



AUTISM

THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

First Word

Greetings to all! The ASGC sends a huge thank you to Barb Hazlow and her gang at Cleveland Country Cares for a wonderful time at the Doubletree hotel on October 20. The live bands were great; the crowd was lively and fun and over \$6500 was raised for the chapter! Not bad for a night's work. Thanks again, Barb. Your group was professional, well organized and fun to work with.

We had a great meeting on November 6, with nearly 60 people in attendance. Sean Barron, who has authored two books on autism, one with Temple Grandin, gave a very inspirational talk on his own personal journey with autism. Sean has overcome many obstacles due to his autism and works as a feature reporter for the Youngstown Vindicator. His partner, Barb also has ASD and shared her stories as well. We learned that for most on the spectrum, patience, persistence and compassion can yield extraordinary results. We are very grateful to Sean and Barb and wish them the best.

In December we welcome Sarah Kovalan, Music Therapist from the Music Therapy Enrichment Center, Inc. Music Therapy is an area of therapy that is rapidly growing in popularity. We hope you can join us on December 4, please RSVP one week in advance if you plan to bring children.

Also in December, we have nationally acclaimed speaker & author Dennis Debbaudt for two special seminars on December 3 in Conference Room A at the Cuyahoga Valley

Career Center. The first, for first responders and law enforcement is titled "Autism and Law Enforcement: Recognition, Response and Risk Management". It begins at 8:30 AM and runs, with a lunch break, until 3:00 PM. The second, for parents and professionals is titled "Autism and Safety". It will take place from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM. More information on both presentations can be found at www.asgc.org.

Finally, we are proud to announce we will have our inaugural ASGC Holiday party in conjunction with our good friends at Autism N.E. Marian Helmick and her crew team up with ASGC party chair Kenneth Mucha and the ASGC team of volunteers for a special party for families with one or more individuals with ASD. It will be at St. Michael's Woodside Party Center at 5025 Mill road in Broadview Heights on Saturday, December 8, from 12:00 Noon to 4PM. We would appreciate an RSVP for this event as well by calling 216-556-4937, or logging on to www.asgc.org for more information.

How's that for a busy month? Remember, it is all possible thanks to your support. We continue to strive, everyday, to be the go-to source for information and your leader in advocacy in the Cleveland area. We take pride in this role and always look for ways to serve you better. Finally, on behalf of the ASGC, I offer a special wish to all of our members and friends for the very best this holiday season. Thank you and God Bless You.

Sincerely,
Gus Gallucci

Autism Society of Greater Cleveland

NOVEMBER, 2007

Autism Society of Greater Cleveland

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ASGC
P.O. Box 41066
Brecksville, Ohio 44141



NEWS FROM THE
AUTISM SOCIETY OF
GREATER CLEVELAND

Dennis Debaught to Train 1st Responders and Parents

Training for First Responders: Autism: Recognition, Response, and Risk Management

When: Monday December 3rd

Training Time: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Lunch is included

Cost: Free to first 80 1st Responders (EMS, Police, Fire etc) to register by November 16th (otherwise \$75)

Location: Cuyahoga Valley Career Center at 8001 Brecksville Rd., Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Registration: Print flyer from link below

More information at:

http://www.asgc.org/flyers/Dennis_Debaught_Flyer_10-20.pdf

Training for Parents: Autism & Safety

When: Monday December 3rd

Registration: 6-6:30 pm

Training Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Cost: \$5.00 (No charge for ASGC members)

Location: Cuyahoga Valley Career Center at 8001 Brecksville Rd., Brecksville, Ohio 44141

RSVP: dennis@asgc.org

**Limited to the first 80 parents to respond by November 26th.

More information at:

http://www.asgc.org/flyers/Dennis_Debaught_Parent_Flyer_10-22.pdf



Dennis Debaught is the father of a young man with autism as well as an author, video producer, and law enforcement trainer. He has presented across the United States, Canada, and in the United Kingdom. His materials are in use by police departments around the world!

ASGC Teams Up With Autism NE for Holiday Party!



This holiday event is for children with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

Saturday December 8th from 12 Noon to 4:00 PM

St. Michael's Woodside Party Center at 5025 Mill Rd. in Broadview Heights.

Co-sponsored by the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland and Autism Northeast Ohio

Cost: Free!

Lunch is provided thanks to local restaurants.

RSVP by December 1st at (216) 556-4937

Join the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland!

Dues for the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland are **only \$5.00** per year.

