

# ASFV NEWSLETTER

AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE FOX VALLEY

SPRING 2011

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

## *President's Letter by Hallie Shopbell*

Dear ASFV members,

When the Wisconsin mandated coverage for autism services first came into effect, I contacted our insurance company to inquire if the mandate applied to our policy. Our insurance company told me that the mandate was applicable for our policy and that Eli would be covered.

Fast forward to December 2010. We received notification that Eli had maxed the 20 visits for speech therapy, which was the maximum that the insurance would allow; therefore, we had to pay the remainder of the visits. Wait? Shouldn't the mandate be covering this?

I called our insurance: the coding was wrong on the claims—the claims do not indicate that Eli has autism; called the hospital—they claim coding is there; this goes back and forth. We are told to fax paperwork in order to provide proof that Eli has autism, and then we are told that the paperwork is not needed. A person that we spoke with assured us that she would personally reprocess the claims, that they are covered and will be paid out; then the payments are pulled back. I am also told at this point that the mandate DOES NOT apply to us.

What? I had called and verified numerous times that it did apply. Nope. The insurance company still could not “verify” that Eli had autism. One person said that the code was there, another said that it wasn't. Finally, I threw out the word: DISCRIMINATION (that Eli was not getting the services that he needed as a child with autism). That word gets people listening. I also told them that I was filing a complaint with the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (<http://oci.wi.gov/>). I asked them to please document it in their notes. I then immediately filed a complaint with the Office.

The outcome? That Eli is covered under the mandate! Per our insurance, the main issue was that the hospital did not code properly; the hospital resubmitted the claims with the correct code and voila. Well, that is not really how it went, but whatever. He is covered and that is all that matters.

Overall, I spent approximately 10 hours (yes, 10!) on the phone with the insurance company over this issue. I admit that I also cried while on the phone, screamed, and cursed. Oh, I forgot to tell you all this. What did I used to do in my previous employment? I worked at a hospital and dealt with insurance companies, making sure that your stay was covered, so I am not unfamiliar with dealing with insurance companies. However, this brought me to my knees. In the end though, it was a pretty good feeling telling my husband that I had “won”, but most importantly, felt like a pretty successful advocate for my son.

Some advice that I would like to pass on:

\*Don't be afraid to try!

\*Document, document, document! I learned this lesson about ¾ the way into the fight. The company has every phone call documented; documenting from my end helped me to reference previous conversations better.

\*If you are not getting anywhere with your insurance company, go to the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (<http://oci.wi.gov/>) website and file the complaint. It can't hurt and I truly do not know what I would have done without them.

Hope you have a wonderful spring,  
Hallie Shopbell

The Autism Society of the  
Fox Valley, Inc.

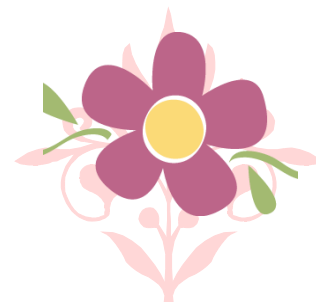
1800 Appleton Rd.  
Menasha, WI 54952

Phone: 920-968-6829

<http://focol.org/asfv>

[asfv@hotmail.com](mailto:asfv@hotmail.com)

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## Breaking News!!

Due to budgetary reasons, the ASFV quarterly newsletter will now be available on the web at <http://focol.org/asfv>.

## *ASW 2011 Annual Conference Information*

### **“NAVIGATING THE SPECTRUM” ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN**

**Kalahari Resort Wisconsin Dells  
APRIL 14 – 16, 2011 KEYNOTE PRESENTERS:**

**Thursday: Scott Bellini**

**Friday: Judy Endow**

**Saturday: Susan Stokes**



**More information online: [www.asw4autism.org](http://www.asw4autism.org).  
hotel information, conference schedule, and more!! Email:  
[jpribek@asw4autism.org](mailto:jpribek@asw4autism.org)**

### **SHOUT OUT**

**For Silent  
Auction items  
for the  
ASFV—June 4th  
Golf Outing.**

**Contact:  
Heidi Dahle**

**[heididahle2003@  
yahoo.com](mailto:heididahle2003@yahoo.com)**



## *ASFV Membership Information*

Members should watch their mailboxes for important membership changes coming from the Autism Society of Wisconsin. Information is coming with the election ballot within 2 weeks.

## *Update from the Teen Group*

With January's teen group completed, the 3rd year of monthly teen outings led by Peggy Bartman and Diane Nackers was underway. The group averages 14 teens with Asperger's Syndrome or High Functioning Autism ages 13-18.

The primary focus of the group is to provide social outing opportunities that foster a high degree of interpersonal interactions between the teens.

