



# ONE Voice

INTERNATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION | ONE VOICE EDITION 41 | FEBRUARY 2019

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## Stories from Hiroshima 2018 and around the world



# Message from the Chair

Annie Bradberry, USA



Dear Friends,

My three-year term comes to an end this June and I want to thank you all for the opportunity I've had serving as your chair. Thinking back on my journey as a person who stutters, it is filled with exploration, opportunities to learn and grow spiritually and emotionally, and a lot of fun too. The places I've been and the people I've met fill my heart and my life story. There have been struggles over the years but because of you, and the friends I have made it seems these troubling moments turn into times of personal growth.

I've traveled to Norway, Canada, Belgium, France, England, Ireland, Scotland, Iceland, Japan, and throughout the United States, all because I stutter. A highlight of my three years was being a part of the first joint world congress ONE WORLD,

MANY VOICES: Science and Community planning committee. This groundbreaking conference was led by Jenny Packer and Kirsten Howells, SLP's from the UK. Forming a committee to include all hosting organizations, there was a true fair representation from the [International Cluttering Association](#) (ICA), [International Fluency Association](#) (IFA), us, the [International Stuttering Association](#) (ISA), as well as local host organizations the [Japan Society of Stuttering and Other Fluency Disorders](#) and the Japanese Stuttering Genyukai Organization. Committee members came from all over the world and for me it not only created solidarity It generated open dialog between us all. Honest and often sensitive, we all listened, learned and supported the needs of all organizations. I am deeply proud to have been a working member of the committee and can see these new formed relationships continuing to flourish and be nurtured.

It continues on as the working committee in Iceland are busy at work for this year's World Congress, also as committees are being formed for the second Joint World Congress in 2021. It is an exciting time for the stuttering community.



Annie Bradberry with ISA Board Member & PWS Mitch Trichon, PhD, CCC/SLP, after their keynote presentation in Hiroshima, July 2018





Annie Bradberry with *When I Stutter* filmmaker John Gomez, one of the recipients of the Supporter of People with Fluency Disorders Award.

At this summer's World Congress in Iceland we will have a membership meeting where candidates will come forward to apply to serve on the board. Some existing members are hoping to be reelected who can offer history and experience, and I'm excited by the interest of others wishing to join. More information will follow on [our website](#) and our [Facebook page](#) on how you can get involved and meeting day and time. Being a part of the stuttering community turns the fight into purpose as we come together to improve the lives of those of us who stutter.

My forty years in the stuttering community has my reflections and memories filled with the faces of all of you, the times we have shared, and the passion that now fuels me. There is always work to be done and in these past three years steps have been taken to create more opportunities for the future. The formation of a research committee will provide us with the latest work in the field,

ongoing improvements plan to ensure when someone searches for stuttering help they find all the resources they need on our website. Our current board has worked well together and those of us leaving feel we have created a strong foundation for future board members to carry forward.

For me, I hope to get more involved with my country's National Stuttering Association, where my journey first began some 40 years ago. Thinking of this year's theme of the October 2018 [International Stuttering Awareness Day online conference, \*Speak Your Mind\*](#), let our take-away be an internal understanding that what we say is always important and it is not how we say our words, but that we always do. That you choose to speak your mind verses silence and that your struggles turn into passions. Most important, is the National Stuttering Association's motto...if you stutter, you're not alone. Never.

I hope our paths cross in the future...

Love,  
Annie B.

# Italy: Experience of a PWS-Heaven Where Everybody Stutters

Jurjen de Jong, Belgium



People who know me, know that I like writing, because it gives me the freedom to say what I want to say and speak my mind 100% freely. I usually write about scientific/historical facts, but this time I step out of my comfort zone and will try to express my thoughts and feelings.

Last summer I was at a camp for seven days in Levice in the mountains in Northern Italy. This camp consisted of people who stutter (a.k.a. PWS) from all over Europe. Before I left, my friends and family back home wondered what the heck I was going to do at a “stutter camp”? I had reactions

such as “Dude, you barely stutter, why do you go?” or “Nice that you can use your little stuttering to go on a holiday with sponsorship.” Let me be honest: I didn’t know the day before I left where I was going to. I even thought that I was going to Ceva almost until the day I left!

Now I have the answer to their questions. I went to a “stutter camp” to come together with PWS, but not to solve our problem with stuttering, but to create an imaginary world where stuttering is the norm. Sounds strange, right? For me this was very special, because since the moment I realized as a kid that I had a stutter, I was always aware of the possibility to start blocking instead of just saying the words the way I wanted, which obviously influenced my life. I admit that I am much more confident about my speech and have much more fluent periods than when I was younger, but the old thoughts are always there and will probably never totally fade away.

You might wonder, “aren’t PWS all just shy/quiet people?” No, they are not. From day one I personally had a direct feeling of chemistry with many participants. Not only because we all share our problem with fluent speech (in our own ways), but also because PWS seem to be very open-minded, sensitive – which is in my eyes an advantage – and interested in human internal growth. Maybe the group was biased, because not every PWS goes on a camp with so many strangers, but still, it was amazing to observe and experience how everybody developed and became very comfortable with each other in only seven days. We shared our values in life, feelings, thoughts, cultures, strange habits, inspiring life-events during the breaks and workshops which were given by other PWS, and most importantly: spoke our minds freely. Only the cooks were non-PWS, but admitted that they started to stutter after the week (maybe they said this because they wanted to be “officially” part of our awesome PWS-community).

Oh yeah, I have also now over 40 new friends from all over Europe. I don’t know how many times I already said thank you (where stuttering on the words doesn’t count), but again, thanks all for being great! For all the fluent people who came to this point of reading my text, I offer this advice: if you want to become a better listener, find some more stuttering friends.

## USA: Stuttering in the Workplace

Pamela Mertz, National Stuttering Association, Board of Directors, Special Projects Chair,  
Albany, New York, USA

Today, we might be interviewing over the phone or via video technology before we even or ever get an invitation for a second, face-to-face interview. That in-person interview brings more worry. Do I talk about the fact that I stutter? Do I just assume it's obvious and not mention it? What if I do stutter or block and the interviewer reacts negatively? What do I do? What do I say?



Left to right: Bill Smith, Pamela Mertz, Frank Stechel, George Daquila and, Catherine Moroney

People who stutter also face challenges when they are already in the workplace. They may feel that they cannot bring it up, so may spend lots of time and energy trying to hide it from coworkers and supervisors. They may feel they should bring it up, because having a reasonable accommodation at work might lessen the stress of the job, but the person doesn't know how to bring it up. Or maybe you do stutter openly and can't really hide it and someone laughs at you or says something annoying, like "did you forget your name?" or something else that we can all relate to.

The topic of job interviews and managing stuttering in the workplace comes up a lot. We see it in many of the social media stuttering forums. People post questions and scenarios about having an interview and asking people to wish them luck or offer advice. I see those types of posts, a LOT. People also post about having coworkers or clients make comments or react negatively and wonder how they should go about dealing with disclosure or advertising in the workplace. I also hear that it is regularly discussed at local NSA chapter meetings.

