



March 11, 2011

Join Our Mailing List!



## *Autism Weekly*

Advisory Board on Autism & Related Disorders

412.781.4116 or toll free: 800.827.9385

### ABOARD'S MISSION:

There is considerable debate throughout the autism community about the cause of autism and issues such as vaccination, diet, inclusion, and appropriate therapies. Legislative acts can also influence services to those with autism. Our policy is to inform. We trust that individuals will assimilate the information we provide and make the best decision for their children and clients.

The entire mission statement can be found at  
<http://aboard.web.officelive.com/aboutus.aspx>

***LAST WEEK TO REGISTER!***  
***See two national DAN Doctors.***

ABOARD  
Presents

**Integrative  
Biomedical  
Treatment  
Options**  
FOR CHILDREN AND  
ADULTS WITH  
AUTISM SPECTRUM  
DISORDERS



**Saturday, March 19, 2011  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn  
Pittsburgh Airport**

**Featuring:**

**Gut Biology, Pathology, and Treatment  
Strategies in Patients With Autism  
Spectrum Disorders  
Anju Usman, MD**

**Autism and the Autonomic Nervous  
System  
Anju Usman, MD**

**Raising a Healthy Child in a Toxic  
World  
Suruchi Chandra, MD**

**[REGISTER NOW](#)  
[BROCHURE AND REGISTRATION FORM](#)**

**Our Sponsors**

***Value Behavioral Health of PA***

***&***

***New Story***

**SOME OF OUR EXHIBITORS**

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PLEA  
PRESSLEY RIDGE  
SENSORY LINK PEDIATRIC THERAPY**

**THRIVE PLACE  
TRI MEDICAL REHAB SUPPLY  
WESLEY SPECTRUM SERVICES  
WINEMAN FARM OUTREACH**

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**ABOARD**

**NEWSLETTER**

Click here to learn about  
**What's Happening**  
at ABOARD and all our  
upcoming events,  
conference and seminars  
for 2011!

**ABOARD  
turns 15 on  
March 17th!**  
It's also St. Patrick's  
Day so we've turned  
our logo green!

*Please consider  
sharing your "green"  
with us by making a  
quick and easy online  
donation. We are  
hoping that you will  
show your support  
with any level of  
"birthday gift" you  
can spare to help all  
who struggle with the  
challenges of autism  
and bring a little gold*

Today's eblast is provided free to the families through the  
support of our sponsors!



<b>SOUTH HILLS LOCATION</b> 110 Fl. Couch Rd., 2nd Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15241 Phone: (412) 831-1223 Fax: (412) 831-1034	<b>PITTSBURGH AFFILIATE</b> 5167 Butler Street Pittsburgh, PA 15201 Phone: (412) 781-3990 Fax: (412) 781-3966
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**[www.shs-pgh.org](http://www.shs-pgh.org)**



Part of UPMC Insurance Services, Community Care, a recovery-focused non-profit managed care company that manages mental health and substance abuse services, proudly supports the mission of ABOARD. Visit [www.ccbh.com](http://www.ccbh.com).



**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR HELPING  
PROVIDE THIS SERVICE TO OUR FAMILIES FOR  
FREE!**

*to the end of their  
rainbow.*

*A birthday note from  
ABOARD Director Lu  
Randall*



## MESSAGE FROM THE ABOARD OFFICE

ABOARD's policy is to inform. We trust that individuals will assimilate the information we provide and make the best decision for their children and clients. Right now ABOARD sees as an important part of our mission to keep you informed on the proposed budget that affect the autism community and PA families.

ABOARD has been taking many calls from concerned parents, caregivers, professionals and providers. We have all tried to be patient while awaiting the governor's proposal this week, then pored over line items along with others who worried about potential cuts. While waiting, ABOARD met with with our local legislators to talk things over and share the concerns that our family and friends had. Those were enlightening meetings for both sides and, not surprisingly, we met staffers who had relatives with autism. We talked with elected officials about the incidence of autism, effects on families, concerns across the lifespan, and ABOARD's mission.

So far, in the proposed budget, there were little to no cuts made to autism services. This, however, is not a final document. The budget will be debated and should be finished by late June this year.

