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Let ME
spread the
word on
AUTISM

AUTISM SOCIETY
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Maine

Maine Autism

Connections

Back to School

by Tena Hinds

“The end of summer often brings mixed emotions for many parents and students. The thought of transitioning from the less structured days of summer to the schedule and routine that goes along with starting a new school year can be a stressful time. No one knows your child better than you and in addition to the tips below NEVER hesitate to ask questions.” Autism Society of Maine

How to be a Good Advocate for Your Child with Special Needs

These tips have been “adapted” from an article written by Pat Howey. As a member of the Wrightslaw Speakers Bureau, Pat provides training for parents, educators, and others who want to ensure that children receive quality special education services.

1. Good advocates facilitate the Team process.

Advocates must set an example for the entire Team. They must be a role model of behavior. Challenging, demeaning, inconsiderate or impolite behavior will not advance your child’s cause. Your goal is to get better services for your child. Good advocates ask questions and make valuable suggestions. It is okay to disagree. It is not okay to put down or verbally attack someone.

2. Good advocates know the child and understand the disability.

Do your research. Be ready with ideas about instructional methods that are research-based and peer-reviewed.

3. Good advocates try to reduce existing barriers between the parent and the school.

Good advocates understand that negotiation is part of the Team process – and a part of life! Pouring gasoline on a fire ensures that everyone gets burned and does not improve your child’s lot.

4. Good advocates are willing to admit mistakes and to

apologize.

No one is perfect. We all make mistakes. Good advocates are not afraid to say they are sorry when they make a mistake. They may even write a note to everyone involved, apologizing and asking for forgiveness.

5. Good advocates hone their listening skills to a fine edge.

You must learn to listen to everything that others say. Sometimes, what others do not say is most important. If you are not listening, you may not hear what others say, or what they do not say. Good advocates repeat and paraphrase what they have heard to avoid misunderstandings. They ask others to verify that they understood correctly. Good advocates ask follow-up questions. They do not interrupt even when they are faced with rudeness and discourtesy.

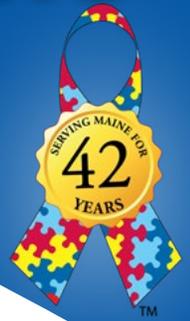
6. Good advocates learn the art of negotiation.

Remember the old saying, “You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar?” Learning to negotiate is not a sign of weakness or that the parent’s position is not valid. Negotiation is an art that good advocates polish to a fine finish. Successful negotiations allow everyone to come away from a meeting feeling like winners.

7. Good advocates understand special and general education law and the interrelationship between these and other laws.

The law is not a static entity. It changes every day through court

Fall 2018



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Maine Autism Connections
A publication of the
Autism Society of Maine

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Visit us online at:
<http://www.asmonline.org>

Stay up-to-date for Legislation issues, fund-raising events, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming happenings.



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Autism-Society-Of-Maine/107781499258293>



President's Message

Greetings! This will be my final President's Message since this fall, I will reach term limits. Truly, these past years with the Autism Society of Maine have been incredible—the people and families I have met, the money we have raised for local services, the advocacy we have been a part of, and the tireless efforts of the staff at ASM have all inspired me.

I was first introduced to ASM when my son was small child. I learned over time that the Autism Society of Maine ASM began as a support group for several parents who had children with autism who were attending a day program, Mariah Clark School in Hallowell. This was a day program created for children with behavioral and communication disorders. The group met monthly to share concerns, experiences, ask/answer each other's questions, and to gain new information. The idea of expanding the group to include parent support groups from other areas (Gardiner, Hallowell, Winthrop, Waterville, and Bangor) began the creation of the statewide organization, incorporated in 1976. As a parent, I relied on their lending library and their newsletters, always full of information about legislation, services, support groups, trainings and inspiring stories. It helped me to meet other families.

