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AUTISM SOCIETY
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Maine

Maine Autism

Don Meyers' SibShops

The Autism Society of Maine has invited Don Meyer to provide a two-day training on Sibshops to a limited number of the Autism Information Specialist (AIS). During the two days of the Sibshop training, they'll learn about sibs' life-long concerns, find out how to organize a local Sibshop, and experience what a Sibshop is all about as they join Don and local young brothers and sisters for a four-hour Sibshop demonstration. Upon completion of the two-day training, they are considered "first-generation" Sibshop trainees and may start their own local Sibshop. **ASM is looking for siblings who want to participate in this session on October 5 from 10 am– 2 pm. The siblings should be 8 to 13 years old.** Please contact ASM if you wish to have your child participate.

ASM has invited Don to be the Keynote speaker at ASM's Annual Meeting on October 5th. The training will take place at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Portland on October 4 & 5.



Sibshops acknowledge that being the brother or sister of a person with special needs is for some a good

thing, others a not-so-good thing, and for many, somewhere in-between. They reflect a belief that brothers and sisters have much to offer one another — if they are given a chance. Sibshops are a spirited mix of new games (designed to be unique, off-beat, and appealing to a wide ability range), new friends, and discussion activities.

Connections

Fall 2013

The following description of Sibshops is adapted from **SIBSHOPS: WORKSHOPS FOR SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS** (Donald J. Meyer & Patricia F. Vadasy, 1994, Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company).



What are Sibshops? For the adults who plan them and the agencies that sponsor them,

Sibshops are best described as opportunities for brothers and sisters of children with special health and developmental needs to obtain peer support and education within a recreational context. They reflect an agency's commitment to the well-being of the family member most likely to have the longest-lasting relationship with the person with special needs.

However, for the young people who attend them and the energetic people who run them, Sibshops are best described as events. Sibshops are lively, pedal-to-the-metal



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Maine Autism Connections
A publication of the
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AUTISM SOCIETY
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Maine

Visit us online at: asmonline.org

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



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



President's Message

Our President, Janine Collins, had to take a medical leave of absence this quarter.



ASA National Conference

Laurie Raymond, ASM Board of Directors, Vice President

As with many national conferences, the 44th Autism Society National Conference and Exposition in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania offered something for everyone. In total, there were over 90 break-out sessions, in addition to a large convention center full of exhibitors. A few sessions that stood out for me, given my work in Maine, included:

- Emergency Experts Advocate For Autism Safety in The Community: The Safe and Sound Initiative. This included fire, police and emergency hospital staff detailing how to improve safety of individuals with autism, their families and professionals. This program was created in 2005 which provides resources to communities about general safety, emergency prevention and preparedness. One training resource they shared for use by police and fire personnel is: www.autismriskmanagement.com.
- Supporting Youth in Transition and Adults With Autism at Home and In Daily Living/Residential Settings. This session, with Val Paradiz, introduced the on line training curriculum offered by the Autism Global Initiative (AGI) and developed by a collaborative team of adult service experts from across the country. This evidenced based training covers all the major areas of skills for Direct Service Professionals. For more information check-out: <http://houltoninstitute.com/programs/agi-residential-daily-living-support-course/>
- Using Ipad's to Increase Independence For Transitioning Students and Adults with ASD by Melanie Johnston, M.A., S.L.P. This session introduced mobile technology for idervices such as the iPad and iPhone. Applications were demonstrated that targeted independence and self-determination in productivity, social networking, communication, educational instruction, daily living and social skills. The ASA Conference presentation, complete with many application ideas can be found at: <http://britesuccess.com/helpful-resources/resources/>.

Over the course of three days, participants attended hours of training sessions, enjoyed a range of exhibitors and had a rich opportunity to network. Some of the resources exhibited can be found at our Autism Society of Maine's lending library. They are worth checking out!



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.

It has been a number of years since I have attended an Autism Society National Conference and Exposition. This year's conference, the 44th, was in Pittsburgh, PA. I have never been to Pittsburgh so I was excited to be in a new city and to meet families and professionals from all over the US. I traveled with Laurie Raymond, ASM Vice President.

