

## SPEAKERS

### Diane Twachtman-Cullen, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Diane Twachtman-Cullen is a licensed speech-language pathologist specializing in autism spectrum disorders. She holds an MA in speech-language pathology, a Sixth Year Diploma in early childhood education, and a Ph.D. in special education. She is the author of numerous chapters and articles, as well as three books, *A Passion to Believe: Autism and the Facilitated Communication Phenomenon*; *Trevor Trevor*, a meta-



phor for children designed to increase the sensitivity of typical peers toward their classmates with special needs; and *How to be a Para Pro: A Comprehensive Training Manual for Paraprofessionals*. Her book entitled, *How Well Does Your IEP Measure Up?* was co-authored with Jennifer Twachtman-Reilly, M.S., CCC-SLP. Dr. Twachtman-Cullen is the editor-in-chief of *Autism Spectrum Quarterly* (ASQuarterly.com). She is also a member and immediate past co-chairperson of the Panel of Professional Advisors of the Autism Society of America. She serves on several other professional advisory boards, and was recently invited to serve on the National Behavioral Health Quality Advisory Committee for the Aetna Insurance Company. Dr. Twachtman-Cullen is the recipient of the 2006 Divine Neurotypical Award ("DNA") given by the Global and Regional Asperger Syndrome Partnership, Inc. (GRASP). She provides consultative services and training seminars internationally on a variety of topics, and has been an invited delegate to the Shafallah Center Forum in Doha, Qatar in 2007 and 2008. Dr. Twachtman-Cullen's consultation agency, ADDCON Center, LLC is located in Higganum, CT.

E-mail: addconcenter@snet.net

#### The Panel:

- **Tom Travisano, Ph.D.** – a parent with a college-age son that has Asperger's Syndrome ( professor of literature from Hartwick College).

- **Jeff Lamicela** – parent diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome with three sons diagnosed as on the autism spectrum (Senior Web Developer for TRAC, a research project at Syracuse U.).

- **Douglas Ort** – a private-practice licensed Mental Health Counselor, and a minister.

- **Mary Siniscarco, MS, OTR/L** – a Registered Occupational Therapist, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy at Utica College, and Occupational Therapist for children and adults for The Arc-Oneida-Lewis Chapter (NY-SARC). Owns and operates a consulting business: Sensory Solutions.

- **Jessica Davis** – adult living with autism–Bachelor Degree in History from SUNY Albany. Speaks internationally of experiences living and working with autism and growing up with a twin not on the spectrum. Her artwork exhibited internationally in film and print. (Proofreader for the NYS Legislative Bill Drafting Commission in Albany)

## Exploring Autism 2009: Evidence Based Practice with Autism Spectrum Disorders

### CONFERENCE AGENDA October 17, 2009

8:15 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration ( <i>Register early, seating is limited</i> )
8:45 a.m.	Welcome: <b>Mark Schneider, Ph.D.</b> <b>Founder</b>
9:00 - 10:20 a.m.	<b>Diane Twachtman-Cullen, Ph.D., CCC-SLP</b>
10:20 - 10:30 a.m.	10 minute morning break
10:30 - 11:10 a.m.	<b>Diane Twachtman-Cullen, Ph.D., CCC-SLP (continued)</b>
11:10 - 11:20 a.m.	10 minute morning break
11:20 - 12:00 a.m.	Panel Discussion with: <b>Douglas Ort, M.Div, Jeff Lamicela, and Tom Travisano, Ph.D., Jessica Davis</b>
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch ( <i>Included</i> )
1:00 - 2:20 p.m.	<b>Diane Twachtman-Cullen, Ph.D., CCC-SLP (continued)</b>
2:20 - 2:30 p.m.	10 minute afternoon break
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	<b>Diane Twachtman-Cullen, Ph.D., CCC-SLP (continued)</b>
3:30 - 3:40 p.m.	10 minute afternoon break
3:40 - 4:15 p.m.	Panel Discussion with: <b>Douglas Ort, M.Div, Jeff Lamicela, and Tom Travisano, Ph.D., Jessica Davis</b>
4:30 p.m.	<b>Close of Conference</b>

The Regional Conference on Autism and Asperger's Syndrome (RCAAS) is a 501c-3 Not for Profit Organization

## Registration Form

### Exploring Autism 2009: Evidence Based Practice with Autism Spectrum Disorders

October 17, 2009 *Register early, seating is limited*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Conference Fees

**Before September 15, 2009:**  
 \$70 Family member or Students (*requires proof of full-time student status*)  
 \$90 professional per person  
*All fees include lunch.*

**After September 15, 2009:**  
 \$80 Family member or Student (*requires proof of full-time student status*)  
 \$100 professional per person  
*All fees include lunch.*

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats.

Make checks payable to: **RCAAS-Exploring Autism 2008**

**Mail to:** Mark Schneider, Ph.D.  
 Exploring Autism 2009  
 220 Highland Terrace  
 West Oneonta, NY 13861

**Room Reservations...**  
 Call the Holiday Inn directly for  
 reservations at the special rate of  
 \$89 per night. (1-800-465-4329)  
 No refunds issued after that date.

**If you must cancel...**  
 • Cancel by **September 10, 2009** for a  
 full refund less a \$25 administration fee.  
 No refunds issued after that date.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Regional Conference on Autism and Asperger's Syndrome is a not-for-profit organization to facilitate the education and sharing of information and available resources on Autism Spectrum Disorders. Its mission is to enlighten professionals and parents to the diversity of autistic individuals and to help facilitate early identification of the disability.

The conference works to validate perceptions and experiences of parents. It also explores options for parents and professionals working with individuals on the autistic spectrum through:

- Encouraging greater sensitivity to, and awareness of, Autism related issues.
- Empowering parents and professionals to advocate for the needs of those on the autistic spectrum and their families.
- Establishing constructive networking between parents and professionals.
- Creating an atmosphere of calm, respectful sharing and learning.

The conference provides an annual "homecoming experience" for parents and professionals and an opportunity to identify issues and develop an action plan to deal with them.

### Who should attend?

- Family members
- Administrators and Teachers
- Clergy
- Psychologists, Health Professionals and Therapists
- Counselors, Social Workers and Paraprofessionals
- Foster Parents and Service Coordinators
- Anyone working with an Autism and/or Asperger's Syndrome individual

*Past conferences have been extremely well attended and space is limited, so sign up early!*



Regional Conference on Autism  
and Asperger's Syndrome  
220 Highland Terrace  
West Oneonta, NY 13861-6922



## Exploring Autism 2009: Evidence Based Practice with Autism Spectrum Disorders

**Saturday, October 17, 2009**

Hunt Student Union  
State University of New York Oneonta Campus  
Oneonta, NY

*If you need further information (or to print more brochures)  
go to the RCAAS website at [www.rcaas.org](http://www.rcaas.org)  
or call Mark Schneider, Ph.D. at 607-434-1069.*