

AT THE AUTISM ONE/GENERATION RESCUE 2010 CONFERENCE

May 24-30, 2010 Chicago, Illinois www.autismone.org

You Deserve It! Dinner and Dance Featured Speaker

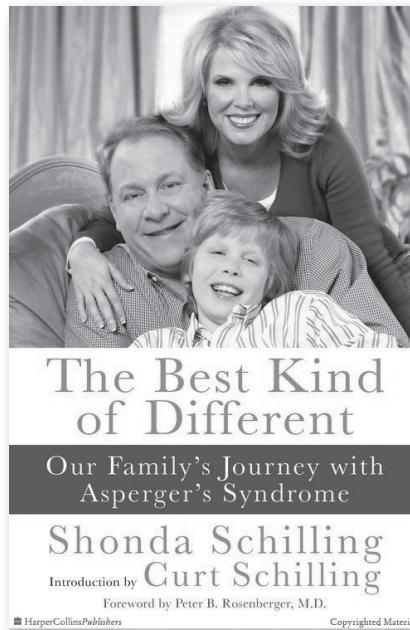
Saturday, May 29, 7:30pm

Shonda Schilling, author of *The Best Kind of Different: Our Family's Journey with Asperger's Syndrome*

In *The Best Kind of Different*, Shonda Schilling, the wife of Major League Baseball All Star, former Boston Red Sox, and World Series championship pitcher Curt Schilling, shares the story of their son's Asperger's Syndrome, how it changed their lives, and what other parents can learn about this increasingly common diagnosis. Candid and compelling, *The Best Kind of Different* traces their family's struggle with Asperger's, following Curt and Shonda as they come to understand their son's differences and in the process relearn everything they thought they knew about parenting.

Until the summer of 2007, the word *Asperger's*, was not a part of Shonda Schilling's vocabulary, but that summer changed everything. By then, her household was in chaos as her son Grant spiraled out of control. His acting out and refusal to listen had grown to epic proportions, but even worse was his apparent inability to relate to the people around him. None of the Schillings' other three kids ever acted like Grant; his behavior wasn't just unruly, it was irrational.

Complicating matters was the fact that Shonda's husband, Curt, was constantly on the road pitching for the Boston Red Sox, so he wasn't always around to see Grant's behavior firsthand. Seemingly everyone Shonda encountered had an opinion—"he's too spoiled," "he needs a good spanking," "he needs more discipline"—but it was a disastrous first attempt at



summer camp that told Shonda something was definitely wrong. It was then that a neurologist diagnosed Grant with Asperger's syndrome—a form of high-functioning autism that, in recent years, has been found in children who at first glance appear disruptive and difficult.

Now in *The Best Kind of Different*, Shonda details every step of her family's journey with Asperger's, offering a parent's perspective on this complicated and increasingly common condition. Looking back on Grant's early years, she describes the signals she missed in his behavior and confronts the guilt that engulfed her after she came to understand just how misguided her parenting had been before the diagnosis. In addition, she talks about the harsh judgment she's faced from people

who don't buy into the diagnosis and how she's used passion and information to fight the ignorance of others.

Celebrating Grant's successes and learning from his setbacks, Shonda demonstrates how Asperger's forced her and her husband to reconsider everything they thought they knew about their son and each other, but in the end, it has made their marriage and their family stronger and happier. A tribute to Grant's strength and a candid glimpse into a family coming to terms with its differences, *The Best Kind of Different* is an intimate portrait of two parents struggling to understand the complex beauty of their son.

Please visit http://www.harpercollins.com/books/9780061986833/The_Best_Kind_of_Different/index.aspx

Shonda Schilling and her husband, Curt, have been married for 17 years. Shonda is a survivor of melanoma, an experience that led her to create the Shade Foundation of America. Curt is a former All-Star pitcher who has won three World Series titles with the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Boston Red Sox. He is also the founder of the video game development company, 38 Studios. Shonda and Curt are also spokespeople for the ALS Association, raising millions of dollars and significant awareness for Lou Gehrig's disease. They live with their four children, Gehrig, Gabriella, Grant, and Garrison, in Medfield, Massachusetts.