

# April 2024



NSD IDEA Council  
April 2nd, 2024

Mark Bandstra, Heather Crawford, Tom Gallant  
Reiner Kruecken, TD MacDonald, Hannah Parrilla, & Ernst  
Sichtermann

April is Autism *Acceptance* Month!  
The All Access Neurodiversity  
Working Group has planned several  
events to celebrate



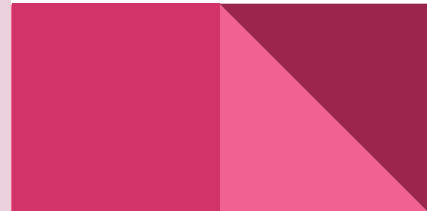
# Why Acceptance?

- Many may know April as Autism *Awareness* Month instead of Autism *Acceptance* Month
- Awareness isn't bad, but acceptance is even better
- Awareness could end at awareness alone
  - ie: Educating others on the traits of autism as they affect **allistic people**\*
- Acceptance implies an awareness *and* understanding of autism from the autistic point of view
  - Educating others on the lived experience of autistic people
  - Celebrating autistic people and their traits as a part of neurodiversity
  - Accepting autistic people as they are
  - Promoting autistic advancement and happiness

\*allistic people = people who are not autistic



Now, let's hear  
about the events at  
LBL this month!



# 2024 Autism Acceptance Month Events



## TED Talks Screening

Thursday, April 11th, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Join LBL's celebration of Autism Acceptance Month by attending this screening of several TED Talks that feature autistic speakers sharing aspects of their personal stories!

In-person in the 50 auditorium or virtually at <https://lbl.zoom.us/j/98629490074?pwd=dEdkWUZXBhDhPdStzeE1uRjkvYUpQQT09>

# 2024 Autism Acceptance Month Events



**"Advancing Neurodiversity: Scholarly Perspectives, Advocacy Efforts, and Workplace Adaptations" with Dr. Laura Sterponi andCarolynn Ann Schweitzer**

Monday, April 22nd, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Hear from Dr. Laura Sterponi and neurodivergent doctoral student, Carolynn Ann Schweitzer as they discuss neurodiversity and autism. They will first discuss the neurodiversity movement's evolution. Then, through a focus on autistic language, they will illustrate how shifting away from a deficit perspective reveals previously unrecognized autistic communicative capacities and functionalities. Finally, they will advise us all on how to reconfigure the workplace within the framework of neurodiversity.

In-person in the 50 auditorium or virtually at <https://lbnl.zoom.us/j/96612385801?pwd=RnU4Z0s5bIZMcVhhYmN0TlILV0FVUT09>

# 2024 Autism Acceptance Month Events



*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!*

## Special Interest Lightning Talks

Tuesday, April 30th, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Many autistic people have highly passionate interests that are referred to as "special interests". In the spirit of autistic info-dumping, the Neurodiversity Working Group is gathering volunteers to give 3-minute lightning talks on something (anything!) that interests them. Autistic and allistic people alike are encouraged to give these lightning talks and get a moment to feel the satisfaction of info-dumping about something they enjoy.

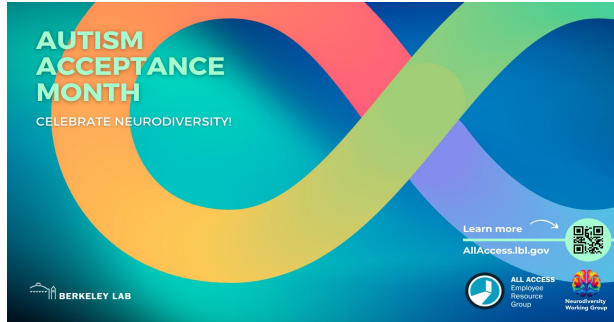
If you are interested in giving a lightning talk, please [fill out this form](#). We will need many volunteers. Thank you!

Virtually at

<https://lbnl.zoom.us/j/94898630449?pwd=OU9zRGEGwc0xjUGo3MjJucVV0bHh1dz09>

# 2024 Autism Acceptance Month Zoom Backgrounds

- Use the new Zoom backgrounds\* this month! They are available preloaded on Zoom (as long as your app is up-to-date), or you can download them [here!](#)



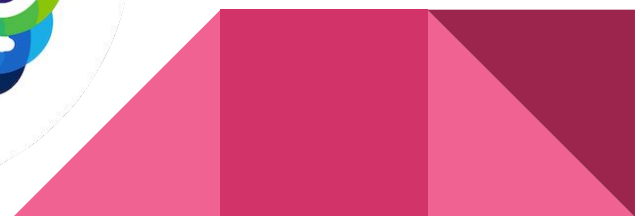
\* Created by Jeremy Snyder, LBL, Earth and Environmental Science





