



March 2006

AUTISM TIMES

Wake County Autism Society, Inc.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Wake County Autism Society is to build bridges of understanding through support and information to assist families, individuals and professionals experiencing an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

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Michele Lete'
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society.org

E-group

http://
www.egroups.com/
group/
WakeCountyASNC

Dear Friends,

Don't forget about our *Cupid Campaign* (more information on page 4). We've already received generous donations from some of you, and thank you so much for your contributions! I know it's not Valentine's any more, but you can still "spread the love." It's true that love and tax season don't quite go together for some of us, but as you are finishing up last year's taxes, hopefully you will be able to get a head start with your charitable, tax-exempt, contributions for this year by donating to the Wake County Autism Society today! If you want to make a difference here in Wake County, then our Cupid Campaign is the way to do it. Thank you for your help!!!

Also, we would like to thank FeatureTel (www.featuretel.com) for donating a free phone line and monthly minutes to this organization! You can now reach us at (919) 459-2544. FeatureTel is based right here in Raleigh. Thank you FeatureTel!

Best,
Michele Lete'

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR FAMILY SKATE NIGHT!!!!!!!!!!

On March 25th from 5:15-7:00pm the Wake County Autism Society will host a family skate night at Jellybeans in Cary (1120 Buck Jones Road, 467-5283).

This event will be closed to the public and open only to Wake County persons with autism spectrum disorder and their families. All family members are welcome!

The cost is \$4.00 per person, payable to Jellybeans at the door, for those that want to skate. \$1.00 extra for in-line skates. You are welcome to bring your own skates, but the price is still \$4.00 per person.

By request, they have agreed to allow parents who are not so steady on skates anymore and who want to be out on the skating floor with their children to keep them going in the right direction, etc. to walk in tennis shoe type shoes on the floor with their child(ren). They have also agreed to keep the music volume down more than usual and participants can request it lowered even further if it is still too loud for the children. The snack bar and video games will also be open.

Let's make this a BIG event with lots of families and maybe Jellybeans will allow us to do this again. No need to RSVP as there is no limit on the number of people. We all know that sometimes it is hard to do things as a family with our children and we hope this will be an opportunity for families to spend some quality time together and have fun without the worry.

Jellybeans also said that anyone who wishes to continue skating after the 7:00 time when they reopen to the public is welcome to stay on, however all people out on the skating floor WILL need to have on skates at that point.



Wake County Autism Society Support Groups

Committee Leaders

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Women with Asperger's/HFA and Adults with Asperger's/HFA

Dena Gassner
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dgassner@fuse.net

Lunch Time Support The next meetings will be on Friday, March 3rd and April 7 from 11:30-1:30. Meetings are open-topic and offer support and information for parents or guardians of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder. Lunch will be provided. We also offer free child care. Contact Susan Hughes at 459-2544 or wshs@nc.rr.com to reserve child care. Meetings will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, located a couple of blocks from the Raleigh TEACCH Center (Directions, page 3).

Father's Group Contact Tony Flores for more information about the Father's Group, 250-9513.

Parents of Adults 18 and Over Support Group This month's meeting with Dr. Lee Marcus will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00. This month's topic is: Transitioning Issues from Adolescence to Adulthood (with staff from UNC's Sheps Center) at Creative Living on Nowell Road (Directions, pg. 3) . Contact Marie Horne at 772-9424 or mhorne0409@aol.com for more information.

Parents of Adults with Asperger's/HFA Meetings TBA. Contact Eleanor Abell at 676-0088 for more information.

Parents of Children with Asperger's/HFA For information on the next meeting, please visit our web site at <http://www.wakecountyautismsociety.org/events.htm> or contact Sharon Mayer at 562-6081 or dsmayer@nc.rr.com.

Sibling Support Group Siblings ages 9-13 get a chance to address issues surrounding having a sibling with an autism spectrum disorder. Meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30. \$10.00 fee per session will apply (scholarships are available upon request). Meetings are held at the Elks Club (Directions, pg. 3) with a pizza dinner provided. Groups are facilitated by Heather Allen, a licensed therapist. Dates for remaining sessions are: 3/23, and 4/27. Please contact Robin Schiffmiller at rschiffmiller@nc.rr.com to register.

Women with Asperger's/HFA This group (Metamorphosis) provides support for women who have or suspect a diagnosis of AS/HFA for themselves. **Adults with Asperger's/HFA** This is a co-ed group for adults. Contact Dena Gassner, MSW at dgassner@fuse.net or 467-0004 for more information.

Board Meeting Friday, March 10, 12:30 at Border's. Contact Michele Lete' at 459-2544.

PLAY GROUP for 3 and Under Please contact Susan Hughes at 459-2544 for more information.

Mom's Night Out will be replaced this month with the Family Skate Night (information on page 1).

POSSIBLE NEW GROUP FOR ADOLESCENTS WITH AS/HFA....

Parents interested in some coordinated activities for adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome or High Functioning Autism should contact Dena Gassner. Activities might include field trips, movies, bowling, game night.... Contact Dena via email at dgassner@fuse.net.



