BCC-ASA News

Baltimore-Chesapeake Chapter
of the Autism Society of America

January 2007

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

January 4 and February 1

Our January and February support groups will be general meetings which will include breakout groups for parents of newly-diagnosed children. These meetings will be a great chance to visit our lending library to check out some of the new books that we have acquired.

March 1st Support Group to Address Coping and Survival Skills

On March 1, Mary Hepple and Ellen Feifarek will give a talk on "Coping and Survival Skills in Parenting a Child with Autism." Mary is a special education consultant and advocate with more than 25 years of experience as well as the parent of two children with disabilities. Ellen, past president of BCC-ASA, is a psychiatrist and the mother of a son with autism. Together they will be providing practical tips for living with and raising a child with autism.

Donation from Rebounders Gymnastics Training Center Benefits BCC-ASA

The Baltimore-Chesapeake Chapter of the Autism Society has received a very generous donation from Rebounders Gymnastics Training Center, representing funds raised at a gymnastics meet held this past summer. Rebounders features the "I Can Do It Too" Special Needs Program, a sensory/motor/gymnastics program for children of all ages with physical, mental, emotional, social, language, and/or sensory challenges, including autism spectrum disorders. We are truly grateful to be the recipient of this donation, and thank Rebounders for its valuable commitment to our children.

Calendar

Jan. 4	BCC-ASA Support Group, 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 9	Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 10	Md. Assistive Technology Cooperative Seminar, Savage, MD
Jan. 16	Balto. Co. ABA/VB Interest Group, Maiden Choice, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Feb. 1	BCC-ASA Support Group, 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 10-11	Family Enrichment Weekend, Potomac, Maryland
Feb. 13	Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 20	Balto. Co. ABA/VB Interest Group, Maiden Choice, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
March 1	Social Skills Training Workshop, Salisbury
March 1	BCC-ASA Support Group, 7:00 p.m., Coping and Survival Strategies
March 4	Annual Camp Fair, 12:00-3:00 p.m., Holiday Inn, Timonium (new location)
March 13	Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.

Also in March: BCPS and BCC-ASA Training on Communication. Date and location to be announced. Check the March newsletter or chapter website in coming weeks for details.

The Co-President's Co-*mmunication*

by Heather Thoms-Chesley

Welcome 2007!!!

I used to make resolutions for the New Year – I don't anymore. Rather, I try each and every day to do my best to improve myself and to do what I can to make the lives of those I love and care about the absolute best that I can. Do I fail at this lofty goal? Of course I do – more often than I would like to admit, but that doesn't stop me from trying!! Our lives are hectic and stressful, complicated by the challenges of Autism, but we go from day to day striving to make each day a little bit better; not because we are superheroes but because we are parents (or friends, or professionals), and our children need us to advocate for them!

At this time of year we look ahead to the coming months and make plans for the year. Your chapter of the ASA is also looking ahead and making plans. In March the next of the three remaining parent/professional workshops will start. We will run an Autism Awareness Essay contest again in April (see flyer on page 5 of this newsletter), followed by the Annual Meeting and election of the Board in May. Our family picnic will be in June, and, as usual, we continue to host regular monthly support group meetings plus many other meetings and activities yet to be determined. As you know, we try to offer programming that will help you manage your life and offer support, information and resources. We hope you feel we are succeeding!

Our chapter is growing and doing more and more things. During this upcoming year the Board of BCC-ASA will be doing strategic visioning and planning for our chapter's growth and future with the guidance of professional consultants. We are ready to take the next step to help us solidify and clarify our future. We will keep you informed about the process and will be seeking your input.

I hope that you survived the busy, sometimes stressful, holiday season and I look forward to 2007 with excitement. Please offer your suggestions, volunteer your time in any fashion, and keep involved. If you have any questions, you can call me at 410-882-2146 or email me at thoms-chesley@verizon.net. I look forward to seeing you at events throughout the new year.

