

**Autistic Adults and Justice in Employment**

**May 24, 2021**

**Program Script includes my opening announcements, introduction, some ads, future shows, and the Autistic Community Bulletin Board.**

Welcome everyone to Today’s Autistic Moment: A Podcast for Autistic Adults by An Autistic Adult. My name is Philip King-Lowe. I am the owner, producer, and host; and I am an Autistic Adult. Thank you so very much for listening.

This first segment of Today’s Autistic Moment is sponsored by The Autism Society of Minnesota: Minnesota’s First Autism Resource. The Autism Society of Minnesota has been serving Minnesota’s Autism Community for the past 50 years. Visit them online at ausm.org.

Visit the podcast website to look for new episodes and how you can become a patron to support and promote Today’s Autistic Moment. All published episodes are on the Episode Index page. Program and interview transcripts are available with each episode. Interview transcripts are sponsored by GT Independence. Go to the store to shop for a custom-made tee-shirt in the color of your choice with Today’s Autistic Moment’s logo on them. As well as great books and fidgets. Go to my do’s and don’ts page to learn that I do use identity first language, and that I don’t recommend, support, encourage nor promote the use of ABA Therapy. To find all of this and more information visit todaysautisticmoment.com.

Before I was diagnosed as Autistic in 2011, I had a terrible time getting employed and staying employed for over 30 years of my life. I had a few occupations that I worked very well at, but, getting interviewed, hired, kept employed and being happy in most traditional work environments never lasted very long. I had potential employers who did not answer job applications, cover letters or resumes. If I was hired, I had a terrible time communicating with my supervisors and co-workers. After I was diagnosed, I then understood what had been happening. As I began talking with other Autistic Adults, I learned that others had been through similar experiences. It is estimated that 86% of Autistics are unemployed. There are many Autistic Adults that cannot get a job interview or get past the interview to be employed. There are just as many Autistic Adults who once they are employed, face discrimination through on the job training, or working with their co-workers. We have the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that is supposed to protect Autistics from discrimination, but discrimination by employers towards Autistic Adults is happening more than we would like to believe. Why is it that Autistic Adults cannot find justice in employment?’’

My guest Samuel J. Levine is the Director of the Jewish Law Institute and a Professor of Law at Touro College in New York. Samuel Levine is a very outspoken advocate for special education and disability rights, including and especially for the rights of Autistic people. Samuel J. Levine is the author of the book *Was Yosef On the Spectrum?: Understanding Joseph Through Torah, Midrash, and Classical Jewish Sources.* Samuel’s book can be purchased through my store on todaysautisticmoment.com. I started getting acquainted with Samuel J. Levine on LinkedIn. I have found Samuel’s perspective about justice in employment for Autistics to be brilliantly precise, and his way of talking about the subject is just as equitable.

Please stay tuned after this first commercial break, after which I will begin my conversation with Samuel J. Levine.

**Future Shows**

June is LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. June 18th is Autistic Pride Day. Today’s Autistic Moment will celebrate both with two exciting shows.

On June 7th, I will publish the episode Autistic Adults: Our Diverse Sexual Orientations. I will be joined by Heidi, Luke and Benjamin who will share some of their experiences of being Autistic and the challenges each have met with coming to terms with their sexual orientation. They will talk about coming out, dating, and what being individuals on multiple spectrums has meant for each of them. I am also an Autistic Adult who is gay, and I appreciate these individuals being so courageous about sharing their stories with us.

On June 21st, I will publish the episode Autistic Adults: Our Diverse Gender Identities. My guest is Enzi Tanner, a trans-man who is a person of color and is Jewish. Enzi will talk with me about the many challenges he experiences as an individual that crosses neurodiversity along with gender, racial and religious differences.

Come celebrate Pride Month 2021 by listening to these amazing individuals.

Thank you for listening to Today’s Autistic Moment.

**Today’s Autistic Community Bulletin Board**

**June Workshop in Austin, Minnesota, features Judy Endow.** Autism Friendly Austin, the Autism Society of Minnesota and the Hormel Historic Home will co-host “Autistically Thriving: Living a Self-Determined Life.” An in-person and virtual informative workshop held on June 10th from 8am to 4pm led by Judy Endow, LCSW, author and international speaker on a variety of autism-related topics. I have heard Judy Endow speak, and the information she shares is invaluable. I highly recommend attending this session to listen to Judy.

**The form is now open to apply to present a breakout session at the 2021 Virtual Autistic Community Summit on September 18th.** Submit your application to be a presenter by July 2, 2021. Suggested topics include Literature and arts from Autistics. Navigating and self-directing support services. Managing interactions with medical providers. How to write a waiver. Meaningful inclusion, especially for those with higher support needs. Hiring and training staff. Person centered planning across the lifespan. Autism and mental health. Autism pride and self-acceptance. Autism and intersectionality, including race, age, gender, sexuality etc. Shut downs and meltdowns. Emotional regulation. Managing medical interactions. Masking. For more information contact Zephyr James at 651-647-2081 ext. 23 or send an email to zjames@ausm.org.

Remember you can always send me an email to PKLowe@todaysautisticmoment.com. Please follow Today’s Autistic Moment on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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