

Sun 22 May 2011

NEW FACES

- Stephen Black
- Bill Peterson
- Cecil Boot
- Cristy and Ken Whitney
- Ben Maxey

It was great to see you folks! We're glad you came, and hope we can see you again soon.

COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGY

Grad students Brittney Skrupke and Blaire Wagner gave a great presentation on techniques and technology for better communication for aphasics. I put their presentation on our website at:

www.weebly.com/uploads/3/0/9/7/3097963/wagner_skrupke_2011-05-21.pdf . You can also find it on our Resources page. Here is a brief summary:

- There are many ways to communicate: speech, writing, gestures, facial expressions, drawing, communication notebooks.
- What are your communication strengths? Use them to your advantage.
- In difficult situations use pre-written notes, change a distracting environment, ask your partner to change their communication style.
- There are many options for electronic communication aids: smart phones, computers, teletype (typing a message over the phone), TRS (type your phone message to an operator who reads it to the other party), Skype (video telephone over the Internet), etc.
- Reading aids include: Kindle and similar electronic books, Books on Tape, computer text-to-speech, etc.
- You can convert your speech to text for emailing and on-line forums using Dragon Naturally Speaking and other software.
- Get a young person to help you with this confusing array of technology and software!

Many thanks for a great presentation and lively discussion, Brittney and Blaire!

MT. RAINIER TRIP

Many thanks to Dianne Cubell and John Brace for bringing the Mt. Rainier trip together! It is coming up next month, Thursday June 23. The Grayline Seattle bus will pick up those who have signed up at Northgate and Southcenter malls, at 10:00 and 10:45 respectively. Please see <http://jblives.com/Raineer> for details, or call Dianne at 206-726-1799.

STOP THOSE ANNOYING PHONE CALLS

Telemarketers these days annoy us all, but they are especially irksome to aphasics who have trouble on the phone anyway. One suggestion came from Mike Gordon, who pretends he can't hear them and yells "Hello?? Hello?? Darn phone!" and slams down the receiver. :-D You can help prevent the calls by registering your phone number at www.donotcall.gov . Telemarketers are forbidden to call numbers on this list. It takes up to 30 days for the calls to start to taper off, but it really helps.

GINNY RUFFNER ARTIST APPEARANCE

Dianne Cubell told us about the inspirational story of Ginny Ruffner, a Seattle artist who has come back from a devastating brain injury. You can read more about her at www.ginnyruffner.com . She is currently featured at the Seattle Art Museum (in a free exhibition open to the public) and will be appearing downtown at 7th and Union at noon on July 21. Next month Dianne will share a video documentary of Ginny's comeback.

DRIVER'S LICENSING

Congratulations to Harold Hansen for getting his driver's license back, after 3 years! There are many ways to do this. If you are not severely disabled and the examiner doesn't question it, you can simply appear for your renewal and take the standard vision test. You can also make use of the UW driver re-education program, as Howard did, and you can be re-tested by the Department of Licensing.

SAVE A STAMP, SAVE A TREE

Please let me know if you want to go email only and opt out of receiving group mailings by postal mail. Help reduce the burden on the American Heart Association, which does our mailings for us. Let me know at seattleyass@gmail.com, or 206-241-7693.

Thanks to everyone for a great meeting! See you next time.

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