Recent Donors to BCC-ASA

Thank you to the following donors to our chapter:

Anonymous
Franklin Middle School
Kalyan Kumaar
Rebounders Gymnastics Training Center

In Memory of Ronald Sapp:
Trellis Services, Inc.

In Memory of Abraham Suss:
Trellis Services, Inc.

In Memory of Guy Evans:
Eva and Dave Williams

Did You Know?

BCC-ASA **board meetings** are held on the 3rd Thursday of every odd month. The next scheduled meeting is **January 18th at 7:00 pm**. Please contact Eva or Heather if you are interested in attending. Agenda items may to be forwarded to Heather at least one week prior to the meeting.

Next AARG! Meeting Jan. 9

The Adult Autism Resource Group will meet on Tuesday, January 9 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.

Guide to Selecting Toys for Children with Special Needs

The Family Center on Technology and Disability has an interesting newsletter on selecting toys for children with Special Needs. Access it at http://www.fctd.info/resources/newsletters/index.php.

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

From the National Office of ASA:

ASA Applauds the House Passage of the Combating Autism Act

Legislation provides $860 million in additional funding for autism research and education

Bethesda, MD (12/6/2006) – The Autism Society of America (ASA) commends the U.S. House of Representatives for its passage today of S. 843, the Combating Autism Act. This critical legislation authorizes $860 million through 2011 in federal funding for autism-related research, early detection and intervention.

"ASA applauds Chairman Joe Barton, Speaker Dennis Hastert, Majority Leader John Boehner, and our countless supporters in the House of Representatives for their work on the Combating Autism Act," said Lee Grossman, ASA President and CEO. "We welcome the federal leadership on this national health crisis, and look forward to working together to effect dramatic change."

S. 843, authored by Senators Santorum and Dodd, first passed in the Senate on August 3, 2006. The legislation contains many important provisions to strengthen autism research and diagnostics, including a renewed investment to track the incidence and prevalence of autism spectrum disorder; to increase public awareness of early identification; promote the use of evidence-based interventions for those at higher risk for autism; and establish state-level clearinghouses for information on autism. For the first time, this legislation also calls for culturally competent information on autism.

"Autism has been neglected for far too long," continued Grossman. "Thanks to the Combating Autism Act, federal agencies will have the resources they need to coordinate autism policy and to develop better diagnostics, treatments, and interventions." ASA commends the hard work of its members and parents nationwide, who mobilized tens of thousands of emails, letters and press coverage to convince Congress of the importance of supporting this bill before convening. In addition to the Combating Autism Act, ASA has partnered with many disability associations this year to ask Congress to support important legislation providing needed healthcare and respite services for the autism community. "This is only the beginning of our commitment to ensure that the federal funding is spent wisely and, in the most effective way," said Jeff Sell, ASA Director of Chapters and Membership. ASA will work actively on the Hill in the 110th Congress to ensure further legislation for autism services and environmental health.

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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:

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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.

New Travel/Vacation Resource Available for Families with Children on the Autism Spectrum

A new company has been started that specializes in vacations specifically designed for families with individuals on the autism spectrum. "Travel With Autism" recognizes that the unique challenges of having an individual with ASD preclude many families from even attempting a vacation. To mitigate these challenges, "Travel With Autism" carefully selects locations, trains staff and provides for the unique needs of individuals with ASD. For more information, contact Catherine Pauly, M.S., C.C.C.-SP, Travel With Autism, at 608-216-6650 or Cathie@travelwithautism.com, or visit www.travelwithautism.com.