After seeing an invitation by ASM for potential Board Members, I sent in my application and attended an interview at the society. That first year was a whirlwind—attending as many events as I could and active in several committees. Although my roles changed over the years to serve as Secretary, Vice President and President, the passion that kept me there never lessened. ASM is an organization that has never wavered in its' commitment to the individuals and families in our community that have been touched by autism. The lending library continues to expand, we raise 50% of our budget through fundraising and grants, we provide a Family Respite Weekend and two summer camps, and have served as a training site for college students learning about autism. We have over 30 Information Specialists throughout the state of Maine to provide information, education, advocacy and support to individuals and families. We have an amazing safety program headed by Matt Brown in order to keep individuals with autism safer in our communities. If you have not heard him speak, invite him to a group you are a part of. You will be glad that you did! We have provided information and testimony on too many pieces of legislation at the state and national levels to list. The Society has visited with Sen Susan Collins, Sen Angus King, Rep Chellie Pingree and Rep Poliquin on behalf of our membership. We participate in dozens of committees, and workgroups to be sure that the voice of our membership is heard whenever a policy decision could impact us. Yet, we continue to work on expanding services and increasing advocacy because we know what we are doing is not enough.

We have re-written our by-laws, updated job descriptions, created new positions to meet the changing needs of our organization (Legislative Liaison, Community Liaison), updated our educational materials and expanded Information Specialists reach across the state. It has been an honor to work alongside the other Board members—Ken Huhn who also reaches term limits this fall and served as our Treasurer, Sherry Pike, Tiffany Rooney, Rep. Dick Farnsworth, Katie Crowley, Brigid Rankowski, Jonathan Youde, Kim Webber, Jennifer Brooking, Chris Osgood (who also just finished his work with the Society) and Nancy Ponzetti-Dyer. Thank you all for your many contributions! ASM relies heavily on this working Board. You each have given your time, expertise and passion to improve the opportunities for individuals with autism and their families.



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Editorial Notes: Maine Autism Connections and Autism Society of Maine programs and services are made possible by donations from people like you and funding from the Maine Department of Health & Human Services. We hope you will also visit us online at <http://www.asmonline.org>, where we have a great deal of information available about autism, programs, resources, news, a calendar of events, legislation and more.

President's Message (continued)

To the staff at ASM:

Cathy Dionne Executive Director, Susan Vincent Communications Director, Tena Hinds Autism Information Specialist Coordinator, Tara Perry Office Assistant and Dennise Whitley Legislative Liaison—

Thank you for your tireless effort and creativity in providing information, support and services in Maine and commitment to our mission. You have all given us weekends and many evenings to insure the Society reached as many people as possible. I will miss you all!

As a parent, I worry about my son's life after I am no longer here—and I hear this from many families across our state. I believe it is organizations like the Autism Society of Maine and the Autism Society of America that will continue advocacy and support for generations to come. Get involved in the ASM Board—or just one event—or one committee that you are passionate about!

My son and I visited the dog park one afternoon together. I was touched by the many people who greeted him by name. At the time, he did not even have a dog but visited the park regularly. He got to know the dogs (and maybe their owners a little bit!) They kept an eye out for his arrival and made a point of welcoming him. The connections he has at the dog park have made a difference to his life.

So in this final message, I would ask everyone who reads this to make a difference in the life of an individual or family touched by autism—or any special need. If you do not have the time to get involved with ASM, then greet people in your community, provide respite care or follow the Society on social media, so you can share the awareness and positive messages. It is so often the simple things we can offer one another.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. It has been an amazing part of my family's journey.

Sincerely, Laurie Raymond

Ride for Autism

September 15, 2018

Kennebunkport Conservation Trust Building
Gravelly Brook Road, Kennebunkport

Join us for a ride to remember! This bike ride covers several miles along the coastline in Kennebunkport, including up to five beaches and world renowned scenic view areas. Staggered start times for the 50, 25, and 10 mile routes are well marked and offer an opportunity for everyone to finish together and enjoy a spectacular lunch.

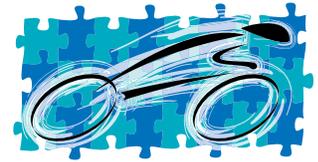
Each route is relatively flat, offering opportunities to enjoy a casual ride, or you can “crank it up” for an individual challenge. Short rides of ten miles or less are very family friendly, or you can choose the Trail Ride at the Smith Preserve. Several trail heads are located within one mile of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust building.

There are prizes for individuals who raise the most money 1st, 2nd and 3rd and if you raise \$100 your name will go into a drawing to win a brand new bike with a value of \$750.

