



Can you guess the country of this beautiful December scene?
See page 12 for the answer.

Community Connection

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Newsletter

DESE/DDS Program Interest Forms are due 12/31/2019!

The DESE/DDS Program is designed to provide in-home and community based therapeutic supports to students ages 6 to 22, who demonstrate a need for services to prevent a more restrictive out of home residential placement. This Program also offers an increased level of support services to families whose student returns from a residential school placement and requires assistance to remain at home.

Completion of the DESE/DDS Interest Form only serves to show a family's interest in the Program, and does not guarantee participation in the DESE/DDS Program which will be determined through an Assessment and Prioritization Process.

The DESE Program interest form can be found [HERE](#), or by calling DDS at 617-624-7518, or calling our office at 413-529-2428. If you have questions please call our office and one of our DESE specialists can give you more information. Forms are also available in other languages.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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¡Hola! Hablamos español
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Easthampton, MA 01027
413.529.2428

Berkshire Office
75 South Church Street, Suite 402
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413.443.4780

Our Mission: To help families, schools, professionals, agencies, and communities understand autism, promote the well-being of individuals with autism, and foster their inclusion in the community.



Conference Corner

We just chose our Breakout Sessions and will be going live soon with our opportunities to attend, exhibit and sponsor! Our longtime supporter Radcliffe *is the Reason and Arthur Too Fight for Autism* has again signed on as our exclusive Speaker Sponsor. Please keep World Autism Day, April 2020 free to spend the day connecting and being inspired!



Holiday Party

See Santa on Friday evening, December 6, at our annual Holiday Party at the Eastworks event space in Easthampton!

See our event on our Facebook page, and be sure to RSVP.

Happy Holidays, and a peaceful New Year to everyone.

donate
Thank You!



NEWS & UPDATES

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Berkshire County Activities

Autism Collaborative of Berkshire County (ACBC), March 6, 2020

CIP, 40 Main Street, Suite 3, Lee, MA

March's ACBC Meeting topic is **Addressing social and mental health challenges for individuals on the Autism Spectrum: Evidence based practice**. Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) and College Internship Program (CIP) will be co-presenters at the meeting. Reserve your spot by emailing emailacbc@gmail.com. We expect to fill up so please register early! This training is for professionals and parents/caretakers.

November's meeting on **Emergency Preparedness** attracted a full room of educators at Lenox Memorial Middle and High School on a Professional Development Day and was a very successful day of learning!

Sensory Friendly Movie: Star Wars—The Rise of Skywalker SF

*Regal Cinemas, Berkshire Mall, Route 8 and Old State Road, Lanesboro, MA
December 30, 2019, Movie starts at 10:00 but please arrive by 9:45 to register, \$5.00*



Join Autism Connections for a sensory friendly showing of the new Star Wars movie! Lights will be up halfway and the cinema will be at 1/2 capacity for us to keep the sensory challenges limited. The movie is rated PG+13. RSVP to Joyce at joyce.paige@pathlightgroup.org to save your spot. We expect to fill up so please register early (This is a cash only event).

Classes at Autism Connections Pittsfield

Free Community Swim, all ages: Gladys Allen Brigham Center, Pittsfield on Thursdays, 6:00p.m.—7:00p.m. until May 2020. See the [flyer](#) for more info and call the center to register, 413-442-5174 x 25.

Navigating Social Nuances: This group meets on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00p.m.-6:00p.m. at the AC office and is for young adults to explore social and interpersonal topics. October 8, 2019 through February 13, 2020. Contact [Regina](#) for more information.

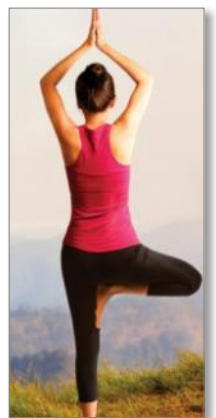
Asperger's Support Group: Every third Wednesday of the month, 5:00 p.m.-6:00p.m., 18+. [Email Lizzie](#) for info.

