

◊ *Into the Light* ◊

Volume 21 Issue 10 Autism Society , Central Virginia October 2013

OCTOBER 18/19

AUTISM SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Don't miss this great opportunity to learn about **transition** and **sexuality** for individuals with ASD!! **No matter the age of your child or student, it is NEVER too early or too late to educate yourself on these topics!!** The Autism Society Central VA, the VDOE TTC at VCU, and the Autism Center for Excellence (ACE) at VCU have joined together to bring Peter Gerhardt, Ph.D. to Richmond for this 2 day event. Please see the flyer insert for information on the full conference.

Dr. Peter Gerhardt is a Managing Partner of JPG Autism Consulting, LLC which provides community referenced, behaviorally-based consultation and intervention to adolescents and adults with an autism spectrum disorder. Dr. Gerhardt is the Founding Chair of the Scientific Council for the Organization for Autism Research and has served in that position for the past 11 years. Dr. Gerhardt has over 30 years experience utilizing the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis in support of adolescents and adults with ASD in educational, employment, residential, and community-based settings. Dr. Gerhardt serves on the Editorial Board of Behavior Analysis in Practice and on numerous professional advisory boards.

Life after High School: Transition to Adulthood For Learners with ASD Friday, October 18, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Details and registration: <https://asdtransition.eventbrite.com/>

There is considerable discussion today about the importance of evidence-based practices (EBPs) when working with individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). However, the great majority of that discussion focuses around young children with little attention paid to adolescents or adults. This presentation will provide an overview of the implications of evidence-based practice in support of effective transition(s) with adolescents and adults. Particular emphasis will be placed on EBP and targeting socially important outcomes, transition planning, community based instruction, adaptive behavior intervention, employment, and quality of life.

Sexuality And Sexuality Instruction with Learners With ASD Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. - noon Details and registration: <https://sexualityinstructionasd.eventbrite.com/>

Individuals on the Autism Spectrum are sexual beings. However, individual interest in sex or in developing an intimate sexual relationship with another person varies widely across (and within) individuals at all ability levels. Unfortunately, despite much discussion about decision-making skills in the self-determination literature there continues to be “lack of evidence [supporting the] effectiveness of sex education and training for persons with developmental disabilities” (Duval, 2002) which behavior analysis can provide. This workshop will provide a brief overview of issues associated with sexuality education and the role behavior analysis can play in this complex and important area.

Mission and Vision

Mission

To improve the lives of all affected by autism by maximizing the self-sufficiency, independence, and quality of life for all living with autism.

Vision

We are the local voice and resource of the autism community in education, advocacy, services, and support, committed to meaningful participation and self-determination in all aspects of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. Any age. Any stage.

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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 November newsletter is October 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.

ASCV Board Approves 2013/2014 Budget and Strategic Plan

The board of the ASCV put in many long hours on developing a 3 year strategic plan with the support of a paid consultant/facilitator over the summer. At the September 10 Board meeting, the plan and the 2013/2014 budget were approved.

New activities and events approved in this year's budget, that will compliment our current programs, include:

- Monthly bowling league for adults
- Monthly preschool play group
- Tacky Light Bus Tour
- Richmond Kicker's Game
- Flying Squirrels game
- Pool party

Highlights of the strategic plan for the 2013/2014 year include:

Programs

- Add a new monthly program for preschool children with ASD
- Add a new monthly bowling league for adults with ASD
- Transition scholarship for recreational/social activities from grants to organizations to scholarships for individuals/families

Community Awareness

- Update all marketing materials including a banner, information card and an ASCV bumper magnet. One bumper magnet will be provided to every member as they join or renew their membership!
- Outreach to school systems

Human Resources

- Hire executive director with fund development focus
- Transition current ED to Program Manager position

Board Development

- Increase the size of the Board by adding Board members with specific skills needed to support ASCV
- Leverage the work of the Board by strengthening its committee structure and committee operations
- Establish an "onboarding" process to orient and engage new Board members in the work of the organization

