

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.



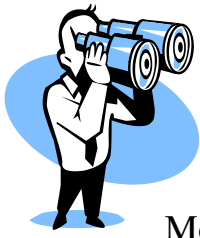
ASBC & Ketia Stokes Receive
 Awards at the Dream4It
 Foundation's 6th Annual
 Benefit Concert at the
 Gordon Center in August.
 See Article on Page 11

Photos courtesy of Dream4It Foundation



Annual Family Picnic
 Cascade Lake
 June 23rd





Calendar Close-up

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.

October 3rd Support Group Meeting

This meeting will feature a **panel discussion about Transitioning from school to work** and will include **valuable tips on how to prepare for this stage in your child's life**. Prior to the meeting we will solicit questions from our membership via an email blast - be on the lookout!

November 7th Support Group Meeting

This meeting will be our regular, **ASBC board member-led support group**. We will 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 socializing.

December 5th Support Group Meeting

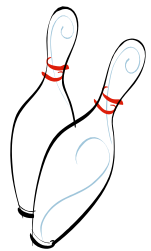
Roundtable Topic: *How Do I Deal with My Relatives?*
Led by Eve Band, Ph.D.

This Psychologist-led support group meeting will begin with **Introductions followed by a Roundtable Discussion on dealing with our relatives facilitated by Dr. Band**. Attendees are asked to come ready to express their ideas, concerns and thoughts. Announcements will follow and then time for socializing and networking.

7th Annual ASBC Bowling Social: Sunday, October 27th, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

We're "Movin' on up to the East Side": *Dundalk!*

Our annual bowling extravaganza will be at AMF Dundalk Lanes (1101 Merritt Boulevard, <http://www.amf.com/dundalklanes>) and will include two hours of bowling, shoes, pizza and soft drinks. New this year: we will have our own private meeting room where families can go if they need a break. Watch for the flyer!



Build-A-Bear Workshop in Towson Town Mall, Sunday, November 3rd, 10:00 a.m.

Join us as ASBC members on the spectrum get to create their own unique teddy bears!

... And Don't Forget: The First-Ever ASBC Fundraiser *Poker Tournament* will be on Saturday, November 2nd in Reisterstown!

Calendar of Events



Inside this Issue	Editor: Jenny Phillips	
Details, Details 4	Sept 24 The Arc Baltimore's Family Education Series: <i>Special Education Rights</i> , Baltimore City, 6:00 p.m.	
Essays 13	Sept 25 Sense-sational Story Time, Woodlawn, 10:00 a.m.	
Tech Nuggets 20	Sept 27 ASBC 4th Annual Golf Tournament, Littlestown, Pennsylvania	
Sensory Friendly Movie 21	Sept 27 Adults with Autism Social Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.	
	Sept 28 MCF Special Education and Early Intervention Conference, Inner Harbor, 9:00 a.m.	
	Sept 28 <i>What causes autism?</i> Lecture, Towson, 10:00 a.m.	
	Oct 1 Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Comm., 6:00 p.m.	
	Oct 2 <i>Mom's Understand</i> : The Arc Baltimore Moms Support Group, Towson, 6:30 p.m.	
	Oct 3 ASBC Support Group, Topic: Transition, Mt. Washington, 7:00 p.m.	
	Oct 4 Women's Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.	
	Oct 5 Morning at the Museum, Washington, D.C., 9:00 a.m.	
	Oct 5 ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film: <i>Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2</i> , Owings Mills and White Marsh, 10:00 a.m. (see flyer on page 21)	
	Oct 5 Rest Day at Grace Fellowship Church, Timonium, 1:00 p.m.	
	Oct 8 ASBC Adults with Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.	
	Oct 9 BCPS Workshop: <i>Transition Planning Session I</i> , Towson, 7:00 p.m.	
	Oct 11 Adults with Autism Social Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.	
	Oct 12 <i>Anger Management</i> Workshop, Timonium, 9:00 a.m.	
	Oct 16 Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee: Special Education Audit Update, Towson, 7:00 p.m.	
	Oct 16 BCPS Workshop: <i>Transition Planning Session II</i> , Towson, 7:00 p.m.	
	Oct 17 <i>Guy Talk</i> : The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers, Towson, 6:30 p.m.	
	Oct 18 Women's Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.	
	Oct 22 The Arc Baltimore's Family Education Series: <i>Futures Planning</i> , Baltimore City, 6:00 p.m.	
	Oct 23 Sense-sational Story Time, Woodlawn, 10:00 a.m.	
	Oct 24-25 13 th Annual CARD Conference: <i>Autism: Advances in Research and Services</i> , Timonium	
	Oct 24 ASD Brown Bag Series: Sensory Integration Processing Disorder, Owings Mills, 12:30 p.m.	
	Oct 25 Adults with Autism Social Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.	
	Oct 27 ASBC 7th Annual Bowling Social, Dundalk, 2:00 p.m.	
	Nov 1 MANSEF Conference, Baltimore City, 8:00 a.m.	
	Nov 1 Women's Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.	
	Nov 2 ASBC Poker Tournament Fundraiser, Reisterstown	
	Nov 3 ASBC Build-a-Bear Workshop Social, Towson, 10:00 a.m.	
	Nov 5 Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.	
	Nov 6 <i>Moms Understand</i> : The Arc Baltimore Moms Support Group, Towson, 6:30 p.m.	