A View from the Grand Ballroom – National Conference, Part 2

by Elisa Hartman, BCC-ASA Member

The featured keynote speaker to make the biggest splash in the Grand Ballroom during the Autism Society of America's 2006 National Conference was Martha Herbert, Assistant Professor of Neurology at Harvard University and M.D. in Pediatric Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital. As co-chair of ASA's Environmental Health Project Advisory Board, Ms. Herbert has been working on a newer model of autism that views some types of autism as medically treatable (although rarely curable), targeting disturbances in the immune system and the digestive system. Ms. Herbert showed graphs and charts depicting the explosion in the use of chemicals and pesticides over the last twenty-five years. She showed a map of Texas correlating the growth in the number of pollutants in each geographical region with the number of cases of autism. She cited a 2005 study done by the Environmental Working Group in which 10 newborn babies were tested for the presence of 200 toxins and 187 of those toxins were detected in their blood. "If some children are vulnerable to environmental factors, then learning how they are vulnerable may well point us toward how we can treat them." The Environmental Health Project launched by ASA is reaching well beyond the question of mercury in vaccines and into the broader issue of neurotoxicology and how today's pollutants may be affecting our children and the children of the future.

Another keynote address came from V. Mark Durand, Ph.D and Vice Chancellor of the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. He gave a talk on "Optimistic Parenting: Hope for Parents with Challenging Children." Durand has asked the question, "Why are up to 40 percent of families not successful in changing their children's difficult behaviors despite the many excellent teaching techniques developed for these challenging behaviors?" Durand's recent work found a correlation between improved outcomes for children with difficult behaviors and parental optimism. As a result of his research, he advocates providing specific counseling techniques to parents who feel out of control in dealing with their child's behavior. Another point I appreciated was that Durand and his team have asked the question, "How do the 'good' kids get attention in the classroom?" He found they were using strategies like asking for help even when they didn't really need help. They might raise their hand and say, "Is this right?" Durand's point is that we need to teach our children the socially acceptable ways of asking for attention, such as saying, "I don't understand," or "Is this right?" or some functionally-equivalent alternative.

Probably the most moving moment in the grand ballroom for me was the viewing of The Third Parent, winner of ASA's Media Excellence in Video Award. The producer, Christina Frenzel, who has an autistic sibling of her own, interviewed various families until she found the one she wanted to feature in her video. The "star" of her film was a twelve-year-old girl with a four-year-old autistic brother, and throughout the film, she narrates with her thoughts and feelings about acting as her brother's "Third Parent." There was hardly a dry eye in the house.

The four day conference included close to 100 presentations, several given by family members and by individuals on the spectrum. Topics ranged from social skills programming to employment and transition. The full printed proceedings of the event are housed in our library and include the slide presentations of most of the speakers.

Next year's ASA conference will be in Phoenix, Arizona.

(To read Part One of Elisa's report on the National Conference, go to the chapter website at www.bcc-asa.org and download the November 2006 newsletter.)

MABA Research: Fostering Social Interactions of Students with Autism

by Wilfried Gehne

The Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis (MABA) held its annual conference on December 1, 2006. MABA gathers the region's professionals and students who do scientific research and application of behavior modification techniques, plus parents who use the most widely known form of this science, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), with their children. The conference began with a retrospective on ABA's history over the past 30 years and ended with a vision of the future of the discipline as it becomes international. Sandwiched between was a full day of reports on current research.

Particularly interesting was a study of the effectiveness of training paraprofessionals to support social interactions between included children with autism and typical peers. Inclusion strategies for our children typically rely heavily on paraprofessional aides and assistants, but these persons often have very little training. For instance, the three paraprofessionals followed in the study fortunately had some in-service training in autism and/or behavioral methods, but none had any specific training in social facilitation despite the fact that social interactions are a core deficit of autism.

These aides were given a single hour of direct training in Pivotal Response Training, a contemporary ABA-based intervention, then received consistent feedback over several days on how to encourage child choice, to prompt peers to give natural reinforcement (like sharing requested toys) and to encourage appropriate communication and proximity with peers. When the researchers followed up with the trainees 3-7 weeks later, the trainees were still using their training effectively and they spent less time uninvolved with or passively hovering around their student. The students' social interactions increased noticeably over the same period.

While this study followed very few aides and students, the difference that followed a surprisingly short period of training is encouraging. Next, the researchers plan to study a train-the-trainer approach – teaching the training method to the supervisor of paraprofessionals to prevent the skills from being lost because of high rates of turnover.

