

The Sun

Newsletter

April - June 2010

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Spring Speaker Series Emphasizes Research Findings

Sensory integration dysfunction/sensory processing disorder exists when sensory signals don't get organized into appropriate responses. Pioneering occupational therapist and neuroscientist A. Jean Ayres, Ph.D., compared these conditions to a neurological "traffic jam" that prevents certain parts of the brain from receiving the information needed for daily events (Ayres, 1972 & 2005).

Sensory integration allows a person to organize sensations from the environment and from within a person's body to engage in meaningful activities such as play or self-care.

depression, anxiety, OCD, environmental toxicities, and much more. In 2009 she published three books for children about the medical issues of autism from a biomedical perspective. Her belief is that genetics does not cause epidemics...so what does?

Dr. Love's presentation will be completed by the time this issue comes out, but you may learn more about her at <http://www.autismbusters.com/>.

Representing another perspective will be Dr. John Moeschler, who comes to us through collaboration with Christiana Care, the Interagency Coordinating Council, and the Center for Disabilities Studies. Board certified in pediatrics and medical genetics, Dr. Moeschler is a Professor of Pediatrics at Dartmouth Medical School; the Director of the Division of Clinical Genetics, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth. He has a longstanding interest in clinical genetics, congenital malformations, developmental disabilities, and dysmorphology (the study of birth defects that affect the anatomy) as well as interest in public health and healthcare improvement. His research focuses on individuals with disabilities, neurodevelopmental disabilities and the delineation of genetic syndromes. He will be speaking on the genetics of autism and autistic spectrum disorders and the importance of early identification.

(Continued on page 4)

Autism Delaware is bringing a series of speakers to talk about their autism research and practice, representing a range of perspectives and positions. Dr. Janelle Love, our first speaker, is a parent and a board certified family physician who practices with a functional medicine approach. After her son's autism diagnosis, Dr. Love investigated the potential therapies for problems children with autism have, particularly looking at inflammation, infections, food intolerances, oxidative stress, and environmental triggers these children face.

As she changed her approach, she learned that many of the therapies for the kids with autism helped other conditions for adults and typical children. Her training has lead to treating individuals for severe neurological conditions such as ALS, MS, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, fibromyalgia, ADHD, allergies,

NASCAR FOUNDATION WALK, May 15
DOVER DOWNS INTERNATIONAL
SPEEDWAY. Bobby Labonte and Krista
Voda...more on page 3.



Our Mission

Autism Delaware is a community of 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.



The Sun

A publication of Autism Delaware

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President's Column

Rob Gilsdorf, Board President

As you all know, this is going to be another extremely challenging year for budgeting in our state. I would like to start my message this issue by passing along a special thank you to Autism Delaware's Legislative Committee. This committee has been highly focused on assuring the best possible state budgetary outcome for our autism community this year. At this time we have learned that graduates of Delaware Autism Program will get funding for adult services... such a critical need. Additionally, Autism Delaware developed legislation that was introduced this session that would require insurance coverage for autism-related treatment and services. To find out more, call our office or visit our website. There are so many things going on at Autism Delaware! Please consider getting better connected with your organization, we need your help in many different ways!

As parents, family members and friends associated with autism, we come across many forms of literature and information that help us understand and deal with our disappointment, anger, fear and anticipation of/from autism. Each information point leaves us a bit different-minded, or so it seems. After reading Laura Shumaker's "A Regular Guy," I began thinking about my son Andrew a bit differently, second-guessing what we may have done right or wrong as he grew into his now 20 years. I would like to share with you my new understanding that my Andrew is also just a regular guy. Sure he stims, perseverates and has occasional inappropriate outbursts but after reading Laura's book I came to realize how regular he is inside. Most noticeable is his desire to blend into his peer group. Picking out his own clothes, caring about his complexion and how he looks, all regular things a young adult does. The "Ah ha" for me was that I was always thinking about how Andrew was different from everyone else to the point that

I did not appreciate how much he was also like everyone else.

I really enjoyed the book and thought I would share the experience I had after reading

it. For younger parents I can see how it would be a good glimpse into the lives of a family growing with autism from birth to adulthood. You may want to try it out if you have not read it. You are welcome to borrow our copy!

The value of our organization is expressed in so many ways. We are doing great things, helping so many people.. I still believe the most significant value each of us brings to our community is ourselves, our experiences and our willingness to support each other. So please take every opportunity to reach out when you need help and reach out when you can give it to others... it matters a lot, thank you for being there with us and for us!

