

# Stephen Knolls Newsletter

Information for Parents of Stephen Knolls Students

October 2009

## PSA News

Welcome back to all of our students and welcome aboard to our new students! I hope everyone has settled in nicely to their classrooms and routines. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming PSA events:

**PSA Meeting**  
**October 19th at 9:30am**

**Movie and Pizza Night**  
**November 11th from 5pm-7pm.**

**Barnes & Noble Fundraiser (all day) and PSA Meeting at Barnes & Noble 7pm in the Children's Section downstairs**

We had a successful Community Fair and Yard Sale last Spring. It was lots of fun and we really enjoyed the multicultural band, Gibraltar. They were a wonderful addition!

We could really use your help with the various PSA events we have planned throughout the year. Please contact me if you are interested.

Thanks everyone and have a great year at our great school!

Sam Campbell  
PSA President  
samcampbelldesign@comcast.net



**Stephen Knolls School, a separate public day school, provides a Special Education Program for students who range in age from three to twenty-one years, with mild to severe cognitive deficits and multiple disabilities. Stephen Knolls School's program is a collaborative comprehensive educational service which utilizes a trans-disciplinary approach within a center-based school.**

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Families of Stephen Knolls School:



It is hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the end of the first quarter for the 2009-2010 school year. We had a great turn out at Back-to-School night and enjoyed meeting all of the families who were able to attend. We were excited to be able to provide the headphones for interpreters for the PSA meeting and our samples of the Claire's Gourmet bake goods from our fund raiser. We enjoyed meeting all of you and showing off some of the exciting changes to our building. We hope you enjoyed hearing about the coming school year from your child's teacher.

Over the summer, our Educational Leadership Team (ELT) was able to meet and update our School Improvement Plan. These monthly ELT meetings are open to everyone. Our next scheduled meeting is October 19th at 3:30pm. If you are able to attend, please call or email Tricia Skelly (Patricia\_H\_Skelly@mcpsmd.org). Your feedback and input are important to us.

The school year started out with winning the MCCPTA Volunteer Award for the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Sam Campbell and her son, Jack, joined Ms. Gail Garrett and me at the MCPS Back-to-School Fair held at the Board of Education in Rockville. We are always looking for volunteers for the classroom and for building activities. Please call or email Adriana Friedman (Adriana\_L\_Friedman@mcpsmd.org), Volunteer Coordinator, if you are able to help from home or if you are able to come in to the classrooms.



We are looking forward to our second annual "Movie Night" on November 11th. That day is an early release day parent conference day. PSA will be showing a children's movie in the gym from 5pm to 7pm. We would love for the entire family to come and enjoy the time with us. The classroom teachers will be offering a parent conference time for you on November 11th until 7pm. Please watch your child's backpack for more information.

Our annual Barnes and Noble Fundraiser will be held at the Bethesda store November 19th. PSA will be holding their November parent meeting at the store at 7pm. This will give families and opportunity to come out and enjoy the planned activities and attend an evening PSA meeting.

Our health room nurse, Ms. Robin Peters, administered the seasonal flu mist on September 23rd to the students whose parents had requested it. We are awaiting the information about H1N1 (Swine flu) and will send home information just as soon as it arrives in the school.

Our new website has been updated and has a great deal of information about our school and programs that we offer at Stephen Knolls School. Also, please check our website for up-to-date information about H1N1 precautions and any other safety information that we may have to share (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/knolls/>).

You are the most important part of your child's educational team. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Tina Shrewsbury  
Administrator/Coordinator  
Stephen Knolls School

## The Classroom Corner

### Preschool Update

With the start of the school year on September 8th for the preschool classes, all of them are hard at work learning the first important topics of the school year. The students are learning to listen and follow directions, and are getting to know their teachers, therapists, and friends in their classes. Naturally, the topic being covered in many of the classrooms pertains to school and the students have been exploring different parts of their classrooms (i.e., the circle area, block corner, dramatic play area, listening center, etc.) as well as different rooms in the school such as the gym, the cafeteria, the school office, the media center, the art room, the music room, the health room, and, most importantly, the location of bathrooms.

