

One Voice

International
Stuttering
Association

Issue 19 - May 2005



Incorporating *The Voice of ELSA*, the newsletter of the European League of Stuttering Associations

Mimmo und die geheimnisvolle Lupe



Mimmo and the Secret Magnifying Glasses, which tells of how a young boy sees everything, including his stammer in an overblown and exaggerated manner. Contributed by German Stammering Association.

Inside This Issue

News from

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, France, Japan, Germany, New Zealand, Sweden, Uganda, USA

Reports of

ISA Board Chair, Outreach project, ELSA, Passing Twice

French SLPs came to Burkina Faso and helped hundreds of stutterers

Two books on stuttering from Japan - reviewed by Shinji Ito

Increased inquiries from West-Asian countries

BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

By Mark Irwin (ISA Board Chair)

"The journey of 1000 miles starts with a single step" ZEN

The value of small beginnings and perseverance is highlighted in this statement. These sentiments are reflected in 3 matters facing the ISA at the moment.

1. AFRICAN CONFERENCE

The main focus of Board activity since my last report has been the inaugural African Stuttering Conference which will be held in October this year. This event has the potential to be of enormous benefit to Africans who stutter and the ISA Board is making every attempt to ensure it provides all the support needed. A main priority of course has been fund raising particularly for travel and accommodation of the African delegates and requests have been made to many international aid organizations and charities. Information on the conference is available at our website www.stutterISA.org where a request for donations has also been posted. So far we are delighted to have received a donation from the Dutch association as well as private donations from members of the German and New Zealand associations. I am also pleased to report the Australian association will be requesting financial support from its members and the British association has put information and links on its website. But more money is needed. Please give what you can.

Those readers considering attending this conference may also be interested in participating in the **preconference safari** which is also detailed on the website.

2. INTERNATIONAL SPEECH PROJECT – STUTTERING

The idea for this was first raised at the World Congress

for People Who Stutter held in Perth, Australia in February 2004. The concept has been modeled on the very successful "Medicins Sans Frontieres." It seems there are many speech language pathologists and members of the self-help community who would be prepared to work with ISA affiliated associations to provide much needed help and support in developing countries. Meetings to further develop this concept will be held in Douala, Cameroon as part of the African conference.

3. LINKS with the SPEECH PATHOLOGY PROFESSION

Empowerment of PWS is one of the main aims of the ISA. One way to do this is to ensure we link well with the speech pathology profession and feedback to them broad concerns regarding therapy. I am delighted to report the new president of the professional body interested in stuttering, the International Fluency Association, speech pathologist and audiologist Professor Larry Molt of the USA, has contacted me to let me know of his wish to further develop the close bonds between the ISA and IFA. As both he and I will be attending the African conference in Douala then this will serve as an excellent place to begin our dialogue.

I would also like to mention it was another speech pathologist Professor David Shapiro who first provided the idea for International Speech Project. Professor Shapiro intends to be a key player in its development as well as a presenter in Cameroon. Both David and Larry are extremely sensitive to stuttering issues having lived with the disability themselves. I look forward to working with them both.

Outreach towards Africa

By Stefan Hoffmann, ISA Outreach Working Group

Since the Perth World Congress in 2004, the ISA Outreach Working Group has been concentrating on the upcoming 1st African Stuttering Conference in Douala, Cameroon. The main goal is to assist the organising member association SCAC in contacting as many potential participants as possible. We have exchanged the available contact data of ISA since 1998 with the Convenor Joseph Lukong. We were able to reconnect ISA with some contact persons in African countries, e.g. Uganda. It is hoped that the conference will take place as planned and give new momentum to the Outreach activities of ISA.

It is with pleasure to see that the number of inquiries from West-Asian countries is increasing. I want to mention especially Pakistan, from where we see a

regular number of emails reaching the Outreach group in the last months. Despite the concrete assistance that we can offer to stutterers there is more than limited - we still are confident that the number of people using the web in search of information about stuttering eventually will lead to more contacts for ISA and to the development of a network for stutterers there. We hope that the same will be valid for India soon.

As usual, I want to invite the readers to consider joining the ISA Outreach Working Group. By doing so, you help directly with spreading news and information about stuttering to places still far away from ISA. Apart from helping ISA, you also have a chance to grow personally in the process. Welcome!!

