



San Diego County Chapter

Autism Action

Serving San Diego families for 40 years: 1966-2006

Mission Statement

The mission of the Autism Society of America is to promote lifelong access and opportunities for persons within the autism spectrum and their families, to be fully included, participating members of their community through advocacy, public awareness, education and research related to autism.



This year marks the 40th anniversary of the San Diego County Chapter of the Autism Society of America. The chapter began in 1966 under the visionary guidance of Dr. Bernard Rimland. Thanks to his hard work and tireless efforts, the autism community has a solid foundation and voice in the community.

As our local chapter moves forward, I am pleased to announce that the San Diego and North County ASA chapters have agreed to join forces into one ASA chapter. We have been meeting and brainstorming over the past several months and the consensus was that we would

better and stronger serve as one unified chapter. As the saying goes, "the whole is greater than the sum of two parts."

We all agreed that there should and will continue to be board representation from members residing in North County. This year we are pleased to have Nora George, former North County ASA President and Shelly Hirschberg, former North County Vice President assume these roles.

We are excited about what the future holds for our members and supporters as we join together. The SDASA is the "Voice of Autism" for all of us! ■

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SWING AWAY FOR SDASA

4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament benefitting recreation programs for children with autism, including Camp I CAN will be held on Sunday, August 6, 2006 at Riverwalk Golf Club. To donate raffle prizes, sponsorship information or to hit the links, visit the chapter web site at www.sd-autism.org for more information.

Informational Meetings will not be held during July and August and will resume on the third Tuesdays of the month on September 19, 2006



Rachel Tapper-Zijlstra receives award as Volunteer of the Year

Master of Ceremonies Tony Calabrese presents Rachel with award at annual CHAD event. Story, page 3

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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KAREN MITROVICH-DOTSON
Executive Director

from the president

John VanBrabant



By now everyone probably has their summer schedules set, vacations planned, and are off to a busy season. The San Diego ASA is also very busy and we have some major changes to announce: First and foremost, after extensive discussions between leadership, the North County ASA Chapter will merge with the San Diego Chapter. As of July 1st, San Diego County will have a unified chapter that will be more capable and ready to better serve all families of persons with autism in the county. We will be able to offer both Asperger's and Spanish Support Groups as well as increase access to resources & local professionals, a reference library, and informational seminars to combined membership. Secondly, Shirley Fett, the person who has so admirably led this chapter as Board President, has stepped down after three successful and transformative years. Under Shirley's leadership the SDASA was recognized as the chapter of the year by the National ASA, the scope of our signature programs (*Camp I CAN*, *Surf Camp*, etc) have expanded, and we have strived to better serve our members with increased resources and information. Thank you Shirley for your tremendous (7 years and counting!) contributions and tireless effort!

Although there are a few of you out there that know me, let me briefly introduce myself: My name is John VanBrabant and this year will be my second year on the SDASA Board. My

wife Shelly (this will be her 5th year on the Board and on the *Camp I CAN* committee) and I have been either the Chair or Co-Chair for the major fundraiser over the last 4 years. We have 2 boys (Christian, 14, on the spectrum and Cameron, 7) and reside in Granite Hills. I am a retired Naval Officer and currently work for Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems (Unmanned Systems) in Rancho Bernardo. I am very excited to assume the role of Board President as the makeup for the 2006-2007 year will include new faces as well as members from both the San Diego and North County Boards. It will be another very good year if the chapter can be half as successful this year as it has been for the last three years.

Undoubtedly, this year will be very dynamic and one that I think will prove to be challenging yet productive. I want to encourage all of our members to participate in our monthly support group/informational meetings (even though the topic may not apply) as they more often than not serve as a great networking tool for increased community and resource awareness. We will resume them again in September on the third Tuesday of each month. Additionally, Board meetings are open for any member that may wish to attend and observe. Please feel free to contact the chapter (by email or phone) with any questions or suggestions on how we as a chapter could improve lives by providing greater resources and access to all our members. Thanks again, and I look forward to the work ahead.

John VanBrabant

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Endorsement Policy

The Autism Society of America does not endorse individual programs. References appearing in the Autism Action regarding programs, resources, treatment, etc. should not be interpreted as an indication of endorsement by the Autism Society of America. They are provided for information only.

for your information

SDASA selects Rachel Tapper-Zijlstra VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!