Parents and professionals interested in learning more about the activities of MABA may want to visit www.marylandaba.org. Families may find their "Parent's Corner" page particularly helpful. Next year's conference is also likely to bring us more interesting and useful ABA field research.

Special Couples and the Relationship Factor: When Special Needs Challenge a Household

by Cindy N. Ariel, Ph.D. and Robert A. Naseef, Ph.D.

Becoming a parent for the first time changes our identity forever. There is a balancing act between caring for the needs of children and putting time and effort into the maintenance and growth of ourselves and our relationships. Frequently we must redefine our values and relationships with others. This transition in the development of family life is challenged even further by disability or chronic illness. "There is a strain on any marriage whenever a baby is sick. And we always have a sick baby," according to Josh Greenfeld, the father of a child with autism, in *A Child Called Noah* (1970).

The kind of chronic stress that raising a child with special needs entails can affect relationships at their weakest points. This is just as true for families who have "volunteered" by adopting children with special needs or providing a foster home. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2000), 47% of first marriages fail and 57% of all marriages end in divorce. Although the findings are inconsistent, there is general consensus among experts that while the divorce rates are comparable, there appears to be more reported marital distress among families of children with special needs (Seligman and Darling, *Ordinary Families, Special Children*, 1997).

Together you and your partner dreamed of a healthy child – now you face a life very different from what you imagined. Your overwhelming feelings, both individually and combined, are normal and natural in the situation but very difficult nonetheless. The needs of the children are often complex and illusive. Searching to find the cause of children's developmental problems and the best treatment can be a long hard journey. Getting wrapped up in the stresses and strains of everyday life, relationships inevitably suffer from lack of attention. Communication problems, lack of time and energy for personal, marital, and family activities, and social isolation affect many families When a disability or chronic illness is discovered, powerful emotions surface and may put relationships on trial. How can couples understand each other in the wake of such devastating pain?

For a relationship that is fragile or unstable, disability can be "the last straw." On the other hand, challenging life events can serve as catalysts for change. Some families disintegrate while others thrive despite their hardships. People can emerge from crisis revitalized and enriched. Hope for relationships really can spring from the crises people experience when their child has a disability.

If you and your partner are parenting a child with special needs, here are some suggestions to help your relationship:

Work to understand each other's needs. Family life can be a test of love and resilience, so taking good notes and working to understand each other's wants and needs are vital to the success and survival of an intimate relationship. Life has veered sharply from what you had expected it to be. Try not to blame each other for the situation. It takes time to sort this stuff out. Be kind to yourself and each other about how difficult this can be.

Spend alone time together. While the issues in any particular relationship are complex, it can be a good start to plan time together alone, even if only for a few hours. In study after study, people who report their marriages to be satisfying describe their spouses as their best friends, and people who are best friends have activities that they enjoy together. Most people get married, in large part, because they enjoy each other and make each other feel good. Who would have married their spouse if the last time they relaxed and/or had fun together was months ago?

A close bond between partners can help parents through the rough spots. You can start with sharing a cup of coffee or tea, dinner out, or a movie or concert.

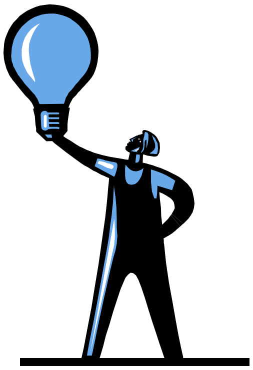
Take care of your individual selves. Your children have conditions that may require lots of care and supervision. In the struggle to advocate for our children's needs, our own needs as individuals and as couples get lost. Many people stop focusing on their marriage, but this never helps. As hard as it may sound at first, start to think about taking care of yourself and adding some fun and enjoyment into your life even though it can take a long time for this to feel okay. Take some time for yourself doing things you enjoy. This can be anything from physical exercise or journaling to just grabbing time to read the newspaper or a good book.

