

An Introduction to AHA



Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism Association (AHA), Inc. was begun in the spring of 1988 under the auspices of the Department of Child Psychiatry at Stony Brook. It has changed names multiple times as the classifications and diagnoses have evolved. After working in bedrooms and basements for almost 20 years AHA has now spent over one year in their first offices at The Fay J Lindner Center for Autism in Bethpage bringing all the volunteers and small part-time staff together to work on our many projects.

The fall conference being held at Eastern Suffolk BOCES in Holbrook, in its 17th year, was among the first anywhere to educate educators about high functioning autism and Asperger Syndrome. This year on Monday and Tuesday October 22 and 23 it features speakers on anti-bullying, strategies for the classroom and a teen panel of 'experts'. The speakers include Dennis Debbaudt, Rebekah Heinrichs, MSN, MSEd., Lynda Geller, Ph.D., Dorothy Siegel, M.P.A. and Juliet Williams, Psy.D.

On Saturday, October 27th Gabrielsen's Country Farm has generously been donated from 11am-2pm for the AHA FALL FESTIVAL (and fundraiser). It should be a great day of fun for our families and all who wish to join us – meet llamas, feed dairy cows, go on hay rides, and of course – pick a pumpkin!!! Information to follow on 516ADS.com

Some of the services AHA offers:

AHA now has 10 support groups from Montauk to Manhattan. Two of them are for individuals on the spectrum: a teen group and a group for adults.

AHA's two conferences have attained national attention with the foremost speakers in the field conducting workshops and making presentations.

AHA's information telephone support line answers upwards of 3000 calls per year.

AHA offers free seminars and workshops for families.

AHA's newsletter, *On The Spectrum*, keeps people informed and connected to the high functioning autism community.

Special events like AHA's annual picnic and bowling programs fill a need for appropriate recreational activities.

AHA's website is visited by thousands who have an interest in Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism.

AHA's e-list is privileged to receive the most current news in the field of autism, with special attention to cutting edge research.

Join the AHA e-list by going to the main page of the website www.ahany.org and clicking "JOIN E-LIST" at the top, and you will receive news articles, research abstracts and timely information on autism and the group in your email mailbox every day. And call us anytime for assistance.

www.ahany.org, 516.470.0360