

The Autism Connection

VOLUME 28 | SPRING
ISSUE 2 | 2018

AUTISM SOCIETY
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Wisconsin



In this Issue:

Change for Autism	2-3
Upcoming Events	4
Autism Awareness & Acceptance Day	5
Annual Conference Information	6-7
Annual Autism Essay Contest	8-9
Tee-Time for Autism Golf Outing	10
Fall Conference Announcement	11



Message from the President

As I watch the weather reports from the East Coast and see the fourth Nor'easter dump another foot of snow, it's hard to believe that spring has arrived, at least on the calendar. But with the annual ASW Conference just around the corner, I know that summer can't be far behind.

I hope you have had a chance to visit our new website. The "horizontal fields" design looks to be very active and we are thankful to be able to include many of your suggestions as part of our new design. In case you haven't been there yet, please direct your computer's browser to www.asw4autism.org and let us know how you like it! While you're there, you can learn more about our coming events and activities.

The 29th Annual Conference is scheduled for April 19-21 at the Kalahari Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. The new pre-conference structure on Thursday, April 19th is proving to be very popular. Read more about the four different options on [page 5](#). Complete details about keynotes, breakout sessions, and registration are available on our new website under the "Programs" tab.

August 2nd brings Tee-Time for Autism, the ASW Golf Outing at SentryWorld featuring special guest Bill Schroeder, former Green Bay Packer wide receiver and Tour Swing Golf Long-Drive Team World Finalist. A great day of golf at Wisconsin's first destination golf course with plenty of fun, food and drink. Information and registration is available on the ASW website. All to benefit the Autism Society of Wisconsin and our Central Affiliate. It's Tee-Time for Autism... let's play a round!

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you soon. And please know that we would welcome your call with any questions or requests.

All the best,

Robert S. Johnston, President
Autism Society of Wisconsin



Help create change in your community



The Autism Society of Wisconsin was formed in 1979 by a group of parents who wanted to bring people affected by autism together. Almost 40 years later, the Autism Society of Wisconsin remains a grassroots organization focused on increasing public awareness about day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

Paging through past newsletters of the Autism Society of Wisconsin, you might see a common theme throughout the years. You'd read about meeting/

event notices, legislative alerts, articles meant to inform or dispel myths about autism. But what you would read most is a call to action for those affected by autism to come together.

You'd read about how to start a support group in your local area, how to recognize outstanding teachers or schools, and how to voice your concerns and ideas in an effort to steer the Autism Society of Wisconsin as an organization.

At its heart, the Autism Society of Wisconsin is about community. While much about the organization has changed—new board members, new staff, new structure, and even a new service area, one thing has remained the same—the recognition that we are strongest when working together.

It's with this philosophy that we ask you to get involved and join us for our Change for Autism campaign this April. There are so

many ways to get involved, we hope you'll find a place within the campaign. If we all speak together about the need for better understanding and acceptance, our collective voice will be louder.

Get Involved:
Join us for our
Change for Autism
Campaign

April is Autism Awareness Month. Join our campaign to raise awareness and understanding in our local communities to create meaningful change. Together we can help our communities understand autism and create inclusive opportunities to make everyone feel welcome, valued, and respected.

APRIL IS Autism Awareness Month



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Help us in our efforts to educate the public about autism. Fill out our survey to share what you wish others knew or understood about autism (follow the link below). Comments from the survey will be used in our social media campaign throughout the month of April.

Attend Autism Awareness & Acceptance Day on April 10th. Read more on page 5.

Become an Autism Society member or make sure to renew your membership.

Get in contact. We're always grateful to hear from our members. Send us a message about what's going well in your community and what could be better. Let us know what topics you'd like to learn more about at our conferences/events.

Support the Autism Society of Wisconsin in our mission. Make a donation to support our work. Ask your friends to participate in 5 Dollar Friday when instead of buying a coffee, lunch, or an afterwork cocktail on Friday, they take the \$5 and donate it to the Autism Society of Wisconsin.