Another topic covered by many of the classrooms is the "school bus" and its various parts. Many classes have learned the words to the preschool favorite, "Wheels on the Bus", and are making the various sounds and motions made by the different parts of the bus (i.e., door, wipers, wheels, lights, etc.). The classes have read a variety of books related to school buses and some classes have even viewed the MCPS video, "Ride by the Rules", that shows our students the safe way to ride on the school bus. The preschool classes will be participating in a bus safety general assembly October 21st where they will have an opportunity to practice their safe ridership skills with representatives from the Randolph bus depot. On October 22nd, we will have our fall field trip to the pumpkin patch and the farm.



The preschool wants to take this opportunity to welcome the new members of the preschool team staff. Robin Matthews and Jan Schilling are our two new PEP Classic teachers. Beth Carver has also joined us to become the second PEP INC teacher and will be working with the PM PEP INC class. Maggie Briand is our new ESOL teacher. Karen Levi-Shandler and Hallie Freedman are

our two new speech-language pathologists. Mary Ann Hylander, Mary Anne Anderson, Marta Ortiz, and Maggie Iacangelo are our four new PEP INC paraeducators. Welcome to all of our new preschool staff.

### Elementary School Update

The elementary school team is excited about starting a new school year! Our team consists of Ms. Janet Rowe, Ms. Regina Robinson, Ms. Yvonne White (who is returning from maternity leave) and Ms. Cathy Hylander (Ms. White's long-term substitute). We have been busy getting to know our students and settling into our weekly schedules. Our community instruction has started. We look forward to the many learning adventures they provide which support the social studies and science topics that we will be studying this semester.

### Middle School Update

The middle school team of Mr. Rob Tarloff and Ms. Cathy Kleiler have been busy preparing the lessons to support the curriculum and the Alt-MSA assessments. Mr. Tarloff's class joined Longview at the 6th grade Outdoor Education at the Smith Center the end of September. They students were able to experience the outdoors and even take a boat ride.

### High School Update

Our high school team is Mrs. Donna Moore, Ms. Kitty Reed, Ms. Anne Donnally and Ms. Sarah Riffle. The students are off to a great start by beginning to read the adapted versions of the high school novels. They are using a multi-format approach in that they are using a traditional text, an adapted version, and a tactile version to better assist the students to comprehend what they are reading.

Again this year the Senior Class students will be baking and selling delicious Otis Spunkmyer Cookies as part of the vocational program. All proceeds collected from the weekly sales will help to fund the Senior Prom and various other projects. Watch for more information about cookie sales in the upcoming weeks.

We are also excited about getting our students started on their vocational work experiences! This year some of the worksites include the Social Security Administration, Behnke's Nursery, DSW Shoes, Old Navy and the Stephen Knolls Health Room, as well as in-school work in the vocational room.

We will also be studying the Human Body Systems in science class and exploring geometry & algebra in the world around us.

## The Media Connection



Welcome back to the Library Media Center! Our two biggest stories with which to start the new school year are our new web page and our new computer lab. If you have not seen the school web page yet, it is full of great information so go look at it right now at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/knolls/>. Also, thanks to a generous gift from the Knights of Columbus, we now have a computer lab with five computers. School-aged students visit the computer lab each week to follow up on their weekly library lesson. In addition, we have many new materials this year. We received a \$1,000 grant to update our "biographies" section, so we now have books about Christopher Reeves, Michael J. Fox, presidents, inventors, explorers, civil rights heroes and many others. Further, we have a new section of books on interactive computer disks, and a greatly expanded DVD collection. We also have a Parent Resource Room so come check us out!

