June & July
Classes Offered

120 Hour Courses
Baltimore, MD - Jun 6-17
Cumming, GA - Jun 6-17
Des Plaines, IL - Jun 6-17
Tampa, FL - Jun 6-17
Lakewood, CO - Jun 13-24

Inquiring Minds

Radon: Do You or Don't You
By Toby Adamson, CEO
HomeHubZone
ASHI wants to know about your radon testing. Do you or don't you? Please click this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/radontrain and answer four quick questions (takes about a minute of your time).
Leesburg, VA - Jul 11-22
160 Hour Class
Bellevue, WA - Jun 6-17
93 Hour Class
Austintown, OH - Jul 18-23
NEW CLASS LOCATION
16 Hour Residential Radon Measurement Course
Live Webinar - Jun 1-2
Live Webinar - Jul 12-13
Commercial Class
Stamford, CT - Jun 8-10
203k Day of Discovery
Des Plaines, IL - June 25-26

137x1124
116x1105
139x934
116x896
116x877
116x858
149x763
116x725
116x706
116x477
116x458
116x439
486x630
Be On The Lookout: ASHI Membership Dues Notices Coming Soon
It's that time of year when you start hearing about ASHI's Membership Renewals going out. So skip over this section (and all upcoming news about dues renewal) by renewing your dues today!

If you're planning on continuing to pay monthly, kudos to you! Ignore this section and enjoy the rest of the newsletter. If you have any questions about your dues, feel free to reach out to us at hq@ashi.org.

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What's going on with your chapter? Got an event coming up? Something interesting happen at your last meeting? What did you learn about? We want to know and we'll post it here. Email your news to Dave at davek@ashi.org

Here’s what’s going on in a chapter near you...

June 23, 2016
Northern New England Educational Event
Alpine Club
Manchester, NH
7 ASHI CE

July 22-23, 2016
Great Lakes Chapter Summer Conference
Holiday Inn
Mount Prospect, IL

September 9-11, 2016
SE Home Inspection Conference
Infinite Energy Center
Duluth GA

September 11-12, 2016
ASHI New England Educational Conference
Hilton Mystic Hotel

personal, face-to-face training on every aspect of the FHA Rehab Loan Process form.
#1 203k Consultant in the US

Catherine Hall: America’s 203k Queen

Course includes:

- 8-hr Day of Discovery CE class
- Live, on-site 3-hr training of "Mock 203k Consultation"
- Full 203k Report Review
- Course booklets & materials

For More Information or to Register Now:
Visit: www.203kinabox.com
or
Email: info@203kinabox.com

course sponsored by:

Navy Veteran Has Been Serving Aurora For More Than A Decade
By Margie Fields

In 2001, Thomas Recke hired Pillar To Post Home Inspectors® to inspect a property he was considering. So impressed by the service was the U.S. Navy and Army National Guard veteran that, upon returning home from his tour of duty, he contacted the company once more, though for a different purpose—to look into purchasing his own Pillar To Post Home
Since 2005, Recke has run his Pillar To Post business servicing the eastern Denver metro area—including Denver, Aurora, Parker, Elizabeth and Castle Rock—with distinction.

A onetime electronics technician on the USS San Juan, Recke’s tour of duty saw him serve in Iraq from 2004-2005. He then served in the Army National Guard upon his honorable discharge from the Navy, where he earned a Combat Infantry Badge. Recke’s experience as a Pillar To Post customert was an inspiring one. “I had a few years left until my enlistment in the Army was over but my experience from the consumer side planted the seed that eventually lead to purchasing my own franchise,” said Recke. “I was intrigued by the idea of owning my own business and helping others make educated decisions about such an important move in life—purchasing a home.”

For a man who once served on a submarine, owning a home inspection business may not seem like an obvious career move. But, Recke said it’s one that entirely fits his character. “I’ve liked the idea that I was always learning something; from construction systems to business management. I’m always on my toes and I also like the idea of training employees to do what I do. If I can help my employees succeed, I also get to help more clients. It’s a win-win for everyone, and that’s been the case since I was in the military to working as a home inspector today.”

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New ASHI Member Benefit: Save 55% on Hotels

ASHI is excited to announce a new partnership with HotelStorm to bring exclusive hotel discounts to our members. HotelStorm negotiates hotel discounts only available to ASHI members, with discounts up to 55% off. Simply search the website for your favorite destinations -
whether personal or professional - and you'll find savings of 10%-55% over online travel agencies.

Visit HotelStorm and use the password: ASHIMEMBER to unlock our discounts.

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Quick Tip 23: Fixing a Drip at the Bathroom Fan

So you run the bath exhaust fan to remove moisture – but then you get that drip, drip, drip from the fan on your nice clean rug. Bath exhaust fans should not drip. If yours does, there’s something wrong with it.

First, check the exhaust ducting or tubing; it should be insulated, straight and vented to the outside. There should be a minimum of bends for proper air flow. If there is no insulation around the duct, the problem could be condensation in the cold duct. Adding insulation around the duct may solve the problem.

