

# The Spectrum

Newsletter of The Autism Society of Greater Madison

"The Local Voice of Autism"

Celebrating 40 years of community service!!

## President's Message — Fall 2009

Dear Members and Friends of ASGM,

Every time I sit down and contemplate what I should write about in this space, I find myself having a hard time figuring out which of the many happenings are most worthy of inclusion here. It always seems to be the case that so many momentous things either have occurred or are on the horizon, and this is no exception.

For me, probably the most gratifying development was the inclusion of autism insurance coverage in the most recent state budget bill. The provisions, which became effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, require coverage in many (though not all) instances where people access medical care related to an autism spectrum disorder. This has major implications for people of all ages, from those who may have been stuck on the waiting list for waiver services to adults who, in many other states, have not had these needs addressed. It makes me proud that Governor Jim Doyle and our legislature, led by Senator Judy Robson and Representative Kim Hixon, have done the right thing and worked to provide parity for our community. Many thanks to those of you who worked to help make this possible!

Also in the rear view mirror from this summer was the Autism Society (of America – old dogs like me have a hard time remembering to use the new name) national conference, which because of its proximity in St. Charles, IL, many of ASGM's members were able to attend. It was a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones while learning about issues of importance to our members. While future national conferences won't be in our neighborhood, I was struck by how similar it was to our annual Autism Society of Wisconsin conference. Once again, I see it as yet another example of how fortunate we are to live in this state.

Since you can read about various ASGM events (both past and future) elsewhere in this newsletter, I'll simply make my usual point that this organization exists for your benefit, and I hope that you find our offerings valuable, interesting, and fun. Your contributions of time and money make everything we do possible, and I am grateful for your support. There's so much more that could be done, of course, and I welcome your feedback on what you'd like to see us providing in the future.

Last, but certainly not least, the Autism Society has proposed new organizational bylaws and submitted them to the membership for approval. These are sweeping changes which will dramatically alter the landscape on both a national and a local level. There's a vigorous ongoing debate as to the merits of these changes, and I urge those of you who've received ballots to carefully read the proposed bylaws and learn what you can to make an informed decision. One way or another, the results of this vote are sure to provide me more material for the next President's Message!

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Eric Anderson, ASGM President



**IMPORTANT DATES**  
(See page 9 for details)

ASGM Board Mtgs.

ASGM Family  
Support Group

ASGM Quarterly  
Birthday Party

AUesome Social  
Group Activities  
Pages 5—7, & 9

Day with the Experts

Free Workshops

Sensory Friendly  
Films on All Star  
Saturday

**Newsletter Editor needed for  
producing *The Spectrum* quarterly!!!**

If you are interested, please contact us  
at [autismmadison@gmail.com](mailto:autismmadison@gmail.com)  
with inquiries.

It's time we went paperless!

**WARNING!!!** The next issue of *The Spectrum* will only be sent out electronically and continue to be available online. If you are not already receiving electronic mail from us, please contact us and make a request at [autismmadison@gmail.com](mailto:autismmadison@gmail.com). If you are **unable** to access the newsletter electronically, let us know so you will not experience an interruption in receiving our newsletter and so we can be sure to send you a paper copy.



**The Autism Society of Greater Madison (ASGM)** has been supporting families affected by autism and the professionals who assist them since 1969. **This year we are celebrating our 40th year anniversary!**

**Our mission** is to promote lifelong opportunities for persons on the autism spectrum and their families. We are dedicated to helping individuals with autism to be fully-included, participating members of their communities through information and referral, public awareness, education and support.

**We serve** South Central and Southwestern Wisconsin including Dane, Columbia, Sauk, Richland, Crawford, Rock, Green, Iowa, Lafayette and Grant counties. Our services include:

**Information and referral:** ASGM provides free information packets to parents, professionals, and educators. To request a packet, email: [autismmadison@gmail.com](mailto:autismmadison@gmail.com) or call (608) 213-8519.

**Family Support Group Meetings:** These meetings are open to individuals, parents, family members and friends dealing in some way with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. All of our meetings are free and open to the public. Sorry, there is **no childcare** provided during our meetings. We hold Support Group meetings on the third Tuesday of every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November) and workshops.