Checks for dues or donations can be sent to:

ASGC
P.O. Box 41066
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Check out our website at www.asgc.org!

Join us for our next ASGC
meeting: December 4th

All are welcome to the monthly ASGC
meetings!

When: 1st Tuesday of each month

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, 8001
Brecksville Rd. in Brecksville, 44141

Info or RSVP (216) 556-4937

Free Childcare is Available for ASGC Meetings

- Provided by staff members from STEPS Behavioral Consulting
- RSVP is requested for childcare by calling (216) 556-4937
- Let us know how many children will be attending



Upcoming Meetings

DECEMBER 4th: Sarah Kovalan, Music Therapist from the Music Enrichment Center, Inc.

JANUARY 8th from 6:30-8:30 pm (*Note: This is the 2nd Tuesday of January.)

Meetings are held at 8001 Brecksville Rd., Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Please join us!

DIRECTIONS TO THE CUYAHOGA
VALLEY CAREER CENTER
<http://www.asgc.org/events.htm>

Sean Barron and Barbara Protopoppa Provide Insight and Support to Families at November ASGC Meeting



The Autism Society of Greater Cleveland extends a heart felt thank you to Sean Barron and Barbara Protopoppa for speaking to our members at the November ASGC meeting. Sean and Barbara shared their stories of difficulties in their early years including delayed language development, stereotypical behaviors, and problems developing friendships. Both are now living happy and productive lives!

Sean told our members about a turning point in his life after watching a movie called "Sunrise", which was about a young boy with autism. From this point, he made a concerted effort to overcome autism. He began to watch himself in the mirror to practice eye contact and he began to give up some of the things that gave him comfort. He talked to his parents about social situations and he made an effort to "hang out" in groups of teenagers to help relieve the stress of needing to be responsible for half of a conversation.

Barbara also shared her life story where her ultimate success came as she realized she needed to seek out learning opportunities as she enrolled in extra classes and "read anything (she) could get her hands on."

Sean emphasized that every individual with autism is different. However, he encouraged parents to "tell your kids you love them as often as you can" and to assume your child is learning more than it may appear.

Thank you for sharing with us Sean and Barbara!



Barbara and Sean pose for a picture with Rory McClean, President and some of our ASGC members.



Sean and Barbara with some of the ASGC board members from left to right: Joe Glass, John Hearn, Rory McClean, Sean Barron, Barbara Protopoppa, Laurene Sweet, Barb Rutt, and Gus Gallucci.



Sean takes a moment to sign a copy of his new book, which was co-written with Temple Grandin.



Autism Society of America Publishes 2008 Calendar

ASA has released its first annual calendar, now available for purchase. Available in two sizes, it features 13 works of art by children and young adults on the autism spectrum. The artwork was solicited by local chapters and came from all corners of the country, from Oregon to New Hampshire. The calendar can be individualized by adding your own important dates.

To order the calendar, visit www.brightdoc.com/asa.



Project Spectrum Pairs SketchUp with ASD

Google developers didn't create SketchUp, its 3-D drawing software, with autism spectrum disorders in mind. But after launching the free download, the positive response from parents with children on the spectrum was so great that the company created Project Spectrum. This program enables individuals with autism to take advantage of their visual and spatial gifts, such as when some children with autism tend to “think with pictures.”

The idea was to make the program more widely available to the ASD community. In addition to the software, the project includes six learning modules on how to use SketchUp, a manual of lesson plans, and a video on how students with ASD have found it useful. To download the package, visit <http://www.google.com/educators/spectrum.html>. It's a FREE download! Google also offers a free newsletters for educators to assist with integrating this software into the classroom.

Temple Grandin Receives HHS Highest Recognition Award



Dr. Temple Grandin, ASA honorary board member and member of the Panel of Professional Advisors for the Autism Society of America, received the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Highest Recognition Award on October, 25, 2007. The event, held in the Great Hall of the Department's Hubert Humphrey Building, highlighted the Office on Disability's National Disability Employment Month. Dr. Grandin is one of the most accomplished and well-known adults with autism today and a pioneer in the field of cattle handling. She was chosen to receive the award for changing the perception of what is possible for persons with autism, promoting a better understanding of autism, and improving animal welfare. Congratulations Dr. Grandin!

Do you have some news or information to share?
Send information by email to lauresweet@yahoo.com by the 12th of each month.
We will share information, provided that space is available. Thank you!

