this may not be useful. William Worden suggests that there are "tasks" rather than stages in grieving that are helpful to work through. These include: accepting the reality of the loss, experiencing the pain, adjusting to the differences, and re-focusing the emotional energy of grief. Focusing on these tasks would seem to be a way to help us move from what we wish was to what is in our lives, while taking hold of the emotional energy and putting it to good use.

This reminds me of the parents I know who I've seen cry or yell at an IEP meeting, but who then come in later with suggestions or ideas about ways to work on goals as well as questions about resources that might be used for their child, and finally seek to help other parents or be involved with organizations that work on these issues. There are many ways to work on the tasks of grieving, but perhaps most important to remember is that none of us need do it alone.

CONFERENCE NEWS

Wednesday, November 1, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Discovering the Possibilities with Visual Strategies

Improving Communication, Behavior & Social Skills. Presented by Linda Hodgdon, M.Ed., CCC-SLP. Cost: \$197. Location: Holiday Inn Baltimore-Towson. For more information: Mary Jo Kurily, 248-879-2598 or www.quirkroberts.com/tour.

Saturday, November 4, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Baltimore T.I.E.S. (Training, Information, Education and Support)

Sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education and The Parents' Place of Maryland. Workshops on special education law, partnerships and IEPs, "Eat-n-Ask" lunch, personal help from MSDE and Parent's Place staff, and information about community resources. No cost. Location: The New Shiloh Baptist Church, 2100 North Monroe Street, Baltimore. For more information: Valerie von Behren, 410-396-8829 or Julie Foley, 410-465-1193.

Friday & Saturday, November 10-11, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Special Education Law & Advocacy Boot Camp

Sponsored by the Howard County Autism Society. Presenters: Pete and Pam Wright, experts in special education law and advocacy. Learn about special education law and how to advocate for your child. Cost: \$135 individual, \$235 family, \$160 professional. Location: Howard Community College, Instructional Lab Building, Columbia. For more information: 410-760-5595 or <http://www.howard-autism.org>.

Friday-Sunday, November 10-12, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

ICDL 10th Anniversary International Conference

"Raising the Ceiling for Children with Autism and Disorders of Relating and Communicating." Sponsored by the International Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders. Cost: \$490, \$370 for full-time students. Location: Hilton McLean, Tysons Corner, Virginia. For more information: 301-656-2667 or www.icdl.com.

Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Baltimore County ABA/Verbal Behavior Interest Group

Monthly meetings. Location: Hope Presbyterian Church, Maiden Choice, MD. For more information: Wil Gehne, (410) 719-7273, wil4vb@yahoo.com or www.bcc-asa.org/VBIG.pdf.

Wednesday, November 29, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

ARC of Baltimore 2006 Family Support Series

Supporting children with severe disabilities at home. Sponsored by the ARC of Baltimore Family and Children Services. No cost. Location: The ARC of Baltimore Community Resource Center, Towson. For more information: 410-296-2272, x5349 or www.arcofbaltimore.org.

Wed. & Thurs., December 20-21, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Picture Exchange Communication System Training Workshop

Sponsored by Pyramid Educational Consultants. Location: Berkshire Marriott Conference Center, Towson. Cost: \$425. For more information: 888-732-7462 or <http://www.pecs.com>

MEMBERSHIP FORM BALTIMORE-CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER ASA

MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$10.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Child's School or Program (Optional): _____

Would you prefer to receive the chapter newsletter:

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

Additional donation to BCC-ASA: _____

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

CIRCLE ONE:

Individual with Autism

Family

Professional

Student

Please note:

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA

FROM: Baltimore/Chesapeake Chapter

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

CIRCLE ONE:

Family: \$40.00

Individual: \$30.00

Student: \$15.00

Professional: \$100.00

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

Officers and Board Members

Co-Presidents: Eva Williams
Heather Thoms-Chesley
Vice President: Tony Lorenzo
Past President: Andrea Schanbacher
Secretary: Jane Rossheim
Treasurer: Carol Brown
Board Members: Deanne Brookshire
Joan DiPietro
Hilary Hellerbach
Shelley Kennedy
Lori Plaza
Helen Zinreich-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, November 2** at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital. 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.

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