

The Autism Society of the Fox Valley, Inc.

ASFV NEWS



Spring 2009

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The Autism Society of the Fox Valley, Inc. is located inside the Goodwill Building at 1800 Appleton Rd., Menasha, WI 54952

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A Message From the President

Hello. I am Peggy Bartman, the new President of ASFV. I have big shoes to fill as Kelly Brodhagen was a wonderful President with a vast knowledge of the workings at the local and state levels. I am happy to say that Kelly is still very active as an ASFV volunteer and support for us all on the ASFV Board.

April is Autism Awareness month. The ASFV, through its dedicated volunteers, will continue to bring activities, education and information about autism to families and professionals throughout the Fox Valley area.

Our monthly Monkey Joe's outing on the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 gives families a chance to network and kids a fun place to let go of their energy.

In response to the needs of teens with Asperger's Syndrome or High Functioning Autism, we have started a Teen Activity Group (TAG). The group is in its third month and has

participated in activities at Old Country Buffet, Funset Boulevard and – this month on Saturday, April 18th a tour and a class at EAA in Oshkosh. The TAG group is growing and the kids are enjoying the activities and each other.

Our continuing education opportunity for April will occur on Tuesday, April 28th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the Goodwill Building in Menasha. Psychologist Matt Doll, Ph.D. of Doll and Associates will talk about behavior issues associated with ASD and how private counseling can add to a child's total care.

The ASFV could not exist without donations from the community. I would like to thank a group of police officers and fire fighters called "Guns and Hoses". This group, led by a police officer named Bret Hamer, organized a charity hockey game where the police played the fire fighters. ASFV was the recipient of the proceeds.

The ASFV will hold its biggest fundraiser, a golf outing, at Irish Waters Golf Course in Freedom on Saturday, June 6th. If you would like to sponsor a hole or enter a team to play please contact Bob Olson at bob.olson1976@gmail.com or call him at 920-788-5298 for all the details.

Enjoy the coming of Spring and please check out the ASFV website: <http://www.focol.org/asfv/> for details on all the activities and information ASFV offers.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information on ASFV. My email address is peggybartman1@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Peggy Bartman



Autism Society of the Fox Valley Mission:
Providing awareness, education, support and advocacy to those affected by autism in our community.

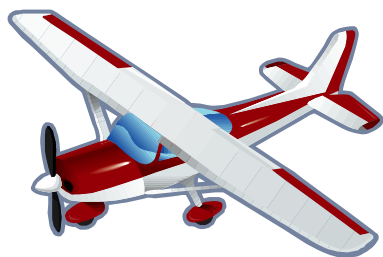
Teen Activity Group Saturday, April 18

April Teen Group Activity:

The Autism Society of the Fox Valley has organized a Teen Age Social Group for adolescents 13- 18 years old. The group is aimed at teens who have Asperger Syndrome or High Functioning Autism.

When: Saturday, April 18th: 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Where: Experimental Aircraft Museum, 3000 Poberezný Rd., Oshkosh, WI 54903



What: Guided tour of the World War II section of the museum followed by Formation Flight. Each child will receive one hour of instruction on a computerized flight simulator.

Cost: \$5.00 per child

Group Limit: 15 young people

The activities will be adult directed and

supervised by a licensed Speech Pathologist and Autism Consultant. Families need to provide transportation to and from the event. Parents are encouraged to be available by phone but not to remain with their teen – to promote peer interaction.

Please contact Peggy Bartman at peggybartman1@gmail.com or Diane Nackers at bnack5@centurytel.net for more information.

Members Only! Building for Kids, April 18, 9am

We are very pleased to offer a membership appreciation event for ASFV Members. ASFV has secured the Building for Kids, 100 W College Avenue, Appleton, at 9 am on Saturday, April 18.

The DaVinci Art & Science Studio always has fun - and sometimes messy - projects for children to really get their hands in. Lots of make and take art!

The Kwik Trip convenience store in Kids Town looks just like Mom and Dad's gas station with grocery scanners, a car wash, and little cars to drive.

The museum centerpiece is the huge Story

Tree with 5 tree forts to climb in. Varying degrees of difficulty offer kids of all ages fun and challenging make-believe opportunities.

The Station 99 Firestation includes—wearing firefighter overalls, coats, boots, and hats as the kids learn about fire safety and sit in the driver's seat of a fire engine!

These are just a few of the fun activities for children being offered. The Building for Kids is a hands-on museum that's fun

for all ages.

No need to register, just come to the

Building for Kids at 9am on Saturday, April 18.

