

# Autism Action

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2002

## Upcoming Chapter Events

### NOVEMBER POOL PARTY

November 8th 6-8 p.m. Please RSVP by giving our chapter number a call.

### HOLIDAY POOL PARTY

Come join us for our Holiday pool party. December 13th from 6 to 8 p.m. Pizza and hors'dourves will be served, and Santa will also visit. Come join the fun at the Girls and Boys club on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Please RSVP by calling or e-mailing us by the Wednesday before the party.

*We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving  
and a Joyous Holiday Season  
from ASASD !!!*

### ASASD SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

at TMI building 4740 Murphy Canyon Rd.

**November 07, 2002 – 6:30 p.m.**

### **Presentation on Lindamood-Bell District Workshops**

Heidi Baumgartner,  
speaker

\*Please note that there will not be a support group meeting in December.

### GOLF TOURNAMENT CANCELLED

The San Diego County Chapter Autism society of America Golf tournament and fundraiser scheduled for Nov 22nd has been cancelled. Please support the **OAR's West Coast Autism Golf Classic** details in "For Your Information" section on page 2.

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The Autism Society of America, San Diego Chapter, is a member of the Combined Health Agencies and the Combined Federal Campaign #5580

## President's Message

Some of you may have seen the 1999 report issued by the California Department of Developmental Services titled "Changes in the Population of Persons with Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders in California's Developmental Services System: 1987 through 1998". The report documented a 273% increase in the number of autistic clients entering the state's 21 Regional Center system over the two-year period. As a result of the dramatic increase, the California State Legislature commissioned a study by the University of California's Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders (M.I.N.D.) Institute to examine possible reasons for the increase.

On October 17, 2002, the M.I.N.D. Institute released the results of its "Report to the Legislature on the Principal Findings from The Epidemiology of Autism in California: A Comprehensive Pilot Study". The study reported, among other findings, that the increase in autism cases cannot be explained by a loosening of the criteria used to diagnose autism; nor could the increase be attributed to a migration of autistic clients into California. Commenting on the study, the principal investigator, UC Davis pediatric epidemiologist Robert S. Byrd, stated "Speculation about the increase in autism in California has led some to try to explain it away as a statistical issue or with other factors that artificially inflated the numbers. Instead, we found that autism is on the rise in the state and we still do not know why. The results of this study are, without a doubt, sobering."

While the study did not identify the cause of autism, it did verify what many of us have known for some time...that the incidence of autism is increasing at an alarming, if not an epidemic rate. As a result of other research studies, we also know that nationally:

- Autism occurs in 1 of every 250 births.
- Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability.
- The number of people in the United States with autism is 1 million to 1.5 million.
- The annual cost of autism related services is \$20-\$60 billion.
- That 90% of the costs are for adult services.

These facts underscore the need for additional investment in the effort to solve the autism puzzle. Specifically we need increased autism research, early diagnosis and intervention, education programs, and support and services for adults with autism.

But conducting and publishing studies alone will not accomplish this feat; it is vital that everyone be engaged at the local, regional and national level to effect real change. We must all work together to influence our friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers and most importantly our lawmakers. No one will change the world for us ... it's up to us.

## For Your Information

**AMIGO SDASA Bears**  
in yellow, blue or red now available.  
Cost \$10 each or 3 for \$25.  
For more information  
contact Shirley at  
858-274-1787.



**WESTFIELD WORKS WONDERS**  
Sunday, 10 November, 6-9 p.m.  
This annual event features an exclusive  
evening of shopping and holiday festivities.  
SDASA keeps all proceeds from their ticket  
sales. Tickets are \$5 and available at all  
chapter functions or contact the chapter  
office at (619)298-1981.



**CHILDREN'S AUTISM  
INTERVENTION CENTER**  
is pleased to offer a parent lecture series  
geared toward parents of young children  
with ASD. This six-part lecture series will  
be at Children's Hospital on Tuesday  
mornings from 10-12 starting Nov. 5th  
(Nov. 12th 10:30-12:30) Cost is \$150.00 for  
the series. For more info contact Melissa at  
(858) 966-7453

### Board of Directors

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**BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION  
WORKSHOP / PART 1**  
5 December 2002 / 9-12  
Cost: \$35 per person  
Register by Nov. 25th  
Quails Inn Hotel, San Marcos  
1025 Lake Bonita Dr.  
Dr. Shaw and Dr. Cason from CARES  
(858) 623-2777 ext. 397



**OAR's WEST COAST GOLF  
CLASSIC**  
Vista Valley Country Club in Vista,  
California. All proceeds will support  
applied autism research. Tournament  
followed by dinner, auction, and trophy  
ceremony. **Contact Joy Marie Ciolino at  
JMCIOLINO@aol.com or 760-233-8766**  
for information on foursomes and  
sponsorship opportunities.  
**Grand Prize** includes 3 day/2 night stay  
in either Dallas, New York City, or San  
Francisco. Airfare for two, hotel, and  
\$500 shopping spree.



