
Aphasia Center of California

Volume 8 Issue 2 ♦ Fall 2005

ACC Walk to Talk 2005

“The fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose.”

--Hadia Bejar

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

Our third annual “Walk to Talk” at beautiful Lake Merritt in Oakland was an undeniable success! More than 80 people walked and rolled to raise funds for the ACC and to promote awareness of aphasia. And we established an all time record—walk participants raised more than \$21,000 for program services at the Aphasia Center!

We strolled and rolled together as a large group for a quarter of a mile along the shores of Lake Merritt. Following the entire group stroll with our Center banner, more than 20 participants decided to walk or roll around the entire 3½ miles of lake



ACC supporters gathered at Lake Merritt on June 25th

shoreline. Our “Walk to Talk” event included refreshments in the Downtown Oakland Senior Center’s lounge and drawings for great merchandise prizes. New this year was a raffle table with items created by members and friends of the Aphasia Center: Sierra Briano, Enid Meyer, Dixie Lewis, Don Welcome, David Rose, and Dori Ellis. In addition, Susan Musicant and Sharon Medairy of www.womenscontradance.com provided live fiddle and guitar tunes that got us in the mood for a big celebration. And the day was recorded for posterity with

photographs taken by Kamala Appel, Sharon Medairy, Bill Wong, and Ellen Bernstein-Ellis.

Top fundraisers included Jim Santanna, Philip Tien, George Yee, and Judi Briano. A heartfelt thank you to all who helped and participated—your efforts and enthusiasm are helping the Aphasia Center to flourish!

An extra big **THANK YOU** goes to all who made donations to the Aphasia Center of California for the walk! Please know that your generosity is already working to help those affected by aphasia. We don’t

Continued on page 5

Inside:

- Making Services Accessible . p.2
- ACC News p.3
- Generous Donors p.4

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.*

Making Information and Services Accessible to People with Aphasia

by *Roberta J. Elman, Ph.D.*

Aphasia creates a language barrier that affects comprehension and expression of language. Living with aphasia is similar to trying to communicate in a foreign country where you don't speak the language well. However, with training, specific communication skills and techniques can be taught to reduce the language barrier of aphasia and improve access to both information and services.

In order for people with aphasia to receive community services, key people at an agency need to be trained in specific communication techniques. Because speaking, understanding, reading and writing skills are directly impacted by the brain injury that causes aphasia, access to basic community services is often impossible.

For example, a person with aphasia may not receive proper medical treatment because paramedics are not trained in the specific techniques needed to communicate with someone who has aphasia. Legal services are often not available to people with aphasia because lawyers are not able to cross the language barrier that aphasia creates. Even social services provided by community agencies for the disabled are typically unavailable to people with aphasia. Therefore, people with aphasia are often denied access to basic, life sustaining services.

The Aphasia Center of California (ACC) provides communication technique workshops to both

organizations and individuals. After participating in a communication technique workshop, participants become better able to assist the person with aphasia in reducing the language barrier. The ACC has been invited to conduct training sessions with a number of organizations.

A recent series of workshops was held for the California Association of Court Investigators. Court investigators assist the courts in determining if an individual requires a conservator or guardian. ACC staff trained more than 50 court investigators in techniques used to support people with aphasia in expressing their wants and needs. The majority of individuals with aphasia are intelligent, competent people who do not require a court appointed conservator. However, individuals with aphasia run the risk of being judged "incompetent" and having a conservator appointed against their

wishes.

Participants in the ACC workshops learned to augment their spoken input with gestures, pictographs, drawings, and key words in order to improve language comprehension for people with aphasia. Participants also learned techniques to assist individuals with aphasia to express themselves using a variety of methods. A combination of lecture and role-play provided the court investigators with much needed information as well as important practice in using new skills.

After the training, the ACC received notes of appreciation from attendees. One court investigator expressed how helpful the training had been. She indicated they she been able to use her new skills almost immediately with various clients who had aphasia. Providing workshops in communication techniques is one way the ACC is improving the quality of life of all those affected by aphasia.

2005 Walk to Talk Donations

A big THANK YOU to ALL donors who contributed to our third annual "Walk to Talk." Space limitations prevent listing all donors, but those who contributed \$25 or more are listed below. (If we have made any errors in this listing, please accept our apologies and contact us at (510) 336-0112.)