The Autism Society of America is pleased to announce the selection of Rachel Tapper-Zijlstra as the San Diego County Chapter's recipient of the Combined Health Agency's 2005-2006 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Rachel has served many roles on the Board, including Membership Chair, Second Vice-President and Chairperson of "All Out for Autism". She also attends public speaking engagements on behalf of the chapter. "All Out for Autism" is the most financially successful fundraiser in the history of the San Diego County Chapter of the Autism society, raising over \$50,000 for "Camp-I-CAN."

Professionally, Rachel is a speech language pathologist who works with adults and children with autism. The special aspect of her volunteerism is that she has no children or family members with autism and volunteers solely for the sake of giving.

With the positive, warm and cheerful vibe she brings to the board, the San Diego County chapter of the Autism Society of America is very proud to honor Rachel Tapper-Zijlstra.



Onhand at awards ceremony, L-R: Cathy Scheiffer, Karen Mitrovich-Dotson, Rachel, Husband Andrew Zijlstra, Kay Freeman, Gregory Fletcher, Susanne Fletcher.

UCSD Autism Research Studies website



The UCSD Autism Research Labs have updated their website including a complete list of their current studies. Between all of the labs investigating autism, there are study participation opportunities for infants, children and adults on the autism spectrum as well as for family members. Many of the studies also include treatment. For more information please visit their web site at <http://autism.ucsd.edu>

National ASA Conference features SDASA Board Members

Congratulations to three San Diego ASA board members who are presenters at the national ASA conference in Providence, RI July 12-15! Kudos to Dr. Dawn Holman, Dr. Lars Perner and Chantal Sicile-Kira! The SDASA is proud and honored to be so well represented at the national conference.

SPANISH SUPPORT/ APOYO EN ESPAÑOL

There will be no support group meetings during July and August but there will be a Summer Celebration. The details are still underway and location and date are yet to be determined. Check our website for updates or phone 1-800-281-8252.

STEPHEN SHORE TO SPEAK

Life on and Slightly to the Right of the Autism Spectrum



The Autism Society of San Diego County is pleased to announce that Stephen Shore, author of *Beyond the Wall: Personal Experiences with Autism and Asperger Syndrome* and member of the national ASA Board of Directors, will speak on **July 19th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the City of Carlsbad Faraday Complex.** This lecture

will be hosted by the North County Asperger's/HFA Parent group and there will be a \$10.00 charge.

Mr. Shore was given a diagnosis of "Atypical Development with strong autistic tendencies" in childhood and was recommended for institutionalization. Non-verbal until age four, Mr. Shore is currently completing his Ph.D. in special education at Boston University, is happily married, and speaks around the world on autism spectrum conditions. Illustrating with his own story and those of others on the autism spectrum, he teaches effective self-advocacy and life planning based on unique interests and skills.

For more information about Mr. Shore, see <http://www.autismasperger.net/>. City of Carlsbad Faraday Complex is located at 1635 Faraday Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92008 (see <http://www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us/map/dir22.html> for directions). or take I-5 to Canon Road exit east, right on Faraday; complex is on the right.

for your information



CRIMSON CENTER SUMMER LECTURES

Call 858 695 9415 to confirm dates, times and directions

July 18, 2006
6:30-8:00 PM

Testing and Treatment Methods for Visual Information Processing Delays in the Autistic Population
presented by

Susan Daniel, O.D.
Optometrist
www.eyefinity.com/DrsDanielandDavisOptometry

Dr. Daniel obtained her Bachelors of Science degree from the University of California at Davis and Doctor of Optometry degree at the Southern California College of Optometry. In her private practice in Carlsbad, she specializes in developmental vision evaluations and therapy for children and adults, and visual rehabilitation for brain injured and stroke patients, children with special needs, and autism. In 2004, Dr. Daniel opened the Sensory Learning Center in Encinitas, which offers a multi-sensory therapy to help integrate auditory, vestibular and visual input. She is also the mother of a child with autism.

This lecture will provide information on common signs and symptoms of visual delays in children with autism. Video examples of vision therapy and testing methods for non-verbal children will be presented.