**Free Workshops:** on the third Tuesday of alternate months (Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct.), we offer free workshops that are open to the public. We also offer Autism

101 classes for parents of newly diagnosed children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Website:** visit the ASGM Web site at: [www.autismmadison.org](http://www.autismmadison.org). You'll find the most recent newsletter, a calendar of events, the local resource directory and the AUsome Social Group web-site.

**Social Group: The AUsome Social Group** meets monthly for an outing or social activity. The AUsome group was organized to provide recreation and social opportunities for young people ages 12 and above who are challenged by sensory/communication disorders such as Autism/Asperger's/PDD/Tourette's. However, anyone is welcome to join the activities. Activities are set up so that they allow for social interaction between group members and between parents and siblings of the group. Activities have included a video game night, bowling, swimming, and a juggling show.

**Newsletters:** *The Spectrum* is published four times a year, offering information on meetings, local events, education, and advocacy issues. We welcome submissions from our readers. Send to [autismmadison@gmail.com](mailto:autismmadison@gmail.com). The AUsome Social Group Newsletter is published six times a year and sent to AUsome Members.

**Local Resource Directory:** Where can you find an autism consultant? Information on the Children's Long-Term Services Waiver? Find everything you need for your family member, friend or client with autism in this directory covering the greater Madison area and is now available at [www.autismmadison.org](http://www.autismmadison.org).

## Autism Society of Greater Madison

*"The local voice of autism"*

*Mailing address (no office yet!):*

**2935 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. #101,  
Madison, WI 53711**

*Phone number:*

**(608) 213-8519**

*Website:*

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

*Email:*

[autismmadison@gmail.com](mailto:autismmadison@gmail.com)

## Board of Directors

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[eric.g.anderson@att.net](mailto:eric.g.anderson@att.net)

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*Email version of ASGM newsletter and announcements via email, send an email to:*

[autismmadison@gmail.com](mailto:autismmadison@gmail.com)



**Oct. 3 & 4, 2009**

The 4th Annual A-Maze-ing Days for Autism at Treinen Farm in Lodi was again celebrated wagon rides, corn mazes, the pumpkin patch, pumpkin sling-shot, raffles, carnival games, kids' activities, food, cakes, bouncy house, tractor tire sandbox, corn crib playhouse, farm animals, face painting and balloon creations. It was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces and share information about autism with our community, as well as hand out FREE Culvers frozen custard donated by Culvers of DeForest and Middleton. The community generously supported ASGM through donations, raffle ticket & carnival game purchases, a portion of maze admission fees and food purchases. Approximately \$7,000 was raised so that ASGM can continue providing the programs, information and events that takes place throughout the year.

A special thanks goes to the following sponsors for their generous support:



**Sincerest thanks to the following:**

Loren & Carole Ziglin  
Culver's of DeForest  
Culver's of Middleton  
Molly & Lou Immendorf  
Kerasotes Star Cinema  
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Old Chicago  
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Odana Tire & Service



**3rd annual event!**  
Run to support the  
Autism Society of Greater Madi-

**Looking for a great way to bring in the New Year?**

How about a 5 mile chip-timed run followed by wings, great prizes and giveaways and New Year's Day bowl games on large screen TV's? If that sounds good to you, then please join us for the 3rd Annual New Year's Day Dash. Here are the details:

- 9:00 a.m.—Registration—Quaker Steak and Lube, 2259 Deming Way, Middleton, WI 53562
- 10:30 a.m.—Free 1 Mile Kids (12 & under)
- 11:00 a.m.—Race starts
- \$20.00 if you register by Dec. 15th
- \$25.00 after Dec. 15th thru Race Day
- 

Register on-line at:

<http://racedayeventsllc.com/newyearsdaydash/default.htm>



## All-Star Saturday Sensory Friendly Films

There is a new partnership between Star Cinema, Imagine a Child's Capacity (ICC) and the Autism Society of Greater Madison. Star Cinema and ICC have been running these sensory friendly films for the past three years. A movie experience designed to be enjoyed by all! Featuring lower movie volume; Higher theatre lights; "Break area" available; Accepting and Inviting atmosphere. Please enter through the IMAX entrance on the EAST side of Star Cinema.