Esther Akiba & Richard Huss
Thomas & Marquita Altaffer
Cheryl Antrim
James & Lucinda Armstrong
Martin Aston & Sheila Crystal, Ph.D.
Stuart & Ann Marie Baatz
Martha Beazley

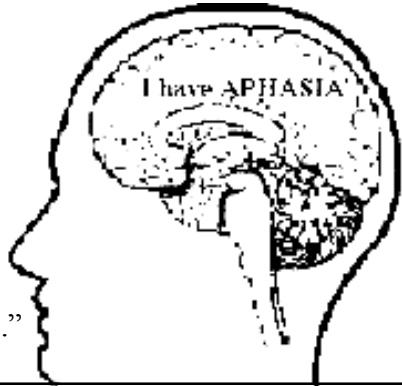
Nancy & Paul Bennett
Marvin Bernstein
Kjell Bomark-Noel
Ellen Brackman
Jim Breitbart
John & Roberta Briano
Howard Brizendine
Annette Carrier
Jack & Sue Carroll
Rae Cheng & Mark Ong
Alberta Chiavaras
Lola Lee Chin
Michael Chin & Elisabeth Lamoureux

Continued on page 5

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..."



Grant for Participants with Low Incomes

The Aphasia Center was the recipient of a \$12,000 grant from the Cisco Systems Foundation to fund ACC services for those individuals with aphasia with low incomes. The Aphasia Center continues to see a significant increase in participants whose income places them at or below the poverty level. Thank you to Cisco Systems Foundation for helping us serve these very needy individuals!

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 difference in the lives of those living with aphasia.

Donate Your Vehicle to the Aphasia Center

The Aphasia Center of California has teamed up with Donate For Charity, a company that specializes in process-

ing 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 receipt entitling you to a tax deduction for your vehicle. 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 online at www.aphasiacenter.org. Please take advantage of this opportunity and help us expand our commitment to improving the quality of life for all those affected by aphasia.

Our Benefactors' Circle

The Aphasia Center extends a special thank you to our Benefactors' Circle donors who make an annual contribution of \$2000 or more. Benefactors' names are engraved on brass plates that are mounted on a mahogany plaque displayed at the Aphasia Center of California. Our Benefactors' Circle donors for January through August 2005:

Gold Benefactors' Circle Donors (\$2,000 - \$4,999 a year)

- ♦ Carol and Harold Parsley

Platinum Benefactors' Circle Donors (\$5,000 and above a year)

- ♦ Sidney H. Elman in memory of Lillian W. Elman
- ♦ Robert Ingham in memory of Iste Park Ingham
- ♦ Stephen Kristovich & Catherine Coleman
- ♦ The R.H. & Jane G. Logan Family
- ♦ Cornell Maier in honor of Jane Logan
- ♦ The R.H. & Jane G. Logan Family

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

January -June 2005

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

IN MEMORY OF

Barbara Ashley
Loren C. Ashley

Joseph Bailey
Carol Sommers

Luanna Blagrove
Dale Blagrove

Vanita Blum
Sid Dommes & Enid Meyer
Mildred Dommes
Mary Jane & Rich Laufenberg
Don & Vicki Welcome

Philip Clark
Susan Clark

Betsy Corby
Jane Hanson

Carolyn Diller
Don & Vicki Welcome

Phyllis Durek
Joe & Helen Durek

Lillian W. Elman
Sidney H. Elman

Ann Federico
Kjell Bomark-Moel

Nancy Fletcher
Elaine Ivankovich

Marvin Gerber
Sandra & Mark Dolan

Murlyne Knox Gerber
Debra Knox

Morris "Buzz" Gilland
Rose, Lea & Howard Chartock
Trudy Desmond
Susan Ewing
Pat & Auggie Hoggatt
Mary & Charles Norcross
Martha & Peter Plante
Dan & Diana Sullivan
Harry & Muffy Thorne

Mary Volonte
Robert White

Martin Goldman
David & Laureen Cohen
Rita Goldman

Margaret Goldsworthy
Carol Sommers

Phillip Greenspan
Helene & Lester Greenspan

Ronald J. Hoffman
Janice Wright

Iste Ingham
Bob Ingham

Lou Ivankovich
Joe & Natalie Ivankovich
Mike Ivankovich

Hiroshi Nagamoto
Susan Ewing
Julia Nagamoto
The Nagamoto Family
Diana & Dan Sullivan
Don & Vicki Welcome

