

# Autism Monthly NJ

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Happy Summer everyone! Read through the Autism Monthly to catch up on what's going on around the state this month. We're dedicated to providing our readers with informative, exciting and interesting news regarding NJ, autism and events, so if you know of something you'd like posted, or if you're hosting an event that you'd like included, please respond to this email and let us know!



**Autism Family Services of New Jersey**

## Quick Links

- [Autism Family Services of New Jersey](#)
- [The Family Support Center of New Jersey](#)
- [The Family Resource Network](#)

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## Surf, Stand-Up Paddle Industry Rally Behind 4th Annual SeaPaddleNYC

*Joel Tudor, Garrett McNamara, Tom Jones and More to Paddle for Autism on August 13*

NEW YORK, NY (July 12, 2010) - Thirty days remain until stand-up paddlers from around the world converge on Manhattan's waterways for the 4th Annual SEA Paddle NYC. As participants continue to register and train for the 28-mile charity paddle around Manhattan, organized by Surfers' Environmental Alliance (SEA), key figures in the surf, stand-up paddle and entertainment industries have come on board in support of SEA and the paddle's eight autism beneficiaries.

This year, avid waterman, extreme sports extraordinaire and environmental advocate Tom Jones is not only joining industry legends for the paddle around New York, but is in the process of making history leading up to SEA Paddle NYC. Jones is currently traveling the 2,800-mile stretch between Key West and New York City via paddle board to advocate for a plastic-free ocean. Now along the coast of the Carolinas, he should arrive in New York just in time for a celebration paddle around Manhattan with SEA's 200-plus participants. If successful, Jones will break his own previous World Record for paddling 1,200 miles along California's coast.

In addition, Israel "Izzy" Paskowitz, founder of Surfers Healing, one of SEA's charity beneficiaries, returns for a second time to paddle alongside surf legend Joel Tudor, actor David Chokachi and Extreme Suring World Champ Garrett McNamara. One of

Hawaii's elite big-wave chargers, McNamara has paddled, been towed and stand-up paddled into some of the largest and deadliest waves on the planet. From the "Jaws" of Maui to the Tahitian beasts at Teahupo as well as into the tsunami-generated waves of Alaska, "Gmac" has ridden it all.

Jamie Mitchell, one of the world's premier ocean athletes has signed on for SEA's first-ever Elite race around Manhattan. The Australian-born waterman, big-wave surfer and international swell-chaser is an eight-time Molokai-2-Oahu paddling champion. Having won nearly every paddle race he has entered in the last eight years, Mitchell promises to bring his paddling prowess to the inaugural Elite race.

After the world-class watermen and industry greats complete their journey around Manhattan, they'll join paddlers, family and friends for SEA's Ultimate Beach Party at South Street Seaport's Water Taxi Beach starting at 3:00 p.m. The good times will continue on the third-floor viewing decks of the Seaport for SEA's biggest party of the year, the White Water Evening. Boasting the Brooklyn Bridge as the backdrop, White Water partygoers will celebrate the paddle and honor this year's beneficiaries with silent auctions, a charity poker tournament, live music, an award ceremony and much more.

This year marks the first time SEA will host its renowned fundraising after-parties in Manhattan. To learn more about SEA Paddle NYC, or to purchase tickets to the Ultimate Beach Party and White Water Evening, please visit [www.seapaddlenyc.org](http://www.seapaddlenyc.org).

### About Surfers' Environmental Alliance (SEA)

Surfers' Environmental Alliance is committed to the preservation and protection of the environmental and cultural elements that are inherent to the sport of surfing. SEA's goals are achieved through grassroots activism, community involvement, education and humanitarian efforts. The non-profit organization successfully engages in projects that strive to conserve the quality of marine environments; preserve or enhance surf breaks; protect beach-access rights; and safeguard the coastal surf zone from unnecessary development. To learn more, please visit [www.seapaddlenyc.org](http://www.seapaddlenyc.org).

