

LETTING GO

nsa NATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION

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The Greatest Gift

ANNIE BRADBERRY



The greatest gift that we can receive is the one we never expect. In my 31 years as an NSA member I have received many unexpected gifts. Recently I received a Facebook friend request from Satoru Hanazono, a young man who stutters who stayed in my home while visiting from Japan nearly 14 years ago. A student then, Satoru is now a professor in Tokyo. Many years have passed since we last communicated and now out of the blue I hear from him that in return for “kindness I gave him” he has made a gift to the NSA...his way to pay it forward. His gesture moved me to tears.

Just the other day I received another message, this one from Hanan Hurwitz from Ra’anana, Israel whom I met at this year’s conference. He remembered that first day, when he had not yet met many people, and we met briefly in the elevator. He remembers that I greeted him and helped him to feel at home. It is these moments in time that present the greatest gifts. Yes, I have been around the NSA for a long time, but Hanan’s email stays with me. My stuttering has been prevalent in the days since the conference, and it is Hanan’s email and all the others that make me proud and lead me to be more vocal in my home and work life about my stuttering.

20 years ago at the Dallas Conference I forced myself to walk around and introduce myself to as many people as I could during the Thursday Night Opening Reception. The people I met then are some of my dearest

friends today. This year I told myself to reach out my hand again and meet as many new people as I could. Like always, I walked away with a full heart and an expanded NSA family.

I have attended all but 3 conferences and you would think that by now the conferences and gestures such as Satoru’s and Hanan’s would become a repetitive or ordinary. They have not. Each year as I see the NSA continue to grow and see more young people attend, it is their enthusiasm and joy that refuels me. This year was extra special for me. A combination of missing the 2010 conference, the large attendance, line dancing with the kids...this all has my heart filled with memories I know will carry with me throughout the year until we get together again in Florida.

There is something so special about what we have. The powerful feelings of solidarity we have when we come together. We need to remember that we don’t have to wait until next year to feel these emotions again. Reach out to those you met this year. Let them know how they impacted your life. They, too, are experiencing the same ‘re-entry’ state of mind that you are feeling. When you’re feeling a bit down, one of the best things we can do is perform some small, unexpected act of kindness for someone else. We can keep the feelings we had in Ft. Worth all year long but we do have to reach out. And when you reach out you will surely be paying it forward and giving another the greatest gift....YOU. 🙌

It Keeps Getting Better!

STEPHANIE NICOLAI

Although I am far from a First Timer to these conferences, I always look forward to attending. I always come with the same nervousness and am always ready for that “shot of self-esteem” that the conference gives me. However, I was a bit more anxious this time around because I had recently been growing more and more nervous about my speech and how it was going to affect my new life starting graduate school this August.

Working on getting my doctorate in Clinical Psychology, I knew that I would be speaking with a lot of people that would look to me as being the “normal” one giving the advice and listening to others’ problems. Knowing that the stigma of a person who stutters as being less intelligent is out there, I have become horrified at the idea that people wouldn’t take me seriously just because of my speech. I knew that this conference came in good time and could lift my spirits, however, I did not expect the level of confidence and support I got this time around and the place from which it came.

After speaking in several workshops about my fears, I received a huge amount of support and kind words about my future. People saying “you will do great!” and “call me anytime you need anything” always means the most to me, and I know every person that said that was always sincere about it. But my spike in confidence in my speech and conquering these fears came

continued on page 13

WHAT'S INSIDE

Chairman Insight 2
 Three Wishes 3
 The Spirit Lives On 3
 Strangers in a Strange Land 4
 Conference Quotes 6
 Through It All. 7
 My NSA Garden. 7
 Conference Photos 8

NSA Made History in the Lone Star State 12
 2012 Annual Conference Awards 12
 Texas Top-10 Countdown. 13
Chapter News 14
 First Timer 14
Odds & Ends 15
 Get Ready to Experience Real Fireworks 16

twitter

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CHAIRMAN INSIGHT



Ernie Canadeo

When I was elected NSA Chairman 2 years ago, the Board of Directors and I outlined several goals and initiatives to establish the NSA as the leading organization for people who stutter.

The first goal was to become a leader in supporting stuttering research. We re-established the NSA Research Symposium in 2009 and 2010, which featured world-renowned researchers. This year we took a large step forward and hosted a 2-day Applied Research Symposium that brought together top researchers and new investigators in the field of stuttering.

Our second goal was to increase the number of NSA Family Programs and outreach to families, and I'm happy to report that we have more than doubled the number of Youth Days and continue to grow the Family Programs. The large number of new families at this year's conference is evidence of our success.

We also launched our new website and initiated a social media program that continues to grow with new friends and fans every day.

The final goal was to increase attendance at our national conference so more people could share the incredible experience and emotional support that still brings tears to our eyes year after year; the 2011 NSA Conference broke all attendance records.

It means a lot to me that I was able to help this wonderful organization grow and prosper, and to secure its prominence in the stuttering community. I would like to thank our hard-working Board of Directors, devoted Executive Director, and enthusiastic staff for their tireless dedication. As my term comes to an end, I am excited to report that the NSA Board of Directors has voted Barry Liben as its new Chairman.

Barry has been the heart of the NSA for over a decade. He has supported the NSA through his time and resources for over a decade and has enabled us to become the leader that we are today. This vote is historic in the sense that he does not stutter, although he wishes he could. He is a parent and spouse of people who stutter, and the Liben

family has been a much-loved staple at our conferences for many years.

I look forward to Barry's leadership as the NSA continues to grow, with your help, giving love and support to more and more people who stutter.

Serving as NSA Chairman has been a wonderful experience, and I am thankful for the wonderful friendships I have made with so many of you. I will remain involved, and look forward to continued success for the NSA.



Barry Liben

Let me begin by saying how honored and excited I am to be your newly elected Chairman. I first joined the National Stuttering Association in 1998 because

my son Michael, now 26, stutters. Joining the NSA was a profoundly life-changing decision for me, and I believe that my previous experience on the NSA Executive Committee combined with my personal business expertise and my dedication to advocating on behalf of the stuttering community will help to lead the NSA into the future. As the parent of a person who stutters, a husband whose wife stuttered, and someone who has been deeply involved with the NSA for almost fifteen years, I believe that I have the requisite understanding of the impact of stuttering to effectively hold this position.

I have served on the board for 10 years, with my primary focus on securing the financial stability of the NSA, enabling more energy to be used for outreach, education and support. In 2005, I created the Alvin Liben Fund in memory of my dad, and to date the fund has raised almost \$300,000. These funds have primarily been used for scholarships which assist families who would otherwise be financially unable to attend our annual conference. This conference is often the first time they can experience the feeling of no longer being alone. I believe no person, especially a child, should ever be denied the opportunity to experience what the NSA has to offer because of financial constraints.

