

**February 2, 2010**

## Setting the Stage for Social Success

Acting isn't just for the stage. It teaches life skills and it's a critical tool for teaching social skills that other methods miss.

People with ASD have difficulty understanding non-verbal nuances in communication. The medium of theater is a perfect vehicle through which to teach the power of non-verbal communication. Theater is also a great way to create an understanding of context, double meanings, the give-and-take of social relationships and an improved theory of mind, the ability to take into account what others might think and/or know.

This is not another social skills class! After this interactive workshop, attendees will have techniques to scaffold or adapt at least five presented activities, depending on the age, level, ability of the target students.

**When:** Tuesday, February 2, 2010  
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

**Where:** Royal Cliff  
2280 Cliff Road  
Eagan, MN  
[www.royalcliff.com](http://www.royalcliff.com)

**March 8, 2010**

## Autistic-Like: A Family's Journey

*Autistic-Like: Graham's Story* is a startling report from the edge of the "autism epidemic." Join us for this showing of an intimate family portrait detailing one dad's determined quest to find the right therapies, the right doctors and even the right words to describe his son. As he searched, Erik began to wonder how other families neither on nor off the spectrum were handling their journey. What did it really mean when experts said, "autistic-like"? And how should or could parents help these kids?

Join us as we discuss these issues and many more, facilitated by a local expert. Share your story of diagnosis, treatment and challenges while learning from others.

This film will inspire and challenge you as AuSM's experts guide the spirited discussion that results.

**When:** Monday, March 8, 2010  
7:00 - 9:00 pm

**Where:** AuSM Office  
2380 Wycliff St., Ste. 102  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
[www.ausm.org](http://www.ausm.org)

**February 18, 2010**

## Massage for Kids on the Spectrum

Massage is one of the techniques that parents often report as beneficial for children with autism. But simply applying typical massage methods to individuals with ASD doesn't work.

Come to this introductory class and learn how to tailor massage therapy to your child. You will even learn how massage therapy applies to parents of individuals with ASD.

Massage therapy can help with calming, decrease touch aversion, increase body awareness, provide fun ways to interact with your child. All while helping you relieve stress.

This class is for parents and caregivers only. We will demonstrate techniques and provide handouts. You will have time in class to try out what you have learned.

**When:** Thursday, February 18, 2010  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

**Where:** AuSM Office  
2380 Wycliff St., Ste. 102  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
[www.ausm.org](http://www.ausm.org)

**Cindy Schneider** is the author of *Acting Antics*, an innovative book detailing her approach to teaching advanced social skills. She was a special educator for 27 years, specializing in autism spectrum disorders. She has spent the last several years honing her social skills program, working directly with kids with ASD. In 2007 Cindy opened the doors to the Acting Antics Art Center and has been providing music and theater programming for youngsters of all ages and ability levels since then.

**Anne Harrington** is an autism specialist and previous Early Childhood Special Education Teacher for the Minneapolis public schools. She is a licensed provider of the PLAY Project and a Level III DIR/Floortime practitioner. She is the founder and director of Minneapolis's Celebrate the Spectrum, a clinic providing ASD therapies. She is also a parent of a young man who has autism. Through her work with families, Anne has gained insight into the diagnostic and treatment journeys of local families.

**Rose Sawyer** graduated from Sister Rosalind's School of Massage in 2008. She works at Sister Rosalind's Highland Clinic and Arvold Chiropractic. She parents a nine-year-old child with ASD.

**Sue Singer** recently completed her master's degree in Holistic Health Studies at St. Catherine University. She has practiced massage therapy for over 20 years. She developed a program serving adults with developmental and learning disabilities.



autism society of minnesota

2380 Wycliff Street  
Suite 102  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
[www.ausm.org](http://www.ausm.org)

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### Sign Me Up!

#### Indicate Workshops Attending:

- Setting the Stage for Social Success  
\$80 (member), \$125 (nonmember)
- Autistic-Like: A Family's Journey  
\$5 (members), \$7 (nonmembers)
- Massage for Kids on the Spectrum  
\$25 (members), \$35 (nonmembers)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Total Fees for all workshops: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Method of Payment:

- Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to AuSM)
- PO (a copy must accompany this form)
- I am paying \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on my  
 VISA     MasterCard     Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### Mail or FAX this form to:



2380 Wycliff Street  
Suite 102  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
T: (651) 647-1083  
F: (651) 642-1230

[www.ausm.org](http://www.ausm.org)