

Happy Mother's Day!



The Autism Society of Hawaii has been active in 2017. We have increased the number of events and workshops to benefit families impacted by autism. New board members on the neighbor islands, Naomi and Lindsey, have provided leadership in their respective islands. I am encouraged that we as a Society continue to carry on our mission to support our keiki. They are the future of Hawaii. They positively impact us, as their family support, and in turn they strengthen our communities many ways. I hope you are as inspired as I am to continue giving your time and resources to supporting ASH. Please feel free to contact us if you'd like to discuss the many ways you can help.

Aloha,
Ryan Lee, M.D.,
President, Autism Society of Hawaii



The summer is about to begin. ASH has had a lot of great events and workshops this past semester which would not have been possible without the partnerships in the community and support from members like you. Thank you, we truly appreciate it. We could only highlight a couple in this newsletter. Please see our [Facebook page](#) for pictures from all the events! To stay updated with more information from Facebook be sure to "Like" the page.

The transition in the summer can be difficult for some students. Some have services and others don't. The amount of services may vary greatly from one family to the next. ASH has a lot of events/workshops coming up in the summer in the summer for the kids to look forward to including the [ASH Summer Camp!](#) We are trying to reach out more to the neighbor islands, however we do need a point person to assist with coordination on site. If you would like to do this please email me. I hope you all had a great school year! Enjoy your summer!

Jessica Wong-Sumida
Executive Director
Autism Society of Hawaii



Amazon Smile

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Autism Society of Hawaii.

The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4410135>



Kokua In Kind

Do you have an old car that you're planning to donate? Let Kokua In Kind help! They will pick it up or you can drop it off. Let them know you want the proceeds to go to the Autism Society of Hawaii. This will allow us to continue providing events and workshops for the families in Hawaii. Thank you!

<http://kokuainkind.com>



Fundraising For A Cause

Fundraising For A Cause items that were requested are in! The magnets are shown above. In addition to the magnets there is a blue bracelet and a water bottle. Thank you Shelby Maher for handling this! Please email her if you would like to purchase these items: shelbymahealani@yahoo.com

Large Autism Awareness Ribbon Magnet: \$5

Small Autism Awareness Ribbon Magnet: \$3

Autism Touches Us All Magnet: \$3

Autism Touches Us All Plastic Water Bottle:\$7

Autism "Believe" Puzzle Piece Bracelet: \$5



Influenza and Vaccination During Pregnancy?

Zerbo et al. Association between influenza infection and vaccination during pregnancy and risk of autism spectrum disorders. JAMA Pediatrics 2017;171:e163609.

The investigators of this study examined the relationship between flu infections and flu vaccines during pregnancy and the risk of autism spectrum disorders (ASD). They studied 196,929 children from California, of which 3101 (1.6%) were diagnosed with ASD.

They found no overall relationship between flu infection or vaccination during pregnancy and the risk of ASD in the child. When they looked at the relationships at specific points in pregnancy, there was a possible relationship between flu vaccine before 12 weeks of pregnancy and ASD. However, further analysis showed that this might not be a real relationship, instead due to chance.

The authors of the study concluded that the findings of their study support continuing the current recommendation for universal flu vaccination during pregnancy regardless of gestational age. Infection and fever itself during pregnancy is associated with ASD, and the flu can cause severe, even fatal illness in the mother. Therefore, to the best of our knowledge the benefits of flu vaccination during pregnancy appear to continue to outweigh its risks.



Autism Eats

Autism Eats provides autism-friendly non-judgmental environments for family dining, socializing and connecting with others who share similar joys and challenges.

Going to a family restaurant should be an enjoyable experience. A time to relax, enjoy good food and spend time with your family. Let someone else do the cooking and cleaning.

Unfortunately, for those of us who have a child with autism dining out can be anxiety provoking and stressful. As parents, we may feel that "all eyes are on us" when our kids exhibit certain behaviors, have outbursts or refuse to sit still. Other diners may be disturbed and the well intentioned wait staff doesn't really know the best way to help out.

