



ASFV Newsletter

The Autism Society of the Fox Valley

Message from the President

Happy Spring Everyone!

As we start this spring patiently waiting for the CDC to release new prevalence statistics, we are not waiting to provide family and social group outings for our members. ASFV has pulled together many great outings for all of our groups. With April being Autism Awareness Month, we have coordinated a special family outing at the Tundra Lodge in Green Bay.

Looking at our community outreach efforts this past year, ASFV reached an average of 80 people per family outing, 20 at the teen/adult group, 12

at the 7-13 year old group, and 15 at our parent support group. We have answered emails, phone calls and met with people in person who needed information or additional support. Our Facebook page and website continue to keep everyone informed of events.

All of these efforts take people dedicated to our mission. Thank you so much to my fellow board members who always think of others, offer their time and talents, and help to make ASFV a growing affiliate in the state.

ASFV always welcomes people who share our mission. This is an open invitation to our board meet-

ings. They are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6pm at the Goodwill building in Menasha. If you would like more information, please email me at bnack5@gmail.com.

It's also time to gear up for our 14th Annual Golf Outing. Bob Olson works tirelessly to ensure this event is a high quality, enjoyable and profitable event. Form your teams and get ready to tee off. The registration form is on page 3.

Have a wonderful spring,
Diane Nackers
ASFV President



Inside this issue:

<i>Tundra Lodge/ Soccer Camp</i>	2-3
<i>Wings for Autism/ Social Outings</i>	4-6
<i>Social Outings/ Golf Outing Registration</i>	7
<i>Reel Movies/ Save the Dates</i>	8-9
<i>Beth Hiatt—teenager with Autism Blog</i>	10-11
<i>Autism Awareness Poem</i>	12
<i>ASW membership form</i>	13

ASW/ASFV Membership Benefits

What are the benefits of your \$15 annual membership?

- * Free monthly Monkey Joe's
- * Free monthly Building for Kids
- * Free quarterly newsletters
- * Free Parent/Support Group
- * Free Parent/Educator workshops
- * Safety and conference scholarships
- * Free admission to many social and family outings



ASFV Members—Only Family Celebration



Resort – Waterpark
&
Conference Center
GREEN BAY, WI

WHAT: Members-only family event to celebrate autism awareness month – official members are those who have paid annual Autism Society membership dues of \$15. If you are unsure of your membership status, please email asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org. If you'd like to become a member or renew, visit www.autismfoxvalley.org/membership/ to do so online or print off the attached membership form and mail it in.

WHERE: Tundra Lodge Resort, 864 Lombardi Ave, Green Bay

WHEN: April 15th – 12 - 8pm

Check-in at the ASFV table in the main lobby is required between Noon & 2:00pm. Please stay as long as your family is having fun -- as late as 8:00pm if you like!

COST: \$5.00 per swimmer payable at registration

RSVP: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org by April 10th

DETAILS: Food is available in the Tundra Lodge restaurants on the main level at your own expense.





Soccer Camp for Kids with Autism!



Saturday, May 5

Maplewood Middle School, 1600 Midway Rd., Menasha

FREE Camp highlights include:

- A free camp t-shirt
- The opportunity to learn soccer skills and score a goal
- A family friendly environment, parents and siblings welcome on the field
- Learn about the importance of team-work, required in an organized sport
- Receive support from the Menasha High School Soccer team and coaching staff in a relaxed, supportive and fun atmosphere
- Free lunch for the entire family
- AND MUCH MORE!

Website: <http://www.autismfoxvalley.org/>

Tentative Schedule:

10:30-11:00 Registration
11:00: Introductions & Instructions
11:05: Gather to assigned group
11:10: Stretching/Warm-ups
11:20 Station work (10 stations at 6 minutes each)
12:20-12:30 Assembly for pictures
12:30-1:30 Picnic style lunch for the family & soccer teams



The picnic lunch provided consists of burgers, brats, a variety of salads and drinks. If your child requires a special diet, please plan accordingly. We are unable to meet individual requests.

REGISTER ONLINE at:

<https://goo.gl/forms/kMvL2tNRizxMhXmF2>

RSVP by April 24!

Questions? Contact Kelly Brodhagen at Kelly.brodhagen@gmail.com or 920-427-8120 after 4:30pm.

