Connecting Wisconsin

“FROM STEPPING STONES TO MILESTONES”
THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 3-5, 2012

HOTEL SIERRA/KI CONVENTION CENTER, GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

Thursday, May 3, Preconference—Kari Dunn-Buron
“When My Worries Get Too Big”

Thursday, May 3, Wisconsin Autism Leadership Summit
FREE statewide training and networking opportunity!

Friday, May 4 Keynote- Tracy Thresher with Harvey Lavoy and
Larry Bissonnette with Pascal Cheng
“When Wretches and Jabberers”

Saturday, May 5, Nicole Beurkens, PhD
“Getting to the Core of Autism Spectrum Disorders: Strategies for
Improving Communication, Behavior and Relationships!”

Look inside for the Conference Program and Registration Materials!
You may also download at www.asw4autism.org—
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

In This Issue:

ASW Annual Meeting, Friday, May 4, 2012
4:45 pm. All ASW Members are welcome to attend!

Promote Your Business Through Conference Sponsorships or Advertisements!
Email mpenasa@asw4autism.org or phone (920) 973-4080 for more information.

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The Autism Society of Wisconsin in Wisconsin Receives $100,000 Grant through Walmart Foundation Associate Choice Program

Associate Choice program gives $7 Million to nonprofits across the nation

Wisconsin, January, 2012 – The Autism Society of Wisconsin has received $100,000 from the Walmart Foundation as part of the Associate Choice Program, an online campaign where Walmart associates voted directly for a nonprofit to receive funding in their home state. The grant will help Autism Society of Wisconsin strengthen community partnerships and train local community leaders to provide information, referral, training and support for families and others regarding autism.

The Autism Society of Wisconsin is an organization working to “Improve the lives of all affected by autism.”

"The Autism Society of Wisconsin is very grateful for the opportunity to partner with Walmart," said Dale Prahl, ASW President. "This grant allows for the expansion of current programs and the development of new ones, which will help us more effectively serve the entire state of Wisconsin."

The seven-week voting program awarded $7 million in grants to statewide organizations across the U.S.

"We’re pleased that Walmart associates chose to support the Autism Society of Wisconsin" said Toby Youngblood. “It’s a part of our mission to give back in the communities where we operate.”

About the Autism Society of Wisconsin
The Autism Society of Wisconsin is a statewide chapter of the Autism Society of America. Our non-profit organization encourages grassroots involvement from local chapters, support groups, agencies, and others interested in helping to promote awareness, understanding, wellbeing and lifelong opportunities for individuals with autism spectrum disorder throughout Wisconsin.

www.asw4autism.org

About Philanthropy at Walmart
Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support initiatives that are helping people live better around the globe. In May 2010, Walmart and its Foundation made a historic pledge of $2 billion through 2015 to fight hunger in the U.S. The Walmart Foundation also supports education, workforce development, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness initiatives. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.
Message from the President

Welcome to 2012 and Happy New Year!!!!!

It’s always interesting to reflect on the past year. The year 2011 brought some big changes for the Autism Society of Wisconsin. We saw old friends move on to new chapters of their lives and we were joined by new faces of enthusiasm and energy. We established new bylaws to help us strengthen our own organization and strengthen relationships with Autism Society chapters in Wisconsin and the Autism Society of America. And we implemented the Wisconsin Autism Leadership Network and held the first annual Wisconsin Autism Leadership summit at our annual conference.

Reflecting on the past is important, but it’s even more exciting to look at the possibilities of the future. The announcement of the Walmart grant is certainly reason for excitement. First, we want to THANK Walmart for their generous contribution. This money will give ASW the opportunity to develop, expand, and strengthen some core objectives, including strengthening partnerships among Autism Society chapters and other related agencies. We also plan to expand training opportunities for leaders in the autism community through our Wisconsin Autism Leadership Network. And with help from local Autism Society chapters we plan to develop and distribute more resources for individuals affected by autism across the lifespan. Thanks to Walmart, we will focus much of the next two years on collaboration with the intention of building Wisconsin’s capacity to provide timely information and referral services to those affected by autism.

We start out 2012 by welcoming ASA President/CEO, Scott Badesch, to our January Board of Directors meeting. His visit means increased coordination between our state chapter and the national Autism Society, which will help all of us in our role to “improve the lives of all affected by autism.”

Best wishes in the New Year!
Dale Prahl –ASW President

ATTENTION ASW MEMBERS!
The ASW Annual Election will take place at the Annual Membership Meeting on May 4 at 4:45 at the Hotel Sierra/KI Convention Center in Green Bay. Election ballots will be available at the meeting. If you would like to request an absentee ballot, contact the ASW Office at asw@asw4autism.org or phone 888-428-8476. Requests for absentee ballots must be received no later than March 20. A ballot will be mailed to you and must be completed and returned to the ASW office, postmarked no later than April 13, 2012 to be included in the election.

“Growing Up Together” is the theme of the ASW 2012 Annual Autism Awareness Essay Contest

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, the Autism Society of Wisconsin, with support from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), is sponsoring its 7th Annual Autism Awareness Essay Contest.

All students in grades K-12 can participate! Information has been sent to every public and private school building principal in Wisconsin. The essay materials can also be found on the ASW website at www.asw4autism.org. Questions on the essay contest can be referred to mpenasa@asw4autism.org or phone (920)-973-6636.
Day with the Experts
8th Annual "Autism: A Day with the Experts"
Saturday, January 28, 2012 -- 9:00 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Hosted by the Autism Society of Greater Madison and the Waisman Center,
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Friends of the Waisman Center Auditorium
1500 Highland Avenue, Madison WI 53705
(Complimentary coffee & bagels at 8:30 a.m.)
FREE ADMISSION & PARKING. EVERYONE WELCOME.
PLEASE PRE-REGISTER.

NOT IN MADISON? Join us via live webcast (live webcasting sponsored by the WI LEND training program at the Waisman Center) The webcast link will be available on Jan 28 at www.waisman.wisc.edu/events/experts.

PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE:

• 9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.
  “Welcome and Introduction to the Waisman Center”—Marsha Mallick Seltzer, PhD, Director, Waisman Center

• 9:30 a.m.–10:15 a.m.
  “Investigations of Brain Connectivity in Autism Using MRI”—Andrew Alexander, PhD, Associate Professor, Medical Physics

While the diagnosis of autism is based upon a set of behavioral features, it is less clear how the brain is affected. In my research, we are investigating measurements of brain connectivity between different brain areas using both functional MRI and diffusion tensor imaging. The results of our research show that brain connectivity is altered in autism. Our results also show that these connectivity properties change with age. This altered connectivity property may be useful for diagnosis and identification of specific subtypes of autism.

• 10:15 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
  “Transitioning Together: An Intervention for Families of Adolescents with ASD”—Leann Smith, PhD, Associate Scientist, Waisman Center

Despite the increasing prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), few programs provide teenagers with ASD and their families’ with support during the adolescent years. This talk will focus on recent research on the needs of families undergoing transition and will present data from a pilot study of the Transitioning Together program, an education and support program for families of adolescents with ASD that is being provided at the Waisman Center.

• 11:00 a.m.–11:15 a.m.
  “What is the Autism Society of Greater Madison?”—David George, President, Autism Society of Greater Madison

• 11:15 p.m.–12:00 noon
  LUNCH—Optional, $5 box lunches (Cousins Subs) available for purchase.

• 12:00 noon–12:45 p.m.
  “Teaching Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders: What Works?”—Linda Tuchman-Ginsburg PhD, Outreach Program Manager, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Waisman Center

The use of evidence-based practices within a child’s daily routines and activities, whether at school, home or other community settings, is the best approach to serving children and youth with ASD. This session will provide a brief overview of the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders (NPDC), a project conducted by the Waisman Center and two other sites. This session will describe how to access the NPDC materials and resources, and present data on the impact of the NPDC work on children and youth with ASD on the schools and programs that have participated in NPDC activities.