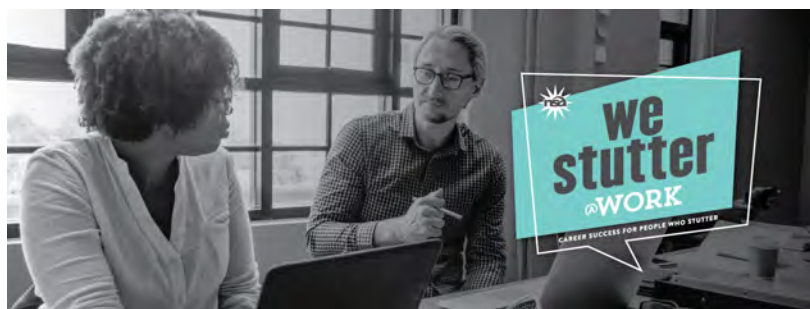
Stuttering in the workplace is a big deal. It affects everyone. New graduates discuss how they are having lots of phone interviews but can't seem to get past that phase and don't get invited back for a personal interview. Mid-career level workers also talk about sometimes feeling underutilized at work because supervisors make assumptions about the person's abilities or worse, don't want someone who stutters creating a "bad impression" of the organization. I've heard people who stutter say they're not allowed to answer the phone or wind up doing something different than what they were hired for.

The [National Stuttering Association](https://www.nsa-usa.org/) (NSA) in the USA has resources that can assist people in all



stages of stuttering in the workplace. Did you know that the NSA offers mock interviews for anyone who wants to practice an interview before having a real one with a prospective employer? Visit our page called “Stuttering in The Workplace” and see how to sign up and what else we can help with. Many people have taken advantage of this opportunity to practice interview skills. These individuals have told us they can’t believe the NSA offers this, and it’s free. If you don’t have an interview scheduled but just want to talk about how to deal with disclosure at work, we can help with that too. Sometimes just talking about that with someone who “gets it” is helpful and provides new ways to look at a situation that can seem overwhelming.

The NSA has an Employment Advocacy committee and we have been offering these mock interviews and “talking sessions” for almost a year now. The committee includes a diverse group of individuals with a mix of workplace experience.



The Employment Advocacy committee also sponsors webinars about stuttering in the workplace. In the first half of 2018, the NSA held three webinars that were facilitated by one of our members who has extensive leadership and coaching experience. The webinars covered such

topics as managing the phone at work, successful participation in meetings at work and making presentations at work. 450 people signed up for these webinars. Of that number, about 150 attended the sessions, some coming to all three. These numbers alone show that these issues are hugely important to the stuttering community. If you missed the webinars, all were recorded and are freely available on our Stuttering in The Workplace section on the NSA website. A webinar on “Disclosing Stuttering at Work” was held just last month and can also be found on our [We Stutter @ Work](#) web page.

At the annual NSA conference in Chicago, our Employment Advocacy committee ran a workshop called “Stuttering In The Workplace: Roundtable Discussions.” We had groups devoted to discussing job interview strategies, managing difficult reactions to stuttering, disclosure and managing phone and conference calls. The workshop had about 85 attendees. We could have easily gone two hours, as everybody had a lot to say. Again, people are showing us and telling us that stuttering in the workplace is a big deal and needs attention.

The goal of the NSA is to provide resources and support so that stuttering in the workplace is no longer seen as a big deal and that people who stutter can find the employment they want and advance in their careers. We also want to help employers understand more about stuttering too so that better workplace outcomes are obtained for everyone, both employers and employees.

# Israel: Spreading Stuttering Awareness

Hanan Hurwitz, Israel



AMBI, the [Israeli Stuttering Association](#) was established in 1999. The Association's vision is "A World that Understands Stuttering", adopted from the ISA Vision. AMBI's approach to stuttering is very much one of Acceptance as the foundation for

being able to help ourselves survive and thrive even while stuttering. We work together with people who stutter, parents of children who stutter, and speech-language therapists to create a better world for us all.

## Stuttering awareness strategy

Early in 2018, we started to create a Strategic Plan to focus on the goal of raising awareness about stuttering. We decided on this as a priority over other possible goals, as raising awareness about stuttering ties directly into our Vision.

We were fortunate to be assisted by a very talented Organizational and Quality Consultant who volunteers to help us, and she guided us to make clearly defined goals and objectives. Each objective needs to meet the criteria of S.M.A.R.T. – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. By adopting this sound business principle, we were able to achieve excellent focus on what we want to achieve. In the context of our strategic plan to raise awareness about stuttering, we have prioritized the following areas:

- Publicity and Public Relations
- Education
- Improving our website

In early July, we organized a special event to launch our strategic plan, and to recruit volunteers from within our community to work on the objectives. From this event, we created committees to work on each of these areas.

The Publicity activities include:

- Short movies of PWS, to be published to coincide with ISAD 2018
- Creation of a set of defining principles, to be used across the Association
- Translation into Hebrew of the movie [When I Stutter](#), which is due to be screened during our annual Stuttering Awareness Week.
- Active Facebook page, featuring personal stories and articles
- Starting to work with a professional PR firm, that can effectively raise awareness about stuttering

The Education activities involved speaking about what stuttering is what it is not, explaining the experience of the child and adult who stutters, and teaching the key concepts for surviving and thriving with stuttering. Activities include:

- Speaking to teachers in schools
- Speaking to teachers and school counselors in the context of their continued education courses
- Speaking to student teachers
- Speaking to school children
- Speaking to student speech language pathologists/therapists at all the universities
- Educating parents and families about stuttering, including visiting families at their homes which has proven very effective
- Speaking to soldiers and commanders

Our focus has resulted in real progress in terms of raising awareness about stuttering. We will soon have more speaking opportunities that we can handle with the existing volunteers, which is a wonderful problem to have.

A key aspect about our success has been to approach specific people in organizations. For example, we have asked parents of children who stutter to put us in contact with the heads of the school, as opposed, say, to approaching the Ministry of Education and trying to get a program initiated for educating teachers about stuttering. Working from the top down does not work in our case, but working from the bottom up is resulting in great success.

If anyone would like more details on what we do, please feel free to write to Hanan Hurwitz, the present Chair of AMBI, at [Hanan.hurwitz@gmail.com](mailto:Hanan.hurwitz@gmail.com).



Talking about stuttering on the radio for International Stuttering Awareness Day. From left to right: Shiran Israel, AMBI Board member and PWS, Adi Golombik, SLP, Hanan Hurwitz, and Anat Maor, mother of a child who stutters.



# East Africa: Activities Regarding Stuttering

Bruce Imhoff, Australia



Dieudonne Nsabimana, Coordinator of the African Stuttering Centre (ASC) and Chair of an umbrella organization of people who stutter in Rwanda, has been doing a great amount of work to help people who stutter and is currently running a fundraising campaign up to raise funds for similar activities in 2019. Read more about the work on the [Stuttering resources – Schools Project](#) website.

