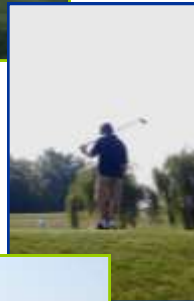


The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information regarding Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and related disorders.  
We do not necessarily endorse the information printed in this newsletter.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament August 26<sup>th</sup> Quail Valley Golf Club



Photography by P.J. Shafer



# Calendar of Events

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- Sept. 19 Kennedy Krieger Workshop: *Getting an Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis: Where do I go from here?*, Baltimore, 9:30 a.m.
- Sept. 20 Kennedy Krieger Workshop: *Choose Your Plate*, Baltimore, 11:30 a.m.
- Sept. 20 *Preserving and Protecting: Planning for Individuals with Special Needs*, Timonium, 12:30 p.m.
- Sept. 21 Webinar: Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program Medical Assistance for Workers, 1:00 p.m.
- Sept. 22 Parent Group for Parents of Individuals on the ASD, Baltimore, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 23 Adults with Autism Social Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 24 *Feeling Puzzled? Sorting Out the Pieces of Autism*, Towson, 8:00 a.m.
- Sept. 27 *Building Relationships with the People who Support Your Child*, Baltimore, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 1 *Don't just Survive . . . Thrive!*, Stewartstown, PA, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 1 ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film: *Dolphin Tale*, White Marsh, 10:00 a.m.
- Oct. 2 ASBC Bowling Social, Pikesville, 3:30 p.m.**
- Oct. 4 Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Comm. meeting, Baltimore, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 5 & 6 World of Possibilities Disabilities, Healthy Aging & Independent Living Expo, Timonium, 9:00 a.m.
- Oct. 5 *Moms Understand: The Arc Baltimore Moms Support Group*, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 6 ASBC Support Group, Mt. Washington, 7:00 p.m.**
- Oct. 9 Run Wild for Autism 5K/Fun Walk, Maryland Zoo, 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 10 Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Comm. meeting, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 11 Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 13 & 14 Autism/Asperger's Conference, Pikesville, 7:00 a.m.
- Oct. 16 2011 Maryland Transition Conference: *Mapping Futures*, Ocean City, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 20 *Guy Talk: The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers*, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 20 & 21 *Autism Through the Lifespan*, Timonium, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 24 Fourth Annual Respite Awareness Day Conference, Linthicum Heights, 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 25 *Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education and Facilitated IEPs*, Baltimore, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 27 Parent Group for Parents of Individuals on the ASD, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 28 Adults with Autism Social Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 29 Baltimore Walk Now for Autism Speaks, Baltimore,
- Nov. 1 Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Comm. meeting, Baltimore, 6:00 p.m.
- Nov. 2 *Moms Understand: The Arc Baltimore Moms Support Group*, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 3 ASBC Support Group, Mt. Washington, 7:00 p.m.**
- Nov. 5 ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film: *Puss in Boots*, White Marsh, 10:00 a.m.
- Nov. 8 Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 11 ASBC Pump It Up Party, Owings Mills, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
- Nov. 14 Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Comm. meeting, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 15 *What is Augmentative and Alternative Communication Intervention and How Can it Benefit Children on the Autism Spectrum?*, Baltimore, 11:30 a.m.
- Nov. 17 *Guy Talk: The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers*, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 18 Adults with Autism Social Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.

## Calendar Close-up



### October 6<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup> Support Group Meetings

Our support group meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Directions to the meeting site are included on the last page of this newsletter.

The meetings begin with general announcements about upcoming activities, followed by individual introductions and the invitation to share one “golden moment” you’ve experienced during the previous month. Following that, we have time for questions and follow-up discussion as well as further opportunity for group support and socialization. **Our October meeting will feature a Parent Panel discussion on Camps for Kids with Autism.** Parents will talk about a wide variety of camps and their personal experience with the camps. This is a great opportunity to get a headstart on next summer’s plans!

**New members and new ideas are always welcome . . . Join us!**

**Has your child just recently been diagnosed with autism?  
Feeling a bit lost and needing some extra support?**

We’ve been there ourselves, and want to help. Our meetings feature a break-out session for parents/caretakers of newly-diagnosed children where you can ask questions and get help in a smaller group setting.

