

The Family Buzz

Bancroft's Electronic Newsletter for Family Members

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Bowling Champs!

Ernest Gabriele, John Meacham (pictured above), and Thomas Braubitz recently placed first, second and third, respectively, in their Special Olympics bowling division. The men, who live in Bancroft's Flicker Residences, will compete in a final division match on March 14 at Laurel Lanes in Maple Shade, N.J. The top three winners will then move on to the state championship on March 29. Go, Bancroft bowlers!

Upcoming Bancroft Events

2009 Southern New Jersey Walk Now

for Autism Kick Off
February 27, 2009

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Autism Speaks

Collingswood Senior Community Center

Collingswood, NJ

(856) 858-5400

Read Across America

March 2, 2009

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Haddonfield Campus, NJ

(856) 429-5637, ext. 344

Philadelphia Flower Show Trip

Flicker Residences

Monday, March 2

3:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Workshop Series

Flicker Residences

March 4, 2009

10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Researching the Basic Biology of Autism

March 11, 2009

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Autism Speaks

Biomedical Research Building
(auditorium)

Children's Hospital of

Philadelphia

(856) 858-5400

4th annual World Trade

Association of Philadelphia

Auction and Dinner

March 18, 2009

6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Quarterly Organizational Update

Our winter Organizational Update - attached below - includes the latest on our strategic planning efforts, performance improvement initiatives and Haddonfield Campus relocation. It also includes a financial update and notices of upcoming events. You may have already received Bancroft President Toni Pergolin's e-mail summary, but this attachment provides full details.

[Click here for Feb 2009 Organizational Update](#)

Important public meeting Thursday: Proposed special-ed regulation may jeopardize services

Many educators are concerned that proposed regulations could prevent children with disabilities from receiving appropriate services. A meeting on Thursday in Trenton will give parents and guardians a chance to show support, and possibly to give testimony.

The state education department regulations (NJAC 6A:23A) would provide a new role for executive county superintendents, which "undermines the IEP team decision-making process, which is provided by federal law, and could shift students with disabilities out of programs that are meeting their needs," according to ASAH, a statewide advocacy group for special education.

Thursday's meeting, hosted by the New Jersey Assembly Education Committee, will be a panel discussion on the special-education portion of the fiscal accountability code. The meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. in the State House Annex. Special Education Funding Coalition members - including ASAH, of which Bancroft is a member - will take part in the discussion. We also encourage parents and guardians to attend, although it is unclear whether the committee will accept public testimony.

Although legislative leaders and the Governor each received over 1,000 e-mails and letters, the Education Department adopted the code on an emergency basis Dec. 18. Recently, Assemblyman Joe Cryan, chair of the Assembly Education Committee, and committee vice-chair Assemblywoman Joan Voss, have been receptive to the coalition's concerns.

For a copy of ASAH's letter [click here](#). For more information, visit <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?>

Autism Speaks
Cescaphe Ballroom in
Philadelphia
For ticket information:
(856) 858-5400

Spring Party
Pediatric & Adolescent
Community Programs
March 18, 2009 (tentative)
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Nevada Group Home

Bancroft Classic Spirit
Competition
March 22, 2009
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
(856) 428-0685, ext. 103

BNH Fundraiser at
Tortilla Press
March 30, 2009
11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Tortilla Press
Please contact restaurant for
reservations:
(856) 869-3345

Hoops 4 Heart
April 09, 2009
9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Cooley Hall Gym
Haddonfield Campus, NJ
(856) 429-5637, ext. 285

Bancroft NeuroHealth's
Seventh Inclusive Ministry
Work Shop
April 19, 2009
2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Sister Krista Mote
(856) 429-5637, ext. 148

Spring Show
April 24, 2009
9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Janice Delozier
(856) 429-5637, ext. 152

[t=47qk6xcab.0.0.7n9pimcab.0&ts=S0392&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.asah.org%2F&id=preview](http://www.asah.org) or contact Gerry Thiers of ASAH at (609) 890-1400.

Tell your story - show how rate freeze can hurt

An advocacy group is seeking stories about how Bancroft has helped your family member. The goal: to put human faces on the kinds of vital services that may be cut, due to the state's freeze on rate increases. (For more on the budget cuts and their potential impact, see the item below.)

The group - the New Jersey Cost of Providing Care Coalition - represents community providers of human and social services (like Bancroft), on matters related to the state budget and funding.

The Coalition feels it is imperative that the Governor and Legislature see real people - our most vulnerable citizens - who may be hurt through additional cost-cutting.

Please send your special story to Kathy Ross at Bancroft (fax to (856) 429-1613 or e-mail to kross@bnh.org), so we can forward it to the Coalition for their consideration.

We also ask that you sign the [consent form](#), to allow us to quote from your letter directly and use your son/daughter's age, name, town, and diagnosis in the education campaign. Letters are needed by March 20.

