

# The Interchange

“Promises to Keep”

Community Autism Resources

Winter 2005

## GOING TO THE HEART OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: A LOOK AT RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTION (RDI)

with Lauren Krueger Weeks, Psy. D.

Inside this issue:

**DATE:** Saturday, March 19, 2005  
**TIME:** 10:00am – 12noon  
**LOCATION:** Quincy Yacht Club  
1310 Sea Street, Quincy, MA

Relationship Development Intervention (RDI) is a treatment intervention created by Dr. Steven Gutstein, Ph.D. for children, adolescents, and adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This intervention addresses the missing piece of all persons diagnosed with ASD: the inability to derive pleasure from social interaction and to regulate their behavior to maximize the enjoyment of others. We teach our kids social skills to behave properly, to ask someone how they are, but how do we get them to care about the answer? We teach their heads what to do, but Dr. Gutstein aims for their hearts. With a series of fun parent-led activities, we teach our children the pleasure to be gained from human interaction, to want to socially reference (check the other person’s face for reactions), to regulate and coordinate their behavior with another, and to allow the adult to set the limits and parameters. When the heart seeks social interaction, it isn't work. Dr. Weeks will lead a discussion on her work with RDI groups.

Lauren Krueger Weeks, Psy.D., Certified RDI Consultant, is a clinical child psychologist with an extensive background in treating children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. While working as an ABA therapist, Lauren learned of a

new and innovative therapy called Relationship Development Intervention, which she was trained in and now services multiple families in her private practice. She has helped to standardize the assessment and intervention through research since 2000. In addition to her work using the RDI method, she is currently doing a postdoctoral neuropsychology fellowship at New England Medical Center, Center for Children with Special Needs.

There is no cost for this forum and refreshments will be served. We ask that you please **pre-register** by contacting Community Autism Resources at (508) 677-9239 or (800) 588-9239 [toll calls only] ext. 10 by Monday, March 14, 2005.

**Directions:**

**From the South:**

Take Rte. 24 to Rte. 128 Quincy. Follow Rte. 128 to Rte. 3 (Quincy & Boston). Move directly to the right hand lane and take Exit 8 – Furnace Brook Parkway. Bear right off the exit and follow Furnace Brook Parkway all the way to the end. The ocean will be in front of you. Take a right onto Quincy Shore Drive. At the third set of lights, at the end of Quincy Shore Drive, when you must take a left or a right – take a left onto Sea Street. Follow Sea Street all the way to the ocean and there will be the Quincy Yacht Club.

**From the North:**

Take Exit 8 off Rte. 3 and follow the directions listed above.

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## **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!**

**FAMILIES AND FRIENDS...  
YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A  
FAMILY DRUMMING RHYTHM SESSION!!!**



### **WHAT IS IT...**

The drumming rhythm session is a hands-on, participatory event! Bring your children – especially your child with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and your friends! Bob Bloom will once again facilitate our drumming program. At the Drumming Event you will join Bob in many rhythms as the entire group plays his beautiful array of drums and percussion instruments and experiences some of the world's most joyous music!

Bob is one of the finest drumming teachers in the northeast. He is certified as a “*Master Teaching Artist*” by the Connecticut Commission on the Arts.

Bob teaches hand drumming courses for adults and for kids at colleges and learning centers throughout New England. He presents his “Drumming About You” program to professional organizations including the American Music Therapy Association and the New England League of Middle Schools. Bob has facilitated drum circles from the Washington Monument to the First Night Celebrations of Providence, Boston and Hartford. Bob's first CD *Where's Your Drum?* is now available!

### **WHERE & WHEN...**

**Saturday, February 26, 2005 from 10:00am to 11:30am at the Silver City Galleria's Community Room (located near the Food Court), Taunton, MA.**

*There is **no charge** for this program and no drumming experience is needed! You **must** pre-register by **February 18<sup>th</sup>** by calling *Community Autism Resources* at 508-677-9239 or 800-588-9239 (toll calls only) so that we can be sure there will be enough percussion instruments for everyone! Bob provides a wonderful array of drums and percussion instruments – and feel free to bring any percussion instruments you may have to add to the fun.*

The drumming program will last for about 45 minutes. Beverages will be served following the drumming program.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

#### **Silver City Galleria Mall, Taunton, MA**

*Main entrance by Ground Round/Ruby Tuesday, take escalator up, go through Food Court, past the restrooms you will see signs stating COMMUNITY ROOMS.*

**From the North (Boston Area):** Route 24 South to Exit 12 – bear right off exit to Route 140 South. Take Exit 11B Galleria Mall Drive.

**From the South (Fall River Area):** Route 24 North to Exit 12 – bear right off exit to Route 140 South. Take Exit 11B Galleria Mall Drive.

**From the West (Worcester/Mansfield Area):** Route 495 South to Exit 7B Route 24 South. Take Exit 12 – bear right off exit to Route 140 South. Take Exit 11B Galleria Mall Drive.

**From the East (Cape Cod Area):** Route 495 North to Exit 7B Route 24 South. Take Exit 12 – bear right off exit to Route 140 South. Take Exit 11B Galleria Mall Drive.

**Alternative):** Route 195 to Route 140 North. Take Exit 11 Galleria Mall Drive.



# On the Road Again....

## Our "On The Road Courses", 2004 in Review

### Jan Randall



Every time I think about this past year, and about all of the courses that we provided to communities in our region, the Willie Nelson song "On the Road Again" comes to mind, because we were on the road! Many of you in community organizations, special needs programs and schools took advantage of our 'On the Road Courses', in 2004. With our region spreading from Quincy, Brockton, the South shore, Cape Cod and Southeastern Massachusetts, many of us racked up our 'frequent driver miles'. The following is a quick rundown of where we were and what we were doing.

Spring and Fall of 2004 found us spending a lot of time in various communities on Cape Cod. We presented the following courses: Circle of Friends, Understanding Social & Communication Strengths & Challenges, Understanding Sensory & Behavioral Strengths & Challenges, and Finding Resources for ASD, at schools, agencies, and at one early childhood conference. By far the most popular course offered on the Cape this year was our introductory course Understanding ASD which we presented three times in three different communities.

