

APRIL 2011: AHA Conference - Autism Awareness Month



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President, AHA
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A Look towards the AHA Conference on Sunday April 3, 2011 at Adelphi University (our 11th Annual!) and Autism Awareness Month

April is autism awareness month and AHA will be busy presenting at or displaying at a myriad of conferences and talks all over the tri-state area. We are asked to be part of planning committees as more universities are creating certificate programs or master level programs concentrating on the autism program.

On April 3, 2011 AHA will be presenting our 11th annual spring conference, **ISSUES IN INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM**. This year we have two keynote speakers along with 10 outstanding workshops, resources, schools, agencies, and books to purchase.

Our morning keynote will be Rudy Simone, who will speak on employment issues facing those on the spectrum. She is an adult with Asperger Syndrome who has written extensively about relationships, employment, and adults. The afternoon's keynote is AHA Advisory board member Dr. Valerie Gaus presenting on her new publication, *Living Well On The Spectrum*, a workbook. My son Eric, an adult with Asperger Syndrome had the pleasure of reading the book and writing a blurb for the back cover. He was very proud to do so. He thinks the book will be very helpful to those on the spectrum and the professionals that work with them. Books will be for sale at the conference.

Registration for the conference can be done online at www.ahany.org. Workshops and speakers are from all over. Sample topics include ***Aspergers and Internet Crime: A Miscarriage of Justice, Couplehood and Asperger Syndrome: Effective Problem Solving, What To Expect In College, Update on Psychopharmacology for Autism Spectrum Disorders, Identifying and Developing Talents and Strengths: A Parent's Journey, Executive Function Skills: The Keys to Independence and more.***

Our mission is to increase awareness of the countless challenges and difficulties individuals on the autism spectrum face as adults and to assist in their independence. The conference will focus on establishing effective systems of supports and services from transition through adulthood.

If there are any questions please email us at conference@ahany.org or try our website at: www.ahany.org or call our offices at 888.918.9198. AHA runs support groups from the East End of Long Island to Manhattan for family members and for teens and adults on the spectrum. All this information is on our website and through our eNews. Join our eNews online on the main page of the website.

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