



Volume 17, No. 2 - Spring 2008

THE COMMUNICATOR

A Publication of the Autism National Committee



Rob Cutler Honored

Rob Cutler, past president (and still active member) of the Autism National Committee, received a citation from the State Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

"Be it Known that the Massachusetts Senate Hereby extends its Congratulations to Robert Cutler Jr. in Recognition of Outstanding Community Service on Behalf of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; and Be it further Known that the Massachusetts Senate extends best wishes for continued success; dated 5 April 2008."

Rob Cutler is on a mission to teach people what it is like to be a person with autism. He mentors Odyssey High School students in South Boston on the value and gifts of each individual. He spoke in Sheffield, England, at a memorial service honoring psychologist Herb Lovett who championed the rights of people with autism. In Georgia he brought tears to the eyes of parents of children with autism when he told them that their children have feeling and emotions, including love, dispelling many common misconceptions.

Today Rob shares his home with his staff and his devoted black lab Millie, formerly Dr. Lovett's pet. An avid nonfiction reader since he was a toddler, he is surrounded by his books and maps. The home, located across the street from his mother's home, is a far cry from the state facility where he spent five years which he describes as difficult and demeaning. Rob and his family fought for, and won for him, one of the first models of self-directed services in Massachusetts. Rob hires and supervises his staff

If you don't understand a child with autism, call a person with autism in. We live autism every day.



Robert Cutler, Jr. - Photographer: Jim Gambaro

and determines how his funds are expended. Wishing to see others realize a similar level of independence, he never ceases advocating and encouraging people to see the uniqueness and potential in each individual with autism.

AutCom Conference 2008

Register Now!

See page 10 for more information - See page 11 for registration form

If you are not a member of AutCom, but are registering for the Conference, you can join for \$20 for the first year (instead of \$30). Use the membership form on page 8, and include a note that you are paying the Conference introductory first year rate.

Sharisa Joy's President's Letter

To my peers in the world of autism, I would like to say that I am trying my hardest to be the best possible role model and example and thank all who have shown me their support and expressed their gratitude for my efforts.

To people who support people with this most mysterious of syndromes, I feel the need to express my gratitude and have done so in my article for this edition, dedicated to my father, the person who has helped me the most and still does.

To people who try to deny that my intelligence and achievements are my own, I urge you to examine your prejudices, question your motives, query your consciences, and then tell me what it is you still think I need to prove to anyone.

To people who wish to "cure" autism, I understand your motives, but I will never agree with them and urge you to discover ways to treat people as something other than diseases, problems, anomalies, and/or mutations.

To people who truly wish to understand, I remind you that the best way to understand a person is to communicate with them and the best way to understand what makes a person who they are is not to presume incompetence before you give them a chance to prove competence in their own way.

To the members of Autcom and the Autcom Board, I thank you for electing me president, for placing your trust in my judgment, listening to my ideas, sharing yours with me and working for inclusion in the truest sense of that word. You are very unselfish and dedicated people and it is my honor to serve with you rather than boss you around.

Lastly, to Nicki Fisher, founder and president of The Autism Perspective, I thank you for the true faith you have shown in me by asking me to be editor of TAP Magazine, your ability to think outside the box rather than trying to stuff someone in it, and the journey you have asked me to join to make this world a kinder, gentler, more evolved place to live.



Sharisa Joy Kochmeister, President of AutCom

Poem after my first Autism Conference By Chris Smolyk

They asked me "Why don't you write?"
"You should write", they said.
"Why don't you?" they asked.
"You have so much to say".

"Because no one is listening"
I told them.

And my greatest fear vanished.

I thought it might be so cruel and
Wounding to them...
If I told them the truth.

But they weren't listening.

So it didn't matter.

