



The Sun

The Voice of Autism in Delaware


Detachable Monthly Calendar

March 2006

Autism Society of Delaware

(302) 472-2638

www.delautism.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 ASD Chapter Meeting Dover 7 p.m.	9	10	11
12	13	14 Parent's Coffee Hour 9 a.m.	15	16	17 	18
19	20 	21 Mom's Night Out 7 p.m.	22	23	24	25 Skating Party 5:15 -7:15 p.m.
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m.
2 Rain Date Easter Egg Hunt	3 Adults With Autism Chapter Meeting 7:00 p.m.	4	5	6	7 Cruise for A Cause Bellevue State Park 7:00 p.m.	8
9	10	11 Parent's Coffee Hour 9 a.m.	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 NCC Support Group 7p.m.	19 Dad's Night Out 7p.m.	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Asperger's Teen Night 6-8 p.m.	29
30						



The Voice of Autism in Delaware

The Sun

The Autism Society of Delaware Newsletter

www.delautism.org

March/April 2006

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Our Mission

The Autism Society of Delaware is a chapter of the Autism Society of America. We are people with autism, their family members and friends, and professionals who work in the autism field.

Our mission is to improve the lives of people with autism and their families. We will educate, advocate and raise public awareness in order to promote lifelong opportunity and acceptance for people with autism in their communities.

We serve the entire state of Delaware.

Volunteer Recognition and Other Autism Awareness Events

By: Theda Ellis

Once again the Autism Society has a variety of activities to celebrate April as Autism Awareness month. As noted in the director's column this month, we in Delaware are lucky in so many ways. Imagine what it would be like if there were no services or supports. Imagine what it would be like if there were no autism community. This community has a lot to celebrate, primarily due to parents; so please join us on April 7 for the 2006 Spring Fling, *Cruise for a Cause* (see page 8). This event is particularly important because it's the time to celebrate our entire community; and it is the time when we acknowledge the work that has been done across the state to support and improve this community. While some of the volunteers will be recognized for their contributions to ASD, we are also recognizing support to the broader autism community. We welcome one and all to this event to celebrate these outstanding volunteers:

Outstanding Volunteers to the Autism Society

Mary Kelleher—Mary works in the office two days a week, taking responsibility to follow up parent phone calls to make sure they got the information they were seeking.

She also takes on special jobs that must be done that require some "extra hands," such as data input, large mailings, and phone calls. Mary fills in wherever she is needed, and she staffs our events; the holiday party, the auction and the golf outing. She is always cheerful and positive, and she has greatly added to the productivity of the office. We in the ASD office are very lucky to have Mary join us and honored that she has found her home with us.

Judi Jeffers—Judi has worked in many ways to support the Autism Society and the greater autism community. She was instrumental in bringing the Adapted Bike Camp to New Castle County, and made it happen through the contribution of Bellevue State Park as a venue, and by connecting with the Wilmington Police to work with the kids. She is an active member of the Spring Fling committee, offering her facilities and experience to make it such a wonderful event as well. Thanks to Judi for her many contributions to our organization and community.

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April Is Autism Awareness Month





The Sun

A publication of the
Autism Society of Delaware
5572 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, DE 19808
302.472.2638—Office
302.472.2640—Fax

Email: delautism@delautism.org

Website: www.delautism.org

Officers

President: Artie Kempner, 302.777.7273 (h),
artie3boys@aol.com

Vice President: Mike Graci, 302.453.8586 (h),
mjgraci@comcast.net

Treasurer: John Hupp, 302.738.1056 (h),
john96hupp@aol.com

Secretary: Karen Bashkow, 302.453.7411(h),
bashkowk@aol.com

Staff

Executive Director: Theda Ellis,
302.472.2638, ext 202 (w), 302.388.9798 (c),
thedea.ellis@delautism.org

Communication Coordinator: Cheryl Kelley,
302.472.2638, ext 203 (w) 302.998.1466 (h),
cheryl.kelley@delautism.org

Office Manager: Margie Rowles,
302.472.2638, Margie.Rowles@delautism.org

Committee Chairs

Adult Issues: Karen Bashkow, 302.453.7411
(h), bashkowk@aol.com

Advocacy/Legislative Affairs: Rob Gilsdorf,
302.378.3462 (h), RobGASD@aol.com

Asperger's Committee: Co-chairs: Heidi Mizell,
302.455.9515 (h), toofers2@aol.com
Penny Chelucci, 302.571.8868 (h),
Penny.chelucci@state.de.us

Finance: Michael Graci, 302.453.8586 (h),
mjgraci@comcast.net

New Parent Support: Cheryl Kelley
(see above) & Mary Kelleher 302.761.9558 (h),
mary.kelleher@delautism.org

Program: Co-Chairs: Dafne Carnright,
302.222.2824(c), djdc900@msn.com, and
Kirsten Landon, 302.239.7852 (h), landonre@aol.com

Public Awareness: Dwayne McMahan,
302.235.2101 (h), DMKemps@comcast.net

Social Events: Laurie Nicoli, 302.652.5727
(h), miminicoli@aol.com

Staff Photographer: Nicole Curran
302.368.2468 or nicolesmailbox@comcast.net

County Liaisons

Kent County: Yolanda Flanagan,
302.284.2499, LY1998@netzero.com

Sussex County: Susie Kelly, 302.875.2006
(h), stkelly2003@comcast.net

The Sun Editorial Committee

Marcy Kempner
Theda Ellis

Judy Hedrick
Amy Justice

Desktop Publishing:

Cheryl Kelley



The Director's Chair

By: Theda Ellis, Executive Director

Lessons from South Africa

Traveling is so inspiring. It also helps you to appreciate what you have at home. Both of these things happened to Warren and me following our recent vacation to KwaZulu-Natal, a province on the Eastern Cape of South Africa. It was truly a dream vacation—full of new people and experiences, beautiful places, great food, mountains, beaches, and valleys.