(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events (continued)



- Nov 6 ASD Brown Bag Workshop Baltimore City: *ASD and Managing Aggression*, Fairmount Campus, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov 6 BCPS Workshop: *What Will Happen to My Child When I'm Gone?*, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 7 ASBC Support Group, Topic: Medication, Mt. Washington, 7:00 p.m.**
- Nov 7 Special Education Process and Legal Rights, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 8 Adults with Autism Social Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.
- Nov 9 *Educational Advocacy* Workshop, Lansdowne, 10:00 a.m.
- Nov 9 ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film: *Free Birds*, Owings Mills and White Marsh, 10:00 a.m.
- Nov 11 Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee: Transition Planning, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 12 The Arc Baltimore's Family Education Series: *Exploring the Autism Spectrum*, Baltimore City, 6:00 p.m.
- Nov 12 ASBC Adults with Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.**
- Nov 13 BCPS Workshop: *Preparing Young Adults with Disabilities for Independence: Moving Out!*, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 21 *Guy Talk*: The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 5 ASBC Support Group, Topic: How Do I Deal with My Relatives?, Mt. Washington, 7:00 p.m.**
- Dec 7 ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film: *Frozen 2-D*, Owings Mills and White Marsh, 10:00 a.m.
- Dec 9 Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Comm.: ADD, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec 10 ASBC Adults with Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.**

For updated events information, visit the ASBC calendar at
www.autismsocietybaltimore.org

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . .

(ABOUT THE CALENDAR ITEMS)

Tuesday, September 24, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The Arc Baltimore's Family Education Series: *Special Education Rights*

What are your rights when it comes to the IEP process and how do you assert them? A light dinner will be provided as well as child care, with pre-registration. Location: The Arc Baltimore Employment Center, 6151 Metro Drive, Baltimore. For more information and to RSVP: Becky Hartnett, 410-296-2272 x5308, bhartnett@thearcbaltimore.org.



Wednesday, September 25, 10:00 a.m.

Sense-sational Story Time

The Woodlawn Branch of the Baltimore County Public Libraries welcomes children with special needs and their families or caregivers to a supportive, nonjudgmental story time with a playtime afterwards. Location: 1811 Woodlawn Drive. For more information: 410-887-1336 or www.bcplonline.org.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)

Friday, September 27, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Adults with Autism Social Group

The Hussman Center for Adults with Autism at Towson University provides the opportunity for young adults on the autism spectrum to socialize in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. It is open to all, and a small membership fee is assessed to cover the costs of the program. Please bring a snack to share. Cost: \$3 fee per person, per meeting OR \$15 fee per semester OR \$25 fee per year. Location: Institute for Well-Being, Room 214, One Olympic Place, Towson. For more information: 410-704-4486 or hcaa@towson.edu.

Saturday, September 28, 9:00 a.m.

MCF Special Education and Early Intervention Conference

The Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health hosts this conference featuring keynote speaker Assistant Superintendent of Special Education/Early Intervention for the Maryland Department of Education, Marcella E. Franczkowski. In addition to workshops by experts in the fields of mental health and education, there will be resource tables with representatives from key advocacy organizations in Maryland. Location: Holiday Inn Inner Harbor, 301 W Lombard Street. For more information: info@mdcoalition.org, 410-730-8267.

Saturday, September 28, 9:00 a.m.

An integrated approach towards understanding "What causes autism?"

A presentation in the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism's Saturdays on the Spectrum Lecture Series: Voices Developing Understanding of Adult Autism. Presenter: Valerie Hu, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, D.C. and the mother of a son with ASD. Dr. Hu will discuss the multiple factors contributing to autism which require the integration of the different types of large-scale genomics studies in order to develop a better understanding of the underlying pathobiology as well as the sex bias in autism. Location: Hussman Center for Adults with Autism, One Olympic Place, Room 200, Towson. To RSVP: <http://towsoniwb.com/centers/hussman-center-adults-autism/saturdays-spectrum> or 410-704-4486.

Tuesday, October 1, 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 special education in the Baltimore City Public Schools. Location: 200 E. North Avenue, 1st Floor Board Room. For more information: Blondelia Caldwell-Harrison, Chairperson, blondeiac25@aol.com or 443-642-5402.