Many thanks are due to Sharon Hammer at ICC and Steve Carpenter from Star Cinema for providing our community an opportunity to view films on the "big screen" in an environment sensitive to families with special needs.

The cost is \$5 per person. These events are not fundraisers for ICC or ASGM. All proceeds go to Star Cinema for the use of their facilities. ICC and ASGM provide volunteers to check attendees at the IMAX entrance on the east side of Star Cinema. We also provide a "quiet area" with a large crash pillow and tent. Fidgets and other sensory objects have been loaned out by ICC, however, an effort to ascertain a supply of these items just for the use of this event is being made.

These films are shown on the last Saturday of every month, without fail! Doors open at 9:00am. And the show starts at 9:30 am. Only twice has a film been shown more than once due to popularity of the film and/or the unavailability of a family-friendly film rating for that particular month.

Come join us at Star Cinema (Madison/Fitchburg) @ 6091 McKee Rd - Hwy PD for the next movie. If you would like to be put on the email list for monthly updates, contact Krysia Braun at autismmadi-son@gmail.com.

## Volunteer Opportunity Details!

ASGM is looking for one time and ongoing volunteers for events, activities, projects and committees! Do you have a specific skill you'd like to use for ASGM? There are a number of ways to get involved with the Autism Society of Greater Madison. If there is an area you are more interested in than others, let us know.

### ASGM Board Members

If you are interested in becoming a board of directors member, please express your interest to Eric Anderson at [eric.g.anderson@att.net](mailto:eric.g.anderson@att.net).

### ASGM Committees

- **Marketing** (e.g. Membership, ASGM literature, brochure, website & newsletter, publicity & fundraising)
- **Finance** (i.e. bookkeeping, fundraising, etc.)
- **Activities** (i.e. AUsome Social Group, Quarterly Birthday Parties, A-Maze-ing Days, Annual pool party, etc.)
- **Education** (i.e. workshops, Day with the Experts, autism awareness, etc.)

### All-Star Saturdays

Saturday, May 30, June 27, July 25 and Aug. 29 at Star Cinema in Fitchburg from 9 - 11:30 am (We need help taking money at the door, being available for families who may need sensory equipment to get over a tough time, directing people to the theater, etc.)

### Quarterly Birthday Parties

First Saturdays in Feb/May/Aug/Nov. at Pump It Up in Fitchburg. Help is needed checking in attendees, putting up the ASGM display, interacting with kiddos and facilitating the pizza party at the end.

### 2010 A-Maze-ing Days for Autism Committee

Needed are volunteers to work on the following aspects of the event: Food, Carnival Games, Raffle, Publicity & Marketing and sponsorships.

Thank you for considering volunteering! Your help is greatly appreciated

## Upcoming All-Star Saturday Movies!

November movie title: "Planet 51" *animated* rated PG  
 December movie title: " TBD " rated PG  
 January movie title: " TBD " rated PG



# The AUsome Social Group

Teen/Young Adult Recreation/Social Group  
 Sponsored by the Autism Society of Greater Madison (ASGM) and  
 funded by the byCapital Times Kid's Fund  
 Group Coordinator: Nancy Alar  
 Contact Nancy at (608) 222-4378 or [ausome@hughes.net](mailto:ausome@hughes.net)

## Video Game Night and Pizza at a *NEW LOCATION!!*

**(Please! Bring your TV set/video game setup, Extra controllers and extension cords if you can)**

**When:** Saturday, Nov. 7, '09, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

**Where:** Lussier Community Education Center (LCEC), 55 S. Gammon Rd, Madison, WI 53717  
 (Next to Memorial High School On the West side of Madison) - see map on next page

**Cost:** Free! Pizza and soft drinks provided

We had to have video game night in a different location this year because the church where we usually have it is being remodeled. Hopefully by next year the church will be available again. Please RSVP (phone or e-mail) by Wednesday, November 4, 2009 so I know who is coming, what game gear/TV setups you can bring and how many pizzas we need. We should have a fairly good turnout, since this has been one of our most popular activities in past years. As usual, the AUsome scrap books will be available for everyone to look at.

The LCEC is just north of Jefferson Middle School which is next to Memorial High School, and shares a driveway with the Jefferson. It is the first stoplight on Gammon Road north of the intersection of Gammon and Mineral Point Road (see map). There is a parking lot right in front of the LCEC.