Our vacation began with a week at God's Golden Acre, an AIDS orphanage for Zulu children. We worked on building a small cement block house for a child-headed home in the Valley of 1000 Hills. Digging foundations and carrying cement blocks in the hot sun was beyond anything I've tried to do before. The best part was meeting Robert, a 12-year old Zulu boy who not only volunteered to help with the work one day, but he made a game of doing everything the adults did; only he was barefoot, good natured, and had energy to spare when the day was over. He made the day a delight!

This 11-year-old orphanage was developed by Heather Reynolds, a charismatic woman who at one time had 40 toddlers living in her home. She developed a new approach to orphanages, called clustered foster care that provides a permanent home to 93 children. Her vision is bigger though. Today GGA sponsors 114 soccer teams to give 3,000 children in the local valleys something to do; they provide monthly food drops to 190 families impacted by AIDS, and she is looking to the children's future, just as ASD is. Recognizing their talent, she has developed an impressive musical group called the Young Zulu Warriors that toured Europe and may visit the US next year. She secured a farm and has professional volunteers developing a vocational program to teach agricultural skills. She also finds sponsors so that children can go to school. South Africa calls for a free education, but you have to have a school uniform and shoes to attend. Meeting her was a real experience! She has made such a difference to so many people through her personal beliefs, her vision, and her force of personality. She is a real inspiration to me about the difference that committed people can make. I've been thinking about that as I think of ASD's future and the commitment and perseverance that so many of you have to this cause of autism.

Leaving the orphanage, we toured the Drakensburg Mountains, the Anglo-Zulu battlefields, a game reserve, and we stayed at the beach on the Indian Ocean. While all of these experiences were wonderful in their own right, a highlight was our stay and the battlefield tour in the Babanango Valley. While driving us out the 13 kilometer dirt road in the rain, our host and tour guide turned to Warren and asked, "What do you do?" As Warren was explaining that we both work in disabilities, primarily with this disability called autism, our host said, "Can we talk? My 13-year old daughter has Asperger's Syndrome — we

(Continued on page 3)



Director's Chair

(Continued from page 2)

think? We've been to 35 specialists, tried the diet, and tried mainstreaming. The internet has too much confusing information; we don't know what really works and what's just hype! We're worried about the future. We have to figure out where she can live; who she can live with; and how to take care of her when we're gone." All of these are very familiar themes.

That afternoon we met his daughter, and shared tea and our experiences with her dad. We suggested that he develop a dream for his daughter's life, then figure out what needs to be in place to meet that dream. He dreams of a home with others, and is trying to figure out how to find others who also might need a home. Then, he has to fund it. In South Africa, it's all up to Mom and Dad, with no help after school for services (at least so far as this dad knows).

We left an autism awareness ribbon, a list of good websites, and we are now sending our adult study and some other resources about Asperger Syndrome to this family. Finding common issues in a land so far away, without the closeness or resources that we have here in Delaware, really made us appreciate what we have. We are fortunate to live in this state with its educational program and its adult services. While we work to make them better, I will always remember this family in the Babanango Valley that has no expectation that anyone will help their daughter, except themselves. Hopefully, we at ASD can help them feel a little less alone.



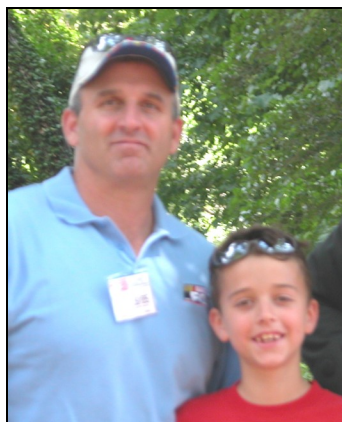
Theda with a child sponsored by Gods Golden Acre (GGA).



Theda with giant aloe plants at the GGA camp.

Who We Are...

In our last issue of The Sun, we introduced everyone to the office staff. This time we are going to introduce to you the current officers of ASD. We will start off with ASD's President, Artie Kempner...



Artie Kempner, President ASD

What do you do?

I am the lead director of Fox Sports NFL coverage. I have the greatest job in the world.

How long have you been with ASD?

I was fortunate enough to be at the inaugural meeting of ASD back in 1997.

Why do you do this?

I believe that to truly help our children and family members with autism, we have to create and sustain an organization that understands their needs. There is strength in numbers and ASD has brought many good people together to be successful. But even more importantly, we must reach outside of the autism community to create broader support in order to reach our goals and help our children. The passion that I share with my wife Marcy, is to give our son Ethan and every other person with autism, a chance to live a happy and rewarding life.



Who We Are...

(Continued from page 3)



Michael Graci, Vice President ASD

What do you do?

I manage the Retirement Services Group for BlackRock, an investment management company. My team is responsible for promoting and servicing BlackRock Mutual Funds clients in pension and 401(k) plans throughout the country.

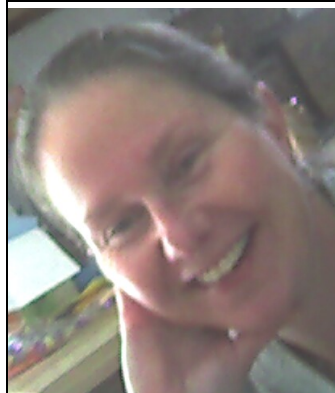
How long have you been with ASD?

My wife, Jane, and I have been members of ASD for five years. I joined the board four years ago. I was Legislative Chair early on, and have been Finance Chair for the last three years. We have both worked on many committees, events and fundraisers over the years.

Why do you do this?

That's easy – we have a 13-year-old son, Tony, and a 15-year-old nephew, Jack, with autism. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to move to Delaware with my company at a time when we were concerned about his education; so I wanted a way to “pay it forward!” The DAP has been terrific for our son; and we have watched ASD's growth over the last five years and been pleased

to be a small part of it. As a family, we're committed to open any door and overcome any obstacle to help improve the lives of those affected by autism.



Karen Bashkow, Secretary, ASD

What do you do?

