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## Bancroft on TV news!

Adrienne Beattie is a star of our brain-injury program - and now she's a TV star, too!

Adrienne was interviewed for a news story this week on CBS 3 TV, focusing on brain-injury awareness and the upcoming "Bancroft Unplugged" event (see story below).

Also featured in the story were Adrienne's mom, Donna Gallagher, and Bancroft's Cynthia Boyer and Zachary Eakman.

To view the story, by CBS 3 TV medical reporter Stephanie Stahl, [click here.](#)

## Autism Family Night at TGI Fridays

## More 'Special Needs Nights' at N.J. water park

### Upcoming Events

**Monday, March 28**

#### **Bancroft**

**Unplugged** 7-9 pm

Cherry Hill (NJ)

Public Library

**Contact:** Lynn Tomaio

**Phone:** (856)

616-6454

**Email:**

[ltomaio@bnh.org](mailto:ltomaio@bnh.org)

**Wednesday,**

**April 6**

6:30-8:30 pm

#### **Characteristics of**

#### **Autism Spectrum**

#### **Disorders**

*Bancroft Developmental*

*Disabilities Workshop*

*Series*

**Location:** Farrington

building,

Haddonfield Campus

**Contact:** Pat Reid

**Phone:** (856) 524-7453

**Email:** [preid@bnh.org](mailto:preid@bnh.org)

**Friday, April 15**

9:30 am to 12 pm

#### **The Bancroft School**

#### **Spring Show**

**Location:** Haddonfield

Memorial High School

auditorium

**Contact:** Dottie Walls

**Phone:** (856) 524-7360

**Friday, April 15**

7:30-8:30 pm

#### **The Bancroft School**

#### **Spring Dance**

(Ages 13 - 21)

**Location:** Cooley Hall

Gym, Haddonfield

Campus

**Contact:** Dottie Walls

**Phone:** (856) 524-7360

**Wednesday, April 20**

6:30-8:30 pm



The four speakers at last week's Bancroft Unplugged event in Brick, N.J. (from left): Kareem Moye, Darrell Salter, Joyce Toy, and Justin Lindstrom. For more photos, [click here](#).

## Bancroft Unplugged: First of three events touches, inspires

*Final Unplugged event planned for Cherry Hill on Monday*

*"After my injury, I could not read or remember most things. I also could not write... I can now read [books] and remember what I read... Thank you, Margaret, for starting Bancroft." - Joyce Toy, in her speech at Bancroft's "Unplugged" event in Brick, N.J.*

Four adults with brain injuries each took a turn at the podium last week, sharing their personal struggles and triumphs in heartfelt speeches. The audience of about 60 family members, friends, staff and others listened raptly and applauded heartily, gaining a fuller understanding of both the difficulties and possibilities after such life-altering injuries.

The occasion: Our first "Bancroft Unplugged" event, held at our Brick, N.J., facility.

As this issue of Family Buzz went to press, Bancroft held its second Unplugged night in Plainsboro, N.J. A final Unplugged event is planned for **Monday, March 28**, from 7 to 9 pm at the Cherry Hill Public Library. All are invited!

RSVPs are helpful, so please contact Lynn Tomaio at (856) 616-6454 or email [ltomaio@bnh.org](mailto:ltomaio@bnh.org) if you plan to attend. (Watch for coverage of the Plainsboro and Cherry Hill events in an upcoming issue of the Family Buzz.)

At the Brick event last week, the speakers described how they were injured and what they've gone through to rebuild their lives. Here are some very brief excerpts:

*"I appreciate most [staff member] Eunja Talbot, who taught me to be*

**Medical Developments  
in the Biology of  
Autism**

*Bancroft Developmental  
Disabilities Workshop  
Series*

**Location:** Farrington  
building,

Haddonfield Campus

**Contact:** Pat Reid

**Phone:** (856) 524-7453

**Email:** [preid@bnh.org](mailto:preid@bnh.org)

**Wednesday, April 27**

3-5 pm

**The Effects of  
Exercise on the Brain**  
*Bancroft Brain Injury  
Services Workshop*

**Location:** Brick, N.J.,  
site

**Contact:** Lynn Tomaio

**Phone:** (856) 616-6454

**Email:**

[ltomaio@bnh.org](mailto:ltomaio@bnh.org)

**Sunday, May 1**

2:45-6:45 pm

**Inclusive Ministry  
Workshop**

**Registration:** 2 - 2:30

p.m

**Location:** The Bancroft  
School gymnasium,  
Haddonfield Campus

**Cost:** \$10

**Contact:** Sister Krista  
Mote

**Phone:** (856) 524-7248

**E-mail:**

[kmote@bnh.org](mailto:kmote@bnh.org)

*open-minded."* - Kareem Moye

*"My family and my children gave me the strength I need to go on."* - Darrell Salter

*"I feel I have improved a lot over the past year. I am a healthier man because of Bancroft."* - Justin Lindstrom

Thank you to everyone who helped make this very successful event possible!



