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AUTISM SOCIETY
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Maine



Maine Autism Connections

Celebrating 35 Years by Cathy E. Dionne

Spring 2011



In 1976 the Autism Society of Maine started out as a group of parents looking for support from each other. There were very few doctors and other professionals who knew anything about autism or where to get help. Families were hungry for information and willing to share anything they learned with another family. As the Autism Society of Maine looks toward the future, we look back at the many families, individuals, and professionals we have connected with and are honored to have been there for them the past 35 years. Changes have taken place over these years. Many families now have grown children, directors have come and gone, policies have changed, eligibility & criteria have changed and the prevalence rate went from 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 110.

I had a discussion with Scott Badesch, the Senior VP of ASA's Development and Operations. (Getting him to Maine was tricky with all the winter weather!)

Welcome to Maine, Scott. Can you tell me a little about yourself? I have been happily married for 28 years to Phyllis Badesch and have four children (ages 15, 21, 23, 24). Our oldest son, Evan, has Aspergers. Professionally, I am the Senior VP of Development and Operations with the Autism Society of America where I oversee daily operations of the organization and fund raising. Before coming to the Autism Society family, I was with United Way for 24 years as a CEO of two different United Ways (South Carolina and Palm Beach County). *Thank you, Scott, I know that being a professional and a family member helped me to really understand the needs of Maine families.*

Can you tell me how long you have been with the Autism Society? I was the CEO of the Autism Society of North Carolina for one year, and in March, 2010, I became the Senior

VP of Development and Operations with the Autism Society of America.

What is your role with the Autism Society? I oversee daily services and support to our membership, 151 chapters, and staff. I also oversee the fund raising efforts of the agency. I serve as lead staff to the finance committee and chapter relations committee. *It sounds like you have a full plate.*

ASM has been a part of the Autism Society since the beginning. Where do you see the Autism Society in 10 years? I see a national system where strong local and state chapters are being supported by a national office and where collectively we are viewed as performing at the highest level of responsiveness and accountability in improving the lives of those living with autism and supporting the needs of their family. We are also showing very outcome based results in how we improve



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72B Main Street
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*Managing Editor and
Graphic Design:* Alex Theberge
Proofreader: Darlene Lepoff
Contributing writers: As bylined

*Send article ideas and suggestions for
our newsletter to:
asm@asmonline.org*

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 **AUTISM SOCIETY**
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Visit us online at: asmonline.org

Stay up-to-date for
Legislation issues,
fundraising events,
volunteer opportunities,
and upcoming happenings.



facebook.com/pages/Autism-Society-Of-Maine/107781499258293



President's Message

Greetings to All,
2011 is a big year for ASM. We are celebrating 35 years of serving families and individuals living with autism spectrum disorders. Thirty-five years ago there were only six of us meeting every month to share stories and learn more and more about what autism is (and what it isn't). The only national organization which provided information and support for individuals on the autism spectrum was the National Society for Autistic Children (NSAC as it was called then), and so we became a Maine Chapter. Since 1976 we've grown not only in numbers, but in the services we provide and the areas throughout the state that we serve. We have seen a lot of changes in those 35 years, as you can imagine. And with those changes, we have changed. Our name changed, our office location changed, and our organization grew. Even the definition of autism changed, and as these changes occurred we needed to change as well. We began to develop programs such as our Autism Information Specialist Program and Camp Summit, our summer camp program. We expanded our library and our outreach services, and began putting on workshops, conferences, and community events, including fundraising events, to create more awareness to better serve our families and communities. We wrote grants, collaborated with other agencies and organizations, and expanded our office and staff to make sure we were doing all we could for our children, families, and adults living with autism.



So 2011 is a year of celebration. We celebrate our children, our families, and our adult population with autism spectrum disorders. You are our inspiration and our reason for being. We are here to serve you, to support you, and to create awareness and understanding throughout communities in Maine about autism spectrum disorders. We've come a long way in 35 years, and it's time to celebrate who you are and how much you teach us about life, about courage, and about love and acceptance. You have taught us to appreciate and honor differences, to become more inclusive in our educational settings and workplaces, and to open our hearts to what it really means to be an advocate and a friend for those whose voices cannot be or are not being heard. You have helped us learn to be better listeners, to put our words into action, and to make the world a better place for all of us. Those of us who have dedicated our lives to serving and supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorders have much to thank you for, for you have enriched our lives and broadened our thinking. You have helped to give our lives purpose and the opportunity to make a difference in this world, just as you have made a difference in the lives you touch. So, on behalf of the Autism Society of Maine, I thank you, and together let's all celebrate ASM's 35th year by doing what we can to create awareness and understanding about autism spectrum disorders for all of us here in Maine.

Lynda Mazzola
President

Editorial Notes: Maine Autism Connections and Autism Society of Maine programs and services are made possible by donations from people like you and funding from the Maine Department of Health & Human Services. We hope you will also visit us online at <http://www.asmonline.org>, where we have a great deal of information available about autism, programs, resources, news, a calendar of events, legislation and more.

9th Annual Walk for Autism

May 1, 2011

Bangor, Biddeford, Farmington

11:00 Registration

12:00 noon Walk for Autism

Please join the Autism Society of Maine for its 9th Annual Walk for Autism on May 1, 2011. Our walk locations are at the University College of Bangor in Bangor, University of New England in Biddeford, and Farmington Fair Grounds in Farmington. Each walk will be less than 2 miles.