I am a registered nurse. I also work as a practice specialist for Practice without Pressure. We work with children and adults with disabilities to help them participate in their medical and dental care and personal care needs like haircuts and nail cutting. I also am Wife to Jack and Mom to 3 boys, Ben, 20, Brian 14 and Mike 12.

How long have you been with ASD?

I've been a member since our first year. I've been on the Board about 2 years.

Why do you do this?

I do this to help make the life of my son, Ben, and others with autism the best it can be.

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.
-Booker T. Washington
American Educator
(1856-1915)

John Hupp - Treasurer, ASD



What do you do?

I work for Red Oak Health Care Management. We own, operate and manage long term care and rehabilitation facilities.

How long have you been with ASD?


I've been a member since the beginning.

Why do you do this?


I do this because of my son, Brian. We try to make the lives of our kids better, whether there are challenges or not. Brian is no exception. I want to make a difference in his life.

Welcome to our New ASD Members!


Celístina Jo Dantes




James & Colleen Grier



Robin & Tim Ireland

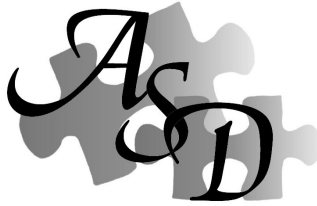


Lisa Mulrooney





Inside The



Google Anyone?

Have you noticed recent problems with our smartgroups e-mail? It isn't always getting through these days, delaying our ability to get information out to the membership. The smartgroup website acknowledges the problems, but they remain unresolved. So, we have packed our bags and moved over to GoogleGroups.com. You have most likely noticed by now that messages are getting out in a more timely manner. The good thing is that we will no longer have to "invite" you to join. You can just send us a notice that you would like to join and we can move forward.

Cruise for a Cause –Volunteer Recognition

We look to the membership for a good turnout for our Spring Fling volunteer Recognition event, called *Cruise for a Cause*. A big thank you should go to our active volunteers who are organizing this event including Laurie Nicoli, Jane Graci and Alison Kortanek. We will be recognizing people and organizations who are working to make the entire community stronger and more welcoming to individuals with autism. Mark April 7th on your calendar to come have some fun, celebrate our community, and to thank all the wonderful people who work so hard to make life better for individuals with autism.

Physician's Awareness

Heidi Mizell is hard at work contacting physicians' offices to schedule the *First Signs* training. She has

also been successful in getting pizza donated to offer for lunch during those presentations. Still, it's a hard sell to get 30 minutes of time in the doctors' offices. It would be very helpful if all of you would talk about the importance of early intervention with your pediatrician. Ask them to set aside 30 minutes for a presentation and let us know the response. We are in this together, and your help will be greatly appreciated.

The 2005 Daniel and Lois Gray Memorial Scholarship

ASD set up this \$1,000 scholarship several years ago for university students who are planning to work with students with autism. This year we introduced it again, and are happy to announce that we have awarded the 2005 Daniel and Lois Gray Memorial Scholarship to Sarah McDowell. A Phi Beta Kappa, Sarah is currently working on her M.Ed. at the University of Delaware and working as a para at the Delaware Autism Program, where she hopes to work as a middle school teacher.

Her major is Exceptional Children & Youth/Secondary Education, and she minors in Autism & Severe Disabilities. She is a member of the Council for Exceptional Children (campus chapter), UD Cycling Club; and has given poster presentations at the TASH conference in 2004 and at the LIFE Conference in 2004 and 2005. She was highly recommended by Dr. Barbara Van Dornick of the Delaware Center for Teacher Education, who feels she is an outstanding student.

Record Cookbooks Sales

ASD would like to give a special big THANKS to Susie Outland, for selling— count them—30 *Recipes of Hope*, the ASD cookbook. She is sister to member Sharrie May and aunt to Georgia. Sister Sharrie says

that Susie sold these cookbooks as a way to show her love for Georgia.

Susie – here is a big THANK YOU! We really appreciate every opportunity to get the word out about autism. Contact the office for information on ASD's Cookbook, *Recipes of Hope*.

The 2006 Daniel and Lois Gray Memorial Scholarship

ASD is currently advertising for the 2006 Scholarship. Criteria for the scholarship is:

- The student must be a full time undergraduate and graduate student majoring in special education, psychology, linguistics, or speech pathology
- The student must have a special interest in people with autism
- The student must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater
- The student must have a faculty recommendation

Those interested may obtain an application through the office. Applications are open through March 15, 2006.

Smart Cookie Day, April 6, 2006

For the fourth year, students around Delaware will be making cookies for their senators and representatives to thank them for all the support they have given to the autism community over the past several years. This year the message will repeat the Valentine's message to support the family support waiver.

ASD is trying to schedule a proclamation for Autism Awareness with the House of Representatives



Inside the ASD

(Continued from page 5)

and we will keep you informed. Please think about coming to Dover with your family for this important legislative event, to ensure that this community receives appropriate legislative attention.

ASD to Co-sponsor Crisis Intervention Training for a State Trooper

In 1988, the Memphis Police Department joined in partnership with the Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI), local agencies, and the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee to organize and train a specialized unit in order to have a more intelligent, understandable, and safe approach to mental health crisis events. Currently known as the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), this program has become the standard for training police officers to deal with crises with individuals with mental health and other behavioral disabilities. ASD and the Arc of Delaware are co-sponsoring Corp. Chuck Sawchenko of the Delaware State Troopers to attend, and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill is also sponsoring an officer.

CIT Program Benefits

Over the past 18 years, Memphis has found these benefits to this training:

- Crisis response is immediate
- Arrests and use of force has decreased
- Underserved consumers are identified by officers and provided with care
- Patient violence and use of restraints in the ER has decreased
- Officers are better trained and educated in verbal de-escalation techniques
- Officer's injuries during crisis events have declined
- Officer recognition and appreciation by the community has increased
- Less "victimless" crime arrests
- Decrease in liability for health care issues in the jail
- Cost savings

Legislative Issues



The Autism Society of Delaware would like to thank the many families across the State of Delaware who participated in this year's Legislative Valentine Campaign.

