



THE STUTTERING FOUNDATION[®]

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SUMMER 2011

Since 1947 ... Helping Those Who Stutter



David Seidler won for Best Original Screenplay



The King's Speech won Best Picture



Colin Firth won for Best Actor



Tom Hooper won for Best Director

“We have a voice. We have been heard.”

David Seidler, while accepting his Oscar for The King's Speech



The Stuttering Foundation featured on Times Square.

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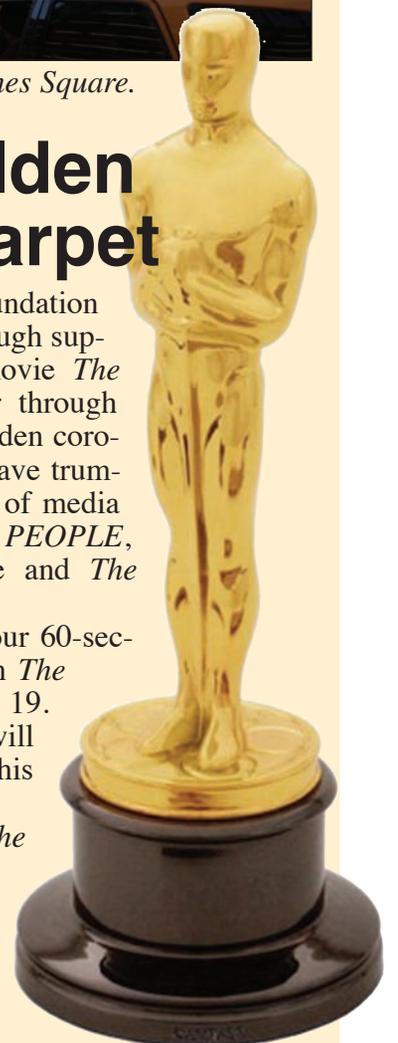
For more than five months, The Stuttering Foundation has been raising awareness of stuttering through supportive interviews about the acclaimed movie *The King's Speech*. From its opening in November through awards season in Hollywood this winter to its golden coronation at the Oscars at the end of February, we have trumpeted the movie's message of hope to thousands of media outlets around the world, including CNN, *Time*, *PEOPLE*, the *Los Angeles Times*, Agence France Presse and *The Washington Post*.

Equally as exciting is the announcement that our 60-second Public Service Announcement is included on *The King's Speech* DVD, which was released on April 19. We hope everyone in the stuttering community will purchase their own copy to view and treasure this tremendously heroic story for years to come.

Because of the enormously positive impact *The King's Speech* has had on our mission, The Stuttering Foundation honored the movie, its cast and crew at a gala in New York City in April.

At the gala, Foundation president Jane Fraser

Continued on page 12



A Third Generation View of the King

By Jean Gruss

Editor's Note: Jean Gruss, the author of this article, is the grandson of Stuttering Foundation founder Malcolm Fraser and Mark Logue is the grandson of Lionel Logue.

For decades, Lionel Logue's name was an obscure footnote in biographies of British King George VI.

But thanks to his grandson and a blockbuster movie, he's quickly become the most famous speech therapist in history.

Mark Logue, with the help of journalist Peter Conradi, tells the story of how his grandfather improved the monarch's fluency in a recently published book, *The King's Speech*.

Tom Hooper and David Seidler, the director and writer of the award-winning movie by the same name, consulted with Mark Logue. "Tom Hooper was incredibly diligent in getting as much of the facts as possible into the film," says Logue.

As is usually the case, the movie takes a few liberties with the facts in the book, though Logue, 45, says he doesn't mind. For example, the first encounter between the Duchess of York and Logue didn't happen like it did in the movie. "The film isn't a documentary," Logue says. "I don't know that it detracts from anything. It was brilliant and rewarding."

Lionel Logue was the king's speech therapist and he protected his client's privacy even after the monarch's death, deferring to Queen Elizabeth's wishes that the story of his stuttering not be told in

her lifetime.

The king and Lionel Logue passed away decades ago, but the Logue family continued to abide by the Queen Mother's wishes until she died in 2002 at age 101.



Mark Logue started reading his grandfather's letters when he inherited them from his father in 2001, but he was



Mark Logue sits on the movie set of *The King's Speech*.

busy running a successful production company and raising a family. "I promptly put it back in the box and forgot about it," he recalls.