Call if you need more detailed directions and to discuss which game gear you'll be bringing. Cost is FREE and includes all the pizza and soda you can eat! Thanks to Nancy Ishikawa for setting up the LCEC location for me. Also thanks to the Capital Times Kid's Fund for paying for the rental of the LCEC space and our pizza! Parents are welcome to stay and watch the games, but don't have to if your family member can manage on their own. I'll need some help with setup (starting at 6:30) and cleanup. We must leave the building by 9:30.

We are bringing 2 TV sets and Matt Ward's Nintendo 64 (with race games). I know this is old technology, but it still works. I do need others to bring your TV/game setups. The TV's and extension cords are the most critical since TV's are hard to lug around and lots of things need to be plugged in. If you can bring a "splitter" for extension cords, that helps too.

The good news is they have lots of electrical outlets in the room we'll be in. Even if you can't bring a TV/game setup, bring any extra controllers you have! With multiple controllers, up to 4 can play Nintendo 64 at once. Note that a game machine without a TV is not usable, so either bring the whole thing or just your extra controllers. The emphasis here is on fun with multiple players, so try to bring games that more than one can play. Please don't bring really violent games or other inappropriate things. If anyone has a Play Station 2 or an X-box, that would be great if you could bring it with a TV. Please come even if you have no game gear to bring. With multiple player setups we should do fine. Even if we don't have enough, we'll take turns. Even if you don't like to play you can come to watch and eat pizza. If you have a dance-dance revolution game, be sure to bring the mat and cables.

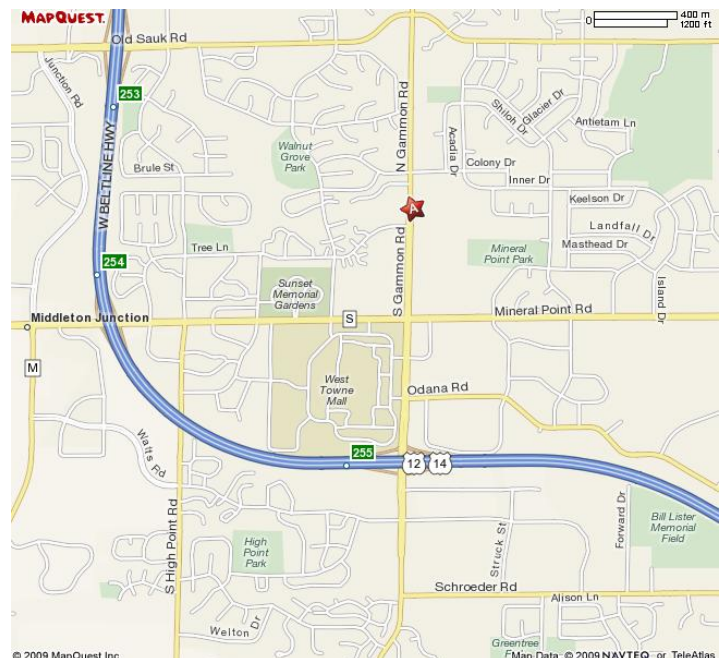
Pizza (from Pizza Hut) will be delivered about 7:30 pm and soft drinks will be provided.

### Important Items and Sensory Issues:

There will be a noise level with some yelling (There will be a "quiet room" area to get away).

Bring your TV/game gear setup

Bring any extra game controllers you have even if you don't bring a full setup.



## Lochlan Masters the Magician

When: Saturday, December 5, 2009, noon – 2 pm

**Where:** Lussier Community Education Center (LCEC)

55 S. Gammon Rd, Madison, WI 53717  
(Next to Memorial High School On the West side of Madison) - see map on page 5

Cost: Free! Bring a treat to share – soft drinks will be provided

Lochlan Masters is a well known magician in the Madison area. Engaging humor is always part of his performance of incredible object manipulation tricks that seem to defy the laws of physics! Some of you may have seen him do his magic tricks at other functions. I have not seen his magic act before myself, so I am looking forward to seeing him perform. You can learn more about Lochlan at his website at <http://www.lochlanmasters.com/>.

