



The National Aphasia Association
 a•pha•sia (uh-fay'-zhuh) n. An impairment of the ability to use or comprehend words, usually acquired as a result of a stroke or other brain injury.



Celebrating Our 20th Anniversary ~ 1987-2007

March 2007

NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE NAA

Dear Friends of the NAA:

In my first message to you as the new President of the NAA, I would like to briefly outline for you our recent progress and our goals for the coming year.

First, we have a new Executive Director on board. Ellayne Ganzfried joined us on December 1st. She is a speech language pathologist with varied clinical, administrative and professional association experience. She is dynamic and creative, has already brought about some positive changes, and we look forward to many years of fruitfully working with her.

Second, our updated website is now available; please visit us at www.aphasia.org to see what the NAA is doing; we welcome your comments and input if you have thoughts for the website's further improvement!

Third, we are in new midtown Manhattan quarters, at 350 Seventh Avenue (at 29th St., just two blocks from Penn Station); do drop in for a visit when you are in the area!

In the coming year, we want to focus our energies on three key areas:

- Strengthening our State representatives network
- Facilitating existing and encouraging the creation of new community support groups
- Creating additional funding vehicles

June is Aphasia Awareness Month, and we encourage all of you to please keep this in mind when talking to relatives, friends and acquaintances. The NAA is planning many activities to highlight aphasia during that month. There are still many people who

don't know how widespread a condition aphasia is, or even, in many cases, what it means.

We will be working more closely with other related associations including the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and are planning to collaborate on future projects that will increase our visibility.

Finally, we are looking for a well-known figure whose life has been touched by aphasia to be a spokesperson for the NAA (the way Michael Fox has done for Parkinson's). Please think about this and let us know of anyone we might approach who would fit this bill - this could be of enormous benefit to all people with aphasia!

With warmest good wishes to you and yours, and with our gratitude for your continued support,

Barbara C. Martin



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Advocacy through the Arts

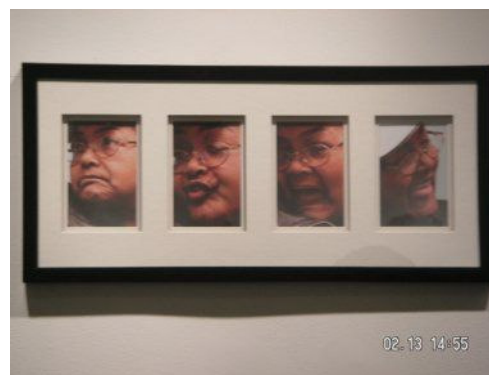
A Creative Approach to Aphasia Rehabilitation

Introduction

The central goal of long term aphasia therapy is community reintegration. This is difficult for speech-language pathologists (slp's) to fully accomplish due to nature of medical reimbursement industry and current climate. Speech pathologists generally find themselves with very little time to accomplish anything except the most basic of rehabilitation goals with the majority of aphasic patients. Guidelines for inpatient, outpatient and homecare reimbursement are all very stringent. However, patients report continued "improvement" (possibly a stabilization of status and/or less decline of communication skills) long after insurance ends. Many families seek community-based support groups, which frequently offer little in the way of direct speech therapy modeling.

As a response to this, Marymount Manhattan College began an "aftercare" program in 2005 with Dr. Linda Carozza as the facilitator. Drawing clients from the community and previously discharged patients, a core and stable group was quickly established. The client group proved very cohesive and many short-term projects were established, with the combined cooperation of the Divisional Chair, senior faculty, clinical speech supervisors, graduate students and the undergrad speech pathology majors of the Department. Among the projects that were developed was one called "Advocacy through the Arts." This program grew from a Planting A Seed regional Conference of the National Aphasia Association, which the College co-sponsored in June 2006 in NYC.

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STAMP CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

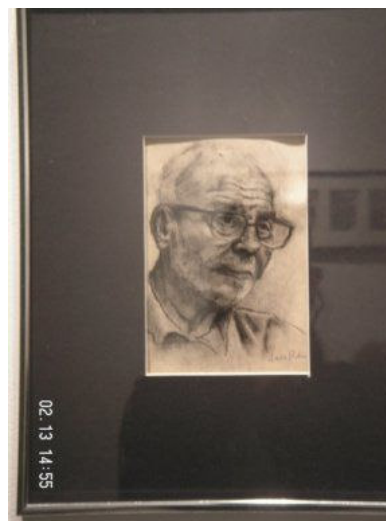
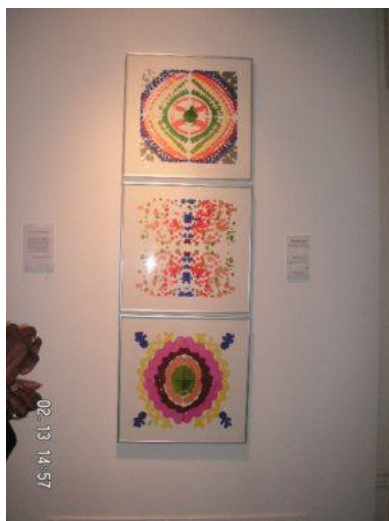
Spread the word about Aphasia!

