

---

---

# ❖ AUTISM ACTION ❖

---

January/February 2004

The Newsletter of the  
*San Diego County Chapter*  
**Autism Society of America**

Serving the needs of individuals with autism and their families  
through advocacy, education, public awareness and research.

## MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKERS

**Thursday, January 1, 2004**

**\*\*\* NO MEETING \*\*\***

***Happy New Year !***

**Thursday, February 5, 2004**

**6:30-8:30PM**

***Visual Schedules—A Make-It and Take-It Night***

***Bobbie Kohrt & Mary Lou Evans***

**From SDCS Resources for Students with Autism (RSA) Program**

Come learn about tools to assist individuals with Autism. Come brainstorm with the experts on how visual schedules can help address challenging behaviors. All materials will be provided.

**Thursday, March 4, 2004**

**6:30—8:30 PM**

***Cynthia Norall, PhD***

Support Group Meetings are held at  
TMI Conference Center  
4740 Murphy Canyon Road—2nd Floor  
San Diego / Kearny Mesa

## IN THIS ISSUE

Scheduled Meetings	1
President's Message	2
For Your Information	3
Resource Information	4
Autism Advice	5
Upcoming Events	7
Membership Application	8

## MONTHLY MEETING FORMAT

6:30-6:45 P.M.	Informal/Social/ Networking Time
6:45-7:00 P.M.	President's Message
7:00-8:00 P.M.	Guest Speaker
8:00-8:30 P.M.	Questions/ Answers

*Autism Action is published bi-monthly by the  
San Diego County Chapter of the Autism Society of America  
3731 6th Avenue Suite 200, San Diego, California 92103  
P O Box 420908, San Diego, California 92124  
(619) 298-1981 • Fax (619) 278-0885  
e-mail : [info@sd-autism.org](mailto:info@sd-autism.org)  
Web site: [www.sd-autism.org](http://www.sd-autism.org)*

*A Member of the Combined Health Agencies and the Combined Federal Campaign—Agency Code 5580*

---

---

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this and begin to think of the new year there is a feeling of uncertainty about what will happen to all of us and our family members affected by autism. The State of California, in light of the budget crisis, has proposed several measures aimed at cutting costs on the backs of persons with disabilities, including our children.

The cutbacks being proposed that would likely affect most of us would include enrollment caps on health and human services programs. Can you imagine being told your child has autism only then to discover you cannot get state funded services until someone dies or moves away? No home programs, no respite, no O.T., no speech because the enrollment is capped. The proposed cap will be the number currently enrolled as of January, 2004. Because early intervention is essential, waiting for services will create a population with more significant impairments, higher care needs and ultimately more costs to the state.

Suspension of the Lanterman Act is also proposed. The intent of this act, signed into law over 30 years ago, was to enable persons with disabilities to remain in their home communities with support. Without the necessary services and supports, disabled persons will be forced to return to more "institutional" living arrangements.

Respite and IHSS (In Home Support Services) are also on the chopping block. Because many families are already stretched to the brink, elimination of these services will compel some families to seek costlier options—such as out of home care for their loved one.

I know this is "preaching to the choir", but for those of you unaware of what has been brewing in Sacramento, now is the time to speak out and speak up. Our loved ones have NO VOICE without us. We must all speak out for the health and well being of our children and our families before it is too late. Please take time to call or write to your state legislators and to Governor Schwarzenegger.

Shirley Fett  
President

---

## Board of Directors

President	Shirley Fett
1st VP Membership	Marilyn Rosenberg
2nd VP Programs	Victoria Ikerd-Schreider
3rd VP Newsletter	Jennifer Oke
Treasurer	DeeDee Spangler
Secretary	Shelly VanBrabant
Immediate Past President	Gregory Fletcher
Director	Kay Freeman
Director	Sandi Hayslip
Director	Bobbie Kohrt
Director	Bill Cary
Director	Tammy Anderson-Lee
Director	Angela Desideri
Director	Cathy Schieffer
Director	Rachel Zijlstra

## 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.

## 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 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.**

Upcoming dates:

January 11, February 13, March 12,  
April 9, May 14, June 11

### SDSU TO OFFER AUTISM SPECIALTY IN SPECIAL EDUCATION DEGREE

San Diego State University has received a \$1.25 million federal grant to fund a new specialty in autism within the Master's program of SDSU's Department of Special Education. The grant will entitle 36 SDSU student teachers to full tuition support for the two-year program and provide the San Diego region with its first specialists in teaching children with autism.