Please keep in touch and help us make our organization better every day!

Volunteerism – We need more of your personal time to grow and improve services this year. Please call us at 302-224-6020 and make a commitment to contribute your time for at least one upcoming event or project.

Advocacy – State budgets are being cut at alarming rates, and our elected officials need our help so they make the required cuts in the least harmful way. We will be in Dover again this year—will you join us?

Together we will thrive, not just survive, in the troubled economy we face. Thank you in advance for helping us help people and families affected by autism in Delaware.



A Service of Autism Delaware



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**NASCAR FOUNDATION TRACK WALK
DOVER DOWNS INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY
SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010**

**Join Autism Delaware on the track in Dover
and walk the Monster Mile with NASCAR
Driver Bobby Labonte and Fox Broadcaster
Krista Voda!**

This is a perfect opportunity for families who wish to be part of the walk but who could not make it to Wilmington on April 10. Event fee is \$30 online or \$35 at the track. Children under the age of 14 may walk free with a paying adult. Check in early at the NASCAR Foundation booth to get your wristband and t-shirt (while supplies last.) Collect donations from friends and family members to earn prizes from Autism Delaware.

More information is available at:

<http://foundation.nascar.com>



Bobby Labonte has been racing since 1969 when he started out at the age of 5 in quarter midget cars. He is the only driver to have won the Sprint Cup in 2000, the Nationwide Championship in 1991, and the IROC series title in 2001. Bobby is the current driver of the #71 Tax Slayer car and is a longtime supporter of Autism Delaware, attending the Drive for Autism since its inception in 2001.



Krista Voda can be seen each week on the Fox network as part of the Emmy-winning NASCAR on Fox broadcasting team. Krista can also be seen on the SPEED Channel covering various NASCAR events and has been hosting the new Speed Channel show Race Hub. Krista is also a longtime supporter of Autism Delaware.

Spring Speaker Series Emphasizes Research Findings

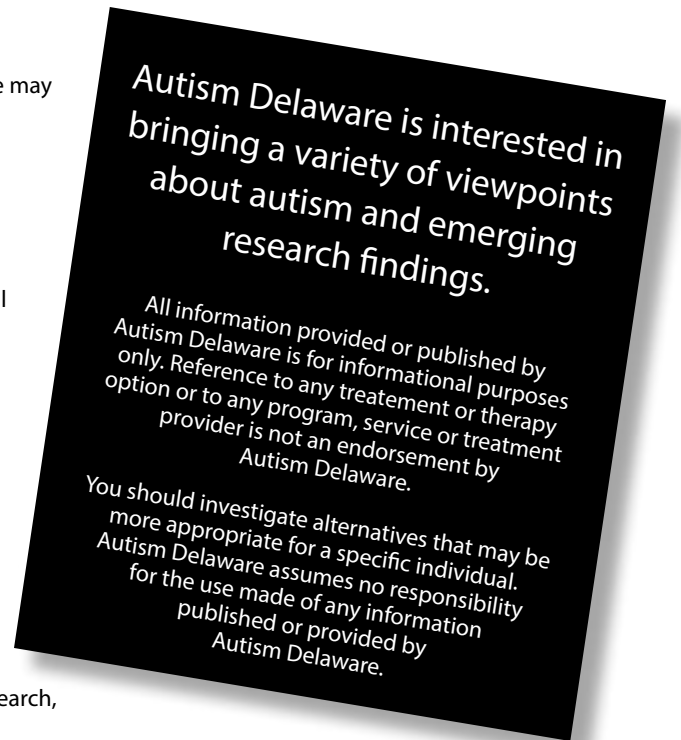
(Continued from Cover)

Dr. Moeschler recently wrote in an e-mail to Citizen, "Clearly the cause of autism can be genetic, but the mechanisms appear to be complex and there may be 'environmental' factors that remain elusive."

Dr. Moeschler will be speaking at the Christiana Care Ammon Center on April 12 at 7 pm. This session will be free to the entire public.