But in 2007, Logue started reading through his grandfather's papers again with the idea of writing a biography. "It's pretty difficult to go through it because it's scrawny handwriting in pencil on fading paper," Logue says.

Logue began work on the book in earnest after meeting Seidler and Hooper to discuss

the movie in the summer of 2009. Iain Canning, one of the film's producers, found Mark Logue through Australian speech therapist Caroline Bowen, who had published a paper about Lionel Logue in 2002.

But it was only in April 2010 that Logue found Conradi to help him write the book. The pressure became intense because the publisher needed the manuscript by July in order to have a book in print by the movie's release in November.

Complicating matters, in late July a Logue cousin discovered a trove of new and insightful material. "Everything had to be rewritten," Logue says. "We extended the deadline four weeks."

Working from transcripts of the documents, Logue and Conradi communicated via the Internet to produce the 242-page account. "We wrote the book entirely by email correspondence," says Logue, who logged more than 1,000 emails to Conradi. Logue took time off from work to meet the tight deadline. "He'd send me chapters as he wrote them."

The book's success has been a surprise, Logue acknowledges. "I never dreamed it would get the attention it was given," he says. "I had no idea it would be as big as it got."

Logue routinely does three interviews a day, including every radio station in his grandfather's native Australia. "I've lost count," Logue says.

The book has been republished in several different languages, including Hungarian, German and Russian. "It's been published in two dialects of Chinese," Logue says.

Screenwriter Seidler Triumphed Over His Own Stutter

By David Germain, AP

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Telling the story of the stammering king, George VI, has been a lifetime ambition for David Seidler, ever since he subdued his own stutter nearly 60 years ago.

Born seven months after George took the British throne in 1936, screenwriter Seidler grew up paralyzed by the same impediment he depicts the monarch struggling to overcome in *The King's Speech*, the best-picture favourite at the Academy Awards.

From just before his third birthday to age 16, Seidler stumbled and sputtered over his syllables so badly that he lived in terror of speaking in class, talking to girls, even answering the phone.

"I had huge trouble with the 'H' sound, so when the telephone rang, I would break into a cold sweat, because I couldn't say hello," Seidler, 73, said in an interview.

"I don't know if school still works this way, but in those days you had set places, and the teacher worked up and down the rows. If I could see her working toward me and she was just going to miss me that day, I would fake sick the next day so I didn't have to go to school, because it was so terrifying to be called upon. There came a period when I was actually excused from responding in class. I didn't have to speak in class. It was that bad."

Born in Britain, Seidler developed a stammer in 1940 on a boat to the United States, where his family moved during World War II. Seidler, who had an uncle with a boyhood stammer, figures his own began from the trauma of

German bombs, the sea voyage and abrupt separation from his beloved nanny.

As George VI rallied his country, the young Seidler heard the king valiantly struggling through

one day chronicle the king's tale came to Seidler, who had decided he wanted to be a writer while still afflicted with his stutter.

"If you're born with two conflicting traits — in my case, I was a born ham, but I was a stutterer — and if you want to be the centre of attention but you can't talk, you find another channel, and that's writing," Seidler said.

After college, Seidler tried playwriting, then worked in advertising, Australian television and journalism. He came to Hollywood at age 40, "which, of course, is when any writer with any common sense is leaving Los Angeles," Seidler said.

His credits include Francis Ford Coppola's *Tucker: The Man and His Dream*, the animated feature *Quest for Camelot* and Elizabeth Taylor's TV movie *Malice in Wonderland*.

It was not until a bout with throat cancer in 2005 that Seidler finally started on the story of George VI, known as Bertie to his family.

Seidler had wanted to begin the project in the early 1980s, but Bertie's widow, Elizabeth, the queen mother, politely asked him in a letter, "Please, Mr. Seidler, not during my lifetime," he said.

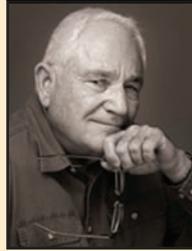
Elizabeth was in her 80s then, so Seidler figured he would have to wait no more than a few years. But she lived to be 101, dying in 2002.

The film is built around the unlikely friendship between

Bertie and unconventional speech therapist Lionel Logue. Helena Bonham Carter plays Bertie's wife.

