CALL FOR ARTISTS

All media are accepted! Please limit entries to 2 per person. Works should be no larger than 3 feet in length/width/height. EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO RICART@LIFESPAN.ORG

SPOTLIGHT!

Julia Sposato, Artist with ASD, showed us her art as a preview of the 2019 Through Our Eyes art show.
With the first snow storm very early in the season, we have already welcomed the New England winter.

At this time of the year, we want to say thanks for helping us to grow as community. We are very happy to coordinate this project, which is one-of-a-kind in the USA.

Thanks to all participants who have given us the opportunity to hear your stories, your challenges and your successes, and thank you for sharing our research network with the wider ASD (Autism spectrum disorder) community. Your contribution of time and hard work helps get us one big step closer to moving forward with autism in our state.

We hope that you enjoy this beautiful season and have a good snowy time. Happy Holidays!

Stephen Sheinkopf, PhD
RI-CART Director and Principal Investigator
Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior
Brown University
WHAT WE’VE BEEN UP TO

Are you planning an event and would you like RI-CART to participate?
Please send an email to us at RICART@LIFESPAN.ORG

TRICK OR TREAT AT THE AUTISM PROJECT
Our research assistant Kayla and our outreach coordinator Lauren enjoying the Trick-or-Treat event organized by the Autism Project. Thanks to all who stopped by.

BOWLING EVENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ASD 17+ AT TOWN HALL LANES
We had a fun and playful day with the community, enjoying an afternoon of bowling together. Follow us on Facebook to be sure you hear about the next date for this awesome event for adults and their families.

RI-CART SPEAKER SERIES
Marsha Mailick PHD
We hope that you enjoyed our community and science talk with Dr. Marsha Mailick. Thank you for coming and being part of this series of talks to bring more knowledge about autism our community.

HOLIDAY PHOTOS AT THE AUTISM PROJECT
We had a great time at The Autism Project’s holiday photos this month.

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RI-CART
UGLY SWEATER DAY
DECEMBER 2018
We invite people with autism and related conditions to display their work as part of Brain Week RI. The theme this year is **animals** and the human-animal bond.

All media accepted! Please limit entries to 2 per person. Works should be no larger than 3 feet in length/width/height. Submission deadline: **February 15, 2019**

It's time to create your piece and talk to your family and friends to get extra inspiration. Have fun!

- What's your favorite animal?
- What's your favorite imaginary animal?
- If you had a spirit animal or Patronus, what would it look like?
- What animal scares you?

Now, it's time to submit your piece, well done! Kudos to you!

Now, take a picture of your piece and send it us by email with your name, contact information, and the name of your piece. Submit to: RICART@lifespan.org.

Thanks so much for creating and sharing your art piece. The opening is Saturday, March 16th!

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Julia is an enchanting, free-spirited, creative, joyful, young artist who has autism. She expresses her unique view of the world through drawing, ceramics, and various other forms of crafts. Her passion for art, which developed at a young age, inspired her family and team to create Just Julia Design, a Facebook page and website from which individuals and organizations can order pieces and commission designs from Julia.

Julia both donates her art to raise money for organizations close to her heart, and sells her artwork to pay for further art classes, such as ceramics.

Julia currently spends several hours a day drawing, and while her work depicts various people and scenes, animals are by far her favorite subject. Across artistic mediums, Julia ranges in color use and shape, but all her designs share elaborate details that captivate her audiences. While Julia’s fans can request specific pieces, her mother, Susan Jewel, would like it to be made clear that all will be of Julia’s own interpretation. But that is undoubtedly what makes Julia’s art so wonderful.

Just Julia Designs "Great Art starts with a red crayon....."
I noticed over the last two years of doing this art show that images of animals were a common theme. After talking with Carrie and Lauren (RI-CART Project Manager and Outreach Coordinator) from RI-CART I got thinking more seriously about the topic and thought it would make an interesting show because I think it speaks to everyone on some level.

Interview with Matthew Best, Artist- Curator of Through Our Eyes

For the third year in a row, Matthew Best, MFA, will be the curator of Through Our Eyes, RI-CART's annual art show. Matthew is an artist and professor living in West Hartford, Connecticut. He studied painting at the Hartford Art School and University of Massachusetts. He is mostly a painter but also loves drawing and collage. We interviewed him about his perspective for this show. To learn more about him, you can visit his website mjbest.squarespace.com.

- What makes the RI-CART exhibit different from other projects you work on?
  Working on this show puts me in contact with so many types of artists, there are professional artists, talented amateurs, students, adults, children. It is unusual for an art show to have such diversity. I love the challenge of getting everyone's work to inhabit the same space and play off of one another.

