ASPEN’S VIRTUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

Adulting on the Autism Spectrum

(This is the rescheduled Spring 2020 conference that was canceled.)

Keynote Presenter
Amy Gravino
RCAAS Relationship Coach
Best-Selling Author, Autism Advocate, Consultant & Motivational Speaker
Entering into Adulthood with Autism

Plus All 8 Workshops:

Autism/Neurodiversity@Work: Employers Want to Hire You!
What About Driving?
Young Adult Panel Discussion: In Our Own Words
Financial Life Path: A Walk Down Two Roads
Success in College: Making the Right Choices Before You Go & Once You Are There
Project SEARCH: Innovative Employment & Training Program
College 101 for Students on the Autism Spectrum and Their Parents
Sexuality & the Spectrum: Lessons on Sex, Dating, & Love Autism Style

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021
Virtual Pre-recorded Video Conference
May be viewed from the comfort of your home
for 4 weeks.

Sunday, April 18th, 2021, at 7:00 a.m. through
Sunday, May 16th, 2021, at 10:00 p.m.

Registration includes the Keynote Presentation
AND ALL Eight (8) Workshops!
Message from our President/Executive Director
Lori Shery

As we are still socially distancing, we have made the decision to hold our canceled 2020 spring conference as our 2021 spring virtual pre-recorded video conference. This will allow people to register for the conference and watch the keynote presentation and all of the 8 workshops, from the comfort of their homes, at their own pace. We will send links (mp4 and pdf files) to each registrant for the keynote session and all 8 workshops. The links will be active (and the videos will be available) for 4 weeks, beginning 7am Sunday, April 18, 2021 and ending at 10pm on Sunday, May 16, 2021. We will not be “snail mailing” any registration forms; the only notice you will receive is via Constant Contact email and on our website. Handouts, including Power Point slides, will be available for download via the links sent to you. Questions may be submitted to an email address that will be provided. As the conference will not be live-streamed, your questions will be sent to the individual presenters for responses following the conference.

Stay well and be safe. We hope to connect with you at our 47th conference on April 18th!

Adulting on the Autism Spectrum

ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE
KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
Amy Gravino
Entering into Adulthood with Autism

Autism is defined as a lifelong developmental disability that affects communication, social skills, and behavior, yet the image of autism that we see both in the medical community and popular culture tends to be almost entirely of children. By painting autism as something that only happens in childhood, we overlook and ignore a simple yet incredibly important truth: That autistic children grow up and become autistic adults. This presentation interweaves the limited knowledge that we have of autism in adulthood with one young woman’s personal story, and the journey her parents and she embarked on after she received the diagnosis of autism at age 11. Strategies for fostering interdependence in individuals on the spectrum will be discussed, as well as ideas for talking about and planning the future with, rather than for, your autistic children and clients.

WORKSHOPS

A) Autism/Neurodiversity@Work: Employers Want to Hire You!
presented by Anthony Pacilio and Samantha Rosenthal

What is the national/international Autism@Work movement? Who is involved? Who is it suited for? What is the process? What does the initiative look like at JPMorgan Chase & Co.? Find out the answers plus what one job applicant’s experience with the application, interview and notification process was. Join us to hear from the experts!
**B) What About Driving?**
presented by Allison Devor, Katie Hutzayluk and Brigitte Muehlbauer

Driving is an exciting yet scary time for parents and adolescents alike. When we think of driving, we think of independence and freedom to go places we need to go to, as well as places we enjoy going to. However, driving is not for everyone. During this presentation we will discuss how to determine if your young adult is ready to drive. We will go over concerns/red flag areas of cognition, vision, and perception for those who are not ready, as well as skills that are necessary to handle the task of driving. The process in which one is tested will be reviewed from start to finish starting with the referral process, the pre-driver clinic evaluation, and the behind the wheel evaluation.

Who should determine whether one is ready to drive? You will leave with the understanding of what a Certified Rehab Specialist does to ensure that your young adult is getting the most appropriate recommendation. We will share our experiences with this population and provide areas of therapeutic intervention. Case studies will also be reviewed as well as funding.