(More Poems by Chris on page 9)

“Watching Our Words” Video

By Mike Hoover

I THINK I NEED TO TELL PEOPLE I HAVE BEEN GIVING OUT A LOT OF COPIES OF THE “WATCH OUR WORDS” VIDEO ABOUT FACILITATED COMMUNICATION AND HOW IT CHANGES THE LIVES OF ITS USERS. I NEED TO LET PEOPLE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION IS IN LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO DO NOT SPEAK. I LIKE THE WAY THE VIDEO CAN BE USED TO TRAIN NEW FACILITATORS IF YOU HAVE AN EXPERIENCED FACILITATOR THERE. I LIKE THE EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT USES FOR PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT SUPPORT NEEDS. I LIKE THE THINGS FACILITATORS CAN DO TO HELP OTHERS GAIN MORE CONTROL OVER THEIR LIVES. I LIKE THE FUN TIMES WE HAD MAKING THE VIDEO. I NEED YOU TO SEE THE VIDEO AT THE COLORADO DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL WEBSITE, WWW.CODDC.ORG YOU CAN GET THE DVD FROM THE COUNCIL OFFICE. THANKS, MIKE HOOVER OF WOW COLORADO, AUTCOM BOARD, AND COLORADO DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL.



Marna Ares & Mike Hoover

WOW's two-DVD set is available free from the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council, 3401 Quebec St., Suite 6009, Denver, Colorado 80207. The DVD, titled “Our Stories,” contains 10-12 minute segments about the lives of five WOW members. The second video, titled “FC Training,” gives an hour-long introduction to this communication method, its history, ways to validate the user's words, and how to introduce it.

Autcom Gets Exposure Worldwide Through Secondlife

An AutCom member has donated a site in SecondLife, a virtual community with millions of members worldwide. The office buildings situated there contains exhibits about AutCom, its purposes, activities, and how to join. There is even a boardroom whose conference table contains several communication devices and notebook computers for its virtual board members. The users can either type or speak using a computer microphone to communicate in SecondLife. At present, a search under category All brings up Autism National Committee near the top. Only SecondLife members can access the site. For a free trial membership and more information about SecondLife, see www.secondlife.com



AutCom Exhibit

We Autistics Grow Up and Grow Gracefully into Ourselves, and We Are Here to Stay

By Xenia Kathy Grant

April is Autism Awareness month, so all month we will be hearing about autism and its many varieties. The one thing the general public won't hear much about is how we not only become adults, but that we are here to stay and that we grow into the people that we are to be, autism and all. They won't hear that autism is part and parcel of us, so to take away the autism is to take away who we are. I know for myself that if you take away my autism, you take away part of who I am. Part of growing gracefully into oneself is acceptance, warts and all. I find that the autistic adults who accept themselves as they are, autism and all, are people who are happy.

Yes, it is true that we need services: housing, health care, jobs, friends, hobbies and community, but all human beings need these things. What makes us unique is not only our neurology but how we perceive things and how we act upon them. Some of us have very fine-tuned senses, such that we can hear people speaking two rooms down the hall or hear the flicker of fluorescent lights or be able to see the particles in the air or have a dog's sense of smell in a human body. For myself, I notice flags, maps, writing in a foreign language or a cat anywhere. A friend and I went to a small pizza place and on the walls were maps. I was excited and did my jig (not Irish!) and she had no idea what all the fuss was about. When I explained to her that I saw maps of South America, Africa and Europe and how much I liked and noticed them, she understood. I told her I noticed it immediately and we had a nice time eating our pizza.

At the Denver chapter GRASP meetings, many people feel they can be themselves and not always be on the defensive. The younger 20-somethings loosen up after a few meetings and start expressing themselves as the people they are meant to be. I even know a man who is 70 and is growing into the person that God made him to be, so growing into oneself has no age limit. In fact, some people who find out that they are autistic at an older age are relieved to know why they have been that way all of their lives and start to appreciate themselves. I know a woman in her 60s who is a Mom and Grandma

and who, within the last couple of years, found out that she is on the spectrum. And she revels in it. She loves it because it has freed her to be who she is without any strings attached.