The Valentine Campaign focus was on the Family Support Waiver. (See message below.) If you did not have a chance to participate in this year's campaign, not to worry, the Smart Cookie Campaign is up next in April and we will need help then too! (See Inside the ASD—Smart Cookie Day.)



Inside of card read as follows:

Our children with disabilities are growing up, but they are not leaving home. Please help our children and our families by funding Delaware's Family Support Waiver. A state investment of \$4 million will help more than 1000 families of children with disabilities to keep their children at home, saving the state money, and helping families remain strong.



Volunteer Recognition and Autism Awareness Events

(Continued from Cover)

Community Award – Wilmington Policy Officers

ASD wants to recognize the wonderful contribution of a group of Wilmington Police Officers who made the Bike Camp happen. For five days these officers ran for several hours a day with children who were learning to ride a bike, and this was often after working a night shift. They came with "smiles on their faces and were positive and upbeat through behavioral outbursts and unfamiliar situations." Parents told us they were thrilled as the kids learned to ride without training wheels. For this "above and beyond" effort for the autism community, we would like to acknowledge Sgt. Gregory Ciotti, M/Cpl. John Burns, M/Cpl, Kevin Conner, Col. Michael Groark, Cpl. Frey Lynch, M/Cpl. Jimmy Ogden, and M/Cpl. Kurt Crawford. Our deepest appreciation goes to these community volunteers who contributed their time, energy, and devotion to our children.

Leadership Award—Kathie Cherry

Serving as the Kent County Liaison and ASD Board Member for seven years, Kathie Cherry has set an example of leadership in both ASD and the autism community. She has served as the primary communication link between ASD and our members in Kent County, doing every job imaginable. This has ranged from hosting meetings to selling cookbooks and awareness pins; arranging Cookie Day; and organizing April Autism Awareness activities. While doing all of this for ASD, she was also a wife and mother to three; she worked full time and shared important information about state laws and regulations with the disability community; AND she served as the President of the Charleton PAC.

ASD has a strong presence in Kent County, thanks to the leadership and efforts of Kathie Cherry. We deeply appreciate all her efforts.

Laurel Perry Smith Outstanding Employer Award—Pyramid Educational Consultants

Pyramid not only offers consulting services and products for educators and parents of children and adults with autism and related disabilities; they also provide employment opportunities to teens and adults. In 2005 they hired a Brennan School graduate full time, with benefits, to work in their warehouse. They also provide a wide range of employment experiences to students with autism, ranging from data input to office work to packaging. These represent both those key first work experiences for many students; and the more intense and sophisticated work experiences that lead to employment as well. Better yet, Pyramid provides the supervision, training and support that students need to be successful in the workplace. For all these reasons, ASD salutes Pyramid for this particular contribution to the autism community.

Steven Shore and Ruth Elaine Hane Headline Adults with Autism Panel

Another major event of Autism Awareness Month is our Panel Discussion by Adults on the Spectrum. We are very pleased to announce that two ASA board members, Ruth Elaine Hane and Steve Shore, will be coming to participate in a panel discussion by adults on the spectrum. Steven and Ruth Elaine worked together on the new book, *Ask and Tell: Self-Advocacy and Disclosure for People on the Autism Spectrum*. This is the first book to speak to the twin issues of self-advocacy and disclosure by people with autism.

While Ruth Elaine and Steve are described as having Asperger Syndrome, their experience and

ability to talk about it at the national level is important for every parent to hear. They will describe their efforts to enter the neuro-typical world and share what did and did not help. Ruth Elaine has been running support groups for teenage girls on the spectrum, and Steven is working on his Ph.D. and speaking at the national level. Both have many accomplishments to commend them. Please join us at the Newark Senior Center on Monday, April 3 at 7 p.m. to hear this panel.

Legislative Committee and Smart Cookie Day

ASD is working together with many other advocacy organizations and agencies, including the Arc of Delaware and the Delaware Association of Rehabilitation Facilities to support the DDDS Family Support Waiver that we highlighted in the last issue. Our message is to fully fund the Family Support Waiver, which costs \$4 million. Those funds will bring in an additional \$4 million from the federal government to support more than 1000 families to keep their adult child at home. This is the opportunity to bring your family to meet legislators, deliver cookies, and to promote the concept of the Family Support Waiver. More than 100 people showed up for the three public meetings on family support in January, and ASD member, Yolanda Flanagan, was quoted in the newspaper. It's very likely that most families of children currently attending the statewide Delaware Autism Program will remain in the family home once school is over. These funds will be critical to meeting the needs of adults who stay at home.

We will be delivering cookies on April 6th to the Legislature. Please contact the office to let us know about your interest in participating.

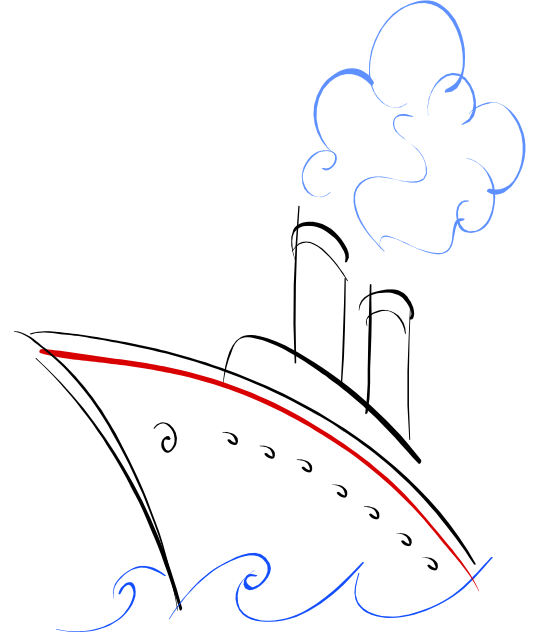
April will be a busy month for all who are involved.



AUTISM SOCIETY OF DELAWARE
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

Cruise for A Cause

April 7, 2006
7:00—11:00 p.m.
Bellevue Hall at Bellevue State Park



Grab a life preserver and help us
RECOGNIZE OUR VOLUNTEERS.

