

◆ *Into the Light* ◆

Volume 20 Issue 6 Autism Society , Central Virginia June 2012



AS-CV Mission & Philosophy

The Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We do this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

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Executive Director: Bradford Hulcher
Asperger's Interest Group Facilitator: Brie King

Save the Dates!!!

Insight 2012—Topics in Autism October 19 and 20 in Richmond

Insight 2012 is a collaborative effort between VDOE's TTAC at VCU, Autism Society Central VA, and the VCU-Autism Center for Excellence. We are very excited to be bringing in Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D. this year!!

Brenda Smith Myles Ph.D., international speaker and consultant for the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, is the recipient of the Autism Society of America's Outstanding Professional Award, the Princeton Fellowship Award, and the Council for Exceptional Children, Division on Developmental Disabilities Burton Blatt Humanitarian Award. She has made over 500 presentations all over the world and written more than 150 articles and books on ASD. Dr. Myles will be speaking in depth regarding strategies for teaching the hidden curriculum as well as strategies for addressing difficult behavior moments.

Friday's workshop is open to ALL audiences, including psychologists, special educators, general educators, and family members. It will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Richmond Downtown. The morning session will address **Strategies and Supports to Address the Hidden Curriculum**. Brenda will follow in the afternoon with **Strategies for Students with High-Functioning Autism and Asperger's Syndrome Who Experience Difficult Moments**.

Friday evening and Saturday's sessions will be specifically geared towards parents and family members and will be held at River Road United Methodist Church, Richmond, VA. Brenda will speak on **Tantrums, Rage, and Meltdowns** at the Friday evening session. At Saturday's daylong session, the topic will be **Preparing for Transitions to Middle School and High School**.

Registration for ALL of the Insight 2012 sessions will open on June 1, 2012!

NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY, CENTRAL VA BOARD

In the month of May, the ASCV:

Advocacy

- Participated in a DBHDS Individual and Family Support Fund Workgroup
- Represented the ASCV at the VCU ACE Advisory Meeting

Awareness

- Sponsored the 10th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism

Education

- Sponsored a workshop on Positive Behavior Supports featuring Dr. Ken Macurick
- Sponsored support groups for parents and individuals on the spectrum
- Represented the ASCV in the bi-monthly Virginia Autism Council meeting
- Approved sponsorship of a conference in 2013 featuring David Pitonyak

Leisure

- Sponsored an Inclusive Lego Club
- Sponsored the Annual Member's Picnic

HEALTHY DRAMA by The Arts Help

a drama/social skills program to help young people learn to express their feelings, interact appropriately, have fun, and be successful!

June 15 - August 18 Saturdays
10 am - 1 pm (includes lunch)
ages 12 - 16, \$500
AND
2 - 4 pm, ages 7 - 11, \$350

Contact Erin Mahone (804)869-9804 erinlmahone@gmail.com
www.theartshelp.com

paid advertisement

This newsletter is a publication of: Autism Society, Central VA □ P.O. Box 29364 □ Richmond, Virginia 23242-0364 (804) 257-0192

We accept for consideration any comments, personal vignettes, book reviews, information, announcements or advertisements for publication in our chapter newsletter. The deadline for submission for the July newsletter is June 15. You may send your contributions to the Chapter at the above address or email contributions to SELKO1@aol.com.

The Autism Society, Central Virginia does not endorse nor promote any program or service provider. The information contained in this newsletter is provided for informational purposes only. The Chapter is a volunteer organization providing information, support and encouragement to parents, family members and professionals in the Central VA area.

This edition was edited by Elizabeth Selko and Bradford Hulcher.

VIRGINIA ABA CONSORTIUM FORMED

The VA-ABA Consortium is comprised of four universities: George Mason University, Lynchburg College, Old Dominion University, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

The Consortium's primary goal is to provide teachers with instruction in applied behavior analysis that will broaden the range of empirically-supported teaching methodologies that they effectively use to meet the academic, social, and behavioral learning needs of diverse students.