You may or may not have specific budget concerns that impact different parts of your life. Overall the best approach to the various unknowns is to simply take part in our democracy. Learn what budget cuts are being considered, and if you feel this affects you, let your voice be heard. A simple way to do that is to make an appointment to talk in person and express your individual or family concerns to your senators and representatives. You may enlighten your elected officials with your story. He or she may teach you something new about the budget process. And you never know what seeds you may sow to benefit the entire autism community in the process.

ABOARD will provide the most current autism information and supports - maintaining business as usual - while we watch the rest of the budget process unfold. As we learn of any hearings or events related to Pennsylvania autism services, we will pass that information along to you. And we look forward to hearing about your experiences as you talk things over in your local government offices. Together we will continue to maximize possibilities for people with autism in Pennsylvania.

## **Feature**

### **Freedom to choose leisure activities benefits people with autism**

Free time is not always a fun time for people with autism. Giving them the power to choose their own leisure activities during free time, however, can boost their enjoyment, as well as improve communication and social skills, according to an international team of researchers.

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2011-03/ps-ftc030111.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-03/ps-ftc030111.php)

### **Autistic adults making choices beneficial**

Giving people with autism the power to choose their own leisure activities can boost their enjoyment, communication and social skills, a U.S. researcher says.

John Dattilo, a professor of recreation, park and tourism management at Pennsylvania State University, and colleagues said the study involved a group of 20 autistic adults who participated in a year-long recreation program that offered them a chance to choose their own activities and 20 other autistic adults randomly assigned to the program's waiting list.

[http://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2011/03/03/Autistic-adults-making-choices-beneficial/UPI-67951299161132/#ixzz1G22krpCp](http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2011/03/03/Autistic-adults-making-choices-beneficial/UPI-67951299161132/#ixzz1G22krpCp)

## **Rural**



### **Caregiver in death sent to prison**

Stacey Strauss, a former caregiver who fatally forgot a helpless autistic man inside a hot van last summer, was sent to state prison Monday by a Bucks County judge clearly miffed at her lack of repentance. "Frankly, Ms. Strauss, I don't believe I've heard . . . a less remorseful statement from someone about to be sentenced," Judge Albert J. Cepparulo told her.

While on duty that day, records show, Strauss placed or received 34 cell-phone calls and 71 text messages. The calls alone ate up more than three hours of her eight-hour shift. The longest call, lasting 44 minutes, occurred during the critical first hour that Bryan Nevins, 20, sat helpless in the van Strauss had parked after returning to Woods from a field trip.

<http://articles.philly.com>

### **West Homestead theater rolls out red carpet for autistic children**

During AMC Theatres Sensory Friendly Films program, the house lights stay on, the sound is

turned down, there are no previews or commercials, and audience members aren't discouraged from making noise or walking around.

[West Homestead theater rolls out red carpet for autistic children - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](http://www.pittsburghlive.com)  
<http://www.pittsburghlive.com>



## Education Legislation

### **Pa. legislator looks to make bullying a crime**

A Pennsylvania representative has introduced legislation that would make bullying a criminal offense and set penalties for violators. State Rep. Mike O'Brien, D-Philadelphia, said his bill would define bullying as the intent to harass, annoy, alarm or intimidate another individual or group of individuals; or place another individual or group of individuals in fear of personal injury or property damage. "Detention, in-school suspension or expulsion will only go so far," O'Brien said in a statement. "A criminal record, or the thought of having one, can and will deter some young people, and even adults, from bullying. And if it doesn't, bullies will finally be made to pay. It's time for bullying to be treated like the crime that it is."

<http://www.abc27.com/Global/story.asp?S=14168695>

### **The Arc of PA**

#### **Cosponsors Needed for Burden of Proof Legislation**

[Take Action!](#)

School Districts Hold Unfair Advantage Over Parents in Special Education Disputes

Before a recent U.S Supreme Court decision (Schaffer vs. Weast), the practice in Pennsylvania was for school districts to assume the burden of proof whenever disputes arose between them and parents regarding a child's special education program. However, the Supreme Court decision ruled that, unless state rules indicate otherwise, the party "seeking relief" has the burden of proof in IDEA due process proceedings. Pennsylvania has no statute or regulation that assigns the burden of proof to school districts. The Court acknowledged that school districts have a natural advantage over parents in such disputes, particularly when it comes to resources. Few parents go into this process with the resources or knowledge to properly present their child's case against seasoned professionals and bureaucrats representing school districts.