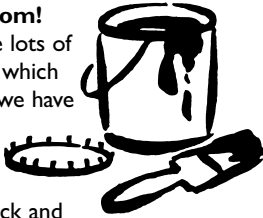


## The Supporting Arts

### Welcome Back to the Preschool Art Room!

This year we have lots of exciting projects to which to look forward as we have lots of new media to explore such as squishy clay, drippy watercolors, and thick and creamy tempera paint. Although we will be using smocks with anything that is likely to get on our clothes, Wednesdays may not be the best day to wear that brand new outfit.

In the next several weeks, we will be learning about different types of lines- straight, curved, zig-zag, and spiral. At home you can help your child find examples of these lines around the house and outside. For example, you might ask your child, "How many curved lines can you find in the living room?"



## The Therapeutic Touch

Welcome back! We hope that you had a wonderful moving summer. We are excited to be back, and share our news. All of our OT's, PT's, and SLP's are back. We are fully staffed with excellent therapists, two motor rooms, as well as, the vocational/workroom. Please visit any of these sites, see all the equipment, the programs, and the incredible work your student is doing. Therapy began on the first day of school. The students, therapists, and teachers started up where they paused in June; it has been a smooth transition. A letter was sent home with each student on the first day of school. It has the names of therapists, a permission slip for the treadmill, and a letter from each of your students' therapists. If you have not received these letters please let your teacher know. We will gladly send another letter home. Also, please remember to send in the treadmill permission slip. Most students still have a signed consent form from last year, but we do need a new one for the current school year.

This summer has been good to the therapy department. We have received numerous donations from Stephen Knolls families and from the community. We have more equipment than we can use and/or store. We would like to offer this equipment to any family that would like to take it home and use it with their student. If you have a need, please let your therapist know and we will see if we can help in any way.



## An Early Start On English!

We are having fun in preschool ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) this fall! We are working on naming body parts, talking about our family members and what we do with our family, and naming objects in a house (chair, sofa, bed, etc.). We are asking and answering short questions like "What is your name" and thinking about the letters in our names. We are also looking at stories with pictures and talking about the stories.

How you can help at home: Read to your child in your language, if possible, or in English. Talk to your child about the pictures in the book, and ask them simple questions, like "Do you see the red car? Point to it."

We hope to see you at our parent workshops on Oct 15th . Look for more information in your child's folder. For more information on ESOL in Montgomery County, check out the website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/esol/>.



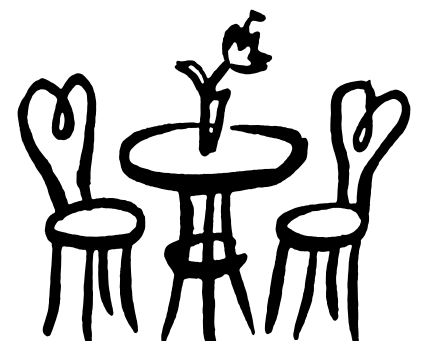
## Announcements & Acknowledgements

### Back by Popular Demand and Tasty Demand

Claire's Gourmet-Cookie dough, pizza, desserts, tasty treats and more that you can order and have on hand for all occasions. This is a fundraiser run by the staff of Stephen Knolls to raise money for the students. The person who is our top seller wins \$100.00! Thanks to all those who placed orders. <http://www.clairesgourmet.com>.

### A Harvest for the Hungry Kids Helping Kids Campaign

A food drive that benefits hungry children in Maryland is being coordinated by Ms. Anne Donnally's class. It will begin on October 19, 2009, and run through November 6, 2009. The donated food will go directly to the Maryland Food Bank which will transfer to MANNA for distribution to families in our immediate area. Further details will follow.



## Community Connections

### Legal Resources

For our school age families, please find below two websites which you may find useful as they have excellent handbooks on such topics as establishing a guardianship for your child if you are incapacitated or otherwise unable to make decisions regarding your child's care and topics regarding disability law and your child's legal rights.

