

# WJCS Autism Family Center RESOURCES & NEW PROGRAMS



845 North Broadway • White Plains, New York 10603

OCTOBER 15, 2009

*\*If you are not receiving this listing directly and would like to be placed on our email list please contact  
Lisa Weinstein at [lweinstein@wjcs.com](mailto:lweinstein@wjcs.com)*

*\*This list is not an endorsement of any services or programs, but rather a resource for professionals and families  
to learn of upcoming events that have been made known to us.\**

## RESOURCES & NEW PROGRAMS

*\*TITLES OF NEWLY ADDED EVENTS, PROGRAMS & RESOURCES ARE IN RED*

## NEWS FROM WJCS AUTISM FAMILY CENTER

**\*\*\*WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009 6:30pm -8:00pm**

**A JOURNEY THROUGH THE LIFE SPAN: - PUTTING TOGETHER THE PIECES**

**Early Childhood: Navigating EI and CPSE Services**

Entering the world of Early Intervention and CPSE can be overwhelming.

In this workshop, we will help parents decipher these two systems by discussing:

**Differences in the Early Intervention and CPSE systems \* How to register in the CPSE system \* Services available in each system**

Join us for a conversation with Susan Miron, MA, OTR/L, SAS, Program Director of WJCS Milestones: An Early Intervention program

Parents will have an opportunity to share feelings/thoughts/issues that may have arisen from the presentation. They will also be able to gain resources, identify common concerns, & offer support.

WJCS Headquarters

845 North Broadway - White Plains, NY

**★ Registration is required.!★ Only 30 spots available**

To register, please contact: Bonnie Graham, LMSW, Program Coordinator (914) 761 - 0600 ext 228 or [bgraham@wjcs.com](mailto:bgraham@wjcs.com)

**\*\*\*MONDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 6:30pm**

**GIRLS' NIGHT OUT** - a social club for girls (12 - 16) on the autistic spectrum. Girls will have the opportunity to socialize, meet new friends, and connect with others! Moms will be able to relax, socialize, and share experiences. This experiential club will be in the Autism Family Center and in community settings in order to skill-build and have fun.

The group's first meeting will be in the Autism Family Center.

Pre-registration is required, so please e-mail or call (914) 761 - 0600, ext. 228. [bgraham@wjcs.com](mailto:bgraham@wjcs.com)

**\*\*\*MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2009 8:30am - 12:00pm**

**THE 17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EDYTHE KURZ CONFERENCE, AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION:**

**RAISING EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY CHILDREN THROUGH FAMILIES, SCHOOLS & COMMUNITES**

Manhattanville College - Reid Castle, 2900 Purchase Street, Purchase, NY

MAP - <http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&q=2900+Purchase+Street+Purchase+NY+10577>

**KEYNOTE: Using Prevention Science to Reduce Behavioral Problems Among Young People Community-wide**  
**- J. David Hawkins, PhD.**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

**ASSESSMENT & EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS FOR CHILDREN**

**WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

Kari Phillips, LCSW, Program Coordinator & Jill Brickman, PsyD, Staff Psychologist, WJCS Outpatient Services for the Developmentally Disabled

**EARLY CHILDHOOD MODELS**

Patrice Cuddy, BA, Director WJCS Parent-Child Home Program; Vicki Forbes, LCSW, Coordinator, WJCS Building Better Beginnings; Susan Miron, MA, Director, WJCS Milestones

**RAISING HEALTHY CHILDREN: BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS**

J. David Hawkins, PhD

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MODELS IN PARTNERSHIP SETTINGS**

Suzanne Doll, LMSW, Director, WJCS Linkages! Paula Santa Donato, LCSW, Coordinator, WJCS Young Parents Achieve; Beth Thompson, LCSW, Manager, WJCS Margaret's Place; Nanci Kennedy, LCSW, Coordinator, WJCS KICS

**EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH**

Carolyn Murphy, LCSW, Director, WJCS Family Matters; Johanna Wekar, LCSW, Coordinator, WJCS DBT

**\*FOR PROFESSIONALS ONLY\*** Conference cost: \$60 Make check payable to WJCS

**Contact:** John Alterman **Phone:** (914) 949 - 7699 x374 [jalterman@wjcs.com](mailto:jalterman@wjcs.com) or visit [www.wjcs.com](http://www.wjcs.com)

**STARTING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009 10:00am - 11:00pm**

WJCS HEADQUARTERS, 845 North Broadway, White Plains, NY

**GRANDPARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

For grandparents of children on the autistic spectrum

Meet other grandparents who share the special struggles of a grandchild with an autistic spectrum disorder.

Share triumphs & challenges

Develop a mutual support network

Identify strategies for improved family life

Increase knowledge of autistic spectrum disorders

Decrease isolation

For more information and to register: Bonnie Graham, LMS, Program Coordinator (914) 761 - 0600 ext 228 or

[bgraham@wjcs.com](mailto:bgraham@wjcs.com)

**PARENTING STRATEGIES & CRISIS MANAGEMENT OF PEOPLE**

**WITH DEVELOPEMENTAL DISABILITIES**

A Parent Training Program - **Sponsored by project BEEP (BE PREPARED)**

Supported by the New York Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and

WJCS Outpatient Services for People with Developmental Disabilities

**This course will:**

- Enhance family members' ability to support & care for their child with a disability in challenging situations Teach parents to identify & understand behaviors that drive crisis situations, as well as how to structure the environment to avoid problems situations.
- Enable caregivers to establish guidelines to manage difficult behavior & keep children safety in the community.

- Provide parents with tools to communicate with law enforcement & teach their children how to interact with law enforcement.
- Identify safety resources to utilize in the home and in the community.

**TRAINING COURSE is 2 SESSIONS - Participants must attend both!**

Monday, November 2 & Monday, November 9 - 7:30pm - 9:30pm OR

Wednesday, December 2 & Wednesday, December 9 9:15am - 11:30am

**\*\*Only the first 30 registrations will be accepted for each 2-part session!**

WJCS HEADQUARTERS, 845 North Broadway, White Plains, NY

To Register contact Jill Brickman 914-949-6761 X547 [jbrickman@wjcs.com](mailto:jbrickman@wjcs.com) or

Norma Litman 914-949-6761 X308 [nlitman@wjcs.com](mailto:nlitman@wjcs.com)

### **\*\*PROJECT LIFESAVER: FOR AN EXTRA LAYER OF SECURITY\*\***

**A PARTNERSHIP of WJCS AUTISM FAMILY CENTER & WESTCHESTER COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH**

Project Lifesaver allows families to purchase wristband transmitters to locate wandering and lost children and adults with Autism or other developmental disabilities.

**To participate in Project Lifesaver, individuals should:**

- Have a diagnosis of Autism or other developmental disorder.
- Have a history of wandering
- Live in the community with a primary caregiver

Once a wristband is purchased, caregivers will check the battery on their child's bracelet daily and commit to battery change appointments every 28 to 30 days to ensure that the bracelet is safe and effective.

For more information contact Bonnie Graham, LMSW Program Coordinator, WJCS Autism Family Center 914-761-0600 ext. 228 or [bgraham@wjcs.com](mailto:bgraham@wjcs.com)

**NEXT PROJECT LIFESAVER REGISTRATION IS -**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 4:00pm - 8:00pm SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 10:00am - 1:00pm**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2009 4:00pm - 8:00pm & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 10:00am - 1:00pm**

**\*\*\*PRE-REGISTRATION SCREENING REQUIRED!**

### **PARENT BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT TRAINING GROUP (PMT)**

**Westchester Jewish Community Services**

(WJCS) will be starting a 9-session evidence-based parent behavior management group for parents of children with developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorders.

PMT, developed at Yale Child Study Center, is one of the most extensively studied therapies for children and has been shown to be effective in decreasing oppositional, aggressive, and antisocial behavior. PMT trains parents to manage their child's behavioral problems in the home and at school. Parents will learn new ways to understand their child's behavior and to practice skills and techniques for effectively handling problem behaviors. Parents will learn how to prompt, praise, set up behavior charts, ignore inappropriate behaviors, use time out procedures and engage in active role plays to practice those skills. An assessment with your child is required prior to attendance in this group. This group can be billed through most third party insurances or at a self-pay fee of \$300 for the series.

**TUESDAYS October 6 - December 8, 2009 9:30am - 11:00am (No Session Nov. 24)**

WJCS, 141 North Central Ave. NY

Interested parents should contact Norma Litman, LCSW, at 914 949-7699 ext 308 or email at [nlitman@wjcs.com](mailto:nlitman@wjcs.com)

### **KURIOUS KIDS - WJCS MILESTONES Starting Fall of 2009**

**Social Skills Groups for Children Ages 2 ½ - 5**

Come to a safe, warm environment where play and social skills are developed through small groups. Focus will be on pretend play, cooperative play, turn taking, awareness of non-verbal social cues, & impulse control

**Monday 4:00pm - 5:00pm Age 5**

\*Led by an experienced psychologist incorporating Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)

**Monday & Wednesday 1:00pm -2:30pm Ages 3 - 4**

\*Group led by an experienced special education teacher. 1 & 2 day options available.

333 Pelham Road, New Rochelle, NY

For more information call Susan Miron 914.922-9333 X 13 [smiron@wjcs.com](mailto:smiron@wjcs.com)

## NEW INFORMATION

### FALL SOCIAL SKILLS SEMINAR - APERGER CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Meets Thursdays 5:00 -8:00 October 1- December17

A 12 week program specifically designed for young adults on the autism spectrum transitioning to adulthood

19 W 34<sup>th</sup> St. 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, NYC Mary Riggs Cohen, Ph.D. [mc@autismsrc.org](mailto:mc@autismsrc.org) 267-242-8097

\*To register for the fall course call or e-mail Dr. Cohen.

