
Aphasia Center of California

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Giving Back to the ACC

“Nothing happens unless first we dream.”

--Carl Sandberg

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

I first met Elaine Ivankovich in 1994. Her husband, Lou, was a stroke survivor with aphasia. Lou enrolled in our initial research study to investigate the efficacy of aphasia group treatment. Lou was a wonderful man and a fantastic communicator. Even though he only produced a few words of spoken language, he developed an amazing ability to communicate through a combination of gesture, pantomime, and drawing.

To this day, I teach speech-language pathologists about the various techniques that people with severe aphasia can use to be successful com-



“Three Blind Mice”--Elaine Ivankovich, Cathy Carey and Linda Colòn

municators, by telling them about Lou Ivankovich.

After our research project was completed, Lou and Elaine stayed connected to the Aphasia Center. Lou volunteered at the ACC and helped others with aphasia to learn to use drawing to communicate. Elaine helped out at various ACC events. Then, in 2001, Lou’s health began failing, and in 2002, he passed away from esophageal cancer.

After Lou’s passing, one of

Elaine’s ways of coping was to frequent garage sales in order to find items to take to consignment stores. Elaine also held her own garage sales. She soon enlisted the help of her two longtime friends, Cathy Carey and Linda Colòn. The three ladies began calling themselves the “Three Blind Mice.” When Elaine’s son Mike became the head football coach at Ygnacio Valley High School, they

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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.*

Giving Back to the ACC

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agreed to hold a rummage sale to raise money for the shortfall in the football budget. They held three very successful rummage sales for the high school.

When Mike changed jobs, I asked Elaine if the "Three Blind Mice" would consider raising money for the ACC? I was thrilled when she said yes!! Receiving donated merchandise from stores such as Second to None, Leah's Closet, A Wee Place, Jaunty,

and All The More To Love, and then reselling these items, in addition to the quality donations from ACC clients and friends, Elaine, Linda, and Cathy have raised more than \$12,000 for the Aphasia Center since starting the program in 2006!

Elaine says, "We have fun doing this! It keeps us out of trouble and it also helps the Aphasia Center." Elaine enjoys giving back to the ACC. She hopes that people will remember to call her when they have quality items

to donate. She is particularly interested in receiving quality furniture, costume and fine jewelry, vintage and new clothing, kitchenware, children's books, and collectibles.

It's a win-win situation for everyone: Donors receive a tax deduction, and the Aphasia Center receives money in order to fund programs for stroke survivors with aphasia. If you would like to donate items to benefit the ACC, please call Elaine at (925) 687-9783 or (925) 788-6261.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

January -June 2009

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

In Memory

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Gloria F. Lowe

Teo Battus

Elaine Ivankovich & Family

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2009 Walk to Talk



2009 Walk to Talk participants assemble at Lake Merritt as the Walk begins

More than 100 people joined us at Lake Merritt on Saturday, June 27th, for the Aphasia Center of California's 7th annual "Walk to Talk." The event raised more than \$26,000 to support program services at the ACC.

We had a photo finish for this year's top fundraisers: Jim and Patty Santanna tied with John Jankowski for the most money raised. They've been neck and neck for the last two years and this year it was just too close to call! Thank you Jim, Patty, and John—your efforts will help us provide services to many people with aphasia! THANK YOU, too, to everyone who raised funds—this was a challenging year and you 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!!

We had wonderful performers who entertained us throughout the day. Grace Harvey and Alexandra Lee

started off the morning with their beautiful cello and flute duets. Then Mary Ann Pienda played her guitar and sang many favorites songs. Finally, Fred Crenshaw got everyone moving to the music as he sang a wide range of show tunes. Thank you to all our entertainers—you put big smiles on all our faces!

Our "Walk to Talk" included a wonderful raffle table with handcrafted items created by members and friends of the Aphasia Center—special thanks to Enid Meyer, Bob (Dixie) Lewis, Betsy Van Patten, 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 \$500 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; Crogan's Restaurant-Montclair/Oakland; El Jarro Restaurant, Lafayette; Francesco's Restaurant, Oakland; Glenview Florist, Oakland; Italian Color's Restaurant-Montclair/Oakland; Lakeshore Care, Oakland; Marzano Restaurant, Oakland; Natural Grocery Company, El Cerrito; Neldam's Bakery, Oakland, Noah's Bagels, Oakland; Pac & Save-Emeryville, Palace Nails & Wax; Oakland; Pastino's Restaurant-Oakland; Peet's Coffee & Tea-Lakeshore/Oakland; Pharmaca, Berkeley; Red Boy Pizza, Oakland; The Rising Loaf Café & Bakery, Lafayette; Safeway-Alameda; Svenhard's Swedish Bakery-Oakland; Drs. Tennant & Gianni, DDS; Tomatina Restaurant, Alameda; 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. Enid Meyer did a fantastic job as event co-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, Danielle Reed, Angela Lilley, Doug Olson, Zach Tanner, Corinne Carter, Rachel Malmon, Sasha Larsen, Patricia Terry Olson, Dan & Diana Sullivan, Sue Ewing, Bob Lewis, Prudence Ashley, Mary Lew, Bill Wong, Esther Akiba, Pat Woodward, Sara Martin, Cecilia Lindsay, Dotty Turner, Dewa Grant, Ava Scofield, and Peggy Stackable.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our 7th annual "Walk to Talk" a fun and successful event!

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Continued from page 2

Sue Ewing

Elizabeth Adair
John & Maedell Stafford

Leah Garchik

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Martha Lynch

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"Walk to Talk 2009!"

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Walk to Talk 2009 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.*

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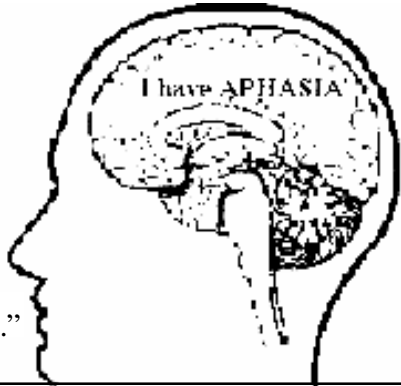
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Aphasia Center News

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..."



ACC Participates in the AphasiaBank Research Project

The ACC was invited to participate in a research project being conducted by Carnegie Mellon University. In July, we were privileged to host internationally known speech-language pathologists, Dr. Audrey Holland and Margie Forbes. Audrey and Margie traveled to Oakland to assess ACC volunteers on a variety of language tests. Fifteen ACC members participated in the AphasiaBank research project. The results of the testing will be entered

into a computerized data bank that will be accessible to aphasia researchers. The goal of the project is to collect language information for a wide variety of people with aphasia. Researchers plan to use the testing information to learn more about the language problems that occur in aphasia as well as more effective ways to treat these difficulties.

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.

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



Margie Forbes and Dr. Audrey Holland testing ACC participant Joyce Jones

**Walk to Talk
2009 Donors**

Continued from page 4

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Aphasia Center of California

3996 Lyman Road
Oakland CA 94602-1857

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www.aphasiacenter.org

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