To register visit: www.firstgiving.com/ASMMaine/ride-for-autism-2018

Online Registration is \$35 (closes on September 12)

Onsite Registration is \$40



Ride for Autism



ASM Annual Meeting

Augusta Country Club
19 Hammonds Grove, Western Ave.,
Manchester, ME

September 28, 2018 - 6:00pm to 8:30pm

ASM Board of Directors and Staff are pleased to invite members to our Annual Meeting on September 28th at the beautiful Augusta Country Club in Manchester. Join us as we acknowledge “passing the gavel” from Laurie Raymond, who has completed her term as ASM President to Nancy Ponzetti-Dyer, current Vice President. In addition, we will welcome new Board Members as well as give appreciation to others that have also finished their terms.

We are pleased to announce our **Guest Speaker Caren Zucker:** Producer and co-writer of PBS NewsHour series Autism Now. Her oldest son's autism diagnosis inspired a new direction in her reporting: to bring a better understanding of autism's realities.



Caren is co-author with John Donovan of book “In a Different Key: The Story of Autism” a book about the history, science and human drama of autism.

An awards ceremony will be observed to acknowledge award recipients in recognition of their involvement of making a difference in the lives of individuals with ASD who live in their community.

ASM is honored by the Autism Society of America Board Directors accepting our invitation to attend this meeting while they are here in Maine. We have much to share and hope to see you.

The Annual Meeting is for paid members of ASM.
RSVP by Thursday, September 20th - Seating is limited
Call ASM to book your spot 1-800-273-5200

Social Thinking Methodology

**Keynote by: Nancy Tarshis, MA, MS, CCC-SLP
November 3, 2018 9:00-12:00 Keynote Speaker**

On November 3, 2018, at the Black Bear Inn and Conference Center in Orono, ASM is holding a “Fall Conference for Autism”, with a focus on Managing Behavioral and Social Challenges.

This conference is designed for parents and family members of children, or adults on the autism spectrum, as well as educators and other service providers. In addition to our keynote speaker, Nancy Tarshis, there will be break-out sessions in the afternoon related to topics that assist in supporting the valued lives of individuals on the Autism Spectrum, (see descriptions below). There is no cost for attendees and hopefully everyone will leave with practical tools and strategies that can be implemented immediately in the home, school and/ or community.

Nancy Tarshis is a speech-language pathologist whose prolific career includes extensive experience working with children and their parents. As a Social Thinking Trainer and Speaker for Michelle Garcia-Winner’s Social Thinking Methodologies, Nancy helps people with social emotional learning challenges improve how they interpret and respond to social information to better connect



Nancy Tarshis, Keynote speaker will continue her keynote address by further exploring with her audience, a greater depth of understanding for social thinking and the impact it has on individuals, as well as a few key ideas on where to start. There will be time for questions and answers as well.

First Breakout Speakers 1-2:30



Lindsay Payeur and **Cheri Laflamme** are both Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA’s) and have utilized Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in their work with individuals for the last 20 years combined. **Lindsay’s** experience with ABA and Autism spans across a variety of settings, including preschool, day treatment, residential, and in-home services. While working in these settings, Lindsay has had the opportunity to conduct Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) in each, with an emphasis on FBAs in the home setting.



Cheri has worked in Public Schools as a Special Education Teacher and later as a BCBA. She helped build a K-12 ABA program, has done private consulting with CDS. Cheri is presently a full time BCBA with a Lewiston based company providing Specialized 28 services in home.

Together, Lindsay and Cheri will talk about the different functions of behavior and how a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) helps to identify why behaviors occur. With that information, interventions and supports are put in place to help reduce problematic behaviors. She and Cheri will also address FBA’s in the school setting - who should do them, the components a parent should expect to be included in the assessment, and when an FBA should be completed.



with others. “At our conferences, we teach professionals and parents strategies to improve social competencies in those they support. Our practical strategies can be used immediately in the classroom, clinic, home and community, and help improve performance on educational standards (including the Common Core Standards), as well as reinforce programs such as PBIS, RTI, SEL, and others”.

- 8:00 Doors open for Registration**
- 9-12:00. Keynote Speaker**
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:00-2:30. 1st Break out Session:**
 *Nancy Tarshis/ Lindsay Payeur*
- 2:45-4:15. 2nd Break out session:**
 *Adult Panel Discussion/ Maryam Mermay*

There is no cost to attend this conference.
Visit our website: www.asmonline.org for information regarding registration and/or sponsorship options, or call 1-800-273-5200.

Fall Autism Conference

Second Breakout Speakers 2:45-4:15



Maryam Mermey is a registered expressive arts therapist who works nationally and internationally bringing light to the wounds of trauma with youth and adults from diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Her award winning *Transforming the Bullying Cycle through Expressive Arts* model, film and book, are used world-wide for trainings with challenged young people and adults including those on the autism spectrum and professionals in the field of healing.