August 16, 2006
6:30-8:00 PM

"What is a Pediatric Neuropsychologist and how can they assist in my child's care?"
presented by

Robert Gray, Ph.D.
Pediatric Neuropsychologist

Dr. Gray has held academic and clinical positions at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. He is now in private practice, providing neuropsychological consultation and evaluation services throughout Southern California (CA License PSY 20705).

This presentation will address the roles and services of the pediatric neuropsychologist, how neuropsychological evaluation results enhance the understanding of a child's strengths and weaknesses, how test results can impact special education planning, and how a neuropsychological evaluation differs from a school or educational assessment.

The Crimson Center cannot endorse any individual program.



EVERYONE PLAYS

AYSO

American Youth Soccer Organization



La Mesa AYSO is building a Very Important Player (VIP) team for players ages 5 to 12 years-old with special needs. Residence in the La Mesa area is not required; any child wishing to learn soccer is welcome.

Call Coach Gary Hartnett at 619-265-7107 or email aysogary@hotmail.com for info on registration or to learn more about AYSO.

Nominal fee covers uniforms, pictures, field use, trophy, & insurance. Parent Volunteers are always welcomed.

Goals of the VIP Program:

- Players will have fun playing soccer
- Players will understand the fundamentals of the game
- Players will learn teamwork and sportsmanship
- Players will increase their self-esteem
- Players will become more physically fit
- Players will make friends.

www.soccer.org (go to AYSO Programs-VIP)

come on up to the North County!

The North County autism community is excited to join the San Diego County Chapter of the Autism Society of America. We look forward to partaking in some of great programs developed by the San Diego Chapter. But we too have some noteworthy programs that we would like to share with the rest of the county.

North County hosts one of the strongest Asperger's group around. Our Asperger's/High Functioning Autism Parents' Group meets the first Monday of the month, October through June. The Group features professional speakers from various autism disciplines. Although this parent-driven group focuses on the high end of the autism spectrum, all caregivers of persons with autism, as well as teachers and professionals, are welcome since some autistic issues are universal. If a structured lecture-type program is not your cup of tea, try our "Coffee Talk" program. It's an informal gathering of parents at various North County coffee houses the second Thursday of the month. Parents exchange ideas and experiences, or just take a much deserved break; this program is hosted by a board member. Our once-a-quarter Family Programs lend themselves to getting acquainted with other families in similar situations in a fun and socially comfortable environment. We strive to create opportunities for the children to try something new and also practice their learned skills in a secure environment. We encourage siblings to

attend because, after all, they are the most accepting and nurturing role models.

One of our highest priorities has been education. Besides from our Asperger's Group lectures, we offer a lending library and education grants. Members can check out current autism-related books from our lending library, via our Asperger's Group, for a month at a time. Our Stauffer Fund Grants will once again be available in the fall for caregivers, teachers, and para-professionals to attend autism conferences and training (covers registration costs only).

I personally invite you to **come up to North County** and experience some of our exciting programs.

Sincerely,

Nora Jimenez George

Immediate Past President
North County Chapter of the Autism Society of America

"A very special thank-you to Ann Buss for serving as the very cheerful and diligent North County Chapter Librarian for the past two years."

NO Coffee Talk in July and August due to the summer break.

SDASA Fundraising the easy way at Jimbo's Naturally

"It's in the Bag" Recycling Program or the wooden nickel program. Have you heard of it??

For the next quarter, July 1-September 30, shoppers at all 3 Jimbo's stores will have the opportunity to donate to our organization. The way it works is that for every shopping bag that shoppers bring in to reuse, Jimbo's will give them a wooden nickel which they can donate to one of four organizations, by dropping them into a bin in front of the checkout stands. We will be one of them. At the end of the quarter the nickels are counted and we are sent a check for the amount!

Can we please publicize this to encourage everyone to continue to shop Jimbo's Naturally, to bring in their shopping bags to reuse, and to support us. There are Jimbo's locations in Carlsbad, Carmel Valley, and Escondido.

Attention Readers! The Lending Library Books are available to all!

The North County Asperger's Lending Library are available to be checked-out by ASA members before and after each of the monthly Asperger's/HFA Parents' Group meetings. This wonderful Library includes books on various autism-related themes including: current research findings, diagnoses, nutrition, social stories, toilet training, IEPs, family relationship building techniques, biographies, autobiographies and general information.