We also spent some time during the spring and fall in three communities in the Greater Plymouth area, as school programs enlisted us to present the same courses that we offered on Cape Cod.

Schools in the communities that are located in both the Greater Fall River and Greater New Bedford areas took advantage of nearly all of the trainings we offer. The understanding ASD training was offered twice last winter.

In the spring, we presented The Learning Styles of Individuals with ASD, Understanding Social & Communication strengths & Challenges, Understanding Sensory & Behavioral Strengths & Challenges, as well as two of our newer courses Understanding & Using Visual Systems and transitioning to Adult Services.

The 6 hour intensive course: The Learning Styles of Individuals with ASD, was presented twice this past year, once in Fall River and once in Mansfield. And last but by no means least, Bridgewater invited us to present Finding Resources for ASD, which we completed early last spring.

As you can see, Community Autism Resources was busy on the road teaching a wide variety of courses during 2004. We have begun 2005 in much the same way. In January we were back to Cape Cod to offer Understanding ASD and The Learning Styles of Individuals with ASD. Many schools and agencies have already signed up for courses in their communities. These trainings are in addition to the other services that we offer to individuals with ASD, their parents, family members, professionals, and the community at large.

We thank all of you who have invited us to come and speak to your schools or groups, because we always enjoy the opportunity to get out into the community, meet families, teachers and other professionals, and to broaden people's understanding of ASD. And for those of you have booked courses for 2005... well, we will see you on the road!

Jan

HELP WANTED

Parent seeking a PCA for 9 year old with HFA on Cape Cod. Please contact  
Capeesc@msn.com for more information.

Parent seeking PCA for 7 ½ year old with Autism in the Seekonk Area. Please call 508-336-0548 for more information.

Parent seeking home support person/mentor for young man with autism. Must be mature and reliable. Steady hours available. Contact Jan at  
Community Autism Resources for more information.

## AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Please join us on Wednesday, April 27, 2005 to celebrate Autism Awareness Day. Registration begins at 9:30 A.M. in the Great Hall at the State House in Boston. The program will follow from 10:00 A.M.-11:15 A.M. We hope that you will then visit your legislators. For more information, please contact Patricia Leonard-Toomey at extension 13.

### Division of Autism

Statewide meetings with families occurred in December. Janet George and Cariann Harsh have also met with each of the Autism projects as well as a number of other interested groups. The initial phase of the division is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2005.

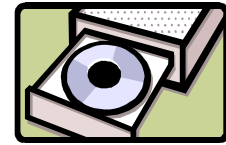
# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent Retreat

Community Autism Resources, Inc. is currently organizing the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Weekend Retreat for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (A.S.D.) on June 25-26, 2005. The primary purpose of the retreat is to provide a relaxing and supportive environment for parents to reflect on, explore, and share the rewards and challenges of raising a child with A.S.D. Another purpose is to provide a brief get-away for parents to relax and enjoy themselves.

The location will be the Alton Jones Campus of the University of Rhode Island, a retreat center including lodge and cabins in a beautiful and tranquil setting about 30 minutes south of Providence. The accommodations are informal and comfortable, and the food is excellent. The retreat is coordinated by Barry Prizant, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, a communication disorders specialist at Childhood Communication Services, who has worked with children with A.S.D. and their parents for over twenty years, and Elaine Meyer, Ph.D., a psychologist and a family therapist who works with families of children with chronic illnesses at Boston Children's and Women and Infants' Hospitals. Elaine and Barry have presented many workshops and informal discussion groups for parents of children with disabilities. The staff of Community Autism Resources will join Elaine and Barry in planning and facilitating the retreat.

If you are interested in receiving more information, or participating in the retreat, please call Community Resources at (508)677-9239 ext. 22.

## S.O.S. – Sharing our Software



### Language Capabilities in Software

Having different language options within educational software can be very helpful in classrooms. For bilingual students, visual supports can be designed to help young children learn vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure in both their native and second languages. Older students can gain academic knowledge in their native language and participate in regular classrooms. Teachers can produce parallel documents and visual aides for their classrooms in multiple languages. These programs can also be used to design visuals to support English-speaking students who are enrolled in a language class. Most importantly though, for students who do not speak English as their primary language, visuals can be provided in their native language so that they may easily access the information presented. The following is just a few popular software programs and their language capabilities.

**Boardmaker** is a graphics database containing over 3000 Picture Communication Symbols that can be used to design numerous types of visual supports. Pictures in Boardmaker come translated into 24 languages: Catalan, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English (US, UK, Aus), Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Hmong (Vietnam), Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese (Portugal and Brazil), Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish. Labels using any of these languages can be listed alone with a picture or with a second language label as well. In addition to having the symbols translated into the above 24 languages, they now have the entire program and manuals translated into a number of languages: Spanish, Italian, Portuguese (Brazil), French, Danish, Portuguese (Euro), German, Swedish, Norwegian, Japanese. People in many countries have provided Mayer Johnson with symbol ideas, which are particular to their country. These include symbols for holidays, famous people, food,

currency, etc. Boardmaker has PCS country libraries for Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. These are included with Boardmaker version 5.0 or may be downloaded free from [www.mayer-johnson.com](http://www.mayer-johnson.com).

**PixWriter** is a program designed for writing intervention and Picture It is reading intervention software. Picture It and Pix Writer now have Spanish capability. All existing customers can purchase the upgrade and receive the additional files needed so they can type in Spanish and get automatic picture matching, just like the English version. New customers will receive the version Picture It 4.2 or PixWriter 2.2 with the Spanish capability included.

**Picture This Pro** is a program containing 5000 photos that can be used to design visual supports. The language features of this program allow you to print labels in English, French, German, Spanish or Italian.

**Adaptedstories.com** is an online subscription of ready to print activities as well as computer-based activities. Many of the mini-stories that are available through this online service are also produced in Spanish.