In the past the teen's have gone horse back riding, bowling, to Funset for laser tag, roller skating, Diane's house for video games and pizza, Old Country Buffet and the EAA.

The teens created a wishlist of future outings. Badger State, movies, karate, and more eating events were requested.

The February outing was held at the 10th Frame in Appleton. This is the second time the 10th Frame has welcomed us. Fourteen boys and girl



bowled, ate, and socialized.

Contact Peggy Bartman at [peggybartman@gmail.com](mailto:peggybartman@gmail.com) or Diane Nackers at [bnack5@gmail.com](mailto:bnack5@gmail.com)

**WHEN: March 19th**

**WHERE: Skater's Edge, Greenville**

**COST: \$6.50** for roller blading and any extra for video games or food—popcorn and soda will be provided

**TIME: 7- 10 PM** (or whenever your teen is ready to go—we will have cell phones for those who don't have one)

## *ASFV Parent Support Group Meeting*

### *CHANGE of VENUE*

The ASFV Parent Support Group meets on the **second Sunday, of each month**. The parent group meets at

**The Harmony Café**  
**233 E College Ave, Appleton, Wisconsin - (920) 734-2233**

**TIME: 6:00-7:30pm.**  
 The meeting will be held in the **RED ROOM**.

Enjoy friendly conversation and meet other parents or caregivers who love and care for someone with autism.

To be added to the support group list, send an email to Kristin Wahl at [kdwahl99@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kdwahl99@sbcglobal.net)

If you have a particular item for discussion, feel free to contact Kristin at 920-788-5223 and she will try to help you as much as

possible.



A huge **THANK YOU** to Ground Round for welcoming us on Sunday evenings.

# 2011 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 4, 2011

**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](mailto:bob.olson1976@gmail.com) or phone (920) 788-5298



## *Save the Date—Timber Rattler Outing*

**August 13, 2011** is the date for the ASFV Timber Rattler outing. Steve Brennan is coordinating the meal, tickets, and seating for any and all ASFV members. Please contact Steve for more information or to reserve your families tickets:

[sbrennan78@yahoo.com](mailto:sbrennan78@yahoo.com)

## *Monkey Joes Event Dates*

ASFV reserved Monkey Joe's for the school year. All other events are the first Saturday of each month through **May 7th**. For those new to ASFV, we reserve Mon-key Joe's, an indoor inflatable play-ground, once a month starting at 9am. This time is exclusive to ASFV and our families, until they open the doors to the public at 10am.

Members are free! Non-members pay \$5 per family. No RSVP necessary.  
 Monkey Joe's at 1800 N Casaloma Dr, Appleton, WI 54913 (920) 954-5437  
 Questions? Call Michelle Matz (920)540-0386  
 March 5, 2011  
 April 2, 2011  
 May 7, 2011



## *Parent/Educator Workshop—Peer Mediated Instruction*

The final educator workshop for this school year will be **April 11th from 6-8pm, in the Redwood Room** at the Goodwill Building in Menasha.

**Julie LaBerge**, special education director in Bonduel - also the mother of children on the autism spectrum. Julie has been working with the Waisman Center for the past two years, specifically in the area of Peer Mediated Instruction - a program to teach neuro-typical peers about autism and then have the peers work on specific skills with their classmates who have autism spectrum disorder. Bonduel has implemented this research-based strategy at the elementary level as well as at their middle school.

Please contact Peggy Bartman with any questions: [pbartman@cesa6.org](mailto:pbartman@cesa6.org)



## *Reel Movies for Real Needs*

Please visit Marcus Theaters for details: [www.marcustheatres.com/Promotion](http://www.marcustheatres.com/Promotion)

Marcus Theaters is offering a welcoming and comfortable environment—lower sounds, lights up—where families with children who need accommodations will be able to share the experience of seeing family friendly films at a theatre.

These movies are shown on select Saturday at 10:30 AM. Regular matinee pricing applies.

## The Miracle League of the Fox Valley—registration event

A Special League for Special Kids...

The Miracle League of the Fox Valley is an organized baseball league for children ages 4-19 with mental and/or physical disabilities.



Games are played at the John Wollner Fox Cities Miracle Field at Memorial Park in

Appleton, WI

[www.foxvalleymiracleleague.com](http://www.foxvalleymiracleleague.com)

REGISTRATION BEGINS:

February 26, 2011

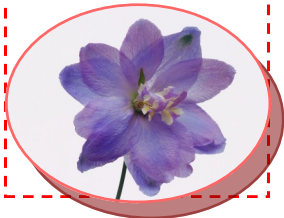
CLOSES: March 18, 2011

OPENING DAY: Saturday, Jun 4 at 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

## Fox Valley Sibling Support Network—[www.fvssn.org](http://www.fvssn.org)

COMMUNITY EVENT

INFORMATION FOR  
YOU AND YOUR  
FAMILIES



Sibshop events are dedicated to brothers and sisters of people with special needs and long-term illnesses.

