



January 14, 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>

ABOARD's 7th Annual All Abilities Camp Fair

Come See What Your Child
Can Do This Summer!

- Camps and programs for school and preschool age children with disabilities
- Inclusion friendly camps and programs
- Full and half day programs
- Information regarding extended school year (ESY)
- *Transition to College Camps and Programs*



Saturday, January 22, 2011

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Shoppes at NORTHWAY

Upper Level

8000 McKnight Road

(McKnight @ Babcock, North Hills)

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Shoppes at Northway (formerly Northway Mall) is located in the heart of the North Hills of Pittsburgh. Twenty minutes from downtown and is easily accessible from 279 North and the PA Turnpike.



Some of our exhibitors:

AOT, Inc.

AHEADD

AIU3

Baierl Family YMCA

Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Familylinks



Family Behavioral Resources

InVision Human Services

NHS Human Services

Pressley Ridge Autism Program

New Story

Slippery Rock University

Steps to Independence

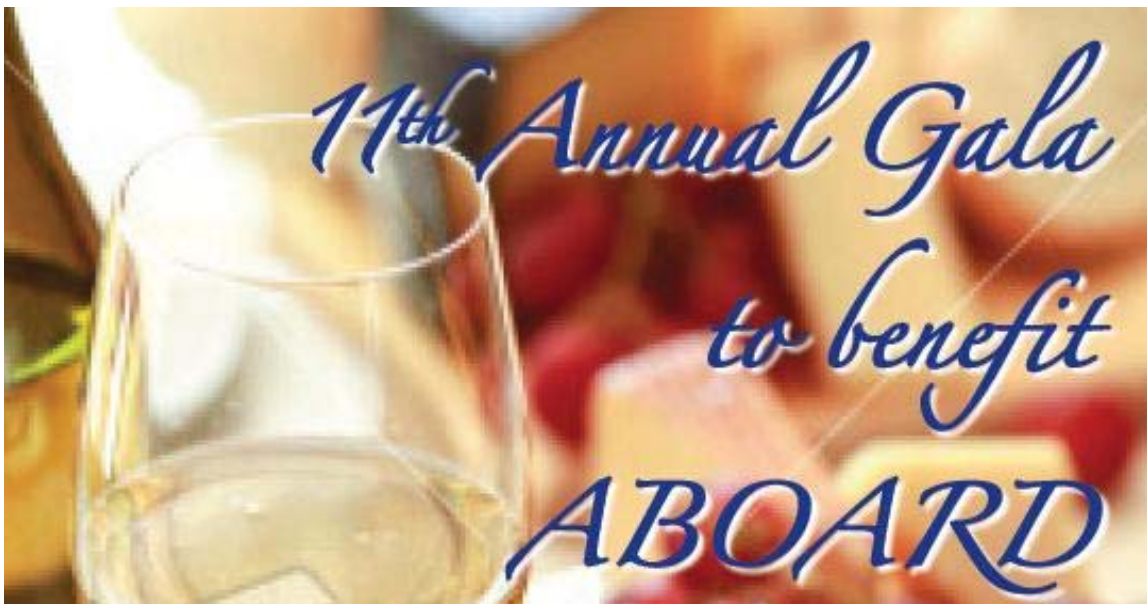
The Watson Institute

Wesley Spectrum Services

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic

Woodlands Foundation

Sponsored by:



*The Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders
(ABOARD) Cordially Invites You to Attend
Our Eleventh Annual Gala.*

February 5, 2011

J Verno Studio

3030 Jane Street, Pittsburgh 15203

7:00 pm Wine Tasting and Auctions

8:30 pm Dinner Stroll and Program

*Creative Cocktail Attire
Complimentary Valet Parking*

Contact the Office at 412-449-0165 to request an invitation!