## Seaside Soiree Registration Open

On the evening of September 10, 2010, the 5th Annual Seaside Soiree fundraiser will take place, oceanside at the Ocean Place Spa and Resort in Long Branch. The evening features a beachside clambake, silent auction and musical entertainment by the famed Reggae band, The Verdict.

Funds from the event assist Autism Family Services of NJ's effort to provide the Beach Bash free of charge for families.

Tickets are \$150 and interested parties may call Samantha Griffiths at 877-237-4477 for more information.

## Don't forget to Register for the Beach Bash!

The 6th Annual Autism Family Services of New Jersey Beach Bash is scheduled for Sunday, September 12, 2010 in Belmar, NJ. This event is open to all New Jersey families living with a child with Autism. The day is free for families and includes organized activities, dj, arts and crafts booth, beach games and more. The event also features a surf camp in which children with autism are given the opportunity to receive one-on-one surfing lessons alongside the famed staff of Surfer's Healing. The 2009 Beach Bash hosted over 5,000 families and individuals living with Autism and we are looking forward to welcoming even more families this year! For safety reasons all participants must be registered for the Beach Bash.

Beach Bash  
Sunday, September 12, 2010  
10am-4pm  
7th Avenue Belmar, NJ

To register for the Beach Bash please [CLICK HERE](#) or call 1-877-237-4477 ext. 121. Beach Bash registrants will have access to all organized activities FREE of charge.

If you are interested in sponsorship or exhibit opportunities please contact Heather Comstock at 1-877-237-4477.

[Click here to download the Exhibitor Application](#)

A Big Thank You To Our 2010 Sponsors and Community Partners  
Belmar First Aid Squad

## Autism Test Could Make the Condition "Preventable"

Telegraph UK

By Richard Alleyne, Science Correspondent

Diagnosis of autism has always been difficult and often the condition remains unrecognized until too late for treatment to have a maximum effect. But now researchers at Imperial College London have discovered a potential way of spotting the disorder in children as young as six months old.

They have found that children with autism spectrum disorders also suffer from disorders in their gut and that this can be detected with a simple urine test. That would mean that intensive behavioral and social treatment could begin before the disease has caused any permanent psychological damage.

Professor Jeremy Nicholson, the author of the study, said "Children with autism have very unusual gut microbes which we can test before the full blown symptoms of the disease come through. If that is the case, then it might become a preventable disease."

Eventually the link between the learning difficulties and the gut microbes could be established and that could lead to probiotic treatments or cures.

The researchers reached their conclusions by using a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy which is able to analyze the make-up of chemicals.

They used the machine on samples of three groups of children aged between three and nine (39 children who had previously been diagnosed with autism, 28 non-autistic siblings of children with autism, and 34 children who did not have autism and who did not have an autistic sibling).

They found that each of the three groups had a distinct chemical fingerprint. Non-autistic children with autistic siblings had a different chemical fingerprint than those without any autistic siblings, and autistic children had a different chemical fingerprint than the other two groups.

Now they want to test the technique on a larger group of younger children in the next two years with the idea of having it available within five years for full medical approval.

For more, please [click here](#).

## **80% Autism Divorce Rate Debunked in First-of-its-Kind Scientific Study**

### **Kennedy Krieger Researchers Find Autism Does Not Affect Family Structure**

Autism Spectrum News

By Brian Freedman, PhD, Clinical Director, Center for Autism and Related Disorders,  
Kennedy Krieger Institute

Having a child with autism can put stress on the parents' marriage, and a frequently cited statistic leads to a common perception that the divorce rate among these families is as high as 80%. But a recent study by researchers from Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore found that a child's autism has no effect on the family structure.

Brian Freedman, PhD, lead author of the study and clinical director of the Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute, said the findings seem to debunk a lot of the general understanding about high divorce rates among parents of children with autism. Dr. Freedman and his research team found that 64% of children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) belong to a family with two married biological or adoptive parents, compared with 65% of children who do not have ASD.

