



Rebuilding communication. Transforming lives.

ACC Connection

Volume 22 Issue 1 ♦ Spring 2019

A Communication Connection

Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be like and learn to find joy in the story you are actually living.

~Rachel Marie Martin

**By Roberta J Elman, PhD
CCC-SLP, BC-ANCDS
Founder and President
Aphasia Center of California**

For this issue of the ACC Connection, I had the chance to interview speech-language pathologist, Lyssa Rome, M.S. CCC-SLP, about how her life has been focused on communication and what she thinks about working at the Aphasia Center of California.

What led you to pursue a career in speech-language pathology and aphasia in particular?

I was a journalist and editor for many years, working mostly in public radio. I did a lot of reporting on health, and have always been interested in medical

issues, but as a radio reporter I often felt like I was on the wrong side of the microphone. I realized that I wanted to help people more directly than I could as a journalist. So I decided to explore making a career change. A number of personal experiences led me to consider speech-language pathology: my middle son was born with a speech disorder, my grandfather had aphasia due to a brain tumor, and two close relatives had serious swallowing problems late in their lives. After interviewing and shadowing many speech pathologists,



ACC Speech Pathologist Lyssa Rome

all of whom loved their jobs, I decided the field would be a good fit. Journalism and speech-language pathology may seem unrelated, but both require compas-

Continued on page 2

Join our 17th Annual "Walk to Talk" Raise Funds and Awareness!

What: The Aphasia Center of California's 17th Annual "Walk to Talk" is a fund-raising event to raise funds for our programs. Our "Walk to Talk" will feature a 1/4 mile and 3 mile untimed walk/run.

When: Saturday, June 22nd, 2019. Walk registration will begin at 8:45 a.m.

Where: Lake Merritt, Oakland. Walk starts at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center at 200 Grand Avenue.

How: Companies and individuals, from walkers with kids to seasoned athletes to people with their dogs on leashes, can participate in this event to benefit the Aphasia Center. Help the Aphasia Center by sponsoring an Aphasia Center participant, asking friends and family for donations, or joining us for the walk. You can register or sponsor a walker online via our website: www.aphasiacenter.org Please contact Roberta Elman (510) 336-0112 to receive a walk packet or for more information.

Inside:

Thanks to Our Donors.....page 2

ACC News.....page 3

2018 Annual Reportpage 5

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

August-December 2018

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

In Memory

Kathryn Anderson

Maureen McKeown

Dr. Shelly Baumrind

Joan Baumrind

Onny Beach

Elaine Ivankovich

Philip T. Clark

Barbara Clark

Judith Clark

Susan Clark

Caroline Diller

Roy & Elinor Bell

Alice Forkner

David Giacomelli & Gail Taylor

Sam Frendo

Kathy Frendo

Dr. Paul B. Goldsmith

Susie Goldsmith & Joseph

Waxman

Robert March Harper

Georgia Harper

Kate Higgins

Mary & Roger Steffens

Louis Ivankovich

Anonymous

Cathleen Carey

Susan Cola

Elaine Ivankovich

Joe & Natalie Ivankovich

Jean Ungaretti & Janis Ryan

John & Barbara Vernatter

Howard Zugman

continued on page 4

A Communication Connection

Continued from page 1

sion, good listening skills, and a sense of curiosity. Communication is central to both.

I went back to graduate school in communication sciences and disorders when my youngest son was a toddler. Since then, all three of my kids have needed speech therapy! At first I didn't know whether I wanted to work with children or adults, but the more I learned, and the more clinical experience I gained, the more I realized that adults were a great match for my interests and skills. My grandfather wrote about his experiences with aphasia, including how frustrating it was to know what he wanted to say but to struggle to find the words. He also wrote about how important his speech therapist had been in his recovery. Working with people with aphasia and their families allows me to feel that I'm giving back.

Can you tell us a little about how you came to the Aphasia Center of California (ACC)?

In graduate school at CSUEB, I was fortunate to be part of the aphasia program, which was by far the most fascinating, challenging, and rewarding part of my training. I fell in love with aphasia groups and knew right away I wanted to make them part of my career. My CSUEB supervisor, Ellen Bernstein-Ellis, was one of the original speech-language pathologists at the ACC.