Many of us decide it is just not worth the effort and that is unfortunate. We created Autism Eats to bring the fun back to eating out.

Our dinner parties are held in private rooms of restaurants or function facilities. Food is served buffet or family style so there is no waiting. Music and lighting are adjusted to accommodate those with sensory sensitivity. These are family dinners and all attending have a loved one on the spectrum so there is no need to apologize, explain or feel uncomfortable. It is an opportunity to enjoy a night out and socialize with others who have many of the same joys and challenges in common. --- Lenard Zohn

See a short video [here](#) from this past Autism Eats in February with a Sensory Friendly Magician with the proclamation from the Governor recognizing the importance of the event.

For the upcoming Autism Eats in August at St. Louis Alumni Association Hall, Behavioral Therapeutic Association of Hawaii (BTSH) has sponsored [Lego Play Town](#) for the kids to enjoy! There is a maximum of 75 children, each group will have one hour to enjoy the activity.

All registration must be done through www.autismeats.org however please RSVP for your seat in advance [here](#). Tickets will be \$30 for adults and \$15 for children.. All children 3+ must pay as they will be counted and allowed to enjoy the Lego Play Town. Prices include the tax and

gratuity of the meal.

The food will be catered from Bob's BBQ consisting of hibachi chicken (sauce on the side), kalua pig, chicken katsu, fried fish fillet, teri beef, mac salad steamed, rice, fruits, salad and juice. There will also be chips, cookies and brownies for the kids to enjoy.

If you have any questions please contact Lenard Zohn with Autism Eats at ljohn90@comcast.net or Jessica Wong-Sumida with the Autism Society of Hawaii at autismhi@gmail.com.



Sensitive Friendly Chuck E. Cheese

Chuck E. Cheese started '[Sensitive Sundays](#)' in selected cities on the East Coast earlier this year (2017). The first event in the series was held January 8 and was extremely successful. 'Sensitive Sundays' are where there is:

- 1. Less crowding and noise**
- 2. Dimmed lighting**
- 3. Show and music turned off or down**
- 4. Limited appearances by Chuck E.**
- 5. Food and games are offered**

Chuck E. Cheese's launched the national expansion of 'Sensory Sensitive Sundays' on

Sunday, April 2, in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day after a successful three-month test run at 54 locations in the Northeast, due to overwhelming interest in the program from parents and autism organizations alike, to include 355 Chuck E. Cheese's restaurants nationwide. The occurs on first Sunday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m. at these locations.

Unfortunately Hawaii is not one of these locations. Until it is offered here, ASH is happy to make this available quarterly however it must be on a weekday so it the dates chosen are on Holidays. See our Facebook page for picture from the first event which had more than 20 families attend.

The cost is \$6 per person and includes: 2 slices of pizza, a drink and tokens. The snack bar is available for individual purchases such as additional pizza, salad etc. Families can stay past 11:00am but at that point the general public will be allowed in, the sounds and lights will go up and business will resume as usual. Parents must stay on the premise throughout the event.

Sign up for the upcoming Sensitive Friendly Chuck E. Cheese Below:

August 18th [Here](#)

November 10th [Here](#)



ASH Fishing Event

ASH's fishing event took place at the Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden. It is a catch-and-release program that is fun for the whole family. They provide bamboo poles with barbless hooks. Loves Bakery donated 60 loaves of EDIBLE bait, fresh white bread (in case the kids ate it, and some did which is okay!) which worked great! Families may also bring their own poles with barbless hooks. Fish commonly seen: tilapia and midas cichlid.

Although there was a flash flood advisory the day before the families bravely came out, made the 20 minute walk and had a great time. Check out our Facebook page for more pictures and a short clip [here](#).

Thank you Jessica and Cres Oxiles for helping out and we could not have done this without the expertise of Carol and Brendon Sunada Kim. The fish would still be stuck on the poles! Thank you so much! We hope to do this again later in the year when the weather is better.