Legislation has been introduced by Senator Patrick Browne to assign the burden of proof onto school districts. (Senate Bill 627) Cosponsors are needed. Please contact your state senator and ask that he/she become a cosponsor of SB627.

<http://capwiz.com/thearc/issues/alert/?alertid=33479506&queueid=6572023541>

# Research



## **Scientists Link 'Sets' of Genetic Abnormalities to Autism Risk**

DNA analysis of more than 1,000 kids may one day lead to better treatments, researchers say. While the genetic underpinnings of autism are enormously complex, new DNA research is honing in on sets of abnormal genes that may play a role in the disorder.

Researchers from the Center for Biomedical Informatics at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) said that, while other scientists have theorized about a connection between gene mutations, impaired brain development, and the onset of autism, their work is the first to establish the link.

<http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/650465.html>

# Of Interest



## **AMC to Give Autism Film National Exposure**

A little documentary about autism - playing in a multiplex? AMC, one of the largest movie theater chains in North America, plans to announce on Thursday that it will give a film about two men with autism, "Wretches & Jabberers," a national theatrical run. The feature documentary, directed by Gerardine Wurzburg (who won an Oscar in 1992 for the short "Educating Peter," about a boy with Down syndrome), will have a one-week run starting April 1 at the AMC Empire 25 in Manhattan.

<http://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/02/amc-to-give-autism-film-national-exposure/?emc=eta1>

## **Video game helps autistic children with social interaction**

Psychology professor Carrie Pritchard is creating a computer game not just for fun, but to help teach autistic children social skills. Pritchard - who received a \$20,000 grant for the project - plans to design the educational [video](#) game with a focus on interaction and responsibility.

"The player is going to have choices about more skilled and less skilled behaviors they could enact after a character invites them or engages them," explained Pritchard.

<http://www.tgdaily.com/software-features/54398-video-game-helps-autistic-children-with-social-interaction>

## Events/Info



SATURDAY SEMINAR

# AUTISM & SEXUALITY

Helping Children with Autism  
Spectrum Disorders

Presented by  
Shawn McGill

**Saturday, April 9, 2011**  
*9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at*

*The ABOARD Office  
Pittsburgh, PA 15223*

**Seats limited register now!**

### PROGRAM D

Parent and clinical consultant in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1998, Shawn McGill will present an all-day workshop that addresses how we can best support persons on the spectrum to understand and safely express their sexuality. This comprehensive and unique training increases one's knowledge and awareness on how to best prepare your child for puberty, and how to best support them in navigating the many aspects of sexuality. Throughout the day you will learn educational and supportive methods to explain sexual feelings and body changes and to teach about legal and safe sexual expression.

Continuing Education Credits

**[Click here to register online!](#)**



### [ABOARD Support Group Meeting](#)

For a complete listing of the ABOARD Support Groups please see our website at [www.aboard.org](http://www.aboard.org)!

### **FBR North Hills Social Skills group and Parent Group**

Social skills group for children structured to practice and participate in activities, games and snack  
8035 McKnight Rd Suite 102 Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Time 6pm

Monthly: 2nd MONDAY of every month Please RSVP By 4:00pm the day of group meeting.

Contact Name: Teresa O'Brien

Contact Phone: 412-366-8342

Contact Email: [tobrien@familybehavioralresources.com](mailto:tobrien@familybehavioralresources.com)

### **Cranberry CARES Parent Support Group Meeting**

Friday, March 11; 10AM-Noon at Parents in Toto

Please RSVP to [mary@parentsintoto.org](mailto:mary@parentsintoto.org)

## **GET CONNECTED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

### ***Perspective Program: Intervention Research Study for Adults with ASD***

*The Perspectives Program at the University of Pittsburgh is developing new non-drug interventions to meet the unique needs of adults with autism spectrum disorders. Individuals with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder NOS, between the ages of 16-40, are now being accepted into the program. All participants will receive one of two new experimental interventions, Cognitive Enhancement Therapy or Enriched Supportive Therapy, at no cost. Participants must be able to come to the University of Pittsburgh on a regular basis. A new session is beginning soon. To enroll or find out more information contact 1-866-647-3436 or [autismrecruiter@upmc.edu](mailto:autismrecruiter@upmc.edu).*