We know that many individuals with ASD can more easily process information presented visually. We can provide that same support for all students in a language that may be more easily understood or help students learn a new language through these same widely used programs. For more information regarding any of the programs listed in this article please contact Community Autism Resources.



## New Legislation

In December new legislation (HD 2482, filed by Rep. Barbara L'Italien and S. 1484, filed by Sen. Antonioni) was filed to increase access to intensive in-home intervention services necessary to support children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in their homes and communities. This bill requires the state to apply for a Medicaid waiver for children with autism, providing federal reimbursement for in-home services such as ABA that help to ensure children succeed in their communities.

This legislation comes at a crucial time when there is clear evidence that the number of children being diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has been growing at a steady rate. In Massachusetts, the number of children with ASD in Early Intervention Specialty Services has increased by over 200% since 1999. Additionally, the research has demonstrated that when children with autism receive these intensive, coordinated services they can thrive academically, socially, and increase communication skills and that if children receive these services at a young age, the cost savings are significant. However, many children fail to receive these critical services. For these reasons, it is essential that the state seek assistance from the federal government to provide the services needed to this group of children.

Additionally, Representative Barbara L'Italien has proposed an amendment to Chapter 71B Section 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws to insert a sentence at the end of paragraph six which would require IEP TEAMS to consider and address the educational needs of all children on the Autism Spectrum by reviewing and discussing detailed lists of services which would be of benefit to that child in regard to progress in the general curriculum, including social, and emotional development.

Please contact your state representative and senator regarding this important legislation for children with autism. For further information, please contact Colby Brunt, staff attorney, Autism Special Education Legal Support Center at Massachusetts Advocates for Children, (617) 357-8431 x. 244.

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### **Calling All Grandparents...**

This spring, Community Autism Resources will be hosting our semi-annual GRANDPARENT'S BRUNCH. If you would like to get on the mail list to receive an invitation or if you want more information on this event, please call Jan at 508-677-9239 ext. 10. This is a Grandparent's only event.

## **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Spectrum Disorders Symposium**

March 4 – 5, 2005  
Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI

Presented by Barry Prizant, Ph.D., CCC-SLP &  
Community Autism Resources, Inc.

### **Presenters and topics will include:**

**Pat Mirenda, Ph.D.** ~ *Promising Approaches for Augmentative and Alternative Communication for Individuals with A.S.D.*

**Linda Hodgdon, M.Ed., CCC-SLP** ~ *Visual Strategies: The Key to Improving Communication, Behavior, and Social Skills*

**Barry Prizant, Ph.D., CCC-SLP** ~ *30 Years of Learning from Persons with Autism and*

**Elaine Meyer, Ph.D., RN** ~ *Their Families: Implications & Practical Strategies*

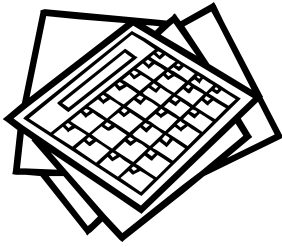
**Barbara Domingue, M.Ed.**

**Ros Blackburn** ~ *Logically Illogical: Information & Insight into Autism: Part II*

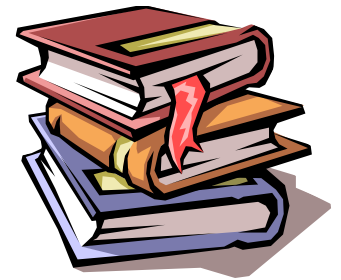
Ros is an adult with autism from Essex, England.

For information contact Community Autism Resources, Inc. – 508-677-9239 ext. 21 or 800-588-9239 ext. 21  
or visit our website at [www.community-autism-resources.org](http://www.community-autism-resources.org)

## Community Autism Resources



### CALENDAR OF COURSES & SPECIAL PROGRAMS 2005



*“Promises to Keep...”  
Providing Individuals with  
Autism Spectrum Disorder,  
Parents, Professionals, & Students  
with Essential Information & Training*

The various courses & special programs offered by the staff of Community Autism Resources provide state-of-the-art information on a wide variety of topics.

For each course a **Certificate of Attendance** noting the number of hours will be available.

#### **About this handout...**

This is your guide to our workshops and training program for 2005 – through the month of May. All the information is categorized by monthly courses making it easy to choose and register for the courses which are best suited to your needs. Please feel free to attend any of the course offerings. Simply fill out the registration form and send it to us. If you live within any of the following areas (including the surrounding towns): Taunton, Attleboro, Brockton, New Bedford, Fall River, Cape Cod and Islands, Plymouth and South Coastal Areas -- these course offerings are **free** but you **must register**.

**Individuals from outside our region may register and a small fee will be charged if space is available.**

*Please keep this guide in a handy place for a quick reference.*

Visit our WEBSITE at... [www.community-autism-resources.org](http://www.community-autism-resources.org)

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#### **CAR CLINICS AVAILABLE AT 4 SATELLITE SITES!!**

CAR now offers its popular individualized clinics at four locations. Clinics will be available on Mondays at the Attleboro Public Library, or our satellite site in the Southcoastal area. Hopewell Associates in Mattapoisett is the site for clinics on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of each month. Community Autism Resources Fall River office, our fourth site, will host clinics on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month.

For those of you who are not familiar with our clinics, they provide *parents* and *professionals* with a unique opportunity to discuss in detail, an individual with ASD. These forums are *individually tailored* to meet the needs of your child or student and present an opportunity for you to discuss your concerns. The staff at Community Autism Resources prides itself on its ability to offer support in a wide range of areas including but not limited to:

- IEP planning and review
- Communication, education, social, sensory, and behavior issues
- Designing and implementing social supports
- “Make and Take” visual systems

To accommodate teachers’ and therapists’ schedules, most clinics can be held *after school* in all locations and Teams are encouraged to attend. All clinics are offered at *no cost* for those in our region and at a modest price for those residing outside of our region. To hear more about this innovative forum, or to make an appointment, contact Janet McTarnaghan, Clinic Coordinator at 508-677-9239 x12.