### DONATION TO SDASA FROM STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Standards of Excellence of San Diego held a golf tournament in October, 2003 at the Rancho Bernardo Inn Golf Course. The San Diego Chapter of the ASA was selected by them as the beneficiary of their tournament. We are pleased to report we received a generous check of over \$6,000.00! Thanks to Standards of Excellence for their support and generous donation.



### AMIGO AWARDS

Give the gift of recognition. The SDASA proudly presents the 1st Annual Amigo Awards — celebrating Business Appreciation Month in March 2004. Please nominate an individual and/or business who has helped and supported your family in the past year. Nomination forms are available from the SDASA office (619) 298-1981 or via email — send your request to info@sd-autism.org. Results will be announced in the March/April issue of *Autism Action*.

### PURCHASE OF SERVICE BUDGET UPDATE

In Response to the severe State Fiscal Year (FY) 2003-2004 budget shortfall, the legislature included a \$10 million unallocated reduction to this year's regional centers budgets. Although the unallocated reduction is less than the \$100 million reduction required in the FY 2002-2003 budget act, it means that this year the San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) must develop an expenditure plan showing Purchase of Service (POS) cost savings of \$626,897.

SDRC recently completed community meetings to receive input on the expenditure plan. The input and plan were shared with the Board of Directors and approved at their November meeting. The plan has been forwarded to the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and will be implemented to realize cost savings. The expenditure plan for FY 2003-2004 is available at [www.sdrc.org](http://www.sdrc.org) or by calling 858-576-2966

### PLANNED CHARITABLE GIVING

As we confront the challenges of the future, we know that the generosity of those who assist us will make all the difference in our success. And there are many ways that your philanthropic giving can accommodate your financial situation and tax planning.

One of the easiest ways to make a gift to the ASA is with a Bequest in your will or revocable living trust. Bequests work particularly well for those who are unable to make an immediate gift, but would like

to support the future work of ASA. Please contact the ASA at 619 298-1981 if you would like more information about Planned Charitable Giving. All gifts, large and small, make a difference to the future of ASA.

### US GOVERNMENT RELEASES 10-YEAR AUTISM ROADMAP AT SUMMIT

The federal government has for the first time mapped out a long-term plan for addressing the growing problem of autism in the United States. The 10-year Autism Research Roadmap was announced at the government's Autism Summit Conference held on November 19-20, 2003 in Washington, DC. The Autism Society of America (ASA), which has long advocated for a major government commitment to autism, applauds the leaders for their efforts and calls on the government to commit the funds needed to give the plan life.

The roadmap was one of the many items addressed at the summit, which was organized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education and focused on the federal government's role in biomedical autism research, early screening and diagnosis, and improving access to autism services. Autism experts, government researchers, Members of Congress, and ASA leaders presented on a range of issues, including the announcement by ASA President Rob Beck of a new program on the importance of early diagnosis of autism. To view the full story visit the ASA Web site [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)

### AUTISM AWARENESS BRACELETS

Please visit the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism website to order your Autism Awareness Bracelet at [www.dougflutiejr.com](http://www.dougflutiejr.com)

They are beautiful bracelets made by Kimberly Chapdelaine with Expressions of Hope and make great holiday gifts.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation.

## RESOURCE INFORMATION

### SUPPORT GROUPS

**Autism Society of America, San Diego County Chapter.** ☎ (619) 298-1981 info@sd-autism.org 📧 www.sd-autism.org Meets 1st Thursday of the month, 6:30—8:30 PM at the TMI Building, 4740 Murphy Canyon, 2nd Floor Conference Center, San Diego.

**Autism Society of America, North County Chapter.** *North County Coastal Group* meets 2nd Thursday of the month *Inland Group* meets 3rd Tuesday of the month *HF/Asperger Group* meets 1st Monday of the month. For more information contact nccasa@cox.net or (760) 479-1420

asanorthcountysandiego.homestead.com/home.html

**Autism of Imperial County.** George Mcfadden 760-353-3191

**East County Children's Disability Council** Focuses on children with physical, developmental and emotional disabilities, ages 0-22 years. Janet Light 619-465-2288

**EFRC & HOPE Infant Family Support Group.** ☎ Mary Sebastyn (858) 569-5370 or Tessie Salcedo (619) 409-3127. Meets in Chula Vista. English and Spanish groups.