A complete list of our inventory will be posted on the chapter website. If you would like to check the availability of a specific title, recommend a book, or receive further information about our Lending Library please e-mail our Librarian, Erin Johnson, at johnsonerine@yahoo.com.

Checking a book out involves attending the meeting, and then a cash or check deposit is held by our librarian until the materials are returned.

"A very special thank-you to Ann Buss for serving as the very cheerful and diligent North County Chapter Librarian for the past two years."

2005-2006 annual report



President's Report

San Diego County Chapter
Autism Society of America

Presented by
Shirley Fett, President
June 20, 2006

The mission of the Autism Society of America is to promote lifelong access and opportunities for persons within the autism spectrum and their families. This mission includes public awareness, education, advocacy and research related to autism. Through our mission we strive to fully include persons with autism as participating members of our community.

This year, 2006, marks the 40th anniversary of the San Diego County Chapter. Dr. Bernard Rimland founded the chapter in 1966. It is with great expectation and excitement that effective July 1, 2006, the San Diego County Chapter and the North County Chapter will join together as one chapter serving all of San Diego County. It seems fitting, that on this 40th anniversary, the local ASA community would take a leap into the future and join forces to become the Voice of Autism for all of San Diego.

Each year the annual meeting affords us an opportunity to "look back" upon the past year and reflect upon the accomplishments and achievements made by the San Diego County Chapter. This has been an exciting and very productive year.

When the Board of Directors and the Executive Board convened last summer, we set out a strategic plan for the year in an effort to maintain a high level of responsiveness to the needs of our community. We targeted several major areas and it is my pleasure to share with you tonight a summary of the highlights.

- One of our goals was to improve the quality and quantity of programs available to families and professionals in San Diego County.
 - ◆ We held our fourth annual conference in 2005. Nationally recognized experts in autism, Barbara Bloomfield and Brenda Smith-Myles were the featured speakers for this two-day conference. Bobbie Kohrt was instrumental in arranging this conference for the chapter.
 - ◆ We have continued to hold monthly informational meetings with numerous speakers including:
 1. Belinda Brav and Joanne Ellison, Advocates-Getting the Most Out of Your IEP
 2. Dr. Michael Ricciardi, Medications and the Autistic Patient
 3. Stefan Hochfilzer, Club Xcite
 4. Early Intervention Night with Bridgette Anderson, Karyn Searcy, Shannon Wallace and Sandy Shaw

5. Dr. Dawn Holman, Autism and Reading
6. Michelle Lazar MT-BC, Music Therapy
7. Ed Baisley, MS, Ed., Transition Planning
8. Lars Perner, PhD., Perspectives on Autism

Thank you to Angela Desideri, Programs Chairperson, for arranging all of these meetings.

We continued to support programs benefiting our children and their families with the 4th year of the very successful, Camp I CAN-Camp Including Children with Autism Now- in collaboration with the Mission Valley/Toby Wells YMCA.

We also have continued and expanded our popular Pool PALS (Pool for Persons with Autism Learning to Swim) program in collaboration with Aqua Pros Swim School and Tammy Anderson. We held a 4th year of the ever popular surf camp, continued to offer free family swim and pizza parties every month and continued the low cost, adaptive swimming lessons program for persons with autism.

In addition to these programs, there were numerous events and programs throughout the year that the chapter supported including the End of Summer Pool Party, Teen Jam-a social group for teens with ASD, the annual Holiday Party, Co-sponsor at the San Diego Asian Film Festival, benefit concert by Tap Water and the RDI Conference.

- Another goal was to increase the quality and quantity of information about Autism Spectrum Disorders in San Diego County.
 - ◆ We have continued to provide a website with current information about the chapter with related events and information. Thank you to Karen Dotson for working hard to improve and update the website.
 - ◆ Another on-going activity is support for the Spanish language community by way of monthly meetings supported by this chapter. This group has been meeting monthly at the Chula Vista Recreation Center and is growing. In addition, our chapter brochure is now available in Spanish and we will soon have available the newsletter and resource guide in Spanish. Thank you to Victoria Ikerd-Schreiter for chairing the Spanish Language Group and to Karen Dotson for working with the translator to produce these materials.
 - ◆ We have continued to produce a high quality, bi-monthly newsletter. Thank you to our newsletter editors, Brooke Dewhurst, Dr. Dawn Holman and layout editor, Kay Freeman.
- As an organization we wanted to increase public awareness. The chapter hired a professional public relations firm for one year.