Tuition is \$950 and must be sent by Sept 30 to enroll. Tuition check is made out to Dr. Mary Cohen and mailed to: Dr. Mary Cohen 19 W 34<sup>th</sup> St., Penthouse, NYC 10001

### SUPER SOCCERSTARS @ THE ROSENTHAL JCC

For those children who would love to play soccer but just can't manage the AYSO groups, or who just need a little extra attention - we're proud to introduce the Super Soccer Stars Special Needs Program. This is a unique program created exclusively for children with developmental disabilities (accommodating children with ADD, Autism and other forms of PDDNOS). There are a maximum of 2 children per coach.

**SUNDAYS FROM OCTOBER 25 - DECEMBER 13 (No Class on 11/29 & 12/6)**

Ages 5 - 8 1:00pm 1-:45pm

Ages 9 - 12 2:00pm - 2:45pm

Enroll now! 212-877-7171 [specialneeds@supersoccerstars.com](mailto:specialneeds@supersoccerstars.com)

Takes place at the Rosenthal JCC, 600 Bear Ridge Road, Pleasantville, NY. Program is run by Super Soccer Stars ([www.supersoccerstars.com](http://www.supersoccerstars.com)). \$315/child

Please call me at (914) 741-0333 x19 or email me at [terry@rosenthaljcc.org](mailto:terry@rosenthaljcc.org) for more information. You can also find more information about this class on our website at [www.rosenthaljcc.org](http://www.rosenthaljcc.org).

### SEPTA/ECHO/Mt. PLEASANT LIBRARY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our AWARD WINNING program will begin again

**Monday, November 2nd, runs through March 25th!** 2:45 until 4:45PM, Monday through Thursday.

The program is free and open to all middle school students.

see attached flyer [http://www.pvillesepta.com/resources/5th-8th\\_graders\\_after-school\\_program\\_9.28.09\\$5B1\\$5D.rtf](http://www.pvillesepta.com/resources/5th-8th_graders_after-school_program_9.28.09$5B1$5D.rtf)

### LONG ISLAND PARENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER HOSTING 5 WORKSHOPS

Long Island Parent Technical Assistance Center, 887 Kellum Street, Lindenhurst 11757

Are you prepared for your child's CPSE/CSE meeting? Can't figure out what those scores mean.

Do you want to learn more about the Special Education process? Well, we are here to help.

The Long Island Parent Technical Assistance Center will be hosting 5 workshops to help parents enhance their knowledge of programs, services, and regulations that meet the needs of children with disabilities.

Dates:

Workshop 1- Tuesday October 20

Interpreting Test Scores

Workshop 2- Monday November 16

Overview of Part 200 Regulations

Workshop 3- Thursday January 28 Preparing for Your CSE/Mock CSE  
Workshop 4- Wednesday February 10 Role of the Parent Member  
Workshop 5- Thursday March 4 Transition

**\*\*\*Space is limited. Please call (631) 603-3300 and RSVP by October 15**

### **SURVEY REQUESTED BY THE NEW YORK STATE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON AUTISM**

The New York State Interagency Task Force on Autism is seeking input on the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their families. The New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities encourages individuals with ASD, parents, other family members, non-profit providers, professionals, advocates, and other interested parties to complete the survey. **This brief online survey seeks your opinions regarding which services are most important for meeting the needs of individuals with ASD and their families and which activities related to autism New York State should make a priority.** You may access the survey at

<https://app.expressemailmarketing.com/takesurvey.aspx?id=16666>

### **AUTISM SCIENCE FOUNDATION ISSUES FIRST REQUEST FOR SCIENTIFIC GRANT PROPOSALS**

**Grants will fund doctoral students focused on autism research.**

The Autism Science Foundation has released its first request for scientific proposals. ASF is inviting applications for a Doctoral Training Award for graduate students interested in pursuing careers in basic and clinical scientific research relevant to autism spectrum disorders. The proposed training must be scientifically linked to autism. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a program leading to a research doctorate, a combined degree such as an M.D./Ph.D. or an M.D. at an accredited university. Each student must also have a mentor to oversee his/her work and provide appropriate training.

"We are thrilled to be soliciting grant applications after only five months of fundraising and operations" said Autism Science Foundation President Alison Singer. "Outstanding research is the greatest gift we can offer our families and we intend to make every dollar count".

To request an application: <http://www.autismsciencefoundation.org/ApplyForaGrant.html>

To read full press release: <http://www.autismsciencefoundation.org/pressreleases.html>

### **STUDY BY FINDERS UNIVERSITY DETECTS SIGNS OF AUTISM IN FIRST WEEKS**

Verity Edwards | *September 14, 2009* Article from: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au>

**A WORLD-FIRST study on siblings of children with autism is showing that signs associated with the behavioural disorder appear in babies in their first weeks of life.**

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26068823-2702,00.html>

### **SCIENCE IN AUTISM TREATMENT NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE**

The Association for Science in Autism Treatment (ASAT) has resumed publication of its quarterly newsletter **Science in Autism Treatment**. Parents can often be enticed and distracted by the myriad of alternative autism treatments that have been put forth, many of which lack evidence of efficacy. Often, these treatments run counter to effective approaches and may deplete precious resources. We believe that ASAT's free e-newsletter may help families make informed choices about autism treatments. Newsletter recipients will stay informed of up-to-date science-based treatments, read about ASAT's response to inaccuracies about autism treatment in the media, and learn how science can be used to inform decision making.

The new issue can be found @ <http://www.asatonline.org/pdf/summer2009.pdf>

Individuals can sign up for the newsletter @ <http://www.autismsciencefoundation.org/feedback.html>

Learn more about books and blogs we recommend @

<http://www.autismsciencefoundation.org/booksandblogs.html>

### **DISABILITY.GOV LAUNCHED**

The U.S. Department of Labor has launched [Disability.gov](http://Disability.gov), a redesigned federal Web site that connects the more than 50 million Americans with disabilities to thousands of trusted resources on disability-related issues,

programs and services. Formerly known as DisabilityInfo.gov, the site has been completely redesigned and updated with new social media tools, such as a blog and a Twitter feed, to encourage feedback and interaction among visitors. Disability.gov is not just for Americans with disabilities, but also for parents of children with disabilities, employers, workforce and human resource professionals, veterans, educators, caregivers and many others.

Disability.gov features comprehensive information from 22 federal agencies, as well as educational institutions, non-profit organizations and state and local governments. Topics covered on the site include: benefits; civil rights; community life; education; emergency preparedness; employment; health; housing; technology; and transportation.

### **RETHINK AUTISM - A web-based autism treatment platform for parents and professionals**

**rethink autism's Mission:** Offering parents and professionals immediate access to effective and affordable Applied Behavior Analysis-based treatment tools for the growing population affected by autism spectrum disorders.

**Our Goal:** To improve access to effective, affordable treatment by providing parents and teachers with a state-of-the-art, easy-to-follow, web-based curriculum and proven teaching tools.

**We Believe: Everyone should have access to effective intervention.** When a child is diagnosed with autism, early and intensive treatment is crucial. No child's progress should be delayed due to high costs, waiting lists, or the scarcity of trained professionals. **rethink** autism bridges the gap between children and effective treatment by teaching parents and teachers *how* and *what* to teach so that intervention can begin *now*.

**Every parent and teacher can make a difference.** **rethink** autism recognizes that parents are a child's best and most important teacher. Our web-based curriculum provides dynamic, easy-to-follow video trainings so that parents and other teachers can learn the skills necessary to begin teaching their child *today*.

**Every child can learn.** **rethink** autism believes that with the right tools and support, every single child with autism can make progress. Our program shows parents and teachers how to teach so that they can discover all that a child is truly capable of achieving. We provide instruction on how to improve a range of meaningful skills – from learning to answer questions, to participating in a haircut. Our program allows parents and teachers to individualize instruction and programming goals so that each child can learn at their own pace and skill level.

**Interventions based on applied behavior analysis are the most effective.** Research has shown that interventions based on applied behavior analysis maximize the developmental potential of children with autism. **rethink** autism's ground-breaking curriculum translates thirty years of proven research into proven techniques that parents and teachers can learn, and then use to bring the world to the classroom, and the classroom to the world.

**Parents** can access hundreds of step-by-step video lessons, learn ABA-based teaching techniques, customize your child's treatment plan & seek online support from trained professionals.

**Professionals** can create individualized ABA-based curricula, train staff & families in state-of-the-art teaching, monitor progress using automated data-tracking and access tools necessary to manage multiple programs.

Visit [www.rethinkautism.com](http://www.rethinkautism.com) now: we don't just offer hope, we give you help. **rethink** autism empowers you to teach today! Call (646) 257-2919 ext. 202 to find out how to take advantage of our Back-to-School Special and receive a personalized tour of the **rethink** autism video curriculum.

### **FREE PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

(Programs funded in part by the Hudson Valley Developmental Disabilities Services Office)

#### **Family Days**

All parents and their preschool through elementary school children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and siblings are welcome to Parents Place Family Days. Your kids can meet other children and play with paint, sand, water, and toys etc... Sing and have snack (non-allergenic)! Refreshments will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite treats.

#### **FAMILY DAYS SUNDAYS 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

- November 8, 2009

- December 6, 2009
- January 17, 2010
- February 28, 2010
- March 14, 2010
- April 11, 2010
- May 23, 2010
- June 13, 2010
- July 18, 2010

### **Parent-Only Evening Support Groups**

These groups provide opportunities for sharing information, resources, and feelings; decreasing isolation by meeting with others "in the same boat;" and developing strategies to cope with children's behavioral challenges. Groups are facilitated by Lenore Powers, Family Counselor.