<http://www.mdoa.state.md.us/documents/Guardian.htm>  
(Guardianship Handbook)

<http://www.ilru.org/dlrp/html/publications/dlh/disabilitylawhandbook.pdf>  
(Disability Law Handbook)

This Disability Law Handbook is a 50-page guide to the basics of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability related laws. Written in a Frequently Asked Questions format, The Disability Law Handbook answers questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act, the ADA Amendments Act, the Rehabilitation Act, Social Security, the Air Carrier Access Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, and the Fair Housing Act Amendments.

### Upcoming Workshops

**Oct. 15, 7:00 - 9:30 PM. Community Forum - MCPS.** Forum for parents, staff, students and other community members to offer their input on the school systems strategic plan <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/about/strategicplan/>. Each person will have 3 minutes to speak. Sign up by calling 301-279-3617 starting Sept. 25. John F Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Rd., Silver Spring. Sponsored by the MC BOE, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/community/forums/>.

**Oct. 17, 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM. Montgomery County Transitioning Youth Resource Fair.** For students with disabilities and their families, middle school through post secondary. More than 30 vendors and providers will be on hand. Drop-in workshops on social security, selecting adult providers, preparing for college or a career and more. TLC/Katherine Thomas School, 9975 Medical Research Dr., Rockville. Co-sponsored by the MC Transition Workgroup, TLC/The Treatment And Learning Centers, MCDHHS Aging and Disability Services and

Community support Network, 240-777-1216, [transitioningyouth@gmail.com](mailto:transitioningyouth@gmail.com).

**Oct. 17, 9:00 - 11:00 AM. Montgomery County NAACP Parents' Council Meeting.** Stella Werner County Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. MC NAACP Parents' Council, Yvette Butler, 301-592-8652, <http://www.naacp-mc.org/>.

**Oct. 20, 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Estate Planning for the Special Needs Family.** Workshop with Tanya Harvey will cover estate planning. Katherine Thomas School, 9975 Medical Center Dr., Rockville. Offered by M & L Special Needs Planning, LLC, register at [www.specialneedsplanning.net](http://www.specialneedsplanning.net), 202-841-8362.

**Oct. 22, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Health, Community Support & Craft Fair 2009.** Family fun and resource fair. Spates Community Club, 214 McNair Rd., Fort Myer. Sponsored by the Fort Myer Military Community Army Community Service Center, Exceptional Family Member Program and the Army National Guard Readiness Center Health, Safety and Promotion Council, Mrs. O'Connor, 703-696-3510.

**Oct. 28, 7:15 - 9:15 PM. The Rule of Three - Effective Parenting Strategies for Children with Learning and Behavioral Issues,** (4th. Wed., 7:15 PM, registration; 7:30 - 9:15 PM, Speaker). Dr. Anne Kendall is this month's featured speaker. Twinbrook Library, 202 Meadow Hall Dr., Rockville. Sponsored by CHADD of MC, [chadd100@gmail.com](mailto:chadd100@gmail.com), [www.chadd-mc.org](http://www.chadd-mc.org). \*Check website/email for other topics and Speakers.

**Nov. 4, 6:45 - 8:45 PM. Adult Road to Services and REM, Model and Autism Waivers.** One of the Educational Seminars for Family Members Caring for Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities. Learn about the waiver program eligibility and application process. Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Ave. Rockville. Sponsored by the Collaborative Outreach & Training Committee - JSSA, Mont. Co. Dept. of HHS Aging and Disability & the Arc of MC, register at 240-777-1216.

**Nov. 4, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. DDA New Directions Waiver.** Workshop for parents of children eligible for DDA funding and who will turn 21 in the next 2 years or who are already receiving supports from a DDA funded agency. ESS Bldg., Rm. 114, Greenwood

Campus, 6901 Charles St., Baltimore. Sponsored by Resource Center for Families and Schools, BCPS, registration required, Jean Considine, Parent Coordinator, 410-887-5443. Nov. 4, 7:30 - 9:00 PM. Surviving the Holidays with Safety and Sanity. Parent workshop. 22 West Jefferson St., Suite 307, Rockville. Offered by the Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center, 301-762-2414, [www.asdec.org](http://www.asdec.org).