- ◆ We designated March, 2006 as Business Appreciation Month. We recognized businesses in our community for their support of persons with autism by honoring them with an SDASA "Amigo Award".
- ◆ Ralph Carrasquillo and Los Bombaderos of the San Diego City Firefighters were selected as the Chapter's Health Hero for 2006. This event is sponsored by the Combined Health Agencies of which the SDASA is a member. The honorees attended and accepted the award during a reception held in March 2006.
- ◆ In June, Rachel Zjilstra will be honored as our United Way/CHAD Volunteer of the Year for her outstanding support of the SDASA. She has served on the board for 3 years. She and her husband, Andrew, chaired the April fundraiser, All Out for Autism held at SeaWorld, which was the chapter's most successful fundraising event in history.
- ◆ We have continued to participate in the United Way/CHAD Campaign and Combined Federal Campaign. We are sincerely grateful to all who donate to our chapter through their payroll designations.
- ◆ We promoted Camp I CAN and Pool PALS throughout the community with the videos produced by the chapter.
- We established a goal to ensure financial stability and appropriate financial investment in the San Diego County autism community.
- ◆ We continued to maintain a grant writing committee and had success securing numerous grants for Camp I CAN, Pool PALS and chapter activities.
- ◆ We held three very successful fundraisers this year.

Last August, we held the 3rd Annual golf tournament, "Swing Away for SDASA" which was chaired by Daryl and Karen Dotson. Thanks to Daryl and Karen and we look forward to this summer's tournament.

The 3rd annual swim-a-thon, "The Splash for Cash" was held in March 2006 and raised nearly \$20,000 for our aquatics programs. Thanks to Tammy Anderson and Cherri Cary for working on the planning committee.

During April, 2006, "All Out for Autism" was held SeaWorld, and netted over \$50,000 for Camp I CAN and recreation programs. Congresswoman Susan Davis, Congressman Bob Filner and Senator Dianne Feinstein, all of the Coalition for Autism Research and Education, were the honorary chairpersons. Thanks to Rachel and Andrew Zjilstra and Shelly and John VanBrabant for co-chairing this outstanding event.

- ◆ We maintained our participation in the United Way/CHAD and the Combined Federal Campaign, which are important funding sources for our chapter. Our net donations are nearly \$30,000 per year. Greg Fletcher has been the key contact person and participant for our chapter and he deserves our appreciation and recognition for this outstanding work.

- ◆ We invested in research in our local community by making donations to the Walk for Autism Research in June and with two research grants to two local graduate students studying autism.

In addition to meeting these overall goals, there were many more activities we were able to support throughout the year.

- ◆ We participated at resource information booths at numerous conferences and events including IEP Day, the San Diego Walk for Autism sponsored by NFAR and the Walk for Autism Research.
- ◆ We held our annual end of summer party and our annual holiday party for families.
- ◆ In May we again recognized those who work so hard to help our children at Annual Teacher and Professional Appreciation Night.
- ◆ Several of our board members traveled to regional and national conferences and learned about further ways to improve our local organization.
- ◆ Greg Fletcher has continued to represent our chapter at the State level as the vice president. Thank you Greg for being our important link to the state and national organizations.

We continued to benefit from the support and work of our executive director, Karen Mitrovich-Dotson. She has been an integral part of the chapter's success and ability to get all of the important chapter work done.

All of these wonderful accomplishments by the chapter did not go unnoticed. The SDASA was selected by the National Autism Society of America as the Chapter of the Year for 2005-2006.

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve as the president of your chapter these past three years. I have had the opportunity to work with a very dedicated and hard working board. Their efforts have enabled this chapter to grow and expand into one of the most successful ASA chapters in the country.

I would like to recognize each of them their contributions and untiring efforts.

