



Rebuilding communication. **Transforming lives.**

# ACC Connection

Volume 18 Issue 2 ♦ Fall 2015

*“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt by the heart.”*

--Helen Keller

## ***Go, Jim Santanna!***

***By Roberta J Elman, PhD***  
*President and Founder*  
*Aphasia Center of California*

Jim Santanna, a native of Oakland, has lived his whole life in the San Francisco Bay Area, with the last 40 years in Alameda. A big brother to Kathleen and Kenny, Jim always excelled at sports. He played basketball and was 1<sup>st</sup> baseman on the Castlemont High School baseball team along with legendary player Joe Morgan.

A “jack of all trades,” Jim had a variety of jobs over the years, including bartender, salesman, track driver, and an owner of a home improvement business. The “gift

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*The ACC's Jim Santanna, with the Golden State Warriors' Steph Curry*

of gab” came easily to Jim and he had a large circle of friends.

Jim enjoyed playing golf all over the United States and was on an adult softball league. He also enjoyed coaching his sons, Steven and Darren, on their Little League baseball teams. Jim married Patty in 1984. In their free time, they enjoyed traveling and playing golf.

Then, in 1998, a stroke left Jim with weakness in his arm and leg as well as aphasia. Without warning, Jim’s athleticism and verbal skills dramatically changed.

However, Jim’s life did not end

with his stroke. Never one to stay down for long, Jim began attending the Aphasia Center of California in 2000. A born leader, he loved helping others in the groups. And by helping others, Jim saw that he was helping himself as well. Patty adds that the support of friends and family was also invaluable in Jim’s recovery.

Since the stroke, Patty and Jim have put traveling back on their schedules. They’ve taken a cruise to Alaska, spent time in Arizona and Santa Barbara, and visited family

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**Our Mission Statement:** The mission of the Aphasia Center of California is to enhance communication skills, quality of life, and overall well-being for all those affected by aphasia.

# Thank You to Our Generous Donors

**January, 2015 - July, 2015**

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

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## Go, Jim Santanna!

*Continued from page 1*

in San Pedro. Jim is also enjoying swimming and working with his personal trainer. And, if it's Friday, you'll probably bump into him at the local "In & Out," ordering a double cheeseburger plain and a large chocolate shake!

Patty says that the Aphasia Center

has been "a huge blessing for both of us." She believes that the "communication groups at ACC have dramatically improved Jim's ability to communicate." Wanting to give back to the ACC, Patty is heavily involved in fundraising and also serves on the Board of Directors.

A recent highlight for Jim was meeting Steph Curry of the Golden State Warriors! Patty was impressed by Steph's kindness, genuineness, and generosity—qualities that Jim also shares.

Jim is a shining example of someone who hasn't let a stroke and aphasia stop him from participating in life and doing the things he enjoys. Go Jim Santanna!



## 2015 Walk to Talk

An enthusiastic group of more than 130 people joined our 13th Annual “Walk to Talk” at Lake Merritt on June 27th to raise aphasia awareness and funds for the ACC. Together, we raised more than \$41,000 for aphasia programs and services!!

Special thanks to John Jankowski, who for the 5th year in a row, brought in the most donations! We had a host of people who raised more than \$500: Esther Akiba, Anita Cox & Family, Bill & Donna Crist, Roberta Elman, Mark Estigoy & Family, Nancy & Peter Farber-Szekrenyi, Terry Flanagan, David

Giacomelli & Family, Joyce Jones, Ron Hausmann & Mary Ann Muirhead, Mary Jane & Rich Laufenberg, Julie & Vince Lindgren, Eric Liu, Enid Meyer & Sid Dommies, Michael Miller & Family, Hal & Sonya Milton, Len Nordson & Family, Pat Terry Olson & Friends, Kathy Ott, Tom Purbaugh & Karen Spina, Jim & Patty Santanna, Craig Smith, Pat & George Springer, Philip Tien, and Bill Wong & Family. To you and the many donors who sponsored you, thank you for your generosity and efforts in supporting what we do at the Aphasia Center!

The event couldn’t take place without all of our hard working event volunteers, including our wonderful musicians, Susan Muscant, Sharon Medairy, and Howard Zugman; our amazing event co-coordinator, Enid Meyer; and our volunteers on event day--Sid Dommies, Sue Ewing, Steve Fry, Tessa Fisher, Jean Hegland, Mary Lew, Bill Wong, Betty Bugaj, Sandy Conley, Taylor Freeman, Heather Freeman, Amanda Olson, Laura Dorner, Stephanie Johnson, Nicole Rodgers, Bishop Graham, Keren Rosen, Nicole Ezcurra, Alta Brink, Audrey Cohen, Garret Kurteff, Alexandra Hauptman, and Esther Akiba. ACC volunteers and donors make everything possible—thank you so much!

### **Please acknowledge the generosity of these businesses for our 2015 “Walk to Talk” with your support:**

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## Walk to Talk 2015 Donors

A big thank you to all of our "Walk to Talk" donors! It was a record setting event with more than 130 walkers at Lake Merritt on June 27th.

Be sure to join us in 2016!

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

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**Please join the Aphasia Center of California on Facebook!!**

**[www.facebook.com/AphasiaCenterofCalifornia](http://www.facebook.com/AphasiaCenterofCalifornia)**

# Aphasia Center News

## ACC's Offers New Aphasia Groups in Menlo Park

The ACC is partnering with the Pacific Stroke Association to offer much needed services in Menlo Park, California. ACC Speech-Language Pathologist, Loran Tolbert, M.S., is providing two weekly aphasia groups this fall. The interest in these programs has been extremely strong, with both groups filling up almost immediately. Stay tuned for future announcements regarding ACC services in Menlo Park!

## Want to Stay Up to Date?

Did you know that you can stay up-to-date on ACC news by “liking” us on Facebook? We post photographs and information year-round on our Facebook page. Recent posts include photographs from our Communication Treatment Groups and articles about stroke. You can directly access our page from the Facebook icon on our website: [www.aphasiacenter.org](http://www.aphasiacenter.org) or search for “Aphasia Center of California” the next time you are on Facebook!

## Make a Recurring Donation by Credit Card!

Did you know that you can make a donation with your credit card to the Aphasia Center? It's easy to do! Just click on the Donate button at the top of the Aphasia Center of California's website at [www.aphasiacenter.org](http://www.aphasiacenter.org) You can make a one-time donation or a recurring donation. Your donations help us make a critical difference in the quality of life for those affected by aphasia.

## Walk to Talk 2015 Donors

*continued from page 4*

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