



Autism Empowerment: Neurodivergent Creators Collective



AE Neurodivergent CREATORS Collective
Year One Highlights
+ Ask Me Anything (AMA)

Celebrate 1 Year of Creativity, Connection & Community

Join us for a relaxed recap of our first year—featuring favorite workshops, Chill & Chats, Creator Corner resources, and an open Q&A with **Brian Tashima, Karen & John Krejcha** about creativity, community, and what's next.

- Workshops & Events
- Chill & Chats
- Creator Corner Resources
- Free Giveaways!

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



Autism Empowerment: Neurodivergent Creators Collective



Year One Highlights + Ask Me Anything (AMA)



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Welcome!



Karen Krejcha

Accept

Inspire



Enrich

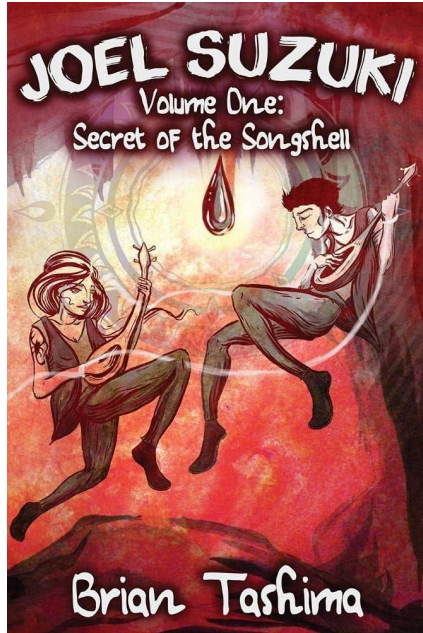
Empower



Brian Tashima



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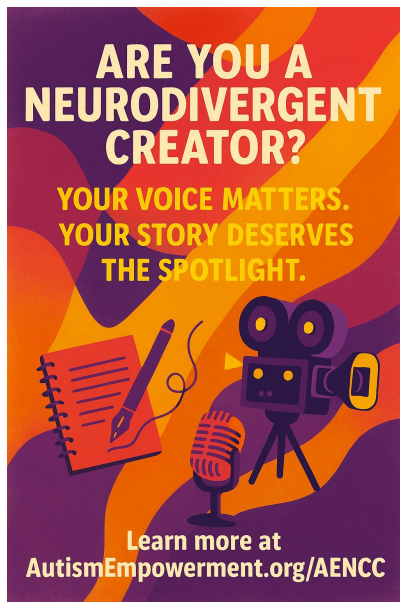
**Special raffle drawing for those staying until the end!
Plus everyone gets a free downloadable AE-NCC Resource Guide!**



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The Beginnings of AE-NCC





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04/26/2025: Virtual Launch

AE
Neurodivergent
CREATORS
Collective

NEURODIVERGENT
CREATORS COLLECTIVE

Autism
Empowerment

Welcome to the AE-NCC
Virtual Launch Informational Event

The graphic features a dark blue background with a rainbow arching over the text. Below the text is an illustration of four diverse people (two men and two women) sitting around a table, engaged in a creative process. One man is using a laptop, another is holding a clapperboard, a woman is writing in a notebook, and another woman is wearing headphones. The graphic is flanked by the Neurodivergent Creators Collective logo on the left and the Autism Empowerment logo on the right.



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Past Workshops



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05/24/2025: Introduction to Filmmaking



featuring
GWYN LaREE and BRIAN TASHIMA

AE
NEURODIVERGENT
CREATORS
Collective
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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06/22/2025: Introduction to Voice Over & Podcasting



featuring
GWYN LaREE and KAREN KREJCHA



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CREATORS
Collective**

INTRO WORKSHOP
Free. Hybrid. Empowering.



**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



The promotional graphic is a dark purple rectangle. On the left side, there is a photograph of Brian Tashima, a smiling man with a goatee, wearing a black t-shirt with a white graphic. The background of the photo is a stylized, colorful architectural or technical drawing. To the right of the photo, the text is arranged vertically. At the top left and right corners of the purple area are small versions of the Autism Empowerment and Neurodivergent Creators Collective logos, respectively. A rainbow-colored arch is positioned above the text "AE". The text "Neurodivergent CREATORS Collective" is in white, with "CREATORS" in yellow. Below that, "INTRO WORKSHOP" is in yellow. The phrase "Free. Hybrid. Empowering." is in green, yellow, and white. The main title "Introduction to Independent Writing and Publishing" is in white. At the bottom, it says "with Brian Tashima" and "Author and Publisher of The Joel Suzuki Series". On the bottom right, there is a white line-art icon of a person sitting at a desk with a lightbulb above their head, symbolizing ideas and writing.

featuring
BRIAN TASHIMA

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**Neurodivergent
CREATORS
Collective**
INTRO WORKSHOP
Free. Hybrid. Empowering.
Introduction to
Independent Writing
and Publishing
with Brian Tashima
Author and Publisher of The Joel 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



**Neurodivergent
CREATORS
Collective**

Free hybrid workshop:

Creating Characters

**What makes a character
interesting, believable and
memorable to your audience?**



Join Gwyn LaRee, professional actor,
voice over artist, and storyteller,
for a dive into the creative craft of
compelling storytelling.