In 2018 he organised:

- printing 1,726 different booklets on stuttering.
- equipping 19 school libraries with booklets and brochures on stuttering:
- gave 26 families of kids who stutter a package, entitled "Resources for Stuttering - Family Package":
  - ordered 100 buttons with messages that help spread the word about stuttering
  - organized a camp for children who stutter, with the goal of confidence-building. (at the parents' request, the camp was postponed until January 2019)
  - launched a petition to rally the global community against inappropriate behaviour towards pupil who stutters. This petition has already been signed by more than 541 people, a tremendous achievement!

Plans for 2019 include:

- printing of 6,000 different booklets on stuttering,
- equipping 100 other school libraries with booklets and brochures on stuttering,
- organizing two camps for children who stutter,
- organizing a Training Workshop for school leaders,
- giving 150 families of kids who stutter a package, entitled: Resources for Stuttering - Family Package.

If you would like to help, please contact Dieudonne at [africanstutteringcentre@gmail.com](mailto:africanstutteringcentre@gmail.com).

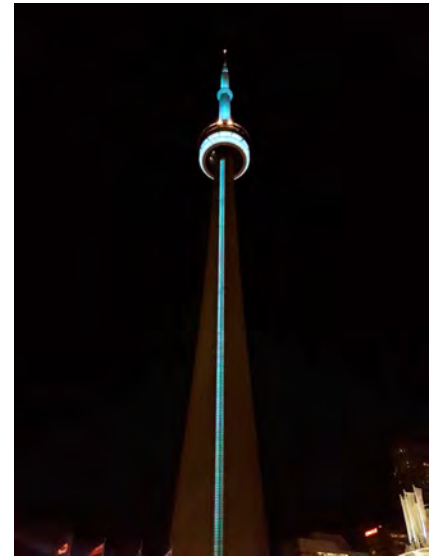
## Canada: Support across the country

Eeva Stierwalt, National Coordinator, Canadian Stuttering Association

We of the [Canadian Stuttering Association](#) (CSA) are passionate about helping people who stutter and their families and to raising awareness about stuttering across the country! In fact, it is in our hearts to help PWS deal as effectively as possible with their stutter and to achieve their full personal and professional potential!

As a national, not-for profit organization that is completely volunteer driven, we are small, but mighty! Our membership spans the country and we even have some international members! Membership is FREE and with it we offer all kinds of resources and opportunities to network and communicate through various venues:

- [CSA website](#) with resource lists and over 500 articles containing personal stories, research, book reviews, personal commentary, news items
- CSA Monthly Newsletter
- Social Media, including the [CSA Facebook Forum](#)
- Events and our Annual [Conferences](#)
- Personal contact with our Board



Lighting up the awe-inspiring CN Tower in Toronto in sea foam green in honour of International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) on October 22 thanks to the CSA!

We are just now adding to this list an exciting new initiative to encourage the start-up of local support groups across the country and to provide them with initial and ongoing support! To facilitate this initiative, we have created two new Board positions, Volunteer Coordinator and Regional Support Group Coordinator. These new coordinators are already working hard to prepare for our first support groups!

We are also embarking on the development of a new strategic plan and our board members are eagerly awaiting our upcoming planning session in April! Hey, we've come a long way! Some of you may know that we began back in August of 1991. Members of self-help groups for people who stutter from across Canada met at a conference in Banff, Alberta to form the first Canadian national organization for people who stutter. At that time, they named the national organization Canadian Association for People who Stutter (CAPS), later to be renamed the Canadian Stuttering Association. The annual conferences that started in the early 1990s are still going today and we continue to grow our membership and our passion!

As a matter of fact, what are you doing Saturday, October 19, 2019? That is the day of our 2019 CSA Conference 2019 to be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, just days before International Stuttering Awareness Day October 22<sup>nd</sup>! Welcome!

Have a look at our [website](#) and let us know if you have any questions or feedback! We look forward to hearing from you!

# USA: From Auburn University to the United Nations

News Release – Auburn University Communication Disorders Department

[Lawrence F. Molt](#), Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Communication Disorders Department, was recently appointed to the World Health Organization Rehabilitation Competency Framework Working Group, part of the WHO Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative. The World Health Organization (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations system and is responsible for preparedness, surveillance, and response for communicable and noncommunicable diseases as well as promoting efficient and effective health systems to ensure good health throughout the life-course.



The WHO asked the International Associations for 8 different disciplines involved in Rehabilitative Medicine to suggest members for the RCF Working group. Dr. Molt was nominated by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and selected by the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics along with Dr. Pamela Enderby, professor emeritus at Sheffield University in England as the 2 representatives for speech-language pathology. They are part of a group of 20 individuals from 8 disciplines, 13 different countries, with all 6 WHO regions represented, working on developing competencies for the provision of rehabilitative medicine services in emerging nations, as well as within the framework of health systems worldwide. The working group consists of 2 physicians, 2 rehab nurses, 2 speech-language pathologists, 2 audiologists, 3 physical therapists, 4 occupational therapists, 1 prosthetist/orthotist, and 3 psychologists.

Dr. Molt has certification and licensure in both speech-language pathology and audiology (less than ½ of 1% of practitioners in the United States carry dual certification) and has been named a Fellow of both the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the American Academy of Audiology. He is a past president of the International Fluency Association, the National Council of State Boards of Examiners, and the Alabama Speech and Hearing Association, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Stuttering Association and Special Olympics Alabama, as well as Vice-Chair of the Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology. Larry joined the AU Communications Disorders Department as a faculty member in 1995 and was designated as an “Engaged Scholar” by the College of Liberal Arts in 2015.

Larry first joined the National Stuttering Association in 1985, when it was the National Stuttering Project. Larry is both a person-who-stutters and a speech-language pathologist specializing in research and treatment of stuttering and other fluency disorders (he was in the inaugural cadre of ASHA board certified fluency specialists). He has been active in stuttering self-help and support



groups for almost 50 years, joining the National Council of Adult Stutterers in 1973 and serving as the president of the Florida Chapter from 1974 – 1977. Larry was named the NSA speech-language pathologist of the year in 2003, and served as the first chairperson of the NSA Research Committee.

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## India: Giving back

Anja Herde, Germany – ISA Board Member



In the last years, I discovered my love for India through some travels. The people and culture of the country touched me so much that I had the wish to give something back. In 2017 I read about the aid organization, Nandri e.V., and its school project in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. This was exactly the region that fascinated me so much. Shortly afterwards I decided to fly to India again to see this

school - already with the thought of spending a longer time there. Since I have been dealing (professionally) for many years with the topics of education and potential development of children and youth people, the idea was obvious to support disadvantaged children and youth people in India. Said done. After looking at the Little Flower School in the summer of 2017, I decided to save up my entire annual vacation to spend six weeks in 2018 in this school.

The Little Flower School was founded in 1992 by the Indian aid organization TEA-Trust (Team for Education and Action). The school has nine classes. About 300 children are taught by eight teachers - about 165 of them live in the attached hostel. The children are among the poorest in India: the Dalits, the casteless, the Adivasi (a native population). Their parents are migrant workers and had to work in brickworks during their own childhood. So they did not get an education. Their descendants - today's children - are called "New Generation Learners" because they now have the opportunity to learn in school so that they do not later have to work in a brick production themselves. Since March 2007, the German aid organization, Nandri Kinderhilfe e.V., has been

supporting this school project. The objective is a continuous school education, but also to maintenance the attached hostel as well as to support the people in the region.