If you have never been to any of the Autism Society conferences let's just start by saying they are HUGE. There were over 90 breakout sessions with 4 keynote addresses and 8 pre-conference workshops. There were over 100 companies in the Exposition Hall displaying products to buy, services offered around the county, and new items to offer. I love finding new things to share with our families here in Maine. I discovered a new way to organize all those PECS pictures. One company, First and Then Communication LLC, made a cute box "The Success Box" to hold and organize PECS. It's like a recipe box or card box. There is a tab that describes all the pictures in that one section. Each section has a zip lock baggy to store pictures. Easy to find and locate! www.thesuccessbox.com

I met people from Affiliates across the US. We share the same concerns as other states: how autism is perceived throughout the world, not enough services, not enough qualified people, and how to help families struggling every day. Together we are strong.

I attended many wonderful breakout sessions:

- A Quality Life Supported By Natural Supports For Social Inclusion
- Developing a Best-Practices Approach To Teaching Sexual Safety To ASD Individuals
- Using iPad's To Increase Independence For Transitioning Students and Adults With ASD
- Building Independence: How to Create and Use Structured Work Systems



This is just a sample of workshops I attended. All sessions were very good and great information was shared. ASM will be buying the DVD which will have some of the breakouts, so be looking for this in our library.

I did get to take in some sights and have provided pictures of the wonderful city of Pittsburgh.

Don Meyers' SibShops (cont'd from cover)

celebrations of the many contributions made by brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. Sibshops acknowledge that being the brother or sister of a person with special needs is for some a good thing, others a not-so good thing, and for many somewhere in between. They reflect a belief that brothers and sisters have much to offer one another--if they are given a chance. The Sibshop model intersperses information and discussion activities with new games (designed to be unique, off-beat, and appealing to a wide ability range), cooking activities, and special guests who may teach participants mime, how to juggle or, in the case of one guest artist who has cerebral palsy, how to paint by holding a toothbrush in your mouth. Sibshops are as fun and rewarding for the people who host them as they are for the participants.

Sibshops seek to provide siblings with opportunities for peer support. Because Sibshops are designed (primarily) for school-age children, peer support is provided within a lively, recreational context that emphasizes a kids'-eye-view.

Sibshops are not therapy, group or otherwise, although their effect may be therapeutic for some children. Sibshops acknowledge that most brothers and sisters of people with special needs, like their parents, are doing well, despite the challenges of an illness or disability. Consequently, while Sibshop facilitators always keep an eye open for participants who may need additional services, the Sibshop model takes a wellness approach.

FMI: <http://www.siblingsupport.org>

Fairy Extravaganza

Girl Scout Troop #1238 from Otis and Mariaville, led by Robin Harris, hosted a Fairy Extravaganza on June 1st at the Beech Hill School. The event raised \$350.00 altogether and was donated to ASM. In a letter to ASM from Robin, she filled us in on how it went.

“We had an amazing Fairy Extravaganza. People came in steady for 2 hours. We raised \$300.00 and Bangor Savings Bank donated an additional \$50.00... There were lots of crafts, goodies, fairy wands, crowns, and much more. Young and old came dressed for the occasion. Our Girl Scout troop #1238 from Otis and Mariaville did an amazing job and it was such a good cause. It was their choice. The event was mostly for children, so ASM was their choice because 1 out of every 88 children are diagnosed with some form of autism.”

Thank you, Robin, and Troop #1238!



Motorcycle Ride

Bonnie and Bill Gagne hosted their 3rd Motorcycle Ride for Autism on June 23rd in Hermon. The 82 mile ride started at the Central Maine Harley-Davidson in Hermon. Following the ride there was party with food and music to celebrate the event.

A lot of preparation and effort is involved with this fundraiser. We want to thank the Gagne family and all those who helped make it a success! Your efforts are tremendously important to us. Thank you!



Car Wash & Rock Sale

By Ryan Whitehouse

Local entrepreneurs Liv and Gabe came up with a way to spend their summer vacation raising money. Yesterday, they had spent their morning drawing on rocks with markers and selling them to passers-by. They raised a couple bucks and were thrilled with themselves. By the time I got home today, they had raised \$28 for “Autism and Charity”. They had enlisted the help of 5 or 6 of their rug rat friends from the neighborhood and broadened their horizons, now including car washes for \$3. One caveat - they don’t do car roofs, mostly because they can’t reach. Not a one of them is 5’ tall. The one car that consented to a car wash gave them ten bucks. It’s amazing how easy it is to sell graffiti’d rocks when you’re young and adorable. Looks like I missed out on both fronts. Two full days into summer vacation and they’ve got no shortage of ideas or schemes to fill their time.



