

◊ *Into the Light* ◊

Volume 21 Issue 6 Autism Society , Central Virginia June 2013

SAVE THE DATES!

THE AUTISM SOCIETY CO-SPONSORS FALL CONFERENCES

The Autism Society Central VA will be partnering with local, state and national organizations to bring nationally recognized speakers to the Richmond area next Fall.

September 20: Temple Grandin and Jed Baker Dr. Temple Grandin has served as inspiration and role model to hundreds of thousands of families and persons with autism. In this unique presentation, Temple eloquently and candidly describes the challenges she has faced and offers no-nonsense ideas on how others dealing with autism can meet these obstacles and improve the quality of their lives. Dr. Baker's presentation will address building an individual's social skills in crucial areas such as conversation, conflict resolution, emotion management, employment, dating, etc.; developing an effective behavior plan; managing and preventing meltdowns; and helping to create peer acceptance. Sponsored by Future Horizons. **Members of the Autism Society Central VA will receive a special discount - contact the Society for details.**

October 18 & 19: Insight Conference is a collaboration between the Autism Society, VCU TTAC, and VCU ACE. Our speaker will be internationally recognized expert Dr. Peter Gerhardt who will share information on transition and employment on Friday followed on Saturday by sexuality and ASD. Registration begins June 1st.

November 16: Life in the Community is a collaboration between the Autism Society, the Hanover Arc, and the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond. Our featured speaker will be David Pitonyak, a nationally recognized authority on the topics of behavior and belonging. Watch for information on registration!

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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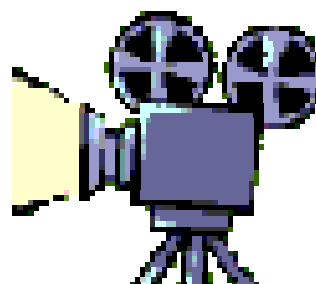
Outreach Coordinator: Tammy Burns

Asperger's Interest Group Facilitator: Brie King

Child care Supervisor: Deo Smith

Join the Autism Society for our First Sensory Friendly Family Movie Night!

We'll have the lights up and the sound low for a special showing of "Toy Story 3" on Tuesday, June 25, 6:30 p.m., 8800 River Road, Henrico. We will provide free snacks for the showing. If you or someone in your family has special dietary needs, please feel free to bring your own snack. Parents are asked to stay with their children. This event is free but we ask that you register here: <http://sensoryfriendly.eventbrite.com/>



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 newsletter. The deadline for submission for the July newsletter is June 15. You may send your contributions to 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 Society is a 501(c)3 organization providing information, support and encouragement to individuals with autism, their families and professionals in the Central VA area.

This edition was edited by Elizabeth Selko and Bradford Hulcher.

NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY, CENTRAL VA BOARD

We welcomed new board member Monique Tinsley to the board in May. Monique, is a graduate of Partners in Policy-making and holds an MBA. She is a long time member of the Society and lives in Chesterfield County with her family, including her adolescent son with ASD.

Pam Mines and Kelly Domaleski have rotated off the Board. Kelly and Pam have each spent countless hours devoted to meeting our mission of improving the lives of all affected by autism. Both ladies have agreed to continue to serve on committees.

The Autism Society Central VA worked to fulfill our mission to "improve the lives of all affected by autism" in May in the following ways:

Education

- Sponsored a workshop on bullying and ASD

Services and Supports

- Sponsored our annual picnic for over 200 Society members
- Sponsored bowling leagues for elementary school students with ASD and middle and high school students with ASD
- Sponsored Asperger's Middle School Social Club
- Sponsored 4 Interest Groups for Parents of Children and Adults on the spectrum
- Sponsored an Interest Group for Adults with Asperger's

Awareness

- 20 minute interview on 989 Liberty, Big Oldies 107.3 and 93.1
- Interview and story on WRIC
- Exhibited at Ft. Lee Resource Fair
- Sponsored 11th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism

Advocacy

- Participated in a meeting with the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement staff
- Participated in VA Department of Education Advocacy Group

- Participated in VCU Autism Center for Excellence Advisory Council meeting
- Participated in VA Autism Council meeting
- Participated in Arc of VA advocate's session

Update on Individual and Family Support Program

Funding for the Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) for fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 has been exhausted. **New funding will be available July 1, 2013; applications will be accepted on July 1, 2013.** Individual and Family Support Program funds may be provided to individuals or family members in varying amounts, as requested and approved by DBHDS, up to the established annual maximum individual financial support limit per fiscal year. **The fiscal year 2014 (i.e., through 6/30/14) limit is \$3,000**

The application can be found here <http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/ODS-default.htm>

The IFSP is designed to assist individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities on the waiting list for the ID or DD Waiver (and their families) to access short-term person/family-centered resources, supports, and services.