## **Directions to Community Autism Resources, Inc. 1577 North Main St., Fall River, MA (508)677-9239**

### **FROM THE WEST**

Take I-195 East. Take the RT-79/RT-138 exit – exit number 5 – Towards Taunton/ N. Tiverton R.I.  
Keep right at the fork in the ramp.  
Merge onto MA-138 N.  
MA-138 N becomes MA-79 N.  
Take the US-6 W/RT-138 N exit towards N. Fall River/Somerset.  
Stay straight to go onto US-6 W/MA-138 N / N Davol St.  
Turn right onto Brightman St.  
Turn left onto North Main St.  
Office is located on the right side of the street, near the Division of Transitional Assistance, in front of the Narragansett Mill Building.

### **FROM THE EAST (New Bedford & Cape Areas)**

Take I-195 W. Take the RT-79/RT-138 exit – exit number 5  
Towards Taunton/ N. Tiverton R.I.  
Keep right at the fork in the ramp. Merge onto MA-138 N.  
MA-138 N becomes MA-79 N.  
Take the US-6 W/RT-138 N exit towards N. Fall

River/Somerset.

Stay straight to go onto US-6 W/MA-138 N /N Davol St.  
Turn right onto Brightman St.  
Turn left onto North Main St.  
Office is located on the right side of the street, near the Division of Transitional Assistance, in front of the Narragansett Mill Building.

### **FROM THE NORTH**

Take RT-24 S. Take the RT-79 South exit – exit number 7 – towards N. Fall River/Somerset.  
Merge onto MA-79S.  
Take the N. Main St. exit towards N. Fall River  
Keep left at the fork in the ramp, turn left onto North Main St.  
Office is located near the Division of Transitional Assistance Office.

### **FROM THE SOUTHCOASTAL AREA**

Take RT-3 South to RT-44 West.  
Stay on RT-44 West to 24 South.  
Follow directions from the North.



## **Course Offerings**



### **MARCH:**

Beginning Steps... Introductory Series  
*Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders – 2 hour program*  
Tuesday, March 8, 2005 6:30pm – 8:30pm

*Community Autism Resources: Services & Support* (What We Can Do For You & Where You Can Find Local Services) – 2 hour program  
Tuesday, March 15, 2005 6:30pm – 8:30pm

*Circle of Friends – Enhancing Social Supports for Individuals with A.S.D.* – 2 hour program  
Tuesday, March 29, 2005 6:30pm – 8:30pm

### **APRIL:**

*Learning About Communication & Social Strengths & Challenges in Autism Spectrum Disorders* -- 2 hour program  
Tuesday, April 5, 2005 6:30pm – 8:30pm

*Learning About Sensory & Behavioral Strengths & Challenges in Autism Spectrum Disorders* -- 2 hour program  
Tuesday, April 12, 2005 6:30pm – 8:30pm

*Question and Answer Session: Special Education Rights for Children with ASD Provided by Massachusetts Advocates for Children* -- 2 hour program  
Tuesday, April 26, 2005 6:30pm – 8:30pm

### **MAY:**

*Understanding & Using Visual Systems* – Part 1  
2 hour program  
Tuesday, May 3, 2005 6:30pm – 8:30pm



# FEBRUARY 2005

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| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri                                        | Sat                   |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4                                          | 5                     |
| 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | Fun Groups:<br>Valentine<br>Activities 11  | 12                    |
| 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18                                         | 19                    |
| 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | Fun Groups:<br>Mardi Gras<br>Activities 25 | Family<br>Drumming 26 |
| 27  | 28  |     |     |     |                                            |                       |
|     |     |     |     |     |                                            |                       |



# MARCH 2005

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| Sun | Mon | Tue                                                                                     | Wed | Thu | Fri                                               | Sat                                       |
|-----|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
|     |     | 1                                                                                       | 2   | 3   | ASD<br>Symposium 4                                | ASD<br>Symposium 5                        |
| 6   | 7   | Understanding<br>ASD course 8                                                           | 9   | 10  | 11                                                | 12                                        |
| 13  | 14  | Community<br>Services & Supports<br>course<br>& Commun. & Soc.<br>course on the Cape 15 | 16  | 17  | Fun Groups:<br>Ice Skating<br>Group Outing 18     | Conversation<br>With...<br>Laura Weeks 19 |
| 20  | 21  | 22                                                                                      | 23  | 24  | Fun Groups:<br>Group Outing —<br>Group decides 25 | 26                                        |
| 27  | 28  | Circle of<br>Friends course 29                                                          | 30  | 31  |                                                   |                                           |

**COMMUNITY AUTISM RESOURCES, INC.**  
**COURSE & SPECIAL PROGRAMS REGISTRATION FORM**

Please complete and return one registration form per person. Registrants from out of region are asked to return form with payment. Please photocopy for additional registrations.

|                     |            |          |
|---------------------|------------|----------|
| First Name          | Last Name  |          |
| Agency/Organization |            |          |
| Address             |            |          |
| City                | State      | Zip Code |
| Phone               | Work Phone |          |
| E-Mail              | Fax        |          |

**FOR REGISTRANTS OUT-OF-REGION:** Payments must accompany each registration. Make checks payable to: **Community Autism Resources, Inc.** Do not send cash. Cancellations must be confirmed in writing and postmarked 10 days prior to the course. There will be a \$10.00 processing fee for cancellations.