Find out how to get more involved with your local Autism Society Affiliate. Attend a local event and connect with other families. Local affiliates are often looking for enthusiastic, motivated volunteers.

Get your business or organization involved! Contact the Autism Society of Wisconsin to learn about how you can create sensory friendly environments or make your business more welcoming to individuals and families affected by autism. Businesses can also consider the Autism Society of Wisconsin this April by collecting spare change or hosting a jean day to raise money to support our programs and services.

Ask your school to participate by holding a coin drive and using our free resources to educate students about autism. Find out more information at the link below.



www.asw4autism.org/change-for-autism

Upcoming Events

April 4 6:00–8:00 pm	Autism 101 Presentation Autism Society of Central WI Family Resource Center, 705 S 24th Avenue, Wausau. This presentation is for anyone interested in learning about autism. Presented by Mike Johnson, President, Autism Society of Central Wisconsin.
April 7 9:00–11:00 am	Monkey Joe’s Indoor Air Gym Autism Society of the Fox Valley 1800 N Casaloma Dr. Appleton, WI. A popular event where children have fun and parents can connect and socialize. Free for members, \$5 for non-members.
April 8 1:00–5:00 pm	14th Annual Bowl for Autism Fundraiser Autism Society of Central WI Dale’s Weston Lanes, Weston, WI. Proceeds will benefit the Central Wisconsin AUSome Social Groups! Bowling is \$3.99 per person, per game. Shoe rental is \$2.50 per pair. Come and check out our silent auction. We will also have raffles – small and large!
April 8 11:00 am–10:00 pm	Donate While you Dine Benvenuto’s Restaurant, Oshkosh and Fond du Lac Enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner and support the autism community! 20% of sales benefit the Autism Society Be sure to mention the fundraiser to your server!
April 15 12:00 pm	Member Only Family Swim Outing at Tundra Lodge Autism Society of the Fox Valley Join us for a family fun event at the Tundra Lodge, 865 Lombardi Ave, Green Bay. \$5 per swimmer. Bring spending money for food and the arcade. Register to asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org
April 15 1–3:00 pm	Family Bowling and Pizza Autism Society of the Lakeshore Rudy’s Lanes, 1916 Washington St., Two Rivers Enjoy bowling and pizza, costs covered by the Autism Society of the Lakeshore.
April 15 3–5 pm	7th Annual Bowling Fundraiser Autism Society of Northeast WI Ashwaubenon Lanes, 2929 Allied St., Green Bay. Each \$12 ticket includes 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and unlimited soda. There will be 50/50 raffle and other prizes.
April 21 8:30–10:30	Spectrum Saturday at the Building for Kids Autism Society of the Fox Valley Join us for a lower sensory experience and special programming created especially for children on the autism spectrum. Free admission for children on the spectrum and their families from 8:30 am–10 am, but stay as late as you want! Programming begins at 9 am.
April 24 6–8:00 pm	Paintin’ Pottery Teen Night Autism Society of Northeast WI Paintin’ Pottery, 520 George St. DePere, WI. Each teen will choose their project and one drink will be included. Snacks will also be served. Please RSVP to administrator@asnew.org

AUTISM AWARENESS & ACCEPTANCE DAY



Please join the Autism Society Affiliates in Wisconsin and Autism Speaks Wisconsin for the Second Annual Autism Awareness and Acceptance Day in the Senate Parlor at the Capitol in Madison.

State Senator Roger Roth is hosting the event which will include brief remarks from legislators and advocates, along with a proclamation from Governor Scott Walker.

Remarks and the official presentation will begin at 11 a.m.

Attendees are encouraged to make an appointment with their legislators after the presentation and ask to meet in their Capitol Office to discuss policies impacting their families and share their journeys. Materials and a brief training will be provided.