A collaborative event sponsored by the Autism Society of the Fox Valley & Menasha High School Soccer Teams



AUTISM SOCIETY
OF THE FOX VALLEY

Wings For All—Event May 19th



The Appleton International Airport will once again host Wings for Autism. Wings for Autism is a program that provides the experience of going to an airport, checking in at the airline counter, going through security, boarding the plane and collecting baggage at the conclusion of a simulated trip. This can be a helpful process for children, teens, or adults with Autism to help reduce stress and anxiety by familiarizing them with the various steps taken when flying.

Join us on Saturday, May 19th, to experience Wings for Autism. The link to volunteer or register:

<http://atwairport.com/community-partnerships/wings-for-autism/>

Registration opens: 10:30 am

Board aircraft: 11:45 am

Aircraft departs (simulated): 12:15 pm

Deplane: 12:35 pm

If you have questions regarding this event or the registration form, please contact Pla Yang at pyang@atwairport.com or 920-832-5267.



ASFV Parent Support Group Meeting



ASFV's parent support group meeting is held the first Sunday of each month from 6:00-8:00pm.

We meet at 211 E Franklin St, Appleton in the SOAR/ WisconSibs/ NAMI building.

Parking is free and refreshments are provided. Please note that the front door will remain locked, but there is a doorbell for entry.

Parents, grandparents and other caregivers are welcome to share their questions, concerns, insights and information in a relaxed supportive setting. To be added to the support group email list :

info@autismfoxvalley.org

Hanging Out Social Outings

Social development and friendships are often primary concerns for parents. ASFV continues to offer social outings for kids who are 7-13 years old. If your child would like to be added to the emailing list to receive all of the outing updates, email Diane at

asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org or Heidi at

Heididahle2003@yahoo.com.

Several outings are being planned.

April 15th—Tundra Lodge 12-2—family outing

May 12th EAA—10-1

June—TBD



Email: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org to register.

Teen Group Outings

The ASFV Teen Group continues to support positive social interactions. We hold monthly outings at a wide variety of locations. The group consists of teens 13-20 who want to socialize with others.

The teens should demonstrate a level of independence so they can participate in community outings. The teens are supervised by board member Diane Nackers.

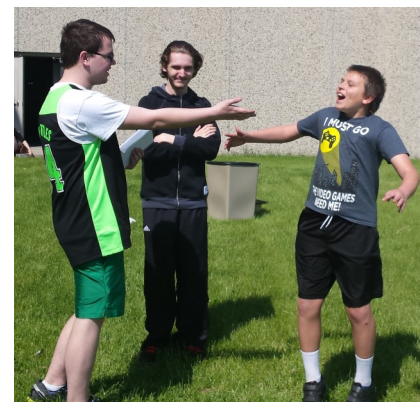
Our next teen group is:

April 15th—Tundra Lodge—family outing

May 12th—EAA 10-1

June - TBD

Email: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org



20 Something Social Network

ASFV's adult group is designed for young adults with ASD, 19–29 years old, who can independently participate in social activities, and are interested in social networking. We are hoping to get consistent events on the calendar.

The group is always looking for more members to participate (we require a minimum of 3-5 participants to hold each event).

Please email Diane at asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org for more information or if you are interested in helping facilitate these outings.

The Building for Kids—Spectrum Saturday

2018 dates: April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September TBD, October 20, November 17, December 8.

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! Please arrive before 10:00am for free admission. Special programming begins at 9 am. Come check out the brand new exhibits with more GREAT plans and programs for 2018.



All family members of children with autism can spend the morning exploring the museum at NO COST.

April 15th—Sensory STEM activities

Monkey Joe's Play Dates

Monkey Joe's play dates are coming to an end for this school year. Our final outings are April 7th, May 5th, and June 2nd.

Monkey Joe's in Appleton opens their doors exclusively to families of children with autism on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 until 10:00 am (and you're welcome to stay as long as you like).

Parents get a chance to meet other parents while the kids have an opportunity to play in a fun environment. FREE for members or just \$5 for non-member families. See you there!



Safe and Sound Program a Success

Sgt. Jimmy Donohoe, Pensacola Police Department, and Captain Bill Cannata, Westwood Fire Department, Boston, came to the Valley to teach families how to keep their family members safe and how to communicate their needs with law enforcement. They also offered, and completed, a 6 hour autism training to local law enforcement officers, EMS, school liaison officers, EMT's and dispatch professionals.

Main parent lessons: Visit your local fire and police stations with your child to desensitize and pre-teach expectations. Flag your home in their CAD system in case of an emergency and update yearly. Teach your child not to touch law enforcement while in uniform. Teach older individuals to keep their hands visible at all times until asked for their ID. Future educational events will be planned, including Community Days at a variety of fire departments. If you know a fire department that would like to host a 2 hour open house event, please email Diane at bnack5@gmail.com.





