

To: ISA Board of Directors, Membership Associations and ISA Advisory Board

March 2010 e-newsflash

Short bio by Michael Sugarman

At 19 years old I stood in front of a mirror at my parent's house thinking of suicide. My stuttering controlled me. My stuttering made me afraid to say my name. I was ashamed and guilty. I could not communicate what I wanted to say.

At 20 years old I entered speech therapy for my third time. I was willing to confront myself to create myself.

At 22 years old I co-founded National Stuttering Association (formerly known as National Stuttering Project) and learned that I was ok when I stuttered. I wanted to pursue my life goals. I wanted to live my life. I did not want my stutter to hold me back.

February 18 – 21, 2010 I was at the Australian Speak Easy Association conference. I want to thank Diane, Kevin, Peter, John, Mark, Bruce, Grant, Peter Dhu and others for inviting me and treating me as family. February 18th, my keynote was 'Changing the Way We View Ourselves as PWS' (and this was my 8th keynote to a major stuttering organization); in the afternoon I presented a workshop on 'Peer Counseling and Peer Support Group Facilitation' and February 20th & 21st presented workshops on 'PWS Self Help Movement'. I have been fortunate for 30 years to have met so many wonderful PWS around the world.

Today, I am honored and humbled to be International Stuttering Association's Chair, Board of Directors. I have been Chair for six months and pleased to link you to some interesting activities occurring in the stuttering community. Keith Boss has returned from his trip to India and plans to share his experiences in next month e-newsflash. I want you to link to T-tisa blog <http://t-tisa.blogspot.com/>

Anita Blom from European League of Stuttering Association will keynote at the upcoming European Stuttering Symposium. Next month, I will ask her to share her experiences and summarize stuttering research for us.

From Suzana, Chair of World Congress Argentina '11:

After a successful World Congress in Croatia in 2007, the Argentinean Stuttering Association led by Claudia Diaz was selected to host the 9th ISA World Congress for People Who Stutter. This event will take place in Buenos Aires on May 18th – 21st 2011.

Having seen a wonderful presentation by Claudia and her team (including a demonstration of the Tango) at the IFA congress in Brazil, it looks like being a wonderful congress. There is so much to see and experience in Buenos Aires and Argentina that we really recommend staying as long as possible and exploring this wonderful country. A lot of people have expressed interest in this event, so it looks like it will be one of our most well-attended congresses ever. Now that the holiday season in Argentina is over, we expect to see a lot more information about the local venue and arrangements appearing in the next few months.

Each month I try to inform you the reader of ideas from the stuttering community. The International Stuttering Association does not endorse this therapy or definition. Please read about stuttering and genetics at http://www.stutterisa.org/Newspaper_Articles.html

And read Mark Irwin' article in J. Au-Yeung & M.M. Leahy (Eds.), *Research, Treatment and Self-Help in Fluency Disorders: New Horizons* (pp 41-45) at <http://stutteredspeechsyndrome.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/stuttering.pdf>

The finance committee for the ISA had been trying to develop a simple payment for member associations to pay dues. After careful review the committee recommends that member associations use bank or personal transfer of money or cheque to International Stuttering Association. Please send your dues in care of Hermann Christmann @ hc@has.dk. If you need a snail mail address to which to mail a cheque, send Hermann an email and he will provide an address.

I want to extend a thank you to the following member associations in paying their dues: BSA (UK), APB (France), Demosthenes (The Netherlands), FSD (Denmark), NSA (USA), ASEA (Australia), SSR (Sweden) and NZSEA (New Zealand), All Japan Genyukai Association and AMBI in kind donation (Israel).

I am seeking your input for themes: International Stuttering Awareness Day October 22, 2010. Please email your suggestions to msugarman1@sbcglobal.net thank you

Michael Sugarman, Chair