**Families & Autistic Children Together Succeed (FACTS).** Cheryl Cisneros PO Box 89-0685, Temecula, CA 92589-0685 F A C T S f a m i l i e s @ a o l . c o m 📧 www.factsfamilies.org

**Fragile X Center of San Diego** ☎ Cindy de Gruchy (619) 697-6468. Will meet May 13 & Oct 14, 2003, 7-9PM Children's Hospital. www.fragilexsandiego.org

**Kaiser Support Group** Meets the second Tuesday at the Vandever Kaiser location 5:30 to 7:00. Must be a Kaiser member to attend. Krissy Hallauer 858 573-5216

**Parent Advocates Seeking Solutions (PASS).** Parents of children 15 & older with disabilities. Beverly Andreos (858) 748-2594 . Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 16275 Pomerado Rd, Poway.

**Parent Support Group for the Resources for Students with Autism Program** of San Diego Unified Schools. Contact Bobbie Kohrt or Mary Lou Evans 858-490-8520

**Spanish-Speaking Support Group** — For families with children under 5: 1st & 3rd Fridays, 9:30-11AM. For families with children 5 and over: 2nd & 4th Friday, 9:30-11AM. Contact Laura Cervantes (619)498-8171 or Tessie Salcedo (619)594-7391.

**SibShop** Sibling support group for kids ages 6-12. Contact Nicole Hadley CCLS (858) 966-7411.

**Supporting Parents of Autistic Young Adults (SPAYA)** Sophia (858) 560-0555 or

SPAYA@san.rr.com Meets at San Diego Regional Center, Rm. 101, 4355 Ruffin Road.

**TACA** Parent training and support group addressing issues of younger children on the spectrum TACAnow@anysite.net

**Understanding Autism Together.** ☎ ASYMCA (619) 532-8156. Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m., Pediatric Conference Room, Building 2-1 of the Naval Medical Center. www.asymcasd.org

### INFORMATION & RESOURCES

**Autism Society of America, National Organization.** 7910 Woodmont Ave., Ste 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 specialists 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

**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. www.EFRConline.org

**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. 📧 pai-ca.org.

**Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK).** Workshops & advocacy training for parents. ☎ (858) 874-2386.

**UCSD Autism Research Laboratory** Pivotal Response Training 858-534-6144

### SERVICES

**ACES, Inc - Comprehensive Educational Services** Behavior Intervention programs, Assessments, Tutoring, Parent training, Program consultation 3731 6th Avenue, Suite 100, San Diego 92103 (619) 278-0884 acesangels.com

**ACES, Inc - Dolphin Assisted Therapy Program** Structured, interactive behavioral program utilizing swim and contact between dolphins, trainer, one-on-one aide and child at Sea World. 619-497-2450

**AquaPros Swim School** offers swim lessons for children with autism. Home pool programs or at Boys & Girls Club in Clairemont. 619-209-2990 www.aquapros.org

**Autism Spectrum Consultants (ASC)** social skills groups, ages 7-13, on Mondays 4-6pm, 6 week sessions in Scripps Ranch. Cindy@autismconsultants.com

**Auditory Integration Training** Terri 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, (858) 623-2777 x397

**Children's Hospital and Health Center - Autism Intervention Center** parent training, professional workshops and inclusion services. Cynthia Carter Ph.D 858-966-7453

**Coast Music Therapy** Provides music/assisted learning approach in special education, or adapted music lessons in home. Michelle Lazar 858-453-5211 [mlazar@coastmusictherapy.com](mailto:mlazar@coastmusictherapy.com)

**Community Coaching Center** Community & Behavioral Life Skills Training and supervision for after school, Saturdays, school vacation. Tina Waters (858) 603-9835 [www.ccckids.net](http://www.ccckids.net)

**Coyne & Associates** Offers In-Home Early Intervention programs; In-school services; psychological, educational and behavioral assessments. Dr. Paul Coyne PhD 760-634-1125 coyneandassociates.com.