She saw how much I enjoyed facilitating aphasia groups, and how much the Life Participation Approach to Aphasia resonated with me, so she suggested I reach out to you. I started volunteering at the ACC while I was in graduate school, assisting individual participants and also collaborating on some research projects. As soon as I became licensed as a speech-language pathologist, I started working at the Aphasia Center of California. I feel very lucky!

Why is the ACC a unique place to work?

As a speech-language pathologist, my main goal is to help people with communication disorders live their lives to the fullest, and at the ACC I'm able to do that. I don't have to focus on billing, insurance regulations, or paperwork. Instead, I spend my time doing what I love: working directly with the people in my groups and their families. We understand that aphasia recovery never stops, and the fact that the Aphasia Center of California serves many people who've had aphasia for years is unusual and refreshing. Getting to know people over time is very fulfilling for me, and I love how group members support one another. It's such a positive place, not just for participants, but also for me, both personally and professionally. Working alongside and learning from leaders in the field of aphasia is a huge privilege. I also appreciate that there's room to try new ideas, such as the volunteering program we're starting

at a senior life care community across the street. At the ACC, the focus is on fostering meaningful communication and improving quality of life, which to me are the central goals of speech-language pathology.

Tell us a little about yourself, both personally and professionally?

I grew up in the Bay Area and have lived here for most of my life, except for a few years on the East Coast and a few years living in India. My husband, Dave, is also a Bay Area native. We met in journalism school at UC Berkeley, and he's now the deputy editor of Mother Jones magazine. We have three sons, who are 12, 10, and 8. In addition to my job at the Aphasia Center of California, I work at local hospitals and occasionally fill in at nursing homes and outpatient clinics. While I like the fast-paced hospital environment, I always look forward to spending time talking about books, news, and catching up with members of my conversation groups at the ACC!

When I'm not working or reading research articles and learning as much as I can about speech-language pathology, you can find me volunteering at my kids' schools and helping them with homework. Our kids are obsessed with history, and we love reading books and going to museums together. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, reading, cooking, and spending time with my large extended family. One fun fact about me is that I have been sewing and knitting many of my own clothes since I was a kid!

Aphasia Center News

Audrey Holland Award

ACC Founder Dr. Roberta Elman received the 2019 Audrey Holland Award given by Aphasia Access at its Leadership Summit held in Baltimore. This is the organization's highest award acknowledging distinguished contributions made to the Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA).



Dr. Audrey Holland (left) with Dr. Roberta Elman

Menlo Park Aphasia Groups

The ACC is currently providing a News Forum group and a Communication Group in Silicon Valley (Menlo Park). If you are interested in learning more about the programs at our Menlo Park program site, please call us at 510-336-0112.

"Aphasia-Friendly" Emergency Kit Checklists

Do you have an emergency kit in case of a natural disaster? Do you have aphasia or know someone with aphasia who needs to create an emergency kit? The Aphasia Center of California (ACC) developed "aphasia-friendly" emergency kit checklists, based on FEMA recommendations. These checklists include photographs and simplified text. There are two different versions. They were developed based on input from participants at the ACC. Thanks, too, to speech-language pathologists Anne Carney, Dr. Roberta Elman, Lyssa Rome

and Lauren Scheiner for their contributions! You can download these checklists at no cost from the ACC's website: www.aphasiacenter.org

We hope you will share these checklists with friends and family members!

Smile When You Buy at Amazon!

Whenever you make purchases at Amazon, start off at AmazonSmile.com instead of Amazon.com. Amazon will actually donate 0.5% of the price of each purchase to the Aphasia Center of California! And there's NO COST to you. If you already have an account at Amazon.com, just log into AmazonSmile.com with the same login information you normally use. The first time you login, you will be asked for the name of an organization you want to support. Please choose the Aphasia Center of California. Once

you select us, all future purchases will result in the Amazon donation being made to us. But you must remember to begin your purchase at AmazonSmile.com Thanks in advance for your support.

Do You Shop at Lucky, FoodMaxx or Savemart? Program Update!

