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*LDA does not endorse or assume responsibility for any service, treatment, method, or product provided by this newsletter. Such listings are presented solely for the reader's*

## Demystifying Testing

A FREE Interactive Workshop on Understanding and Making Use of Neuropsychological Testing

**Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

at the Rockville Memorial Library meeting room  
21 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Maryland 20850

LDAMC is pleased to present a lively discussion about the testing process. This interactive workshop guides participants through the process of obtaining a neuropsychological assessment and how to best use the results. Bring your questions about your student's academic performance, classroom and home behavior and explore problem solving strategies.



Lorrie Ness, Ph.D.

Lorrie Ness, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist, specializing in the assessment and treatment of learning disabilities, AD/HD and autism spectrum disorders.



Janette Patterson, MSW, LCMFT

Janette Patterson, MSW, LCMFT, is a licensed clinical family therapist specializing in the treatment of AD/HD and complex parenting issues.

**Please RSVP to LDAMC to reserve your space at this event (seating limited).**  
ldamcpc@yahoo.com or 301-933-1076

## House: The Tree after Neat Hair Cut

By Ryo Shinomiya,  
8<sup>th</sup> grader, Siena School

When I went to Japan for New Year's Holiday, I saw a tree which was neatly trimmed in front of a temple. I felt that the tree and colorful banners were ready to welcome the new coming year.



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# Bulletin Board



## Welcome New Members!!!



Mona Derrick  
April Giandomenico  
Colleen Hanley  
Michael Shuman

## Thank you to our Donors!

Patti Twigg

## President's Message: November

Last February I attended the national LDA conference in Chicago and was wowed by the workshops that I participated in. As a former special educator, I was used to going to professional conferences and learning about the latest trends, newest strategies, and state-of-the-art materials that would help me in the classroom, but now I was more interested in learning about the young adults who managed to make it through the K-12 system and were now maneuvering college and/or the work world. I attended every workshop that was about success and there were many stories of determination, motivation, perseverance, and triumph. Each storyteller talked about a parent who believed in him, a teacher who was willing to use strategies that worked, a peer who stood up for her, or resources that made learning more efficient, and sometimes easier. I left the conference feeling uplifted by these anecdotal experiences.

A few weeks ago, I went to the art exhibit put on by the students at the Chelsea School, and again was amazed by the success of each student, who found a way to express themselves through creativity. This year, LDAMC will be displaying artwork from both the Chelsea School and Siena Schools, portraying more success stories. We all want to hear more stories of triumph, to feel hope for our students and community, and to believe that the future will be better for people with disabilities. Please join us at our monthly events, and share your own stories of challenges overcome, obstacles averted, and problems solved. I look forward to meeting you and listening to your story!

## GTLD Network and CHADD presents Taming the Transitions

Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012  
12:30 pm – 5 pm

Hosted by the McLean School of Maryland, 8224  
Lochinver Lane, Potomac, Md. 20854

Keynote address by Dr. Dan Shapiro who addresses this multi-faceted, life-long issue for students with ADHD and other learning challenges.

**\$30 (\$15 for LDAMC members)**

For more info: [sarah.wayland@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.wayland@gmail.com)

**MEET Dr. Joshua Starr,**  
Superintendent MCPS to discuss Special  
Education. Q&A



**Monday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
7 p.m.**

Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium,  
850 Hungerford Dr. Rockville, Md.  
Babysitting services provided.

MCPS sponsored –

### Next Steps Series Workshops in November:

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Postsecondary Education  
Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. – Guardianship and Health  
Care Planning & Social Security income information.

Earle B. Wood Middle School Cafeteria,  
14615 Bauer Dr. Rockville, Md.

Contact: 301-517-8278

## BECOME A MEMBER OF LDAMC

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 Professional  LD Adult  Other



## Hangout Hive Buzz, November 2012

By: Coco Palomeque, Life Skills Coach and  
Facilitator for the Hangout Hive.