Wednesday, October 2, 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 info: Dianna Morgan, 410-296-2272x5347 or visit www.arcofbaltimore.org.

Friday, October 4, 6:00 p.m.

Women's Group

Young women from the community meet with staff and student facilitators at the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism at Towson University to participate in fun activities and discuss issues specific to young women on the autism spectrum, including women's health, relationship building, coping with peer pressure, self-expression and self-advocacy. This program is open to all, with free admission. Some activities may take place at venues outside of the Center; these activities may have a cost, which is the responsibility of the participants. Transportation is not provided by the Center. Location: Institute for Well-Being, room 214, One Olympic Place, Towson. For more information: 410-704-4486 or hcaa@towson.edu.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)

Saturday, October 5, 9:00 to 11 a.m.

Morning at the Museum (National Postal Museum)

Morning at the Museum is a project of the Smithsonian Institution's Accessibility Program, the Smithsonian Museums, and a Community Advisory Committee. The project consists of a series of pre-visit materials designed to help individuals with cognitive and sensory processing disabilities and their families prepare for a visit to the Smithsonian Museums. On event days, registered families can enter the museum one hour early. Free and fun for all ages! Lots of interactive activities! Location: National Postal Museum, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. RSVP to access@si.edu or 202-633-2921.

Saturday, October 5, 10:00 a.m.

ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2. Inventor Flint Lockwood is back! He now works at The Live Corp Company for his idol Chester V. But he's forced to leave his post when he learns that his most infamous machine is still operational and is churning out menacing food-animal hybrids. Rated PG for mild rude humor.

Saturday, October 5, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Rest Day at Grace Fellowship Church, Timonium

See details on Page 18.



Wednesday, October 9, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

BCPS Workshop: Transition Planning Session I

Sponsored by the Office of Special Education Resource Center. Transition Planning is the first step in developing the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students with disabilities, age 14 and older. This workshop explains the process *required* as students progress through their school years. It will assist parents in understanding the preparation necessary for life in the adult world. *Session I* is for parents of students with IEP's receiving a Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion. Instructor: Mary Scott, BCPS Transition Resource Teacher. All workshops are free of charge, but registration is required and limited. Location: BCPS Greenwood Campus, Building E (formerly ESS), Rm 123, 6901 Charles St, Towson. For more information: Lisa Diffenderfer, 410-887-5442, ldiffenderfer@bcps.org.



Friday, October 11, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Adults with Autism Social Group

Please see September 27th listing for more details.

Saturday, October 12, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Anger Management Workshop

Presented by Baltimore County Family Navigator Services' Family Resource Academy, in partnership with professional child development specialists and veteran family members. No cost to all Baltimore County residents and anyone receiving services through Catholic Charities. Childcare will be provided on-site with pre-registration, for children ages 3 - 14. Light breakfast for all! Location: St. Vincent's Villa, 2300 Dulaney Valley Road, Timonium. For more information and to register: Baltimore County Family Navigator Services, 410-252-4700x265 or email FamilyNavigator@cc-md.org.

Monday, October 14, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee

Speaker Debra Brooks, BCPS Executive Director of Special Education and Student Support Services, will discuss the Special Education Audit Report and goals for the school year. The Special Education Citizens' Advisory 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. Location: Room 114, ESS Building, Greenwood campus, 6901 Charles Street, Towson. For more information: P.J. Shafer, Chairperson, pj.shafer@lpl.com.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)



Wednesday, October 16, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

BCPS Workshop: Transition Planning Session II

Sponsored by the Office of Special Education Resource Center. Transition Planning is the first step in developing the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students with disabilities, age 14 and older. This workshop explains the process required as students progress through their school years. It will assist parents in understanding the preparation necessary for life in the adult world. *Session II* is for parents of students with IEPs receiving a Maryland High School Diploma. Instructor: Joyce Serio, Team Leader, Transition Support Services, BCPS Office of Special Education. All workshops are free of charge, but registration is required and limited. Location: BCPS Greenwood Campus, Building E (formerly ESS), Room 123, 6901 Charles St, Towson. For more information: Lisa Diffenderfer, 410-887-5442, ldiffenderfer@bcps.org.

Thursday, October 17, 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: Dorothea Nikas, 410-296-2272 x5349 or visit www.arcofbaltimore.org.



Friday, October 18, 6:00 p.m. Women's Group

Please see October 4th listing for more details.

Tuesday, October 22, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The Arc Baltimore's Family Education Series: Futures Planning

What plans do you need to put into place for your child when you can no longer be here to take care of them? Hear experts talk about wills, advance directives and special needs trusts. A light dinner will be provided as well as child care, with pre-registration, if needed. Location: The Arc Baltimore Employment Center, 6151 Metro Drive, Baltimore. For more information and to RSVP: Becky Hartnett, 410-296-2272 x5308, bhartnett@thearcbaltimore.org.