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Wake Forest: 919.562.9941

Directions

(if not listed, contact event coordinator)

- **Creative Living Center, 1220 Nowell Road, Raleigh, 27607**—From I-40, take exit 290. Turn right onto Chapel Hill Rd./NC 54. Go .53 miles. Turn left on to Nowell Road. Go .47 miles.
- **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1433 Aversboro Rd., Garner, 27529**—Take exit #298A /US-401 SOUTH/US-70 EAST. Bear right on S SAUNDERS ST - go 0.9 mi. Continue on S WILMINGTON ST[US-70] (stay to the left at the split)- go 1.0 mi. Continue to follow US-70 EAST - go 1.8 mi. Take ramp onto US-70 W toward AVERSBORO ROAD- go 0.2 mi. Bear right on AVERSBORO RD (there is an Arby's on that corner) - go 1.2 mi. Arrive at 1433 AVERSBORO RD, GARNER, on the left.
- **ASNC, 505 Oberlin Rd., Suite 230, Raleigh, 27605**—From the West: From I-40, take Exit 289 (Wade Ave.). Take the Oberlin Road exit and turn right at the end of the ramp. Go approximately 3/4 miles. Turn right on Stafford Road. Take the first right into the parking lot. From the East: From I-40, take Exit 301 (I-440) to Raleigh. Take the second Glenwood Avenue exit. At the light at Glenwood Village, turn right on to Oberlin Road. Go approximately 2 miles. Turn right on Stafford Road. Take the first right into the parking lot. ENTER BUILDING FROM BACK LOT.
- **Elks Club, 5538 Lead Mine Road, Raleigh, 27612**—From I-440, take exit US-70/Glenwood Ave./NC-50 exit, towards Crabtree Valley Mall. When on Glenwood Ave., turn right onto Lead Mine Road. Club is approximately 1.24 miles.
- **White Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1704 Oberlin Rd, Raleigh, 27608**—From the beltline, exit onto S. Saunders St. for 2.31 miles. Turn left onto West Lenoir St. Turn right onto S. Boylan Ave. Turn right onto Oberlin Road.

Local Interests

(not sponsored by WCAS)

TEACCH Mother's Group is a support group that meets monthly. Your child will need to have been seen for an intake appointment prior to attending your first meeting. If your child has not had an intake appointment, you can call to be placed on the waiting list at 662-4625. Meetings are held at the Raleigh TEACCH Center.

Parents of Teens Educational Meetings meet monthly on Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Millbrook Exchange Community Center. For information, please contact Kathy Honeyman, 878-3239.

Newly Diagnosed Workshops are free workshops for parents and guardians of children who have been recently diagnosed with autism. Dates for Spring 2006 include: 03/21, 05/23. For more information or to register, contact Theresa Brennan or Linda Griffin at the Autism Society of NC, 743-0204.

Autism Spectrum IEP Workshops are free workshops for parents and guardians who are involved in all stages of the IEP process and would like to learn more. Dates for Spring 2006 include: 03/16, 05/02, 06/10. For more information, contact Theresa Brennan or Linda Griffin at the Autism Society of NC, 743-0204.

Grace offers free therapeutic horse riding to children with autism and their families once a month. Sessions are at **Camp Kanata**. Contact Susan Belton, 556-9460 or www.graceofraleigh.org, to register.

Special Education PTA is a district-wide organization for teachers and parents of children who have an IEP. Contact Leigh Menconi for more information, 788-2500.

ASNC Annual Conference will be held on March 24 & 25 at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. For more information call 743-0204 or go to autismsociety-nc.org.

Autism Community Initiative A group of parents from the Triangle area have formed a coalition to explore the possibility of developing a residential community (ultimately a continuing care facility) for adults with autism age 18 and above. The goal is to provide a small cluster of houses and/or apartments that would serve 2 or 3 persons per unit, providing 24 hour care and a day program. The coalition would like to hear from anyone who may be interested or want more information. Contact Genie and Roger Robinson at genrog@mebtel.net.

Raleigh Parks/Recreation has a listing of specialized recreational activities for ages 4 and up in the Leisure Ledger. There are lots of activities from sports to social groups. Log on to www.parks.raleighnc.gov. or contact the Specialized Recreation Dept. at 831-6640.

Time to Think About SUMMER CAMP!



I know that many of us are familiar with camps in this area, but I have recently been made aware of a camp located in Asheville, North Carolina. Talisman Summer Camps offers weeks for Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism. Most camps are two consecutive week overnight experiences, but other programs are available. Please find more information about this camp experience at www.talismancamps.com or (888) 458-8226.

Don't forget our CUPID CAMPAIGN

This brand new campaign lets you show your love with only \$12.00 a year or \$1.00 per month. By giving this small donation, you can help ensure the continuation of programs and events. So help us by donating \$1.00 per month or donate \$12.00 all at once. Donator's names will be listed in the monthly newsletters in appreciation for their generosity. All donations are tax deductible, so help **spread the love!** Make checks payable to WCAS or Wake County Autism Society and mail to: M. Sean Godwin, The Piedmont Carolinas Group, 1502 W. Hwy 54 Suite 405, Durham, NC 27707.

The Wake County Autism Society does not endorse, promote or warrant the products, medical or alternative treatments, services, or therapies mentioned in this newsletter. This newsletter is for informational purposes only.

Wake County Autism Society
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