Please use the [list of questions to guide](#) your interviews and/or responses. Letters or e-mails instead of completed questionnaires are greatly appreciated, as long as they attest to the impact of budget cuts.

Area Funding cuts worsening, advocates say

The following is an excerpt from a statement by ABCD - the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities.

Services for people with developmental disabilities have been cut again. Specifically, close to \$3.6 million are being cut from the Residential Waiting List money. The original FY'09 budget included \$12.5 million in funds (found from savings in other parts of the Division of Developmental Disabilities' budget) for the Waiting List. In January, \$4.5 million was cut from that amount and now an additional \$3.592 million). This means that of the \$12.5 million for the waiting list, only \$4.408 million is left.

In addition, \$7 million is also being cut from the Early Intervention Program. The press release from the Treasurer's office calls this "savings." ABCD received a call yesterday from the Governor's policy office giving us a heads up on this cut. We were told that a determination was made based upon review of expenditures for the current fiscal year [and] that the program did not need these funds. This cut is in addition to the \$11 million in cuts from the EI program taken in January. We have sent a note to the Department of Health and Senior Services asking for more information about these "savings."

'The governor said he would protect the most vulnerable, but that is not the case when you look at these numbers," said Lowell Arye, executive director for ABCD. Corzine said his priorities remain preserving as much funding as possible for education, public safety and the most vulnerable, but warned that next year's budget picture could be even worse.

Further recent Department of Human Services cuts include:

\$6.902 million in Needle Exchange-Savings

\$1.8 million in Alcohol Treatment Fund

\$171,000 to discontinue Camp Marcella Lead in the Commission for the Blind and Visually impaired

\$562,000 in Developmental Center Equipment-Savings

\$1 million in Information Technology in Division of Family Development

Out of the \$14 million in Department of Human Services cuts/savings, the Division of Developmental Disabilities took close to 29% of the cuts.

Bancroft in the news - Part 1

Bancroft was featured in Sunday's Philadelphia Inquirer, in a piece on efforts to help young people with autism transition to adult life. These include recent New Jersey laws that will enable:

- early diagnosis of autism
- development of screening guidelines for physicians
- creation of a statewide patient registry
- education of emergency responders to recognize developmental disabilities

The legislation will also help expand services for adults with autism. As mentioned in the story, the public is invited to an open forum on this topic by New Jersey's Adult Task Force on Autism on March 16, 6 - 8 p.m., in Lecture Hall A of the Burlington County

Human Services Facility, 795 Woodlane Rd., Mount Holly, N.J. For information, call (609) 984-3351.

[To read the Inquirer article, please click here](#)

Bancroft in the news - Part 2

Action News onChannel 6 (the Philadelphia area's ABC-TV station) included Bancroft during its HealthCheck segment on February 19th. The story focused on adults with autism and featured Megan and Michael Smetona, both of whom graduated from The Bancroft School last year. Michael continues to be served by Bancroft, in our Community Vocational Services for Adults Program.

[To view the Channel 6 segment, please click here.](#)

New health handbook for women

A Health Handbook for Women with Disabilities will help females overcome barriers and improve their general health, self-esteem, and abilities to care for themselves and participate in their communities. Download a [Spanish version here](#), or an [English version here](#), both by Hesperian Foundation.

Workshop to support religious activities

People with disabilities often struggle to participate in their religious community, due to various barriers, challenges and misconceptions. To address these issues, Bancroft holds an annual Inclusive Ministry Workshop for clergy members and other congregational leaders, family members of people with disabilities, disabilities professionals and others.

This year's gathering, scheduled for **Sunday April 19**, will feature an address by Mary Beth Walsh, Ph.D., a Catholic theologian, mother of a child with autism, and board member of the Association of Science in Autism Treatment. Her talk is titled Communities of Faith and Individuals with Autism: Perfect Together.

The workshop will also include the following presentations:

- **Supporting Siblings of Persons with Special Needs**, by Bancroft psychologists Rachel Watson and Lori Field
- **How to Build a Special-Needs Ministry**, by Rev. Bill Gaventa, M.Div., associate professor and director of

community and congregational supports at the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

- **Including People Who are Deaf**, by Sister Bonnie McMenammin of the Ministry with the Deaf and People with Disabilities of the Camden Diocese.

In addition, Rabbi Judith Abrahamson, a learning consultant from the Rabbinical College of Pennsylvania, will moderate an open discussion among workshop participants, focusing on how congregations can eliminate barriers.

The meeting will be held from 3 - 6:15 pm on Bancroft's Haddonfield campus, with registration starting at 2:30 pm. Advance registration is requested.

Please click on the link below for additional information, including how to register. If you have further questions, please contact workshop organizer Sister Krista Mote at (856) 429-5637, ext. 148, or kmote@bnh.org.