NATIONAL NEWS

Congress Passes LHHS Bill, Which Includes Support for Autism

In Washington this week, Democrats and Republicans continued their debate on combining Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) spending with Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (VA) spending. Democrats pointed to broad support for both measures, but after some parliamentary back-and-forth, Senate Republicans prevailed in their efforts to separate the bills. The LHHS bill passed 56-37. It provides \$37 million for autism public awareness and early intervention. The bill was returned to the House on Thursday, where it passed with strong - but not veto-proof - support. President Bush has vowed to veto the LHHS bill because it asks for \$9.8 billion more than his budget proposal.

\$37 million for autism awareness and early intervention

Defense Bill Includes Autism Funding

For the second year in a row, Congress has provided autism research funding in the Department of Defense's Army Research, Development, Test and Evaluation program. This program will support early diagnosis and treatment for military families, and will also fund research to identify the causes of autism and enhance therapies and interventions.



American Academy of Pediatrics Releases Autism Reports Urging Early Screening

By Carin Yavorcik
November 8, 2007

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommended last week that all children should be routinely screened for autism spectrum disorders twice by the age of 2, even if they do not show symptoms. The leading pediatrics association issued two reports on identification/evaluation and management of children with autism spectrum disorders. The first lays out a set of guidelines, describing ASD warning signs and urging doctors to begin treatments immediately. Even before a definitive diagnosis, they should seek treatments for any autistic symptoms a child may exhibit. The second report outlines strategies for educational intervention and medical management, recommending at least 25 hours per week in educational engagement.

ASA Conference Call For Papers: Deadline November 21



Save the date! The 2008 ASA National Conference will be Held in Orlando, Florida, July 9-12, 2008, at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center.

The call for papers Deadline on Wednesday, November 21, 2007. If you wish to be a presenter at our 2008 conference, the time to prepare is now. We are currently soliciting proposals for presentations. ASA encourages members and non-members to submit a proposal for consideration. To submit your proposal, visit the ASA Online Abstract System at www.autism-society.org/conference.

Conference registration
begins in December!

National Conference Exhibitors--Sign Up Now!

Be sure to reserve your exhibit space today! Almost half of the 150 booth spaces have already been sold for next year's ASA Exposition. If you're interested in participating in the largest and most important event within the ASD field, please contact Meg Ellacott, ellacott@autism-society.org or call 302.260.9487.

Network Offers Resources in Autism and Applied Theatre

ATRAN is an online network of parents and professionals interested in applying theatre techniques to help individuals with autism. Applied theatre, defined as "the practice of theatre and drama in non-traditional settings and/or with marginalized communities" proposes to use theatrical aspects like body awareness, emotional expression, emotional recognition and empathy to help individuals on the spectrum strengthen social skills.

Find out more about this approach at <http://www.autismtheatre.org/>.



Autism Society of Greater Cleveland

P. O. Box 41066
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Phone: 216-556-4937

"The mission of ASGC is to serve the autism community by providing information, coordinating support services, and facilitating communication for the benefit of those with Autism Spectrum Disorder from diagnosis through adulthood."

The ASGC is a 501(c)3 non-profit, all volunteer organization.

Your donations are tax deductible and we welcome your support!

To learn more, call us or log on to:
www.asgc.org

The information in this newsletter is for educational purposes only. The Autism Society of Greater Cleveland does not endorse any specific product, method of therapy or organization. Our aim is to provide information that assists our membership in making educated decisions.

Thank you for your support!



Autism Conferences and Courses

Tools for Tots: Sensory Strategies for Toddlers and Preschoolers

Participants will learn how to integrate practical sensory strategies at home, the community, daycare, and preschool.

December 7, Friday, 8:30-5:00pm

UAW Hall
1691 Woodlands Dr.
Maumee, OH 43537

For more information, visit
www.rehabdynamics.com

Milestones ABA Family Workshop

Workshop for parents interested in learning Applied Behavior Analysis strategies to be used in the home. Multiple opportunities available:

December 2, Sunday, 1:30- 4:30 pm, Middlefield, OH

January 6, Sunday, 1:30- 4:30 pm, Brecksville, OH

February 3, Sunday 1:30-4:30 pm, Warren, OH

March 2, Sunday 1:30-4:30 pm, Strongsville, OH

http://www.milestones.org/news_events.htm or call 216-371-4765

Autism 2007

Autism Spectrum Disorders: Research Update and Evidence Based Treatment Models

December 7, Friday. 8:30am-5:00pm

UCLA Center for Autism and Treatment (CART) (California)

For more information, visit
http://www.autism.ucla.edu/files/Autism2007_Registration.pdf