**Susan L. Daniel, O.D., Developmental Optometrist** 2624-A El Camino Real Carlsbad, CA 92008 760-434-3314 [drsusdan@pacbell.net](mailto:drsusdan@pacbell.net)

**DTC - Developmental Therapy Center** Direct Occupational Therapy assessment and treatment, sensory integration, activity-based groups including yoga, art, and sensory motor for children of all ages. 3731 6th Avenue, Suite 103, San Diego 92103 Bridgette Anderson 619-295-4500

**Kara Dodds and Associates** Kara Dodds (619)692-0622 or [KaraDoddsandAssoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:KaraDoddsandAssoc@sbcglobal.net)

**Giant Steps Therapy Center** Berard Auditory Integration Training (AIT) & Interactive Metronome (IM) Training. Jackie Rockwell 800-952-0288 email [giantsteps@earthlink.net](mailto:giantsteps@earthlink.net)

**I Can Too Learning Center** Offers behavioral intervention for children with autism between 2-6 years. Kevin Dotts 760-815-4800 [www.icantoolc.com](http://www.icantoolc.com)

**Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center Inclusion Program** Offers recreation

## RESOURCE INFORMATION

# AUTISM ADVICE

and social programs for children with special needs 858-457-3030 x222

**Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes**  
Learning Center 445 Marine View Drive,  
Suite 290, Del Mar CA 92014 858-259-3206  
**Kelly McKinnon, M.A.** – Autism & Behavior  
Consultant specializing in social skills.  
www.kellymckinnon.com

**Pacific Therapy, Inc.** Angela Desideri,  
Speech-Language Pathologist, 14667 Via Azul  
San Diego CA 92127 (858) 442-3072

**Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc.**  
staff development, program design and family  
training for Picture Exchange Communication  
System (PECS). 888-732-7462  
www.pecs.com

**San Diego Park & Recreation Therapeutic  
Recreation 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.

**STAR Program, Inc. Socialization Training  
and Reinforcement.** After-school social skills  
program for children with pervasive  
developmental disorders. Dr. Linda Collins,  
Exec Dir. & President 619-866-0980

**Vivo Music Therapy Services**  
Julie M. Guy, MT-BC Music Therapist Board  
Certified Fax & 24-hour Voice Mail  
1.866.493.6097 www.vivomusictherapy.com

### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:

**Community Advisory Committee**

**San Diego** ☎ (858) 578-3148.

**Poway** ☎ (858) 748-0010 or (858) 679-2534.

**California Department of Education.**  
Special Education Division. ☎ (916) 445-  
4613. Parent Information Line: (800) 434-  
2465. ☐ www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/sed.

**Hope Infant Family Support Program.** ☎  
(858) 292-3700. FAX (858) 569-5394.

**San Diego City Schools Special Education  
Programs Division web page:** ☐  
www.sdcs.k12.ca.us/specialed.

**Special Education Local Planning Areas**

**East County** ☎ (619) 590-3920

**North Coastal** ☎ (760) 471-8208

**North Inland** ☎ (760) 788-4671

**Poway** ☎ (858) 748-0010

**San Diego** ☎ (619) 225-3606

**South County** ☎ (619) 498-8171

**Special Education Parent Facilitators:**

**Poway** ☎ (858) 748-0010

**San Diego** ☎ (619) 225-3623

**South County** ☎ (619) 498-8171

Please send updates to [info@sd-autism.org](mailto:info@sd-autism.org)

## VISION THERAPY

*By: Susan L. Daniel, O. D.  
Developmental Optometrist*

*Q: What is the difference between a  
developmental eye exam and the  
eye exam received by my doctor?*

A: A basic eye exam provided by your optometrist or pediatric ophthalmologist is necessary to check for healthy eyes and clarity of sight. A developmental eye exam goes further than assessing ocular health and refractive error. It also assesses how the patient is processing visual information. An analogy is that the basic eye exam checks the hardware and the developmental exam checks the software of the visual system.

*Q: What tests are done in a developmental eye exam?*

A: First the visual system is checked for refractive error (farsightedness, nearsightedness and astigmatism), eye health and eye alignment. Next, the ability to focus from near to far, track a moving target, fixate from one object to another, and fuse each eye's images into one is determined. Visual perceptual skills such as right and left awareness, reversals of letters and numbers, visual motor integration, visual discrimination, visual spatial skills and visual memory are then assessed. The patient's visual midline and peripheral awareness is also determined.

*Q: How do you evaluate a non-verbal child?*

A: The traditional approach of having the patient sit behind exam equipment and read letters on a distant chart does not work for many autistic individuals. The visual health, refractive error, visual acuity, focusing, eye-teaming and ocular motor skills can all be assessed while the child is playing with toys at a table or on the floor, or sitting in a parent's lap. We use toys, lights or interesting objects as targets and can evaluate reflexes and eye movement with lenses, prisms or filters placed in front of a child's eyes. Visual perceptual skills are tested with non-verbal standardized tests or observation of play with puzzles, stacking cups, stringing beads, building blocks, ball catching, etc.