Our last speaker, Kimberly Mollo, a graduate assistant at the Sensory Integration Laboratory, a research center of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Thomas Jefferson University will represent Dr. Roseann Schaaf, an internationally recognized expert in sensory integration in occupational therapy and known academically for her research in pediatric occupational therapy. Most parents of children with autism know their child has some sensory issues but we continue hear there is no such thing. Fortunately, there is a developing body of literature to support the parent's view. Dr. Schaaf's intent is to increase knowledge of sensory processing and its effect on children and adults. The Sensory Lab examines the physical reaction to sensations, and behavioral markers of sensory reactivity through questionnaires and interviews about everyday activities and sensory preferences. The Lab is also looking at the effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions for sensory integration/sensory processing disorders. Kimberly will be talking about the findings of their research, and bringing suggestions about what parents can do at home.

Kimberly will be speaking on May 19 at 7 pm at the Autism Delaware meeting following the Brennan School PAC. All are invited.



Welcome to the following new members...

Mrs. Nneka P. Adzadu

Namuliza Akemba

* Mr. Patrick Allen

Mr. & Mrs. Giancarlo Amente

Ms. Jennifer Aulen

* The Honorable & Mrs. George H. Bunting, Jr.

Mr. Phillip M. Casale

Ms. Wendy Chavis

Ms. Susan Collins

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Donofrio

Ms. Susan Downes

* Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Forrest

* Mr. & Mrs. Bob Gilsdorf

Ms. Jennie Gosk

Ms. Lilly Harlow

Mrs. Melissa Hunter

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Koch

Ms. Shannon Loretto

Ms. Alice Lymon

Ms. Barbara Mitchell

Ms. Janice Nelson

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Reeves

Ms. Celia Ross

Mr. John Schelich

* Ms. Karen Shaud

Ms. Nicole Thompson

Mr. Rick Warther

Mr. Sheldon Waters & Ms. Rosalie Martizana



*Indicates Silver
Membership

Legislative Corner

Roy LaFontaine of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services announced at the Joint Finance Committee that the state will fund the 77 special school graduates for 2011. This was a major concern, and Autism Delaware banded together with all the provider and advocacy agencies to support this funding.

Thanks to the folks who testified at the hearings or who showed up to support us. Mike Bashkow, mom Karen, and Ben opened the testimony followed by Barry Sipple with his wife Angie and son Jacob. Pat Swanson and Mark Churra also testified about what it means to have services. Now our efforts need to turn to three other issues.



1. SB204 will require insurance coverage for basic therapies for children with autism. Insurance coverage will help our kids get speech, physical and occupational therapy and ABA based therapies. Insurance is needed not only to supplement therapies provided through the DAP, but even more for children educated in their home schools. By helping our families pay for these critically needed therapies, SB204 will reduce the reliance on public resources.

2. Reinstate the \$2.9 million that was cut from the DDDS budget. DDDS has sustained a 5% cut to their core budget which primarily supports adults with disabilities.

These cuts will affect psychiatric services, dental and other health-related services. Cuts in psychiatric services will reduce medication monitoring, which becomes a health and safety issue because our adults often take a variety of psychotropic drugs with long term effects. And finally, basic provider rates may be cut to expand the number of people served. Providers have not had an increase in rate since 2002 and have already covered increases in utilities, gasoline, food, and wages. An additional cut in rates will impact staff and the quality of service.

Additionally, there are emergency funds budgeted for only six or seven individuals to enter residential placement. Typically DDDS has up to 40 emergency placements each year. Without that funding, how can they support an adult whose parent dies or becomes unable to care for their adult child? Emergencies won't go away! Where will the people who need help go?

3. School funding issues. We need to ensure that changes to Title 14 regarding staffing for special education students in Delaware schools will not reduce the access of Delaware Autism Program students to speech language pathologists or school psychologists. The move to needs-based funding is changing the safety net that students with autism have had for the past 30 years that ensures the ratio of speech therapists and psychologists. Losses in these services will impact the program.

We need you to get involved. Please check our website at <http://www.delautism.org/Advocacy/advocacygetinvolved.html> where an action kit has been posted and is being kept updated as issues change or progress. Join the legislative committee. Meet with your legislators and host a meeting with legislators and other parents. Write letters. We must work together and our voice must be unified with many speakers bringing up the same issues.