I wish that mainstream autism organizations would talk about these things. Instead of wishing that the autism go away or that the characteristics that don't cause pain be hidden or expressed in more "typical" ways, why not celebrate our uniqueness and go with the flow? So what if we express our feelings differently or relate to other people in ways not thought of before? So what if we have an interest in the most esoteric subjects like quantum physics, obscure jazz musicians, or traffic lights that were built before 1960? So what if we sniff the new book that was bought because it has a nice scent or enjoy the shiny bracelet that someone is wearing? These are things to be celebrated! When we know who we are, then we can go forward.

So many people, autistic and non-autistic alike, who don't know themselves or like themselves as adults have their life spirit taken out of them and live a life of quiet desperation, and it shows. A good example is my friend Barbara Moran who lived in an institution as a child and a host home until she was 29. People always nagged at her about her behavior, interests, and demeanor without offering alternatives or positive reinforcement. Half of that time she was in physical pain because of sensory issues. She was a hurting puppy until a naturopath believed her words about her sensory issues (especially sound sensitivity) and she felt better, heard and listened to. Barb has a part-time job as a dancing Lady Liberty in front of a tax office (job ends April 15) and she loves it! And she told me that she gets paid for what people nagged at her about all those years ago!

It is wonderful that we autistic people grow up, gracefully grow into ourselves and are here to stay. We have lots to offer and we are ready. Are you?

Who Are the Heroes in the Lives of Those with Different Abilities?

By Sondra Williams

As I think of the term "hero," I wonder what that word really reflects to me. I quickly am consumed with the thought of Superman, or Wonder Woman, and think of their so-called heroism/actions, but they were not heroes in reality; they were fantasy characters created to give an image of a human with super powers.

I wonder if those around me really understand what constitutes a hero. What image do they see or feel when they think of the concept of hero?

I see Helen Keller as an extraordinary woman with the amazing ability to work through the barriers in her life to communicate, that behind all her challenges she was first and foremost a human with strong morals and character. She showed the world that, although they assumed her challenges to be devastating, she grew from an innocent so-called wild child to a developing teen, and finally to a grown emerging woman with strong profound insight to the world around her. Who would have thought that her beginning would have this outcome as she became who she was becoming? How could a person who was labeled hearing and visually impaired possibly hear and see the world, and see it profoundly beyond those who in life were not challenged?

I think of others who, like Helen, worked hard to break free from the barriers that bound them, breaking free from the stigmas, breaking free from the assumptions, and breaking free from all the judgmental views that can crush a soul if they allow it. These individuals to me are heroes. They excel past the expected outcomes assumed by the label. Heroes do not let the diagnosis or label defeat who they are—humans with potential to love and be loved, to give and create, and to make choices with respect and dignity in who they are becoming.

Sadly, many heroes in this life are invisible to the world, not recognized for their talents or their ability to contribute to the world around us. Some, like Van Gogh, Mozart, and others, were invisible for the most part during their lives and only after their deaths were they considered wonderful. Some were seen as wonderful through their talent alone but ignored as a person by their families and communities.

I think about Kim, also known as the real "Rainman," a brilliant man with savant skills, who, for the majority of his life, was hidden away with his wonderful gifts and personhood. Once his father and others began to support Kim and to allow him to be shared with the world, Kim began to emerge and to feel dignity and pride in his own personhood. Kim found his own way to connect to others. Those who know Kim personally do not just see his tremendous ability but enjoy the personhood Kim expresses.

History tells us that some of these hidden heroes were treated with no dignity and were subjected to public humiliation by saying, "Let them work for the circus" and we will give them some income and food in exchange for them to allow us to publicly exploit their challenges. Many say, "That was the past and we no longer allow that to happen to people of different abilities," but this is not so. Some are still subjected to exploitation for talent alone without giving dignity to the person behind the talent.