• 12:45 p.m.–1:45 p.m.
  PANEL DISCUSSION—A panel of experts, including an individual with ASD and family members.

Please pre-register to attend the event at the Waisman Center since capacity is limited. To register to attend, go to: http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/events/experts/

For additional details call (608) 263-5837 or send an email to palumbo@waisman.wisc.edu

SAVE THE DATE!
The Community of Practice on Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Developmental Disabilities
Supports For Family Well-Being for Children with ASD/DD
March 12, 2012
CESA 1,
Pewaukee, WI
www.waisman.wisc.edu/connections
I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I am very much enjoying my new position as Autism Consultant with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. I look forward to continuing my work with parents, educators, and organizations across the state to improve outcomes for students with autism. Here are a few resources that may be of interest.

**DPI Advanced Training: Addressing Instructional Strategies**
February 7-8, Comfort Inn & Suites, De Forest
In this NEW training (2012), participants will be provided with many ideas and strategies to teach students with autism academics and activities of daily living. Using a combination of technology and low tech ideas, participants will have a chance to get their questions asked about “How do I teach him to ______?” Matching student strengths to strategies, Discrete Trial Format, Collaborating with the Student, Teaching a Format and inclusive instruction will be included. Technology as it relates to instructional strategies will be inserted throughout the training. **Trainers:** Kate McGinnity and Mary Graczyk-McMullen

**DPI Basic Level Training for Students with Autism**
March 6-7, Holiday Inn Campus Area, Eau Claire
This is a great training for parents and educators who are new to working with students with autism. Trainers will go in depth with specific questions that participants have in relation to addressing challenging behaviors and teaching strategies for children with autism. **Trainers:** Judy Endow, Kate McGinnity, and Mary Graczyk-McMullen.

Go to [http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/autism.html](http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/autism.html) to register!

I also would continue to encourage parents and educators to check out the following free resources.

**Assistive Technology Internet Modules**: From the same people that brought you Autism Internet Modules, this resource currently has only two modules (AT consideration for IEP process and Automatic Speech Recognition) but has 39 more in development. [http://www.atinternetmodules.org/user_about.php](http://www.atinternetmodules.org/user_about.php)

**Autism Internet Modules**: Sign up for free to access modules on evidence based practices for students with autism. [http://www.autisminternetmodules.org](http://www.autisminternetmodules.org)

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**The Journey Begins Here... Transition Planning**
Planning for transition from high school to the adult world of work, post-secondary education and training, and independent living takes a team of people helping the student along the way. Participants will learn about the elements of transition and will walk away with resources and knowledge on how to develop a solid transition plan. School staff as well as parents and family members of children with disabilities are encouraged to attend. This workshop addresses State Performance Plan Indicator #8 (Parent Involvement) and Indicator #13 (Transition Planning). This workshop is sponsored by CESA #1 WSPEI Project.

- March 13, 2012 from 5:00—8:00 PM
- March 14, 2012 from 10:00 AM —2:00 PM (choose one)
  - CESA #1 Pewaukee, WI

There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is required due to limited space. **To register contact workshops@cesa1.k12.wi.us or 262.787.9500, ext. 9532.** For more information about workshop content please contact Cheri Sylla at csylla@cesa1.k12.wi.us or 262.787.9500, ext. 9565.

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**John D. Wiley Seminar Series: “Bridging the Divide: Moving Evidence-based Autism Interventions into the Community”**

**WHEN:** February 3, 2012 from noon to 1:15pm

**WHAT:** The number of evidence—based behavioral interventions for children with autism has increased dramatically over the last few decades. Community practice has lagged far behind, however, instruction and support for children with autism in most schools does not mirror the evidence base and generally has been found ineffective in promoting student outcomes.

This presentation will discuss the methods and results, challenges and opportunities of partnering with school districts to conduct this type of work, and conceptual models from the field of implementation science that can guide efforts to increase the use of evidence-based practice in community settings.

**REGISTRATION and INFO:** Contact Teresa Palumbo at 608-263-5837 or palumbo@2waisman.wisc.edu for registration information or to answer any questions you might have.
WSPEI and WI FACETS offer a weekly update to share statewide information regarding parent leadership and family involvement. Please visit the Parent Leadership Hub web page of the SPDG website at [http://www.wispdg.org/pl.html](http://www.wispdg.org/pl.html) for the current and archived weekly updates and to find information on these topics:

* WIFACETS website: [http://www.wifacets.org](http://www.wifacets.org)
* Resources - Product Order Form, and Educational Materials for Parents
* Calendar of Events
* Multi-Media Resources - Workshops Online, Video Series, and Webcasts

To subscribe to the weekly email updates email marys@cesa12.k12.wi.us or ebraunel@wifacets.org

**Call for Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment (YIPPE) Training Proposals for 2012-2013.**

WSPEI (Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative) is seeking proposals from school districts, communities, parent groups or agencies that would like to host a Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment (YIPPE) training for 2012-2013. Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment (YIPPE) is the only known program in the country to simultaneously train youth with disabilities, ages 15-20, in transition along with their parents. Up to 25 youth and their parents attend 5 weekend sessions throughout a school year to learn about effective self-advocacy, communication strategies, futures planning and available resources for students in transition.

Submit Proposal by Feb. 28, 2012 to:

WSPEI
Attn: Martha DeYoung
PO Box 564
Portage, WI 53901

**Call for Parents in Partnership (PIP) Training Proposals 2012-2013**

WSPEI (Wisconsin Statewide Parent Education Initiative) is seeking proposals from school districts, communities, parent groups or agencies that would like to host a Parents in Partnership (PIP) training for 2012-2013.

Parents in Partnership trainings are at no cost to parents or groups. The trainings are consistent with the Wisconsin Personnel Development Model and are designed to address Indicators 8, 13 and 14 of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) six year state performance plan for improving outcomes of children with disabilities in Wisconsin.

Submit Proposal by Feb. 28, 2012 to:

WSPEI
Attn: Martha DeYoung
PO Box 564
Portage, WI 53901

**Did You Know? Now You Know! Training**

This training provides a comprehensive overview of health care and community supports. Topics include Medicaid and how to maximize benefits, how to appeal denials, prior authorizations and medical necessity. Other important programs such as the Family Support Program and Children’s Long Term Support Waivers are discussed. To access this training go to: [http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/module.php](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/module.php)

**What’s After High School – Training on Transition**

This training provides a broad over-view of concepts and programs to support youth and their families as they move from children’s supports and services to adulthood. Supported employment, community living options, legal considerations and envisioning a youth’s future are discussed. To access this training go to: [http://www.fvofwi.org/Publications/What's_After_High_School_Training_Power_Point_Presentation.pdf](http://www.fvofwi.org/Publications/What's_After_High_School_Training_Power_Point_Presentation.pdf)
YOUR CHILD’S SAFETY LINE
By Dan Coulter

There’s a great Gary Larson Far Side cartoon about optimists and pessimists that shows four people, each separately looking at a glass with some water in it.

The first person says, "The glass is half full!"

The second person says, "The glass is half empty."

The third person says, "The glass is half full...No! Wait! Half empty....No, half...What was the question?"

The fourth person says, "Hey! I ordered a cheeseburger!"

Larson titled this cartoon, "The four basic personality types," but I sometimes think of the fourth responder as a guy with Asperger Syndrome. He’s got a completely different viewpoint that others may not understand or appreciate.

And it can cause him no end of trouble.

I recently read about a Swedish study of people with Asperger Syndrome published in the September 2011 issue of Research in Developmental Disabilities. The study involved 54 willing adults with a clinical diagnosis of Asperger Syndrome. Their average age was 27 and they were evenly split among males and females.

Among the key findings: Seventy percent of the study participants had experienced at least one episode of major depression, and about half had recurring depression. Fifty-six percent met the criteria for at least one anxiety disorder.