**CANCELLATION OF A COURSE OR PROGRAM:**

Registrations must be received **one week prior** to course meeting date. Courses will require a minimum number of participants. Community Autism Resources reserves the right to cancel a course or program if there are not enough participants. Registrants will be notified of any course or program cancellations. Send registration form & payment (if applicable) to:

**Community Autism Resources**  
**Attn: Patricia Leonard -Toomey**  
**1577 North Main St.**  
**Fall River, MA 02720**

Questions???? Please call Community Autism Resources (508) 677-9239 or  
800-588-9239 (toll calls only)

|                                                                                            | In Region | Out of Region | Total |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| <b>MARCH:</b>                                                                              |           |               |       |
| March 8, 2005 — Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders _____                              | FREE      | \$30.00       | _____ |
| March 15, 2005 — Services & Support in the Community _____                                 | FREE      | \$30.00       | _____ |
| March 29, 2005—Circle of Friends – Enhancing Social Supports for Individuals with A.S.D. _ | FREE      | \$30.00       | _____ |
| <b>APRIL:</b>                                                                              |           |               |       |
| April 5, 2005 -- Learning About Communication & Social..._____                             | FREE      | \$60.00       | _____ |
| April 12, 2005 -- Learning About Behavior & Sensory..._____                                | FREE      | \$30.00       | _____ |
| April 26, 2005 -- Q & A Session with Mass Advocates _____                                  | FREE      | FREE          | _____ |
| <b>May:</b>                                                                                |           |               |       |
| May 3, 2005 -- Understanding & Using Visual Systems: Part 1 _____                          | FREE      | \$30.00       | _____ |

# APRIL 2005

| Sun | Mon | Tue                                           | Wed | Thu                  | Fri                                            | Sat                                           |    |    |
|-----|-----|-----------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----|----|
|     |     |                                               |     |                      | 1                                              | 2                                             |    |    |
| 3   | 4   | Communication & Social course                 | 5   | 6                    | 7                                              | 8<br>Fun Groups: Woodworking & Pottery Part 1 | 9  |    |
| 10  | 11  | Behavior & Sensory course                     | 12  | 13                   | 14                                             | 15                                            | 16 |    |
| 17  | 18  | 19                                            | 20  | 21                   | 22<br>Fun Groups: Woodworking & Pottery Part 2 | 23                                            |    |    |
| 24  | 25  | Q&A Session With Mass Advocates & Cape course | 26  | Autism Awareness Day | 27                                             | 28                                            | 29 | 30 |

# MAY 2005

| Sun | Mon | Tue                   | Wed | Thu                           | Fri                        | Sat |                                   |   |
|-----|-----|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1   | 2   | Visual Systems course | 3   | Special Event: David Pitonyak | 4                          | 5   | 6<br>Fun Groups: Music & Movement | 7 |
| 8   | 9   | 10                    | 11  | 12                            | 13                         | 14  |                                   |   |
| 15  | 16  | 17                    | 18  | 19                            | 20<br>Fun Groups: Drumming | 21  |                                   |   |
| 22  | 23  | 24                    | 25  | 26                            | 27                         | 28  |                                   |   |
| 29  | 30  | 31                    |     |                               |                            |     |                                   |   |
|     |     |                       |     |                               |                            |     |                                   |   |

# Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts

ARC  
Massachusetts  
Waltham

217 South Street  
Waltham, MA 02453-2769

Phone: (781) 891-6270

Email: [AFAM@arcmass.org](mailto:AFAM@arcmass.org)

[www.arcmass.org/AFAM/](http://www.arcmass.org/AFAM/)

Autism Alliance  
of Metrowest  
Natick

Dear Friends:

Autism Support  
Center  
Danvers

As concerned friends, families, caregivers and people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), we have all struggled with the many complex issues that surround daily life. We have tried to tackle these issues on our own or as a small group. We have dreamed of the day when-- collectively-- we can make a difference. That day has come. Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts (*AFAM*) is the realization of that dream.

Community  
Resources for  
People with  
Autism  
Easthampton

**Our Mission:**

Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts will strive to assure the human and civil rights of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and the availability of essential supports so that they may live life fully and enjoy the same opportunities as others throughout this Commonwealth. We will educate others and advocate vigorously within the Massachusetts community and legislature to enhance the lives of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families.

Autism  
Resource  
Center  
West Boylston

**We will:**

- 1 Advocate vigorously for resources;
- 2 Urge insurance companies to cover treatments and therapies for ASD;
- 3 Strive to fully fund Special Education;
- 4 Support streamlined services and access to credible/current information regarding ASD;
- 5 Increase statewide public awareness about the nature and prevalence of ASD.

Asperger  
Association  
Of New England  
Newton

**We need your help to make a difference in the lives of those with ASD. With your help we will have a united front to tackle these issues at the local and state level all across Massachusetts. We will have an ongoing presence on Beacon Hill!**

Community  
Autism  
Resources  
Fall River

**Our goals include:**

- 1 Building consensus in the autism community on priority needs and supports to allow people with ASD to live as independently as possible.
- 2 Developing an ongoing presence among lawmakers, government officials and other opinion leaders.
- 2 Communicating positive lifestyles to the community.
- 3 Influencing education policy and practice.
- 4 Becoming a model for other states to follow and beginning to unify our message at the federal level.

ASA Mass  
Chapter  
Wellesley

**Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts has been formed by the families, individuals and organizations listed on the previous page. Join us by becoming a founding member of AFAM. Become part of history and ensure that our common voice will be heard not only at the State House, but also at city and town halls. Together we can make a great difference in the lives of each individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Help us to find strength in our numbers by becoming an Advocate for Autism today!**

Boston Families  
for Autism, Inc.  
Roslindale

Please fill out the detachable portion of the page below and mail to:

Doug Flutie Jr.  
Foundation  
Framingham

Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts

C/O The Arc of Massachusetts

217 South Street

Waltham, MA 02453-2769

Massachusetts  
Advocates  
For Children

**Or contact AFAM by email: [AFAM@arcmass.org](mailto:AFAM@arcmass.org). We look forward to you joining us in making much needed progress advocating for the rights of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Sign up TODAY.**

Sincerely,

Michael Borr

Chairman – AFAM Steering Committee

YES! Sign me up! I want to be a part of AFAM

Founding Member Donation \$ 20.00

I would like to volunteer for AFAM

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Options: \_\_\_\_\_ Check

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card: Visa M/C

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

The ARC of Massachusetts with  
AFAM in the notation line



## Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts

*Legislative and Budgetary Priorities  
of Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts  
2005*

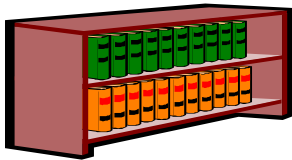
### Legislative Priorities:

1. Medicaid Waiver Bill:
2. Proposed Amendment to M.G.L. c. 766 to Address the Special Education Needs of children with autism spectrum disorder:

### Budgetary Priorities:

1. Adequate and sufficient funding for the Division of Autism
2. To increase Family Support Allocations for Families by \$4,000,000.