The Consortium's secondary goal is to provide teachers with the educational and experiential requirements needed for them to sit for the Behavior Analyst Certification Examination.

Classes are offered through face-to-face meetings using a combination of video conferencing, web conferencing, and Blackboard. Through video and web conferencing, students are able to experience real-time, interactive, multipoint instruction at one of the four universities.

Courses will require face-to-face meetings, which are posted under the Schedule. Students will travel to the nearest university that is providing the courses. Students who meet the distance requirements may be permitted to take courses from home. All courses are offered in the evenings to meet the needs of those who are working full time. For additional information, visit:

http://kihd.gmu.edu/aba_consortium/about_aba2012/

Judge Gibney Grants Right of Intervention to Families of Individuals Institutionalized at State Training Centers

In May Judge Gibney decided not to sign the Settlement Agreement between the Department of Justice and the Commonwealth of VA to move Virginia to a community based system of care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Settlement Agreement would provide thousands of additional waiver slots to individuals with ID and DD in the community and other community based supports such as 24/7 crisis intervention teams.

Judge Gibney granted to 13 families of individuals living in the training centers, who oppose the settlement agreement, the right to "intervene" or become a party to the next step in the process.

On June 8, Judge Gibney will hear arguments from the three parties - the Department of Justice, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Intervenors - on the Intervenors motion to dismiss the Settlement Agreement. The hearing will take place at 9 a.m. at the Federal Courthouse in Richmond.

Autism Society Awards Camp Scholarship Grants

At their May 1 meeting, the board of the ASCV voted to award \$12, 775 in camp scholarship grants to the following camps:

- Camp Easter Seals
- Northstar Academy
- Dreamer's Retreat
- Jewish Community Center
- Camp Baker (Richmond ARC)
- St. Joseph's Villa
-

The scholarships are to be awarded to children, youth or adults with ASD living in the metro Richmond area who without a scholarship, would be unable to attend camp.

Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

June 12 **Asperger's Syndrome and the Transition to Adulthood: Considerations for Success** free webcast; Dr. Gina Barnhill; 3:30 - 4:30; effective strategies for supporting someone with Asperger's Syndrome (AS) in adolescence and adulthood; a description of common strengths and areas of need present in adulthood; focus on characteristics related to communication and social-emotional development; services often required to address identified needs and strategies to support the individual as they strive to obtain employment, live in the community, and maintain social relationships; to register:

<http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/upcoming.cfm>

June 25-27 **Shaping the Future** an intensive three-day workshop designed to provide parents and professionals with training in the theory and application of ABA principles, specifically as they relate to children with autism. \$400 for parents and home therapists; also accepts payment by the DD Waiver Provider (#010264740) for Family and Caregiver Training; for info: www.viaschool.org

June 27-29 **National APSE Conference** keynote Temple Grandin; Arlington; FEE; for more info: <http://www.apse.org>

July 10 **Visual Strategies Parents Can Use in the Home and Community** FREE! sponsored by Region 1 Parent Resource Centers; 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Fulghum Center, 4003 Cogbill Road, Richmond 23234; come hear internationally respected experts Andy Bondy and Lori Frost discuss: how the use of PECS can help the entire family, how PECS can be integrated with reinforcement systems, how PECS relates to using visual schedules; to register: radiganct@vcu.edu

June 12/13 **SSI/SSDI, and Work Incentives Understanding the Myriad of Rules Governing SSI/SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare & Related Work Incentives for People with Disabilities** sponsored by vaACCSES; free; Charlottesville; comprehensive 2 day training; for more info and to register: http://www.vaaccses.org/training_conferences/

July 16 - 18 **Shining Stars** statewide conference will focus on evidence-based practices that connect the dots to quality early childhood practices, birth through 5; sponsored by VDOE, TTACs & DBHDS; FEE; VA Beach; for info: www.vcu.edu/ttac/

For additional information on autism conferences and workshops in VA, visit www.autismtrainingva.org