What's the connection between Asperger Syndrome and these problems?

I think it’s mostly the cheeseburgers: unexpected, out of the norm behaviors.

Parents know these behaviors can cause others to reject, ridicule or ignore children with Asperger Syndrome. And routinely getting rejected, ridiculed or ignored is enough to make almost anyone anxious or depressed. Of course, there can be other causes for depression or anxiety. Parents should seek professional help for a child who shows ongoing symptoms of either, but there are things you can do that might prevent things from ever getting to that stage.

They say the best defense is a good offense. So, if you want to try and protect your children with Asperger Syndrome from negative feelings, I recommend relentless optimism.

Act enthusiastic and positive when you’re with your children. Don’t always feel positive? As a friend of mine recommended, "Fake it til you make it!" Be a motivator. Not with false praise, but by focusing on your children’s strengths and praising even small successes. Praise is addictive.

I’ve seen enthusiastic, happy kids with Asperger Syndrome return home from school hurt and frustrated after trying to fit in and getting rejected. And it can be worse than you know. Your child may not be telling you all the negative things that are happening at school. That’s not uncommon.

Even without access to all the details, parents can help children cope by making home a safe haven of encouragement and support. One key form of support is teaching kids social skills that can help them when they’re flying solo.

My parents had no clue I had Asperger Syndrome when I was growing up, but they were always positive and encouraging. I always knew they believed in me.

Whether it’s a parent, a teacher, or a friend, knowing that someone believes in you can create a safety line that helps keep you from being dragged into anxiety or depression.

Whoever else your child sees with a hand on his safety line, imagine how powerful it will be for him to know you’re always anchoring the other end.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dan Coulter is the author of ten DVDs about Asperger Syndrome and autism, including "Asperger Syndrome for Dads." You can read more articles and offer comments on them at the article blog on his website: www.coultervideo.com.

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General Conference Information, May 3-5, 2012

Reduced Registration for ASW Members
If you receive the ASW newsletter, this does not mean that you are an ASW member. You will not be able to register for a member discount unless you are a current member OR you are a parent of a child with an autism spectrum disorder. You can either renew your membership or become a member through ASW. A membership application form can be found on page 15 of the newsletter.

- All registration forms must be complete and accompanied with a check, purchase order, or Visa, Discover, or MasterCard information.
- An e-mail confirmation will be sent, if provided with an e-mail address.
- Pre-Registration deadline is April 20, 2012.
- On-site registration is subject to an additional $25 fee. Handouts are not guaranteed.
- Written cancellation requests must be received by April 20, 2012 and will be charged a $25.00 processing fee.
- No refunds after April 20, 2012.
- 30.00 fee for returned checks or denied charges.

TIPS for Conference Attendees:
- Dress is casual; it is helpful to bring a pad of paper, pen/pencils and highlighter.
- Upon arrival, go to the ASW registration desk to check in and receive your name tag and conference book.
- If possible, arrive early, take time to browse through the conference information, check agenda to note any changes and check the hotel map to know where the sessions you plan to attend are located.
- Some sessions are very popular so try to get to the session as early as possible to be sure of having a seat.
- Take time to network with others; Friday evening activities are a great place to do this.
- Realize that rooms will be too warm/cold for some, just right for others. Dress in layers.
- You can expect some sessions may have audio-visual equipment problems.
- ASW will make every effort to accommodate your individual needs. If you require assistance to fully participate in this conference, ASW requires notification by March 23, 2012.
- If you are registering your child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder for the conference, please keep in mind that the child needs to be at least 10 years of age, and accompanied by a support person, if needed. Child care is not available!

Questions or Special Needs:
Email mpenasa@asw4autism.org or call 920-973-6636.
Raffle
The fabulous ASW Conference raffle will be held throughout the conference. Various themed baskets, hotel stays, exhibitor donations and other fun raffle items will be on display. Donations are always welcomed! Popular items include electronics, gift cards and sporting event passes. To donate an item for the raffle email Kelly at asw@asw4autism.org or phone 888-428-8476.

Educator Reception, Thursday, May 3
The Department of Public Instruction (DPI), along with ASW, will be sponsoring the 3rd Annual Educator’s Networking Reception, Thursday evening, May 3rd, from 4:30-6:00 PM, during the ASW 2012 Annual Conference. Educators are welcome to attend this informal gathering to share information on different topics, such as transition, social relations, expressive communication, sensory processing and evidence based practices. There will be hors d’oeuvres and beverages available for attendees. No registration necessary! This session is for educators only.

ASW ANNUAL MEETING
The Annual Meeting will take place on Friday at 4:45PM

TALENT SHOW AND EVENING RECEPTION
Don’t miss the Talent Show featuring individuals with autism and their unique talents, followed by the Evening Reception on Friday! The talent show is from 7-8 pm with reception and dance to follow. All conference attendees are welcome.

Promote your business by becoming a Conference Sponsor!

- $10,000 (Diamond Sponsor)
- $5,000 (Gold Sponsor)
- $2,000 (Level IV)
- $1,000 (Level III)
- $501—1,000 (Level II)
- $100—500 (Level I)

Advertising:
Place an advertisement about your company’s products and/or services in our 2012 Conference Proceedings. This is an opportunity for you to reach individuals with ASD, parents, educators, therapists, agencies, school districts and others, making them aware of the services you provide. Advertisements are printed in black and white.

1 Page $350.00 8"w x 10.5"h
1/2 Page $200.00 8"w x 5"h
1/4 Page $125.00 4"w x 5.25"h

For detailed information on Conference Sponsorship or Advertisements please visit our website at www.asw4autism.org

Exhibitors
Exhibit Booth Rates: Commercial Exhibitors:
$400 – 1 Table, $500 – 2 Tables

Non-profit Service Providers:
$300 – 1 Table, $400 – 2 Tables

Individual on the Spectrum:
$50 – 1 Table, $75 – 2 Tables

A complete Exhibitor Prospectus is available on our website at www.asw4autism.org
“FROM STEPPING STONES TO MILESTONES”
2012 ASW ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 3-5
HYATT HOTEL & KI CONVENTION CENTER, GREEN BAY

Pre-Conference Workshop
Thursday, May 3rd

Registration: 7:30-8:15 AM
Welcome: 8:15-8:30 AM
Workshop: 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
Break: 10:00–10:30 AM
Lunch: 12:00-1:00 PM (included)
Break: 2:30–3:00 PM
Exhibits: 10:00 AM–5:00 PM
Educator’s Networking
Reception: 4:30-6:00 PM

KARI DUNN BURON

WHEN MY WORRIES GET TOO BIG”

This presentation will provide an overview of current thinking in the area of Social Cognition and learning theories as they relate to autism spectrum conditions. The speaker will connect learning style and problems of social thinking to symptoms of social anxiety, emotional regulation and challenging social responses. Strategies for addressing relationship building and relaxation will be presented.

Kari Dunn Buron, MS, has worked in K-12 with on the autism spectrum for 30+ years. She currently teaches for Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota where she developed an Autism Spectrum Disorders Certificate program for educators. Kari has done volunteer work specific to autism in Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, Tanzania and Ghana. In 2003, Kari received a Self-designed Fellowship that allowed her to spend a year interviewing and working internationally with a number of therapists and researchers in the area of Social Cognition, Education and Autism. She is the co-author of *The Incredible 5-Point Scale*, and the author of *When My Worries Get Too Big*, *A 5 Could Make Me Lose Control* and *A 5 is Against the Law!* (2008 ASA literary award winner). Kari is also the co-editor of a textbook for educators titled *Learners on the Autism Spectrum: Preparing Highly Qualified Educators* (2009 ASA literary award winner) and is the creator of a new social skills magazine designed for students with Asperger Syndrome called *The Social Times* (2010 Gold Winner, National Patenting Publications Award).