News from the European League of Stuttering Associations

By Konrad Schaefers, ELSA Board Member

The year 2005 in Europe seems to be marked by exciting youth events. In August, nearly one million young people are expected to attend the XX. World Youth Day organised in region of Cologne/Germany. A little bit less ambitious with regard to the numbers but certainly not to contents and intention is the 5th ELSA Youth Meeting to take place in Nijmegen/The Netherlands in July. Again, ELSA was successful in applying for funds from the European Youth Foundation, a body linked to the European Council in Strasbourg. The meeting will be six days gathering about 35 young people from various European countries and will consist of workshops, lectures, presentations, social outings and many other activities. The theme is “Stuttering And The Media - Empowering Young People To Work With The Media”. The event is aimed at young people who stutter who are thinking about volunteering to work for, or thinking of being a Board member of, their national stuttering association. At the meeting the young people who stutter will be able to network with other European people concerned, learn about the work of the national stuttering associations, share fears, frustrations and triumphs, practice their speech techniques in a secure environment and engage in speaking experiences that they would otherwise shy away from. It is hoped that the meeting will inspire the delegates to participate in the work of their own association and importantly provide for personal development.

Motivating young people to become active members of their national stuttering associations – does it work? Experience shows it does – more than one participant of the past four ELSA Youth Meetings is now committed to stuttering self-help work. One of them is Gina

Waggott who is even serving on the ELSA board. Gina was recently elected as a board member of the new European Disability Forum Youth Committee. (The European Disability Forum – EDF is an umbrella representing European non-governmental organisations in the disability field within the European Union.) There are six members of the EDF youth committee, Gina is the only representative associated with stuttering, and the only UK board member. She has already taken an active role in making the committee's aims a reality and is currently writing an article for the EDF on media and disability to be distributed at a wide European level.

In fact, representing stuttering in the context of the European Disability Forum and the European political arena in general still has a high priority for ELSA. At an EDF Directors' Meeting in Brussels in April ELSA chair Edwin J. Farr took the chance to address one of the challenges regarding future ELSA work. The European Commission more and more turns to launching funding programmes with huge minimum budgets which make it very difficult – if not impossible – for small organisations like ELSA to apply for funds. At the Brussels meeting it was agreed to consider this point in a resolution addressed to the European Commission.

Coming from European affairs to the global perspective, the European Disability Forum is also involved in current negotiations about disability-specific additions to the UN Charter of Human Rights. This would provide another political tool for representing the rights of people with disabilities including stuttering.



How to tame stuttering like the crocodiles

By Moussa Dao, Burkina Faso



Crocodiles of Bazoule coming out of water at about 5:30 PM



From left to right Moussa, Anne Marie, Adiara, Sylvie at about 6:00 PM

For many centuries, stuttering like crocodiles has been terrorizing people who stutter in Burkina Faso. Anne Marie Simon and Sylvie Brignone came in October 2004 to teach us how to handle with it, so how to tame stuttering like the crocodiles of Bazoulé (a village of Burkina Faso)

Years after years, the celebration of International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) has been evolved positively in term of quality and glamour. Slowly but surely this celebration is imposing itself in our society. Now it's a yearly challenge for us to maintain this important event.

Last year, for our third ISAD, we had the honor, from October 25th to 31st, to receive two famous French speech language pathologists: Anne Marie Simon and Sylvie Brignone.

Before their arrival, we were invited to a television broadcasting, and, during the few minutes we had the opportunity to announce their arrival.

More important, the week before their arrival, Anne Marie was invited by Radio France International (RFI). From Paris in RFI station, she talked about stuttering and her planning trip in three countries of West Africa. In the 16 French-speaking countries of Africa, RFI is one of the main radio station listened by people.

Having a chance to meet specialists of stuttering, for their first time in their lives, was a very important and exalting event for people who stutter and their families. Many persons called from different area of Burkina Faso in order to participate at meetings with specialists. Clearly it was impossible to accept everybody.

My mobile phone and office phone received so many calls that I never expected to receive. I was so busy that I forget to go to one radio station for broadcasting. More over, I was obliged to refuse many interviews due to the lack of times.