16th Annual Keys to Inclusion Conference

The Keys to Inclusion conference will be taking place on Thursday, May 6, 2010 from 8:00 A.M. to 3:15 P.M. at the Sheraton Dover Hotel and Conference Center. Dr. Paula Kluth will be giving the keynote address on "Dwelling in Possibility: The Values, Beliefs and Habits of Inclusive Schools." Registration starts at 8, and the welcome and keynote speeches are from 8:45-10:00 A.M. Workshops run from 10:15 A.M. to 3:15 P.M. and lunch is provided on-site. Registration is available online at www.dati.org/events. Be sure to register early, because space is limited! Cost is \$35 per person, \$17.50 for full-time students. For more information, call 1 (800) 870-DATI and select the option for Kent.

Workshops included: Joyful Learning: Using Active & Collaborative Techniques to Engage Students, Improving Academic and Behavioral Outcomes for Students with Challenging Behavior: Classroom Management Practices That Work, Sensory Integration & Behavior: Understanding the Signs and Strategies to Improve Young Children's Success, Accessible Instructional Materials: Opening the Curriculum for the Benefit of All Learners, and Making it Meaningful: Access to the General Education Curriculum for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities.



DDDS Webpage Devoted to Autism

As we advised last summer, DDDS is developing an Autism and Asperger Resource Center without any funding, which is a challenge. A small group, including Melissa Tice Martin of LDAF, Theda Ellis of Autism Delaware, Melinda South of Keystone and Kent Riegel serve on this group. The first accomplishment has been to get a website up and running that is devoted to autism and Asperger resources in Delaware and autism websites around the country. The site is at <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/ddds/aar.html>. It's in the beginning stages so look for improvements and additions over time.

Another goal is to make sure information about adult services is more easily accessible. DDDS will be posting their Guide to Developmental Disabilities Services shortly, which gives an excellent overview of adult services for folks with developmental disabilities and how to access the adult system.

Everyone is concerned about the issue of training in this environment with such a great need and very few resources. The Advisory Group is looking at online training resources and how we can pool our efforts to make online training on autism more affordable and more accessible to parents and service providers. Online training has been very well developed both through the College of Direct Supports and Innovative Learning. The benefit is that learning can take place at your convenience, then supplemented with a mentoring/coaching trainer on an itinerant basis. It does away with the need for programs to have their own full time training staff and the need to send people to a central place.

And finally, we are looking for two or three parents or adults with autism who would be willing to serve on this committee to bring your perspective. The group meets once each month for two hours. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Carl Wexler at DDDS either at carl.wexler@state.de.us or (302) 836-2100.

We'll keep you advised as we move forward.



Autism Delaware's Fourth Annual Walk for Autism April 10, 2010

Bellevue State Park, Wilmington

Thank You!



INSIDE Autism Delaware

The AWARES group is a pilot group sponsored by Autism Delaware for adults with Asperger's. The name stands for Adults with Asperger's Recreation, Education and Social and the intent is to offer recreation opportunities and support in social areas for the Asperger's community. The group is governed by its members and facilitated by POW&R staff Rachel Donaldson and Shaheda Pine and Public Ally Colin Barratt.

The pilot group will last through April while the group figures out its direction. Folks are meeting four times a month with two planning meetings and two recreation activities. Meetings take place at the Autism Delaware office the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30pm. Topics of discussion and recreation sites are chosen by the members. The group usually starts with an icebreaker activity, followed by the topic of the evening and discussion. One of the benefits of the group is to provide a safe environment for members to discuss the issues and challenges they are facing as well as to have some fun.

Meetings are open to anyone who is 18 and over. The group has already grown to eight members and is growing quickly. We encourage anyone interested in joining AWARES or looking for more information to contact Rachel or Shaheda at 302-224-6020.

Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza Event

Autism Delaware greatly benefitted from the connection between Hall of Fame Pro Football Quarterback Dan Marino and Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza in north Wilmington. Marino is a partner in this rapidly growing Florida based chain. Dan shows up for Anthony's opening events, and the restaurant chooses a local charity to benefit. In this case they chose Autism Delaware because Dan has a son with autism. The Dan Marino Foundation, Dan's own organization researches transition issues so the match was a great fit! Anthony's gave us 50 tickets for supporters to attend a great dinner of wings, salad and pizza. As if that weren't enough, Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza awarded us \$2,500 as a sponsorship for the Walk for Autism and Dan Marino signed two footballs and auctioned them – throwing them across the restaurant to the winners, thrilling us all.

We took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Tony Casale for his contributions to Autism Delaware over the years. Tony has been a guiding force and a major sponsor of the Walk. So we had a great party, met Dan Marino, thanked Tony and got to eat pizza as well. What a great time!