Gabe, Jacob, and Liv Whitehouse

2013 Family Retreat Weekend

By Susan J. Vincent

Many families mark their calendars each year for the Family Retreat. This is true for the Chouinard Family who celebrated their 10th year with us! New families came and were encouraged by the planning and support of event. It is a precious chance for the whole family to enjoy each other and make memories.

Respite was provided for the children throughout the day and was offered in the evening as well. The children loved their activities of swimming, craft time, rock wall climbing, big bounce house and carnival themed games! Entertainment on Saturday evening was the Frogtown Puppeteers who presented the wildly funny "The Legend of the Banana Kid" to everyone's delight!

Our Guest Speaker was Linda Bonnar who presented "IPad and App Smack Down" which included a wealth of information for our children who will be using or already using the IPad. Workshops included: Sexuality with Cathy Dionne and Kendra Campbell, Dad's Support Group with Chris Osgood, Jewelry with Susan

Vincent and Darlene Lepoff, and Parent to Parent Networking.

Keith Stevens is the Respite Coordinator of our wonderful and caring Respite Providers. He has been with us many years now and is "in tune" with placing respite providers where they would be needed most. Quite a few of our Respite Providers also return year after year and say "they wouldn't dream of missing it!" For some, it has sparked the love and career path of working with children with autism. For that, and many more reasons, we are proud of them. We thank each and every one of you!

We would like to thank everyone involved in this Retreat that is so very important to our families.

It was a very hot weekend (so far the hottest of the summer), and it sapped some of our energy with all of the packing and unpacking, but not our enthusiasm!

A Special "Thank You" to Lynda Mazzola, Curtis Martin, Justine Bickford, Darlene Lepoff, Cathy Dionne, Dee Brown, Marla DiBiase, Mike Lamoreau, and Jonathan Duguay.



Facilitated Communication Group Presents at Syracuse University

When they're not trading insights around the conference room table or throwing a party at some charming locale, the Quiet Thunder adult social group enjoys being on the lecture circuit. Recently, the current group of six members brought their knowledge and experience to the annual summer conference of the Institute on Communication and Inclusion at Syracuse University, New York. The assigned topic was Building Capacity Through Connection and members discussed their experiences with the group, which probably began about 15 years ago – no one can remember for sure.

“Group continually supports me by respecting my thoughts and intelligence.” typed Aaron Bridgham, 35, of Sydney. “Building capacity through connection means finding ways to free verification with each place and with each opportunity to advocate for desired trust, respect, and kindness.”

Adds Rachael Lepoff of Monmouth: “Communication builds capacity for engaging in community activities and building friendships.” “FC Group provides me with all I need,” she continued. “Reacting to ways we advocate for world to accept us builds strength.”

42-year-old Derek Samuelson of Skowhegan appreciates being able to offer help and patience, and described how his own skills have grown. “FC has allowed an exchange of ideas and refinement of details into a finished product. My friends have provided ideas and I have attempted to put their ideas into graphic designs that represented the concepts and ideas of all members of the group.”

Like most members, Zach Brix has been using Facilitated Communication for over 20 years and Zach is on the way to independent typing. He read his panel remarks aloud. “It is great to get the opportunity to look dear to find very loving

connections with people in this life and to feel connected to others in my life,” he told the audience. “It is so important to people like me to know there are people who stand by me in friendship.”

John Williamson of Auburn pointed out that being together requires commitment from outside as well. “It’s not just the typer; we need a ride. We need some facilitators that have to be willing to keep the weekly appointment.”

Those who keep the appointment are usually treated to witty aphorisms from Kiersta Recktenwald, who grew up in Saudi Arabia, China and Japan and now lives in Vienna, Maine. In the panel discussion, Kiersta also shared a poem that gave the group its name:

*Iconic again—
lone moon aloft;
two hotrods
poised upon the levee,
insouciantly ready both to
roar and roll. Quiet thunder.*

Quiet Thunder meets at ASM at 1:30 P.M. most Tuesdays. Contact Darlene Lepoff at ASM for more information and to book the group for presentations.



Social Network for Parents of Children with Autism

Social networking is becoming increasingly popular for those who cannot go to a support group or choose to connect online.

After researching online options, I have found that the online site “My Autism Team” to be a reputable and a friendly place to connect with other parents and in Maine: <http://www.myautismteam.com/>

Signing up is very easy with limited information needed. (You are welcomed to share more if you choose to.) Make your connection with other parents by their town and age and gender of their child. You will also see options for: Questions & Answers, Pin Board, Stories, News Press, and Providers. (Be sure to add ASM to your “team!”)