The fan's damper can also get stuck in the open position, allowing hot air into the cool duct and creating condensation. Check the small damper at the fan. It should open when the fan is on and close when the fan turns off. This damper responds to fan pressure and gravity. Most vent connectors through the roof or sidewall should also have a damper to keep cold air out, and it should open and close with fan operation.

For many years, contractors installed bath fan vent ducting incorrectly, creating a bend or low loop to catch condensation. This just allows water to accumulate and may cause a large leak when the water lets go.

By Tom Feiza, Mr. Fix-it

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Helping you operate and maintain your home

This is one of the easiest programs you could ever become involved with and you get a $50 Visa gift card for your efforts.

All you need to do is get a home inspector to join ASHI. Here's how the program works:

Step 1: Tell friend/colleague that they should join ASHI (talk about why we're awesome!)

Step 2: Friend/colleague fills out an ASHI application and states that you told them to sign up with ASHI.

Step 3: Friend/colleague becomes an ASHI member and we send you a $50 gift card.

Spread the word. Sign them up. Collect your reward. Repeat.

Joe Ferry, LLC - NEW
Target Professional Programs
Guardian Financial
Home Owners Network
Quill.com
LegalShield
Porch.com
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HomeAdvisor
OneSource Solutions
Liberty Mutual Insurance
InspectionContracts.com
GEM Marketing
(ASHIstore.com)
BuildFax
ASHI@Home

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY!
ASHI Member Discount!

$97
REG. PRICE
$89/MONTH
$1,067
REG. PRICE
$999/YEAR

SIGN UP TODAY!

The Healthy Home Checkup™ represents a true value to homeowners and a real business opportunity for home inspectors. Generate additional revenue by offering the Checkup to current and past customers as a complement to your other housing-related services to grow your business.

We are pleased to offer ASHI members special pricing for the Healthy Home Checkup Software subscription!

Monthly Subscription
Regular price $97/month 6 months payable upfront
ASHI member price $89/month 0 months payable upfront
Apply coupon code at checkout to receive your discount
Monthly subscription code: ASHICHECKUP1018

Yearly Subscription
Regular price $1,067/year
ASHI member price $999/year
Apply coupon code at checkout to receive your discount
Yearly subscription code: ASHICHECKUP1516

SIGN UP TODAY!

Cruise ONE
Dream Vacations Start Here

Peace of mind... because it's home:
**Norwegian "Free at Sea" Promotion from Ira's Cruises**

Five (5) Fantastic & FREE Offers to Choose From!

*Awesome Benefits for ASHI Members*

1. Shore excursions  
2. Unlimited beverages  
3. Specialty dining  
4. Wi-fi  
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*Book an oceanview stateroom or balcony and choose 2 free offers.*

*Book a suite or Norwegian’s sumptuous Haven suites and get all 5 offers for free!*

There has never been a better time to book a Norwegian Cruise, **but hurry, this offer ends June 30th!**

Call Ira to learn more about fantastic Norwegian sailings, and ask him about his cruise last month on the brand new Norwegian Escape.

Ira's Cruises also offers great savings on land programs to the Caribbean and Mexico, as well as throughout Europe. Ask us how you can start saving today on your dream cruise OR land resort vacation!

Call Ira at 708-917-4078 or email irataubin@cruiseone.com.  
www.irascruises.com

Ask us how you can start saving today on your dream cruise OR land resort vacation!  

*Don't forget to mention that you're an ASHI member!*
Breaking the Ice at Networking Events

Because of the people you can meet and the doors they can open for you, networking events can be extremely lucrative for your career. Before you can make connections, however, you have to break the ice.

The worst way you can do so is to as a “job title” question like “What do you do?” or “Where do you work?”

So says Inc.com contributor Melanie Deziel. “If your goal is to connect with someone, find common ground, and potentially explore a way to partner with them, then these types of surface-level questions will consistently fail to elicit the response you are likely looking for," explains Deziel, who says a better ice-breaking question is: What are you passionate about?

“This is especially true for those with an entrepreneurial streak, a creative spirit, or a dedication to a cause. By asking them what they do for work, you’re effectively asking how they pay the bills, versus inviting them into a conversation about what’s really important to them," Deziel continues. "When you swap out standard ‘What do you do?’ questions for a more open-ended inquiry, you create the space for someone to share a passion that may run deeper than their profession, and increase your chances of making an authentic connection."

Contact any of the above Affiliates and Endorsed providers and mention that you are an ASHI member for a special discount.

What to Know Before You Finish Your Basement

Going underground—and staying under budget.

By Josh Garskof
CALLING ALL CHAPTERS!!!

Do you host a chapter event, seminar, or conference and trade show? Do you attend them as an exhibitor? If you answered 'yes' to either question, then you need ASHI's new "Step Up With ASHI" banner.

This banner has all the talking points you need to promote ASHI membership and help non-members and non-ACIs alike with the steps to move up to the ACI level.

Order yours today! Contact Dee Goldstein at deegem@optonline.net to get pricing and more!