The Transitioning Youth Resource Fair at Montgomery College earlier this month presented an opportunity for Hangout Hive (HH) members to participate in a Young Adult Panel where they, together with other participants, talked about their post-secondary education and career choices.

Renee Sarota and Walter Gans were scheduled to present. Stephen Hosmer and Jeff Bleicher were introduced as members of the HH and they shared a few words of their own regarding their experiences in life and their membership in the HH. We hope they can be the HH panelists for the Young Adult Panel next year. Carla Shipp was introduced as the President of the HH and she was busy, at the conclusion of the Panel, attending to requests for information from the audience.

All presentations were well done and very moving.

Panelists talked about the efforts and difficulties they have encountered while in school, finding employment, living independently or at their current jobs. They also shared with the audience how they have overcome the difficulties by working hard, keeping their eyes on their goal and never giving up



One young man told us how it took him two years to find employment until he was given the opportunity to work as a janitor for a small company. He told us that he was proud and happy to have his job, but that after a year and a half, he thought it was time to “move on” so he again put his mind to it and found another job which paid more money. As a result, he was able to find an apartment and live on his own. His closing statement was a lesson for all of us: “like in the Magical Kingdom of Disney, dreams do come true, you just have to believe”.

Another young woman told us how she has worked hard all her life to do well in school and complete her education in spite of her learning disabilities. She said that living independently was of outmost importance to her. To achieve

that goal she took classes and participated in life skills courses to prepare herself for the time when she will be living in her own place.

One participant spoke of the horrors he faced whenever he needed to speak or interact with others in a public setting and how he worked hard to overcome his fears, proof of which was the fact that he was standing in a room full of people giving a presentation.

Our own Renee spoke of her desires to work for a nursery school because she loves children. She keeps applying to different job posts to meet her goal to find work. Good luck to her in her search!

Walter Gans spoke about his Aspergers and ADHD condition and how he has learned that it is very important to work in an environment that allows you to thrive and not to get bogged down in situations where, because of your disability, you could never be happy. He advised all of us to look for what really makes us happy and never give up the search.

It was truly an honor to be there as a facilitator to hear what this group of exceptional young people had to say. I think that we all walked out of that room wiser and with renewed energy to pursue our dreams.

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## Prevent Specific Learning Disabilities --International Expert Recommends EDC Thyroid Testing for All Teen Daughters

by Edith Peter

Dr. Larry Silver, a leading expert on ADHD and learning disabilities, recently announced that EDCs in the thyroid gland are one of the causes of specific learning disabilities. In the past fifty years, lead, alcohol, and smoke were considered the major threats to the wellbeing of an unborn child in the first trimester of pregnancy. EDCs within the thyroid gland have also been added to the list.

Healthy Child, a nonprofit organization, is currently trying to get congress to pass legislation to ban harmful ingredients in the average American family's home. Some of these harmful ingredients, such as plastic toys, air fresheners, cleaning products, knife sharpeners, store receipts, cosmetics, among others, are called Endocrine Disruptor Chemicals (EDCs) that mimic healthy hormones and are cumulative in the human body. The elimination of toxins in our environment seems very tricky and will be pricey.



Supervising adults who care for children in any capacity, from parent to teacher, will be startled to learn that EDCs act as hormone imposter toxins in the thyroid gland during pregnancy. EDCs lower a healthy output of natural, non-synthetic hormones produced by the thyroid gland that are located in the neck. Often women are unaware that they are pregnant during the first trimester, and therefore are exposed to EDCs in their daily life.



According to Dr. Silver, thyroid wellness exams for girls prior to child bearing age are a necessary precaution, as diminished thyroid hormone levels

impede healthy developmental processes. This is a subject that some of our members may want to learn more about and choose to be advocates for banning EDCs in our environment.

"Normal prenatal brain development is highly dependent on thyroid hormones from both the mother and the developing fetus. An insufficient supply of thyroid hormone can cause lower intelligence, higher rates of attention deficit disorders, and problems with motor coordination, balance, and other problems with other psychomotor skills."-- (Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative, September 2009).

