

Long Island Speech-Language-Hearing Association



HEAR-SAY

Published Quarterly—July 2011

Volume 35, Issue 3

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• Find the LISHA Past President (look for details)

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President's Message

MOVING AHEAD FOR A PACKED SUMMER!!!

As spring is ending and summer is upon us, we see flowers blooming and the weather heating up. You have also seen some new and innovative workshops and are in for a hot summer filled with a variety of topics for everyone. The spring brought us some exciting workshops and the summer is packed with new and fresh topics. In July, for the very first time, we are offering a **FREE** workshop to all LISHA members. Your councilors have been working diligently to serve you by providing you with the most innovative and up-to date information that is available in the field.

You have asked for more Suffolk venues and we have obliged. In May, *Audiology Made Easy for the SLP* was held in Suffolk and in June, *Learn & Shop: Understanding Medical Diagnosis and Speech Pathology Case Management* was held in Riverhead. However, the attendance was low at both of these conferences and this tends to be the trend when we do hold them in Suffolk. Where are our Suffolk members??? We want you to take advantage of these workshops and your membership. The Student Concerns Committee is also working diligently to plan events for the coming months. In the Fall, they will hold another workshop *Licensure and Certification* and one on Resume Writing.

LISHA has also been awarded the Regional Association Award for its work for the past year; particularly our efforts to "go green," increase in audiology members, increase in student activities and the variety and number of workshops offered. We need to congratulate our councilors for their excellent work and progressiveness in these areas.

I am excited about the rest of this year, and I hope we continue to meet the needs of our membership. I am available by e-mail if you wish to communicate with me or through the LISHA hotline.

Yours in service,

Susan Antonellis, Au.D., CCC-A

2010 - 2011 LISHA President

HEAR-SAY

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AUDIOLOGY MADE SIMPLE FOR THE SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

By: Susan Broderick, M.A., CCC-SLP
Schools Councilor

On Wednesday May 18, 2011 Susan Antonellis, Au.D, CCC-A, and Marie Zumpone-Weibley, Au.D, CCC-A, presented a workshop at Touro Law Center, entitled Audiology Made Simple for the Speech Language Pathologist. Susan Antonellis is the clinical supervisor of audiology and an adjunct professor at St. John's University. Marie Zumpone-Weibley is the Director of Audiology for ENT Associates and owner of Total Hearing Care LLC. In spite of a protracted rainstorm, this CEU course was attended by approximately 40 SLP's. This workshop was educational, relevant, informative, and of course entertaining.

The speakers provided an overview of the basics of audiology for the practicing SLP's, which included those aspects of audiology that were within the scope of practice for them. Among the topics discussed were otoscopy, hearing screenings, basic tympanometry and otoacoustic emission screenings. In addition, the speakers also covered aspects of hearing aid troubleshooting, aural rehabilitation and counseling. Since many SLP's work with the hearing impaired, knowledge in these areas is essential. This interactive workshop truly enhanced the SLP's knowledge and skills in this area.

**Look for the LISHA Past President
E-Mail the code
on top of the picture to**

info@LISHA.org.



**The first five E-Mails
will receive a LISHA
2G Flash Drive!**

**You must be a cur-
rent member
to win!
Good Luck!**

C.P.S. STANDS FOR COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

By: Allison Lynch, M.S., CCC-SLP, LISHA Schools Councilor

On Tuesday, April 5, 2011, LISHA members gathered at the Salisbury Center in Westbury for a three-hour workshop on Collaborative Problem Solving (C.P.S.). This workshop was presented by Dr. Monica DeSchryver, a NYS licensed clinical and school psychologist with over 30 years of experience in public education. She is currently working with Dr. Ross Greene, who developed the C.P.S. model and authored The Explosive Child and Lost at School. The C.P.S. model that Dr. DeSchryver presented to the LISHA members was her interpretation of Dr. Greene's model.



Collaborative Problem Solving is “understanding and helping kids with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges.” Typically, when we are presented with a child who exhibits challenging behaviors, we might say, “He’s not motivated,” “He just wants attention,” or “He’s manipulating us.” Dr. DeSchryver asked the audience to forget about those explanations for the evening and to be open to the C.P.S. philosophy which is “Children will do well if they can.” She raised some thought-provoking questions such as “If a child has the skill to get something, avoid something, or escape something in an adaptive way, then why is he going about getting, escaping and avoiding in such a maladaptive way?” and “Doesn’t this suggest that he doesn’t have the skills to get, escape, or avoid

in an adaptive way?” Dr. DeSchryver pointed out that the challenging behavior is a result of demands placed on a child which exceed their capacity to respond adaptively. In short, Dr. DeSchryver encouraged the audience to understand the difference between they CAN’T versus they “WON’T.” The presentation, which was clear and presented with great enthusiasm, included topics such as “LAGGING SKILLS” (one of the executive skills), language processing skills, emotion/regulation skills, cognitive flexibility skills and social skills. Dr. DeSchryver further discussed analyzing situations and then “The Plans.” Here, she reviewed various strategies (Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C), and proceeded to delineate the strategies and rationales associated with Plan B. Dr. DeSchryver's assistant, Melissa Winnikow, role-played scenarios using Plan B. Dr. DeSchryver provided the participants with additional charts with useful information on following Plan B and Lagging Skills.