**C) Young Adult Panel Discussion: In Our Own Words**
presented by Stephen Bloshuk, Ryan Foley, Matthew Kamis, Jonathan Kratchman, Samantha Rosenthal & Dennis Taylor

Six young adults with ASD/Asperger’s will discuss their personal college and work experiences, offering tips and suggestions.

**D) Financial Life Path: A Walk Down Two Roads**
presented by Nicholas Scheibner

In this session, Certified Financial Planner™ Nicholas J. Scheibner will speak about navigating the “Financial Life Plan” for individuals with ASD and their parents. From birth, to retirement, to end-of-life, what are the financial considerations we should know along the way? We’ll talk about DDD, DVRS, SSI and SSDI benefits, and review the resources available through New Jersey. During the session, we’ll review a real-life example of Social Security Disability benefits, and the effects of the Family Max, survivor benefits, and more. We’ll also look at the 529 Plan ABLE account, and review options for Trusteeship when we pass on.

**E) Succeeding in College: Making the Right Choices Before You Go, and Once You Are There!**
presented by Pamela Lubbers and finnigan madison

We will identify and explore resources that will: help you prepare for college, find the right school and support program, understand college expectations and resources, and position yourself for internships and employment during and after college. This session will be very practical, as we review resources and hear the “lived experiences” of some University of Delaware students and graduates with ASD.

**F) Project SEARCH: Innovative Employment & Training Program for Young Adults with Disabilities**
presented by Carol Polack, Tara Bohan and Jennifer Murrin

Project SEARCH is internationally known as “the” model designed to support young adults with different abilities on their individualized journey to gaining competitive employment. What makes Project SEARCH so different? Total workplace immersion, portable-skills-building internships, exceptional opportunities, an atmosphere of high expectations, and post-program support for job retention and advancement, to name a few. Project SEARCH programs achieve an average of 77% in employment outcomes. Join us to learn how Project SEARCH supports its interns’ desire to work and helps them succeed in the workplace.
**G) College 101 for Students on the Autism Spectrum and Their Parents**

presented by Beth Felsen

Discover questions you should ask in order to begin the college conversation. Explore the differences between the high school and college experiences plus crucial skills needed for college success. Learn about college options, navigating disability services, and college accommodations.

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**H) Sexuality and the Spectrum: Lessons on Sex, Dating and Love Autism Style**

presented by Amy Gravino

Individuals on the autism spectrum are sexual beings yet are usually not taught the necessary skills to be successful in sexual and romantic relationships. This session, which features a woman on the autism spectrum sharing her firsthand perspective, will dispel some of the myths and misconceptions surrounding autism and dating, discuss the potential for using ABA to teach dating skills and the challenges involved with teaching these skills, and offer strategies and resources to help parents and clinicians begin conversations about relationships and sexuality with their family members and clients.

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**ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Amy Gravino, M.A., RCAAS Relationship Coach, is an autism sexuality advocate and Relationship Coach in the Center for Adult Autism Services at Rutgers University. She is also the President of A.S.C.O.T Consulting, which offers autism consulting, college coaching, and mentoring services for organizations, schools, individuals on the autism spectrum, and their families. Amy is an international speaker who has given TED talks, spoken twice at the United Nations for World Autism Awareness Day, and presented worldwide to audiences on a variety of topics related to autism, with a dedicated special focus and research on the subject of autism and sexuality. Ms. Gravino obtained her Master’s Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Caldwell University in 2010 and currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Specialisterne USA, Yes She Can, Inc. and the Golden Door International Film Festival of Jersey City, as well as the Scientific Advisory Board of Simons Foundation Powering Autism Research (SPARK). She is an award-winning writer whose work has been featured in Spectrum, the leading online news source for autism research, Reader’s Digest, special education textbooks and other publications. Visit www.amygravino.com to learn more.

**WORKSHOP PRESENTERS**

Anthony Pacilio is a Vice President and Global Head of Autism at Work for JPMorgan Chase. In this role, he manages recruiting efforts, as well as developing candidate pipelines and ensuring best practices for ongoing support. Anthony has been with JPMC eight years, serving in a variety of technology roles in Consumer and Community Banking. Prior to joining JPMC, he held various positions in the finance and healthcare industry. Anthony’s previous companies include MBNA America, Bank of America and CIGNA.