Support groups are listed on ASM’s website when they come to our attention and changes such as location, date or time are made likewise. http://www.asmonline.org/support_groups.asp

Please call if you know of an autism support group that should be listed, changes for an existing group listing or need additional help getting connected with a group. Susan: 1-800-273-5200 or info@asmonline.org



Back to School Tips!

Here are some parent-tested tips to ease the transition back to school for you and your child.

Prepare your child.

1. If your child is used to sleeping later in the summer, start to prepare for an earlier morning by waking your child a bit earlier each day. (This did not make me the most popular parent on the planet!)
2. If possible, arrange to visit the teacher or the school a week or two before the first day. Your child can start the first day with a mental image of the setting. The teacher may be able to show your child his desk or locker or other “home base.” (Don’t do this if the room is still being re-arranged. You don’t want any first day of school surprises.)
3. If this isn’t practical, you can at least visit the school building, and perhaps spend some time on the playground.
4. School supplies—get them well in advance so that you child can get used to them. Keep any favorite items from last year. Even if you were rewarded as a child by all new supplies, your child may prefer the “old friend” items.
5. Color code notebooks and materials (including making text book covers) for different classes. Blue equals math, red equals English, etc. Color coding will help your child identify and keep their materials together and can be integrated with a picture schedule.
6. Get school clothes, uniforms, and shoes early, too. And wash them many times. Cut off the labels, if your child is used to this.
7. For preteens and teens, you may want to help them select a “cool” first day outfit ahead of time. First impressions are important to peers at this age.
8. Create a social story or picture schedule for school routines. Start reviewing and practicing early.



Prepare yourself. A calm mom and dad are better able to help a child create a smooth back to school transition.

1. Get your medical information in order (Vaccinations required? Documentation from physicians? Allergies? Meds?)
2. Figure out who your emergency contacts are going to be and make sure you have their current phone numbers. (Sometimes this is a little more complicated for families that have children with autism.) You may be able to get the emergency cards when you visit (see above) and have them filled out ahead of time. This will give you a less stressful first evening, so that you can help your child with his/her homework or last minute shopping for the supplies that were not on the list.
3. If your child has dietary issues, firm up how that will be managed.
4. Allow more time for everything during the first week. Have activities or diversions available in case you need to wait a long time for transportation.

Summing up, do everything you can to help reduce the stress level for your family during the back to school transition.

By Pathfinders for Autism: <http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/articles/view/back-to-school-tips>

Toolkits regarding education can be found at:

Autism Society of America <http://www.autism-society.org/about-us/publications/resource-materials.html>

Autism Speaks <http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits>

The Weight of It All

By Deb Lipsky

I now own and ride 3 motorcycles having just gotten my license this year. I love being a biker chic even if I didn't start out that way.

Last summer while hosting a church picnic here on my farm, one of the folks came up on a 49cc scooter. I have always been terrified of motorcycles. Don't ask me how I managed to get conned into just taking this tiny scooter for a spin around my field in order to overcome my motorcycle fears, but I did. Amazingly, I fell in love with it so much that I bought myself one for my birthday the following week (I prefer to buy my own birthday gifts as I give really awesome gifts to myself that don't need returning).

I really thought that I was the cat's meow cruising to town at the top speed of 30 mph (which to me at the time seemed lightening speed) wearing a full face motorcycle helmet. It was absolute freedom riding the equivalent of a bicycle with a motor. Looking back now I see that I really wasn't cool, just dorky. Content in this new world of scooter cruising I rode that thing daily. One day while making a turn at the top speed of 30mph, I hit a patch of dirt and went into a slide almost hitting the oncoming car. It was such a close brush with death that I realized I could have died. Then the autistic thought hit me, Oh my God, dying in a motorcycle accident is tragic, but dying in a tiny 49cc scooter accident is downright embarrassing.....I cant die like that.....I have to correct this potential scenario.

Now you should now that sometimes autistic logic and common sense are on opposite ends of the spectrum. Logically I concluded that since riding any motorized 2 wheel vehicle increases your chances of dying in an accident I might as well ride a motorcycle so that at least if I die it will be tragic and not humiliating.