This year you can register online and create teams with your own fundraising page. It's easy. Go to: www.firstgiving.com/ASMMaine and sign up for an event. We now have two events listed online. You will be able to upload a picture on your fundraising page. We already have 86 people



registered with 22 teams. If someone wants to donate money to your team, they now can do it right on line under

your team. Or, if you get cash and want to be able to add it to your team, just put it under offline donation and bring that money with you to the walk. Don't worry, if you still want to show up and bring donations with you and not register online, it's OK. If you do register online then you will be able to see who the top fundraiser is and top team. There will still be a sponsor sheet available.

If you or an agency is interested in helping out at one of our walk events, please contact ASM. We are always looking for face painting, traffic control (parking cars), set up and take down, and help along the walk route.

At the Bangor and Farmington walks we have room for vendors. If you want your agency to be on hand at either one of those sites at no cost, call ASM for more details. You can print a vendor sheet from our website.

5th Annual Ride for Autism

Ride for Autism

September 24, 2011

Kennebunkport Conservation Trust Building

50 mile ride starts at 8:00 am / 25 mile ride starts at 9:00 am

Please join the Autism Society of Maine for our 5th Annual Ride for Autism. Our route is set along the beautiful coast with many breathtaking views. Visit our site for more details and to register:

www.firstgiving.com/ASMMaine Go to Ride for Autism. You can register as an individual or as a team. If you want to, you can also set up your own fund-raising page. There will be a hearty lunch and entertainment provided after the ride. Bring the whole family. Kids can enjoy the bouncy house or a fun ride of their own.



Health Care for Autism Society of Maine Newsletter

Your input is needed in a research study on Health Care Access for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The University of Southern Maine is looking for parents, guardians, health care providers and young adults with autism spectrum disorders interested in participating in an important project currently being conducted on health care access for adults with autism spectrum disorders. The purpose of the project is to gather information on the experience of going to the doctor's office from the perspective of parents or guardians, young adults with autism spectrum disorders, and the health care providers in the medical offices. The information and recommendations obtained will be used to help design materials for adult medical practices to help providers better understand and meet the needs of this group in Maine.

Participating in the project involves attending a single meeting of a discussion group either for health care providers, for parents/ guardians of young adults with autism spectrum disorders, or for young adults age 18 – 25 with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. The groups will meet once in early spring in Portland or Augusta.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Barbara Wirth at (207)228-8467 or bwirth@usm.maine.edu.

The Autism Book Club

By Deb Crump

It is a Wednesday evening in Waterville and a small group of individuals has met to talk about the latest book they read. They are a mixed group - therapists, teachers, family members, and a college professor - but they share a love of reading and a desire to know more about the Autism Spectrum. It all started at Kennebec Community College where a few of these individuals took a class about autism. They enjoyed discussing the book, "Let Me Hear Your Voice" by Catherine Maurice, and the movie, "Autism: the Musical". They felt that sharing the experience with others increased both their enjoyment and the knowledge they gained. They wanted to do it more.

This summer, these individual met to establish a group which they named "The Autism Book Club" (ABC). They invited others that they knew would be interested and began to meet once a month to discuss books, watch movies and share information. So far, they have read "Born on a Blue Day" by Daniel Tammet and "House Rules" by Jodi Picoult. The second is fiction and the group is interested in considering the ability of the author to portray an individual on the spectrum. They watched the movie "Mary and Max" and are planning another movie night in November, possibly with "Temple Grandin".

Members of the group also share articles and web sites of interest. They will be sharing the contents of "Cutting-Edge Therapies for Autism" by Siri and Lyons. As the book contains many small articles, they will be reading these at meetings in order to learn more about options for families and individuals. There is no cost for membership. There is no requirement to be present at all meetings or to read all of the books. The club is a social opportunity and a chance to learn and share with others.

For more information email: crump_deb@yahoo.com or call: 800-273-5200

Summer Camp

Applications are now available for the 8th Annual Summer Camp. Applications are **not** available online. Parents must call ASM to have one mailed to them. Summer camp runs for 4 weeks. The first session will be July 25 - August 4, and the second session is August 8 - August 18. Each session is Monday - Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm. The camp is located in Farmington. All applications go through a screening process, and families will be notified no later than June 24.

Summer camp is free to families. Paid members of ASM will be considered first before non paid members.

FMI please contact ASM at 800-273-5200



You're Going to Love this Kid

Autism Society of Maine presents

Dr. Paula Kluth

"You're Going To Love This Kid": Educating Students with Autism In Inclusive Schools

April 28, 2011

Location: Keeley the Katerer

Portland, Maine



ASM's Annual Family Retreat Weekend July 15, 16, and 17th

Please join us for our annual Family Retreat Weekend held at the University of New England, Biddeford. We look forward to seeing families that have come in the past and meeting families new to the family retreat. There will be supervised games and activities for the children, family entertainment and parent workshops.

Donations needed for Annual Family Retreat

Each year a special effort is made to ensure that each child who attends the Family Retreat receives a small gift. With the help of donations, last year's gift was a "Winnie the Pooh" book and matching stuffed animal. We would like to continue the book and toy theme again this year we could use your help.