Joyful Noise performing at a prestigious national conference of choral directors this month in Chicago. To view a photo album from the trip, click [here](#).

## Joyful Noise wows conductors at national conference in Chicago

Joyful Noise, a choir that includes many adults supported by Bancroft, gave a groundbreaking concert last week. It was the first choir of people with disabilities to perform at the American Choral Directors Association National Conference, which this year was held in Chicago.

The 35-member group performed before a crowd of more than 1,000 conductors - including world-famous leaders in the choral field - in the Hilton hotel's grand ballroom.

"It was such an honor to share the stage with Alice Parker," said Joyful Noise director Allison Fromm, referring to a renowned conductor and composer who led Joyful Noise's Chicago performance. "Our singers were thrilled when over 1,000 conductors joined them in singing 'You Have a Heart,' and then gave them a resounding standing ovation. I was so proud of how beautifully they

performed."

Said Ms. Parker: "The feeling I got in that room and the comments afterward were just overwhelming." She believes Joyful Noise reminded the audience - all highly skilled and accomplished musicians - of the pure joy, emotion and human connection brought about by singing. "This opens people's eyes to something much bigger."

The singers clearly enjoyed the experience, too. "The concert was exciting," said one Joyful Noise member [name withheld]. "It made me feel good. The best part was when all the people came in."

"That was fun," added Robert Edelson. "When can we do it again?"

**Below is part of a letter from Elene Kurtzman, mother of a Joyful Noise member, describing the experience:**

"Before I went with my daughter Jodi to [the conference], I could not imagine the scope and magnitude of this event nor the honor of Joyful Noise being chosen to participate. Joyful Noise was one of 25 'interest sessions' selected from over 150 proposals considered. More than 5,000 people registered for the conference, and with eight sessions going on simultaneously, over 1,000 chose to attend the Joyful Noise session.

The exuberance and excitement of the audience and the feel of the room were amazing. The audience crowded the stage at the end of the concert to meet and congratulate our singers and conductors. Many from the audience admired our singers' poise and stage presence. Several of them (conductors from Arizona, Texas, Oregon, South Carolina and Minnesota, to name a few) were inspired to start similar groups. **At the end of the session, they asked our conductors, 'How can I do this where I live?'**

I am very proud of my daughter Jodi and also of the entire chorus, and would like to thank Bancroft for encouraging these singers, providing staff, and generally supporting this innovative singing group.

A composer and choral director wrote, **'I hear many amazing choral groups of all kinds, but I have never heard a choir as amazing as Joyful Noise.** They sing with an emotional OOMPH that cannot be put into words. They teach us to be emotionally engaged, something we often shield ourselves from.'"

**Congratulations, Joyful Noise!**

## Staff member recognized by national group



Bancroft direct-support professional (DSP) Zoubir Bittout was recently highlighted in The DSP Chronicles, a national newsletter by the College of Direct Support. Mr. Bittout was recognized for his outstanding work, supporting people with disabilities at Bancroft.

Thanks to Mr. Bittout and the many other DSPs like him at Bancroft and elsewhere, for their dedication, professionalism, and great work!

To view the article, [click here.](#)



**Tie-dye springs up in Mullica Hill:** Grant Rushnell (center) and two Rowan University students were among a group that spent a recent morning creating colorful T-shirts on our Mullica Hill Campus. For more photos, including shots on our Haddonfield Campus, [click here.](#)

## Spring break from college - at Bancroft!

Students from two universities spent part of their spring break helping out at several Bancroft sites.

On a recent March day, a charter bus delivered 30 students from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. The group spent the morning cleaning up our Haddonfield campus, with support from staff member Dean Johnson and the campus maintenance team. They raked stone back into place and cleaned up the former adult greenhouse area to prepare the spot for picnic tables. What a nice face-lift after a brutal winter!

In the afternoon, they moved on to a new group home that will open soon, cleaned it inside and out, and got silverware and dishes washed and put away. Big thanks to staff members Joe Flamini, Pat Senft, Linda Odenath and Jeff

Kueny for a great job connecting these volunteers to Bancroft and our mission.