Reach out. When possible share the responsibilities at home by working together on chores, childcare, and education. It is helpful when couples both work to learn about their child's disability, prepare for and attend IEP meetings, etc. Get involved in the special needs community if you can. There's so much to manage every day that reaching out to your partner, relatives or friends can help lessen the burden.

Communicate. When a person is in pain he or she may withdraw, or become frustrated and angry. It's hard to talk about something we have no power to change or fix. At times the reactions of couples can become polarized or opposite. For example, one may notice problems in the child and tend to worry and feel negative while the other holds hope and optimism that in time everything will be fine. Try to consider all of your feelings toward your child – both positive and negative – and discuss issues in ways that will help both of you feel understood and find solutions to problems. In general, the way out requires working through the painful feelings with one's partner and arriving at some form of joint acceptance and effective co-parenting strategies.

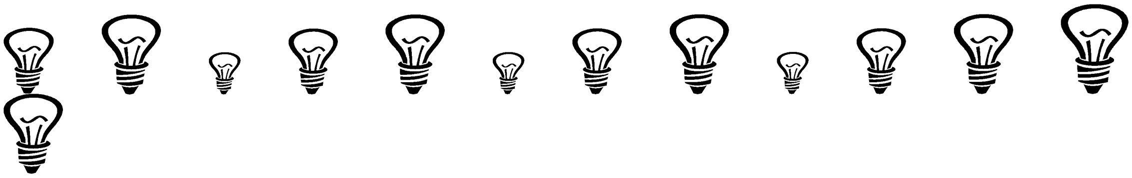
Seek assistance. Sometimes a mental health professional (a social worker, psychologist, or psychiatrist) can be helpful to you in understanding the needs of the children, yourself, and your marriage. Some people are reluctant to take this step, but when it becomes hard to function from day to day, this kind of help may be in order. Just as you would consult more than one specialist for your child if necessary, do likewise for yourself. If your partner is too discouraged, then start by yourself. Sometimes a change in one partner changes the chemistry of the situation for the better. It is intelligent and wise to acknowledge the needs of yourself and your marriage over time as well as your child's needs. Your special family is worth it!

Cindy N. Ariel, Ph.D. and Robert A. Naseef, Ph.D., are psychologists who specialize in helping couples cope with special needs in their family (www.alternativechoices.com). They are the co-editors of Voices from the Spectrum: Parents, Grandparents, Siblings, People With Autism, and Professionals Share Their Wisdom (2006). *All of the royalties from this book go to UNICEF to help children around the globe.*



Essays for Autism 2007

“How has autism affected your life?”



If you have autism … if you teach a child with autism … if you have a friend with autism … if you parent a child with autism … if your brother or sister has autism . . . if your relative has autism … we want to hear about your experience!

The Baltimore Chesapeake Chapter of the Autism Society of America in conjunction with Baltimore County Public Schools is accepting essays, poems and drawings in honor of Autism Awareness Month 2007. Cash prizes and publication opportunities for winning entries!

Contest Rules: (1) All essays are limited to 500 words (2) There are 5 judging categories: elementary school, middle school, high school, teachers (to include school employees and therapists) and family/friends (3) Attach a sheet of paper to your essay which will include your name, grade, school, home phone number and essay/poem/illustration title (4) You may only enter once (5) Your essay/poem/artwork is due no later than March 21st , 2007 (6) BCC-ASA reserves the right to use material for publication & submissions will not be returned.

Please mail all entries to:
BCC-ASA Essay Contest
P.O. Box 10822
Baltimore, MD 21234

Autism A Whole Body Condition

Reprinted from the National ASA website

July 14, 2006

Providence, RI – Addressing hundreds of parents, individuals and professionals in the autism community at the ASA National Conference, ASA's keynote speaker Martha Herbert, M.D., Ph.D., discussed the new paradigm in autism research that could ultimately open up options for treatment and improve the quality of life for individuals with autism. This new paradigm recommends that researchers shift from the current thinking of autism research as a genetically determined brain disorder to a genetically influenced, environmentally triggered disorder that affects the brain.