The poster features a black background with large, stylized red and white floral patterns on the left. The title 'The Royal Masquerade Bowl' is written in a large, elegant, red cursive font. Below the title, it says 'a cocktail party benefiting families with Autism Spectrum Disorders'. The event is presented by 'ABOARD & Caste Family Fund'. The date and time are 'Sat May 7 9pm', enclosed in red curly braces. The location is 'at Prior's Tap and Tavern Inside Princess Lanes'. A white masquerade mask with a feathered top and a beaded chain is shown in the bottom right corner.

*The Royal
Masquerade
Bowl*

a cocktail party
benefiting families with
Autism Spectrum Disorders

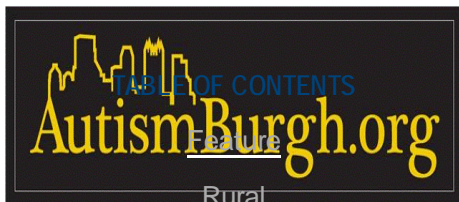
Presented by:
ABOARD &
Caste Family Fund

Save the date
Sat May 7
9pm

at Prior's Tap and Tavern
Inside Princess Lanes

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

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



SOUTH HILLS LOCATION	PITTSBURGH AFFILIATE
110 Ft. Couch Rd., 2nd Floor	5167 Butler Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15241	Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: (412) 831-1223	Phone: (412) 781-3990
Fax: (412) 831-1034	Fax: (412) 781-3966

www.shs-pgh.org

- Of Interest
- Events/Info
- [QUICK LINKS](#)
- ABOARD
- [NEWSLETTER](#)

Click here to learn about
What's Happening
 at ABOARD and all our
 upcoming events, conference
 and seminars for 2010!

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

.....Feature.....

WQED'S EXPERIENCE PRESENTS LIVING WITH AUTISM

WQED's EXPERIENCE program will feature the documentary Living With Autism on Monday, January 17th at 7:30 p.m. on WQED-TV.

Living With Autism

More children are being diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder than ever before. Researchers are making strides and uncovering new information about a disorder that's only been studied for about 20 years. But for families whose autistic children will soon reach adulthood, their greatest challenges may still lie ahead.

Related Links:

- [Center for Excellence in Autism Research](#)
- [The Watson Institute](#)
- [ABOARD \(Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders\)](#)

For additional information, please view the press release at:

<http://www.wqed.org/pressroom/releases/wqed-s-experience-presents-living-with-autism/>

For questions, please contact George Hazimanolis at 412-622-1366 or ghazimanolis@wqed.org

From history to high-tech, environment and education, culture and community, this documentary-style program brings you compelling stories from the Pittsburgh region.

For additional information, please view the press release at:

<http://www.wqed.org/pressroom/releases/wqed-s-experience-presents-living-with-autism/>

For questions, please contact George Hazimanolis at 412-622-1366 or ghazimanolis@wqed.org

From history to high-tech, environment and education, culture and community, this documentary-style program brings you compelling stories from the Pittsburgh region.

ACT Today! Grant Applications

ACT Today! is now accepting Grant Applications. Please visit their website to learn more about deadlines and to download the 2011 Grant Application. _

<http://www.act-today.org/act-today-grant-program.php>

Research



Back-to-Back Pregnancies May Increase Autism Risk

Researchers Say Closely Timed Pregnancies May Deplete Mothers of Key Nutrients, Such as Folate. A Columbia University study suggests that children born soon after a sibling are at a higher risk for a diagnosis of autism. Researchers looked at the birth records of more than half a million children in California. They found that babies conceived within a year of a previous birth were three times more likely to be diagnosed with autism than those conceived three years or more after that first birth.

<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/homepage-feature/item/10867-autism>

Robots Reading Autistic Kids' Minds

She turned to Vanderbilt University's Mechanical Engineer Nilanjan Sarkar, Ph.D., and his mind-reading robot. It literally reads Daniel's mood, then makes the game easier or tougher by moving the hoop or keeping still. "If the robot determines that the child is getting stressed out, the robot will change the speed of the game, maybe play relaxing music," Dr. Sarkar explained.

The machine works by recording Daniel's heart rate, skin temperature, and muscle movements all in real time.