Throughout my term, I will continue to grow this fund so that scholarships, special projects and NSA initiatives can continue. Another goal is to further our outreach

program so people who stutter never feel isolated and that they know the NSA is available to them.

Since joining the NSA, I have been enriched by the things that I have seen and shared with people in this organization.

I am continually amazed at the sincerity and dedication of our Board Members, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue the work of past chairmen Lee Reeves, Ed Weiss, Joseph Diaz, Michael McDuffie and Ernie Canadeo. We must build upon our recent successes and make the NSA accessible to even more people.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and want to assure you that I am committed to working diligently to increase the NSA's outreach and make our family even bigger and better. 🐶

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Barry has been married for 34 years to his beautiful wife Cindy, and they have three wonderful children: Daniella, Michael, and Rebecca. They currently live in New Jersey, and soon Manhattan. One of Barry's greatest pleasures is having his home filled with his children and their spouses. Barry is the President and CEO of Tzell Travel/Travel Leaders Group, an international travel management company with headquarters in New York City. Tzell has been generous in donating office space, infrastructure, and support for the NSA's National Office.

Upcoming Events

- October 1, 2011:** ISAD Online Conference
- October 7, 2011, Greensboro, NC CEU:** Stuttering Therapy across the Lifespan: Treating School-Age Children Who Stutter
- October 8, 2011, Greensboro, NC** NSA Youth Day for Kids, Teens, their families and professionals
- October 15, 2011, NSA Rochester, New York chapter** presents an Adult Workshop, Stuttering: Raising the Bar on Life's Pursuits
- October 22, 2011, Tempe, AZ CEU:** Practical Treatment Strategies for School-Age Children & NSA Youth Day for Kids, Teens, their families and professionals
- October 22, 2011, Louisville, KY** NSA Youth Day for Kids, Teens, their families and professionals

Three Wishes

NICK STEKLOV



The Wikipedia definition of “hope” is as follows: “Hope is the belief in a positive outcome related to events and circumstances in one’s life.”

Hope. It’s that warm feeling that everything will turn out for the best, especially when things are going badly. It is hope that I clung on to for many years as I struggled to come to terms with my stutter. I hoped that one day I will wake up and miraculously be rid of this affliction. I was willing to try anything, absolutely anything, to get rid of my stutter. Out of desperation I wished for fluency every time I blew out birthday cake candles, broke a wishbone at Thanksgiving, or blew a fallen eyelash from my fingertip. Any superstition that had to do with wishes coming true I spent on combating my stutter. Even though I am not religious, I asked God to get rid of my stutter just on the off chance that He was listening. Nothing worked, still, I hoped that one day I would be fluent.

Perhaps because I harbored my feelings of hope for so long, they stagnated and eventually went sour and caustic as my mind slipped in and out of depression. Yet, I could not let go of hope, afraid that a state of hopelessness was the alternative. But hopelessness and desperation were taking over my life, affecting not only me, but also all my relationships. I fantasized of doing terrible things: breaking all ties with my friends, divorcing my wife, disappearing in the wilderness, even deleting my Facebook profile. It was not until I made it to NSA 2011 that I realized I was not alone in my experience. The story of letting stuttering consume one’s life is not unique by any measure. I could not believe how similar many of the stories were! And how happy people were to talk to each other freely, to accept themselves for who they are, to release their inhibitions and fears.

I won’t lie - I had my ups and downs during the conference – feeling extremely social one minute, ready to make speeches and lead workshops, but running for my car the next, ready to drive home and never look back. I could be warm and enthusiastic, then suddenly cold and withdrawn.

It was inspiring to see people who stutter communicate so freely and authentically. Yet, I did not want to let go of my hope! I kept looking for signs that somehow I was different from everyone at the NSA because someday I would be able to conquer my stutter. I knew this was not the right mindset, but that stupid Hope kept whispering in my ear, pulling me away from fully engaging in what the NSA is all about.

It was in this unnerved state that I found my seat in the crowded ballroom to listen to David Seidler’s talk. I thought to myself, “What could some celebrity possibly know about my suffering?” Only yesterday I was excited to hear David Seidler speak about The King’s Speech, but today I was skeptical and dismissive. David told us about his early childhood, his family, and his voyage to the U.S. He was a good speaker and his narrative drew me in. Then, David said that as a child with a stutter, he wrestled with an inner conflict - the conflict between being a “hambone” and a stutterer. “Strange,” I thought, caught off guard, “that’s JUST how I felt”. It was at that moment that my skepticism finally melted away and ran in little streams down my cheeks. That day I left NSA is good spirits, full of energy, confidence and a willingness to start a new chapter in my life.

It has been a few weeks since the NSA, and although I have not completely let go of my hopes, fears and insecurities as a person who stutters, I have noticed subtle changes in my attitude towards myself and others. I realize that it’s not an overnight metamorphosis, but a slow and gradual change. Just this past weekend, my wife and I traveled to her cousin’s wedding in Santa Barbara. It was a beautiful outdoor ceremony with a Brazilian theme. We ate delicious grilled meats and drank too many caipirinhas – Brazil’s national cocktail. A bridesmaid came by with a handful of colorful ribbons and explained that it’s a Brazilian wedding custom to tie a ribbon around one’s wrist with three knots, making one wish per knot. She put a ribbon around my wrist and started tying the knots. My three wishes? I wished for the bride and groom to be happy – and I wished for their happiness all three times. I hope my wishes come true. 🎀

The Spirit Lives On

HARDY DAWAINIS “OLD TIMER”



The faces were younger, the music louder, the hotel larger and the Keynote Speaker more famous, but then there was more of everything – at Fort Worth this year –

more members, more guests, more parents, more friends, more eager faces, more workshops. There were also more tears, but these were not tears of sadness, rather tears of deep felt emotions, of recognition of what had been hidden in our hearts for so long and we now saw in the hearts of others.

But most important of all, there were the miracles: the thirteen year old boy who found out for the first time in his life that he is not alone; the young woman who discovered that she had something to say that was wise and insightful and found the courage to say it; the parents who had felt so alone for so long found support and assurance for a brighter future for their boy; and for the successful working woman who raised her family while hiding her stutter from family and friends, at last there was no more hiding.

For me, it all began 28 years ago in a 20’ by 40’ basement room at the Holiday Inn Hotel on Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. At my first NSA convention (it was called the NSP for the National Stuttering Project at that time), there were only twenty-five of us. John Ahlbach, who was filled with many great visionary ideas, had taken over as Executive Director of the NSP and thought a convention would help bring us all together. Eager for success, we went along with his idea. We were only a handful at the time but the spirit was there. We talked, we shared, we cried, we made friends, and we let go of our fears, and I was happy to see that at Fort Worth this year **the spirit lives on** bigger and brighter than ever.