The question to consider, remarked Herbert, is whether autism is dictated by genes or tipped off by the environment into a genetic systems change in an individual. The increased incidence of chemicals in newborn cord blood, the evidence of postnatal regression in children with autism, along with groundbreaking studies into the development of the brains of individuals with autism indicate more research should look into the affects of environmental factors on autism.

Herbert recommended that researchers look in detail at the mechanisms that occur from the gene to the brain to come up with treatment targets. "We are not 100 percent sure of any of this, but enough arrows are pointing in the same direction that we should consider a role for environmental factors," said Herbert. "We should thus research not just on cause, but also the effects of autism on the body and resulting treatment."

"Dr. Herbert presents revolutionary ideas that could advance both the understanding of, and treatment for, individuals on the spectrum," commented Cathy Pratt, Ph.D., chair of the ASA Board of Directors.

"ASA is excited to be working with Dr. Herbert to further develop our understanding of the new medical paradigm of autism research and to derive more effective treatments and services to improve the lives of all those working with autism," said ASA President and CEO Lee Grossman.

Herbert is an assistant professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School, a pediatric neurologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital and at Cambridge Hospital and a member of the Harvard-MIT-MGH Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging.

People with Autism Share Their Insights

From *Voices from the Spectrum: Parents, Grandparents, Siblings, People With Autism, and Professionals Share Their Wisdom*" edited by Cindy N. Ariel, Ph.D. and Robert A. Naseef, Ph.D.

From people with autism who have written essays for "Voices from the Spectrum," we learn from first person experience. While every individual child and family has tremendous uniqueness, these essays help us understand how individuals with autism think and experience the world. Every parent and family member, teacher, therapist, and doctor wishes for this kind of dramatic progress. Even though nobody can predict the destiny of individual children, it is natural to hope and often pray for a virtual recovery from the early devastating symptoms. Hearing from people who live with the signs and symptoms of the autism spectrum provides readers with essential information that is available from no other source.

People who live on the spectrum spend a lifetime struggling to understand the rules and conventions of conventional society. It seems overdue for that society to learn to understand the culture of people who were born and remain different. There are similarities and differences between people diagnosed on the autism spectrum and the rest of humanity. These men and women have the same heartaches and the same needs and desires as people who are not diagnosed. They say so clearly, "Love and accept me as I am." They appreciate those who treat them as whole people despite and maybe because of their differences. They help the rest of us understand that autism is not just something that a person has, but is a way of being.

From "No! You Don't Understand" by Beth Adler:
The loneliest thing in the world is having no one understand you . . . Just because I don't talk to you doesn't mean I don't want to. People mistakenly think I am anti-social and want to be left alone (sometimes I do). But being ignored because I cannot initiate a conversation only increases my isolation.

From "Essay on Autism" by Heidi Kunisch, mother of a child on the spectrum:
For me thinking is seeing. In conversation a word or group of words will bring up a set of pictures that logically lead to another set of pictures . . . if too many words lead to too many pictures then my mind can, and usually will, shut down.

From "The Way We Think" by Roger N. Meyer:
I have trouble seeing the forest because the trees are so interesting. What I now realize is that I think "backwards" from you guys. In college I took brilliant notes. I got so hung up on the details I couldn't record the main ideas in a lecture because I just had to capture the details.

From "The Importance of Parents in the Success of People with Autism" by Stephen Shore:
I was always accepted in my home as a full and complete human being with the realization that there were some challenges to be overcome . . . My mother intuitively realized that she needed to reach in. Since my sensory receptors made it difficult for me to make the initial contact, she did the work by imitating me.

From "Culture, Conditions, and Personhood" by Donna Williams:
Is autism a different way of being or a condition to be cured? . . . not all of the distresses, frustrations and anguishes come down to society not understanding or accommodating them.