**Looking ahead . . . Have We Got A Social for You and Your Family!**

### *Monthly Socials for 2011 - 2012*

Saturday, September 17	A Day at Hershey Park
Sunday, October 2, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Bowling Party, Pikesville
Friday, November 11, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Pump It Up Party, Owings Mills
Sunday, December 4, 1:15 - 4:15 p.m.	KidsFirst Swim Party, Cockeysville
Saturday, January 4, 2012	Kung Fu Lesson, Baltimore
Saturday, February 4 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Snow Tubing at Ski Liberty, Carroll Valley, PA
Saturday, March 3 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Indoor Monster Mini-Golf Party, Jessup
Tuesday, April 3	Laser Tag Party, Owings Mills
May	Oregon Ridge Picnic, Cockeysville
June 24	A Day at Cascade Lake, Hampstead
July	Water Tubing at Gunpowder Falls
August	Rebounders Gymnastics Party, Timonium



## DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . .

(ABOUT THE CALENDAR ITEMS)

### **Monday, September 19, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

#### **Kennedy Krieger Workshop: *Getting an Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis: Where do I go from here?***

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute hosts this event for parents of children who have recently received an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. Cathy Groschan, LCSW-C, leads this discussion and takes your questions about getting a diagnosis, finding services, the education system and more. 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. Please visit the website to register: <http://kennedykriegercard.eventbrite.com>.

### **Tuesday, September 20, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

#### **Kennedy Krieger Workshop: *Choose Your Plate***

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute hosts this workshop that will discuss expected childhood growth and review nutrition guidelines for healthy living. Presenter: Elisabeth Enagonio, MS, RD, LDN, CNSC, Clinical Nutritionist at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Open to parents and professionals. No fee. Location: Center for Autism and Related Disorders, 3901 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor large conference room. For more information: Stacey Duvall, 443-923-7680. Please visit the website to register: <http://kennedykriegercard.eventbrite.com>.

### **Tuesday, September 20, 12:30 p.m.**

#### ***Preserving and Protecting: Planning for Individuals with Special Needs***

Planning for the future of an individual with special needs requires preparation, careful research and experienced professional guidance. While each family's situation is different, most financial and estate plans center around these primary objectives: protecting the assets of the individual with special needs; providing additional income to facilitate a better quality of life; preventing the loss of government benefits, including Supplemental Security Income; and balancing the needs of other family members and beneficiaries. Presenters: James W. Curran, CFP, Senior Vice President, MorganStanley SmithBarney and Monty Knittle, CFA, Financial Advisor (and ASBC member!), MorganStanley Smith Barney. Location: Crowne Plaza Holiday Inn, 2004 Greenspring Drive, Timonium. RSVP by September 16<sup>th</sup> to Monty Knittle, 410-583-4845.

### **Wednesday, September 21, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

#### **Webinar: *Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program Medical Assistance for Workers***

The Maryland Department of Disabilities Presents this online seminar for people with disabilities, their advocates and medical assistance service providers. Viewers will learn who is eligible for EID, how to apply, and how the program helps people who receive other benefits. You will find out how much money EID can save you, and how much you can earn without losing your health coverage. If you receive Medicaid Waiver services, you'll learn how you can use EID to keep these services when your income or assets grow. If you are a Medical Assistance service provider, you will find out how you can qualify more of your customers for Medical Assistance so you can get reimbursed for more services. Presenter: Michael Dalto, Work Incentives Project Director, Maryland Department of Disabilities. To register, visit <http://mdod.webex.com>.

### **Thursday, September 22, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

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

Success Transitions and Zaks Autism Consulting hosts this group for parents of individuals on the autism spectrum (any age), the fourth Thursday of every month, to provide an opportunity for parents to get together, share strategies, and network. Cost is free! ADA-Accessible Building. ASL Interpretation available upon request. Location: 5922 Smith Avenue, Baltimore. For more information: Susan Howarth, 443-676-5366.

### **Friday, September 23, 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 fee per semester OR \$25 fee per year. Location: Towson University Administration Building, Room 120, at the corner of York Road and Cross Campus Drive. For more information: Patricia Townes, 410-704-4486.

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

**Saturday, September 24, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

***Feeling Puzzled? Sorting Out the Pieces of Autism***

Project ACT's Early Childhood Conference. Keynote speaker: Annemick Wilms-Floet, M.D., Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician. Location: Abilities Network Headquarters, 8503 LaSalle Road, Towson. Cost: \$55. For more information: Christal Dean at 410-828-7700x1274 or [cdean@abilitiesnetwork.org](mailto:cdean@abilitiesnetwork.org).

