

ONE VOICE



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

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello to all International Stuttering Association (ISA) friends around the world.

It is about 16 months since OV36. Despite various obstacles we wanted to get OV37 produced before the 11th ISA World Congress for PWS in Atlanta, hosted by the NSA.

The new ISA Board of Directors
(To be elected in a few weeks)

U R G E N T

Do you want to stand for election to the new Board?

You need to prepare a statement, to give to the members at the membership meeting, about why you should be elected. You need agreement from your association that you may represent them and they must be fully paid up members.

The new Board will be elected by the membership at their meeting.

During the day, a meeting of the new Board will be arranged. The first items of business are the election of a new Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer. Please ask if you have any questions.

11th ISA World Congress for People Who Stutter

One of the several advantages of joining with NSA for this World Congress is the detailed provision for children. The joint program, that the joint planning team has produced, is a program with the possibility of up to ten parallel sessions. There will be workshops to interest all the attendees. People who stutter, their families and friends as well as our professional therapists will find many workshops to interest them.

I had planned on attending and being involved in presenting more than one workshop, but a failed hip operation in September 2015 has left me temporarily confined to bed. Other members of the

ISA Board of Directors will deal with ISA scholarship money and leading the ISA membership meeting on Tuesday 5th July.

*Do you want to stand
for election to the
new Board?*

<http://www.isastutter.org/event/11th-world-congress-usa-2016> will lead you to the NSA website where you can find out all about the planned events. It is a wealth of information and will answer all your queries. If you click on the new page heading in the column on the left of the NSA website, new pages of information are displayed for more in depth information. I hope everybody who goes to Atlanta learns more and enjoys the process.

12th ISA World Congress for People Who Stutter

Our membership at the meeting at the 10th ISA World Congress in Luntenen (Netherlands) gave us a very clear message. You wanted us to work more closely with the professional community.

You will remember that in OV36, I asked you to choose between

1. One of our Members hosting the 12th World Congress in their Country in 2019; or
2. We can work with the IFA to have a joint conference with them. Their conference schedule means theirs will be in 2018; or
3. We can aim at doing both. Work for a World Congress with the IFA and have another World Congress with one of our Member Associations. (Costly to attend both)

Whilst waiting to hear from you, I entered into discussions with others, including some of the IFA Board. I met enthusiasm for the idea of a joint Congress from many. For the first time, many PWS could meet and talk to IFA professionals on equal terms, in a fun, relaxed environment.

In addition to the IFA assuming the financial risks, some of the other benefits include

- learning via attending each other's workshops
- asking for a workshop on a specific therapy or common mental issues experienced by PWS, etc.
- PWS and SLPs/SLTs sharing a workshop
- relaxing together between workshops, enjoying socialising
- linking with others to network after the Congress to set up joint projects around the world in Universities
- network to expand a specific University project to local feeder schools; health clinics; government offices; hospitals and Doctors' practices; large employers and media etc.

... we are working
with the IFA for a joint
**World Congress in
2018.**

A disadvantage is that some PWS have had poor experiences with SLPs/SLTs in the past and are not ready to put this past behind them and explore the new face of modern Therapy. It will be impossible to satisfy everyone, but we do know if we do the same thing over and over, we will get the same results. The ISA would like the quality and experience of therapy to improve around the world, for those PWS who want therapy. **Change is necessary to get different results.**

In the absence of any negative comments from the membership, the ISA has been planning for option 2 above. So we are working with the IFA for a **joint World Congress in 2018**. Two ISA Board Directors are currently members of the Congress planning committee.

You can look at the details of three bids to host the 2018 Congress at

<http://www.theifa.org/index.php/ifa-bidding>. Japan has been chosen and Keisuke Saito of JGSA. (Japan Genyukai Stuttering Association) will probably be able to show the successful Japanese bid at our Membership meeting. Jerry is meeting with Keisuke in Japan to talk about this.

After the bid presentation, the membership can decide to go ahead or reject the joint World Congress plans in Japan.

I am firmly of the view this is the right way for the ISA to move ahead. This change could increase the speed of change within the IFA, so helping PWS with modern therapies in a more timely way.

I vote to accept the plan.

Alternately the membership can say no, no joint Congress. The ISA will then revert back to a Congress in 2019. It will be necessary to seek fully paid-up member countries to act as hosts, at their own financial risk; trying for a choice of three bids; present them to the membership sometime in the future for a new choice to be made.

Other collaboration with the IFA

(as voted at the last membership meeting)



There is a list of IFA committees at <http://www.theifa.org/index.php/committee>.

The ISA has the following representation on IFA committees

- Two on *Meetings and Conferences*;
- Two on *Self Help and Advocacy*;
- One on *Professional Liaison*.

We will have to reconsider who fills these five positions with new Board Directors when they are elected in Atlanta in July.