I went out and got my motorcycle permit. I traded my 49cc scooter in for a really honking big 2013 400cc Bergman charcoal grey super scooter as an interim to getting a full fledged motorcycle someday. This monster looked like a something out of a futuristic sci-fi movie and could reach speeds of 110 mph in a blink of an eye. It was a cumbersome 500 +lb. machine with most of the weight poorly proportioned in the tail end so if it tipped it would be impossible to right it without help. My friends were teasing me that I should join an actual scooter club called "Old Coots for Scoots".



One warm sunny spring afternoon I took the super scooter to the busiest Rite Aid in town to pick up some meds. Because of the poor weight displacement it is a beast to just wheel around when shut off but I wanted to back up into a parking spot and these things don't have a reverse gear. Sitting on the seat and using my feet to propel the scooter backwards I struggled to move the massive machine just a few inches backwards. I was very proud of myself when after expending a lot of physical energy I managed to get her in the perfect parking pose. Unknowingly however, when I put the kickstand down on soft sand the scooter immediately began to lean dangerously. Despite my valiant attempts to maintain an upright position, the scooter listed portside and like the ill fated Titanic it was going to go down with me as its doomed passenger. I called on my inner Zena warrior princess for any dormant undiscovered super powers to maintain my balance and dignity as people walking by began to stare. Suspended in time the scooter and I resembled the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Not wanting to become a public spectacle I smiled at every passerby hoping that they would perceive my situation as a routine normal parking maneuver. My buckling knees and shoulders were no match for the tremendous forces of gravity pulling (no pun intended) against my sheer determination and will. With my arms snugly around the handlebars and my legs pressed tightly up against the frame we slowly and gently laid down on the ground as if embraced in a lovers embrace.

Like an Olympic wrestling champion the scooter had wrestled and pinned me to the gravelly floor. It lay on top of me completely immobilizing all my limbs with the smug satisfaction of a victorious sumo wrestler. As I writhed around in a vain struggle to free myself I became covered with dirt, sand, and cycle grease. A customer came over and asked possibly the dumbest question of 2013... "What are you doing down there?" Trying to save a shred of self respect I replied, "I am practicing my urban camouflage techniques....I am blending in with the pavement." Surprisingly my answer seemed to fulfill his curiosity and he went on his way. Then, all of a sudden a maroon red Buick Century drives up and comes to a screeching halt in front of me. Racing to my aid was a little old lady with bluish tinted hair but to me she was a goddess as with one quick swift motion she single handedly untangled me from the scooter and lifted the beast back into its original parking pose in absolute lightening speed. When I asked her if she was related to Wonder Woman, she replied, Oh no dear I am not, but my husband and I ride and belong to a scooter club called Old Coots for Scoots.

Once the dust of embarrassment settled (again no pun intended), the very next day I traded the scooter in for a low rider cruiser motorcycle. When the dealer asked me why I wanted to part with something I only owned a month, I said, The weight of it all was too much for me and I left it at that.

2013 Annual Meeting

Please join the Autism Society of Maine for our Annual Meeting held on October 5th at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Portland, Me from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Our Annual Meeting is the opportunity for ASM to update members and showcase the past year's accomplishments. Awards will also be presented.

This year our Keynote speaker will be Don Meyer with "The Sibling Support Project". He will give a brief overview of Sibshops and how important they are to families and communities.

Dinner will be served promptly at 6 pm. Keynote presentation will follow the dinner.

Please RSVP by September 26, 2013.



Autumn Ride for Autism

Autumn Ride for Autism
September 14, 2013
Main St., Lewiston, ME



Kick up your kickstand and join us at the Annual Autumn Motorcycle Fundraiser hosted by the United Bikers of Oxford County and L.A. Harley of Lewiston to benefit the Autism Society of Maine.

There will be a barbecue lunch, music, t-shirts and prizes after the ride!

More information will be posted in May on the ASM website: www.asmonline.org



Sanford Elks Lodge Fundraiser

The Sanford Elks Lodge raised **\$10,300** for autism awareness at its third annual fundraiser for the Autism Society of Maine on April 25 & 26, 2013.

The fundraiser included a dance and a chance auction with more than \$5,400 in donated items. Efforts to raise funds included a food contest and calendar raffle.

We would like to thank the Sanford Elks Lodge for appreciating the importance of autism awareness and to extend our gratitude to the businesses and individuals who donated prizes.



2nd Annual Car Show for Autism

September 8, 2013

92 Mudgett Rd, Parsonsfield, ME

9:00 am – 2:00pm (registration starts at 7:30)

"Bring What You Run!"

Pig roast, hot dogs and burgers!

Awards for top 3 rides, top motorcycle and big rig!