*Join us on the Lido Deck for fun and games at our Casino Caribbean featuring Blackjack, Roulette, Craps and Texas Hold'em Poker.

Tickets: \$35 per person includes one complimentary Antiguan rum punch cocktail, island hors d'oeuvres, and reggae music on the aft deck provided by the Christina River Steel Band.

Duty Free Shopping featuring Autism Awareness Belts and Jewelry. Cash and checks accepted.
Cruise attire encouraged.

** Games are recreational only.
Chips used have no value and cannot be redeemed for money or merchandise.*
Reserve your tickets by returning this form with payment to ASD by March 24, 2006

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Number of tickets _____ I am unable to attend. Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Amount paid _____

Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express are accepted for your convenience.

Credit card number _____

Exp. Date _____

Security Code _____ (The last three digits on the back of your card, last 4 digits for American Express)

___ VISA ___ MC ___ AmEx ___ Discover

Cardholder's name (print) _____ Signature _____

Checks accepted made payable to Autism Society of Delaware.

Mail response to: Autism Society of Delaware
Spring Fling—Cruise for a Cause
5572 Kirkwood Highway - Wilmington, Delaware 19808
(302) 472-2638



Girls Just Wanna Have Fun... Don't Miss Mom's Night Out!!

When? March 21, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.

Where? Pike Creek Bowling Center
5100 Pike Creek Blvd.

Why? Because we can!

How? Call Monica
McMahan at
(302) 235-2101 or



email:m.mcmahan28@comcast.net

**We had over 10 lovely ladies at-
tend our first night out...don't
miss out on all of the action!**

Dad's Night Out



April 19, 2006

Time and Location TBA
(They always wait till the
last minute to plan things!)

Who can go? Dads, Uncles, Grand-
fathers or Friends of those living
with autism.

Interested? Of course you are!

Contact: Artie Kempner
(302) 777-7273
or artie3boys@aol.com

Upcoming Dad's Night Out Dates:
June 27 &
August 22.



The Premiere Celebrity-Am Golf Event in the Mid-Atlantic!

June 1, 2006

DuPont Country Club, Wilmington, Delaware

Sponsorship Opportunities are Now Available!

Contact: Tournament Co-Chair, Artie Kempner (302) 983-6621
Or Event Coordinator, Cheryl Kelley (302) 472-2638, ext 203

Want to help?
Have talents or time to offer?
Become an ASD Volunteer today!

ASD's success is due to all of our wonderful volun-
teers! We have several committees that always need
help, including: *Adult Issues,*
Asperger's, Legislative, Social Events, and many
more... Give us a call today and we will try to match
you up with something that best fits your talents and
interests!
(302) 472-2638.

Next Deadline for Submissions to The Sun:
April 5, 2006

Want to share a story? Have an idea for an
article? Send it to ASD today!

delautism@delautism.org

Or mail it to us.

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

ASD reserves the right to edit for space
and content.





Parent 2 Parent

written by parents
for parents

Where did Tommy go?

By: Jennifer Nardo

We have all had those moments. “Where did Tommy go?” “I thought you were with Jimmy!” “Who left this door open?”

Recently, I read an account from a mom of two teenage children – one of whom has Fragile X Syndrome, like my Jake. She wrote of what happened to her kids that morning on their way to school. Her teenage daughter was driving with her brother when they were stopped in front of the high school by a police officer. The local police have been cracking down on speeding and wanted to give the girl a warning. Her brother immediately pulled up his hood and hid his face from view. The officer got suspicious and started asking questions. In her nervousness, the daughter stammered out an explanation, which, fortunately, satisfied the officer’s curiosity. But, what if...what happens if our kids are alone? What happens if they run away, or can’t speak for themselves?

A few years ago, I was scared into action when my then 5-year-old ran away from me at the Brandywine Arts Festival in Wilmington. (Luckily, he wasn’t far away and was just watching the water go by!) The next school day, I asked his teacher about identification possibilities for him. She gave me the web address for a company who makes ID tags for runners. They

can be secured to the laces of a shoe, the belt loop on pants or wherever makes sense for your child.

The website: www.roadid.com was easy to maneuver and I received the tag pretty quickly. The information on the tag includes his name, our address, home phone, my cell number and his diagnosis.

I also read in the recent issue of *The Advocate* from the National Autism Society about a sticker for the home or even for the car. This warning label alerts emergency professionals that someone with autism

Safety is an ongoing concern for our kids. What we worry about changes daily and with each stage of our children’s lives.

lives in the home. It lists typical behaviors like “might run away”, “might resist help”, “might not respond when called.” This label can be bought online at www.autism-society.org for \$3.

The article also mentioned the importance of calling your non-emergency 911 number so that they can log this information into the computer. I found our local number (NCCo 573-2800 or Sussex Co. 855-7803) and with only one “pass-off”, I was speaking to the appropriate person. The man who spoke with me didn’t “get it” at first, but when I said how I was worried about a fire or other emergency where Jake could be trapped in the house – he completely understood. The first thing he asked me after that was, “Where is his room?”

Safety is an ongoing concern for our kids. What we worry about changes daily and with each stage

of our children’s lives. The more we do to educate the rest of the world about autism and keep vigilant, the better off our sons’ and daughters’ lives will be.

SNAP *Special Needs Alert Program*

WHAT IS SNAP? SNAP identifies special health care needs in the community.

WHO: SNAP lets families meet with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff in the family’s home before they have to make a 911 call. This includes ambulance driver, paramedics, and other professionals.

WHY Enroll Your Child? Together the family and emergency medical service team will determine the child’s most important needs in the event of a 911 call. The SNAP program is free of charge!

HOW to Enroll your Child: Call the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Office at 302-744-5415. Ask to enroll in the SNAP program. EMSC will contact your local emergency medical services and make arrangements for non-emergency home visit to meet the child and family.

Let’s look at a SNAP call to 911. The address is flagged in the 911 system when the call is placed from the home phone. All responding emergency services are notified that this is a SNAP child. The responders can now review the child’s health information and be prepared for arrival to the home.