Lochlan will perform magic tricks for us using coins and ropes and other everyday objects. Some of us in the audience will even be invited to participate in some of the tricks. Even though Lochlan often makes balloon animals when he performs, he will NOT be using any balloons in his act for us. There won't be anything that makes loud noises or fire so it should be a spectrum friendly show.

As part of the show, Lochlan will teach us how to do a magic trick with one of his props. This will give you an inside look at how these magic tricks are performed. Lochlan makes the magic look easy, but it takes a lot of practice to be good at what he does. Come expecting to be amazed by Lochlan Masters the Magician and his magic abilities!

Please bring some type of finger food snack to share. I will provide soft drinks (and hot chocolate if it is cold). After the performance, we will have refreshments and get a chance to talk to Lochlan about his career as a magician. This is also our chance to socialize and renew our friendships. I would appreciate it if some group members can help with setting up and putting away the chairs for the performance.

See map on the last page for directions. There is a parking lot right in front of the LCEC. There should be plenty of room.

Thanks to Nancy Ishikawa for contacting Lochlan and setting up the location for me. Also thanks to the Capital Times Kid's Fund for paying for the rental of the LCEC space.

Important Items and Sensory Issues:

1. There will not be any balloons
2. Bring a snack to share

## What Happened at AUsome's Last Outings?

**Henry Vilas Zoo Visit and Snack afterwards** Saturday, September 5, 2009; 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

The good news about our trip to the Henry Vilas Zoo is the weather was perfect. In a way, this was also the bad news because it was so nice that I think everyone in town decided to go to the zoo that day. We all had problems finding a parking place. We eventually waded through the crowds and found the nicely shaded outdoor auditorium that zookeeper Rick Bilkey had reserved for us and our private animal show. It was great to be able to have that part of the zoo all to ourselves.

Rick was busy elsewhere, but the volunteer husband and wife team of Jim and Helen really did a good job showing us some of the zoo animals up close. First Jim shared with us some general information about the zoo. It is one of only 10 free zoos in the whole country. Jim and Helen have been doing animal shows for the zoo for almost 30 years. They apologized for not having the "biggest Toad in the World" available to show us. They had planned to, but the toad had come down with something and had to make a trip to the "toad vet".

We had about 16 people there seated on comfortable bleachers to watch the rest of the show. First we got to meet Bart, the barred owl. Bart was sitting on Jim's leather-gloved hand. Bart's talons are so sharp they would cut right through skin without the really thick leather glove. Bart can't fly very well because he had a broken wing that didn't heal properly. But the owl could fly a little so they had a leash around his leg called a "jess" which is what people use to work with falcons. Barred owls can live 25 – 40 years and eat 2-3 mice a day. The gross part was where Jim described how the owl eats a mouse and then vomits up an "owl pellet" of bones and fur leftovers a few hours later. We also learned that only Native Americans can possess owl feathers and that crows try to chase owls away if they see one sitting in a tree. Jim pointed out that Bart had really big eyes because owls hunt mostly at night. Owls can see and hear a lot better than we can. Also, owl feathers are very soft and fluffy (we got to feel them) because this allows them to fly very silently. Jim said if a barred owl flew past you just above your head at night, you would never hear it and wouldn't know it was there. This allows the owls to sneak up on mice when they hunt.

After the owl, we met Jimmy-John, the giant, white rabbit. He was a mixed breed rabbit, part lop-ear and something else. He was black and white, mostly white. He had been left at the zoo door like a baby orphan. They have thicker fur in winter and live 6-7 years. Jimmy-John was really shedding fur. We all got a chance to pet

him and every stroke left a cloud of white rabbit hair wafting through the air. We all had rabbit fur stuck to our clothes.

Next Jim brought out the ball python – Monty. They have another python called Julius Squeezer. Monty was 5 feet long and 8 years old. They can live to be 20. Some interesting things we learned about snakes: They have no eyelids; All snakes can swim and climb trees; They can't hear, but they sense vibrations from touching the ground and other things in their environment.

Finally we met Lucky, the black foot penguin. These penguins come from the southern tip of South Africa (all penguins are found in the southern hemisphere). Penguins have very tiny feathers – about 70 per square inch of penguin skin – that they molt each year. Lucky eats about 16 small fish a day that he swallows whole. He kind of stinks like fish. Male and female penguins mate for life. It is hard to tell the males and females apart. The zoo bands the male penguins on the right wing and the female penguins on the left wing so they can keep track of the sexes.