50/50 raffle!

FMI: rwam4@yahoo.com



Flyer: <http://news.phdcon.com/UserFiles/113/file/Fundraisers/2nd%20Annual%20Car%20Show%20for.pdf>

Giveaways!

ASM has a 19 inch color Panasonic TV with built in VHS player with remote control.
(stand is not included)

Video Tapes for children.
(shelf not included)

If you are interested, please call ASM 1-800-273-5200
Pick-up only at ASM



Find Us on Facebook!

The Autism Society of Maine has a wonderful Facebook Community including parents, professionals, individuals and anyone interested in autism. If you are not already a friend of our Facebook page, we welcome you to join us!

It is a friendly and positive place to keep you in the loop of happenings/events, information and news. Watch the news feed, meet new friends, communicate with ASM staff and share your experiences!



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Autism-Society-Of-Maine/107781499258293>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/AutismSocietyofME>



<https://twitter.com/>

7th Annual Ride for Autism

September 21, 2013
Conservation Trust
Kennebunkport, ME

Show your Support and "Ride for Autism!"

This ride is open to all levels of cyclists. Participants choose from three routes ranging in length from 10, 25, and 50 miles that wind through beautiful Kennebunkport with ocean views. Each ride is clearly marked and accompanied by a committee member for any help that may be needed.

We take great care of our riders and make sure there are plenty of bottled waters, sport drinks, fruit and sport bars available before and throughout the event. A barbecue lunch is planned with prizes and music at noon.

Donations are Needed! Raffle Prizes, gift certificates, gift baskets, or any suitable product you could donate to us would be much appreciated for this event!

Please visit our online registration site for more information or to register:
<http://www.firstgiving.com/ASMMMAINE/ride-for-autism-2013>



 Ride for Autism 





NEW Parent Support Group

Do you have a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Would you like to meet other parents, care takers, and grandparents? In collaboration with Spring Harbor, the Autism Society of Maine will offer a support group on the first Wednesday every month. Each meeting will have a specific theme that will be addressed. There will be special guest speaker and a variety of topics.



Just knowing you are not alone and having the opportunity to talk with another parent/care taker who knows exactly what you are going through can help. The group will meet from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm the first Wednesday of each month.

Please check in at the front desk under Parent Support Group.

***In case of any bad weather please call Spring Harbor at 761-2200 - any cancellation will be done by 8:00 am day of meeting.*



Support group will be held at:
Spring Harbor Hospital
123 Andover Road
Westbrook, ME 04092

Week One:

Topic: The Autism Society of Maine will describe the services they provide and outreach programs.

In this session you will learn what services are available for families and what services the Autism Society of Maine can provide. You hear about programs and how to find out what is happening around the state .



Autism Society of Maine
72B Main Street
Winthrop, ME 04236

1-800-273-5200
www.asmonline.org

2nd Annual Softball Tournament for Autism

The weather was perfect for the Second Annual Softball Tournament for Autism, held this year on June 22nd at the Union Street Sports Complex in Bangor. We had 12 teams participate in the event, and many families came out to cheer them on, as well as enjoy the face-painting, bounce house, raffle and cook out. The championship trophy went to the Rec'ing Crew from Old Town, with the runner-up being I.T.S. from Indian Township. The top fundraising plaque went to the Season's Grille, who raised \$689 - great job guys! All together we raised over \$2,500.00

A big THANK YOU to all of our teams, sponsors and volunteers; we couldn't have held this event without you! We'd also like to thank Bangor Parks & Recreation for the use of their facilities.

We have already started planning next year's tournament, to be held on Saturday, June 28, 2014. We have some great things planned, so be sure to friend us on facebook so you can get all the updates. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/dave.softball>

Special thank you to DAVE HUFFSTUTLER and his lovely fiance, Rebecca, for organizing his event!



