

## AHA Happenings: Fall Conference, Rock-n-Bowl ...



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September 2010

Summer is never for lazing around at AHA. This year was extra busy. We are planning our first bowling fundraiser – **AHA's ROCK 'N BOWL** for Autism on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at South Levittown Lanes. Info on our website and please join us for great raffle prizes and lots of fun.

Plans are always being made for our annual education conference and this year is no exception. On Monday and Tuesday, October 25-26 we will host our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference, Issues in Education for School Age Children on the Autism Spectrum. The conference takes place at Eastern Suffolk BOCES, 15 Andrea Road, Holbrook, NY.

Our keynote on Monday is the founder and President of the Autism Science Foundation [www.autismsciencefoundation.org](http://www.autismsciencefoundation.org) Alison Singer, MBA. She is the former Executive Vice-President of Autism Speaks and serves on the federal Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) playing a key role in developing the new federal strategic plan for autism research. She has appeared on Oprah, NBC Nightly News, GMA, and CBS Early Show. Ms. Singer has a daughter and an older brother with autism and serves on many autism boards. **TOPIC: "What's Hot and What's Not in the Science of Autism."**

Following on Monday and for the remainder of the day is AHA advisory board member and foremost expert and internationally known educator on Asperger Syndrome and

autism Dr. Brenda Smith Myles. Dr. Myles has written numerous award winning publications such as *Asperger Syndrome and Adolescence: Practical Solutions for School Success* (with Adreon) and *Simple Strategies That Work! Helpful Hints for All Educators of Students With Asperger Syndrome, High Functioning Autism, and Related Disabilities* (Adreon and Gitlitz). Dr. Myles served as co-chair of the National ASD Teacher Standards Committee. She was on the National Institute of Mental Health's Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee's Strategic Planning Consortium and the ASA's Panel of Professional Advisors. She is a consultant with the Ziggurat Group and the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders. Dr. Myles is also on the executive boards of several organizations, including AHA and OAR. She was acknowledged as the second most productive applied researcher in ASD in the world from 1997 to 2004. **TOPIC: Simple Strategies That Work! Helpful Hints for all Educators.**

On Tuesday we have another great day starting off with Dr. Lynda Geller who served on the faculties of Georgetown and Stony Brook Universities and NYU Medical Schools developing clinical centers providing services for individuals with ASD. Dr. Geller has a clinical practice in NYC and founded a multidisciplinary group providing social, psychological, psychiatric, speech and language, vocational training and employment, family support, consulting and coaching services for children and adults with AS and related conditions. **TOPIC: Demystifying Aggression: Developing Successful Interventions**

The day continues with another outstanding Teen Panel. This is always a highlight for our audience of administrators, school staff and family members. These teens are able to communicate how they progressed from diagnosis to coping with their issues in

school and at home. They discuss who the adults and peers were in their lives that assisted their progress.

Our conference ends with the talents of another advisory board member, Dr. Valerie Gaus. Dr. Gaus works with teens and adults with ASD and dual diagnoses using a cognitive behavioral approach. She is a consultant with a private practice on LI, staff psychologist for the Vincent Smith School, and adjunct faculty at LIU/C.W. Post, member of AHA advisory board, and grant review committee for OAR.

called *Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Adult Asperger Syndrome and Living Well on the Spectrum: How to Use Your Strengths to Meet the Challenges of Asperger Syndrome/High-Functioning Autism*. **TOPIC: Surviving Stress on the Spectrum, Understanding and Supporting Your Students**  
Sign up online at [www.ahany.org](http://www.ahany.org) or call 888.918.9198 or email [info@ahany.org](mailto:info@ahany.org)

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