**Dec. 2, 6:45 - 8:45 PM. Social Security Disability Benefits.** One of the Educational Seminars for Family Members Caring for Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities. Learn about the waiver program eligibility and application process. Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Ave. Rockville. Sponsored by the Collaborative Outreach & Training Committee - JSSA, Mont.

**Dec. 8, 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Navigating the Financial World of the Special Needs Family.** Katherine Thomas School, 9975 Medical Center Dr., Rockville. Offered by M & L Special Needs Planning, LLC, register at [www.specialneedsplanning.net](http://www.specialneedsplanning.net), 202-841-8362.

**Dec. 9, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee Meeting.** Parents interested in increasing parent involvement in their schools are invited to attend. Carver Educational Services Center, Rm. 127, 850 Hungerford Rd., Rockville. MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee, Elisia George, [ekjgsha@gmail.com](mailto:ekjgsha@gmail.com).

**Dec. 19, 9:00 - 11:00 AM. Montgomery County NAACP Parents' Council Meeting.** Stella Werner County Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. MC NAACP Parents' Council, Yvette Butler, 301-592-8652, <http://www.naacp-mc.org/>.

**Jan. 6, 6:45 - 8:45 PM. Housing Options.** One of the Educational Seminars for Family Members Caring for Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities. Learn about the waiver program eligibility and application process. Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Ave. Rockville. Sponsored by the Collaborative Outreach & Training Committee - JSSA, Mont. Co. Dept. of HHS Aging and Disability & the Arc of MC, register at 240-777-1216.

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**Jan. 16, 6:30 - 7:30 PM. Men in PTA.** Carver Educational Services Center, Auditorium, 850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville. MCCPTA Delegates Assembly Program, all are welcome, <http://www.mccpta.com/>.  
**Mar. 10, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee Meeting.** Parents interested in increasing parent involvement in their schools are invited to attend. Carver Educational Services Center, Rm. 127, 850 Hungerford Rd., Rockville. MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee, Elisia George, [ekjgsha@gmail.com](mailto:ekjgsha@gmail.com).

### Are you looking for a Support Group?

#### ADHD/ADD

**Speaker Meetings for Adults with and Parents of Children with ADHD,** (4th Wed., 7:15 PM, registration; 7:30 - 9:15 PM, Speaker). Twinbrook Library, 202 Meadow Hall Dr., Rockville. Sponsored by CHADD of MC, <http://www.chadd-mc.org/category/montgomery/>.  
 \*Check website/email for topic and Speaker.

#### Monthly Parent/Caregiver ADHD Support Group

(2nd Wed., 7:15-8:45 PM). Group for parents of children and/or teens with ADD. Opportunity to share and discuss concerns about their children and to receive support for managing the many challenges of raising a child with ADHD. Facilitated by experienced therapists affiliated with the Group Therapy Center at Alvord, Baker, & Assoc. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center Annex, 129 Twinbrook Pkwy, Rockville. Sponsored by CHADD of MC, Dr. Edward Spector (coordinator), 301-593-6554, ext.46, Linda NeCasro-Pastel, Parent/Coordinator, 301-603-8825, [lindanap@xcomcast.net](mailto:lindanap@xcomcast.net), <http://www.chadd-mc.org/calendar/>.