**Tuesday, September 27, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

***Building Relationships with the People who Support Your Child***

Presented by The Arc of Baltimore. This workshop will focus on ways to establish and maintain healthy and supporting relationships with those important individuals who support and care for your children. Guest Speakers include: Deliscia Casey-Pack, Parent Educator, Partners for Success, Baltimore City Schools Office of Special Education and Mary Anne Breschi, President, Maggie's Light Foundation. Students from The College of Notre Dame School of Pharmacy will also participate and answer questions about your child and medications. Location: The Arc Baltimore Employment Center, 6151 Metro Drive, Baltimore. A light dinner is provided as well as childcare if needed. RSVP by September 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information: Becky Hartnett, 410-296-2272, x5351 or [bhartnett@thearcbaltimore.org](mailto:bhartnett@thearcbaltimore.org).

**Saturday, October 1, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

***Don't just Survive . . . Thrive!***

Presented by The Arc of Baltimore and sponsored by Maggie's Light Foundation. Come be our guest. Relax, rejuvenate and change your perspective. Obtain tools to create a life that you, your family and your child with disabilities loves! Presenters: Patti Schough, M.Ed., LCPC, NCC, Advanced Certified EAGALA, President of P.E.A.C.E & Mary Coster, LCSW-C,C-ASWCM, Director of Inclusive Child Care Training, P.A.C.T: Helping children with special needs & MD Center for Developmental Disabilities at KKI, Mary Anne Kane Breschi, Parent of adult child w/ multiple disabilities, Barbara Daily, Sister of Mary Anne and Dianna Morgan, Family and Children Specialist, The Arc Baltimore. Also, presentations on guided imagery, gentle yoga and equine-assisted therapy. Location: Whispering Spring Farms, 10403 Dutton Road, Stewartstown, Pennsylvania (transportation can be arranged from The Arc office in Towson). Cost: \$20 per person. For more information: [www.baltimorearc.org](http://www.baltimorearc.org) or Dianna Morgan, 410-296-2272 x5347.

**Saturday, October 1, 10:00 a.m.**

**ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film**

***Dolphin Tale.*** When a young boy finds an injured dolphin washed up on the beach, he becomes part of the group of people determined to help the animal survive. Their efforts to repair/replace her damaged tail evolves into an inspirational tale for the entire community. Inspired by a true story. Rated PG for some mild thematic elements.

**Tuesday, October 4, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting**

SECAC is an advisory committee established to develop and facilitate partnerships between parents, community members, disability organizations, educators, and administrators to enhance services and opportunities available to students with disabilities and/or special needs and to advocate for positive changes in special education in the Baltimore City Public Schools. Location: 200 E. North Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Room. For more information, contact SECAC Chair Blondelia Caldwell-Harrison, 410-419-2360 or [blondeiac25@aol.com](mailto:blondeiac25@aol.com).

**Wednesday and Thursday, October 5 & 6, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Wednesday), 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Thursday)**

**World of Possibilities Disabilities, Healthy Aging and Independent Living Expo**

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



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

**Wednesday, October 5, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Moms Understand: The Arc 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 Baltimore, 7215 York Road, Towson. For more information contact Dianna Morgan at 410-296-2272 x5347 or visit [www.arcofbaltimore.org](http://www.arcofbaltimore.org).

**Sunday, October 9, 8:00 a.m.**

**Run Wild for Autism 5K/Fun Walk**

The entire family is invited to this exciting event to support the work of Pathfinders for Autism. The event will feature a 5K Run through the Maryland Zoo and Druid Hill Park, a post-race awards ceremony, and entertainment for the entire family! Registered racers will receive give away items and post-race snacks. **Special race day Zoo admission for families with autism.** Early Registration (closes October 8): \$ 30 Adults, \$ 15 Youth (11 and under). Location: Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. For more information: Shelly McLaughlin, 443-330-5370 x301 or [www.pathfindersforautism.org](http://www.pathfindersforautism.org).

**Monday, October 10, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

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

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 throughout the school year are held in Room 114 of the ESS Building, located on the Baltimore County Board of Education's Greenwood campus, 6901 Charles Street, Towson. For more information: Mary Baskar, Chairperson, [maryaf@aol.com](mailto:maryaf@aol.com).

**Thursday & Friday, October 13 & 14, 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Baltimore Area Super Autism/Asperger's Conference**

Presented by Future Horizons. Speakers: Drs. Temple Grandin (*The Way I See It*), Tony Attwood (*Managing and Communicating Emotions*) and Jed Baker (*No More Meltdowns*). For family members and professionals. APA CEC's and ASHA and AOTA CEU's available. Location: Hilton Baltimore North, Pikesville. Cost: Parents: \$135 one day, \$190 two days; Professionals: \$160 one day; \$245 two days; Students: \$95 one day, \$140 two days, Person with Autism: \$70 one day, \$120 two days. **Don't forget about scholarship opportunities for ASBC members: \$100 per person.** For more information and to register: [www.FHautism.com](http://www.FHautism.com) (use code **BAL10** to receive \$5 discount when registering online before September 23<sup>rd</sup>) or 800-489-0727.