Thank you, Tammy Flores, and all who helped to bring all of us together again for such a memorable weekend in Fort Worth, Texas. 🎀

Strangers in a Strange Land

JOHN M. WILLIAMS

It was a very warm morning. The sun was shining and there wasn't a single cloud in the sky. I was eating breakfast at the hotel restaurant and rummaging through the local newspaper. I had reached the classified section when an attractive ad caught my attention. It stated the following:

Wanted immediately, college graduates, all majors. Our company has immediate openings in advertising, sales, public relations, writing categories, and numerous other challenging business fields. We are well known for our management trainee program. We welcome all applicants. Please see Mr. Hill at the El Dorado Dude Ranch, Suite 17, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Mon- Wed. We are an E.O.E firm.

The El Dorado Dude Ranch. I would pass it as I was leaving town. I pondered: Should I try it? Will Mr. Hill be the one, or will he be like all the rest? Is it worth it? I decided I would try it.

I finished my breakfast and took the elevator to my hotel room. I shaved, showered, and packed. I took the elevator to the main floor, paid my bill, got into my car, and drove to the El Dorado Dude Ranch. Half an hour later I arrived for my interview. The time was 9:30. I had little difficulty finding Suite 17. I knocked and a pretty, petite, pert, blond-haired secretary wearing a two-piece brown-beige suite answered the door. She had green eyes and a welcoming smile.

"Are you here to see Mr. Hill?" she asked.

"Yes I am," I replied.

"Will you please come in and fill out an application form? Mr. Hill is busy, but he will be with you directly. Would you like a cup of coffee?"

"No thank you," I answered as I walked into the room and seated myself on a large, green, comfortable sofa. The sofa seemed appropriate, for this was one of the largest reception offices and one of the most plush that I had ever been in. I completed the application form and waited patiently for Mr. Hill. I picked up the current copy of *Life* and started leafing through it.

Soon I discovered I was troubled by the same thoughts that had disturbed me earlier in the morning. Will he too discriminate? Will he too deny me the right to discover

what I can do? If what I have experienced isn't some form of discrimination, then what is it? Will he judge me for what he believes I am instead of what I truly am? Thirty minutes passed. Finally the door leading into another room opened, and two men walked into the room where I was waiting.

The taller man, whom I correctly assessed to be Mr. Hill, extended his hand to a young man a few years older than I and said, "I shall call you in a day or two and inform you of my decision. So long for now and good luck."

The young man replied, "Thank you very much. I shall be expecting your call." The young man then turned and left.

Mr. Hill turned to me and said, "Will you please step this way."

I nodded, smiled pleasantly, and proceeded ahead of him into the other room. It was a large room, much louder than the outer office. The aqua-colored carpets covered the floor from wall to wall. Numerous dark blue sofa- chairs were spread throughout the room. A mahogany bar was to the left of the door as you entered. In the far right-hand corner of the room was a black convertible couch. In the farthest corner of the room was a huge desk made of oak, with several phones and many papers scattered on top of it. I walked slowly to the desk trying to compose myself. I waited until Mr. Hill had reached the other side of the desk, and then I extended my hand to meet his.

"Good morning young man. My name is Mr. Hill, and what is yours?"

"I am John Will-Wil-Williams." A surprised look appeared on Mr. Hill's face, almost as though he had unwillingly been exposed to a contagious disease. That same look, I thought to myself. I've seen it dozens of times.

"Please be seated Mr. Williams."

"Thank You," I said. As I sat down, I examined Mr. Hill very closely. Physically he was a big man, standing well over six feet and weighing over 200 pounds. His blue shirt, a dark English Edwardian suit, and a dark tie with a diamond stick pin seemed very expensive.

"Mr. Williams, I see by your application that you want to get into a writing field. Have you had any previous exposure, or have you had anything published?"

"Yes sir, I-I-I have." Again that grotesquely nervous look appeared on Mr. Hill's face. I told myself, Relax- don't rush it.

"Do you have something that I could see Mr. Williams?"

"I do, Mr. Hill." Then I reached into the black leather brief case I had with me and pulled out copies of some articles and some poetry that I had written and that had been published in various places. "Here-here you are si-sir."

Mr. Hill was hesitant in accepting my writings. He made me feel uneasy.

A pleasant smile appeared on his face as he read what I handed him. When he finished, he returned my application. "Very impressive. You have talent young man. I like what I've read and I like what you've done. Tell me please: why do you want to work for the company that I represent?"

This was the big question. My answer and the way I answered would, I hoped, determine whether or not I got the job. I sat there calming myself. Five maybe 10 seconds passed before I answered the question. I finally said, "Mr. Hill, I want to write and I am hoping that your company will give me the training and the experience that I need. A-a-a, I'm also looking for a position with a company that will give me security and a future. Your company a-a-a-a offers these things. Finally, I want to settle down." The answer pleased him but my stuttering did not.

At this point, Mr. Hill seemed uncertain as to what his next move or even his next sentence would be. His eyes told me that. Finally he said, "Mr. Williams, the business world is very rough and very competitive. Many times vocal speed and personal confidence are extremely important in making and successfully completing a business deal. Also, in dealing with people, especially in the business world, it is important that the customer be and feel as relaxed as possible. I'm afraid that with your stuttering problem this would not be possible."

The hatchet had been lifted and a head was about to roll. My head.

He continued, "A great many problems can and will arise in this business because of your problem – some of these problems may arise within my own office. Therefore, I won't hire

I reached my car, got into it, and put my head on the steering wheel. I wanted to cry. But he and the others like him are not worth a single tear.

you now or in the future. You can understand that, can't you?"

His reply was no different from countless others that I had

heard across the nation, whether I was applying for a job in the business world or in state and federal agencies. Businesses and state and federal agencies all shy away from stutterers.

"Mr. Hill, I'm not applying for a job as a salesman or a public relations representative. I'm asking that I be considered for a position in which I can develop my writing skill and a-a-a-at the s-s-s-same time be of some value to your company. Tha-that's not asking too much is it?"

"Young man, it wouldn't make a bit of difference where I placed you. You would still have to talk to people, even if they were just office people who were working with you. I know this would be very tough on you. Believe me, I'm doing what is best for you."

Not for me, but you probably think that I suffer from some sort of mental deficiency, I said to myself. "Mr. Hill, let it be tough. Have you ever thought of the fact that I went through high school and college with this? Have you ever thought how rough it's been these past two years since I finished college? Still I've managed to survive."

"I can see that son and I admire you, really I do. But I still won't hire you."

Having heard this I stood up to leave, and then I decided to say what was on my mind. "Mr. Hill, first admiration does not feed my belly when I am hungry or clothe my naked body when I need clothes. Nor does your admiration prevent me from getting blisters on my hands or backaches when I have to work as a ditch digger because you and others like you won't give me a decent job, even though you must know I could probably be of value to your company. I saw the heinous look on your face when you a-a-a fir-first a-a-a heard me st-st-st-stutter."

