Happy Spring Everyone!

It’s Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month once again. The ASFV board is gearing up for a busy spring. ASFV will be at the annual ASW state conference coming at the end of the month. We are sponsoring 4 families with scholarships to the conference. We host an informational/fundraising table where we sell t-shirts, candy bars, and talk about what is happening in our chapter. All proceeds go to support our programs.

Big topics of discussion at the parent support group meeting and on the Facebook pages have been school choice, homeschooling, and which school will meet the needs of the kids the best. ASFV can only offer support for your decisions and not make personal recommendations. The relationship you foster with your child’s teacher often determines the outcome. Open and clear communication, realistic expectations, and developing a collaborative relationship with classroom and special education teachers will lead to a better outcome for your child.

It’s also time to gear up for our main fundraiser of the year. The 13th Annual Golf Outing is quickly approaching—June 3rd. Bob Olson works tirelessly to ensure this event is an enjoyable and profitable event. If you would like to donate to the silent auction, please contact Ann Olson at anneliz63@gmail.com. It’s time to form your teams and get ready to tee off. The registration form is on page 2.

As always, please keep your contact information up to date. The website address is autismfoxvalley.org and our email is Info@autismfoxvalley.org.

Hope you have a wonderful spring!

Diane Nackers
ASFV President

When: April 23, 2017
Where: Sky Zone, Appleton
Time: 11—1 pm

Who: All ASFV members and families who are new to autism. This is a perfect opportunity to meet other families. Sky Zone will open exclusively for us on that day.

Cost: ASFV will pay for all kids who jump and their socks. Parents who want to jump will pay $10.00 plus socks. If parents not jumping, they will need socks ($2.00 pair) if they go on the tramps.

RSVP Diane at asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org
2017 Autism Society of the Fox Valley Golf Outing

Come and join friends and enjoy a day of golf as we begin the festivities for our Annual Golf Outing! A limited number of registrations are available so get your registration in today!

**When?** Saturday, June 3, 2017  
9:00 am SHOT GUN start. Please arrive no later than 8:30!

**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!

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**Company Name**

Hole Sponsorship - Includes signage with company logo  
$250

Total due: $  
Payment form: Check #

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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
Wings for Autism® is an airport “rehearsal” specially designed for individuals with Autism spectrum disorders and individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The program is designed to alleviate the stress that families who have a child with autism or intellectual/developmental disabilities experience when flying. It provides families the opportunity to practice entering the airport, obtaining boarding passes, going through security and boarding a plane (no actual flight).

The Appleton "flight" on May 13th will feature an Allegiant Airbus 319 with 156 seats, allowing 78 families to participate.

Space is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible!

The Autism Society of Wisconsin and the Autism Society of the Fox Valley are proud to be part of the planning process for this exciting event hosted by the Appleton International Airport and created by The Arc of the United States. We hope to see you there!

ASFV Parent Support Group Meeting

Do you need to talk, or just need a break? Please join us the first Sunday of each month from 6:00-8:00 pm for ASFV's monthly Parent Support Group meeting.

Where: 211 E Franklin Street in downtown Appleton (just two blocks west of City Park) in the building that houses Soar Fox Cities Inc., WisconSibs and NAMI Fox Valley. The doors will be locked, but there is a doorbell so we'll be there plenty early to let you in. Refreshments will be provided.

Parents and other caregivers will have the opportunity to get together in a relaxed, informal atmosphere to talk about everything from your personal experiences to available resources and general education about autism. We hope to see many of you there!

For more information: info@autismfoxvalley.org
Hangin’ Out Social Outings

ASFV is excited to report the success of our social opportunity for kids 7 – 12 years old. The children have participated in a variety of outings. The goals of these outings are to foster socialization, experiences, and fun. All outings are supervised by the social group facilitators.

Future outing dates:
April 22nd — Pinewood Derby Event at St Gabriel’s in Neenah
May 13th - TBD
June 17th — Diane Nackers’ house—games/picnic

To be placed on the email list to receive all outing updates: Heidi Dahle
heididahle2003@yahoo.com or
Diane Nackers asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org

Teen Group Outings

The ASFV teen group begins its 7th year!! We get together monthly at a wide variety of locations. The group consists of teens 13-19 who want to meet others on the autism and socialize. The teens should demonstrate a level of independence so they can participate in community outings without parental supervision. The teens are supervised by a board member.

Our next outing dates are:
April 22nd—Movie at Hollywood Cinema and Snack at Tom’s
May 13th—TBD
June 17th— Diane Nackers’ house—games/picnic

To be placed on the email list, send request to asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org

Adult Social Outings

This group is designed for adults on the autism spectrum who like to participate in social activities, and are interested in getting to know others in loosely supported activities. An ASFV Board member organizes the events, and is always present to facilitate socialization for those who choose to attend.