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Childcare is available at all regular ASD monthly meetings. Please contact the office at 302.472.2638 or delautism@delautism.org two days in advance.

ASD Monthly Meetings

- ▶ **March 8** — ASD Monthly Meeting. 7:00 p.m., Charlton School, Dover. Update on Autism Research Dr. Craig Newschaffer, Johns Hopkins Center of Excellence for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.
- ▶ **April 3** — ASD Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Newark Senior Center. Adult Panel Discussion—Facilitated by Ruth Elaine Hane. Participants include: Steven Shore & Wolf Dunagain.
- ▶ **May 16** — ASD Monthly Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Location TBA. Dr. Laura Donnelly of the DAP will talk about siblings of children with autism and their experiences.

Social Events, Public Awareness & Fundraisers

- ▶ **March 14** — Parent’s Coffee Hour, 9:00 a.m. Crossroads Restaurant, Route 7 & Kirkwood Highway. Coffee is on us! Information on page 16.
- ▶ **March 21** — Mom’s Night Out — Pike Creek Bowling Center 5100 Pike Creek Blvd.— 7 p.m. Contact Monica McMahan at (302) 235-2101. More information on page 9.
- ▶ **March 25** — Skating Party at Christiana Skating Center. 5:15-7:15 p.m. Information on page 16.
- ▶ **April 1** — Easter Egg Hunt—Delcastle Recreational Park 10 a.m. (Bring basket/bag to collect Eggs) (April 2nd is the Rain Date) Information on page 14.
- ▶ **April 7** — Spring Fling “Cruise for a Cause” at Bellevue State Park. Information on page 8.
- ▶ **April 11** — Parent Coffee Hour— Crossroads Restaurant 9 a.m.
- ▶ **April 19** — Dad’s Night Out. Location TBA. Information on page 9.
- ▶ **April 28** — ASD Teen Night DuPont Hospital (1F-51) 6-8 p.m. Information on page 16.
- ▶ **May 9** — Parent’s Coffee Hour, 9:00 a.m. Crossroads Restaurant, Route 7 & Kirkwood Highway. Coffee is on us!
- ▶ **May 20** — ASD Evening with the Wilmington Blue Rocks. Game time 6:05. More information coming.
- ▶ **May 23** — Mom’s Night Out. Location and time TBA.
- ▶ **June 1** — The Drive for Autism Research.

Support Groups

Parents/caregivers of an individual with an autism spectrum disorder are welcome. (Autism, Asperger’s Syndrome, PDD-NOS). The New Castle County evening support group meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every other month and the Kent County evening support group is held on the first Wednesday of each month.

- ▶ **April 18**— ASD New Castle County Support Group, Wilmington. 7:00 p.m. at the ASD office, 5572 Kirkwood Highway. Next N.C.C Support Group will be held on June 20, 2006.

*** Notice: The daytime Middletown support group has been discontinued. If there is anyone who is interested in having a support group in the evenings in the Middletown area, please contact ASD. (302) 472-2638.**

Other Events

- ▶ **April 26, 2006** — *Tony Attwood*, presented by *Future Horizons*. Philadelphia, PA. For information call: 817-277-0727, email: teresa@futurehorizons-autism.com or visit their website: www.futurehorizons-autism.com.
- ▶ **May 11, 2006**—DOE/DATI Inclusion Conference. *University of Delaware*, Clayton Hall. For more information contact DATI, (302) 651-6790, dati@asel.udel.edu or visit their website: www.dati.org.



News From Kent County

By: Kathie Cherry

The dedication ceremony for the newly renovated John S. Charlton (JSC) School was held on Tuesday, January 31, 2006. Principal Pamela Atchison greeted the many guests and presented a brief history on the development of the school, beginning with two students and one teacher at the Delaware Day School in 1956. The Dover Trainables School replaced the Delaware Day School under the direction of Mr. John S. Charlton. In 1963, a new building was opened and the name of the school was changed to Kent County School for Trainables.

The Kent County School for Trainables was renamed the John S. Charlton School in honor of Mr. John S. Charlton's twenty-one years of dedicated service to Delaware's children challenged by disabilities.

Currently, the Charlton has an enrollment of 206 students served by a staff of over 100 teachers, paraprofessionals and therapists. Caesar Rodney Superintendent, Harry Roberts and Assistant Superintendent, Victor P. Valeski spoke about the growth of the program, the need for the renovations and all that was done to make the renovations possible. Dr. Roberts credited former Caesar Rodney Superintendent; David Robinson with having the vision to see what needed to be done at the Charlton.

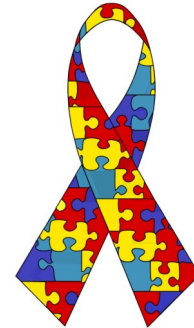
Mr. Robinson also thanked Dover Air Force Base for allowing the program to use space in Arnold Elementary and Air Base Middle School during the renovations. Lauren Padgett, former chairperson of the Parent Advisory Committee of the Delaware Autism Program at Charlton, represented the parents and spoke of the former overcrowding of the building, the dedication of the

staff, and the support given by the district and our state legislators to obtain the funding for the project, particularly funding for the pool.

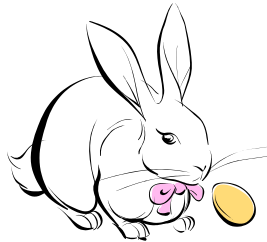
The National Anthem was sung by former JSC student, James Brooks and teacher, David Manwiller led his class and the audience in a couple of interactive songs. Refreshments and a tour of the building completed the ceremony. We are so grateful and so proud of our new school.

April is Autism Awareness Month!

Autism Awareness Lapel Pins are available for purchase through ASD. \$12.00 Each.



To get your pin you can stop by the office or mail us a check. (Contact info on page 2.)



ASD Spring Egg Hunt!

ASD will sponsor a Spring Egg Hunt at Delcastle Recreation Center, located on McKennan's Church Road across from Delcastle Golf Course.

April 1, 2006

(Rain date, April 2)

10:00 a.m.