POW&R Is Moving South

POW&R should be getting established in Kent County through a satellite job site at Dover Downs in the late spring of 2010. Matt Linder will be the lead staff person, and he'll be working initially with current POW&R participants. This opportunity allows us to expand without requiring additional resources. Matt will continue

to be housed out of our Newark office. By being able to establish a work site in a community business, it offers POW&R the opportunity to have a clustered site for job assessment, training and placement in Kent County. We want to thank Pete Bradley and Mark Rossi of Dover Downs for making this possible. Once we are well established at Dover Downs, we will look to expand in Kent County.

Additionally, the board is making a commitment to establish POW&R in Sussex County by June 2012. This will depend on two things – that we can attract participants and families to choose POW&R as their service provider, and that the state continues funding for adult services. Our goal is to start with one or two adults and hopefully some students through the Early Start to Supported Employment and build slowly, as we have done in New Castle County. Local families are working with us to identify potential funding sources and to write grants to help with start-up costs. The Lower Delaware Autism Foundation is working closely with us to make this happen as well. Cross your fingers; say a prayer, and help us expand this service statewide.

charles **SCHWAB**
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**Schwab is proud to sponsor
Autism Delaware.**

For more information, contact:

Thomas Forrest

President

Personal Trust Services Division of

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PARENT PARENT

written by parents for parents

Lindt USA Announces 'Lindt Unsung Heroes of Autism'

Program Honors Extraordinary Individuals within the Autism Community

Press Release Source: Lindt Chocolate On Tuesday March 23, 2010, 11:35 am EDT

STRATHAM, N.H., March 23 /PRNewswire/ --Lindt Chocolate, the world's leading producer of premium chocolate, today announces the 2010 Lindt Unsung Heroes of Autism. Three individuals have been selected from an exceptional group of nominees and are being recognized and honored as extraordinary champions for those affected by autism in their families, homes and communities.



The nominations for the 2nd annual Lindt Unsung Heroes of Autism were reviewed by a panel of judges from Lindt and Parents magazine, and the 2010 winners all demonstrated an unwavering dedication to helping those who have been affected by autism. The three honorees will each be awarded \$5,000 and receive a trip to New York to attend an awards luncheon at The New York Palace hotel in their honor on April 1, 2010, the first day of National Autism Awareness Month.

- Lisa Lane of Greenville, S.C. helped to establish the Project HOPE Foundation to serve those affected by autism.
- Elizabeth Ritchie of Knoxville, Tenn. has a strong passion for educating others about autism and is responsible for securing several grants for autism research and education.
- Elizabeth Scheinberg of Newark, Delaware recognized the need in her community for sustainable recreation in a safe and secure learning environment. She founded "The Merry Otters," a club that provides free recreational swimming and social events for families affected by autism. As the silent auction committee chair, she has helped raise more than \$60,000 for her local autism support organization. In 2009, she was elected to the Christina School District's Board of Education, as a champion for all children and their educators. Scheinberg is a passionate advocate and volunteer dedicated to promoting autism awareness and acceptance.

"We are thrilled to honor this year's Lindt Unsung Heroes of Autism, who were all inspired by their own children with autism," said Thomas Linemayr, chief executive officer and president, Lindt USA "We're proud to give these extraordinary individuals the recognition they deserve and look forward to honoring them on April 1."

In addition to the Lindt Unsung Heroes program, Lindt has partnered with Autism Speaks to support those affected by autism by raising funds and awareness for the cause. Lindt is supporting Autism Speaks this Easter season with a 10 cent donation from all Lindt Gold Bunny purchases and a \$1 donation for every free e-card from LindtGoldBunny.com. On April 1, 2010, Lindt is launching an online auction of celebrity-signed Lindt Gold Bunny porcelain figures at www.ebay.com/LindtGoldBunny with 100 percent of proceeds benefiting Autism Speaks. For more information, please visit: <http://www.lindtgoldbunny.com>

About Lindt & Sprungli

Founded in 1845, Lindt & Sprungli is a global leader in the premium chocolates, offering high-quality products in more than 80 countries. Lindt & Sprungli operate eight production facilities in Europe and the United States and employ 6,300 worldwide. Lindt USA have over 70 retail stores throughout the country and maintain wide distribution through extensive retail and wholesale channels. For more information on Lindt, visit <http://www.lindtusa.com>.

For more about Autism Speaks visit: www.autismspeaks.com

New Castle County Parent Coffee Hour 9:00 a.m.

