IN SEARCH OF ...

Mission: A newsletter for individuals with Aphasia and for the community

Created by: Individuals with Aphasia --
-- Supported and encouraged by the University of Washington Speech & Hearing Clinic

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APHASIA RETREAT #3

“Haven’t decided yet?”

- Survivor AND Caregiver
- No charge for you or your loved one.
- Handouts, presentations, exhibits.

- Register by JUNE 15

For details: Call: 206-543-5440 or, Email: shclinic.uw.edu

“Welcome!”

... to stay in the game of life,
...to connect and empower!
...at Lake City Community Center
Saturday, June 30th, 9AM

Awareness

June, once again, is the National Aphasia Awareness Month. More than 100,000 Americans get Aphasia each year and the National Aphasia Association spreads much information about this disorder, in part to increase awareness of it.

Aphasia is most commonly caused by a stroke, and about 800,000 strokes occur in America each year. So, the National Stroke Association attempts to increase awareness of stroke and, this year, declared May again the National Stroke Awareness Month.

Awareness is the ability to see or to feel something, whether inside or outside yourself. This provides the basis for you to evaluate what has happened and for you to decide what you choose to do about it. It’s up to you.

And, that’s the goal of this newsletter - to increase awareness of aphasia’s causes and effects - in our support group, in our family and friends, and in the community around us. The community that, perhaps, should be aware of stroke/aphasia risks - and its results.
Our Group

Our group enjoys a variety of presentations, discussions, and challenges in our weekly meetings.

This Quarter, Tony delivered a psychological challenge to the group. He first gave the group a little time to worry. Then he put one of the members on the ‘hot seat’ and, in rotation, asked each other member to say something complimentary to that person. Tony repeated this process so that everybody was treated with thoughtful, careful, always positive comments. Tony’s challenge effectively increased each person’s awareness of all member’s desire and need for positive interaction.

Self-advocacy involves the rights of each of us. It emphasizes the importance of taking charge of our own lives. When we have disabilities, we can feel isolated. Each of us needs to be in control of our own resources and how they are used for our medical care, to the extent we can, and in a positive way. We need to address that ourselves, and this is self-advocacy and ‘finding the voice’ that we thought we lost.

Clinic Summer Program

This summer program is to help persons with aphasia to develop and strengthen their communication skills in individual and small group situations. It is being conducted by graduate students who have faced intensive academic training, without dealing with patients face-to-face.

They have provided some input on why they have chosen their profession and the sacrifices they have made in doing so. This new, difficult situation can provide a refreshing perspective in hearing how they respond to the situation. When they are willing to share, as we hope, their reports will soon appear as a newsletter article.

We note: that Bob H. (left, and center with Nancy) is our longest-lasting group member, at 93 years of serene Scottish age.

On the right is Dennis, our longest-serving group member. Aphasia struck him 23 years ago and joined this group when it started.