Young Adult Social Group: Two Fridays per month, September—June. Hang out with a bunch of cool folks twice per month! For more information, contact Erica.donovan@pathlightgroup.org.

New, FREE community yoga class!

*Wednesdays November 20, 2019—
January 29, 2019, 4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.
Autism Connections
75 South Church Street,
Suite 402, Pittsfield*

Join Paula Boyajian for guided instruction in a supported yoga class for teens (16+) and adults with autism. This FREE class is also open to the community. The goal of the class is to expose students to different types of relaxation methods using chair yoga as well as floor yoga and breathing exercises. Contact [Kelly](#) for more information or to register.



Holiday and Sensory-friendly events (SF = sensory friendly)

Autism Connections Holiday Party and Sensory Santa (all ages) SF Santa

*Friday, December 6, 2019, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Eastworks Event Space (First floor near Riff's Restaurant,
116 Pleasant Street, Easthampton, FREE*

Join us for our Family Friendly Holiday Party on December 6. Santa will be available for individual visits!

“Oh the weather outside is frightful... But our Holiday Party will be delightful!”. It is time to get in the mood for that special magic of the holiday season. We will have pizza, snacks, and fun activities for everyone. We'd love to see you, and happy holidays! RSVP to Joyce at joyce.paige@pathlightgroup.org, or 413-529-2428.

Christmas Book Reading SF

*Saturday, December 7, 2019, 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
First Congregational Church, 306 Chicopee Street, Chicopee
FREE*

Sensory story time with local children's author Cheryl Malandrino. Cheryl will be reading her book, **Christmas Kindness**. This book is geared for ages 4 through 8. After the reading there will be a craft, cookies and cocoa.

Cheryl will also be on hand so you may purchase and have her sign the book. The book is \$7.00, cash only.

Adaptive skating and ice games SF

*Sunday December 8, 2019, 1:00 p.m.—2:50 p.m.
Fitzpatrick Memorial Rink, 575 Maple Street, Holyoke
FREE, but RSVP required to Laila.soleimani@state.ma.us*

Lace up a pair of conventional skates or slide around the ice on your manual or power wheelchair. Ice sleds are also available to glide around—propel yourself with small hockey sticks or be pushed around the rink by a friend.



Activities on the ice include obstacle courses, a tower of blocks for building up and crashing down, races, colorful balls and pucks to shoot around, power chair games, and gently competitive hockey matches.

Ice sleds, skate walkers, helmets, ice grippers, and ice skates are available for use, free of charge. This event is held one Sunday per month, inquire at above email for more dates.

Springfield Festival of Trees

*November 29—December 15, 2019, various times
MassMutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield, MA*



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield opened the 19th Annual Festival of Trees just after Thanksgiving.

A stroll through this colorful forest of more than 140 whimsical, beautiful and creative Christmas trees, all donated and decorated by area businesses, organizations, families and individuals, will put you in the holiday spirit for sure, especially when you have the chance to win one!

Bring your Thunderbirds ticket for free admission before the game!

Tinseler Trains with Santa Claus

*November 29—December 22, 2019, various days & times
Hoosac Valley Train Ride, 3 Hoosac Street, Adams, MA*

Experience a 1950's Christmas aboard the Tinseler Christmas Trains. This event is sponsored by Hoosac Valley Train Ride and Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum. Enjoy a one hour round trip train ride full of cheer, caroling, and a visit from Santa with a gift for every child on board. Reserve your tickets online ahead of time as capacity is limited!



Train Dates: Nov 29-30, Dec 1, 7-8, 14-15 & 21-22.

Departures times vary per day. See schedule on link above.

Holiday and Sensory-friendly events

[A Christmas Carol, The Colonial Theater, Pittsfield SF](#)

December 11, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

The Colonial Theater, 111 South Street, Pittsfield, MA

Berkshire Theatre Group presents a special community and sensory-friendly performance of *A Christmas Carol*. The performance is slightly modified to accommodate individuals with sensory-input disorders.