Autism: Police and Families as Partners

Children on the spectrum and emergency first responders, especially the police, come in contact much too often. When this happens, the way that officers are trained to handle situations may not be the best if they child has autism. This is especially true if they are unaware that the child has a disability.

"Autism: Police and Families as Partners" is a way for children with special needs to get familiar with police at various schools throughout Oahu who are graciously allowing us to use their facilities (the cafeteria) on the weekend.

There will be a topic of focus (a different topic in each district i.e. elopement/wandering, bullying etc.) and professionals/parents can share their experience with the police and vice versa in an informal environment. A professional from ABC Consulting Group will lead a guided conversation. Resources will be provided for the parents and police to take. Parents are encouraged to bring their child and attend as many of the events as they can!

For the families who are not able to make it into town for the Keiki ID Event at Shriners, we will end the series with another Keiki ID event in District 8 at Makakilo Elementary. Please see below for information on Keiki ID's:

- A Keiki ID kit is a preventative tool to help recover missing children. It includes spaces for a child's fingerprints, photo, dental chart (for a dentist to fill in), and a DNA sample (a strand of hair from the child's hairbrush). Remember to update your keiki's photo at least yearly as there will be changes to physical characteristics with age. Please keep this kit in a safe place in your home. If your child ever goes missing, this kit should be given to law enforcement immediately. I will email a Keiki ID form that must be filled out PRIOR to coming. Please fill 1 form out for EACH child receiving a Keiki ID.
- Sign up here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/autism-police-and-families-as-partners-tickets-33035643499> Select the number of adult and child tickets for each of the area/school(s) you will be attending and/or the topic(s) which interest you.



Resource of the Month!
[COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCILS](#)

The Community Children's Councils (CCC's) serve children and families including those with disabilities

and mental health needs through collaborative partnerships. Fully supported collaborative partnerships require equal participation and shared responsibilities of families, local providers, community stakeholders and representatives.

Originally established under the Felix mandate, Superintendent Hamamoto chose to keep the CCC's on because she realized the important played throughout the stay bridge parents, providers and community stakeholders together to share information and resources i.e. a representative from the DOE, DOH, Public Health Nurse, many of the provider agencies, members of the community and parents come together. Every month, throughout the state, there are monthly meetings which can be found at the link above. The CCC's are part of the DOE's community engagement office.

In addition to the providing a forum for information and to share experiences and concerns, the CCC's also sponsor 1-2 people for training a year, host events such as the Youth Mental Health and First Aid Training (YMHFA), Back to School Fair and on other activities such as shown above. The CCC's and ASH were able to support "Teacher's Day" on May 9th with the help of [Fujiya](#) to provide 200 SPED teacher's in the Honolulu District with rainbow uacoco. Thank you CCC's for your continued support and collaboration throughout the years!

Contact Willie_Cadena/CCCO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us if you have any questions about the CCC's or you can go to any of the meetings listed on their website!



ASH Book Club!

The Autism Society of Hawaii is starting the "ASH Book Club". There will be 2 different books featured a month for two people to review. The reviews do not have to be long, a paragraph or two. It will be posted on our website, on Facebook and in some cases it will be a link to the publisher's site. The purpose of this is to allow parents and professionals to view feedback on available literature prior to purchasing it, as well as increase the availability of autism related resources in the community.

All reviewers must purchase the book that will be reviewed. It will be available at a discounted price. Anyone can participate, we will mail the books to the neighbor islands. There's a limit of one review per person.

