



# ASGC NEWS

Updates for March 2011



## Officers:

President:

Rory McLean

Treasurer:

John Hearn

## Board Members

Tom Bregar

Joe Glass

Gus Gallucci

Barb Rutt

AutismNE

North Central Ohio Chapter



*ASGC members,*  
Beware the Idle of March! We know it's cold out, and television and Radio personalities stopped talking about New Years Resolutions back around February 1st. But that's no excuse not to plunge into March like a lion. Please consider looking out for yourself or a loved one at the events advertised in this month's newsletter. Talk about communication with author Rick Lavoie; enjoy a Sensory Friendly Movie; foster your child's discipline and social skills through therapeutic martial arts; and take a break by helping out the ASGC at our Wing Ding Night. Read on all these events and more inside!

*-the ASGC*



# Upcoming Events

## Author to discuss communication issues with parents

**When:** April 5, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

April 6, 9:30 am-11:30 am

**Where:** Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center, 5700 W. Canal Road, Building B Valley View, OH 44125

**What:** Teacher and author Rick Lavoie will lead two talks on communicating with children with learning disabilities. Lavoie has produced many videos on children with disabilities. His most recent books are *The Motivation Breakthrough: 6 Tips for Turning on the Tuned Out Child* (2008) and *It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend: Helping Your Child with Learning Disabilities Find Social Success* (2005).

### Registration:

Registration begins 30 minutes before each presentation. To pre-register by phone, call Jane Seaton OCECD at 800-374-2806. To register online for April 5th, go to:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/X29LCSZ>

To register for April 6th, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WSVSCVJ>

Or, go to [www.ocecd.org](http://www.ocecd.org) click Trainings then Regional Trainings.



## Sensory Friendly Movies

**March 12:** *Mars Needs Moms*

**April 2:** *Hop*

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 enforced unless the audience's safety is questioned.

# More Events

## **Behavior Focused IED to be discussed in Medina**

**What:** Vickie Fesko of the Ohio Foundation for the Education of Children with Disabilities will be hosting a free seminar for families and professionals on individualized education programs for children with disabilities.

**When:** Thursday, February 03, 2011, 06:30pm - 08:30pm

**Where: Location:** Medina City Library, 210 S. Broadway, Medina, OH 44256

**Contact:** 330-723-0004, <http://www.ocecd.org/calendar.php>

## **UH Hospital hosting talk on ASD diagnosis**

**What:** Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital will be hosting a "quick seminar" on coping with ASD diagnosis and practical strategies for making use of the information.

**When:** March 09, 2011, 07:00pm - 08:30pm

**Where:** UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital W.O. Walker Bldg-1st Floor Auditorium 10524 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, OH 44106

**Cost:** \$10. The fee covers the session lecture and parking.

**Contact:** Ann Marie, 216-286-5500, [Annmarie.dragon@UHhospitals.org](mailto:Annmarie.dragon@UHhospitals.org)

## **Discuss inflammatory bowel disease in Independence**

**What:** The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation will sponsor an "Ask the Experts" session on inflammatory bowel disease, a digestive malady common in ASD people, lead by healthcare professionals familiar with every aspect of the condition, from diagnosis, coping, therapies, and surgical options. Lunch will be provided. Event is free, but pre-registration is required.

**When:** March 12 2011, 9:00am - 1:30pm **Where:** Embassy Suites Hotel, 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd., Independence OH

**Contact:** The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, 216-524-7700

## **Technology and learning styles lecture in Valley View**

**What:** Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County presents a lecture on the possible benefits of assistive technologies for the education of students with disabilities and different learning styles. Registration is required, and due March 8. **When:** March 10 2011, 6:30pm - 9:00pm **Where:** 5811 Canal Road, Valley View, OH 44125

**Contact:** Bonnie Simmons at 216-524-3000

# Even More Events! (Please come!)



## Information Night on Martial Arts Therapy

**What:** The Galvin Therapy Center will be hosting an information night on cognitive behavioral therapy-based martial arts education to help children with disabilities develop motor skills, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork. Teens and adults, 17 and up, will be offered a separate class.

**When:** March 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m

**Where:** The Gavlin Therapy Center, 25221 Miles Road, Suite F Warrensville Heights OH 44128

## Free lecture on troublesome behavior management

**What:** Stacy Ciancilo, Behavior Department Supervisor for the Monarch Center for Autism will host a free lecture on *Positive Parenting Strategies for Difficult Behaviors*, discussing the causes of challenging behaviors in ASD children, how to utilize their natural consequences, and how to improve behavior and motivate children. **When:** Tuesday, February 15, **Where:** Bellefaire JCB - Boardroom (A Building), 22001 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland 44118 **Contact:** Monarch Center for Autism, 216-320-6805

## Wing Ding Night to Benefit Summer Social Skills Camp

**What:** The ASGC is sponsoring its third annual Summer Social Skills camp for children on the autistic spectrum ages six through nineteen. To offset the costs, we are hosting a night of food and fun at Jocko's Bar & Grill in BroadviewHeights! A \$25 ticket per person buys all-you-can-eat wings, pizza, pasta and salad, and bottomless domestic draft beer, well drinks, red/white wine and soda. There will be gift baskets, side boards, 50/50 raffle, and more opportunities for fabulous prizes!

But we need your help! Please forward any donations or additional door prizes to The Autism Society of Greater Cleveland, , P.O. Box 41066, Brecksville, OH 44141.

