

# APHASIA CENTER of CALIFORNIA


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## Aphasia Newsletters

**Aphasia** (uh-fay-zhuh): A loss or reduction of language (i.e., speaking, understanding, reading, and/or writing) following brain damage, typically as a result of a stroke.

**Winter 1998**

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#### Interviews

[Aphasia Center participant and board member Don Welcome hasn't let aphasia slow him down.](#)

#### Helpful Hints

[If you have aphasia, you're eligible for many special discount rates from phone companies, taxi services, grocery stores & more!](#)

#### 1997

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"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

### Center's Open House a Rousing Success

The Oakland Senior Center was filled to the rafters on June 12, 1997 with people wanting to learn more about aphasia and the Aphasia Center of California. More than 250 people attended the Aphasia Center's first Open House during National Aphasia Awareness Week. This educational program was developed by Aphasia Center participants and staff to honor the Center's first year as an independent, nonprofit organization. Those attending the Open House were rewarded with an action-packed program.

Aphasia Center President Roberta Elman, Ph.D. started off the "formal" program by welcoming the crowd and speaking about the Center's first year before introducing talented actress and director Paoli Lacey. Lacey performed excerpts from an original dramatic work entitled "Faces of Aphasia," which was developed by individuals having aphasia in collaboration with Ms. Lacey as an Artist in Residence during Dr. Elman's research grant. The dramatic and comedic vignettes performed by Ms. Lacey captured both the joys and frustrations of living life with aphasia.

Following Ms. Lacey's performance, Aphasia Center speech-language pathologist Susan Ewing, M.A. interviewed three Aphasia Center participants about their real life experiences following stroke and aphasia. Don Welcome, Martin Aston, and Mary Jane Laufenberg shared their own stories about the challenges of living a full life with aphasia. They spoke about their current and future

