

Autism Awareness Month Activities 2012

Autism NJ

Autism New Jersey's signature "Autism Awareness Ambassador Program" enables individuals concerned about autism to raise awareness in their neighborhoods, workplaces, schools and local communities.

- Ambassadors can be anyone – young siblings with brothers or sisters diagnosed with autism, concerned neighbors, public school teachers looking to provide peer education in the classroom, or parents looking to spread the word.
- This year, the 2012 Awareness Ambassador Program theme is “Create Change.” The goal is to change the way the world views autism. Ambassadors organize a variety of activities, including fundraisers, library displays and informational presentations.
- Resources, awareness tips and tools are available at Autism New Jersey’s Ambassador Web Hub -- www.autismnjambassador.org. The hub also lists different events and activities scheduled throughout April and is updated throughout the month.

Some ambassador activities include:

April 3, 8:00pm

Junior Ambassador Shawn Elliott will be accepting an Autism Awareness Proclamation from the mayor of Piscataway.

April 20, 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Junior Ambassador Erin O’Connor, Chatham, NJ is organizing a Silent Auction, Raffle and Bake Sale at Chatham High School.

April 21, 10:00am

2nd Annual All Together for Autism 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Family Walk in Meadow Breeze Park, Washington Township, New Jersey. Race organized by the following school districts: Franklin Township, Mansfield Township, Oxford Township, Warren Hills Regional School District and Washington Boro.

April 22, 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Junior Ambassador and Eagle Scout candidate Daniel Fanelli is unveiling his Autism Awareness Monument at Cedar Grove Public Library.

April 24, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

6th Annual Autism Family Night Out with TGIF. Go to any T.G.I. Friday’s in New Jersey, Connecticut and sections of Pennsylvania and New York and enjoy a family dinner without being stigmatized.

The program’s value is summed up by 12 year old Shawn Elliott, who wrote to his mayor: “I want everyone to be aware of autism, and have an idea of how autism affects family and other people. We can’t go out much due to my brother’s behavior. So if we raise awareness, we can teach the community to be more tolerant and accepting of autism.”

The events and activities planned by our ambassadors and the resources Autism New Jersey offer achieve this end and help families like Shawn’s.

April is Autism Awareness Month!

Join POAC Autism Services for these great April events!

Visit www.poac.net for more information and registration.

<p>Sexuality and Hygiene for Adolescents with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities 4/3/2012 Free Training in Aberdeen, NJ</p>	<p>Indoor Gym Party at Bounce U 4/10/2012 Free Recreation in West Windsor</p>
<p>Developing Conversational Language Skills - Getting to the Intraverbal 4/18/2012 Free Training in Sewaren, NJ</p>	<p>Tricky Tray for Courtney's Cursorsaders Walk For a Difference Team 4/14/2012 Leonardo, NJ</p>
<p>Using the ABLLS in Your Autism Program at Home or at School 4/19/2012 Free Training in Clifton, NJ 4/24 2012 Free Training in Ewing, NJ</p>	<p>Spare Me Bowling Fundraiser to Benefit POAC Bowling, Gift Baskets, Buffet, and More! 4/14/2012 Hopelawn</p>
<p>Autism Recognition and Response for Preschool Providers 4/23/2012 Free Training in Waretown, NJ</p>	<p>Free Indoor Gym Party for Children and Young Adults with Autism and their Siblings 4/15/2012 Free Recreation in Lakewood, NJ</p>
<p>Teaching Functional Communication Skills How to Teach your Child or Student to Ask for the Things They Want or Need 4/25/2012 Free Training in Bridgewater</p>	<p>Raising Autism An Original Play Chronicling Three Mothers and Their Experiences Parenting Children with Autism 4/21/2012 Brick, NJ 4/28/2012 Ocean Grove, NJ</p>
<p>Walk for a Difference Walk-a-Thons and Free Family Carnivals 4/28/2012 Ewing High School, Ewing, NJ www.mercerwalk.org 4/29/2012 Matthew Jago School, Glen Cove Avenue, Sewaren, NJ www.woodbridgewalk.org Rides! Food! Entertainment! Your Favorite Characters! Give-Aways! And More!</p>	

Healing Arts & The Power to Heal

Calling all Arts Administrators, Civic Leaders, Artists, Musicians, Healthcare Administrators and Practitioners, Dancers, Local Arts Organizations, Business Leaders, Arts Advocates

ARTS IN HEALING COALITION CONFERENCE

Bringing Together the Arts & Healthcare Community

A multidisciplinary look at how the arts play a vital role in healing...

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

11am-2pm

Newton Medical Center

175 High Street Newton, NJ 07860 *(Free Parking)*

The event is Free & open to the public.

Lunch will be provided

Space is limited!