### **PARENT ONLY TUESDAY EVENING GROUPS 7:30pm -9:00pm**

- November 10, 2009
- December 8, 2009
- January 19, 2010
- March 2, 2010
- March 16, 2010
- April 13, 2010
- May 25, 2010
- June 15, 2010
- July 20, 2010

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3 Carhart Avenue, White Plains, NY

For more information contact Lenore Powers 914-309-0933 (cell) [lenorepowers@yahoo.com](mailto:lenorepowers@yahoo.com) or Pam Ancowitz 914-282-1118 (cell) [parentsplace@verizon.net](mailto:parentsplace@verizon.net)

**Groups are drop-in, but RSVP is encouraged, as it helps us plan**

### **AN INFORMATION FAIR FOR ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Family Forum** Feel free to stop by with your children anytime during these scheduled hours

Information sharing on family supports including: B2H program \* Parent Groups \* Advocacy Information Community Resources **\*including tickets to local Halloween events**

**MEET OTHER PARENTS! BRING A FRIEND!**

For more information contact Laureen O'Donnell @ [LODonnell@CardinalMcCloskey.org](mailto:LODonnell@CardinalMcCloskey.org)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009 10:00am - 2:00PM

CARDINAL MCCLOSKEY SERVICES

The Franciscan Retreat Center at Hastings, 49 Jackson Avenue, Hastings on Hudson, NY

### **COME ENJOY SUNDAY FUNDAY @ JCC (ROCKLAND)**

**8 Session Programs, skill building and fun!**

Appropriate for children ages 3-13, with Asperger's Syndrome, High Functioning Autism, PDD-NOS and other social communication difficulties. **Children must possess strong verbal skills.**

For more information call 845.362.4400 [www.jccrockland.org](http://www.jccrockland.org)

### **FREE TRAINING SERIES FROM RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, INC.**

**WHAT'S OUT THERE & HOW TO GET IT 2009 - 2010**

For Families and Professionals Needing Programs and Services for Children with Disabilities

For more information & to register, contact Gary Shulman, MS.Ed.

212-677-4650 ext. 20 [gshulman@resourcesnyc.org](mailto:gshulman@resourcesnyc.org)

**Bronx: Jewish Child Care Association**

Jewish Child Care Association 555 Bergen Ave. Bronx 10455

***(Trains 2, 5 to Third Avenue/149<sup>th</sup> Street)***

11/4/09 "Getting Ed. Services for the First Time" Jean Mizutani 10AM-1PM  
12/2/09 "Preparing for H.S." Mariko Sakita 10AM-1PM  
1/6/10 "The Earlier the Better" Nina Lublin 10AM-1PM  
2/3/10 "A Good IDEA?" Miguel L.Salazar 10AM-1PM  
3/3/10 "HELP! Family Support Services" Gary Shulman 10AM-12 Noon  
4/7/10 "Life After H.S." Helene Craner 10AM-1PM  
5/5/10 "Turning 5" Jean Mizutani 10AM-1PM  
6/2/10 "A Good IDEA?" Miguel L.Salazar 10AM-1PM  
6/23/10 "Preparing for H.S." Mariko Sakita 10AM-1PM

**Brooklyn: Challenge**

**649 39th St Brooklyn, NY 11232**

***(Trains D, M 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. or D, M, N, R to 36<sup>th</sup> St.)***

4/28/10 Evening Workshop "HELP! Family Support Services" 7PM-9PM (simultaneous translation will be provided in Spanish)

**Brooklyn: Brooklyn Heights Library**

Brooklyn Heights Library 280 Cadman Plaza West Bklyn. 11201

***(Trains 2, 3, 4, 5, to Borough Hall; M, N, R to Court Street; A, C to High Street)***

10/30/09 "Life After H.S." Helene Craner 10AM-1PM  
12/4/09 "HELP! Family Support Services" 10AM-12 PM  
3/12/10 "A Good IDEA?" Miguel L.Salazar 10AM-1PM

**Brooklyn: Grand Army Plaza Library**

**Central Library Grand Army Plaza Flatbush Ave. and Eastern Parkway 11238**

***(Trains 2, 3 to Grand Army Plaza or Eastern Parkway; Q, B to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue)***

10/21/09 "A Good IDEA?" Miguel L.Salazar 10AM-1PM  
11/18/09 "The Earlier The Better" Nina Lublin 10AM-1PM  
12/17/09 "Life After H.S." Helene Craner 10AM-1PM  
1/21/10 "Turning 5" Jean Mizutani 10AM-1PM  
2/10/10 "Preparing for H.S." Mariko Sakita 10AM-1PM  
3/10/10 "Getting Special Ed. Services for the 1<sup>st</sup> Time" Jean Mizutani 10AM-1PM  
4/21/10 "The Earlier the Better" Nina Lublin 10AM-1PM

**Manhattan: RCSN**

**Resources for Children with Special Needs, Inc. 116 E. 16<sup>th</sup> St. 5<sup>th</sup> Floor NY, NY 10003**

***(Trains 4, 5, 6, L, N, Q, R, W, to 14<sup>th</sup> Street/  
Union Square)***

10/28/09 "The Earlier the Better" Nina Lublin 10AM-1PM  
11/24/09 "Turning 5" Jean Mizutani 10AM-1PM  
12/16/09 "A Good IDEA?" Miguel L.Salazar 10AM-1PM  
1/12/10 "Getting Special Ed. Services for the 1<sup>st</sup> Time" Jean Mizutani 10AM-1PM  
2/23/10 "Preparing for High School" Mariko Sakita 10AM-1PM  
3/16/10 "Life After H.S." Helene Craner 10AM-1PM  
5/12/10 "The Earlier the Better" Nina Lublin 10AM-1PM  
5/26/10 "A Good IDEA?" Miguel L. Salazar 10AM-1PM  
6/9/10 "Life After HS" Helene Craner 10AM-1PM

**Manhattan: Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library**

Andrew Heiskell Braille & Talking Book Library 40 W. 20<sup>th</sup> St. NYC 10011

***(Trains F, V, N, R, 6 to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street)***

Nov. 10, 2009: "A Good IDEA?" Miguel L.Salazar 10AM-1PM  
Nov. 19, 2009: "Life After H.S." Helene Craner 10AM-1PM  
Dec. 3, 2009: "The Earlier the Better" Nina Lublin 10AM-1PM

Dec. 9, 2009: "Help!: Family Support Services" Gary Shulman 10AM-12Noon

Jan. 13, 2010: "Preparing for H.S." Mariko Sakita 10AM-1PM

Feb. 24, 2010: "Getting Special Ed. Services For First Time" Jean Mizutani 10AM-1PM

March 17, 2010: "Turning 5" Jean Mizutani 10AM-1PM

**Manhattan: Northside Center for Child Development**

**1301 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10029**

*(Trains 2, 3, 6 to 110<sup>th</sup> St.)*

11/20/09 "Una Buena IDEA" Miguel L.Salazar 10AM-1PM (en español)

12/11/09 "A Good IDEA?" Miguel L.Salazar 10AM-1PM

**Queens: QSAC-Quality Services for the Autism Community**

**25-09 Broadway Astoria, NY 11106**

*(Trains N, W to Broadway)*

11/9/09 "The Earlier the Better " Nina Lublin 10AM-1PM

12/7/09 "Preparing for High School" Mariko Sakita 10AM-1PM

1/11/10 "Life After High School " Helene Craner 10AM-1PM

2/8/10 "Turning 5" Jean Mizutani 10AM-1PM

3/22/10 "The Earlier the Better" Nina Lublin 10AM-1PM

4/12/10 "HELP!: Family Support Services " Gary Shulman 10AM-12Noon

5/10/10 "Preparing for High School" Mariko Sakita 10AM-1PM

6/14/10 "Getting Special Education for the First Time" Jean Mizutani 10AM-1PM

**Staten Island: Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center of SI**

**Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center of Staten Island**

**1466 Manor Road, Staten Island NY 10314**

*(Call for directions 718-475-5225)*

12/14/09: "The Earlier the Better" Nina Lublin 10AM-1PM

1/20/10 "A Good IDEA? Miguel Salazar 10AM-1PM

3/11/10 "Preparing for High School" Mariko Sakita 10AM-1PM

3/23/10 "HELP! Support Services" Gary Shulman 10AM-12Noon

4/20/10 "Life After High School" Helene Craner 10AM-1PM

**FREE PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES THAT DO NOT HAVE MEDICAID AND ARE NOT ENROLLED IN THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

To make a referral call: Cathie Shannon @ OMRDD 212-229-3250 For more information call: Family & Clinical Intake 212-780-2652 or Clara Cordero @ 212-780-2387

**PROJECT SPECTRUM - STRENGTHS OF AUTISM SHINE THROUGH IN 3D**

Project Spectrum was created to give people with autism the opportunity to express their creativity and develop a life skill using Google SketchUp 3D modeling software. The idea for Project Spectrum originated when we began getting phone calls and emails from users telling us about how much kids on the autism spectrum were enjoying SketchUp. As the calls kept coming in, we learned that people with autism tend to be visually and spatially gifted—that, in fact, they think in pictures. When people with these gifts get their hands on powerful, easy-to-use 3D design software like SketchUp, sparks tend to fly.

As an educator, you can:

- [Try Google SketchUp - free 3D design software](#)
- [Sign up for the Google for Educators Newsletter](#)
- [Join our online community at the Project Spectrum Google Group](#)
- [Watch a video on how to get started using SketchUp](#)
- [Download the Project Spectrum Manual of Lesson Plans](#)

### LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER, INC. Specializes in working with learning disabilities

The NY State Certified learning specialists provide tutoring in reading, writing, spelling, attention issues, study skills, and more...

The Learning Resource Center, Inc. understands that we all learn differently. A strategy that works for one student may not be the most efficient method for another. We specialize in working with children with learning disabilities such as dyslexia and ADHD. We also provide school consultations & are also available to present parent seminars on current educational topics.

Convenient Mt. Kisco office provides a professional, quiet setting to ensure the appropriate environment for optimal learning.