<http://www.ivanhoe.com/science/story/2011/01/814a.html>

Novel Drug for Fragile X Could Treat Disorder Cause Instead of Symptoms

Fragile X Syndrome (FXS) is the most common cause of inherited mental impairment and the most

common known cause of autism or autistic-like behaviors. Most of the current medications available only treat [symptoms](#) such as seizures and mood instability, however, researchers from Rush University Medical Center have developed a drug that could treat the underlying disorder.

<http://www.emaxhealth.com/1506/novel-drug-fragile-x-could-treat-disorder-cause-instead-symptoms>

New imaging technique may enhance understanding of autism

A new study published in the Journal of Neuroscience indicates that a new brain imaging technique may help shed light on the risk of autism and intellectual disabilities via a new understanding of myelination.

<http://www.huliq.com/10473/new-imaging-technique-may-enhance-understanding-autism>

Of Interest



Colorado State University Students with Autism, Aspergers and Traumatic Brain Injury get Partnered with Other CSU Student Mentors

More than 100 Colorado State University students fall somewhere on the spectrum of autism and Asperger's syndrome or have experienced traumatic brain injuries. A \$2.3 million grant to CSU now gives these students an opportunity to learn to navigate academic and social situations with the help of fellow students. "This grant will help us develop a program to help students who struggle socially - and as a result, academically - because of their disability. It will provide them with one-on-one guidance and encouragement through a student mentor who will provide them with peer support," said Catherine Schelly, the principal investigator on the grant and director of the university's Center for Community Partnerships.

<http://www.news.colostate.edu/Release/5540>

New Genetic Test for Autism Well Worth Exploring

A full-genome scan may or may not be covered by your insurance - or even recommended by your doctor. But according to Paul, it is now recommended by the American Academy of Medical Genetics as a first-tier test for children identified as autistic.

<http://autism.about.com/b/2011/01/10/new-genetic-test-for-autism-well-worth-exploring.htm>

Events/Info



ABOARD Support Group Meeting

For a complete listing of the ABOARD Support Groups please see our website at www.aboard.org!

GET CONNECTED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Nationally Renowned Author Presents FREE Workshop at FBR Lancaster Office *NEW LOCATION*

We can now accommodate more families and members of the community who wish to benefit from hearing William Stillman's presentation on January 20th from 9 am will now take place at The Lexington Ballroom, Heritage Hotel, 500 Centerville Roadlancaster@familybehavioralresources.com.

Lancaster, PA 17601 Lancaster Office, author, advocate and speaker William Stillman will present an all-day workshop that addresses how we can best support persons on the spectrum who face additional unique challenges and/or co-morbid diagnoses. This training increases one's awareness, promoting "prevention" as opposed to just "intervention." Stillman reminds us to always remain focused, sensitive, and to always take a unique, person-centered approach to supporting and treating these individuals. William Stillman is a nationally-known autism spectrum speaker and author, and has worked in the human services field since 1987. The event is FREE to all members of the community. Light morning refreshments will be available. Seating is limited, so register early! Please RSVP to Christy Foote, Central Regional Director of Autism Services, by utilizing the attached registration form. Questions may be sent to 717-295-5500 or

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.

Wesley Spectrum Autism Services Family Fun Movie Event!

A family friendly event for families with a child who has been diagnosed with autism, the Wesley Spectrum Autism Services Movie Event is a great opportunity to meet people and have fun! Kids are encouraged to wear their comfiest, coziest pajamas and have a relaxing and fun time watching Toy Story 3! We welcome you, your child, family, friends, and BHRS staff to attend the movie on January 16, 2011 at 3pm. The movie event will be held at Wonder Kids North (5499 William Flynn Highway Gibsonia, PA 15044). For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Kristen Mahoney at 724.443.8900 or kmahoney@wesleyspectrum.org

Miracle League

Registration for the 2011 Season is now open for new and returning players and volunteers.