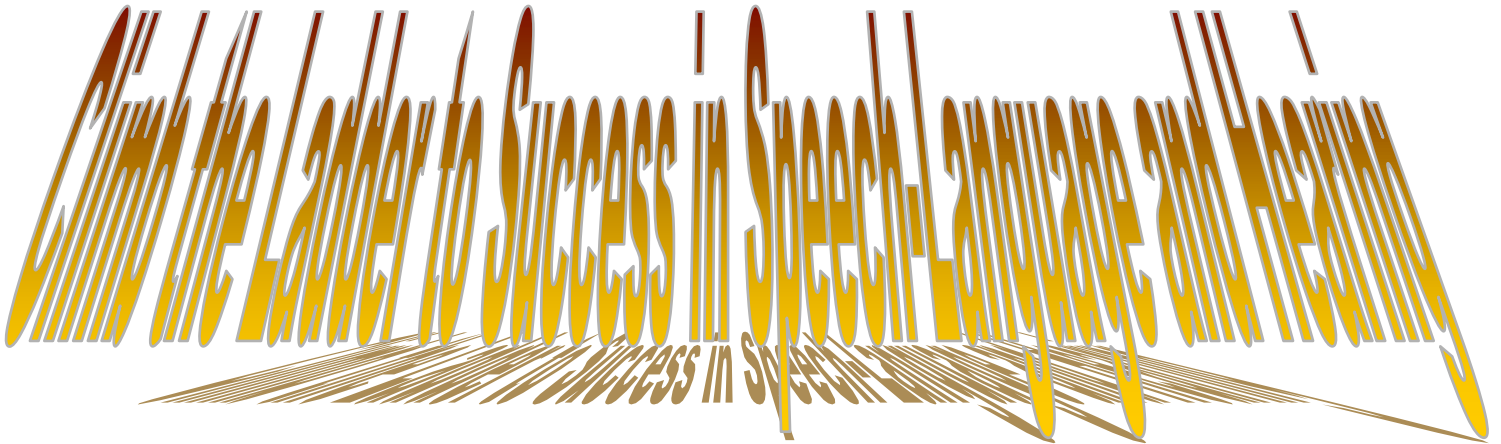
This workshop, “Collaborative Problem Solving: Understanding and Helping Kids with Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Challenges,” was very well received by the audience. They enjoyed her enthusiasm, style of presentation and most of all, her expertise in this very important subject matter.

SAVE THE DATE

October 21, 2011

ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Location: Crest Hollow Country Club - 8325 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, NY
Time: 7:30am Sign - in - 3:30pm - .5 CEUs offered ASHA and AAA



Speakers:

J. Scott Yaruss, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

“Practical Treatment Strategies for School-Age Children Who Stutter”

Lori A. Frost, M.S., CCC-SLP

“Communication Assessment and Treatment for Young Children with ASD”

Cathy Lazarus, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BRS-S

“Management of Swallowing Disorders in Treated Head and Neck Cancer Patients”

Tom Thunder, Au.D., FAAA, INCE Bd Cert

“Forensic Audiology: A New Frontier in the American Legal System”

Optimize, Minimize & Organize

By: Rochelle Trauber, M.A., CCC-SLP, CEU Committee and
K.T. Kamins, M.A., CCC-SLP, CEU Administrator

On March 12, 2011, LISHA and the **Information Connection** held its annual co-sponsored event at the Marriott Residence Inn in Plainview. The presenter, Barbara Bloomfield, is a Speech-Language Pathologist for Project Strive at Orange Ulster BOCES in Goshen, New York. The “Optimize, Minimize and Organize,” seminar focused on visual supports for students with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental communication challenges. Working in the area of visual strategies for the past ten years, Ms. Bloomfield stresses a systematic approach to producing, storing and using visual supports. Ms. Bloomfield, a consultant and international speaker in the field, has designed and published a variety of instructional materials.

Emphasizing a practical application for utilizing visual supports, the more than one hundred workshop participants engaged in make and take projects engineered to use visual supports and strategy systems to target critical skill areas such as task engagement, patterns of attention, communication abilities, transitions and overall independence. Ms. Bloomfield provided participants with a system of core visual supports designed to assist with general comprehension, aid behavioral regulation and build language and communication. For additional information, Ms. Bloomfield can be contacted at her website, www.icontalk.com.