2018 Autism Society of the Fox Valley Golf Outing

Join friends and enjoy a great day of golf & festivities for
ASFV's 14th Annual Golf Outing!



When: Saturday, June 2, 2018

8:00am Registration, Bloody Mary's, donuts & warm-up

9:00am SHOTGUN start

Where: Irish Waters Golf Course, N4265 Murphy Rd.,
Freedom

Fees: \$85.00 per player includes greens fees, golf cart,
free beer & soda in the clubhouse, lunch, awards
and dinner

Format: Scramble ... *RAIN OR SHINE!*

ASFV is a 501(c)(3) Organization - your donations are tax
deductible

- ♦ Create your own foursome—ask your friends,
families or colleagues to golf with you or fill in
your name and the golf committee will place you
on a team
- ♦ Margaritas for sale on the course!
- ♦ Competitions, hole events, 50/50 Raffle and Silent
Auction
- ♦ WIN GREAT PRIZES!
- ♦ HOLE SPONSORSHIP ONLY \$250

Player 1 (Team Captain)

Email Address

Player 2

Email Address

Player 3

Email Address

Player 4

Email Address

Company Name

Hole Sponsorship - includes signage with company logo _____ \$250

Total due: \$ _____

Payment form: Check # _____

Fill out all information and include payment to:
Bob Olson (ASFV Golf Outing Chairperson)

1216 Lewis St, Little Chute WI 54140

QUESTIONS? Email Bob Olson at bob.olson1976@gmail.com or phone (920) 788-5298

Reel Movies for Real Needs



SERVING A REAL NEED WITH A REEL EXPERIENCE

We understand that sometimes it is difficult or uncomfortable for families with special needs children to attend movies together. Marcus Theatres Reel Movies for Real Needs is a specially designed program to serve families with special needs such as autism or other challenges, who seldom attend movies.

A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Reel Movies for Real Needs creates a welcoming and comfortable environment - lower sound, lights up - where families with children who need accommodations will be able to share the experience of seeing family friendly films at a theatre.

Reel Movies for Real Needs is ideal for families who may not feel comfortable attending regularly scheduled shows.

Check out these upcoming Reel Movies for Real Needs at 10:30am:

- * Duck Duck Goose - April 21
- * Avengers: Infinity War - May 5
- * Solo: A Star Wars Story - May 26
- * Incredibles 2 - June 16
- * Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom - June 23
- * Ant-Man and the Wasp - July 7
- * Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation - July 14

Valley Grand Cinema, W3091 Van Roy Road

Appleton, WI 54915

(920) 734-7469



The Beautiful Life We Never Knew We Needed—Autism Awareness

Appleton Area School District is sponsoring a speaking engagement with the creator of [Postcards From The Run](#). Josh Cobb will be presenting on **April 26th, 2018 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm** in the Kaleidoscope Academy, 318 E. Brewster St, Appleton in the multipurpose room. Find out more details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2047861838804318/>

About the Speaker:

Josh Cobbs is a parent of a 18-year-old son with autism. He has spent over a decade advocating for equitable services for individuals with autism. Josh twice provided testimony to the United States Senate on access to care and the efficacy of remote ABA treatment. He has worked with post-secondary institutions on how to set up transitional education and work programs for people with autism and intellectual disabilities. Josh provides a voice to parents in his podcast “Postcards From The Run” that has been downloaded in 17 countries and 36 states. Cobbs also founded The Pier Center for Autism in Sioux City, Iowa, helping spearhead ABA service delivery for families in Northwest Iowa. He was the driving force for the development of legislation to establish the Iowa Autism Council, serving as the inaugural chairperson. Cobbs most recently began Joyency a company empowering people through coaching, activity, and wellness.



Save the Date—Annual ASFV Night at the Timber Rattlers

Date: August 18th

Time: Tailgate party 5:00 with ASFV sponsoring the brats, hotdogs, and soft drinks. Please bring a dish to pass.

First pitch 6:35pm.



Tickets: \$5.00 per ticket (limit 6) \$7.00 each additional ticket. Parking info in your ticket package.

Contact: Steve Brennan 625 S. Keller Park Dr. Appleton 54914 to reserve your Box Seat tickets.