Registration is different this year from last year. When you register for the 2011 Season you can register for both the Spring and Fall session or just the Spring session. This will allow us to better organize for the Fall session to make sure each team has a minimum number of players and enough volunteers. The Spring session will have 8 games and the Fall Session will have 6 games. You will receive one uniform shirt and hat. We will be adding skill development sessions during the season as well.

For players, the registration fee for both the Spring and Fall sessions is \$40. The registration fee for just the Spring session is \$25. We will never turn away a player because of financial hardships. Scholarships are available upon request. Email coordinator@mlswpa.org to request a scholarship if needed. Here's a link to the [2011 Registration Flyer](#) that you can use.

Please register by Feb 15th to guarantee Team and Buddy requests. The early you register, the easy it is to setup and run the Miracle League. We will never turn anyone away even after the season starts. The earlier you sign up the better chance of meeting requests. If you have any questions please email coordinator@mlswpa.org or call 724-316-9731.

The Down Syndrome Program at Children's Hospital Boston has been recording a series lectures. These Webinars have now all been archived on our web page and are available for free viewing by any parent or professional:

<http://www.childrenshospital.org/clinicalservices/Site2845/mainpageS2845P5.html>

Topics include:

- behavior management
- obstructive sleep apnea
- nutrition and healthy eating options
- toilet training
- Celiac disease
- mental health conditions
- feeding and swallowing

PEAL CENTER

Q & A: The Information GATEway to Medical Assistance, CHIP and Waivers

Do you have questions about medical assistance? Do you feel so overwhelmed by MA, CHIP and waivers, that you're not even sure what questions to ask?

Join the PEAL Center and David Gates, Esq. from the Pennsylvania Health Law, for free, monthly Q & A sessions. David will provide legal information regarding medical assistance, CHIP and waivers for children and adolescents through a webinar format.

Everyone has different experiences with MA. Or maybe you haven't explored the possibilities yet. Before you register, get familiarized with various topics [here](#). Or check out [PEAL's Fall/Winter 2010 Newsletter](#) jam-packed with up-to-date information on health care reform.

[Sign up now](#) for the first Q & A session on Wednesday, January 19. Submit your questions in the field marked "Questions/Comments" on the registration form or email rhuber@pealcenter.org. Each hour-long webinar will feature your questions, and themes will be determined based on response.

The Q & A sessions will be accessible by phone and/or Internet on the following dates. To reserve your spot for a certain day, click on the specific date below:

[January 19, 5:30-6:30 p.m.](#)

[February 23, 12-1 p.m.](#)

[March 16, 5:30-6:30 p.m.](#)

[April 20, 12-1 p.m.](#)

[May 18, 5:30-6:30 p.m.](#)

[June 15, 12-1 p.m.](#)

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar. You will also receive email updates regarding upcoming topics and themes.

Questions? Contact rhuber@pealcenter.org or call 412-281-4404.

Achieva - PARENT TO PARENT: STAY CONNECTED

Topic: Extended School Year

Date: Friday, January 14, 2011

Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Presenter:

Amy Guthrie, Education Advocate with ACHIEVA

Welcome to ACHIEVA Webcasting.

Webcasting is a way to receive audio and video files over the Internet.

ACHIEVA offers webcast feeds to you on a range of topics. To view the webcast, you will need a pair of speakers (or headphones) plugged into your computer and a high speed internet connection. This can be done from any computer at any time as long as you have an Internet connection.

Join Amy Guthrie for our upcoming Parent-to-Parent webinar "Extended School Year" to learn about:

- What is an extended school year
- Who can receive extended school year services

- What types of services are offered

About the Presenter:

Amy Guthrie is a parent of a child with a disability and has been an advocate with ACHIEVA since 2006. As a member of the Advocacy Department, Amy works to support families in ensuring that students receive their Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

Amy holds a Master's Degree in Education from Duquesne University and a Bachelor's Degree in French and Peace and Global Studies from Earlham College.

Instructions:

Welcome to ACHIEVA's online parent interactive support session. To join the on-line live chat session, you will need a high speed internet connection and a phone.

