

**Autism Empowerment:
Neurodivergent Creators Collective**







Welcome! We will be starting shortly!
Please feel free to introduce yourself in chat.

**Autism Empowerment:
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Year One Highlights + Ask Me Anything (AMA)

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Welcome!



Karen Krejcha

Accept



Inspire

Enrich



Empower

Brian Tashima



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**Special raffle drawing for those staying until the end!
Plus everyone gets a free downloadable AE-NCC Resource Guide!**

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The Beginnings of AE-NCC

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04/26/2025: Virtual Launch



Welcome to the AE-NCC
Virtual Launch Informational Event

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Past Workshops

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05/24/2025: Introduction to Filmmaking



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05/24/2025: Introduction to Filmmaking

- Starting point into Filmmaking
- “Above the Line” departments
- “Below the Line” departments
- How departments come together to produce a film





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05/24/2025: Introduction to Filmmaking





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06/22/2025: Introduction to Voice Over & Podcasting

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INTRO WORKSHOP
Free, Hybrid, Empowering.

featuring
GWYN LaREE and KAREN KREJCHA

Introduction to
Voice Over and
Podcasting



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06/22/2025: Introduction to Voice Over & Podcasting

- Traits for Voice Over actors
- Fields for Voice Over actors
- What is a Podcast?
- Types and formats of Podcasts
- How to get started with Podcasting
- Marketing and Monetization

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07/26/2025: Intro to Independent Writing & Publishing




featuring
BRIAN TASHIMA

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INTRO WORKSHOP
Free, Hybrid, Empowering.
Introduction to
Independent Writing
and Publishing
with Brian Tashima
Author and Publisher of The Ichi Suzuki Series

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07/26/2025: Intro to Independent Writing & Publishing

- Resources for how to write
- 5 tips on getting started
- Next steps after you have a manuscript
- Ready to publish, now what?
- After you publish, keep on writing



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August 30th, 2025: Creating Characters



featuring
GWYN LAREE

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Free hybrid workshop:
Creating Characters
What makes a character
interesting, believable and
memorable to your audience?
Join Gwyn LaREE, professional actor,
stage and screen, and bring her
for a peek into the creative craft of
character development.



August 30th, 2025: Creating Characters

- What is a character
- Anatomy of a character
- What you really need: W.W.W.W and How
- Getting to know your character
- Making your character connect with your audience.





09/13/2025: Learning Writing and Storytelling
from Video Games





09/13/2025: Learning Writing and Storytelling
from Video Games

- How environment tells a story
- Visual clues within a story
- How stories are built across multiple creative mediums
- Writing exercises you can use in your creative process




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10/18/2025: Storybuilding for Publication and Production (Panel)



Storybuilding for Publication and Production

An inspiring panel conversation with neurodivergent creatives breaking barriers and bringing their stories to life.






Alexandra Halliburton Talianda Love Karen Masong Brian Yoshida


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10/18/2025: Storybuilding for Publication and Production (Panel)

- **Bringing ideas to life**
- **Challenges faced**
- **Breakthrough moments**
- **Moving stories from imagination into reality**




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11/15/2025: Storytelling for Good: Turning Your Story into Purpose



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From Zoom neurodivergent: **Storytelling for Good: The Light Switch Method™**

For artists, entrepreneurs, performers, & innovators, and anyone ready to turn their story for good.

Discover how storytelling can spark change, build confidence, and bring hope and healing.

- ▶ Lead with authenticity
- ▶ Advocate with intent
- ▶ Empower yourself and others
- ▶ Inspire and grow

Featuring
JOHN and KAREN KREJCHA
 Autism Empowerment Co-Founders


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**11/15/2025: Storytelling for Good:
Turning Your Story into Purpose**

- What is storytelling for good?
- Why storytelling matters
- Introduction to the L.I.G.H.T. Switch method:
Listen → Identify → Give → Honor → Transform
- The Secret Sauce: **Love**
- **Love** is our Legacy




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**12/13/2025: Easterseals Disability Film Challenge:
interview with Nic Novicki**




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**12/13/2025: Easterseals Disability Film Challenge:
interview with Nic Novicki**



- Who is Nic Novicki?
- Actor, comedian, founder of Disability Film Challenge
- What is the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge?
- Opportunities for disabled storytellers




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**02/21/2026: Low-Budget Filmmaking:
 Lighting and Cinematography Basics**




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**02/21/2026: Low-Budget Filmmaking:
 Lighting and Cinematography Basics**

- **Extended 2 hr presentation w/ Q&A**
- **Basics of low-budget filmmaking**
- **Closer look at lighting**
 - **Shapes mood**
 - **Guides audience's attention**
 - **Strengthening the overall scenes**




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March 21, 2026: Editing a Short Film





March 21, 2026: Editing a Short Film

- Behind the scenes of editing
- Organization of footage
- Syncing audio
- Building rough cuts and using different types of tools and different kinds of cuts





Possible Future Workshop Topics

- *Documentary Filmmaking*
- *How to Set Up a Video Podcast*
- *Pre-Production Planning*
- *Songwriting*



Ideas/Suggestions?



What Else Have We Done?

- AE-NCC Creators Corner Articles: www.spectrumlife.org
- Chill & Chat: 1st Saturday of most months
- Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/aencc



What Else Have We Done?

- Educational Videos
- Mentoring
- Online Resource Library



Ideas / Suggestions?



What's Next?

- Expanded Online Learning Hub
- On-Demand Business Planning Workshops
- Opportunities with community partners
- Meet & Greet at Autism Empowerment Picnic
- Stay tuned for more awesomeness!



Questions?


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ARE YOU A NEURODIVERGENT CREATOR?

YOUR VOICE MATTERS. YOUR STORY DESERVES THE SPOTLIGHT.



Learn more at [AutismEmpowerment.org/AENCC](https://www.autisempowerment.org/AENCC)

Upcoming Workshops:

Artificial Intelligence and Future of Filmmaking
 Saturday, May 16th, 2026 @ 2:00pm
 Filmmaker **Craig McCourry** (via Zoom)

Introduction to Independent Writing & Publishing
 Saturday, June 20th, 2026 @ 2:00pm
Brian Tashima (via Zoom)



Check our website for registration and new opportunities!
<https://www.autisempowerment.org/programs/aencc/>


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Time to draw our lucky winners! 2 Books + 2 AE T-Shirts
Plus everyone gets a free downloadable AE-NCC Resource Guide!



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Thank you for attending! How to Connect with Us:











Brian Tashima - brian@autisempowerment.org

Other AE Programs: info@autisempowerment.org

www.AutismEmpowerment.org/aencc

www.facebook.com/groups/aencc

www.youtube.com/autisempowerment

Join our AE-NCC email list: <https://bit.ly/aenccmailinglist>
