

*Election results from pg. 3*

**Elizabeth Hoenshell**, secretary. Elizabeth describes herself as a high-functioning autistic lady. She became involved with ASQC shortly after attending an Autism Society of America convention in Milwaukee. She has been a member of ASQC for nine years and has served on the board of directors since 2000. She is a volunteer office assistant for the Center for Active Seniors Inc. in Davenport. Among her responsibilities are updating databases, sorting materials from packets and typing documents. She hopes to invite author Jodee Blanco, who wrote "Please Stop Laughing at Me," to the Quad-Cities to talk to students about the importance of treating one another the way they want to be treated.

**Lyndon Heiselman**, treasurer. Lyndon and his family live in the Iowa Quad-Cities. He and his wife, Linda, have an 11-year-old son who has a diagnosis of autism. Lyndon works as an accountant. He has been a member of the ASQC for six years and has served as treasurer on the board of directors for five years.

**Tom Crane**, board member. Tom is a retired lawyer who lives in Davenport. He is presently a member of the board of directors of the ASQC. He has a son with autism who lives and works at the Handicapped Development Center in Davenport. Tom is the treasurer of the HDC Boosters and serves on the Scott County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Committee, which advises the Board of Supervisors on the MH.DD budget in Scott County.

**Kathy Sivill**, board member: Kathy resides in Illinois and is employed by the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (AEA) as the team leader for the Autism Resource Team serving educational teams in 22 school districts in Iowa. While employed with the AEA the past 19 years, Kathy also has held

positions as a speech/language pathologist assigned to Davenport schools and as a founding member of the assistive technology team. Prior employment at the Opportunity Center in Moline, Rock Island Public Schools and the former Easter Seal Foundation in Moline, have added to Kathy's 30 years of experience serving individuals from birth to adult within a broad range of disabilities. She has served on the board of directors of ASQC for two years and as its vice president for one year. Kathy continues to seek understanding of and provide support to individuals living with the unique strengths and challenges of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Dr. Stacey Skoning**, board member. Stacey is an assistant professor in the education department at Augustana College, Rock Island. She received her BSEd and MEd in Special Education from Northern Illinois University. The focus of her master's degree was Autism and included much study of the use of facilitated communication by individuals who are non-verbal. After teaching special education in Illinois public schools, she completed her PhD in curriculum and instruction at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. The focus of her dissertation was inclusive education. In particular, she looked at the relationship between teachers' beliefs, knowledge and classroom practices and how that supported or hindered inclusive experiences for children with various disabilities. Subsequently, she taught in inclusive classrooms, developing new methods to meet the needs of various learners, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and has provided staff development around those topics. Since moving to Rock Island, she has been a presenter at the 2004 ASQC Fall Symposium and has spoken with parent support groups. She is editor of IN (Inclusive News), a quarterly publication that focuses on creating inclusive school communities. As a current member of the ASA, she looks forward to continuing collaboration with families and educators who support those with Autism Spectrum Disorders in inclusive communities.



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Quad Cities Chapter  
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## News from the Arc of Scott County

By Tina Harper

It's almost impossible to believe that season has arrived when we announce our programs for the Arc of Scott County. Some of you may remember that in our spring newsletter I announced I was resigning as president to allow someone else with new ideas to step forward. No one took that step. Faced with a decision to discontinue our organization, I chose to continue in an unofficial capacity. The rest of our board also is committed to remaining involved as we begin our 50-something season of advocacy and referral.

The motivating factor for all of us involved with the Arc is simply the love we have for our children. Twenty-five years ago I never envisioned that my son would be identified as disabled. A beautiful baby with no noticeable differences, it was not until he was a toddler that he was identified as a child with developmental delays that included mental retardation. The journey that we've taken has been filled with success, heartache, failure, infinite joy and constant change. I became involved with the Arc during Brennan's childhood and learned early on that as a parent I would always be his number one advocate.

The Arc for a half-century has been the largest, most powerful lobbying organization on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Without the Arc, our children might still be relegated to the basements of churches for their education. More than ever we need to remain involved. Congress is proposing to cut \$10 billion from the Medicaid budgets in 2006; advocacy groups say that would result in long waiting lists for medically needy services.

Parents who have children born today with special needs are complacent. Their children attend local schools, participate in regular sports and have access to respite and jobs and community services. The "older parents" were pioneers who fought the system to ensure equal rights for their children. With cuts in the budget, those rights could be easily taken away. Get involved, know your politicians, be the voice we need to continue improving our children's lives and ensure that they have access to all this wonderful world holds. Please join the Arc and be that voice of change!

## News from the President of the Autism Society of the Quad Cities

By Barb Arland-Fye

Steven Laughlin of Bettendorf is the new president of the Autism Society of the Quad Cities. He and his wife, Gina, the society's past president, are parents of a 13-year-old son, Dustin, who has an Autism Spectrum Disorder. They also have a daughter, Hailey, 9.