AUTISM SOCIETY JUNE CALENDAR

The Autism Society, Central VA will sponsor the following meetings in June. All meetings are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Meetings take place at River Road United Methodist Church, 8800 River Road unless otherwise noted. For information: 257-0192 or asacv@aol.com

June 4 7 p.m. **Parents of Children with Asperger's Syndrome/HFA Interest Group**

June 9 all day **Fundraiser for ASCV @ Panda Express**, Short Pump Town Center; 20% of purchase goes to ASCV w/ coupon

June 9 1 p.m. **Inclusive Lego® Club @ Bon Air Library**; open to children of all abilities grades K- 8

June 12 7 p.m. **Board Meeting**

June 13 10 a.m. **Parents of Children with Asperger's Syndrome/HFA Interest Group**

June 25 7 p.m. **Adults w/ Asperger's/High Functioning Autism Interest Group** (*open only to adults w/ AS/HFA*)

June 25 7 p.m. **Parents of Adults with Autism Interest Group**

Community Events/Meetings of Interest

June 4 **Aspie Bible Study** meet on the first and third Monday of each month @ Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Rd, Richmond; 7:15 pm. - 9 p.m.; call Shawn at 804-339-4393 for info; open to mature teens 17 or older and adults with HFA/Asperger's

June 4 **Hanover County Special Education Advisory Committee** meets at 7 p.m. at Hanover County School Board Office; topics: Annual Report to the Superintendent; open to the public; for info: <http://hcps.us/instruction/parentresource/SEAC.htm>

June 7 **Young Life Capernaum Hanover** an inclusive faith based group for teens and young adults with disabilities; 6:30 - 8 p.m.; for information, contact Clint at clint.dowda@gmail.com

June 8 **TACA (Talk About Curing Autism)** meets first Fri-

day of each month at St. Andrews UMC, 9801 Ft. King Rd; 7 - 9 p.m.; for info: <http://www.tacanow.org/local-chapters/northeast/virginia/>

June 9 **Buddy Break** a free respite care program for children with special needs ages 3-21 and their siblings ages 3-11; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church, North Parham Rd; for info: Carolyn Hassan 804-270-4626 BuddyBreak@TrinityRichmond.net

June 14 **Richmond Asperger's Meetup** the second Thursday from 7-9 pm@ River City Diner on Parham Rd.; a place where older children (age 11-17) can meet other Aspergers children and siblings/adults with Asperger's can meet together and/or share information with parents of kids with AS; RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

June 15 The **Advisory Council for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** (TACIDD) an open meeting of those interested in offering input to the VA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; open to the public; meets at the Henrico County CSB; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

June 16 **Buddy Break** a free respite care program for children with special needs ages 3-21 and their siblings ages 3-11; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; must preregister; sponsored by Southside Church of The Nazarene, Courthouse Rd; contact Amy Morgan @ 804-778-7800 ext. 247 or buddybreaksouthsideva@gmail.com

June 18 **Aspie Bible Study** meet on the first and third Monday of each month @ Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Rd, Richmond; 7:15 pm. - 9 p.m.; call Shawn at 804-339-4393 for info; open to mature teens 17 or older and adults with HFA/Asperger's

June 19 **Richmond/Northern Chesterfield Asperger's Meetup** third Tuesdays @ Positive Vibe Cafe, 6:30- 8:30; children 10+ diagnosed with Asperger's, HFA, PPD-NOS, and ADHD and their parents, as well as adults with these diagnoses, are welcome RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

June 21 **A Journey of Rest and Restoration**; a monthly Christian-based support group designed for couples/caregivers of children with any special needs; 7 to 8:30 p.m.; Mechanicsville Christian Center; free childcare and sign language interpreter; pre-registration required; contact bfrank.ResourceConnectioninc@gmail.com

June 28 **Richmond Asperger's Meetup** 6:30 pm@ Westover Hills Baptist Church; a place where older children (age 11-17) can meet other Aspergers children and siblings/adults with Asperger's can meet together and/or share information with parents of kids with AS; RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

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