Celebrate Sibling's Day with FVSSN

April 9 — Celebration School  
11:00 am Sibshop for kids  
2:30 pm performance for all

Upcoming events:  
3/12 H.U.L.K. Sibshop for boys ages 6-12—dads and big brothers welcome!  
1-4pm  
Village Lanes, Little Chute

4/9 Sibshop and National Sibling's Day Celebration for all ages

11-2:30pm  
2:30 Sibling Comedy performance and party [ Open to Adult siblings, families and

friends.

7/25—7/29 Sib Days of Summer

8/2-8/5 Sib Camp

920-968-1742

Email:  
[fvssn@fvssn.org](mailto:fvssn@fvssn.org)

## Green Bay Gamblers "Autism Night" at the Resch Center

**Saturday, April 2nd**, the Gamblers will donate a portion of every ticket sold to the Autism Society of Wisconsin. There will be a bucket raffle and a 50/50 raffle that evening. The puck drops at 7:05 PM.

For group tickets in Section 202, call Jessica @

920.405.1265 with the group code "ASOW0402" to reserve seats for \$10.00 each, a \$2.00 discount off the regular ticket price of \$12.00.

For more information or questions regarding Green Bay Gamblers/ASW Events  
e-mail:



[www.asw4autism.org](http://www.asw4autism.org)  
[www.gamblershockey.com](http://www.gamblershockey.com)

## “Spectrum Saturdays” at The Building For Kids

Beginning in April, The Building for Kids Children’s Museum in Appleton, will open its doors two hours early on select Saturdays **exclusively** for children with autism and their families.

Guests are invited to explore the museum’s ex-



hibits and connect with other families from **8am-10am**, prior to the museum’s opening to the general public.

This event is **free of charge** for children with autism and their families through the generous support of the Wisconsin Branch of Kings Daughters and Sons at The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley.

The Saturday early opening dates are **April 9, May 14, and June 11, 2011**.

For more information please call The Building for Kids Children’s Museum at (920) 734-3226.

The Building For Kids Children’s Museum, 100 W. College Avenue, Appleton, Wisconsin.

[www.buildingforkids.org](http://www.buildingforkids.org)

## SHOUT OUT FOR

Fund raising ideas or opportunities.

ASFV is a non-profit 501c 3 organization with an all volunteer board of directors.

Please contact us with fund raising ideas.

## Shining Start Story Time @ the Appleton Public Library

Shining Star Storytime is an exclusive program for children with ASD ages four through eight. This 45 minute program includes singing, clapping, reading, musical movement, crafts and free play. The program uses visual supports and high interest activities to engage the children. A "break" room will be provided for children having difficulty participating in the program. Fidget sensory toys and seating cushions will be available as well.

Registration is necessary for the program and will be limited to ten families. A parent or therapist must accompany each child. Siblings are welcome to attend but must also be supervised by another adult. **To register, please call (920) 832-6187** or stop by the Family Readers' Advisory Desk. When you register, the library will ask what the child's high interest areas are so that they may possibly be included in the program. **(Program is FREE!)**

**6:30-7:15 p.m.**

**Thursdays : 3/17/11, 4/21/11, 5/19/11**

**AGE: 4 to 8**

Appleton Public Library

225 North Oneida Ave, Appleton, WI 54911



## Discovery League Baseball

[www.neenahbaseball.com](http://www.neenahbaseball.com) or contact Holly Sauer at 920-428-1010. Ages 5—adult Plays Sunday evenings at Southview

## Family summer camp opportunity

<http://www.crosswayscamps.org/> Contact Dara Stull at Imago Dei Village (715-823-2902)

## **Autism Society of the Fox Valley**

**1800 Appleton Road  
Menasha, WI 54952**

**(920) 968-6829  
email: asfv@hotmail.com**

### **ASFV Board Members**

Officers:

Hallie Shopbell, President  
Diane Nackers, MS CCC-SLP, Vice Pres.  
Bob Olsen, Treasurer  
Kristin Wahl, Secretary  
Peggy Bartman, OT, former president

Board Members:

Steve Brennan  
Michelle Matz  
Archna Hendricks, MD  
Ann Olsen  
Heidi Dahle



### **Thank you for your donation!!!**

Mr. Thomas Feavel  
Gonzalo A. Horigian  
Sargento Foods, Inc./matching  
employee donators

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### **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: Diane Nackers, 8042 Sequaro Ct, Neenah WI 54956 email bnack5@gmail.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.

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
HTTP:// FOCOL.ORG/ASFV**