**FALL CONFERENCE PROMOTIONS
THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING
PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING A
PRODUCT OR SERVICE
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CHARITY**

240484

**Contact
Allison Lynch at
info@lisha.org**

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



In the spirit of collaboration, **Melissa Bossert, M.A., CCC-SLP**, **Kimberly Marino, M.A., CCC-SLP**, **Jennifer Gioriando, M.A. (classroom teacher)**, and **Alyson Palmer, MOT,OTR-L**, created an app

and iBook for Apple called **Play Smart**. It includes 150 activities (birth to school age) to empower parents to work with their children. These activities are designed to stimulate cognitive, language, articulation, educational and motor development. It is available for iPad, iPhone, iTouch and as a book.



Ann E. Gordon, M.A., CCC-SLP, has been selected by the Scientific Learning Corporation to be one of their Brain Pro Consultants providing the Fast For Word Family

of Products of auditory processing and reading programs as an off-site (home) program. Ann has been providing Fast For Word since its inception in 1996.



Renee Fabus, Ph.D, CCC-SLP, has accepted a position as an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Adelphi University beginning Fall 2011.



Lori Melnitsky, M.A., CCC-SLP, is a co-chapter leader of the National Stuttering Association Teens Who Stutter Chapter (TWST) on Long Island. This is a social and informative group for teens 13-19 who stutter. The cost for the groups is free. For more information contact Lori@allislandspeech.com or the National Stuttering Association's website at www.westutter.org.

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



In celebration of Better Hearing and Speech Month, the UFT Speech Chapter awarded **Sheryl Winkler, M.A., CCC-SLP, TSSLD**, a Certificate of Excellence for outstanding contributions in the area of Speech-Language Pathology and Community Service.



Florence Myers, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Adelphi University, was a keynote speaker on cluttering at the World Congress of the International Stuttering Association May 17-21 in Buenos Aires. She also participated in a three hour seminar sponsored by the International Cluttering Association.



Susan Hendler Lederer, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Adelphi University recently published her third children's book, *I CAN PLAY THAT* (childrenspublishing.com). This book, a GOLD MOM'S CHOICE AWARD winner, is designed to facilitate syntax and sequencing skills. It comes with a CD with stories sung in English and Spanish, and has downloadable pictures for extension activities. In 2010, Susan's article, *Yoga and shared storybook reading* appeared in *Advance for Speech-Language Pathologists*, 20 (23), 23. On 4/1/11, *Finding and facilitating early lexical targets* was posted on www.speechpathology.com.



Robert Domingo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Long Island University, C. W. Post Campus is the 2010-2011 NYSSLHA Director for Universities and Labs and the chairperson of the Education Committee. He invites his university and lab colleagues to contact him with their concerns. He also encourages students to contact him if they have questions or suggestions regarding workshops, credentialing, etc. You can email Bob at rdomingo@liu.edu.

Audiology Corner



By: MarieAnn Zumpone-Weibley, Au.D, CCC-A

What does it mean to be a profession? Most of us would agree it means a group of people who have met a predetermined level of academic excellence in an area of study with a governing body to enforce the code of ethics. The governing body being made up of members of the group who have shown excellence in practice and a desire to improve the profession.

Based on the fact that a profession is self-governing, it would suggest that members of the professional group should be involved in the workings of their governing bodies. Yet many of us are not. Since the implementation of the Au.D., many of us have felt we no longer need our local or state Speech, Language and Hearing Associations like NYSSLHA. But, as recent events have shown, without them; who is fighting for the rights of the audiologists at the state and local level? It's not AAA or ADA, their areas lie with national level issues, like direct access and Medicare. Currently there is legislation in the Albany which is trying to change the hearing aid law in NYS to allow for the "for profit" sale of hearing aids by ANY licensed physician without any additional training or licensure. NYSSLHA is the only one formally lobbying to oppose this legislation. LISHA has sent out numerous emails on the topic, but we only have a limited number of audiology members. Although we have one of the highest audiology memberships amongst the NYS regional associations, we still need to be heard as one unified voice, not a bunch of individuals. The adage safety in numbers is so appropriate in this case. Yes, the Congresspersons and Senators of NYS need to hear from us individually, but they also need to hear our combined voices in unison. As we have seen before, the NYS organizations representing physicians have a large and well organized lobby group. Too many of us have taken the attitude of someone else will fight the battle, and until it is in your front yard you fail to act. We all need to get involved. We need to call, we need to volunteer to go to Albany to speak for our profession, and we need to band together with our state and regional associations to form a united group. The other professions who are trying to steal our autonomy are using our lack of response as the basis for their demand. If the Senators and Congresspersons don't hear our side of the story they will respond to the ones making the most noise, even if they are not the ones who are qualified to perform the task. We are already fighting an uphill battle. There are over 85,000 registered physicians in the state of N.Y., but there are only slightly over 1,200 Audiologists. That doesn't mean we need to roll over and let them have their way!