Let's not forget some of the hidden heroes who are the people in the lives of those of us with challenges, who see our potential and our humanness and encourage and develop a strong sense of self and dignity in the personhood we are building within us.

Let's not forget the heroes who take the risk to look beyond our challenges and seek to build friendships and relationships with us. These heroes do not see us as broken but as whole individuals, as equals, and do not see us with pity and sadness. They do not try to change us, fix us or condemn us for not doing things the typical way. They adapt with us. They join "our world" in ways of true understanding.

And so today we are not here to celebrate diversity or our unique challenges, nor to exploit our labels. We are here because we have worked hard to overcome many of our challenges in finding ways to demonstrate our abilities. We are here with many to celebrate our humanness and potential that developed despite the barriers. If I could have had a song played today, it would be "I Believe I Can Fly." I hope this day many of you are standing at that door ready to take flight and soar.

University of San Diego Autism Institute

Summer Autism Conference, June 23rd - June 25th, 2008

“Autism: Work With Me, Not On Me”

This unique conference brings state-of-the-art ideas from national and international speakers on how to better understand and support individuals who live with autism.

Topics will include:

Rhythm, Relationships, and Communication
 The Role of Movement Differences in Communication and Participation
 Applying Dynamic Systems Theory
 Communication Supports
 Supporting Social/Emotional Development
 Relationships and Relationship-Development
 Sensitivity Training - Understanding the Lived Experience of Persons with the Autism Label
 Relaxation Techniques and Yoga
 Exploration in Using Rhythm as Accommodations
 Panel of Individuals with Autism
 Autism Hub Bloggers

Presenters:

Anne M. Donnellan, Ph.D.	The Autism Hub Bloggers
Stephen Hinkle	Jodi Robledo, Ph.D.
Martha R. Leary, MA, CCC-SLP	Darlene Hanson, MA, CCC
Nan Nagri, Ph.D.	J.D. Walsh
Kate McGinnity, MS	Diana Pastora Carson, M.Ed.
Estee Wolfond	

Times and Place:

Monday, June 23: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, June 24: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, June 25: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Location: University of San Diego - Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre and Rotunda
 Reception June 23 at 5:00 p.m. - Garden of the Sea and Room “G” - Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice

Parent Scholarship Information:

We are able to provide a limited number of partial scholarships for parents of individuals with autism. Please email: autisminstitute@sandiego.edu for more information. If you are a member of the San Diego Autism Society, please contact them for scholarship information. This conference can also be part of a 3-unit Graduate Course (towards a Graduate Degree) offered through the USD School of Leadership and Educational Sciences. Contact Beth Yemma at 619-260-7790 for further information.

Registration:

Early Registration (before 5/19/08): \$295.00
 Late Registration (5/19/08 - 6/23/08): \$320.00
 Cost includes: 2 graduate level extension credits, handouts, breakfast and snacks.
 Online registration at: www.usd-online.org (click on Summer Autism Conference under upcoming events) or call 619-260-4585.

For more information about the conference (directions, parking, hotels, etc.) and the USD Autism Institute please visit our website at: www.sandiego.edu/autisminstitute/

For additional questions, contact the USD Autism Institute
autisminstitute@sandiego.edu
619-260-7705

UNH to Offer Summer Conference on Autism Emotion, Behavior, and Belonging

New Perspectives on Including Students with Autism Spectrum Differences in Schools and Communities

Durham, N.H. – The Institute on Disability (IOD) at the University of New Hampshire will be presenting the tenth annual Autism Summer Institute August 11-14 on the UNH campus in Durham. This year's four-day Institute, "Emotion, Behavior, and Belonging," is open to anyone interested in learning more about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) from experts on the subject including persons living with ASD. Topics will include understanding the emotional experiences of living with ASD, interpreting the meaning of behavioral differences, and addressing confusion by teaching the unwritten rules of the social world.