- What is your favorite thing about working with us?
  As a teacher the most rewarding part for me is helping students to learn to find their own voices and make statements with their art. With this show, I get to amplify the voices of artists who may not always be heard and have an important viewpoint to offer the world. It has given me the opportunity to meet a lot of really wonderful artists.

- How did you choose this year’s theme?
  I noticed over the last two years of doing this art show that images of animals were a common theme. After talking with Carrie and Lauren (RI-CART Project Manager and Outreach Coordinator) from RI-CART I got thinking more seriously about the topic and thought it would make an interesting show because I think it speaks to everyone on some level.
Color this page!
Take a picture of your piece and send it to RICART@lifespan.org to be (anonymously) featured on our social media page. Include your age and a title if you’d like!
# Ask a Doctor

## “What is the Purpose of an Autism Diagnosis?” 
"Why Should a Parent Pursue a Diagnosis?"

### Early Intervention Works:
Research supports that early intensive education and therapies targeted to specific deficits of ASD (e.g., language skills, joint attention, emotional reciprocity) can result in significantly improved developmental outcomes. Additionally, it is likely that interventions that begin before age 3 may have a greater positive impact than those that begin after age 5.

### More Detailed Picture of Strengths and Areas of Need:
By completing a full clinical evaluation for ASD, the family will receive results from a variety of social, developmental, and cognitive assessments. Having more information about a child’s specific strengths and needs can help therapists work together with families to develop meaningful, individualized goals.

### Family Support:
Appropriate diagnosis can help link individuals with ASD and their families to support services and programming. For example, RI-CART partners with the Autism Project, a unique program based here in Rhode Island that provides support, training, and programming.

### Connecting with Community:
Receiving a diagnosis of ASD can be an isolating event at first, but it can also help families connect with others with similar challenges (and successes).

### Genetic Testing:
Getting an ASD diagnosis continues the appropriate medical workup for ASD, including specific genetic tests that help identify genetic abnormalities associated with ASD, which can occur in up to 1 out of every 3 people with an ASD diagnosis. These results can help families understand the cause for ASD and provide them with additional medical and community resources.

### Participate in Research – Eligibility for Studies, Including Clinical Trials:
Participating in research is a great way to give back by helping scientists learn more quickly about ASD, leading to more effective treatments and improved quality of life for families with ASD. Additionally, you could have the opportunity to participate in clinical trials for therapies or medications that are not yet available to the public.

### Eligibility for Services:
Many states, including Rhode Island, require health insurance contracts to provide coverage for certain kinds of therapies for children with ASD. These benefits can include coverage for applied behavior analysis, also called ABA.

### IEP Category of “Developmental Delay” Ends at 9th Birthday.
In many states, including Rhode Island, the Individualized Education Plan eligibility category of developmental delay can only be applied until a child’s 9th birthday.
This study investigates parental perceptions of cries of 1-month-old infants later diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and non-ASD controls. Parents of children with and without ASD listened to cry recordings of infants later diagnosed with ASD and comparison infants and rated them on cry perception scales. Parents completed the Broad Autism Phenotype Questionnaire (BAPQ) to assess the potential relations between traits associated with autism and cry perception.

Across parents, ASD infant cries were rated as more distressed, less typical, and reflecting greater pain, with no significant differences between parent groups. Parents of children with ASD scored higher on the BAPQ compared to parents of children without ASD. Follow up analyses explored the relations between BAPQ score and cry ratings.

Thank you to those who participated in this study! Visit bit.ly/2r10lpW or click Here to read more about the new publication.
Boston University researchers are looking for parents of high school students with autism to participate in a study, because they want to better understand the strategies and programs that schools and parents use to help these youth prepare for life after school. They also want to identify the factors that predict the best post-school outcomes.

- **Who:** Parent or legal guardian of a high school student with autism who is in their last year of high school and who will graduate with a regular high school diploma

- **What:** Parents will complete online and mailed surveys and a brief phone interview at two time points separated by 18 months. Youth will complete separate online and mailed surveys. There is no cost to participate. Parents will receive a $25 gift card and youth will receive a $15 gift card at each time point.

- **When and Where:** From your home, at a time convenient for you.

Questions: contact Dr. Gael Orsmond, gorsmond@bu.edu, (617) 353-2703. This research is funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

To participate, please contact the research team at buroad@bu.edu or (617) 353-2060

For more information, visit their project website: http://sites.bu.edu/roadahead/.