Find your legislator here: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>



April 10, 2018

11:00 AM

Wisconsin State Capitol

Senate Parlor

 **AUTISM SOCIETY**
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism



Autism Society of Wisconsin Annual Conference

Kalahari Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells
April 19–21, 2018



The 29th Annual Conference exists to provide a range of strategies, tools, and resources to those affected by autism in Wisconsin with the goal of ensuring that individuals and families living with autism are able to maximize their quality of life, are treated with the highest level of dignity, and live in a society in which their talents and skills are appreciated and valued.

With over 30 breakout sessions, 4 pre-conference sessions, 2 keynote addresses, and plenty of networking opportunities, this is a conference you don't want to miss!

While pre-registration has closed, onsite registration is available for an additional \$25. Printed conference materials are not guaranteed for onsite registrations.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Individuals with Autism
- Parents or Caregivers
- Other Family Members (Grandparents, Siblings, etc.)
 - Educators
- Health and Human Services Professionals
- Childcare Providers
- Therapy Providers
- Related Service Providers
 - Job Coaches
- Other Interested Professionals & Community Members

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018 | PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

PRE-CONFERENCE A: 9:30 AM–12:30 PM

A Girl's Eye View: Understanding and Working with Girls on the Autism Spectrum

Presented by Shana Nichols, Ph.D.

PRE-CONFERENCE B: 9:30 AM–12:30 PM

Mental Health Treatment Techniques and Modifications for People with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Presented by Rob Peyton, Ph.D.

PRE-CONFERENCE C: 1:45 PM–4:45 PM

Making the World a Bit Easier to Navigate: Using Executive Function Skills

Presented by Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D.

PRE-CONFERENCE D: 1:45 PM–4:45 PM

Sensory Overload vs. Behavioral Tantrums: Understanding the Difference and How to Respond

Presented by Jen Bluske, OTR, and Danna Hamlett, MS, LMFT

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018 | KEYNOTE

Critical Mass, Purposeful Practice and Autism: Creating Independent Learners by Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D.

This presentation focuses on describing the factors that lead to critical mass for those on the spectrum when providing instruction and supports. Critical mass, in this regard, is the point where an individual has gained enough information to apply it to situations, activities or skills in which instruction has not been provided. Learn easy-to-use strategies that can help individuals with ASD to move about their world as independently as possible, making informed decisions about their wants and needs. Teaching to critical mass will help learners to be successful with tasks they have been taught to do, but will also help them to be successful with activities on which they have not received instruction.



SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018 | KEYNOTE

Finding My Voice(s): My Personal Autism Journey Towards Independence By Jonathan and Jodi Murphy



As an autistic child, Jonathan Murphy felt voiceless. As an autistic adult, he became the voice of a major theme park. In his keynote address, Jonathan shares how self-acceptance, a strong support team, a willingness to change, and stepping into his fears and anxieties put him on his path towards independence and a fulfilling life. Jodi Murphy acts as Jonathan's "wingman" to offer the successful strategies she used to help Jonathan thrive at every stage of his journey.

CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENTS

Exhibit Hall | Visit the exhibits to learn more about autism related service providers, organizations and businesses.

Spectrum Social Hour | For those on the spectrum, ages 14 and up, to meet and get to know one another.

Teen Sibling Social Hour | A casual, informal gathering, exclusively for teen siblings (13–18) of those on the autism spectrum.

Autism Society Affiliate Networking Session | Join local Autism Society Affiliate leaders to connect with others in your local community and learn more about your local affiliate.

Family Reception | Families are invited to attend the family reception for pizza, cake, and a chance to relax with others.

Talent Show | Help us celebrate the diverse and many talents of those with autism.

Dance | A time to let loose and unwind with others from the conference.

Sibshop | Facilitated by WisconSibs. For kids aged 8–12 whose brothers or sisters have autism. A fun morning, filled with interactive activities combining recreation, learning, discussion and peer support.