Though he had researched Bertie's life for decades, Seidler also drew on his own experiences in speech therapy. He underwent

Jane Talks With David



Jane: Did you, like my father, find an alternate word for "hello" that worked for you and is the telephone still a problem?

David: Not really still a problem. But through force of habit I continue to take a breath and say... "David Seidler" or "this is David." Never, "hello." "H" was such a tough sound for me and for your father.

Jane: I think it's wonderful that you respected the Queen Mother's wishes. Was this because you too understood the pain that stuttering causes?

David: Yes, that and the fact I recognized her ongoing grief — and anger — at the premature loss of her beloved Bertie. She always blamed his early death on the Windsors, and his being forced to become the reluctant king.

Jane: "Being a success is very hard work," you are quoted as saying. Yet you have already made a difference in the lives of many people by re-telling King George VI's story. In fact, one might even say you have helped more people in one fell swoop than anyone has!

David: If I have actually accomplished that, I'm thrilled. Indeed, if that is all I have accomplished in my life, I'd consider it a life well spent. The feedback I've received from the stuttering community moves me profoundly.

Jane Fraser is president of The Stuttering Foundation

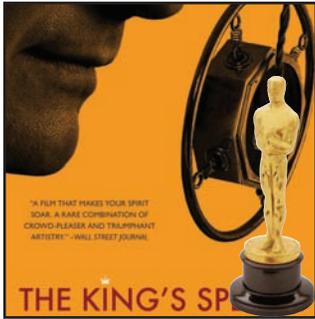
his radio addresses and hoped he might one day master his own speech troubles.

He eventually did, in his mid-teens, not long after George VI died in 1952 and the crown passed to his daughter, Queen Elizabeth II. Soon after that, the desire to

Stuttering Foundation Makes Headlines Around the World

We thought you would enjoy seeing the astounding media coverage we received on stuttering! It is making a real difference in the lives of people around the world.





Nominated for Best Picture



Colin Firth nominated for Best Actor



Helena Bonham Carter nominated for Best Supporting Actress



Geoffrey Rush nominated for Best Supporting Actor



Tom Hooper nominated for Best Director

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1:41 PM 1/25/2011 by Tim Appelo

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'King's Speech' Wins 13th Honor: Stuttering Foundation Gives It 'A Hero's Welcome'

The Stuttering Foundation hails the 12-time Oscar-nominated *The King's Speech* for combating cinematic stutterer abuse -- and screenwriter David Seidler explains how it took him 30 years to turn his own pain into art.

"The Stuttering Foundation gives a hero's welcome to *The King's Speech*," says spokesperson Jane Fraser, vp of London's Association for Research into Stammering in Childhood, Michael Palin Centre. (Palin's superb character in *A Fish Called Wanda* was inspired by his father, who suffered from stuttering, as did Winston Churchill, James Earl Jones, Rowan Atkinson and Jonathan Miller.) "There are few, if any, more accurate portrayals of the anguish faced by people who stutter, or of the hardship it places on family and friends, than in this movie. Stuttering is most often the province of comic relief, and never of the hero."

Oscar-nominated writer Seidler, who's overcome stuttering, waited 30 years to make the picture because King Bertie's mother asked him to, but it wasn't just her painful memories he was sparing. "I don't know if I could've written it as well 30 years ago," says Seidler. "I don't know if I would have been able to go back into the pain. It's like going to the dentist -- once it doesn't hurt any more, once you get over it, the relief is so profound that the last thing you want to do is dwell on it." Did the 30-year wait make the film better? "I really do think it did."

Seidler also credits his former writing partner **Jacqueline Feather**. "She said I was seduced by cinematic technique, so why not as a writing exercise try writing it as a play? If you get the tentpole, the relationship of the two men, right, then you can hang the rest of the story on it like Christmas tree ornaments." What had to go was the "cinematic" character based on Seidler himself. "There was this whole B-plot of a little boy who stuttered." The ghost of himself? "Oh, absolutely. It didn't really belong in this movie. It was **Colin Firth's** movie. It wasn't David Seidler's movie." There will be a David Seidler play, too. "It will be a stage play in all probability in the West End in London, in all probability next fall."

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David Seidler nominated for Original Screenplay



Nominated for Sound Mixing



Nominated for Cinematography



Nominated for Costume Design



Nominated for Original Score



Nominated for Film Editing



Nominated for Art Direction

Stuttering Foundation in the News...

