

# Autism Movement Therapy® Newsletter

Autismmovementtherapy.com

July 2009

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## Autism Movement Therapy® Workshop

Refer a Friend and receive  
\$50 off both registration fees!

Sat. July 18th, 2009  
10-5pm

[Click Here to Register](#)



## Dear Joanne,

In early June, Connecticut Governor Jodi Rell signed a bill requiring health insurance companies to cover the cost of autism treatment and diagnosis. This is only the beginning! [Read more here](#)

The "[Autism Treatment Acceleration Act of 2009](#)" (ATAA) contains a total of twelve sections, each putting forth a different program for autism. A key feature of the bill is Section 12, which contains the provisions for federal reform of autism insurance coverage. If passed, Section 12 will require all insurance companies across the country to provide coverage for evidence-based, medically-necessary autism treatments and therapies.

I invite you to read the article on [Autism Movement Therapy: alternative approach to improve attentive behavior and language skills](#), by Dr Kari Miller LA Special Education Examiner journalist.

If you are looking for a summer course for your children, Amit, the director of [Media Enrichment Academy in Sherman Oaks](#) is offering on-going weekly sessions July through August.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm!  
Have a safe & happy summer!

Autism is all of our responsibility!

Sincerely,

Joanne Lara, MA  
Autism Movement Therapy



## Oliver Sacks

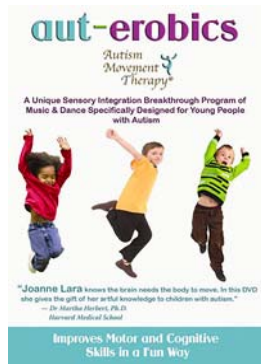
### Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain

"Oliver Sacks explores the amazing power of the brain to recognize and appreciate music, a realization that, while hardly new, is being used in novel ways to help patients with neurological disorders."

Finally there comes an empirical study, from neurologists and author, Oliver Sacks (Awakenings) about the effects of music on the brain! Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain, the documentary, from his book of the same title, aired on Nova on the PBS channel during the month of June, and asks the question, can music aid people battling severe neurological disorders? Using MRI results, Sacks teamed up with Columbia University graduate, Hal Hinkle, PhD to reveal the marvelous effect that music can have on the brain! [Click here to learn more.](#)



## "Teacher's in the



aut-erobics® was developed as a new, first of its kind, sensory integration. This easy to follow instructional DVD combines music and movement for individuals with autism. more...

5 Piece Mural  
71"x 66" Acrylic on Wood



Teacher Liana Hale, Artists Brant Cutler, Jalyn Weston (front), Logan Thompson, Sy Bechtel (not pictured), Justin Sumpter-Getino, and Teacher Dina Ruta

## Classroom"

### The Autism Society of America East Tennessee Chapter Presents "Talk Together"

This collaborative art project was created as part of a Social Skills and Art Class led by teachers Dina Ruta and Liana Hale, and sponsored by the Autism Society of America, East Tennessee Chapter.

The 14-week long class conducted at the Knoxville Museum of Art began with a dual objective. To allow children with autism to explore their own artistic expression through different art concepts while simultaneously practicing social skills with typical peers. Using lines and colors each week the children searched for expressive shapes, exploring different paints and textures to create three dimensional projects. The teachers' philosophy that children should learn through games made for a very relaxed and stress free environment. Typically developing peers played a vital role in the instruction and development of each session.

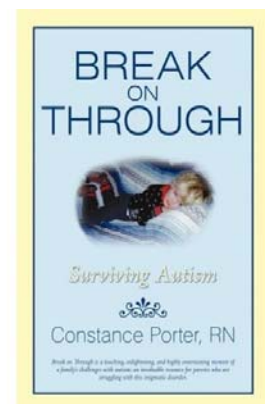
### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

A new feature to our monthly newsletter we will be an article highlighting "Teacher's in the Classroom." If you would like to be featured please send us a photo & a brief description of your program.

## Break on Through: Surviving Autism

by Constance Porter RN

Break on Through: Surviving Autism is a touching, enlightening, and highly entertaining memoir of a family's struggles with autism. It will take you on an emotional journey that will have you laughing out loud while also being moved to tears. This book is an invaluable resource for parents who are wrestling with this enigmatic disorder because it is packed with useful information and insights into the challenges that autism brings to a family. As the mother of an eighteen-year-old son with autism, Constance Porter has gained wisdom over the years that she shares with other parents who are struggling with this difficult disorder. In Break on Through, she offers a great deal of non-nonsense information with lists of resources, book recommendations and useful websites that have given her and her family valuable information and hope over the years. Who better to help parents through the struggles and challenges that autism brings to a family than someone who has lived with it for eighteen years? [Now at Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)



## [IGN Digigods Podcast Episode 93](#)

June 23, 2009 - From their secluded home-theater compound, film critics Wade Major and Mark Keizer mix insightful commentary with irreverent banter, covering the latest DVD and Blu-ray news and new releases of the week, including studio, independent, television and special-interest titles.



Joanne Lara MA, is an adjunct professor at National University in Los Angeles, California. Lara earned her master's in Special Education; Moderate/Severe & Multiple Disabilities from California State University, Northridge and her B.A. in Dance from the University of South Florida. She holds a California Moderate/Severe Education Specialist K-12 teaching credential and taught in the Los Angeles Unified School District for over 10 years, where she worked exclusively with students with autism. Founder of Autism Movement Therapy and [aut-erobics](#), Ms Lara teaches Autism Movement Therapy classes in Van Nuys, Ca where she has her private consultation practice. For more info call 323 240-0361 or visit [www.autismmovementtherapy.com](http://www.autismmovementtherapy.com) or [www.theautismexpert.com](http://www.theautismexpert.com)  
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