Lucky, FoodMaxx, and Savemart have updated their S.H.A.R.E.S. donation program. The program is now part of eScrip. You no longer need a special card—all you need to do is register with eScrip online and then input your phone number each time you check out. It's super simple and doesn't cost a thing. Here's the best news of all: Each time you buy groceries, Lucky, FoodMaxx and Savemart will donate 3% of your total grocery bill to the ACC! To register for S.H.A.R.E.S. through eScrip, go to this website: lucky-supermarkets.com/shares and select the Aphasia Center of California as your charity. If you have any questions, please call us at 510-336-0112.

APHASIA CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Patricia Santanna
 Vice President: Steve Fry
 Secretary-Treasurer: Betty Bugaj, DPT
 Magdalena Brink
 Roberta J. Elman, Ph.D.
 Doris Tabor Floyd
 Myrna Schwartz, Ph.D.
 Gail Staba, M.S.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Continued from page 2

Helen Jankowski

Frank Navarra

Emily Johnson

Dale & Alice Johnson

Eli Katz

Helena Katz

Francis X. Kelly

Colette Kelly

James S. Kraemer

Allan & Anne-Lise Kraemer

Susan Kraemer

Marcia Ribner

Shirley Lavezzoli

Elaine Ivankovich

Herb Levy

Jack Breibart

Sue Moskowitz

Elaine Belkind

John Ott

Debra & Michael Moss

Russell H. Pearson

The Kraemer Family

Jack & Betty Pillow

Susan Giraldez

Romona Richardson

Bruce Koutz

Chuck Robinson

Caroline Brooks

Lucy Sarricchio

Delia Rose

David & Dwayne Sedlacek

Rosalie Reid

Jan Stanton-Peterson

Sheila King

Lynnda Tabor

Doris Floyd

Norman Van Patten

Elizabeth Van Patten

David Van Staveren

Susan & John Van Staveren

Frances & Samuel Warner

Joyce Goldberg

Don Welcome

Jeannie Riley

Derrick Wong

Tim Gallegos

Doug & Ann Jinnett

Ruth Weiss

In Honor

Seth Andrews

John & Maedell Stafford

John Barlett

Jack Bartlett

Judi Briano

Sydney Hadsell Jr.

Fred & Kathleen Hibberd

Karen Mungari

Open Door United

Methodist Women

Diane Walters

Jack Carroll

Jonathan Carroll

Anita Cox

Jeanette Armstrong

Maura DiModica

Maria Caraffi

Roberta Romani

Roberta Elman

Leora Cherney

Mark Estigoy

R. John & Kathleen Macy

L.A. Skowronski

Mark Gardner

Carolan Moran

Kurt & Camilla Gray

Nelson

David Giacomelli

Michael & Melanie

Andersen

Kathleen Hile

Bob Kogler

Okashi Robles

Ron Hausmann

Patrick & Eileen Cafferty

Richard Esbenshade

John Jankowski

Jack Barlett

Paul Genereaux

Nancy Gifford & Stephen

Allen

Joan Jensen

Lopez Club Lambs

Delia Rose

Mary Jane Laufenberg

Les & Bonnie Krames

Vincent Lindgren

Chuck & Sharon Schaff

Enid Meyer & Sid

Dommes

Sally & Rick Fish

Rev. Will & Kiyu Masuda

Barbara Riley

Michael Miller

Michelle West

Len Nordson

Paul Nordson

Steven Orlando

Doris Becker

Socorro Matamoros

Mr. & Mrs. A. Nicolosi

Karol Piestrzynski

Tom Skucha

Jim Santanna

Nick Baatz

Howard Brizendine

Rico & Meredyth Roller

Jim Snider

Jay Schuster

Barbara & Ken Kious

Myrna Schwartz

Idy & Alan Gitelson

Peggy & Neil Kostick

Drew Sperling

Melanie Sperling

The Sperling Family

George Hildebrant

Patricia Springer

Michael Killelea

Susan Taira

Julie & Bill Takeda

Philip Tien

Star Pierce & Naya

Pennington

Cliff Tong

Susan Brady & Eben Ostby

Janis Ryan & Jeanne

Ungaretti

Elaine Ivankovich

Kindri Van Puffelen

Jere Van Puffelen

Pat Vargen

Barbara Vargen

Don & Vicki Welcome

Jeannie Riley

Donors

Farrell Adams

Elvina Armento

Martin Aston & Sheila

Krystal

Etta Belrose

Mary Boyle

Elizabeth Bryant

Wendy Burton

Jim Carnrite

Jack & Sue Carroll

continued on page 6

Please join the Aphasia Center of California on Facebook!!