Each book and stuffed animal costs \$5.00 each. If you would like make a donation of \$5.00 or more, your name will be put on a bookplate or tag (or can be in honor of someone else and have their name listed). Please call ASM to make a donation at 1-800-273-5200 or email: info@asmonline.org.

(See retreat application in this issue)



2010 Family Retreat Children's Gift

April is Autism Awareness Month

There is a lot happening during the month of April.

The Autism Society of Maine is sponsoring numerous events around the state. We also will be offering free Autism Awareness packets to display on bulletin boards like the photo at right. Each packet will contain: brochure, poster, sign and symptoms, and the famous multi colored ribbon. If any agency or school has a display, please send us a picture so we can post it on the website. Visit our calendar of events for a full listing of activities during April. I've listed a few for your convenience:

April 2 – Scraping Booking at Knights of Columbus in Lewiston (small fee)

April 6 – Portland Pirates Autism Awareness Night at 6:30 pm Cumberland County Civic Center (tickets needed)

April 9 – Sea Dogs Autism Awareness Day at the Ballpark at 1:00 pm Portland (tickets needed)

April 12 – Autism and Strategies workshop at University of Maine Machias 6 -8 (Free)

April 18 – Autism and Strategies workshop at Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick 6-8 (Free)

April 23 – Sensory Friendly Movie Event at Lewiston Flagship Cinema sponsored by Lewiston/Auburn Rotary (Free but registration needed)

April 28 – Dr. Paula Kluth conference at Keeley the Katerer in Portland (conference fee)



Walker Memorial Library 2010

Photos Needed

If you would like your child with Autism Spectrum Disorder to be included on ASM's publications such as the Autism Awareness poster, brochures, and website please send a picture to ASM by email to info@asmonline.org

Although we would like to publish all pictures received, it is not always possible. Name of child will not be published but is needed for our records. Please note that by sending your picture, you give permission for the Autism Society of Maine to publish the picture as stated above.

Lewiston/Auburn Rotary Sponsored Movie Event

We are pleased to offer a free movie event to families on April 23rd at the Flagship Cinema in Lewiston at 9:30am. This is a sensory friendly movie. The lights will be dimmed, sound will be lowered, and stress levels will also be decreased. This

year's movie is called "RIO". To see a trailer click: <http://rio.movie-trailer.com/> This event is free to families with children with autism and you must register for this event through ASM at 1-800-273-5200.



10th Annual Pampered Chef Party

Hosted by Linda Chamberlain & family
March 26 @ 10 am
C & J Hall, 711 Webster Street, Lewiston

You can order on line or come and enjoy some great food. Bring family and friends. Every participant will get a free gift from the Autism Society of Maine.
www.pamperedchef.biz/dianejordan



Portland Pirates Autism Awareness Night

April 6, 2011
6:30 pm
Portland Pirates vs. Manchester Monarchs
Cumberland County Civic Center
If you enjoy hockey, then you will love this event. ASM has teamed up with the Portland Pirates for a benefit. Bring your family and friends. To honor families and

individuals affected by autism, the Pirates will wear commemorative puzzle piece jerseys during the game. We will have a special section for our families with a quiet room available if needed. You can buy your tickets now by calling 828-4665 x350.



Portland Sea Dogs

Portland Sea Dogs
Autism Awareness Day at the Ballpark
April 9, 2011
1:00 pm
Sea Dogs vs. Reading Phillies
Please join the Autism Society of Maine at the Ballpark for Autism Awareness Day. Families and friends are welcome to enjoy a great game of baseball and at the same time support the Autism Society of Maine. Tickets will be offered at a reduced priced using a promo code "AUTISM" (case sensitive). Buying

your tickets prior to game day is highly recommended. There will be a special section for family seating and a quiet room available for any family who may need it. If we get enough families to go (over 150 people), then we would have the opportunity to have a representative throw out a Ceremonial First Pitch prior to the ball game. For tickets call 874-9300 or www.seadogs.com Use the promo code AUTISM.





July 15 -17, 2011

**Family Retreat Registration Form
Held at University of New England Biddeford, Maine**

Please complete and mail with your payment to: Autism Society of Maine, 72B Main Street
Winthrop, Maine 04364

Names: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Day: _____ Evening: _____ Number of: Adults _____ children _____
 Basic Room \$150.00 This includes meals and room for two nights for up to four people.
 Extra room _____ Additional cost for extra room \$67.00
 Extra meal adult _____ Additional cost for meal adult \$39.00
 Extra meal child _____ Additional cost for meal child \$20.00
 Total Due \$ _____

Registration Deadline is June 27, 2011

Registration includes:

- ♥ Lodging for Friday & Saturday evenings
- ♥ Three meals Saturday and Breakfast Sunday morning
- ♥ Use of gyms, indoor track, indoor-Olympic pool
- ♥ Respite for children provided or

YOU MAY BRING YOUR OWN RESPITE PROVIDERS

- ♥ Sibling child care provided

MEALS:
 The registration fee covers Friday evening snacks, three Saturday meals and Sunday morning breakfast. Meals will be served buffet style and consist of a choice of two entrees, soup bar, salad bar, sandwich bar and beverages.
 We would like meals for #_____ people:
 Adults **Sat:** break lunch supper **Sun:** break
 Child **Sat:** break lunch supper **Sun:** break