Responding to the debate on curing autism: *I'd not be who I am without all that I am . . . But sometimes we have things in such an abundance and degree that it is more than my body, mind, or emotions, can handle. I support anyone who chooses treatment over giving up.*

From "The Chains of Friendship" by Alex Mont:
. . . while I do like to talk to my teachers about academic subjects or to adults about news articles and the like, I never really needed to interact with other kids and I am perfectly happy alone reading books or playing computer games . . . I never felt the urge to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, or skip school in order to be part of a group.

From "Jordan's Gift" by Todd Schmidt, the father of a child on the spectrum:
After all this time – this was who I was! There is a reason for this! This is nothing I did, this was not my fault, I am not lazy, crazy, or wrong – this is the way I came.

Jordan is not me. He is my son. He will have his own road, his own challenges, and his own destiny. He will need help and I will be there. . . there are many times when Debbie will look at the two men in her life . . and shake her head . . .

You can read more about *Voices from the Spectrum* on Amazon.com.

Doctoral Research Study Recruiting Parents for Survey

We were recently contacted by a doctoral candidate who is recruiting parents of young children with autism for a survey. Below is his letter:

Dear Parents,

I would like to invite you to participate in a survey study that explores the maternal beliefs and involvement practices of mothers of children with autism spectrum disorders. If you are a mother of a preschooler or kindergartener with autism and either 2nd generation Chinese-, Korean-, or Japanese-American (i.e. born in the U.S. with immigrant parents or immigrated before age 14) or Anglo-American, you are eligible to receive a $15 Target gift card for your participation as well as be entered into a drawing for a $200 Spa Finder gift certificate. If you are interested in participating in this survey study, please contact me, Jamie Cho at jamie118@berkeley.edu or 510-594-1065.

Thank you.

Jamie Cho, Ph.D. Candidate
Joint Doctoral Program in Special Ed.
UC Berkeley & San Francisco State U.
jamie118@berkeley.edu

CONFERENCE NEWS

Wednesday, January 10, 2007
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Strategies for Children on the Severe End of the Autism Spectrum

Presented by The Maryland Assistive Technology Cooperative. Speaker: Linda J. Burkhart. Location: Savage Firehall, 8925 Lincoln Street, Savage, MD. Cost: $100 for parents of students with disabilities, $120 for all others. For more information: 410-381-COOP.

Sat. & Sun., February 10 & 11, 2007

Family Enrichment Weekend

Sponsored by Families Together. For families who have a child with autism. Guest speakers include Eustacia Cutler (Temple Grandin's mother) and Dr. Sally Burton-Hoyle. A full program for the entire family. The entire family must attend and only 15 families will be registered for this event. Location: Bolger Center, Potomac, MD. Cost: Scholarships available for all families: $350 Lodging/Meals, $350 Parent Conference, $200 Children's Program. For more information: www.familiestogether.org. or Chris Curry, 1-866-326-4864.

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Social Skills Training Workshop

Using video modeling to teach social skills to children with autism, Asperger Syndrome, PDD-NOS, and nonverbal learning disorder. Presented by Model Me Videos. Location: Salisbury, MD. For more information: Crystal Holman, 443-614-0344.

Sunday, March 4, 2007
12:00 noon-3:00 p.m.

Annual Camp Fair

Sponsored by The ARC of Baltimore and Baltimore's Child. New format and location this year: The camp fair will have information about recreation and camp resources for all children (disabled and non-disabled) and will be held at the Holiday Inn on Greenspring Drive in Timonium. No cost. For more information, call Teresa Conroy at The ARC of Baltimore at 410-296-2272 ext. 5337, e-mail tconroy@baltimorearc.org or go to www.baltimoreschild.com (special events).

MEMBERSHIP FORM
BALTIMORE-CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER ASA

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

MEMBERSHIP FEE: $10.00

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

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	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, January 4** 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.

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

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