Learning Objectives for Participants

- Define Social Cognition as it is explained by current research and explain how it relates to how a person with autism might learn most effectively.
- Define systematic learning as it applies to teaching social information to people with autism.
- Describe 5 systematic ways of teaching or learning social information and emotional concepts.
- Describe the Anxiety Curve Model of Functional Behavior Assessment and name 3 ways of proactively teaching relaxation to highly anxious individuals.

Friday, May 4th

Registration: 7:30-8:15 AM
Welcome: 8:15-8:30 AM
Opening Keynote: 8:30–10:30 AM
Break: 10:30–11:00 AM
Breakout Session: 11:00 AM–12:15 PM
Lunch: 12:15-1:30 PM (on your own)
Breakout Session: 1:30-2:45 PM
Break: 2:45–3:15 PM

Breakout Session: 3:15-4:30 PM
Exhibits: 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM
ASW Annual Meeting: 4:45-6:00 PM
Pizza Buffet & Town Hall Meeting for individuals with ASD: 5:30-6:30 PM
Talent Show: 7:00-8:00 PM
Reception/Dance: 8:00-10:00 PM

Connecting Wisconsin:
Autism Society of Wisconsin Newsletter
Connect on the web!
www.asw4autism.org

Winter 2012
“WRETCHES AND JABBERER’s”

TRACY THRESHER with HARVEY LAVOY and LARRY BISSONNETTE with PASCAL CHENG

In "Wretches & Jabberers", Tracy and Larry, who live with autism, embark on a global quest to change prevailing attitudes about disability and intelligence. With limited speech, Tracy Thresher, 42, and Larry Bissonnette, 52, both faced lives of mute isolation in mental institutions or adult disability centers. When they learned as adults to communicate by typing, their lives changed dramatically. Their world tour message is that the same possibility exists for others like themselves. At each stop, they dissect public attitudes about autism and issue a hopeful challenge to reconsider competency and the future. Along the way, they reunite with old friends from the USA, expand the isolated world of a talented young painter and make new allies in their cause.

This highly acclaimed film, by Oscar® winner and twice Academy Award®-nominated filmmaker, Gerardine Wurzburg, will be shown as part of this presentation, followed by questions and answers.

LARRY BISSONNETTE is an advocate and artist who lives in Milton, Vermont and has had his work exhibited regularly both locally and nationally. Larry is one of the featured artists of the GRACE (Grass Roots Art and Community Effort) project based in Hardwick, Vermont. His work is in the permanent collection of the Musée de l’Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland and in many private collections. His work was most recently featured in the Hobart William and Smith Disability and the Arts Festival in April, 2010. He is both the subject and writer of an award winning film about his life, called, My Classic Life as an Artist: A Portrait of Larry Bissonnette (2005). In 1991, Larry learned to communicate through typing and began combining words with his art to express his thoughts and ideas. Over the past 15 years, he has been a featured presenter at many educational conferences and has written and spoken on the topics of autism, communication and art.

TRACY THRESHER is an advocate for people with disabilities. He lives and works in Vermont. Tracy began typing to communicate in 1990 and was one of the first individuals with autism at Washington County Mental Health Services (a community-based service provider) to be introduced to it. He has presented at local, statewide, and national workshops and conferences. He has consulted with local schools, is a member of the Vermont Statewide Standing Committee and has worked for the Green Mountain Self-Advocates in Montpelier, Vermont. In Vermont, he mentors teenagers and adults. Most recently, Tracy has consulted at Syracuse University as a lead trainer.

PASCAL CHENG has assisted Larry Bissonnette in his writings and presentations about art and disability issues since 1991. Pascal has an M.Ed. and a C.A.S. in Special Education from the University of Vermont. He has worked in the fields of education and human services for over 30 years as a special education teacher, coordinator of educational and vocational programs for adults with developmental disabilities and consultant for individuals with complex communication needs. He is currently an Educational and Communication Specialist for the Howard Center in Burlington, Vermont, providing training and technical assistance for communication and literacy in both school and community settings. He serves as a member of the Vermont Communication Task Force, a group that works to improve communication supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities in the state of Vermont. He also serves as a member of the Vermont Autism Task Force and board member for the Autism National Committee.

HARVEY F. LAVOY has assisted Tracy Thresher in his advocacy work since 1994. Harvey has worked for Community Developmental Services (CDS), a division of Washington County Mental Health Services in Montpelier, Vermont since 1994. He has a B.S. in Special Education and has worked in the field of Human Services for over 30 years. He is currently the Director of Communication Training and Resources at CDS and provides education, training and technical assistance to adults and children with complex communication needs as well as their families, support staff, educational teams, schools and agencies. He has been a member of the Vermont Statewide Communication Task Force since 2000 providing statewide trainings, workshops, and conferences to enable adults in Vermont with developmental disabilities to communicate, make social connections, and participate in community life more fully.

Friday and Saturday Breakout Sessions

Education: Includes topics of interest for those who support individuals with ASD in the education setting.
Home/Community: Sessions focus on issues that can benefit those on the autism spectrum in their home environment or in the community.
Intervention: Sessions focus on different approaches of intervention for those on the autism spectrum.
Across the Lifespan: Includes topics of interest across the lifespan concerning those with Autism Spectrum Disorders.
Youth Activities: Includes topics of interest to our younger conference attendees (and to all adults who are young at heart). Parent, guardian, or support person must accompany child, if registered as a support person for the conference. (See Youth Information Sheet on page 14).
Supporting those with Classic Autism: Sessions are devoted to understanding and supporting communication and sensory needs to individuals with classic autism. (This strand is Friday ONLY)

All STRANDS ARE OPEN TO ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES
A1. **Education I:** Presenters – Susan Stokes & Daniel Parker. “BEST PRACTICE! Using Evidence-Based Practice at School, Home, and the Community!” Join us as we share free web-based resources that highlight numerous instructional tools, strategies, and behavioral interventions that have met criteria for evidence-based practice. Use of evidence-based practices should be considered as essential for any person supporting individuals with ASD, and these web resources should be the primary tools in your toolbox!

A2. **Education II:** Presenter – Patricia Engel. “Preparation for and Participation in the IEP Meeting”. This presentation will help you to understand why and how to prepare for an IEP meeting. You will also learn why you should have a collaborative IEP meeting and how to achieve collaboration. You will walk away from this presentation with a more in-depth understanding of the components of the IEP document and its importance for student’s program and success.

A3. **Home/Community:** “Dad’s Panel” (For Dad’s only) - Dale Prahl, Moderator.

A4. **Intervention:** Presenter – Toni Mullin. “Implementing Social Skill Groups for Children Diagnosed with ASD.” This session describes effective, fun, and easy to implement strategies used to develop and maintain a successful, play-based social skills group that promotes social competence. The group is specifically designed for children and their families and develops appropriate peer play skills within a community based setting. The effective strategies that are incorporated into the group are based on the review of the best practices supported by the literature and will be further discussed within the session.

A5. **Across the Lifespan:** Presenter – Jamie Pacton. “Rediscovering Milestones for a Child on the Spectrum.” Often as parents of children on the spectrum, all we keep track of are lost milestones. This session will explore why it is crucial for our wellness and our children’s happiness to start keeping track of the milestones that may be delayed but are still happening. Personal stories, practical strategies, and positive suggestions for rediscovering milestones will be especially useful for parents of a newly-diagnosed child.

A6. **Youth Activities:** Presenters – Barb & Stefan Kavan. “Educating Trainman: A Mother and Son’s Story.” The gift of Stefan and his story resulted in a mother-son presentation, followed by their coauthored children’s book, published in 2010 by AAPC called TRAINMAN. Stefan’s personal experiences focuses on social acceptance and developing friendships through special interests. They will highlight evidence-based practices for an inclusive classroom and community-based environment.