Join us on the second Tuesday of every month at Prince On Delaware at 124 Delaware Ave in Historic Old New Castle. Take a break, enjoy the lovely scenery and meet up with other parents who understand what you are going through. Pastries and fruits provided by Prince and coffee/tea provided by Autism Delaware.

Young children not in school are welcome! Next Coffee dates at Prince are April 13, May 11, & June 8.

No RSVP necessary, just show up and relax for an hour or two and hopefully make a few new friends!



Milford Skating Party

May 22, 2010

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Milford Skating Center

Sensory friendly. Parents can wear regular shoes on skate floor to better assist their children with learning to skate! No RSVP required. Free admission. \$2.50 rental fee for skates.



Teen/Tween Game Night

Game night provides a fun, safe, facilitated environment for teens and tweens to participate in activities with peers, giving them the opportunity to develop and generalize social skills such as: turn taking, sharing, following groups rules, expected behavior in group settings and how to win and loose graciously. Ages 9-19. RSVP to Heidi Mizell (302) 224-6020, ext 205

May 14, May 30, June 18, July 16,
August 13.
774 Christiana Road, Newark



Autism Delaware's Annual Beach Party Picnic!

August 15, 2010

Cape Henlopen State Park

Lewes, Delaware

10:00 - 4:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

Food served from 11:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m.

We provide the hamburgers, hotdogs, rolls, & condiments and paper products. You bring your favorite beverage, and a side dish to share. Oh, and don't forget the kids and all of your beach gear too!

RSVP no later than Monday, August 9 as space is limited and so we have time to purchase enough supplies.

(302) 224-6020 or delautism@delautism.org

Christiana Skating Party

September 18, 2010

5:15-7:15 p.m.

Christiana Skating Center

Sensory friendly. Parents can wear regular shoes on skate floor to better assist their children with learning to skate! No RSVP required. Free admission. \$2.00-\$3.00 rental fee for skates.

Save the Date! September 19, 2010



Catch and Release Bass Tournament

Office Closed

The Autism Delaware & POW&R office will be closed on the following days:

May 31 - Memorial Day

July 5 - Independence Day (Observed)

September 6 - Labor Day

Save The Date!

Autumn Auction
November 13, 2010
DuPont Country Club
More Info Coming...

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

Community Meetings

April

April 7, 14, 21, 28 – N.C.C. Family Bowling Night. Join us every Wednesday night at AMF Price Lanes at Prices Corner on Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, 5:30 pm. No commitments. Pay after you play. Play as many or as few games as you like. Bumpers, ramps and special discounts available. Game room and snack bar open. Parents, siblings and friends are welcome to bowl.

April 10 – Walk for Autism. For details see page 6.

April 12 – Speaker Series. For details, see page 4.

April 13 – N.C.C. Parent Coffee Hour. For details, see page 8.

April 16 – Teen/Tween Game Night. Board and card games for children with Asperger’s Syndrome, PDD-NOS or NVLD. Ages 9-19. 6:30-8:15 pm. Neurology Associates, 774 Christiana Rd., Newark.

April 20 – Milford Parent Coffee Hour. Join us along with other parents, caregivers and grandparents for informal support! Network and share ideas about diagnosis, finding help, transition, legislation - any issues or lifestage! Coffee is on us. Children are welcome. 9-10 am. Georgia House Restaurant, 18 S. Walnut St., Milford.

April 26 – Pajama Storytime. An autism-friendly story time for children aged 5-10. 7-8:30 AM/PM? Newark Library

April 30 – Teen/Tween Game Night. Board and card games for children with Asperger’s Syndrome, PDD-NOS or NVLD. Ages 9-19. 6:30-8:15 pm. Neurology Associates, 774 Christiana Rd., Newark.

May

May 5, 12, 19, 26 – N.C.C. Family Bowling Night. Join us every Wednesday night at AMF Price Lanes at Prices Corner on Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, 5:30. No commitments. Pay after you play. Play as many or as few games as you like. Bumpers, ramps and special discounts are available. Game room and snack bar open. Parents, siblings and friends are welcome to bowl.



May 11 – N.C.C. Coffee Hour. For details, see page 8.



May 14 – Teen/Tween Game Night. Board and card games for children with Asperger’s Syndrome, PDD-NOS or NVLD. Ages 9-19. 6:30-8:15 pm. Neurology Associates, 774 Christiana Rd., Newark.

