



ASGC NEWS

Updates for March 2011



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North Central Ohio Chapter



ASGC members,

The Autism Society of Greater Cleveland's Annual Chili Cook-Off is fast THIS SATURDAY! Join the ASGC and the community for a day of food and fun with a purpose down at The Q! Afterwards, take advantage of one of the autism advocacy or customized recreational opportunities upcoming this month. For instance: Learn to cook your own chili (or quiche or pasta or whatever) at CEVEC Community Living Home. Parents: Learn how to get your children over their first hurdle at Quick Start. Education professionals can learn how to integrate technology into their routine to more effectively communicate with ASD students.

Spring is sprung! But don't let the fresh air make you dizzy; keep active always for yourself and those who need you.



PRESENT THE
2011 CHILI COOK-OFF FOR AUTISM

HOSTED BY THE CLEVELAND GLADIATORS FOR THE BENEFIT
OF THE AUTISM SOCIETY - GREATER CLEVELAND CHAPTER

Enjoy a day of family fun while supporting the ASGC and the Cleveland Gladiators!
The fun begins at 12PM. Sample the best chilies from the region and stay for the
Cleveland Gladiator's home opener vs. the Chicago Rush. Game kickoff at 4PM.

- ▶ **BIG FAMILY FUN!**
Including Magicians & Balloons
- ▶ **LIVE MUSIC**
- ▶ **DOOR PRIZES**
- ▶ **50/50 RAFFLES**
- ▶ **CHINESE RAFFLE**
- ▶ **SILENT AUCTION**



**CLEVELAND'S
HOTTEST
TAILGATE PARTY!**

**AUTISM SOCIETY
OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

P.O. Box 41066, Brecksville, OH 44141
(216) 556-4937 • support@asgc.org
www.asgc.org

FOLLOW THE ASGC
& GET UPDATES AT:



Enter the Q via the footbridge over East 6th Street from the 2nd floor of the garage to the east of the Q.
There is a street entrance to enter the garage for those not parking there.

JOIN US AT THE "Q"!

- ▶ **SATURDAY, APRIL 2 2011**
- ▶ **COOK-OFF 12PM - 3PM**
- ▶ **GAME KICKOFF AT 4PM**

COOK-OFF TICKETS:

Suggested Donation

\$15 ADULTS; \$5 CHILDREN

GAME TICKETS:

Purchase online at asgc.org
or at the door, if not sold out.

\$15, \$22 AND \$30



Regular Meetings and Events

ASGC Meetings

ASGC hosts one meeting per month. The first Monday of each month, 6:30pm to 8:30 pm and Independence Civic Center 6363 Selig Drive, Independence OH 44131.

Other resources:

AutismNE Online Support-Group

AutismNE offers online support group for individuals and families affected by ASD. Please contact Marian Helmick at: dmhelmick7@wmconnect.com

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

NEWS FROM

AUTISM SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND



Sensory Friendly Movies

April 2: *Hop*

April 30 - *Rio*

All movies are at 10:00 AM at AMC's Ridge Park Square, 4788 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH 44144. Tickets \$4.50/person. AMC Entertainment (AMC) and ASGC have teamed up to bring families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy movies in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis with the "Sensory Friendly Films" program.

In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for this unique audience, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down. Families will be able to bring in gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the film. Audience members are free to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing - in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden[®]" policy will not be en-

HUSSMAN FOUNDATION | AMC THEATRES | AUTISM SOCIETY Greater Cleveland

A FILM BY GERARDINE WURZBURG

WRETCHES & JABBERERS

MUSEUM ISLANDS 日本の

Saturday, April 16th
12:00 PM
AMC Ridge Park Square Cinema 8
4788 Ridge Road
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

You can buy them online here: <http://www.amctheatres.com/wretchesandjabberers/>

Upcoming Events

Educators' workshop discusses Applied Behavioral Analysis

What: The Cleveland Clinic will host a two-day workshop aimed at classroom and special education teachers, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and counselors will delve into the basics of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and applied behavioral analysis (ABA). Topics will include autism basics, the principles and applications of ABA, speech and language assessment and training, small-group instruction, and curriculum issues.

Cost: \$300

When: Thursday, April 14 to Friday April 15

Contact: Email Norma Rodriguez at rodriqn@ccf.org or call 216-448-6239

Quick Start Seminars for parents to discuss toilet training

What: UH Hospitals' Jocelyn Eskenazi discusses "Getting Through the Difficult Time."

Cost: \$10 covers discussion, handouts, and parking

When: Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 07:00pm - 08:30pm

Where: W.O. Walker Bldg-1st Floor Auditorium 10524 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, OH 44106

Contact : Ann Marie Dragon
Annmarie.dragon@UHhospitals.org 216-286-5500

Free training session on VizZle education resources

What: Join Meg Murphy and Lauren Stafford for a free training session and learn how to search the VizZle library and make lessons regarding early literacy skills, playing with music and creating interactive lessons for the Smart-Board and other devices.

When: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 at 3 p.m. through 4 p.m.

Where: Blue Room (A Building) at Bellefaire JCB, 22001 Fairmount Boulevard

Contact/Registration: Register online at www.monarchcenterforautism.org or call 216.320.8945

"Wretches and Jabbers"

What: Academy Award winning director Gerardine Wurzburg 's documentary "Wretches and Jabbers" follows autism activists Tracy Thresher and Larry Bissonette as they challenge global attitudes about ASD and issue a hopeful message to reconsider competency. A sentimental story about personal struggle that rings with intelligence, humor, hope and courage, "Wretches and Jabbers" is about the power of relationships.

When: April 16th, 12 p.m.