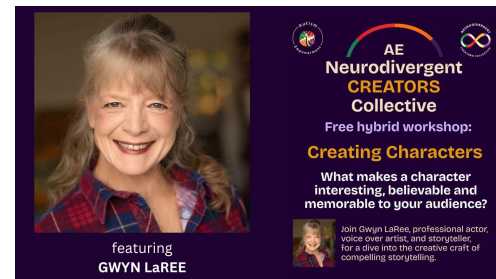


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August 30th, 2025: Creating Characters

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





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



featuring
MEG EDEN



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Learning Writing and
Storytelling from Video
Games





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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



Trelanda Lowe



Karen Maseng



Brian Tashima



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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



featuring
JOHN and KAREN KREJCHA
Autism Empowerment Co-Founders

A promotional graphic for the workshop. It features the Autism Empowerment and Neurodivergent Creators Collective logos at the top. The text reads: "AE Neurodivergent CREATORS Collective Free Zoom workshop: Storytelling for Good: The Light Switch Method™". Below this, it says "For writers, filmmakers, podcasters, advocates, and anyone ready to use their story for good." and "Discover how storytelling can spark change, build confidence, and bring hope and healing." At the bottom, there is a list of four bullet points: "Lead with authenticity", "Advocate with impact", "Empower yourself and others", and "Heal and grow". To the right of the list is an illustration of a lit lightbulb connected to a power strip with a plug.



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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



AE
Neurodivergent
CREATORS
Collective

presents an interview with

Nic Novicki
Actor, Comedian,
Disability Film Challenge Founder



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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



featuring
EDWARD MARTIN III
Hellbender Media

The event poster features a dark purple background. At the top left is the Autism Empowerment logo, and at the top right is the Neurodivergent Creators Collective logo. A rainbow arc is positioned above the text "AE Neurodivergent CREATORS Collective". Below this, the event title "Low-Budget Filmmaking: Lighting and Cinematography Basics with Edward Martin III" is displayed in white. At the bottom, there are three icons: a red studio light on a stand, a black and white clapperboard, and a white softbox light on a stand.



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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



featuring
MARTIN VAVRA
Galaxy Sailor Productions



AE
**Neurodivergent
CREATORS
Collective**

Editing A Short Film:
Behind-the-Scenes Tips
with Martin Vavra





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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**





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Possible Future Workshop Topics

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



Ideas/Suggestions?



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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



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What Else Have We Done?

- Educational Videos
- Mentoring
- Online Resource Library



Ideas / Suggestions?



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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!**



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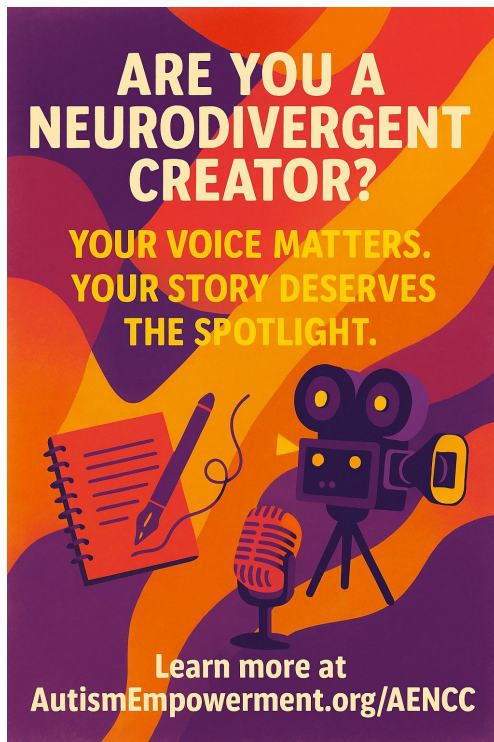


 **ASK ME** 
ANYTHING! 

Questions?



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Upcoming Workshops:

Artificial Intelligence and Future of Filmmaking

Saturday, May 16th, 2026 @ 2:00pm
Filmmaker **Craig McCourry** (via Zoom)

Introduction to Independent Writing & Publishing

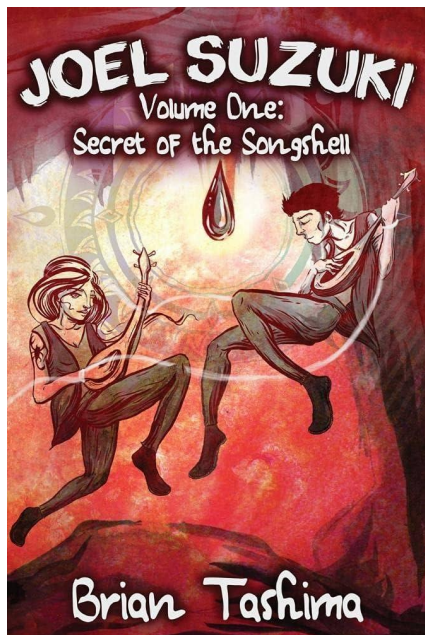
Saturday, June 20th, 2026 @ 2:00pm
Brian Tashima (via Zoom)

Check our website for registration and new opportunities!

<https://www.autismempowerment.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@autismempowerment.org

Other AE Programs: info@autismempowerment.org



www.AutismEmpowerment.org/aencc



www.facebook.com/groups/aencc



www.youtube.com/autismempowerment



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