As a volunteer, I lived in the school hostel and spent time with the children and teenagers from morning till night. During the day, I attended English classes, supported the teachers and helped with homework and exam preparation. In the afternoon and evening I played with the children and helped with serving of food. The accommodation is very sparse. The children sleep on the floor and have almost nothing except an iron box in which they store their belongings. Nandri e.V. regularly collects donations of clothes from Germany and sends them to India. In addition, there is the possibility to sponsor a child and thus make its school education possible.

My stuttering played only a minor role during the whole time. Even though I stutter more in English than in German, I didn't stop myself in communicating with the teachers and the students. Certainly, some teachers and students wondered why I sometimes spoke so unusually. In order to clarify this, I was actually planning a lesson on the subject of "being different". But due to the exam preparations and the lack of English language skills of the teachers and students, I was not able to realize it. To simplify the regular communication with the headmaster, I informed him about my stuttering. That was helping a lot.

I was particularly impressed by the way the school community dealt with each other. Everyone cares for each other - like a big family. Everything is shared. It is astonishing how few people actually need to live. Despite difficult living conditions, the children spread a joy of life and interest, which so infectious. It was great to spend time with them, to participate in their lives and to support them a little bit in their potentials. I can only recommend such a volunteer work to everyone. It creates humility, grounding and enables a significant change of perspectives in your life.



## **The ISA vision: A world that understands stuttering**



**ONE WORLD, MANY VOICES:**  
SCIENCE AND COMMUNITY  
13th - 16th July 2018, Hiroshima





## Joint World Congress 2018 in Japan

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you who participated in the 2018 Inaugural Joint World Congress of the International Stuttering Association (ISA), International Fluency Association (IFA), and International Cluttering Association (ICA) with local host organizations the Japan Society of Stuttering and Other Fluency Disorders (JSSFD) and the Japanese Stuttering Genyukai Association (JSGA): One World, Many Voices: Science and Community Conference in Hiroshima, Japan from July 13th-16th, 2018. Over 600 delegates from 30 countries gave their time and resources to attend and to contribute. You made this congress a success and it was a great pleasure to see so many of you there!

Hopefully you enjoyed both the scientific part and the social program and that you used the opportunity to extend your existing networks. I am sure that the cooperation with most of you will continue in the near future.

I would like to give special thanks to our keynote speakers and wonderful sponsors. I extend my sincere appreciation to them, without whom our congress would not be possible. I finally would like to thank furthermore to our Congress Organizing Team members who did outstanding work in organizing this congress.

– Norimune Kawai, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Event Chair



The joint conference itself combined with the Hiroshima location exceeded my highest expectations.

To experience stuttering with so many people from different cultures and to have my NSA pals with me was an exhilarating thrill of a lifetime.

– Doug Scott, USA



Left to right: ISA Board Members  
Annie Bradberry, Anja Herde

From 13 to 16 July 2018, a joint World Congress of the International Stuttering Association (ISA), International Fluency Association (IFA) and International Cluttering Association (ICA) took place for the first time in Hiroshima, Japan. The aim of this congress was to link self-help in the field of stuttering and cluttering more closely with therapists and science, thus enabling mutual exchange and learning from each other in different countries. In addition, current research results and new therapy approaches were presented and new ideas and experiences in dealing with stuttering and cluttering in the everyday life were shared.

In particular, the topic of stuttering at school and at work was given a special platform at the congress. Many lectures and

workshops dealt with this topic. Some countries presented their awareness activities in these fields:

- In Japan, the self-help project "We-Stutter" focuses on school, university and career entry and specifically addresses stuttering young people in Japan.
- A comprehensive mobbing management program (Murphy et al., 2013) from the USA helps stuttering children, their parents, schoolmates and teachers to deal with mobbing in a school context and contributes to a reduction of mobbing.
- In the UK, the Employers Stammering Network (ESN) was launched in 2013 with the aim of creating a culture in which all people who stammer can fully exploit their career potential.

In my view, the joint congress in Japan was a good opportunity to learn from international self-help activities in dealing with stuttering/cluttering and to be brought up to date by international experts in the field of research into the phenomenon of stuttering and cluttering. The congress was a great enrichment for all participants! It is therefore worth organizing this congress for a second time in 2021. I am very much looking forward to it!

– Anja Herde, Germany



Sigridur Fossberg Thorlacius

Went on a plane, halfway across the world; Departure: Iceland - Destination: Japan. This was my first visit to Japan, my first time in Asia in fact. The occasion? I didn't fly there on a whim, I was there on behalf of the Icelandic National Stuttering Association, [Málbjörg](#), going on my first ISA World Congress. Funnily enough, this was no ordinary WC, this was a Joint one for the ISA, the International Fluency Association and the International Cluttering Association. So in many ways, this was a time of firsts for me and the international stuttering community in general.

Looking back at it, with a smile on my face, I remember packing formal wear like jackets to maintain an air of respectability, but opting for light and airy summer dresses trying to withstand the scorching heat. The summer happened to be a particularly unfortunate one for Iceland with lots of rain and low temperatures. Hiroshima had also been experiencing climate change, with high temperatures and increased humidity. It felt

like I was melting the first few days. All the while I was keenly aware of how lucky I was being a tourist and escaping the recent floods. We stayed close to the Peace Memorial Park, a reminder of how the people of Hiroshima had managed to stay strong in the face of adversity throughout history. The locals looked industrious, fit and clean, bowing to each other, emitting both dignity and respect.

The congress itself was incredible, meeting people from all over the world, people who stutter, people who clutter, and speech therapists alike. It was like a world within a world. An air conditioned haven inside, listening to presentations and doing workshops with international friends. Going outside, I was met with clean streets in the scorching heat of Hiroshima City. An experience I will never forget. I would like to give a big shout out to my friends from across the world who made the experience that much more interesting and exciting! I especially want to thank a handful of lovely people from Ireland, Germany, and the US. You know who you are!

I am hoping this will be my first World Congress of many more to come. As for next year, I know where I will be staying for a week in the end of June. Just an hour drive to the southeast of my home town, Reykjavik. As I'm sure you know, the next ISA World Congress will take place in the unique town of Hveragerdi. Hoping to see you all there!

– Sigridur Fossberg Thorlacius, Chair of Málbjörg, National Stuttering Association of Iceland, Iceland





I am grateful for the opportunity to interact with and learn from people with fluency disorders. Thank you for the opportunity to share, discuss, collaborate. The joint conference had a powerful impact on me personally and professionally.

– Kathy Scaler Scott, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Recipient of Deso Weiss Award for Excellence in the Field of Cluttering and author of [Fluency Plus: Managing Fluency Disorders in Individuals with Multiple Diagnoses](#), USA

From left to right: John Tetnowski, Isabella Reichel, Kathy Scaler Scott, Suzanne Cook, and Charley Adams, Chair ICA.

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“A gathering of women who stutter” was planned for women who stutter from all over the world. We realized we have each other who have the same experiences and thoughts across the world, we can encourage and support each other any time. Those facts give me further passion and hope to life.

– Miho Maruoka, Japan



I found the mixing pot of people the most satisfying aspect of the joint world congress. There were clinicians/researchers in self-help talks and open-mics; there were people who stutter in research talks. We need more of that cross-group mixing in our field. Such interactions can only be a net gain to people who stutter. It increases empathy and helps different sides understand each other in more nuanced ways.

– Seth Tichenor, M.S. CCC-SLP, PhD Candidate in CSD  
Michigan State University, USA

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The One World Many Voices conference in Hiroshima, Japan presented a stellar opportunity for people who stutter, people who clutter, speech-language pathologists, and researchers in this field to come together to share knowledge and ideas, all in the hopes of improving people's lives.

The unforgettable setting, near the Peace Memorial, helped to create a unique atmosphere of collaboration and sharing. The organizers created a perfect blend of social events, support activities, and scientific exchanges that made the conference not only educational but enjoyable, as well. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate, and particularly appreciate the efforts of so many people who worked together to make this event a reality.

– J Scott Yaruss, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-F, F-ASHA, Professor of Communicative Sciences and Disorders at Michigan State University, USA



Photo: left to right, bottom row then top: Erica Lescht (MSU PhD Student), Chelsea Johnson (MSU PhD Student), Greg Spray (MSU PhD Student), Kristin Pelczarski (Kansas State University), Seth Tichenor (MSU PhD student), Caryn Herring (MSU PhD student), J Scott Yaruss





From left to right, SLP's Erica Lescht, Nan Bernstein Ratner (current President of IFA), Elaine Kellman (past President of IFA), and Shelley Brundage.

It was certainly one of the highlights of my professional life to stand with Annie Bradberry, Hanan Hurwitz and Kathy Scaler Scott to present the results of our stakeholder survey. I think our results were fascinating, and I look forward to how it will be received when it appears in the Congress proceedings. The joint keynote session showed how far we've come since I addressed the ISA Board to request support for a joint Congress. Not everyone was

enthusiastic about the prospect. At that point, I emphasized that there isn't any point in being a researcher or clinician if I can't join forces with

people who stutter to understand what it is that PWS and their families want. Without work together, it really would become just an academic exercise, pun quite intended. I think our work together in Hiroshima illustrated just how much we can do by working together.

I think it was also fitting that we met in Hiroshima, a city known to create a lasting marker of peace and harmony out of what had to be the most violent disagreement in human history. It was gratifying to see how many people came together from so many perspectives and from so many world communities. It's definitely kept me hungering for more, and I predict Montreal will see even more joint work, to better mutual benefit.

– Nan Bernstein Ratner, F-, H-ASHA, F-AAAS, ABCLD, Professor, Hearing and Speech Sciences, University of Maryland, USA



At the Hiroshima Peace Tower





Japan was where our stuttering/cluttering family was completed when everyone was included.

– Karen Nelligan, Ireland

Back row: Martin Lakefield and Hermann Christmann.  
Front row: Angelika Drazewska, Sigridur Fossberg Thorlacius,  
and Karen Nelligan. Joining them is Franky Banky in button  
form!

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I felt an immediate connection to the other people who stutter, despite being raised in different countries, speaking different languages, and having different experiences. We both had this shared experience of stuttering and although I didn't know Japanese and didn't understand most things (or anything) being said, I felt this unspoken bond. There was something so special about feeling someone else stutter and just being present with them. Feeling like you truly understood who someone was and that they understood you, even though neither of you fully understood what was being said.

– Caryn Herring, M.S. CCC-SLP, PhD Student, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, Michigan State University, USA

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I think the joint world congress was "journey of life" for all people who stutter.  
It would have been like a treasure for 4 days! I hope that Japanese stutter will cross the border,  
cross the sea, and meet people who stutter all over the world in the future!

– Keisuke Saito, Japan

With a lifelong admiration for the rich history of Japan, the World Congress was my opportunity to immerse myself in traditional Japanese culture. Planning the trip of a lifetime, many World Heritage sites were on my agenda.

To my surprise, the most amazing part of the trip was the privilege of introducing "Open Mike" to Genukai. Sharing tears of joy from an instantaneous release from years of stuttering's grip with my fellow PWS.

Experiencing that feeling of a newfound freedom. That was the BEST part. And it took 7,000 miles to do it.



From left to right, Keisuke Saito, Miho Maruoka, and Tom Scharstein

– Tom Scharstein, Adult Programs Chair, NSA Board of Directors, USA

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World Congress Hiroshima: A world, within a world, within a world.

– Sigridur Fossberg Thorlacius, Iceland

Left to right: Heather Najman – USA, Annie Bradberry – USA, Sigridur Fossberg Thorlacius – Iceland, and Karen Nelligan – Ireland



Left to right: Kirsten Howells, Hanan Hurwitz, and Jenny Packer

I almost feel like I was way too close up on everything to see it clearly, and observe what was going on. My own experience was that it didn't feel like a meeting between three international organisations. Instead, during the days of the congress, the boundaries between organisations were irrelevant and the experience was of being part of a group of people, sharing and learning together. In retrospect, it seems that the organisations have moved a step closer, acknowledging both their separate missions and the many ways in which their interests intersect and converge. And these steps were taken in a genuine spirit of open-heartedness and enjoyment which was a joy to be part of.

It was really, really good to see people from around the world so enthused at meeting each other, at sharing cultures and languages, knowledge and experiences."

– Kirsten Howells, congress co-organizer, United Kingdom

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The multicultural nature of the conference really did add insights into how different people, in different cultures, at different ages, all deal with this thing stuttering... Some overlap, but there are also some stark differences.

And in a very real way, the raw emotion that Hiroshima represents (the atomic bomb) collides with much of the raw emotion that stuttering can create. This wasn't lost on me either. So there's all this potential for raw emotion – but what's done with it? In both cases, it's appreciated, but then used to go forth and better shape the world.

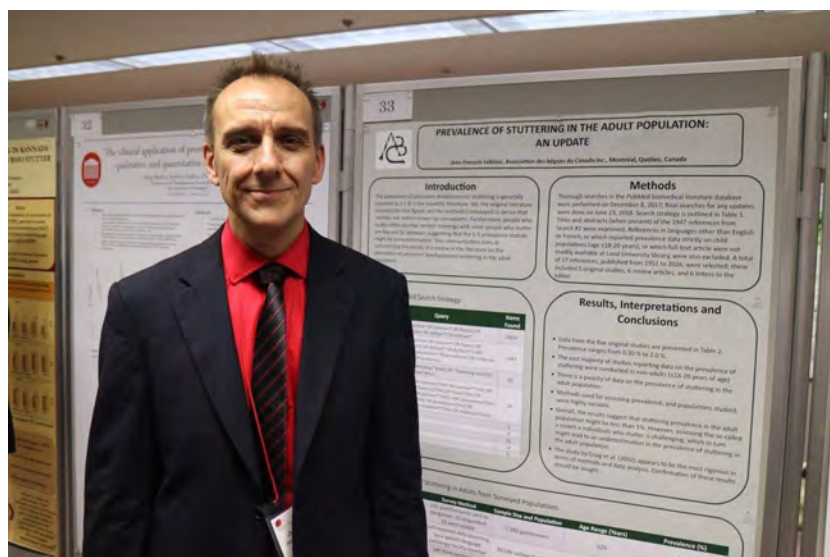
– Greg Snyder, USA



Left to right: Doug Scott, Annie Bradberry, Shelley Brundage, Heather Najman, and Greg Snyder.



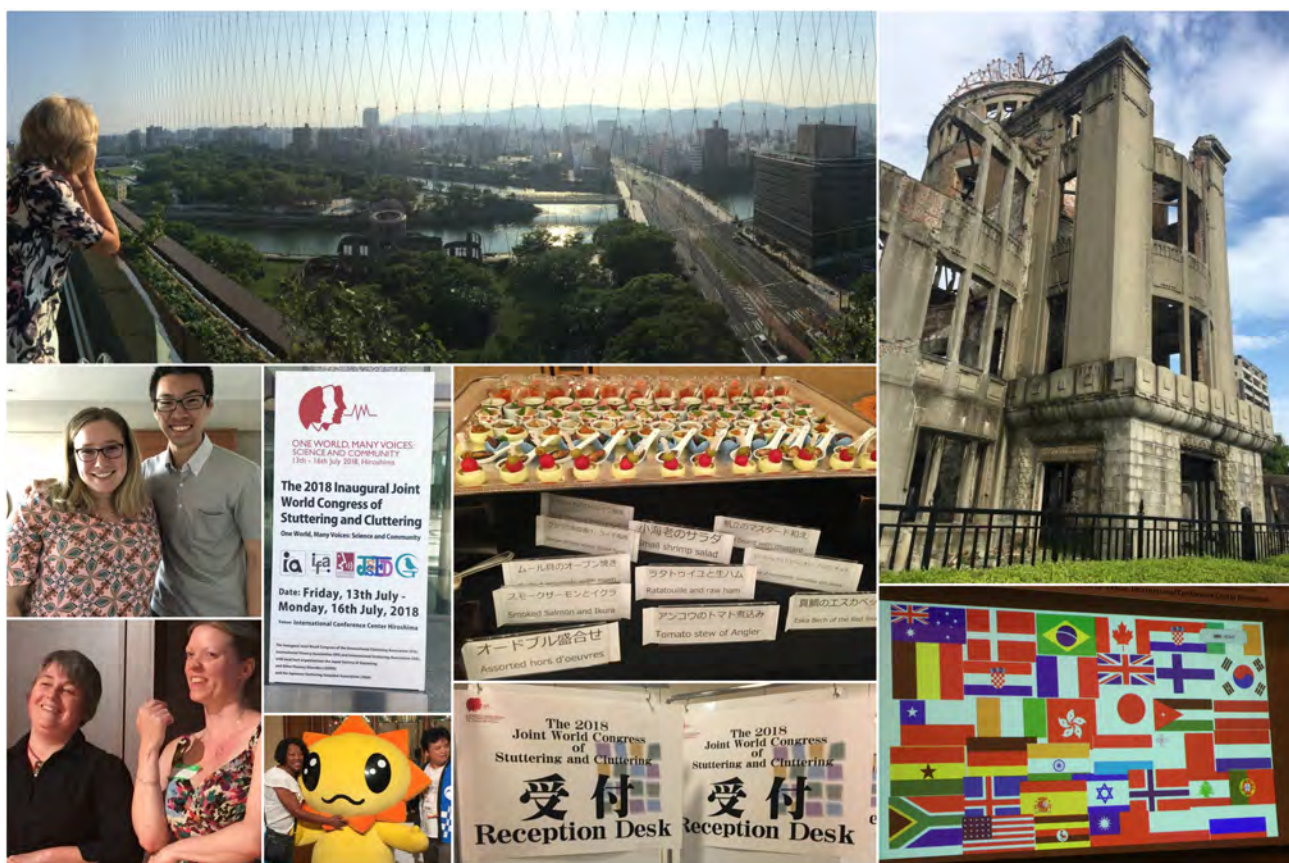




If someone had told me that my stuttering would make me travel to Japan one day, I would have never believed it. Coming back from this trip, I say to myself that indeed, stuttering might be a gift!

In no other event one could witness the universality of the stuttering experience as this congress. Japan was where our stuttering/cluttering family was completed when everyone was included.

– Jean-François Leblanc, President of [Association des bègues du Canada](#) (ABC), presenting a poster titled “Prevalence of Stuttering in the Adult Population: An Update”.







“In each of us, there is a little of all of us.” – Georg Christoph Lichtenberg  
Submitted by Charley Adams, PhD, CCC-SLP

**Thank you to everyone who attended, shared your stories and photos!**  
**See you in Montréal, Canada in 2021!**

# Embrace Your Stutter in 2019 at the ISA World Congress in Iceland

Árni Birgisson, Congress Convenor of 13th ISA World Congress and Treasurer of Malbjorg, the Icelandic Stuttering Association, Iceland, [arnitb@gmail.com](mailto:arnitb@gmail.com)



Árni dressed up as a Viking in 1999

In september 1999 I went to my first stuttering conference. It was the yearly Nordic conference which was held in Iceland that year. That experience, to be surrounded by people who stutter, knowing that you can stutter freely and get all the time you need to get your words out, is really magical. You actually have to experience it yourself to believe how much freedom it really is.

I became and have been hooked on stuttering conferences after that fantastic weekend in 1999. I have been to at least one conference every year since, 23 in total. Fifteen Nordic conferences, three BSA conferences, two ELSA Youth meetings, two ISA World congresses and, last summer, the NSA Congress in Chicago.

The Nordic conferences are usually quite small. With about 40 to 80 people in total, you manage to speak with almost everyone. Half of the attendance are first timers, experiencing the same feelings I did 19 years ago, while the other half are regulars. I really like those conferences, as

they are small, you get to make new friends, and meet all the friends you have made during the years.

In July this year I traveled to Chicago, for my first NSA conference. Instead of traveling to a small town in Finland or a fisherman village in Norway to attend conference with 60 other people, I traveled to the third largest city in the USA, attending a stuttering conference with over 900 attendees. Despite having the huge conference experience I have, it was really overwhelming to be there in Chicago with ALL THOSE PEOPLE who either stutter, are parents,

SLPs, or are interested in or connected to stuttering in any way.



Left to right: Dannette Fitzgerald, Andrew Tom (back), Daniele Rossi, Árni Birgisson, and John Robinson.

I was really impressed how well it was organized. Everything worked like well-oiled machine, there were volunteers everywhere in case you needed assistance and everyone was extremely friendly. It was really a step out of my comfort zone to travel to Chicago, alone, as I had only met two to



three of the people attending the conference before. But it was really never an issue, as it was incredible how welcoming everyone was, and by the end of the conference, my number of Facebook friends had increased dramatically. Many of those I have kept some contact with after the conference and I have even already met two of them in person again.

For me, the most important part of those Conferences is socializing, getting to know new friends and meeting old friends again from previous conferences. Every person you meet at a conference has an interesting story to tell. Some stories are sad, others are happy, but you and the other person always have at least two things in common. We both stutter and we are together at that conference enjoying great company, great workshops, and creating great memories, and in some cases, we are making friendships for life.



This year, the 13th ISA World Congress will be held in the small town of Hveragerdi, Iceland, from June 23-27 2019. The theme of the Congress is "Embrace your stutter". This will be a fantastic Congress held in fabulous surroundings with incredible key note speakers and an ambitious program. The fee will be 44.900 ISK (which is 370 USD, 325 EUR, 285 GBP at the currency rates of February 11, 2019).

Send an email to [contact@iceland2019.com](mailto:contact@iceland2019.com) if you have any comments or questions or check the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page on the website.

**Register, book the conference hotel, and get updated information at [Iceland2019.com](http://Iceland2019.com)**



## Iceland2019 Preliminary Program

### Sunday, June 23, 2019

12:00 ISA Membership meeting  
15:00 Registration Opens  
20:00 Opening ceremony

### Monday, June 24, 2019

Program from 09.00 to 16:00  
From 16:30: Optional trips  
(few options to choose from)

### Tuesday, June 25, 2019

09:00 – 17:00 Amazing sightseeing trip  
(included in the Congress fee)

### Wednesday, June 26, 2019

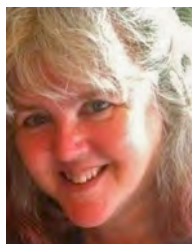
Program from 09.00 to 16:00  
19:00 – 01:00 Gala dinner

### Thursday, June 27, 2019

Program from 09:00 to 16:00  
End of Congress

## Keynote Speakers

We have three fantastic ladies as keynote speakers. All of them have done fabulous job in their field.



Anita Blom is well known in the stuttering community, both locally in Sweden and Internationally. She has been the driving force in the ELSA youth meetings, which have helped

hundreds of young people who stutter. She is and has been a true inspiration to so many people.



Nina G is a respected stuttering stand up comedian and dyslexic writer from USA. She uses her humor to help people confront and understand social justice issues such as disability, diversity

and equity.



Johanna Einarsdottir is Icelandic speech and language pathologist and associate professor at the University of Iceland. Her main focus has been researching

stuttering in young children with the focus on measurement and treatment.

# International Stuttering Awareness Day Online Conference turns 21!

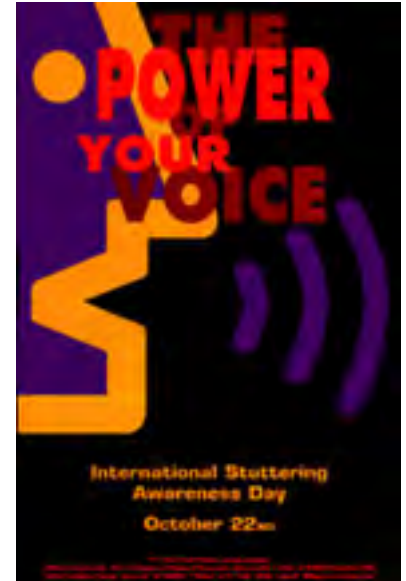
Bruce Imhoff, Australia

It's hard to believe that statement! The first online conference was held in 1998.

It's a good time to reflect on the work and the transitions over the years. The conference was started by Michael Sugarman and Judy Kuster as a collaborative effort between Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) professionals and People Who Stutter (PWS). It has included a forum where both professionals and consumers can present an opinion, present formal professional papers or other types of creative content, as well as an area where others can ask questions of a group of professionals.

There's been so many great and varied themes over the years;

- 1998 'Power Your Voice'
- 1999 'Many Languages, One Voice'
- 2000 'Reach Out To Children Who Stutter'
- 2001 'You Are Not Alone: Transforming Perceptions'
- 2002 'Don't let stuttering stop you...'
- 2003 'International Stuttering Awareness is everyday...we just celebrate it on October 22!'
- 2004 'International Year of the Child Who Stutters'
- 2005 'Community Vision for Global Action'
- 2006 'Don't talk ABOUT us, talk WITH us!'
- 2007 'Stuttering Awareness: Global Community, Local Activity'
- 2008 'Don't be afraid of stuttering'
- 2009 'Stuttering; More Than A Tangled Tongue'
- 2010 'People who stutter, inspire!'
- 2011 'Sharing Stories – Changing Perceptions'
- 2012 'A voice and something to say'
- 2013 'People who Stutter Supporting Each Other'
- 2014 'We speak with one voice!'
- 2015 'Spread the Word – Education, Cooperation, Communication'
- 2016 'Stuttering Pride – Respect, Dignity, Recognition'
- 2017 'A World That Understands Stuttering'
- 2018 'Speak Your Mind'



The first ISAD Online Conference took place in 1998 covering the theme of "The Power of Your Voice"





In 2013 Judy Kuster retired from running the conference. A small group of dedicated individuals picked up the online conference and, collaborating with the International Stuttering Association, continues to run the online conference to this day. The current team includes Dan Hudock, Anita Blom, Pamela Mertz, Hanan Hurwitz, Scott Palasik, McKenzie Jemmett and Bruce Imhoff.

The conference runs from October 1-22, culminating in International Stuttering Awareness Day on October 22. In 2018, we had so many contributions in the International Stuttering Awareness Day 'Around The World' section, with contribution

from 22 different countries! It has been great to hear about what's happening on other countries, seeing what those countries are doing might inspire similar activities by readers in other countries.

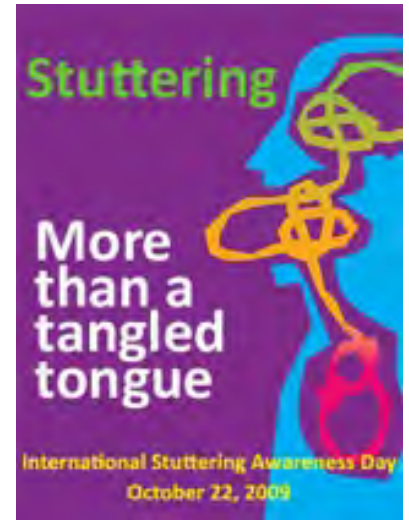
There was also an amazing group of 21 SLP professionals in the Talk to a Professional section, answering 46 different questions posed to the group, as well as 37 different submissions attracting many hundreds of comments from participants.

The conferences remain online after the event and provides a huge resource for people to search and browse. Check out the link at the [ISAD Online Conferences](#) website or the [Stuttering Home Page](#) website link to all of the conferences.

I admire those who contribute year in, year out and those who are new to the conference, putting their unique spin on the theme, and those really creative individuals who just have a way of expressing their views in a different medium or different way.

I will close by suggesting, if you are not already aware of the conference, please do visit and take a look! Maybe next year you might consider contributing something!

[isad.isastuttering.org](http://isad.isastuttering.org)



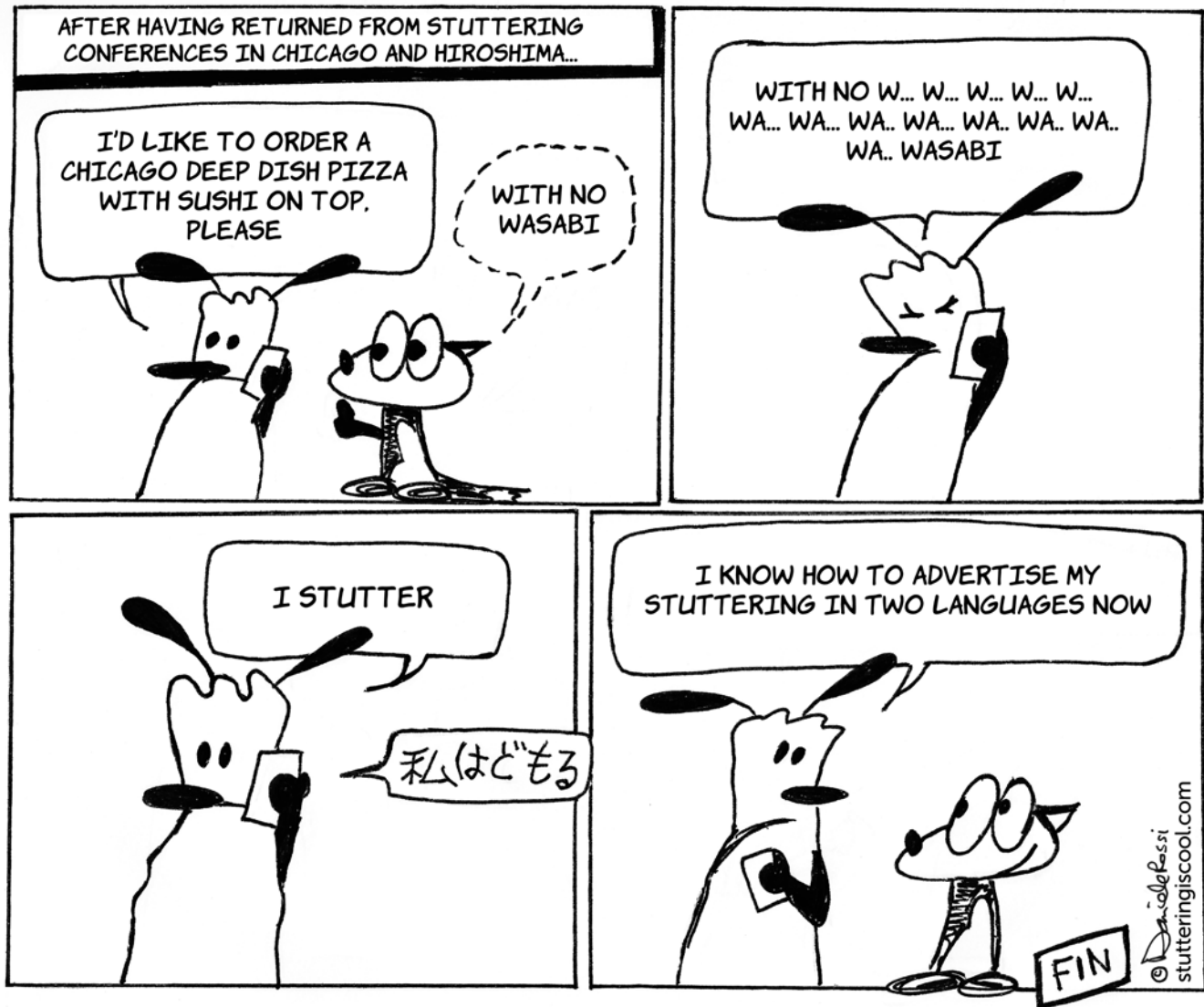
October 22, 2017  
[isad.isastutter.org](http://isad.isastutter.org)

From top to bottom:  
Posters for the ISAD  
Online Conferences in  
2009 and 2017,  
respectively.

# Stuttering allows us to travel and see the world

Daniele Rossi, Canada

## FRANKY BANKY BY DANIELE ROSSI



Meet my cartoon character, Franky Banky, a fox who stutters, and his friend (on the phone), Bilodo. He's a... I never quite figured out what kind of animal he is but he also stutters. I'm sharing this comic strip in the spirit of the fact that, as Jean-François Leblanc mentioned on page 24, I doubt anyone of us ever imagined that our stuttering would allow us to not only travel and see the world, but also to enable us to connect and collaborate with a worldwide community!

Have you noticed the buttons pinned to the name tags in the group photo on the top of page 21? In risk of sounding like an advertisement, they are [Franky Banky stuttering awareness buttons!](#) They are also the same buttons mentioned on page 9 about initiatives in East Africa coordinated by Dieudonne Nsabimana.

Accompanying Franky Banky on the buttons are funny phrases such as “Sure I stutter, what are you good at?” and “I’m worth waiting for”. The idea of making them came to me while chatting with Anita Blom, prominent and active leader in the worldwide stuttering community, after the end of my first Nordic Stuttering Seminar in 2016 (which Anita also introduced me to). Anita was telling me about the humorous buttons she makes for childrens at the camps in Sweden for kids who stutter where she volunteers. Knowing how much kids (and adults like me) like cartoons, I asked her “Would you like me to make versions with Franky Banky on them?”. Anita said yes and today they are travelling and seeing the world!

Dieudonne shared with me a cool story of what happened when he distributed the Franky Banky buttons to fulfill his goal of empowering children who stutter in his part of the planet. “I gave these buttons to three kids who stutter. A while later, both adults and other children saw this strange little thing and they asked what it was. These children who stutter took the opportunity to explain to their friends and classmates about their stuttering.”



Dieudonne Nsabimana, spreading stuttering awareness with a little help from Franky Banky

And the buttons in the group photo on page 21? They were handed out by Heather Najman, a Franky Banky fan and good friend of mine. “I love to share and trade ‘stuttering swag’ with others whether at chapter meetings, conferences... Pins, T-shirts, books... I went to Hiroshima with a handful of Franky Banky buttons. One morning, I gave away my buttons to this wonderful group of delegates who represented persons who stutter around the globe! Whether it's celebrating being good at stuttering or throwing some shade, it was a fun way to share a little part of ourselves on this stuttering journey”.

Like Jean-François, if someone had told me that one day my stuttering would bring me to conferences in Canada, the United States, and Northern Europe, lead my cartoon illustrations to help children in Rwanda, and help adults who stutter share a little but of themselves, I wouldn't have believed it. Heck, it led me to develop a sense of humour about it!

So the moral of the story is, you'll never know what good your stuttering does bring to your life and others', too. To quote my friend, Mary Wood, who wrote in a recent email conversation – your stuttering allows you to travel and see the world. *And* give back to the community! (I added that last part). [Stuttering is cool!](#)





**We want to see and hear from you!**

**Send in your stories and photos and we will publish them in the next issue of One Voice.**

**We want to know what's going on in your part of the world in the stuttering community. Email your stories and images to [admin@isastutter.org](mailto:admin@isastutter.org).**

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#### **Want to get involved?**

We are looking for someone to help us produce our newsletter One Voice. Sent twice a year, we are open to creative ideas. Interested please email us at [admin@isastutter.org](mailto:admin@isastutter.org).

Coming Soon!: ISA board positions will come available this summer. Visit our website and Facebook page for information.

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