A7. **Classic Autism:** Presenters — Sally Young & Panel. “Local Typers “Speak” Their Minds.” Like keynote speakers Larry Bissonette and Tracy Thresher, many adults with the label of classic autism type to talk. Panel members in this session are eager to share themselves, their words, their experiences, and their understanding of how gaining a means to communicate changed their lives. See some of our local typers for yourself, hear directly from them, ask them questions, and envision new possibilities for others with classic autism.

B1. **Education I:** Presenter – Kristine Leonard. “How to TEACCH Your Way to Success!” In a classroom with students with classic autism, it is often difficult to set up programming that really works. I have designed my program after the TEACCH concept with a few twists added. It runs wonderfully in this manner and has taken behavioral issues and turned them around to success in learning.

B2. **Education II:** Presenters – L. Lynn Stansberry Brusnahan, Nate Helm-Quest, and Collin Brusnahan. “Understanding and Using Children’s Literature to Teach Social Skills, Social Understanding, and Autism Awareness.” Social challenges are associated with autism. In this session, participants learn how to use children’s literature to teach social understanding and to supplement social skills lessons. Participants also learn how to use children’s literature to teach peers about autism. This session presents a bibliography of children’s literature that can be used to introduce a range of topics including emotional management, manners, sharing, cooperation, sportsmanship, teasing, bullying, anger, anxiety, fear, perfectionism, perspective taking, stress management, friendship skills, and autism awareness.

B3. **Home/Community:** Presenters—Lisa Ladson, Sharon Hammer, and Kim Schmidt, Imagine a Child’s Capacity. “Autism 101: Understanding the Spectrum”. The focus of this session is on understanding the experience and perspective of people with autism. Presenters will discuss how individuals with ASD experience the world and how it impacts their learning, communication and relationships. The session will include first person accounts, recent research, and personal experiences from the practice of the trainers.
B4. **Intervention:** Presenters — Julie Bryda & William Murray. “An Overview of the Children’s Long Term Support Waivers.” This session will provide an overview of the services available for children with autism spectrum disorders through the Children’s Long Term Support Medicaid waivers, the eligibility criteria for these services, and recent changes made to the treatment services funded by the CLTS waivers.

B5. **Across the Lifespan:** Presenter – Bob Johnston. “Insuring your Principles for their Future”. This session will help families prepare for the financial future of their child, or other dependent, with special needs. Learn how to maintain eligibility for government benefits while meeting the needs for lifetime of care and quality of life issues. This presentation will cover estate planning, guardianship, wills and trusts, and letters on intent.

B6. **Youth Activity:** FIELD TRIP

B7. **Classic Autism:** Presenter—Judy Endow. “The Artism of Autism.” Early diagnosis and intervention leads to best outcomes. However, a diagnosis does not tell about or define the humanity of an individual with autism. This presentation matches diagnostic criteria with aspects of individual artists with ASD, showing how that diagnostic trait was an asset in to their artistic creation, reminding us all not to allow the deficit based diagnostic criteria to define the humanity of people with ASD.

### C. Friday Afternoon Breakout Sessions: 3:15 – 4:30

C1. **Education I:** Presenter – Michael Shoultz, “Accommodating Movement Differences in Autism.” Based on the compelling work of Anne Donnellan, Martha Leary, and David Hill, this presentation will examine autism through the lens of movement differences and diversity. Through simulation and other interactive activities, participants will gain an understanding of the movement issues affecting those with autism. With this awareness, participants will come to understand how the assumptions we make regarding the behavior of individuals with autism significantly impact the opportunities that these individuals receive. Focus and attention will be placed on understanding autism in order to support and accommodate rather than control and change.

C2. **Education II:** Presenters – Nancy Harrington & Rebecca Grones. “Using PODD Communication Books to Support Students with Autism.” Pragmatic Organized Dynamic Display (PODD) communication books can be used to support students with many different types of communication needs. This session will provide a brief introduction to PODD communication books and provide case study information on how one school district is using PODD books to support communication and self-regulation in students with autism.

C3. **Home/Community:** Presenters – Kelly Shariff & Zach Shariff. “Homeschooling the Child with Autism Spectrum Differences: Is it for you?” When considering homeschooling for child with ASD, parents need to make an informed decision. This presentation will discuss the pros and cons of homeschooling, homeschooling laws in the state of WI, homeschooling methods and curricula, available supports and adaptations for meeting the needs of the autistic learner and the ever-present concern about socialization when homeschooling. The presenters will also provide tips, anecdotes, and suggestions from her own experience of homeschooling two sons on the spectrum for over ten years, both of whom are now in college. Zach, a college freshman with Asperger's Syndrome, will provide his perspective on his experiences in traditional schooling for grades PreK-2 versus homeschooling for grade 3-12 and answer questions from participants.

C4. **Intervention:** Presenter – Sunyoung Kim. “Video Modeling Intervention to Improve Play Skills of Children with ASD.” The purpose of this presentation is to explore video modeling (VM) intervention for social skills of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Children with ASD typically exhibit mild to profound deficits in social interaction and differences in play behaviors. To teach children with ASD diverse play behaviors, teachers and parents might pursue effective interventions and strategies. To support the purpose, the presentation will introduce VM intervention. First, based on a peer-reviewed literature review, the effects of VM intervention on social play behaviors will be analyzed. Second, the commonly targeted play behaviors and the procedures of VM will be presented. This presentation will be beneficial for teachers and parents who are interested in the use of evidence based practices and want to improve their children’s play skills in school and home settings.

C5. **Across the Lifespan:** Presenter—Robert T. Peyton, Ph.D., BCBA-D, “Where do we go from here? Person Centered Planning for the Transition from School to the Rest of Your Life”. This session will provide a general description of what Person-Centered Planning is and how it can be used to help make a plan for the transition from school to work or any other transition a person is facing. The empirical literature on Person-Centered Planning will be reviewed, with an emphasis on the factors that are similar between all the different approaches (e.g., MAPS, GAP, Pathways, etc.). A specific Person-Centered Plan used previously by the speaker will be discussed, and audience members will be given specific instructions on how to conduct their own Person-Centered Plan, as well as reasons why they might want to hire a facilitator.
C6. Youth Activities: FIELD TRIP

C7. Classic Autism: Presenter—Terri Enters, “Starting at Square One.” Having healthy relationships with others is one of the protective factors for all individuals to learn, thrive and succeed in life. Everyone is capable of forming relationships, but individuals with autism benefit from focused attention to how to build relationship skills. This session will focus on how you start to create interactions with individuals with autism to build those relationship skills. The end result will be the reward of sharing moments with someone who understands, knows and wants to be interactive. Relationship building can start at any age.

Friday Evening Activities

Talent Show, Reception and Dance. This evening begins with a talent show, featuring individuals on the autism spectrum and their special talents. Please come and cheer them on! Following will be a reception, music and dance. These events are open to anyone who wishes to attend. A good time is had by all, so please join us!

Saturday, May 5

D. Saturday Morning Breakout Sessions: 8:30 – 9:45

Registration: 8:00-8:30 AM
Breakout Session: 8:30-9:45 AM
Break: 9:45–10:15 AM
Breakout Session: 10:15-11:30 AM
Lunch: 11:30–12:45 PM (on your own)
Closing Keynote/Essay Awards Presentation: 12:45-3:00 PM
Exhibits: 7:30 AM–2:00 PM

D1. Education I: Presenter – Nan Huai, Ph.D, “Bridge to Success—Building Collaborative Connections Between Intensive Autism Treatment Program and School.” This presentation demonstrates practical ways that school and intensive treatment programs can work together to promote the learning, socialization, and progress of children with ASD. The areas of collaboration include behavioral management, learning/instruction material adaptation, and promotion of social skills.

D2. Education II: Presenters – Sharon Hammer, Kate McGinnity, and Lisa Ladson. “Using Video Technology to Support the Neurology of Individuals on the Autism Spectrum.” Individuals with autism have often reported that there are times when their movement and neurological differences pose a road block in their ability to access their current skill base and can also interfere with the acquisition of new skills. One way to assist individuals with autism to access their skills on a more consistent basis it to utilize video technology when they are doing well and when their movement issues are less pronounced. Video technology can be used to show “alternative routes” for individuals on the spectrum in order to enhance and celebrate their lives.