# AUTISM ADVICE

*Q: What visual problems are commonly found with patients with autism?*

A: Patients with autism typically have good visual acuity and healthy eye structures but have difficulty coordinating their eyes to work together as a team or focus accurately. Because they do not have a good sense of where they are in space, it is difficult for them to have good visual attention on a near or distant target. They may either have hyper-acute vision, like seeing the pixels rather than the whole picture of the television. Or, they can have hyposensitive vision where they don't pay attention to detail and have difficulty with visual discrimination. Often there is an inability to integrate the central and peripheral visual fields. A child may become centrally fixated on an interesting object, but be unaware of his peripheral surroundings. Or, he may use his periphery to catch a ball without ever fixating on it.

*Q: What can be done to improve these visual skills?*

A: Depending on each patient's individual profile, a program is designed to develop the visual skills that are necessary for the patient to achieve his social and educational goals. Developmental activities which teach these skills are either taught one-on-one in the office in a formal vision therapy program, or are shown to the parent, home instructional aide, resource specialist or occupational therapist to incorporate into the child's school or ABA program. Therapeutic yoked prism glasses are often prescribed to help develop spatial awareness or center a child's midline.

*Q: Where can I get more information regarding developmental vision?*

A: The following web sites are helpful in obtaining more information regarding vision:

Dr. Daniel's web site:  
www.optometrists.org/Carlsbad

College of Vision Development  
www.covd.org

Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association  
www.nora.cc

Optometric Extension Program:  
www.oep.org

Parents Active for Vision Education:  
www.pave-eye.com/vision

Prism Lens Therapy:  
www.autisticvision.com

*Susan L. Daniel, O.D.*

*Developmental Optometrist*

*2624-A El Camino Real*

*Carlsbad, CA 92008*

*760-434-3314*

*drsusdan@pacbell.net*

## IS TOOTHBRUSHING A CHALLENGE WITH YOUR CHILD?

Healthy Smiles for Children with Disabilities is a new project of the Anderson Center for Dental Care at Children's Hospital designed to help families prevent cavities and maintain oral health for their children. You can request any of these free services by calling (858) 576-1700, extensions 4801 or 4804.

**Home Visits** for children birth to 3 in the Early Start Program. The visit includes dental screening and help in finding a dentist. Parent education will cover all aspects of prevention and techniques to address oral sensitivity. Specialized toothbrushes are provided. Parents or educators may

call to schedule a free home visit on oral health.

**Parent education through support groups.** We'd love to share the "tricks of the trade" to improve oral health that we have learned from our experience with children and families. Call to schedule a speaker for your parent support group.

**Parent to parent support.** We are looking for parents who have overcome challenges with toothbrushing or visiting the dentist who can encourage other parents via email or the phone. A stipend will be provided. Call for more information or if you would like to be a parent supporter.

**Help in finding a dentist.** A Directory of Dentists Treating Children with Autism is being developed. If you know of a dentist you'd like to see listed in the Directory, please let us know. For help in finding a pediatric dentist, you can call Children's Customer Care and Referral Service at (800) 788-9029.

Autism Advice provides a forum for parents and other interested individuals to obtain different viewpoints on a variety of autism related topics. Questions may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the San Diego County Autism office.

P.O. Box 420908

San Diego CA 92124

Phone: (619) 298-1981

Fax (619) 278-0885

e-mail : info@sd-autism.org

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Parent Support Group for the Resources for Students with Autism (RSA) Program** of San Diego Unified Schools will meet on Friday, January 16th, January 30th, and February 27th. January 16th topic will be Community Coaching Center, with Tina Waters. January 30th will feature Aubyn Stahmer, founder of the Toddler School. The February 27th meeting will have a panel of speakers discussing recreational summer programs. Meetings are from 9:30 — 11 am and are held at Whittier Center on Clairemont Drive. Contact Bobbie Kohrt or Mary Lou Evans 858-490-8520 for more information.

**EFRC and HOPE Infant Family Support Group** What is it like to parent a young child on the autism spectrum? Come meet other parents for an evening of sharing thoughts, feelings, ways of coping, and resources that might be helpful. Group meets Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 on the following dates: January 12, February 9, March 8, April 12, May 10 and June 14. Vista Square Elementary School, 540 G Street, Room 700, Chula Vista. Supervised playtime is available by advance reservation. Please call Mary at 858-569-5370 to reserve a space.

