



September 30, 2005 Newsletter

Welcome to USAAA News, a weekly newsletter that addresses a range of topics on autism and Asperger Syndrome, the TIP of the week, and USAAA convention updates.

**BREAKING NEWS** - Mercury alert: 2 duck species too toxic to eat; Health advisory appears to be the first of its kind in the nation.

The tests of flesh on ducks that feed on Great Salt Lake marshes show toxic levels of mercury. Utah State Health Department toxicologist Wayne Ball said "these levels were high enough that there's really no safe level of consumption." In February, scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey and Fish and Wildlife Service reported finding in the Great Salt Lake some of the highest levels of methylmercury ever recorded in the United States. **TO VIEW THE ENTIRE STORY**, click on the link, **MERCURY ALERT**, in the **QUICK LINKS** section in this newsletter or visit [www.sltrib.com](http://www.sltrib.com).

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#### USAAA Partners With AutismCares Initiative

A growing number of national autism leadership organizations, including USAAA, have partnered to form AutismCares, a nationwide disaster relief effort driven to organize assistance for the autism community in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area. For additional information, visit <http://www.autismcares.org/>.  
[www.autismcares.org/](http://www.autismcares.org/)

#### New Board Member Appointed; President of Chicago Bar Association

Michael B. Hyman, J.D., has been appointed to the USAAA Board of Directors. Mr. Hyman is a principal attorney at the Chicago law firm of Much, Shelist, Freed, Denenberg, Ament, & Rubenstein, P.C. He is a seasoned trial and appellate lawyer with 25 years' experience in complex and class action litigation. Mr. Hyman is currently president of the prominent 22,000 member Chicago Bar Association. He is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and several federal circuit courts of appeal. He



and his wife, Leslie are the parents of two children. Their son attends college and their daughter, who has worked with many children with ASD, is working towards a Master's degree in guidance and counseling.

Read on...

**TIP of the week** - Complete all physician's forms, including insurance forms, prior to any appointment.

It is extremely important to call ahead to your physician's office and request all necessary forms to be completed prior to your initial meeting. This should be your protocol for all doctor's appointments. If your physician's office refuses to send the appropriate forms to you, stop by the clinic and pick them up. Complete the forms at home and bring them with you for the meeting. You can often fax the forms to the office prior to your appointment.

Read on...

**Visit the USAAA booth at DAN! Conference**

Join us at the DAN! Conference in Long Beach, California October 27-30, 2005. We will have updated information on the USAAA conference scheduled for August 10-13, 2006. Be sure to stop by the booth and learn about membership benefits with USAAA.

Read on...

**Quote of the week**

"Research is formalized curiosity." —Zora Neale Hurston