

Welcome to a Web site about...
an upcoming Aphasia Conference in Madison, WI.
Friday, October 15th til Sunday, October 17th, 2004

This three-day event aims to bring together people who cope daily with much different life systems and functions, all related to the acquisition of aphasia. Initially our interest was to meet people who live within a day's drive of Madison. Thus, the conference's title: The Midwest Regional Aphasia Conference. However, we're more desirous of uniting people who share similar life challenges and experiences than where you might reside. So whether a person with aphasia, spouse, caregiver, daughter/son, close friend, business partner or professional (doctor, nurse, social worker or rehab specialist), look through these enclosed materials and if they hold interest to you or others close to you, please join us on this special, inaugural event.

Here is a quick glimpse of the program: Dr. Madeleine Geraghty, a nationally recognized neurologist and expert in Stroke Management will overview current and future options for enhancing brain function following stroke with aphasia. Terry Vickers, a thirty-year plus survivor of stroke with aphasia, along with his wife, Candace Vickers, a Speech-Language Pathologist, will share their story and life lessons for making daily operations "well." On the lighter side, Lou and Peter Berryman, accomplished stage performers and musicians, who are also knowledgeable about stroke and aphasia, will attempt to tickle our "funny bones" with medleys of upbeat songs about life, Wisconsin, language and maybe...even aphasia. Tucked in the middle, there's a two-hour boat cruise with lunch which will highlight many special attractions of downtown Madison. Ultimately, though, this conference aims primarily...to bring us together...to share and talk...about what MATTERS IN LIFE when aphasia is "a part of it."

Below are conference materials; they're arranged in three separate sections:

- a) about the conference
- b) about registration
- c) about Madison, WI.

Should questions arise, please either

e-mail us: lyonblanc@aol.com

phone: 608-767-3838

or write: 6344 Hillsandwood Rd. Mazomanie, WI 53560

If aphasia is prime factor and/or consideration in your daily routines, we hope to meet you...personally...in Madison, WI.

The Aphasia Self-Help Group of Madison, Wisconsin

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The opening two pages of this section contain “**the basics**” about the conference. They’re easily printable...either for your needs or to share them with others. The first page overviews location, dates, who might wish to attend, costs, what’s included with registration, and how to sign up. The second page provides a summary of the conference program.

The next pages describe “**participant forums**,” sessions specifically arranged around having attendees share specific content and information about their lives. There are two of these; the first occurs Saturday evening, October 16th (around an ice social) and focuses on unique activities or products (pursuits and hobbies) that currently occupy one’s day and time. The second occurs Sunday morning, October 17th and involves full group discussions over life dilemmas and successes that have evolved since aphasia’s onset.

To prepare for these “participation forums,” we need to know more about certain life parameters of yours...prior to your arrival. That’s the sole purpose of the PARTICIPANT FORM...the last two pages of this section. Please don’t labor over filling out every entry...do as much as seems possible and comfortable. Please fill out a separate form for each person attending (e.g., one for the person with aphasia, and a different one for his/her significant other); include these completed participant forms in the mailing-in of your registration materials.

(insert...**the basics**)

(insert...**participant forums**)

ABOUT REGISTRATION

The first page addresses to what you need to know and do to come to this conference. You are responsible for arranging your own overnight lodging. Details about this are provided. Also, there’s an OPTIONAL group outing Saturday afternoon...a boat cruise and lunch on Madison’s centrally located lake Monona...there’s information about this outing and how to sign up. Also, you’ll find brief descriptions of menus of meals that are part of a full-conference enrollment.

The latter pages of this section contain the **REGISTRATION FORM**. Fill out and submit one per household. Mail this back to us along PARTICIPANT FORMS and payment (by check). Pre-registration ends September 1st. You can, though, register right up to the day the conference begins.

(insert...**registration form**)

ABOUT MADISON, WI

There are a host of materials and pictures (Overview of the City, its History, Interesting Sites, Places to Eat and Shopping) about the City of Madison on the Greater Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau Website. Just click on the following web address... <http://www.visitmadison.com> it will link you to them and this information.

Midwest Regional Aphasia Conference
Madison, WI
October 15-17, 2004

THE BASICS

- WHO:**
- People dealing with and/or confronting aphasia daily
 - People with aphasia
 - Family members, friends and business associates
 - Professionals: Medical, rehab, social workers, and others
- WHY:**
- To bring people with similar life challenges together
 - To explore innovative ways of making life more comfortable, productive and preferable
- WHAT:**
- To meet and talk
 - To learn...from others and ourselves
 - To have fun
- WHERE:**
- The Radisson Hotel (on Madison's west side)
517 Grand Canyon Rd
Madison, WI 53719
(608) 833-0100 (800) 333-3333
- WHEN:**
- Conference sign-in begins at 3 p.m., Friday, October 15th
 - Conference concludes Sunday, October 17th at 1: 30 PM

REGISTRATION:

- Full Conference:
 - Three meals and food/drink at breaks
(Friday night dinner, Saturday Continental Breakfast, Sunday farmer's breakfast)
 - All educational and social forums at the Radisson Hotel
\$ 95.00 per person (Pre-Registration-payment on/before September 1)
\$ 105.00 per person (Late Registration, payment after September 1)
- Partial attendance...you CAN register for select portions of the entire conference that fee depends on sessions attended...those costs are in REGISTRATION PACKET

"OTHER" COSTS:

- Hotel room...\$79/room (conference rate) up to 4-person occupancy/rm
- Friday Night Pre-dinner Cocktails: Cash Bar
- Off-site Saturday Afternoon Group Activity-Monona Lake Cruise/Lunch (\$35/person)
Handicapped accessible...open to first 60 enrollees
- Saturday Evening Dinner

HOW TO GET A REGISTRATION PACKET:

- available ONLINE at: www.buildtosuit.com/aphasia
- e-mail: lyonblanc@aol.com
- phone: (608) 767-3838

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday, October 15

3:00-5:00 p.m. Sign in...Radisson Hotel
5:00-6:30 p.m. Cash Bar and Group Mixer
6:30-8:00 p.m. Dinner...Welcome: Aphasia Self-Help Group of Madison
8:00-9:00 p.m. Musical Fun and Wisdom: Lou and Peter Berryman

Saturday, October 16

8:00-9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:00-9:30 a.m. Introductions: Jon G. Lyon, Ph. D., Living with Aphasia
9:30-10:30 a.m. New Treatments for Chronic Aphasia
Dr. Madeleine Geraghty, UW Hospital/Clinic Neurologist, Stroke Fellow
10:30-11:00 a.m. Break
11:00 - 12:30 Round Table Discussion Groups
Possible topics for consideration:
Self-esteem after stroke
Communication with aphasia
Assisting caregivers in their daily challenges
Putting meaning back into your life
Returning to work and volunteering
Creating community through aphasia groups
1:30-4:30 p.m. OPTIONAL: two-hour cruise with lunch on Lake Monona
(handicapped accessible; \$35/person; available to first 60 folks who sign up)
5:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner on your own (we'll aid you with possible choices)
7:30-9:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social: Participant Forum #1
Sharing of Interests, Hobbies and Passions

Sunday, October 17

8:00-9:00 a.m. Farmer's Breakfast
9:00-10:00 a.m. Living Well ...with Aphasia:
Terry and Candace Vickers: Husband and Wife, Fullerton, CA
10:15-11:30 a.m. Participant Forum #2, Session 1
Life Dilemmas and Practical Solutions
participant presentations and audience/invited panel "cross-talk"
11:30 - 12:00 Break
12:00-1:15 p.m. Forum #2, Session 2
Innovative Pursuits, Projects and Processes
participant presentations and audience/invited panel "cross-talk"
1:15-1:30 p.m. Conference Wrap up, Thank you's and Farewell's

CONFERENCE FORUMS THAT RELY ON “YOUR PARTICIPATION”

Two special conference forums rely on YOU, and your direct and active participation. In both, we not only need you there, we need your input about the issues, concerns, or solutions that matter to YOU in daily life now. We would like to highlight what you've dealt with, learned, and brought to key daily operations. We invite you to share this knowledge with others at the conference!

Electing “to present” in these forums is, of course, voluntary, but we welcome any and all thoughts and contributions...BOTH FROM INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS. These presentations are VERY INFORMAL and should require little preparatory time.

The basic form and nature of these contributions is described below. Please look through this information and complete the PARTICIPANT FORM. We'd appreciate receiving a completed form for each person attending. Return your completed forms when you send in your registration materials.

All information you submit is confidential and solely for our use in facilitating group discussions in these participation forums.

PARTICIPANT FORUM #1 SATURDAY EVENING'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL: SHARING CURRENT LIFE INTERESTS AND HOBBIES

We know that a key ingredient to making daily life WORK and feel comfortable...is to search out and establish PURSUITS and ACTIVITIES that add purpose, meaning and direction to daily life. These essential additions to daily life do not happen automatically. Instead, they usually evolve only after time and effort...not just on the part of the person with aphasia but loved ones as well. We invite YOU (persons with aphasia, prime caregivers, support groups) to share your life stories and journeys...or to BRING EXAMPLES of your current interests and hobbies.

Think about your journey since injury and how you might highlight KEY PARTS that may help others with their journey now and in the years ahead. For example, how have you re-engaged meaningfully in daily life? Doing what? Why these activities instead of something else? What about these processes brings you special reward or pleasure? Why these? What did you need to reorder or restructure in life for these processes to work?

We're looking for ways for YOU to share this type of information. So, bring your photo album, your own photography or drawings, your cactus garden, your collection of elephant figurines, or the items you made in last year's craft clinic. Whatever form of sharing you've chosen, we'd like to see! On Saturday evening, over some Wisconsin ice cream [this is THE dairy state], we will have a spacious room available with tables where you may DISPLAY your hobbies, crafts, stories and personal journeys.

PARTICIPANT FORUM #2: SUNDAY MORNING
SESSION 1: LIFE DILEMMAS AND SOLUTIONS
SESSION 2: INNOVATIVE PURSUITS, PROJECTS AND PROCESSES

Continuing with the theme of YOUR participation and HELPING each other through our collective knowledge and experiences, there will be a two-part forum on Sunday. In Session 1, we'll host a group discussion about life dilemmas that have proven problematic (whether or not they have been resolved), and, in Session 2, we highlight innovative pursuits, projects and processes that individuals or groups have found important and valuable. Again, we need your participation for these forums to work! We invite you or your group to PRESENT a brief scenario on such topics.

SESSION 1: LIFE DILEMMAS THAT HAVE PROVEN PROBLEMATIC OVER TIME

We invite an individual or a spokesperson from a support group to volunteer to present a brief description of (a) a specific life dilemma that currently exists, and for which you have no solution and would like audience or panel input, or (b) a life dilemma that was formerly problematic, and its resolution.

SESSION 2: INNOVATIVE PURSUITS, PROJECTS, AND PROCESSES

Again, we invite individuals or spokespersons from groups to present their endeavors. Please consider describing an ongoing or completed project or process you discovered that has substantially added to the quality of daily life.

Please complete the PARTICIPANT FORM and return it with your registration materials BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1st. We'll review submissions and select three to five topics for presentation on Sunday. Should your submission be selected, we'll contact you by phone by September 15, 2004.

We are interested in having equal representation in these forums from individuals who talk with ease or who do not (due to their aphasia). If severe expressive difficulties prohibit a desired presenter from volunteering, we'll work with that person/presenter to find a way to share his/her topic. The final conference program will reflect the names of invited contributors to these sessions.

In addition to audience participation, we have invited a panel of local aphasia experts to be in the audience, and to offer their reactions as well. We hope that that panel will include a person with aphasia, a caregiver, a physician, a nurse, a physical therapist, a speech-language pathologist and a social worker. The panel should add an interesting and dynamic dialogue.

Fill out your participation forms and come show and interact with us in these special forums about YOU.

PARTICIPANT FORM

(Please fill out as much of this form as you are comfortable with;
we'd appreciate receiving a SEPARATE FORM from each person attending)

ALL INFO IS CONFIDENTIAL...

Data will be reported only in terms of group trends...not individually...
and used solely for possible discussion in Sunday's Participation Forums

NAME _____

Age (OPTIONAL) _____

Mailing Address

Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Occupation Now _____

Prior To Injury _____

Prime Life Themes and Interests before Injury

Now _____

Your ties to aphasia

Number of years you've known person with aphasia _____

Number of years post-onset _____

HARDEST PART of daily life now

EASIEST PART of daily life now

BEST PART of daily life now

MOST CHALLENGING PART of daily life now

IF INTERESTED, AND WILLING, TO PRESENT AT ONE OF THE FORUMS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE REST OF THIS FORM

EITHER individually or as part of a support group, briefly describe the following:

A **LIFE DILEMMA** or **BARRIER** (tied to aphasia) that:

1) has been **PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE**

2) if successfully resolved...**HOW DID THIS COME TO BE/OCCUR?**

This dilemma is mine alone _____

This dilemma involves a support group _____

Recent **LIFE PROJECT, PURSUIT OR OUTCOME** that has **SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED DAILY LIFE**

This project, pursuit or outcome is mine alone _____

This project, pursuit or outcome involves a support group _____

Would you be interested, and willing, to share the above content with others in Sunday morning's sessions? _____

If so, would you like or need assistance with that presentation? _____

If so, in what way(s)?

THANKS...

please enclose **PARTICIPATION FORMS**
when you mail in your **REGISTRATION MATERIALS!**

CONFERENCE LODGING AND REGISTRATION

Overnight Lodging:

The Radisson Hotel on Madison's west side is the conference hotel and all conference activities will be held there. Again...you are responsible for arranging your own overnight lodging.

To aid you in staying on-site at the conference, we're reserved a block of rooms that will be held at a discounted nightly rate of \$79/room (not including tax) with up to a 4-person occupancy. To be eligible, you must identify yourself when making a reservation as being an attendee at the Midwest Regional Aphasia Conference. This block of reserved rooms will be held UNTIL SEPTEMBER 19th. Please book a room immediately upon your decision to attend.

Fifteen rooms are designed as "handicapped equipment" with larger bathrooms having grab bars. These special rooms are available on a first-come basis. All rooms, though, at the Radisson are "handicapped accessible," accommodating to someone in a wheelchair or motorized electrical chair.

Other hotels are nearby the Radisson...and if your needs are not met, you may wish to explore other possibilities...via the internet or Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau (608) 255-2537.

The Radisson Hotel

517 Grand Canyon Dr.; Madison, WI 53719
(608) 833-0100
(800) 333-3333
www.radisson.com/madisonwi

(2) OPTIONAL: Saturday Afternoon Monona Lake Cruise/Lunch

We've arranged a way for you "to view" the City of Madison and its fall surroundings in a relaxed manner. For those not familiar with its locale, Madison's city's center rests on a narrow isthmus between two sizable, glaciated lakes, Mendota and Monona (with shorelines of 10 miles+). From Lake Monona, there are captivating views of the state's Capital Building and the recently completed Monona Terrace Convention Center (a Frank Lloyd Wright inspired-design).

The cruise boat accommodates folk in wheelchairs and is "weatherproof," enclosed and protective from cold temperatures and rain. It accommodates up to 60 passengers. We'll be on the water for a couple of hours, during which lunch will be served. The cost, per person, is \$35.

Should you wish to join us on this outing, please specify any special ASSISTANCE that might be necessary in getting a member of your party to and from the boat. It will aid us in planning for and meeting this need. There's a place on your registration form to share this type of information.

(3) Menu Preview

- * Friday Dinner Buffet: beef/seafood as well as fixins (potatoes, rice, vegetables, salads, and desserts!)
- * Saturday breakfast: classic continental breakfast (fruit, breakfast pastries, bagels and cream cheese, assorted cold cereals with milk, coffee, decaf, orange juice and teas)
- * Sunday Wisconsin Farm breakfast (eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, hash browns, fruits, pastries, orange juice, milk, coffee and teas).

We will try to accommodate special dietary needs, if possible.

MIDWEST REGIONAL APHASIA CONFERENCE

MADISON, WI

OCTOBER 15-17, 2004

REGISTRATION FORM
(ONE FORM PER HOUSEHOLD)

Print how you wish to have your conference name tag read:

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

Address _____

City/State _____

E-Mail _____

Phone Number _____

REGISTRATION FEES:

You can register for the entire conference or for parts of it. Registering for THE ENTIRE CONFERENCE allows you access to all program and social activities EXCEPT the Saturday Afternoon Boat Cruise/Lunch on Lake Monona. That entails a separate cost. To register to attend the entire conference...you need only complete Section (1) below.

	No.	Total
(1) Entire Conference	_____ x \$95/\$105 =	_____
Friday PM; Sat AM; Sat PM; Sun AM		
\$95.00 Pre-registration-payment on or before Sept 1, 2004		
\$105.00 Late registration-payment after Sept 1, 2004		

Registration to attend SELECT PARTS:

	No.		Total
(2) Just Friday PM: Dinner and Entertainment (\$30.00)	_____ x \$30	=	_____
(3) Just Saturday AM: Neurologist/Round Table Sessions (\$25.00)	_____ x \$25	=	_____
(4) Just Saturday PM: Ice Cream Social (\$15.00)	_____ x \$15	=	_____
(5) Just Sunday AM: Breakfast/Vickers/Group Sessions (\$30.00)	_____ x \$30	=	_____
(6) Friday PM and Saturday AM and PM (\$70.00)	_____ x \$70	=	_____
(7) Saturday AM and PM and Sunday AM (\$70.00)	_____ x \$70	=	_____
(8) OPTIONAL Saturday Afternoon Outing Boat Cruise/Lunch (\$35.00)	_____ x \$35	=	_____
(9) Sum Totals of Lines 1-8		GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO: **Midwest Regional Aphasia Conference**

MAIL TO: Living with Aphasia, Inc.
6344 Hillsandwood Rd
Mazomanie, WI 53560

ADDITIONAL NEEDS:

(1) Saturday Afternoon Cruise

ANY SPECIAL NEEDS in getting to and from the boat:

(2) Other _____