During their stay, Anne Marie Simon and Sylvie Brignone animated training sessions, meeting with adults, teens and children with their family, and a conference. Their stay was really busy.

The opening ceremony took place in the morning of Tuesday in one of the conference rooms of our Minister of Social affairs. There were representatives of UNICEF, our Minister of Health, Minister of social affair,

Minister of Education and many local and international NGOs. The event was covered by Newspapers and Radios.



After the opening ceremony, we started the training session.

From Tuesday to Thursday, 30 persons from our University hospital and health schools got notions about stuttering and its treatment.

In the afternoon of Thursday, we organized a meeting with adults who stutter (about 105 participants). 50 adults were received by each SLP.

In the afternoon of Friday, we organized a meeting with children who stutter and their parents (about 120 participants). About 70 were received by each SLP.

There were so many persons.

The two therapists started each meeting at 3pm and were obliged to stop at 8pm due to the tiredness.

I was always surprised by the dynamism and commitment of Anne Marie and Sylvie. I had the impression that they were tireless! Some members of our association and I asked ourselves where they got all that energy. Our driver (Frederic) who had not used to

snooze like me, was so tired because he was obliged to do it.

I will always remember the famous words of Anne Marie : “ *Moussa, we may continue to meet people the afternoon of Saturday, we may cancel the visit of African Handicraft , we are here to help people that is the purpose of our presence, don't worry about our tiredness, we will get enough time to rest in our graves.*”

On Saturday in the morning there was a conference animated by the two guest speakers. The conference was preceded by a projection of two films. One was the film included in the CD- Rom project of ISA.

In one week stay, thanks to their commitment, Anne Marie and Sylvie gave hope to hundreds of persons who were suffering in silence, in the total ignorance and in fatality. For free charge, with their own means, they came in Burkina, during this hot period, to support our association in our difficult but exalting enterprise.

Up to now their action is still in the mind of people who stutter in Burkina.

If things go well, this year we will receive my dear friend, Professor Susan Felsenseld from Pittsburgh University (USA).



Some participants after the conference.

NATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION: 2005

By Lou Madonna, Philadelphia NSA Chapter, NSA News Online Team

The National Stuttering Association (NSA), the largest self-help support organization for people who stutter in the United States, was on the rebound in 2004, and continues that trend in 2005, after a difficult transition period during 2003. The prolonged economic recession during the past two or three years substantially reduced the amount of charitable contributions from donors, large and small. In addition, a lower than normal attendance at the annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee in June, 2003, left the NSA starving for funds, with its future in question.

In September, 2003, the NSA Board agreed to a substantial restructuring of the organization and its funding strategies to achieve fiscal stability and find firm ground for future growth and development. The NSA sadly and reluctantly released its long-time Executive Director, Annie Bradberry, who is also on the Board of Directors of the International Stuttering Association. Annie now serves as spokesperson for the NSA. The national office was relocated from Anaheim Hills, California, to office space in New York City, donated by one of the organization's board members, Barry Liben. Tammy Flores has been functioning in an outstanding capacity as the Director of Operations in the Manhattan office. The Board has sought several alternative income sources, one of which consists of pledged monthly donations from members around the country.

These cost-cutting measures and revised fundraising techniques have been successful, and the NSA is now on much firmer financial footing, with a bright outlook for the future. The NSA Board is planning for better overall outreach, including to speech-language pathologists, and to children and teens who stutter and their families, as well as adults. The 2004 Annual Conference in Baltimore, held from June 24th to 27th, was a great success, with a much higher attendance of 522 people, and a record of 272 first-timers. A wide variety of quality workshops was offered, along with highlights like the distinguished keynote speaker, Senator Joseph Biden from the State of Delaware, who shared his insights and experiences as a person who stuttered earlier in his life in a presentation that moved and awed all of those in the audience.