Championship Team: Rec'ing Crew



Above: Dave Huffstutler and Brayden, our first pitch thrower. Below: David and Rebecca



Top Fundraiser: Season's Grille



Team with Most Spirit: CHCS



Autism Information Specialist Program

Autism Information Specialists (AIS) contract with the Autism Society of Maine (ASM) for individual assignments. These assignments vary from talking with families as a support person to attending educational (IEP) or vocational (PCP) planning meetings to giving public presentations. They provide valuable resource information to individuals, families, service providers, employers, schools, and agencies across the State. They promote and encourage understanding, empathy, and compassion for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). They are knowledgeable and responsive to the needs of those involved in the lives of people with ASD. Currently we have Autism Information Specialists in the following Locations:

Auburn	Fairfield	Portland	Kennebunk
Bangor	Albion	Georgetown	Sanford
 Bridgton	Sidney	Harrison	 South Portland
Brunswick	Corinna	Naples	Presque Isle
Cumberland	Dexter	New Sharon	Vassalboro
 East Millinocket	 Northport	Wiscasset	Lewiston
Edmunds			

To increase covering the State with our services, we want to add AIS in the following areas:

Androscoggin, Aroostook, Hancock, Kennebec, Oxford, Somerset, Washington, York

Please contact the Autism Society of Maine if you are interested in becoming an AIS. 1-800-273-5200

Camp Summit is Up and Running!

It's hard to believe the first session of our Camp Summit has already come and gone! Thank you to all who participated and we are already planning and looking forward to next year!



Welcome to the Autism Society of Maine Library!



Library materials can be borrowed two items at a time for two weeks (not including mailing time), and renewed if there is not a waiting list. If you are not able to visit the library in person, materials can be mailed to you and return postage will be included for your convenience. You do not have to be a member of ASM to access the library.

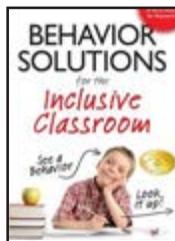
Although the library collection is essentially on autism, there are many categories in which to keep updated with new material. We take into consideration all requests that are made and appreciate the interest.

E-mail: library@asmonline.org 1-800-273-5200 Online Library Page: www.asmonline.org/library.asp

Behavior Solutions for the Inclusive Classroom

by Beth Aune, Beth Burt & Peter Gennaro

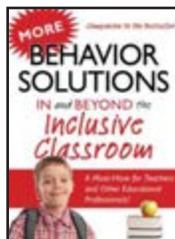
A Handy Reference Guide that Explains Behaviors Associated with Autism, Asperger's, ADHD, Sensory Processing Disorder, and other Special Needs. Teachers can quickly look up an in-the-moment solution and learn about what the child is communicating, and why. 151pgs.



More Behavior Solutions for the Inclusive Classroom

by Beth Aune, Beth Burt & Peter Gennaro

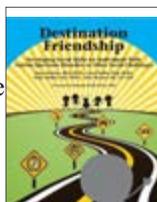
This book builds on the success of the first one by expanding the focus from within the classroom to all areas of the school environment - in the hallways, cafeteria, and auditorium, on the playground, and in therapy sessions during the school day. 109pgs.



Destination Friendship

by Mary Benton, Carol Hollis, Kelly Mahler, and Alice Womer

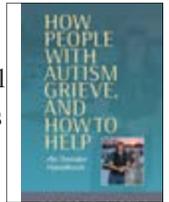
Provides easy-to-use, research-based strategies and activities that support the development of friendship skills in children with ASD within an active and fun learning environment. Subtle coaching and social scripting are throughout and include social activities and situations in which children have immediate opportunities to practice their friendship skills. 321pgs.



How People with Autism Grieve, and How to Help

by Deborah Lipsky

Explains how to support someone with autism through the grieving process, prepare them for bad news, break the bad news, involve them in the funeral or wake, and respond to later reactions. Also explores the issue of why children and teens with autism can be drawn to death as a special interest. 128pgs.



Hygiene and Related Behaviors for Children and Adolescents with Autism and Related Disorders

by Kelly Mahler

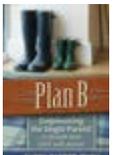
A fun curriculum on Social Understanding. Inventive and intriguing ways to teach topics surrounding functional life skills ranging from basic daily hygiene to picking, using public restrooms, burping, topics focus on healthy and socially acceptable behaviors. Includes CD (worksheets) 187pgs.



Plan B: Empowering the Single Parent!

By Karra Barber-Wada

Steps to survive the day-to-day challenges of parenting alone including a broad range of problems specifically targeted towards single parents and making your own road map towards thriving as a single parent. 205pgs.



The Child with Autism Goes to Florida

by Kathy Labosh

Experience the thrills without the meltdowns. Hundreds of Practical Tips, with reviews of theme parks, rides, resorts, and more! 113pgs.