D3. Home/Community I: Presenters —Dr. Jennifer Christensen & Dr. Catherine M. Pulkinen. “You were Created Perfectly: Parent Perspectives on the IEP Process.” The IEP process continues to be an intimidating experience for families from culturally diverse backgrounds. We will discuss the steps taken in a rural Wisconsin school to assist in addressing the cultural barriers that prevent positive consistent educational programming for one student who is Native American on the autism spectrum.

D4. Home/Community II: Presenters – Emilie Braunel & Mary Skadahl. “Serving on Groups That Make Decisions: A Guide for Families.” Parents are often asked to participate in school or community decision-making groups, yet providing your input in decision-making can be challenging! Participants will gain a new understanding of the types of groups that make decisions and how to participate more effectively as an equal partner. Emilie and Mary will then explore a new training tool to help families feel more confident and comfortable serving in decision-making roles.

D5. Intervention: Presenter – Nelsinia Wroblewski. “Full Life Ahead”. This workshop contains information about several free publications available to teach self-determination to youth with special needs so they may become self-advocates; and an overview on Person Centered Planning will be provided.

D6. Across the Lifespan: Moderator – Kelly Brodhagen. Panelists—Kelly & Mansoor Shariff, Heidi & Scott Larson, and Nancy & Tom Alar. “Panel of Couples: Marriage & Relationships when Parenting Children with ASD.” The panel will lead participants through a discussion of important issues in keeping a marriage/relationship strong when parenting an ASD child. They will candidly share anecdotes from their own lives to illustrate key points and invite audience participation.
D7. **Youth Activities**: Presenters—Colleen McCluskey & Betty McCluskey, MS, LPC. “Inclusion—Girls with Special Needs”. Colleen is a Freshman at the University of Wisconsin—Marathon County, studying Art and English Education. Her co-presentation to the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes Fall Conference inspired her to present at the ASW conference. She has attended the annual conference for the past 5 years and believes it is time to share with others. This presentation will talk about how the Girl Scouts is an inclusive social group, how it can be a social life building tool, and how it is a way to learn life lessons and ease life transitions.

E. **Saturday Morning Breakout Sessions: 10:15 – 11:30**

E1. **Education I**: Presenters—Chelsea Budde & Denise Schamens. “Creating a Culture of Acceptance in Middle School.” Research validates that peer mentorship and inclusion are beneficial to all students, and suggests that the degree of peer acceptance in childhood and adolescence is an indicator for social adjustment after high school. It is well-documented that students with ASD tend to be bullied/harassed and/or are perceived as relational aggressors themselves. Learn how middle school observations from parents and professionals gave way to a community conversation from which evolved in award-winning video targeted for students age 12-15 to create autism awareness and a culture of acceptance.

E2. **Education II**: Presenter – Christine Slawson. “Co-Teaching Strategies for Successful Inclusion of Students on the Autism Spectrum.” This session will engage learners in effective and practical strategies for setting up successful co-teaching opportunities in their schools. These strategies will empower the co-teachers to achieve maximum benefits for students on the spectrum as they remain in least restrictive environments. This is an intervention that promotes collaborative techniques and ready-to-use, practical applications.

E3. **Home/Community**: Presenters – Joel Lashley & Emily Levine. “Keeping Your Child Safe in the Community.” Individuals with autism spectrum disorders are seven times more likely to have law enforcement contact than their typically developing peers. Parents need to be proactive to help bring appropriate training to law enforcement in their communities. A group of concerned parents and professionals in the Milwaukee area are providing training to local law enforcement and collecting “peace stories” of successful interactions between law enforcement officers and people on the spectrum. The presenters will share what they have learned.

E4. **Intervention**: Presenters – Dr. Rebecca Thompson & Dr. Margaret Drake. “Positively ABA!” This presentation will explain Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), how it works, and who it can help. ABA is commonly used with young children with autism spectrum disorders and developmental disabilities, and makes learning fun and effective. By finding creative ways to catch children’s interest, we can teach important skills, such as communication, play, and self-help skills. These strategies can also be used to address problem behaviors in children with disabilities and typically developing children.

E5. **Across the Lifespan**: Moderator—Sharon Hammer. “Panel of Experts”. This session will consist of a panel of individuals on the autism spectrum providing their “expert” opinion on their unique outlook on life. If there is enough time, the audience will be permitted to ask additional questions.

E6. **Eclectic**: Presenters – Christine Breunig & Robin Mathea. “Partnering with Your Doctor: The Medical Home Approach.” Have you wondered how to establish a partnership with your child’s primary care practice or specialists? Participants will learn skills to assist them in development of a medical home partnership with their primary care provider and/or specialists. Each family/participant will receive the “Finding Your Way...Navigation Guide for Families who have Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs’ and the “Partnering with Your Doctor” guide.

E7. **Youth Activities**: Presenters—Zach Shariff, Justin McLaughlin, David Jerale, & Ashley Howell. “Aspergraphics.” Aspergraphics™ is the name of a small business begun two summers ago following a job skills class by several members of the Autism Society of the Lakeshore Friendship Group. The session will have two parts, the first covers the steps they took to begin their business; identify and design their products; provide financing; market and sell them products. Aspergraphics™ members will give suggestions for other ASD youth desiring to start their own small business and take general questions from the audience. The second part of the session will feature several historical figures including Thomas Jefferson, Albert Einstein, and Nicola Tesla who had traits similar to those of the Aspergraphic™ members. Short biographical sketches will be given including their ASD traits.

**ESSAY AWARD PRESENATION 12:45-1:00PM**
CLOSING KEYNOTE  1:00-3:00 PM

NICOLE BEURKENS, PhD

“GETTING TO THE “CORE” OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS: STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING COMMUNICATION, BEHAVIOR, AND RELATIONSHIPS.”

Research in child development has clearly shown that specific elements of parent-child interaction are critical for communication, social, and cognitive growth. The CORE Approach, developed by Dr. Nicole Beurkens and her colleagues, supports the development of individuals on the autism spectrum across the lifespan through a specific protocol of interactive strategies. This presentation will provide an overview of strategies that parents and professionals can implement immediately to improve communication, behavior, learning, and relationships.

Nicole Beurkens, founder and director of the Horizons Developmental Remediation Center in Caledonia, Michigan, is a limited licensed psychologist with a PhD in Clinical Psychology and a master’s degree in special education. Her research focuses on parent-child interaction and relationships in autism and related disorders. She holds a professional teaching certificate with endorsements in autism and learning disabilities, and has been certified in many specialized therapies for autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Nicole has authored numerous articles and books, and writes a popular newsletter for thousands of subscribers each week. With a background in child development, classroom teaching, and family-based therapy, Nicole is an award-winning therapist, consultant, and speaker for families and professionals throughout the United States and abroad.

Youth Information Sheet ASW 2012 Conference

1. Youth Strand is a “track” of presentations at the ASW conference designed specifically for youth on the autism spectrum. The underlying vision for the strand is to include, accept and validate the individuals whose very being is the driving force for ASW.

2. If you are a youth on the autism spectrum, you must register for the conference to participate in all its activities. Your nametag will be your ticket to get in.

3. Individuals with autism of all functional levels, ages 10 and up, are welcome, but the Youth Strand will not provide care-giver or support services.

4. All Youth Strand activities are listed in the program along with the rest of the conference information. All activities are optional. You can attend any session in any other track in the conference. Feel free to leave an activity at any time.

