

Aphasia Center of California

Volume 11 Issue 2 ♦ Fall 2008

Extending Our Hands Across the Pacific

“The universal brotherhood of man is our most precious possession.”

--Mark Twain

By Roberta J. Elman, Ph.D.
CCC, BC-ANCDS
President and Founder,
Aphasia Center of California

In May 2008, I had the extraordinary opportunity to travel to Japan to provide information about ACC philosophy and services. Mr. Takashi Endo, a speech-language pathologist in Japan, had invited me to be the keynote speaker at a national aphasia conference held in Saitama Prefecture.

Mr. Endo has been instrumental in creating innovative programs for people with aphasia in Japan. We first



Dr.. Roberta Elman speaking to the Japanese National Aphasia Conference

met last year, when Mr. Endo visited us for a US-Japan Friendship day. Mr. Endo says he was inspired to create day centers for people with aphasia when he learned about the ACC from my 1999 book on group treatment. I had never imagined that the ACC would influence the creation of services for people with aphasia living thousands of miles away. But we are!!

As the only non-Japanese speaking person at the conference, I was assigned several translators who took turns providing me with real time translation. In addition, my presentation slides were translated into

Japanese so that people would be able to read the information I was providing. Needless to say, there was a lot of advance work needed to get ready for this conference!

The first day of the conference was attended by a total of 600 people—healthcare professionals, people with aphasia, and family members and friends. The conference started with greetings from a series of government officials including the governor of Saitama, the mayor of the host city, Sakado, and other dignitaries. I was invited to sit on stage with these

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Our Mission statement: *The mission of the Aphasia Center is to encourage and expand communication and psychosocial well being for those with aphasia. We are dedicated to helping families and stroke survivors understand the ramifications of stroke and aphasia on their daily lives and to improve the quality of life for all those affected.*

Joyce Jones -- Eager to Learn

by Danielle Reed

Editor's note: The Aphasia Center of California is committed to teaching future speech-language pathologists about aphasia and its impact on communication skills and quality of life. The ACC has provided internships to more than 30 graduate students since beginning in 1996. Danielle Reed, a graduate student in speech-language pathology, interned with us this past summer.--RJE

Joyce Jones has a smile that lights up the entire room. And she wants you to know that she is living a very full and active life. When Joyce arrives at the Aphasia Center of California, she greets everyone. She has always had an optimistic and positive outlook on life, despite that fact that she lost her husband in 1984 and survived a stroke in 2004.

At first, Joyce did not realize she was having a stroke. She says that she was getting ready to meet some friends for dinner when she noticed that "something was wrong." Her neighbors called 911 and she was rushed to the hospital. Her brother-in-law arrived from St. Louis, Missouri and stayed with Joyce for one month. Joyce had always been an independent woman and refused to think about any option other than returning back to her home. When Joyce first began speech therapy, she was unable to speak. Now, she

enthusiastically participates in communication treatment sessions at the Aphasia Center, and enjoys sharing her interests and stories with everyone around the table.

Joyce was born in Oklahoma and then lived in St. Louis, Missouri before moving to Oakland in 1966. She

originally wanted to become a librarian, but worked for the IRS for ten years. However, her true passion was teaching. She completed her Masters degree in Education and taught elementary school for 23 years for the Oakland Unified School District. Her favorite teaching moments were with the younger children because, like Joyce, they were always "eager to learn."

Joyce's warm personality and genuine friendliness carries over into every setting at the ACC. Joyce had never heard of aphasia before her stroke, but she knows now that it



Joyce Jones -- Never Give Up!

usually impacts talking, understanding, reading and writing. Joyce had always loved to read for pleasure, but says that it is much more difficult to read since her stroke. However, she has been attending the Book Connection™ at the ACC for several years and reports that her reading is "getting better everyday!"

Joyce's optimism and strength inspire everyone she meets at the Aphasia Center of California. Her advice to other stroke survivors is to "try to do as much as you can" and to "never give up." Sounds like great advice for us all!

