



Autism Society of America Santa Barbara Chapter SUMMER 2007

Education

Awareness

Advocacy

Support



Message from our Co-Presidents

It's summertime! That wonderful time of year when we can step back, take a breath and spend time with our children having fun in the sun. We hope that by now you've settled in to your summer routine and found ways to structure your child's days in order for your entire family to share some quality time together. One way to share some great family fun is to join us for ASASB's 3rd Annual Beach and Surf Day at Leadbetter Beach on Saturday, August 18th from 9-1. Please find additional information about this special family event on page 2.

ASASB has been very busy since you received our Spring Newsletter. In March, Wendy Kelly joined our team as our new Office Administrator. Wendy is a warm and friendly voice on the phone, an efficient and organized go-to person in the office, and an understanding and supportive fellow parent, raising three terrific boys. If you haven't had the opportunity, by all means, give Wendy a call sometime and find out for yourselves why we're so delighted to have her in this key role.

On May 12th, SBParent.com and Moms in Motion hosted another fabulous fun Family Festival at Goleta Beach. The Autism Society of America, Santa Barbara Chapter was the featured local non-profit at this event. We celebrated the unique talents of many of our children by setting up an art walk/show featuring the talents of local individuals with autism. In addition, we had a literature table, which provided the public with valuable information and increased community awareness. We received a lot of traffic and were able to interact with many people who were interested in autism. We were honored to have California State Assemblyman Pedro Nava announce the winners of our Raffle, with our own Dr. Earl Lynch being the grand prizewinner. Thanks to Kristi Holm for providing beautiful photo collages of our children at Surf Day and other events; to Jill Crang for heading the overall committee; to Maria Sherlock who solicited so many of the prizes; to the ASASB Board members who were there answering so many questions from the attendees; and to everyone who bought and sold raffle tickets. We want to thank the *Special Needs Project*, which provided us with copies of *The Elephant in the Playroom* to sell. We all had a great time, not only showing off our kid's talents and raising awareness, but also enjoying a fantastic day at the beach. Thanks again to SBParent.com and Moms in Motion for sponsoring this great family event.

Sandy continues her tireless efforts by developing information and support materials and programs for parents of newly diagnosed children. Over the next months, we will have comprehensive print information available in both English and Spanish, a revised and updated information section on our website, and some expanded training and support opportunities, specifically designed to help parents make the shift from the shock of a new diagnosis to effective and proactive advocacy on behalf of their children.

Marcia recently returned from attending the National ASA Conference in Phoenix, representing not only ASASB, but also as a member of the ASA California contingent. She attended the Chapter Leader workshop and received an update on the exciting new partnership between ASA and Easter Seals. This collaborative effort, announced at the Opening Ceremony of the Conference, is going to enable ASA to leverage the abilities and expertise of Easter Seals. Together, our two long-established, grassroots organizations have crafted a shared vision and plan to pilot programs and initiatives that will help improve the lives of individuals living with autism. A few areas of focus for the Easter Seals and ASA partnership include:

- Establishing a national and international network of organizations that help people with autism to share knowledge, best practices and effective treatments
- Developing systems that help improve access to and delivery of local autism services and treatments
- Co-sponsoring a series of research-based consensus conferences and promoting outcomes
- Increasing awareness and understanding of the needs of the autism community

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Marcia also attended breakout sessions on a variety of topics, including strategies to address food issues, special needs planning, adolescence and making your student's daily program more meaningful, and developing relationships with first responders and emergency personnel, to name a few. During the ASA National Board Meeting, she addressed the Board during their public comment period regarding ASA National's on-going Strategic Planning process.

Many of the conference sessions were taped, and ASASB has purchased a copy of the proceedings, which will be available for loan to members in a few weeks. Marcia also gathered some helpful information, which she has brought back to our Board in order to assist us in better serving you, our local autism constituency.

Finally, our Board has been working on a strategic plan for our Chapter, and soon we will be asking for input and information from our local members on a variety of topics to assist us with this process.

