



**2021
SPRING
NEWS**

**Spring is the time of plans
and projects**

— Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina



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SHARING HOLIDAYS SAFELY

Participate in Services Online

Easter

Churches are turning to interactive online worship, parking lot services and drive-through Easter celebrations instead of welcoming crowds indoors this year. Check in with your church to see if they are offering special services or find another one that does! Invite your family and friends to join you.

Resources For Virtual Seders on Passover

Here are some suggestions about how to share Passover with others:

[10 Tips for Your Virtual Seder](#)

[How to Host a Stress-Free, Spiritualish Zoom Seder](#)

[Making your own Haggadah](#)

More Online Activities to Share

Movie Watching

Amazon Prime Watch Party - If you have Amazon Prime, you can have a Watch Party. You can chat with up to 100 friends (in the same country) while you watch movies and TV shows together. Just click on the Watch Party button on the movie you want to watch (buying or renting) - you can watch on your desktop computer with Mozilla's Firefox browser or Google Chrome. Everyone participating would need to rent/buy the movie/tv show.

TeleParty - Teleparty (formerly Netflix Party) is a new way to watch TV with your friends online. Teleparty synchronizes video playback and adds group chat to Netflix, Disney, Hulu and HBO. [How It Works](#)

Google's YouTube Party - YouTube Party is a Chrome extension for watching YouTube videos synchronized with friends. [How It Works](#)

Virtual Games

Here are some fun and easy games you can play with your family via zoom: [\(Zoom Getting Started Guide For New Users\)](#)

Charades - all you need to play Charades is a list of words to act out - you can pick your own words or use a [charades generator](#).

Scavenger Hunt - Pick someone who will be the host. They will create a list of items that participants need to collect around their homes - the list should be things that can be commonly found in a home and don't need to be specific i.e. you could ask them to find something round or something with wheels etc. The first person to come back to the screen with the item "wins!"

Bingo - Make your own bingo cards by following [these directions](#) or [download](#) an existing set (make sure no one is using the same card). Select one adult to call out the numbers and the fun will begin.

For more virtual party games [check out this Pinterest board](#).

EASTER CRAFTS

Flower Pot / Jar Crafts

Flower pots and jars are perfect to use for Spring crafts as 1) they are easy to find and fairly inexpensive and 2) you can upcycle old pots and jars. You can send or bring them to your grandchildren OR *you can send supplies to your grandchildren and join them on Zoom or FaceTime to help them create it*. Planting flowers in the pot would be an additional sensory experience.



[Easter Pals Fingerprint Flower Pot](#)



[Craft Stick Flower Pots](#)



[Glitter Candy Jars](#)

AUTISM RESOURCES

Better access to autism information and resources has resulted from “stay at home” orders. Most autism workshops, courses and presentations are now universally available online.

COVID-19 And Autism Resources

The Autism Society of America has launched a Facebook Live series dedicated to providing relevant, COVID-19 information for the autism community. The weekly broadcast features an expert discussing specific topics like mental health, federal emergency funding and continuing education at home. [VIEW THE SERIES HERE.](#)

You can search online for presentations from major autism centers. Stanford is offering this one free or on a “pay what you can” basis:

Stanford Autism Center's 14th Annual Autism Update

March 20, 2021 at 8:45 am - March 20, 2021 at 4:30 pm

A one-day conference for parents, educators and care providers of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders. Our annual update will focus on new research and services for individuals with autism to optimize their long term functioning. [Register Here.](#)

The [Family Autism Network](#) provides an [Autism Event Calendar](#) with educational opportunities that can be accessed by everyone – everywhere.

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Support autism awareness in the month of April as part of National Autism Awareness Month. On April 2nd, World Autism Awareness Day, people pledge to "light it up blue" to increase global understanding and acceptance of people with autism. Here are some ways to celebrate and advocate:

Share Resources

Share autism stories and information (yours or others) in April and use hashtags like #CelebrateDifferences, #KindnessCounts, and #WorldAutismMonth and #LightItUpBlue. Hashtags are a way to organize specific topics that people can follow on social media channels like Facebook and Instagram.

Advocate

Write or send an email to your local and national governmental representatives to advocate for additional autism support. Describe how autism has affected three generations in your family. [CLICK HERE](#) for more info on how to advocate and how to contact your representatives.

Learn More About Autism

PresenceLearning hosted a webinar with leading autism expert Dr. Temple Grandin to give special educators and administrators a deeper understanding of neurodiversity and how they can help students reach their fullest potential.



February 13, 2014

SPED AHEAD

TEMPLE GRANDIN

The Autistic Brain

Moderator: Clay Whitehead, CEO and Co-Founder, PresenceLearning
Presenter: Dr. Temple Grandin, Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University, bestselling author, Speaker and Autism Expert

#SPEDAhead

 PresenceLearning

WONDERFUL WEBSITES

Library Resources

Libraries offer access to great digital content for all your mobile devices! All you need is your library card, a device and Internet access. Services vary by library, however. Here are some examples of what might be available:

Borrow eBooks, audiobooks and magazines to read on your phone or tablet using the [Libby App by Overdrive](#). You can even send and read your borrowed eBooks to your Kindle Reader!

The magazines you know and love, available digitally through your library. Access [Flipster Online](#) using a computer or mobile device. Offline is available via the Flipster apps for Apple and Android devices and Kindle Fire.

[Freegal](#) is a free music service from the library. Freegal offers access to about 15 million songs.

Resources To Share With Grandchildren

Audible is offering a new service called [Stories](#), which lets you listen to stories for free on your mobile device without having to create an account.

[Monkey Pen](#)'s vision is to provide thousands of free children's books to young readers around the globe.

[Wide Open School!](#) (WOS) is a platform developed by Common Sense Media, a leading nonprofit for kids and families. WOS provides access to a wide range of resources designed specifically to help enhance the quality of distance learning. The work of WOS is a partnership with more than 80 leading educational organizations and services, including Kahoot, Google, Khan Academy, National Geographic, PBS, Scholastic, Smithsonian, TED Ed and many more.

STAY-AT-HOME CLEANING



Now is the perfect time to sort through our cupboards, drawers and closets. Most of us have collectibles and other worthwhile items that our children do not want. Donations to the Grandparent Autism Network are tax-deductible. Create more space for all the fabulous things that you love AND benefit grandparents and

families affected by autism.

All donated items are sold through our [e-Bay for Charity store](#), raising money to support our programs.

We welcome donated goods such as:

- New, unwanted gifts
- Collectibles, Home Accessories, Craft Items
- New Clothing, Shoes and Handbags
- Fine, Vintage, and Costume Jewelry
- Mobile Phones, Tablets and Laptops

You can mail or drop off donations for GAN at the UPS Store located at 23785 El Toro Road, #103, Lake Forest, CA. Please [check this website](#) for directions and hours of operation. Contact us at info@ganinfo.org for possible pickup options in Orange County, CA and for donation forms.

Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Tax ID# 20-5230144.

Grandparent Autism Network

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