
Aphasia Center of California

Volume 13 Issue 2 ♦ Fall 2010

Aphasia Center of California: Leading the Way

*Do not let what you cannot do
interfere with what you can do.
--John Wooden*

*By Roberta J. Elman, Ph.D.
President and Founder,
Aphasia Center of California*

In 1989, I had the good fortune of visiting the North York Aphasia Centre (now the Aphasia Institute) in Toronto, Canada. At that time, the program was located at a neighborhood community center. Portable partitions divided up the room into smaller sections, and each section accommodated tables with 3 or more people having conversations with trained volunteers. The entire room buzzed—I had never seen so many people with aphasia at one time, and I had never seen so many people with aphasia engage in conversation with so much energy and enthusiasm. Thus began



Walk to Talk 2010 participants gather at Lake Merritt--story on page 3

my journey into the world of aphasia groups.

Twenty years later, I continue on this journey. My appreciation for the benefits of aphasia groups has been greatly enhanced by conducting research, facilitating groups, and founding the first independent Aphasia Center in the United States. When we first reported the results of our research study on the efficacy of group communication treatment for people with chronic aphasia (Elman & Bernstein-Ellis, 1999), there were a relatively small number of speech-language pathologists who were facilitating aphasia groups. Since that time, the number of aphasia groups, aphasia pro-

grams, and independent Aphasia Centers has grown dramatically.

There are now 9 independent Aphasia Centers recognized as 501(c)(3) charitable organizations in the United States. The Aphasia Center of California was the first such organization, founded in 1996. In addition to the independent Aphasia Centers, the National Aphasia Association Web site currently lists more than 100 aphasia groups and programs that meet on a regular basis in the United States and Canada (www.aphasia.org). This number has grown dramatically over the past 20

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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.*

ACC-Leading the Way

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years.

The reasons for the increasing popularity of aphasia group therapy appear to be many, and include increasing scientific evidence of its effectiveness and efficacy, as well as declining reimbursement for traditional aphasia treatment. But, the most important reason for the increased popularity of aphasia groups is likely

the nature of the disorder itself.

Aphasia can be a very isolating condition. When communication skills are lost or reduced, connecting with other people is challenging. Aphasia groups provide a unique way to address the communication and psychosocial challenges that people experience as part of aphasia because groups connect people to one another. Aphasia groups are a place where

people can become part of a community that accepts and nurtures them. As group members help one another, they help to foster a new outlook on life, especially for living successfully with aphasia.

The Aphasia Center of California is proud to have provided a model for others to begin aphasia groups and Aphasia Centers. And with your generous support, we promise to continue sharing our knowledge and expertise, so that people with aphasia can receive the care and support that they need and deserve.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

January - June 2010

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

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Mary Helen Evans
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Marvin Bernstein
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Aphasia Internet Clinic Funding

The ACC has received a highly competitive grant from the Cisco Systems Foundation to create an Aphasia Internet Clinic. This innovative clinic will assist people with aphasia in communicating with their healthcare providers. A big thank you to the Cisco Systems Foundation for helping us increase access to healthcare for people living with aphasia!

8th Annual Walk to Talk



Walkers round the shores of Lake Merritt on June 26th

Did you happen to be walking around Lake Merritt in Oakland on June 26th? If so, you would have seen more than 120 Aphasia Center of California participants and supporters raising aphasia awareness and funds at the 8th annual “Walk to Talk.” The event raised more than \$27,000 to support ACC’s program services!!

This year, John Jankowski crossed the “finish line” first—he raised the most donations for the ACC. Jim and Patty Santanna came in a close second, and they are vowing to move ahead of John next year!

A big THANK YOU goes to John, Jim, Patty, and everyone who raised funds for the ACC—this was another challenging year and you all did an outstanding job. The money you raised will fund ACC programs for stroke survivors with aphasia. We don’t have enough space to list the names of everyone who made a contribution, but we truly appreciate each and every donation that was made. Thank you so much!!

We had wonderful performers who entertained us throughout the day. The Traditional Blend Band with Susan Musicant, Sharon Medairy, and Greg Aronson started off our morning with country and bluegrass music. And Fred Crenshaw returned this year to entertain us with his amazing repertoire of show tunes. Thank you to all our entertainers—you brightened our day!