Immediate Past President Greg Fletcher
 President-Elect John VanBrabant
 Secretary Shelly VanBrabant
 Treasurer Tina Huston

Directors:
 Kay Freeman
 Rachel Zjilstra
 Sandy Shaw
 Jennifer Oke
 Karyn Searcy
 Angela Desideri
 Cathy Schieffer
 Brooke Dewhurst
 Dawn Holman
 Cherri Cary
 Desirae Spangler
 Bobbie Kohrt
 Chantal Sicile-Kira

At Large Directors:
 Tammy Anderson-Lee
 Lars Perner
 Victoria Ikerd-Schreiter
 Sandy Hayslip

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2006-2007 Board of Directors

JOHN VANBRABANT, M.S., PRESIDENT

Served as President-Elect and has been on the board for 1 year; Co-chair of the ASA major fundraiser from 2003-2006. Retired Naval Officer with tours of duty in Washington DC and various operational assignments on the East and West Coast; currently employed in the aerospace industry. Graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy and holds a MS in Operations Research from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA. He is married and has two sons; Christian (14 with ASD) and a 7 year old named Cameron.

CHERRI CARY, PSY. D., PRESIDENT ELECT

Mother of 7 1/2 year old son diagnosed with autism at 22 months and two adult daughters. Experienced in both business and clinical social work, she holds a Psy.D. degree from Western American University . Cherri and her husband Bill continue to actively pursue both traditional and complementary/alternative interventions for their son. She has served on the board for two years.

SHELLY VANBRABANT, A.S., SECRETARY

Board member as secretary for 4 years, she has been on the Camp I CAN planning committee for 5 years, chairperson for Casino Night 3 years. She lives in the east county with her husband and two sons; a 14 year old; Christian, with ASD and a seven year old named Cameron.

TINA HUSTON, MBA, TREASURER

Tina and her husband have two girls, ages 7 and 4. Their oldest daughter, Mallory, has Asperger's. She is a partner in her own tax preparation and bookkeeping business. She has worked in this field since 1989 and has an MBA from the University of Phoenix and a bachelor's degree in Economics from UCSD. She has been on the board for one year as the treasurer.

SHIRLEY FETT, M.S., IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

President of SDASA for the past 3 years. Board member for the past 6 years. Has also served as the newsletter editor, chair of the grant writing committee, chair of Camp I CAN committee and member of the Splash for Cash committee. She and her husband, Bruce, have two sons with autism ages 13 and 15 years. Bachelor of Science Nursing, Univ. of Iowa, Master of Science Nursing, SDSU. Works as a nurse practitioner in private practice.

ANGELA DESIDERI, MS, CCC-SLP, (PROGRAMS), DIRECTOR

Speech-language pathologist who specializes in working with individuals with autism spectrum and other neuro-developmental disorders. She has served on the board for three years.

GREGORY FLETCHER, MBA, DIRECTOR

Father of 15-year old son diagnosed w/autism at age four. Joined SDASA eleven years ago. Currently serving on the National Chapter Services Committee. Previously served as Newsletter Editor and President. Chapter Representative & VP to the Autism Society of CA, and the Chapter Representative to the Combined Health Agencies. Served on the National Conference Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Chapter Advisory Panel to National ASA.

NORA GEORGE, M.S., DIRECTOR

Nora George is the immediate past president for the North County ASA, Parks and Recreation Commissioner for the City of Carlsbad (2 years), Beach Preservation Commissioner for the City of Carlsbad (2 years), Art Masters Volunteer Instructor at Pacific Rim Elementary in kindergarten and classroom Volunteer at Pacific Rim Elementary in kindergarten. Parent of two: Nina 2 1/2 and Mitchell 5 1/2 (has Asperger's Syndrome). This will be her first year on the board of the SDASA

SHELLY HIRSCHBERG, PH.D., DIRECTOR

Shelly Hirschberg is the mother of a 4 year old son who was diagnosed with a ASD at the age of two. She is also a clinical psychologist, specializing in counseling children, adolescents and families, particularly in the areas of crisis and trauma counseling. She has served as a vice-president on the Board of the North County Chapter of the ASA for the 2005-2006 term. She also brought parents and families together to build friendships through family programs and Coffee Chat. This will be her first year on the board of the SDASA.

MARK JONES

Mark is the father of a son with autism, and has been a volunteer for the SDASA for several of our big fundraising events such as Splash for Cash and All Out for Autism. He attends the monthly Informational Meetings regularly as a new SDASA member, and is looking forward to becoming more involved with the autism community and increasing his awareness of autism issues in order to help his son.