91 Smith Avenue, Suite #3, Mt. Kisco, NY Suite #3 914-218-8506 [laurarice26@yahoo.com](mailto:laurarice26@yahoo.com)

### THE JCC/COGNITECH CAFÉ'S FREE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT PROGRAM Sundays 10AM-2PM from October 18th-January 24th (except November 29th)

The Jewish Community Center, 334 Amsterdam Avenue, NYC 917 586 8000 [www.cognitechcafe.com](http://www.cognitechcafe.com)

After our one hour consultations with parents/children, we help them navigate school, public, and private resources for more formal assistive technology and augmentative communication evaluations when needed. All interested parents must make an appointment by e-mail or phone, as we are not available for walk-in services.

Contact: Mark Surabian, MA, ATP [Mark@CogniTechCafe.com](mailto:Mark@CogniTechCafe.com)

### NEW HAPPENINGS @ ADAPTATIONS

#### **New members - Check out CANY for New Members - 11-12:30 on Sundays**

Creative Alternatives drama group inspires creativity, confidence and a sense of community through the exploration and practice of theatre skills. Licensed drama therapists and trained theater artists will lead new group members through engaging interactive sessions using theater games, improvisation, poetry and artwork. Members will explore their creative abilities and stimulate individual and social skills, improve communication skills and increase self-esteem.

#### **CANY-FOR NEW MEMBERS**

10 Sundays, 11-12:30 pm, FSACANOOFO \$200 or \$20/session.

Sep 6, 13, Oct 18, 25, Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, Dec 6, 13.

#### **CANY- ENSEMBLE**

10 Sundays, 1-2:30 pm, FSACAYOOFO \$200 or \$20/session.

Sep 6, 13, Oct 18, 25, Nov 1, 8, 15 22, Dec 6, 13.

#### **OCTOBER VOCATIONAL WORKSHOPS**

Thursday, Oct 22 from 6-7pm: How To Conduct a Job Search - led by our amazing Job Counselor, Katrina Reese, M.S. (and stick around for dinner and friendly conversation at Chat 'n Chew from 7-8pm) RSVP to Allison Kleinman at [akleinman@jccnyc.org](mailto:akleinman@jccnyc.org)

Allison Kleinman, Director, Adaptations 646-505-4367 [akleinman@jccmanhattan.org](mailto:akleinman@jccmanhattan.org)

[www.adaptationsonline.org](http://www.adaptationsonline.org)

The Jewish Community Center, 334 Amsterdam Avenue, NYC 917 586 8000

### NEW WEBSITE PROVIDES A WEALTH OF SAFETY INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

**Kind Find: Keeping Spectrum Kids Safe** is a program designed to gently and safely approach and/or find children and dependent adults with autism spectrum disorders. It is a voluntary way for parents to provide information on their children to first responders. While all children may wander or be abducted, children with ASDs are especially at risk. Many of these children are unable to ask for help or express their needs due to their poor communication skills. Some of them may not be capable of understanding individuals like police officers, fire fighters and others who are there to help them. They may become fearful of first responders and either run away or try to fight them. As mothers of children with autism, we have first-hand experience with situations in which our children have wandered away from us, have run into traffic, have hurt themselves to the point of needing medical attention or have simply been approached by someone unaware of their

disability. In a first encounter, regardless of whether the stranger does or does not mean harm, a child with autism may panic or react unpredictably. In other instances, high-functioning children and young adults on the autism spectrum, who appear perfectly typical, may come across as rude and/or obstinate in unfamiliar situations. If misinterpreted by police, these behaviors may cause a minor incident to develop into a major situation. **Kind Find: Keeping Spectrum Kids Safe** is designed to be effective while being inexpensive for police departments. The program is simple:

1. Parents or guardians fill out the registration form and attach two photographs of the child or young adult. They keep several copies for themselves to put in their wallets and vehicles.
2. The original photographs and the information on the child will be kept in a file specifically for children and young adults with autism at the local police station for reference when needed.

Some police stations across the country have programs like this, but few collect specific details for children and young adults with autism. The registration form includes sections for guardians to address the individual's diagnosis, communication skills, fears, and how to approach them. It is our hope that this program will be used in conjunction with first responder training in recognizing ASDs.

If a child is found and the officers suspect an ASD, they can immediately access the information in the file and see if the child matches up with a photograph. The officers would then have a better understanding of how to proceed. This program will be particularly helpful if the individual is non-verbal.

A program such as **Kind Find: Keeping Spectrum Kids Safe** could help so many children and young adults with autism, as well as the families and loved ones who care for them. Our goal is to provide awareness to first responders and to prevent unfortunate circumstances from developing. We hope that by setting up an easy way for parents to provide their children's information, communication will be enhanced on both sides.

<http://www.kind-find.com/index.html>

### **AUTISTIC BOY WITH DOG WILL START AT NEW SCHOOL**

By [Nancy Cambria](#) ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH 09/14/2009

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/story/69FF937C4370E9F68625763100834C9A?OpenDocument>

## **ON THE BIG SCREEN:**

### **REALABILITIES - NEW YORK DISABILITIES FILM FESTIVAL**

January 28-February 1, 2010

Mission ReelAbilities: NY Disabilities Film Festival is dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories and artistic expressions of people with different disabilities. The festival presents award winning films in various locations throughout the NY metropolitan area, accompanied by discussions and other engaging programs aimed to bringing the community together to explore, discuss and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience.

Learn more & join our mailing list at [www.reelabilities.org](http://www.reelabilities.org)

Presented by The JCC in Manhattan

with the support of UJA Federation of NY

Manhattan | Brooklyn | Bronx | Queens | Staten Island | Westchester | Long Island

[www.reelabilities.org](http://www.reelabilities.org)

### **"disTHIS!" FILM SERIES ONCE A MONTH @ NYU**

Disability Through a Whole New Lens

"Movies about disability have been more concerned about diagnosis than they have with character development, storytelling or innovation for far too long," Carter-Long concludes. "Hosting disTHIS! with NYU is our way of helping correct that. We hope you'll be as thrilled watching these films as we are to be presenting them."

The **disTHIS! Film Series**: disability through a whole new lens, a program of the Disabilities Network of New York City, began in April 2006 to showcase festival quality, cutting edge short, documentary, feature and experimental films that offer ground-breaking interpretations of the disability experience beyond "movie of the week" cliches. Acclaimed by film lovers with and without disabilities, **disTHIS!** has been featured in *Disability Studies Quarterly*, *the Tribeca Trib*, *the New York Nonprofit Press*, *Able News* and the *New York Times Sunday Style* section (above the fold!) for presenting quality disability cinema with the promise of "No handkerchief necessary, no heroism required!" **disTHIS!** films are frequently funny (and meant to be), remarkably sexy (just like our audiences), often controversial (because we like that sort of thing). Always provocative; never quite what audiences expect. Monthly screenings are followed by audience "talk-backs" and regular appearances by filmmakers, actors and other guests. Throughout our history, we've teamed with *Film Comment*, the *BBC*, *IFC*, and *MTV*, among others, to bring audiences the cutting edge of disability-themed cinema and television.

**Screenings are regularly filled to capacity. To RSVP and secure YOUR seat, please email:**

[disTHIS@dnnyc.net](mailto:disTHIS@dnnyc.net)

**Location: New York University, 5 Washington Place, Room 101 (Ground Floor) btw Mercer and Broadway.**

**Upcoming @ disTHIS! Mark your calendars for the following Wednesdays 11/18, 12/9 @ 6:30pm - 10:00pm**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009** Because you asked, we unearth another "lost classic" to bring the **disTHIS!** faithful **GABY: A TRUE STORY**. Two years before *MY LEFT FOOT* there was *GABY*, a movie which covers much the same ground as the Daniel Day Lewis flick from a disabled woman's perspective. *GABY* chronicles the life story of Gabriella Brimmer, the daughter of rich European holocaust survivors transplanted to Mexico, with cerebral palsy who became an acclaimed author and advocate. The film excels on many levels especially its candid examination of Brimmer's cheeky humor and budding sexuality. Rachel Levin won acclaim in the title role and Norma Aleandro received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress. **Never released on DVD! See it while you can! disTHIS! print features an additional 5 minutes not shown in theatres.**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009** Based on Edwin Black's acclaimed book of the same name, **WAR AGAINST THE WEAK** translates the exhaustive 600 page tome into a comprehensive, damning documentary indictment of the Eugenics movement in a smooth-moving horror show that's all at once shocking, inventive and seductive. "It began on Long Island; ended at Auschwitz...and yet it never really stopped." Find out what they neglected to tell you in history class about the American origins of the holocaust and how our not so distant past is still rocking the United States, and the world, today. **Screened with live audio description by Joel Snyder**. Producer, Peter Demas, and director, Justin Strawhand, will answer YOUR questions following the screening!

**Never miss an event! For more information or to join our email list go to: [www.disTHIS.org](http://www.disTHIS.org)**

**Become a fan of the disTHIS! Film Series on Facebook by going to:**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/disTHIS-Film-Series/6925678785>

### **ADAM - NOW IN THEATERS**

It is a tender, emotional, potent New York love story about a man with Asperger's.

Romance can be risky, perplexing and filled with the perils of miscommunication - and that's if you aren't Adam, for whom life itself is this way. In this heartfelt romantic comedy, Hugh Dancy ("The Jane Austen Book Club", "Confessions of a Shopaholic") stars as Adam, a handsome but intriguing young man who has all his life led a sheltered existence - until he meets his new neighbor, Beth (Rose Byrne, "Damages", "28 Weeks Later", "Knowing"), a beautiful, cosmopolitan young woman who pulls him into the outside world, with funny, touching and entirely unexpected results. Their implausible and enigmatic relationship reveals just how far two people from different realities can stretch in search of an extraordinary connection. "Adam" also stars Peter Gallagher ("The O.C."), Amy Irving ("Alias"), and Frankie Faison ("The Wire"). Here is a link to the trailer, reviews, and other information about the movie: <http://www.foxsearchlight.com/adam/>

## 2009 FALL FILMS - PREMIER SCREENING OF "THE HORSE BOY"

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2009 7:00pm**

The story of parents who will go to the end of the earth to find a way into their son's life. The Isaacsons take their autistic son to Mongolia to trek on horseback and seek the counsel of a variety of shamans. A highly acclaimed documentary directed by Michael Orion Scott. With Rupert Isaacson, Kristin Neff, Rowan Isaacson. 93 minutes - Unrated.