Jim said if we want to ask him more questions about the zoo, we can contact him at [jimdolphinman@att.net](mailto:jimdolphinman@att.net).

## Resources

**E-mail Announcements:** If you would like to be added or removed from the ASGM E-mail list, please let ASGM know. Contact us at [autismmadi-son@gmail.com](mailto:autismmadi-son@gmail.com). The listserv is **not** one that you can post messages to.

**The ASGM Resource Directory is periodically updated** but will always be a “work in progress” as providers and programs come and go, and recommendations from members are made. We always welcome recommendations, feedback, corrections, updates, new additions, etc. for the following counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock and Sauk.

**Autism Society of Wisconsin's Listserv:** This list provides an opportunity for people in the autism community to exchange information and offer support. Open to Wisconsinites and interested others. This list is not to be used for the purpose of sending messages that ridicule any particular agency or individual, or for advertising purposes. The moderators have the right to accept or deny any posts. Opinions and/or information expressed by members of this group are personal and do not reflect the opinion of the Autism Society of Wisconsin. The Autism Society of Wisconsin cannot be held responsible for the way this information is used or applied. Visit us at [www.asw4autism.org](http://www.asw4autism.org) for more info. or to sign up.

**CDC's New Autism Web site:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention launched a new Web site in August dedicated to autism. The site includes basic information about autism screening, diagnosis, and treatments. In addition, the site provides access to data, statistics, research, publications, and additional resources. Visit [www.cdc.gov/autism](http://www.cdc.gov/autism). CDC

**Kid Stuff Madison:** This is a one-stop-shop for finding the many fun, diverse and family-oriented events that Madison & the surrounding area has to offer. Each week this site provides updates: <http://kidstuffmadison.com/>

## A-Maze-ing Days Outing

Night tour of the mermaid corn maze

with a bonfire & S'mores

October 3, 2009 (Saturday), 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Although the actual AUsome outing was in the evening, we had a full range of activities all day and lots of good food.

The weather for the evening AUsome activity was a bit chilly for a spooky night trip through the corn maze. Also it had been raining earlier in the day, so the maze was a bit muddy. But it didn't rain (much, OK, maybe a few sprinkles) on us and our fire. We had about 10 people turn out for this. Everyone who came got a light necklace.

The Treinens really have the maze experience well organized. They give you a maze map, but it is in the form of an 8 piece puzzle and you only get the first piece to start. You have to find a mail box in the first part of the maze with the second piece of the puzzle so you can find the 2<sup>nd</sup> mail box and the 3<sup>rd</sup> piece of the puzzle, etc. Besides finding the maze puzzle pieces, there are 8 posts with paper punches scattered around the maze. If you find one, you put the punch on your map. If you get 4 punches, you get a prize. If you find all 8 punches, you get a bigger prize. There is also a reward of a piece of candy if you don't open your “cheaters” map that they give you in case of emergency. Everyone always asks what happens if they get lost. The maze workers always reply that they always find everyone when they harvest the corn in November! That always gets a laugh.

We had the bonfire for the S'mores in a different place from last year. We had a private area right next to the corn maze with picnic tables all around the fire to sit on. It sure made it easier to make the S'more with a flat surface to work on. Even though we were a smaller group than last year, we ate up almost as much graham crackers, chocolate and marshmallows as we did last year.

It is very quiet and peaceful at the farm at night. The fire was stoked high and then burned down just right for marshmallows (I love building fires – we burned up all the wood in the vicinity!) I enjoyed the conversation I had with Lori Wing and David Smith. It was a stellar night.

## ASW 2010 Annual Conference in Green Bay

**March 18-20, 2010**

The Annual Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW) conference will be March 18-20, 2010 at the Hotel Sierra (formerly the Regency Suites) in Green Bay. This is much earlier than usual. The early bird (cheapest) conference rates are only available through November 25, 2009. The registration form is a little confusing because the full conference rate for someone on the spectrum is \$90 (up from \$60 last year, but still a real bargain) regardless of when you register. Parents and other attendees have to pay a lot more, but they do get an early bird rate. See the ASW web site for more information - <http://www.asw4autism.org/>.