**Monthly Support Group for Parents of Children with ADHD/ADD** (2nd Wed., 7:30 - 10:00 PM). Parents of students in public and private schools are welcome. The Group provides updated educational material and resources about ADHD, parent support and parenting guidelines, discussions of issues and problems encountered by parents, and the opportunity to meet and share ideas with other parents of ADHD students. Ridgeview Middle School, Media Center, 16600 Raven Rock Rd., Gaithersburg. Facilitated by Karen Studley, RN, School Community Health Nurse, Ridgeview MS, 301-840-4780, [Karen\\_E\\_Studley@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Karen_E_Studley@mcpsmd.org) (Fall 2009).

#### Weekly "Because I Love You" Parent Support Group

(Wed., 7:30 - 9:30 PM). Parents dealing with difficult behaviors meet for mutual support and "tough love" strategies. Confidentiality maintained. Ridgeview Middle School, Teachers' Lounge, 16600 Rock Raven Rd., Gaithersburg. For more information call Karen Studley, RN, School Community Health Nurse, daytime, [Karen\\_E\\_Studley@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Karen_E_Studley@mcpsmd.org), 301-840-4780 or Rochelle evenings, 301-208-0577. Pre-registration required along with a commitment of 6 weeks. (Fall 2009)

### Asperger's & Autism

**Support Group for Parent of Children Across the Autism Spectrum,** (Mon., 7:00 - 8:15 PM). Group shares coping strategies and community resources, develops networks, and provides mutual support. 200 Wood Hill Rd., Rockville. Offered by the Jewish Social Services Agency, call Jamell White, 301-610-8361. (Oct. 5, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, 2009. Jan. 11, 2010). Participants must register monthly!

**Support Group for Parents of Children and Young Adults with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome** (2nd Thurs., 7:30 - 9:30 PM). Twinbrook Community Recreational Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville. Montgomery County Chapter of the Autism Society of America; general info, 301-652-3912; support group, Liz Roth, 301-924-2211, <http://www.autismmontgomerycounty.com/> (Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 12, 2009).

### General Disabilities/ Special Needs

**Arc of MC - Education Committee Meeting** (2nd Wed., 7:30 PM). The Arc of MC, 11600 Nebel St., Rockville. Offered by the Arc of Montgomery County Education Committee, Haydee DePaula, 301-984-5777, ext. 275 or Liz Roth, 301-924-2211 (Fall 2009).

**Army Exceptional Family Member Program Support Group,** (2nd Wed). Program open to military families to ensure that exceptional family members receive comprehensive, coordinated special needs services through the military and/or civilian community. McGill Training Center, 8425 Zimborski Ave., Fort Meade. More information contact Valerie Stanislaus, 301-677-4122.

**MAPS (Mother's Alliance for Prayer and Support),** (3rd Wed., 7:30-9:00 PM). Spiritual group for mothers of special needs kids. Come if you need moral support - this is a group to share joys and sorrows. Cloverly area, Silver Spring. MAPS, Jeanne T., 301-879-9539 (Fall 2009).

**Montgomery County Transitioning Young Adults (MCTrans)** (1st or 2nd Sat, 10 AM). A discussion and support group for families and young adults (17+) with mild to significant disabilities as they transition from school age entitlements in Maryland to adulthood. Members include families of young adults as well as interested professionals working in pre-and post-transitioning services. Meeting location varies often at MC Arc, 11600 Nebel St., Rockville. Affiliated yahoogroup located at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MCTrans/> or subscribe by sending message to [MCTrans-subscribe@yahoogroup.com](mailto:MCTrans-subscribe@yahoogroup.com). Group co-moderator - Reda Sheinberg, [rjsheinberg@yahoo.com](mailto:rjsheinberg@yahoo.com), <http://www.mctransitions.org/>

**Monthly MCPS Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting (SEAC)**- (topic of discussion) (usually 4th Thurs., 7:00-7:30 PM, open forum; 7:30-9:30 PM, speakers). These monthly meetings consist of period of public comments, Dept. of Special Education updates, and a speaker or discussion on various special education issues. These meetings are open to the public. Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Dr., Rm. 127, Rockville. Community members (parents) who wish to be included in the open forum, email or Leslie Brents, [brentswatts@earthlink.net](mailto:brentswatts@earthlink.net), Joan Sabaka, [VALNTINE20@aol.com](mailto:VALNTINE20@aol.com) or Anne Turner, [adturn88@verizon.net](mailto:adturn88@verizon.net). (Fall 2009)

