

Light It Up Blue, Winchester! for Autism Awareness

Sponsors for Light It Up Blue, Winchester!

Brio Integrated Theatre

Brio's mission is to create and perform integrated theatre through the collaboration of artists with and without disabilities.

We believe that all individuals have the ability to create and that there are diverse perspectives and ways to express creativity.

www.briotheatre.org/



Disability Access Commission

The Disability Access Commission's mission is to protect the rights and facilitate the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of community life within Winchester.

[www.winchester.us/330/
Disability-Access-Commission](http://www.winchester.us/330/Disability-Access-Commission)



Winchester Multicultural Network

Our mission is to promote the recognition, understanding, and appreciation of diversity; to advocate for each and every person's civil rights; and to confront intolerance.

www.wmcn.org



Light It Up Blue, Winchester!

for Autism Awareness

APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Join us for our **Lighting Ceremony on the Winchester Commons**
April 26, 2016 at 7 pm



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Did You Know . . . ?

- Light It Up Blue is an international campaign that encourages people around the globe to honor those individuals and families who are affected by autism.
- In 2007, the United Nations mandated April 2 World Autism Awareness Day.
- Light It Up Blue is observed on the same day as World Autism Awareness Day. Individuals will wear blue and landmarks, skyscrapers, schools, businesses and homes across the globe will shine bright blue lights in honor of the millions of individuals and families affected by autism.
- Last year over 16,000 buildings worldwide were bathed in blue lights for autism awareness. Landmark buildings included One World Trade Center, 30 Rockefeller Center, the Eiffel Tower, Old Parliament Building, La Basílica de la Sagrada Familia, Himeji Castle, Taipei 101 Tower, the Great Sphinx and Great Pyramids of Giza, and China's Millennium Monument.
- The Affordable Care Act prohibits health insurance companies from denying coverage based on a pre-existing condition such as autism.

The observation of the national Light It Up Blue Autism Awareness movement was first proposed to Brio Integrated Theatre, the Disability Access Commission, and the Winchester Multicultural Network four years ago by Jennifer Flaherty, Special Education Teacher at Lynch Elementary School. Since then, to draw attention to autism, there has been an annual gathering at the Winchester Common for a Light It Up Blue Lighting Ceremony with speakers. Each year, the event has become larger and more inclusive. The scene is both heart-warming and remarkable with most people wearing something blue or holding blue balloons. **This year, the Lighting Ceremony will be on April 26 at 7 pm.** Speakers will be Jennifer Flaherty with some of her students and John Williams, an award winning collage artist who is also on the autism spectrum. William's collages will be on display at the Winchester Public Library for the month of April.

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What Is Autism?

Autism is commonly known today as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges.

There is often nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart from others, but those with ASD may communicate, interact, behave and learn in ways that are different from most other people. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged. Some people with ASD need a lot of help in their daily lives; others need less.

- There is no known single cause for autism, although the best available science points to important genetic components.
- There is currently no cure for ASD. However, research shows that early intervention treatment services can improve a child's development.
- Autism is four times more likely to affect boys than girls, and is found in all racial, ethnic, and social groups.
- In the more recent past, vaccines were thought to be the cause of autism, but world-wide studies have debunked the 'vaccines are to blame' theory.

For additional facts and information about the signs, symptoms, causes and treatment of autism, [read more](#).

Of Interest

[Autism Self-Advocacy Network](#)

Meet the [first person](#) officially diagnosed with autism, now in his 80s.

“Dude, [I'm an Aspie!](#)”

[What stimming feels like](#) to people with autism.

Recommended Film

Temple Grandin (2010)

Screening at the Winchester Public Library, April 21 at 6:30 PM. Free event. All welcome.

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Our Community Lights It Up Blue

In Winchester many homes, businesses, organizations, and churches will be lighted blue. The street lamps in the Center will have a blue glow, thanks to the crew at the Department of Public Works. At the Lighting Ceremony on the Common, blue balloons will be handed out and blue lights turned on at the end of the event.

The following businesses and organizations in Town have opted for special “blue” activities to promote autism awareness.

Dunkin Donuts

For the Lighting Ceremony on April 26, there will be blue iced donuts donated by [Dunkin Donuts](#). These donuts glazed blue to raise autism awareness will be available for sale in the store all month. As they did last year, a special window painting on the subject of autism was commissioned. Stop by to see it!



538 Main Street
Winchester, MA 01890
1 (781) 729-0897

Pondview Florist



On April 26, [Pondview Florist](#) will give away 100 blue carnations to the first 100 people at the Lighting ceremony.

Pondviewflorist
ALWAYS FRESH & FABULOUS

16 Mt. Vernon Street
Winchester, MA 01890
1 (781) 729-8255

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Our Community Lights It Up Blue

Studio on the Common

[Studio on the Common](#) resident artist, Hanna White, will create a piece of original art in our studio and it will be hung in the window. The piece will be titled "Art for Autism" and will be on display all month.



22 Church Street
Winchester, MA 01890
1 (781) 721-1023

Griffin Photography Museum

During the month of April, the [Griffin Photography Museum](#) will display a virtual gallery of images that are blue and curated by Brian Paul Clamp, owner and director of ClampArt Gallery in New York City.



67 Shore Road
Winchester, MA 01890
1 (781) 729-1158

Winchester Public Library

April 21, 2016 at 6:30 pm. Large Meeting Room. Screening of the multi-awards-winning movie: *Temple Grandin*.

Introduction to the movie by Winchester resident and nationally acclaimed artist, John Williams, himself on the autistic spectrum.

Display of William's collages and an extensive display of books and DVDs on autism in the main lobby of the [Winchester Public Library](#) throughout the month of April.

80 Washington Street, Winchester,
781.721.7171

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Our Community Lights It Up Blue

Book Ends

Suggested readings on display:

Born on a Blue Day by Daniel Tammet

In A Different Key by John Donvan
and Caren Zucker

*I See Things Differently: A First Look
at Autism* by Pat Thomas

List of books on autism is available at
[Book Ends](#).

BOOK ENDS

559 Main Street
Winchester, MA 01890
1 (781) 721-5933

Kids Footstop

Look for [Kids Footstop](#)'s month-long window display of all blue footwear—shoes, sneakers, slippers, party shoes, etc.—for autism awareness.



553 Main Street
Winchester, MA 01890
1 (781) 729-3137

Scoopalooza

[Scoopalooza](#) will highlight the two blue frozen favorites in their store, blue vanilla gelato and Crunch-a-Saurus, for autism awareness. When you purchase either during the month of April, think of it as your Light It Up Blue sweet treat!



527 Main Street
Winchester, MA 01890
1 (781) 729-1735

Light It Up Blue, Winchester! for Autism Awareness

What Can YOU Do to Light It Up Blue?

- Wear blue. Ask family, friends, coworkers, and staff to wear blue (ties, scarfs, shirts, etc.)
- Use blue lights outdoors—on your porch, front light, and in business window. (Blue bulbs can be found at Fells True Value Hardware Store, 654 Main Street in Winchester.)
- Decorate your store window with blue lights, items or decorations.
- Put our sign (available at office@wmcn.org) in your store window or door, bulletin boards, school room to support Autism Awareness Month.
- Spread awareness and understanding of autism.
- Celebrate and honor the unique talents and skills of people with autism.
- Bring attention to the needs of all people with autism.
- Use #WinchesterLIUB when using social media.