Program Highlights:

B. Madeleine Goldfarb, MA
Executive Director, Noah's Ark Institute
"Autism & Creativity"

Leah Oswanski, MA, LAC, MT-BC
Coordinator of Music Therapy
Atlantic Health System
"Music Therapy in Medicine: Perfect Harmony"

Mike Fenton, Artist/ Volunteer-Professional Partner Program- Healing Arts
"An Artist/Curator's Perspective"

Ashley Greene, MS in Creative Arts Therapy
"Cancer: The use of Art & Journaling"

Registration is required:

To register by phone call 1-800-247-9580, Monday through Thursday, 8:30am to 8:00pm, Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm, or visit us online at www.atlantichealth.org

**** For more information call: 973-660-3533 or email healingarts@atlantichealth.org***

www.atlantichealth.org/healingarts

Autism Family Services of New Jersey presents:

A Workshop Series In honor of Autism Awareness Month

"My Grandchild has Autism, Aspergers, or PDD-NOS"

Do you have a grandchild with a unique and different way of being? Join Autism Family Services to learn about Autism, Aspergers, PDD NOS, and the "spectrum" concept. Share your stories, triumphs, glories, and concerns. Connect with others who are grand-parenting children with autism. Take home communication tips you learn from others. Find out how a grandparent's love can make all the difference.

Presented by: Annette L. Becklund, MSW, LCSW & Associates LLC

Friday April 6, 2012

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Children's Specialized Hospital of Toms River

94 Stevens Rd,

Toms River, NJ 08755

"In Community: Supporting People with DD in Establishing Meaningful Community Connections"

This workshop is designed to help families, professionals and others to assist people who use supports to participate and make contributions in their communities. Specific tools and strategies for understanding, planning, supporting, and sustaining community connections will be covered.

Presented by: Michael Steinbruck, M.A., Self-Directed Supports Project Mgr.

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

Thursday April 26, 2012

6:00 - 8:30 pm

Family Support Center of NJ

2516 Route 35

Manasquan, NJ 08736

What Families Need To Know About Evaluations & Assessments

One of the core components of the special education process is student evaluation. This presentation will provide a brief overview of parental rights as they pertain to evaluations, parent participation in the decision making process regarding what evaluations are appropriate, and a discussion regarding evaluation as part of the transition planning process.

Presented by: Carolyn Hayer, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

Monday April 23, 2012

6:30 - 8:30 pm

The Family Resource Network

322 US Highway 46 Suite 290

Parsippany, NJ 07054

Space is limited for these sessions. Registration is required.

Please call Lauren McAllister at 732-262-8020 to reserve your seat.



Join Autism Speaks to *Light It Up Blue* on April 2, 2012 to shine a bright spotlight on the public health crisis of autism and improve the future for everyone who struggles with the disorder.

Light It Up Blue, in its third year, is a unique global initiative by Autism Speaks to help raise awareness about the growing public health concern that is autism. Iconic landmarks around the world will Light It Up Blue to show their support on April 2, 2012 - World Autism Awareness Day.

Who can *Light It Up Blue*?

- Individuals and Families
- Buildings and Landmarks
- Retail Locations
- Schools and Universities
- Cultural Institutions
- Restaurants
- Media
- Additionally, Airports, Bridges, Sports Arenas, Concert Halls, Homes, Houses of Worship, Websites, and Corporate Offices can *Light It Up Blue* too!

For more information, please visit the Autism Speaks Light it Up Blue website www.lightitupblue.org.

FACES 4 AUTISM started Blow Bubbles 4 Autism in 2004, and now bubbles cover the globe each April to make a difference, one child at a time. Each bubble symbolizes the support and compassion of those who educate, befriend and love people with ASD.

Can your school join Faces to Blow Bubbles 4 Autism on April 26th for the Guinness World Record?

People are already making signs and ribbons and ordering bubbles.

Faces will do a “warm up” on April 17th, at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, NJ, and even Atlantic City Mayor Langford has vowed to include his city workers in the effort! Schools are checking in all over the world, so please spread the word. The time was changed so that the West Coast can join Faces and their partners! Schools in Utah, Arizona and California are on board.

Join Faces on Thursday, April 26th at 1:15pm EST. Help spread the love! After many requests to try for the Guinness World Record again, Faces will do so. BUT, your help is really needed to make it happen.

Thanks to all for believing in this efforts to send those bubbles to the skies above in honor of those we love.

Here are this year’s updated forms for Bubbles Day.