"When my wife, Gina, became involved in ASQC, I witnessed the tremendous amount of energy and effort it takes to make everything work. That got me interested in pitching in. It seemed like the organization was doing the same amount or more work with fewer people.

"I wanted to try to see if I could inspire other people to join ASQC, and to work with us to make it a strong, visible, vital organization. I'd like to see more dads get involved. This is important work that we're doing to help those who need us to be their advocates."

Steven shares these thoughts about his goals for the coming year:

I would like to see much more public exposure for our organization. We want the public to know who we are and what we do.

We'll do that through local community events, such as parades, fun days, picnics and symposiums, as well as through educational

organizations such as the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency and local schools.

I think we ought to have a membership drive to get more people involved in the Autism Society of the Quad Cities and the Autism Society of America.

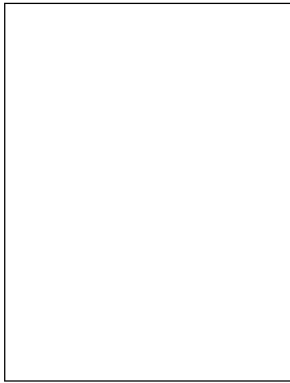
We can't provide direct services to people, but we can provide information and referral services. We can point them in the right direction to find the appropriate services and service providers. We need to make people aware of the opportunities and resources available to people within the Autism Spectrum, their families and educators and other supporters. We can show people how to educate themselves about resources for dealing effectively with challenges and questions.

We can also help organizations -- such as police departments, hospitals, medical clinics and dentist offices -- become educated about dealing with people with autism.

We want to be able to help the public as well as the private sector. We can also help those providing respite services to locate training opportunities.

# A salute to Gail Karp

By Barb Arland-Fye



Feb. 6, 1986. "I'll never forget that day," says Gail Karp, remembering when she and her husband, Rabbi Henry Karp, received a diagnosis of autism for their only son, Josh.

The Karps, of Davenport, had suspected their son might have autism; their suspicions were confirmed at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Gail began gathering information on autism and searching for peer emotional support. She joined the Autism Society of America and later, the Autism Society of the Quad-Cities (ASQC). Professionally trained as a cantor, Gail's passage through the perplexing maze of autism introduced her to a new world of language and knowledge, helped her come to terms with grief, fostered camaraderie, enhanced her networking skills and propelled her into the role of advocate – not only for Josh, but for the wider community of people with autism and their families.

Twice she has served as president of ASQC -- in the past 15 years -- she also has served as the organization's vice president. At the state level, she has served as a board member of the Autism Society of Iowa and as chairperson of the Autism Advocacy Network. She chaired its by-laws committee when Sally Pederson, now

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Iowa's lieutenant governor, was president of the Autism Society of Iowa. Gail served on numerous committees of the Autism Society of America, and was a vice president of the national organization, as well.

She convinced the Quad-City chapter to pursue separate incorporation to serve the unique needs of the local community.

The greatest benefit of being an ASQC member, Gail says, is "the opportunity and responsibility of being there for other parents as they work through their understanding and their acceptance of the diagnosis of autism."

For the first time in years, Gail is not serving on ASQC's board; she felt it was important for newer members to take on leadership roles. The foundation of her leadership remains a

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Tom Crane, ASQC board member

very real presence within the local chapter.

"I first met Gail 20 years ago when her son was a toddler. She was an advocate for families at that time," recalls Kathy Sivill, an ASQC board member and leader of the Autism Resource Team for the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency.

"Gail progressed from advocacy for her child to advocacy for families at the local and national level. She supported the local chapter of the Autism Society and strived to increase awareness and understanding of the issues facing individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.

"As Gail was departing the ASQC board and passing on her personal materials to the local chapter, she said 'You know, Kathy, this will always be my first love.'

"Gail's presence and guidance encouraged the local chapter to think beyond personal needs and toward the national issues that would positively impact all of our children with ASD and their families," Kathy says.

Tom Crane, an ASQC board member, and his wife, Jo Ann, first met Gail when their son, Matt, was a young boy getting started in special education in the Davenport school system. "I remember thinking then that 'this woman is really intense,'" Tom recalls. "She had a single-minded devotion to the cause of persons with autism. She got me to join the ASQC Board of Directors a couple of years ago — no easy task, believe me. She has been a great asset to the autism care community."

Dorothy Barchman, who served as ASQC treasurer for a number of years, describes Gail as "energetic, devoted to the cause and who has a pleasant personality." Dorothy and her husband, Walter, are parents of Dale, an adult with autism. Walter says Gail is "always looking for some way to help somebody."

Gail once nominated Dorothy, a diehard Democrat, for a state volunteerism award, which she won, during the administration of Republican Governor Terry Branstad. Gail even mentioned Dorothy's work with the Democratic Party in the application process. "She's good at writing up things!" Dorothy laughs.