To Click the link to register for the webinar:

<http://tinyurl.com/282o7y7>

2010 Champion Awards.

The award recognizes outstanding Pittsburgh Public School teachers, para-professionals/ aides, principals, therapists, administrators and students who, through their work, support or friendship ensure that students with disabilities are provided equal opportunity and access to a quality education. Contact:

Amy Guthrie

Pittsburgh Local Task Force on the Right to Education

412-995-5000, ext. 485

aguthrie@achieva.info.

Nominations sought for Special Education "Champion Awards"

January 3, 2011 ... The Pittsburgh Local Task Force on the Right to Education is accepting nominations for its third annual "Champion Awards."

The award recognizes outstanding Pittsburgh Public School teachers, para-professionals/ aides, principals, therapists, administrators and students who, through their work, support or friendship ensure that students with disabilities are provided equal opportunity and access to a quality education.

Nominations will be accepted through January 31, 2011. For nomination criteria and form, contact Amy Guthrie at aguthrie@achieva.info or 412-995-5000, ext. 485.

Award winners will be announced at a ceremony on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, 6 pm. at Pittsburgh Obama (former Reizenstein building), 129 Denniston Ave. Pgh 15206.

The Pittsburgh Local Task Force on the Right to Education is a parent-majority organization that works collaboratively with administrators from the Pittsburgh Public Schools and with community agencies to improve, strengthen and expand educational services for students with disabilities in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. The Pittsburgh LTF also serves as a liaison and information resource for families.



CHARITY OF THE MONTH is ABOARD

at

Power Hour

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

5:30-7:30 pm

Come join difference makers on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19 at the Get Involved! Power Hour. Each month we bring together community leaders to brainstorm ways to positively influence the region, assist each others businesses and organizations, and develop connections. We also feature panelists who share about ways that you can Get Involved! and make a difference.

www.bakerleadership.com

Held monthly @ SHADOW LOUNGE from 5:30-7:30 pm 5972 Baum Blvd at S. Highland Ave. (East Liberty) Pittsburgh, PA 15206

To RSVP for the Power Hour contact Robin Rectenwald at robin@bakerleadership.com

JANUARY POWER HOUR WILL FEATURE:

Scott Bricker, Director of BikePGH, Frank Tigano, Fleet Manager of ZipCar PGH, Representatives from Free Ride, Mike Schultz, Ultra-Endurance Cyclist and Trainer, Highland Training, Nick Drombosky, Co-founder of Flock of Cycles, Grady Minnis & Holly McIntosh, Co-founders of Kullu Valley Bike Project

HOSTED BY: REGINA ANDERSON AND TOM BAKER

SPONSORED BY: BAKER LEADERSHIP www.bakerleadership.com

Designs by Ja9

New Autism Awareness products now available online!

www.designsbyja9.com

Just click on the "Support Autism Awareness" link on the homepage and be sure to select **ABOARD** as the benefactor of the \$10 donation for each puzzle purchased.



Support Autism Awareness Dichroic glass puzzle piece

jewelry and gifts www.designsbyja9.com

ABOARD will receive a donation of \$10 for each puzzle purchased.

Autism...

Together we can solve the puzzle!

CLICK HERE TO MAKE A PERSONAL DONATION TO ABOARD!

Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction. ABOARD is registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations. To receive a copy of the official registration and financial information, please call 800-732-0990 within Pennsylvania or visit www.dos.state.pa.us.

ABOARD is a member of the The Chamber of Commerce



United Way

United Way of Allegheny County Contributor Choice Agency Number 9817

Find us on Facebook 

Join our page or join our cause!

Find us on Facebook 

You can also

add a CAUSE Toolbar so every web search will help ABOARD generate funds! <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/toolbar>



GOODSEARCH.COM or GOODSHOP.COM - Select "ABOARD"

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.

412 - 781- 4116 or 800 - 827- 9385

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to autismnews@aboard.org by autismnews@aboard.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders | 35 Wilson Street, Suite 100 | Pittsburgh | PA | 15223