

Levy supporters lacing up on April 30

Supporters of FCBDD are taking steps to raise money for the agency's upcoming levy campaign while having fun and getting some needed exercise in the process.

Lace up for the Levy will take place on Saturday, April 30th, at Wolfe Park on East Broad Street. The 5 kilometer-run or walk will begin at 9 a.m. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. The entry fee is \$25. A free "fun run" for kids will be held before the 5-kilometer event.

The Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities will use proceeds from the event to support passage of FCBDD's 3.5 mill

replacement levy, which is expected to be on the ballot in November.

Passage of the levy will allow FCBDD services to continue for over 16,000 children and adults residing in Franklin County.

Staff of the Early Childhood Department have volunteered to serve as coordinators. They are getting help from Second Sole, the athletic footwear store in Gahanna.

Superintendent Jed Morison urges all members of the FCBDD community to take part.

"This will be a fun and healthy way to show support for the levy," he said.

Advance registration may be done online at www.secondsoleracing.com. For more details, please call Sarah Gillilan at 342-5803.



Department moves records into digital realm

In an effort to boost efficiency, the Service Coordination Department has converted the bulk of its paper records into digitized form. The massive project entailed the indexing and conversion of over 7,000 case files, which included over 350,000 documents or approximately 3 million pages.

The size of the project can be better understood when one considers that the paper files previously filled 150 file cabinets that took up over 3,000 square feet of office space.

Freeing up space is just one of the benefits of the changeover.

According to project leader Jonathan Zuhosky, Records Manager, "Now we can quickly access a client's file through our electronic database, and email documents to clients, guardians, or providers."



Staff who converted records. From left (front) John Cook, Lara Ford, Jesse Higel, (back) Christopher Lieb, Johanna Gilicinski, Sarah Markley, Robin Smith, Rebecca Stansbury, Brittany Harnish, Jennifer Brinley, Jonathan Zuhosky.

Besides quick access and transmission, other advantages include increased security and reduced filing errors, he noted.

The conversion started slowly with a pilot project in 2009. In early 2010, the agency accepted a bid for

Continued on p.2

scanning services from Microsystems. Next, twelve temporary staff were hired to undertake the tedious task of processing and indexing the files. All but one had masters degrees in library and information science.

“Since we were dealing with so many types of documents, with sometimes subtle differences, I thought it would be good to hire people with experience in cataloging,” Jonathan explained. “They did a dynamite job.”

Two of the staff members, Brittany Harnish and Jesse Higel, are still at it. “Now that everything is up and running, there’s been a sharp increase in file submissions and file requests, so their work is still very important,” Jonathan said.

Aquatics update

by Lori Patzer

The Aquatics staff has welcomed some new faces at the West Central pool this year. Earlier this fall, a class from Southwestern City Schools accompanied Sherri Noecker’s class for an open swim. Recently, Jamie Kingsland’s class from Starling Middle School, and Kim Demond’s South High Bulldogs made a series of visits.

Something magical is happening! We are observing students who are often non-verbal or socially tentative, initiating conversation and appropriately interacting with their new peers. The pool is such a wonderful medium for entertainment. The water has a way of “leveling the playing field” for students of all sizes and varying levels of physical ability. Earthbound students move more effortlessly and hesitant swimmers



attempt new things with encouragement from their peers.

The 9th annual West Central/Northeast swim competition is quickly approaching. The much anticipated

event will be held on Wednesday, May 4th at West Central. We will be practicing with all participants with hopes of a great showing by both teams.

FAAC to meet April 5

Family Advocates for Adult Children (FAAC) will meet at 2879 Johnstown Road on Tuesday, April 5th, at 11 a.m. The proposed state budget will be an item for discussion.

If your adult child lives at home with you, and you would like to meet other parents for an open discussion of topics of interest, please plan to come.

For more details, please call Elaine Bechant at 939-0992.

Legislative day set for April 14

You can show your concern about state disability issues by getting involved in the legislative process. The 2011 Legislative Advocacy Day will be held Thursday, April 14th. The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) and the Ohio State University Nisonger Center are co-sponsoring the activity.

The event will get underway at the Statehouse Atrium at 10:30 a.m.

Guest speakers will include Senator Peggy Lehner and Representative Ted Celeste, Director John Martin of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and Executive Director Carolyn Knight of ODDC.

Please register at: <http://nisonger.osu.edu/>

World Down Syndrome Day celebrated

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) in collaboration with the Ohio Down Syndrome Advocacy Network (ODSAN) hosted a World Down Syndrome Day celebration at the Fawcett Center on Monday, March 21st.