Phyllis Oppenheimer
Cleve Oppenheimer

Betty Pillow
Fern Corley
Bradford Pillow

Roy Stacey
Carol Sommers

John Terry
Hilda Butler

William Walsh
Dan & Diana Sullivan

Chung Wong
Bill Wong & Mary Lew

IN HONOR OF

Tom Abraham
Linda Davis

Ellen Bernstein-Ellis
Debbie Frank & Ed Hanley

Judi Briano
Good Shepherd United
Methodist Women

Jack Carroll
Jon & Susan Conahan

Lisa DeVito
Patricia L. DeVito

Sid Dommes
Joseph Curley

Roberta Elman
Frances Warner

Ron Hausmann
Stephen Kristovich &
Catherine Coleman

Bob Ingham
Don & Vicki Welcome

Margaret Nohr
John Nohr

Jim & Ceci Pugh
Katheleen Zola

David D. Rose
Mary Kellogg

Jim Santanna
Howard Brizendine
Chris & Abigail Jensen
Kathryn Mosher
Larry Stewart

Lynne Tabor
Ruby L. Wilson

Don Welcome
Carol & Harold Parsley

William Wong
Linda Davis

George Yee
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Minamoto

DONORS

The Generous Donors for
"Walk to Talk!"

Anonymous
Betty L. Aceves
William J. Armento
Prudence Ashley
Nancy & Paul Bennett
Caroline Brooks
James S. Carnrite
Caren J. Courtney

Marilyn Dear
Roberta DeHoney
Mark & Sandra Dolan
Jacob & Hilda Enoch
Lynn Harris
Laura Jung
Gregory Kalkanis
Sharon Krippene
Ruth Lacy
Starr & Ken Lieber
Mary Jane & Rich Laufenberg
Kenneth & Starr Lieber
Jane Logan
Susan Musicant
Jean Mundy
A.M. Nella
John W. Nelson
Douglas Olson
& Patricia Terry
Phillip & Dorothee Perloff
Betty Pleger
Eleanor Robinson
Valeria & Henry Royal
Jim & Patty Santanna
Rudolph & Gayle Smith
Anne Weills
George & Rose Yee
Ron Young & Kathy Dueball
Jan Zobel
Katie & Mary Zola

ORGANIZATION DONATIONS and GRANTS

Amalgamated Transit Local #1555
Cisco Systems Foundation
Disabled American Veterans
Good Shepherd United
Methodist Church
Kaiser Permanente—Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
Langeloth Foundation
Rodger's Trucking Company
Teamsters Local Union #78
Teamsters Local 853
Teamsters' Joint Council No. 7

MATCHING GIFTS

Autodesk, Inc.
Cisco Systems

Walk to Talk 2005



Musicians Sharon Medairy and Susan Musicant. performed at Walk to Talk

Continued from page 1

have space to list the names of everyone who made a contribution, but we truly appreciate each donation made.

Thanks to the following companies that donated services or merchandise for our participant prize drawing. **We encourage you to remember their generosity and support their businesses!** Albertson's-Montclair/Oakland, Banana Blossom-Oakland, Berkeley Bowl Marketplace, Blackberry Bistro-Oakland, Compadres Bar & Grill-Oakland, Crogan's Restaurant-Montclair/Oakland, Glenview Florists-Oakland, Italian Color's Restaurant-Montclair/Oakland, Jamba Juice-El Cerrito; Jay's Hallmark-El Cerrito; Long's Drugstore-Rockridge/Oakland; Mother's Cakes & Cookies-Oakland, Neldam's Bakery-Oakland, Pac & Save-Emeryville, Pasta Pomodoro-El Cerrito, Pastino's Restaurant-Oakland, Peet's Coffee & Tea-Lakeshore/Oakland, Klaudia Promessi-Oakland,

Rite-Aid-Montclair/Oakland, Safeway-Rockridge/Oakland, Svenhard's Swedish Bakery-

2005 Walk to Talk Donors

Continued from page 2

Stewart & Victoria Cheng
Anita Clothier
Susan Cohen
Anita Connor
Tracy & Dan Cook
Teresa Cristobal
Paula, Peter & Angela Crosatto
Lennard & Nancy Davis
Susan & James Dawkins
Roberta DeHoney
Charles & Mary Disharoon
Jim & Carla Dodge
Charles Dorn
Fran Eldredge
Roberta Elman, Ph.D.
Susan Ewing
Janet & Alfred Ferreira
Dayna & Larry Fleck, Jr.
Steven Fry
Mernard Gadwood, MD
Frank Ghigliore
Mary Amalfitano Gibbs
William & Donna Gibbs

Oakland, The Junket-El Cerrito, Trader Joe's-El Cerrito, and Ultimate Grounds-Oakland.