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BREAKING NEWS

The Criterion Press ONLINE EDITION

Experts on stuttering praise 'The King's Speech' for highlighting condition

By Victoria Abrams, The Criterion Press
Posted: 11/23/2010 12:22 PM (Last Modified: 11/23/2010 3:22 PM)

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King's Speech' addresses the issue
A high-profile movie about stuttering may spread awareness.

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THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
Memphis, Tennessee

Editorial: A clear message
Posted December 28, 2010 at 12:02 a.m.

Telephones are ringing more frequently these days at the Stuttering Foundation, bringing some well-deserved attention to a Memphis-based organization that has been improving the lives of people with disfluency issues since 1947.

The foundation has been dispensing info help without a lot of fanfare since its four Memphis and NAPA Auto Parts founder Fraser, who faced his own disfluency he annual speech to employees at a company.

Fraser died in 1994. His work with the foundation is being continued by Jane Fraser. The foundation is suddenly in the spotlight as a result of "The King's Speech," a new movie starring Colin Firth as Prince Albert, a lifelong stammerer. [Engelhardt, Kion, Grooms, WJIM, 10/16/10](#)

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Therapists praise new movie for awareness of stuttering
Thursday, December 2, 2010
LAST UPDATED THURSDAY DECEMBER 2, 2010 12:08 PM
BY LINDY WASHBURN
STAFF WRITER

Colin Firth's performance as the stuttering prince who ascended to the throne and overcame his handicap to address the British people on the radio for...

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Posted on Wed, Dec. 22, 2010 11:28 PM

People who stutter find a voice in 'The King's Speech'
By JAMES A. FUSSELL
The Kansas City Star

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The Washington Post

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'King's Speech' shines spotlight on stuttering
By Lindy Washburn
Sunday, January 9, 2011

Colin Firth's performance as the stuttering prince who ascended to the throne and overcame his handicap to address the British people on the radio during World War II is the focus of a new movie, "The King's Speech."

But the movie's portrayal of his relationship with his father is generated unprecedented.

"This movie has done it years," said Jane Fraser, father in 1947.

"It's great," said Jim Tsi, an assistant professor in Paterson University. "It

Stuttering: A constant struggle to get the words out
Updated 11/28/2010 8:27 PM | Comments 16 | Recommend 4

By Mary Brophy Marcus, USA TODAY

M-m-m-m-y n-n-n-n-name i-i-i-is ...

One little consonant or vowel. When you stutter, that's all it takes to cause frustration, embarrassment and total humiliation.

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Wednesday, Dec. 22 New Film Shines A Light On Speech Impediments

The Emily Rooney Show

New Film Shines A Light On Speech Impediments: Simon all have in common King George VI, who called it his struggle to overcome stuttering in a new film as Queen Elizabeth coronation often overlooked issue for Americans today. She is President of the Stuttering Foundation of America.

News updates See a sample >

'The King's Speech' inspires stutt
By Tony Hicks
Contra Costa Times
Posted: 12/22/2010 01:00 AM PST
Updated: 12/22/2010 05:33:44 PM PST

It seems strange to hear Americans praising someone named King George VI. "In my family, King George VI was revered, because my dad was stuttler," says Jane Fraser, president of the Stuttering Foundation of America. "So watching this was very emotional for me."

Fraser is talking about "The King's Speech," the recently released film documenting the true story of the ascension of Britain's King George VI and his friendship with his speech therapist Lionel Logue. The king, played by Colin Firth, was a lifelong stammerer who struggled through public appearances while being treated by doctors who, for example, believed smoking would help his symptoms.

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Living with a stutter
A new movie, 'The King's Speech,' is shining a new light on this mysterious disorder

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Comments Come In From Across the Globe

"I do believe the film has taken some of the mystique away from stuttering and hopefully will make life easier for people who stutter."

-Maryland

"This film improves the social and occupational image of speech therapists, especially those who are engaged in stuttering therapy. The improvement is thanks to the unconventional therapist who does not have an adequate education. But what he has is an ability of noticing and understanding a real problem of a man who is expecting help. He concentrated on a person and not on his/her disfluency."

-Poland

"This Oscar goes to all the people that believe that stuttering can change ...and we're gonna prove it!!!"