ESSAY CONTEST FINALISTS

K–2nd Grade Level

- 1st JJ Chapman
Shepard Hills Elementary
- 2nd Kate Garman’s Class
Swallow School
- 3rd Kaylee Belau
Hortonville Elementary

3rd–5th Grade Level

- 1st Brady Berg
Stratford Elementary
- 2nd Rachel Laws
Kosciuszko Elementary
- 3rd Allen Reiche
Deforest Area Middle School

6th–8th Grade Level

- 1st RoseMary Greany
Lincoln Middle School
- 2nd Charlie Loeffler
Elkhart Lake–Glenbeulah
- 3rd Lauren Pintar
Greendale Middle School

9th–12th Grade Level

- 1st Marissa Rech
Hortonville High School
- 2nd Aidan Raney
Platteville High School
- 3rd Izaak Polecheck
Sturgeon Bay High School

Honorable Mentions:

- Isabella Wartzenuft – Arrowhead High School
- Samantha Anderson – Juda High School

2018 AUTISM ESSAY CONTEST

On behalf of the Autism Society Affiliates in Wisconsin, we would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2018 Autism Essay Contest. We received over 400 essays from students across Wisconsin. Student essays focused on what they learned about autism and/or what they wish their peers knew about autism, how to create supportive environments for students with autism and positive friendships. We’re excited to feature excerpts from the first place essays in this issue.

““ Everybody plays a different way and is special in their own way. Kids with autism sometimes act different, but don't all kids act different? There are times when kids with autism have a problem with their senses. For example, loud noises bother them and hurt their ears. They also don't like the way that certain things feel and don't like to touch them. It is important to learn about disabilities like autism so we can understand why some kids may act different... Being a leader and friend to kids who have autism helps the school and the world to be a better place. ””

JJ Chapman, 2nd grade, Shepard Hills Elementary School, Oak Creek WI

““ I want to write a little bit about my brother Cooper. He has autism... What I have learned is that he is different than me in a lot of ways. But he is also the same. I have learned ways to go with his ideas and his point of view, and I found out that if I go with his ideas, we can have a lot of fun. I also have to remember to slow down and move my body and speak slower so he can follow what I am doing... I know that he is being the best kid he can be, and my job as his big brother is to not care what everyone else thinks. No one is perfect, and he is the best little brother in the world! ””

Brady Berg, 4th grade, Stratford Elementary School, Stratford WI

“ When I interviewed Ryan with open ended questions, I realized he had a hard time processing the questions and deciding on an answer. In response to specific questions, he shared that he loves all sports and enjoys playing basketball. He always does everything to the best of his ability and I admire him for that. Another cool thing he can do is remember tons of sports statistics, even facts from a long time ago.

However, Ryan does have things he struggles with too, just like every other kid. Math is not his best subject and sometimes he needs extra help with his homework.

Ryan wishes that everyone knew he had autism. He has worked hard to participate in regular classes at school. Some of his classmates know that he has autism, but many of them do not. At times, he does not pick up on nonverbal cues or understand sarcasm or jokes. If everyone knew he had autism, they would be more patient with him, and treat him more kindly and respectfully, he thinks.

From now on, I will remember what Ryan said, and whenever I see someone that might be struggling, I will try and help them, regardless of whether they have autism or not... Interviewing Ryan provided me a better understanding of what life is like in his shoes; I learned how to be a better advocate for all people with autism.

”

[Names were changed]

RoseMary Greany, 7th grade, Lincoln Middle School, La Crosse WI

“ As a student with autism in high school, I wish my peers knew several things about my autism. From their social behaviors to mine, they have a lot of things they don't know about.

Another thing about my autism that I wish my peers knew is that it is not easy to deal with. Although I have been labeled "high-functioning," I still have quite a few struggles that I have to deal with everyday. One of these struggles is my sensitivity to noise. My peers often make loud sudden noises in and between classes, which makes me incredibly anxious and frustrated. Another thing that my peers do not always understand is my need for accommodations. They often refer to it as "special treatment" and criticize those who receive it. This predicament has gotten me into several situations in which I did not want to ask for help or more time for an assignment.