Email: sbrennan78@yahoo.com

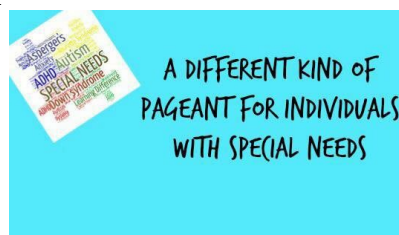
Phone: 920-739-2596



Uniquely You Pageant—June 9th

Uniquely You pageant is for all individuals with special needs. Disbelieve in disabilities and believe in abilities. Encourage and raise self-esteem! Hailey Herbst can be contacted for more information: Call (920) 203-9905

- <http://uypageants.weebly.com/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/uniquepageant/>



Safety Scholarships Available

The Autism Society of the Fox Valley offers three (3) safety scholarships—up to \$250 each. Families who need assistance purchasing additional locks, alarms, fence gates, or anything to help ensure safety measures can be taken for your child, can apply.



Just send a short letter explaining what your needs are and the expense you expect to incur. The ASFV board will vote on your request at the next board meeting. You will then be notified via email or mail. If your scholarship is approved, provide a receipt and you will be reimbursed for up to \$250. You must be a member of the Autism Society of the Fox Valley to be considered.



Send the email to: info@autismfoxvalley.org and in the subject line write "ASFV Safety Scholarship".

You may also send a letter to ASFV, P.O. Box 266 Little Chute, WI 54140.

Beth Hiatt, “Let’s Talk About Autism”

Beth Hiatt, 13, is the co-editor of her school’s magazine and recently wrote an article called “Let’s Talk About Autism” for the publication explaining how autism affects her daily life — and how she hopes to change the public’s perception of people on the spectrum. After the piece was published, her mother, Beccy Hiatt, shared the unedited article with the Facebook community page and website, Autistic Not Weird, where it was reposted.

“Let’s Talk About Autism

I have autism. And I’m not ashamed to admit that.

It may come as a bit of a surprise to you, as the only autism you may know of being exposed to have is the low-functioning, severe, non-verbal kind.

I do not have low-functioning autism. I am a high-functioning autistic. There’s a whole spectrum of autism, (that’s why its full name is autism spectrum disorder) and no two people with autism are the same. Those with high-functioning autism/mild autism/Asperger’s syndrome do indeed face extremely different issues to those with low functioning autism, but there are similar issues affecting the majority of the spectrum that most people do not know.

Imagine having all five senses multiplied by one hundred. Many people with autism, myself included, have never experienced complete silence. We always hear the humming of the lights, or a bird outside, or even the sound of our own breath. We always hear this loud and clear, even in noise-filled crowded room. We feel labels in our clothes for the entirety of the day if they are not cut out, some smells and tastes make us literally unable to breathe. After this all gets too much (trust me, this usually doesn’t take too long for most) we can experience something called sensory overload. If visible to others, it probably looks like a tantrum (If you were wondering, I haven’t experienced full-blown sensory overload in years, but it still stands. You just learn how to repress it). However, we are not waiting to see if others respond. We want to get out of there as quick as possible, and we certainly don’t need judgement from others. I know our behaviors may seem self-injurious to those around us and it may seem funny to see a child who is not two kicking off and screaming, but who are you to judge?



You have absolutely no idea what it is like.

Imagine being seen as rude when you do not get the gist of social norms. Most people are born with a general understanding but just need to be reminded to mind their P's and Q's from time to time. Usually, they are well-mannered by the age of four or so. Well... we are all still learning, whether we are eight or eighty. We do try our hardest to think before we speak, but we slip up quite a lot. Sure, it's funny and cute when a three year old says something they shouldn't, but when a nine year old accidentally starts an argument between their family after they repeat something their parents muttered under their breath (Guess who did that, kids!), you're seen as rude and inconsiderate...

Imagine struggling to catch a ball, hold a pen or do anything that involves fine or gross motor skills. We are the children that run with a gait, who are always picked last for the team, whose handwriting ranges from scruffy to illegible. The worst thing is, we are not often given help for this. As autism is known as an invisible **disability**, people think we are not trying hard enough, children laugh at our mishaps, we feel left out and like a failure on many occasions.

Although after reading this article autism may seem like a terrible thing to have that will ruin your entire life, don't be fooled! All of the best scientists (Einstein, Edison, etc.) that changed our world and way of thinking drastically were rumored to have autism, along with such famous faces as Daryl Hannah, Tim Burton and the legendary Temple Grandin. We can go on to do the most amazing things if our self-esteem isn't shattered.

Autism has no known cause and no known cure, but there is somebody who can make life easier for those who are diagnosed. It's you.