It is our responsibility to maintain membership in our regional, state and national associations. These are the only groups looking out for our interests. We cannot let our apathy be the ruination of our profession. If you are reading this, "Thank You for being a LISHA member." Please pass this information on to a colleague who is not, so that they can better understand why they should join us.

Inclusion in this newsletter does not signify endorsement by LISHA, nor can LISHA be held responsible for misinformation. Information herein is included as a service to its members.

Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists in Private Practice and/or those who treat Private Patients



Every day we receive calls from people looking for referrals!
We would like to update our private practice referral list for
Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

Please send us a detailed list of disorders that you treat, including ages, any specialties and/or areas of concentration, location and insurance companies in which you participate including if you take Medicare.

Send this information to info@lisha.org

Attention: Steven Asofsky



The Long Island Speech-Language Hearing Association received the BRAP Regional Association Award for Distinguished Service. This award was presented to Susan Antonellis, LISHA President at the Board of Regional Association Presidents Meeting on June 11, 2011. LISHA received this award for its efforts to increase its audiology membership, its increase in student activities, the variety and number of workshops offered and for going green at our "Annual Fall Conference."

RESOURCES

Dear LISHA Members,

In LISHA's efforts to expand services to its members, HEAR-SAY is presenting a new column: "RESOURCES". The purpose of this column is to establish a resource database for speech, language and hearing disorders. This issue will focus on the hearing impaired.

In many instances, LISHA members are one of the first professionals to diagnose speech, language and hearing disorders: therefore, we should be prepared to provide families with resources to address their disabilities.

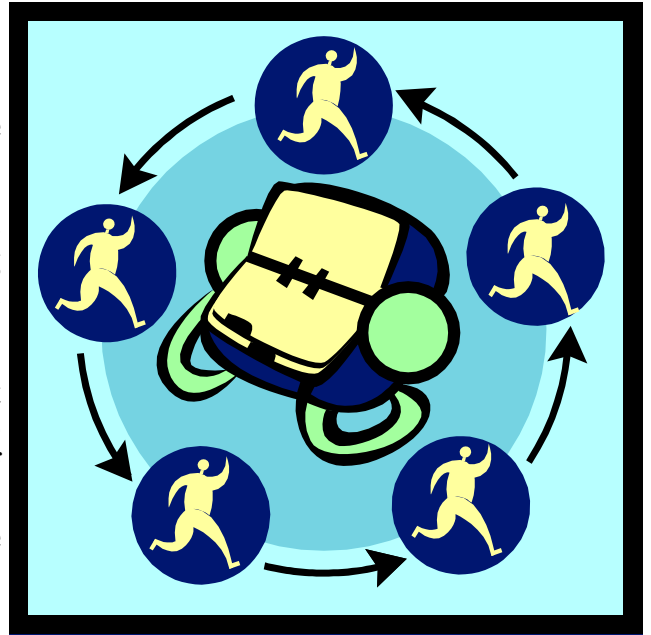
Consider "RESOURCES" to be a living document that will evolve as new information becomes available. The success of this endeavor depends on the collaborative efforts of the membership. At this time, I encourage LISHA members to share their expertise, so that we can build a resource database to best serve our clients/patients.

Kindly send your recommendations for future columns, and information for our data base to joanrooney@verizon.net.

Regards,

Joan Franzese Rooney, M.A., CCC-SLP, CED

Editor in Chief, HEAR-SAY



RESOURCES THE HEARING IMPAIRED

Hear US Teens

This is a group for hearing impaired and deaf teens in six through twelfth grade. This group is open to all modes of communication such as oral, total communication and ASL. Hear Us Teens has events such as ice skating, bowling, laser tag and much more. You can find them on Facebook or contact Veronica Miler by email at

hearusteens@gmail.com.

Alexander Graham Bell Association For The Deaf And Hard Of Hearing

This is the world's leading membership organization and information center on pediatric hearing loss and auditory approach. Its website provides a wealth of resources, and it has a local chapter in New York.

<http://agbellnewyork.org>

Hands On

Hands On is a NYC based non-profit organization dedicated to providing greater access to arts and cultural programs for the deaf and hard of hearing communities.

www.handson.org

CODE: BRAP2011



RESOURCES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

Hearing Exchange

This is an online community for the hearing impaired, families and professionals. They offer current news, forums, chats and more on issues related to hearing loss, particularly for parents. Founder, Paula Rosenthal, J.D. is both an adult with a hearing loss, and a parent of a deaf child. A Long Island parent support group was formed in 2005.

www.hearingexchange.com

Hearing Loss Association of America – New York State

This is an educational advocacy organization of people working together across NYS to promote issues of importance to New Yorkers with hearing loss. Local chapters are posted on the website.

www.hearingloss.org

Parents of Hearing Impaired Children Support Group Hearing Exchange

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Hearing and Speech Center, Lower Level, Conference Room, Department of Otolaryngology & Communicative Disorders, New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11040. **Telephone (718)470-8631; TTY(718)470-4605.**

Rhinelaner Children's Center at The Children's Aid Society

Saturday Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Teens – This is the only free recreational weekend program for deaf children and teens in New York City (ages 5-20).