### ***FBR and AERI Co-Host 9th Annual Autism Awareness Night***

*The 9th Annual Autism Awareness Night is co-hosted this year by Family Behavioral Resources (FBR) and the Autism Education and Research Institute (AERI) on April 7th, 2011 from 6:30pm-9pm at the Doubletree Hotel in Monroeville, PA. Hope for Tomorrow - A Tale of Two Mothers shares unique stories from two women -both of whom are national authors and motivational speakers. Amalia Starr, author of "Raising Brandon" and Claudreen Jackson, wife of the late Pervis Jackson (from Motown group The Spinners) and author of "Inspired by Autism" open their voices and hearts as*

*they talk about their beloved adult sons and experiences in raising their loved ones on the autism spectrum. The stories are as alike as they are different, but common theme remains the same - they have immense love for their sons, and show strength, courage, and resiliency. Their life lessons and perspectives will undoubtedly teach and inspire the audience. This event has always been and is still FREE to the community as part of our commitment to supporting Autism Awareness Month in April. We invite family members, persons on the spectrum, therapists, teachers, paraprofessionals - anyone who need a "cup of comfort and inspiration!" Starr and Jackson will surely remind us that no matter how our loved ones are impacted by the spectrum, there is always "hope for tomorrow." Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities are now available on a limited basis - first come, first serve! Finally, we have applied for Continuing Education hours and expect to once again be approved to provide this exceptional opportunity to those in need of credit. Should this change, we will notify the community immediately. We hope to see returning guests and new faces this year for our annual event. Join us for an exceptional evening!*

### **Proclamation of World Autism Awareness Day, Washington Co.**

Thursday, March 17 at 10 am, the Washington County Commissioners will read the Proclamation of World Autism Awareness Day. This event is open to the public. Meeting will be held at Courthouse Square in the Public Meeting Room on the first floor. Bring your children! Wear blue! Contact: Ellen Cicconi [ellen\\_cicconi@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen_cicconi@yahoo.com). 724-743-0244.

### **NHS Human Services will be providing a parent and sibling support group.**

Group meetings will take place on the fourth Tuesday of every month 6:00 pm at the NHS Human Services Greensburg office located at 531 S. Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601 (In the same parking lot as Family Video and Main Bowling). Every meeting will involve presentations, guest speakers, and group discussion. RSVP with Michelle at 724-600-0120 or 724-600-0125. For more information contact Stefanie Enciso at 724-882-3825 or at [SEnciso@nhsonline.org](mailto:SEnciso@nhsonline.org)

### **Institute on Disabilities at Temple University presents THE MINI COURSE LECTURE SERIES ON DISABILITIES**

Siblings: Moving Beyond the Parent/Child Relationship

#### **PRESENTER:**

Kathryn Fialkowski- A family-oriented discussion about social networks for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Individuals with intellectual disabilities, family members, professionals, and allies are welcome.

Monday, March 28, 2011

2 Part Session (with lunch on your own)

Registration begins at 9:00 AM

Part I: 10 AM - 11:30 PM

Part II: 1 - 2:30 PM

Temple University Main Campus /Student Center  
1755 N. 13th Street / Room 200A / Philadelphia, PA 19122

Kate and David Fialkowski will share their journey from "typical" siblings to when one sibling takes on the role of caregiver or overseer of the other sibling. This frank and sensitive discussion will include the transition from parent-led support to sibling-led support and navigating the process and outcomes of that role change.

During the afternoon, a select panel will discuss the development and leverage of the social network. Everyone is encouraged to attend including "Person-Centered Circles." Questions and open sharing of ideas from the audience will be encouraged.

Kathryn Fialkowski and her brother David grew up in inner-city Philadelphia. Kate has spent her life advocating for disability rights and inclusion. She and her family have led grassroots activism in the right to education, community living, and employment for individuals with developmental disabilities. Kate is currently a Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Public Policy Fellow placed at Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) in Washington, DC, working on grassroots strategic planning and self-advocacy organization.