We will have egg hunts for children age six and under, and one for children who are seven to eleven years old. This is an egg hunt only, so there will be no refreshments.

Please RSVP by March 30, 2006 with the number of children you are bringing. Brothers and sisters are welcome! This will be a short event, so being on time will be critical!!

Contact: ASD, (302) 472-2638 or delautism@delautism.org



Relationship Tips for Autistic Families

Submitted by Kathy Labosh

Dear Friends,

Autism puts terrible strains on marriages and love relationships. To that end, here are some tips from the book, "The Child with Autism at Home", the Master Bedroom Chapter.

1. Thank your spouse often for things you've taken for granted. Going to work, watching the kids, and putting food on the table are necessary things for a family's survival. A major cause of discontent is the feeling of being unappreciated. You can make your spouse's life brighter simply by noticing what he or she does for the family.

2. Tell your spouse what you admire about them. We all have flaws, but we also have our strengths. When we are feeling down and inadequate, it is good to be reminded of our strengths and how far we have come.

3. Each spouse should have at least one night of the week that they can count on to be their own. It is important to have a break from the responsibilities of work and home. It needs to be something they can plan on and look forward to.

4. Join a group that has nothing to do with autism and everything to do about you. It could be a bowling league, church choir, a sports team or an exercise class. It is there that you can have fun and meet people who could become part of a support team for you and your family.

5. Check to see if your local Office of Mental Health has any funds for respite care. They sometimes provide a list of qualified providers.

6. Arrange regular time away from the kids as a couple. You are different people when you are relieved of the responsibility of caring for the kids. You need to see that underneath all the stress, the two of you can still connect.

7. Realize that your child's autism may have a genetic component. One or both of you may be mildly autistic. That person's abilities to cope with certain stresses might be impaired. You need to be patient with yourself and your spouse.

8. Understand that your spouse is not superman or superwoman. Your emotional needs are not going to be fully met by your spouse. They do love you; one person just cannot meet all the demands that are placed on them.

9. Redefine love in terms of commitment rather than romantic ideals. The children will probably eat the candles and destroy the flowers. Love is about doing what it takes to keep the family on solid ground and caring about what happens to the other person.

I hope you enjoyed these tips. There are many more in "The Child with Autism at Home". It is available on the website www.laboshpublishing.com for \$6.00.



I'm in a glass box
in motion

By: Nicole Curran

**I can see the world around
me.**

**...But sometimes I don't
always know my way.**

**I can hear the world
around me.**

**...But sometimes it's not
so clear.**

**I can touch the world
around me.**

**...But sometimes I sense
the pain.**

**I can smell the world
around me.**

**...But sometimes it
wrinkles my nose.**

**I can taste the world
around me.**

**..But sometimes it feels
like sand.**

**I'm in a glass box in mo-
tion, that only I can
understand.**



The Best Thing I Did in 2005, That You Can Do in 2006

By: Beverly Greene

Make Plans to attend a Conference.

It's been three years since the GottaGo Moms traveled to meet at another Autism Conference. This time it was the National Autism Association (NAA) First Annual 3-day conference held at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center, South Carolina on November 10-13, 2005. From cutting-edge research of environmental toxins to dietary intervention, educational programs, legal and legislative strategies to sensory integration, the world's most renowned doctors and researchers shared their knowledge and expertise with parents searching for the latest autism trends, therapies and treatment.

NAA Executive Director, Jo Pike, kicked off the theme of the conference, summed up in one word "Believe". "As parents we will never give up believing that someday somehow it will be that one breakthrough that will help all of our children — No Guessing, No Puzzle Pieces, No Resistance".

It was a wonderful experience to be among parents and professionals who are dealing with autism in many creative and positive ways.

The conference offered a very thorough, balanced attempt to convey information and practical support to those affected by this

complex condition. I personally felt inspired by parents' testimony, empowered by the dedication and perseverance of the medical professionals and other supporters in the fight to cure autism now. This vital information that was presented renewed my faith of strength, courage and wisdom on this journey to recovery.

Arriving on Thursday we met for Meet & Greet function at the Radisson Hotel. On Friday evening we got a chance to mingle with David Kirby, author of "Evidence of Harm," and Saturday night it was fun at NAA's LIFE'S A BEACH Dinner/Dance Party honoring Bernard Rimland Ph.D.

ASD is only able to highlight a few of the presentations that Bev attended. Here are a few excerpts from a few of the speakers.

Vincent Carbone, Ph.D.

The Benefits of Adding B.F. Skinner's Analysis of Verbal Behavior to an ABA Program.

What the Expert Said:

B.F. Skinner's (1957) definition of verbal behavior as behavior that is reinforced through the mediation of another person's behavior and therefore differentiates it from nonverbal responding. Any response from that is altered in strength through consequences provided by another person constitutes verbal behavior; e.g., pointing, speaking, pictures exchange manual, sign, writing, etc.

What characterizes the approach?

Breaking down expressive/receptive language.

Primary Verbal Operant

- Mind—asking for the reinforcer that you want.
- Tack—naming or identifying objects, actions or events.

- Echoic—repeat what is heard.
- Intraverbal—answering questions or having a conversation.

Failure to access language expressive category may, in fact, lead to major gaps in verbal and language repertoire.

Frank Lawlis, Ph.D.

Alternative Approaches to the Dual Diagnosis of ADHD and Autism.

What the Expert Said:

A Neuro-Training program for ADHD

Teaching the ADD/ADHD individual begins at the brain level—awakening the frontal lobes to discoveries through concentration and focus.

Methods to awaken the brain:

- Music — singing and listening
- Movement—exercise
- Bio Acoustical Utilization Device
- Nutrition

Detoxing the brain:

- Awareness of environmental poisons
- Awareness of food sensitivities
- Natural detoxing behaviors
- Supplements
- The third brain

Physical Exercises

- Stimulation exercise
- Tension Release
- Balancing
- Optic exercise
- Psycho-motor stimulation
- Finger writing exercise
- Chewing gum

ASD Options Policy

All information provided or published by the Autism Society of Delaware (ASD) is for informational purposes only. Reference to any treatment or therapy option or to any program, service or treatment provider is not an endorsement by ASD.