Most of books will have additional limited quantities available at the discounted price. The discounts will range, depending on the book. The additional discounted books will be available for purchase and reviews do not need to be submitted for these purchases. If you are interested please click on the link to be added to the "ASH Book Club" list. I will send out more information soon.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ash-book-club-tickets-34331990909>

Upcoming books to be reviewed include the following. Other option will be emailed to those who have RSVP'd. Click on the link for more information about the book. The discounted price varies and is included in parenthesis:

-[Focus on Transition: A Workbook for Independent Living Skills](#) (\$80)

-[FISH: Functional Independence Skills Handbooks](#) (\$90)

-[Teaching Perspective-Taking Skills to Children with ASD](#) (\$50)

-[Practical Theory of Mind Games](#) (\$45)

-[Teaching Kids of All Ages to Ask Questions](#) (\$30)

-[Introducing Inference](#) (\$30)

- Don't forget that ASH also has a lending library at Shriner's Hospital for people to check out books if you're interested. Thank you Vicky Bolman, Ellen Politano and Mae Okawa for donating the books for the lending library!

Please email me if you are a publisher and would like to assist with this project or have suggestions!



Autism In The Media

Autism on TV (Thank you Autism Foundation – Shannon Pucci for putting this list together!)

[Amy & Dennis' on Police and Families As Partners](#)

News Article (video clip was not posted online - or I can't find it)

[Maher Teaser video & facebook post:](#)

[Jessica's Spinners](#)

Video clip & News Story

[Teaser video](#) & [facebook post](#)

[Julianne & Kahumana Learning Center](#)

Video clip & News Story:

[Facebook post](#) & photos

[Shannon & DOE topic](#) (Thank you Kathleen)

Video clip & News Story:

[Facebook post](#) & lots of comments:

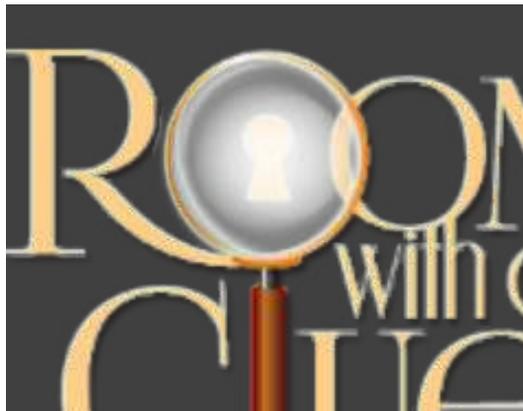
[ASH in the Press](#)

[Star-Advertiser January 22, 2017 Autism Eats](#)

[Midweek February 1, 2017 Toys R. Us "Quiet Hour"](#)

[Midweek April 5, 2017 Dr. in the House](#)
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[Star-Advertiser April 30, 2017 Microsoft Series](#)



[Room With A Clue](#)

Room With A Clue is a live escape room in Honolulu which tests the kids skills and wits. The team will use a series of clues, puzzles, and hints to find a way to escape a locked room. The escape room is filled with a series of challenges they must solve by working together using communication skills. Using the clues, puzzles, and hints you uncover, you will try to crack the codes and escape before the time runs out. During the event, the game masters will guide you if you are stuck. This is a short [video](#).

There is a maximum of 8 people per team. There will be two days, one for kids ages 14-18 and one for ages 8-13. For both groups we are asking for 3 parents who like puzzles to be in the room to assist the kids with staying on task and talking TO each other when they find the

clues. In each group there will be extra clues and the kids will ultimately be successful and exit the room. Ordinarily there is an approximate 50% exit rate however in this case the game master will step in to assist if the extra clues are not enough and additionally parents may help if they find that the kids are missing it as well.

This game room will be: The Museum Robbery. Other rooms, if held again, may be different. There are 2 other scenarios (rooms). Your team must communicate with each other to steal a large and rare gem that's guarded by heavy security.

The owner has a brother on the autism spectrum. She is very familiar with the disorder and is excited to make this a successful event for the children. If the this group is full, sign up for the wait list so I will know to schedule another event. The reason we are making it on a Monday and Tuesday is to provide the children additional time past the 60 minutes if they take longer. However, if it seems like they are getting tired of playing after 30 etc, and they just want to get out of the room we can speed up the clues so they solve the puzzle faster.

The cost is \$25 per person. This is a discounted rate only available through this offer. Sign up [here!](#)



Upcoming Events

May 20th – Charity Walk!