**Sunday, October 16-17, 6:00 p.m.**

**2011 Maryland Transition Conference: Mapping Futures**

Sponsored by the Governor's Interagency Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities and in partnership with the Maryland Rehabilitation Association, the purpose of this event is to enhance the knowledge, skills and abilities of professional staff, families, students with disabilities and other community partners to promote the successful transition of youth/young adults with disabilities to post-school outcomes of employment and/or post-secondary education and training. Location: Clarion Resort Fountainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. For more information: [www.mdtransition.org](http://www.mdtransition.org), Adele Connolly, [aconnolly@dors.state.md.us](mailto:aconnolly@dors.state.md.us), or Tom Barkley, [tbarkley@msde.state.md.us](mailto:tbarkley@msde.state.md.us).

**Thursday, October 20, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Guy Talk: The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers**

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 Baltimore, 7215 York Road, Towson. For more information contact Dorothea Nikas at 410-296-2272 x5349 or visit [www.arcofbaltimore.org](http://www.arcofbaltimore.org).



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

**Thursday & Friday, October 20 & 21, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Kennedy Krieger Institute's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Conference: *Autism Through the Lifespan***

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute holds this annual conference that assembles nationally recognized experts to address critical topics for autism professionals, educators, and family members, including early diagnosis, the latest intervention strategies, and issues for management across the lifespan. Continuing education credits offered. Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2004 Greenspring Drive, Timonium. For more information: visit [www.autismconference.kennedykrieger.org](http://www.autismconference.kennedykrieger.org).

**Monday, October 24, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Fourth Annual Respite Awareness Day Conference**

Hosted by the Maryland Respite Care Coalition (MRCC), the Respite Awareness Day Conference will feature prominent speakers, carefully designed presentations, exhibitors, advertisers, and a wonderful opportunity for networking with an interesting spectrum of participants from across the state of Maryland and beyond. Advocates and stakeholders will discuss meaningful and innovative initiatives that will bring forth optimum support programs for recipients and caregivers. Location: The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute, 692 Maritime Boulevard, Linthicum Heights. For more information: [contact@respitcoalition.org](mailto:contact@respitcoalition.org) or 240-453-9585.

**Tuesday, October 25, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education and Facilitated IEPs**

Presented by The Arc of Baltimore. This workshop cover what truly inclusive education should look like and how Facilitated IEPs can help your voice be heard in IEP meetings. See September 27<sup>th</sup> listing for details.

**Thursday, October 27, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

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

See September 22<sup>nd</sup> listing for more details.

**Friday, October 28, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Adults with Autism Social Group**

See September 23<sup>rd</sup> listing for more details.

**Saturday, October 29**

**Baltimore Walk Now for Autism Speaks**

Walk Now for Autism Speaks is a fun-filled, family friendly event and is the organization's single most powerful force to fund vital autism research. Each registered walker who raises a minimum of \$150 will receive an event t-shirt. Location: M&T Bank Stadium, Parking Lot C. For more info: <http://www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/baltimore> or [baltimore@autismspeaks.org](mailto:baltimore@autismspeaks.org).



**Tuesday, November 1, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting**

See October 4<sup>th</sup> listing for more details.

**Wednesday, November 2, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Moms Understand: The Arc Baltimore Moms Support Group**

See October 6<sup>th</sup> listing for more details.

**Saturday, November 5, 10:00 a.m.**

**ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film**

**Puss in Boots.** The film is a spinoff prequel to the *Shrek* series and follows the character Puss in Boots on his adventures before his first appearance in 2004's *Shrek 2*. Accompanied by his sidekicks, Humpty Dumpty and Kitty Softpaws, he tries to save the world from the two murderous outlaws called Jack and Jill, who discovered an ancient power that can destroy the world. It's the adventure of nine lifetimes! Not yet rated.



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

**Monday, November 14, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

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

See October 10<sup>th</sup> listing for more details.

**Tuesday, November 15, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

***Got Stress?***

Presented by The Arc of Baltimore. A workshop focusing on causes, symptoms and alleviation of stress. See September 27<sup>th</sup> listing for details.