This year, the NSA's 22nd Annual Conference will be held in Chicago, from July 13-17, 2005, at the Westin Michigan Avenue Hotel, on downtown Chicago's "Magnificent Mile." There is an inexpensive train from the O'Hare Airport to downtown Chicago. Chicago is a beautiful summer city with many activities available on the Lake Michigan waterfront. Brad Madsen is Chairman of the NSA 2005 Convention and he extends a hearty WELCOME. Please check the

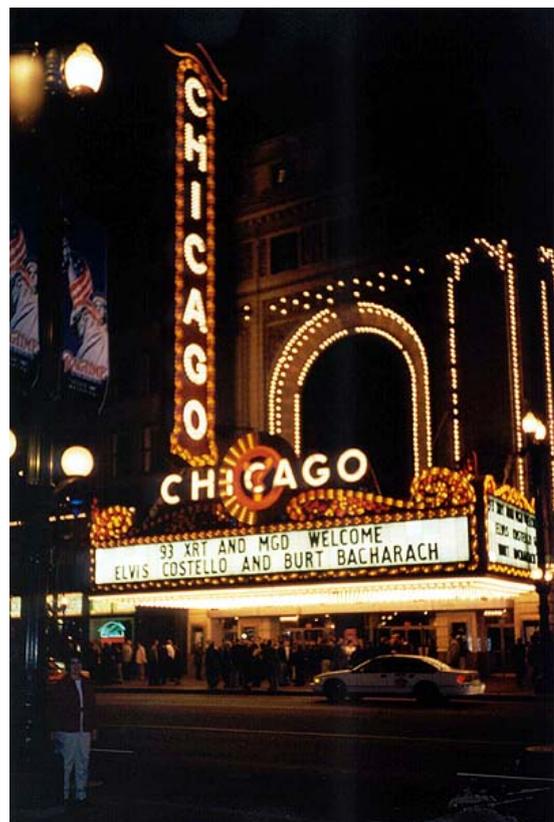
NSA's new website, at www.westutter.org. It has been up and running since the Fall of 2003 with many new features, including an online news service, and it has detailed information about the conference and tour activities, direct online registration (or registration and workshop submittal forms which can be downloaded), and a link to hotel reservations.

At the Winter Board Meeting, held on February 25th and 26th, at the Westin Hotel in Chicago, Joseph Diaz and Michael McDuffie were elected as the new Co-Chairs of the organization. Many thanks go to the former Co-Chairs, Lee Reeves and Ed Weiss for their leadership during the past three years.

John Harrison has retired as editor of the NSA Newsletter "Letting GO," and Sonya Kunkle has stepped into that position, giving the now bi-monthly publication a whole new look and feel.

And in November, 2004, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) held its annual convention in Philadelphia, where NSA co-founder Michael Sugarman was honored by receiving ASHA's Distinguished Service Award.

In 2005, the NSA is back on track, building momentum, and anticipating bright prospects ahead!



Chicago Theater. From <http://www.elviscostello.info>

Two New Books on Stuttering

By Shinji Ito, Executive Director, Japan Stuttering Project

The Japan Stuttering Project finds publication of books on stuttering to be an effective medium in helping those who stutter to learn how to deal with their problem, and to help people in general to increase their understanding of stuttering, as well as developing its programs as a self-help group. Last spring, the Japan Stuttering Project published two books together with two researchers from a major publisher specializing in the fields of psychology and education.

1. “Thriving with Stuttering”

Dr. Toshiro Mizumachi, a speech-language pathologist, and Shinji Ito are the co-authors of this book. Dr. Mizumachi used to believe that the problems of stuttering could be solved if the symptoms of disfluency were alleviated. Therefore, he worked with other researchers, focusing on the treatment of stuttering using behavioral therapy. However, his approach began to change with the realization that stuttering should be viewed from a more comprehensive perspective, which includes how the stuturer views his/her stuttering and their attitude towards life. These changes resulted from his close contact with those who stutter and his research, which focused on their lives.

As someone who stutters himself, Shinji Ito was severely distressed by its symptoms when he was young. He was obsessed with the idea that he would never be able to get along in life unless he could become free from stuttering. He dreamed of curing his stuttering and experienced different kinds of therapy, none of which helped him. Eventually, forty years ago, he organized a self-help group of people who stutter. As a speech therapist himself, while working with many people who had been in therapy like him but not been cured, he found that some were badly affected by their stuttering, while others were not. In other words, the level of anxiety and worry caused by the condition varies greatly depending upon the way in which each individual lives their life. These findings led him to the conclusion that “the most important thing about stuttering is not how we cure it, but how we live and grow within ourselves”

It has been emphasized that collaboration between speech-language pathologists and people who stutter is important, but there has been no attempt to work on a joint publication. In this regard, this book results from the momentum generated by Dr. Mizumachi, a researcher on stuttering, and Shinji Ito, who has been working with people who stutter for over 40 years. One of the chapters is written by speech therapists and the parents of children who stutter, who share their research

and experiences from their own particular standpoint. The book serves as a textbook for those who stutter, the parents of children who stutter, teachers, clinicians and students who are training to become speech therapists.