2008 Walk to Talk

More than 120 participants joined the festivities at Lake Merritt in Oakland on Saturday, June 28th, for the Aphasia Center of California's 6th annual "Walk to Talk." And a record was set: more than \$32,000 was raised to support program services at the ACC.

The event began with music and refreshments in the Downtown Oakland Senior Center's lounge. Susan Musicant, Sharon Medairy and their friends from www.womenscontradance.com provided live fiddle and guitar tunes that made our spirits soar. Later that morning, Howard Zugman entertained us with popular show tunes that had fingers snapping and toes tapping!

Jim and Patty Santanna were this year's top fundraisers! And closely nipping at their heels was John Jankowski! A heartfelt thank you to all who helped to raise funds—your efforts allow the ACC to improve the quality of life for those living with aphasia. We don't have space to list the names of everyone who made a contribution, but we truly appreciate each and every donation that was made. Thank you!!

The event included a wonderful raffle table with handcrafted items created by members and friends of the Aphasia Center: Sierra Briano, Marj Greenhut, Enid Meyer, Dixie Lewis, Judi Briano, Don Welcome, and Dori Ellis. These items helped to raise more than \$500 for the ACC!

Please join us in publicly thanking the following companies that donated services or merchandise for our participant prize drawing. **We**



2008 Walk to Talk at Lake Merritt. Photograph by Alexis Levesque.

encourage you to remember their generosity and support their businesses! Alameda Theatre, Alameda; Beanery Coffee, Berkeley; Bellanico Restaurant, Oakland; Berkeley Bowl Marketplace, Berkeley; The Book Tree, Oakland; Compadres Bar & Grill-Oakland, Crogan's Restaurant-Montclair/Oakland; Elephant Pharmacy, Berkeley; El Jarro Restaurant, Lafayette; Francesco's Restaurant, Oakland; Italian Colors Restaurant-Montclair/Oakland; Kai's Restaurant, Alameda; La Strada Restaurant, Richmond; Longs Drugstore-Rockridge/Oakland; National Aphasia Association, New York; Natural Grocery Company, El Cerrito; Pac & Save-Emeryville, Palace Nails & Wax, Oakland; Pastino's Restaurant-Oakland; Peet's Coffee & Tea-Lakeshore/Oakland; Red Boy Pizza, Oakland; The Rising Loaf Café & Bakery, Lafayette; Safeway-Alameda; Skye Salon, Oakland; South Shore Car Wash, Alameda;

Svenhard's Swedish Bakery-Oakland; Tomatina Restaurant, Alameda; Trader Joe's-El Cerrito; and Ultimate Grounds-Oakland.

This walk would not have taken place without the help of numerous event volunteers. Once again, a big thank you to Enid Meyer, our walk co-coordinator. And please join me in a round of applause for the following folks who volunteered their time to help things run smoothly either before or on the day of the event: Sid Dommes, Vicki & Don Welcome, Steve Fry, Danielle Reed, Linda Colón, Alexis Levesque, Angela Lilley, G. T. Meronek, Doug Olson, Zach Tanner, Corinne Carter, Patricia Terry, Dan & Diana Sullivan, Sue Ewing, Bob Lewis, Prudence Ashley, Grace Harvey, Liz Lang, Mary Brogan, Elaine Ivankovich, Mary Lew, Bill Wong, Esther Akiba, Tracy Cook, and Pat Woodward.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the 6th annual "Walk to Talk" an unqualified success!!

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

January - June 2008

If we have made any errors in this listing, please accept our apologies and contact us at (510) 336-0112.

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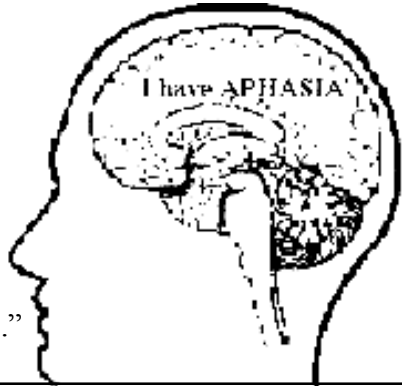
Linda Woods-Humes

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Aphasia Center News

Aphasia (uh fay' zhuh) n: an impairment of the power to use or comprehend words, usually acquired as a result of a stroke and sometimes from head injury or a brain tumor. More than one million Americans have acquired aphasia.