**Tuesday, November 15, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Kennedy Krieger Workshop: *What is Augmentative and Alternative Communication Intervention and How Can it Benefit Children on the Autism Spectrum?***

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute will provide an overview of the strategies, programs, techniques, and technology available in the area of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and how this information can be applied to children with autism spectrum disorder. Presenters: Pamela Mathy, PhD, CCC-SLP, Director of the Achievements Therapeutic Day Program, and Emily Watkins, MS, Research Assistant II. This is free training for parents and professionals. Location: Center for Autism and Related Disorders, 3901 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore. For more information: Stacey Duvall, 443-923-7680. Please visit the website to register: <http://kennedykriegercard.eventbrite.com>.

**Thursday, November 17 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

***Guy Talk: The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers***

See October 20<sup>th</sup> listing for more details.

**Friday, November 18, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Adults with Autism Social Group**

See September 23<sup>rd</sup> listing for more details.



~ **Calendar Editor: Jenny Phillips**

### 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.

### 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.*



## Here are three of the winning entries from our Autism Awareness Essay Contest

Congratulations to these talented individuals and thank you for sharing with us!

The other three winning entries were included in the July - August edition of *The BCC-ASA News*



### Selflessness, Dedication, and Courage

By Andy Parsley

Winner: Educator Category

I am the principal of St. Elizabeth School, a nonpublic middle and high school in Baltimore that serves the central Maryland region. About half of our students have autism. As a member of the St. Elizabeth School community, I am privileged to spend my days surrounded by people who exemplify three qualities: selflessness, dedication, and courage. Others have lives that cause them to doubt the central goodness of humanity; my experience is precisely the opposite.

**Selflessness.** I see it in the staff members every single day. Nobody is getting rich by working at my school and the work is often challenging, sometimes extremely challenging, but nobody is hanging their head in defeat. Instead, I see people asking more of themselves. They stay late to coach, decorate for prom, host the alumni group, plan a better lesson on the SMART Board, and complete IEP paperwork. They put smiles on their faces when they are tired, and they reserve any expression of grumpiness for their lunch break - if they have a lunch break. They know that in our line of work it is the daily experience of each and every student that matters, and they don't make excuses or settle for less when creating a positive experience proves difficult. I keep hearing news reports about how educators (my profession!) as a whole are a pretty sorry lot. My experience is precisely the opposite.

**Dedication.** I admire those who don't quit a just cause when the struggle is long and tough, those who choose to fight harder instead. Parents have amazed me over the years with dedication to their children that intensified when difficulties came at them from all directions: food and behavior issues, paying therapists and lawyers, concerns about the future, others who can't see past quirky behaviors to see their child's rich personality and abilities, lack of sleep, and more. I once saw a diagram that compared the nightly hours of sleep of children with and without autism. There was no overlap in the sample populations; every child with autism slept less than every child without autism. And yet I see so many tired parents keep on fighting, and I admire them for it.

**Courage.** With a little help, students at my school wrote and filmed *Autism, the Movie*, in which they talk openly about their lives. They don't describe a bed of roses, but they don't describe the toil of Sisyphus either. My favorite line: "I am blessed with autism. It will keep me out of jury duty and the army." In the students I see the courage and determination to define themselves, and I am immensely proud of them. It fills my heart to watch these young people grow, and to watch resilience grow within them.

In a world that sometimes seems filled with people who are self-interested, shallow, and spineless, I am blessed to spend my days surrounded by people who are precisely the opposite: selfless, dedicated, and courageous.

# Autism

By Abby Mahoney-Cloutier

Winner: Middle School Category

Autism.

Aspergers.

Be wild, random.

Be free.

Be true in a deceptive world.

Push through dividing barriers,  
sweep over segregating mists.

Be yourself in a world where  
look-alikes are respected.

Lead in a world of followers.

Push the boundaries of reality.

Live free in a world where people are told  
how to live.

And, most of all, spread your free thought to all people and creatures of this world, and  
beyond.



## My Life With Autism

By Mike Thomas

Winner: Individual with Autism Category

The Special things that have come from my experience with Autism is that I have a passion to help children and Adults on the Autism Spectrum over come obstacles that they may face with there Autism. The positive things that have come from my experience with Autism is that at Winter Games for Special Olympics Maryland this past weekend I was able to turn an athlete around 100% he was on the Autism Spectrum he was having a really bad day he wanted to give up and go home and I was able to get him to finish his Snow Shoeing event after calming him down and getting him to focus on his Snow Shoeing Races that he had to compete in his coach **didn't think I would be able to do it so I told the coach let me talk to so the coach let me talk to him and I was able to do something they thought I couldn't do which was calming him down** and get home to finish his races he finished his races and got 4 Gold Medals out of 5.