All participants should have the ability to independently participate in social events in the community. We engage in varied activities, but are always open to new ideas! If you know of an adult with ASD in our community that wants to be more social, contact Diane for more information. Events are communicated to members, or individuals who want to receive the emails. Please contact Diane Nackers or Ben Marks at: asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org.
Spectrum Saturday

Spectrum Saturday events are hosted by The Building for Kids—downtown College Ave, Appleton—and ASFV at no cost to the families who participate. The new exhibits and interactive art opportunities are fun to try.

Special monthly programming makes each visit unique.

- April 15th - Spring Sensory Stations
- May 20th - Sensory Storytime with the Appleton Public Library
- June 17 – Beach Time Fun Sensory Stations

100 West College Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911

Upcoming dates: April 15th
May 20th
June 17th
Time: 9:00—10:00 am

Monkey Joe’s Play Dates

Monkey Joe’s play dates are coming to an end for this school year. Our final three outings are April 1st, May 6th, and June 3rd.

Monkey Joe’s, 1800 N Casaloma, 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 & ASFV board members, siblings have an opportunity to meet other sibs in a fun environment, and kids can safely bounce, jump, slide and have fun. FREE for members or just $5 for non-member families.

Community Resource Guide

The Autism Society of the Fox Valley offers a resource guide. This guide has been updated and is available on our website.

www.autismfoxvalley.org

If you would like to be added to the guide please email info@autismfoxvalley.org
Marcus Valley Grand Cinema in Darboy Presents “Reel Movies for Real Needs”

Marcus Valley Grand Cinema in Darboy presents "Reel Movies for Real Needs" on select Saturdays at 10:30 am!

Reel Movies for Real Needs creates a welcoming & 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 theater. Regular matinee pricing applies.

You can now reserve your seats ahead of time! Please visit www.marcustheatres.com/marcus-specials/sensory-specific-films/reel-movies-for-real-needs

Save the date for future offerings:

- Smurfs: Lost Village - April 8*
- Leap! - April 22*
- Guardians of the Galaxy 2 - May 6*
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Long Haul - May 20*
- Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tale - May 27*
- Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie - June 3*
- Cars 3 - June 17*
- Despicable Me 3 - July 1*
- Spider-Man: Homecoming - July 8

Registered Kids Receive 2 FREE GAMES Of Bowling Every Day All Summer Long, Valued At Over $500 Per Child!

Select bowling centers and schools around the country are participating in the first ever Kids Bowl Free program. This program is designed by bowling centers to give back to the community and provide a safe, secure, and fun way for kids to spend time this summer.

Children whose age does not exceed a limit by a participating bowling center are eligible to register for 2 free games a day, all summer long, courtesy of the participating bowling centers along with the schools and organizations.
ASFV Hangin’ Out Social Outing
for kids 7-13 years old

PINEWOOD DERBY

Saturday, APRIL 22, 2017
9am – Noon
St. Gabriel’s School Gym, Neenah

WHAT?: Members of Pack 3045 / 3074 are planning a Pinewood Derby for Children with Special Needs. All materials provided free day of event. If you would like to pre-make a car, let Jeff know. Boys and girls both welcome! Grade school through high school. Do not have to be in Scouts to sign up.

Contact: jeffberzowski@hotmail.com

Questions or RSVP to reserve your spot:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pinewood-derby-for-children-with-special-needs-tickets-28892765038

We also have a Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/2017specialderby/
Autism Friendly Business
Wolf Isle Bar and Grill, Winneconne

When I got a Facebook message that asked if ASFV does anything to recognize autism friendly businesses, I just had to follow up. This follow-up messaging led me to Winneconne and the Wolf Isle Bar and Grill. The owner Max Clifford and sous chef Ross Hoffman have created a wonderful, accepting work environment where learning about autism happens in the day to day role of running a business.

The Wolf Isle is located at 235 W. Main St. downtown Winneconne. Max and his partner Shawn opened the doors with a New Year’s Eve celebration January 1, 2016. I asked Max to tell me his story and how he came to employ young adults on the spectrum. With a big smile he told me how a parent approached one of the employees and asked if there might be a job for her sons with high functioning autism. Max admitted he had no idea about autism or what to expect. The interview was different than other interviews as he let the applicant share information about himself. He remembers how nervous they both were, but this led to “a sense of openness and trying to get a feel for the applicant.” “Relating to him about his interests was key to building the relationship that has helped him come out of his shell.” Max found out that organization and visualizing things in their place were strengths for this young man, so he hired him to help in the kitchen. Max created task lists that are posted. He taught what was expected for each item. Now whenever there is down time, the list serves as a guide to being productive without someone having to tell him what to do. A couple weeks later his brother was also hired and they are very big assets to the restaurant staff.

