



Sun 21 Feb 2016

Great to see everyone yesterday in our new meeting place!

NEW FACES

- Jordan Cohen and family

Good to see you, Jordan, and thanks for sharing your stories and inspiration.

YASS AT ITS BEST

There were many stories and much wisdom shared yesterday – YASS at its best! When we can share humor and stories of strength and growth, everyone is the better for it. Many thanks to everyone who contributed.

OUR NEW PLACE

The meeting room yesterday was a bit smaller than what we've been used to, but we did fine. In a way, as Stan pointed out, it was more intimate and made it easier to speak to the group. There was some confusion about the building, though – sorry about that. Provail's official address is 12550 Aurora Ave N but the room we are in is actually in their 12570 building. I'll correct that in the announcements and elsewhere. It should be smoother all around next time.

I'll also see about meeting in the adjacent room, which is somewhat larger. Many thanks to our UW volunteers and everyone who helped restore the room exactly as we found it – we want to be good guests!

We'll stay there at Provail for 2016 so we can keep a nice regular schedule, but if the consensus is to return to Northwest Hospital after that, I'll start that process. We'll keep talking about it the next couple meetings.

(Here's an example of how an erratic schedule hurts: I had a phone message yesterday when I got home from a new member who was looking for us at Northwest Hospital because of outdated information she got from a local hospital. They wasted a trip, didn't find us, and were wandering around confused at the hospital. It's really awful when newcomers can't find us like this! I don't know everyone who has our meeting information. That's passed around from place to place, and often even contacting a hospital doesn't reach the departments who need to know. A regular meeting place and time is really essential.)

WALK, RUN, AND ROLL

The Brain Injury Alliance of WA is holding their annual Walk, Run, and Roll event at Green Lake on Sunday April 3, starting at the Greenlake Community Center. Registration starts at 9:00, with the walk at 10:15. It's a fundraiser, so you can participate and get family and friends to support. Please see <http://biawa.org/walk2016.php> or call 877-982-4292 for more information or to pre-register. See you there!

DRIVER'S LICENSE RENEWAL TRICK

Member Dave Gosse has severe aphasia. His wife Jean reports that they have found a new angle to getting Dave's license renewed by finding an examiner who works with him as if he has hearing loss. The examiner would use gestures and other means to communicate. If you have a similar situation, try asking for an examiner who is trained to work with the deaf.

AUTO MODIFICATIONS

Absolute Mobility in Woodinville was recommended if you need help with modifications to your car's steering or pedals. Check them out at <http://www.absolutemobilitycenter.com/> or 800-376-8267.

FILMING OPPORTUNITY

MedBridge is looking for stroke survivors to help with the training videos they produce for therapists. Their next one is Monday and Tuesday, March 14 and 15. They are looking for someone whose stroke was a few years ago, has limited to moderate hand function, and is ambulatory with some assistance. An expert in occupational therapy will be in their Kirkland office for the filming. Time of day is flexible, and you will be paid for your time. Contact Anna Stutz at anna@medbridgeed.com or 206-216-5003.

ERIC ALLISON'S STORY

New member and former reverend Eric Allison shared a touching tribute to his healing process which just appeared in his church newsletter. I've posted a copy of it on our website on the Members page at <http://bit.ly/1Tu9way>. Eric struggles with aphasia (language difficulties) but would love to hear from you. Email his church at email4EricAllison@gmail.com for his phone number.

JUDY ROWLEY'S RETURN

It was good to see Judy yesterday! She reports that her cancer treatment has been successful and she's going less often now. Great news, Judy, and welcome back! Let me know if you'd like to give her a call and I'll provide her number.

APHASIA DAY RETREAT

The UW Speech and Hearing Clinic is holding its 5th annual Aphasia Day Retreat at the Northshore Senior Center on Saturday April 16. You can find a link with more information on our website at <http://bit.ly/1oVqhAq>. This is a YASS meeting day, so if you go we'll expect a full report in May! ☺

AIRLINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Southwest and Alaska got high marks for catering to the disabled. Don't let a wheelchair or scooter stop you from traveling!

Thanks to everyone, see you next time!

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