You should investigate alternatives that may be more appropriate for a specific individual. ASD assumes no responsibility for the use made of any information published or provided by ASD.



Para to Teacher Award Program 2005-2006

The Autism Society of Delaware is pleased to announce a special **Para to Teacher Award Program**. This program is intended to provide an award to a paraprofessional whose primary assignment has been to work with students with autism in a public school setting, and who has completed training as a special education teacher in the past two years. The amount awarded will depend upon the number of successful applicants.



Who is eligible

- Any paraprofessional employed full-time at least one school year since September 2005.
- Primary assignment must be with students with autism.
- Must have completed requirements for certification as a Special Education Teacher between May 1, 2005 and August 31, 2006.

Application Process

Please include the following with your application:

- A current Curriculum Vita
- An unofficial transcript indicating that you have completed your course requirements as a special education teacher.
- A letter of support from your supervisor attesting to your work with students with autism.
- A cover letter describing your experiences working with exceptional students in general (and students with autism in particular), and your plans for the future.

Applicants will be reviewed by the Autism Society of Delaware and the DAP Statewide Director. A first round of awards will be presented at the ASD Spring Fling Night "Cruise for a Cause" on April 7, 2006 for applications received by March 10, 2006.

Please send application to:

Theda Ellis, Executive Director
Autism Society of Delaware
Para to Teacher Award
5572 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, DE 19808

*From what we get,
We can make a living;
What we give, however,
Makes a life.*

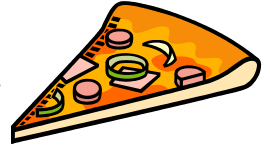
*Arthur Ashe,
American Tennis Player
(1943-1993)*



ASD Teen Game Night!

For Individuals with HFA/AS

Game nights will be held at the
DuPont Hospital for Children
In room 1F-51 (back of cafeteria) from 6 p.m.—8 p.m.
Come join us for Pizza and Games!



Teen nights will be held on: April 28th, May 19th, June 23rd

Please RSVP for the April 28th game night by April 26th.
Call the office at: (302) 472-2638.

This game night is intended for teens ages 13-19.

Hope we see you there!



The Second Tuesday of Every Month

Crossroads Restaurant, Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington.

Moms, Dads, Grandparents or Anyone with a connection to autism is welcome to attend. Little Ones not in School? No Problem, Bring Them Along, too.

Just Show Up at 9 a.m. and Ask for the Autism Table

PARENT'S COFFEE HOUR



Coffee on US!

There are only two ways to live your life: One is as though nothing is a Miracle, the other, Is as if everything is.

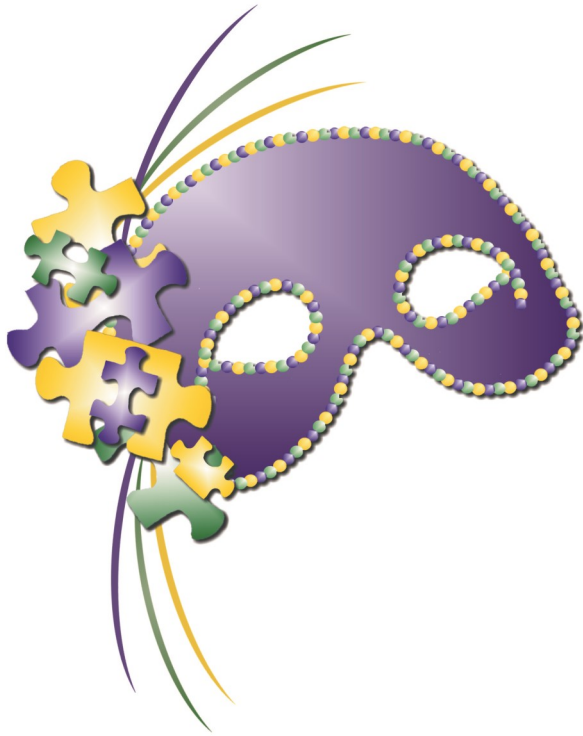
-Albert Einstein
(1879-1955)

ASD Roller Skating Party

March 25, 2006
Christiana Skating Center,
(Route 273), Newark
5:15—7:15 p.m.



Admission is Free! \$2-3 Skate Rentals. Snack Bar is Open. Autism Friendly Lights and Music. Bring Friends and Family. All are Welcome. Facility is Closed to the Public. No RSVP needed.



Autumn Auction for Autism Unmasking Autism

October 21, 2006

Greenville Country Club

The Auction Committee
needs your help!

Looking for an easy way to help ASD? The Autumn Auction for Autism Committee has the perfect job for you! We are looking for volunteers to go out into the community to solicit items for the auction.

If this sounds like a job for you, call us today. We need items collected starting in the spring and into the summer.

Contact: Cheryl or Judy (302) 472-2638
and we will get you started today!

Autism Society of America Membership Application

Please enroll me in the following category:

Student \$15 Individual \$30 Family \$40 Outside USA \$50 Professional \$100 Agency \$500
 Life \$1,500

I am a new member I am renewing membership

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____ Email: _____

Employer or professional background: _____

I am joining through ASA's local chapter named the Autism Society of Delaware.

I am a: Parent Family Member Service Provider Educator Medical Professional
 Individual with Autism Other (please describe): _____

Yes! Please add my name to the mailing list to receive ASD's newsletter *The Sun*. (***This is for families who do not receive The Sun through DAP Distribution only please.***)

My membership fee is.....

I would also like to contribute this amount directly to ASD

Total amount enclosed (add both amounts).....

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

Date: _____

Please make your check payable to the Autism Society of Delaware to

aware (ASD) and send the check and application to

ASD, 5572 Kirkwood Highway Wilmington, DE 19808. All membership fees and contributions are tax deductible.

The Autism Society of Delaware
5572 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, DE 19808

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The Voice of Autism in Delaware

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