"I believe you were asking yourself, what makes this young man stutter? What makes me stutter isn't as important as what ke-e-keeps me st-stuttering. It is people like you who allow it to continue. People like you, who refuse to give people like me a chance

to prove what we can do. You-you say that I lack confidence. I say give me the opportunity to rebuild it. Treat me and others like me as though we were people and not as though we were freaks or as though we had some sort of mental disorder. You and others like you think stutterers suffer from some sort of mental disorder and therefore are not ca-ca-capable of thin-thinking for themselves. All of you are dead wrong."

"Finally, Mr. Hill, physically you are a very big man, and you are probably very rich and have a lot of power. But from where I am you look very small. Another thi-thing. If I were you I wouldn't con-con-continue to use the letters E.O.E. in your ads, for someone might sue you for false advertising." Mr. Hill was stunned, and I turned quickly and walked out of his office and out of Suite 17. I didn't know what he would do and I didn't really care.

I reached my car, got into it, and put my head on the steering wheel. I wanted to cry. But he and the others like him are not worth a single tear. I started my car and headed out of the El Dorado Dude Ranch parking lot. Somewhere, someplace, someone has to give me a break soon. With this in mind, I drove west.

* * *

It had been nearly three hours since the incident. I was somewhere in the desert. Where, I did not know. The high sun made the heat almost unbearable. The temperature must have been near 100 . I had not seen a single soul since I left the gas station two hours earlier. I was near panic. The desert was the same to me wherever I looked.

Directly ahead of me I saw what I thought were either three animals or three people. I slowed down and when I reached the objects in question I discovered, to my overwhelming satisfaction, that they were people. I stopped the car. "Hello and how are you?"

There was a silver-haired old Indian and two boys about eight and 10. They looked harmless so I said, "Would you like a lift?"

The old one stood motionless and appeared reluctant to accept my offer. However he gave in, probably due to the silent appeal on the faces of the little ones.

When the three of them had seated themselves, I said, "Where are you going? The desert is no place to take a walk."

The old Indian looked at me with stern, inquisitive eyes and said, "We are Apache. The desert is our home much more than it is yours. We are not lost."

How the old one knew I was lost I didn't know. "Where are you going and how long have you been traveling?" I asked.

"I am taking my grandsons to the white man's school, which is not far from here. I must find out why they cannot go to this school, which is only 20 miles from their home. Instead they must go to the reservation school, where they are taught the ancient customs of our people and the history of the white man. The reservation school is nearly twice as far from their home and twice as hard for them to reach."

"C-c-cc-can you tell me-me where I am?" I asked. There was a burst of laughter from the boys, but a fierce look from the old Indian shut them up immediately. The old one looked offended. I didn't say anything.

"You are about 40 miles from the state border. If you continue on this road you will come to the white man's school house. When you reach the school house continue on the road that bears left, and it will lead you directly to the state border."

"Than-thank you very much." Then turning to the boys I said, "What are your names and what grades are you in?"

"I am Jimmy Falls and I am in the sixth grade and this is my little brother and he is in the fourth grade," the taller one replied.

"Sir," I continued, "Why won't they allow your grandsons to attend the white man's school?"

"I am not certain," the old man replied. "But if my grandsons are to live in the West, where the majority of people are white, then they should be allowed to attend the white man's school – or so say my son and my daughter. I am seeking the same answer to the same question that you just asked.

"As time continues, our customs, our language, and maybe even our people will either fade away or die out. If we survive, then, we will have to come off the reservations. The same reservations that your people put us on 50 to 100 years ago.

"Every day the bus passes our house, but it does not stop to pick up my grandsons.

continued on page 15

Here's what YOU had to say about Ft. Worth



To receive the NSA award as "Member of the Year" was a total surprise. What an honor it is. It's a lot to live up to and I will continue to be involved with NSA

anyway I can. The letters NSA or the words National Stuttering Association are just letters or words. BUT when you add in the people the human touch of it all, the National Stuttering Association becomes AWESOME! We all strive in our own way to help and support this group of people. I will always continue to do my best, to make sure the next generation knows about the NSA. ☞ *Gloria Klumb, 2011 Member of the Year*



Fort Worth was an amazing experience that I will never forget I met so many new friends. I can't wait until next year in Florida to see everyone again and hopefully have an even bigger turn out.

☞ *Shawn Czerwinski, 2011 TAC Member*

...during the course of the four days, I met dozens and dozens of fellow stutterers – people from all ages and backgrounds. I met them during workshops; I met them in between workshops; and I met them at the hotel bar. While chatting with them, I found my attitude towards my stutter shifted. I saw how my fellow PWS were embracing their stutter and I started doing the same. ☞ *Sam Dunsiger, First Timer*

While I enjoyed the workshops at the NSA conference, I benefited most from being surrounded by people who stutter. Walking through the hotel and overhearing countless conversations, all of which are stuttered, was comforting. Knowing that everyone in the hotel either stutters or is extremely accepting of stuttering was a unique experience. For one week, if you aren't stuttering, you are considered weird. The NSA conference shows people who stutter that they are not alone. ☞ *Caryn Herring, Co-Leader, Brooklyn Adult Chapter*



"Raise your hand if you are a First Timer." A sea of hands went up! It was a lot of work coming to fruition, and I knew that people's lives were going to be changed forever starting

then and there. ☞ *Sarah D'Agostino, Family Programs Director*

The first day of the conference was extremely overwhelming for me. I had never met someone who stuttered in person, much less 800 of them! I also found that my tried and true avoidance and fluency techniques were failing me, I was stuttering more than ever! As a covert stutterer, this was devastating for me. It took me some time to realize that actually, I wasn't stuttering more than normal, I was just failing to hide it as well. Which meant that I felt comfortable in front of the only people who can understand what it feels like to block. By the end of the conference, fluency was no longer my goal, it was to say exactly what I wanted to say. ☞ *Katie French, First-Timer*



NSA Ft. Worth 2011 was a great conference.

There were sad times, there were glad times, there were light bulbs going off, there were years of agony stripped away, there was curiosity found anew. ☞ *Jean Finstad, Northern VA Chapter Member*

During Family Orientation on the first day of the conference, [my son] Ben turned to me with his eyes wide open and a half smile and whispered "they really have bumpy speech too!" When I picked him up after the first children's workshop he was so excited telling me about a friend he met who also stutters. Over the course of the week Ben left the term "bumpy" behind and became comfortable with the word "stuttering." When people at the conference would ask, "Who in your family stutters?" Ben would proudly raise his hand and say, "I-I-I-I-I stutter!" ☞ *Julie Hernandez, Parent & First Timer*



The young kids showed so much courage and heart speaking in the general sessions.

They are going to be fine because of the encouragement from the NSA and all associated with it. ☞ *Bernie Weiner, Central Regional Chapter Coordinator*

As I was driving home from Fort Worth on Sunday, one thought stuck to my mind. When I was at the conference I felt as if I was in Heaven with nothing but Angels surrounding me. I felt as if I were "home". What a great feeling that was! Thank you NSA! ☞ *Rosanna Guillory, NSA member*



I awoke to the sound of the alarm clock radio at 3 a.m. Wednesday morning July 6, 2011 to catch a plane to Ft Worth, I didn't really know what was about to happen or

what to expect. As a first timer I was very nervous to say the least. All that changed the minute my girlfriend Michelle and I walked through the hotel's rotating door. I felt right at home instantly as Russ Hicks with his pleasant greeting welcomed us to "The Family". Wow! After two failed attempts to attend, I was actually here. I received my nametag. It was official. And the stuttering began. ☞ *Michael Roybal, First-Timer*

I'm not going to let myself stand and watch potential conversations pass me by. I can thank everyone at the conference for this big change in my life, and I will definitely be back next year! ☞ *Stephen Ernst, First Timer*

My Mom and I went to our first conference, and it was a life-changing experience. ☞ *Alexandra D'Agostino, NSA Teen & Conference First Timer*



Through It All

PHILIP GARBER

The humiliation still comes, even now.

Maybe it's here to stay.

My words... They don't flow like yours. An off-road journey to your freshly paved path, leading to an end reached dismally without struggle. Of course, you have your issues to, maybe the normalcy is part of it.

I prefer my absurd reality over yours.

The girls in the lunchroom, halting speech nearly always a profound end to conversation.

The substitute, I've explained the absurdity to my more permanent guides of survival through these sickeningly brightened times, and halls, but not this fleeting replacement.

The old woman with gray hair and round, thick, glasses gazes at me as I speak, the usual struggle having taken hold immediately.

In her eyes is a mixed expression of concern, fear, and pain. I've heard this trait is painful, even for the outside listener, but it can't be anything compared with what I feel. It's a thousand-pound weight. Therapy's only purpose is to help me lift it.

But yet, life is not as dismal as I've painted. Easing this old lady's fear may be very difficult, but I have long since eased my own.

Through this brief conversation, I am smiling. It would be difficult to have not expected this struggle.

I am me, this struggle has made me who I am, I embrace it, and while it's exodus would be welcome, I would want it to leave slowly, and be saddened as it packed up it's bags to leave, remembering all the good times, the sheer opportunity my struggle kindly bestowed upon me.

I have brothers and sisters everywhere, from New Jersey, to New York City, to Colorado and beyond, across the globe.

My struggle was my constant torturer. It's still not a kind creature, though it has its virtues and I hold its leash.

I am now sixteen, turbulently stuck between youth, and adulthood. For all my peers this time is a battle. A battle of emotions, actions, how to serenade a women, and how to be a man while still clinging like a scared animal to the wonderful bliss of earlier youth. I'm certainly not the only one with struggles.

I'm confident, I'm happy, I will not waste my "one wild and precious life."
The humiliation still comes, rearing it's frightening head. Perhaps it always will.

Through it all,

I'm so happy I stutter.

My NSA Garden

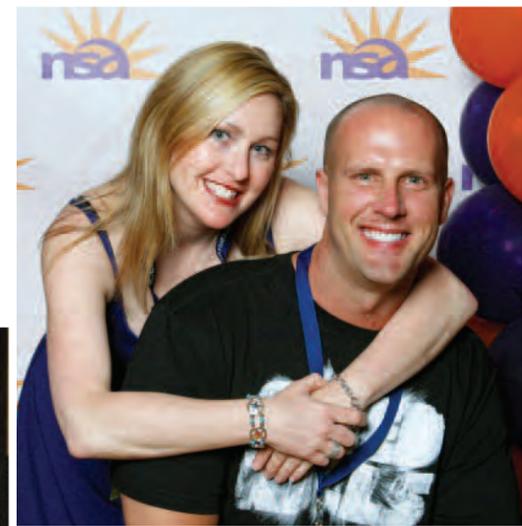
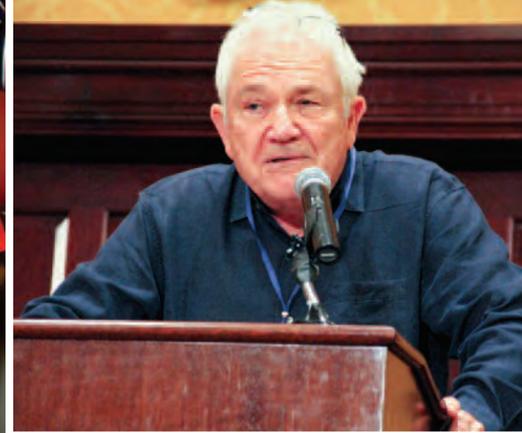
NINA G

So many things happened for me at this NSA conference. I was inspired by so many new people that I met, I became even closer to those that I had already formed a bond with, and I had the honor of performing stand up comedy for over 100 people who stutter in a completely impromptu show. What sticks out to me most, though, is what I am bringing back with me from the conference and how the conference over time changes you. That is how I came upon the metaphor of a garden to help me explain my 'process' of coming back from the NSA conference every year.

I realize that every year I bring seeds back from the conference. These seeds come from the amazing experiences that I have with other people who stutter, the feelings of validation and acceptance, and the stuttering buzz I get from being around people with the same experiences as me. The seeds I bring back with me represent many things, and each year they are different depending on where I am in my life.

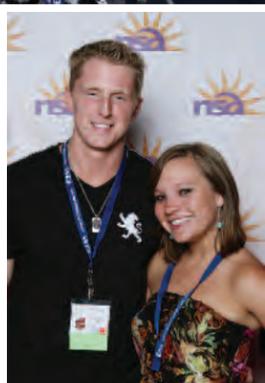
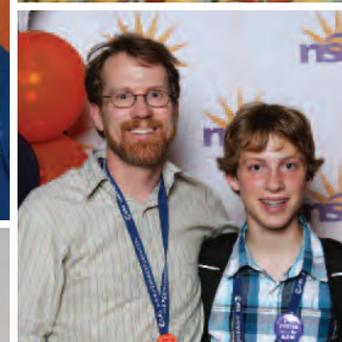
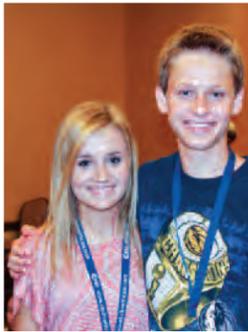
Three years ago, when I went to my first conference in over 15 years, I realized that the seeds that I brought back with me were not going to grow unless I made some significant changes in myself, the 'soil', so that is what I did! I overhauled the soil so that the seeds I brought with me could grow. That was the same year I started doing stand up, and I feel that I became a more authentic version of myself.

Sometimes the seeds that you bring back from the conference are do not germinate. Some are like weeds that are strong and hard to kill (here it is good to be a weed!). Other seeds may take a great deal of care, but cultivate into something beautiful. There is no telling what the seeds will do from this year's conference. It is too early to judge, but I feel so fortunate to have these seeds and thankful for both the new and the ongoing relationships that I have. 🌱



Were you one of the 870 people who attended the NSA's largest conference EVER? These people were! We hope to see you in St. Petersburg, Florida, July 4-8, 2012!





NSA Made History in the Lone Star State!

TAMMY FLORES



The NSA shined in Fort Worth with over 850 NSA members and friends in attendance at the 28th Annual NSA Conference and Research Symposium.

This year's conference brought together more **First Timers (340)**, **families (98)**, **speech-language pathologists (114)**, and **adults who stutter** than any other self-help organization of people who stutter in the world.

I would like to extend my utmost thanks to **Erica and Aaron Perez, Anthony Romano, Melissa Lopez, Brandie Flores, Mandy and Jean Finstad, Becca Liben, Jim & Lee Lowman, Nina & Lee Reeves, Shannon and Kevin Beaty, Dave Ross, and Kenny Koroll** for all of your time and efforts onsite to help ensure this conference was our best to date.

Also, a special thanks to **Sarah D'Agostino, Andy Bowers, Stephanie Nicolai, the Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter and all of the presenters** who, once again, made this program a huge success.

Last, but certainly not least, a very special thank you goes out to the official NSA photographers – **Kaylee Reardon, Melissa Lopez, Debbie Pochmann, Cathy Olish and Philip Garber** for snapping all those photos for us; we all really appreciate being able to relive our wonderful conference experiences through your photos!

The NSA depends heavily on its **members and local chapters** to help out each year with items for the silent and live auctions, so an extra special thank you goes out to each of you who sent, brought, or helped to secure an item for our auctions. And as always, a big thank you to everyone who bid on all of these great items. We hope you enjoy them!

Without these volunteers and others like them, a conference of this magnitude and success simply would not be possible. To each and every one of you, I say 'thank you' from the bottom of my heart.

NSA 2012 Annual Conference Awards

Regional Chapter Coordinator: **Charley Adams**

The NSA's Regional Chapter Coordinator is another honor of great significance. While we all understand the great challenges and sacrifices that our chapter leaders make, a Regional Chapter Coordinator is more than that; he or she is not just someone that is reported to, but rather an advocate. A leader. But perhaps even more so than that, they are a motivator.

This year's recipient has not only been with our organization for years, but his work has also been acknowledged in the professional discipline in which he practices. He has been and still is, the President of the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association, as well as the RCC of the Mid-Atlantic region. The greatest impact he has had is by helping members who stutter showcase their stories and become their own best advocates. Under his supervision, the South Carolina chapter set new attendance records and one of their members, who was afraid to become a speech pathologist, has now become a very successful one because of his support. **Charley, we are thrilled to have you as part of the NSA and once again, offer our congratulations to you!**

SLP of the Year: **Marybeth Allen**

This amazing person has spent so much time working on NSA projects, but she never feels like it is enough. She was instrumental in growing Family Programs into what it is today by assisting with establishing guidelines, procedures and helping new kid and teen chapters get set up. She has dedicated much of her time to ensuring our Family Program chapters are successful and is always available to assist and guide chapter leaders when needed.

She coordinated several youth days across the country, served on our Board of Directors, and currently serves as the chapter leader of the Eastern Main Chapter while maintaining a position as Clinical Supervisor/Associate Faculty SLP at the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders at the University of Maine. **Thanks for making a difference in Family Programs and for all people who stutter, Marybeth!**

Chapter Leader of the Year: **Evan Sherman**

One of the greatest assets of a chapter is its leader. We all know the amount of time it takes to run a chapter. To be a chapter leader is not something everyone can do. It requires the desire to stand up for others who stutter in all kinds of situations. It takes empathy, character, passion, and motivation – but most of all, it takes heart.

This year's winner has been everywhere in the Central New York region. From appearances on radio stations to interviews on morning television news, he has always been the first one willing to be on any media outlet to share his personal mission and what the NSA can do for others. He was also responsible for coordinating a day-long CEU workshop with Vivian Sisskin and Dr. Phil Schneider. He is currently an SLP graduate student who is determined to show that stuttering will never prevent him from doing anything he wants to do. **We are honored to have you as part of the NSA family, Evan. Keep up the good work!**

Chapter of the Year: **Nashville**

One of the reasons the NSA enjoys success year after year is because of our chapters. It is a fact that for any nonprofit to have success at the national level and beyond, it must start at the local level first. Our chapters never give up, even if the chapter leader is the only one at a given meeting. The Nashville chapter's outreach efforts are constant and much of their time is spent on stuttering awareness efforts, especially with our The King's Speech campaigns.

The Nashville chapter, who have also played host to an NSA conference, have been aggressive with their marketing campaigns. Under Julie Lammell's leadership, they contacted numerous movie theaters in their region, and asked to set up information booths to present information on stuttering and the NSA to those viewing the movie. But they didn't just stop there. They were able to conduct a brief presentation before the movie began, providing a raw and accurate description of what stuttering is, and is not. **Congratulations Nashville!**

Volunteer of the Year: Mike Bauer

The NSA is a volunteer-driven organization, and to be the recipient of this award is to be recognized as a special individual who has shown the characteristics of being driven to make a difference, and a willingness to put the NSA above all else, including themselves.

Our recipient this year lives in what some would call the “happiest place on Earth,” which is a great way to describe his personality. He’s always running around with a big smile on his face asking if we need anything. Yet his biggest talents lie beneath the surface. In addition to obtaining autographed items from the local NBA team in his city, he has already established himself as the wizard of all things video technology. For the last few years, he has helped edit videos from interviews with our members, he put together this year’s conference promotion video, and assists with various other video projects as well. His closing video in Cleveland evoked every kind of emotion seen at the NSA conference. He continues to give and it doesn’t go unnoticed. **Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, Mike!**

Member of the Year: Gloria Klumb

The NSA Member of the Year award is one of the most prestigious awards that a member can receive. The winner of this award has demonstrated heart, character, and soul. It is a recognition of a member who truly lives their values every day, and passes those on to others; not because they have to, but because it’s what they do and it helps to make our world that much better. There is no end to the time or support that they give to the NSA or to PWS.

This year’s winner has been a long-time (and we do emphasize long-time!) advocate for all things NSA. She bleeds the NSA’s mission as much as she does the colors of the yellow and green of her beloved football team. Along with members such as Bob Lee and Philip Temme, she has been instrumental for many years promoting the NSA at WISHA, the Wisconsin Speech-Hearing-Association. She is the chapter leader for Madison, but to those who know and admire her, she is so much more. She has helped other members start chapters in her state.

She is a woman from whom everyone can learn something. Her philosophy has always been, and will continue to be, “It’s OK to stutter,” and she lives that motto everyday. Congratulations Gloria! **Thank you for all that you do for people who stutter!**

Parent of the Year: Pattie Wood

The NSA Parent of the Year Award was designed to serve as recognition for an outstanding parent who is dedicated to helping children who stutter understand that they should not let their stutter hold them back, but rather to embrace the bright futures they have ahead of them. Whether it is running chapter meetings, serving as a contact to help assist other parents of children who stutter in obtaining information about stuttering, or providing their own children all of the tools that they need to succeed, a parent is one of our greatest resources at the NSA.

This year’s winner has truly made her work at the NSA a “family project” as the entire family rolls up their sleeves and pitches in at every conference. After attending her first NSA conference in NJ, she started a Family Chapter in her area, which has since become one of the most successful chapters in the NSA. She is her son’s #1 advocate, who from the first days their son exhibited stuttering, learned all she could about stuttering and did everything in her power to help him. **Thank you for your hard work and dedication Pattie!** 📧

IT KEEPS GETTER BETTER *continued*

from listening to everyone else’s stories and their bravery.

As I listened to everyone else’s struggles and I felt the fear and emotions coming from these people, I realized how silly I had been about letting these fears take over my mind. I thought I needed an intervention or counseling or even to get back into speech therapy to get me back to where I was previously in my self-esteem, but I was wrong. Just coming back to the NSA conference was all I needed. Being around people who shared the same fears and

Texas Top-10 Countdown

- 10: **Texas BBQ.** No explanation needed!
- 9: **The record-breaking attendance,** including a huge number of First-Timers!
- 8: **DJ Stutter rocking out** all night long at the Closing Banquet!
- 7: **The hot bidding wars** during both the silent and the live auctions!
- 6: **The NSA kids activities:** cowboys, horses & roping, interviews, cooking, juggling, art, races, games and the great line-dancing performance!
- 5: **NSA musicians Open Mic jam session** in the hotel lobby on Thursday night. Joel’s original song, David’s unique performance, Alex Ford’s unreal talent, Deb’s voice!
- 4: **Seeing and meeting** all of the non-stutterers who were there to support their loved ones!
- 3: **Receiving a big ol’ Texas-Style welcome** the minute I got to the hotel!
- 2: **Meeting David Seidler & Neal Jeffrey!**
- 1: **Having speech therapy or not.** Using speech techniques or not. Covert or overt. Regardless of how you are able and/or choose to speak, you are welcomed, safe, and loved just the way you are!

conquered things I could never imagine going through has given me more strength and confidence than I have ever felt before.

I am now anxiously waiting for the first day of school and meeting my peers. I have never felt so confident in myself or in my ability to do great in school, and in life all around. Thank you to everyone who shared their personal battles and stories with stuttering. It is because of you that I am better today than I ever have been. Can’t wait to see everyone next year for my 12th conference! 📧

CHAPTER NEWS

AUSTIN, TEXAS

The Austin Chapter had 19 people in attendance at their July meeting. Those who attended the NSA convention in Ft. Worth discussed their experiences there, what their favorite moments were and what they took from the conference. It was great to hear so many different highlights from chapter members such as stepping out of their covert behaviors, socializing with so many friendly people who stutter, open mic sessions, the numerous workshops, etc. It was awesome to hear so many First-Timers so overwhelmingly positive about the conference and how taking the risk resulted in big rewards (one of Austin's members addressed the whole conference of over 800 people!)

CINCINNATI, OHIO

The Cincinnati Adult Chapter continues to thrive under the new leadership of Jason Faust and Pam Woebkenberg, with

attendance nearing 15 at some meetings. The chapter utilized National Stuttering Awareness Week for their outreach efforts. Their youth chapter, led by Miranda Smith is also flourishing. The chapter is sponsored by a well-known speech language pathologist who has opened his facility for their meetings. One young man travels more than three hours to attend the meetings.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles downtown chapter meets every third Wednesday of the month at California State University in Los Angeles. The Department of Communicative Disorders has been gracious enough to provide space for them to meet and even provides free parking! The chapter just recently celebrated their first anniversary. Chapter co-leaders Devin Billingsly and Josh Marcus started the chapter last September hoping to have a couple of people who stutter

meet and share their experiences, and since, they average approximately 12 people in attendance at their meetings! Members seem to like the public speaking format of the meetings.

ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN

Cathy Olish reports that the chapter met in late July with 10 people in attendance. As expected, there was a lot of talk about the conference. Many at the meeting had attended the conference in Ft. Worth, and those who did not had attended conventions before and were interested in the stories from this year. Some of the chapter members shared the progress they have made in the last year, how attending their first conference changed their lives, and how they benefited from attending the conference. The Royal Oak Chapter plans to "grow" their chapter by advertising more!

First Timer

DUSTIN LINKINS



The first I had ever heard of the National Stuttering Association was through Facebook, and I still wasn't quite sure what to expect from the conference. Once I read the mission statement for the NSA, I thought "A place for people who stutter....this should be interesting." During the weeks leading up to the conference I posted in one online NSA forum saying "New guy to the group, not sure what to expect" and from there I began to receive tons of email correspondence back from people excited to meet me. I thought to myself, "these people don't know me from the next person and they are saying they're excited to meet me? What's the catch?"

As the conference drew closer, I began to look at pictures from past conferences and all I seemed to see was younger kids who stuttered and a few older adults who stuttered as well. My thought was that there will be no one there that was my age, and the whole conference will be like a business conference I have experienced in the past. However, when

I arrived on July 6, I proved myself wrong once again. At one point during my drive up to Fort Worth, I was roughly 10 minutes away from the hotel, and I had butterflies in the stomach and my pulse was racing. Once I arrived, I walked through the evil revolving door that kept people from getting in and out of the hotel and saw a plethora of people in the lobby and throughout the hotel, saying hi to anyone they met. The first person I met wearing a straw hat was Bernie Weiner, who I had already 'virtually met' via Facebook.

Once I had picked up my registration packet and put my name tag with the "First Timer" and "20 Something" tags around my neck, a whole new world opened to me; I was engulfed by people who wanted to meet me and see what my story was. I was meeting people who were SLPs, PWS, parents and children of PWS, as well as non-stutterers. Over the next few days a lot of tears were shed, a lot of fears were exposed, and a lot of walls were broken down. Never in my life did I think that I could let my guard down,

and expose my emotions to complete strangers who I now know had become my family in a matter of nanoseconds.

During the conference I was privileged to meet roughly 850 people who also live and understand this part of my life, and I am honored to call them my 'Stamily' (short for my Stuttering Family). I went to numerous seminars and workshops where I saw the 'old' me in children that stood up and told their stories.

As I drove home Sunday night I was experiencing a bittersweet feeling. I was sad that I had to wait for another 362 days to see my new 'stamily' again, yet I was happy that I didn't turn around and go home the previous Wednesday...that I had had the guts to see this experience for what it was. I saw this as an internal 'reset' for my confidence, and new outlook on life. As I had said to a few people throughout the week, "I am Dustin, who just happens to stutter. Stuttering is what we just happen to do, and it does not hold us back. We are not alone. We are stronger for stuttering. With stuttering we can just adapt and overcome. 🎵"

ODDS&ENDS

The NSA would like to congratulate...

Sarah Onofri on her graduation from Wheelock College. Sarah, a former member of the Teen Advisory Council, resides in Boston, MA and is now a certified substitute teacher for the Boston Public School System. She studied elementary education and hopes to work with young children in the future.



Jenny & Seth McGuire welcomed their first child, a daughter named Danby Rose, on July 6, 2011 at 6:08PM. Danby weighed in at 8.5 pounds and 21 inches. Mom, Dad, and baby are all doing beautifully!

Lizzy Mayer on receiving her special education certification. Lizzy, a native of New Orleans, studied arts and humanities at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and is now a substitute teacher in the Jefferson Parish School System.

Jill Douglass on earning her doctorate, getting married, and getting a new job. Jill received her degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and married her fiancé, Zachary Holly, on June 25. She accepted an offer from Massey University in New Zealand and will be relocating there to be a professor.

Courtney Ross of Freehold, N.J. on her graduation from high school this past June. Courtney is a member of the Teen Advisory Council and has been a frequent attendee of the NSA's conferences.

Dan Koblitz of Milwaukee was recently accepted to law school at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. Dan has been a chapter leader for the Milwaukee area and will start his studies in September.

Derek Johnson of Louisiana on his recent marriage and new job at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Caryn Herring on her new job. Caryn, former chapter leader of the Pittsburgh region, will be working with Our Time Theatre, which has been a strong supporter of our organization!

Lisa Bennett on her new position as an SLP with Quantum Healthcare Professionals. Lisa recently graduated from Wichita State University and has been an attendee at several conferences.



Samantha Temme on earning her Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Samantha has a new job also lined up as an SLP.

Steven Kaufman on his new position working with the N.I.H. and on his relocation to the Washington, D.C. region.

Christine Dits on her new position as a Speech & Language Assistant. Christine eventually will go to graduate school and study to become an SLP.



Carl Herder on his recent move to the Washington, D.C. area to pursue his Ph.D. in Hearing and Speech Sciences at the University of Maryland.

Carl will also be teaching courses at local universities and setting up a private practice in the area.

The NSA wishes all of them great success as they begin new chapters in their lives!

Golf Tournament

The Special Kids Network held its Annual Tennis and Golf event in July 2011 at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove, IL. Nina Reeves and Tammy Flores attended the event and represented the NSA by assisting with preparations, greeting golfers, and working the auction.

The NSA would like to give a big 'thank you' to the Special Kids Network for allowing us to be part of this wonderful event. We look forward to seeing you next year!

ISA World Congress

The National Stuttering Association (NSA) was pleased to have a representative at this year's Membership Meeting of the International Stuttering Association on May 17, 2011 and also at the 9th Annual World Congress for People Who Stutter on May

18-21, 2011. Both events were held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This 9th Annual World Congress was organized primarily by the Argentina Stuttering Association, and was held at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Buenos Aires, on Calle Paraguay in Buenos Aires, Argentina, utilizing their large and beautiful lecture hall (Aula Magna) plus two breakout rooms for workshops. Claudia Diaz was Congress Chair and Beatriz Biain de Touzet was Program Chair. Matias Duca served as Congress Secretary. The theme this year was: "Accept to Integrate to Understand"

Keynote Speakers included Michael Sugarman, Claudia Diaz, Beatriz Biain de Touzet, Luc deNil, Gerald Maguire, Fred Murray, H. G. Bosshardt, and F. Myers. Simultaneous translation was provided both from English into Spanish and from Spanish into English.

STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND *continued*

They are entitled to the same education you are. Your own laws say that. However, in this country for too long the Indians have gone to the Indian school and the blacks to the black schools. Your people forget very easily that this country was once ours and that we live here as people and not as wild dogs who must be penned up on a reservation and separated from your race as though we didn't exist. We are proud. Still, my grandsons must be exposed to a world apart from their own, so say my son and daughter." Having said this the old Indian remained silent for a long time.

As we were nearing the schoolhouse I said to the old man, "I wish you the best of luck, an-an-and- I-I-I hope you get what you want."

With what looked like a single tear rolling down his cheek the old Indian turned to me and in a steady, firm, determined tone said, "I will do my best to see to it that my grandsons and their children do not stay strangers in their land much longer. Do you know what it is to be a stranger in one's own land?"

Touched by the old man's sentiment and feeling a single tear rolling down my cheek, I replied, "Yes I do." 

Get Ready to Experience Some Real Fireworks!

July 4th – 8th 2012, St. Petersburg, Florida

If you thought that the conference in Texas was BIG, you haven't seen anything yet! If you said "There just isn't any way the NSA could top this," well guess again. We are going to blast into next year's conference in St. Petersburg, FL starting with fireworks on the Fourth of July!

For the first time ever the NSA is bringing four days of education, empowerment, and advocacy to the Sunshine State. Join us as the NSA conference makes its debut in St. Petersburg. The event is being hosted by the Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club, one of the premier vacation establishments in the area. Not only will you see fireworks over the ocean, but this dazzling marvel of architecture (the only luxury hotel on the East Coast) also features:

- A spectacular 18 hole golf course. Or, if golf isn't your thing, the property features twelve tennis courts
- Close proximity to world-class museums, including the Salvador Dali Museum and the Florida Aquarium (and as a bonus for kids six and up, you can even swim with the fish!)
- Dolphin cruises
- Proximity to famed Gulf Beaches (20 minutes away)
- A chance to get your adrenaline jolt at nearby Busch Garden. Or, if you'd prefer to stay grounded, explore a safari at night. Not enough of a theme park fix? You're only an hour and half from Orlando and Theme Park USA! (Walt Disney World, Sea World, and Universal Studios).
- Nearby dining and shopping close by. The Looper Downtown Trolley – only 25¢ per ride – will bring you right to the pier
- Did we mention the spa?
- And of course, all the amenities our members are used to: full fitness room, including FREE classes and sauna; indoor and outdoor pools; whirlpool; and stunning guest rooms.



**We All Shine In
St. Petersburg 2012**
National Stuttering Association

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LETTING GO is a forum for views and information about stuttering. The opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily the opinion of the National Stuttering Association. The NSA accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any opinion or information provided by any contributor, nor do we endorse or reject any therapeutic strategies, programs, or devices mentioned in these pages.

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Corrections:

May/June 2011 Chapter News stated "Tom Scharstein of the Seattle Chapter writes that the feedback from individuals was all very positive." The piece should say Joe Mirly instead of Tom Scharstein.

May/2011 Odds & Ends stated that Justin Matley's wedding will take place in September 2010, when in fact it is set for September 2012.



**National
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Changing the lives of people who stutter

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