"I jenti ferbis..."



Education and Training Around the World

Aphasia Center of California's staff members are frequently invited to provide training to speech-language pathologists throughout the world. During the last year, we have provided training to speech-language pathologists in Japan, Canada, Massachusetts, Missouri and Oklahoma. Although the Aphasia Center programs may be physically located in California, our philosophy and clinical techniques continue to be shared with speech-language pathologists around the world!

Your Quality Donations Needed

Please don't forget the ACC when it comes to donating quality items. All money earned from the ACC's consignment program benefits the speech-language treatment programs at the Center. We are looking for quality items throughout the year that can be sold. All quality furniture, costume and fine jewelry, vintage and new cloth-

ing, kitchenware, children's books, and collectibles are greatly appreciated. We cannot accept non-working electrical items, computers, or golf clubs. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS. Please contact Elaine Ivankovich, Program Coordinator, to arrange for drop-off or pick-up at 925-687-9783 or 925-788-6261.

Great News! The ACC Accepts Vehicle Donations

The Aphasia Center of California has teamed up with Donate For Charity, a company that specializes in processing vehicle donations for nonprofit organizations. Donate For Charity arranges for vehicle pickup, handles all the DMV issues, sells the vehicle at auction, and distributes the net proceeds to Aphasia Center of California. So if it's time to replace an older car, or if you have a boat and trailer that are just taking up space in the garage, consider making a donation. You'll avoid the headache of selling a used vehicle, help the Aphasia Center of California fund its ongoing efforts,

and receive a tax deduction. When you're ready to donate, or if you have relatives or friends that wish to donate, simply call Donate For Charity toll-free at (866) 392-4483 or donate online at www.aphasiacenter.org. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity and help us expand our commitment to improving the quality of life for all those affected by aphasia

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(Space limitations allow us to list donors who made contributions of \$50 or more.)

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Musical Thursdays

ACC participants savored a real musical treat during the summer. Grace Harvey, a native of Piedmont, CA, is currently a senior studying psychology at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Grace provided seven afternoon cello recitals and led discussions about music and composers. She started playing the cello in the 4th grade and currently is a member of the UBC Orchestra and *Grace Harvey playing her cello at ACC*

various string quartets. Her ability to connect both with her instrument, as well as individuals with aphasia, made “Musical Thursdays” a definite hit, and topped the charts at the ACC! Grace was joined by two former Piedmont High School chums during several of the sessions: Alexandra Lee, a senior at Amherst College, played flute, and Erik Spickard, a senior at UC Davis, played saxophone. A big thank-you to Grace, Alex, and Erik!!

Walk to Talk Donors 2008

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Japanese Dignitaries and Dr. Elman at the opening of the conference.

Extending Our Hands

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officials. It was a privilege, and an honor, to be treated as such a special guest. Thankfully, I had one of my translators always nearby so that I could understand what was being said. As a non-Japanese speaker, it was as if I had acquired “temporary aphasia.” It was a good reminder of the challenges that are caused by language barriers, whatever the cause.

The second day of the conference was reserved for 125 speech-language pathologists and students. I had been asked to provide an academic presentation about the benefits of group treatment for people with aphasia. That afternoon, Japanese speech-language pathologists provided information about the group programs that they were currently working at throughout Japan. I was

asked to provide comments about their programs as well as to answer general questions from the audience.

During my visit, I also had the opportunity to spend a day at Habataki, the first day program in Japan for people with aphasia, started in 2000 by Mr. Endo. Habataki, or “flying high,” has 15 different participants who attend the program one day each week. It was truly a life affirming experience to visit a program that had been inspired by our work at the Aphasia Center of California!

Hopefully, this trip is just the first of a series of collaborations between our two countries. Mr. Endo and I have already begun writing articles about services for people with aphasia in Japan and the United States. Which goes to prove the following: *our reach is very powerful when we extend our hearts, heads, and hands.*

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