Directors

During this board we have had four resignations and three appointed PWS who joined the board.

Annie Bradberry from USA joined
Hanan Hurwitz from Israel joined and
Árni Heimir Ingimundarson from Iceland joined

Maartje Borghuis from the Netherlands resigned
Harry Dhillon from UK resigned
Masuhiko Kawasaki from Japan resigned and
Árni Heimir Ingimundarson from Iceland resigned

Current Board

Anja Herde from Germany
Annie Bradberry from USA
Bert Bast from the Netherlands
David Resnick from USA
Jerry Maguire from USA
Keith Boss from UK
Hanan Hurwitz from Israel

Harry and Árni held the post of Treasurer and Masuhiko worked on One Voice.

ISA Bank Account

Hermann Christmann has been our banker for many years. **Hermann you worked hard for us, thank you very much.** Hermann asked to be relieved of this task. We looked at the options. We had to move the two accounts to a different country. After investigations we chose the UK, and I am our banker. Members now pay their annual subscriptions to the UK bank. I will pay our scholarship money from Barclays Bank, to the USA for distribution at the Congress in Atlanta.

Online Stuttering Conference and ISAD

We continue our support for the Online Stuttering Conference in October and International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) on October 22nd. Very soon you will be able to visit <http://isad.isastutter.org/> for a call for papers for our 2016 Conference. You can visit <http://isad.isastutter.org/> to see all the useful material from previous years. Tell us about your plans for your local ISAD. Your contributions can be written or be a video message or a little of both. We depend on you for the success of the event. Please visit us in October to read and see what others are talking about and have contributed. There is a separate article on this subject in this One Voice. Please read it for further information.

Raising awareness of stuttering

What does this mean to you, and what will you do to achieve more awareness?

How would you like the ISA to raise this awareness around the world, and how can you help?

This is a particularly challenging task with cultures where stuttering is not discussed and is a painful stigma.

How do we help these cultures to view the success stories we have and to look on people who stutter as assets to their families / employers / communities / countries?

Please feel free to email me (keithmaxkb@yahoo.com) to arrange a SKYPE or Google chat if you have thoughts, concerns or issues you want to talk over.

Warmly,

Keith



NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN LEAGUE OF STUTTERING ASSOCIATION

ELSA



**THE EUROPEAN LEAGUE
OF STUTTERING ASSOCIATIONS**

registered charity 1074561

As an aide memoire for existing readers and for new readers.

ELSA aims:

- to link together and further the co-operation of Europe's national organisations
- to provide a forum for exchange of concepts and experiences in stuttering therapy and self-help
- to help represent the interests of stutterers to European and international bodies
- to put stuttering onto the European agenda to ensure that the needs and challenges faced by people who stutter are considered in a European context
- to advance the personal development of young people who stutter

*...in these difficult
economic times,
funding for projects
is very difficult.*

Like many non-governmental-organisations (NGOs), in these difficult economic times, funding for projects is very difficult.

Previously ELSA had secured both European Union (EU) grants and European Youth Foundation (part of the Council of Europe (CoE)) grants for young people who stutter. Over the past twenty years the EU grants were for national stuttering association coordination and the CoE grants were for youth meetings for young people who stutter.

We now have to work with less resources and ELSA's output has, accordingly, reduced. But there are "irons in the fire".

ELSA is a member of the European Disability Forum (EDF), a Brussels based Europe wide disability organisation and Edwin J Farr, chair of ELSA, is working with the EDF to try to provide increased clarity of the strands of funding the European Commission offers for disability organisations. This topic will be raised at the EDF's annual meeting in Dublin in May 2016. It will be a long process as we try to gather what is available particularly for the smaller NGOs.

Every year representatives Europe's disability associations are invited to attend the European Day of People with Disabilities (EYPD), which normally takes place in the first week of December. At this meeting, disability associations have the opportunity to present their work to the European Commission and other disability groups. Discussions are at an early stage for ELSA and a national stuttering association to present the work of stuttering awareness at a future meeting.

Plans are also underway to improve and update ELSA's website.

**Edwin J. Farr
MBE (GB)**

Chair of the
European
League of
Stuttering
Associations
(ELSA)



MESSAGE FROM OUTREACH

3rd African Congress in Rwanda

We have engaged in lengthy discussions about supporting a 3rd African Congress in Rwanda. The main unresolved issue was funding to plan and hold such a Congress and provide scholarship money to widen the range of attendees from all other countries in Africa.

We also had discussions about the safety of all visitors to Rwanda as a few governments had posted travel restriction advice to their nationals. With regret, we withdrew our support for this project.