I asked how some of the characteristics and features of autism affect job performance. Max said the most positive things he could think of were the incredibly punctual nature, willingness to work, and how the visuals in the kitchen make them self-sufficient. The routine of the kitchen has made the brothers role models for other employees. When asked about any bumps in the road, Max relayed a story about the paychecks. Max assumed the employees knew where to pick up their paycheck or at least who to ask, but this was not the case and when 2 weeks passed, it came to light that the boys did not receive their checks. This led to a great lesson in communication. “You can’t teach everyone the same way,” Max said. “What you think they know, well, you can’t assume that.”

Thank you Max for sharing your story, delicious food, and wonderful atmosphere. Thank you Cheryl Paulsen for giving me the lead to this autism-friendly business. Your sons are most definitely in a supportive work environment, with a boss who is very proud of their accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Nackers
LIVE • LEARN • GROW

Empower Me Camp

Held at Faith United Methodist Church • 1025 Tullar Rd, Neenah
NEENAH–MENASHA YMCA
8:30 AM–3:30 PM

With every new experience comes a change to learn and grow. At the Y, we strive to give every child opportunities to test their own limits and explore their potential. Every summer, the Empower Me Camp is designed to build leadership skills, taking on new responsibilities and experiencing independence. In fact, all of our youth programs work to develop leaders and pave their way for the future.

Grades K–3
July 17–21

Grades 4–8
July 24–28

Summer camp for higher functioning youth on the Autism Spectrum.

$195 before June 1 ($245 after June 1)
Contact Julie Uhe at 888.2178 or Juhe@ymcafoxcities.org.
When:  August 5, 2017  
Where:  Timber Rattlers Stadium, Appleton  
Time:  Potluck tailgate supper starts at 5:00 until game time.  ASFV is sponsoring the meat, buns and soft drinks.  Please bring a dish to pass.  
More information will be coming this summer.  

Come join us and see all the new changes to the stadium!!

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, PO Box 266 Little Chute, WI 549140.
Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month

"Autism is part of my child, it's not everything he is. My child is so much more than a diagnosis.”

The Fresh Quotes

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it is about learning to dance in the rain.

Vivian Greene

Acceptance
The greatest gift you can give to someone with Autism
Always Unique. Totally Intelligent. Sometimes Mysterious.

Grow Your Awareness
Training for Families Who Have Children with Disabilities or Special Health Care Needs

“Did You Know? Now You Know!” explains resources and services for children with disabilities and special health care needs from birth through young adulthood. Learn about health insurance and how to best use your benefits, Medicaid and long-term supports. The training is free. A light dinner and a resource binder will be provided.

Topics include: Medicaid, Children’s Long-Term Supports, prior authorizations and appealing a Medicaid denial, respite, partnering with your doctor and more.

When: Tuesday, April 25th, 2017 5:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.
Goodwill North Central WI, 1800 Appleton Rd., Menasha, WI 54952
Where: (Heart of the Valley Room - enter at Community Campus Door 2)
Register: REGISTER HERE or contact the Regional Center at 877-568-5205 or email us at infonerc@chw.org
Cost: The training is free to participants. A light meal and resource binder will be provided.

Learn More: To learn more about the training session go to the Family Voices of Wisconsin website at www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com

This training is co-sponsored by the Northeast Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, Family Voices of Wisconsin, Outagamie County Early Intervention Program and Winnebago County Early Intervention Services.
Autism Society of Wisconsin
Membership Application Form

Date: ____________________
Name: ___________________________________________________________________
Street Address: ___________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ___________________________________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________Phone (          ) __________________________
Chapter joining: _____ ASFV, Fox Valley area, Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Waupaca Counties. By joining ASFV—you are automatically a member of ASW.

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.
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.

**Thank You for your DONATIONS**

ALL donations are spent directly in support of the programs we provide for families and children on the autism spectrum.

- Outagamie County Employees - Jeans Day Donation
- Mary Klaus
- Dennis Kaufman/East Wisconsin Savings "Give Back" promotion
- In memory of Cathy McNamara, Manawa
- Weldon Family/First Weber Realtors
- In memory of Mae Myer
- Robin Lindberg
- In memory of Mr. Ivo Haen
- Milwaukee Tool Employees - Gold Outing donation
- Sargento Employee Company Match
- Outagamie County Employees - Jeans Day Donation
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- Weldon Family/First Weber Realtors
- In memory of Mae Myer
- Robin Lindberg
- In memory of Mr. Ivo Haen
- Milwaukee Tool Employees - Gold Outing donation

**Our Mission:**
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.