**"SCHOOL PROBLEMS"  
WORKSHOP**  
The San Diego County, Learning  
Disabilities Association has developed  
a two part workshop to assist parents in  
getting help for there children who are  
experiencing difficulties in school  
Part 1 – School problems “how to get  
help for your child” - Nov 13th  
Part 2 – “The IEP process” - Nov 20th  
\$25 fee, call for info 858-467-9158

**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.

**ONE WAY YOU CAN HELP**  
our chapter raise money is just by  
shopping through the E-Scrip program.  
Visit our web site and sign up using our ID  
# 785161 for more info contact Shelly at  
(619) 334-0739 or visit  
www.escrip.com to sign up.



**AUTISM SURVEY**  
Imput from parents of autistic children is  
needed for a study being done by the  
Department of Psychology at Virginia  
Commonwealth University in Richmond,  
VA. Please visit their web site at [http://  
www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/autismfamily/home.  
htm](http://www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/autismfamily/home.htm). Your cooperation is greatly  
appreciated. The results of the survey will  
be posted on a later newsletter.Thanks!



**KIDS BEING KIDS:**  
Recreation opportunities for Imperial  
County children with special needs.  
A new project of Easter Seals, supported  
by San Diego Regional Center. Contact  
Tara Gehler at  
(760) 482-2777



**LEARNING DISABILITIES  
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA**  
2002 STATE CONFERENCE  
Building for the Future  
November 7-9, 2002  
Ontario, CA

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the San Diego County Chapter of the  
Autism Society of America  
P.O. Box 420908  
San Diego, CA 92124  
(619) 298-1981  
Fax: (619) 278-0885  
Web: [www.sd-autism.org](http://www.sd-autism.org)  
E-mail: [info@sd-autism.org](mailto:info@sd-autism.org)

## Resource Information

### Support Groups

#### Autism Society of America, San Diego

**Chapter** Meets 1st Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm at the TMI Building 4740 Murphy Canyon Rd.

#### Autism Society of America, North County

**Chapter** Meets 4th Monday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Well Being Center, 270 El Camino Real, Encinitas. Merryn Affleck 760-479-1420 www.zweb.com/northsdasa

**Autism of Imperial County** George McFadden 760-353-3191

#### Autism Parent Support Group “Coffee

**Klatch”** Meets 10:00 am on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, Tierrasanta. Val Saraf 858-571-0842

#### East County Children’s Disability Council

Focuses on children with physical, developmental and emotional disabilities, ages 0-22 years and the community they live in. Janet Light 619-465-2288

#### EFRC & HOPE Infant Family Support

**Group.** Meets Thursdays 9:30 am (English); Fridays 9:30 am (Spanish) 276 Church Avenue, Suite B Chula Vista Mary Sebastyn 858-569-5370

**Escondido Autism Coffee Groups** Meet the 1st Wednesday 10am til noon, at Safari Coffee Roasters, 1012 W., El Norte PKWY, in Escondido. Val Saraf 858-571-0842

#### Families & Autistic Children Together

**Succeed (FACTS)** Cheryl Cisneros 909-302-5532 Fax 909-693-5695, P.O. Box 89-0685 Temecula, CA 92589-0685

#### Fragile X Resource Center of San Diego

Meets 2nd Tuesday every other month at Children’s Hospital. Cindy de Gruchy 619-697-6486 cdegruchy@aol.com

#### Parent Advocates Seeking Solutions (PASS)

Parents of children 15 & older with disabilities. Meets 3rd Thursday, for 8 months of the year, St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church, 16275 Pomerado Rd, Poway. Beverly Andreos 858-748-2594

#### Parent Support Group for the Resources for

**Students with Autism Program** of San Diego Unified Schools. Bobbie Kohrt or Mary Lou Evans 858-490-8520

#### Supporting Parents of Autistic Young Adults

**(SPAYA)** Meets every 4th Wednesday, 5-7 pm San Diego Regional Center, Room 101, 4355 Ruffin Road. Sophia 858-560-7376 SPAYA@prodigy.net

#### Sociedad Hispana de Autismo y PDD

Meets 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30-8:30 pm Stein Center, 647 E Street, Chula Vista. Bricia Moreno 619-563-8695 or Soledad Acevedo 011-5266-30-14-11

#### Understanding Autism Together

Meets 3rd Monday of each month 6:30 pm, Pediatric Conference Room Building 2-1 of the Naval Medical Center. Dr. Leavell 619-532-7291 or ASYMCA 619-532-8156

### Information & Resources

#### Autism Society of America, National

**Organization** 7910 Woodmont Ave. Suite 300 Bethesda, MD 20814 1-800-328-8476 www.autism-society.org

#### Autism Society of California

P.O. Box 8600 Long Beach, CA 90808 1-800-700-0037 DWilson80@aol.com

**Autism Research Institute** Research center, publishes quarterly journal, information packet on autism. Bernard Rimland, Director 4182 Adams Ave. San Diego, CA 92116 619-281-7165 www.autism.com/ari

#### Children’s Hospital and Health Center—

**Autism Intervention Center** Inclusion Assistance Program offers specialist assistance to children in inclusion settings. Gabriella Albaisa 858-966-7453