Yes! We will have two special autism conference strands (youth and "across the lifespan"). We will have a hospitality room and an art/favorite things display. On Friday evening, we'll have a pizza supper, a talent show, and a dance. Register early so we know how many to plan for.

At this conference we try to make those on the spectrum as comfortable as we can. We will take sensory issues and dietary restrictions into consideration as much as possible. Those who want to participate in the youth and self-advocacy strands will need to register for the conference and pay the registration fee (the fee for those on the spectrum is only \$90!). This conference is a place where those on the spectrum are valued for their differences. You are the reason this conference exists.

Contact Kelly Brodhagen at [asw@asw4autism.org](mailto:asw@asw4autism.org) or call (920) 973-4080.



**Coming in January 2010!!**

The 5th Annual

## Day with the Experts

*Autism Research and Clinical Presentations, a Panel of People on the Autism Spectrum and Available Autism Resource Services*

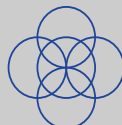
For the first time in five years, this highly anticipated and unique conference will be **free!**

This event offers participants an opportunity to learn about research and clinical studies being conducted on Autism Spectrum Disorders at the Waisman Center, to hear first hand from a panel of people diagnosed with an ASD and their family members and resources that are available in Wisconsin, particularly in the SW region. Registration forms and information will be available online on the ASGM website.

***Please join us!***

Look for details on our website and in the monthly E-blast for December and January. To sign up for the E-blast, contact us at: [autismmadison@gmail.com](mailto:autismmadison@gmail.com).

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CENTER

and



## Meetings, Workshops and Special Events

### AUSome Social Group Events

**November 7**– Video Game & Pizza Night

**December 5** – Magic Show

**January 16**—*MadFest Juggling Festival at UW Madison*

For all activities, contact Nancy Alar, AUSome Social Group Coordinator at ausome@hughes.net or call (608) 222-4378 for details.

### Board of Directors Meetings

**When:** 6:30-8:30 pm Nov. 10, 2009 and in 2010, Jan. 12, Mar. 9, May 11, July 13, Sept. 14, Nov. 9

**Where:** 2820 Walton Commons, Madison

**Description:** Board meetings are open to all ASGM members.

### Upcoming ASGM Events & Workshops

*3rd Tues. of Jan., Mar., May, Jul., Sept. and Nov.*—**ASGM Support Group**

*Last Saturday of every month*—**All-Star Saturday at Star Cinema**—**Sensory Friendly Films**—in partnership with Imagine a Child's Capacity and Star Cinema (showing starts at

9:30 a.m.) Nov. 28 —"Planet 51" *animated* (PG)—subject to change

**Nov. 7**—**Quarterly Birthday Party at Pump It Up**

9:00-11:15 am at Pump It Up, 2911 Marketplace Dr. (in Fitchburg, near Breakaway Soccer & Pinnacle Health Club). **RSVP needed** to autismmadison@gmail.com with the number of the kids and adults attending. You will enjoy playing in both arenas and then having some pizza, drinks and cake afterward. A quiet room is available. Siblings are always included and friends can be invited if there is space available.

Parties are on the first Saturdays of the following months: February/May/August/November

**January 1, 2010**—**New Year's Day Dash**

**Free Workshops:** Topics and presenters are being scheduled. Dates they are scheduled for are: Feb. 9, Apr. 20, June 15, Aug. 17, and Oct. 19. See website and monthly E-blasts for details and announcements.

For details, visit our website at

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

## Local Autism Support Groups

### ASGM Family Support Group

Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November) at Midvale Lutheran Community Church, 4329 Tokay Blvd. (corner of Midvale and Tokay). For info. visit [www.autismmadison.org/](http://www.autismmadison.org/)

**ANGEL, Inc. :** Please contact Jennifer Larson at

Jenny\_Larson@excite.com or visit

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

**Columbia County Support Group:** Please contact Andrea C. Uherka, Columbia County Family Resource Center Director, at (608)742-8482 ext. 19

**Dane County Parent to Parent:** For a reservation call the Epilepsy Foundation at 442-5555 or 800-657-4929.

**FUNE Support Group:** *Familias Unidas con Ninos Especiales* 442-5555, 800-657-4929

**MAGIC** –Middleton Abilities Group Improving Community:

For information visit [www.magic4ourkids.ning.com](http://www.magic4ourkids.ning.com) and to contact the group coordinator.