The contents of the book are:

Chapter 1: Comprehensive perspectives of stuttering, including attitudes on the part of listeners and ways of life of those who stutter.

Chapter 2: What are the problems people who stutter face in their daily lives?

Chapter 3: To live with stuttering: a case history of a woman teacher who stutters

Chapter 4: The significance of meeting others who stutter in a self-help group; a summer camp for children who stutter and their parents

Chapter 5: Overview of the clinical situation regarding stuttering in Europe and the United States

Chapter 6: Learning to view stuttering as a positive force.

Chapter 7: Survey on the employment of people who stutter and strategies

Chapter 8: Stuttering and self-acceptance in a special class for children with speech disorders

2. “To Live Positively: Emotive Rational Therapy and Stuttering”

This book is written by Shinji Ito and Dr. Toshinori Ishikuma, who studied clinical psychology in the United States and learned Rational Emotive Therapy directly from Dr. Albert Ellis, an American psychologist. Dr. Ishikuma has facilitated many workshops on stuttering and Rational Emotive Therapy for the Japan Stuttering Project since he found significance in the JSP’s approach to stuttering, which emphasizes that the problems of stuttering are closely related to how those who stutter view their stuttering and how they live. This book is based on the reports of these workshops, and Shinji Ito states in it that stuttering is not simply a matter of symptoms, but more importantly an issue of how the person who stutters views it, and that Rational Emotive Therapy is the most effective psychotherapy in helping those who stutter to view it as a positive force.

These two new books provide guidance both to those who stutter and the parents of children who stutter, on how to face and deal with this problem, as well as providing suggestions to clinicians concerning their work with children and adults who stutter. Members of the Japan Stuttering Project are developing a sales campaign for these books, believing that they will also help to increase awareness among the general public concerning stuttering.

SCAC Members Participate in International Genetic Project on Stuttering By Joseph Lukong, Speak Clear Association of Cameroon

The SPEAK CLEAR ASSOCIATION OF CAMEROON, known for short as SCAC, is a national self help movement for people who stutter in Cameroon. It is recognized by the competent government services in Cameroon to exist as a non-profit-making Charity. SCAC has been admitted as a full member of the International Stuttering Association, the ISA since October 2001. The admission of SCAC as a member of the ISA has made it possible for her to maintain cordial relations with members of sister stuttering associations from different countries of the world and other international institutions involved in stuttering research, awareness and treatment.



For the past three years, SCAC members have been involved in an important research project on stuttering with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Washington D.C., which is part of United States Department of Health and Human Sciences. The aim of this project which is also being carried out in some other countries of the world is to ascertain the role the genetic factors or inherited factors play in transmitting stuttering. Focus is on families where several members are affected by stuttering. Blood and speech samples are collected from members of these affected families for analysis at the NIH laboratories in the USA.



The SCAC in its outreach efforts in Cameroon discovered several families where many members are affected by stuttering. Contacts were made with Dr. Denis Drayna, a human geneticist, who has been

studying the genetic of stuttering for quite many years, and he demonstrated the interest to study these families in Cameroon. Since 2002 he has made four visits to Cameroon, with the last one being in March 2005, and has sampled about 280 members of various affected families who are members of SCAC. So far, the results from the study are very encouraging as they show that the gene responsible for causing stuttering in the Cameroon population may reside in Chromosome 1. Parts of the results of this study were recently published in the American Journal of Medical Genetics and a paper on the study was recently presented at the conference on Human Genetics that took place in Canada last October.

It is our hope that if this gene responsible for stuttering is discovered it may lead to better treatment for this disorder.

