



Rebuilding communication. Transforming lives.

ACC Connection

Volume 15 Issue 1 ♦ Spring 2012

One Hundred Names for Love

We hope you were one of the 150 people who joined together on the afternoon of April 1st, in celebration of the Aphasia Center's 15 years of transforming lives! The special event, *One Hundred Names For Love*, was held at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center, and featured an afternoon of creative expression, including singing by *The Dreamers*, and a dance performance by the *Ross Dance Company*.

President & Founder, Dr. Roberta Elman, provided a personal retrospective of the reasons why she started the ACC, the first independent Aphasia Center in the United States. She shared that she is most proud that the Center has provided more than 64,900 group treatment visits over the years, while also providing \$141,000 in financial assistance to members who live at or below the federal poverty level. *These accomplishments are made possible by people like you—our*

generous donors. Thank you for helping us rebuild communication and transform thousands of lives!!

Dr. Elman read an official proclamation from Oakland Mayor, Jean Quan, honoring the ACC for providing the “premier treatment program in the nation for this condition, pioneering group therapy techniques, education and training programs, and serving as a national leader in promoting treatment and awareness of aphasia.” Dr. Elman also announced that the ACC would be receiving honors from the National Aphasia Association in June!

The event's keynote speaker, Diane Ackerman, author of the

“Everyone who got where he is had to begin where he was.

--Robert Lewis Stevenson

recent critically acclaimed autobiography, *One Hundred Names For Love*, shared her first hand account of living with aphasia, following her husband's devastating stroke in 2004. His remarkable recovery inspired all who attended and Ms. Ackerman's keen observations were both heartfelt and moving.

The afternoon brought special recognition to the following volunteers who have gone “above and beyond” for the ACC during the past 15 years: Dan & Diana Sullivan, Vicki Welcome, Nancy Park, Carol

Continued on page 2

Join our Tenth Annual “Walk to Talk” Raise Funds and Awareness!

What: The Aphasia Center of California's Tenth 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 23rd, 2012. Walk registration will begin at 9:45am.

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. Please contact Roberta Elman (510) 336-0112 to receive a walk packet or for more information.

Inside:

Mary Jane Laufenberg page 2
ACC News page 3
Thanks to Our Donors . page 4
2011 Annual Report page 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.*

The Aphasia Center of California: It's Personal



Mary Jane Laufenberg with her dog, Chelsea

By Mary Jane Laufenberg, Stroke Survivor

Celebrating 15 years of transforming lives.... As I was getting ready to attend the Aphasia Center of California's special anniversary event on April 1, 2012, my heart was beating, as I, too, was celebrating 15 years since my own stroke. Dr. Roberta Elman, President & Founder of the ACC had told me that the Aphasia Center of California had started on September 1, 1996. My stroke had occurred on September 30, 1996. Such an important and meaningful coincidence!

The ACC's 15-year celebration was full of happy memories that brought tears to my eyes. Remembering our "communication" classes made me smile as the years have flown by. The ACC speech-language pathologists, Roberta Elman, Ellen Bernstein-Ellis, and Sue Ewing, were all amazing. They cared so much for us and we all worked so hard.

At the Sunday celebration, it was terrific to see the people I had known and worked with over the years. We had participated in so many wonderful programs together: conversation treatment groups, aphasia book club groups, exercise classes, as well as so many fun occasions, from the Annual "Walk to Talk" to the many holiday and other special events.

The keynote speaker was Diane Ackerman, the acclaimed author of non-fiction and poetry. Her presentation touched me as she told the story of her life. Diane's husband of 34 years, Paul West, survived a devastating stroke. He had authored 50 books, but was left saying only "mem."

As I listened to their story, I

thought of how my stroke had affected my husband. We had been married just five months, when I had a stroke that left me with aphasia. As Diane's husband had surpassed doctors' expectations, my recovery has also surprised many people. My husband's care and love for me was so similar to the care that Diane had given her husband. She wrote of her experience with her husband "as an inspiring testament to the plasticity of the brain and the power of love."

Over the last 15 years, the Aphasia Center of California has been a wonderful organization, improving the lives of so many people, in so many ways. As a stroke survivor, I am honored to have the Aphasia Center of California in my life.

One Hundred Names for Love

Continued from page 1

Sommers, Elaine Ivankovich, and Enid Meyer.

This special afternoon concluded with time for informal conversation among friends of the Aphasia Center, while enjoying many delicious appetizers and desserts.

Thank you to our major event sponsor, Kaiser Permanente-East Bay Region! We also thank our featured event sponsors, DynaVox Mayer-Johnson, the National Aphasia Association, and The Speech Pathology Group for their celebration such a special one!