#### Children’s Hospital Laboratory for Research

**on the Neuroscience of Autism** Volunteers needed for research studies. La Jolla, CA (858) 454-7239

**Coast Music Therapy** Provides music/assisted learning approach in special education, or adapted music lessons in home. Michelle Lazar 858-453-5211

#### Exceptional Family Resource Center

Provides information & education for families of children with various disabilities. 9245 Sky Park Ct. Suite 130 San Diego 800-281-8252 Also: 1001 Fern St. Imperial Beach 619-423-8127

#### Kids Included Together (KIT)

Assists children with disabilities to be included in community recreation and social programs. 858-794-8154

#### Protection and Advocacy, Inc (PAI)

Non-profit agency for protection of individuals with disabilities. 800-776-5746 www.pai-ca.org

### Services

#### Auditory Integration Training

Terrie Silverman, MS Conducts sessions several times a year in San Diego 858-278-9534

#### Center for Autism Research, Evaluation &

**Service (CARES)-** Academic and Behavior Clinic, 6160 Cornerstone Ct. East #262, San Diego, CA 92121 (858) 623-2777 x397

#### Center for Autism Research, Evaluation &

**Service (CARES) -** Intensive Behavior Intervention, 6160 Cornerstone Ct. East #265, San Diego, CA 92121 (858) 623-2777 x397

#### Children’s Hospital and Health Center—

**Autism Intervention Center** Provides parent training, professional workshops and inclusion services. Cynthia Carter Ph.D 858-966-7453

#### Excel - A Center for Speech, Language and

Learning. Kara Dodds (619) 692-1919 or excelspeech@hotmail.com

#### I Can Too Learning Center

Offers behavioral intervention for children with autism between 2-6 years. Kevin Dotts 760-815-4800 www.icantoolc.com

#### Lawrence Family Jewish Community

**Center Inclusion Program** Offers recreation an social programs for children with special needs 858-457-3030 ext 222

#### Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes

Learning Center 445 Marine View Drive, Suite 290, Del Mar CA 92014 858-259-3206

**Pacific Therapy** Angela Desideri, Director/ Speech-Language Pathologist, 2801 Camino Del Mar #1 Del Mar, CA 92014 858-442-3071

#### San Diego Park & Recreation Disabled

**Services Program** Organized activities for various age groups. Siblings & friends welcome. 619-525-8247 Fax 619-533-3930

#### San Diego Regional Center

Information, referral, evaluation and advocacy services for the developmentally disabled. 4355 Ruffin Rd. Suite 204 San Diego, CA 92123 858-576-2996

#### Socialization Training and Reinforcement

**(STAR) Program.** After-school social skills program. Dr. Linda Collins 858-292-6788

#### Team of Advocates for Special Kids

**(TASK)** Workshops and advocacy training for parents 858-874-2386

#### UCSD Autism Research Laboratory

Pivotal Response Training 858-534-6144

### Educational Resources

#### Community Advisory Committee

San Diego 858-578-3148  
Poway 858-748-0010, 858-679-2534

#### California Department of Education,

**Special Education Division** 916-445-4613. Parent Information Line 800-434-2465 or www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch

#### Hope Infant Family Support Program

858-292-3700 Fax 858-569-5394

#### San Diego City Schools Special Education

**Programs Division** www.sdcs.k12.ca.us/speciald

#### Special Education Local Planning Areas

**(SELPA):**

East County 619-590-3920  
North Coastal 760-471-8208  
North Inland 760-788-4611  
Poway 858-748-0010  
San Diego 619-225-3606  
South County 619-498-8171

#### Special Education Parent Facilitators

Poway 858-748-0010  
San Diego 858-573-5954  
South County 619-498-8171

*See something that needs*

*updating?*

*Please let us know!*

**Autism Society of America**

**San Diego Chapter**

P.O. Box 420908  
San Diego, CA 92124

Contributions to the Autism Society of America / San Diego chapter can be made through the United Way/CHAD Campaign or the Combined Federal Campaign (#5580).

*Serving the needs of the San Diego Autism Community through advocacy, education, public awareness and research.*

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## Membership Application

San Diego County Chapter / Autism Society of California / Autism Society of America

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues (includes National, State & Local Dues)**

- Full-time Student (\$25)     Family Membership (\$45)  
 Individual (\$35)         Newsletter Only (\$10)

Make checks payable to: Autism Society of America  
DUES AND DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Please Check if:

- New Member             Renewing Member

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

- Parent  
 Care Provider  
 Friend  
 Grandparent  
 Relative  
 School Administrator  
 Teacher  
 Physician  
 Aide  
 Psychologist  
 Other

**Applications can be mailed to:**

San Diego County Chapter  
Autism Society of America  
P.O. Box 420908  
San Diego, CA 92124

May we use your name and address as a referral for other parents?

- Yes     No

I am interested in serving on the SDASA Board of Directors

- Yes     No

I am interested in volunteer opportunities within the SDASA

- Yes     No

I am interested in helping on the following committees

- Program     Public Relations  
 Fundraising     Newsletter/  
Website