At this performance, you will notice relaxed “house rules”; people may need to get up, move around, and leave the theatre during the performance. There is no expectation that the audience will be completely quiet during the performance. Our goal is to create an environment where people with autism or sensory needs, along with their families, can enjoy coming to the theatre together and will feel comfortable, supported and free to be themselves.

Discounted tickets may be available, please call Autism Connections at 413-529-2428.



[Pioneer Valley Ballet, Nutcracker SF](#)

Friday, December 13, 2019

Doors open at 3:30 p.m., show at 4:00 p.m.

Academy of Music Theater, 274 Main Street, Northampton

This specially designed performance has lighting and sound accommodations for reduced sensory experiences. A narrator will assist the audience at the start of the performance.

And don't worry about remaining totally quiet, trying not to fidget, or needing to get up and then come back to your seat. This performance is designed to accommodate all of that!

The show will run approximately 1 hour without an intermission. There is a specially designed seating scheme for this performance to seat the audience close to the aisles.

[Look Park's Santa Train and Winter Wonderland Lights](#)

Train: December 13—December 23, 2019

4:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Lights: November 29—January 1, 2020

4:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Look Memorial Park, 300 North Main Street, Florence

Enjoy the magic of the season by taking a trip around Look Park for a Winter Wonderland Light Display. Wave to the friendly dragon, imagine a princess getting ready for a ball in her light up castle and sing some carols with your family while your drive around the park. Don't forget to stop by Santa's Trains before you leave if you visit December 13th to the 24th. Entrance for the light display is free for all.

[A Holiday Concert and Bash](#)

Saturday December 14, 2019, 6:00 p.m. —11:00 p.m.

Flywheel, 43 Main Street, Easthampton, MA, FREE



The 5th Annual Holiday Bash to Benefit Whole Children is coming soon! Join the party at the Flywheel Arts Collective and bring your holiday spirit and rock out with the Friendship Band and the Joyful Chorus! The Thread House band and special guest Christa Joy and The Honeybees will also be performing.

[Hanukkah First Light Celebration](#)

Sunday, December 22, 2019, 4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Springfield Jewish Community Center, 1160 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 413-739-4735, FREE

Holiday and Sensory-friendly events



Join in the annual community-wide Hanukkah celebration. Families will delight in Marilyn Price's talented storytelling/puppeteer act starting at 4:30. At 5:30 p.m., the largest menorah in Western Mass will be illuminated! Call JCC for info.

Look Park's Sensory-friendly Santa Train SF

December 21, 2019, 1:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Look Memorial Park, 300 North Main Street, Florence



Children of all ages will have the chance to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, explore an enchanted forest of Christmas Trees and spellbinding miniature villages with working model trains whizzing by.

Hop on the hayride and take a spin around the park to enjoy the holiday light display. Tickets are \$5.00 per person (for the hayride).

Relax by the fire with cocoa. Find a special spot for your holiday photos. Be marveled by the magic of the season.

ENTRANCE TO SANTA'S TRAINS IS FREE FOR ALL!

A Christmas Story, American Sign Language and Audio Described

December 21, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

The Hanover Theater, 2 Southbridge Street, Worcester
info@thehanovertheatre.org

Adapted by president and CEO Troy Siebels and featuring the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, the 12th annual production is set with timeless music, colorful costumes and spectacular lighting and scenery. New and returning cast members tell the tale of curmudgeonly miser, Ebenezer Scrooge (Jeremy

Lawrence from TV's "Blacklist"), who is visited by the Spirits of Christmases Past, Present and Yet To Come.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas SF

December 21, 2019, 11:00 a.m.

Providence Performing Arts Center, Providence, RI
 Call 401-421-2787 for tickets, there may be discounts available for this performance.

Hear more about SF performances at the theater here:

https://youtu.be/J4_XQP5tOmw

Social narrative to prep for this specific performance:

<https://www.ppacri.org/assets/doc/Grinch-Social-Narrative-v2-4f850873c0.pdf>

In partnership with The Autism Project, PPAC's NEW Sensory-Friendly performances create a guest experience that is welcoming, judgement free, and inclusive of guests with a wide range of sensory, learning and physical differences. These performances are perfect for young children, and guests who might benefit from a more relaxed theatrical environment. Sensory-Friendly accommodations include: lowered house lights, adjusted sound levels, and a designated quiet area within the theatre lobby. These sensory-friendly performances are being created to foster a welcoming setting for individuals with autism, special needs and their families.

Miracle on 34th Street SF

December 21, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

Greater Boston Stage Company, 395 Main Street, Stoneham, MA, 781-279-2200 (Box Office)

The sensory-friendly production of **Miracle on 34th Street** will be a performance dedicated to creating a more welcoming space for individuals with sensory-input disorders including autism spectrum disorder. There will be modifications throughout the theatre space that create a friendly and supportive environment, encouraging patrons to experience the magic of theatre in their own way.

Bounce! Springfield, SF

Friday, December 27, 2019, 9:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.

1250 St. James Avenue, Springfield, MA

Join us for our Sensory Friendly hour at Bounce! We are

AUTISM CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

SUN

MON

TUES

WEDS

1

2

3

4

Free Community Yoga
Autism Connections
Pittsfield, 4:00pm -5:00pm

8

9

10

11

Navigating Social Nuances
Autism Connections
Pittsfield, 4:00pm—6:00pm
CALL FOR INFO: 413-529-2428

Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviors Workshop
Family Empowerment
41 Russell Street
Hadley, 6:00pm—8:00pm

Free Community Yoga
Autism Connections
Pittsfield, 4:00pm -5:00pm

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Navigating Social Nuances
Autism Connections
Pittsfield, 4:00pm—6:00pm

Free Community Yoga
Autism Connections
Pittsfield, 4:00pm -5:00pm

Asperger's Support Group
Autism Connections
Pittsfield, 5:00pm-6:00pm

Autism Connections Parent Support Group
5:30pm-7:30pm, Holyoke
CALL KANSAS FOR INFO: 413-529-2428

PATHLIGHT JOB FAIR
North Adams Public Library, 10-5

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AUTISM CONNECTIONS
OFFICE IS CLOSED

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|

Sensory-Friendly Movie
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker
10:00 a.m. (arrive by 9:45 a.m.)
Regal Cinemas, Berkshire Mall

DESE/DDS Program Interest Forms due

AUTISM CONNECTIONS
OFFICE IS CLOSED

DECEMBER 2019

THURS

FRI

SAT

Navigating Social Nuances
Autism Connections
Pittsfield, 4:00pm—6:00pm

5

Free Community Swim
Gladys Allen Brigham Center
Pittsfield, 6:00pm—7:00pm

Young Adult Social Group
Cookie Exchange

6

Autism Connections Holiday Party
Eastworks, Easthampton

7

Navigating Social Nuances
Autism Connections
Pittsfield, 4:00pm—6:00pm

12

Free Community Swim
Gladys Allen Brigham Center
Pittsfield, 6:00pm—7:00pm

13

5th Annual Holiday Concert and Bash
(Whole Children)
Flywheel, Easthampton
6:00pm—11:00pm

14

Navigating Social Nuances
Autism Connections
Pittsfield, 4:00pm—6:00pm

19

Free Community Swim
Gladys Allen Brigham Center
Pittsfield, 6:00pm—7:00pm

Young Adult Social Group
Paint 'n Sip

20

21

26

Sensory-Friendly Hour at Bounce!
Trampoline Sports
Bounce! Springfield
9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

27

28

Navigating Social Nuances
Autism Connections
Pittsfield, 4:00pm—6:00pm

2

Free Community Swim
Gladys Allen Brigham Center
Pittsfield, 6:00pm—7:00pm

3

4

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

1/6/2020

Milestones and Whole Children Winter Session begins

1/10/2020

Potluck, Social/Video Game Night, Milestones, Hadley

1/14/2020

Beginning Financial Workshop, Family Empowerment, Hadley

February

2/11/2020

IEP Strategies/Advocacy Workshop, Family Empowerment, Hadley

2/14/2020

Sweetheart Dance Party and Video Game Night, Milestones, Hadley

2/29/2020

*Berkshire Autism Initiative's Winter Dance with **The Heartbeats** Fundraiser to benefit Autism Connections! Berkshire Hills Country Club, Pittsfield MA*

March

3/6/20

ACBC Professional Development: CIP in Lee. Contact [Erica Donovan](#).

April

4/2/20 (World Autism Day)

30th Annual Autism Conference

EVENTS

Holiday and Sensory-friendly events



renting out the facility just for YOU!

Waivers need to be completed on site, and the charge per child is

\$10, sorry—cash only. Parents or caregivers are free.

RSVP required to joyce.paige@pathlightgroup.org.

Berkshire Museum Festival of Trees 2019

November 16—January 5, 2019, various times

Berkshire Museum, 39 South Street, Pittsfield, MA



Who inspires you? The 2019 Festival of Trees features more than 100 dazzling holiday displays that celebrate those who motivate us to reach great

heights, attempt the impossible, and change the world. Each tree in this family-favorite exhibit is designed and decorated by a local business, school, or organization in honor of their own heroes, from the action-packed caped crusaders of the silver screen to the everyday heroes in our community. Throughout this year's festival, guests will be invited to share what they believe makes a hero as part of a special, constantly evolving display.

"Noon" Year's Eve for families

December 31, 2019, 10:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Ecotarium, 222 Harrington Way, Worcester, MA

This is not a disability-specific event but the venue does have accessibility. Families can ring in the new year with a day of watching a lighted ball drop at 12 noon and bubble wrap fireworks at 2:00. Families can also create and toast resolutions, make time capsules, participate in our Holiday School Vacation "Stories + STEM" educational programs and more. This event requires

paying the standard admittance fee to the Ecotarium. Visit www.ecotarium.org/events-activities/noon-years-eve or contact 508-929-2700 or info@ecotarium.org for information about tickets.

Building entrances are equipped with power-assisted doors. An elevator accesses the museum's three levels. Accessible restrooms are available at the middle and lower levels, as well as outdoors at the Food Pavilion. The Alden Digital Planetarium has wheelchair appropriate seating arrangements. Two wheelchairs are available for guest use and can be requested at the Information Desk.

Employment Opportunities

Work with Autism Connections!

Autism Connections currently has several job openings. Please call us for more information, or visit <https://pathlightgroup.applicantpro.com/jobs/> and look for Autism Connections job titles.

Pathlight Job Fair

December 18, 2019, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

North Adams Public Library, 74 Church Street



Join us for our upcoming Job Fair! Interview with a Pathlight Representative to discuss job opportunities in Greenfield, Gill, Buckland, South Deerfield, & Clarksburg. Pathlight is looking for aspiring Direct Support Professionals who are compassionate, caring, reliable, and enjoy helping people with complex medical and behavioral needs. Click on the headline link for more specifics. More info [here](#).

Workshops

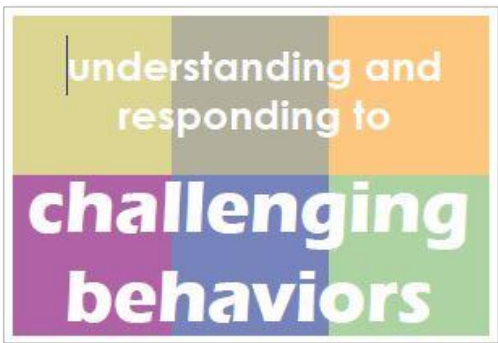
Challenging Behaviors

Family Empowerment

December 10, 2019, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

41 Russell Street, Hadley

RSVP: michelle.mendes@pathlightgroup.org



Challenging behaviors are often difficult to interpret. This FREE workshop helps you find the behavior's source and establish reactions that might elicit a better outcome. Autism Connections' Rhonda Setkewich leads this discussion and presentation.

Beginning Financial Planning

Family Empowerment

January 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

41 Russell Street, Hadley

RSVP: michelle.mendes@pathlightgroup.org



Justin Doyle from New York Life Insurance will lead this workshop for parents and family members who are looking to define their strategy for setting up their financial plan.

IEP Strategies/Advocacy

Family Empowerment

February 11, 2020, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

41 Russell Street, Hadley

RSVP: michelle.mendes@pathlightgroup.org



Join Educational Advocate Nancy Farnsworth from Autism Connections for some expert tips on managing a successful IEP process.

Young Adult Activities

Winter Party

December 6, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Milestones, 41 Russell Street, Hadley, FREE

Semi-formal attire is encouraged to celebrate the season! Enjoy music, dancing, gaming, crafts and board and video games, and meeting new friends. Call 413-585-8010 for more information.

Potluck Social/Video Game nights

January 10, 2020, March 6, 2020, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Milestones, 41 Russell Street, Hadley, FREE

Whether you are a video gamer or a karaoke star, come hang out with old friends and meet new ones! Remember to bring a nut-free appetizer, dessert, or a drink to share.

Milestones, 41 Russell St., Hadley, MA

Recreational programs for young adults. Winter session is from January 6, 2020 to March 7, 2020. Register now! **See the current catalog [here](#).**

Children and Teen Activities

Whole Children, 41 Russell St., Hadley, MA

Recreational programs for children and teens. Winter session is from January 6, 2020 to March 7, 2020. Register now! **See the current catalog [here](#).**

Additional activity resources

Springfield JCC: *social and recreational enrichment programs (K-12 years old) for children with social challenges, cognitive delays, and physical limitations. Check for young adult offerings.*

CHD: *adaptive recreational opportunities in the greater Springfield area. View calendar [here](#).*

CSO: *December calendars for The Bridge Family Resource Center: [Amherst calendar](#), and the [Center for Community Resilience after Trauma in Greenfield](#).*

413 Mom: [December calendar](#)

AANE: *The Asperger/Autism Network: Support groups, pizza nights, and much more! [December calendar](#)*

SUPPORT GROUPS

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT/MORE INFO
AMHERST			
Clinical & Support Options (CSO) Parent Support Group	For parents of children/youth with high functioning autism (Asperger's). Come share your experience, learn about resources, and hear from experts in the field. Childcare available. This is a parent led support group.	1st Saturday of the month 10:00am-11:30am Bridge Family Resource Center 101 University Dr, Suite A3, Amherst	Group meets on Saturdays. Childcare available, refreshments served. Please call 413.549.0297 x6501 with questions.
ATHOL			
Autism Caregiver's Support Group	This is a monthly support group for parents, caregivers, grandparents and siblings of autistic children. RSVP is required.	4th Sunday of the month, 6:00pm-8:00pm, Athol Memorial Hospital, The Hillis Board Room 2033 Main St., Athol	Please contact Amanda Gallant at Amanda.gallant@heywood.org with questions or to RSVP.978-257-5143
North Quabbin Caregiver's Resource Group	A caregiver's self- facilitated gathering to engage conversation, share resources and ideas, and network. The group is free, and open to any caregiver who supports a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities	3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:00pm-7:30pm, United ARC, 361 Main Street	Refreshments will be provided. RSVP is not required, but is helpful for planning purposes. Call Alice Young at 413-774-5558, x1047.
CHICOPEE			
HOPE Autism Support Group	This group is designed for parents and caregivers of family members on the autism spectrum to meet and talk with others that are on the same journey in a positive and confidential environment.	Group meets on the 2nd Friday of each month. .	For more information or to RSVP, please contact Cathy at camorgado@verizon.net .
GREENFIELD			
Special Needs Family Alliance	This support group is a new, very committed and welcoming group for anyone who is caring for a loved one with a disability, no matter the age. The group's goal is providing support, advocacy, education and resources	1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm and the 3rd Thursday of each month, 10:00am. Pathlight Office, Greenfield Corporate Center, 101 Munson St., Greenfield	For more information please call or email Caroline Wenck at 413-585-8010 x122 or carolinewenck@pathlightgroup.org . Please contact Caroline for directions if it is your first time attending the group.
HOLYOKE			
Autism Connections Western MA Support Group	This support group is open to all family members of children and young adults with autism. The group is designed for parents and other caregivers to come together for support and to share information.	2nd Wednesday of the month 5:30pm-7:30pm MCS 260 Westfield Road, Holyoke	Email Linda Manning at wynne92@aol.com for RSVP and more info. Childcare is offered and requires a reservation one week in advance. 413.529.2428.
Parent/Professional Advocacy League	Moving Forward: Our Journey. A group for empowering families through transition planning.	Please contact PPAL for locations and times.	For more information visit www.ppal.net
Rainbow Support Group of Western Mass.	This group provides support and info to individuals with intellectual challenges who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or those who are questioning.	Fourth Wednesday of the month. Western Mass Training Consortium 187 High Street, Suite 2303, Holyoke	For more information, call Ness at 413-997-4205 or emailed at nbellini@wmtcinfo.org .
Leadership Through Advocacy (LTA)	Come have your voice heard, learn and develop skills to speak up for yourself, grow individually and make the world better by participating in legislative advocacy.	First and third Wednesday of the month, Holyoke Community College, Frost 309 5:30-7:30pm	For more information, call Ness at 413-997-4205 or emailed at nbellini@wmtcinfo.org
LENOX			
Parents/adult family members of adults on the spectrum (AANE)	This parents of adults support group series is designed for parents/adult family members of adults with Asperger/autism profiles. Through this group, parents can build an ongoing connection with a small community of other parents to create an environment where parents of adults can ask questions, voice their concerns and frustrations, and acknowledge hard-won victories. Space is limited and registration closes on October 1.	1st Thursday of the month 6:30pm-8:00pm Office of Liz Roberts, 69 Church Street, Suite 4, Lenox Fee for all 10 sessions is \$120, 2nd person \$60.	Register and find more information here or email Stephanie.Birkdale@aane.org with questions.

