

“When a person doesn't have gratitude, something is missing in his or her humanity. A person can almost be defined by his or her attitude toward gratitude.” - Elie Wiesel

I want money...that's what I want 

A banking/money management class is coming to The Arc.

Participants will learn the basics about money, budgets, balancing a checkbook and saving money. Participants will receive cash with the expectation that change will be returned at the next class. We will go on one class field trip to two stores.

The Arc Board of Directors has adopted a 'Can Do' mantra for Arc programs. Instead of having others do for someone, assume competence and teach people to do for themselves.

The Arc was founded as an advocacy group. Our main focus is offering a quality of life for people who have disabilities. This includes inclusion in the community, having the same typical life as a person without a disability, and competitive employment (minimum wage or higher).

If we are going to have more people in the community, we need to be sure that they are educated so they can remain safe - including from financial fraud. We need to be sure that everyone understands the basic concept of money to avoid being 'snookered'.

The initial class will run for 3 weeks. You must attend all 3 classes if you register because the class is designed as a progressive teaching - instruction is built upon the previous class. Classes take place on Monday's - May 15th, May 22nd and June 5th from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Please register by calling The Arc at 946-1011. Class size will be limited for more personal instruction.

PROVIDING FOR YOUR LOVED ONE

The Arc of Blair County will host a very valuable presentation on Thursday, April 20, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. We think this will be worth your time, even if it requires you to leave work slightly early.

Charlie Gell from the State Treasurer's office in Harrisburg is going to share information on The Able Act.

The Pennsylvania Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act follows federal legislation that authorizes states to create ABLE programs. Modeled after college savings accounts, ABLE accounts allow individuals with qualifying disabilities and their families to save for a wide range of disability-related expenses. The federal tax-free savings and investment options are offered to encourage individuals with a disability and their families to save private funds to support health, independence and quality of life.

A PA ABLE account gives individuals with qualified disabilities (Eligible Individuals), and their families and friends, a tax-free way to save for disability-related expenses, while maintaining government benefits. Federal and state law authorized the creation of PA ABLE accounts.

Choose from several mutual-fund type options. Additionally, an interest bearing checking account with debit card will be offered.

Join us and ask your pertinent questions on April 20. You must register for this presentation by calling The Arc at 946-1011.

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CLASS SCHEDULE for April 2017

Stay connected for the latest changes by visiting The Arc's homepage at www.thearcblair.org. If there is a change it is listed on the blog on the home page, in rectangle box to the right. Otherwise, it means the class is still on.

Emergency Training - See page 3 for more information. Don't think you will catch the class the next time - it may not be offered 'next time'.

ABLE ACT - Learn information about Pennsylvania's new savings account for people with disabilities. Thursday, April 20. Details on the front page.

Cooking Class – Monday, April 3. from 6 pm to 8 pm. Eat before arriving since this class will not be sampling the food until 7:30 p.m.. Class size is limited to 15 people and is based on the first to call and reserve a spot.

Craft Class – 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 10. Limited to 20 people. Must call and reserve.

Acting Troupe - Tuesday's at 6:30 p.m. Bring a water bottle.

Line Dancing–6:30 pm Wed. nights. Water bottle needed.

Square Dancing – 6:15 p.m. Thursday nights. Bring water. No dancing on Thursday, April, 13, in observance of Holy week.

DOCUMENTAREY on AUTISM

The sensory experiences of people on the spectrum take center stage in a new documentary set to air on television. In what the film's creators say is a first, "Spectrum: A Story of the Mind" looks at autism through the lens of taste, smell, touch, sight and sound.

"This film goes beyond awareness into acceptance," said producer Jill Jones. "Our society often mistakenly views people on the spectrum with fear, as lacking empathy. We explore worlds where lights, sounds, colors affect behavior hoping to educate and inspire empathy from neurotypical people," Jones said.

Using live action and animation, the documentary tells the story of autism from the perspective of various people on the spectrum including renowned self-advocate Temple Grandin as well as a nonverbal poet and author, a painter and a martial artist.

The 23-minute film, which premiered in 2015 at the United Nations as part of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, will air starting April 4 on PBS stations across the country.

Arc Troupe



The Arc acting class is going very well under the direction of Pam Young. The troupe is learning basic acting skills and plans to build upon that to eventually produce a play. There is a lot of giggling as we become different characters and dance around the room becoming various objects.