**Eastern Dane County Parent to Parent Support Group:**

East Madison and Deerfield area support group. For more information call Christine Pavelko at 608-839-8067 or e-mail

[jcpav@verizon.net](mailto:jcpav@verizon.net).

**Mocha Moms:** For more information please contact:

[melid\\_k@yahoo.com](mailto:melid_k@yahoo.com) or visit [www.mochamoms.org](http://www.mochamoms.org).

**Mom's Night Out!:** Please contact Communication Innovations at (608) 204-6083. 2990 Cahill Main, Fitchburg WI 53711

**Parent Support Group at Common Threads:** Common

Threads Family Resource Center, 5979 Siggelkow Rd., McFarland. Call (608) 838-8999 for more information.

**Parent Support Group Meetings— Wisconsin Family Ties:**

Please contact Linda Kustka at 608-232-0277 or

[linda@wifamilyties.org](mailto:linda@wifamilyties.org).

**Partners in Parenting Resource Center/Centro de Recursos para la Familia--Madison**

Where: CHILDREN'S SERVICE SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN, 205 Deer Valley Road #1, Madison, WI 53713. Contact Romilia Schlueter at [romilia.schlueter@cssw.org](mailto:romilia.schlueter@cssw.org)

**Special Needs Support Group:** For free registration, please contact Jen Dittrich at [jdittrich@provost.wisc.edu](mailto:jdittrich@provost.wisc.edu) with the Office of Child Care and Family Resources or 890-0436. Visit [www.wisc.edu/occf](http://www.wisc.edu/occf) for more information. \*Child Care Provided!

**Sun Prairie—Special Needs Parent Support:** For more information contact Michelle Skindzelewski at [skind2@verizon.net](mailto:skind2@verizon.net) or visit [www.madison.com/communities/sunprairie\\_specialneeds/](http://www.madison.com/communities/sunprairie_specialneeds/)

**TACA Support Group:** For more information contact Dayna Sable at [dsable@charter.net](mailto:dsable@charter.net).

**Wisconsin Family Ties—Parent Support Group**— 3 Madison Locations

·**Madison West Side:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6-7:30 pm  
Location: Wisconsin Youth Company/After School, 1201 McKenna Blvd

**Madison East Side:** Last Tuesday of the month, 6:30- 8 pm.  
Location: Hawthorne Library, 2707 East Washington Ave (except Dec)

**Madison South Side:** 3rd Monday of the month, 11 am – 12:30 pm. Location: Harambee Center, 2202 South Park Street  
For additional information, please contact Linda Kustka at or [linda@wifamilyties.org](mailto:linda@wifamilyties.org)

**Waunakee Special Needs Community Connection:**

Contact Julie Heibel at 849-6260 or E-mail: [jheibel@aol.com](mailto:jheibel@aol.com)

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The Autism Society of  
Greater Madison  
*The local voice of autism*  
2935 S. Fish Hatchery  
Rd.#101  
Madison, WI 53711



## ASGM Chapter Membership Form: Join or Renew Today!

Use this form to join, renew your membership, make a donation, or notify us of an address change.

Mail this form and your check made out to our **mailing** address:

*Autism Society of Greater Madison  
2935 S. Fish Hatchery Rd., #101  
Madison, WI 53711.*

For information on membership, events, workshops and meetings visit [www.autismmadison.org](http://www.autismmadison.org) or call (608) 213-8519.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I want ASGM Email newsletters and announcements. Please sign me up!

Categories (check all that apply):       New     Renewal     Address Change

Membership type:     Individual     Family

\_\_\_\_ Individual      \$12/year (includes membership for the AUsome Social Group and the local & state organizations)

\_\_\_\_ Family      \$15/year (includes membership for the AUsome Social Group and the local & state organizations)

\_\_\_\_ Tax Deductible Contribution \$\_\_\_\_\_ Thank you!

\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 to help defray the cost of the ASGM quarterly newsletter and the bimonthly AUsome Social Group Newsletter.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed