



Community Connection

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Newsletter

Save the dates for our summer family picnics!

Celebrate the wonderful network of Autism Connections' families



Grab your sunglasses and gather the family to join us for a summer celebration

at Stanley Park on August 17, and August 22 in the Pittsfield area (more info and location to come)!

The Easthampton picnic tends to attract families with younger children, and young adults usually attend the Pittsfield picnic.

At Stanley Park we will provide a sandwich picnic lunch and will be set up for lawn games and some special picnic activities.

Please help us with our **Side Dish Picnic Potluck** and show off your favorite family picnic recipes. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a cold dish to share, or if your last name starts with M-Z, please bring a dessert if you can!

Enjoy an afternoon of family, friends, food and relaxation. RSVP to Danielle via email or call 413-529-2428 for either location so we can be sure to have enough goodies for everyone.



Save the Dates!

Easthampton Picnic

August 17, 2019

10:00am—2:00pm

Stanley Park in Westfield

Pittsfield Picnic

August 22, 2019

5:00pm—7:30pm

We will provide more information about the Pittsfield area picnic on our facebook page soon, so stay tuned for the details.

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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.

donate
Thank You!



Do you or your business want to support our family picnics as a sponsor? A little goes a long way. Please contact Joanne Lucey at joanne.lucey@pathlightgroup.org.

NEWS & UPDATES

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Berkshire ACBC June meeting

Autism Collaborative of Berkshire County, June 21 Meeting



The Autism Collaborative of Berkshire County (ACBC) held its last meeting of the year on Friday June 21. Stephanie Krantz and Nancy Murphy from the Disability Law Center (DLC) presented. Each year, the Disability Law Center goes through a priority setting process. This includes community outreach across the state to identify legal issues and barriers people with disabilities are facing.

They use this information to set their agency priorities for the upcoming year. They are particularly interested in getting input from Berkshire County providers and families on ways they can help the community (i.e. training, know your rights materials, helping to collaborate, identifying systemic barriers).



Stephanie and Nancy walked away with some great input from the attendees at the meeting regarding topics for setting next year's priorities.

The Disability Law Center is still soliciting information from the public. If you or someone you know would like to share their thoughts (especially Berkshire County residents), please visit the Law Center's website and complete the survey: <https://www.dlc-ma.org/priorities-survey/>. You can also email their general email on the website to provide information.



ACBC meetings are open to the public. We welcome anyone who would like to learn more about autism resources in the community to attend. We encourage fellow services providers, educators, and families to bring information to share with the group or to display on our resource table.

ACBC meetings will resume in September 2019. If you have questions about The Autism Collaborative of Berkshire County, please call or email Erica Donovan at 413-443-4780 X19 or Erica.donovan@pathlightgroup.org. Have a great summer!

Looking for summer fun in North Adams? Check out the SteepleCats!

The biggest crowd ever to watch a SteepleCats game at Joe Wolfe Field was 6,714 on July 4, 2006. That day, the Holyoke Giants defeated the SteepleCats 3-2 in twelve innings in the SteepleCats' annual Fourth of July game.

"I remember watching a game at Joe Wolfe Field one time with former Major League Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent," says Barrett. "As the sun was setting we were looking down the left field line out into the mountains, and he said 'it doesn't get any better than this.'"



Center News

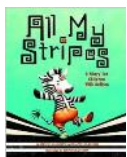
Ideas for Summer Reading

Summer is here, and hopefully some extra time for a child to enjoy a new book or two. Applied Behavioral Analysis Programs has put together a wonderfully varied list of books for children to read, or share with their siblings or friends and family. Here is the full list: <https://www.appliedbehavioranalysisprograms.com/30-best-childrens-books-about-the-autism-spectrum/>. Share your favorites with a teacher next fall and happy reading!



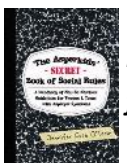
All Cats Have Asperger Syndrome (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2006), Kathy Hoopmann, **Ages 7 and Up**

Not only does this delightful book include fun color photographs of cats and kittens, it also offers a humorous glimpse at some of the difficulties and joys of raising a child on the autism spectrum. Hoopmann draws insightful parallels between children with Asperger Syndrome and household cats, including sensitive hearing, picky eating habits, and a dislike of being touched.



All My Stripes: A Story for Children with Autism (Magination Press, 2015), Shaina Rudolph and Danielle Royer, **Ages 5-8**

Zane the zebra has autism, and he is worried that his friends and classmates will make fun of his stripes, which make him different. As Zane learns that having autism is one of the many things that actually makes him special, young readers will relate to Zane and realize that they, too, have plenty to be proud of.



The Asperkid's (Secret) Book of Social Rules: The Handbook of Not-so-Obvious Social Guidelines for Tweens and Teens with Asperger Syndrome (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2012), Jennifer Cook O'Toole, **Ages 10-17**

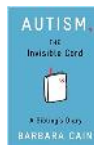
This bestselling book by Jennifer Cook O'Toole (who is both an Aspie herself and a mother of three children with Asperger's) is a must-read guide for any teen or tween on the autism spectrum. The book is full of illustrations, humor, and easy-to-understand explanations of important social rules that may not be so obvious to a child on the

spectrum. The book was named the Autism Society America 2014 Temple Grandin Outstanding Book of the Year and made the Autism/ASP Digest Top Books list.



The Autism Acceptance Book (Pathway Book Service, 2006), Ellen Sabin, **Ages 6 and Up**

Children will learn to respect and appreciate their peers with differences through author Ellen Sabin's "The Autism Acceptance Book." This interactive, educational book presents the challenges faced by those on the autism spectrum through respectful stories that are sure to build the characters of young readers.



Autism, the Invisible Cord: A Sibling's Diary (Magination Press, 2012), Barbara Cain, **12-15**

Siblings of children with autism will relate to 14-year old Jenny, the narrator of "Autism, the invisible Cord." Jenny describes what it's like to live day to day with her autistic brother, Ezra. With complete honesty, Jenny chronicles all of her frustrations, hopes, and love for her brother.



The Categorical Universe of Candice Phee (Chronicle Books; Reprint edition, 2015), Barry Jonsberg, **Ages 9-12**

Barry Jonsberg's novel "The Categorical Universe of Candice Phee" tells the story of a 12-year old girl on the autism spectrum. Candice has plenty of quirks, and her lovable nature is sure to make any young reader happy to jump on board her adventure.



How to Be Human: Diary of an Autistic Girl (Creston Books, 2013), Florida Frenz, **Ages 7-12**

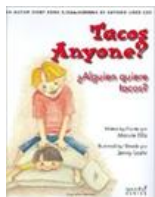
Florida Frenz, an autistic teenager, wrote this powerful memoir about what it's like to be on the autism spectrum. She documents everything from how to handle peer pressure to what it's like to have to figure out social cues, read facial expressions, and have to work extra hard to make friends. This book is used in a number of classrooms around the country, and a

Center News



Rules (Scholastic Press, 2006), Cynthia Lord, **8-12**

This Newberry Honor Book is a humorous and heartwarming tale about what it's like to have an autistic younger brother and a family in which it's impossible to live a normal life. Twelve-year old Catherine attempts to teach her younger brother how to be normal — “keep your pants on in public” — while she herself figures out just what “normal” means.

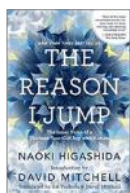


Tacos Anyone? / ¿Alguien quiere tacos?

(Speech Kids Texas Press, Inc., 2005), Marvie Ellis, **Ages 4-7**

This bilingual children's book from the Autism Story series was the recipient of the 2005

Barbara Jordan Media Award. Aimed at a broad audience of young readers, parents, siblings, family members, and medical professionals, the story is about two brothers, Michael and Thomas. Thomas does not understand his four-year old brother's behavior and can't figure out how to play with him. When a therapist explains to Thomas that Michael is autistic, Thomas learns how to better relate to his brother.



The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year Old Boy with Autism (Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reprint edition, 2016), Naoki Higashida, **Ages 8-12**

Every parent of an autistic child wishes to get inside the autistic mind, and this book helps to make that a reality. Thirteen-year old Naoki Higashida cannot physically speak out loud, but uses an alphabet grid to carefully construct the answers to common questions people have about those on the spectrum. Why do you line up your toy cars and blocks? Why don't you make eye contact when you're talking? Higashida's book is charming and almost painfully honest. It was a New York Times bestseller, and spent 7 weeks on NPR's Hardcover Nonfiction Bestseller List. In her [review of the book](#), Dr. Temple Grandin stated, “Everybody who is working with nonverbal individuals with autism should read it.”

“SummerEats”

The Summer Food Service Program, known as Summer Eats in Massachusetts, is a federally-funded nutrition program that provides free meals to children ages 18 and under when school is not in session. In Massachusetts, the program is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with support from the Child Nutrition Outreach Program at Project Bread.

For more information and to find locations for meals near you, visit The Child Nutrition Outreach Program: <https://meals4kids.org/find-summer-meal-site#/?address=Easthampton%2C%20MA%2C%20USA&radius=16100>, or here:

Visit: www.meals4kids.org/summer

Text: “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to 877-877

Call: 1-800-645-8333 (Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline)

Download: the “SummerEats” App for iPhone and Android

Healthy Incentives

Eating fruits and vegetables each day is important for your health. The Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) helps you buy more fruits and vegetables for your household.

If you are a SNAP household you will be automatically enrolled in HIP. You can use your SNAP benefits to buy fruits and vegetables from a HIP authorized farm or vendor.* Look for the HIP logo or ask the vendor if they participate in the program before you pay for your purchase.

You will receive \$1 for each dollar you spend on eligible fruits and vegetables, up to a monthly limit. You can earn HIP incentives at participating:

- Farmers' markets
- Farm stands
- Mobile markets
- Community supported agriculture (CSA) farm share programs

Learn more about participating vendors here: <https://massnrc.org/farmlocator/map.aspx?Program=HIP>.

WEBINARS

Gender Identity, Sexuality, Autism

An AANE webinar for adults on the spectrum and parents of teens/adults on the spectrum

Monday, July 22, 2019, 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m., ONLINE
Host: Eva Mendes and Meredith Maroney (AANE staff)
Fee: \$25.00, register by July 21.

[REGISTER](#)

In this webinar, based on their new book, *Gender Identity, Sexuality, and Autism*, Eva Mendes and Meredith Maroney will share personal experiences, and discuss emerging research on the intersection of autism and LGBTQ+ identities. There will also be one adult sharing their first person story after Eva and Meredith's presentation.

*Eva Mendes is an Asperger/autism specialist, psychotherapist, and couples counselor based in Arlington, MA who works exclusively with autistic individuals, their partners, and families. She is the author of *Marriage and Lasting Relationships with Asperger's Syndrome and Gender Identity, Sexuality and Autism*, which she co-authored with Meredith Maroney. Her website is www.eva-mendes.com.*

Meredith Maroney is a doctoral candidate in Counseling Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her research and clinical interests are focused on LGBTQ+ identities and concerns, autism, and psychotherapy interventions. Beginning in August, she will be completing her doctoral internship at the University at Albany Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

Don't forget about our family picnics in August! More info on the first page of the newsletter.



YOUNG ADULTS

Potluck Social/Video Game nights

Friday, July 19, August 23, Milestones, 41 Russell Street, Hadley, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., (all ages), FREE

Live music, food, karaoke and video games. Please bring a nut-free appetizer, entrée, dessert or drink to share. Call 413-585-8010 for more information or visit [HERE](#).

Milestones

41 Russell St., Hadley, MA

Recreational programs for young adults. Summer session starts Monday July 8. See the full offerings [HERE](#).

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Whole Children

41 Russell St., Hadley, MA

Recreational programs for young children. Summer session starts July 8. Call 413-585-8010 for more information or visit [HERE](#).

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY RESOURCES

CHD: activities including therapeutic summer camp and many adaptive recreational opportunities in the greater Springfield area

CSO: The Bridge Family Resource Center: Amherst based activities

The 413 Mom: community based events in western Massachusetts for all children and families, including a list of [local SHADY Playgrounds!](#)

All Out Adventures: <https://alloutadventures.org/calendar/programs-calendar/>



SUN

MON

TUES

WEDS

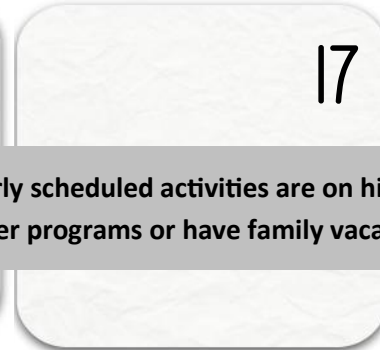
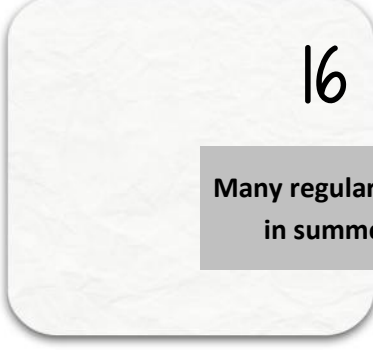
AUTISM CONNECTIONS CALENDAR: JULY 2019



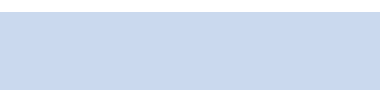
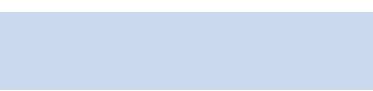
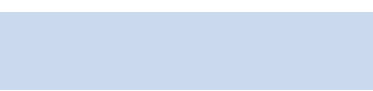
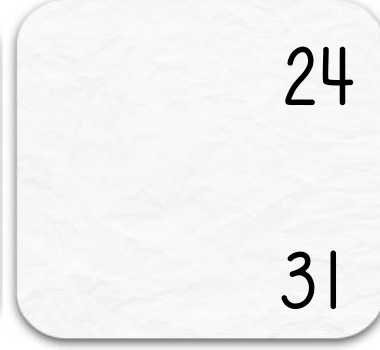
3
 Navigating Social Nuances
 6:00pm-7:30pm
 Autism Connections' Pittsfield Office



10
 Autism Connections,
 Parent Support Group
 5:30pm-7:30pm, Holyoke
 CALL FOR INFO: 413-529-2428



Many regularly scheduled activities are on hiatus in summer programs or have family vacations.



THURS

FRI

SAT

| | | |
|----|----|----|
| | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 |

atus over the summer, when participants are involved
ons. Check back when we resume in September!

JULY 2019

EVENTS & CLASSES

CONFERENCES

Nourished Festival, The gluten-free allergy and specialty diet conference

Saturday and Sunday, July 20 and 21, 2019, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. DCU Center, Worcester, MA, Fee based, [REGISTER](#)



This expo is for those living a gluten-free, allergy friendly or specialty diet lifestyle.

Discover new products, receive coupons and attend educational classes. The expo will highlight 5 zones: gluten-free, nut-free, paleo, keto and

plant based. ALL products in all zones will be gluten free.

Assistive Technology, reading and writing tools for educators (a conference for K12 educators and parents of children and teens)

Wednesday, August 7, 2019, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Rhode Island College, 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island, Fee based, [REGISTER](#)

This is a full day conference with Karen Waddill, which will focus on assistive technology for educators to use with students. The following topics will be covered:

- Assessment and intervention planning
- “Read ‘em and weep” - tech tools for reading
- “Write on...” - tech tools for writing
- “Keeping it together” – focus on the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) features of Google Keep

Karen is the Director of Cotting Consulting at Cotting School. Cotting She is a certified member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, holds licenses with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Division of Professional Licensure, and is certified as an Assistive Technology Professional through the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America. In addition to her work at Cotting, Karen is a long-standing adjunct faculty member in the Graduate and Continuing Education Department at Fitchburg State University.

Shared Living and AFC Conference

Thursday, October 3, 2019, 8:45 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center, Marlboro, Massachusetts Fee based



This popular annual event is coming up in the fall. Be sure to save the date!

The Shared Living & AFC Conference mission is to provide and exchange practical information and innovative ideas that

promote community living as model of choice where people can live in a dignified, normative arrangement.

Work Without Limits

Thursday, October 10, 2019 Four Points Sheraton, Norwood, MA, Fee based

This one-day annual conference features prominent national keynote speakers, educational sessions, exhibitors, networking opportunities and sharing of best practices on disability employment. For more information, visit <http://raisethebar2019.org/>. Early Bird Registration opens June 3.

The Arc of Massachusetts 2019 Transition Conference: Charting the Life Course during transition years

Saturday, November 16, 2019 College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, Fee based, Registration opens September 1, 2019

This full day conference will feature the [LifeCourse Frameworks and Tools](#) from the Institute for Human Development at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Co-founder and parent Jane St. John will lead us through the frameworks and tools to use in transition planning. The conference will also welcome families of teens and adults ages 12-26.

Sensory-friendly

Conway Scenic Railways

Fridays, July 12, 19, 26, 31 Norcross Circle, North Conway, NH, Fares: Adults -\$19, Children 4-12—\$13, under 4—free, [REGISTER](#)



Conway Scenic Railways is offering regularly-scheduled departures for children with autism. The rides will depart from the main station in North Conway Village at 4:00

p.m. on each Friday in July, using the rail-diesel car, the *Millie*. It will travel through the Pudding Pond conservation area along the Redstone Branch of the line, returning to the station at approximately 5:00 p.m.

The *Millie* is air-conditioned, so there will be no open windows, and all crossings will be hand-flagged to reduce or eliminate the need for the train horn's use. Travel speed is about 10 mph. Each child will be given a gift bag with quiet activities (coloring books, temporary tattoos, etc.).

Family events

Adaptive cycling at the Norwottuck Rail Trail in Hadley, [more info](#)

Many different styles of accessible cycles are available for use at weekly cycling programs throughout the summer, including hand cycles, tandems, adult tricycles, and cycles offering more significant seating support. Participants are encouraged to come try several bikes to find the one that's most comfortable, with support from our friendly staff and volunteers.

Take a look at the program [schedule](#) or call All Out Adventures at 413-584-2052 for complete information on this wonderful opportunity for an individual or family to experience a beautiful ride along the rail trail this summer.

Family and community events

Russell Police Presents:
Family FUN Day!

JOIN US

Free Admission!

SUNDAY August 18th
NOON - 6pm
STRATHMORE PARK
Russell MA

WATERSLIDE!
ACTIVITIES!
MAGIC SHOW!
BOUNCE HOUSE!
DUNK TANK!
RAFFLES!

FOOD by CAFE CHRISTO!

LIVE MUSIC
FEATURING KITTIE AND THE BEARD ACCOUSTIC
MORE BANDS TO BE ANNOUNCED!

Check us out on Facebook!

Hampshire County 4-H Fair

Saturday, July 13, 2019 (all day), Cummington Fairgrounds, 97 Fairgrounds Road, Cummington, MA
[MORE INFO](#)




The 2019 Hampshire County 4-H Fair showcases the continued achievements and skills that our 4-H and other youth have learned throughout the year. 4-H, along with projects from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school, and other youth organizations are welcome. The Hampshire County 4-H Fair is open to any youth who meet the age eligibility listed in the general rules. Youth under 8 years old as of 1/1/19 should check specific department rules.

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 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 | Socialize with other caregivers and help support each other through all of the ins and outs of being a caregiver or parent to a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities. | 2nd Monday is for conversation and networking. 3rd Thursday of the month, presentations, workshops and more. 6:00pm-8:00pm, 361 Main Street, April | Refreshments will be provided. RSVP is not required, but is helpful for planning purposes. Call Karen Parker at 978-249-4052, x 1047. |
| 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. Please note this group is on hiatus in the summer. | 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 | 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 |
| 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 |

| 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 | 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 ore 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 |
|---|--|--|
| Asperger/Autism 101: For parents and adult family members  | This online support group is designed for parents and other adult family members of children and teens who have recently been diagnosed with autism feel they need a better understanding of the diagnosis. This is limited to 14 participants. Email Stephanie.birkdale@aane.org for more information. | 6:30—8:00pm \$90, financial assistance is available DATES: 6/17/2019, 7/1/2019, 7/15/2019, 7/29/2019, 8/12/2019 8/26/2019 |

2019 July Edition

Community Connection

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Newsletter


**Buddy's
Sunshine Angels
Golf Tournament
for Autism**

If you have never been to Bas Ridge Golf Course, this is the time! It is the season for Golf Tournaments, and please be sure to put this one on your schedule! Proceeds from the event benefit Autism Connections' programs. Join Jennie and Joe Clark in honoring their son Buddy, and other children and adults with autism, by joining the event as a team with your friends.

Date: August 24, 2019

Location: Bas Ridge Golf Course, Hinsdale, MA

Time: check-in at noon, shot-gun start at 1pm

Contact Joe Clark 413-212-2443 to register, sponsor or for

Autism Connections cannot do its work without friends like you! Please [GIVE](#) and support our summer events