Conferences, Workshops, and Webcasts

Oct. 8 **Standard Diploma Credit Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** free webinar from VCU ACE; to register:

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

Oct. 10/11 **Functional Analysis and Treatment of Severe Behavior Disorders** with Brian Iwata, Ph.D. for individuals involved in the education, training, and treatment of persons with intellectual disability, autism, and other developmental disabilities; \$345; info:

http://www.bisoxford.com/brian_res8.html

Oct. 16 **Autism Spectrum Disorder in Young Children** an overview of autism and tips for interacting with children and parents; Christine Holland w/ Commonwealth Autism Service; free; 6:30 p.m. Gayton Public Library

Oct. 18/19 **Insight 2013** Speaker Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D. will present sessions on youth with autism and **transition and sexuality**; sponsored by the Autism Society, VCU ACE, and VCU TTAC; see flyer insert

Oct. 22-25 **Positive Practices in Behavioral Support** Thomas J. Willis, Ph.D, Associate Director of the Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis; \$600; info: <http://www.iaba.com/brochures/VA.pdf>

Nov. 4/5 **PECS Level 1 Training: Basic** designed to teach participants the theory behind the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and the protocols for how to appropriately implement the six phases of PECS; Richmond; \$395; for info: <http://www.pecsusa.com/listing.php>

Nov. 16 **Life in the Community Conference and Resource Fair** keynote: "Belonging" with David Pitonyak, Ph.D.; additional sessions on Transition, Guardianship, Behavior, and Social Security; sponsored by the Autism Society, Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond, and Hanover Arc; free; register: <http://lifeinthecommunity.eventbrite.com/>

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

AUTISM SOCIETY OCTOBER CALENDAR

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

Oct. 1	7 p.m.	Board Meeting
Oct. 7	7 p.m.	Parents of <u>School Aged</u> Children w/ Asperger's Interest Group
Oct. 12	noon	Preschool Play Group details and registration here: http://octpreschool.eventbrite.com/
Oct. 12	1 p.m.	Inclusive Lego Club for children of all abilities in grades K - 8; details & RSVP @ https://octlego.eventbrite.com/
Oct. 18	7p.m.	Life after High School: Transition to Adulthood for Learners with ASDs register here: https://asdtransition.eventbrite.com/
Oct. 18		Asperger's Middle School Social Club Society members, register through eventbrite e-mail
Oct. 19	9 a.m.	Sexuality and Sexuality Instruction with Learners with ASDs register here: https://sexualityinstructionasd.eventbrite.com/
Oct. 27		Bowling League for Elementary School Students Bowling League for Middle/High School Students Bowling League for Adults on the Spectrum Free for Autism Society members; see e-mail invitation for date, time, location, & to register
Oct. 28	7 p.m.	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults w/ Asperger's/HFA)
Oct. 28	7 p.m.	Family Members of Adults with Asperger's Syndrome



SpectrumTransformationGroup

Bringing Gold Standard Autism and Mental Health Treatment To The Natural Environment

Spectrum Transformation Group is running Social Codebreaker groups this fall and spring! We teach children along the autism spectrum how to understand others and to unlock the social code. Please visit our website at www.spectrumtgrp.com or call our office at (804)378-6141 for more information.

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NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY, CENTRAL VA BOARD

Board member Dave Faulders has rotated off of the board due to his family's relocation to Northern VA; Dave has offered to continue to provide legal counsel to the board. We appreciate Dave's service to our community!

Board member Monique Tinsley has rotated off the board. We wish Monique the best of luck in her new endeavors and know that we will continue to enjoy her family's company at Society events!

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

Education

- Sponsored a workshop on Building Community and Friendships for Students w/ ASD
- Co-sponsored the Temple Grandin/Jed Baker Conference

Services and Supports

- Sponsored an Inclusive Lego Club
- Sponsored 3 bowling events - for children, for teens, and for adults w/ ASD
- Sponsored an Asperger's Middle School Social Club
- Sponsored an Interest Group for Adults with Asperger's
- Sponsored a Flying Squirrels game

Advocacy

- Participated on the Virginia Autism Council

Awareness

- Exhibited at the VCU Broad Street Mile
- Exhibited at the Autism Speaks Walk



SAVE THE DATE!
DECEMBER 7!

