



# ASGC Newsletter

## From The President's Desk

Dear ASGC Members,

It's finally here. July: the month when we collectively celebrate baseball, our nation's birthday and the invention of air-conditioning.

First off, the ASGC wishes to thank Elisabeth from Whole Child Therapy for a great presentation with many useful tips on how to improve the motor skills of our autistic loved ones.

We look forward to our July 5 meeting when we welcome Joe Jarzynski from Fieldstone Farm as our featured speaker. Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center (TRC) is a non-profit riding center that offers equine-based programming to individuals with specific challenges, including autism. Students benefit from the organization's many programs including mounted riding and ground lessons, driving, summer camp and hippo therapy. Joe is a NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association)

### ASGC Meeting Time & Place

The ASGC meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm in room 8 of the St. Basil Parish Center in Brecksville. The next meeting is July 5.

Anyone who is affected by, has a loved one affected by, or just wishes to learn more about autism or autism spectrum disorders is welcome to attend.

certified instructor and has been with Fieldstone Farm TRC since 1999.

Our strategic planning process moves along with the help of our facilitator, Tom Romito, a non-profit strategic planning veteran. Your input is very important to our process, as this process will direct our actions for some time to come. What are we doing well? How can we improve? Your feedback is very important to us. Let us know what you think at [support@asgc.org](mailto:support@asgc.org) or at 216.556.4937.

Your comments and support are always appreciated as we move ever forward in our efforts to make the greater Cleveland area the best place to live for those with ASD.

Thank you,  
Rory McLean  
Gus Gallucci

Please excuse our shorter-than-normal newsletter. We will return to our normal format next month.

Thanks!

Autism Society of  
Greater Cleveland

July 2006

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### Autism Society of Greater Cleveland Officers

**Rory McLean**  
President

**Gus Gallucci**  
Vice President

**Maureen Ferfolia**  
Secretary

We can be reached  
at:  
(216)556-4937

## Q. What's the Best Way to Welcome My Autistic Grandchild?

My four-year-old grandson is autistic. He and his parents will be visiting with us for three weeks, and we want to make him welcome. My concern is how to get to know him...how to approach him without scaring him... and how to help him feel comfortable in a whole new setting.

### From Bob Naseef:

It is heart-warming to hear from you about your grandson. So many parents of children who are diagnosed on the autism spectrum wish their parents would seek out information and support such as you are doing right now. Your job is certainly complicated by the distance you live from your son and his family. That makes your job of getting to know your grandson as well as supporting your son and daughter (in law) more challenging. From what you wrote, I sense that you and your wife are up for it. Ask them where to start and how you can be a good parent to them and grandparent to their child. Speak from your heart and chances are excellent that their hearts will welcome yours.

*Robert Naseef, Ph.D., and Cindy Ariel, Ph.D., are the co-editors of "Voices from the Spectrum: Parents, Grandparents, Siblings, People with Autism, and Professionals Share Their Wisdom" (2006). On the web at:*  
[www.alternativechoices.com](http://www.alternativechoices.com)

## Video series addresses autism related topics

Information on a video series on a wide range of topics related to autism. Something for parents, teachers, siblings, and the community.

Autism Speaks Video Library

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/video/index.php>

## Tattoo company offers personal ID option

I've long reported on the value of high- and low-tech options for children and adults with autism. Some may recall the story from my book about the creative mom who made up non-permanent tattoos for her son, who would not otherwise tolerate anything attached to him.

Tattoos With A Purpose is an outlet for those who are looking for options to address personal ID for people who cannot speak for themselves. I spoke recently with Cindi Aldrich who operates this company in Royal Oak, Michigan. Cindi will personalize, design and take orders, large and small, for non-permanent tattoos. Lots of applications (pardon the pun) here. Cindi also offers bulk purchase discounts.

Email Cindi at [cindi.aldrich@tattooswithapurpose.com](mailto:cindi.aldrich@tattooswithapurpose.com) or visit her web site: <http://tattooswithapurpose.com/>

## Family Affair

**When:** July 29, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Where:** Canal Park, Akron, OH

Now in its fourth year, Family Affair is a daylong event packed with family friendly activities for all ages that create awareness and support for the people with disabilities served by Hattie Larlham.

This year's Family Affair will feature Court TV's Identi-Kid, Baby Olympics, inflatable rides and games, community organization displays, a Little Tikes playland area, a rock climbing wall, a Velcro wall, a giant slide and several bounce houses. There will also be a Family Challenge obstacle course where people participate in fun, non-threatening activities that allow them to experience what it is like to have a disability. For example, participants will be required to maneuver a portion of the course in a wheelchair or participate in an activity while blindfolded.

Headlining the 2006 Kids Koncert is a dynamic young cast that performs musical adventures called Hi-5. This twice Emmy-nominated show is educational and interactive with a high level of energy and excitement. Hi-5 will perform two half-hour shows this year at Family Affair. Currently, Hi-5 is featured on Discovery Kids and TLC channels every weekday morning.

Increasing the communities' awareness and understanding about Hattie Larlham and the people served is an important mission for Hattie Larlham. All proceeds from this event directly benefit Hattie Larlham, a family of not-for-profit organizations serving more than 1,200 individuals with disabilities and their families.

Admission is \$5.00 for general admission and \$10.00 for field seating and admission.