General Outreach

We have been following various paths

Outreach African Project

This is being led by Hanan Hurwitz from Israel. If you look at <http://www.isastutter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/ISA-Outreach-Africa-Project-Plan-V2.0.pdf>, you will see on page two, the contents index. This gives a very clear picture of the scope of this project. We have asked, and continue to ask for volunteers to come forward to assist in this work. Volunteers will be using a computer and need Internet access for emailing and browsing. After a suitable time a good volunteer may be given responsibility for a segment of Africa, working under the guidance of Hanan.

More details of Outreach African project are on other pages of this One Voice.

Linking with the World Health Organisation

Bert Bast from the Netherlands has been working hard in his association in the Netherlands to produce a fact sheet on stuttering, to be included by the World Health Organization in information to be added to their website along with other disability information. The ISA and IFA have had the opportunity to comment. See other pages of this One Voice for more from Bert.

Work in Universities worldwide

Jerry Maguire from the USA is Chair of the Universities committee.

The scope of this work is vast. It will help PWS who are students or staff who work in the University. A top down approach, contacting the University Management and a bottom up approach, making contact via student unions.

The work could include

- Suggesting courses for training new therapists;
- Supporting existing therapy courses;
- Seeking ways to initiate / continue online therapy using the Universities' computers;
- Offer workshops to both staff and students on the stigmas often associated with stuttering;
- Negotiate the use of a room for meetings by PWS;
- Negotiate allowing PWS to use a computer for online meetings, and stuttering research;



- Assist in the creation of new Self Help Group meetings;
- Support existing Self Help Groups with information and ideas;
- Use University contacts to reach out to the local city and the media / local schools / pre-school children who stutter / local hospitals / libraries / health clinics / local government / large employers. These contacts are for spreading awareness, offering a source for advice and countering any stigma issues. In time carry out the same process in nearby towns and cities.

This is just an outline of the possibilities and opportunities.

PWS are normal human beings with a voice. With adequate help from their local University as well as the ISA, that voice can be heard.

To all our readers. we need volunteers. Do you want to help in this rewarding work? Please email if you have questions.

ISP-RA: International Speech Project-Raising Awareness

Jerry Maguire from the USA runs this new project.

Raising Awareness is vital core work for the ISA. As Jerry is Chair of our Universities sub-committee and this work links to University work, he volunteered.



We need ambassadors to network with University Department Heads and Student Unions in many

countries of the world. You may be linked to the International Stuttering Association (ISA), the International Fluency Association (IFA), the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), the British Stammering Association (BSA), the National Stuttering Association (NSA), to name but a few organisations. We need both professional therapists and PWS. You may be working and

have a few hours to spare during a month, or you may be recently retired and wanting to keep active. You may or may not have close links to other Universities.

As always, I will close my Outreach contribution by

reminding all of us that the ISA exists to help People Who Stutter in any country of the world. For the ISA to succeed, we need YOU. We need both volunteers with a little time and Internet access and we need funds.

If you can give the ISA some of your valuable skills / time / money, please do so. It is very rewarding to help others. If you can help, or know of someone else who can help please contact me.

I hope all of you have an enjoyable 11th World Congress for People Who Stutter in the USA in July 2016, and I hope you contribute papers for the online conference, as well as reading all the other papers in October.

Please pass this to all the members of your association; please put this on your website and reference it in Facebook. Thank you for reading this.

Keith Boss

ISA Chair of Outreach

ISA Chair

keithmaxkb@yahoo.com

HUFFPOST HEALTHY LIVING

JUST BECAUSE YOU STUTTER DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE ALONE

05/12/2016 03:36 pm ET | Updated May 12, 2016

[Madeline Wahl](#)

Associate Editor, Blogs & Community



MASKOT VIA GETTY IMAGES

It took a long time for me to [come to terms with my stutter](#).

Growing up, I didn't want to admit that sometimes I repeated a word or phrase or letter before getting it out. I didn't want to tell my friends and family and acquaintances that I stuttered.

Even though [millions of people around the world](#) stutter, I felt alone. No one else seemed to talk like me and none of my favorite television shows had characters who sounded like me. Even though an estimated [three million Americans](#) stutter, it didn't seem like any of those people were around me.

It took a while for me to learn that there were celebrities who stutter and others who have made a difference by portraying people who do. In 2011, [The King's Speech](#) won best film at the 83rd Academy Awards and Colin Firth won lead actor. [England's Prince Albert](#), portrayed by Colin Firth, had a speech impediment and eventually took the throne to become King George VI. Musician Ed Sheehan gave [an uplifting speech on stuttering](#) and told the audience that "the thing I found most difficult was knowing what to say but not really being able to express it the right way." Actress Emily Blunt had a stutter so bad as a kid, [she told NPR](#), "I struggled with vowels, so 'Emily' was like the depths of hell for me."

Vice President Joe Biden talked about [overcoming his stutter](#) and has [written letters](#) that have helped other stutterers. Everyone liked James Earl Jones as the voice of Mufasa in *The Lion King* and as the voice of Darth Vader in the original *Star Wars* movies. Elvis Presley still has the title “King of Rock and Roll.” No one seems to have any complaints against Samuel L. Jackson saying motherfu*ker (and he himself has said that [saying that word helped his stuttering](#)).

