

Sunday Apr 20, 2008

A fascinating demonstration and further progress on our Caregiver's Brochure – great meeting!

NEW FACES

- Judy Eng Woo

Judy had a hemorrhagic stroke in February, and visited us for the first time yesterday. We hope to see you again, Judy, glad you came!

FEATURED SPEAKER

Sandy Efseaff from Innovative Neurotronics gave us a lively and fascinating demonstration of their WalkAide device. This is a small electronic device which corrects for foot drop. It straps to the leg and provides nerve stimulation at the precise instant to cause the toe to lift as you walk. The device senses where you are in your walking cycle as you walk, and is programmed to provide nerve stimulation at the proper moment for your gait.

- No surgery, easy one-handed operation.
- \$4500, and not yet covered by insurance. Several studies are completed or underway and hopefully insurance coverage will be available soon.
- Alternative to an AFO brace.
- A study involving this device is ongoing at the UW, for those whose stroke was a year or less ago. Contact Brian Hafner 206-228-0112 if you are interested.
- See www.walkaide.com for more information.

SHARON IS PUBLISHED!

Sharon Leitheiser, as most of you know, wrote a book describing her struggle to recover from her devastating stroke and aphasia many years ago. She has now found a publisher and will soon have her book on the shelves (and in our library)! Congratulations Sharon!

KAKI'S ART SHOW OPENING

Kaki Reeves is having an opening of her art on display at Local Color, a terrific coffee shop and gallery in Pike Place Market at the foot of Stewart Street. The opening is Saturday May 3rd, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. It will be lots of fun with hors d'oeuvres and wine. Make the scene if you can!

WE WON'T CHANGE ROOMS AFTER ALL

This fall we were planning on changing meeting rooms to the TCU Auditorium, but that would require us to change to Sunday too. We discussed what time would work, and couldn't find any. Sunday is just a bad day. So we decided to continue in the same room and time slot we have. That seems to be workable with our new furniture arrangement.

APHASIA HANDBOOK

Ted Paluchowski passed around a new handbook for aphasics which he highly endorsed, called "The Aphasic's Handbook". It is very well organized, specific, and easy to use. I will obtain a copy for the library, and if you're interested you can order it through www.aphasia.com. Ted also circulated the latest copy of the UW Speech and Hearing Clinic's "In Search Of..." newsletter, which contains his review of this book, an open letter from our own Frank Lim, and the conclusion of member Todd Bern's personal story. Look at www.shclinic.washington.edu for this and other newsletters from the Clinic.

FEDERAL PARKS ACCESS CARD

Jerry Boen told us about the free access card for federal parks such as Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon. It can be obtained by presenting proof of disability at any park entrance, and is good for life. There are specific requirements for proof of disability. You can find them at www.yellowstone.com.

FOOTLOOSE SAILING ACTIVITIES

Footloose Sailing is gearing up for another summer of fun sailing activities. Here are a few highlights:

- April 26 and 27 is boat launching, cleaning, and program setup, and they need lots of volunteers for that.
- May 3 is opening day for day sailing and an afternoon BBQ.
- June 8 (or 9?) is a fundraising dinner at Outback Steakhouse on Westlake.
- July 12 and 13 is the Blake Island overnight.

See www.footloosesailing.org for more details.

CAREGIVERS BROCHURE

We made some more good progress and focus on the Caregiver's Brochure, with a lot of good input and organizational ideas. This is going to be a dynamite, useful resource for caregivers!

Next month Michael Donohue will tell us about the robotic rehabilitation devices now being used in a study by the Veteran's Administration. Hope to see you all there!

Gerrit