5. There will be a Spectrum Art Show again this year on Friday and Saturday. The art show set up starts at 10:30 am Friday. Items should be taken down by 2:00 pm on Saturday. You may sell your artwork in the exhibit area for a fee of $30, if interested. If you would like to take advantage of selling your artwork, or anything else, please fill out the Exhibitor Prospectus on the website, www.asw4autism.org, and send it to the address listed with a check for $30. Indicate your interest to participate in the Art Show on the special events registration form and you will be contacted with more details. Our definition of “Art” is very broad and inclusive. Display anything you are proud of.

6. There will be a pizza supper at 5:30 pm on Friday night for conference participants who are on the spectrum and their families. This year we are not able to provide any special diets. We do encourage those with special dietary needs to attend and bring their own food.

7. There will be no designated activity or game rooms this year. Instead we encourage individuals to attend the Youth Activity breakout sessions and field trip.

8. There will be one quiet room provided for individuals who need a break from the conference. This room will not be monitored so please do not use it as storage for personal items.

9. There will be a Talent Show again this year on Friday Evening after the Pizza Supper. We will have time for ten performances. Indicate your interest to participate in the Talent Show on the special events registration form and you will be contacted with more details. Talent show participation is first come first serve, with first choices going to those who haven’t participated in the year prior.

10. Our goal is that everyone at the conference has a positive experience and is treated with respect and kindness. Differences are celebrated here. So relax, have fun and just be yourself.
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Autism Society of Wisconsin
2012 Annual Statewide Conference
Thursday, May 3rd– Saturday, May 5th, 2012

In order for ASW to NOT increase the conference fee during these tough economic times, lunch will be provided Thursday only, for the pre-conference workshop.

- In order for us to serve you effectively, ASW recommends you pre-register for the conference.
- All prices listed are per person; you must be a current member for reduced fee; check the mailing label on your ASW newsletter for membership status and expiration date.
- Purchase orders and/or group registrations must be submitted simultaneously.
- Registration will be accepted by mail or fax only. Registration forms must be filled out completely and a form of payment must be included; forms of payment include a purchase order, credit card authorization or a check, made payable to ASW Conference.
- Pre-registrations are due no later than Friday, April 20th, 2012 via mail or fax.
- ASW will make every effort to accommodate your individual needs. For special assistance, ASW requires notification by March 23, 2012.
- Questions or special needs: email mpenasa@asw4autism.org or call 920-973-6636.

PLEASE PRINT; USE ONE FORM PER PERSON (make additional copies as needed)
IF YOU HAVE AN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE TALENT SHOW/ART SHOW OR FAVORITE THINGS DISPLAYS, fill out the included form.

NAME: (as you want it to appear on your name tag)
___________________________________________________________

STREET: __________________________________________
CITY: ______________________ STATE: _____ ZIP: ________

PHONE: (___)_________ EMAIL: _________________________
(Provide for confirmation of registration)

Circle appropriate registration fee:
(lunch will only be included on Thursday,
 supported by the family)

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<th>Non-Member/Professional</th>
<th>Person with ASD</th>
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PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- Parent/Family Member
- EC
- K-12
- Post-Secondary
- Special Educator
- Regular Educator
- OT
- PT
- SLP
- Other

Check payment method; fill in corresponding information

☐ Check number ______ Amount $________  ☐ Purchase Order No. ______ Amount $________

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Credit Card Number
Expiration Date

Amount $________ Print card holder’s name as it appears on card
Signature of card holder

Mail completed registration form with payment to:
ASW Conference, P.O. Box 66, De Pere, WI 54115 OR Fax: 920-278-1496
2012 Wisconsin Autism Leadership Summit
May 3, 2012 – 9:00AM-4:00PM

Do you...
- Enjoy helping people connect with each other?
- Want to learn more about meeting the unmet needs of family support, education and information in your community?
- Lead or are interested in forming a local autism support group in your area?

Are you...
- Considered a resource for autism information in your community?
- Interested in being part of a statewide effort in growing autism awareness and support in Wisconsin?
- On the Board of Directors or serve on a Committee of your local autism group?
- Interested in working with ASW and within the Autism Society of Wisconsin mission and purposes to accomplish autism leadership development goals?

The Wisconsin Autism Leadership Summit is a statewide training and networking opportunity promoting grassroots efforts for individuals on the spectrum, their families, and others who support them.

This Year’s Planned Training Topics include:
Board Member Roles and Responsibilities, Strategic Planning, Financial Record Keeping, Forming and Holding Committees, Chapter/Support Group updates, Innovative Event Planning, Connecting Families to Community Resources, Empowering Parents, Group Facilitation, Update from ASW and the Autism Society of America, Collaborating with Other Agencies & Organizations, and other hot topics identified by the WALN Summit Planning Committee.

This workshop is offered at no cost in collaboration with ASW and WIFACETS. We are looking for representation from all counties. Space is limited so sign up early. Lunch is included. This training is provided on the pre-conference day of the ASW Annual Conference held May 3-5, 2012 at the Hotel Sierra, Green Bay.

Please detach and return your Pre-conference Leadership Summit registration to:
Autism Society of WI, Attn: ASW-ALS, PO BOX 66, DE PERE, WI 54115

2012 Wisconsin Autism Leadership Summit
May 3, 2012 – 9:00AM-4:00PM

Name ______________________________________________________________________ *(Please print)*
Address:___________________________________________ City: ____________________________
State:_________ Zip:____________________ Phone:______________________________________
Fax:_________________________ Email:____________________________________________________
County:__________________________ Connection to autism: ____________________________

For more information, contact ASW events coordinator, Melissa Penasa, mpenasa@asw4autism.org
2012 CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENTS REGISTRATION FORM
FOR INDIVIDUALS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM WHO ARE REGISTERED FOR THE CONFERENCE

1) Please print; USE ONE FORM PER PERSON (make additional copies as needed)

NAME: ________________________________________________________________

STREET: _____________________________________________________________________________

CITY: ___________________________ STATE: _______ ZIP: ___________________________

PHONE: (home) (_____) ________________________________

EMAIL: ________________________________________________________________
(provide for registration confirmation)

☐ ART SHOW
☐ FAVORITE THINGS DISPLAY
☐ TALENT SHOW

My talent is: ________________________________________________________________

Anything needed to perform your talent will need to be brought along, including a keyboard.
ASW will provide a microphone and sound.

1) There are three optional activities for people on the spectrum. Indicate with a check mark if you
are interested in participating in any or all of these areas.

2) Interested individuals need to sign up by April 20, but participation is accepted on a first come,
first serve basis. You will be contacted regarding participation.

3) Mail completed registration form with payment to: ASW Conference
P.O. Box 66
De Pere, WI 54115

OR

Fax to 920-278-1496.

Connecting Wisconsin:
Autism Society of Wisconsin

Connect on the web!
www.asw4autism.org

Winter 2012
Join the AUTISM SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN as the GREEN BAY GAMBLERS HOCKEY CLUB host “AUTISM NIGHT” at the Resch Center in Green Bay, directly across from Lambeau Field.

The Green Bay Gamblers Hockey Club will be hosting “Autism Night” to promote autism awareness during Autism Awareness Month in Wisconsin. Friday, April 6th, the Gamblers will donate a portion of every ticket sold to the Autism Society of Wisconsin. In conjunction with this event, the Autism Society of Wisconsin will be holding a bucket raffle and a 50/50 raffle that evening, during the game, right at the Resch Center.

The game begins at 7:05 PM, so please mark your calendars and watch our website, www.asw4autism.org for more information on this fun and exciting event. The Green Bay Gamblers have recognized that autism spectrum disorders are growing at alarming rates and want to assist ASW in our mission to improve the lives of all affected by autism in Wisconsin.

Fox Valley Autism Treatment Program is sad to report that line therapist Jessica West was killed in a tragic automobile accident while driving to a rural county to work with one of their children enrolled in the program. The Fox Valley Autism Program will be establishing “The Jessica West Memorial Scholarship” in her memory to allow five parents with limited income to attend the 2012 ASW Conference in Green Bay. To apply for the scholarship please contact Kelly at 888-428-8476 or email asw@asw4autism.org.