**When:** Saturday, March 19, 2011 from 6 to 9 pm

**Where:** Jocko's Bar & Grill, 1100 West Royalton Road, Broadview Hts., OH 44147

**Cost:** \$25 per person. Additional donations appreciated.

**Contact:** Purchase tickets by calling Eileen Hawkins at (216) 524-0424 or Jim Wotowiec at (216) 407-0139.



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 1PM. 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:



**JOIN US AT THE "Q"!**

- ▶ **SATURDAY, APRIL 2 2011**
- ▶ **COOK-OFF 1PM - 3:30PM**
- ▶ **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**



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.

# Out Yonder:

## Headlines from around the country and world

### **Study suggests link between birth order and autism**

A preliminary study suggests children born less than two years after their siblings were far more likely to develop ASD than those born after at least three years.

The study's results are drawn from a survey of 500,000 Californian children born between 1992 and 2002. The findings were published in the February edition of the journal *Pediatrics*.

No prior research has indicated a link between birth order and autism. However, lead researcher Peter Bearman said "No matter what we did, whether we were looking at autism severity, looking at age, or looking at the various dimensions we could think of, we couldn't get rid of this finding."

The study found no evidence to support the theory that older mothers are more likely to bear autistic children.

Like most of the country, California has seen a drastic spike in autism diagnoses in recent years. According to one poll from the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health found, there were 17, 508 autism diagnoses in 2002, and in 2010 there were 59, 690, which means diagnosis rates tripled in eight years.

It is unclear whether or not there are actually more cases of autism developing, or if health-care providers are becoming more observant of autistic characteristics. This means about one percent of children nationally and in California receive a diagnosis for an autistic spectrum disorder.

### **After high school, ASD teens and adults lack support**

Young adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) see a huge drop-off in assistance resources after high school. According to an article appearing in the February 2011 edition of *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* by Paul T. Shattuck and his colleagues at Washington University, St. Louis, found that many ASD people and their families lost adequate access to medical, mental health, and case-management facilities after graduation.

"The number of young adults in the United States diagnosed as having an autism spectrum disorder is increasing rapidly as ever-larger cohorts of children identified as having an autism spectrum disorder age through adolescence," reads the paper's abstract.

"Regardless of the root cause, the facts remain that treated prevalence is increasing and that the implications of this trend for service systems are poorly understood."

Between April 2007 and February 2008, Shattuck and his team conducted a nationally representative telephone survey of parents of adult children with autism spectrum disorders aged between 19 and 23 years old. About 9 percent of these young adults received speech therapy, 41 percent received case management, 35 percent received mental health attention, and 23 had satisfactory medical coverage. During high school, the same group of students 46.2 percent had mental health coverage, 46.9 percent received medical services, 74.6 percent were getting speech therapy and 63.6 percent had a case manager.

After high school, about 40 percent of youth received no services. African American ASD people were three times as likely than their white peers to receive no services, and families earning \$25,000 or less were six times as likely to be unassisted than those making \$75,000 or more.

# Out Yonder:

## Headlines from around the country and world

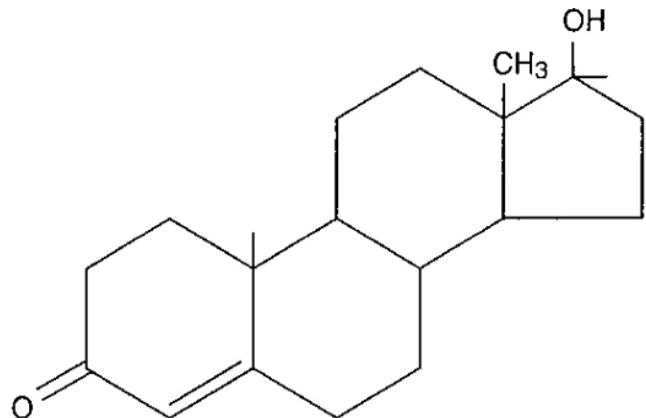
### **Higher testosterone levels in womb may be linked to development of autism**

An Australian paper argues that high testosterone levels in the womb are related to the development of autism-like traits in early childhood. Researchers at Fiona Stanley's Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Perth, Australia, measured the levels of testosterone in 383 infant girls. (Testosterone is a hormone, or chemical that regulates bodily functions, which exists in all humans but is found in higher levels in males and is the cause of many masculine bodily traits like body hair and strong jaws. Higher testosterone levels have also been correlated with increased aggression and decreased empathy.)

At the age of two, the girls were administered behavioural tests. Those girls who had been measured to have higher rates of testosterone before birth scored higher on tests for autism-like traits like trouble maintaining eye contact during conversation.

The study's proponents claim their work bolsters the "male brain" theory of autism developed by British researcher Simon Baron-Cohen, which states that autism is caused by the development of extreme "masculine" traits in the brain like rigid adherence to systemic rules and decreased empathy.

However, the truth of vastly different "male" and "female" thinking-styles is a hotly debated topic within psychology, and some dispute the claim that autism's prevalence among boys is exaggerated, pointing to the fact that many AS girls, especially those on the higher-functioning end, are often given false diagnoses like attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or obsessive-compulsive disorder.



7650 Chippewa Road #205

P.O. Box 41066

Brecksville, OH 44141

E-Mail: [support@asgc.org](mailto:support@asgc.org)

Website: [www.asgc.org](http://www.asgc.org)

Phone: (216) 556-4937

### **ASGC Meetings**

ASGC hosts one meeting per month on the 1st Monday of each month , 6:30pm to 8:30 pm

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](mailto:dmhelmick7@wmconnect.com)

### **Other resources (cont.):**

### **ADHD Success Strategies for Teens**

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm-8:30pm at Calvary Lutheran Church 6906 West Pleasant Valley Road, Parma OH. Please call 216-875-7776 with questions. Different topics are discussed each month. Registration is required.

### **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 off and other programs. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call (216) 556-4937 or send an email to [support@asgc.org](mailto:support@asgc.org).