I have learned from my experience with Autism that dreams can come true and that if I focus on my goals I can accomplish them and never give up no matter what happens. I have been challenged to re-think my notions on Autism the way it is diagnosed that sometimes it can show up later in life not like mine I was diagnosed at age 3 and it can affect children and adults in many ways and that each person on the Autism spectrum is effected in many ways. My experience with Autism has made me a better person I treat everyone with the respect I would want them to treat me with. My experience with Autism has helped me be a more understanding person by listening to what people say and letting people make there own opinions.



The Golf Tournament at  
*Quail Valley Golf Course*  
Was A Huge Success!

Sandwiched between an earthquake and a hurricane, the Autism Society of Baltimore- Chesapeake's 2nd annual golf tournament on August 26, 2011, proved to be another spectacular event!

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to two amazing people,

**Scott Greenholtz & Heidi Shoemaker**

Out of the goodness of their hearts and with the sincere desire to help families impacted by autism, they devoted endless hours to making this event a success. They planned every detail of the day and we are so grateful!

***WE ALSO WANT TO THANK...***

**Our Generous Sponsors!**

- ◆ The Shafer Center
- ◆ Kohls
- ◆ Black and Decker
- ◆ Carroll Independent Fuel Co.
- ◆ Frisco Pub
- ◆ Munch's Cafe
- ◆ Happy Creek Farms
- ◆ Spot a Leak
- ◆ Lockett's Auto Care
- ◆ Kennedy Krieger Chameleons Parent Association
- ◆ Tracey's House of Darts
- ◆ Maggie's Restaurant
- ◆ J&G Liquors
- ◆ Chill Craft

**Our Spectacular Volunteers!**

- ◆ Lucinda Adams
- ◆ Gabby Bellasone
- ◆ Mary Ellen Curtis
- ◆ Sierra Cygna
- ◆ Allie Davis
- ◆ Lindsay Gilbert
- ◆ Darcy Hott
- ◆ Will Huber
- ◆ Jacklyn Serpico
- ◆ PJ Shafer
- ◆ Marla Sherman
- ◆ Haven Shoemaker
- ◆ Karen Shoemaker

And thank you to **Our Talented Golfers** for your tremendous support and **Quail Valley Golf Course** for being such a great host!

***How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it! ~ George Elliston***

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!



We'll have a table at the Autism Walk on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

Be sure to stop by and say "Hi!"

If you'd like to help man the table that day, please contact ASBC board member Carol Brown through the chapter phone (410-655-7933) or at [questions@bcc-asa.org](mailto:questions@bcc-asa.org).

### Upcoming AARG! Meeting

The next meeting of the Adult Autism Resource Group will be on **Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. AARG, a subgroup 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 Linda Pearl at 410-526-5406 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.



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).

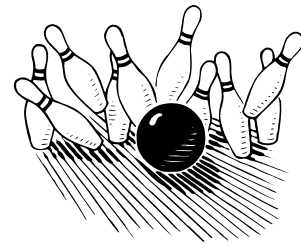
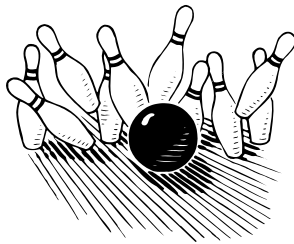
#### Can't ReMember if You're a Member?

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!





# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bowling Social

**Sunday October 2, 2011**

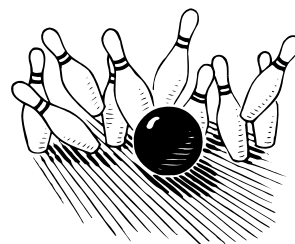
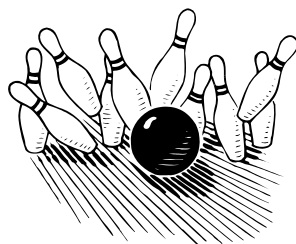
**3:30pm – 5:30pm**

AMF Pikesville Lanes  
1723 Reisterstown Road  
Pikesville, MD 21208  
(410) 486-1444



All are welcome for duckpin/tenpin bowling! All members of BCC-ASA and their children will bowl for free! Pizza and drinks included.

Register by September 23, 2011, by calling the chapter phone line 410-655-7933 or RSVP online at [rsvp@bcc-asa.org](mailto:rsvp@bcc-asa.org).