### Contact

Jennifer Hartman, Events Assistant

phone: 330.274.2272, ext. 3182

e-mail: [jennifer.hartman@hattielarlham.org](mailto:jennifer.hartman@hattielarlham.org)

## Resources available at Schwab site

A resource from Schwab Learning - a non-profit organization formed by Charles Schwab, the CEO of an investment firm and his wife. Charles is dyslexic and has a son with learning disabilities.

Reading Basics: A Parents Guide - provides information about reading for students of all ages.

[http://www.schwablearning.org/pdfs/EGuide\\_ReadingBasics.pdf?date=2-22-05&status=updated](http://www.schwablearning.org/pdfs/EGuide_ReadingBasics.pdf?date=2-22-05&status=updated)

Other resources are available at:

<http://www.schwablearning.org/resources.asp?q=7&s=1>

## Choosing ideal special needs summer camp could take six months!

You finally made it through the school year. Despite all the obstacles, your child did pretty well. You even saw him meet some of his IEP goals. But now summer is looming, and you have no clue what to do with him. Ordinary summer camp looks pretty unlikely -- after all, how many camp programs offer "social skills" along with "horseback riding?" Here's how to get the process underway.

**Difficulty:** Average

**Time Required:** up to six months

### Here's How:

- Start early. These days, even parents of typical kids start early in their quest for the perfect summer camp at the perfect price. For us, the start should begin even earlier -- sometime around September 1!
- Find out what kind of Extended School Year (ESY) program is offered through your school district. ESY is a federally-funded option for kids whose skills are likely to regress during extended breaks. If your child does qualify, he or she may be eligible for a free summer program. Some districts will supply a 1:1 aide so that your child can be included in a typical summer camp. Transportation is included!
- Look into Variety Club and the YMCA. Both have missions that focus on inclusion, and both work hard to make inclusion work. I was able to work with my local Y to add an autism support "bunk" to the typical daycamp.
- Surf the Web. Take a look at [My Summer Camps](#) and [Kids Camps](#) for listings of special needs options. While some of these camps can be pricey, others are about the same cost as a nice, private daycamp in your area.

### Sponsored Links

[Beyond The Wall of AutismLife on the autism spectrum.](#)  
[Find out more. \*\*www.autismasperger.net\*\*](#)

[Help for Asperger's Kids. A unique activity book that teaches critical social skills. \*\*www.InstantHelpBooks.com\*\*](#)

[Help Your Autistic Child. A new image exchange system using real photo images. \*\*www.elliecards.com\*\*](#)

- Ask around. Your teacher, principal, or parents of kids in your child's class may have great ideas. Another good option: post a question to your local Autism Society of America's listserv.
- Check newspapers. Special "parenting" magazines in many metropolitan areas create camp directories. These are usually published in early winter. Many include listings for camps that cater to kids with special needs.

### Tips:

- All YMCA's offer financial aid to families in need. Be sure to ask about financial aid if you need it.
- Summer is an especially tough time for families with autistic kids. For most of our kids, unstructured time isn't relaxing -- it's overwhelming. That's why a summer

program is so critical. Don't let June roll around before you have a solid plan in place -- and plenty of photos of your summer available to create that all-important visual!

This is a two-day session of intense training for staff working with individuals with autism. The sessions will be taught by Janice Cline and Dustin Watkins from Bittersweet Farms.

These sessions are sponsored by the Ardmore Foundation in conjunction with the Crest Network, Bittersweet Farms and the host agency Toward Independence.

**Where:** Toward Independence  
81 Main Street, Xenia, OH 45385  
(937)376-3996

**When:** Thursday and Friday, July 20 and 21  
Registration at 8:00 am, Sessions begin at 8:30 both days

**For more info, please contact:**  
Mike Noe, Coordinator of Autism Services  
Ardmore Inc.  
(330)535-2601 ext 3333.

## ASA seeks information from crime victims, crime victim-serving professionals

Research indicates that individuals with disabilities experience crime at higher rates than individuals without disabilities, yet virtually no data exists on the experiences of individuals with autism. The Autism Society of America, its Howard County (Maryland) Chapter and L.E.A.N. on Us, Inc., are currently developing a training curriculum and materials for crime victim-serving professionals, individuals with autism spectrum disorders, and families and caregivers.

To ensure that the final products meet the needs of these target audiences, we are seeking your input. The following two surveys -- one for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their caregivers, and one for crime victim-serving professionals (police, paramedics, counselors, etc.) -- have been designed to gather information about crime and individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Please fill out the appropriate survey below and forward this message to others.

Survey for Individuals with Autism and Families & Caregivers:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=581552000509>

Survey for Crime Victim Serving Professionals:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=249952000624>

Thank you for your assistance!

## Autism Society of Greater Cleveland

P. O. Box 41409  
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Phone: 216-556-4937  
Email: support@asgc.org

From Diagnosis through Adulthood.

The ASGC is a volunteer organization



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## Upcoming Ohio Autism Conferences

**"Socially Speaking: A Window  
on the World of Autism"**

**August 1-2, 2006**

**Featuring:**

**Dr. Temple Grandin, Sean  
Barron, Rebecca Moyes**

**Duquesne University campus  
Pittsburgh, PA**

**For more information:**

**[www.autismlink.com](http://www.autismlink.com)  
[info@autismlink.com](mailto:info@autismlink.com)**

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