MICHELLE LAZAR, MT-BC, DIRECTOR

Michelle Lazar is an Autism Specialist & Music Therapist-Director of Coast Music Therapy since 1999, specializing in services to children and teens with ASD. Masters degree in special education from SDSU with a specialization in Autism & applied behavior analysis. This will be her first year on the board.

ALAN LINCOLN, PH.D., MS, DIRECTOR

Alan Lincoln is a licensed Psychologist and MS in Clinical Psychopharmacology; Autism Research (25 years); past Regional Psychologist; President and CEO, Center for Autism Research; and Evaluation and Services, Inc. This will be his first year on the board.

JENNIFER OKE, PH.D, DIRECTOR

Jennifer Oke is a clinical psychologist practicing in the area of assessment and treatment of children with ASD and their families. She has served on the board for four years.

KARYN SEARCY MA, CCC-SLP, DIRECTOR

Owner/director of Crimson Center for Speech & Language, Karyn has been a speech/language pathologist for 30 years, and has worked with children and adults with autism since 1974. She has provided therapy in both clinical and hospital settings, and as an NPA consultant for special education programs. She has served on the board for one year.

SANDY SHAW, PH. D., DIRECTOR

A clinical psychologist with over 14 years of experience working with children, adolescents and adults with ASD. She is the owner and director of Applied Interventions & Methodologies (AIM), an agency that provides behavioral, educational and psychological services to individuals with ASD. She has served on the board for one year.

DEEDEE SPANGLER, M.S., DIRECTOR

Director/Founder DMS Consulting an Educational Consulting company working with children on the autism spectrum with school districts and as a Regional Center vendor. She holds a Masters in Special Education and has been involved in the special education community since 1996 as an educational and behavioral consultant; special education classroom teacher; home therapist/supervisor/ teacher; classroom assistant; behavior specialist; advocate; and most of all, friend. She has served on the board for 3 years, first two years as treasurer.

SDASA to host Autism Conference

Preparing for the Future – Today!

A conference addressing the educational, social and quality of life issues of individuals with autism spectrum disorders

The Conference Committee has been working hard to ensure an incredible line-up of speakers and topics for our upcoming conference, November 3 and 4th at the Marina village conference center.

Our opening address will be by Eustacia Cutler, author and mother of Temple Grandin, who will discuss her views on where autism fits in with personality.

Then Barbara Doyle, a “Master Teacher” with over 30 years experience, as well as a family member of a person with autism, will address how the powerful role of family members, teachers, friends, therapists and all service providers create positive attitudes of the current and future society. She will discuss the importance of choosing service goals and life activities that help individuals safely belong, participate and contribute.

Additionally, **Michelle Garcia Winner**, author and nationally renowned speaker, will address teaching social cognition. Her workshop will explore how central the skill of “perspective taking” is to all social contact and interpretation, be it non-verbal or verbal. Functional educational strategies to facilitate growth in thinking about how other people think and the related social skills will be reviewed to teach to students who function higher on the autism spectrum.



The afternoon will consist of smaller breakout sessions, where participants can choose from the morning speakers and attend a more in-depth presentation. After the breakout sessions end on Friday, you are invited to attend a no-host bar reception, featuring **Dr. Temple Grandin** and her mother, Eustacia Cutler, as well many of our conference speakers. Temple and Eustacia’s books will be available for sale and they will be happy to sign books purchased. Tickets are \$25, and include appetizers.



The conference continues on Saturday November 4th with a keynote address by Temple Grandin, who will discuss her life, her upbringing, and what has enabled her to become the successful author and speaker that she is today. Following that, **Dr. Peter Gerhardt’s** presentation will provide an overview for transition planning inclusive of employment, social skills, sexuality, and quality of life concerns. Breakout sessions will again follow the morning speakers.



Registration packets for the conference will be mailed out during the summer, or you can register on-line though the SDASA website. There will be a discounted fee for Early Bird Registration, so don’t delay! We look forward to seeing you all in November!

annual report, continued from page 7

As the incidence of autism has grown, this chapter has risen to the challenge and expanded and grown to meet the ever-increasing needs of our families and their children with autism. Through our continued, joined efforts, we will be able to make an impact on our community. It is our responsibility as parents and professionals to care about what the future may hold for our children. We can and will make a difference.