350 East 88th Street

New York, N.Y. 10128

212-876-0500

www.childrensaidsociety.org

Speak Up Long Island

This is a new support group for families of deaf and hard of hearing children sponsored by Mill Neck Manor School for the deaf. They hold fun activities for children and sponsor speakers for the parents. You can find them on Facebook or contact: Marni Schlectman (516) 342-1057

SpeakupLongIsland@gmail.com

The Children's Hearing Institute

For the past 25 years, the Institute has concentrated its efforts to improve the lives of all people that are deaf or hard of hearing. It is a national resource for families and professionals on deafness, the treatment and rehabilitation of deaf and hard of hearing children, cochlear implants, and a wide range of otolaryngological, audiological, hearing habilitation and technical issues. They publish a free newsletter, that can be accessed on their website.

www.childrenshearing.org

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Student Networking

By: Heather Lubrano, Student Concerns Committee

As students of speech-language pathology and audiology, and future professionals, it is increasingly important to market *ourselves* especially in light of today's job market and economy. Whether we are interviewing for graduate schools, a CFY position, or a 4th year externship/fellowship, it is extremely important to be prepared with a stand-out resume that highlights our unique experiences and achievements. It is our job as future professionals to take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way, and to use each opportunity as a step toward becoming qualified, competent and sought-after professionals. However, many students might ask: *Where do I start?*

Networking is one of the most beneficial and successful ways to market ourselves as students and future professionals. When interacting and working with our various supervisors, clinic & program directors, recent alumni, group members, and fellow students, we are advertising ourselves as future professionals. Building and maintaining this strong circle of contacts will be valuable for many years to come and is an important means for future success. Positive networking experiences help establish you as a member within the wider community of other professionals. It can also help distinguish you and your talents within this larger group depending on the extent of your willingness to become involved. Networking allows our future colleagues to get to know us as students and may help to shape us into recommendable candidates for future employment.

As students there are various ways to get involved and become unique and qualified candidates for future school and work opportunities. Some of the ways to get involved include:

- ***Becoming a member of school organizations/clubs:*** Associations allow you to communicate with fellow students and provides you with the resources and information needed to be successful in pursuit of a career in communication science and disorders. In addition many clubs and organizations will participate in various events and fundraisers, which may include and support individuals whom have communication disorders.
- ***Volunteering for fundraisers and committees:*** Volunteering for various fundraisers for individuals with various diseases and disabilities will not only be an amazing and rewarding experience, but will provide you with additional opportunities for exposure and networking. Many of the individuals who attend these events are professionals working with this particular population, family members seeking help, as well as the individuals who experience the disease or disorder. This is truly beneficial because it exposes you to various individuals who may additionally experience communication disorders.
- ***Becoming a member of professional organizations:*** Many professional organizations such as LISHA, NYSSSLHA, NYSSLHA, and ASHA will provide you with various opportunities for networking by attending educational workshops, participating in research, and signing up for emails to learn about career information. In addition, as a student there are many opportunities for volunteering at various events, which also gives you a head start in garnering name recognition.
- ***Becoming a teacher's assistant/caregiver:*** It is often helpful to become a teacher's assistant at an educational facility or a caregiver for individuals with disabilities and disorders. Although you may have additional responsibilities, you will become knowledgeable about various disabilities and disorders, which will truly be beneficial during your educational and professional careers.



MAY IS BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH AWARDS CEREMONY

By: Melissa Kreuder, Public Information Councilor

On Wednesday May 25, 2011, over 75 guests attended LISHA's Annual Awards Night to celebrate "May is Better Hearing and Speech Month". This event honors our outstanding poster contest winners, parents, caregivers, and Joan Fox Award recipients. For the first time, this ceremony was held at the East Meadow High School. LISHA members, students, families, faculty and friends gathered at the new venue to celebrate with our winners.

The annual poster contest winners were awarded gift cards to Barnes and Noble and a reusable water bottle. Their artwork was once again outstanding and showed that there are many ways to communicate. Many thanks to all of the speech language pathologists, audiologists and teachers who encouraged and assisted their students as they created their posters.

If you work with a school-aged child, please consider encouraging them to submit a poster next year. The pride and joy on the children's faces as their name is being called, is priceless

Each year, the LISHA Award committee asks the LISHA membership to nominate a parent and/or caregiver for a special award recognizing their devotion and continued support for their child/loved one. Dana Battaglia, LISHA's Immediate Past President, announced each winner and presented them with a plaque. This year's winners were Dr. Marilyn Martone and Mr. Larry Martone, who were nominated by Dr. Carol Manly for their support and dedication to their daughter Michelle. Mrs. Lisa Guidice was nominated by Dr. Donna Geffner for her continued efforts and advocacy for her son Alex and other children with central auditory processing disorders. Congratulations to these families and the nominating therapist for their dedication, continued work, and unselfish commitment to provide encouragement in promoting better communication skills.