But that is only one thing about accommodations they do not understand. For example, they do not seem to grasp the concept of accommodations leveling the playing field, so to speak. My peers appear to see accommodations as a way to get ahead when, in reality, they are a way for me to get to their level.

”

Marissa Rech, Hortonville High School, 11th Grade, Hortonville WI



Tee-Time for Autism

Benefiting the Autism Society of Wisconsin &
the Autism Society of Central Wisconsin

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2018

10:00 AM SHOTGUN START

SENTRYWORLD, STEVENS POINT

\$200 GOLFER | \$700 FOURSOME

Please join us for the first annual Tee-Time for Autism. Enjoy 18 holes of scramble-format golf at SentryWorld golf course. Your registration includes 18 holes of golf with GPS golf cart, a personalized SentryWorld medallion bag tag, \$15 Pro Shop merchandise credit, a box lunch, banquet style dinner & two drinks (soda or beer) on the course.

The event will feature special guest, Bill Schroeder, former Green Bay Packers Wide Receiver and Tour Swing Golf Long-Drive Team World Finalist.

LEARN MORE ABOUT GOLFER REGISTRATION AND
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
www.asw4autism.org/event-cal/tee-time-autism/



Not Your Mother's Social Stories

By Carol Gray

Autism Society of Wisconsin | 2018 Fall Conference

Social Stories™ are a very popular evidence based instructional strategy used worldwide with people with autism and other social communication disorders. They are a wonderful 'go to' intervention for an infinite variety of purposes. Unfortunately, they are frequently misused and misunderstood – resulting in stories... but definitely not Social Stories. Using lecture, discussion, demonstration, and a series of very short, fun, and informative activities, participants will learn how to develop a Social Story (or Social Article for adults) according to the current Social Stories 10.2 criteria. The day will fly by. Participants will leave understanding and knowing how to develop Social Stories, with a certificate to prove it.

Using lecture, discussion, case examples, and activities, this workshop describes the latest Social Stories 10.2 criteria as well as never-published 'tricks of the trade' strategies. It also includes information on how to write Stories about previously unaddressed concepts (context, categorization, organization, patience, sexuality, resilience, perseverance, as a few examples) while building self-esteem and supporting generalization at the same time. Authors will gain an updated understanding of what a Social Story is (and what it is not) and will leave equipped with the updated skills they need to make Social Stories work harder and longer for each person with autism from first steps through adulthood.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN MAY 2018

October 11, 2018
Bridgewood Resort Hotel &
Conference Center
Neenah, WI

Autism Society of Wisconsin
1-888-4-AUTISM (WI only)
1477 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI 54952

NONPROFIT
US Postage
PAID
Appleton, WI
Permit No. 188

Return Service Requested



Help us fulfill our mission!

Support the Autism Society of Wisconsin by making a tax deductible gift! All donations are appreciated.

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$ Other

Donations may be sent to:
Autism Society of Wisconsin
1477 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI 54952

We also accept donations online. Click the Donate Now button on our
homepage: www.asw4autism.org

Thank you for your support!

Board of Directors

President
Robert Johnston

President Elect
Rob Peyton

Treasurer:
Kerry Hoops

Secretary
Kendra Mateni

Members At Large

Wendy Coomer
Eric DeGroot
Eric Kissinger
Lawren Olivianti
Meg Puddy

Affiliate Representatives:

Fox Valley
Diane Nackers

Chippewa Valley
Bobbi Wagner

Central WI
Dale Prah

Staff

Executive Director
Kirsten Cooper

Education & Outreach Coordinator
Jessica Fischer

Office Manager
Kelly Brodhagen

ASW Board Meeting
April 19, 2018