The event recognized Senator Sherrod Brown for his work on the Trisomy 21 Translational Research Parity Act of 2009. "The 21 Act represents a critical step in expanding and coordinating federal support for down Syndrome biomedical research," said DSACO Program Director Marge Barnheiser.

The day included remarks by Senator Brown as well as workshops on advocacy and self-advocacy.

People with Down Syndrome, from all over Ohio, and many parents attended. Three participants with Down Syndrome gave inspiring talks about their lives.



Chad Mayer from Cincinnati.



Kyle McKay from Columbus.



Lindsay Gantzer from Dublin spoke after being introduced by DSACO Program Director Marge Barnheiser.



Senator Sherrod Brown spoke and then took questions and comments from the participants.



The senator and some of his fans pose with his new Down Syndrome day t-shirt.

Search is on for award nominees

FCBDD's Community Star Awards Committee needs your help to find the most worthy candidates for recognition in 2011.

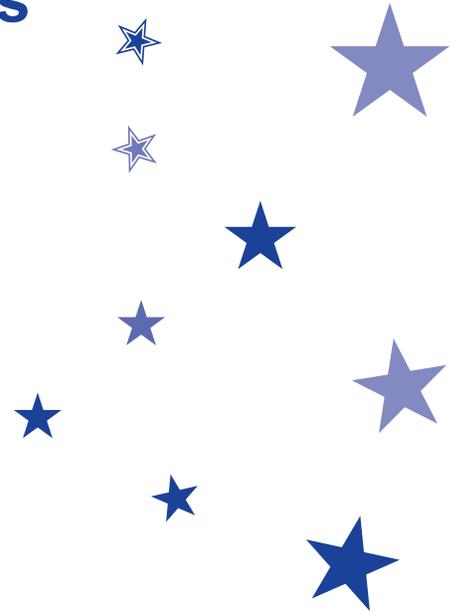
The committee is accepting nominations in 14 categories through May 31st. A nomination form is enclosed with this issue of *Dateline*. The form lists the award categories.

Established in 2003, the Community Star Awards are intended to honor persons and organizations who, through outstanding work and dedication, have supported FCBDD's mission.

If you know an individual or organization deserving consideration, please complete and submit a form as soon as possible.

The 2011 awards will be presented at a banquet to be held at Villa Milano on Wednesday evening, October 5th.

For further information, please call Linda Fleming at 342-5950.



A review of *Twin: A Memoir*

by Martin Kerscher

In February, while the temperature in Columbus was hovering in single digits, I took a short vacation in Miami Beach. (Sure, it was tough, but someone has to support the travel industry.) As reading material, I took along a new book, "Twin: a Memoir" by the renowned composer, Allen Shawn.

Born in 1948, the author grew up in a literary family. His father, William Shawn, was the editor of *The New Yorker* for many years. His older brother, Wallace Shawn, is a playwright and actor (he played the nerdy teacher, Mr. Hall, in *Clueless*).

The primary focus of this book, however, is on a relatively unknown member of the family: Mary, the author's twin sister. Diagnosed with mental retardation and autism, she was institutionalized at age 8.

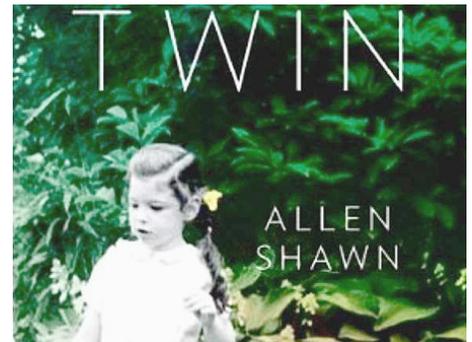
Mary occupied a central role in the family. "When she lived at home, Mary acted as a kind of glue connecting my parents and my brother and me," Shawn explains. "She kept alive a current of emotional communication between us... With her, we were... bound by blood, by chemistry. Without

her, we became four individuals, bound too much of the time, by words."

Mary's move to Briarcliff (a fictional name for the institution) left a major impact on the author. "First she was down the hall from me, keeping my brother up at night with her screams," he writes. "Then she was simply absent, reduced to a kind of shimmering nostalgic image, an essentially static, mythical being: always 'improving' yet always staying the same..."

Shawn missed his sister, was puzzled by her absence and felt that she had been unjustly ostracized from the family. Yet in retrospect, he takes a compassionate view of his parents' decision, which despite its harsh consequences, was apparently well motivated.

"What a difficulty for my parents, in an era when there were few people to whom they could turn for advice... and little to no grasp of what the prognosis might be... Would she deteriorate or improve over time? If she could never sustain herself, who would take care of her? What would happen to her after they - my parents - died?"



Although a memoir, Shawn weaves into his account an overview of scientific and medical research concerning autism. I suspect this discussion might seem 'old hat' for many in the developmental disabilities field, but I found it quite illuminating.