## Essex Program benefits Kids with Autism and Their Parents

The Children's Developmental Class at the Essex campus of the Community College of Baltimore County is starting its fall program on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. It meets from 9:30-10:45 a.m. in the campus' athletic building.

The program is for kids age 1-14 who have special needs (autism, ADD/ADHD, Down syndrome, shyness, cerebral palsy, communication disorders, etc.). While college student mentors (who are studying education, health, occupational therapy, etc.) work in the gym with the kids using the Floor Time approach, they help develop communication skills, social engagement, fine and gross motor skills, balance/coordination, and self-esteem.

In addition, while the kids are in the gym, the parents are invited to an information education/discussion group with speakers addressing various topics such as IEPs, nutrition, advocacy, social and emotional health, etc.

Siblings may also attend the gym session. The cost is \$55 per family for Baltimore County residents; \$65 per family for out-of-county residents. For more information, visit [www.ccbcmd.edu/cdc](http://www.ccbcmd.edu/cdc). To register, email Marcia Hill at [mhill@cccmd.edu](mailto:mhill@cccmd.edu) or call 443-840-1387.



Save the Date!  
Honestly Autism Day v. 20.12  
Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>



### OT and Social Skills Program features Karma Dogs

The JCC is offering a canine assisted intervention-based program designed to help children ages 5-15 on the autism spectrum improve their communication, social skills and fine and gross motor and vestibular and proprioceptive senses. To be held Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. starting October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Park Heights JCC. For more info., please contact Stacy Israel at [sisrael@associated.org](mailto:sisrael@associated.org). For more info. about Karma Dogs: Bridget Strama, 410-688-3118, [www.karmadogs.org](http://www.karmadogs.org).

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

The Employee Charity Organization of Northrop Grumman

Tony and Mindy Johns  
Monty and Libby Knittle  
Linda Pearl  
Lacricia Wallace

#### Donations Made in Honor of Morgan Curtis and in Celebration of Serge Delpierre's Birthday

Cornelia Ambrosch-Ashton  
Andre and Micheline Donjacour  
Doug Kimbrough



## Don't Let HALLOWEEN Scare

you . . .

Instead, check out the articles on the Pathfinders for Autism website ([www.pathfindersforautism.org](http://www.pathfindersforautism.org)) with tips for handling Halloween with your child on the **SPECTRUM**. From their homepage, select "Read articles," then look under "PF Tips For Parents" for articles on Halloween: How to Make it a Better Experience and Halloween Safety.



### **Baltimore Area Special Hockey, Inc. 4th Annual Bull and Oyster Roast**

Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-10 p.m.  
\$40.00 per person or \$350.00 for a table of 10

Towson American Legion Post 22  
125 York Road  
Towson, MD 21204

Music by Music Pak DJ's featuring Tim Oliver  
Door Prizes, Silent Auction items, Raffles, Wheels . . .

For tickets email [BaltimoreSaints@verizon.net](mailto:BaltimoreSaints@verizon.net)  
or call 410.828.8456

### **Is your "Little One" getting Bigger?**

You will want to make yourself familiar with the Maryland Transitioning Youth Website for families and youth with disabilities. This useful website contains information and resources for transition planning, postsecondary education, employment services and much more. Check out <http://mdtransition.org/>.

### **Local Author Pens Book about Growing Up with an Autistic Sibling**



Katherine Lashley's memoir, *My Younger Older Sister*, is a personal and candid account of her growing up with Vicki, her autistic older sister. Kate describes her grappling with her sister's adoption, their birth order role reversal, and the caretaking that she assumed when little more than a toddler herself. She tells of Vicki's wandering off and becoming lost, her finally beginning to speak at the age of five, and her failures in taking college courses and working a part-time job. The sisterly bond, sexuality, and faith are also covered in respects to the author's experiences with her sister. Told through the eyes of the younger sibling, *My Younger Older Sister*, addresses bluntly a number of the little disclosed and discussed areas of autism's affects on typical siblings. This book provides siblings of autistics the comfort and assurance of knowing that someone else has experienced similar embarrassments, regretful reactions, and hurtful disappointments, while rejoicing in small victories and retaining hope and faith.