**Support Group for Families of Children with Disabilities** (3rd Tues., 7:15 - 8:45 PM). Ongoing monthly group for parents and family members of children with disabilities to share joys, sorrow, hopes and fears, coping mechanisms and strategies for living for today and planning for the future. JSSA, 6123 Montrose Rd., Rockville. Jewish Social Service Agency, Martha Mervis, LCSW, 301-610-8371. (Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, 2009, Jan. 19, 2010). Pre-registration required.

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**Support Group for Families of Children with Disabilities** (1st Wed., 10:30 - 11:30 AM). Ongoing monthly group for parents and family members of children with disabilities to share joys, sorrow, hopes and fears, coping mechanisms and strategies for living for today and planning for the future. 200 Wood Hill Rd., Rockville. Jewish Social Service Agency, Ruth Berger, LGSW, 301-610-8357. (Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, 2009, Jan. 6, 2010). Pre-registration required.

### Self-Improvement

**Divorce-Separation Support Group**, (10 Wed., 7:00 - 8:30 PM). For women contemplating or experiencing a separation or divorce, led by a therapist. NFRC, 932 Hungerford Dr., Suite 9-B, Rockville. Sponsored by National Family Resiliency Center, 301-384-0079. (2009, call for days & times)

**Hearing Loss Association of Montgomery County Support Group**, (3rd Tues., 7:30-9:00 PM). Chapter provides support, education and access promotion for people with hearing loss. Rockville Library, 2nd floor meeting room, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Sponsored by the Hearing Loss Assn. of Montgomery County, <http://www.mcshhh.org/>, Joan Kleinrock at 301-493-8343 (V), [joankleinrock@comcast.net](mailto:joankleinrock@comcast.net)

**New Hope Job Search Support Group** (2nd & 4th Wed., 7:30 -9:00 PM). Free assistance provided in job search, resume writing and interview skills. St. Rose of Lima Parish Center, Lewis Rm., 11701 Clopper Rd., Gaithersburg. Call 301-948-7545, ext. 226, <http://www.workministry.com/fbggroups/md/strose/>.

**Monthly Attachment Parenting Support**, (2nd Sun., 3:30-5:50 PM). For all ages. Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave., Takoma Park. Sponsored by the Takoma Attachment Parenting, Inc., 301-864-1889, <http://www.takoma-ap.org/> (check for monthly discussion topics).

**Parents Without Partners**. Offers family events, discussions and adult socials. Chapter 60 covers Montgomery, Frederick, and Northern Prince George's Counties, Columbia and Washington, D.C., Carl, 301-977-1767, [www.pwp60.org](http://www.pwp60.org)

### Special Education/Advocacy

**MCNeeds Meeting** (1st Sun., 4:00 - 6:00 PM). Network/support/ advocacy group of parents with children with special needs in Montgomery County. Meets quarterly. Check Yahoo group or website for details. Chicken Out, 1560 Rockville Pk., Rockville. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MCneeds>, [www.MCneeds.org](http://www.MCneeds.org).

**Monthly Moms Lunch Out** (3rd Thurs., 11:30 AM). Moms of kids with special needs get together for lunch or just a cup of coffee and share and support each other. Rockville or Olney. Laura Swerdlin, [lauarswerderlin@comcast.net](mailto:lauarswerderlin@comcast.net), please RSVP with name, phone number (Fall 2009).

**Monthly Moms Night Out** (1st Thurs., 7:30 PM.). Moms of kids with special needs get together for dinner or just a cup of coffee and share and support each other. Rockville or Olney. Laura Swerdlin, [lauarswerderlin@comcast.net](mailto:lauarswerderlin@comcast.net), please RSVP with name, phone number to make reservations (Fall 2009).