<http://faces4autism.townsquareinteractive.com/blow-bubbles-4-autism/>

**The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation and
Ridgewood Community Access Network
To Host FREE Screening
of “Loving Lampposts: Living Autistic” on April 7**

The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation (DJF) and Ridgewood Community Access Network (Ridgewood CAN) will host a FREE screening of Todd Drezner’s documentary film, ***Loving Lampposts: Living Autistic***, on **Saturday, April 7, at 1 pm, at Ridgewood Public Library’s Belcher Auditorium, 125 N. Maple Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ, 201-670-5600.** This Autism Awareness Month event is being offered as a public service to increase awareness, understanding, and acceptance about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Linda Walder Fiddle, Founder and Executive Director of DJF, says: *“We are presenting a free screening of this remarkable new film in order to promote community awareness and empathy for all people living with Autism and their families. It is a vital part of our mission to help create a world where individuals living with Autism are valued and respected for who they are, and ‘Loving Lampposts’ will inspire all who see it to look at individuals on the spectrum with new eyes.”*

Ridgewood Councilman Paul Aronsohn, the founder and leader behind Ridgewood CAN, states: *“This will be an important opportunity for our community to come together for a good film and a good cause. Through this program, and through so many other activities, The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation is promoting a much-needed conversation and a much better understanding of Autism.”*

About the Film...

After his son’s Autism diagnosis, filmmaker Todd Drezner explores both sides of the ‘Autism wars’—the “recovery movement,” which views Autism as a tragic epidemic brought on by environmental toxins, and the “neurodiversity movement,” which argues that Autism should be accepted and autistic people supported.

The film asks the question: What would you call a four-year-old who caresses all the lampposts in the park? Quirky? Unusual? Or sick?

<http://lovinglamppostsmovie.com/>

Such labels are at the center of the debate about Autism: is it a disease or a different way of being—or both? In ***Loving Lampposts*** Drezner introduces the parents, doctors, therapists, and autistic people who are redefining Autism at a moment when it’s better known than ever before. Drezner explores the changing world of Autism and learns the truth of the saying, *“If you’ve met one autistic person, you’ve met one autistic person.”*

World Autism Awareness Day Activities
April 2012
United Nations Headquarters

[HTTP://WWW.UN.ORG/EN/EVENTS/AUTISMDAY](http://www.un.org/en/events/autismday)

MONDAY, APRIL 2nd

Launch of Official UN “Autism Awareness” Stamps

United Nations Post Offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna

- The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue stamps and first day covers on 2 April 2012 in recognition of World Autism Day. The stamps, and the eight artists who designed them, will together raise awareness about this important global cause. <http://unstamps.un.org/doc/Announcement/Autism.pdf>

**Book signing by co-author Margret D. Ericsdottir of
“The Golden Hat: Talking Back To Autism”**

1 - 2 pm United Nations Bookshop Concourse Level, GA Building

- Kate Winslet’s new book, “The Golden Hat: Talking Back to Autism” will be sold during the “Meet the Author” series on World Autism Awareness Day. This amazing new book features never seen before self-portraits of 100 A-list celebrities all wearing a magical, “Golden Hat.” The book celebrates self-expression, from the unique self-portraits and quotes of celebrities, to the writing of Keli, a 14-year-old boy with nonverbal autism. Autographed books by Kate Winslet will be available for sale on a first-come / first-serve basis. After a video presentation featuring Kate, co-author Margret D. Ericsdottir will introduce to the book and Kate’s new charity, the Golden Hat Foundation.

Film Screening “A Mother’s Courage: Talking Back to Autism”

6 - 9 pm Express Bar 3rd Floor, GA Building

Presented by the UN Department of Public Information, the Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations, and the Golden Hat Foundation

- Special introduction by Mrs. Dorrit Moussaieff, First Lady of Iceland. Margret, whose ten-year-old son Keli has severe nonverbal autism, travels from her home in Iceland to Europe and the United States, meeting with top autism experts and advocates to explore innovative new therapies for non-verbal autism. Margret finds hope that her son may soon be able to express himself on a level she never thought possible. A Q&A session with Margret Ericsdottir, the film’s producer and mother of Keli will follow the screening. Light refreshments will be provided. Kindly RSVP to Lisa.Helt@Goldenhatfoundation.org

World Autism Awareness Day Activities cont.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3rd

Panel Discussion on "WAAD: Delivering Answers through Inclusive International Collaboration"

4 - 6 pm ECOSOC Chamber, North Lawn Building.

- Featuring the public unveiling of the 2012 United Nations Postal Administration Autism Awareness Stamps. Co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations and Autism Speaks. Opening remarks will be delivered by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly, the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN, the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN and Autism Speaks founders Bob and Suzanne Wright. Moderated by award-winning journalist Christiane Amanpour, of CNN International. Kindly RSVP to RSVP@BrownLloydJames.com

THURSDAY, APRIL 5th

Photo Exhibit of "Through Her Eyes: A view into the challenges of raising an autistic child"

1:15 - 2:45 pm Room C, North Lawn Building

- Ms. Shai Ginott, an Israeli photographer, documents her autistic daughter's life and presents a different kind of family album. The presentation combines photography, storytelling and social commentary, and demonstrates what it is like to raise an autistic child. Light Lunch will be served from 12:30. Moderated by Juan Carlos Brandt, Chief of advocacy and Special Events, Department of Public Information. Kindly RSVP to: autismday@newyork.mfa.gov.il