This is our way of saying thank you for supporting ASFV through

your continued membership and donations. To check your membership status, check the mailing label of your ASFV newsletter.



Easter Seals Fox Valley Day Programs

These sessions are for individuals ages three and up who have moderate to severe physical and/or cognitive disabilities or autism spectrum disorders.

Each session runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Thompson Center in Appleton. One to two campers, depending on need, are paired with highly trained Easter Seals staff and AmeriCorps members. Typically, one staff person is paired with two campers; however, one-to-one pairing is

available if needed. Lunch and a snack are provided.

Campers will go on field trips to attractions in the Fox Valley and participate in a variety of recreational programs. Each session is \$75

Remaining Sessions

- Saturday, April 25, 2009
- Saturday, May 9, 2009

Siblings ages 7-14 are welcome to attend with a camper anytime, or they may participate in our special session Spotlight on Siblings.

For more information about the Easter Seals Fox Valley programs visit <http://camp.eastersealswisconsin.com/respite/foxvalley.html> or phone 1-800-422-2324.

Teen Friendship Group

Team Activity Group!

In January, a community based teen activity group began. Our first outing was to the Old Country Buffet, second outing was to Sabre Lanes for bowling, and the third outing was tons of fun at Funset Boulevard.

The boys and girls ranged in age from 13-18. The group began with 10 members and our third outing brought 14 teens out on a snowy day. The group gets together on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

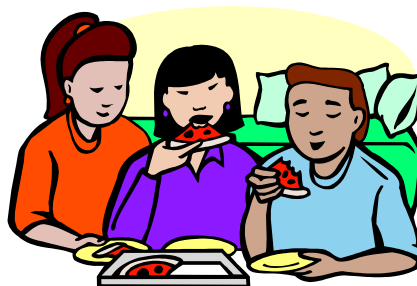
The April 18th outing is scheduled for

the EAA museum. Registration for the outings is based on a first come - first serve model with ASFV members a priority, limit 15.

Socialization, friendship building, and community experiences are the groups main goals. Peggy Bartman, OTR, ASFV Board President and Autism Consultant, and Diane Nackers, Board Member and Speech Therapist, facilitate interactions and communication experiences.

To find out more, email Peggy

at peggybartman1@gmail.com or diane at bnack5@centurytel.net.



Education Talk, Tuesday, April 28, Dr. Matt Doll

Please join ASFV for the last education talk of the school year on Tuesday, April 28 at 6:00 pm at the Goodwill Community Center, 1800 Appleton Road in Menasha.

Matt Doll, Ph.D., from Doll and

Associates, in Fond du Lac will be presenting on behavior issues related to autism spectrum disorder and discussing how including private therapy can add to a child's total care.

No need to pre-register. If you have

additional questions, please contact Peggy Bartman at peggybartma1@gmail.com

ASFV Parent Support Group—Update

The ASFV Parent Support Group will be meeting on Sunday, April 19 from 6-7:30 pm at the Ground Round Restaurant in Neenah.

Enjoy friendly conversation and meet other parents who have children with autism.

The group WILL be meeting over the summer! To be added to the support group list, send an email to Kathy Lett at Kathy_lett@hotmail.com or phone her at 920-582-4724.

If you have a particular item for discussion, feel free to contact Kathy and

she will try to help you out as much as possible.

Again— the Parent Support group will be Sunday, April 19 from 6-7:30!

FOOTBALL CAMP—SAVE THE DATE...

ASFV is hosting it's annual Football Camp for Kids with Autism on Saturday, September 12, 2009. The date has been moved so that the weather is cooler, the field will be in great condition and the season will be well under way. This is a great opportunity for kids to get out on the field, interact with real football players, try on football equipment, and have fun! More details will be coming shortly. There is no cost for the camp, and you do not need to member of ASFV for your son or daughter to participate!

For more information on the football camp contact Bob Olson at bob.olson1976@gmail.com or phone (920) 788-5298.

Teaching Social Thinking Skills, A Critical Piece of the Puzzle

Teaching Social Thinking Skills: A Crucial Piece of the Autism Puzzle, by Diane Nackers, CCC-SLP

What are social skills?

Social skills are those communication, problem-solving, decision making, self-management, and peer relations abilities that allow people to initiate and maintain positive social relationships with others. Children on the autism spectrum exhibit significant problems in a majority of these areas. Problems with social behavior often interfere with learning and teaching in the classroom. For people on the autism spectrum, the best indicator of success in adult life is their ability to socially relate to others.

Why teach social skills?