www.facebook.com/AphasiaCenterofCalifornia

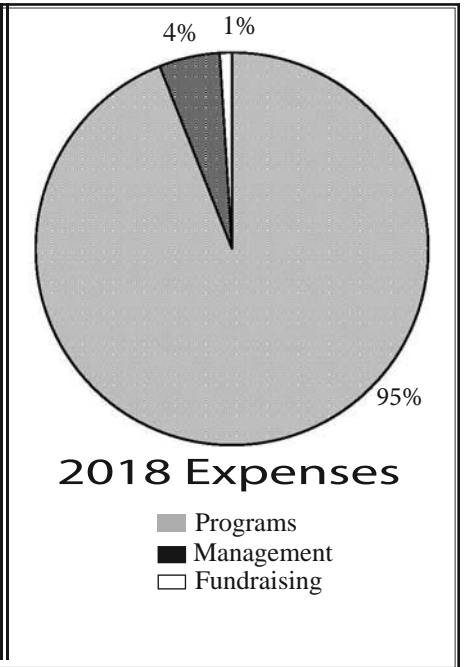
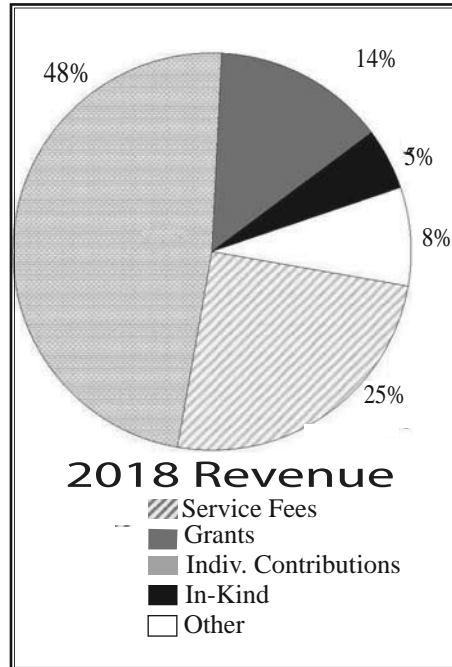
ACC 2018 Annual Report

2018 SERVICES

Group Communication Treatment Visits: 2143
 Reading & Writing Group Visits: 315
 Recreational Group Visits: 594
 Special Events Visits: 245
 Education & Training (National and International): 1105 people (12 trainings/presentations)
 Information & Referral (includes phone, mail, and e-mail): 2089
 Program Sites for Direct Services: Oakland, CA & Menlo Park, CA

ORGANIZATION & CORPORATE DONATIONS

AmazonSmile
 Ayco Charitable Foundation
 Bright Funds Foundation
 Concord Buick GMC
 Concord Chevrolet
 E-scrip/S.H.A.R.E.S
 Horizons Foundation
 Hot Line Construction
 Independent Tax Representatives, LLC
 Lehmer's Concord Buick GMC
 Lopez Club Lamps
 Mannheim Social Club
 Oakland Center for Spiritual Living
 Open Door United Methodist Women
 PayPal Giving Fund
 Pet Collars by Janet
 Rodger's Trucking Company
 Russell & Associates/Stephen J. Russell Attorneys at Law
 San Diego Kidspeak LLC
 Scottstown LLC
 Schwab Charitable
 The Speech Pathology Group
 Thurston Auto Plaza
 Tomren Wealth Management
 Vanguard Charitable
 Weathervane Western Wear, Brentwood
 Wilder Green Fund
 Winter Chevrolet Honda
 Wordplay Therapy