We wish to thank sincerely Dr. Denis Drayna and the authorities of the NIH for the time and resources they have devoted to this project. Also we wish to thank members of SCAC who have voluntarily accepted to take part in this project.



Before I end this article, I must mention the fact that the International Stuttering Association ISA has honored SCAC to host the first ever African stuttering Conference to be held in the port City of Douala, Cameroon, from the 6th to the 9th October, 2005.

If you are interested to attend this conference or to support us in fund-raising towards the organization of this conference, do not hesitate to contact me.

Again, any person wishing to have more information on the genetic research project we are carrying out on stuttering could also contact me as per this address.

Joseph Lukong, Coordinator General of SCAC
P.O. Box 9598, Douala,
Cameroon, Africa.
Tel: +237 780 49 45
Email: lujotar@yahoo.com

News from France

By Olivier Humez, Secretary of Association Parole Begaieiment

In France, the self-help movement has begun in St-Etienne on June 2000. Then, some other groups had been created in cities like: Lyon, Paris, Grenoble, Montpellier, Nantes, Agen ...

It's also important to take notice of a group of teenagers supervised by an adult.

Each group acts in an autonomous way, there isn't any particular rule - they are all different.

Psychologists don't take any part in those groups. The objective is to allow any stammerer to be able to express himself, in confidence, without any fear.

Any member is the equal of the other. For some of them, it's the only way to be able to talk in a group.

Meeting other stammering person allows anyone to find his own place.

The ones who follow a therapy talk about it and they can see by themselves their own improvements, and can say about the hard times they have had, as well. It's really beneficial.

People who don't follow a therapy can understand its importance or they come alone, because they need it to feel better.

News from Germany

By Konrad Schafers, Bundesvereinigung Stotterer-Selbsthilfe e.V. , Germany

The year of 2004 was dedicated internationally as the 'year of children who stammer', a year which the German Stammering Association can look back on with a great deal of satisfaction. The year will be remembered for a number of very successful campaigns spearheaded by the association.

The year began with a project featuring a coloring book for children up to the age of seven, published by Demosthenes. The book consisted of simple drawings accompanied by short texts about a young boy and a young girl both of whom stammer. The story tells of how there is nothing different about the pair other than their stammer and how their peers are not at all perturbed that the two of them speak differently.

For many speech therapists positive images portrayed in popular mediums such as books are an important asset in therapy when dealing with children who stammer. It assists the therapist in encouraging children to express themselves and talk about their stammer. The same can be said for parents who may find it difficult at times to get their children to open up, but find using a story book a great help when trying to encourage their child to discuss their stammer.

Another project called 'Kids Paint their Stammer' also

took place during 2004. The German Stammering Association requested Speech therapists across Germany to get children who stammer to paint pictures of how they saw their stammer. Many touching pictures were received, some of which have already appeared in the German Stammering Association journal 'Der Kieselstein'. An exhibition of the impressive results was also displayed at the German National conference in October 2004.

The campaigns continued with a picture book about stammering called 'Mimmo and the Secret Magnifying Glass'. The story tells of how a young boy sees everything, including his stammer in an overblown and exaggerated manner. Eventually he learns that these things can be looked at from a different, more realistic and positive perspective.

To round off the year a calendar in the form of large poster was produced by the association to mark all the important dates for children and teenagers who stammer and their parents. With all the campaigning involving children, the German Stammering Association has made a statement of intent, that actually not only 2004, but every year should be dedicated to children who stammer.



News from Uganda

By Joseph Nsubuga, Uganda



I am introducing my self to you as Nsubuga Joseph, a Ugandan running and coordinating the activities of a local association of Stutter victims called EASY SPEAK ASSOCIATION. Prior to the formation of Easy Speak, we stutter victims suffered in the following ways; discrimination at

work place, bullies and teasing at school, and isolation due to lack of eloquence. We were looked at as a social menace saying stuttering was a result of superstition. Lack of social or community respect, poor pay at work places due to failure to compete with fluent candidates.

Our association, as a common voice, meets NGOs, Newspapers, Church Magazines, FM Radios, and private schools to help us through encouraging people to recognize us as true human beings, safeguard our social rights and fair competition.