Shawn endeavors to reconnect with Mary in time, and does so to some degree, notwithstanding a considerable array of problems and pressures.

I would recommend this book to those who like memoirs, and especially of course, those with an interest in autism. If you can read it while relaxing under a palm tree, so much the better.

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBDD community

Career Milestones

At its meeting on March 10th, FCBDD's Self-Advocate Advisory Council celebrated its first anniversary. Made up of nine adults receiving agency services, the panel is a forum for discussion of policies, programs and related topics. Members are: **Jennifer Petroskey**, ARC East; **Mary Stark**, ARC North; **Marci Straughter**, ARC South; **Travis Bare**, ARC West; **Janice Keaser**, Bixby Living Skills Center; **Barb Rice**, Janitorial; **Christine Brown**, Central Ohio Self-Determination Association; **Curt Wellman**, People First; and **Jennifer Cunningham**, Community Employment.

Congratulations to Northeast School on another highly successful spaghetti dinner. The annual feast was held on Saturday, March 19th. Special thanks to all who volunteered their time and talents, especially **Gayle Oberlitner**, who oversaw the dinner, and **Mary Butler**, who headed the raffle.

A new company, Vorys Health Care Advisors, has been launched. Heading the firm is **Maureen Corcoran**, a longtime advocate in the field of developmental disabilities. Maureen previously served as Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and before that, was president of the Ohio Provider Resource Association.

Recently appointed Franklin County Recorder **Daphne Hawk** received praise recently from the Columbus Board of Realtors for allowing easier use of the office's online records. She eliminated the cumbersome password process on www.franklincountyohio.gov/recorder, thus assuring everyone instant access to the information.

35 years
Rebecca England

30 years
Victoria Devore

25 years
Deborah Chenault
Michael Japack

20 years
Mary Beth Benish

15 years
Charles Lamb

5 years
Tara Chumley
Kimberly Davis-Hetrick



Franklin County was well represented at the kickoff festivities for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month held at the Statehouse Atrium on March 3rd. Attendees included Superintendent **Jed Morison**, **Karla Harper**, **Jennifer Coleman**, **Deena Abbott**, **Ryan Mitchem**, **Seth Barnette**, **Christian Johnson**, **Eric Jaycox**, **Jeffrey Fadel**, and **Jack Akin**.

Did you know?

A new organization, *my Team Triumph* has been formed in central Ohio. The nonprofit group provides an athletic ride-along experience for children, teens, and adults with disabilities who would not otherwise be able to take part in endurance events such as triathlons or road races.

If you would like to volunteer, donate, or just learn more about *my Team Triumph*, please contact Darren Thompson at 475-0564 or Gretchen Brooks at 342-5808, or go to www.mttheartofohio.org.

The green spot by Debbie Rose

Winter has ended and it is time for a little Spring cleaning. Here are a few tips for "cleaning green."

Open the windows and doors to help get dirty air moving.

Skip the air fresheners. Chemical fresheners can cause eye, skin, and respiratory irritation. Aerosol air fresheners are worse. Use an open box of baking soda, cedar blocks, and dried or fresh flowers instead.

Use vegetable-based products (like those made with coconut oil) instead of chemical cleaners.

Vinegar is nature's cleaning miracle and can be used to clean just about anything. When cleaning windows and floors, use it straight. Mix it with baking soda and essential oils to clean sinks.

Baking soda can be used to freshen air, the carpet and furniture. You can also use it to scrub the toilet and the tub.

Don't use cleaners that contain bleach. When it goes down the drain, it becomes toxic to the natural world. Use a herbal-based sanitizer, or plain soda water.

Use natural fiber sponges and rags to do the cleaning. Sponges can be put through the dishwasher to clean. Avoid using paper towels and other one-time tools.

When making the switch to natural cleaners, be sure to dispose of any dangerous chemicals properly. Don't pour them down the drain or into the ground.

Calendar

April, 2011

1 April Fool's Day

8 Garage Sale, ARC Industries, 2300 Marilyn Lane, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please call Shella Ross for details, 475-7007.

12 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.

18 Income tax deadline

18-22 Spring Recess for ECE, Northeast, and West Central Schools

20 Family Support (formerly Parent League), 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.

24 Easter

25 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.

27 Administrative Professionals Day

28 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.

28 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

30 Lace Up for the Levy, Wolfe Park on East Broad Street, registration at 7:30 a.m. Contact Sarah Gillilan for details, 342-5803.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or handicap.

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Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbdd.org

"Quotable quotes"

"Life loves to be taken by the lapel and told:
'I am with you kid. Let's go.'"

-- *Maya Angelou*