Gail, however, is not interested in seeking publicity or accolades for herself. In a matter-of-fact way she lists her contributions to the Autism Society of the Quad Cities as grant-writing, networking and public awareness — through symposiums, the newsletter and lobbying the legislature. She also helped shore up the organization's finances.

"I think we've gained the respect of the other parent support groups and have continued to work collaboratively within the community. I think I've also brought an advocacy voice as it relates to systems, policy ... I have an historical perspective of long-term issues and needs within our community," she reflects.

And she's still advocating for Josh, who is now 22. "I am having my eyes opened as to what is involved in transitioning a young adult from high school to the adult setting."

Autism "has made me more sensitive or aware of how important it is to build an inclusive and diverse community. A rising tide raises all boats. What is good for my son with a disability also creates a warm and welcoming environment for other people who experience discrimination in some way."

## Support Group speakers

The Autism Spectrum Support Group meetings are held at 7 pm. the first Thursday of the month in Community of Joy Church, 1330 Spruce Hills Dr., Bettendorf.

If you have any questions, call Lisa Black at (563) 285-6349 or Mary Larson at (563) 323-5309. Please call if child care might be needed. The following is a list of meeting dates and speakers scheduled through the end of this year:

Nov. 3 -- Lori Reynolds from the Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health will speak about the various stages of the grieving process as it relates to the challenges of a child with special needs. She will discuss coping skills for parents.

Dec. 1 -- Lindsay Schlicksup, MOT, OTR/L, will talk about the Therapeutic Listening program. Lindsay is an occupational therapist with Genesis Outpatient Therapy. Therapeutic listening is a sensory integrative treatment approach that has traditionally been used to help children who are challenged by difficulties with movement, auditory perception, language and/ or learning.

## Sled Hockey

Sled Hockey, an exhilarating ice sport ideal for people of all abilities, is offered each Sunday through Nov. 20 at the Quad-City Sports Center in Davenport, near John O'Donnell Stadium. The action begins at 4:15 p.m. We can always use buddies and coaches.

## Hand In Hand Fall Programs:

**Girl Scouts:** For girls with special needs who enjoy traditional Girl Scout learning and fun. Young adults can also participate and assist as volunteers.

**Food, Friends and Fun:** Food preparation and social skill are gained in a fun environment. This program is especially popular for teens and young adults.

**Movie and Popcorn:** Children enjoy several age-appropriate movie and activity choices.

**Also available:** Community services information, childcare options, schools-off days and overnights activities.

Hand In Hand's facility is Tessa's Place in Bettendorf. For more information about programs, call Molly at (563) 332-8010.

## Halloween Party

Hand In Hand will host this event from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28. Lourdes Catholic School's eighth grade will provide a variety of fun activities for individuals with special needs and their families. Snacks and prizes are available for you and your caregiver. Please RSVP at (563) 359-0520 and come dressed in costume and ready for fun.

## Christmas Party

Arc of Scott County is hosting its annual Christmas party from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, at the Bettendorf Community Center, 2204 Grant St. Join the fun! The Gehlson Brothers will perform; pizza and pop will be served and special entertainment will be provided.

## Hand In Hand Dates For 2006

Bowling League: 4 p.m. Mondays, beginning Jan. 9, at Miller Time Bowling, Davenport.

Special Needs Expo: Saturday April 1, 2006

Camp Hand In Hand 2006: Registration is April 1, with camp running July 17-28.

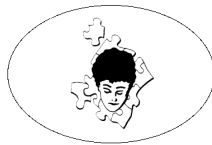
## Autism Society of the Quad Cities election results

The following individuals were elected to the Board of Directors of the Autism Society of the Quad Cities (ASQC) during the organization's annual meeting June 7, 2005, at Crooner's Restaurant in Moline:

**Steven Laughlin**, president. Steven is the parent of a 13-year-old son with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Steven and his family reside in Bettendorf. He is employed at the Cordova Nuclear Plant as a diesel engineer. Steven has been a member of ASA and ASQC for nine years. He has assisted with various community activities and projects sponsored by the ASQC and supported his wife, Gina, during her tenure as a board member of ASQC and as its immediate past president and organizer of the ASQC Parent Support Group.

**Mary Larson**, vice president. Mary has lived in Davenport for seven years. She works part-time for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans as an administrative assistant. Her 8-year-old son and 6-year-old twin daughters have all been diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum. After attending the 2004 spring symposium hosted by the ASQC, she became involved in the support group and has enjoyed and benefited greatly from meeting parents of children affected by autism. She strives to reach out to other parents to help guide them and support them in availing themselves of services through schools, waivers and therapies.

*Election results cont. pg. 4*



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### Mailing List/Membership Information Form

- My address has changed.       Please send an information packet to:
- Please send me information about membership in the Autism Society of America - Autism Society of the Quad Cities.      Address:
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