Samantha Rosenthal is an autistic employee of JPMorgan Chase in the Software Engineering Program. She graduated from the University of Delaware in May 2020 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics, and minors in Computer Science, Economics and Statistics. Samantha previously worked for the Spectrum Scholars program at the University of Delaware as an Autistic Ambassador, during which time she helped give presentations on autism and hold events for the students.

In her free time, Samantha enjoys reading, particularly books by Terry Pratchett, and also making balloon animals for anyone who will take one, though this activity has been postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic. She also enjoys writing poems and short essays about her disabilities and how they affect her interactions with and perceptions of the world.
Her current goals are to continue improving her software engineering skills, save up to buy a townhouse, and work on eating new foods, the latter of which she considers the most difficult.

Allison Devor, MOT/L, CDRS, CDI has been in the field of Occupational Therapy for almost 20 years. She graduated from Trenton State College in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science in Corporate Fitness. She then moved on to earn her Bachelor’s Degree in Health Science and graduated Cum Laude concurrently with her Master’s Degree in Occupational Therapy in 2000. A majority of Allison’s knowledge as a therapist came from working at John F. Kennedy Institute for Rehabilitation, where she spent 10 years of her career working with traumatic brain injuries on the acute Brain Trauma Unit (BTU) and Extended Recovery Unit (ERU). Allison earned her Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialty Certification (CDRS) in 2005 making her one of just 7, at the time, in the state of New Jersey. She continues to work at JFK Medical Center with a variety of clients including those with high level Autism/Asperger Syndrome. Allison works full time at the JDT Villa Sub-Acute Rehabilitation Center in Lincoln Park. She thoroughly enjoys her job as an Occupational Therapist and feels her clients are all very special in their own way.

Katie Hutzayluk has been an Occupational Therapist for more than a decade. She works in the outpatient department of Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in Flemington and is motivated by helping people work towards being their best person possible so that they can enjoy their life to the fullest. She believes in the saying, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Sciences and a Master’s Degree in Occupational Therapy, both from The University of Scranton. Her certifications include Certified Driver Rehab Specialist (CDRS). Katie has worked at JFK Johnson Rehab Institute (2006-present), Morristown Medical Center (2006-2014), and Kessler Rehab Center (2017-present).

Brigitte A. Muehlbauer graduated from College Misericordia in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Science and a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. She started her career in school-based therapy, working with students aged 3-21 with a variety of diagnoses, including students with ASD. Brigitte came to Hackensack Meridian Health at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute in 2004, where she gained experience in each of its departments. Her certifications included Certified Driver Rehab Specialist.

Stephen Bloshuk currently lives in Rockaway, New Jersey, with his family. He holds two degrees: a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and a Master of Library and Information Science Degree. He currently works in the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Center (MCACC) as a full-time librarian. His hobbies include reading, playing video games and spending time with his family, as well as his fiancee, Toni Lynn.

Ryan Foley is the president of Blue Fan, Inc. a nonprofit organization that is focused on improving the lives of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Through Blue Fan, Inc., he has been sharing his experiences with having autism in presentations to parents, professionals and individuals with disabilities. In 1990 at 5 years old, Ryan was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), and later received the diagnosis of Asperger’s Disorder. He was placed in a self-contained classroom following his initial diagnosis. After 2 ½ years, his parents insisted that he be placed in a classroom with typically developing peers. As a result, Ryan became one of the first students with autism in Texas to enjoy the benefits of an inclusive education. He received his Bachelor’s Degree from Texas Women’s University (TWU) with a double major in Sociology and Criminal Justice. Ryan resides in Texas where he shares a home with his parents and Ciara, his Golden Pyrenees. His hobbies include collecting blue oscillating fans, researching 1980s music, and training to run marathons.