In addition, eight Rowan University students took part in an "Alternative Spring Break" here. The students spent a morning tie-dying T-shirts with adults who live on our Mullica Hill Campus. By noon, the campus was decorated with bright, colorful shirts hanging from lines and trees. Many thanks to Faith Ann Foreman, who coordinated the project, and all the Mullica Hill staff members who made this day fun and successful.

For more information on service projects at Bancroft, please contact Deb Conner at (856) 524-7023 or [dconner@bnh.org](mailto:dconner@bnh.org)



## Family members, others step forward to lead campaign

### How does a campaign get off the ground?

The phrase "it takes a village" applies.

At Bancroft, we are taking off with the help of our family members, trustees, donors and other friends of the organization.

Families have been involved in the Campaign for Bancroft from the beginning, and are key members of our newly formed Campaign Cabinet - a group charged with bringing new supporters to the campaign.

#### Campaign Cabinet

Joe Atkinson\*

*Co-Chair+*

#### Members:

Lisa Alberts

Barbara Berkman\*

John Comegno

Alan Craig

Rob Curley

Greg Grimaldi

Jeff Harris\*

Joseph Hodakowski\*

Rob MacPherson

Marcie Merz

Elsie Nelson\*

Candida Seasock

Stu Sobin

Sally Solis Cohen

Jack Tarditi

**Of the cabinet's 18 members, seven have family ties to Bancroft.** The other 11 members are Bancroft supporters with strong connections in the business, health and education sectors (see full list at left).

The cabinet held its first meeting last month, and each member pledged to ask for support from at least three major prospective donors. The group will meet quarterly for training, information-sharing and campaign updates.

(Our new campaign blog will also help keep them - and you - informed. The blog just went live - please register at [campaignforbancroft.org](http://campaignforbancroft.org).)

**If you have ideas or suggestions for the campaign,** or know others who could be helpful, please contact any of the cabinet members, or Linda Wasilchick at (856) 348-4002 or [lwasilchick@bnh.org](mailto:lwasilchick@bnh.org).

Thank you to all of our campaign cabinet members. With your help, we are already Transforming Our World!

## Brain injury facts and figures

*March is Brain Injury Awareness Month*

The following statistics are from the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey's website. Visit [www.bianj.org](http://www.bianj.org) for more information.

Of the 1.4 million who sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year in the United States:

- 50,000 die
- 235,000 are hospitalized
- 1.1 million are treated and released from an emergency department

In addition, many others who sustain TBI receive no care. Their numbers are unknown.

## Dial the White House for disability conference call, March 31

The White House will host its next monthly conference call on disabilities on March 31 at 5 pm.

These calls are designed to keep Americans informed about the Obama Administration's disability-related efforts. The calls include updates on key political appointments, employment, civil rights, health care and transportation, as well as introduce staff who work on disability issues in the federal government.

Please dial in five minutes before the scheduled call time. This month's call will feature remarks from U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and include introductions to other Obama Administration personnel.

Details for the call are as follows:

- Dial in for listeners: United States: (800) 230-1059
- Title: White House Disability Call (use instead of code)

## Ask President Obama to turn the White

## House blue



**The following is an excerpt from a message by the advocacy group Autism Speaks.**

Last year, the autism community and Autism Speaks lit more than 200 buildings and landmarks blue to mark the UN World Autism Awareness Day - April 2. This year, hundreds of buildings and landmarks - including the Empire State Building, Niagara Falls, 30 Rockefeller Center, Christ the Redeemer Statue in Brazil, the

Sydney Opera House in Australia - will go blue for autism.

The White House already recognizes breast cancer and AIDS annually. Now it's time for them to show their support of autism in a very visible way. President Obama has pushed for more autism funding and we know he is serious. Please ask him to light the White House blue this year to show the entire world!

We need your voices, your friends, family, and the entire autism community to urge President Obama to make the easy choice to light the White House blue on April 2!

For easy ways to contact the President - via Facebook Twitter, email and more -- [click here.](#)

White House photo by Robert Scoble.

## New psychiatric staff, service-delivery changes



Sally French

Two mental-health professionals will join our psychiatric service team over the new few weeks, as we enhance the way we deliver these services.

We have hired a full-time advanced practice nurse, Sally French, who will provide psychiatry care and management. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's master's in nursing program, Ms. French has seven years of advanced-practice nursing experience. She previously worked for both the UMDNJ-Kennedy Health System's Department of Psychiatry and in private practice.