Where: AMC Theaters-Ridge Park, 4788 Ridge Road Cleveland, OH

Contact:

ASGC: 216-556-4937

AMC Theaters-Ridge Park: (888) 262-4386

More Events! (Please come!)

Autism Awareness Month

Family Outing

What: In honor of Autism Awareness Month, Achievement Centers for Children will be hosting a day of family fun tailored for families with ASD children. Activities will include, bounce houses, family swims, music therapy demonstrations, live animal programs, arts and crafts projects, and more!

When: Saturday April 30, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Achievement Centers for Children , 24211 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, Ohio 44145

Contact: 216-292-9700 ext 248

Cost: \$15 per family covers all activities and food.

Temple Grandin to speak at YSU

What: Autism advocate Temple Grandin will be giving a free lecture at Youngstown State, Youngstown.

Cost: Admission is free, but tickets are required. Tickets will be available at the following locations:

- The Information Desk in Kilcawley Center, located on the YSU Campus

-The Rich Center for Autism in Fedor Hall, YSU

-Franklin Pharmacy, 1732 Youngstown Road, Warren

When: Tuesday, May 17, 2011, 07:00pm

Where: Stambaugh Auditorium, Fifth Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio

Contact : 330-941-1927



Achievement Center to host professionals' night on assistive technology

Join MCAP (Milestones Consortium for Autism Professionals) for a Technology Fair. The fair is aimed at professionals in medicine, psychology, behavior, education, developmental disabilities, and government who want to learn more about the latest technology supporting individuals with autism. The MCAP attendees will rotate in small groups between technology stations. The evening will also include time for a light dinner and networking.

Cost: \$25 includes all programs and a light dinner

When: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 - 6:30-9pm

Where: Achievement Centers for Children, 4255 Northfield Road, Highland Hills, OH 44128

Registration: Mail a check to Milestones Autism Organization, 23880 Commerce Park, Ste. 2, Beachwood, OH 44122, email register@milestones.org, or go to <http://>

Out Yonder:

Headlines from around the country and world



Monarch Center for Autism offers customized birthday parties for ASD children

"Every child deserves to have a memorable birthday party filled with fun, laughter, family and friends," which is why Monarch Center for Autism is now offering birthday planning and facilitation for children with autism!

The Center's professional staff will plan and facilitate a customized birthday party for a child on the autism spectrum. The child's family selects the theme (sensory, art, cooking, music/dance), and Monarch's staff will lead activities, create customized visual supports, supply food and drinks, and create sensory-friendly goody-bags.

For more information, call call 216.320.8658 or visit:

monarchcenterforautism.org

Researchers tweak genes to produce autism-like traits in mice

A genetic experiment which produced behaviors mirroring common traits in autism could lead to a better understanding of the condition in humans, and eventually pave the way for treatments in the far future.

Genes are the chemical "building blocks" which dictate bodily structures and influence behavior. Scientists at McGovern Institute for Brain Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology activated one gene, called "shank3," in mice, after which the animals displayed compulsive, repetitive behavior and social avoidance, two traits most commonly associated with autism spectrum disorders. Since humans as well as mice carry shank3, researchers speculate the gene might be connected to ASD in humans.

"We now have a very robust model with a known cause for autistic-like behaviors," senior author Guoping Feng, a professor of brain and cognitive sciences at MIT, said in a McGovern Institute news release. "We can figure out the neural circuits responsible for these behaviors, which could lead to novel targets for treatment."

Feng's team's findings were published in the March 20 edition of the science journal *Nature*.

Out Yonder:

Headlines from around the country and world



Autism Society of Ohio Legislative Day at Ohio Statehouse

The Autism Society of Ohio will be discussing the issues of the autism community with regard to Ohio State's Budget with the state assembly April 14.

"The budget issues for the autism community are the same as those for the greater [developmental disabilities] community: Medicaid cuts, waivers, school funding, etc. We need to provide legislators with creative ideas that will reduce spending while maintaining or improving needed services. To do that, we need to meet with legislators in large numbers presenting a unified message around these important issues," reads a statement from the ASO.

The Autism Society will be working with The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Network, which includes the Ohio Legal Rights Service, and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center and at the University of Cincinnati. www.nisonger.osu.edu/legislativeregistration

Toy interests could predict effectiveness of autism treatments

A study has found that toddlers with autism who played with a limited number of toys showed more improvement in their communication skills following parent-based treatment than those receiving other community-based treatments.

Sixty-two children younger than two and meeting criteria for ASD participated in the study. The researchers measured the toddlers' social and communication skills during a pretest in which parents in which children played with toys and read books. Then the youngsters were randomly assigned to receive either parent-guided or conventional community-based treatment. The parents in the treatment group learned strategies to help their toddlers communicate, such as practicing taking turns, encouraging eye contact and modeling simple sentences from the child's perspective. The parent-guided system produced communication improvements at the same rate as the standard treatment group in most children.

But parent-guidance did help a subset of the children. Kids who played with fewer toys during the pretest showed more improvement if they received the treatment than if they didn't, showing more instances of making eye contact, pointing to or reaching for objects they wanted, or showing experimenters a toy.

The study appeared online March 22 in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*.

7650 Chippewa Road
#205

P.O. Box 41066

Brecksville, OH 44141

Your help is needed!

Please join the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland are **only \$5.00** per year. Checks for dues or donations can be sent to: ASGC, P.O. Box 41066, Brecksville, Ohio 44141. **We are always seeking volunteer help.** The ASGC is in need of dedicated volunteers to help with our events through out the year, such as our Chili Cook, other one-off programs, and day-to-day help. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call (216) 556-4937 or send an email to support@asgc.org.