Church leaders and magazines who volunteer and listen to our cry, have greatly helped to reduce the superstition syndrome which entitles stutter victims to failure to appease the sprits by emphasizing that it's God's plan that stuttering is prevalent in certain persons.

The association with the help of Radios, churches and science, has helped us to sensitize the masses that stuttering has a co-relation with genes and hence it is hereditary at times or in some families.

To emphasize our social belonging, the members have been advised to avoid stressful conditions as this cripples the speaking process, and hence advised to participate in debates and to speak faster which reduces stammering tendency. Encourage members to be bold and brave and stop fearing to talk for fear of embracement (i.e., inferiority complex syndrome).

Police assistance. We quite often get police permission

and demonstrate on streets with placard, burners, etc, with words like WE'RE EQUAL, PARENTS FIGHT FOR US, GIVE US A FAIR PLACE IN SOCIETY, etc. We use inter-religious cooperation. Since our society is multi-religious, we try to live in direct contact with each other which in turn helps each sect to identify its member victims and hence easy mobilization for victims' reunion at stipulated time.

We also use district authorities permission and register victim as per districts and we organize them for single venue for meeting where victims express their problems and remedies to others hence easy counseling and treatment We greatly advise parents of stutter children to stop abandoning their children by blaming ancestors for their problem.

PRACTICAL SUBJECTS. Here we advise members and parents to persuade them to take up practical subjects like computer engineering, carpentry, accounting, etc, which exposes them to few debates hence reducing discrimination at work places.

CLAN GROUPS. Since our society is multi-tribal in nature and supervised by clan leaders, we encourage various clans to register and identify their fellow victims for easy reunion and counseling for how to live a fair life.

We also try to sweet talk to the government to recognize stutter victims and pave way for appropriate steps in, say, research into the causes of stutter, and to subsidize stutter victims at various learning centers.

Therefore given all such and other attempts to make our voice heard, we still face strong opposition from some citizens who see stuttering as a failure to appease sprits and small gods, as opposed to genetic history of stutter. But the church teaching and science are also on our side in fighting for the same.

Passing Twice

By Barry Yeoman, U.S.A.

Passing Twice, an organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people who stutter, has solidified its international credentials with the appointment of Andrew Janes, a Londoner, as its second newsletter editor. Andrew brings a fresh sense of youthfulness and wit to the quarterly newsletter. His first issue was well-received by members.

This summer, Larry Lindstrom and Al Thomas will co-facilitate a Passing Twice workshop at the National Stuttering Association's annual convention in Chicago. PT workshops are important opportunities for members to come together, feel less isolated, and talk about the multiple processes of coming out of the gay and stuttering closets.

News from New Zealand

By Warren Brown, New Zealand Speak Easy Association

The New Zealand Speak Easy Association has just held its annual conference.

The keynote speaker was Dr Susan Block, a lecturer on adult stuttering at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia. Other speakers were Shelley Williams, from the Stuttering Treatment and Research Trust in Auckland, and Chris Bland, director of the McGuire Programme in New Zealand.

The conference also included the annual general meeting and the ever popular national oratory competition.

It's been another good year for Speak Easy. The generosity of its sponsors has enabled the organization to do all the things it planned to do 12 months ago.

The strength of the association is with the regular speech maintenance meetings held in nine places around the country. Judging by the fluency shown by members at the annual conference, those meetings generally seem to be successful.

Letter from Sweden

By Anita S. Blom, Swedish Stuttering Association

Dear friends and colleagues

2005 is going to be an exciting year for the Swedish Stuttering Association, SSR.

First of all we **welcome Rosita Runegrund as the new Chairperson of the SSR**. Rosita is a Member of Parliament, which is a great opportunity for the SSR to get its message through in all levels of the community. You can reach her at rosita.runegrund@riksdagen.se.

As many of you know the Scandinavian countries (Iceland, Faro Islands, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark) co-organise a Nordic seminar every year and this year, 2005, it's Sweden's turn to make it a weekend to remember. The seminar is held 26-28(29) of August in a small village called Lundsbrunn, well known for its health/SPA centre, near Kinnekulle with its famous flora and fauna. You can find the program in Swedish at http://www.stamning.se/internationell/norden/sverige_nordisk2005/index.html and in English at <http://www.stamning.info/nordiska2005.htm>. Don't miss it!!!