LISHA was fortunate to have received proclamations from the Nassau and Suffolk County Executives, Edward Mangano and Steve Levy. Ms. Linda Rennie, Director of the Office of Children with Special Needs, was on hand to present our President, Susan Antonellis with the proclamation from Nassau County.

The ceremony continued with the presentation of the Joan Fox Memorial Award. This award was established in memory of Joan Fox, a talented speech language pathologist, and LISHA member who passed away too soon. Each year local colleges and universities select graduate students in the fields of speech pathology and audiology, who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship and service in their areas of study. Eight outstanding graduate students were honored for their achievements in speech pathology and audiology. Each college or university was represented by the nominating faculty member to present the Joan Fox Award to their graduate student. Each student received a plaque and a monetary award. Congratulations to all! This year once again, LISHA was fortunate to have the daughter of Joan Fox, Dr. Patrice Fox Spitalnik, Assistant Professor at Columbia University School of Medicine, attend our event. Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Spitalnik for her continued support of our event and its participants.

The evening concluded with a dessert table where families, teachers and LISHA members were able to congratulate all of the evening's winners. Special thanks to all of those who helped make this night such a success, there are too many to name, but it was truly a group effort.



Dr. Patrice Fox Spitalnik



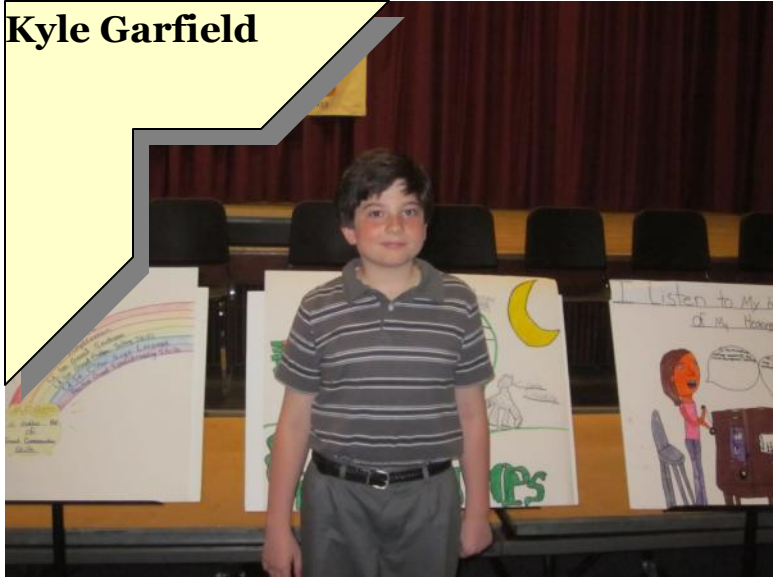
MAY IS BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH AWARDS CEREMONY

STUDENT POSTER WINNERS

**Maria
Moolankulam**



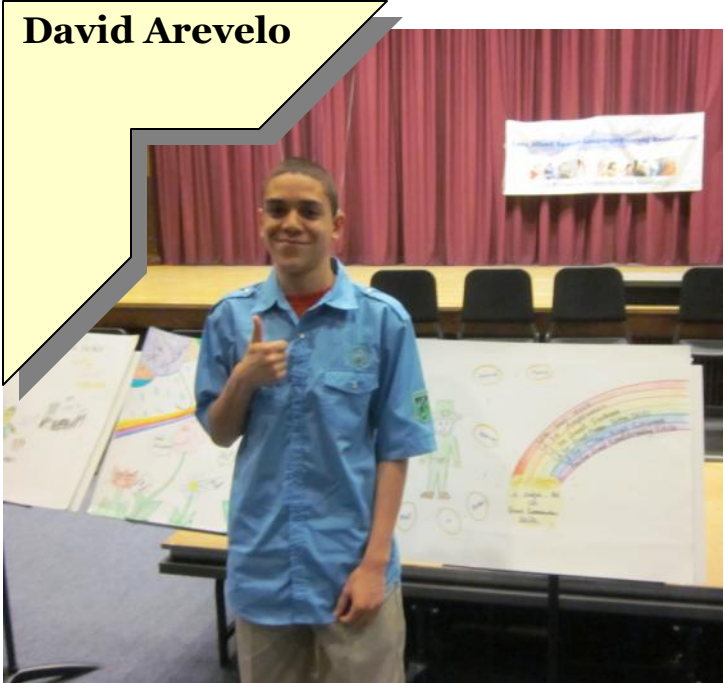
Kyle Garfield



Rachel Ponce deLeon



David Arevelo



MAY IS BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH AWARDS CEREMONY



Parent Caregiver Award Mrs. Lisa Guidice with Dr. Donna Geffner



Parent Caregiver Award
Dr. Marilyn Martone and Mr. Larry Martone with daughter Michelle

MAY IS BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH AWARDS CEREMONY



Linda Rennie and
Dr. Susan Antonellis receiving
Proclamation (Nassau County)

Joan Fox Winner
Lauren Daley and Bob Domingo



FALL WORKSHOP

New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Inc.