Remember we need your help and support to pass these Bills into law and receive the funding to service the ASD community.



### New to Our Library

#### Ian's Walk - A Story About Autism

Laurie Lears

In this children's book the sister of a you boy with Autism comes to understand that when she attempts to see things as her brother sees them, the two of them connect.

#### Biomedical Assessment Options For Children With Autism And Related Problems-

A Consensus Report of Defeat Autism Now! (DAN) Scientific Effort

Jon. B. Pangborn Ph.D. and Sidney Baker, M.D.

"The Biomedical Assessment Options manual represents the best thinking of some of the very best minds in the field of autism." The manual contains the ideas expressed at the DAN Conference 2002 along with later correspondence from the participants.

#### DAN! Conference Proceedings Fall 2004 - Autism is Treatable!

The Conference Proceedings of the DAN Conference held in Los Angeles, CA in October of 2004.

#### When Your Doctor Is Wrong: Hepatitis B Vaccine & Autism

Judy Converse, MPH, RD

The author writes of her son's reaction to the Hepatitis B Vaccine and, as a professional in

the field, presents research that she has done on adverse reactions to the vaccine.

#### Can We Chat? Co-Planned Sequenced Social Scripts- A Make It/Take It Book of Ideas and Adaptations

Caroline Ramsey Musselwhite and Linda J. Burkhardt

The scripts that the authors describe allow an AAC user to be more involved in social conversation. Methods to set up AAC devices to allow for sequencing of scripted information are described.

#### Independence Bound- A Mother and Her Autistic Son's Journey to Adulthood

Jacquelyn Altman Marquette

Look for the book review in this newsletter.

# ASD Support/Information Groups

## **Cape Cod PDD Parent Support Group Hyannis**

Contacts: Judy Fratus 508-362-8368,  
Kathy Ohman 508-385-4141

This group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month  
at member's homes.

## **Friends & Families of Kids with ASD Attleboro**

Contacts: Cheryl Gaudino 508-695-3956,  
Roseanne Housman 508-699-9190  
Sarah McKinnon 508-695-4634,  
E-mail: FaFofASDKids@yahoo.com

Meetings held in the evening on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month.

## **Autism Information Group Somerset**

Coordinator: Jenifer Mullen 508-674-5446

Meetings held 7:00, on the first Tuesday of the month, The  
Church of Our Savior 2112 County Street (Rt.138)

## **ASPN (Aspergers Parent Support Network) Carver**

Coordinator: Leanne Hyder 508-982-1680 or  
leanne-hyder@hotmail.com

Meetings held at the Carver Public Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of  
the month (vacation schedules & weather permitting)  
from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

## **A-OK (Autism & Our Kids) Plymouth**

Coordinator: Janice Stephen 781-747-5389.

This new group meets monthly. Please call Janice  
for more information.

## **Support Group for Parents of Children with ASD**

**The Arc of Greater Plymouth**

Call Jean Vecchiarello 508-732-9292

## **MOTHARS Providence R.I.**

Contact Jill Page: 401-722-8303,  
Sherry Crohan 401-728-5666

This group's focus is in the GFCF diet and Biomedical  
Interventions. They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month  
from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at R.I. Hospital.

## **Asperger's Parent Support Group East Providence, RI**

Coordinator: Barbara Whalen 401-333-1705

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
in the Pine Room at Bradley Hospital.

## **Autism Early Childhood Support Group Fairhaven**

Coordinator: Sandy Kinney 508-999-4436

Parents meet monthly, in the evening.

## **The Parent Support Group At DMR Brockton**

Coordinator: Paulette Flynn 508-427-5731 ext.326

This group meets monthly in the evening at the DMR  
office in Brockton.

## **Brockton Area Parent Support Group Brockton**

Coordinator Linda Crosby-English 508-584-4349 or  
at compre4540@msn.com

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of the month 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## **Aspergers Support Group For parents of School-age Children Cohasset**

Contact: Anne Reel 781-383-2131

2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm  
Shaw's Supermarket Conference Room

“ Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.”

Vincent Van Gogh

## **THE HEARTS & HANDS WALK FOR AUTISM**

Even though it is only the end of January, many of us are already thinking about and beginning to prepare for the 2nd annual Hearts & Hands Walk for Autism. The walk committee will be holding its first meeting on Tuesday evening February 1st at 6:00 pm. At this time we are looking for a few more people who are willing to donate some of their time to the organization of the walk, which is so very vital to Community Autism Resources, and the work we do with our families. In addition to a couple of committee members, we are in great need of one or two people who have good contacts in the business community who can help us with securing some corporate sponsors for the Walk. If you would like more information about serving on the walk committee, or about volunteering to help in another way with the walk, or if you are interested in more information with regard to finding or being a Corporate Sponsor, please contact Jan Randall at 508-677-9239 ext. 10 Thank you!!

# Proposed Education Regulation Changes

The Massachusetts Board of education is moving swiftly to make **major changes to the Chapter 766 regulations.**

**Some of the major changes proposed in the Ch. 766 regulations include:**

**1. Eliminate requirement that the IEP team determine a child's specific placement.**

Under the Board's proposal, an administrator who is not a member of the IEP Team can determine the special education classroom or school for your child outside of the Team meeting process.

**2. Remove parental consent requirements.**

Under the Board's proposal, the school district can change your child's IEP and placement without your consent. You must initiate legal proceedings (a hearing or mediation) in order to maintain your child's last agreed upon placement or services (this severely limits "stay put" rights).