In this breakout session Dr. Maryam Mermey will open with a film to introduce “Transforming the Bullying Cycle through the Expressive Arts Model”, in action with youth from California, Maine and Massachusetts. The film is followed by a discussion of practical applications with children and youth on the autism spectrum. An expressive arts activity using pipe cleaners is presented as an example found to be empowering for young people with autistic neurodiversity. Dr. Mermey will leave workshop participants with a copy of her award winning book, *New to the Forests of Selay*.

Adult Panel Discussion will feature ASM’s Executive Director, Cathy Dionne, as she facilitates a discussion with a panel of 4 Adults on the Autism Spectrum. Questions related to their lives, past and present, will be presented and their perspectives will be shared. Adults will range in ages from 18-30.

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

Autism Awareness Night
Mariners Hockey vs. Norfolk Admirals
March 6th at 7PM
Cross Arena in Portland



SAVE THE DATE

17th Annual Walk for Autism
April 28, 2019

11:00 AM Registration starts
12:00 noon Walk for Autism starts

6 locations: Bangor, Biddeford, Belfast, Farmington, Fryeburg and Portland!



Join the Maine Mariners for a sensory reduced game on March 6th at 7PM as they take on the Norfolk Admirals!

[Click here to purchase your tickets!](#)

Contact Mitchell for more information at:
Mitchell_Ketchum@comcastspectacor.com
or call 207-761-4364

Each site is slightly different, from Farmington’s petting zoo to Bangor’s Ice Cream Truck, there is guaranteed to be something for everyone! There will be local vendors, balloons, face painting, snacks, and plenty of fun for all! Be part of a team, family, school, agency, or.. just come by yourself to support someone with autism.

Celebration of Achievements in Our Community!

Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can and DO succeed as productive members in society.

ASM is proud to showcase stories of people with ASD that can be an inspiration to others. See the ASM website [Celebration of Achievements](#) page for more information if you are interested in submitting your story.

Travis Gulley is a twenty seven year old with autism. Five years ago he took a class in glass fusing and fell in love with the medium. He has since expanded his work to include stained glass as well.

It was perfect for Travis, he loves working with tools and is very good at cutting glass. His love of bold color has led to the creation of beautiful glass pieces. He combines this with his love of animals and often a dog or cat show up in his art.

Travis lives in Wells Maine and has been trying to think of ways to share his art with others. He has a goal of having his own web site.

See more of Travis’ amazing glass art on [ASM’s Online Photo Gallery](#).



Camp Summit

by Tara Perry

What could be more fun than summer camp? Absolutely nothing! I had the pleasure of helping out at Camp Summit this year and what a time I had! The first two weeks flew by in a whirlwind of fun and laughter! For the most part the weather cooperated, we only had to reschedule one field trip due to rain. The campers (and counselors) enjoyed field trips to the movie theater, bowling alley, Porter Lake and a day at the UMF gym playing laser tag and swimming in the pool, which was a first for some of the kiddos. When we were not out on a road trip we spent time playing games, building lego creations, making arts and crafts, building racetracks, riding scooters, playing with water balloons or just hanging out in the quiet room talking to other campers and counselors.

I am so glad that I was able to share in the summer camp experience this year. I was able to witness a lot of “firsts” for the campers which is always a wonderful experience, I was able to witness the bonds made between the campers and their counselors and also with the other campers. Who would have thought that 21 people, most of whom had never met each other could become such great friends in such a short amount of time! A big shout out to all of the counselors and the kids who made the last two weeks a highlight of my summer! I hope the next 2 weeks with the younger kids goes as great as the last two! Hope to see you all next year! **CAMP SUMMIT ROCKS!**