Event is FREE. Registration REQUIRED.  
Register NOW ONLINE at

[www.disabilities.temple.edu/programs/miniseries](http://www.disabilities.temple.edu/programs/miniseries)

Or FAX attached registration form  
You MUST register by March 11

### **BarberInstitute Persents: Joshua Diehl, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Notre Dame  
6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, 2011  
Barber National Institute Forum

Joshua Diehl, Ph.D. will present information from his behavior-based research projects and therapies, including communication barriers, effective treatment options, and the importance of continued treatment through adolescence. The focal point of Dr. Diehl's current research involves a state-of-the-art robot named "Nao," which is specially programmed to help break down communication barriers for children with autism. By incorporating technology, which is especially appealing to most children with autism, gestures and tone of voice are simplified, potentially making therapy sessions less threatening and more productive. Dr. Diehl and his team at the University of Notre Dame are among the first in the nation to conduct research to determine if robot technology can improve human interaction in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

This presentation is designed for parents and family members, as well as educators, speech and language therapists, and other professionals. Continuing education credits. The program will be presented free of charge; advance reservations are requested. Contact the Barber National Institute at 814-480-6831 or register online at [BarberInstitute.org](http://BarberInstitute.org)

### **FBR Lancaster Hosts Parenting for Partnership - FREE WORKSHOP!**

Marty Dutcher, founder of Parenting for Partnership, will be hosting a FREE workshop to discuss his ideas and theories on building positive relationships with our children! Join us Tuesday, March 29th, 2011 6PM-7:30PM at FBR Lancaster Office ~ 245 Centerville Road, Lancaster, PA 17603. Presentation topics will address what any child seeks from a parent, and how the way we relate to our children's overall behavioral issues on a daily basis, impacts both our sense of well-being and their desire for unconditional love and support. This includes: providing parenting tools, distinctions, coaching, and resources that result in ever-expanding views of our children and ourselves - enhancing parenting success and satisfaction. All parents welcome-not just those who have a loved one with a diagnosis. ~ Light refreshments to be provided. Child care / social skills group not available during the presentation. Please RSVP to Christy Foote- Central Regional Director of Autism Services at: 717-295-5500 ~\*~ [lancaster@familybehavioralresources.com](mailto:lancaster@familybehavioralresources.com). \*RSVPs strongly encouraged by Friday, March 25th.

### **CBH Family Members of CCBH Consumer Meeting**

This meeting will be held on March 23rd at 324 Allenhurst Avenue, in Ridgway, PA, and is the location of Dickinson Center, Inc.'s Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center. This meeting is held by CCBH's Joe Korney who seeks CCBH consumer family member input about any service related issue, or concern. The meeting lasts about 1 hour. Family members will be reimbursed \$25.00 for attending and can be eligible for mileage reimbursement as well. Food and refreshment will be provided as well. Company Name: Dickinson Center, Inc. - Ridgway Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program (hosting)

Contact Name: Rita Onink-Kraus B.S.; Caseworker

Contact Address: 324 Allenhurst Avenue, Ridgway, PA 15853

Contact Phone: 814-776-2653

Contact Email: [rita.onink-kraus@dmhc.org](mailto:rita.onink-kraus@dmhc.org)

### **Wesley Spectrum Services 2011 Extended School Year Programs**

Wesley Spectrum Offers a Variety of Educational and Therapeutic Extended School Year (ESY) Programs for Students that Quality for ESY.

Wesley Spectrum Digital Storytelling ESY for Students on the Autism Spectrum

Wesley Spectrum Social Skills ESY for Adolescents with Asperger's

Wesley Spectrum Social Skills ES 1 for Adolescents with Asperger's

Syndrome

Wesley Spectrum Academy ESY

Wesley Spectrum Highland/Integrated ESY

Wesley Spectrum Academy and Highland/Integrated ESY Summer Work Program

Programs are located in Upper St. Clair, Whitehall, Gibsonia and Penn Hills. For additional information, contact Dave Grabowski at 412-885-7017, or visit [www.wesleyspectrum.org](http://www.wesleyspectrum.org) for a full brochure.