Wednesday, October 23, 10:00 a.m.

Sense-sational Story Time

Please see September 25th listing for more details.

Thursday and Friday, October 24 and 25, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

13th Annual CARD Conference: Autism: Advances in Research and Services

This year's conference features some of the nation's leading experts in the field including keynote speakers: Brooke Ingersoll, Ph.D. and Robert Schultz, Ph.D. Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2004 Greenspring Drive, Timonium. Cost: Professionals: \$350; Family and Individuals on the Spectrum: \$250. For more information or to register: visit www.autismconference.kennedykrieger.org or Joy Johnson at 443-923-7632.

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.*

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)

Thursday, October 24, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

ASD Brown Bag Series Baltimore County: Sensory Integration Processing Disorder

Pathfinders for Autism and the Baltimore Jewish Abilities Alliance sponsors this workshop series. Ida Zelaya, of Sensory Street, will address the signs, symptoms and strategies of sensory processing integration disorder. Ida will offer attendees an understanding of the sensory challenges that affect the day-to-day activities of some individuals on the spectrum. In addition, attendees will make sensory products using household items that may help manage the effects of this disorder. Location: Baltimore Jewish Abilities Alliance, 3506 Gwynnbrook Avenue, Owings Mills. For more information or to register: 443-330-5370, <http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/news/view/373>.

Friday, October 25, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Adults with Autism Social Group

Please see September 27th listing for more details.



Sunday, October 27, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

7th Annual ASBC Bowling Social

Our October social will include two hours of unlimited bowling, shoes, pizza and unlimited drinks.

New this year: we will have our own private meeting room where families can go if they need a break. No cost for ASBC members. Location: AMF Dundalk Lanes, 1101 Merritt Boulevard

(<http://www.amf.com/dundalklanes>). A flyer will be going out soon with registration details.

Friday, November 1, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities Conference

Professional workshops in the morning and afternoon. Location: Baltimore Convention Center. For more information: Joy Hamilton, 410-938-4413, mansefassistant@aol.com or www.mansef.org.

Friday, November 1, 6:00 p.m.

Women's Group

Please see October 4th listing for more details.

Sunday, November 3, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

2nd Annual Build-A-Bear Workshop

For members of ASBC on the autism spectrum accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

No cost. Location: Towson Town Center, Level C, Zone 3, 825 Dulaney Valley Road.

For more information contact Jenny Phillips at jphillips@baltimoreautismsociety.org.



Tuesday, November 5, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting

Please see October 1st listing for more details.

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

Moms Understand: The Arc Baltimore Moms Support Group

Please see October 2nd listing for more details.



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

ASD Brown Bag Workshop Baltimore City: ASD and Managing Aggression.

Pathfinders for Autism and the Kennedy Krieger Institute host this workshop. Steven Lindauer, Ph.D., Developmental Disabilities Clinic, Kennedy Krieger Institute, will discuss aggression, why these behaviors occur, and some strategies to help manage them successfully. Dinner will be provided

Location: Kennedy Krieger Institute, 1750 East Fairmount Avenue, Baltimore. For more info: 443-330-5370, <http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/news/view/371>.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)

Wednesday, November 6, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

BCPS Workshop: *What Will Happen to My Child When I'm Gone?*

Sponsored by the Office of Special Education Resource Center, this workshop focuses on planning for your child's lifelong financial security. Instructor: Louise Gonzales, Esq. of Hylton and Gonzales. All workshops are free of charge, but registration is required and limited. Location: BCPS Greenwood Campus, Building E (formerly ESS), Room 123, 6901 Charles St., Towson. For more info: Lisa Diffenderfer, 410-887-5442, ldiffenderfer@bcps.org.

Thursday, November 7, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Special Education Process and Legal Rights

Co-sponsored by the Abilities Network and the Office of Special Education Resource Center, this workshop is for parents and caregivers of students who have IEP's. Instructor: Leslie Margolis, Managing Attorney, Maryland Disability Law Center. Reservations required. Location: Abilities Network, 8503 LaSalle Road, Towson. To RSVP: 410-887-5443.



Friday, November 8, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Adults with Autism Social Group

Please see September 27th listing for more details.

Saturday, November 9, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Educational Advocacy Workshop

Presented by Baltimore County Family Navigator Services' Family Resource Academy, in partnership with professional child development specialists and veteran family members. No cost to all Baltimore County residents and anyone receiving services through Catholic Charities. Childcare will be provided on-site with pre-registration, for children ages 3 - 14. Light breakfast for all! Location: St. Clement's Rectory; 2700 Washington Avenue; Lansdowne. For more information and to register: Baltimore County Family Navigator Services, 410-252-4700x265 or email FamilyNavigator@cc-md.org.



Saturday, November 9, 10:00 a.m.

ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film

***Free Birds*.** Two turkeys from opposite sides of the tracks must put aside their differences and team up to travel back in time to change the course of history - and get turkey off the holiday menu for good! Rated PG for some action/peril and rude humor.

Monday, November 11, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee

This Month's Topic: Transition Planning

Please see October 16th listing for meeting details.

Tuesday, November 12, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The Arc Baltimore's Family Education Series: *Exploring the Autism Spectrum*

Spend an evening exploring some of the many issues that arise for the individuals and families living with Autism Spectrum Disorder. A light dinner will be provided as well as child care if needed, with pre-registration. Location: The Arc Baltimore Employment Center, 6151 Metro Drive, Baltimore. For more information and to RSVP: Becky Hartnett, 410-296-2272 x5308, bhartnett@thearcbaltimore.org.

Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

BCPS Workshop: Preparing Young Adults with Disabilities for Independence: Moving Out!

Sponsored by the Office of Special Education Resource Center, this workshop will explore the ins and outs of living independently, housing options, finances, healthcare, and more. Parent will learn how to take the first step in planning for their young adults housing independence. Instructor: Mary Scott, BCPS Transition Resource Teacher; Diane Dressler, Program Director for Adult Training and Services, Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities. See November 6th BCPS workshop listing for details.



DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)

Thursday, November 21, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Guy Talk: The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers

Please see October 17th listing for more details.

Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.

ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film

Frozen 2-D

From Disney Animation, an adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's "The Snow Queen."



Monday, December 9, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee

This Month's Topic: Attention Deficit Disorder

Please see October 16th listing for meeting details.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

In looking over the Calendar (or anywhere else . . .), 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 ASBC 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 ASBC, P.O. Box 10822, Baltimore, MD 21234 or info@BaltimoreAutismSociety.org and reimbursement will be mailed to you.



Teleconferencing Available for Support Group Meetings

If you can't come to the Autism Society's monthly support group, please join us by telephone. Any time after 6:55 pm on support group meeting evening, call toll-free 1-877-594-8353. You will be prompted to enter a participant code, followed by the pound sign (#). The participant code is 94378086. You will be asked to state your name (if you prefer not to leave your name, just say "Pass"). That's it! You're now in the meeting. To mute your call, press *6; to un-mute it, press *6 again. For more details about the teleconferencing procedure, visit the meetings and groups page on our website:

www.baltimoreautismsociety.org/calendar-of-events/meetings-groups.

"Hear" you at the next meeting!

Have We Got A Social for You and Your Family!

Monthly Socials for 2013 and 2014

~ Stephanie Savick, Co-ordinator

Sunday, September 22, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Family Fun Day at Oregon Ridge
Sunday October 27, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	7 th Annual Bowling Social
Sunday, November 3, 10:00 a.m.	Build-a-Bear Workshop Social
December	Swim Social
January 2014	Rock Climbing
February	Snow Tubing/Skiing
March	New Social: Roller Skating!
April	Oriole's Game
May	Miniature Golf
June	Wine Tasting (Adults Only!)
July	Water Tubing
August	New Social: Outdoor Movie Night!

Check our website for details:

<http://www.baltimoreautismsociety.org/calendar-of-events/family-activities>

Dream4It Foundation Honors ASBC and Board Member Ketia Stokes

Founded in 2008, The Dream4It Foundation raises funds to support numerous educational endeavors designed to provide youth with scholarships for higher education positioning them to realize their Dreams. To date, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$40,000 in educational scholarships. The Dream4It foundation also awards special grants to individuals and organizations that provide vital human services, and honors individuals whose selfless efforts improve the quality of life for individuals and families across the State.

Each year the Foundation hosts a music concert where it awards the scholarships **and honors community leaders**. **This year's honorees included the Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake - Co-Presidents Debbie Page and David Savick accepted the award at the ceremony. Also honored was new ASBC board member Ketia Stokes, who is Baltimore City's 2013 Teacher of the Year and one of seven finalists for 2013-2014 Maryland Teacher of the Year!**



To find out more about the Dream4It Foundation, go to www.dream4it.net or call (443) 472-3311.

Can't ReMember if You're a Member?

If you are uncertain as to the status of your membership please send an email to info@BaltimoreAutismSociety.org or call our phone line (410-655-7933) and we can let you know if your membership is current. Our membership year runs from May 1st to April 30th.



Upcoming AARG! Meeting

The next meeting of the Adult Autism Resource Group will be on Tuesday, **October 8th** from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. AARG, a sub-group of ASBC, meets the second Tuesday of every month at the home of Ellen Feifarek to work on issues that concern adults and transition-age youth with autism. Call Linda Pearl at 410-526-5406, if you are planning to attend for the first time.

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 know you've always liked us,
but now you can Like us on *Facebook*!
Autism Society of Baltimore Chesapeake

Like Us On
facebook 

Help!