But even though well-liked celebrities stutter, it didn't stop people from pointing out differences in other people. A person who stutters has learned to cope with insensitive people and cruel words.

Because I stutter doesn't mean I have to fear stuttering anymore. Of course, I do have those moments of panic, the times where my heart clenches and I take a quick breath to balance out the blocked words and the gap in the conversation. By being able to confront those fears and be completely honest with myself and those around me, a weight has been lifted. I feel more connected with myself and who I am by being open about it. It's empowering to realize that you are not alone.

I remember those presentations and speeches and conversations where I had to talk in front of a group of people and wanted nothing more than to be an audience member, or preferably,

not in the room at all. I still think about those moments, even though they've long since past. I go back through my past and sort out those moments and come to terms with it. The only way to go is forward, and it's about accepting who you are and finding out ways to improve. Because I've confronted this part of myself doesn't mean that I have to be afraid any longer or feel like I'm alone even though I'm the only one who consistently stutters in my friend group.

It's [National Stuttering Awareness Week](#), a time to raise awareness about stuttering, a time to be more empathetic, and a time to learn how to handle yourself when talking to a person who stutters and [not be awkward in conversations](#).

There isn't a finish line when it comes to stuttering. It's something that I work on each and every day, and it's a battle people you don't even know are also fighting. Even though it may seem like it, you aren't alone, and these battle are being fought elsewhere. You just have to get to know someone in order to see it.

Follow Madeline Wahl on

Twitter: www.twitter.com/MadelineWahl

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NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

The year 2015 has been rather fruitful for us in the Netherlands. During the past several years we have been busy in reorganizing the Netherlands Federation of Stuttering - NFS, a joint venture of the client organization Demosthenes and the SLP organization NVST. In that way we have written a.o. a policy plan, a communication plan, clear yearly reports (both on content as well re finances) and in that way we have reformed us into a professional organization. Indeed, it may be clear that, when seeking external money, also volunteer organizations like us all have to comply with these professional requirements.

Money isn't scarce, actually it abounds in society, and you only have to persuade funding agencies that by giving you money, they will reach their own goals. In that way, we have raised quite some new money, to be used sometimes as burning oil, but in many more cases as lubricant oil to mobilize other new money.

Some examples of our running and/or finished projects (or running with our heavy support and involvement) for 2015 are given below:

- Rebuilding the website of the NFS
<http://www.stotteren.nl/index.php>
- Rebuilding the website of Demosthenes
<http://www.demosthenes.nl/>
- Introduction of a new website on individualized after care
<http://www.stotters.nl/>
- Publications of pioneering work on Early Intervention (Marie-Christine Franken)
- Presentation of the new Dutch Clinical Guideline on Stuttering at a meeting of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences (KNAW)
<https://www.knaw.nl/nl/actueel/agenda/symposium-stotteren>
- Presentation of that Guideline at the IFA meeting in Lisbon
http://www.theifa.org/Legacy/IFA2015/Announcement/IFA_Program.pdf



- English translation of that Guideline, to be presented in spring 2016
- Based on that, and together with the ISA/IFA, a novel campaign by the WHO
- Start of a new scientific program on neurogenetic aspects of stuttering
- Publication of several scientific papers on genetics and neurology of stuttering
- Renovation of most of the information materials, available at the webshop of the NFS
- And other projects to be finished in 2016

Bert Bast,
Chairman
Netherlands
Federation on
Stuttering (NFS),
representative
Demosthenes



INTERNATIONAL STUTTERING AWARENESS DAY THEME



Respect. Dignity. Recognition.

International Stuttering Awareness Day

October 22, 2016

isad.isastutter.org

We should take pride in who we are irrespective of our stuttering. Pride can be the antidote to the shame and guilt that many of us experience. Our struggle with stuttering often comes from viewing stuttering in a negative light, which is understandable given the challenge we often have in speaking. The struggle, however, also comes as a result of a society that, in general, does not understand, and often does not accept stuttering. When we speak about Stuttering Pride we allow ourselves to open up to the thought that we are OK, even if we stutter, but even more than that: we can take pride in who we are and for the entire person that we are. We can take immense pride in ourselves when we speak in spite of our struggle to do so. We can take pride in "showing up", when hiding away might be easier.

In the community of people who stutter, there has been much discussion about the concept, borrowed from the LGBT community, of Coming Out, about proudly and unapologetically allowing ourselves to stutter. Such "Coming Out" might indeed be liberating for us, as we allow our true selves to be seen and as we allow ourselves to pursue our dreams and ambitions without letting our stuttering hold us back. The more we Come Out, the more stuttering becomes a common part of society, the more awareness and acceptance it brings and the

more People Who Stuttering understand they are not alone.