Dr. Freeman presented results of the study in Philadelphia at the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), an annual scientific meeting convened to exchange new scientific progress among autism researchers from around the world.

For more information regarding the study, please [click here](#).

## **National Autism Registry Helps Families**

The National Autism Registry (NARY) was founded in 1999. The purpose of this organization is to help families cope with some of the difficult issues that occur when raising an individual with autism as well as improve the quality of life for the autistic person themselves. We offer two different cards that can be used when encountering certain problematic situations.

The first card helps families to avoid wait times in public facilities such as restaurants and amusement parks. Often families shy away from these experiences due to the fact that their child is unable to tolerate long wait times. By presenting their NARY card, many establishments gladly allow immediate access to these parties.

The second card is used when the autistic individual demonstrates undesirable behaviors in a public place. Many people experience embarrassment when this occurs. Looks and stares by uninformed individuals only add to their uncomfortable feelings. This card helps to explain the reason that these behaviors occur.

To receive these cards, please [click here](#).

NARY is committed to helping autistic individuals and their families live more enriching lives. Families are now able to visit places that they were unable to visit before. Utilizing these cards not only helps the family deal with the situation at hand, but also helps to educate the general public about autism. Increased awareness will help improve the lives of autistic people all over the globe.

## Mighty Mike Basketball Camp Reminder!

### Bounce out the Stigma Summer Basketball Camp

Camp Dates and Locations:

Session 1 - August 9-13, Chatham ECLC School

Session 2 - August 16-20, HoHoKus Public School

Session 3 - August 23-27, Bloomfield Middle School

To register for a basketball camp session and for more information, please visit [www.bounceoutthestigma.com](http://www.bounceoutthestigma.com) or call 973-244-0850 and talk to Pat Connelly.

## Autism and Epilepsy Brochures

The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation, Autism Family Services of NJ and the Epilepsy Foundation of NJ have completed a brochure to assist families and professionals in identifying and responding to the potential for seizure disorders in children and adults with autism and epilepsy. The brochure has received wide distribution in its first weeks of release and has been featured in a workshop at the recent Autism NJ Annual Conference and on the Web sites of Autism Speaks and POAC. Downloadable copies are available on our website ([www.autismfamilyservicesnj.org](http://www.autismfamilyservicesnj.org)) or by contacting us at 800-376-2345. The Foundation's Director, Linda Walder Fiddle, serves on the Advisory Board of AFSNJ.



**Autism Family  
Services of  
New Jersey**



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS  
**EPILEPSY  
FOUNDATION®**  
NEW JERSEY  
*Not another moment lost to seizures™*

**DJF®** The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation  
*A National Autism Organization: Granting A Future To Adolescents And Adults®*



## Find Us on Facebook and Follow FRN on Twitter!

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

[Become a fan of Autism Family Services of NJ on facebook!](#)



[And follow The Family Resource Network on Twitter!](#)

## **The Training Calendar Offers a Clearinghouse of Community Events**

In an effort to spread awareness about workshops, conferences and other training opportunities the Family Support Center of New Jersey has launched The Training Calendar. We invite professionals to post information on activities, lectures, trainings, or other events for caregivers and the people they are caring for on [www.thetrainingcalendar.org](http://www.thetrainingcalendar.org). We also invite families and caregivers to view the trainings available in their area.

Previously The Training Calendar had been administered by the Progressive Center for Independent Living. We applaud their foresight in developing this clearinghouse program.

Thank you for reading Autism Monthly NJ! If you have any information you would like included in our e-zine, or know of anyone that would like to be added to our listserv, please email me at [dgoldberg@familyresourcenetwork.org](mailto:dgoldberg@familyresourcenetwork.org) or click the "Join Our Mailing List" button on the top right side of the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dana Goldberg  
Autism Family Services of NJ  
and The Family Resource Network

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