At the end of the day, if we ask ourselves the question, “Did I do something that has made a difference in the lives of others?” The answer for each and every one of you is a resounding, “YES!”

Thank you.

Shirley Fett, President
San Diego County Chapter
Autism Society of America

EDUCATION ADVOCACY
at no charge to families!
phone 619-594-7383
Integrated Continuum of Services (ICS)

**THE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS
RESOURCE GUIDE**
& past issues of *Autism Action*
available online: www.sd-autism.org

upcoming events



Coffee Talk Schedule

Come. Sit. Relax. Chat. You deserve a break!
Calling all parents who would like to sit and
chat with other parents of children with
Autism Spectrum Disorders.

We know you deserve a break!! So come
and meet for a coffee talk.

September 14th - 9am, Starbucks Coffee,
937 Lomas Santa Fe Dr, Suite D, Solana Beach

October 12th, 9am, Panera Bread,
575 Grand Ave., San Marcos

SUMMER INCLUSION RECREATION ACTIVITIES
Kids, Youth, Young Adult
Check out all the summer fun at
www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/activities/dsa.shtml
Phone: 619-525-8247



Asperger's/HFA Parent's Group in North County

Carlsbad Senior Center (799 Pine at Harding)
the 1st Monday of the month 7:00-8:30 PM

October- Dawn Holman PhD., LMFT

November- Chantal Sicile-Kira

December- Jennifer Oke, Ph.D



AN EVENING WITH STEPHEN SHORE

noted author
July 19, 2006
7:00-8:30pm

1635 Faraday Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008

hosted by

North County Asperger's/
HFA Parent Group

tickets: \$10.00

see page 3 for details

MONTHLY POOL & PIZZA PARTIES



Mark your calendars to attend our fun
and popular monthly pool parties.
They're held the 2nd Friday evening
of each month at the Boys & Girls
Club in Clairemont. 4635 Clairemont
Mesa Blvd. 6:00-8:00 pm. **Free pizza
& drinks!** The whole family can swim
in an indoor, heated pool. Lifeguards provided. Please
RSVP at least FIVE days in advance to insure sufficient
food and beverages for all 619-298-1981 or [info@sd-
autism.org](mailto:info@sd-autism.org)

July 14, August 11, September 8

University of San Diego School of Leadership and Education Sciences

1st Annual Autism Institute

*People Moving On: A 21st Century Approach to
Understanding and Supporting Individuals with
Autism and Those Who Care for and About Them*
July 10 to July 12, 2006

Anne M. Donnellan, Ph.D., Gary W. LaVigna, Ph.D.,
Martha Leary, CCC-SLP, Kate McGinnity, Ph.D., Nan
Negri, Ph.D., and Jodi Robledo, Ph.D. (Candidate)

www.usd-online.org

SWING AWAY FOR SDASA! 4th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser August 6, 2006



SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE ON AUTISM

November 3 & 4, 2006

Featured keynote speaker, Temple
Grandin, and other speakers to in-
clude Michelle Garcia Winner, Peter
Gerhardt, and more!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Title _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Membership type (includes National, State and SDASA dues)

- Full Time Student \$25
- Individual \$40
- Family \$50
- Autism Action Newsletter only
-1 year subscription \$10
- Yes, I'd like to make an additional
donation to the SDASA of
\$ _____

Is this a:

- New Membership
- Membership Renewal

Payment

- Check (payable to Autism Society of America)
- Credit card # _____ Exp _____
name on card _____

I am interested in helping the SDASA by:

- Serving on the board
- Special events
- Newsletter
- Legislative action
- Parent Mentor
- Fundraisers
- Speaker's Bureau

What is your relationship to the person with autism? (check all that apply):

- Parent
- Service Provider
- Individual with autism
- Family Member
- Medical Professional
- Educator
- Other _____

*Applications can be mailed to: San Diego /Autism Society of America,
PO Box 420908, San Diego, CA 92124
Or, you can join/renew online at www.SD-autism.org
Dues and Donations are Tax Deductible*



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Email: info@sdsd-autism.org
Website: www.sdsd-autism.org