Sometimes the cure for an undersized house is right underneath you. If you’re lucky enough to have a basement, transforming the underutilized space into a playroom, home theater, in-law apartment, office, gym, or some combination of these will likely cost about $20,000 to $50,000, says Highland Park, Ill. architect Christopher Turley—perhaps half the price of creating an equivalent addition upstairs. Here are four things you need to know if you’re considering this project.

Skipping a permit can be costly.

Refinishing the basement is one of those jobs that people often do without a building permit. Since the work isn’t visible from the street, the thinking goes, why not save the time and cost of the permitting process—and the tax increase that comes with an officially expanded living space?

This is a mistake. If you get caught (and the pickup trucks and dumpster are dead giveaways something is going on), the building department can force you to tear apart the project and rebuild it. And even if you don’t, when you go to sell your house, buyers may balk—and penalize you on price—because you don’t have a certificate of occupancy for the project. Plus, you miss out on the chance to have an expert with your best interests in mind double-check your contractor’s work, providing you with a level of technical oversight you won’t otherwise get. The permit paperwork costs only a few hundred dollars.

And here’s the clincher: Tax assessors don’t count finished basements as full-fledged living space. So in most cases the project won’t have a large effect on your tax bill.

It’s smart to invest in noise control.

One nice thing about putting a playroom or recreation room in the basement is that it cuts down on foot-traffic noise in the main living space. But you can certainly still hear rowdy voices—and loud music and movies. So plan ahead by insulating the ceiling above the basement (using fiberglass or stone wool insulation without a moisture barrier), which might cost $500 to $1,000, according to Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, contractor Rob Wennersten. Some “drop ceilings” (the kind that hang off metal frames) offer noise control—hence the name “acoustic tiles”—or, if you’re using drywall, consider sound deadening attachment clips, which contain neoprene rubber gaskets that help to prevent sound from carrying through the ceiling and add only a few dollars to the cost of your project.

Budget for more headroom.

Building codes typically require around seven feet of ceiling space (check with your building department for local requirements). That may mean relocating pipes or ducts higher up into the ceiling or away from the center of the room, which could cost anywhere from $500 to
Send us your celebratory news and we’ll post it here. If we don’t see it, it won’t be posted.

HouseMaster Expands to Northern Virginia with Veteran Franchise Owner, Tim Fisher

We have been working hard to bring some excellent ASHI Members Exclusive Benefits. Check out the list below and visit the ASHI website’s member’s only section and click on Member Benefits. Here’s a sampling of the awesome member exclusive benefits ASHI members enjoy:

Travel:
- Orlando Vacation Packages
- Cruise Discounts
- Rental Car Discounts at 5 different rental car companies
- Hotel Discounts (10%-55% savings)

Auto:
- Savings on new and used cars (save thousands off MSRP)
- Jiffy Lube Discounts

Retail:
- Apple products
- Dell products
- Groupon
- A website chock full of

$2,000 depending on what you’re moving. In some cases, you can get an exemption for something that would be cost prohibitive to move, such as a beam.

You need to dry it out first.

Some 60% of basements are wet, according to the American Society of Home Inspectors, and that moisture can lead to mold and rot if you don’t dry things out before you refinish. Solutions include repairing damaged, clogged or poorly aligned gutters ($200 to $1,000); sealing foundation cracks ($500); putting in a sump pump—plus a battery backup to protect you in the likely event that the power goes out during a flood ($2,000 to $3,000); and/or installing floor drainage ($3,000 to $5,000).

With those safeguards in place, however, moisture can still infiltrate. “Since mold grows on even damp organic material, avoid using any organic products to finish your basement,” says Tom Matthews of the international basement waterproofing and refinishing company Basement Systems. “That means no wood studs, no plywood subflooring, and no drywall.” Look for a waterproof basement refinishing system. Also ask your contractor to install heavy-gauge plastic sheeting before finishing walls and floors to prevent any moisture that migrates through the concrete to cause excessive humidity.

Here are a few basement-refinishing products to consider as you plan your project:

**InSoFast Wall System:** These Styrofoam wall panels have interlocking channels that slide together like so many Legos to instantly create insulated, moisture-proof, structural walls that are ready for paneling (or moisture-resistant drywall) and contain precut channels for electrical wiring. You’ll pay about $2,000 for a typical basement.

**ThermalDry Flooring:** These 12-inch plastic squares snap together into a floor with a tile, laminate, carpet, or parquet look. But they’re made of 100% polyvinyl chloride (PVC plastic), so they’ll never rot or grow mold. Plus the tiles have tiny nubs underneath that keep a small air gap above the concrete floor, which allows any moisture that collects to simply flow to the basement drain—and keeps the floor warmer underfoot.

**Tin drop ceiling:** Instead of the standard office-park look of a drop ceiling, consider using a faux tin-ceiling panel. Designed to look like traditional metal ceilings that originated in the 1880s, this brings visual appeal to your basement while still allowing easy access to wiring, plumbing, and other essentials up above. You get good looks and convenience—the goal for any finished basement project.
discounts at your favorite retailers

Health:
- Prescription Drugs
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...more coming soon!

Originally posted at Time.com/money