



April Autism Awareness Month Calendar of Events Special E-BLAST

(Please note this will be sent out again April 1 with updates.)

ERIE

April 8-12, 2011; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fourth Annual Community Art Show
Barber National Institute.

Barber National Institute, 100 Barber Place, Erie, PA 16507

The Barber National Institute's Art Show celebrates the artistic possibilities of all individuals and believes in the importance of creative expression. Pieces include painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, collage, or mixed media. Participants will be divided into three categories: student, adult amateur and adult professional. Monetary awards will be awarded to the winner of each category. Children and adults, whose lives have been touched by a disability, as well as local amateur and professional artists, were encouraged to submit artwork for the show. Contact: Judy Baker, (814) 874-5603. Website:

<http://www.barberinstitute.org/events/artShow/index.php>

April 30, 2011

ASA Northwestern PA 10th Walk
Presque Isle State Park - Rotary Pavilion

Registration Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Walk Begins: 11:00 a.m. promptly

Entry Fee: Registration donation of \$20.00

Kids 14 and under walk FREE

Registration forms and team registration forms available at www.nwpa-asa.org.

For more information call (814) 455-3540

Face painting, Autism Merchandise, Jumping Inflatables (weather permitting), Themed Basket Auction

MONROEVILLE

April 30, 2011

**FBR and AERI Co-Host 9th Annual Autism Awareness Night
Doubletree Hotel in Monroeville, PA**

The 9th Annual Autism Awareness Night is co-hosted this year by Family Behavioral Resources (FBR) and the Autism Education and Research Institute (AERI) on April 7th, 2011 from 6:30pm-9pm at the Doubletree Hotel in Monroeville, PA. Hope for Tomorrow - A Tale of Two Mothers shares unique stories from two women -both of whom are national authors and motivational speakers. Amalia Starr, author of "Raising Brandon" and Claudreen Jackson, wife of the late Pervis Jackson (from Motown group The Spinners) and author of "Inspired by Autism" open their voices and hearts as they talk about their beloved adult sons and experiences in raising their loved ones on the autism spectrum. The stories are as alike as they are different, but common theme remains the same - they have immense love for their sons, and show strength, courage, and resiliency. Their life lessons and perspectives will undoubtedly teach and inspire the audience. This event has always been and is still FREE to the community as part of our commitment to supporting Autism Awareness Month in April. We invite family members, persons on the spectrum, therapists, teachers, paraprofessionals - anyone who need a "cup of comfort and inspiration!" Starr and Jackson will surely remind us that no matter how our loved ones are impacted by the spectrum, there is always "hope for tomorrow." Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities are now available on a limited basis - first come, first serve! Finally, we have applied for Continuing Education hours and expect to once again be approved to provide this exceptional opportunity to those in need of credit. Should this change, we will notify the community immediately. We hope to see returning guests and new faces this year for our annual event. Join us for an exceptional evening!

PHILADELPHIA

April 2, 2011; 6:00 p.m.

Autism Awareness Night at Please Touch Museum

For one special night, Please Touch Museum will open its doors just to children with autism and their families. The museum will be closed to the general public. Come out and enjoy a night of hands-on, sensory-friendly fun for the whole family! Dozens of autism-related organizations will also be in attendance to give out helpful information to attendees. Register on our website: <http://www.varietyphila.org/events/details/2nd-annual-autism-awareness-night-at-please-touch-museum/> There is a \$20 registration fee PER FAMILY (up to 5 family members + TSS). Questions? Please contact Marissa Tabak at marissatabak@varietyphila.org or (267) 261-2113

April 3, 2011; 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

5th Annual 5K Autism Walk for Awareness at Plymouth Meeting Mall

Get your family, co-workers, and neighbors together and come walk the mall to raise awareness for autism. It will be a morning of food, entertainment, music, and exercise! WPVI/6ABC Reporter Amy Buckman will be the Master of Ceremonies! Arts and crafts, moon bounces, and more fun for the kids! Autism-related organizations will also be there to provide helpful information. Proceeds will go towards sustaining and expanding Variety's Autism Initiative. \$25 minimum to walk. See website for more details about prize structure and team fundraising. To register, please go to <http://www.varietyphila.org/events/details/varietysoinh-annual-autism-walk-for-awareness-resources-and-education/> Questions? Please contact Marissa Tabak at (267) 261-2113 or marissatabak@varietyphila.org

April 8, 2011; 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

4th Annual Autism Expo: A Support and Resource Fair for Parents

The School District of Philadelphia Education Center, 440 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130. The Julia Ward Howe School in collaboration with the Office of Specialized Instructional Services cordially invites..... parents, guardians and family members to meet : Providers, Legislators, Advocates, and Parent Supports. Refreshments will be served.

April 22, 2011; 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Autism Awareness day at Sesame Place

Variety's most popular event is back again! Children with autism and their families are invited to attend an exclusive day of fun at Sesame Place! The park will be closed to the general public. Please note that this year it is on FRIDAY. There is a \$25 registration fee PER FAMILY (up to 5 family members + TSS). Please check our website for specific cost info and to register: <http://www.varietyphila.org/events/details/sesame-place-autism-day/>

PITTSBURGH

April 9, 2011; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

AUTISM & SEXUALITY

Helping Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Presented by Shawn McGill

The ABOARD Office, Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Parent and clinical consultant in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1998, Shawn McGill will present an all-day workshop that addresses how we can best support persons on the spectrum to understand and safely express their sexuality. This comprehensive and unique training increases one's knowledge and awareness on how to best prepare your child for puberty, and how to best support them in navigating the many aspects of sexuality. Throughout the day you will learn educational and supportive methods to explain sexual feelings

and body changes and to teach about legal and safe sexual expression.

Learning Objectives

- **Brief overview on sexuality**
- **Brief overview on ASD**
- **How intellectual and developmental disabilities can affect sexuality**
- **Proactive measures with sexuality(label the body, teaching all people ways to say "no" understanding private vs. public behavior, relationships, dating and consent)**
- **Challenging behaviors that may be associated with sexual expression, sexual frustration or lack of understanding**
- **Specific handouts and resource list to aid in teaching human sexuality**

Continuing Education Credits

- **AOTA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**
- **PA EDUCATORS ACT 48**
- **SOCIAL WORKERS**

[Click here to register online!](#)

April 13 -14, 2011

Autism through the Lifespan

Passavant Hospital, Pittsburgh PA

save the date!

AUTISM *through* *the* LIFESPAN

A part of the Passavant Hospital Foundation Extending the Care ETC Program Series
Passavant Hospital Foundation Conference Center & Legacy Theatre at Cumberland Woods Village



Presentations and breakout sessions each day

Wednesday, April 13th early childhood to adolescence

research

findings and implications

education

*working with the system to meet
individual needs*

medicine

*primary care, co-occurring
conditions and diagnosis*

Thursday, April 14th transition: adolescence through adulthood

research

review of relevant state
& federal legislation

planning for
independence

employment

Sponsored by:



PASSAVANT HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

Presented by:



Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
of UPMC



Register: <http://www.ahead.org/ATL.html>

ABOARD, Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders
35 Wilson Street, Suite 100, Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Phone: 412-781-4116 or 1-800-827-9385 Fax: 412-781-4116

WWW.ABOARD.ORG

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