Contact Edith Marshall Peter at  
[edithmpeter@verizon.net](mailto:edithmpeter@verizon.net)

LDAMC's NEW Online Calendar of Events!  
[www.ldamc.org](http://www.ldamc.org) -- click on "Community Calendar"

# Hello.

## New "Dyslexic Friendly" Font – OPEN-DYSLEXIC

available to download for free.

More about OPEN-DYSLEXIC on [www.ldamc.org](http://www.ldamc.org)

Dyslexia is one of those things that is really difficult to fully grasp, unless you have it. The term applies to a fairly wide umbrella of possible issues, so there's rarely any single solution for the variety of symptoms. The most common issue that is discussed is difficulty reading. For some it seems like words or letters are out of place or crooked, making it very difficult to read with any measurable speed or accuracy. By adulthood many are able to force a measure of success in reading, but I've never met anyone who didn't admit to still struggling with words on a regular basis.

With so much of our daily reading being on computers now, there are several fonts out there that claim to be "dyslexic friendly". The most interesting of the ones I have found so far is Open-Dyslexic.

Article found on [Geek.com](http://Geek.com)

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# Wrightslaw in Montgomery County

By Judy Lantz

Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Conference was held on Thursday, October 18 at the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza. Parents Place of Maryland (PPMD) sponsored the event. Parents, educators, healthcare providers, advocates and attorneys who represent children with disabilities regarding special education attended. Peter Wright trained 250 participants (80% were first timers) from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm that day. He kept the audience spellbound listening and highlighting Special Education Law with his points at a fast pace. Peter began with a preliminary Quiz to establish an Initial Baseline “PreTest” and concluded with a “Final Exam”. Everyone also received 2 other books From Emotions to Advocacy and All About IEPs that he co-authored with his wife, Pamela Darr Wright. To order any of them and find future conference dates look at [www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)

Special education activists from approximately 10 states heard Peter train on IDEA (Individuals with Disability Education Act). This federal law explains, defines and defends the rights of students with learning disabilities (and all others disabilities). It’s what defines the SLD (Specific Learning Disability) under federal law. ADD/ADHD are covered under “Other health impairment” in IDEA.

Ellen Callegary, a Maryland special education attorney, spoke briefly about the Code of Maryland (COMAR). She used a handout Parallel Citations For State/Federal IDEA 2004 Regulations saying the numbers are different between the Federal Laws and the Maryland State Laws but the information comparable. The exception is that Maryland has **short term goals and benchmarks** and an **anti-bullying statute** that the federal law does not.

In March 2012, her law firm of Callegary & Steedman published Special Education: A Maryland Handbook 2012. This 46 page booklet has 8 chapters specific to Maryland law. It is not a substitute for individualized legal advice. A free copy is available by contacting Ellen’s office. It is also available on the website

[www.callegarysteedman.com](http://www.callegarysteedman.com). COMAR and the Parallel Citations, mentioned above, are there as well. Ellen and her partner Wayne Steedman have a Rockville office in addition to their office in Baltimore. It is 50 West Montgomery Avenue, Suite 200, Rockville 20850.

Parent’s Place staff organized the Conference extremely well. They are to be commended. It was flawless in execution from choosing the venue and lunch caterer to planning 10 CEUs available from the University of Missouri-Kansas City for \$10.80.

#### LDAMC Officers:

Ruth Brodsky, President  
Bonnie Massimino, Vice President & Professional Resource Lists  
Phyllis Forman, Recording Secretary  
Joyce Sampson, Corresponding Secretary  
Kitty Hollister, Treasurer  
Judy Lantz, Past President

#### Committee Chairs:

Bonnie Massimino - Media & Helpline Phones  
Kathy Ryan - Calendar, Yahoo, LDA-MD Sec.  
Rita Furst Seifert - Membership  
Joyce Sampson - Newsletter  
Susan Healy – Website & Special Projects  
Edith Peter – LDA-MC rep. to LDA-MD

#### LDA of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

LDAMC has served the community since 1965. We are a 501-c-3 non-profit registered in Maryland. LDAMC’s mission is to provide awareness, advocacy, and education about Learning Disabilities. We are a volunteer organization, affiliated with LDA-MD and LDA of America. Elected officers and a Board of Directors, under the guidance of the national organization, determine local policies and procedures.