ROOMS:
CHECK IN TIME: After 5:00pm, Friday **CHECK OUT TIME:** No later than 10:00am, Sunday
 Rooms are dormitory style with 2 single beds in them. Adjacent rooms can be requested for those families who need them. Two sets of **sheets, blankets and towels are provided per room.**
 There are **coin operated washers and dryers** available. The only **refrigerator available** will be on the first floor in the dormitory. This will be available **for medications and special foods only.**

POOL:
Children: The pool will be available Saturday at various times. **Be sure to bring life jackets. All children must have a life jacket to be in the pool.**

Please fill out this form as best you can so that the respite care providers can best take care of your child.

Child's Full Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Parent(s) **Full** Name(s): _____

Sibling(s) Name and Date of Birth _____

1) Does your child have special needs? (Autism, Asperger's, other developmental delays, etc.)
___ No ___ Yes Diagnosis: _____

2) Does your child have allergies? ___ No ___ Yes
My child is allergic to: _____

3) Does your child have any diet restrictions? ___ No ___ Yes
My child may not eat _____

4) Does your child regularly take medication? ___ No ___ Yes
My child takes: _____
This medication is for _____

****Please note that parents are responsible for giving children medications****

5) How does your child communicate? (please check all that apply)
___ Picture Symbols ___ Sign Language ___ Gestures ___ Some words/phrases ___ Sentences

6) Does your child do any of these things often: (please check all that apply)
___ Tantrums ___ Hits or injures self or others ___ screams or shouts ___ wanders/runs away
___ Seems unaware of danger ___ Doesn't respond to directions ___ Get easily over stimulated
___ Other behavioral difficulties? _____

7) What are your child's toileting skills?
___ Diapers/Pull-ups ___ Will use bathroom when asked to ___ Uses the bathroom by him/herself

8) What does your child like to do? _____

9) What does your child dislike? _____

10) When your child is upset or over stimulated, what helps him/her to calm down? _____

11) What else should your child's respite care provider know about your child? _____

12) Does your family need help during meal times?
___ No ___ Yes –Breakfast ___ No ___ Yes –Lunch ___ No ___ Yes –Dinner

THANK—YOU!!

Walk for Autism - May 1, 2011

Sponsor Sheet

Three locations to choose from:

University College of Bangor, Bangor ◇ University of New England, Biddeford ◇ Farmington Fairgrounds, Farmington

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM - REGISTRATION

12:00 PM - WALK FOR AUTISM

(2 MILES)



Personal Information

To register please fill out form and print off for your records

First Name: _____ Last Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ME Zip: _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email Address _____

Walker Information

I am walking: _____ as an individual/family _____ Bangor (please choose site)

_____ as a team member _____ Biddeford

_____ Farmington

Team Information

Team name: _____

Contact person: _____

Contact number: _____

Donation Information

_____ I would like to donate now using a credit card - see below

_____ I will donate at the event

Credit Card Information

Donation Amount: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Cardholder's Address: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____
(visa or Mastercard only)

Expiration Date: _____
(mm/yy)

“The Incident” with Nurse Nana

by Deb Lipsky

This past July I had an appointment with a specialist in Portland. I get so anxious at appointments trying to self regulate my behaviors that I have a tendency to deteriorate into a rambling monologue and blathering on like an idiot. My husband refers to these moments as me having “verbal incontinence” (now there’s a pretty visual) so my case worker Wanda tries to accompany me when she can. The doctor’s nurse was so friendly, bubbly, and full of laughter. She looked and acted more like a grandmother and even her outfit was more Nana attire than nurse’s attire so I cheerfully followed her into the examining room. Because she was so motherly like I never did remember her name but referred to her as “Nana” in my head. The doctor ordered x-rays and since they had their own x-ray department, I decided to get them done right then and there. As nurse “Nana” was escorting me to the lab, Wanda jokingly asked if she could let me out of her sight for 5 minutes without me getting into trouble. Unaware of what was about to unfold I chidingly quipped back, “How much trouble can I get into in a controlled environment anyway?” I swear God must have one heck of a sense of humor.

Somehow wearing an over sized sheet of paper towel with flimsy draw strings and calling it a johnny doesn’t instill a sense of modesty, especially when your panties with the cute little flower designs peeks through the gaping spaces created by the poorly fitting disposable “garment” with every step you take. Initially all went OK, but there were a lot of x-rays to take in positions where it taxed my breathing, and I began to wheeze. Not wanting to draw attention to myself I ignored it hoping it would resolve itself, but it turned into a full blown asthma attack. I remained calm so as not alarm the tech when I informed her in between gasping for air that I was having a tad of difficulty breathing, but she panicked anyway and ran to get a nurse. Nurse Nana came rushing in and asked why I didn’t carry my asthma meds with me. I told her the answer was simple: I wasn’t planning on an asthma attack. Since the office didn’t have anything for asthma, all she could do was monitor my breathing until the attack subsided because I was adamant they couldn’t call 911 unless I either was unconscious or I died.