In addition, we will enhance our mental-health team by engaging a collaborating physician, Dr. Andres Pumariega, who will work closely with Ms. French to deliver coordinated care. Dr. Pumariega is chairman of psychiatry at Cooper University Hospital. He will succeed Dr. David Harwitz, who will be leaving this role at Bancroft shortly, and whose contributions we greatly appreciate.

Ms. French will also succeed our current advanced practice nurse, Andy Macfadden, at the beginning of April. Ms. Macfadden has been a wonderful addition to the Bancroft family and has spoken frequently about the skills and dedication of the staff here at Bancroft. We will miss her, and we wish her all the best.

Both Ms. French and Dr. Pumariega can be reached through the Haddonfield Campus Nursing Office at (856) 524-7394.

## Free brain-injury workshop

*Learn how exercise affects the brain*

Bancroft will host a free workshop on "The Effects of Exercise on the Brain," designed for people with brain injuries, their family members, caregivers, and professionals who work with them.

The workshop will be held at each of Bancroft's three brain-injury satellite sites from 3 - 5 pm:

**April 27** in Brick, N.J.

**May 25** in Cherry Hill, N.J.

**June 22** in Plainsboro, N.J.

Each session will be presented by Bancroft Brain Injury Services' physical therapist Yvonne van Bochove, PT, DPT, MA, from our Plainsboro program.

Continuing education credits are available for case managers, and are pending for other professionals.

For more information or to register, please call Lynn Tomaio at (856) 616-6454 or email [ltomaio@bnh.org](mailto:ltomaio@bnh.org).

## Two free workshops on autism next month

As part of Bancroft's free developmental-disabilities workshop series, we will offer two sessions on autism in April. Each will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Farrington building on the Haddonfield Campus. Registration is requested: Call Pat Reid at (856) 524-7453 or email [preid@bnh.org](mailto:preid@bnh.org).

### Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders

**April 6**

Presented by Dawn Smith, MA, BCBA, Bancroft School psychologist.

This workshop will focus on the varied characteristics of autism, pervasive

developmental disorder and Asperger's disorder, the criteria for medical diagnosis, prevalence among the population, etiology, areas of impairment, and associated features of each diagnosis.

### **Medical Developments in the Biology of Autism**

**April 20**

Presented by Caroline Eggerding, M.D., Bancroft's vice president of clinical services and chief medical officer.

This workshop will focus on the latest medical advances in the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. Topics will include genetic etiology, neuro-brain chemistry, medications, special diets, assessments and therapeutic interventions.

## **Free conference on autism and transition to adulthood**

The Child Evaluation Center at K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital will present its annual spring conference, titled:

Autism Spectrum Disorders and Transition to Adulthood - Anticipating Future Needs and Making Preparations

**Friday April 1**

8 am - 2:30 pm

Brookdale Community College

Registration is required. For the conference brochure, [click here](#).

## **Conference on juvenile offenders with disabilities**

The Arc of New Jersey will present a statewide conference titled "Equal Justice."

The event will focus on reducing crime through "multidisciplinary approaches to identifying and treating youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the juvenile justice system."

**Tuesday April 12**

The New Jersey Law Center

New Brunswick, NJ

For a conference brochure, [click here](#)

## Free seminar on guardianship

Once your child turns 18, he is legally considered an adult who will be expected to make decisions for himself. As a result, some parents pursue legal guardianship of their adult children with disabilities, in order to continue acting on their behalf.

Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey will address these issues at a free seminar:

"What Happens When Your Child With a Disability Turns 18?"

**May 11** at 7 pm  
Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey's  
Horizon High School  
71-77 Okner Parkway  
Livingston, NJ

Space is limited and reservations are required. To register, call David Bishop at (973) 763-9900, ext. 1601. For a flyer on the seminar, [click here](#).

## Autism Family Night at TGI Fridays

Area TGI Fridays restaurants are holding an "Autism Family Night" on April 12.

This is not a fundraiser, but an opportunity for families to dine out together without feeling embarrassed or stigmatized.

Begun five years ago by the sister of a child with autism, the event will take place at all TGI Fridays restaurants in New Jersey and Connecticut, and in parts of Pennsylvania and Staten Island.

For details, [click here](#).

## More 'Special Needs Nights' at N.J. water park

Sahara Sam's Oasis in West Berlin, N.J., will continue its "Special Needs Exclusive Nights" this spring and summer, on the following Fridays from 6 to 9:30 pm:

April 1  
June 3  
August 5

Admission is about half the normal price, at \$15 per person, and lower rates apply to each child's "non-participating" chaperone.

For a flyer with details, [click here](#).



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