by Caryn Husman

The Finding the Pieces Camp had a successful second year this summer in Biddeford Maine. 10 campers from York County, aged 6-10, joined students from the University of New England for summer fun! The campers enjoyed arts and crafts, science experiments, movement activities, outside play, pretend play, making snacks, and playing games at the J.R. Martin Community Center. Campers swam and played in the sand in the Saco River at Rotary Park. They met lots of new farm animals at Smiling Hill Farm – some even fed sheep and snuggled baby goats! All of the campers got to know a horse up close at Hearts and Horses, and each of them rode a horse – for a few campers this was an exciting first! Each of the campers had a great time and formed a bond with their counselor; many said they wanted to come back next year! The UNE students were from the Health, Wellness and Occupational Studies program and the Education program. They learned a lot about autism through a spring course, but learned even more during the hands-on experience with campers. One stated that she learned “how important it is to get to know each and every individual” who has autism. Another said “I learned how important it is to stay patient with all kids with autism”. One other indicated that the experience has given her a “deeper appreciation of diversity” and will help her “be a more patient, understanding, and loving teacher”. The experience was a huge success for campers and counselors alike, and could not have been possible without the wonderful collaboration between the Autism Society of Maine, University of New England, and City of Biddeford!

[ASM Summer Camp Page & Photo Gallery](#)



Family Retreat Weekend

by Tena Hinds

Down on the Farm was the theme for this year's Family Retreat which was held July 13-15 at St. Joseph's college in Standish. A great time was had by all, families and staff alike. This year ASM hosted 22 families and 36 children, 3 of those families were new to the retreat this year! It was an amazing weekend!

Friday's Family Fun Night kicked off the festivities with pool time and the rock wall but the thrill of the evening came from "Magic of the Steelgraves", a husband and wife team who brought wonder and excitement to families via their show filled with illusions, audience participation and humor. They entertained all and provided some of the children with up close opportunities to see, first hand, some of their amazing tricks. The facial expressions on the children, as they made things appear and disappear, were priceless. We loved seeing the children interact and attend.

After a good night of sleep the kids were ready for a day full of activities. Despite not being able to use the gym this year, the day was packed with activity. Outside children were engaged with laser tag, a bounce house with its own obstacle course, a petting zoo with goats, their babies and a momma Alpaca with her baby, and many various outside patio games. Inside children were engaged with pool time, arts and crafts, rock wall climbing, farm twister, as well as sitting quietly with a book.

While the children were busy having their fun, parents met with Cathy, the Executive Director. They caught up on events and milestones reached in the last year and got to know and welcome new families. Miles Hunt, Esq. with Epstein and O'Donovan, LLP in Portland shared information on developing Special Needs Trusts, a topic everyone was interested in. Also, Heather Shields, a driving instructor in Maine who specializes in servicing individuals with disabilities, provided answers to questions/ concerns parents presented. Saturday afternoon, parents had the option to enjoy paddleboards and kayaks on beautiful Sebago Lake (after the wedding ceremony), join Susan for a relaxing painting class, or just do nothing at all.

Saturday night's entertainment was a dance, featuring DJ Dave, from 8th Street entertainment. He provided music to a small, yet appreciative group of individuals.

As always the food was outstanding and I am pretty sure everyone went home on Sunday carrying a few more pounds.

The weekend was full of fun and laughter! We can't wait to see you all next year!

[ASM Family Retreat Page & Photo Gallery](#)



ASM's Day on the Hill

by Jennifer Brooking

On July 12th 2018, professionals, volunteers, families, self-advocates and allies for individuals affected by Autism had the opportunity to speak with Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill. These advocates met with their elected officials to educate them and discuss subjects such as community-based supports, education, employment policies and other critical issues impacting people with Autism nationwide. Reauthorizing the Autism Cares Act, opposing efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, reauthorizing the Money Follows the Person Act, passing the EMPOWER Care Act, supporting the full funding of the IDEA Act and strengthening the Higher Education Act were just a handful of important issues that were addressed and advocated for on this powerful day.

Three members of the Autism Society of Maine Board of Directors; President Laurie Raymond, Brigid Rankowski

and Jennifer Brooking, participated in this opportunity, meeting with Senators Susan Collins, Senator Angus King and Representative Chellie Pingree's staff. The reception and interest from all officials, that the ASM Board Members experienced, was globally positive and appreciative. It was an exciting and empowering event and one that will hopefully lead to positive changes and direction in services that will better the quality of life to those affected by Autism and their families.



Back to School (continued)

decisions and other types of clarifications. Good advocates review special education law often. They know that answers to frequently asked special education questions may be found in other unrelated laws. Good advocates understand that school policies often omit the special needs of students with disabilities.

8. Good advocates know that understanding the law is different from quoting the law.

Good advocates know the law but they understand that it is often ineffective and counterproductive to quote it, instead seek "help" to better understanding something.