By the time the asthma attack was over I was exhausted and unsteady on my feet so both her and the x-ray tech escorted me to the changing room adjacent to the waiting area. I insisted I could dress myself (I was trying salvage any shred of dignity I had remaining) so they left me alone. Being wobbly and fearing falling and making yet another scene I quickly looked around for something to hold on to. That is when I spied 2 honking huge metal hook like rods side by side protruding out of the wall at eye level in the changing cubicle. At that moment they appeared like a sign from Heaven. “Oh I thought to myself, how fortuitous that there are grab handles for me to latch on to so that I can regain my balance and not fall down and become a spectacle for everyone to see. How ingenious and thoughtful, but I think a handrail would have been more practical. Still, beggars can’t be choosers.”

I will blame it on a lack of oxygen because how was I to know they were coat hooks anyway? As I steadied myself trying to regain my balance nurse Nana saw me teetering on the brink of crumbling and committed one of the great autistic intervention faux pas.....she ran up from behind without letting me know she was there and grabbed onto my waist. Granted she was only trying to steady me so I wouldn’t fall, but the sheer surprise element of her actions created a knee jerk reaction where I instinctively leaned back

to counter the pressure I felt around my mid section.

I was clinging to the 2 coat hooks for dear life like a drowning woman would cling to a life ring. Suddenly amidst the tranquil and serene setting of the waiting area a thunderous explosion like a super sonic boom was heard by all. Apparently the 5/8th inch thick sheet rock was unable to withstand the tension of the hooks bearing the weight of us both as I leaned back. The sheer velocity and force of the expulsion propelled us backwards through the air like a rocket. To add insult to injury when the hooks broke free they not only left 2 dinner plate sized holes in the wall but the plaster disintegrated instantly and covered us from head to toe. We looked like sisters of the Pillsbury dough boy!! I can only imagine what the patients in the waiting room must have thought when from the changing cubicles a gigantic white powdery cloud came poofing out. The hooks came out with so much force that the momentum flung us backwards onto the blue carpeted floor. It all happened so fast that the nurse didn’t let go of my waist and I didn’t let go of the coat hooks. I ended up falling on top of her. Immediately I was engulfed in horror.....”OH NO, I just squashed Nana like a banana!!!” was my first mortified thought. My second mortified thought was the realization that the ties securing my paper johnny had been ripped off in the explosion as a result of collateral damage. Now my paper johnny took on the appearance of a spread out tattered paper table cloth, and, well, the only thing I was feeling (besides humiliation) was nurse Nana’s pants zipper pressing into my butt cheeks.

Initially there was a momentary silence as the dust settled (literally). I prayed that no one heard the ruckus and that we could emerge from the now ruined remains of the cubicle unnoticed. The short lived silence was broken by nurse Nana’s screaming out in hysterical laughter so loud they must have heard her in the building across the street!! I was so stunned and unable to move that she had to crawl out from under me and literally pry the coat hooks out of my clenched fists. Timidly I asked her if this had ever happened to her before hoping she would say yes which would have made me feel a little better. Instead, she said in between belly laughs that in all her 38+ years as a nurse she never ever even experienced something remotely similar to this. I felt so tiny that I could have fit through the eye of a sewing needle with lots of room to spare. Once she assessed that I wasn’t injured she left to get a wheelchair while still engulfed in high pitched laughter all the way. Dazed and confused I just stared at the white foot prints she left behind on the carpet.

The humiliation continued as nurse Nana explained to Wanda (I really didn’t want her to know what happened) the incident as they packed me into the car and handed her an appointment card for a follow up visit a month later. Wanda assured me that next time she wasn’t letting me out of her sight.

We pulled into the parking lot of the doctor’s office a month later during the very hot spell of August. As we sat in the car Wanda got a phone call and stepped out to take the call. It was at that moment that I spied smoke coming from the island with the planted shrubbery across the lot. As a former EMT firefighter instinctively I bolted out of the car and ran over to investigate without my case worker’s knowledge. The mulch all around the shrub “Euonymus Alatus” which is Latin for “Burning Bush” had ignited from the hot sun and caught the shrub on fire as well. Without thought I tried to stomp out the flames, but it was so stubborn it only began to melt the rubber on the bottom

the those impacted by autism. *I couldn't agree with you more about accountability and responsiveness. We tell people that when an individual is diagnosed with ASD, the family is diagnosed with ASD. It affects everyone and the needs of the whole family cannot be forgotten.*

When we are looking toward the future and goals for individuals with autism, how important are the chapters in reaching these goals? To me, our direct line of support and help to those who live with autism, their families, and professionals is through the chapters. They are the glue that holds this all together. The ability to be local or state-wide allows us to be closest to where help is needed. Without that, we can't maintain the mantle of grassroots and being responsive to those in need of our help.