### CODY CENTER FOR AUTISM & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Staller Center, Stonybrook, NY

For more information visit: <http://www.stonybrookmedicalcenter.org/codycenter/>

## ON THE LITTLE SCREEN

### INCLUDING SAMUEL

**WLIW Channel 21 - Wednesday, October 7, 2009 1:00 PM**

Before his son Samuel was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, photojournalist Dan Habib rarely thought about the inclusion of people with disabilities. Now he thinks about inclusion every day. Shot and produced over four years, Habib's award-winning documentary film, *Including Samuel*, chronicles the Habib family's efforts to include Samuel in every facet of their lives. The film honestly portrays his family's hopes and struggles as well as the experiences of four other individuals with disabilities and their families. *Including Samuel* is a highly personal, passionately photographed film that captures the cultural and systemic barriers to inclusion.

The film has been screened at universities, national conferences, public television stations and independent theatres across the country. *Including Samuel* has also been featured on NPR's *All Things Considered*, *Good Morning America*, as well as in the *Washington Post* and the *Boston Globe*. The film won the Positive Images in Media award from TASH, an international group committed to the full inclusion of people with disabilities. It has also screened at the Sprout Film Festival at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Boston International Film Festival, the Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival, the Moscow International Disability Film Festival and won the "Excellence Award" from Superfest International Film Festival in Berkeley, CA.

Mercy Corps, an international global aide agency, is translating the film into Arabic and will screen it throughout Iraq to support that country's nascent disability rights movement. The film will be re-released on DVD in October, 2009, with audio description, extras and translations in multiple languages.

## RESEARCH STUDIES

### THE INFANT BRAIN IMAGING STUDY (IBIS) LOOKING FOR PARTICIPANTS

**Do you have a child diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder who has a younger infant sibling?**

**The Infant Brain Imaging Study (IBIS) at the Center for Autism Research, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is looking for participants!**

Autism Speaks announced in February it had provided \$5 million to expand and link two large-scale, multi-site studies of more than 2000 infant siblings of children with autism, who are at higher genetic risk for developing the disorder. This unprecedented research effort will investigate genetic and environmental risk factors for autism from pre-natal development through early childhood. Read more about the Infant Brain Imaging Study (IBIS) Network and the Early Autism Risk Longitudinal Investigation projects [here](#).

We are proud to be able to fund this research - and couldn't do that without every dollar raised through our Walk program, special events and donations. Thank you for your support.

Twin and family studies have shown that younger brothers and sisters of children with autism are at a higher risk of developing autism than those children who do not have relatives with this condition. Information gained about early brain development in children with autism may improve methods of early detection and intervention for infants who may be at risk for developing autism. Earlier identification and treatment may lead to better outcomes for these young children and their families.

At the Center for Autism Research, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, we aim to identify very early brain features that may be characteristic of infants at risk for autism. To do this, we are actively seeking to enroll families who have a child with an autism spectrum disorder and an infant sibling 6 months old or younger for the Infant Brain Imaging Study (IBIS). Developmental evaluations and MRI scans of your infant's brain will be completed at 6, 12, and 24 months of age. Compensation for participation will be provided, and travel arrangements can be made for families traveling from further distances.

To learn more about participating in this study, please contact our study coordinator at 1-866-570-6524 (toll free) or [autism@email.chop.edu](mailto:autism@email.chop.edu).

### **COLUMBIA MEDICAL CENTER RESEARCH PROGRAM -**

**How adults with high functioning ASD think & feel about the significant relationships in their lives.**

We are conducting a research study at Columbia Medical Center, under the supervision of Dr Andrew Gerber, on how adults with high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder think and feel about the significant relationships in their lives. If you are 18 years old and over and have been diagnosed with a high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder and are interested in our study please call us at 212.543.6749 or email us at [research.relationships@gmail.com](mailto:research.relationships@gmail.com) to find out some more.

What participation would involve for you...

The study is conducted at W168th Street and Broadway in New York City and would take between 4-5 hours of your time. As well as \$100 for participation, we would reimburse any travel expenses incurred. The first part of the study involves a clinical interview about the significant relationships in your life, and the second part would be you completing some puzzles on paper/pencil and then on computer.

We look forward to hearing from you! Call - 212.543.6749 Email - [research.relationships@gmail.com](mailto:research.relationships@gmail.com)

### **LEARN ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN NEW RESEARCH STUDY FOR CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD)**

Researchers at the Fay J. Lindner Center for Autism, which is part of the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, are looking for children and adolescents to participate in a new drug study for patients with ASD. If you, your child or someone you know has a diagnosis of autism, Asperger's disorder, or another pervasive developmental disorder, please note the eligibility criteria for the study are as follows: Age: 5-16 years of age Weight: 154 pounds or less.

The results of this study may help provide people with ASD with new or additional treatment options.

Participating in this study will not prevent you from enrolling in future studies. Enrolled children and teens will receive the following study-related services at no cost:

- Physical examination by a medical doctor who is an ASD specialist
- Neuropsychology assessment
- Regular vital signs measurements
- Cardiac (heart) evaluation
- Specialized laboratory tests
- One low oral dose of an experimental drug

Participants will be required to come into the doctor's office for five (5) visits over the course of about one (1) week and must be **able to tolerate a total of eight (8) blood drawings** over the course of those visits.

Reimbursement for time and travel is provided.

**For more information, contact: The study coordinator at: 516-562-3643 E-mail [Lspritze@nshs.edu](mailto:Lspritze@nshs.edu)**

## RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS

### JCCA COMPASS PROJECT COLLABORATING WITH WESTCHESTER JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES

JCCA's Compass Project, a very successful project on LI, is now in Westchester collaborating with WJCS. It is a comprehensive program that serves special needs children/young adults between the ages of 15 and 26 and their families. The Compass Project aims to provide the preparation and support needed to ease the pathway for youth to become functioning, self-sufficient adults. The scope of the program includes assessment, vocational/career assessments, counseling/coaching, referral and vocational preparation. Another component is the Compass Bridges program whereby we provide activities on college campuses designed to bridge the transition to independence for college students.

Please visit our website [www.jccany.org](http://www.jccany.org) contact Jennifer Eisman, LMSW 914 949 6761 x 353 [eismanj@jccany.org](mailto:eismanj@jccany.org) or Jenny Frank, LCSW 914 949 6761 x 304 [frankj@jccany.org](mailto:frankj@jccany.org)

### AUTISM SCIENCE FOUNDATION LAUNCHES OPERATIONS

#### **New advocacy group will focus on non-vaccine-related autism research**

The Autism Science Foundation, a new not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting and funding autism research, launched its operations today, debuting its web site ([www.autismsciencefoundation.org](http://www.autismsciencefoundation.org)) and kicking off its "First 100 Days" fundraising drive with an announcement at the Association of Healthcare Journalists' Annual Conference. The organization is co-founded by Alison Singer, formerly Executive Vice President of Autism Speaks, and Karen London, co-founder of the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR). To learn more about the Autism Science Foundation or to make a donation, visit [www.autismsciencefoundation.org](http://www.autismsciencefoundation.org)

### RAMAPO FOR CHILDREN ANNOUNCES THE START OF Footholds FOR THE FUTURE

**FOOTHOLDS FOR THE FUTURE** is a preparatory program for young adults with special needs who require supportive services on the road to independence. This program is designed to provide an inclusive group living experience focused on: building healthy relationships, learning essential life skills, and practicing job-related competencies. Ramapo will operate two 12-week sessions in 2009 and three 12-week sessions in 2010 at Ramapo's Rhinebeck, NY campus. Participants may enroll in multiple sessions.

#### **2009 Program Dates:**

Summer program: June-September 2009 (start and end dates are flexible)

Fall program: September 2-November 24, 2009

For more information and to apply, contact Mike Fleet at [footholds@ramapoforchildren.org](mailto:footholds@ramapoforchildren.org)

### VOICES AND CHOICES AUTISM MAGAZINE

The first 2 issues of the magazine are now available as files under:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AutismVoicesAndChoices> - please come and join - monthly issues will be posted there!

### REFERENCE POINTS: Apostrophe' Magazine

Finding a good restaurant. Landing a job. Shopping for a cell phone. Buying your first home. In our experience, people affected by intellectual disabilities often have been left out of these decisions. Apostrophe', the magazine, will give them the information they need to make these choices for themselves. This quarterly magazine is for people with disabilities who are overcoming "can't", "shouldn't" and "don't" in their lives. For over 30 years, AWARE Inc., the publisher of Apostrophe, has been involved in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, providing jobs, opportunities, resources and support. For more information about AWARE Inc. and Apostrophe go to <http://www.apostrophemagazine.com/index.html>

## [PACER CENTER LAUNCHES NATIONAL TEEN BULLYING PREVENTION WEB SITE](#)

Teen star Demi Lovato announces partnership to support TeensAgainstBullying.org and PACER's National Center for Bullying Prevention

PACER Center's National Center for Bullying Prevention today launched TeensAgainstBullying.org, an innovative bullying prevention resource where teens can become a powerful part of the movement to end bullying. Teens themselves participated in the creative process of developing the site. Through videos, blogs, and social networking, the site's resounding message is "the end of bullying begins with you."