9. Good advocates understand the importance of ethical behavior in their practice.

There is no Code of Ethics for advocates. Advocates have nothing to look to for guidance and there is no governing body to oversee their practice. There are no penalties for advocates who act unprofessionally, or unethically. This does not suggest that advocates should disregard ethics and engage in irresponsible behavior. Good advocates understand that the respect of all Team members is key to successful change.

10. Good advocates treat others the way they would like to be treated.

No one likes surprises. Taking the team by surprise is likely to backfire, especially if the team "captain" is a gatekeeper or is determined to be the one who runs the show. If the team becomes a war of wits, no one benefits.

source: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/howey/10tips.sch.yr.htm>

Many of these tips could and should be considered for anyone advocating to improve, or attain services for any individual with ASD. Individuals with ASD need more attention given to this, due to their unique personalities and needs. We know that each individual is different and every family/ caregiver has constraints regarding availability of time and resources. It is our hope that you do as much as you can to facilitate positive communication throughout the year to ensure a healthy relationship with all providers. If you put in an honest effort to do this you will have done your job as a parent/ caregiver/ advocate." Autism Society of Maine

Call ASM at 1-800-273-5200 or email infospec@asmonline.org for more information.

EMAIL - SOCIAL MEDIA - ONLINE GROUPS

The Autism Society of Maine has a wonderful Facebook Community including parents, professionals, individuals and anyone interested in autism. If you are not already a friend of our Facebook page, we welcome you to join us!



By "liking" ASM's Facebook page you can help us spread the word to hundreds of new supporters!



Follow us on Twitter as we 'tweet' about autism!



We have a great collection of videos and will be adding more throughout the year!



My Autism Team logo A reputable and friendly place to connect with other parents in Maine.



Sign up to get interesting news and updates delivered to your email inbox from ASM!

Welcome to the Autism Society of Maine Library!



[Visit the ASM Library](#)

Floppy Lop Ears Tries to get off the Spectrum

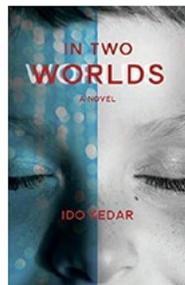
by: Rochelle Caruso Flynn

This is the story of a young bunny who knows that he is not like everyone else and tries to make himself “better” in ways that only the pure innocence and vivid imagination of a young bunny (or child) can create. During his journey, he discovers that sometimes being different is the only way to really find acceptance. The “Parents’ Pages” provide additional information about ASD from the author’s truly unique perspective.



“In Two Worlds” by: Ido Kedar

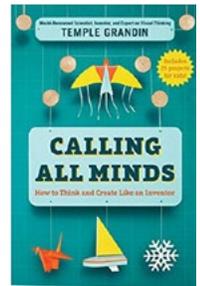
In this book, Ido shares a compelling tale, rich with unforgettable characters who are navigating their way through the multitude of theories about autism that for decades have dictated the lives of thousands of children and their families. This debut work of fiction sheds light on the inner and outer lives of children with nonspeaking autism, and on their two worlds. As one of the only works of fiction written by a person with non-speaking autism, it offers readers an unprecedented insider’s point-of-view into autism and life in silence, and it does so with warmth, humor and a wickedly sharp intellect.



“Calling All Minds” by: Temple Grandin

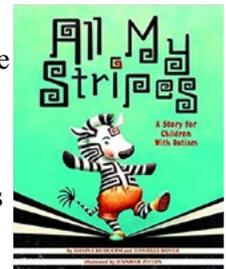
Have you ever wondered what makes a kite fly or a boat float? Have you ever thought about why snowflakes are symmetrical, or why golf balls have dimples? Have you ever tried to make a kaleidoscope or build a pair of stilts?

Temple Grandin explores the ideas behind all of those questions and more. She delves into the science behind inventions, the steps various people took to create and improve upon ideas as they evolved, and the ways in which young inventors can continue to think about and understand what it means to tinker, to fiddle, and to innovate. And laced throughout it all, Temple gives us glimpses into her own childhood tinkering, building, and inventing.



All My Stripes by: Shaina Rudolph and Danielle Royer

This is the story of Zane, a zebra with autism, who worries that his differences make him stand out from his peers. With careful guidance from his mother, Zane learns that autism is only one of many qualities that make him special. Contains a Note to Parents by Drew Coman, PhD, and Ellen Braaten, PhD, as well as a Foreword by Alison Singer, President of the Autism Science Foundation.