Is there anything that chapters can do to strengthen these goals? First, they can make sure that they are viewed as a leader in the community. For example, be the welcome wagon for people with autism and their family members. Second, chapters need to maintain the highest level of transparency and show results in what they do. Third, chapters have to be viewed by the community as helping everyone on the spectrum, of all ages, and be inclusive of the autism and non-autism community. Finally, they need to be viewed as the "go to" agency for people who live with autism and their families who need a helping hand. *I think that's a good point. The Autism Society of Maine is greatly respected by local agencies, state agencies, national agencies, and the families we serve. ASM is at the table on all the stakeholder meetings and is invited by many state agencies to participate in other meetings. Being around for 35 years is proof of that.*

Families want to know what else they can do, and we always let them know about these meetings and how it may affect them and their children. Do you have advice about what families can do around Federal Legislation and autism? Families can advocate to their federal representatives and senators by telling their personal story. They can also help their children living with autism become their own self advocate including seeking help for their needs by talking to elected officials. *I think that sometimes families don't understand how powerful a personal letter or story is to their own representative or senator. Maybe this is where chapters like ASM can help families and individuals advocate.*

I know that as a parent and professional I am asked to participate in meetings all over the state. I was wondering what meetings you feel are important and why? I have to admit that I am not a big meeting person, so fortunately, others on our staff and our board members attend those meetings. Having said that, I believe

the groups and meetings we need to attend need to be where we don't talk solely to those in the autism community. We need to be at meetings talking about housing, employment, poverty, civil rights, aging out of school issues, and adult support and hold those responsible for each of these areas accountable to help those living with autism. *Bringing these issues to the forefront right now will ultimately help individuals live a productive member of society. I don't know anyone who wouldn't fight for that.*

In the last 5 years we have seen the prevalence rate change almost yearly. In Maine we have the second highest prevalence rate in the nation. Do you have an opinion about the prevalence rate? I know there are more people than ever before living with autism. I have spent my time directed more in how we can help those who are now living with autism, while respecting and supporting the many other organizations seeking reasons for the prevalence rate increase. However, I do think our society can't ignore what is occurring. Even if there is only one person living with autism, we need to be there for that person and his or her family. *I agree with you. Some people focus on why their child has autism and want immediate answers. By doing this they sometimes can overlook the immediate needs of the individual with autism.*

I've enjoyed this discussion about our agency and national. As a mom of a soon to be 17 year old son with autism, I enjoy meeting other parents and sharing stories with them. Is there anything you would like to add? Yes, speaking as a parent, my son has taught me more about life and what is important than any other person. He remains my hero because he goes through life each day facing obstacles that others set for him (such as discrimination, unemployment), but keeps a smile on his face. I once asked my son if there was a pill he could take and be cured of autism, would he take it? His answer was simple...he asked if there was pill I could take and be autistic would I take it? That is why my son and those like him who go each day living with autism are my heroes of life.

I want to thank Scott Badesch for coming to Maine to visit our chapter and meeting people in Maine in the "Autism Community". We are "Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism." We can't do this without the help of the Autism Society of America (ASA) now known as Autism Society. I also want to let our members know about the 42nd Autism Society National Conference & Exposition. It will take place in Orlando Florida at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center July 6 -9, 2011.

"The Incident" with Nurse Nana Cont'd from page 7

of my sneakers. Intent on extinguishing the burning bush (literally) I used my ball cap to smother the flame engulfed leaves which stubbornly refused to be snuffed out. I asked a passerby to get me some water. She called 911 and then returned from the doctor's office with a glass of water which was woefully inadequate for the circumstance. Apparently "my bad" for not being more specific as I needed the water to throw on the flames and not because I was thirsty. By the time the fire truck arrived I very proudly explained to them that I had through my tenacity successfully put out the fire.

The fireman looking at the saved shrub commonly called "Burning Bush" jokingly said, "Good thing you weren't Moses". Then all of a sudden it hit me....."OH MY GOD!!!... No wonder the bush didn't want to be extinguished...perhaps God wanted to talk to me like he did with Moses, and I hung up on him by being so focused on putting out the fire!!!" Wanda had her work cut for her that day trying to convince me that God doesn't use bushes as phones.

Volunteers Needed for Board of Director Committees

Would you like to help out on one or more of the Autism Society of Maine board committees? ASM has 7 working committees. You do not have to be on the Board of Directors to participate on these committees. Here is a brief description of the committees we need volunteers for:

Education and Research – This committee is responsible for information being used by ASM to pass out as brochures, workshops, materials and handouts. They also review literature.

Fundraising – This committee is responsible for creating autism awareness, securing funding, identifying potential grant opportunities, organizing the walk for autism, the ride for autism, and consideration of any new fundraising request.

Legislative – This committee is responsible for monitoring the activity of the legislature, crafting and delivering testimony, and collaborating with other like-minded entities.

Program – This committee is responsible for overseeing programs for the members of the society which includes, annual meeting, ASM awards, conferences, family retreat, summer camp, and Autism Information Specialist Program.

If you're interested in becoming an ASM Board Director send us a resume, and someone from ASM will call you for an interview. To learn more about the board, you are welcome to visit one of our meetings. Please call ASM for next board meeting date. Our next elections will be in September 2011.

Autism Society of Maine Store

You may purchase these items and more on the ASM website: <https://www.asmonline.org:4441/productcart/pc/home.asp> or by calling us at 1-800-273-5200.

REDUCED PRICE

Puzzle Pins (boy or girl) \$12.00



Girl



Boy

“Safe and Sound” decal for your window \$3.00



Silver-tone stretch bracelet \$8.00



Guardian Angel Pin \$8.00



Autism Awareness Lanyard \$6.00



Autism Awareness Lapel Pin \$5.00



Autism Awareness Keychain \$5.00



Autism Awareness Magnet 8" x 3.5" \$5.00



Gel Autism Awareness Bracelet \$3.00



Mini Magnet 2" x 4" \$3.00

NEW!