May 19 – Speaker Series. For details see page 4.

May 22 – Milford Skating Party. Sensory friendly. Parents can wear regular shoes on skate floor to assist their children with learning to children learning to skate. 5:30-7:30. Milford Skating Rink.

May 23 – Blue Rocks Fundraiser. For details see page 11.

May 30 – Teen/Tween Game Night. Board and card games for children with Asperger’s Syndrome, PDD-NOS or NVLD. Ages 9-19. 6:30-8:15 pm. Neurology Associates, 774 Christiana Rd., Newark.

June

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – N.C.C. Family Bowling Night. Join us every Wednesday night at AMF Price Lanes at Prices Corner on Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, 5:30 pm. No commitments. Pay after you play. Play as many or as few games as you like. Bumpers, ramps and special discounts available. Game room and snack bar open. Parents, siblings and friends are welcome to bowl.

June 8 – N.C.C. Parent Coffee Hour. For details see page 8.

June 18 – Teen/Tween Game Night. Board and card games for children with Asperger’s Syndrome, PDD-NOS or NVLD. Ages 9-19. 6:30-8:15 pm. Neurology Associates, 774 Christiana Rd., Newark.



Autism Awareness with the Blue Rocks—Beauty and Baseball!

Plan to spend May 23rd at our annual Blue Rocks game and picnic. This year will offer a twist called Beauty and Baseball – A Fundraiser for Autism. We want to thank Marcy Wilkinson of J. Christian Studios, Red Robin, the Focas Foundation and Cosi for sponsoring the event. Some of the highlights include:

- o Discounted standard tickets with the flyer on the website
- o A DJ and music
- o Free t-shirts to the first 1,000 children
- o Opportunities for kids to pitch and run the bases

The Blue Rocks will also have some opportunities to raise money for Autism Delaware including:

- o Moon Bounce and games for kids
- o A photo booth and photo opportunities with Rocky Bluewinkle and Big Red
- o Hair cuts for kids under 12 for \$5
- o Hair cuts for kids over 12 for \$10



No, you didn't read that wrong. The stylists from J. Christian Studios are offering haircuts, makeup and nails and they will be giving the proceeds to Autism Delaware! This entire event is taking place because J. Christian Studios has several customers with autism, so they know and like our community.

The best part of this day is the opportunity to speak before an audience of about 4,000 about autism and Autism Delaware, expanding the awareness of this disability and our organization as well as a great opportunity to have some fun.

And finally, we are moving the annual Night at the Blue Rocks picnic to the same day, Sunday, May 23rd. The picnic and entry fee will be \$15 per person for members and \$24 for non members. You must make reservations and pay in advance, so please contact the office at (302) 224-6020 for reservations. The flyer for a discounted regular ticket (without a picnic) can be found at www.delautism.org. We accept cash, check, or charge and tickets will be mailed in early May.



Nothing But Net.

Check out all the ways you can visit Autism Delaware online...

- Main website: www.delautism.org
 - Twitter: <http://twitter.com/delautism>
 - Community Blog: www.autismdelawarecommunityboard.blogspot.com
 - Autism Delaware Notification Google Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/delautism>
 - Autism Delaware Online Support Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/asdsupportgroup>
 - Cafe Press: www.cafepress.com/delautism
- You can also find us on Facebook by typing in "Autism Delaware"



www.delautism.org



Helping People and Families Affected by Autism

Annual Membership Application

Please enroll me in the following category:

- Individual \$20
- Family \$25
- Professional \$50
- Silver \$100
- Platinum \$300
- Lifetime \$500
- I am a new member
- I am renewing membership

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

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 Autism Delaware's newsletter The Sun.

(This is for families who do not receive The Sun through DAP Distribution only please.)

Becoming a Silver Member or up will make you

a part of a select group of individuals who have

demonstrated special leadership and a deep

commitment to making a significant difference

in the fight against autism. You will receive

special recognition in our newsletter or other

documents as a leader in the support of autism

and autism research.

Please make your check payable to Autism Delaware and

send payment and application to

Autism Delaware, 924 Old Harmony Rd., Ste 201, Newark, DE 19713.

If you prefer to pay by credit card, please contact us at (302) 224-6020

All membership fees and contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

My membership fee is.....\$ _____

I would also like to contribute this amount\$ _____

Total amount enclosed (add both amounts).....\$ _____