Once the target of bullying, teen singing sensation Demi Lovato is passionate about the cause. She is supporting the effort by appearing on the new Web site and doing a digital ribbon cutting at PACER for the Aug. 7, 2009 site launch. Learn more at [TeensAgainstBullying.org](http://TeensAgainstBullying.org).

## [Announcing Scoop Group, The Disability Scoop Discussion Forum](#)

Be among the first to post on Disability Scoop's discussion forum. Ask for advice, advocate for you cause, share ideas. It's up to you. You came for the news. Now, stay for the community on [Scoop Group](#), your new way to connect to the developmental disability community.

## [LEARN TO RIDE A TWO-WHEEL BIKE - ALL KINDS OF KIDS WELCOME!](#)

Log on to [www.bikeny.org](http://www.bikeny.org) and sign up for the free class. This group also helps fits helmets (can provide one also!) and size handlebars and seats to child's body and more! It's a 2 hrs workshop FREE--typical and special needs kids. [msdecker6@yahoo.com](mailto:msdecker6@yahoo.com)

## [SURFER'S WAY - Empowering Children with Special Needs](#)

Where your child can laugh, learn, and experience the wave of a lifetime, regardless of their challenges!

Surfer's Way is a non-profit organization designed to offer children with special needs the opportunity to experience the exhilaration and liberation of surfing. We offer free surf outings during the summer in a variety of locations, primarily based in Long Beach, NY. Elliot Zuckerman, of [Surf2Live](#), and his team are highly committed to providing a fun, safe, monumental surfing experience for children with special needs.

Surfing has been known to touch children with special needs and create a personal sense of accomplishment. Through Surfer's Way, every child can have the chance to experience the freedom of surfing, regardless of their challenges. Surfer's Way is a 100% volunteer-based organization that needs your help to work. Please consider how you can support us through your time and tax-deductible donations. [HomeAbout UsEventsGet InvolvedDonateNewsTestimonialsContact Us](#) [SurfersWay@gmail.com](mailto:SurfersWay@gmail.com)

## [NOW AVAILABLE - Video "The IEP And You" \(View In English Or Spanish\)](#)

### [Accepting Questions About IEPs](#)

Recently we brought you [Scoop Essentials: IEPs Inside Out](#), a frank discussion of IEPs with the head of one of the nation's largest special education programs, Donnalyn Jaque-Antón. She is responding to reader questions. Click [here](#) to submit your own questions and check back soon to read her responses.

## [GRASP HAS REACHED A NEW MILESTONE: THEY NOW HAVE 4,500 MEMBERS WORLDWIDE](#)

GRASP The Global and Regional Asperger Syndrome Partnership to receive their newsletter visit [www.grasp.org](http://www.grasp.org)

## [AUTISM ON THE SEAS LATEST NEWS](#)

- Some 2010 Group Cruises are OPEN for BOOKINGS!! [Click here](#) for details
- Adults with Autism Group Cruise - We need your help... [Click here](#) for details
- Passport Requirements - Confused? [Click here](#) to get unconfused
- We're on Facebook [Click here](#) for details
- Cruise Feedback / Message Board / New Group Cruise Forum [Click here](#) for details
- New Features (Cruise Social Story and Cruise PECS) [Click here](#) for details [www.AutismontheSeas.com](http://www.AutismontheSeas.com)

"Autism on the Seas" is a division of Alumni Cruises, LLC

1-800-516-5247 [www.alumnicruises.travel](http://www.alumnicruises.travel)

### **MAKING THE MOST OF PLAYTIME: NEW RESOURCE FROM CSEFEL**

The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) has published a new resource for families entitled **Making the Most of Playtime**, which offers tips and strategies for families to consider when playing with their infant or toddler. It is part of the CSEFEL Family Tools Collection and can be accessed online at [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/familytools/make\\_the\\_most\\_of\\_playtime2.pdf](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/familytools/make_the_most_of_playtime2.pdf)

### **ALL PREVIOUS NATURAL RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE!!!**

Ever want to go back and find a Natural Resource from several months (or years) ago? Or wish you could search past Natural Resources to find free, current information? All previous issues are available online in the Natural Resource Archive at [http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~scpp/nat\\_allies/na\\_archive.cfm](http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~scpp/nat_allies/na_archive.cfm)

Just go to the Archive and scroll down or search for key words by using the search function (CONTROL + F) in your browser.

**Natural Resources** is a weekly, one-way listserv. If you have a Natural Resource suggestion, please email it to Camille Catlett [catlett@mail.fpg.unc.edu](mailto:catlett@mail.fpg.unc.edu) Others may join this listserv by sending an email to

[listserv@unc.edu](mailto:listserv@unc.edu) with a blank Subject line. The text of the message must be: **subscribe natural\_resources2** (retype it; don't copy/paste) Be sure the Subject is **blank**.

### **ZONE FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN (ZAC)**

The ZAC browser (Zone for Autistic Children) is described this way: ZAC is the first web browser developed specifically for children with autism, and autism spectrum disorders such as Asperger syndrome, pervasive developmental disorders (PDD), and PDD-NOS. We have made this browser for the children - for their enjoyment, enrichment, and freedom. Children touch it, use it, play it, interact with it, and experience independence through ZAC.

<http://www.zacbrowser.com/>

### **FREE TELEPHONE SERVICE TO INCOME-ELIGIBLE CONSUMERS**

Lifeline Assistance is part of a program that was created by the government to provide discounted or free telephone service to income-eligible consumers. To help bring you this important benefit, SafeLink Wireless is proud to offer Lifeline Service. Through our Lifeline Service you will receive *FREE cellular service, a FREE cell phone, and FREE Minutes every month!* SafeLink Wireless Service does not cost anything - there are no contracts, no recurring fees and no monthly charges.

Any Minutes you do not use will roll-over. Features such as caller ID, call waiting and voicemail are all also included with your service. If you need additional Minutes, you can buy TracFone Airtime Cards at any TracFone retailer (Walmart, Walgreens, Family Dollar, etc). SafeLink Airtime Cards will be available soon. Your exact benefits, including the number of free Minutes you will receive, depend on the state you live in.

[https://www.safelinkwireless.com/EnrollmentPublic/how\\_to\\_glfy.aspx](https://www.safelinkwireless.com/EnrollmentPublic/how_to_glfy.aspx)

### **THE COLLEGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (CIP)**

has recently expanded its curriculum to include Wellness and Bookends Programs, which augment their current teaching modules and unique services. CIP has also rolled out six new levels of support at their four campuses across the US.

The College Internship Program offers academic, internship and independent living experiences for college age students with Asperger's Syndrome and other Learning Differences.

The new Wellness Program offers a holistic approach to individual and group sessions helping students reduce stress and promoting a healthy lifestyle. After individual assessments, students receive support and continual supervision in the areas of nutrition, hygiene, sensory issues, weight control and physical fitness.

The Bookends Program consists of executive functioning skills groups in which students come up with

organizational strategies for their academics and career internships. Students learn to prioritize tasks, set goals, plan ahead and communicate more effectively. Working in small groups and using visual prompts, students receive instruction on how to carry these skills forward into the workplace and daily life. This program is offered on Mondays and Fridays, serving as "bookends" for each week.

In an effort to further meet the needs of individual students and their families, CIP has developed six new Levels of Support. While some students may benefit from Level One services such as executive functioning, social skills, meal planning and hygiene, others may be attending college or employed and need Level Six services such as time management and social mentoring.

[www.collegeinternshipprogram.com](http://www.collegeinternshipprogram.com) or call 1-877-KNOW-CIP.

### **KIDS AS SELF ADVOCATES (KASA)-A NATIONAL GRASSROOTS PROJECT CREATED BY YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES FOR YOUTH**

We are teens and young adults with disabilities speaking out. KASA knows youth can make choices and advocate for themselves if they have the information and support they need. We are leaders in our communities, and we help spread helpful, positive information among our peers to increase knowledge around various issues. We also help health care professionals, policymakers and other adults in our communities understand what it is like to live our lives and we participate in discussions about how to help each other succeed.

KASA believes young people with disabilities will have control over their own lives and futures. We help this happen by teaching youth about their rights, giving peer support and training, and changing the systems that affect our lives to include us.

Welcome to KASA! Joining is free for youth and open to anyone who would like to be part of our network. So, read up, join in and pass it on!

**On our website:** Learn more [about KASA](#) - who we are, what we do, and how you can join us

<http://www.fvkasa.org/>

### **CHAPEL HAVEN ABILIS NEW DAY PROGRAM OPENING SEPT. 09**

**Ablis and Chapel Haven Inc. Are proud to announce their new partnership:**

Chapel Haven Abilis Transition to Independent Living

A new day program opening September 2009 on the U Conn/Stamford campus in Stamford, CT.

#### **Chapel Haven Abilis Program Overview**

Chapel Haven and Abilis, two agencies well respected for providing high-quality services for children and adults in Connecticut, are pleased to offer a new collaboration. Chapel Haven Abilis, opening in September 2009, will serve young adults age 18 to 24 who are on the Autism Spectrum. This unique initiative unites the strengths and experience of each agency to help students on the Autism Spectrum and with related disorders reach their highest level of independence and optimize opportunities for employment. Admission to Chapel Haven Abilis begins with a phone call to Dr. Susan Izeman, Director of the Abilis Autism Program. Admission is based on the applicant's skills and interest to participate in the program. Chapel Haven Abilis will successfully serve young adults with:

For more information about Chapel Haven Abilis or to begin the application process, please contact:

Susan Izeman, PhD, BCBA, Director, Chapel Haven Abilis

Phone: 203-629-1880, x304 Email: [chapelhaven@abilis.us](mailto:chapelhaven@abilis.us)

More information about Chapel Haven and Abilis are available on their websites:

[www.chapelhaven.org](http://www.chapelhaven.org) and [www.abilis.us](http://www.abilis.us)

### **REFERENCE POINTS: CHAPIN HALL ROLLS OUT NEW WEBSITE WITH IMPROVED ACCESS TO RESEARCH**

Chapin Hall's new website provides new content and features and an updated navigation bar to browse through more than 200 publications and abstracts of ongoing research projects. Visit the website at

<http://www.chapinhall.org>

REFERENCE POINTS is administered by PACER Center <http://www.PACER.org> as a technical assistance activity of the TATRA Project. The TATRA Project is funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Readers are invited to send information about new resources on secondary education, transition and vocational rehabilitation topics to [tatra@pacer.org](mailto:tatra@pacer.org). Reference Points received initial support from the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition <http://www.ncset.org/>. Visit their web site for a wealth of information related to secondary education and transition for youth with disabilities.