Dichroic Glass Jewelry is hand crafted and unique (sterling silver plated bail and earring hooks)

* Your order will be a random design and color.



1 1/4" Pin \$11.00



7/8" Pendant \$8.00



7/8" Earrings \$15.00

ON SALE

Welcome to the Autism Society of Maine Library!

A Mother's Courage: Talking Back to Autism (DVD) by Fridrik Thor Fridriksson

An inspiring film follows one woman's quest to unlock her ten year old autistic son's mind. Mom travels to Europe & US for knowledge about autism. As she comes across innovative new therapies with the potential to break down the walls of autism, she finds hope that her son may be able to express himself on a level she never thought possible.



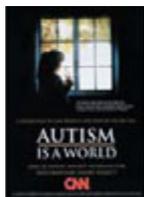
Model Me Kids: Organization & Motivation (DVD)

This video presents skills related to organization and self-motivation. It features teen-aged children demonstrating how to get organized and stay motivated. (Ages 9-17)



Autism is a World (DVD) by Sue Rubin

Documentary about 26 year old Sue Rubin who has Autism. Diagnosed as mentally retarded, she began to use a keyboard to communicate at 13. In her own words she takes the viewer on a journey into her mind, her daily world and her life with autism.



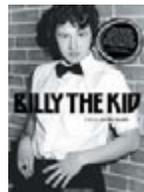
Something Different About Dad by Kristi Evans and John Swogger

This book is illustrated cartoon-style and is easy to read. The explanations about Asperger's Syndrome are simple and clear, with suggestions as to how to minimize the impact of the father's condition on the family, while understanding and empathizing with his behavior.



Billy The Kid (DVD) by Jennifer Venditti

Documentary tells the story of Billy, an articulate but isolated fifteen-year-old boy trying to figure out life and death, love, and rock and roll. Nerdy but heroic, Billy wanders through the quiet streets of small-town Maine, trying to traverse the frustrating gap between imagination and reality.



The Sensory Team Handbook by Nancy Mucklow

Upbeat, humorous, and hands-on to help teens make sense of their senses and take charge of their sensory processing using comics, cartoons, diagrams, quizzes and trivia.



Comic Sense by Nancy Mucklow

A comic book on common sense and social skills for young people with Asperger's and ADHD. Shows what's common and what's comic about sense. The graphic format of comics reinforces the social stories and provides a useful handbook of common sense.



The lending library is located at the ASM office at 72B Main Street in Winthrop and open during operating hours Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The library listing is also available online. A search can be made by title, author,



Cutting-Edge Therapies for Autism 2011-2012 (Available in April) by Ken Siri and Tony Lyons

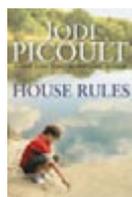
Includes over 80 experts on a variety of therapies, models, and multifaceted evaluation and treatment centers., each contributor provides readers with an easy-to-understand description of the topic, including its scientific rationale, development, risks, and benefits.



keyword or if you just want to browse, choose a media type (book, video, etc.) and scroll. If a page that says "error" comes up, ignore and go back to previous page and make a different entry. Library materials can be borrowed two items at a time for two weeks (not including mailing time) and can be renewed providing no one else has requested them. Return postage is included. If you cannot visit the library in person and need help choosing material or have questions about the library, e-mail Susan at library@asmonline.org or call by phone at 1-800-273-5200.

House Rules by Jodi Picoult

Jacob Hunt is a teenage boy with Asperger's syndrome. He's hopeless at reading social cues or expressing himself well to others, and like many kids with AS, Jacob has a special focus which is forensic analysis. There is a murder in his town and police question Jacob and his AS traits look like guilt to the police.



Library donations of up-to-date materials are always welcome as well as suggestions for our wish list.

The lending library has added new books to the collection by Author Dr. Paula Kluth who has been invited by ASM to present "You're Going to Love This Kid" in Maine on April 28, 2010.

Ways to Give

There are many ways to give to the Autism Society of Maine. We rely on donations and fundraisers to help cover the cost of our programs and activities that bring awareness and community to individuals and families impacted by ASD. Here's how you can help:

- Donate to us during our second *Autism Society of Maine Fall Annual Appeal*.
- General donations may also be made anytime of the year online using our secure donation forms (or you can download and print our PDF forms) at:

http://www.asmonline.org/involved_donations.asp

- Memorial donations to the Society in memory of a friend or loved-one may also be made at:

http://www.asmonline.org/involved_donations.asp

- Donations through Network For Good may be made at:

<https://www.networkforgood.org/donation/ExpressDonation.aspx?ORGID2=010407346>

- Donations via Facebook, powered by the Network for Good, may be made at:

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/238491?m=3f1cca43>

- Donations through United Way can be directed to the Autism Society of Maine. For more information, visit:

http://www.asmonline.org/involved_donations_united_way.asp

- Host a fundraiser with proceeds going to ASM. Some of the past and current fundraisers have included: Avon, Pampered Chef parties, Mary Kay parties, bake sales at events, selling autism awareness items at conferences or craft events, selling Christmas wreaths, selling T-shirts. If any of these fundraisers interest you please call us for more information.