The “Walk to Talk” included a raffle table with handcrafted items created by members and friends of the Aphasia Center—special thanks to Enid Meyer, Bob (Dixie) Lewis, and Judi Briano for their donations. We also held a silent auction with donated gift certificates from local businesses. The raffle and silent auction raised more than \$700 for the ACC!

Please join us in publicly thanking the following companies that donated services or merchandise for our participant prize drawing. **We encourage you to remember their generosity and support their businesses!** Alameda Theatre, Alameda;

Arizmendi Bakery, Oakland; Banana Blossom Restaurant, Oakland; Bellanico Restaurant, Oakland; Berkeley Bowl Marketplace, Berkeley; Blackberry Bistro, Oakland; The Book Tree, Oakland; Crepevine, Berkeley; Crogan’s Restaurant-Montclair/Oakland; El Jarro Restaurant, Lafayette; The Food Mill, Oakland; Hobnob Eats and Drinks, Alameda; Italian Color’s Restaurant-Montclair/Oakland; It’s All About You, Alameda; La Mediterranee Restaurant, Berkeley; Lakeshore Cafe, Oakland; Marzano Restaurant, Oakland; Natural Grocery Company, El Cerrito; Noah’s Bagels, Oakland; 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, Rockridge; Drs. Tennant & Gianni, DDS; Trader Joe’s, Oakland; Ultimate Grounds, Oakland; and Whole Foods, Oakland.

This walk would not have taken place without the help of numerous event volunteers. Once again, Enid Meyer did a terrific job as event coordinator! And a big thank you to the following people who volunteered their time to help things run smoothly: Sid Dommies, Vicki & Don Welcome, Steve Fry, Sue Taishoff, Tessa Fisher, Rich Laufenberg, Brenda Saucer, Carol Sommers, Douglas Mandart, Joseph Aquino, Ellie Van Nostrand, Betty Bugaj, Angela Lilley, Doug Olson, Sasha Larsen, Patricia Terry Olson, Dan & Diana Sullivan, Sue Ewing, Bob Lewis, Mary Lew, Bill Wong, Esther Akiba, Sara Martin, and Cecilia Lindsay. Thanks to everyone who helped make our 8th annual “Walk to Talk” a great event and a great success!

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Continued from page 2

Doris Branch Tabor

Ellen Bernstein-Ellis
 Roberta Elman
 Lillie Broussard
 Senior Advocacy Group of
 St. Paul AME Church in
 Berkeley

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Martha Lynch

Phyllis & Reid Edwards

Donors

The Generous Donors for
 "Walk to Talk 2010!"

Walk to Talk 2010 Donors

*A big thank you to all of our
 Walk to Talk donors!*

*Space limitations allow us to
 list donors who made contri-
 butions of \$50 or more.*

Esther Akiba
 Thomas & Marquita Altaffer
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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.



“Ijenti 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 been asked to speak about our programs to speech-language pathologists in Colorado, Louisiana, and New Mexico. We have also written a book chapter as well as several peer-reviewed journal articles about various aspects of aphasia group treatment. Although the Aphasia Center programs may be physically located in California, our philosophy and clinical techniques continue to make a difference for people

with aphasia around the world!

Do You Shop at Lucky, SaveMart or FoodMaxx?

Lucky, FoodMaxx, and Savemart will donate money to the Aphasia Center of California every time you shop! Just call the Aphasia Center and ask us to mail you a Shares Program card. It's super simple, doesn't cost a thing, and you don't need to give any personal information. Each time you buy groceries, you just hand your Shares Program card to the clerk, and Lucky, FoodMaxx and Savemart will automatically donate 3% of your total grocery bill to the ACC. So please call us today to get your free Shares Program card and start help-

ing the ACC every time you buy groceries!! To get your Shares Program card, please call us at 510-336-0112.

Credit Card Donations Are Easy to Make!

Did you know that you can make a donation with your credit card to the Aphasia Center? It's easy to do! Just go to the Aphasia Center of California link on the Network for Good website www.networkforgood.org. You can make a one-time donation or a monthly, quarterly, or annual recurring donation. All donations help us make a dramatic difference in the lives of those affected by aphasia.

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 on-line 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.



The Traditional Blend band helped get the 2010 Walk to Talk off to a rousing start at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center

**Walk to Talk
2010 Donors**

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www.aphasiacenter.org

This newsletter is a publication of
the Aphasia Center of California
Written and edited by
Roberta J. Elman
Design and layout by Morris Older

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