**RDI Parent Training Workshops** Dr Steve Gutstein and Dr. Rachelle Sheely, co-directors of the Connections Center will be conducting a four-day intensive parent Relationship Development Intervention (RDI) workshop in San Diego, January 27-30, 2004. Children must receive a Relationship Development Assessment (RDA) prior to the workshop. For additional information, please contact Melanie Smith, [kones@connectionscenter.com](mailto:kones@connectionscenter.com), (281) 330-4429

**Autism: Families in Transition** The 2nd CASE, Inc. Conference for Families and Professionals. Saturday, January 31st, 9:30—4:00PM in Carlsbad. The conference will provide: insight to social skills, training & strategies for social coaching, an understanding of challenging behaviors at home & school and what to do about them. Strategies to address anxiety in children with Asperger's Syndrome, a parent's perspective to service delivery models and options. \$100 for families or professionals, \$150 for both parents to attend, Contact Andi at (760) 720-4964 or [CASEandi@aol.com](mailto:CASEandi@aol.com)

**Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) Workshops:** February 9, 2004: Pyramid Approach to Asperger's Syndrome Presented by Donna Abadie, M.Ed. Holiday-Inn Mission Bay Sea World \$175 tuition (includes handout packet for note taking). March 15 & 16, 2004: Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) 2-Day Workshop Holiday-Inn Mission Bay Sea World \$375 professional tuition \$235 parent/ student tuition Includes 2nd Edition PECS Manual and handout packet for note taking. For registration information, visit us online at [www.pecs.com](http://www.pecs.com) or call 888-732-7462.

**SWIM-A-THON 2004** The San Diego Chapter of the ASA is proud and excited to announce our first ever "10 Hour Team Swim-A-Thon". The proceeds from this event will be directed to our Pool PALS program, which includes Surf Camp for Children with Autism, Monthly Family Pool/Pizza Parties and Private Swimming Lessons. The event will be held at the Clairemont Boys and Girls Club on Saturday, February 28 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. This event is not a race. Swimmers from novice to expert are welcome. This is a whole day of family fun while supporting a well deserving and great cause. If you cannot swim, but would like to help, please contact us. For team registration packets and more information, please contact Tammy Anderson of Aqua Pros at 858 405-6536 or the SDASA at 619 298-1981 or [info@sd-autism.org](mailto:info@sd-autism.org)

**Involved Exceptional Parents (IEP) Day 2004** Saturday, March 20, 2004 at the University of San Diego. IEP Day is a unique one day conference for parents of children with special needs and the professionals who work with them. Each year over 400 parents and professionals come together to learn in an environment of working together in the best interest of the children. You can get the latest updates on confirmed speakers by logging on to [www.iepdays.org](http://www.iepdays.org).

**4th Annual SDASA Casino Night—Hawaiian Style.** Benefiting Camp I CAN as well as other recreational programs. Red Lion Hanalei Hotel April 24, 2004. Enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing, silent auction, raffles and casino games. Silent Auction items, Raffle Prizes and corporate sponsors needed. Contact Shell and John VanBrabant at (619) 334-0739 or [vanhomey4@cox.net](mailto:vanhomey4@cox.net) for more information.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHAPTER / AUTISM SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA / AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

YOU MAY USE MY NAME AND ADDRESS AS A REFERRAL FOR OTHER PARENTS .....  YES  NO  
 YOU MAY GIVE MY NAME TO OTHER PARENTS IN MY AREA .....  YES  NO

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE PERSON WITH AUTISM (CHECK ALL BOXES THAT APPLY):

- PARENT                       GRAND PARENT                       TEACHER                       AIDE
- CARE PROVIDER               RELATIVE                               PHYSICIAN                       PSYCHOLOGIST
- FRIEND                          SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR               OTHER

DUES (INCLUDES NATIONAL AND STATE DUES):

- FULL TIME STUDENT: \$25.00
- INDIVIDUAL: \$35.00
- FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$45.00
- NEWSLETTER ONLY - 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION: \$10.00

PLEASE CHECK IF:

- NEW MEMBER
- RENEWING MEMBER

APPLICATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO: Autism Society of America, P. O. Box 420908, San Diego, CA 92124

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA • **DUES AND DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**



SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHAPTER  
 Autism Society of America  
 P O Box 420908  
 San Diego, CA 92124

(619) 298-1981  
 Email: [info@sd-autism.org](mailto:info@sd-autism.org)  
 Website: [www.sd-autism.org](http://www.sd-autism.org)