For other ways to contribute, become a volunteer or become a member contact us at: <http://www.asmonline.org>

Thank you for your generosity!

In Memory

Mark Doyon

North Manchester Meeting House

Stephen Thibeault

By Patricia McManus

By Stephanie McManus & Stanley Sumner

Timothy Stickney

Haley Bridger
Walter McCallister
Rose McCallister
Grace Jordan
Nancy White
Lance & Melissa Boire
Kevin Mahoney
Wayne Klein
Valerie (Clemente) & Mark Crain
Kevin, Lynne, Brandon, & Coty Stickney
Franklin Talbot
Erik & Nancy Jo Rambusch
James & Vickie Ferrari
Robert & Mary Weston
David & Deborah Grant
Heather Peters
Daniel & Janet Reynolds
Gorham Ice Hockey Boosters
David & Cathryn (McCullough)
Delude
Daniel & Sonia Kurpaska
Stephen Griffin
Robert & Jane (McCrodden)
Hamblen
Robert & Nancy Haluzak
Lawrence & Beverly Ratte
Julie Klotzbach & Gary Diamond
Charles Wustman
Karen Magda & Karen Vetrano
Blake Hurley McCallum &
Conley, LLC

Barbara Bulger

Nancy White
In honor of Elijah & Altana Johnson
Corliss & Germaine Blake
Murielle Britton
Paul Schilinski
Pauline & John Gallagher
Northeast Regional Assoc. of
Housing Maintenance Supervisor
Westbrook Housing Local Programs
Operations
Mary Boulos

Henry W. Burke

Giant Eagle, Inc. – Pittsburgh, PA

Mary L. Dow

Nichols Portland Division

In Honor Of:

Carol Connally – “Special Birthday”
by Dick Farwell & Joan Port-Farwell
Richard F. Mitchell
by LAOP-Int'l Assoc. of Outsourcing

Professionals

Susan Smith

by Barbara Smith

Joan Port-Farwell – Retirement Gift

by Darleen Sullivan

Eric Bickford – “Happy Birthday”

By Kelly & Anthony Dell'Aquila

Library Donation

Nancy Mucklow

Sheril Halvorsen

Brian King

Vanessa Florencio

Donations

Mark & Sue King – *activity train table*

Mary Gabriele

Mechanics Savings Bank – Dress

Down Day Fund

Walter & Iris Oxley (*Ride pledge for Trent Palmer*)

Transdisciplinary Workshops, Inc.
Opportunity Enterprises, Inc.

Employee Pledges

Give with Liberty

By Lisa Audet, Cheryl Trenoweth, & Stacey Turley

Liberty Mutual Foundation Match

United Way of the Tri-Valley Area

National Semiconductor Match

UNUM Matching Gifts

Maine State Employees Combined

Charitable Appeal

United Ways of NE-Shaws

Supermarket/Star Market

Fall Appeal

Isaiah Shaver *by Margaret & Steven Shaver*

Carol & Robert Thomas

Lynn & Bob Faerber

Green House *by Lynn Powers Faerber*

Gregory & Norma St. Angelo

A.W. Moulton & J.C. Moulton

Ryan & Amanda Lane

Joshua Paulauskas *by Judy Marinelli*

Tom Wood

Drew Babkirk *by Douglas Babkirk*

Mary Dow *by Kristine Adams*

Bob & Dee Hoyt

Louis Provost

John & Ann Bay

Susan Richardsen

David & Susan Webbert

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Farwell, Mrs.

Simone Vaillancourt, Ms. Carol

Connolly, Ms. Samuela Manages,

M.D. *by Mr. & Mrs. Patrick*

Vaillancourt

Sheila Crocker

Scott & Elaine St. Pierre

*Donations to the Autism Society of Maine
are tax-deductible.*

*Please consider us as you plan your
end-of-year giving.*

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





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Autism Society of Maine
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Winthrop, ME 04364

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Return Service Requested



Support our Services: Give to the Autism Society of Maine!

The Autism Society of Maine is a statewide nonprofit organization that for over 34 years has served Maine individuals with autism and their families, professionals, and communities by providing education, advocacy, referrals, and resource development. We rely on donations and fundraisers to help cover the cost of our programs and activities that bring awareness and community to individuals and families affected by ASD. Here's how you can help:

- General donations may also be made anytime of the year online using our secure donation forms (or you can download and print our PDF forms) at: http://www.asmonline.org/involved_donations.asp
- Memorial donations to the Society in memory of a friend or loved-one may also be made at: http://www.asmonline.org/involved_donations.asp
- Donations through Network For Good may be made at: <https://www.networkforgood.org/donation/ExpressDonation.aspx?ORGID2=010407346>
- Donations via Facebook, powered by the Network for Good, may be made at: <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/238491?m=3f1cca43>
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For other ways to contribute, contact us at asm@asmoline.org. Thank you for supporting our mission!

Become a Member!

The Autism Society of Maine invites you to join families and professionals in the pursuit of knowledge about autism spectrum disorders, treatments and support for Maine children and adults with autism.

You may register online at:
www.asmonline.org/involved_joinasm.asp
or call ASM at 1800-273-5200

Call us at: 1-800-273-5200 or visit us online at www.asmonline.org