



Tapping into Human Potential and Dignity

Press Release
September 27, 2006

On October 14, 2006, at 7.00 p.m., Phil Schwarz will be speaking at the Lonsdale Gallery, 410 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON. His topic? "Binden wieder was die Mode streng geteilt": Repairing the Intergenerational Disconnects in Response to Autism. Admission is free.

"...autism is not fatal. Nor is it degenerative. Nor is it a disorder of a specific set of bodily functions, something essentially separable from the individual that the individual can be rid of with appropriate treatment and healing. It is a set of neurological differences in brain and central nervous system architecture that has pervasive effects upon cognition, sensory processing, experience and expression of emotion, communication, personality, and **identity**. These pervasive effects are **not** separable from the individual." – Phil Schwarz, *Identifying, Educating, and Empowering Allies*, <http://autistics.org/library/allies.html>

Phil Schwarz has Asperger's Syndrome, which is a form of autism. A software developer by trade, he is father to an autistic son and a daughter in the broader phenotype, married to a non-autistic spouse, and a strong self-advocate. His focus is on finding ways to open more minds to the perspective and priorities of autistic people themselves. This is especially important within the overwhelmingly non-autistic "autism community", which consists primarily of parents, professionals, clinicians, and researchers.

He is the Vice-President of the Asperger's Association of New England (<http://aane.org>), a board-member-at-large of the Massachusetts chapter of the Autism Society of America, and a member of the program committee for Autreat, the annual conference/retreat of Autism Network International (<http://ani.autistics.org/>).

The Autism Acceptance Project is pleased to present *The Joy of Autism: Redefining Ability and Quality of Life*, an art exhibition and series of lectures that will take place in Toronto during the month of October.

The Autism Acceptance Project does not raise money for cures, instead advocating for acceptance of autistic people in society. The organization will conduct programs and exhibitions to nurture self-esteem and ability, as well as presenting dialogues and exhibitions to understand autism further and debate the humanitarian issues surrounding it.

Without the over-riding moral obligation to treat every human being with value, respect, and dignity, we cannot establish acceptance, tolerance, and support within society.

<http://taaproject.com/>

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