Matthew Kamis is a recent graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University with a B.A. in Film and an interest in telling Jewish-focused stories. Besides being active with Greek Life, Film Clubs, and Charity, Matt was also a vocal advocate for Students’ Rights, having participated in university-sponsored events addressing the myths and realities of college life as a student on the Autism Spectrum. In his free time, Matt is focused on all things art and film, having worked on multiple feature films and interned at the Cannes Film Festival both in high school and college. He is currently working on Season 2 of Hulu’s Wu Tang: An American Saga where he helps maintain Covid-19 procedures.

Jonathan Kratchman is a Policy Analyst at Healthcare Inc. and a graduate of Rutgers University and the Eagleton Institute of Politics Undergraduate Associates Program. He serves on the Public Policy Committee for the Autism Society of America and other disability advocacy groups as a self-advocate.

Dennis James Taylor is a 27-year-old graphic artist and a graduate of Bergen Community College, with an Associate’s Degree in Applied Arts and Sciences. His professional career began at Spectrum Works, a nonprofit that provides job training and life skills for young adults on the autism spectrum. He has been a representative at their community events and fundraisers. They facilitated a position with F&M Expressions, the graphics department of Green Distribution. Dennis is the founder/CEO of D.J.T. Productions, as well as the author and illustrator of a new young adult book, “Bandit’s Legacy.” He is also a script consultant for a new animated PBS children’s series, “Hero Elementary,” with input on its character, AJ Gadgets, an African American boy, who, like Dennis, is on the autism spectrum. Additionally, he is developing his own animated series, “The Taylor Cubs.” Dennis has presented for Autism Awareness
Month and the “Dare to Dream” Student Leadership Conference. Additionally, he was a panelist for the Autism Speaks 2019 Thought Leadership Conference on Health Equity. His interests include animation, animals, travel, music and museums.

Nicholas Scheibner is a Wealth Management Advisor and Certified Financial Planner Professional at Baron Financial Group in Fair Lawn, NJ. At Baron Financial Group, Nick works with Special Needs families and their loved ones to help develop their investment and estate plans while guiding them through their journey towards financial security. Nicholas has been quoted in The New York Times, CNBC.com and NJMoneyHelp.com.

Pam Lubbers (she, her) is the program manager for Spectrum Scholars, a comprehensive college-to-careers program for matriculated University of Delaware undergraduate students with autism. She has responsibility for both the daily operation of the program and staff, and building relationships at the university and community at-large that foster inclusion, support and appreciation of all students, neurodivergent and otherwise.

Before coming to the University of Delaware, Pam ran a support program for matriculated autistic students at a major NJ university. Collectively, she has spent 20 years teaching, providing direct support and programming for autistic students from middle school through college. An educator and advocate, Pam holds state certifications in teaching secondary and special education, supervision and curriculum design. With the exception of a few years spent in marketing in corporate America, Pam has worked to support, include and celebrate diverse populations in educational, work and community settings.

finnigan madison (ze/hir) is an autistic, jewish, gay, trans, genderqueer man from newark, delaware. finnigan holds a BA from university of delaware (’19), where ze majored in asian studies and minored in religious studies. ze is currently a program ambassador, and autistic self-advocate, at spectrum scholars: a college-to-career program for undergraduate autistic students at hir alma mater. in hir free time, ze loves to grow vegetables in hir garden. hir aspirations are to become a rabbi (or a farmer) and a gestational parent. hir name is legally all lowercase.

Carol Polack is the Business Manager of the Bergen County Workforce Development Board (Bergen WDB). She has been with the Bergen WDB since 2012, and also serves as the County Coordinator for Bergen County’s Project SEARCH Programs.

Tara Bohan is the Director of Instruction at Bergen County Special Services (BCSS). She has been with BCSS for over 20 years and oversees the Bergen County Project SEARCH High School Program.

Jennifer Murrin is the Executive Director of Administration of North Jersey Friendship House (NJFH). Jennifer has been at NJFH since 2013 and oversees the Bergen County Project SEARCH Adult Program.

Beth Felsen is a Success Coach at Spectrum Transition Coaching LLC and an autism specialist with a Master’s Degree in Psychology. She has over twenty years of experience in the autism community. Beth is a graduate of the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE) AsperCoach Training Program, and Coaching Teens and College Students Executive Function Coaching Training through JST Coaching and Training. She is also a certified provider of the UCLA PEERS for Young Adults Social Skills intervention, including telehealth delivery.