# Keeping Informed

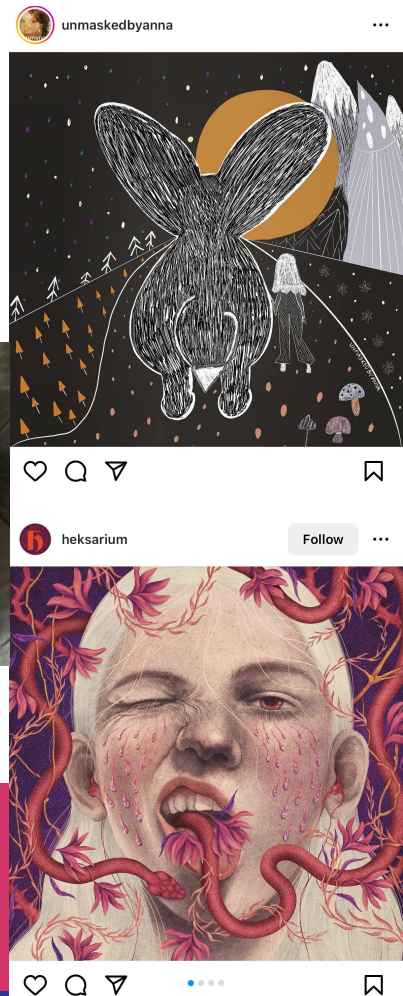
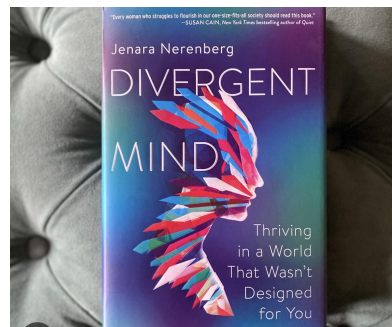
- Find everything you need on the [2024 Autism Acceptance Month](#) webpage
- Add the [Diversity and Inclusion Google Calendar](#) to your calendar
- Keep an eye out for Elements articles advertising each event



# Other Ways to Celebrate This April

- Learn from autistic people about their experiences
- Look at content being created under popular hashtags such as “#ActuallyAutistic”
- Support the work of autistic people
  - Frequent their businesses and buy their goods
  - Consume the media they create and support their art/literature/music/etc.
  - Recognize their contributions to all of the things you interact with
    - Autistic people are more likely to choose majors in STEM than allistic individuals (34.3% compared to 22.8%)
      - If modern screening and diagnostic tools had been available, many notable scientists of the past might have been diagnosed with ASD as well.

Nerenberg, J. (2021). *Divergent mind: Thriving in a world that wasn't designed for you.* HarperOne.



# Other Upcoming IDEA Events

- Earth Month Banner Raising
  - Tuesday, April 2 · 2:30 – 3:20pm
- EAP: Monthly BIPOC Support Group
  - Tuesday, April 9 · 12:00 – 12:50pm
- Global ERG: Science diplomacy vs diplomacy – Leo Violini
  - Tuesday, April 9 · 2:00 – 3:00pm
- WSEC Empowerment Subcommittee Meeting
  - Wednesday, April 10 · 12:00 – 1:00pm
- EC-ERG\_Outreach/Education Monthly Catch-up (2nd Friday of the month)
  - Friday, April 12 · 10:30 – 11:00am

## [Add the Diversity and Inclusion Events Calendar to your Google Calendar](#)

- This allows you to view the DEI calendar on your calendar via a toggle (it doesn't mark you as busy or make you receive any more emails!)



## Volunteers Needed for Pride Planning

The Lab's **Lambda Alliance** is looking for volunteers to help organize our float in the San Francisco Pride Parade.

The more volunteers we have, the better we can make the float! Let's win best contingent again this year!

For more info, go to [lambda.lbl.gov/pride-month](http://lambda.lbl.gov/pride-month) or email [codywebb@lbl.gov](mailto:codywebb@lbl.gov)

# Opportunities to Be Involved in Outreach and Service



## ● K-12 STEM Outreach Opportunities

- Many roles open for Science en Acción ([SeA](#)) bilingual STEM camp
  - Many new roles opened to support [SAGE](#)
  - Support needed in the The Berkeley Lab Director's Apprenticeship Program ([BLDAP](#))
  - One more reverse science fair date
  - Help with various local school STEM outreach programs coming up
  - Become a mentor for High School summer interns
- Visit the K-12 Outreach and Education homepage to sign up for the newsletter and read more about the programs!
- <https://k12education.lbl.gov/home>

## ● Community Service Opportunities

- Many Earth Day Opportunities!
  - Clean-ups, landscaping, beautification
- Volunteer with the [Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano](#) (FBCCS), the [UC Berkeley food pantry](#), or the [Alameda County Community Food Bank](#)
- Volunteer with [Meals on Wheels](#) to pack or deliver food to Berkeley's homebound seniors
- Sign up to be a tutor for "[Literacy for Every Adult Program](#)" or another "[Bay Area Literacy](#)" program

Sign up to volunteer for these opportunities and more at <https://service.lbl.gov/need/>

## NSD IDEA Council resources

- [URM Job Posting funding](#)
- [Luminary Cards](#)
- IDEA SPOT Award Program
- [LeanIn cards “50 ways to fight bias”](#)

## Lab-wide resources

- [Idea.lbl.gov](#)
- [Employee Resource Groups](#)
- [Physical Sciences Workplace Life Committee](#)

## Consider joining the Council!

- All-volunteer effort
- Looking for people from all roles and areas of NSD

**Share your ideas for topics or other feedback:**

**NSD-IDEA-Council@lbl.gov**