Bancroft Workshops

Bancroft will present the following seminars for parents and/or professionals. Evening workshops are in the Farrington Building (FB) on Bancroft's Haddonfield Campus. Afternoon sessions are at our Lebensfeld Center (LC) in Cherry Hill. For details and to register, call (856) 429-5637, ext. 371 or 257.

- **March 4, 6:30-8:30 pm (FB)**
Understanding Medicaid, SSI and other important entitlements
Attorney Valerie Powers Smith will discuss medical benefits available through New Jersey's Medicaid program and the Social Security Administration, including SSI benefits.
- **March 18, 3-5 pm (LC)**
Practical Applications of the Neuropsychological Assessment.
A discussion for rehabilitation professionals of the benefits and limitations of neuropsychological evaluations, and related treatment recommendations.
- **March 18, 6:30-8:30 pm (FB)**
Sexuality and People with Developmental Disabilities: Home and Community Perspectives.
A review of the sexual development of children from birth to adulthood, and educational strategies to promote understanding of physical and social/sexual changes for teenagers with disabilities.

- **April 8, 6:30-8:30 pm (FB)**
Characteristics of Autism.
A discussion of the features of autism, pervasive developmental disorder and Asperger's Disorder.
- **April 15, 3-5 pm (LC)**
Adolescent Identity after Brain Injury.
How a traumatic brain injury can affect the formation of identity in older adolescents, and how existing developmental models may apply.
- **April 22, 6:30-8:30 pm (FB)**
Introduction to ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis).
Methodology and theoretical framework of ABA, teaching techniques such as discrete trial, task analysis, chaining, reinforcement, and uses within integrated or self-contained classrooms.
- **May 20, 6:30-8:30 pm (FB)**
Introduction to Data Collection.
Including reasons to utilize data, selecting behaviors to measure, how to set-up data forms, analyzing data to measure success, and training classroom professionals in data collection.

These workshops are available to the public at no charge. Support generously provided by the TD Charitable Foundation.

Upcoming Workshops

SPAN and the state's Office of Special Education will present the following two meetings:

Transition Planning: Student Voices of Self-Advocacy Saturday, March 7

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Cherry Hill Library, 1100 Kings Highway North, Cherry Hill, NJ

Free, including continental breakfast and lunch.
Featured speakers: Sarah Vasquez & Michael Nevin

Self-determination is a critical component in transition planning for students with disabilities. Students need to participate in the process as decision-makers, problem-solvers and self-advocates. Hear from students with disabilities about key elements of the transition planning process. Student presenters will share their successes as well as lessons learned. Small group sessions will provide students and their families an opportunity to review tools

that assist students in planning for their own transition to adult life.

For more information or to arrange special accommodations, call SPAN at (973) 642-8100, ext. 123, or email start@spannj.org

Also from SPAN and the NJ Department of Education Office of Special Education Program:

**Statewide Parent Leadership Summit
Empowering Parents for Effective Leadership
Saturday, March 21**

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jamesburg, NJ 08831

The summit will offer skill-building sessions, policy forums and networking. Topics will include:

- Running for Your Local School Board
- Public Policy
- Starting and Running Education Advisory Group
- Getting to Know Your Legislators
- Effective Communication and Collaboration
- Using the Media Effectively

For more information and to register, visit <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=47qk6xcab.0.0.7n9pimcab.0&ts=S0392&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.spannj.org%2Fsummit&id=preview> or call (800) 654-SPAN (7726), ext. 111.

Parent scholarships are available.

Free Training Opportunity

The Statewide Clinical Consultation and Training Program of Trinitas Regional Medical Center is proud to present the 2009 Regional Training Series. Scheduled for March 3rd - June 25th, 2009, the training program is designed for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Service Providers, Care Coordinators and Case Managers. The training program is free, but space is limited, so register soon! [Click here](#) for additional information or to register.

Golf tourney branching out

Register now for June 1 event

This year's Bancroft Golf Tournament will have some new twists: It will be held at two courses, and a well-known Philly comic will entertain.

The June 1 outing will take place at both Tavistock Country Club near Haddonfield and Woodcrest Country Club in Cherry Hill.

Comedian Joe Conklin - known for his sports-oriented humor and celebrity impressions - will perform during the dinner. (Tickets may be purchased for the dinner portion of the event for \$100.)

By holding the event at two locations, everyone can golf at the same time - in the afternoon - and then head straight to the reception, dinner and post-golf festivities at Tavistock.

In addition to Conklin's stand-up routine and a sit-down dinner, the evening will include a cocktail hour, award presentation, and live and silent auctions. Golfers will also receive lunch during the tournament. All proceeds will benefit Bancroft programs.

Watch for more details in the next issue of Bancroft's printed "Report" newsletter. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Heidi Rixman at (856) 348-1164 or e-mail hrixman@bnh.org.

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Bancroft | 425 Kings Highway East | P.O. Box 20 | Haddonfield | NJ | 08033