All are welcome to The Arc Troupe. You are welcome to just come and watch & see if this interests you!

Who Ya Gonna Call?...Not Ghostbusters!

Have you registered for this week's Disaster Preparedness Training on March 30? If not, why not?

We do not want Blair County to become a statistic. Experience has shown that with every major crisis, people with disabilities are not quick to be responded to. Therefore, we must educate ourselves on what to do and not presume that someone will take care of us. After all, what if our support is not able to assist us? *We don't want to scare - only prepare!*

This free training will allow you to meet first responders and help them to learn more about your individual situation. The day will be full of interaction. Groups will sit together with first responders and enact 2 different emergency scenarios.

Just as you purchase life insurance and health insurance but might not have to use it, get some 'emergency preparedness' insurance by knowing what to do and where to go! Registrations are being taken through The Arc website on the training page - www.thearcblair.org

Spring Dance Date Set

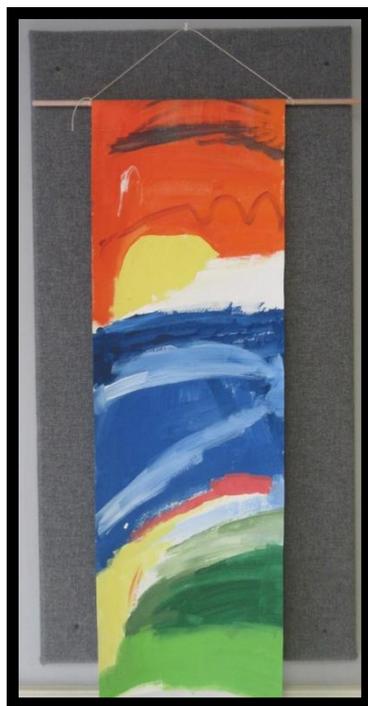
A spring dance is planned - Friday, May 12, from 6:30 pm to 9:00 p.m.

It has been a long time since The Arc has held a dance in the spring. The theme will be 80's so get your hairspray out to tease your hair high, find some t-shirts that hang from one shoulder, and get ready to dance to a lot of songs from the 80's. Don't worry, we will have a mixture of music from all genres and eras to accommodate everyone's tastes.

Light snacks will be provided and we will offer a raffle of gift baskets once again. Anyone wearing anything neon (big in the 80's), spiked hair, or a flower piece of jewelry (representing spring), receives a free ticket for the basket raffle. Otherwise the tickets will cost .25 cents per raffle ticket with a limit of 10 raffle tickets per person.

The cost to attend the dance is free for Arc members and \$5 for non members.

Tell your friends and let's have a party!



Arts at The Arc...2017

If you haven't been to The Arc in a couple of weeks, you will need to stop by and view the latest art work on display. The Arts at The Arc class have completed their projects for the 2017 season and we are displaying some of their creations. Thanks to our coordinator, Lynn Heverly, for developing some great pieces this year. Also, many thanks to our volunteers who graciously give of their valuable time to be sure this program remains a success: Cortny Himes, Sharon Wall, MaryAnn Klingner, and Joyce Seely.





Achieve with us.

The Arc of Blair County

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CRUISE to INCLUDE DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS

Autism on the Seas, a national organization, has been in collaboration with Royal Caribbean International since 2007 in developing cruise vacation services to accommodate adults and families living with children with Special Needs, including, but not limited to, Autism, Asperger Syndrome, Down Syndrome, Tourette Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and all Cognitive, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. These services quickly expanded to other cruise lines including The Staffed Cruises.

The Staffed Cruises are selected from regular cruises throughout the year, and assist adults and families in accommodating the typical cruise services, as well as providing specialized Respite and Private Activities/Sessions that allow guests the use of the ships entertainment venues in an accommodated and assisted manner. The professional Staff (educated, experienced, background checked and sanctioned by the cruise lines) accompanies you on your cruise to provide amazing vacation and travel experiences onboard Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, Norwegian, Disney and Carnival Cruise Lines.

The Staffed Cruises are open to all extended family and friends. Extended family and friends can book directly with us, and they also receive all of the same benefits and services, including expedited/priority boarding, private muster drill, dinner seating, private venue sessions, reserved show seating, and siblings and child friends can attend the respite sessions.

To find out more visit Autism on The Seas at their website: www.autismontheseas.com .