Understanding Executive Function: From Academics to Life Skills
Sunday, September 18, 2011 North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset

At NYSSLHA's Fall Workshop Joan A. Mele-McCarthy, D.A., CCC-SLP will explore the executive dysfunction with an emphasis on working memory and oral language and the difficulties children have in school. There are many children whose diagnostic data do not indicate they should face difficulty every day in school.

Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy, CCC-SLP, is the Head of School, The Summit School in Edgewater, MD. The Summit School is a small, private day school designed to meet the needs of children with dyslexia and other learning differences. She earned her undergraduate, masters, and doctor of arts degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Adelphi University. She presents nationally on topics related to reading and dyslexia, the oral language underpinnings for reading and writing, executive function, and policy and instruction for ELLs and ELLs with disabilities.

For more information, visit www.nysslha.org/fallworkshop

PARENT/CAREGIVER AWARD

MAY 25, 2011

Speech Given by Lisa Guidice, after receiving her Parent/Caregiver Award at MBHSM Ceremony

THANK YOU. THIS IS QUITE AN HONOR. AS PARENTS, WE ARE NOT OFTEN RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT WE DO FOR OUR OWN CHILDREN. SO, I COMMEND YOU FOR CREATING SUCH AN AWARD. WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I WOULD SAY TO YOU TONIGHT, I WONDERED WHAT I COULD POSSIBLY HAVE IN COMMON WITH SUCH CREDENTIALLED PROFESSIONALS. THE MORE I THOUGHT, THE MORE I REALIZED THAT WE ARE THE SAME, YOU AND I.

ALTHOUGH I AM A MOTHER, AND YOU ARE TRAINED SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS, WE ARE THE SAME. WE ARE THE DETECTIVES. WE ARE THE INSIGHTFUL ONES, TAKING THE WHOLE CHILD INTO OUR MINDS AND FOLLOWING CLUES TO FORM A PICTURE OF HOW THE CHILD SEES, HEARS AND SPEAKS TO THE WORLD. WE ARE, BOTH OF US, THE VOICE TO A SILENT EPIDEMIC, AND THE COMMUNICATOR OF A SILENT DISORDER.

THE VERY FIRST WORDS A CHILD HEARS ARE ITS MOTHER'S VOICE. THE VERY FIRST PERSON A CHILD SPEAKS TO IS ITS MOTHER. MOTHERS ARE THE FIRST SPEECH THERAPISTS, FROM FIRST SOUNDS, TO BEING THE TRANSLATOR OF LIFE FOR OUR CHILDREN; EXPLAINING AND RE-EXPLAINING WORDS, CONCEPTS, FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

WE ARE THE SAME YOU AND I. PARENTS KNOW WHEN SOMETHING IS WRONG. EVEN BEFORE THE AGE THAT YOU CAN TEST AND DIAGNOSE AN AUDITORY OR LANGUAGE DEFICIT, PARENTS KNOW SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT. SPEECH THERAPISTS ALSO KNOW WHEN SOMETHING IS WRONG, EVEN BEFORE FORMAL TESTING. HAVING TO WAIT FOR TREATMENT IS AGONIZING AND RIDICULOUS, AND IMPATIENCE WITH THE SYSTEM MAKES WARRIORS OF US ALL.

CAPD, RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE DEFICITS, ARTICULATION, INTEGRATION, PRAGMATICS, INFERENCE, AUDITORY FATIGUE, AND PROSODY. THIS IS ALL VERY COMPLICATED STUFF.

ALL TERMS I HAVE COME TO KNOW. DEFICITS WHOSE SYMPTOMS ARE SILENT, INVISIBLE, SUBTLE, AND SNEAKY, AND YET POWERFUL ENOUGH TO ALTER THE VERY COLOR AND SOUND OF THE WORLD, AND SIGNIFICANTLY DELAY THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD.

WE KNOW THAT COMMUNICATION DISORDERS OFTEN COME IN A PACKAGE OF OTHER DISABILITIES, LITTLE GIFTS THAT GET UNWRAPPED ONE BY ONE. AND ITS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO TEASE OUT WHICH SYMPTOM IS FROM WHICH DISORDER. AND WE KNOW THAT TREATMENT DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK AS WELL AS WE HOPE IT WILL.