### Specific Diagnosis

**CP Parents**. Provides a personal parent to parent type support network for parents of children with Cerebral Palsy. The list serve is open to all residents of Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and D.C. Make new friends, share your experiences and trade ideas. Monthly gatherings in select areas. [CPPARENTSVA-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:CPPARENTSVA-subscribe@yahoo.com), more information by contacting Melissa Curry, [Mbcurry01@verizon.net](mailto:Mbcurry01@verizon.net) or [CPPARENTSVA-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:CPPARENTSVA-owner@yahoo.com), <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CPARENTSVA/> (2009)

**Down Syndrome, Network of Montgomery County**. (1st Mon., 7:30 PM). Support and informational meetings. Consider joining the Yahoo group - at [dsnmc@yahoo.com](mailto:dsnmc@yahoo.com). Arc of MC, 11600 Nebel St., Rockville. DSNMC info-line, 301-916-4985 (9am - 10PM), <http://www.dsnmc.org/> (2009).

**Metro Area Support Group for Those Dealing with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders** (every other month 3rd Sat., 1:00-3:00 PM, 3rd Tues., 1:00-3:00 PM). This group is for people with the condition, their families and friends and interested health care professionals. Holy Cross Hospital, 1500 Forest Glen Rd., Private

Dining Rm., #1, Silver Spring. Sponsored by the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Dr. Erin Frey, 202-785-4585, [frey@nofas.org](mailto:frey@nofas.org), [www.nofas.org](http://www.nofas.org).

**Fragile X Resource Group**, (2nd Sat., every third month, 3:00 - 4:30 PM). Neelsville Presbyterian Church, 20701 Frederick Rd, Germantown. Sponsored by the Maryland Fragile X Resource Group, Kristen Head, [kmhead129@aol.com](mailto:kmhead129@aol.com), 301-926-0576, [www.mdfragilex.org](http://www.mdfragilex.org), for childcare contact Melissa Blount, [fraxmom@gmail.com](mailto:fraxmom@gmail.com).

**Monthly Custom Hearts/Mended Little Hearts of DC Support Program**, (3rd Tues., 7 - 9 PM). Support group for parents of children with heart defects and heart disease. Ronald McDonald House of DC, 1326 Quincy St., NE Washington DC. Sponsored by Custom Hearts, Kristin or Jennifer, 443-235-0943, 410-980-1190, [customhearts@gmail.com](mailto:customhearts@gmail.com), [www.customhearts.org](http://www.customhearts.org) (2009)

**Insulin Dependent Diabetes, Family Support Group for Children with Type I Diabetes** (1st Thurs., 7:00 PM). These meetings will provide an opportunity for families coping with Type I diabetes to learn about the latest research, new equipment and general health information and to network with other families. Children are welcome. Montgomery General Hospital, 18111 Prince Philip Dr., Olney. Sponsored by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Joyce Charles, 301-774-8727, [www.jdrfcapitol.org](http://www.jdrfcapitol.org). (Fall 2009)

**Support Group for Parents of Children with Sensory Processing Disorder** (2nd Wed., 7:00 - 8:30 PM) Location to be determined. Sponsored by the KID Foundation, hosted by Howard Pollock & Frandi Mars, 301-570-3393, [My\\_rye\\_rye@yahoo.com](mailto:My_rye_rye@yahoo.com), [www.kidfoundation.org](http://www.kidfoundation.org). Call or email to confirm meeting location. (Fall 2009).

**Tourette Syndrome Support Group Montgomery/Howard County** (TBD). TBD. Sponsored by the Tourette Syndrome Association of Greater Washington (TSAGW), 301-681-4133, [tsagw@aol.com](mailto:tsagw@aol.com), [www.tsagw.org/](http://www.tsagw.org/)