WHO SHOULD REGISTER?
Parents, grandparents, other family members and caregivers; individuals (age 14 and older) with Autism Spectrum Disorder; educational professionals; medical and health professionals; legal professionals.

Educators attending this virtual video conference will earn 6 Professional Development Hours.
• All registration fees are per person. Check, money order, or online via credit card, debit card or PayPal.
• Mailed-in registrations must be postmarked by 4/8/21.
• Additional copies of this form may be downloaded from our website at www.aspennj.org.

• Cancellations and Changes - No refunds for cancellations received after 3/25/21. Sorry, no exceptions. Kindly notify us in advance if substituting for original registrant.
• If, due to unforeseen circumstances, it becomes necessary to substitute speakers without advance notice, fees are non-refundable.

CUT AND RETURN THIS PORTION

REGISTRATION FORM:
VIRTUAL SPRING CONFERENCE
Begins Sunday, April 18, 2021
(Presentations can be viewed until May 16, 2021.)

Registration Discount Deadline 4/2/21

Please Print:
Name(s) _______________________________________
Address ________________________________________
Phone (______)_________________________________
Email address of each registrant (required)____________

Check One: Legal Professional ____
Parent ____ Medical/Health Professional ____
Grandparent ____ Educational Professional ____
Family Member ____ Young Adult with ASD ____

Registrants will receive links to the Keynote Presentation AND ALL 8 Workshops.

WORKSHOPS
A) Autism/Neurodiversity@Work: Employers Want to Hire You!
B) What About Driving?
C) Young Adult Panel Discussion: In Our Own Words
D) Financial Life Path: A Walk Down Two Roads
E) Succeeding in College: Making the Right Choices
F) Project SEARCH: Innovative Employment & Training Program
G) College 101 for Students on the Autism Spectrum and Their Parents
H) Sexuality & the Spectrum: Lessons on Sex, Dating, & Love Autism Style

ON-LINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT: WWW.ASPENNJ.ORG

ASPEN Member? (as of the date of the conference)
Yes _____ Chapter ________________________
No _____ If you would like to join, please enclose a SEPARATE check for annual dues (Families: $35; Professionals: $55) payable to ASPEN, along with a check for the member conference registration fee.

Kindly mail your completed form with your check or money order made payable to ASPEN to our new address:

ASPEN SPRING CONFERENCE 2021
P.O. Box 109
Oceanport, NJ 07757

Please complete section below.

REGISTRATION FEES
ALL FEES ARE PER PERSON • JOIN TODAY AND SAVE

Take Advantage of Our Early-Bird Discount Pricing!

_____ MEMBER (PARENT or GRANDPARENT)
$ 90.00 ($120.00 after 4/2/21)

_____ MEMBER (PROFESSIONAL)
$150.00 ($180.00 after 4/2/21)

_____ MEMBER (YOUNG ADULT INDIVIDUAL WITH ASD)
$ 60.00 ($90.00 after 4/2/21)

_____ NON-MEMBER (PARENT or FAMILY MEMBER)
$130.00 ($160.00 after 4/2/21)

_____ NON-MEMBER (PROFESSIONAL)
$190.00 ($220.00 after 4/2/21)

_____ NON-MEMBER (YOUNG ADULT INDIVIDUAL WITH ASD)
$ 85.00 ($115.00 after 4/2/21)

For more information, please contact our office: (732) 321-0880 or aspenorg@aol.com
ASPEN provides information, support and advocacy to individuals and families whose lives are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (formerly known as Asperger Syndrome, PDD-NOS, and High-Functioning Autism) and Nonverbal Learning Disabilities. Its numerous chapters meet monthly, alternating support meetings with scheduled speakers. Members receive an online newsletter; have access to a lending library of books and videos; are provided with online access to the ASPEN Resource Directory; and are entitled to free attendance at all monthly chapter meetings in addition to substantial discounts on conferences. A NJ Department of Education Professional Development Provider (#1619), ASPEN sponsors workshops and conferences featuring many of the most prominent names in the autism field. ASPEN is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

WWW.ASPENNJ.ORG