**3. School districts can refuse to conduct an initial evaluation or re-evaluation.**

Under the Board's proposal, the school district can refuse to evaluate or re-evaluate a child who has been referred for an assessment by the parent, teacher, or other professional.

**4. Allows school districts to place all special education programs together in one part of a regular education school building.**

Under the Board's proposal, the Department of Education would establish a process to approve segregation of special education programs in one part of a building (i.e. separate wing, basement).

**5. Removes measurable short-term objectives from the IEP.**

Under the Board's proposal, the IEP would only contain annual goals. Short-term objectives are allowed, (though not required) by the changes to federal special education law and should continue to be required in Massachusetts.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **Write or e-mail the state Board of Education by March 1**

*spedregscomment@doe.mass.edu OR 350 Main St., Malden, MA.02148*

- **Call or write your state senator or representative**

*Call the state house at 617-722-2000, go to <http://www.mass.gov/legis/citytown.htm> to find out the name of your state senator and representative*

*For further information contact Johanne Pino, Massachusetts Advocates for Children,  
617-357-8431 x. 234*

*1/20/05*



*Community Autism Resources, Inc.*

*1577 North Main St.*

*Fall River, MA 02720*

*Phone: 508-677-9239 or 800-588-9239 (toll calls only)*

|                         |                               |         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Barbara Domingue        | Program Director              | Ext. 14 |
| Patricia Leonard-Toomey | Project Coordinator           | Ext. 13 |
| Janet McTarnaghan       | Educational Consultant        | Ext. 12 |
| Kathryn Dansereau       | Autism Consultant             | Ext. 15 |
| Jan Randall             | Parent Resource Specialist    | Ext. 10 |
| Linda Armstrong         | Parent Information Specialist | Ext. 11 |
| Fax                     |                               | Ext. 17 |
| Clinics                 |                               | Ext. 20 |
| ASD Symposium           |                               | Ext. 21 |
| Retreat                 |                               | Ext. 22 |
| Walk-A-Thon & Courses   |                               | Ext. 23 |

**WEB ADDRESS**

[www.community-autism-resources.org](http://www.community-autism-resources.org)

**E-Mail Addresses:**

Barbara Domingue [barbaradomingue@community-autism-resources.org](mailto:barbaradomingue@community-autism-resources.org)  
Patricia Leonard-Toomey [patriciatoomey@community-autism-resources.org](mailto:patriciatoomey@community-autism-resources.org)  
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Jan Randall [janrandall@community-autism-resources.org](mailto:janrandall@community-autism-resources.org)  
Linda Armstrong [lindaarmstrong@community-autism-resources.org](mailto:lindaarmstrong@community-autism-resources.org)  
General [car@community-autism-resources.org](mailto:car@community-autism-resources.org)

*Funding for Community Autism Resources, Inc. is provided by the Department of Mental Retardation and Private Donations.*

***Independence Bound***  
***A Mother and Her Autistic Son's Journey to Adulthood***  
**By Jacquelyn Altman Marquette**  
**A book review by Linda Armstrong**

At the time I read this book, my son had been in the world of Adult Services for just about a year. I found it helpful to reflect on my family's journey as I read. I found myself nodding as I identified with many of the things the author was writing about. I also found food for thought as this family is further along in the process.

This is a very personal story. The author, Jackie Altman Marquette, shares intimate details of her family life and the adjustments that took place as her son Trent left high school and moved into the period of transition into adulthood, and the establishment of an independent living arrangement. She is candid about the difficult times they went through, as well as the ways she and her son were able to rise above the difficulties and grow and develop. The things she found helpful as she kept herself and her family afloat will be sources of enormous support to any family on a similar journey.

I was struck by the depth of her thinking in terms of understanding her son and his needs. The loss of the stability of the routine of the high school years and the struggle to develop a new routine and rhythm to life is very challenging for a person with autism. Most will need a great deal of structure and stability to function at his or her best. The relationships developed in school are often lost once the person with autism leaves. Jackie explains that there is often a grieving process involved that each member of the family goes through in their own way, as one learns to let go of the structure of the past and develop a new structure. She offers insight into what can be helpful as one moves through this process. For example, she points out that it is important to talk to the person with autism about the things that will stay the same, such as activities that he or she will continue to participate in, for example, church activities or going to the YMCA. It is also important to help the person with autism to understand and come to terms with the changes and his or her feelings about these changes, through the use of social stories and direct discussion of feelings. She also talks candidly about what was helpful to her as she came to terms with the challenges she was facing.

A very important goal for Jackie was to have her son living in the community apart from her while she was able to be actively involved in lending her support to this process. She shares with the reader the steps she took to reach her goal. She also writes about how overwhelming these thoughts can be, and the emotions she and her son had to come to terms with as the process unfolded. She offers very specific strategies to families as they come to grips with what will happen to their child with disabilities as they age and decide on how to plan for the future. As she points out, it is often easier to just put things on the back burner because one is not at the point of dealing with them. She suggests beginning to plan for things even if you are not ready to really deal with them happening.

Jackie also explains that she had another important reason for writing this book. She wants people to look beyond the behavior of a person with autism and come to understand him or her as a person. She describes the various types of supports that are helpful to her son as well as to people with autism in general. She gives voice to her son Trent as she describes things she has learned by being in tune with his needs. These include, among others, the need for structure and order, simple and clear language, the need to have things depicted visually, preparation for new environments, situations and changes in routines, as well as the need for patience and feedback voiced in positive ways.

I highly recommend this book to all who are interested not only in thinking about preparation for the future but also gaining an understanding of the needs of a person with autism.

### **Question and Answer Session**

Special Education Rights for Children with ASD  
Provided by Massachusetts Advocates for Children  
And Community Autism Resources

Do you have unanswered questions about Special Education Laws?

Are you concerned about current trends, legal standards, evaluation rights and procedures, eligibility determination, IEP development, or special education service options for children on the spectrum?

You may wish to take advantage of this unique opportunity in a two hour Q&A group session led by an attorney from the Autism Special Education Legal Support Center. You will have a chance to hear a legal specialist answer questions. The specialist can only provide information. If you need further legal assistance the specialist can suggest names of attorneys or advocates.