ASCV MEMBER TACKY LIGHT BUS TOUR

It's only October but the holidays will be here before you know it! We want our members to mark their calendars for the evening of December 7 when we will have a caravan of 4 commercial buses to take us on Tacky Light Bus Tour. Members will receive an Eventbrite invitation by e-mail in early November when they may register household members for this fun event!

Thank You To The Following Volunteers

Barbara Ledford
Sandi Wiley
Nidhi Desai
Amruta Pnugapat
Bay Penny
Panth Doshi
Ariel Garris
Marta Bell
Alyssa Novo
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Community Events and Meetings of Interest

Oct. 1 **Special Needs Jump** at Jumpology 5 p - 7 p; fee and reservations required; all ages; <http://www.jumpology.us/>

Oct. 5 **Celebrating Families Carnival** for children and adults w/ special needs and their families; music, juggler, food, train ride, petting zoo, carnival games, & more; admission: bag of canned goods; for info: www.resourceconnectioninc.org

Oct. 8 **Stakeholders' Public Meeting** see flyer insert; Colonial Heights

Oct. 10 **Richmond Asperger's Meetup** 7 p.m.; River City Diner, Parham Rd; RSVP @ <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

Oct. 12 **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

Oct. 15 **Westend/Northern Chesterfield Asperger's Meetup** @ Positive Vibe Cafe, 6:30- 8:30; RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/aspergers-397/>

Oct. 15 **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

Oct. 17 **Asperger's Support Meeting** meets 6:30 p.m. ; 804-908-7246 or email RobinDavis@RichmondAutism.Org

Oct. 17 **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; pre-registration required; contact bfrank.ResourceConnectioninc@gmail.com

Oct. 19 **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 Southside Nazarene Church; 804-778-7800 ext. 247 or BuddyBreakSouthsideVA@gmail.com

Oct. 22 **Henrico County Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting** @ Brookland Middle School; 6:30;

speakers: Dr. Adrienne Volenik, U of R Disability Law Clinic; psychological testing will specifically be addressed; HCPS staff member will answer any questions re: to psychological testing in HCPS

Directions to ASCV meetings River Road United Methodist Church

From the East:

-64 West to Exit 181 Parham Road South
*Drive 2 miles till you reach a traffic light for River Road. Be in the left hand land and turn left onto the on ramp. At the stop sign turn right on to River Road
**Go approximately .2 miles and the church will be on your right.
Turn right onto Doverland Road. Turn right into the church parking lot. To the back left of the church is a door that says "office". Go into this door and meetings are held inside at the first door on your right.

From the West:

I-64 east to Exit 181 Parham Road South.
Follow all directions that are written above for coming from the east. *

From the North:

I-95 South to I64 west then follow the same directions as written above under the East.*

From the South:

I-95 North to 1150 Chippenham Parkway North. Go over the Willey Bridge crossing the James River. At the first light turn right on to the on ramp for River Road. At the stop sign turn right on to River Road. Follow directions above at the **

Would You Like To Place An Ad in "Into The Light" ?

Our newsletter reaches over 600 families, professionals and educators on a monthly basis. If you would like to place an advertisement, please email it to asacv.org or mail it to the Chapter at P.O. Box 29364, Richmond, VA 23242-0364. Call the Chapter if you have any questions. Deadline for entry is the 15th of each month.

Ad Rates:

- \$25.00 1/8 Page
- \$50.00 1/4 Page
- \$75.00 1/2 Page
- \$100.00 Full Page

Discounts/Non Profits/Long Term Ads (3 months or longer) may have negotiated rates with board approval. The board reserves the right to refuse to place an advertisement

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