Services and items that may be funded through the Individual and Family Support Program are intended to support the continued residence of an individual in their own or the family home and may include:

- Professionally provided services and supports, such as respite, transportation services, behavioral consultation, and behavior management;
- Assistive technology and home modifications, goods, or products that directly support the individual;
- Temporary rental assistance or deposits;
- Fees for summer camp and other recreation services;
- Temporary assistance with utilities or deposits;
- Dental or medical expenses of the individual;
- Family education, information, and training;
- Peer mentoring and family-to-family supports;
- Emergency assistance and crisis support; or
- Other direct support services as approved by DBHDS.

AUTISM SOCIETY JUNE CALENDAR

The Autism Society, Central VA will sponsor the following meetings in June. All meetings take place at River Rd. UMC, 8800 River Rd, Henrico, unless otherwise specified. For information: 257-0192 or asacv@aol.com

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|------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6/3 | 7:00 p.m. | Asperger's Interest Group for parents of school aged children with AS |
| 6/4 | 7:00 p.m. | Board Meeting |
| 6/8 | 1:00 p.m. | Inclusive Lego Club for children of all abilities in grades K - 8; details & RSVP @ http://junelego.eventbrite.com/ |
| 6/23 | | Bowling League for Elementary School Children w/ Autism , Grades K-5 FREE for Society members; \$25 /non-members (includes annual membership fee) ; preregistration required |
| 6/23 | | Bowling for Middle/High School Students w/ Autism FREE for Society members; \$25/non-members (includes annual membership fee); preregistration required |
| 6/24 | 7:00 p.m. | Parents/Family Members of Adults with Asperger's |
| 6/24 | 7:00 p.m. | Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults w/ Asperger's/HFA) |
| 6/25 | 6:45 p.m. | Sensory Friendly Family Movie Night details & RSVP @ http://sensoryfriendly.eventbrite.com/ |

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND WEBCASTS

June 5 **Responding to Your Toddlers Challenging Behaviors** free webcast from the Arc of VA why some toddlers display challenging behaviors and strategies to support their child to express their feelings in a more appropriate way; 12:30 - 1:30; to register: dholloway@thearcofva.org

June 6 **Secondary Transition and Autism: Yes, They Do Grow Up** sponsored by Commonwealth Autism Service; Richmond; fee; for info: www.autismva.org

June 28 **Putting LAMP to Work: AAC Strategies for Promoting the Development of Communication** - the role of readiness to learn & share focus in the implementation of augmentative & alternative communication (AAC) for children ASD. The importance of using motor patterning to develop motor automaticity & implementation strategies for teaching children with ASD to use AAC will be discussed; \$99; Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU; 866-998-1726

June 24-27 **Creating Connections to Shining Stars: Vir-**

ginia's Collaborative Early Childhood Birth through Five Conference 2013 focus on promoting and supporting the implementation of evidence based practices in inclusive settings for young children, both with and without disabilities; VA Beach; fee; www.cvent.com/d/8cqrcb

Aug. 8 - 10 **Arc of VA State Convention** keynote presentations and breakout sessions on a range of topics covering Public Policy Advocacy, Accessing Community-Based Supports and Services, Best-Practices, Self-Advocacy and more; fee; Richmond; for info: <http://www.thearcofva.org>

Aug. 13 **Transition Planning for Students with ASD in Public Schools** free webcast from VCU Autism Center for Excellence; register here:

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

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

Community Events and Meetings of Interest

June 3 **Hanover County Special Education Advisory Committee** open to the public; 7 p.m. at School Board Office; topics: *Annual Report to the School Board*; questions? rob.rlipc@comcast.net

June 4 **Special Needs Jump** at Jumpology 5 p - 7 p; fee and reservations required; all ages; <http://www.jumpology.us/>

June 6 **Young Life Capernaum Hanover** an inclusive faith based group for middle and high school students with disabilities; Burkwood Clubhouse; 6:15; 814-7433

June 8 **Buddy Break** a free respite care program for children with special needs ages 3-21 and their siblings ages 3-11; 10 a. - 1 p.; sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Parham Rd., ; RSVP to 804-270-4626

June 12 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** @ the Fulghum Center; 5 - 6:30 p.m.; topic: Medicaid Waivers; open to the public; for info: 594-1732

June 15 **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 Southside Nazarene Church, Courthouse Rd.; 804-778-7800 ext. 247 or BuddyBreakSouthsideVA@gmail.com for info

June 16 **Rhythms of Grace** a special worship service to and for children w/ special needs and their families; the third Sunday of each month @ St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 12291 River Rd, Goochland; 1 - 2 p.m.; for info: 347-8755

June 18 **Richmond/Northern Chesterfield Asperger's Meetup** third Tuesdays @ Positive Vibe Cafe, 6:30- 8:30; RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