WE ARE THE SAME, YOU AND I. I THE MOTHER, AND YOU THE TEACHER. YOU ARE IMAGINATIVE, INTUITIVE, CREATIVE AND AT TIMES CLAIRVOYANT. YOU THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX. YOU WEAR MANY HATS. YOU ARE BOTH ARTIST AND SCIENTIST. YOU ARE GENIUSES, INVESTIGATORS, FAMILY THERAPISTS, AND EXPERTS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT. YOU ARE ADVOCATES, TOO. AND LIKE ME, YOU ARE UNDERVALUED, UNDER APPRECIATED, AND NOT PAID WHAT YOU'RE WORTH.

BUT WE ARE A TEAM, YOU AND I. AND WHEN SPEECH SERVICES ARE THE FIRST THINGS TO BE CUT, THE MOTHERS ARE THE FIRST TO COME TO YOUR DEFENSE. BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND THE POWERFUL BASIC NEED OF A HUMAN BEING TO BE ABLE TO RELATE TO OTHERS AND THAT FROM COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING, SPRINGS ALL ELSE IN LIFE.

BUT SOMEONE UP IN ALBANY DOESN'T THINK THAT SPEECH MATTERS, THE SAME WAY THAT HANDWRITING NO LONGER MATTERS AND THAT THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY IS TO BE AN AUTOMATON, COMMUNICATING BY ABBREVIATED KEYSTROKE. THAT CONCEPT IS FUNDAMENTALLY INHUMAN.

MOTHERS ARE THE ORIGINATORS AND GUARDIANS OF ALL THINGS THAT MAKE US HUMAN; EMOTION, SOUND, TOUCH, INTERACTION, LANGUAGE AND DEVELOPMENT. AND, SO ARE YOU. WE ARE THE SAME YOU AND I..

YOU ARE ANGELS SENT TO TEACH AND GUIDE, TO PRESERVE OUR HUMANNESS, AND FINISH OUR WORK. YOU ARE A MOTHER'S HEART, SET FREE UPON THE EARTH.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR CHILDREN, AND FOR THIS AWARD.

AND NOW, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE ANGELS IN MY CHILDREN'S LIVES WHO DESERVE THIS AWARD AS MUCH AS I DO. FROM THE JERICHO SCHOOL DISTRICT;

CHERYL VIVIANO, KIM KELLY, KERIANNE CONNORS, LOIS DEPASQUALE, MELISSA XENAKIS

© LISA LA VARDERA-GUIDICE

Upcoming Events

July 26, 2011

FREE EVENT! FREE CEUs

There is no On-site Registration!

This workshop is closed due to high registration and venue capacity.

"A FREE Course on Cochlear Implants & The Aural Rehab Process"

Presenter: Ralph Moscarella, M.A., F-AAA, CCC-A

Location: Capo Salisbury Center, 718 The Plain Road, Westbury, NY

Time: 5:30pm Registration - 9:00pm

.3 CEUs offered (ASHA)

August 3, 2011

"Links to Language: Interactive Technology Resources for Your Interventions"

Presenters: Sean J. Sweeney, M.S., M.Ed., CCC-SLP

Location: Campo Salisbury Center, 718 The Plain Road, Westbury, NY 11590

Time: 5:30pm Sign-in - 9:00pm - .3 CEUs offered (ASHA)

September 11, 2011

SAVE THE DATE

"Auditory Skills Assessment in Young Children"

Presenters: Donna Geffner, Ph.D. CCC-SP/A - Ron Goldman, Ph.D.

Location: Campo Salisbury Center, 718 The Plain Road, Westbury, NY 11590

Time: 8:30am Sign-in - 1:15pm - .4 CEUs offered (ASHA and AAA)

Look for Brochure Coming Soon!

September 20, 2011

SAVE THE DATE

"ALS : What a Speech Pathologist Needs to Know"

Presenters: Theresa Imperato, RN, Lorriane Danowski, RD, and Kathleen McCloskey, M.A., CCC-SLP

Location: Campo Salisbury Center, 718 The Plain Road, Westbury, NY 11590

Look for Brochure Coming Soon!

October 21, 2011

ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Location: Crest Hollow Country Club - 8325 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, NY

Time: 7:30am Sign-in - 3:30pm - .5 CEUs offered (ASHA and AAA)

Speakers:

J. Scott Yaruss, Ph.D., CCC-SLP - "Practical Treatment Strategies for School-Age Children Who Stutter"

Lori A. Frost, M.S., CCC-SLP—"Communication Assessment and Treatment for Young Children with ASD"

Cathy Lazarus, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BRS-S—"Management of Swallowing Disorders in Treated Head and Neck Cancer Patients"

Tom Thunder, Au.D., FAAA, INCE Bd Cert—"Forensic Audiology: A New Frontier in the American Legal System"