## A Selection of email newsletters/blogs with a focus on Autism:

ASA-Net	The Autism Society's e-newsletter	<a href="http://autism-society.org/about-us/publications/asa-net-registration.html">http://autism-society.org/about-us/publications/asa-net-registration.html</a>
Schafer Autism Report	Comprehensive digest of news and information about the world of autism	<a href="http://www.sarnet.org">www.sarnet.org</a>
Disability Scoop	Developmental Disability News	<a href="http://www.DisabilityScoop.com">www.DisabilityScoop.com</a>
About.com Autism	Weekly newsletter, resource site and blog	<a href="http://autism.about.com">http://autism.about.com</a>
e-Speaks Updates	Autism Speaks' e-newsletter	<a href="http://www.autismspeaks.org">www.autismspeaks.org</a>
Autism Speaks Official Blog	Daily blog from Autism Speaks	<a href="http://blog.autismspeaks.org">http://blog.autismspeaks.org</a>
Autism Unexpected	Wonderfully personal blog by a parent in Montgomery County	<a href="http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/autism-unexpected/">http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/autism-unexpected/</a>

Your Challenge?	Online Help . . .
Going to the dentist	<a href="http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/family_services/dental.php">www.autismspeaks.org/community/family_services/dental.php</a>
Getting blood drawn	<a href="http://www.autismspeaks.org">www.autismspeaks.org</a> and search for "blood draw"
Sensitivity to labels/seams on clothes	<a href="http://www.softclothing.net">www.softclothing.net</a>
Continuing adult education about autism	<a href="http://www.autismuniversity.com">www.autismuniversity.com</a> <a href="http://www.autismcollege.com">www.autismcollege.com</a>
Swimming classes (includes a social story about swimming)	<a href="http://www.martarswimming.com">www.martarswimming.com</a>
Need an easy way to make personalized social stories	<a href="http://www.sandbox-learning.com">www.sandbox-learning.com</a>
Need sensory toys and therapy equipment	<a href="http://funandfunction.com">http://funandfunction.com</a>



# Sensory-Friendly showing of:

## Dolphin Tale

Saturday, October 1, 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>AMC Columbia Mall 14 10300 Little Patuxent Parkway Columbia, Md 21044 410-423-0510</p>	<p>AMC White Marsh 16 8141 Honeygo Blvd. Baltimore, Md 21236 410-933-9428</p>
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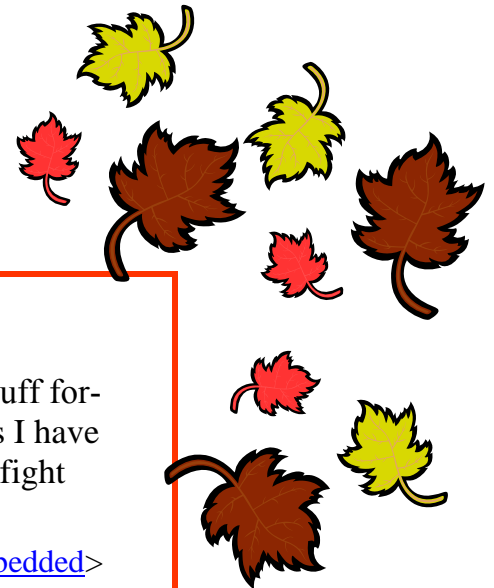
For tickets to this unique experience, please visit the theatre's box office the day of the event.

**AMC**  
THEATRES®

**AUTISM SOCIETY**  
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism



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!



Have *You* heard about IAN?

[www.ianproject.com](http://www.ianproject.com)

The Interactive Autism Network (IAN) is an innovative online project bringing together tens of thousands of people nationwide affected by autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and hundreds of researchers in a search for answers. Individuals with an ASD and their families can share information in a secure setting to become part of the largest online autism research effort in the United States. The data collected by IAN both facilitates scientific research and empowers autism community leaders to advocate for improved services and resources. In addition, anyone impacted by an ASD can become part of IAN's online community to stay informed about autism research and make their voices heard.

## Check it out!



From one of our board members: “I get a lot of autism stuff forwarded to me but this is one of the most powerful messages I have seen. Please click on the link below and watch why all of us fight every day for our kids.”

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2B1FeS5VX4&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2B1FeS5VX4&feature=player_embedded)

### Officers and Board Members

Co-Presidents: Debbie Page & David Savick  
Past President: Heather Thoms-Chesley  
Vice President: Kay Holman  
Treasurer: Mary Ellen Curtis  
Secretary: Helen Shafer  
Board Members: Carol Brown  
Andy Parsley  
Maureen Rushton  
Stephanie Savick  
P.J. Shafer  
Heidi Shoemaker  
Erica Solliday  
Newsletter: Mary Ellen Curtis  
Website: David Savick

**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, October 6<sup>th</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