The concept of Stuttering Pride is intellectually and emotionally challenging for many of us. This is why we thought that it is a theme that can generate very interesting papers and stimulating discussion. We welcome and encourage you to express your thoughts on this topic in a paper, video or other submission for publication in the International Stuttering Awareness Day online conference 2016.

Part of the theme includes the words respect, dignity and recognition. These words are important as they reflect the key message of stuttering pride, that we deserve respect, we deserve dignity and we deserve to be recognized as people. We are a lot more than people who stutter and we are proud.

This is the official logo and message for the 2016 International Stuttering Awareness Day. Please join us to celebrate International Stuttering Awareness Day. If you are attending the 2016 World Congress in Atlanta, USA in July, keep a look out for us, we are producing some videos for public awareness. We hope to see you there! If you can't attend then keep an eye on our Facebook page for the videos later in July!

INTERNATIONAL STUTTERING AWARENESS DAY ONLINE CONFERENCE
CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Stuttering Association (ISA) is pleased to announce that it will be hosting the International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) Online Conference from October 1st through the 22nd, 2016. A small team made up to Anita Blom, Dan Hudock, Keith Boss, Bruce Imhoff, and Hanan Hurwitz will coordinate this event, continuing the hard work of Judy Kuster who ran many ISAD online conferences.

We are calling for submissions from people who stutter/stammer (PWS), their friends, family, supports, and Speech Language Pathologists / Speech Language Therapists (SLPs / SLTs), **and** for experts to participate in the 'Ask an Expert' for the 2016 ISAD Online Conference. Please see below for the requirements and deadlines.

The 2016 Online Conference will start October 1 and finish October 22, to coincide with many events around the world on October 22 - *International Stuttering Awareness Day*. We're including a page for associations to record what activities their associations are doing to commemorate important day.

The 2016 theme is '**Stuttering Pride: Respect. Dignity. Recognition**'.



Respect. Dignity. Recognition.
International Stuttering Awareness Day
October 22, 2016
isad.isastutter.org

isad.isastutter.org/isad-2016/

We kindly ask you to post and spread the logo, the website and this message through your networks.

We welcome papers from not only PWS and professionals (SLPs/SLTs), but also from those who are the partners, parents, children, colleagues and other people who support PWS. We ask for people to participate in a number of ways.

1. Write a paper.

Write a paper (in English that can be easily understood by nonnative speakers) of 2000 words or less. Please also provide a title and author bios (50 words or less). Shorter documents are also welcome, in the format of a paper, a piece of poetry, a song, a drawing or something else. If you quote or use material from another person or source, please cite the reference in text and at the bottom of the paper in a reference list (APA formatting is preferred). Papers must be submitted to isad@isastutter.org by **August 31** and should be provided in text (TXT), rich text format (RTF) or Word (DOC/X) formats. Images can be included, however special fonts should not be used, as all papers will be presented in the same style. The team will review all papers and we may ask for clarification, shortening or rewording if necessary. Please do not use complex formatting or language, as many visitors may not be native speakers of English. If you have something visually complex to include, convert it into an image and send the image attached to your paper.

2. Make a video or audio presentation.

Record audio to be loaded to the website. Audio must be in the format .mp3, .m4a, .ogg or .wav. Audio recordings must not be more than seven minutes in duration.
OR

Record a video to be loaded to the website via YouTube. We cannot accept large video files sent by email, please load them to YouTube and send us the link to the video. Video recordings must not be more than seven minutes in duration.

For audio or video recordings, you must include a short summary of the content. For example, 'A video by Joe Smith about how his stutter made him a better person.'

3. **Contribute to the online conference through other mediums**

We are always looking for new and unique ways of expressing your stories through social media or other methods, in a way that can be easily shared through the ISAD Online Conference. For example, Facebook, Vines, Instagram, Twitter... or something else, get in touch with us about your ideas!

4. **Be an 'expert'.**

As in previous online conferences, we will provide a space for participants to ask questions to Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and other experts in the field. Experts will monitor the questions in the 'Ask an expert...' forum.

5. **Write about the International Stuttering Awareness Day event(s) in your country.**

Write a short summary about what your association is doing to celebrate and bring awareness to ISAD. One of the points of the online conference is to raise awareness of

International Stuttering Awareness Day and find out what others are doing. If your association is doing something special, please let us know;

- your country
- your association's name
- what you are doing for International Stuttering Awareness Day this year
- include any venues, dates and times of activities, so others in your country can support you!