Please join us on Tuesday, April 26, 2005 from 6:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M. at our Fall River office. There is no charge for this event, however you must pre-register by Friday, April 22, 2005. In the event of poor registration, we reserve the right to cancel this presentation.

## Upcoming Events

**Autism Resource Center of Central MA** is sponsoring **Exploring Alternative Augmentative Communication/FC** on February 10, 11 & 12, 2005 from 9am-noon. The morning presentations will include foundation concepts and "how to" activities, and is geared towards parents, professionals, and others who have a child with whom they would like to try Facilitated Communication. In the afternoon, there will be two hours, pre-arranged individual consultations for workshop participants and their potential FC user. Space is limited. For more information call the Autism Resource Center at 508-595-9101.

**Community Resources for People with Autism** is sponsoring **Insight Into Autism**- an Overview of Autism, on Saturday, February 26, 2005 from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm at their office located at 16 Pleasant St., Easthampton, MA. **Community Resources' 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** will take place on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 from 8:30 am- 4:30 pm at The Log Cabin Banquet & Meetinghouse, Holyoke, MA. Among the speakers will be Dr. Ann Turnbull, "Begin with the End in Mind: Individuals with Autism & Their Families Living Life to the Fullest"; Dr. Diane Twachtman-Cullen, "Theory of Mind: Where Communication, Social Understanding & Behavior Meet"; and Dr. June Groden, "Helping Children with Autism Cope with Stress through Relaxation & Picture Rehearsal". For more information, call the office at 413-529-2428 or 800-892-7003.

**The Family Autism Center** presents a **Teacher & Paraprofessionals Workshop Series on Autism Spectrum Disorder** on Thursdays, March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, and 28, 2005 from 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm. at The Family Autism Center at SNARC, 789 Clapboardtree St., Westwood, MA. Introduction/overview of ASD and current treatments; the applied value of neuropsychological tests; functional behavioral assessment; clinical updates, understanding and educating children with Aspergers Syndrome; and a parent panel are the among the featured topics. PDP's will be awarded. For more information or to pre-register, contact 781-762-4001 ext. 412.

**Autism Support Center** is sponsoring a **Camp and Recreation Fair** on Thursday, March 3, 2005 from 4:00 –6:30 pm. **Sibshops**, a program for brothers and sisters (age 8-12) of a child with any developmental, medical or behavioral health disorder, is being offered on February 24, 2005 from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm at the Autism Support Center, 6 Southside Rd., Danvers, MA. Registration is required for Sibshops. For more information about either program, call 978-777-9135, 800-7AUTISM or email [asc@nsarc.org](mailto:asc@nsarc.org).

**Asperger's Association of New England** is sponsoring the following seminars: **Understanding Asperger Syndrome: Interventions and Strategies for Parents** on February 14 or March 14 2005, presenter: Nancy Schwartz, MSW; **Success in School: Educational Interventions and Strategies for Elementary School Students with Asperger Syndrome** on March 14, April 11, or May 9, 2005, presenter: Lynn Mitchell, MSW.

**Special Education Law- Legal Rights for Children with ASD** is being held on March 7, 2005. All events are being held at the AANE office, conference room, 182 Main St., Watertown, MA. For more information, contact AANE at 617-393-3824 or go to their website at [www.aane.org](http://www.aane.org).

**The DAN (Defeat Autism Now) Conference** is being held on April 15-18, 2005 in Quincy, MA.

**Childhood Communication Seminars** presents **The SCERTS Model: A Comprehensive Approach for Preschool and Elementary School Age Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Related Disabilities of Social Communication and Emotional Regulation** on May 5 & 6, 2005 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center in Sturbridge, MA.. The presenter is Barry Prizant, Ph.D., CCC-SLP. For more information contact Kelly Dickson at 401-467-7008 or e-mail her at [childcomm@aol.com](mailto:childcomm@aol.com).

**Berard Auditory Integraton Training** is being offered on February 18-27, 2005 in Lowell, MA. For more information, contact Sharda Ramlackhan at 508-397-3277 or [shardaears@aol.com](mailto:shardaears@aol.com).

**The Infancy & Early Childhood Training Course** taught by Stanley I. Greenspan, M.D. and Serena Wieder, Ph.D. is being held on April 29, 30, May 1, 2 2005 at the Hilton McLean, Tysons Corner, Virginia (adjacent to Washington D.C.). The training will include information about assessment, diagnosis, and intervention planning. The May dates will be an Advanced Clinical Seminar featuring The New ICDL Diagnostic Manual For Infancy and Early Childhood. For more information call 301-320-6360.

**A Picture Exchange Communication System Training Workshop** is being offered on March 15-16, 2005 in Middletown, R.I. For more information call 888 PECSINC or send an e-mail to [starace@pecs.com](mailto:starace@pecs.com)

**FEAT/RI 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Autism: Sharing the Knowledge Conference** is being held on May 3-4, 2005 in Warwick, RI. For more information call 401-886-5015 or send an e-mail to [eadvocate@cox.net](mailto:eadvocate@cox.net).

**ASPEN Spring Conference 2005 "After High School, Then What?"- Transition, the College Search Process & Designing Support Programs for College Students with Asperger Syndrome** on Sunday, March 20, 2005 from 8:00 am- 4:30 pm at the Hilton Woodbridge, 120 Wood Avenue South, Iselin, NJ. For more information contact ASPEN at 732-321-0880 or visit their website [www.aspennj.org](http://www.aspennj.org).

**AHA/AS/PDD of Long Island Annual Spring Conference- Issues in Independent Living for Adolescents and Adults on the Autism Spectrum** on Saturday, April 16, 2005 from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm at Adelphi University, University Center, Garden City, NY. The keynote speaker is Liane Holliday Willey, Ed.D. For more information call 631-269-5709, e-mail [patschiss@aol.com](mailto:patschiss@aol.com) or visit their website at [www.aha-as-pdd.org](http://www.aha-as-pdd.org).