With enough letters from all 50 states, we can convince the US Postal Service to issue an aphasia postage stamp.

Go to—<http://www.aphasia.org/stamplate.htm>

Print and send a stamp letter at

<http://www.usps.com/communications/organization/csac.htm>



SUPPORT THE NAA

Go to www.aphasia.org/support.php to learn more about donating to the National Aphasia Association

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The Fall 2006 semester term marked the initiation of the conjoint project between the Fine Arts Department and the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department. Outstanding young artists began attending the group sessions alongside the clients, their families and the speech pathology students. There were all sorts of media represented including photography, oils, jewelry craft, blow art, charcoals and many others. Some art was created by the art students based on the inspiration of the experience of the aphasia group. Other art was created by the aphasic clients with support from the Art students. Throughout, the speech pathology students created a vibrant communicative atmosphere with themes, stimulating many opportunities for expressive language and interpersonal communication. The program engaged and engrossed the community of the students and clients for an entire semester and culminated with an enthusiastic Gallery opening at the College Feb 13, 2007. The work of all individuals who participated and enjoyed this exhibit is to be commended and especially the foresight of Dr. Ann Jablon, Chair of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Ms. Millie Burns, Gallery Curator.



June is Aphasia Awareness Month.

Plans are underway for multiple events around the country in honor of Aphasia Awareness Month. Our host group this year will be all the Minnesota Community Support Groups.

If you would like to have your group's events posted on our website, please email us at naa@aphasia.org

Have June proclaimed Aphasia Awareness Month in your community! Contact your local legislator and ask them to designate June as "Aphasia Awareness Month" Contact the NAA at (800) 922-4622 or at naa@aphasia.org for more information and to receive a sample template of a proclamation.

SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN THE CLUB!

Please join us on Thursday, April 19, 2007 for NAA Annual Spring Benefit Cocktail Hour and Dinner. The event will begin at 6 pm at the Harvard Club of New York City. The NAA will be presenting its 2007 Aphasia Advocacy Award to Audrey Holland, PhD, who has received international recognition for her work in aphasia as a researcher, clinician, and author. Dinner will be followed by a performance by The Guilt Trip Quartet, members of Sweet Adelines International.

We are extending a **SPECIAL INVITATION** to Audrey's friend and colleagues to participate in the NAA's "Century Club" in her honor. Please join us in this tribute. We will be listing "Century Club" contributors in the Spring Benefit Program.

For more information about the event, Century Club or to order tickets, contact the NAA at (800) 922-4622

NAA contacts Lynn Johnston of "For Better or For Worse" comic strip

In September 2006, the comic strip "For Better or For Worse" began a storyline which featured one of the characters, Jim, acquiring Aphasia as a result of a stroke. The characters and many of the storylines are drawn from Ms. Johnston's own life experiences. She is increasing awareness and providing necessary education to readers through the comic strip. The NAA contacted Ms. Johnston to commend her on her accurate and sensitive portrayal of a family dealing with aphasia. We invited her to participate with the NAA in upcoming events. The following is the response received from Lynn Johnston:



2/20/07

Dear Rachel & Ellayne
 Thanks so much for your note & invitation. I'm lucky to be working with a wonderful team: My neurologist (a stroke specialist) 2 speech pathologists & a family whose lives have been altered forever by stroke. Mr. Fogli's symptoms are similar to those of the grandfather character in the strip. I've taken photos of him at the PT clinic, taken photos of him at home & having speech therapy. I'm well into the world of aphasia - with so many people contacting us to talk about their own experiences or offering professional help. Hope I can do this. Sorry the justice it deserves.
 all the best
 Lynn Johnston

contact Lynn Johnston go to www.fborfw.com

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NEWS AND NOTES

CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE!

www.aphasia.org

- What if the **National Aphasia Association** earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can! **GoodSearch.com** is a new search engine that donates ad revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity its users designate. Use it just like any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great results. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and enter **National Aphasia Association** as the organization you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! Please spread the word! Get started right now and download the GoodSearch toolbar - <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx>
- **The NAA welcomes New Advisory Council members:** Dr. Steven Small, Dr. Linda Carozza, Dr. Mary Boyle and W. David Halloran. They join a distinguished group of experts who give advice to the Board in determining programs and direction of the Association.
- **SPEAKING OUT 2008 to be held June 19-22, 2008** at New York University. Stay tuned for program information and registration details. Call the NAA office at (800) 922-4622 for more information