The Last Bedtime Story that We Read Each Night

by Carol Gray

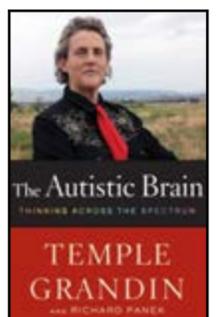
Add one last step to your bedtime routine with your preschool child, one that signals that it is now it's time for sleep. Each evening finish the day, yes with one last story, but one that takes one minute to read and signals sleep time. 25pgs.



The Autistic Brain: Thinking Across the Spectrum

by Temple Grandin

Weaving her own experience with remarkable new discoveries, Grandin introduces the neuroimaging advances and genetic research that link brain science to behavior, even sharing her own brain scan to show us which anomalies might explain common symptoms. We meet the scientists and self-advocates who are exploring innovative theories of what causes autism and how we can diagnose and best treat it. 256pgs



You may purchase these and more items on the ASM website at:

<https://www.asmonline.org:4441/productcart/pc/home.asp>

or call 1-800-273-5200.

NEW



Autism Stretch Bracelet
\$4.00



2013 Walk for Autism T-shirts
Sizes Large or X-Large only
\$5.00

NEW



Autism Ribbon Earrings
\$8.00

NEW



Autism Fabric Bracelet
\$8.00



Silver-tone stretch
bracelet \$8.00



Autism Awareness
Lapel Pin
\$5.00



Gel Autism Awareness
Bracelet
\$3.00



Mini Magnet
2" x 4"
\$3.00



Autism Awareness
Magnet
8" x 3.5" \$5.00



Guardian Angel Pin
\$8.00



Autism Ribbon
Keychain
Price \$5.00



"Safe and Sound" decal
for your window \$3.00



Autism Awareness
Lanyard \$6.00



Autism Awareness
Window Cling
8" x 3 7/8" \$3.00

Thank you for your generosity!

In Memory of:

Mary Ann Carey

Anne M. Harmon Fear
John & Holly O'Donoghue
Bernard & Jewell Silveria
Brooks Monuments

Jason "Jake" Phipps

Maine Natural Gas Corporation
Maurice J. Dionne, Sr.
Linda M. Chamberlain
Carroll & Colleen Poulin
Marc & Maureen Gastonguay

George C. Wilson

Mary J. McGloin
Synergy Electrical Sales, Inc.
Steven Carr & Family
Betty & Betsey Doyle
Shari Altman & Carrie Muench
Mary Elizabeth 'Betty' Lurvey

Larry & Judy Stocks

Clyde & Sally Ricker
Philip & Laura Lovejoy

Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Whitten

Robert & Elizabeth Normandeau

Wayne & Alana Shaw

Thomas & Wendy Spencer

Albert & Evelyn Love

Wesley & Sharon Crockett

Maxwell, Sharon & Friends of

Paul at Joy Valley Woodworks

Richard & Beverly Melville

UNUM Policies & Procedures

Team

Norman & Kim Allaire

Margaret B. Young

Robert & Linda Howe

In Honor Of:

Dawn Forrest by the Law Offices
of Joe Borenstein, Portland
Office

Employee Donations & Matches

Tom Nelson // United Way Tri-
Valley

Donations / Fundraisers

Jack Dyer

Karin Gamache

Eben & Susan Thomas

John & Joan Chandler

Susan Stetson

JSI Store Fixtures

Knights of the Sun Order of the
Demolay

Sanford Lodge of Elks #1470

Autism Awareness Fundraiser

Winslow Elementary School

Autism Awareness Month

Paracord Bracelet Sale

Dana Wilbur & Friends

Biddeford High School Cookie
Sale

Connors Emerson School Staff
Jeans Day

Maine Center for Cancer

Medicine Staff Jeans Day

Ruby Tuesday, Bangor

Community GiveBack Program

Gabe & Olivia Whitehouse &
Sarah Bernardini July Rock Sale
& Car Wash

Reeds Brook Middle School

Dance Admission Funds

Donation

All donations made to ASM are used to support our programs and resources for children, adults, and families in Maine that are affected by autism. Thank you to all those who continue to support this important work!



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

The Autism Society of Maine is a statewide nonprofit organization that for over 36 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 fund-raisers 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/donate/process/expressDonation.aspx?ORGID2=%2001-0407346>
- 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 fund-raiser with proceeds going to ASM. Some of the past and current fund-raisers have included: Avon, Pampered Chef parties, Mary Kay parties, bake sales at events, selling autism awareness items at conferences or craft events, selling holiday wreaths, selling T-shirts. If any of these fund-raisers interest you, please call us for more information.

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 1-800-273-5200

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