### **ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE IN AUTISM TREATMENT RESUMING QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR FREE**

Science in Autism Treatment (Old issues remain available at [www.ASATonline.org](http://www.ASATonline.org), under "Suggested Reading.") In case you haven't read it, the newsletter will include the following:

- \* Featured articles by leading advocates for science-based treatment
- \* Clinical Corner responses to frequently asked questions about autism treatment
- \* Detailed summaries of specific treatments for autism
- \* Book reviews
- \* Reviews of published research to help consumers and professionals access the science
- \* Interviews with professionals advancing science based treatment and confronting pseudoscience
- \* Discussion of accurate and inaccurate portrayals of autism and its treatment by the media
- \* Guidelines to help consumers access effective treatments

Go ahead and join the mailing list to receive this free newsletter: <http://www.asatonline.org/signup>

### **NEW DOCUMENTARY AVAILABLE ON YOU TUBE**

The Long Island Self-Determination Coalition (LIDSC) is proud to present "Determined Life: Joey Gerardi," a documentary made by Jeremy Cropf, in association with Project DOCC. The film, available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbtFPDnLp-8> is a window into the day to day life of Joey, a young man with Fragile X syndrome, the leading inherited cause of intellectual disability. We see Joey, with the support of dedicated professionals, working at a radio station (a long time dream), volunteering at a pet shelter, and working out at a gym. More importantly, he is shown as a friend, a co-worker, and a valued member of his community. Joey's "program" is funded by Consolidated Supports and Services (CSS), NYS OMRDD's self-determination option. CSS funding supports a person with developmental disabilities, with the help of family, friends, and trusted professionals, to design and implement a truly individualized plan. Please direct any comments or questions to [liselfd@gmail.com](mailto:liselfd@gmail.com), and send us your email address if you would like to be on our list for future announcements.

### **OMRDD ISSUES 'FIRST RESPONSE AND AUTISM' EDUCATIONAL BOOKLET**

The professionals that respond to the scene of an emergency are some of our most critical human service workers. What they do everyday has tremendous impact on peoples' lives, and preparing them for their jobs supports the best outcomes in any emergency. The agency has issued a new educational booklet, "On the Scene and Informed: First Response and Autism," in an effort to provide first responders with helpful information and techniques to support safe outcomes for people with autism. It will disseminate this booklet to emergency responders throughout the state.

CLICK HERE FOR PRINTABLE VERSION OF BROCHURE

<[http://www.omr.state.ny.us/images/hp\\_pr\\_firstresponse\\_autism.pdf](http://www.omr.state.ny.us/images/hp_pr_firstresponse_autism.pdf)>

<[http://www.omr.state.ny.us/gl/images/pdf\\_icon.gif](http://www.omr.state.ny.us/gl/images/pdf_icon.gif)>

For more information visit [http://www.omr.state.ny.us/document/hp\\_brochures\\_firstresponse\\_autism.jsp](http://www.omr.state.ny.us/document/hp_brochures_firstresponse_autism.jsp)

#### **Being Proactive - Preparing Your Community**

The following resources contain a wealth of information to help you and your community better understand and serve people on the autism spectrum.

**Autism Risk and Safety Management** [www.autismriskmanagement.com](http://www.autismriskmanagement.com)

Autism Society of America Safe and Sound Campaign 1-800-3-AUTISM  
[www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)

LEAN On Us (Law Enforcement Awareness Network) [www.leanonus.org](http://www.leanonus.org)

### Tips for Emergency Responders

Prepared by a partnership of the New Mexico Department of Health; the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability; the American Association on Health and Disability; and the Disability and Health Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://cdd.unm.edu/products/tipsforfirstresponders.htm>

### **Autism Speaks**

[www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org) Section 7 of this organization's "First 100 Days Kit" provides an "Autism Safety Kit" for families.

### AUTISM SPEAKS LAUNCHES THE AUTISM SAFETY PROJECT TO AID FIRST RESPONDERS

#### **Online Tool Kit Provides Information and Strategies for First Responders to Promote Safe Interactions with People Who Have Autism**

The Autism Safety Project is an online tool kit for individuals with autism, families, and first responders that provides information and strategies to promote safety in emergency situations. Created to educate and inform emergency personnel about the different challenges faced by individuals on the autism spectrum, the Autism Safety Project is available for free download at <http://www.autismsafetyproject.org/>. The Autism Safety Project kit is broken down into sections offering information and strategies targeted to specific categories of first responders: police, firefighters, EMS personnel, hospital emergency workers, search and rescue personnel and judicial system employees.

### FREE ONLINE NEWSLETTER FOR THE SPECIAL ED ADVOCATE

**The Special Ed Advocate** is a free online newsletter about special education legal and advocacy topics. [Subscribers](#) learn about new cases, articles, seminars and training, special offers on books by Pete & Pam Wright, and other useful information about special education law and advocacy. <http://www.wrightslaw.com/subscribe.htm>

### DO YOU WORK IN A SCHOOL & WANT TO IMPLEMENT A PROJECT BUT CAN'T GET FUNDING?

If you're a teacher and would like to start your own project and receive donations, go to <http://www.donorschoose.org/teacher/index.html>.

Submit your project and donors will consider funding it. DonorsChoose.org invites "front-line educators" in public schools to identify the needs of the students they serve. Such front-line educators include teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, school nurses and full-time teachers who also act as coaches. These educators must work directly with students and teach full time. We are not able to accept proposals from principals, administrators, PTA members, teacher's assistants, student teachers, substitutes, part-time after school teachers, or staff developers. DonorsChoose.org is a nonprofit that connects public school teachers with people who want to support classroom learning

### AUTISM SPECTRUM NEWS UPCOMING THEMES & DEADLINE DATES

**You Are Cordially Invited to Submit:**

**Articles Addressing Our Theme**

**Display Advertising for Your Programs & Service**

**Contact the Publisher to Reserve Your Space -**

**Spring 2010 Issue:**

***"New Frontiers in Autism Science: What Families Can Learn"***

**Deadline: December 15, 2010**

**Contact us today to Reserve Your Space in Autism Spectrum News**

**Phone: (570) 629-5960 E-mail: [iraminot@mhnews.org](mailto:iraminot@mhnews.org)**

**\* Planning to advertise your conference or special event? Keep in mind that our publications DO NOT reach our readers until approximately (7) weeks after the Deadline Date**

### NEW WEBSITE FOR COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

<http://www.going-to-college.org>

This new website has been developed to help high school students learn about living college life with a disability. The site provides video clips, activities, and resources that can help students get a head start in planning for college. Video interviews with college students with disabilities offer a way to hear firsthand from students with disabilities who have been successful. Modules include activities that will help students explore more about themselves, learn what to expect from college, and equip them with important considerations and tasks to complete when planning for college.

### **NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL ED TEACHERS/ADMINISTRATORS/SUPERVISORS**

To: [VESID-PARENTS@listserv.nysed.gov](mailto:VESID-PARENTS@listserv.nysed.gov)

Subject: Autism Course work

The New York State Education Department is seeking applications to become an approved provider of autism course work/training. A link to the application is available at the end of this message.

In response to the growing number of children being diagnosed with autism, the Legislature amended sections 3004(4) and (5) of Education Law to require that all persons applying for a teaching certificate or license as a special education teacher complete course work or training in the needs of children with autism on or after September 2, 2009. Additionally, school administrators and supervisors assigned on or after September 2, 2009 to serve as special education administrators must complete training in the needs of autistic children as soon as practicable after being assigned. Certified school administrators or supervisors assigned to serve as special education administrators prior to September 2, 2009 are required to have enhanced training in the needs of children with autism by this date.

To implement this legislation, the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education were amended, effective July 11, 2008. Please refer to: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/2008Meetings/September2008/0908hea2.doc>

The law requires that the course work or training must be obtained from an institution or provider that has been approved by the New York State Education Department to offer such course work or training and must follow the Department's Autism Syllabus. The application to become an approved provider is available at:

<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/documents/appsyllabus.doc>.

**Questions may be directed to:** [appinfo@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:appinfo@mail.nysed.gov)

### **ADELPHI UNIVERSITY OFFERING NEW COURSE ON THE DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT OF ASD**

Adelphi University is offering a new course on the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, Fall 2009, on 8 Sunday mornings in Garden City. The course will be taught by an expert in autism, Dr. Stephen Shore, Assistant Prof. of Special Education. The course can be taken for 3 graduate credits, or for continuing education (non-credit). The course requires introductory level background in autism spectrum disorders which can be satisfied either by a special education course, or through life experience.

For more information about continuing education registration here is the Adelphi link:

<http://academics.adelphi.edu/universitycollege/noncred/autismspectrum.php>

or to enroll for graduate credit contact Dr. Stephen Shore ([sshore@adelphi.edu](mailto:sshore@adelphi.edu)) or Dr. Judith Cohen ([cohen@adelphi.edu](mailto:cohen@adelphi.edu)).

Adelphi University is in the process of developing a graduate certificate program in autism spectrum disorders and more information will follow in the near future.