Peers interpret, respond and remember each other's social behavior from the beginning of their play group experiences and certainly by the time they are school aged. (Winner 2008) Teaching social skills can create opportunities for friendships, increase understanding of others actions and increase independence.

Assumptions:

"The education professionals from the federal level down to the classroom teachers assume 4-5 year old children come to school with a solid operating system. They assume children know how to ask for help, have skills to work in large and small groups, and have the skills to work independently." (Winner 2008). These assumptions certainly do not hold true for most children on the autism

spectrum. Social skills deficits not only impact children's interactions with peers, but also impact learning of the academic curriculum.

Best Practice Teaching Guidelines (Winner 2008)

- ◆ Evaluate the child's level of social thinking and start as basic as is necessary. Chronological age is not an indication of a student's level



of social thinking; nor is expressive verbal ability. Tailor teaching to the child based on the child's strengths and weaknesses.

- ◆ The treatment must be team oriented, with all teachers and parents "on board."
- ◆ Hold all people accountable including the student. The lessons will generalize to multiple settings when everyone is on the same page of the treatment plan.
- ◆ Include peers who share space with the students for whom the treatment program is designed.
- ◆ Teach without assumptions of prior social knowledge.

- ◆ Go beyond teaching "friendship skills." We need to teach life skills and people skills.
- ◆ Help the child understand his/her own social strengths as well as social challenges. Give them information to be an advocate for their own needs.
- ◆ Just do it! Start slow and don't give up.

Social skills used throughout the day:

- ◆ Greeting and saying good-bye to people when entering/leaving a situation
- ◆ Watching peers and trying to conform behavior to that of the group
- ◆ Figuring out the most appropriate social behavior to use in the situation
- ◆ Correctly seeing and understanding verbal and non-verbal cues
- ◆ Joining in conversations about things that interest age level peers
- ◆ Solving social problems on the playground, in the classroom and at home
- ◆ Asking questions – especially asking for help
- ◆ Understanding humor – especially friendly teasing and sarcasm

Ideas to consider when teaching social skills:

- ◆ Naming/defining social skills – begin by identifying two or three skills that are causing the biggest challenges
- ◆ Use visual supports (e.g. pictures, written rules, lists of acceptable and

Social Thinking, Continued

- ◆ Practice appropriate behaviors (unacceptable behaviors) to help child understand
- ◆ Modeling the skills
- ◆ Scripting the skills – write out appropriate words to say in a challenging situation
- ◆ Role playing the skills – act out the words and actions
- ◆ Repetition – students need to practice new skills in a variety of settings across the school day

Develop strategies for the child to use when their anxiety rises (e.g. social scripts, asking for breaks, looking at visuals for guidance).

Homework assignments – involve the family in using appropriate terminology and techniques for social success.

Reinforcement

The literature shows that children with special needs require practice, repetition and rehearsal in order to transfer newly developed skills. (Winner 2008). Teaching these skills as a regular part of the child's curriculum may improve generalization to other settings throughout the child's day.

“The transfer of social skill gains developed in a group treatment modality are accomplished through collateral work and training in the child's school, family and community. True life skills are practiced outside of the therapy group; generalization and transfer of therapeutic gains is the acid test of any social skill intervention. Effective parent training goes hand in hand with child social skill development. Teachers, special

educators, coaches, scout leaders, and clergy all become people who can enhance or inhibit a child's social integration,” reports Richard S. Dana, Ed.D.

Social skills goals and specific time to work on these goals should be included in the IEP for all children who are on the autism spectrum.

Winner, M.G. (2008) *A Politically Incorrect Look at Evidence-based Practices and Teaching Social Skills: A literature review and discussion.* San Jose, CA. www.socialthinking.com
Dana, Richard S. *Social Skill Development and Training for Children and Adolescents: Theoretical and Practical Guidelines.* www.dana-group.com/resources/articles/social_skill.html . 11-15-2008.

Information compiled by,
Diane Nackers, MS CCC-SLP

ASW Conference

The Autism Society of Wisconsin Annual Conference will be held May 7th – 9th, 2009 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells.

ASW will be celebrating 30 years of service! Conference registration materials have been posted on the Autism Society of Wisconsin website at www.asw4autism.org.

Here's a few of the highlights...