Dates: August 11 - 14, 2008

Time: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Location: UNH Holloway Commons, Durham, NH

Registration Fee: \$399 for professionals (\$349 if registered by June 1, 2008); \$299 for parents, full-time students, and self-advocates; \$30 per keynote. Groups of three or more qualify for the discounted group rate of \$349 (subject to verification).

For More Information and to Register: Visit <http://www.iod.unh.edu> or call 603.228.2084.

In keeping with the tradition and mission of the conference, this year's Autism Summer Institute features keynote presentations by individuals who experience ASD. This year's keynote presenters include Amanda Baggs (*invited*), a college student recently featured on CNN who experiences autism and uses a computer to communicate; CarolAnn Edscorn, a Granite State mother and master of the arts with Asperger Syndrome; and Ros Blackburn, a lecturer from England living with autism.

In addition to the keynote presentations, participants will benefit from frequent opportunities to interact, discuss strategies, and develop specific action plans in smaller, more informal work group settings.

The goal of the Autism Summer Institute is to provide perspectives which focus on students' strengths in order to improve the quality of education in inclusive settings. Participants will gain skills and knowledge that will help support the full participation of students with ASD in their schools and communities.

The Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire was established in 1987 to provide a coherent university-based focus for the improvement of knowledge, policies, and practices related to the lives of persons with disabilities and their families. Its mission is to advance policies and systems changes, promising practices, education, and research that strengthen communities to ensure full access, equal opportunities, and participation for all persons.

AutCom Membership Form

Because I endorse the principles of the Autism National Committee, I would like to (circle one):

JOIN NOW

RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

I AM A (circle): Family member Person with autism Friend Professional (field _____)

Annual membership: \$30.00. Persons with autism: \$10.00. Supporting membership: \$75.00

I am enclosing an extra \$_____ to speed up the good work.

Make checks payable to Autism National Committee and mail to:

Autism National Committee
Wade Hitzing, Treasurer
1045 Wittman Drive
Fort Myers, FL, 33919

The Autism National Committee is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Your contributions are tax deductible and will be promptly acknowledged for your records

PRINCIPLES OF THE AUTISM NATIONAL COMMITTEE

As a member of the Autism National Committee I endorse for all people with autism, pervasive developmental disorders, and related disabilities the development of appropriate community services, including education, residences, jobs/job training programs, and of individually appropriate and adequate support services in all locations for both individuals and their family members; of state-of-the-art communication options for all individuals with unique communicative and social needs; of adequate supports to every family to assist them in maintaining their disabled family member in their home at least throughout the childhood and adolescent years; and the dissemination of available knowledge of those aspects of the disability requiring special support and understanding; the promotion of research to provide parents and professionals with greater insight into the unique needs of individuals with autism and related disabilities; and the use, development, and promotion of positive, respectful approaches for teaching every aspect of life.

Moreover, I oppose the use of institutions to separate people from their communities, and deprive them of dignity, freedom and the level of independence they can achieve in supportive community living; the use of procedures involving pain, humiliation, deprivation, and dangerous drugs as a means to alter and control individual's behavior; the increasing use of bizarre technology to control self-injurious and aggressive behavior; the widespread ignorance of the basic social and communicative needs of people with autism; and the widespread disregard for the individual's unique, basic and human needs. I object to programs which disregard the skills, preferences and basic human needs of the people they serve, and I believe that there is no longer need or any justification for using painful and abusive procedures.

Poems after My First Autism Conference

by Chris Smolyk

Following the October 2007 AutCom Conference in Edmonton, Chris submitted the following poems, the poem on page 2, and others that we hope to publish in another edition of the newsletter.

Untitled

I could never cry.

Even when they beat me,
I could never cry.

Sometimes they would ask,
usually it was a girl that would ask me,
"Why don't you ever cry?"

Some cry. I think they like it.
Sometimes.

Some scream.
I don't like it much.