The Autism Society of Baltimore Chesapeake depends entirely upon 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 info@BaltimoreAutismSociety.org to learn how you can help.

Did you Know?

We are able to accept donations and memberships electronically using PayPal from our website www.BaltimoreAutismSociety.org. Please remember to leave a message in the field "add special instructions for the seller" with any details regarding your donation or membership.

Not Being Able
To Speak...
Is Not The
Same As Not
Having Anything
To Say.

ASBC EXTENDS OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THESE RECENT DONORS

Cargill Salt

David S. Frank

Cheryl Hodgins

Edward Jacobson

Alona Malacas

Dennis Owens

Paul and Rosine Rouhana

Jessica Smith

Lavina Velasco

Louis Vigliotti

Tracey Zappacosta

Employee Charity Organization (ECHO) of Northrop Grumman Corporation

In Honor of the Wedding of Molly McConnell and Patrick Tracy

J. Ryan Finnegan

HERE ARE THE REMAINING WINNING ENTRIES FROM OUR AUTISM AWARENESS ESSAY CONTEST

We had many *excellent* entries, and deciding among them was quite a challenge.
Congratulations to the talented individuals who won, and thank you to
all of the participants for sharing with us!

Additional winning entries were published in the July edition of *The ASBC News*

My Name is Cole

by Cole Bravo, 1st Grade

Co-Winner: Elementary Student Category

My name is Cole. My friends are Khan, Travis, Miquel, Delon, Jeremy and Gregory. They all have autism. Autism kids should be treated the same way as us. In the class I play with Khan and Travis. We like to race! We play tag! Even thoe we play diffrently we still like to play together. I like being a learning pal because I help them and they help me. I love the pri-
mary kids and they love me back.



What My Son Taught Me
by Dan Goldman
Winner: Adult Friends/Family Category

People always say to me, “it must be so hard to have a kid with autism.”

The short answer to that is always the same. I shrug and say, “You do what you have to do for your kids.”

Here’s what I don’t always get to tell them.

My son with autism, Benzi, is now 7 ½. We are lucky, because he is verbal and can express just about anything now.

But it wasn’t always that way.

About four years ago, we were in his bed reading a book before bedtime. He was not very verbal at the time. We were lucky to get a three- or four- word sentence from him, and that was rare. But resting with him that night, I told him that I loved him, and that I knew he understood that, and that I knew he was smart and understood things. To this day, I don’t know why I said all of that, why I chose those words, or why I said it right then. He didn’t say anything, which wasn’t a surprise. But he rolled toward me and reached up and gave me a big hug.

Maybe it was just a son hugging a dad. But I don’t think so. I think it was his way of saying, “you get me.” And maybe even “thanks.”

So as hard as it can be some days - and if you’re reading this, you know what I mean - what that moment taught me and what my son has continued to teach me, is that it is all worth it. The 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning ice times, the bedtime stories, listening to 80’s rock songs, and everything in between.

I have a son. He has autism. I do not have a diagnosis sleeping across the hall.

You have to understand I have the best kids ever. Other parents might say that, too. They’re entitled to their opinion, but trust me, I’m right on this. Benzi is joy personified. And his sister, Davida, is the only person who isn’t a therapist or specially trained who is able to just connect with Benzi. No one taught her that. She has that gift.

I have learned for Benzi, like most kids, you set reasonable goals and you push him just a little more each time. Because he is almost always able to reach higher and meet the goals.

My biggest goal is simple: I promised myself from the start that when my son looks at me, he would never see “father of a special needs child.” All he’s ever going to see is Dad. He taught me that.

Autism

by Hailey Clark, Grade 6
Winner: Secondary Student Category



Autism is defined as “a mental condition present from early childhood, characterized by great difficulty in communicating and forming relationships.” Autistic people face many problems with communicating. I know that autistic people are just like us, they just have a harder time with communicating their wants and needs to other people.

Talking, texting, phone calls - these are all examples of communication. Can you imagine what life would be like if these simple things were hard for you? That is what autistic people have to deal with every day. It can be very hard for these people to live normal lives in a world of constant communication. Challenges would include making friends, telling someone you need something or just being made fun of. My cousin Jackson has a type of autism, it can be very hard for him and his family. I make sure to stop and talk to him in the hallways at school. I also have a friend named Andrew who has autism. He has a hard time talking to people. I have learned a lot from both Jackson and Andrew. They have changed the way I see things and the way I look at my own life.



Since kindergarten, Jackson had had a hard time in school. My family and I have learned to read his expressions and feelings, but others, such as school aids and students cannot always tell what he needs or wants. **The school students sometimes stare at him, or laugh when he can't say something. I've also learned from Jackson that sometimes not being acknowledged is worse than getting bad attention.** As an extra-curricular activity Jackson does therapeutic horse-back riding. I like to go and help out there a lot. There are many kids with autism and all different types of disabilities that go there and it makes me happy to see smiles on their faces - they do not need to talk. If you slow down and take the time to look you will see how happy they are.