### **FBR and AERI Bring William Stillman to Western PA - FREE WORKSHOP!**

Oftentimes parents, caregivers and educators are at a loss about how best to support individuals with autism because they are overwhelmed by out-of-control, aggressive "behaviors," inundated with disrespectful prognoses and clinical jargon, or confused by technical information. This workshop is the perfect introduction for participants to begin to discern the functions of mental health issues from autism. William Stillman demystifies such perplexing challenges using language, examples and anecdotes that are concrete and understandable for all. Join us April 26, 2011 from 9AM-4PM at the Four Points Sheraton for this FREE event! Registration begins at 8:30AM. For a registration form, visit [www.familybehavioralresources.com](http://www.familybehavioralresources.com) or send email to [autismservices@familybehavioralresources.com](mailto:autismservices@familybehavioralresources.com). Events also listed on our Facebook page!

### **Westmoreland IU & University of Pittsburgh Greensburg Autism Conference**

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

The First Annual Autism conference sponsored jointly by the Westmoreland IU and UPG offers practical ways to respond to youth on the Spectrum. The opening keynote presentation by Dr. Nancy Minschew will focus on understanding the cognitive and physical basis of autism. Dr. Minschew, Director of Pitt's Autism Center of Excellence will review her 25 plus years of research on brain connectivity and information processing for persons on the spectrum. Afternoon sessions feature practical responses to "Sensory Processing", "Social Skills Training", "Responses to Agitation, Escalation & Meltdown", and "Career Development/Employment Experiences". Sessions on "Parent Partnership Development" and "Advances in Assistive Technology" are also scheduled. Contact Ms. Kelly Heitchue, (724) 836-2460 Extension 2324 [www.wiu.k12.pa.us](http://www.wiu.k12.pa.us)

### **Bucks County Autism Support Coalition To Hold 4th Annual Autism Conference**

CONTACT:

The Bucks County Autism Support Coalition (BCASC) will hold their 4th Annual Autism Conference on Saturday, March 19, 2011 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Central Bucks High School South, 1100 Folly Road, Warrington, PA. Two leading special needs educators from Lehigh University will be on hand to deliver keynote addresses to parents, educators and students who work with special needs individuals.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2011/03/prweb5122464.htm>

### **Butler County Parent Transition Group**

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

Wednesday, March 16, 2011\*

Noon - 2 PM at Butler County Career Link

6:30 - 8 PM at Haine Elementary School

Topic:

IEP Planning for Transition to Adult Life

Speaker:

Michael Stoehr,

PaTTAN

\*TWO different locations:

120in at Butler County Career Link, 112 Hollywood Dr., Butler (light lunch served)

6:30in at Haine Elementary School, Haine School Rd., Cranberry Twp.

Call today to register: Betsy Rideout, 724.431.3629,

[brideout@ccrinfo.org](mailto:brideout@ccrinfo.org)

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

**[www.walkforahealthycommunity.org](http://www.walkforahealthycommunity.org)**

**Select ABOARD as the  
organization that you  
would like to support.**





*Come out and walk for ABOARD!*

**Walk Details:**

**WHERE:** Heinz Field, Pittsburgh

**WHEN:** Saturday May 21, 2011

**REGISTRATION:** Starts at 7:15am

**5K WALK START:** 9:00am

**ONE-MILE FUN WALK START:** 9:15am

Call 412-781-4116 or email [autismwalk@aboard.org](mailto:autismwalk@aboard.org) with any questions.

*ABOARD and the families that we serve thank you for your support!*

*Spring will be here soon and it's time to start thinking about supporting ABOARD at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Walk for a Healthy Community presented by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. This year's fundraiser benefits 67 local health and human service agencies in Southwestern PA, including ABOARD. Because all costs are underwritten by Highmark **ABOARD receives 100% of the money that is collected.***

**Here is a way to see a great show &**

**support ABOARD all in one night!**  
*To register, go to [www.walkforahalthycommunity.org](http://www.walkforahalthycommunity.org) and select ABOARD as the organization that you would like to support. Would you like to be a team leader? On the website you can register as an individual walker, team leader or just make a donation. Pre-register and donate \$25 to receive a t-shirt on walk day!*

**PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS CONCERT WITH  
**BOYZ II MEN**  
JUNE 23, 2011 • 7:30 PM • HEINZ HALL

PSO

LOH

LARCIA

Join the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Resident Conductor Lawrence Loh for the eighth annual PSO Community Partners Concert. This year's performance features the sounds of Boyz II Men and the winner of the renowned 2011 Sphinx Competition, Paul Larcia. The PSO's Community Partners Concerts have raised more than \$539,000 for partnering nonprofit groups since they began in 2004.