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## Response to Intervention – Dream or Nightmare?

### Confronting the Crisis in Special (and Regular) Education and What We Can Do About It!

*This is the first part of an insightful article about RTI (Response to Intervention) from Matt Cohen, a lawyer in Chicago and founder of the Chicago law firm Matt Cohen & Associates LLC.*

Response to Intervention (RTI) is an educational strategy that has been incorporated in the federal special education law as an option for serving students at risk academically, especially for students suspected of having learning disabilities. It is intended to provide extra support to students that are struggling academically in regular education that might otherwise be referred for special education evaluation due to the suspicion that they may have a learning disability and require special education.

The basic idea is to provide short-term (8-12 weeks), intensive, scientifically-based educational intervention in the area of difficulty and to carefully monitor, week by week, the child's progress to see how they respond to the intervention. If the student responds well to the intervention, as reflected in the data, it is surmised that the student's academic problems were due to a problem with inadequate instruction, rather than being due to a learning disability. As a result, some and perhaps many students that were being placed in special education due to underachievement, rather than due to a learning disability, could get the boost they needed to get on track, without being subjected to unnecessary evaluation or being placed in special education inappropriately.

As an attorney representing many children with disabilities, including many with learning disabilities, I believe Response to Intervention represents a potentially promising educational strategy in concept and in practice for some children that might otherwise be misplaced in special education. **At the same time, I also see it as the one of the greatest threats to effective and timely identification and education for children with disabilities, particularly LD, and potentially a serious misuse of time and resources for many regular education students without disabilities as well.** There is a continuing debate about RTI within the educational and disability rights community, as the implementation of RTI gains momentum and its impact, positive and negative, becomes more apparent. This debate occurs simultaneously with a further challenge, as the disability rights community

fights a holding action to preserve existing, albeit inadequate, special education services and safeguards and to regain some of the protections and services that are being progressively stripped away.

#### \*\*\*IMPORTANT ADVOCACY TIP\*\*\*

**Parents have the right to request an evaluation at any time in any public school. Denial of referral for evaluation based on RTI data should trigger a prior written notice to parents of the school's decision to decline evaluation, the reasons for refusal and provision of notice to parents of their procedural rights.**

Available on LDAMC's website:

[www.ldamc.org](http://www.ldamc.org)

- A copy of Maryland's Procedural Rights**
- A Memorandum, "RTI Process Cannot be Used to Delay or Deny an Evaluation", from the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Jan. 2011.**

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**Full Calendar Available  
on <http://www.ldamc.org/>**

(Compiled for LDAMC by Kathy A. Ryan, 301-987-0349) - More workshops available at: [www.ldamc.org](http://www.ldamc.org)

Support Group meetings at:

<http://www.mccpta.net/SupportGroups.html>  
Workshops are FREE unless otherwise noted.

\*Workshops geared towards professionals, may be of interest to parents.)

**Nov. 2, 1:00-1:30 PM. \*Webinar: Top iPad Picks for Improving Verbal Expression**, \$. Joan L. Green, M.A.CCC-SLP, [Joan@innovativespeech.com](mailto:Joan@innovativespeech.com), <http://ittsguides.wordpress.com/category/webinars/>.

**Nov. 3, 8:00 AM-3:30 PM. \*New Generations of High-Tech Youth: How We Teach Them & Parent Them-Annual The Zelma Wynn Symposium**, \$, CEUs. *Dr. Larry Rosen presents*. Edgewater. The Summit School, 410-798-0005, [www.thesummitschool.org](http://www.thesummitschool.org).

**Nov. 3-Dec. 1, 9:30 AM-4:00 PM. \*Multisensory Math I for Distance Learners**, \$, CEUs. ASDEC, 301-762-2414, <http://www.asdec.org/courses>.