ASW receives a check for $1,733.00 from the “Dash for Cash” event sponsored by North Shore Bank on January 13. Pictured from left to right, Tricia Cravillion, District Manager for North Shore Bank, Tony Brodhagen, Kelly Brodhagen, ASW Office Manager, Melissa Penasa, ASW Events Coordinator and Kirsten Cooper, ASW Executive Director.
ASW would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their financial support in 2011. We are grateful for each and every contribution. We could not meet our mission without your support!

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Denise Wonsil-Michlig  
Nelsinia Wroblewski  
Linda Wussow  
Nicole Yoss
(ASFV) Fox Valley
Website: www.focol.org/asfv
Email: asfv@hotmail.com

The ASFV parent support group meets year-round on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 6:00-7:30 pm.
At the HARMONY CAFÉ, 233 E. College Ave Appleton. For information contact asfv@hotmail.com.

ASFV has an active monthly Teen Social Group! For information, contact Peggy at peggybartman1@gmail.com or phone (920) 725-8613.

ASFV offers Parent/Educator Workshops for more information visit www.focol.org/asfv

Greater Madison
Website: autismmadison.org
Email: autismmadison@gmail.com

AUTISM 101 Parenting Class, January 25 -

When a child is first diagnosed, most parents aren’t exactly sure what autism is (or PDD, or Aspergers.) It’s hard to explain your child to others if you don’t understand him or her yourself. At this session, learn about ASD, discuss parenting issues and ASGM.

For more information contact Susannah at (608) 213-8519 autismmadison@gmail.com

ASL (Lakeshore area)
Website: http://autismlakeshore.org/

Manitowoc Meetings are the third Thursday of each month (September thru May) at St. James Episcopal Church, 434 N. 8th Street, 7:00 -9:00 pm. Enter using the 8th Street door at the bottom of the stairs. Childcare is available. For further information contact the office at 920-652-0964 or autismlakeshore@att.net.

Sheboygan Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month -September thru May (no December)-7:00-9:00 P.M. at Wilson School, 1625 Wilson Ave. Meetings will be held in the library (use main entrance, turn left, and go down the hall to the library). For further information contact the Sheboygan Satellite Group Coordinator Cindy Balaban at 920/901/3946 or cindy.balaban@gmail.com or the ASL office.

CVAS (Chippewa Valley area)
Website: http://cvaswi.webs.com/

The Chippewa Valley chapter sends out information packets and a quarterly newsletter. For more information, contact Sherri Linderman at (715) 835-7602 or email autismsocietychippewavalley@yahoo.com

(ASSEW) Southeast Wisconsin
Website: www.assew.org
Email: info@assew.org
Telephone (414) 427-9345

Morning Coffee Parent’s Support Group is for all parents - including parents of adults on the spectrum. Held on the 1st Thursday of each month during the school year (see our newsletter or online calendar) at the ASSEW office, 9:30 -11:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries served.

Adults On The Spectrum Support Group is for adults of all ages with high-functioning autism and Asperger Syndrome. The group meets the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month at the ASSEW office from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Light refreshments served.

The ASSEW office is at 9733 W. St. Martins Road (Hwy 100 just south of Loomis), Franklin, WI.

A monthly workshop series is offered through ASSEW. For topics and dates visit www.assew.org

ASCW (Central WI area)

FEbruary 2, 6:30 pm—Presentation titled “Positively ABA” by the Wisconsin Early Autism Project.
St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 600 Stevens Drive, Wausau, at 6:30 pm.

For more information, ASCW can be reached at
P.O. Box 1832
Wausau, WI 54402
(715)359-0886 or (715) 845-5524
Email: autismsocietycw@gmail.com

AUTISM 101 Parenting Class, January 25 -

When a child is first diagnosed, most parents aren’t exactly sure what autism is (or PDD, or Aspergers.) It’s hard to explain your child to others if you don’t understand him or her yourself. At this session, learn about ASD, discuss parenting issues and ASGM.

For more information contact Susannah at (608) 213-8519 autismmadison@gmail.com
Autism Society of Wisconsin
Membership Application Form

Date: ____________________

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________________

Street Address: _______________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: ________________________________________________________________________________

Email: _______________________________________________ Phone (           ) __________________________

Check Chapter joining (select one)

_____ ASFV, Fox Valley area, Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Waupaca Counties.

_____ ASGM, Greater Madison area, Dane, Columbia, Sauk, Richland, Crawford, Rock, Green, Iowa, Lafayette
and Grant Counties. Please contact the Autism Society of Greater Madison for their membership
application at autismmadison@gmail.com or visit http://autismmadison.org/

_____ ASL, Manitowoc, Lakeshore area, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Calumet, Kewaunee and Door Counties.

_____ ASNEW, Green Bay area, Brown, Shawano, Oconto, Florence, Menominee and Marinette Counties.

_____ ASSEW, Southeast/Milwaukee WI area, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha, Dodge, Jefferson,
Ozaukee, Walworth and Washington Counties.

_____ ASCW, Central Wisconsin, Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Taylor,
and Wood Counties.

_____ CVAS Chippewa Valley, Sawyer, Polk, Barron, Rusk, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Eau Claire,
Buffalo, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties.

_____ ASW, Autism Society of Wisconsin, 1477 Kenwood Drive, Menasha, WI 54952
(If there is no local chapter in your area)

Membership Categories (select one):  _____ Individual $12.00  _____ Family $15.00

(Select one)  _____ New  _____ Renewal

_____ Bill My Master Card/VISA   Card#______________________________________ Exp Date_________

(Please print clearly)

_____ Check enclosed, check # ______________________

_____ Enclosed is $5.00 to contribute to the cost of the newsletter

Additional contribution (tax deductible) for the work of ASW for individuals with autism:

_____ $25  _____ $50  _____ $100  _____ $ Other

Please send your completed membership form and mail to:

ASW
1477 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI 54952

ASW membership benefits include: Reduced conference rates, ASW voting privileges, and a quarterly subscription
to the ASW newsletter, “Connecting Wisconsin”. Membership is for one year. Check your mailing label on
your newsletter for membership information. If you have questions, email ASW at asw@asw4autism.org or call
888-428-8476.
ASW Quarterly Board Meeting will be held on Friday, May 4, 2012

**Board of Directors**

- President: Dale Prahl
- President Elect: Michele Matz
- Secretary: Sharon Hammer
- Treasurer: Jan Serak
- Past President: Nissan Bar-Lev
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- Executive Director: Kirsten Cooper
- Office Manager: Kelly Brodhagen
- Events Coordinator: Melissa Penasa

**Address Update**

- ___ Please remove my name from your mailing list.
- ___ Please change my address as indicated.
- ___ I am receiving duplicate newsletters.
- ___ The expiration date is incorrect, please check.

**Newsletter Submissions**

Contributions to help support the ASW Newsletter are welcome! Articles of interest, stories/poetry of persons with autism, book reviews, chapter reports and upcoming conferences are accepted via email or mail for submission to the newsletter. Submissions can be sent to: Kelly Brodhagen, ASW Editor, 1477 Kenwood Drive, Menasha, WI 54952; email asw@asw4autism.org. Telephone: (888) 4-AUTISM Fax: (920) 558-4611

Submissions deadlines are January 7, April 7, July 7 & October 7.

Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted, giving credit to the author and ASW. Please send a copy of the publication using the article to ASW office.

The ASW attempts to provide information on a variety of subjects. We do not endorse any individuals, groups or programs. References regarding programs, meetings, resources, research, opinions, treatment, etc., should not be interpreted as an indication of endorsement, but for informational purposes only. Responsibility for accuracy of information remains that of the author of the article.

The ASW Editorial Review Board reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions.

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Am I a Member? Check for your membership expiration date on your mailing address. Questions? Email asw@asw4autism.org