Success of the event was made possible by our event co-chairs, Enid Meyer, Sue Ewing and Roberta Elman, as well as the following event day volunteers: Loran & Jeremiah Tolbert, Tessa Fisher, Prudence Ashley, Esther Akiba, Betty Bugaj, Deanna Cook, Prit Patel, Steve Fry, Mary Lew, Julia Adams, Patty Santanna, Bob Lewis, Pat Terry Olson, Magdalena Brink, Elyse Dukatz, Laura Lahti, Kathy & Kaitlin Ott, Linda Tran, Karen Fremont, and Jacqui Standel. Thank you for helping make our 15-year celebration such a special one!

Aphasia Center News



Author Diane Ackerman signing books at the ACC's 15 year anniversary event

Education and Training Around the World

Aphasia Center of California's staff members are frequently invited to provide training to speech-language pathologists throughout the world. During the last year, we have been asked to speak about our programs to speech-language pathologists around the country. We have also written an invited chapter and several articles about various aspects of aphasia group treatment. Although the Aphasia Center programs may be physically located in California, our philosophy and clinical techniques continue to impact lives around the world!

Spring Cleaning?

Don't forget the ACC when it comes to donating quality items. All money earned from the ACC's consignment program benefits the

speech-language treatment programs at the Center. We are looking for quality items throughout the year that can be sold. All quality furniture, costume and fine jewelry, vintage and new clothing, kitchenware, children's books, and collectibles are greatly appreciated. We cannot accept non-working electrical items, computers, or golf clubs. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS. Please contact Elaine Ivankovich, Program Coordinator, to arrange for drop-off or pick-up at 925-687-9783 or 925-788-6261.

Felting: Expressing Yourself through Arts & Crafts

The ACC is now offering a Felting class. Never heard of felting? It is an easy to learn technique of attaching woolen fabrics and yarns to-

gether. Through the use of a hand-held needle felting tool, participants create beautiful items. This technique can be done one-handed, so it works well for people with weakness on one side of their body. The class is being held on Thursdays from 12:45 to 1:45pm. Class co-instructors are artist, Gina Truex, and ACC member, Brenda Garrett. There is no charge to enroll in the class, but donations are welcomed. For more information, please call us at 510-336-0112.

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of California
on Facebook!!**

Do you shop at Lucky FoodMaxx or Savemart?

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.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

July - December, 2011

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

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Continued on page 6

ACC 2011 Annual Report

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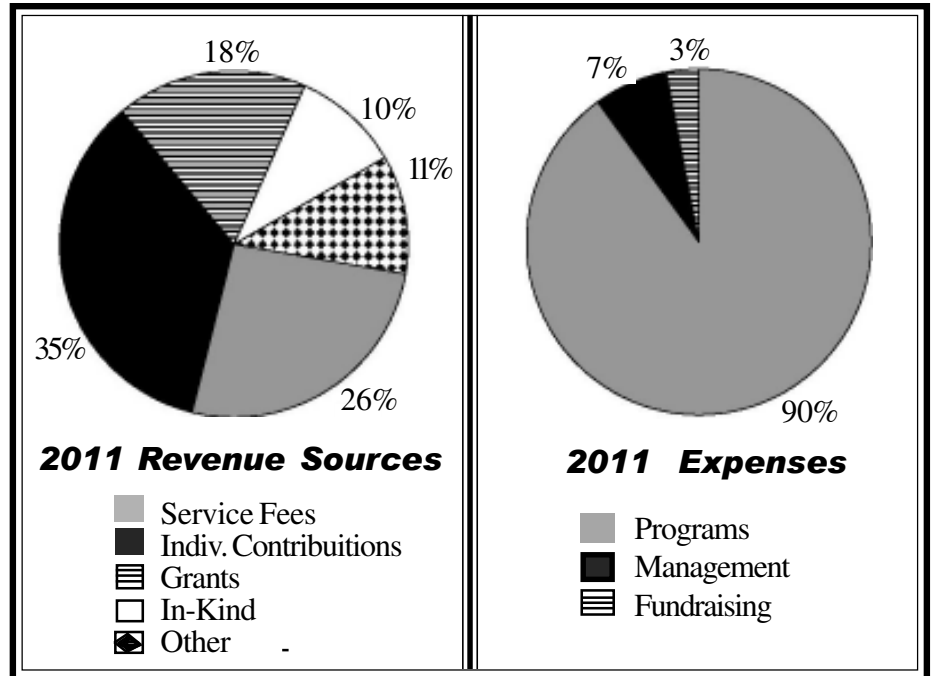
Total Visits: 3879
 Group Communication Treatment
 Visits: 1758
 Individual Speech-Language
 Treatment Visits: 78
 Reading & Writing Classes: 181
 Club Aphasia: 664
 Fitness & Relaxation Classes: 905
 Educational Stroke Group Series: 293
 Information & Referral (includes
 phone, mail, and e-mail): 1993

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