My friend Andrew goes to church with me, and we do a lot of **community service projects together through the church. I think it's awesome** how Andrew does all these things and overcomes challenges with his autism. Andrew was not able to tell me, but through spending some time with him I have learned that he is a very good artist and he likes music. **Andrew has helped me to be more aware of other people's feeling and needs.**



I have learned a lot about life and others from both Jackson and Andrew. They have helped me to be a more compassionate person because I have learned from them that every human being is the same inside. We all have a heart, lungs, brain, and most importantly, feelings. Some people just have a hard time expressing them.

My Friend With Autism

By Caroline M. Beighley, 4th Grade
Co-Winner: Elementary Student Category



Hello I'm Caroline

Hi my name is Caroline this is my friend Khan he has a disability called Autism but I don't mind because we're friends and that's what matters most and it's fine with me, here are some reasons why we're friends . . .

Our Friendship

» He has disabilities that is caused by Autism but he acts like 1 of my friends yes his words get mixed up and they don't make sense but that makes us laugh later on like it's a joke



» He loves to play with me I love to play with him we have so much fun that I laugh till it feels like my ribs are going to explode and we still laugh even though it hurts because it makes him laugh too

» Me and Khan are in different classes because Khan has Autism like I mentioned before and we don't see each other much and when we do we spend time together in the morning when I'm a learning pal and from 8:40-9:20 me and Khan spend every second playing angry birds live the autism room has stuffed angry bird toys and we stack them up and toss bean bags at it and play angry bird its so fun its makes my day to see my best friend smile

Learning Pals

Remember when I mentioned learning pals earlier well I'm about to tell you what that is a learning pals are 3-4 kids who come down to the autism room in 4th grade which I'm in, we come down to the autism classroom in the morning where you can sit with the autism kids as they eat breakfast there are my other friends Delon, Travis, Gregory, Jeremy, and of course Khan and they are all my friends and 5th grade learning pals goes to the other autism room with Nathan, LJ, Brandon, and Miguel and their pretty fun too.



If I win



If I win the autism essay I will hopefully use the prize money to buy new crayons, toys, play dough, and lots of colorful construction paper to help out the 2 classrooms and my school and when I get older hopefully turn it into a world wide project



CALL FOR PHOTOS!

Have you heard the terrific news? The Autism Society (National) is gathering photos for their website and other national publications. The goal is to freshen up our look and personalize the important work we do by sharing photos and images that reflect community experience, diversity and a day in the life of an individual with autism and their family. We know that you have lots of these types of images, so we are asking for your help. Those wishing to submit photos should email Tonia Ferguson, tferguson@autism-society.org. Email attachment must include high resolution JPG and a photo release form which is accessible at <http://support.autism-society.org/site/R?i=jTJigUIZVc2mdTXVL7dTEQ>.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING!

Sponsors and Poker Players needed for the
November 2nd Autism Society of Baltimore Poker Tournament!

Contact P.J. Shafer at
Shafer_pj@yahoo.com or 410-530-4007



A Family Navigator can help you achieve smooth sailing . . .

The Baltimore County Family Navigator Service is a **FREE SERVICE** available to Balto. Co. families who have children with intensive needs related to mental/behavioral health or a developmental disability.

A Baltimore County Family Navigator can

- ◆ Offer support and guidance while helping families to identify their strengths and challenges
- ◆ Help families find resources in the community
- ◆ Help families develop a plan of action

Family Navigators are available to work with families by phone or email or meet with them at our locations at St. Clement's Rectory in Lansdowne, St. Vincent's Villa in Timonium, or at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Dundalk.

This program is funded by The Governor's Office for Children through the Baltimore County Local Management Board and Catholic Charities Child and Family Services.



Baltimore County Family Navigator
410. 252.4700 x265
410-282-9430 x103

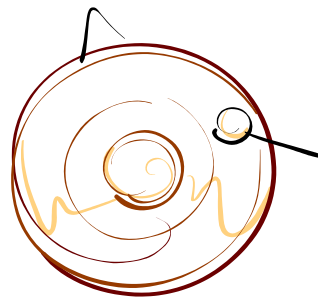
Email: FamilyNavigator@cc-md.org
Website: www.family-navigator.org

Another Spectacular Gong Show was held at Buck Fowler's Tavern

to raise funds for the Charles Fowler, Sr. Memorial Fund!

This special fund provides scholarships for ASBC members to attend autism-related trainings, conferences and seminars as well as providing funding for

Maggie's Light which covers recreational and respite costs for ASBC members.



A very special "Thank You"
goes out to Jake who provides
the inspiration for this
special evening!