**Nov. 3, 10:00 AM. Overview on Learning: Sensory-Cognitive Instruction & the New Lindamood-Bell School House**. DC. Lindamood-Bell, 202-237-7695, <http://www.lindamoodbell.com/RSVP/LC-OV-washington.html>.

**Nov. 9, 7:30-9:30 PM. Sensory Challenges & In-Sync Solutions**, \$. *Carol Kranowitz presents*. Kensington. PEP, reg. req., 301-929-8824, <http://www.pepparent.org/>.

**Nov. 11-Dec. 9 or 16, 1:30-5:30 PM. \*Parent to Parent: Family Training on AD/HD**, \$. Silver Spring. CHADD, [ascielzo@gmail.com](mailto:ascielzo@gmail.com), 301-643-5207.

**Nov. 13, 6:30-8:30 PM. \*Phonetic Methods for Teaching Reading**, \$. Rockv'l. TLC, Julie Bobrow, 301-424-5200, ext. 147, [www.ttlc.org](http://www.ttlc.org).

**Nov. 14, 9:00-11:00 AM. The Summit School-Open House**. Edgewater. The Summit School, 410-798-0005, [www.thesummitschool.org](http://www.thesummitschool.org). (Also Dec. 5).

**Nov. 14, 7:00-8:30 PM. The LDAMC Parent Connection**. Rockv'l. LDAMC, 301-933-1076, [ldamc@yahoo.com](mailto:ldamc@yahoo.com).

**Nov. 14, 7:00-8:30 PM. Understanding SSI/Medicaid & SSDI/Medicare**. Rockv'l. M & L Special Needs Planning, LLC, register at [www.specialneedsplanning.net](http://www.specialneedsplanning.net), 202-841-8362.

**Nov. 15, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. Compass Academy Open House**. Halethorpe, 410-501-3571, <http://www.compassacademy.md.org/>, [compassacademy@comcast.com](mailto:compassacademy@comcast.com).

**Nov. 15, 6:30-9:00 PM. Technology, Tips & Tools for Writing**. Walter Johnson HS. GT/LD Network, Joan Wittan, [jomada@verizon.net](mailto:jomada@verizon.net), <http://www.gtlldnetworkmc.org/>.

**Nov. 16, 10:30 AM-2:30 PM. \*Top Technology Tools to Help Adults with Communication, Cognitive & Literacy Challenges**, \$. Rockv'l, Library. Joan L. Green, M.A.CCC-SLP, [http://ist.ticketleap.com/ipadworkshop/dates/Nov-16-2012\\_at\\_1030AM](http://ist.ticketleap.com/ipadworkshop/dates/Nov-16-2012_at_1030AM). Contact [Joan@innovativespeech.com](mailto:Joan@innovativespeech.com) for information about limited scholarships.

**Nov. 17, 2:00-5:00 PM. \*Demystifying Testing: An Interactive Workshop**. Rockv'l Library. LDAMC, Bonnie Massimino, [blearning@yahoo.com](mailto:blearning@yahoo.com), [www.ldamc.org](http://www.ldamc.org).

**Nov. 26, 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Special Education Advisory Committee**. Rockv'l. SEAC, email Joan Sabaka, [VALNTINE20@aol.com](mailto:VALNTINE20@aol.com), Amuthan Kannan, [kannan\\_Amuthan@hotmail.com](mailto:kannan_Amuthan@hotmail.com).

**Nov. 27, 6:00-8:00 PM. \*Red Flags in Fine Motor Skills Development**, \$. Rockv'l. TLC, Julie Bobrow, 301-424-5200, ext. 147, [www.ttlc.org](http://www.ttlc.org).

**Nov. 27, 6:30-7:30 PM. Social-Emotional Learning**. *Dr. Starr, MCPS Superintendent presents*. Rockv'l. MCCPTA Delegates Assembly Program, all

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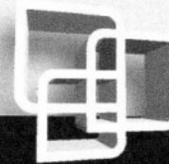


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