Finally, this walk would not have taken place without the help of numerous event volunteers. The walk would not have even been possible without the efforts of Enid Meyer, who again served as our event co-coordinator. A big thank you to the following people who volunteered their time to help things run smoothly both before and on the day of the event: Sid Dommies, Vicki & Don Welcome, Steve Fry, Patricia Terry, Dan & Diana Sullivan, Ellen Bernstein-Ellis, Sue Ewing, Anne Carney, Nancy Bennett, Bob Lewis, Fran Signori, Mary Lew, Bill Wong, Esther Akiba, Tracy Cook, Fran Signori, and Pat Woodward. You helped make the third annual "Walk to Talk" an outstanding event from start to finish!

Jeanette & Stephen Gross
Barbara Hafter
Katherine Hamel
Larry & Sharon Hermann
Patricia Herrera
Matthew Herreras
Kathleen & Fredrick Hibberd
Tracy & Ken Hinck
Garnet Holden
Jacqueline Holland
Sheridan & Georgie Huss
Bob Ingham
Denise & Altaf Jeddy

Continued on page 6

This newsletter is a publication of
the Aphasia Center of California

Written and edited by
Roberta J. Elman

Design and layout by Morris Older

© 2005 Aphasia Center of California

2005 Walk to Talk Donors

Continued from page 5

Grace Kelley-Driver
 Eric & Mary Kellogg
 Meredith Kenny
 Christopher Kentis & Laura
 Lau
 Michael Killean
 Lauren Kramer
 Arthur & Jane Lande
 Mary Jane & Rich Laufenberg
 Allan Leader
 Dixie & Robert Lewis
 Carol Light
 Gary Lindahl, PT
 Daniel & Sandra Lo
 Gail Longworth & Sandra Hill
 Lyman & Hilda Lorensen
 John & Jane Low
 John Mackinney
 Cesare Marigonda
 Tony Martinelli
 Wallace & Mary Mayer
 Edgar & Lee Ann McFaddin
 Robert McGuniness
 Debbie & Eric Miller
 Mavis Monroe
 Nancy & Dennis Moore
 Susan Mora
 Jonathan & Barbara Morey
 Michael Moss
 Karen Mungari

Julia Nagamoto
 Patricia & Michael Nagamoto
 Elizabeth Nash
 John & Susan Nelson
 Howard & Carol Newman
 Lori Nolthenius
 Rachel Novack
 June Ogden
 Patricia & Douglas Olson
 Henry Padgham
 Dorothy Paik
 Arthur S. Panella, DDS
 Pamela Patterson
 Greg & Nicki Pearson
 Ruy & Nina Pereira
 Star Pierce
 Paul Pierre
 Martha & Peter Plante
 Molly Pong
 Jim & Ceci Pugh
 Christina Purisima
 Ahmad Ra'ed
 Crystal Ramsey & Victoria
 Ramsey-Morgan
 Nancy & Allen Reynolds
 Robert C. Richardson
 Adolph & Sylvia Rivera
 Barbara Rose
 David & Kathryn Rose
 Steve Rosenberg & Ben
 Butler
 Valeria & Henry Royal
 Thomas Sack
 Caesar & Edith Santanna
 Jim & Patty Santanna

Ken Santanna
 Cludia Scharff
 Steven & Kathleen Schleyer
 Ann Segerstrom
 Barbara Selva
 Drs. Tim & Annie Siu
 James Snider
 Carol Sommers
 Pat & Geroge Springer
 Gail Staba
 Karri & Brian Stedman
 Emmet Steed
 Lauren Steers
 Larry & Nanette Stewart
 Diana & Dan Sullivan
 Winnie Sun
 Shirley Sutherland
 Lynne & Doris Tabor
 Patricia Terry
 The Terstegge Family
 Rich Teske

Dorothy Trinidad
 Norm & Elizabeth Van Patten
 Col. & Mrs. Joseph Wasiak,
 USA (Ret.)
 Debbie Weinstein
 Karri Welcome
 Don & Vicki Welcome
 Andrea & Dave Welles
 Margie & Charles Westbrook
 Susan Wilder & Natalie Robb
 Nadine Willis
 Bill Wong & Mary Lew
 Eugene & Joanne Wong
 Virginia Wong
 Linda Woods
 Diane Yamauchi
 Maisie Yang
 Lynn Yarris & Martha Lynch
 George & Rose Yee
 Mr. & Mrs. L. Young
 Nancy & Bayard Young
 Pamela Zeff
 David Zweifel
 Hazel Zweifel

www.aphasiacenter.org

APHASIA CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—Steven G. Fry
Vice-President—Mary Lew
Secretary/Treasurer—Enid Meyer
 Esther Akiba
 Tracy Cook
 Roberta J. Elman, Ph.D.
 Robert Lewis, MBA
 Patricia Olson, MPH

Aphasia Center of California

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