I want to learn to do something else.

I tried lots of things.
Some of them were really interesting
Because I could be in my own world
as
My own Self
So some of those things I worked at really hard.
I really enjoyed them.

Then I spent a lot of years where it just seemed
like I was waiting
For a very long time.
No one to play with me.
Still.....I did not
Cry.
I just waited.

Then I met a bunch of people who can hear me
when I speak.

I am crying now.

Actually, I'm crying quite a lot.

I think I like this

Crying.

Oh....and thank you ever so very much

For hearing me

When I speak.

Bother

I met some other people like me.

Often they are not listening.
often they have something else to do,
And that hurts a little bit.

Sometimes it is a little bit uncomfortable.
But I do not mind much, because when I watch
them do the things they are interested in....
it is always such interesting stuff they do.
And I think about this new thing in my life...
That these are the ones who hear me when I
speak.

I'm glad I bothered to come to this conference.
I thought a lot of things would bother me....
but I see that everyone else knew about that too,
and I was warmly comforted by all the little ways
they Bothered to Care about those things.
And some folks got bothered anyway.
Bother....sounds like some Boer word.
I used to tell people....when they would ask
me...."And what do you do?"

"I Bother"

But they did not hear me,
So I stopped telling them that.

Now I have found a lot of new people who are like
me.

They get bothered.
And they bother.

But they can hear me when I speak.
Now what do we think about THAT!?

**Autism National Committee 2008 Conference
in Collaboration with the Autism Society of Michigan
October 17 & 18 – Ann Arbor, Michigan**

Embracing the Hope and Joy of Autism

Friday Program: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (includes continental breakfast & lunch)

Getting Beyond “Behavior”

Including and Supporting People with ASD in Home, School and Community

Featuring

Paula Kluth, Anne Donnellan, Martha Leary, David Hill and Sharisa Kochmeister

Relationships are the basis for social participation and communication for all people. Individuals with neurological differences often communicate, behave and participate in unique, very personal ways that may be difficult to relate to and understand. Differences in the way individuals with ASD are able to use their bodies and focus their attention may lead those who would like to form a relationship with them to assume that a particular individual does not care to participate or communicate and does not desire a relationship. Such assumptions can affect expectations for them, the way they are spoken to and the educational and social opportunities that are offered to them. Friday's program will be devoted to exploring different aspects of this challenge as it is encountered in the home, the school and the community.

6:00 Dinner at the hotel

7:30 Performance: **Does God Make Garbage?**

Mime presentation by **Johnny and Chris Seitz**, followed by a discussion which they will lead. Johnny Seitz started life as a head banging autistic child. Through effective intervention by his mother, he has grown up to be a successful and fulfilled adult. He has been happily married to Chris for 20 years, has been a teacher on the university level, and a mime performer. Chris, a neurotypical person, is a therapist working with autistic children. Together they present at autism conferences and do in-service presentations in schools.

Saturday Program: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (includes continental breakfast & lunch)

Keynote by Sharisa Kochmeister, B.A., President of the Autism National Committee, and **Stephen Shore, Ed.D.**, Author and Consultant

Following the keynote, participants will have a choice of four panels to attend. Topics will include being a teen, attending college, life after college, the reactions of neurotypicals when people on the spectrum don't act like the stereotype, health issues with aging, neurodiversity, and other subjects. Most presenters will be on the autism spectrum.

Lunch

Following lunch, participants will again have a choice of panels.

The conference will end with “The Last Word” – a response to the conference by all Board members on the autism spectrum.

To make this conference as comfortable as possible for people on the autism spectrum: All meals will include a gluten-free, casein-free option. There will be a quiet room with natural lighting, and all presentation spaces will have incandescent rather than fluorescent lighting.

(The Autism National Committee Board will meet Sunday morning.)

PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION SOON!