Send all emails/papers/requests, including your contact details, a bio of the authors that is 50 words or less, to isad@isastutter.org, so we can contact you if we need to. Again, all papers are due by **August 31**. If you intend to submit a paper please let us know as soon as possible so we can prepare for the number of submissions. **Late papers will not be accepted.**

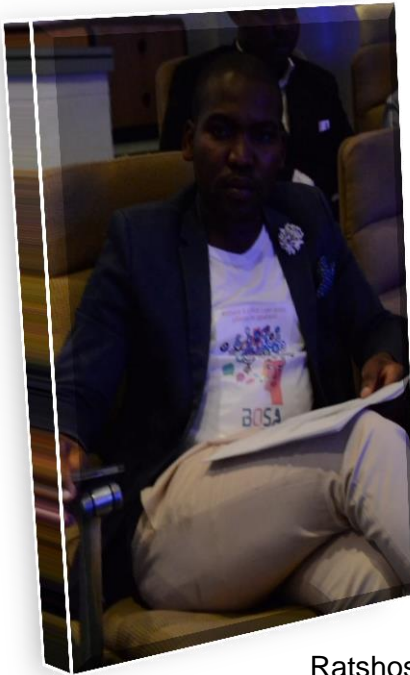
For all participants in the conference we ask you to:

- Provide a short bio about yourself (not more than 50 words) with a picture of your head/face attached to the file, as an introduction of who you are and your background.
- During the online conference, you will need to monitor the page where your paper is stored and respond to comments made by others every few days.

We look forward to your contribution to the ISAD online conference this year!



NEWS FROM BOTSWANA STUTTERING ASSOCIATION (BOSA)



BoSA currently have around 30 members.

Since October 5th 2014 when the idea of just starting a self-help group for people who stutter included starting the Botswana Stuttering Association (BoSA), the founder Mr Boago Victor

Ratshoswane of the

organization has been doing tremendous and commendable work in raising awareness about stuttering in Botswana. Botswana is a landlocked country in the southern part of Africa sharing borders with South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Namibia. It has a population of two million and that translates to having approximately 20,000 people who stutter.

BoSA, as the only and first organization dealing with stuttering, faces a lot of challenges and has a very wide scope to cover, since a lot of things still have to be done to help PWS to lead better and improved livelihoods. We are doing a lot to address those challenges.

Shortage of Speech Therapists

In Botswana we have only around five public speech therapists serving a population of two million. Private therapists are also very few and most Botswana cannot afford them due to high fees they charge for their sessions. This is a great deficit as Speech Language Pathologists do not only serve people who stutter but their scope extends to a whole lot of other speech impediments and helping people suffering from conditions such as stroke and who were

involved in accidents affecting the ability to speak or swallow well. So to address this challenge of shortage, the BoSA is encouraging local universities and

colleges to start a course on speech therapy to train more people who can later be SLPs. BoSA also intends to one day have its own training institute for SLPs and a Speech Clinic which will not just be limited to helping PWS but will extend to other speech impairments. This is all in a pursuit to bridge the gap of a Speech Therapy shortage.



Lack of Knowledge about Stuttering

To raise awareness about stuttering, BoSA usually holds public awareness activities to teach the public about stuttering and we also exhibit during fairs and exhibitions so that the people can understand about stuttering and the association. This helps to clear the misconceptions and myths about stuttering. We also get a lot of people opening up about their stuttering and also joining the association.

Last year October 22th we held the first ever commemoration of International Stuttering

Awareness Day, where we watched the King's Speech Movie.

We also do radio and television interviews so that we can reach a wider population to teach them about stuttering.



Low Self Esteem among people who stutter

Most people who stutter do not have confidence to face some situations such as job interviews,



to speak on the telephone and public speaking. To help other people who stutter to overcome fears of those situations, we hold self-help meetings to encourage each other. Recently we ran a workshop on public speaking to help people who stutter to be able to speak publicly without fear.

Article sourced by Hanan Hurwitz from Boago Victor Ratshoswane.

2016 ISA MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA - WORLD CONGRESS JULY 5, 2016 ATLANTA USA

This agenda is in draft form and is subject to change.

MEETING OPEN 10AM

- 1 Call to order
- 2 Acceptance of minutes
- 3 Action items from previous minutes
- 4 Financial reports and statements
- 5 Reports from current board members
- 6 Candidate Statements – Election of Officers
- 7 World Congress
- 8 International Stuttering Awareness Day and Online Conference
- 9 Strategic Planning including SWOT analysis
- 10 Joint project with the Netherlands and World Health Organization (B. Bast)
- 11 Other business

MEETING CLOSE 5PM

NEWS FROM ISRAEL



AMBI, the Israeli Stuttering Association, is the only organization representing People Who Stutter in Israel. The AMBI vision, taken from the ISA, is A World That Understands Stuttering. To work towards achieving this vision, AMBI conducts various activities geared towards helping PWS and their families. Like most national associations, AMBI is run almost entirely by volunteers. A big improvement implemented during the last year was the hiring of a part time General Manager, a move that has certainly helped AMBI become more focused and more active.