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Animals & Shapes- \$9.00
Raindrops & Circles-\$8.00

Autism Society of Maine
 72 B Main St, Winthrop, ME 04364

Items can be seen and ordered from ASM's
 online store:

www.asmonline.org/asm-storefront.aspx

or by calling 1-800-273-5200.

*Includes gift box

Add 5.5% Sales Tax



Folding Puzzle
Tote
\$16.00



Silver Ribbon
\$10.00



Silver Puzzle
\$10.00



Stretchy
\$4.00



Wristband
\$3.00



Lanyard
\$6.00



Keychain
\$6.00



Keychain
\$5.00



Keychain
\$5.00



Lapel Pin
\$5.00



Ceramic Mug
\$11.00



Charm Bracelet
1 Charm
\$6.00



Glass Pendant
\$10.00



Glass Earrings
\$15.00



Ribbon Earrings
\$8.00



Magnets
 Small \$3.00
 Large \$5.00



\$6.00



Owl Charm
\$3.00



Autism Charm
\$3.00



Colored Heart Charm
\$3.00



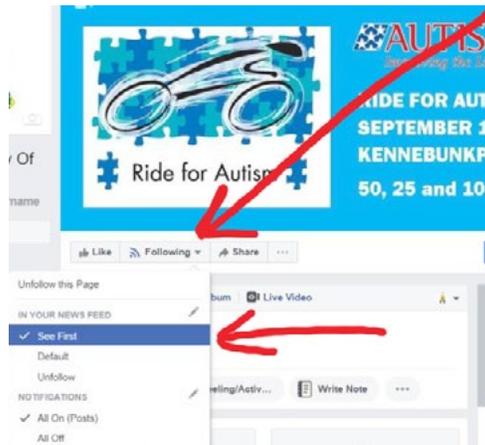
Silver Beads
\$1.00



Colored Beads
\$1.00



Major Changes to Facebook that Impacts ASM's Reach



Facebook has recently undergone major changes to its News Feed, pages that are not considered “trusted” by Facebook, even those users choose to follow, will most likely show up a lot less on their news feed.

If you have “liked,” but are not seeing ASM facebook posts, this new change may be the reason. However, there are some ways of making sure you can choose the content you want to see from the pages you like by updating the notification settings from ASM’s Facebook page.

Update Your facebook Settings: Go directly to ASM’s [facebook page](#) and click on the “Following” button to see a drop-down menu with options on how posts from that page may appear in your news feed.

Selecting “See First” lets you receive posts from that page in your News Feed right when it’s posted so you won’t miss updates from that particular page.

In addition, to help ASM grow and share its content, here are ways that facebook prioritizes posts that they will decide has more reach:

- If the content is shared over Facebook Messenger.
- If the content is Liked or commented on.
- If the content receives multiple replies.
- “Meaningful interactions” between users.

This is a quick and easy way to share what is important to you and help others to see autism related content. **Thank you!!**

Support our Services: Give to the Autism Society of Maine!

The Autism Society of Maine is a statewide nonprofit organization that for over 40 years has served Maine individuals with autism and their families, professionals, and communities by providing education, advocacy, referrals, and resource development. We rely on donations and fund-raisers to help cover the cost of our programs and activities that bring awareness and community to individuals and families affected by ASD. Here’s how you can help:

- General donations may also be made anytime of the year online using our secure donation forms (or you can download and print our PDF forms) at: <http://www.asmonline.org/get-involved/donations.aspx>
- Memorial donations to the Society in memory of a friend or loved-one may also be made at: http://www.asmonline.org/involved_donations.asp
- Donations through Network For Good may be made at: <https://www.networkforgood.org/donation/ExpressDonation.aspx?ORGID2=010407346>
- Donations through United Way can be directed to the Autism Society of Maine. For more information, visit: <http://www.asmonline.org/get-involved/donations-united-way.aspx>
- Join or host a fundraiser with proceeds to benefit ASM! Fun ideas can be found on our fundraising page: <http://www.asmonline.org/get-involved/fundraising.aspx>

ASM Mission Statement

The Autism Society of Maine provides education and resources to support the valued lives of individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

Become a Member!

Join our membership online:
<http://www.asmonline.org/join/>
or call ASM at 1-800-273-5200

For other ways to contribute, contact us at asm@asmonline.org. Thank you for supporting our mission!

Call us at: 1-800-273-5200 or visit us online at www.asmonline.org