

Sunday Sep 17, 2006

Hello everyone,

It was great to see everyone at the meeting and art show yesterday!

NEW FACES & VISITORS

- Patti Scott joined us for the first time, a guest of Kaki's but she has experienced four strokes herself. She shared her story and some of her writing with us. Great to see you and to enjoy your exuberant personality, Patti, hope to see you again!

ART SHOW

I won't even try to list everyone who shared their art with us, because I'm sure to miss someone. It was terrific, probably 20 people brought things from paintings to ceramics to photographs. Many people shared art work with us who haven't done art before. It's great to see people finding their own means of expression like this.

LEITHEISER TRIP

Sharon told us about her recent trip with Hal to Great Britain. They had a great time sightseeing and meeting Sharon's pen pals. This trip was a remarkable achievement for someone who has struggled so valiantly with her aphasia over the years. Sharon laughingly told us that when she saw a flock of sheep and wanted to call Hal's attention to them, she said "Hal, look at the fish!". Can you imagine the puzzled looks of the other tourists?? What a crackup!

Sharon is also one of the bedrock members of the group and was very perceptive and thoughtful as she pointed out the progress that others have made over the years. It's so critical to keep this in mind and to keep looking at the long view. Thank you, Sharon, as always, for your excellent observations.

APHASIA VIDEO

I've obtained a copy of that aphasia video we saw a few months ago, from the Aphasia Institute in Canada. The subject is "Supported Conversation", and it is great viewing, especially for non-aphasics, to learn the best methods of communicating. Bill and Cathy Croft have already borrowed it, and Kaki Reeves has it now. Let me know if you're interested and we'll put your name in the rotation.

GROUP LIBRARIAN?

Many of us have books and videos we would like to share, but we need a librarian to keep track of this. Is there anyone who would like to volunteer for this? The main tasks would be: keeping a list of all available materials, where they are at a given time, and who wants what. The librarian could also bring a list or the actual materials which are available to each meeting, so people can see them. Must be organized! Any volunteers?

SAD NEWS FROM VALERIE

Valerie and Jerry Boen shared with us that Valerie, on top of her other difficulties, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. There have been operations which have successfully removed it, and fortunately it was found not to have spread to the lymph system. They and the doctors are optimistic, but of course this is frightening, sobering news. The Boens are doing well though, and they are hopeful and courageous. Our hearts go out to you, Valerie and Jerry!

Next month we will have Gordon Olson, a retired Washington driver's license examiner, who will describe how to restore your driver's license after a stroke. This should be very interesting, for those who don't yet drive and also for new stroke survivors. Hope to see you then!

Gerrit