June 18 **Monkey Joe's Special Needs Night** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; kids ages 2 - 12 w/ special needs free; closed to the public; siblings welcome \$5; 11304 Midlothian Tnpk, Richmond; 897-5867

June 20 **Asperger's Support Meeting** meets 6:30 p.m. on 3rd Thursday at Midlothian YMCA; 804-908-7246 or email RobinDavis@RichmondAutism.Org

June 20 **A Journey of Rest and Restoration**; a monthly Christian-based support group designed for cou-

ples/caregivers of children with any special needs; 7 to 8:30 p.m.; Mechanicsville Christian Center; free childcare; pre-registration required; contact bfrank.ResourceConnectioninc@gmail.com

VA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE FOR FAMILIES

The goal of this website is to provide a one-stop-shop for parents, families and caregivers of children with special needs to:

- Learn about and plan your child's educational program
- Understand your legal rights and responsibilities
- Access local resources including school system contacts and disability services in your community
- Access an abundance of resources, including instructional strategies, assistive technology and behavioral supports to help your child succeed.

Visit the website at <http://vafamilysped.org/>

VA-LEND PROGRAM AT VCU SEEKS MENTORING FAMILIES FOR 2013-2014

Volunteer to allow a professional or disability advocate get to know your family as PEOPLE, not as patients or clients, through visits during the academic year. This is an invaluable experience for the trainees and a fun experience for the mentoring families! For information contact Elaine Ogburn, Virginia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Program (Va-LEND) at esogburn@vcu.edu or 804-320-4514.

Thank You For the Following Donations

Cathie Atwell
Sara Leftwich Branch
Fareva USA
Kenbridge Elementary School
Carriage Hill Apartments, Attn Kim Ford
Sarah Ritchie
Skipwith Elementary School
Tiffinay And Glenn Robertson
Lori Hyatt
Carolyn Webb
Sandra Faria
Olivia Perry
Roberta Pace
Kari Barta
Crystal Detrick
June Alleyne
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Karen Bobbitt
Clifford Campbell
Kiara Draper
Inga Green
Janet Parker
Erin Gressett
Amy Ernest
Sonya Bartlett
Mabel Rucker
Henrico High School

Steve & Gloria Carrier in Honor of Dr Linda Bourdon and Dr. Paul Rein

The following donations were made In Memory of
George Crenshaw
Karl Koenig
Parker, Pollard, Wilton & Peaden
Mary T. "Bert" Lamberth
Jack and Anna Warner
John McNeal Jr.
Cathie Elliott
Marilyn Amburn
Mary Andrews
Alma & Michael Fagan
Mac & MJ Conway
Lori and Donald Staley

The following donations were made In memory of
Mary Loving
Diane Eddleton
Mildred Morris
Sarah Trelawney
Janice Rice
Hill and Judy Mallory
Elsie Jennings
Conde & Ron Hopkins
Judy Lane
Brenda Loving
Audrey Gray
Betty Smith

Aide Wanted

Looking for a young energetic positive person to be an aide for my son. As his aide you would plan activities geared towards his independence and academic achievement as well as social. You must be able to engage him to relate to him. He is a wonderful high functioning 12 year old boy with "AWE-tism". JC is verbal and loves doing things with a bit of encouragement. The activities must be focused on him, taking advantage of every opportunity to as a learning experience. **This is not a babysitting job!** You must have a valid Virginia driver's license, a good driving record and a safe reliable vehicle. You also must be able to pass a criminal and child protective services back ground check. I have weekends and weekdays hours available and they are flexible. If you are interested, serious and could commit, please send your resume to casa4you@hotmail.com.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join with hundreds of individuals with autism, their families and other caring individuals; become a part of a larger community - the Autism Society, Central VA. We can't be heard alone, but with more voices joining daily, that small voice can become a roar. We invite you to become a part of a community of hope.

Membership in the Autism Society, Central VA provides the following benefits:

- ASCV's monthly newsletter, the leading local resource for information regarding local and state autism-related issues, workshops, and community events
- ASCV's weekly e-mail updates
- Access to ASCV lending library
- Free chapter sponsored social/recreational activities; discounted workshops

Membership Levels:

\$5 Self Advocate \$25 ~ Household \$1500 ~ Lifetime

Names(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

(By providing your e-mail, you will receive our weekly e-mail; your e-mail will be kept confidential.)

Additional Donation:

\$25 \$50 \$100 _____ please specify amt.

Payment information:

Check (made payable to **Autism Society**) Visa Mastercard

Name on card: _____ Expiration: _____

Card #: _____

CVV# (security code on back of card) _____

Signature: _____

Please mail or fax w/ payment to:

Autism Society, Central VA

P.O. Box 29364

Richmond, VA 23242 (804) 290-0286 (fax)

For information on joining the Autism Society, National, visit: <http://www.autism-society.org/>

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