The Autism Society of Hawaii is a completely volunteer-run non-profit through the generous donation by families like you and tremendous community support. Help us continue to provide events and workshops for families touched by Autism. Come walk with us! – Registration Required

[Here](#)

May 21st – DELTA “I Can Fly!”

FREE – Starts at 4:30pm-6:00pm

Registration Required [Here](#) Maximum

Capacity Reached

May 21th, June 24th, July 29th – Sibshops

Mixers

6:00pm-7:30pm: FREE Open to 12+

Registration Required [Here](#) Each person

responsible for their own meal.

June 3rd – Sensory Diets

9:00am-10:00am: FREE, Shelley Boling,
OTR Shriener's Registration Required [Here](#)

June 4th – D&B “End of School”

**Fundraiser! MINIMUM PARTICIPANTS
REQUIRED - 30**

**8:00am – Breakfast Buffet: \$20 adults,
\$10 children, Optional: \$15 Game Card
w/Unlimited Play, First 25 signups are
\$5, limit 2 per family. (May stay for the
remainder of the day but the public
enters at 11:00am) – Registration**

Required [Here](#)

June 10th – Keiki ID (Start of “Autism: Police and Families as Partners”)

10:00am-12:00pm: Registration Required
[Here](#)

See flyer on “Autism: Police and Families as Partners” for other locations at various schools through Oahu each featuring a different topic presented by ABC Consulting Group

June 17th – Sensitive Friendly Film Kapolei (Cars 3) MINIMUM 75 – Reached Starts at 9:30 (entrance at 9): Registration Required [Here](#) (Thank you First Hawaii Bank!)

July 28th-30th – ASH Summer Camp at YMCA’s Camp Erdman MINIMUM 8, MAXIMUM 20 \$100 for students (Grades 6-12), \$65 for adults who want to go: Registration Required [Here](#)

July 22nd – Sensory Friendly Film at Consolidated Ward (Despicable Me 3) MINIMUM 75 Starts at 9:30 (entrance at 9): Registration Required [Here](#)

August 5th – “Welcome Back to School” Train Ride MAXIMUM 150 Starts at 12:00pm (can bring own lunch etc. from 10:30 to enjoy bouncers): \$6 per person Registration Required [Here](#)

August 6th – Autism Eats “Lego Play Town!” Ride MAXIMUM 75 children (all children must register) 11:00am-1:30pm: Saint Louis Alumni Association Hall: \$30 for adult and \$15 for children (ages 3-10) RSVP [Here](#) (Prices are rough estimates. After RSVP’s are taken, registration must be made through

www.autismeats.org which will have the final price.)

August 10&11 and 24&25 Youth Mental Health First Aid MAXIMUM 30
8:00am-12:00pm FREE – Schofield and Shafter (Reserved for military - EFMP)
Light Refreshments Included (Thank you CCC and ASH) Registration Required
[Here](#)

August 18 (It's a Holiday) Sensitive Friendly Chuck E. Cheese 9:00am-11:00am \$6 – Includes 2 pieces of pizza, a drink and tokens. Snack bar open for additional purchases. Registration Required [Here](#)

October 29th – Autism Eats “Halloween Fish” Ride MAXIMUM 75
11:00am-1:00pm: Pagoda Hotel: \$35 for adult and \$25 for children (ages 5-8)
RSVP [Here](#) (Prices are rough estimates. After RSVP's are taken, registration must be made through www.autismeats.org which will have the final price.)

November 9th Painting With A Purpose - survey will be sent out for the kids to choose the painting, great for Christmas gifts!

November 10th (It's a Holiday) Sensitive Friendly Chuck E. Cheese 9:00am-11:00am \$6 – Includes 2 pieces of pizza, a drink and tokens. Snack bar open for additional purchases. Registration Required [Here](#)

November 11th Aloha Winter Ball
MAXIMUM 150 Manoa Grand Ballroom

December 3rd "Quiet Hour" Toys R. Us
Pearlridge



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Thank you being a member of the Autism Society of Hawaii!

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