Four Points Sheraton, 3200 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

(734) 996-0600 Website: www.fourpointsannarbor.com

AutCom Conference Room Rate: \$99 + 8% tax. All rooms non-smoking. If step-in shower is needed, request handicapped accessible. Cancellation at no charge if completed by 4 p.m. day of arrival.

AutCom 2008 Conference Registration Form

in Collaboration with the Autism Society of Michigan

There are five (5) registration options for you to choose from. You may want to choose more than one. Two rates are given: **Early Registration** submitted by June 20 (in parentheses); and regular registration between June 21 and Oct. 1. Please **PRINT** the names below clearly, so we can make name tags.

Print names of persons with Autism attending: _____

Print names of family members, support persons and students attending: _____

Print names of professionals attending: _____

Entire Conference (includes breakfasts, lunches & Friday dinner/performance – GF/CF food available)

Individuals with Autism:	Number of participants _____ x (\$90)	\$90 = \$ _____
Family members/support/students:*	Number of participants _____ x (\$150)	\$170 = \$ _____
Professionals:	Number of participants _____ x (\$225)	\$250 = \$ _____

Friday day session only (includes breakfast & lunch – GF/CF food available)

Individuals with Autism:	Number of participants _____ x (\$40)	\$40 = \$ _____
Family members/support/students:*	Number of participants _____ x (\$70)	\$80 = \$ _____
Professionals:	Number of participants _____ x (\$110)	\$130 = \$ _____

Friday day session, dinner and performance (includes breakfast & lunch – GF/CF food available)

Individuals with Autism:	Number of participants _____ x (\$50)	\$50 = \$ _____
Family members/support/students:*	Number of participants _____ x (\$90)	\$100 = \$ _____
Professionals:	Number of participants _____ x (\$125)	\$145 = \$ _____

Saturday day sessions only (includes breakfast & lunch – GF/CF food available)

Individuals with Autism:	Number of participants _____ x (\$40)	\$40 = \$ _____
Family members/support/students:*	Number of participants _____ x (\$70)	\$80 = \$ _____
Professionals:	Number of participants _____ x (\$110)	\$130 = \$ _____

Saturday dinner. This dinner is not part of the conference. It is being made available, at cost, for participants who wish to eat at the hotel as a group with gluten-free/casein-free food available.

Number of participants _____ x \$27.50 = \$ _____

DONATION TO HELP PEOPLE WITH AUTISM ATTEND THE CONFERENCE \$ _____

Your donation will be greatly appreciated!

Total Registration Fee + Donation enclosed: \$ _____ Check enclosed _____ Credit Card _____
(Payment accepted in US or Canadian funds)

Name of person submitting registration: _____ Name on credit card: _____

Address: _____ Type of card: _____

City: _____ Card # _____

State/Province: _____ Exp. Date: _____

ZIP/Canadian code _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____
(Email address required for confirmation)

* There are a limited number of fee waivers available for support people who require them. Contact Linda Rammler by email: asdi-ne@comcast.net

Mail conference registration form to:

Autism Society of Michigan
1213 Center Street, Suite B
Lansing, MI 48906

Or via fax at (517) 882-2816

Questions: (517) 882-2800

Michigan residents toll free (800) 223-6722

Autism National Committee

Information and Referral
Carolyn Nuyens
P.O. Box 429
Forest Knowles, CA 94933
www.autcom.org



Time to Renew or Join Today!

Annual membership begins in January

(Membership form on page 8)



THE COMMUNICATOR is a publication of the Autism National Committee, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization founded in 1990 to protect and advance the civil rights of people with Autism/Pervasive Developmental Disorder and related disorders of communication and behavior. Contributions of articles, information and letters are welcomed. The Communicator does not carry advertising or fund raising announcements, and we reserve the right to edit all submissions. Your comments are actively sought. Send them to Gail Gillingham at PO Box 11245, Main Post Office, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3K5, Canada, or e-mail her at: exgr@telus.net

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