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IT'S TIME TO
Receive Gifts at Christmas

1. At Christmas, we get together with family or friends.

2. Presents are placed under the Christmas tree until we are ready to open them.

3. Many presents come wrapped or in pretty boxes. Inside there can be toys, clothes, or other fun things.

4. My parents tell me when I can open the presents.

5. I know when a present is for me because it has my name on the tag. When I open a present, it is nice to say, “Thank you!”

6. Other people get presents too. Their presents may be under the Christmas tree with mine. I can only open the presents that have my name on the tag.
UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 05
SENSOR FRIENDLY MOVIE - SPIDER-MAN INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE
CARD & RI-CART invite families to enjoy a sensory friendly film with dimmed lighting, low sound and trained and caring staff, to provide an optimal viewing experience. Special snacks are permitted (due to dietary restrictions and/or allergies). Reservations and/or registration are not required. Cinemaworld ticket prices apply.
TIME: 11:00 AM
PLACE: Cinemaworld - 622 George Washington Hwy, Lincoln, RI

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29
TOILET TRAINING INDIVIDUALS WITH ASD & OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS
This is a FREE workshop for parents, caregivers and professionals! Learn about challenges and benefits of various techniques; determining readiness and establishing a schedule; visual supports and toileting charts; and problem-solving specific situations. To register: Contact Deb at 401-785-2666 ext.76788 or DLangevin@lifespan.org.
TIME: Morning Session: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM - Evening Session: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM AT The Autism Project - 1516 Atwood Avenue Johnston,

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 09
CREATE & CONNECT PAINTING EVENT (PARENTS & CAREGIVERS)
An afternoon out for parents & caregivers of children with special needs, to relax and connect while creating your very own masterpiece
TIME: 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM
PLACE: The Autism Project - 1516 Atwood Avenue Johnston,

SATURDAY, MARCH 16
MANAGING EMOTIONAL MAYHEM CONFERENCE-PRESENTED BY: KIM JACKSON, CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE MASTER INSTRUCTOR
"Managing Emotional Mayhem" lays a conceptual foundation, explores limiting beliefs, presents new adult skills, and teaches us how to coach children in a transformative self-regulation process. Early Bird Registration: Nov.1st - Feb. 1st. Click here to register. Contact Deb at 401-785-2666 ext.76788 or DLangevin@lifespan.org.
TIME: 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM
PLACE: Shriner's of Rhode Island One Rhodes Place Cranston, RI 02905

SATURDAY, MARCH 16
THROUGH OUR EYES OPENING: MUSEUM OF WORK & CULTURE
Join RI-CART at our annual art opening to celebrate the creativity and talents of people with autism and related conditions. This year’s theme focuses on the human-animal bond, and will feature professional and amateur artists of all ages.
RVSP: www.autismri.org/events/through-our-eyes-animals
TIME: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
PLACE: 42 South Main Street Woonsocket, RI
EVERY MONTH

SENSORY SENSITIVE EVENTS

- LOW LIGHT
- LOW SOUND
- FEWER CROWDS

- CHUCK E. CHEESE’S
  FIRST SUNDAY EVERY MONTH AT 9-11 AM

- SKYZONE PROVIDENCE
  SECOND SUNDAY EVERY MONTH AT 8-10 AM

- LAUNCH WARWICK
  FIRST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH AT 6-8PM

- CIMEMAWORLD LINCOLN
  FIRST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH AT 10 AM

- SHOWCASE CINEMAS
  FIRST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH AT 10 AM

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Hasbro and The Autism Project teamed up to introduce ToyBox Tools, a free online resource where caregivers and educators can find tools to make play easier and more accessible for children with developmental disabilities. ToyBox Tools is a collaboration connecting evidence-based practices with classic Hasbro toys.

ToyBox Tools can help children experience the joy of play with three levels of tools available for those who need support: basic play, expanding play and social play levels.

Parents and caregivers can visit the ToyBox Tools site, access the tools they need, download and print them for use at home or in the classroom. Each level caters to different aspects of play that children may need help with, like simply introducing the toy and how to use it, experiencing alternative ways to play with a toy and encouraging turn taking with peers. ToyBox Tools recognizes that parents and caregivers know their child’s ability best and encourages them to use their judgment in selecting the right product and level of play appropriate for their child.

Visit ://toyboxtools.hasbro.com/en-us to know more about this awesome fun resources or contact The Autism Project (401) 785-2666.
The Resource Guide exists to help you navigate medical, educational and other resources that are available to you and your family.

Click here to get a printable copy of the Guide.

Access the Resource Guide online by opening the camera on your phone, and scanning this QR code or online at www.AutismRI.org/resources.

If you would like a printed copy, please let a research assistant know during your visit or call us at 401-432-1200, and we'll get one to you!