As always, ASASB runs on the enthusiasm and generosity of our volunteers, donors, business partners, and most of all, our members. We welcome involvement at any level – help at one event, coordinate one project, or become a regular committee member! If you're just getting to know us and want to know the best place to "stick your toe in," why not start by becoming a member? You'll receive all our updates and information, be eligible for discounts and incentives, and best of all, you'll join that marvelous organization of people who work together for the noblest of causes: being the voice and resource of people living with autism throughout Santa Barbara County.

On behalf of the Board, we wish you a relaxing and meaningful summer experience with your children and your families.

Marcia Eichelberger and Patti Gaultney

Any human anywhere will blossom in a hundred unexpected talents and capacities simply by being given the opportunity to do so. --Doris Lessing (British novelist)

Autism Society of America
Santa Barbara Chapter

3rd Annual Surf and Beach Day

with the Santa Barbara SEALS Surf School

Aug 18 9:00 til 1:00 at Leadbetter Beach - West end

RSVP and liability waiver required.

info@asasb.org or 560-3762





Upcoming Events

Soma's RPM Workshop - Soma Mukhopadhyay
will conduct 1:1 Rapid Prompting Method instructional sessions with local students
512-465-9595 - Aug 9-11 Irvine - HALO Staff
www.halo-soma.org information@halo-soma.org

North County Autism Parents Support Group

childcare and refreshments provided

Aug 14 Lompoc 4-5:30pm Dorothy Jackson Family Network Center
503 N. W Street, Lompoc (805) 347-2775

ASASB 3rd Annual Surf and Beach Day with the Santa Barbara SEALS Surf School

Aug 18 Santa Barbara 9a-1p

Leadbetter Beach West End (near Shoreline Park)

RSVP required. info@asasb.org or 560-3762

Pasadena Back to School Autism/Asperger's Conference
Michelle Garcia Winner, Teresa Cardon, Rick Clemens, Sue Golubock, Jaes Adas
over 30 presentations to choose from

Aug 18-19 Pasadena \$160 for both days for parents (early reg)

Pasadena City College, 1570 E. Colorado Blvd

www.autism-conferences.com autismconferences@gmail.com 562--804-5516

Two-Day PECS Training - The Picture Exchange Communication System
Aug 23-24 San Diego 8a-4p \$425 pro, \$325 parent Holiday Inn on the Bay Amanda Hunter
www.pecs.com ahunter@pecs.com 302-368-2515

North County Autism Parents Support Group

childcare and refreshments provided

Sept 11 Lompoc 4-5:30pm Dorothy Jackson Family Network Center
503 N. W Street, Lompoc (805) 347-2775

The 2nd Annual Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT) Conference featuring Drs. Robert and Lynn Koegel

Sept 13-14 Santa Barbara 9am-4pm \$195 Early Bird (by Aug 13)

Koegel Autism Consultants www.education.ucsb.edu/autism

North County Autism Parents Support Group

childcare and refreshments provided

Oct 9 Lompoc 4-5:30pm Dorothy Jackson Family Network Center
503 N. W Street, Lompoc (805) 347-2775

Relationship Development Intervention (RDI) 4 Day Intensive Parent Training led by
Melanie Smith- Oct 9-12 Los Angeles area 9am-3:30pm TBA
Nisha Patel www.rdiconnect.com patel@rdiconnect.com 713-838-1362 x 108



Autism Society of America Santa Barbara -- Comprehensive Membership Registration

The mission of the Autism Society of America Santa Barbara is to promote lifelong access and opportunity for all individuals within the autism spectrum, and their families, and to be fully participating, included members of their community. Support, education, advocacy, and an active public awareness form the cornerstones of ASA Santa Barbara's efforts to carry forth its mission.

Autism Society of America Santa Barbara is a 501(c)3 organization.

Please return completed form to ASASB, P. O. Box 30364, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-0364

Name(s): _____ New: _____ Renewal: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone (home): _____ (work): _____

Membership Level:

_____ Student \$15

_____ Individual \$53

_____ Family \$64

_____ Professional \$135

_____ Parent/Grandparent of a person with autism

_____ Other relative of someone with autism

_____ Professional service provider – public agency

_____ Professional service provider – private practice

_____ Student

_____ Other (describe) _____

***Don't be just another member
of society,
be a living example of your
dreams and goals.
--Author Unknown***

NANNY/FAMILY ASST

For your “sensitive child”
Montecito/Hope Ranch family
30 yrs exp - teacher, therapist,
life coach/nanny. Exc. refs.
Colleen 805-969-6857

paid advertisement

PROFESSIONAL INPUT REQUESTED FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

Sarah Gates, a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at Antioch University New England, is studying home-based clinicians who work with children diagnosed with various developmental, emotional, behavioral, or other needs.