AMBI organizes a Stuttering Awareness Week during November. The week is characterized by mini conferences held in the major cities of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Beer Sheva. In addition, AMBI is active during year with a variety of activities which include:

- Personal mentoring of PWS and their families
- Subsidized empowerment seminars, such as Coaching and Byron Katie's "The Work"
- Self-help group meetings held in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa
- Theater group for PWS
- Toastmasters group
- Debate group



- Lectures and other activities, for PWS, their families and for Speech Language Pathologists, geared to raising our awareness and our knowledge about stuttering, and bringing PWS and SLPs closer together
- A wide variety of outreach efforts to local media
- Participation in international conferences
- Participation in research, and in development of technologies that have the potential to support PWS
- Governmental connections and lobbying
- Closed Facebook group called SPEAK UP, exclusively for PWS.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gimandgam/>

More details can be found on the AMBI website at <http://www.ambi.org.il/>

Contact AMBI by email at ambiemail@gmail.com

Article sourced by Hanan Hurwitz

FACEBOOK GROUP FOR PWS IN BOSNIA, CROATIA AND SERBIA

My name is Amer and I'm 27, from Sarajevo, Bosnia. As a person who stutters from his early childhood, I was simply sad about the current situation about PWS in Bosnia and the level of awareness about the stuttering problem. There is not any support group or any group activities or therapies. I know several speech language pathologists in Sarajevo. They offer traditional speech therapy and look at stuttering only as a speech problem.

My only therapy was in my earliest childhood, when I was seven, when I attended traditional speech therapy without much success. Also, at 14 I was hypnotized and it had much more positive effects on my speech. I didn't like to talk about my speech or even think about it, even with my closest family. When I read John Harrison's book "Redefining Stuttering" at the end of 2014, it changed everything. It resonated with me completely. I slowly began to read more and more about stuttering and find out about the NSA and all other support groups and their benefits for PWS. I contacted many speech pathologists in Sarajevo to try to start some kind of group with their mentorship and to see if their clients were interested in the idea. I also contacted one guy who started an informal group a few years ago. It counted five members, but it isn't active currently, because some members went out of the country for work or education. That lead me to start a Facebook group at the start of

December. It is live now on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/330823947088151/?fref=ts>.

There are also some groups for PWS in Croatia and Serbia, but they are not so active. After starting a group, I advertised it on other

Facebook groups for PWS both in the country and abroad. Also, the most popular news website in the country made a story about the group. It was extremely

useful and we got many members. Currently, the group has 130 members, with about 20 active members. Because of the low interest in Bosnia, I decided to extend the group to neighbouring countries, Croatia and Serbia, since we use the same language. People write their stories and share useful resources about stuttering. There are also interesting discussions about various topics. Two months after starting the group, we started to organize online hangouts where we discuss about stuttering and our experiences once a week. Then we introduced another hangout, where we practice our speech (reading in front of others, round robin association games, dialogues, interviews). 4-8 people usually attend those hangouts. It is going fine so far. I have a plan to

organize face to face meetings once a week for people in Sarajevo. We'll see how it goes.

Creating this group was one of the best things that happened to me in past few

years. I met so many cool, smart and supportive people. I learned so many new things, heard new experiences and I think each of the active members can benefit from this group. The biggest challenge is to animate people and make them proactive.



LET YOUR TONGUE SPEAKS
WHAT YOUR HEART THINKS

Davy Crockett

Many are shy and not really open to talk about stuttering or they are not interested. However, this is only the start and I think we can do much more for PWS and for increasing awareness about stuttering in our countries.

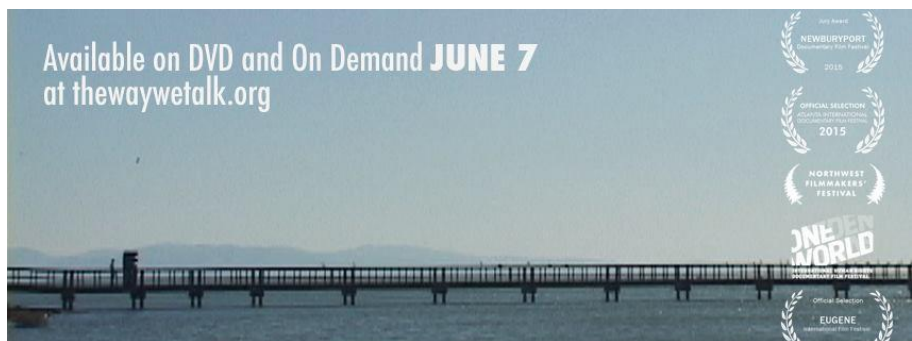
you know someone from Bosnia, Croatia or Serbia, be free to tell them about the group. If you have some suggestions about group activities, you're more than welcome. My email is amer.zildzic@gmail.com.

If you wish to contact me about stuttering, my experiences or group, you're welcome. Also, if

Article sourced by Hanan Hurwitz from Amer Zildzic.

THE WAY WE TALK IN JAPAN

The first weekly support meeting of Osaka Stuttering Project (OSP) for 2016 was kicked off with the preview of the movie *The Way We Talk* on April 8 in Osaka. It is a documentary film created and directed by an American young man Michael Turner--the journey of coming to terms with stuttering. Japanese subtitles were made by Kazue Shinji, Director of International Division, Japan Stuttering Project, and Eiji Inoue, a member of Osaka Stuttering Project, put the Japanese translations into the film.



Earlier than that Michael contacted Masuhiko Kawasaki, a former ISA Board member, about an interview with me for the movie. Michael and I talked for an hour and half before the meeting with the members of OSP. I was impressed by his sincere attitude of listening attentively to my talk. The members of OSP enjoyed sharing with him their thoughts about stuttering and looked forward to the release of the movie. And we were very excited to see Michael and Alyssa on the screen after two years and half.

He told us his parents, brother, and grandfather all stutter. The family never talked about stuttering openly even though it was a big part of their daily life. Michael started making a movie to find about stuttering what it is and why it happens as he realized he knew little about it.

While making the movie Michael had contact with the members of the support group in Portland where he lives, a speech therapist, and a researcher on heredity of stuttering,

Back in December, 2013 Michael and Alyssa visited an OSP's Friday meeting from Portland, Oregon during their honeymoon in Japan.



children at the summer camp for children who stutter. They seem to have affected Michael's life in many ways.

After the preview we shared our impressions and thought about the movie:



"I was so moved by the movie that my eyes were tearing through the end. I've never had such an experience."

"There were so many touching phrases I wanted to keep in mind"

"I was glad to hear Michael say 'I feel better about it,' when his mother asked how he would feel about the future, having a child who might stutter."

"I used to think the main stream of approach to stuttering in the US was more therapy-oriented but it was good to find there are people who feel and rather choose to live with stuttering in the same way as we do."

"Michael's friend Ian said 'by saying that I want this big part of me to be gone, it's almost like saying I don't like who I am. I like who I am.' His strong message still remains in my mind"

"It is wonderful to see Michael meet the members of the support group and develop contact with them and to see him grow in that process." "The scenes of the car and trains were symbolic showing the journey in which Michael's thought about stuttering matured and he gained self-confidence."



Our support group meets every Friday evening and also holds stuttering workshops for speech therapists, school teachers working with children who stutter, and our most important program is summer camp for children who stutter and their parents, attended by about 140 people each time over 27 years. We were very excited to see the children at the Camp Our Time in the movie, particularly when one of them said, *"I didn't really know how I would grow up and get a job and work at a fast food place and talk fast or do these other things. But here people have all these cool things, and it's just inspiring, you know, that it can't stop us."*



Children at our camp also make or write similar comments. They pay close attention to what adults who stutter think about stuttering and their attitude to life. We must show them how we live to the fullest with stuttering, not give them a negative idea that stuttering would give them a hard life so they must cure it. This is an important mission of our support group.

The Way We Talk is an artifact of a young man's personal growth. Staying present in the path with Michael who accepted who he is gave us courage

and inspiration and it also gave us an affirmation of the significance of our support group activities.

The movie has been shown in many cities of the United States and other countries. It will become a big highlight of the coming 11th World Congress in Atlanta. We are now searching ways to hold screenings and distribute DVDS in Japan.

Shinji Ito

Executive Director, Japan Stuttering Project

Translated by **Shinji Kazue**

NEWS FROM MAURITANIA

First, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks for all those who contribute to creating this Congress that care for stutterers through the world.

I would like to place my intervention on behalf of the Mauritanian stutterers who represent a considerable number of people.

SELF HELP: our situation in Mauritania is characterized by a lack of any specialized institution, such as universities that make any research or work in field of speech-language pathologist; we are in need of being aware of evolution happening in this field.

We, stutterers of Mauritania are struggling in order to get out of isolation and to make our neighbors feel and care for our problems trying to understand us.

SELF HELP: is our main means through which we make the first contact with stutterers in order to



help them overcome barriers.

We organized many seminars and meetings through which we made sketches to attract attention of officials to our situation.

During these meetings, we discussed an idea of creating a language impairment institute for fluency, to give PWS the opportunity to learn and improving their fluency levels.

Our efforts need to be completed to help our fellow citizens and your conference represent a good means for that.

Again, I express my thanks to all your colleagues who are helping to improve the participation level of this conference.

Article sourced by Hanan Hurwitz from Abdelahi Macis.

Disclaimer- The opinions and views expressed in One Voice are solely from the authors themselves and may or may not reflect the views and opinions of the ISA Board



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