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT/MORE INFO
NORTHAMPTON			
Valley ADHD Parent Support Group	This group is for parents and caregivers to receive ADHD information and support. It is a place where you can be heard and not be judged.	First Monday of the month, 6:30-8:00pm Northampton Area Pediatrics 193 Locust St.	For more information call 413-584-8700 x226
Northampton Women's Drop-In Support Group	Support group for women with Autism, ages 18+. This free group is being offered by the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE).	Second Monday the month, Forbes Library, 20 West Street, Next dates 11/4/2019, 12/9/2019, 1/13/2020	For more information or to join this group, contact Stephanie Birkdale at stephanie.birkdale@aane.org .
Wire Monkey Mama's Coffee Club	A bi-weekly meetup and solidarity circle like grand, step, foster, and any mama who cares for a child.	Every other Monday evening 6:00pm-7:00pm, 1 Market Street,	At The Roost in Northampton. For more information, text Yoshi at 413-347-2517
PITTSFIELD			
Asperger's Support Group of the Berkshires	This group is for individuals with Asperger's syndrome to come together and offer friendship, fellowship and support.	Wednesdays, 5:00pm-6:30pm Group will meet in various locations.	Please contact Elizabeth Flaherty at 443.4780 x16 or Elizabeth.Flaherty@pathlightgroup.org to RSVP.
Berkshire Teen Group	This group is for teens and young adults who live in Berkshire County and are on the autism spectrum. The group meets regularly for conversation and community based activities.	Will meet regularly, every other Friday evening, throughout the community.	Please contact Kelly Summers at Kelly.summers@pathlightgroup.org or 413.529.2428 x121 for monthly group schedule and outing details.
SPRINGFIELD			
Impact Center Support Group	A monthly support group for parents and caregivers of youths' with social/emotional/behavioral challenges. El Support Network en colaboración con Gandara ofrece un grupo de apoyo mensual para padres y cuidadores de jóvenes con problemas sociales / emocionales y de	English Group: 1st Friday of the month 12pm-1:30pm Grupo Español-Y el tercer Viernes de 10am-11:30am 41 Taylor Street, Springfield	For information and to RSVP, please contact Cynthia Santiago at csantiago@wmtcinfo.org or 413-218-5055 Informacion de RSVP: Cynthia Santiago at csantiago@wmtcinfo.org
Self Advocacy Network (SAN)	Come have your voice heard, learn and develop skills to speak up for yourself, grow individually and make the world better by participating in legislative advocacy.	2 nd and 4 th Monday of every month, 11 Wilbraham Rd, 2 nd floor in the SC@N 360 Conference room, 5:30pm-7:30Ppm	For more information, call Ness at 413-997-4205 or emailed at nbellini@wmtcinfo.org
WESTFIELD			
Support Group for Adults with Asperger's Syndrome	This group is an opportunity for support and discussion among adults on the autism spectrum. We provide a "safe space" and as such are not recommended for friends and family members except in a support role.	Building Autistic Community, Inc 507 Southampton Road #1	For more information, contact the group at info@bacautism.org or call BAC at 413.359.0222.
WILLIAMSBURG			
Support Group for Adults with Asperger's Syndrome	This group is an opportunity for support and discussion among adults on the spectrum. We provide a "safe space" so this is not recommended for friends and family members except in a support role.	Building Autistic Community, Inc. 507 Southampton Road #1 Westfield, MA	For more information, contact the group at info@bacautism.org or call BAC at 413.359.0222.

ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	DATES/TIMES
AANE Online Healthy Relationships Support Group Series	In this group, post high school adults (18-35 years old) will share stories about the ups and downs of relationships, including the unique challenges of navigating relationships when one is on the spectrum. First Sunday of the month.	11/3, 12/1, 1/12, 2/9, 3/8, 4/5, 5/3 7:00 pm—8:30 p.m. INFO

FIND INFO ABOUT MORE AANE ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS [HERE](#).

Please confirm all group information with the contact person before attending any group for the first time as information may change.

Autism Connections
A Program of Pathlight, Inc.
116 Pleasant Street, Suite 366
Easthampton, MA 01027

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Cape Town, South Africa

2019 December Edition

Community Connection Newsletter

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Foundation donates to local families



In honor of Veteran's Day, **Radcliffe is the Reason and Arthur Too! Fight for Autism** wanted to honor our veterans by making a donation to a family with at least one parent actively serving in the military, who was caring for children with autism. We knew just the family, with one parent who is actively serving and one parent who is a veteran! Because of the generous donation, they were able to plan some family fun and a trip to see their extended family during the holidays while the active soldier is home on short leave. Thank you to all of the women, men and parents who serve our country.

The Foundation also donated more funds to contribute to the Thanksgiving celebrations of more families needing assistance.

Save the Date for a Berkshire Autism Initiative Fundraiser to benefit Autism Connections!



Join us on February 29, 2020 (Leap Day!) at Berkshire Hills County Club in Pittsfield at 7:00 p.m. We will warm up

and say goodbye to the heart of winter to the tunes of "America's Dance Band" **The Heartbeats!** Stay tuned for details about sponsorship opportunities and ticket information. We hope to see you there dancing the night away! A special thank you to The Berkshire Autism Initiative for their loyal fundraising for Autism Connections throughout the year!

••••• **♥ Thank you to our amazing supporters ♥** •••••