

# ASPIES

Support Group assisting individuals 18 & older (and their families)  
with Asperger Syndrome, High Functioning Autism, & PDD-NOS

presents

## Potluck Dinner

with Sean Barron & Barbara Protopapa

Meet & Greet for Adults 18 & over

(Teens & other family members welcome to attend, too!)

**Thursday, October 3rd - 7:00-9:00 pm**

Note the following changes for THIS evening:

- \* Please bring a covered dish to share with everyone.
- \* **PLEASE RSVP** so we have a count for plates, drinks, and such.
- \* Note: Sean & Barbara will be joining with us again for an evening of food, informal discussion, and a great time of socialization.

### Meeting Location:

Compass Christian Church

1900 East Avenue, Akron 44314

To RSVP or more info, contact Joy at 330-745-5115 or [joy@aspies.org](mailto:joy@aspies.org)

[www.aspies.org](http://www.aspies.org)



A general-assignment reporter with the *Youngstown Vindicator* and author, **Sean Barron**, 62, was originally diagnosed with autism at age 4 years. Although Barron coped academically, school was miserable for him socially. Gradually, he figured out how to function effectively in society, and began to share his story publicly first through a book he and his mother wrote called **There's a Boy in Here: Emerging from the Bonds of Autism**. Later, he and Temple Grandin, a college professor with autism, co-wrote **Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships: Decoding Social Mysteries through the Unique Perspectives of Autism**. The writing experience led Barron to get a journalism degree and his job. Sean met Barbara at a book signing, and the rest is history.



**Barbara Protopapa** (*Never ask a lady her age!*) works as a general-activities assistant at the Rich Center for the Study and Treatment of Autism on the Youngstown State University Campus. She also works part-time cleaning the offices of a local law firm. Protopapa relates her childhood years as being filled with atypical Autism characteristics. Hailing from a large family, her parents did their best to provide for her needs. However, this was a time when few people - including many experts - were well educated about the disorder or services available. School proved to be challenging as she was placed in numerous ineffective programs. Graduating in 1990, Protopapa felt that school had not prepared her for what lay ahead. Upon entering the job market, she learned that she had to make an effort to gain professional skills and a solid work ethic, and a sense of how to get ahead.