She is looking for clinicians to answer some questions about their professional experiences.

She is particularly interested in how their clinical supervisors support their work.

Home-based clinicians may participate in Ms. Gates' research survey by following this link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=dPPXe5DS3Yieo27hecjHDA_3d_3d

You may also obtain a copy of Ms. Gates' approved IRB application by contacting her at:

Sarah Gates, M.A., M.S.
Antioch University New England
Sarah_Gates@antiochne.edu



ASASB'S AUTISM ANGEL

SUMMER 2007

Ruth Rech, Coordinator of Special Education, Carpinteria Unified School District

Ruth Rech moved to Santa Barbara with her family at age 10 and attended Adams Elementary, La Cumbre Junior High and Santa Barbara High (once a Don always a Don!). Following graduation from SBHS, she attended UCSB, earning her B.A. in the field of Speech and Hearing. She completed her Masters Degree in Speech and Language at Humboldt State University and lived in Eureka, CA for 3 years working as a speech and language specialist in the schools and a sign language instructor and interpreter. She really missed family, friends and the Santa Barbara weather, so in 1979, she and her husband moved back here; their son Christopher was born a short time later.

Upon her return to Santa Barbara, Ruth accepted a position as a speech specialist as well as an adult education Sign Language Instructor. She has worked for SBCEO, Goleta Union School District, and Hope School District, and for the past 20 years, Carpinteria Unified School District. Four years ago, she was encouraged to pursue an Administrative Credential and successfully completed this program at Azusa Pacific University. She is now the Coordinator of Special Education for Carpinteria Unified and is extremely pleased with the positive changes her educators make in the lives of students with special needs.

Ruth's efforts on behalf of children and families with autism are not limited to her job, however. She has been an active member of the Tri-Counties Autism Interagency Task Force since its inception and has generously served as the Chairperson for the subcommittee focusing on Interagency Collaboration. Attending various workshops and trainings in Autism as well as other disabilities is a priority for Ruth, in order to make sure she is up on the current research and information. She strives to work with the families and students in her district in a collaborative model and continues to work on creative solutions to meet the needs of all children.

Ruth is married to Greg Rech, to whom she refers as "my wonderful supportive husband," a partner in a local architectural firm (Architects West). Their son Christopher is a firefighter in Lynden, Washington, daughter in law Marianne teaches 3rd grade in Blaine, Washington, and Ruth recently became a grandmother with the birth of their precious daughter, Noah.

In Memoriam

*The Autism Society of America, Santa Barbara Chapter announces with profound sadness the passing of **Brendan Blum** on June 27, 2007. He was 14 years old.*

Brendan, who had Asperger Syndrome, was attending a therapeutic residential school in another state when he died. He is survived by his mother, Dana, and his 13-year-old sister, Katie. Brendan's father passed away in 2006.

*In honor of Brendan, **The Brendan Blum Memorial Fund** will be established at Santa Barbara Bank and Trust. Contributions may be made at any Santa Barbara Bank and Trust location.*

The Board and staff of ASASB extend our deepest condolences to Dana and Katie as they endeavor to carry on, seeking a way to create something positive out of their terrible loss. We wish them all compassion and success in their mission.

Peace to Brendan's memory.

*We shall draw from the heart of suffering itself the means of inspiration and survival.
--Winston Churchill*

THANK YOU!!!

DONORS

*Brian & Jacqueline Weir
Celia Blanchet*

VOLUNTEERS

Jill Crang & Family
Kristi Holm & family
Celia Blanchet

PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS

Area IX Board for Developmental Disabilities
Moms in Motion
SBParent.com
SB Athletic Roundtable
UCSB First S.T.E.P.



Autism Society of America, Santa Barbara Chapter
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Santa Barbara, CA 93130

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