## Pittsburgh Symphony Community Partners Concert Featuring BOYZ II MEN

Location: Heinz Hall

Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 7:30 PM

***TICKETS ON SALE NOW***

- Tickets may be ordered in any of the following ways:
- calling the PSO Box Office at 412.392.4900 or toll-free: 1.800.743.8560
- ordering online at [pittsburghsymphony.org/communitypartners](http://pittsburghsymphony.org/communitypartners)
- coming to the PSO box office in person (600 Penn Ave., in Heinz Hall)

**23845 ABOARD - Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders**

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
ABOARD!!!!!!**



# 100% of your ticket purchase benefits ABOARD!

**WOW TWO GREAT FUN NIGHTS OUT THAT BOTH BENEFIT ABOARD!  
Thank you to our supporters who are hosting these events for ABOARD.**



*first annual*  
**Spring Fling  
for Autism**  
*at Grazies!*  
*100 Village Drive, Wexford, PA*

*Featuring:*  
*The Rozanne Matthews Band*  
*Pamela Bick and*  
*The Warehouse Band*  
*The Rump Shakers*  
*Miss Freddie and Blue Taze*

*Saturday, April 30, 2011*  
*From 4 til 9 pm*  
*Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door*  
*Drink and food specials, raffles, prizes*  
*Purchase tickets online at [www.aboard.org](http://www.aboard.org)*  
Benefiting the Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD)



ABOARD & Castle Family  
Fund Present....

*The Royal  
Masquerade  
Bowl*

benefiting families of  
Autism Spectrum Disorders

**Saturday May 7 • 9pm**  
Prior's Tap & Tavern  
inside Princess Lanes  
540 Weymouth Road  
412.882.5857

**Tickets (21+)**

General Admission \$20-  
includes: 2 drink tickets, Hors  
d'oeuvres, bowling, specialty drinks,  
silent auctions, costume prizes and  
more!

costumes & masks  
enthusiastically  
encouraged!

\$20 before April 18th  
\$25 April 19th-May 6th  
\$30 at the door

to purchase tickets go to  
[aboard.org](http://aboard.org) or call  
412.449.0165

[Tickets on sale now](#) to get the early bird special!

Tickets will not be mailed for this event, but you are registered once you finish check out.

Your receipt will be emailed to you.

**Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the Spring Fling for Autism & Masquerade Bowl.**

**Contact the Office at 412-449-0165 for more information!**

**REGISTER NOW For**

save the date!

# AUTISM *through* *the* LIFESPAN

A part of the Passavant Hospital Foundation Extending the Care ETC Program Series  
Passavant Hospital Foundation Conference Center & Legacy Theatre at Cumberland Woods Village



*Presentations and breakout sessions each day*

## Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> early childhood to adolescence

research

*findings and implications*

education

*working with the system to meet individual needs*

medicine

*primary care, co-occurring conditions and diagnosis*

## Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> transition: adolescence through adulthood

research

review of relevant state & federal legislation

planning for independence

employment

Sponsored by:



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Presented by:



Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic  
of UPMC



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# JOEY TRAVOLTA

## FILM WORKSHOP



For Students and Young Adults,  
ages 14-25

July 18-29<sup>th</sup>, Monday through Friday  
from 10a.m.-3p.m.

Cost: \$2100.00 for two weeks

*This workshop is specifically designed to meet IEP, Transition,  
and Vocational Goals.*

[call, click, or email AHEADD for more information]

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## OUR MISSION

ABOARD IS DEDICATED TO MAXIMIZING THE SOCIAL, EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS WITH AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS. THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION, EDUCATION & TRAINING, AWARENESS BUILDING AND COLLABORATION, WE PROVIDE HOPE AND HELP TO PENNSYLVANIANS CONFRONTED WITH THE CHALLENGES OF AUTISM.

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