Autism Awareness Day is coming up on April 2nd, and you will probably be told to wear blue to make people more aware, but I want you to do more than that. Make every day autism awareness day. Try to make a safe space if somebody with autism is on edge at a party. Gently nudge them if they say something wrong. Pick them for your team if playing sports. Even smiling and saying hello in the corridor. Small gestures matter. Often, they can speak louder than words ever could.

Please, be autism aware.

Thank you. Beth Hiatt

APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

join us in
CELEBRATION



awareness

action

acceptance

inclusion

appreciation

Benjamin Giroux, a 10-year-old boy who is on the spectrum, wrote a poem titled "I Am" as an assignment for his fifth grade class. His father, Sonny Giroux, explained to The Huffington Post that every line of the poem already included two words like "I am" and "I wonder" as a prompt for the students to complete. In his poem, Benjamin wrote that he is "odd" and "new" and that he feels "like a castaway."

<http://a4.org.au/node/1267>—Huffington Post

I am odd, I am new
I wonder if you are too
I hear voices in the air
I see you don't, and that's not fair
I want to not feel blue
I am odd, I am new
I pretend that you are too
I feel like a boy in outer space
I touch the stars and feel out of place
I worry what others might think
I cry when people laugh, it makes me shrink
I am odd, I am new
I understand now that so are you
I say I, "feel like a castaway"
I dream of a day that that's okay
I try to fit in
I hope that someday I do
I am odd, I am new.

Date of Application _____

Name _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone () _____

The Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW) serves 53 counties in Wisconsin. We share membership with our 5 local Autism Society affiliates listed below. By choosing a local affiliate below, you will join both the Autism Society of Wisconsin and the local affiliate. If there is no local affiliate serving your county, leave this section blank.

___ Autism Society of the Fox Valley (ASFV)

Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac and Waupaca Counties

___ Autism Society of the Lakeshore (ASL)

Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Calumet, Kewaunee and Door Counties

___ Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin (ASNEW)-

Brown, Shawano, Oconto, Florence, Menomonie and Marinette Counties

___ Autism Society of Central Wisconsin (ASCW)

Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Taylor and Wood Counties.

___ Autism Society of Chippewa Valley (ASCV)

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

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

___ Individual (\$12) ___ Family (\$15)

___ New Member ___ Renewing Member

BILLING : ___ Bill my Master Card/VISA Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Authorized Signature _____ CVV (3 digit code on the back) _____

___ Check enclosed: Check # _____

___ Enclosed is a \$10 contribution towards the cost of the newsletter—thank you!

Additional contribution (tax deductible).

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$ (Other)

Please send your completed membership form and payment to:
Autism Society of Wisconsin | 1477 Kenwood Drive |
Menasha, WI 54952 Fax (920) 558-4611

If you have questions, email ASW at asw@asw4autism.org or call 888-428-8476.

For office use only

Date Rec'd _____

Check # _____

Amount \$ _____

Autism Society of the Fox Valley

PO Box 266

Little Chute, WI 54140

888-428-8476

Email: info@autismfoxvalley.org

ASFV Board Members

Diane Nackers—President
Ann Olson—Vice President
Bob Olson—Treasurer
Heidi Dahle—Secretary

Steve Brennan
Archna Hendricks, MD
Kristin Wahl
Chad Leder
Andy Teska
Ben Marks
John Oehler

Newsletter Submissions

Articles of interest, stories/poetry of persons with autism, book reviews and upcoming conferences or workshops are accepted. Submissions can be sent to: Diane Nackers, 8042 Sequaro Ct, Neenah WI 54956 email: bnack5@gmail.com.

Submission deadlines are December 1, March 1, June 1, and September 1. Responsibility for accuracy of information remains that of the author of the article. Articles from this publication may be reprinted, giving credit to the author and ASFV. The ASFV Editorial Review Board reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions.

Website: www.autismfoxvalley.org

New email: info@autismfoxvalley.org

All social outings: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org



Like us on Facebook:
Autism Society of the
Fox Valley

THANK YOU for your DONATIONS

ALL donations are used directly in support of the programs we provide for families and children on the autism spectrum. ALL ASFV board members are volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to advance our mission.

- ♦ Carol Koller
- ♦ William Gillett
- ♦ Linda Braeder
- ♦ Amy Fischer
- ♦ Network for Good
- ♦ Paul and Lisa Bons



The Autism Society of the Fox Valley, Inc. was established in 1989. We are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization serving the counties of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Outagamie, Waupaca and Winnebago.

Our mission is to provide information and referral, advocacy, public awareness, education and support for individuals, families, professionals and others who support people with autism.