### **NEW YORK STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT CENTERS**

There are 13 Special Education Parent Centers across New York State. These centers will provide parents of children with disabilities with information, resources, and strategies to: promote their meaningful involvement in their children's education programs, including information regarding the special education process (referrals, individual evaluations and individualized education program development and transition planning); assist in understanding their children's disabilities; promote early resolution of disputes between parents and school districts; promote the use of resolution sessions and special education mediation; assist in understanding procedural due process rights, including the right to impartial hearings and appeals and the State complaint process; and enhance parents' skills and levels of confidence to communicate effectively and work

collaboratively with other schools and other stakeholders to advocate and actively participate in their children's education program.

Please contact the Parent Center located nearest you for assistance.

**VISIT: Federal Parent Center Website:** <http://nysparentnetwork.org>

### SIBSNY

New website dedicated to the siblings of individuals with developmental disabilities in New York State. The following-link will take you to the site. <http://sibsnny.org/>

**sibsNY** is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing the siblings of individuals with intellectual, developmental and learning disabilities with information and support. Comprised of siblings and providers of sibling services throughout New York, sibsNY is committed to connecting siblings to each other and to the resources they need to help them and their siblings with disabilities live the most fulfilling lives possible.

**Contact Us!** For more information about sibsNY, to join our mailing list or to expand sibsNY in your local community, please contact [info@sibsnny.org](mailto:info@sibsnny.org).

**Tell Us What You Need!** Help us build an effective network of services and supports throughout NY by filling out this [brief survey!](#) [SIBS NY on the SIBS NY](#)

### STOP BULLYING IN NOW AN INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

Stop Bullying Now, designed for kids, and includes an adult section, in English en Español. There are examples of different types of bullying, what kids can do about it, and guidance to help identify bullying behaviors they may have. Kids can reinforce what they learn through animated Webisodes, and games. In addition, there are tip sheets, resources and ideas for promoting the Stop Bullying Now campaign with youth. Learn more at:

[http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/.](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/)

### NEW PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULTS AGES 20 -30 TO SOCIALIZE

The National Jewish Council for Disabilities (NJCD) is proud to introduce a program called CHAT. CHAT is a program for young adults in their 20's and 30's who are looking for a place to socialize after a long day of work or school. Our program provides an opportunity for participants to meet new people and discuss topics that are of interest to them.

The group meets **Monday nights from 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. (doors open at 5:30 for informal socializing)** at the Orthodox Union office located at 11 Broadway (13<sup>th</sup> Floor) near the Bowling Green station. The group is lead by young dynamic professionals. There is a fee of \$10 per session.

**All participants are Jewish.** If you are interested in this program or have any questions please contact Michelle Orgel at 212 613 8229 or [orgelm@ou.org](mailto:orgelm@ou.org).

### JOIN OMRDD (OFFICE OF MENTAL RETARDATION & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES) E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST!

Help us reach you! OMRDD is committed to getting information out in a timely way to people who want it! If you would like to join our email distribution list - while at the same time helping with OMRDD's Green Initiative to provide information in a paperless fashion - then please sign up!

It's as easy as 1,2,3!

1. Go to [www.omr.state.ny.us](http://www.omr.state.ny.us) and click this link...
2. Click "Sign up"...
3. And fill in your Information

### FREE SENSORY PROCESSING /SPECTRUM DISORDERS SUPPORT GROUP THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Jefferson Valley Club Fit

The goal of the support group is to create a caring and supportive place where families can connect with other families to share information, resources and feelings. Through member input, our goal is to participate in and create programs that provide additional support for children affected by sensory processing/spectrum disorders . Various presenters. New members are always welcome. For more information contact [Lcrowe@clubfit.com](mailto:Lcrowe@clubfit.com) or [Lcrowe@clubfit.com](mailto:Lcrowe@clubfit.com)

### **FREE ABA/AUTISM TRAINING THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

**ELIJA FOUNDATION**

**Venue: The Elija House 665 N. Newbridge Rd. Levittown NY 11756**

Elija is here to provide ongoing introductory level information to newly diagnosed families as well as educators and or caregivers new to the field, who have a responsibility toward educating or caring for a child with autism. **MUST CALL OR EMAIL TO RSVP** with your name, number of attendees and session you would like to attend Must RSVP to [trainings@elija.org](mailto:trainings@elija.org) or call 516 433 4321 [Go To Trainings Page for more information](#)

### **NEW SITE USES COMICS TO TEACH - [www.MakeBeliefsComix.com](http://www.MakeBeliefsComix.com)**

At [MakeBeliefsComix.com](http://www.MakeBeliefsComix.com), parents and children can create their own comic strips online and practice writing, reading and storytelling. Parents and teachers of autistic children are using the site to communicate more effectively with their children by creating comic strips to teach and convey information to them. The comic strips created provide a finite world with images and text that can be easier for youngsters with autism to grasp. This free educational resource allows users to select from 15 different characters, each showing four different emotions, fill-in blank talk and thought balloons with text, and assistance from story prompts. Learn more at <http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/>

### **THE HEALING WITH HOMEOPATHY (HWH) SUPPORT GROUP**

First Saturday of each month 7:30 p.m.

1501 Pheasant Woods Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY

For more information/questions contact Lisa Rudley 917-414-9190

### **SIBLING SUPPORT**

**[Support Group for Siblings of Disabled Now on Facebook](#)**

The [Sibling Support Project](#), a Seattle-based non-profit group that works to help siblings of people with disabilities, has started an online group on Facebook, the huge social networking website. You need to join Facebook's free service to become a part of the group. Learn more about that by visiting the [SibNet on Facebook page](#).

National Public Radio broadcast a piece on January 1 about Marissa and her younger brother Andrew Skillings, who is 11 and has Asperger's, a form of autism. You can read, see photos and hear about their relationship by clicking on "[Coping with an Autistic Brother](#)" at [npr.org](http://npr.org)

You can find [more articles related to siblings on Autism Bulletin](#).

### **NEW Transition Resources**

Two new handouts to help parents of transition-age youth are now available on the PACER Center Web site. The handouts are produced by Project PRIDE, a parent information and training project funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

**Start Now to Chart Your Youth's Career Path After Graduation (PHP-c162)**

(<http://www.pacer.org/publications/transition.asp#handouts> ) This handout looks at a variety of options available to young adults after high school such as employment, postsecondary training or education and self-employment.

**Help Your Young Adult Learn About Accessing Accommodations After High School (PHP-c165)**

(<http://www.pacer.org/publications/transition.asp#handouts> ) This handout discusses methods to advocate for accommodations in postsecondary education and training, employment and for independent living.

These and other PACER Center handouts for parents specifically on the Americans with Disabilities Act and other transition issues can be found on the PACER Web site at <http://www.pacer.org/publications/transition.asp#handouts>

### IMPORTANT NEW TRANSITION DOCUMENTS:

The complex and challenging topic of transition planning is heating up! These new documents are important for any parent or educator involved in this dialog...

Open: [NEW Family Transition Planning Guide](#)

Open: [NEW College Readiness Rubric](#)

Open: [NEW Transition Timeline for IDEA & 504 Students](#)

### GLUTEN FREE BAKERY IN BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY

510 North State Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY

Karen Miller, a pediatric physical therapist, after a year of research, experimenting and planning, has opened an entirely GF bakery.

Hours are: Tues 8-5, Wed 8-5, Thurs 8-7, Fri 8-5, Sat 8-5, Sun 9-1 and closed Mondays.

Any questions please call 914-762-2121 or email (<mailto:threedogsgfbakery@gmail.com>).

(<http://www.threedogsgfbakery.com/>) [Click here for driving directions using Google Maps.](#)

### SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE COUNTY'S SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Westchester County residents, who may need assistance if they were to evacuate their homes in emergency situations, may apply to have their names added to the registry. Signing up is completely voluntary and all applications will be screened and evaluated.

Feel free to print and distribute these flyers to anyone you think might be appropriate for this registry.

[Special Needs Flyer](#) Call 211 to sign up over the phone or register yourself at

[www.westchestergov.com/specialneeds](http://www.westchestergov.com/specialneeds)

### MASS FOR SPECIAL FAMILIES

Church of the Magdalene (Roman Catholic Church)

#### **Celebration of the Mass**

Special Mass celebrated for special families on the first Sunday of each month @ 1:00 pm

**Church of the Magdalene**, 525 Bedford Road, Pocantico Hills, NY 10591

For more information call: WFA @ 914-741-5019

### SHABBAT FOR SPECIAL FAMILIES

#### **Simchat Shabbat: The Joy of Shabbat Led by Cantor Ellen Dreskin**

A special **Saturday** musical service that occurs once a month, for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. \*Please note that all children must be accompanied by at least one parent or caregiver. For more information regarding the program, please call (914) 238-3928.

**Service will be held on:** March 14<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup>, June 21<sup>st</sup>, (From 9:00 to 9:45am)

**Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester**, 220 South Bedford Road, Chappaqua, NY.

For more information regarding the program, please call (914) 238-3928.

### SCHOOL COMMUNITY TOOL KIT

Autism Speaks launched an **online School Community Tool Kit** designed to help school administrators talk with their staff about how students with autism can best be supported and included in the school community. The Kit includes content about the features and challenges associated with autism, the strengths possessed by students with autism, and a host of tools and strategies teachers, administrators, and other staff can use to foster an accepting learning environment.

The School Community Tool Kit is available @ [www.autismspeaks.org/school](http://www.autismspeaks.org/school)

## **RESOURCE GUIDE FOR FAMILIES**

To help families understand supports and services administered through NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. This guide will prove to be a valuable tool for people with disabilities, parents, and caregivers. Copies of the guide can be downloaded from the Health Care Information and Education section of the Parent to Parent NYS website at [www.parenttoparentnys.org](http://www.parenttoparentnys.org)



**WJCS AUTISM FAMILY CENTER is a program of Westchester Jewish Community Services  
Supported with funding from UJA-Federation**