MATCHING GIFTS

Adobe
 Chevron Matching Employee Funds
 Clif Bar & Company
 Arthur J. Gallagher Foundation
 Gap, Inc.
 GE Foundation
 McKesson Foundation
 Morgan Stanley
 PG&E Corporation Foundation

IN-KIND DONATIONS

A Dress Change, Danville
 Bellanico Restaurant, Oakland
 Belotti Ristorante E Bottega, Oakland
 Berkeley Bowl Marketplace
 Crogan's Restaurant-Montclair, Oakland
 Femi Macus Nails, Oakland
 Lakeshore Café, Oakland
 La Nana Salon & Flowers, Oakland
 Marzano Restaurant, Oakland
 Michael Mischer Chocolates
 NIDO Kitchen & Bar, Oakland
 Oaktown Spice Shop, Oakland

Pastino's Pasta & Pizza, Oakland
 Peet's Coffee and Tea, Oakland
 Rolling Dunes, Oakland
 Safeway Community Markets
 Sidebar Restaurant, Oakland
 Sushi Park Restaurant, Oakland
 Trader Joe's
 Ultimate Grounds, Oakland

DONATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Speech-Language Pathology Services:
 Prudence Ashley, Roberta J. Elman, Susan Adair Ewing, Katey Felling, Alyssa Rome, Lauren Scheiner, Loran Tolbert
 Administrative Services: Roberta J. Elman
 Computer Services: Steven G. Fry, Dean McCully
 Newsletter Design & Layout: Morris Older

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Continued from page 4

Marc Colbert & Yvonne
Fluehr
Elizabeth Carty & Ernest
Galvan
Elizabeth Chafcouloff
Joan Chomak
Evernease A. Cook
Deborah Cooper
Paula & Don Crosatto
Betty Dennison
Janise Devoe
Janet Dompe
Elyse Dukatz

Caroline & Richard Elman,
Ph.D.
Roberta Elman, Ph.D.
Laddie & Brian Erbele
Shirley Fanucchi
Nancy & Peter Farber-
Szekrenyi
Terrance Flanagan
Ponciano & Senlida Flores
Joan Florsheim
Andrea Ford Roberts
Ann Freeman
William Gaillard
William & Donna Gibbs

Jack & Marilou Gilmour
Lawrence Giventer
Julie Halsey
Jane Hamner
Nona Hungate
Ron Hausmann & Mary
Ann Muirhead
Kathleen Hile
Jacqueline Holland
Roy & Joan Holman
Sandra V. Innes
Roberta Jackson
John Jankowski
Roger & Marsha Kelly

Jill Kneeter
Eric & Angela Korpela
Richard & Susan Laton
Mary Jane Laufenberg
Allan Leader & Barbara
Haftor
John & Kathy Lee
Janet Levenson & Zoe
Kalkanis
Donald Lewandowski
Ken Lieber
Norman Lilley
Vince & Julie Lindgren
continued below



3996 Lyman Road
Oakland CA 94602-1857
(510)336-0112
www.aphasiacenter.org

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
Paid
Oakland CA.
Permit NO. 1714

Return Service Requested

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

continued from above

JoAnn Lum
Marian Majestic
Sara Martin
George Matiasz & Kay
Taneyhill
John & Marilyn McCrory
Minerva Meese
Jean Mundy
Susan Musicant
Melissa Nelken
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Nohr
Eduardo & Hermelinda
Oceguera-Gonzalez

Maureen O'Connor
Douglas Olson
Phillip Perloff, M.D.
Wendy Peterson
Brad Phillips & Molly
Milligan
Willie L. Preston
Laurel Przybylski
Alexandra Rome
Elaine Russell
Russell & Associates/
Stephen J. Russell
Attorneys at Law

Karen & Anthony Sanchez
Myrna & Barry Schwartz
Susan Stark
Carl Steele
Rebecca Stone
Maureen Sullivan
Edythe Terry
Travis Threats, Ph.D.
Paul & Marilyn Tredinnick
Barbara Van Dyne
Pat Vargen
Nancie Ward
The Wilder Green Fund

Rose Yee
Robyn Young, M.D.

This newsletter is
published by the
Aphasia Center of
California

Written and edited by
Roberta J. Elman

Design and layout by
Morris Older