Pre-Conference: Michelle G. Winner, M.A., CCC-SLP, “Organizing Strategies to Help Students Carry Out Homework Assignments to Prepare Them for the Real World: An Interdisciplinary Treatment Approach”

Friday Keynote: Scott Bellini, Ph.D., “The Delivery of Effective Social Skills Programming to Individuals on the Autism Spectrum: Notes and Observations from the Classroom, Clinic,

Laboratory...and Dinner Table”

Saturday Keynote: Morton Gernsbacher, Ph.D. “Autism: Reducing the Stigma”

Numerous breakout sessions are planned, along with activities and events for individuals with ASD, an extensive exhibit hall and so much MORE! For more information on the conference email jpribek@asw4autism.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AN EVENING WITH THE TIMBER RATTLERS!

ASV is hosting another Timber Rattlers baseball event for members on Saturday, August 1st. This is a fun family event and following the game, is a fabulous fire works display!

More information will be coming out soon...

Membership Application

Date of Membership Application:

Name:



Street Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone (home)

Phone (work)

Email address:

Membership type, please let us know if you are a (please check):

Parent

Family Member

Person with Autism

Medical Professional

Service Provider

Educator

Membership Categories

\$42.00 Individual

\$55.00 Family

New Renewal

Enclosed is \$5.00 to contribute to the cost of the newsletter

Enclosed is additional money to support the Autism Society of the Fox Valley

\$25___ \$50___ \$100___ Other \$_____

Total Enclosed: \$_____

How did you learn about the Autism Society of the Fox Valley, Inc.?

Membership questions? Email asfv@hotmail.com. Your ASFV Membership includes the following: ASFV Newsletter, members only activities, voting privileges, local information and peer support. At state and national levels, you receive the ASA newsletter, THE ADVOCATE, discounts at the annual conference, toll-free information/referral line, national autism awareness, advocacy efforts, action alerts, web site, and voting privileges. All dues and donations are tax deductible. Membership is for one calendar year. National and State dues are forwarded by ASFV. Memberships are processed monthly. When joining through ASFV you automatically become a member of the Autism Society of America and the Autism Society of Wisconsin.

Send completed form along with payment to:

ASFV Memberships
Attn: Ann Olson
1216 Lewis St.
Little Chute, WI 54140

2009 Autism Society of the Fox Valley Golf Outing

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



your registration in today!

When? **Saturday, June 6, 2009**

9:00 am SHOT GUN start. Please arrive no later than 8:30!

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

Fees? \$80.00 per player includes greens fees, golf cart, free beer & soda in the clubhouse, lunch, awards and dinner.

Format? Scramble ...

RAIN OR SHINE!

- ◆ Create your own foursome—ask your friends, families or colleagues to golf with you or fill in your name and the golf committee will place you on a team
- ◆ Margaritas for sale!
- ◆ Competitions, hole events, 50/50 Raffle and Silent Auction...
- ◆ WIN GREAT PRIZES!
- ◆ HOLE SPONSORSHIP \$250 and above
- ◆ ASFV is a 501 (c) 3 Organization

Player 1 (Team Captain)

Email Address

Player 2

Email Address

Player 3

Email Address

Player 4

Email Address

Company Name

Hole Sponsorship - Includes signage with company logo

_____ \$250

Total due: \$

Payment form: Check # _____

Fill out all information and include payment to:

Bob Olson

ASFV Golf Outing Chairperson

1216 Lewis St., Little Chute, WI 54140

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

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Website: www.focol.org/asfv

ASFV Board Members

OFFICERS:

Peggy Bartman, **President**
Carol Koller, **Vice President**
Michele Matz, **Past President**
Bob Olson, **Treasurer**
Archna Hendricks, M.D., **Secretary**

BOARD MEMBERS:

Steve Brennan
Heidi Dahle
Kathy Lett
Diane Nackers, CCC-SLP
Ann Olson
Hallie Shopbell

**Check your membership
expiration date on your mailing
label!**

ASFV Contributions -

Guns N Hoses Charity Hockey Game
Norma Anderson
Cheryl Tobin
Julie Turzynski
Julie Easton
James Brodhagen
Daryl Lane
Dr. Steven Klein
The Sarino Family
Angela Marciniak
Dr. Corrine Donely
Robert & Jennifer Rietveld
Brian & Tammy Reimer
Roundy's Supermarkets
Laurie Miller



Newsletter Submissions:

Articles of interest, stories/poetry of person's with autism, book reviews and upcoming conferences or workshops are accepted. Submissions can be sent to: ASFV Newsletter, 2254 Winwood Dr., Appleton, WI 54915 or email kjbrod@new.rr.com.

Submission deadlines are November 30, February 28, May 15, and August 15. Responsibility for accuracy of information remains that of the author of the article. Articles from this publication may be reprinted, giving credit to the author and ASFV. The ASFV Editorial Review Board reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions.