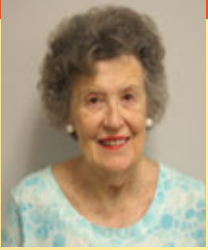


# APHASIA ADVOCATE

Spring 2020

ADLER APHASIA CENTER



## Former Member's Legacy will continue to help others with Aphasia Find their voices for years to come

A diminutive, yet spry woman in her late 70's, Marie Garibaldi came barreling through the entrance to the Adler Aphasia Center one late morning in July, 2013. It was clear from the start that this confident woman was on a mission.

Justice Garibaldi, affectionately known as just Marie at the Center, was one of NJ State's most respected legal figures and served as the first female justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. She suffered a stroke in April, 2013 and developed *aphasia*. Her ability to retrieve words was compromised, but Marie was able to read and write. She had first learned of the Adler Aphasia Center through her speech therapist during rehabilitation following her stroke, and later picked up the Wall Street Journal and read about the Center's innovative programming in an article days before she had planned to schedule a tour at the Center in Maywood.

When Marie joined Adler Aphasia Center after her initial visit, she immediately blended with other Center members, especially empathetic towards Center members who were non-verbal. It was at the Adler Aphasia Center where Marie learned that she could not only learn new communication techniques to help her form her words, but she discovered a new and vibrant community of people like her, all of whom were living with the same language disorder and all of whom were working hard to build a better quality of life for themselves. For an attorney who had complete control of her

life one day, and the loss of control of her language the next, Marie adjusted well to living with aphasia.

Marie never divulged to any of the Center members with aphasia that she once held one of the highest positions in the state. Her newfound friends, who sat with

her in the café during lunch twice a week, knew she was an attorney, but certainly did not know that she was the first woman appointed to the NJ Supreme Court.

She was especially cognizant of those members who had no voice to communicate. Marie took great pride in helping other members find their voice by being theirs when needed or by sharing words of encouragement. The Center's staff watched a new version of Marie emerge during her 3 ½ years as a member, until her passing in 2016.

Marie participated in the Center's many groups to include: advocacy, yoga, technology, travel, and choral singing. In her element, she could also be found taking part in "You Be the Judge," a group discussing real life trials; and "Adler's Court," a group in which members role-play a court case. Marie was fond of playing the judge, adorned complete with a bench wig and black robe, and would often be seen in hysterics as the trial was played out.

Serendipitously, she discovered her creative side as a member of the Center's Drama Club by participating in the annual musical in which more than 400 people attended. In 2015, Justice Garibaldi, was selected to portray Mrs. Potts, the tea kettle, in the Center's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She wowed the audiences with her enthusiasm and spunk.

Just like the other 2 ½ million Americans who live with aphasia, Justice Garibaldi was dealt devastating news when she had a

*Continued on page 3*



### JOIN THE ADLER APHASIA CENTER LEGACY SOCIETY

We hope you will consider a future gift from your estate to the Adler Aphasia Center to enrich the lives of people with aphasia, their families and communities. You can include us in your will or name us as the beneficiary of your retirement plan, bank account, donor-advised fund or life insurance policy.

Through your estate gift, you can create a legacy of care and continue your support for those living with aphasia and their caregivers.

The following information may be helpful to you and your advisors.

Legal Name: The Adler Aphasia Center

Address: 60 West Hunter Avenue, Maywood, NJ 07607

Federal Tax ID: 02-0687863

To get started, contact Chantelle Walker, Adler Aphasia Center CEO, at [cwalker@adleraphasiacenter.org](mailto:cwalker@adleraphasiacenter.org) or call 201.368.8585.



**ADLER APHASIA CENTER**

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Elaine and Mike Adler\*

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\*in memory 2003-2015

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**MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO**

I hope this message finds you well in this time of turmoil amidst global crisis. I write these thoughts as we are entering week three of our program closure due to COVID-19. Despite the many ways we find ourselves isolated, true to form, the Adler Aphasia Center community has rallied.

For 17 years, the Center has served as a lifeline to people with aphasia, and their families, through a variety of therapeutic groups; one of our most popular being therapeutic technology with individual support from volunteers and staff. At the heart of our technology program is communication – and assisting people with aphasia as they learn to use computers, iPads, smart phones and programs like skype to communicate with others. Our years of training and practice seem to have prepared us for these most unexpected circumstances.

Within two weeks we were running 10 virtual groups for members and caregivers, offering a live stream exercise class, hosting a virtual baby shower for our beloved Volunteer Coach, Stephanie, and hosting virtual professional development days for staff. Our team wasted no time, making personal calls to members across all programs, weekly, to ensure their well-being.

It's almost difficult to remember all the good things that 2020 brought to us pre-virus – but practicing gratitude is an important exercise during trying times. I'm grateful for talented new staff who joined us across all programs; for the realization of our Toms River full service program and its members who joined the Adler family officially in March; for our 'Aphasia Ambassadors' program launched at the end of 2019, encouraging future clinicians who attend our advocacy group to stay connected with us, to represent aphasia and the Center in the community and to understand supported communication in their own practice; for the fresh coat of paint and the new carpet now gracing the Maywood center, courtesy of volunteer work provided by the Bergen County Sheriff's Department and a generous donation from Benjamin Moore; but most of all I'm grateful for 'Team Adler' – our dedicated and creative staff, our caring volunteers and board members, our treasured members, and you, our community of loyal supporters who's continued commitment allows us to enrich the lives of people with aphasia, their families and communities.

As life eventually returns to normal and social isolation becomes something we talk about in a past tense, take time to visit the Center, enjoy the laughter, appreciate simple things like a handshake or a hug, and remember how very much we all have a need to connect. Adler Aphasia Center will continue to be a lifeline for people with aphasia – improving communication skills and self-confidence and fostering a strong sense of community when we all need it most.

With gratitude,

*Charstelle Walker*



**MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER**

"Warm" regards from sunny Florida! If you're wondering where I've been, I'm taking an extended vacation here

because, as you probably know, I do not like the cold weather! I do plan to come out of hibernation though in a few months and hope to see everyone on November 10th at Seasons.

Truth is I miss you all more than the miles between us.

See you soon!

*Elaine*

**We Are Indebted To These 2019-2020 Foundations And Funders for Their Support**

With appreciation we publicly acknowledge the following funders for their grant support in 2019 and 2020, as of this publication date.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Allergan Foundation                                    | Merck & Co., Inc.                       |
| Russell Berrie Foundation                              | Alfiero and Lucia Palestroni Foundation |
| Clinton D. and Grace A. Carlough Charitable Foundation | Lillian Pitkin Schenck Fund             |
| Cestone Family Foundation                              | PNC Foundation                          |
| County of Bergen, Human Services                       | Provident Bank Foundation               |
| Robert and Joan Dircks Foundation                      | State of NJ, Department of Health       |
| Englewood Community Chest                              | Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation       |
| Grotta Fund for Senior Care                            | TD Charitable Foundation                |
| Kaplen Foundation                                      | Lucy and Eleanor S. Upton Foundation    |
| Kessler Foundation                                     | Wallerstein Foundation                  |
| Mellam Family Foundation                               | Wawa Foundation                         |



# YOU'RE INVITED

## 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GALA



**Tuesday, November 10, 2020**

**6:00 – 9:00 pm**

### SEASONS

644 Pascack Rd.

Washington Twp, NJ

\$275 couvert

### MIKE AND ELAINE ADLER HUMANITARIAN AWARD

#### PNC Financial Services

*Accepting the award is Linda Bowden,  
New Jersey Regional President*

### KAREN TUCKER ADVOCACY AWARD

#### Ginette Abbanat & Karen Castka

*Adler Aphasia Center Speech Language  
Pathologists*

### SHINING STAR AWARD

#### Nino & Joanne Martino

*Adler Aphasia Center member and caregiver*

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

#### Bergen County Sheriff's Department

*Accepting the award is Bergen County  
Sheriff Anthony Cureton*

### EMCEE

#### Steve Adubato, Ph.D.

*Emmy® Award-winning Anchor, Author,  
"Lessons in Leadership"*

## MEET OUR Young Professionals Group



*Pictured front left and around table: Jay Eagleson, David Kravecas, Fernando Garip III, Nicole Salzano, Hannah Goldstein, Eric Latzer, Stephanie Sigelkow (Adler staff member) and Hayley Rivlin. Not pictured are Alyssa May and Blair Shiffman.*

The Young Professionals Group of Adler Aphasia Center engages the next generation of civic leaders with mission driven activities that incorporate both networking and advocacy. Members have an interest in nonprofit leadership and promote the work of the Center through events that raise awareness for aphasia in the NY/NJ region and beyond. Through the expertise of this group of emerging leaders, the Center reaches new audiences and deepens relationships with future philanthropists. Our group members and their affiliations are:

- Eric Latzer, Esq., *Partner, Cole Schotz, P.C.* | Board Liaison for YPG
- Jay Eagleson, *Partner/Founder* | Eighty6
- Fernando Garip III, *Business Banking Relationship Manager* | M&T Bank
- Hannah Goldstein, Jr. *Product Manager* | NBCUniversal Media, LLC
- David Kravecas, *Property Manager* | The Beekman Estate
- Alyssa May, *Sr. Manager, Media Partnerships* | National Basketball Association
- Hayley Rivlin, *Speech Language Pathologist* | Fair Lawn School District
- Nicole Salzano, *Volunteer with aphasia* | Adler Aphasia Center
- Blair Shiffman, *Sr. Director, Content Partnerships* | WarnerMedia

In keeping with the Group's mission, our Young Professionals Group recently organized their first fundraiser, *Clink for a Cause*, in NYC, hosting more than 85 friends and coworkers to raise awareness for aphasia to an audience of successful millennials.

## Former Member's Legacy will continue to help others with Aphasia Find their voices for years to come

*Continued from page 1*

stroke and acquired aphasia. Yet, she chose to put others first by helping her new friends with aphasia navigate their way towards a better quality of life with simple gestures of kindness and support, as she too was learning how to navigate her own new normal. Marie's simple gestures and love for her fellow members with aphasia went a step further upon her passing, as she left a gift from her estate to the Center, establishing the Legacy Society which will be formally announced later this year.

Marie thought she was one of the lucky ones. Yet every member at the Center knew they were the lucky ones having Marie in their lives, recognizing that she was the one doing justice for those with aphasia struggling to find their voices.



# Adler's Third Full Service Center Opens in Toms River

In January, the Center recently launched a new program in Toms River at the Church of Grace and Peace. Modeled on our two successful Centers in Maywood and West Orange, this third full service program for stroke and brain trauma survivors living with aphasia is facilitated by Adler trained licensed Speech Language Pathologist and Brain Injury Specialist, Brianna Rein, M.A., CCC-SLP, CBIS.



*Pictured L to R: Brianna Rein, Program Director, Adler Aphasias Center Toms River, Ralph Wolff, Chairman, Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce, Craig McAteer, Adler Aphasias Center Toms River member, Chantelle Walker, President and CEO, Maurice 'Mo' Hill, Mayor, Toms River, Ken Albrecht, Adler Aphasias Center Maywood Member, Charles Berkowitz, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Adler Aphasias Center.*

"The demand for our program was borne from our highly successful Aphasia Communication Group in Toms River that has been operational for four years, addressing an overall gap in services for long term aphasia rehabilitation in Ocean County, home to one of the most rapidly growing regions of NJ's aging population," says Chantelle Walker, President and CEO of the Center. "Our Board of Directors is committed to enriching the lives of people with aphasia, their families and communities through innovative programming and an expansion of our research-based methodology in Ocean County."

The Center held the grand opening of its new program on March 4th, with more than 70 Ocean County community and business leaders and healthcare professionals in attendance. Currently the program meets twice a week, Monday and Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. For more information about our new program in Toms River, contact Brianna Rein, at 862-239-7274 or brein@adleraphasiacenter.org.



## MEET BRIANNA REIN, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, TOMS RIVER

**A** licensed Speech-Language Pathologist and Certified Brain Injury Specialist, Brianna graduated from Kean University with an M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology and Rutgers University with a B.A. in Psychology. Her clinical experiences include working in acute and sub-acute rehabilitation, as well as in skilled nursing facilities.

Her passion for working with stroke and brain injury survivors with aphasia is personal. Rein's beloved grandmother, who resided with her family, developed aphasia following a stroke. Witnessing her grandmother's rehabilitation first hand, noting how her entire family embraced their new roles as caregivers and watching her grandmother build her communication skills, left an indelible mark on Brianna. This experience helped to guide her career in the speech therapy field.

## Our Team is Growing

Our team is the real heart of our success at Adler Aphasia Center and we are proud to welcome our full service Centers' newest staff and Aphasia Communication Groups' facilitators.

### Maywood Center

Jennie Adessa, M.S., CF-SLP

Elyse Goldberg, M.A., CCC-SLP

### Toms River Center

Kim Borlongan, M.S., CCC-SLP

### West Orange Center

Randi Rosenstein, M.A., CCC-SLP

### Belvidere Aphasia

**Communication Group**  
Christa Akers, M.A., CCC-SLP

### Haddonfield Aphasia Communication Group

Wendy Greenspan, M.A., CCC-SLP

### Morristown Aphasia Communication Group

Kelly Horel, M.S., CCC-SLP

### Scotch Plains Aphasia Communication Group

Mary Jo Santo Pietro, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

## OUR STAFF

### President & CEO

Chantelle Walker, M.B.A.

### Clinical Director

Karen Castka, M.S., CCC-SLP

### Director of Research

Audrey L. Holland, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BC-ANCD

### Communication Coaches

Ginette Abbanat, M.A., CCC-SLP

Jennie Adessa, M.S., CF-SLP

Christa Akers, M.A., CCC-SLP

Judy Andersen, M.S., Ed., M.A., CCC-SLP

Jamie Argiropoulos, M.A., CCC-SLP

Kim Borlongan, M.S., CCC-SLP

Sharon Glaser, M.S., CCC-SLP

Elyse Goldberg, M.A., CCC-SLP

Wendy Greenspan, M.A., CCC-SLP

Kelly Horel, M.S., CCC-SLP

Meghan Miller, M.A., CCC-SLP

Brianna Rein, M.A., CCC-SLP

Randi Rosenstein, M.A., CCC-SLP

Mary Jo Santo Pietro, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Marta Suarez, M.A., CCC-SLP

Patricia Ochoa-Werschulz, M.A., CCC-SLP

### Technology Coaches

Janice Dittelman, M.S., CCC-SLP

Julie Harris

Todd Pleeter

Loraine Simunek

### Something Special

#### Program Director

Chrysa Golashesky, M.B.A.

### Education & Training

#### Coordinator

Robin Straus, M.S.

### Research Speech-Language

#### Pathologist and

#### Program Director, Aphasia

#### Communication Groups

Gretchen Szabo,

M.A., CCC-SLP

### Research Associate/

#### Life Coach

Tamara Heimlich, Ph.D.

### Volunteer Coach/

#### Development Associate

Stephanie Sigelkow

### Executive

#### Administrative Assistant

Amy May

### Receptionist

Amy O'Leary

### Program Assistants

Special thanks to Easter Seals for providing clerical assistance to our Center



# WAYNE HAS BIG PLANS

## Thanks To His Growing Confidence!

This photo of Wayne, a member of West Orange's aphasia program, is perhaps his proudest. When you ask him what he likes best about coming to the Adler Aphasis Center, he says, "Everything, everything!" Wayne has been a member of the Adler Aphasis Center in West Orange since late 2016 and participates in two Aphasia Communication Groups in Scotch Plains and Morristown.

The Center's innovative programming and a weekly travel discussion group sparked his interest in travelling abroad. It was during the travel group at West Orange when a light went off for Wayne. He wanted to see the world too, but he needed help applying for a passport. He came to the Center with great difficulty communicating, reading and writing because of his aphasia, following a stroke in 2016. Fortunately, he has no physical limitations due to his stroke, but his aphasia made it extremely difficult to complete the application process without a support system.

The Center's student extern and Wayne spent their lunch hours for two weeks painstakingly completing the passport application process. The next steps involved senior staff, escorting him to CVS to get a passport photo (communication is very difficult for Wayne) and then onto the county clerk's office to complete the process. When asked where he wanted to go, Wayne proudly boasted, "I don't care... anywhere!"

Wayne's social life now revolves around Adler Aphasis Center's groups in which he participates. The positive reinforcement and peer support he receives from group members with aphasia and Center staff has made him more determined to get on with his life. And he can't wait to share his future travel plans with his newfound friends!



## Meet The Center's FIRST CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Many of you know Karen as one of

Maywood Center's longest standing Speech Language Pathologists who has charmed just about every member and caregiver that has ever walked through our doors since 2005. Others may recognize her as one of two founding Directors of the Center's highly popular annual musical productions performed every August since 2007. But did you know that she and her husband, Bruce, proudly hold the title as the first and only couple to hold their wedding reception at the Center in Maywood so that Maywood members, staff and volunteers could be a part of their celebration?

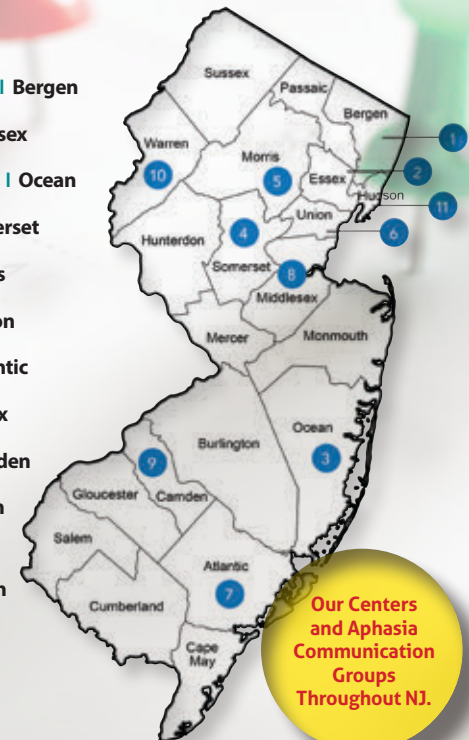
Karen Castka was recently promoted in January to a newly created position at Adler Aphasis Center as Clinical Director. Her new role is an integral and vital part of Adler's expansion, increasing the quality and variety of programming offered to Center members throughout the state, while offering professional development opportunities for staff. Karen will be responsible for providing clinical oversight to all Speech Language Pathologists (SLP) in Maywood, West Orange and Toms River, while still facilitating some weekly groups in Maywood.

Karen holds a Master of Science degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from James Madison University. She and fellow Maywood SLP, Ginette Abbanat, will be the recipients of the 2020 Karen Tucker Advocacy Award at this year's Gala on June 10th.

## Adler Aphasis Centers & Aphasia Communication Groups

Now offering 3 full service Centers and 11 Aphasia Communication Groups (ACGs) covering 10 NJ counties, we directly serve on average close to 600 people with aphasia, their caregivers and our volunteers with formal programming, still considered the gold standard of long term post rehabilitation aphasia programs worldwide. Among this group of people touched by our Centers and Groups, we provided close to 55,000 service hours in 2019.

1. Maywood (Center & ACG) | Bergen
2. West Orange (Center) | Essex
3. Toms River (Center & ACG) | Ocean
4. Bridgewater (ACG) | Somerset
5. Morristown (ACG) | Morris
6. Scotch Plains (ACG) | Union
7. Hammonton (ACG) | Atlantic
8. Monroe (ACG) | Middlesex
9. Haddonfield (ACG) | Camden
10. Belvidere (ACG) | Warren
11. North Bergen (Spanish speaking ACG) | Hudson



# WAYS TO Give

There are a variety of ways you can make your contribution to the Adler Aphasias Center, one of the few community-based, long-term rehabilitation centers in the country dedicated to providing a therapeutic environment of innovative programming for people with aphasia and their caregivers.



**GIFTS OF CASH:** Make an immediate impact upon our mission and you may benefit from a charitable income tax deduction.



**GIFTS OF SECURITIES:** Gifts of stock are an easy and tax effective way for you to make a gift which permits you to avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of long term appreciated stock while potentially receiving a charitable income tax deduction. Please contact Chantelle Walker at 201.368.8585 for instructions on how you can transfer securities from your brokerage account to the Adler Aphasias Center.



**IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER:** Qualified charitable distributions are available to those 70 1/2 or older. The distribution must be transferred directly from your IRA to the Adler Aphasias Center. Contact your IRA plan administrator to

make a gift from your IRA and notify Chantelle Walker.



**CHARITABLE BEQUEST:** You can make a gift through your will or trust or by using a beneficiary designation form on your life insurance policy, retirement account, or bank or brokerage account. If you make us a beneficiary, please let us know!



**DONOR ADVISED FUND:** Recommend grants to the Adler Aphasias Center and/or name the Adler Aphasias Center as a succession plan beneficiary of your donor-advised fund.



**PRIVATE FOUNDATION:** Consider supporting the Adler Aphasias Center through your private foundation to provide immediate impact for those living with aphasia and their caregivers.

*This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please consult with your attorney or tax advisor.*

Full service Centers located in Maywood, Toms River and West Orange, NJ.  
Aphasias Communication Groups located in Belvidere, Bridgewater, Haddonfield, Hamonton, Maywood, Monroe, Morristown, North Bergen, Scotch Plains and Toms River, NJ  
Adler Aphasias Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.



Something Special, Adler's unique jewelry and gift design program run by Adler members, recently reached a major milestone! In early December, 2019, a Something Special lobby sale was held in Parsippany, drawing corporate employees from a multitude of companies in the area. Here, Advansix employee, Christina Kinzel, Director of Compensation & Benefits, helped push the Something Special program over its revenue goal of reaching \$500,000! All funds raised through the purchase of Something Special gifts supports the Adler Scholarship Fund, which has provided 155 full scholarships to people with aphasia since 2009.

*Pictured L to R: Something Special volunteer Linda Gould, Christina Kinzel, and Something Special volunteers Rebecca Iovino and Stacy Kaplan with Lady Jane, Stacy's service dog.*



60 WEST HUNTER AVENUE  
MAYWOOD, NJ 07607  
(201) 368-8585  
www.AdlerAphasiasCenter.org