We also plan our annual Youth week 31/7-6/8 and a weekend for children who stutter and their parents 2-4/9,

which have both been very successful and well attended over the years.

Also this year the SSR is working on several projects such as a labor market project and a project on stuttering among children. Plans are also to start up a project to engage young people who stutter to become active within their stuttering organisation, locally and/or nationally. The SSR also supports a private initiative to get stuttering women and girls in the media, which already brought female stutterers of all ages into the open. Finally, and I hope it's already over when you read this issue, Stockholm members organise an international meeting 28-29 May, open to all of you. Read more about it at <http://www.lida-stockholm.net/>

We'll keep you informed through the ISA and ELSA newsletters, but you're always welcome to contact us for more information and to continue our great relation- and friendship.

Warmly,

Anita S. Blom
International contact, SSR
anitablom@telia.com

From the Editor

Albert Zhang, jz1208@mail.ecu.edu

First of all I'd like to thank Warren Brown. Without your help, I cannot have this job done.

Also I want to thank everyone that contributed to this issue of One Voice. Especially I welcome Joseph Nsubuga's introduction of their activities, which is the first report from Uganda. I wish there could be more and more self-help activities from areas where stutterers are used to be neglected.

This issue is the first one after I became a doctoral student in Speech Language Pathology in East Carolina University, USA, so there is no wonder closer links between self-help groups and speech language pathology profession, which are manifested in the reports from ISA Board Chair, Cameroon and Burkina Faso aroused my interest. I believe through this bond we can better help people who stutter.

International Stuttering Awareness Day

By Michael Sugarman, U.S.A.

All of us, from different countries and cultures use different words to describe stuttering -- "stammer" as the British call it, "begainment" as the French call it, "amalimi" as the Zulu call it, "uu Uus" as the hawaiiians call it or "yutamten" as the Arabs call it or "tid aug" as the Thai call it. Whatever word we use, stuttering is a unifying experience that brings us together from all parts of the world. It is that common bond that we can use to fight ignorance and discrimination and replace it with a storm of acceptance, civil rights and self-determination.

This year's theme "Stuttering Community Vision for Global Action" is to promote awareness and

understanding and to show appreciation for people living with stuttering and the speech language professionals who work with us.

From October 1st to 22nd, an online conference will be held in which you can ask questions of researchers, practitioners and other people who stutter by going to www.stutteringhomepage.com

Please contact: Michael Sugarman at msugarman1@sbcglobal.net for information regarding ISAD '05 and "Bill of Rights and Responsibility for People who Stutter" posters.

ISA Calendar

May 28-29, 2005 Stockholm, Sweden

International meeting for people who stutter - Stockholm

For more information: www.lida-stockholm.net

July 13-17, 2005 Chicago, USA

***NSA - National Stuttering Association
Annual Conference***

For more information: www.nsastutter.org

July 17-23, 2005 Nijmegen (Goesbeek), The Netherlands

5th ELSA Youth Meeting

For more information please see: www.elsa.info or contact:

Anita Blom (elsa.europe@telia.com) or Edwin Farr (elsa.europe@totalise.co.uk)

July 28-30, 2005 Cleveland, Ohio, USA

FRIENDS, The National Association of Young People Who Stutter, is having its 8th annual convention

For more information www.friendswhostutter.org

August 18-21 - 2005 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

8th National Conference of the Canadian Association of People who Stutter

For further information: www.stutter.ca/CAPS2005

Oct 6th to 8th, 2005 - Doula, Cameroon, Africa

AFRICAN STUTTERING CONFERENCE

To be held in DOUALA, CAMEROON AFRICA

6th to 8th OCTOBER 2005



INVITATION TO CROATIA!

INTERNATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION

CROATIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR PEOPLE WHO STUTTER **HINKO FREUND**

8th World Congress for People who Stutter
May 6-10 2007
Cavtat - Dubrovnik, Croatia

If you are interested in coming to the conference,
send your e-mail address to:

hinko.freund@kdb.hr

and we will keep you informed.

To see what Croatia is like, go to:

<http://www.hr>
<http://www.adriatica.net/>
<http://www.croatia.hr>

Hope to see you in Croatia in 2007!