Keep on Rockin' Jake!

Photos courtesy of Ian David Preece

We continue to be blessed this year with donations from a variety of fundraisers organized by many generous (and creative!) individuals & businesses:

Thank You, Trellis, for Your Generous Donation!

During Autism Awareness month this year, Trellis hosted several events in the area including restaurant nights, school fundraisers and a pancake breakfast (yum!) to raise funds for local organizations that support the autism community. We are honored to have been selected by Trellis as one of those organizations. Trellis provides comprehensive services for children with autism and related communication disorders.



Many thanks to Sophie and Athena Savick for donating the proceeds from their Fourth of July lemonade stand to the Autism Society of Baltimore!



Tech-Nuggets

Your Challenge	Online Help
How can I make transitions easier for my child (and me)?	http://www.babble.com/kid/7-tips-to-ease-transitions-for-kids-with-autism/
Where can we go with our child that won't break the bank?	http://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2013/03/05/11-fun-and-free-places-to-take-your-child-with-special-needs/#.UcSFPC04PRo.email
I need some poetry in my life!	http://www.child-autism-parent-cafe.com/autism-poems.html
I really want a pet, but first I have to convince my <u>(fill in the blank)</u> that it's a good idea.	http://health.usnews.com/health-news/news/articles/2012/08/01/pets-may-help-kids-with-autism-develop-social-skills



Grace Fellowship Church in Timonium Offering Rest Day for Families with Special Needs Children



Grace Fellowship Church is offering a **Rest Day** on **Saturday, October 5th**
from from 1 - 4 p.m. for families with special needs children. You do not need to attend
Grace to attend the event. All families and ages we welcome!

The link for registration is <http://restday.wufoo.com/forms/rest-day-child-registration-form/>. To register follow the link and fill out the registration form for each child attending, including any siblings who may also be attending. Once your registration is received, you will be e-mailed a consent form that needs to be filled out and returned before Rest Day to complete your child's registration. Please note that **the deadline for registration is Sept. 29th**. **Spots fill up fast so make sure you register your children as soon as possible!**

For more information about rest days, check out <http://www.gfc.org/disabilities/rest-day>.



FORE!

Sponsors, Silent Auction Items and Golfers are still needed for our September 27th Golf Tournament.

Contact David Savick at
dsavick@baltimoreautismsociety.org



Special Needs Stroller for Sale

Holds up to 150 lbs.
Great for a darter, eloper,
etc. For more details,
contact ASBC member
Ryan Berman at (410)

746-3132 or ryan_video@yahoo.com.



The Autism Society of Baltimore will have a table at the Resource Fair at the Baltimore Walk Now for Autism Speaks walk on Saturday, October 26th. **Stop by and say "Hi" either before or after you walk!**

The IMAGE Center for people with disabilities offers two **programs that might be just what you're looking for . . .**

Travel Training, a free service, provides both group and individual training on how to use the fixed route system including local buses, light rail and metro subway.

TEEN CONNECT is a social group for teens with various disabilities. It is mostly about having fun, but also incorporates independent living skills such as travel training, money and time management, and pedestrian safety. TEEN CONNECT is on facebook under the IMAGE Center for People with Disabilities and can be found at www.imagemd.org/teenblog.

Sensory-Friendly showing of:



CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2

Inventor Flint Lockwood is back! He now works at The Live Corp Company for his idol Chester V. But he's forced to leave his post when he learns that his most infamous machine is still operational and is churning out menacing food-animal hybrids. Rated PG.

Saturday, October 5th
10 a.m.

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, the sound will be turned down and the film will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.
(there will be no previews of coming attractions before the film).

AMC Loews White Marsh 16
8141 Honeygo Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21236
410-933-9428

AMC Owings Mills 17
10100 Mill Run Circle
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117
443-394-0060

Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake
410-655-7933
www.BaltimoreAutismSociety.org

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



Officers and Board Members

Co-Presidents: Debbie Page & David Savick
Past President: Heather Thoms-Chesley
Vice President: Andy Parsley
Treasurer: Jenny Phillips
Secretary: Helen Shafer
Board Members: Stacy Israel
Michelle Landrum
Pete Roth
Paul Rouhana
Stephanie Savick
P.J. Shafer
Heidi Shoemaker
Ketia Stokes
Mike Thomas
Reyes Vera
Newsletter: Mary Ellen Curtis
Website: David Savick

Chapter Phone: 410-655-7933

Website: www.baltimoreautismsociety.org

E-mail: info@baltimoreautismsociety.org

Support Group Meeting

The next support group meeting will be **Thursday, October 3rd** 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 Avenue; 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 ASBC: _____ Thank You!

Make checks payable to ASBC and mail to:

ASBC, P.O. Box 10822, Baltimore, MD 21234

Please note:

ASBC does not share information on our members with any other organization

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00