

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS

*Are Vaccines Safe?

Do vaccines cause autism? The controversy continues. Join Mary Tocco, independent vaccine researcher and public health educator, as she presents the latest research on childhood vaccines. Find out what is in vaccines, how they are manufactured, and how our government protects drug companies. Mary has been researching this and other health issues affecting families for over 27 years. All proceeds from this event go to Michigan Opposing Mandatory Vaccines (www.momvaccines.org).

Thursday, April 17, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

The Heritage Center
601 Main Street, St. Joseph, MI

- ▶ ▶ ▶ To **PRE-REGISTER**, contact Brynn Fischer at ibrynn@yahoo.com or 269.519.2575. Cost is \$10 if you register by April 7, \$15 at the door.

The Gut Connection: Food as Medicine

During this illuminating and tasty seminar with Maria Rosner and Robert Kress, you'll learn how problems in the gut (gastrointestinal tract) can create problems in the brain; how proper nutrition can alleviate many of the symptoms of autism; and how you can convince your child to eat a healthy diet. Maria will share tips for transforming your child's diet from toxic to therapeutic, and Rob, a certified nutritionist and compounding pharmacist, will help you understand the proven options to identify, treat, and restore the underlying biochemical imbalances that keep our children from thriving.

Saturday, April 19, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Bridgman Public Library
4460 Lake Street, Bridgman, MI
www.happyplacex.com or 269.985.9255

Vision Therapy and Autism

Too often, vision problems go undetected and untreated in children with autism, perhaps because the visual exam would be difficult for them, or the child is not able to verbalize a problem, or the school's test showed "normal" 20/20 eyesight. If your child is unable to read, is uncooperative with close tasks, has illegible handwriting, or demonstrates

attention problems, he or she may be struggling with a learning-related vision problem. Fortunately, through vision therapy, Dr. Fortenbacher and his staff can correct many of these vision problems. Find out how at this informative, hands-on presentation.

Monday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.

W.O.W. Vision Therapy
2908 Division Street, St. Joseph, MI
www.wowvision.net or 269.983.3309

- ▶ ▶ ▶ Please **RSVP** by April 18 to reserve your seat.

Film Screening: *The Sandwich Kid*

Disabilities impact not only those who are diagnosed but their siblings as well. *The Sandwich Kid* gives a voice to those affected by day-to-day life with a brother or sister who has a developmental or other disability. The film is propelled by 12-year-old Jace King, who was introduced in big brother Taylor Cross' film, *Normal People Scare Me*. A formidable force, Jace uses wit, charm, and keen insights as his "brother's keeper" to extract laughter and tears in interviews he conducts with dozens of "sibs," ranging in age from 6 to 59. Along the way, Jace shares his own struggles and challenges in building a relationship with his quirky brother after years of estrangement. Bring a tissue.

Tuesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.

Bridgman Public Library
4460 Lake Street, Bridgman, MI
www.bridgmanlibrary.com or 269.465.3663

Film Screening: *Snow Cake*

Set in the middle of winter in Wawa, Ontario, *Snow Cake* is an engaging and original story that explores the odd friendship between a high-functioning autistic woman named Linda (Sigourney Weaver) and Alex (Alan Rickman), a quiet, brooding man traumatized after being involved in a fatal car accident. Alan comes into Linda's life following a twist of fate and begins the process of healing at the hands of someone who, at first glance, is in need of healing herself. *Snow Cake* was written by Angela Pell, the mother of a young boy with autism.

Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.

Vickers Theatre
6 North Elm Street, Three Oaks, MI
www.vickerstheatre.com or 269.756.3522

The **Autism Awareness Project** is a cooperative effort between parents and service providers in Berrien County dedicated to raising awareness of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in our community.

Odds are, you live with, work with, know or will know someone on the spectrum—current statistics estimate that 1 in 150-250 people are now being diagnosed with autism.

Challenge your perception of disability by learning more about autism. Events are **FREE** and **open to the public**, except where noted (*).

Questions? Contact Maria Rosner, Coordinator, at mjhdrosner@comcast.net.