-Spain

"There has been a spike in awareness that coincides with the movie... Even amongst parents of younger children seeking to rule out possible stuttering v. normal disfluency."

-Washington

"I can't tell you how much of a positive impact the movie has had on me. Of course, I've read every article I could get about the movie and the feedback of individuals who stutter. I had no idea how many young professionals feel exactly as my son does concerning their speech."

-Rhode Island

"I stutter and am also an SLP. Family, friends, students and acquaintances have all asked if I felt the portrayal of "the King who stuttered and his therapist" was an accurate portrayal of both stuttering and intervention. I am always so pleased to have a conversation about stuttering and intervention and this amazing movie allows those conversations to more frequently take place!!"

-Washington

"As I watched *The King's Speech*, tears ran a marathon down my face because many scenes brought back memories of being teased & laughed at by my peers, and it reminded me of that gnawing fear I developed as a child of reading aloud in class. By contrast, other scenes resulted in tears of celebration as I watched the main character grow as a speaker and develop a friendship/mentor relationship with his speech therapist."

-California

"The film brought back memories of therapy. I laughed and even cried. They did a great job of showing the emotions behind the problem."

-Alabama

"As a parent, stuttering has played an extremely painful role in my life. I hope and pray for the day when stutterers, and all people with both speaking and hearing disorders, will be treated as capable human beings."

-Rhode Island

work of everyone involved. And ultimately the sense of success and accomplishment that is also felt by both the person who stutters and their therapist as progress is made and gains sustained."

-Washington

"This movie, by bringing the problem of stuttering into public spotlight, will add to the understanding of this most misunderstood of human afflictions."

-India

"As a lifelong stutterer, I think it really opened up the severity and emotions a stutterer faces on a daily basis. Coming from someone who has been laughed at, teased, misunderstood, etc., I came to realize that there are an abundance of people who just don't know about stuttering. This movie has changed that and definitely given light to a situation most people don't encounter."

-California

"Bravo to the film makers and the skilled actors in bringing this story to the public forum and allowing those of us in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders to highlight the hard work done by both those who stutter and those who provide thoughtful, well-researched and personalized intervention!"

-Washington

"My grandson has a stuttering problem. The movie helped him realize that many people including very prominent people have this problem with speaking."

-North Carolina

"Awareness of stuttering is so important. Hopefully, the message of the movie will be conveyed to people who meet stutterers and have no idea how to deal with it (or, even worse, choose not to deal with it) and to help them understand that those with this disability can carry out their responsibilities in superior fashion."

-Rhode Island

"This film has been one of the best gifts we could have had!!! People are now thinking twice about stuttering. My family and friends understand "a bit" more my work."

-Spain

"I teach fluency coursework for graduate students. This year I started with a discussion of *The King's Speech*.

We had a rich and enjoyable 30-minute discussion that ranged from historical "remedies" to the importance of the client-clinician alliance. Students were enthusiastic about this area of practice and excited about learning more in the course. A real bonus for me!"

-Canada



A poster advertising The King's Speech in Argentina.

"I have been deeply moved by this great movie which has given me new opportunities to share and discuss with others this often misunderstood disorder. I work as a speech therapist in the public schools, and I have found teachers and other staff addressing me with questions and bringing genuine interest to know more about stuttering and how they can better help students. I think the movie has brought to all of us revival energy to keep working hard to improve the life of people who stutter."

-Massachusetts

"This excellent story of both individuals, the one who stutters and the therapist as well as their families, accurately portrays the frustration, hope and realm of emotion surrounding both the condition and the treatment; the highs and the lows of the hard



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STUTTERING AND *THE KING'S SPEECH*

Worldwide movie audiences have been presented with a most interesting and unusual movie release with *The King's Speech*, starring Colin Firth as King George VI and Helena Bonham Carter as his wife Elizabeth.

Unfortunately, history may have forgotten the courageous and inspiring story of Prince Albert who stuttered badly and never dreamed that he would ever be king when his older brother, King Edward VIII, abruptly abdicated the throne in 1936 to marry Wallis Simpson, an American divorcee.

In an interview after the completion of the filming of *The King's Speech*, producer Iain Canning said, "His brother was famously charming and Bertie was considered the dull-witted one with little charisma." When Prince Albert, who was known as Bertie, ascended to the throne to become King George VI, it is an understatement to say that his life changed drastically.

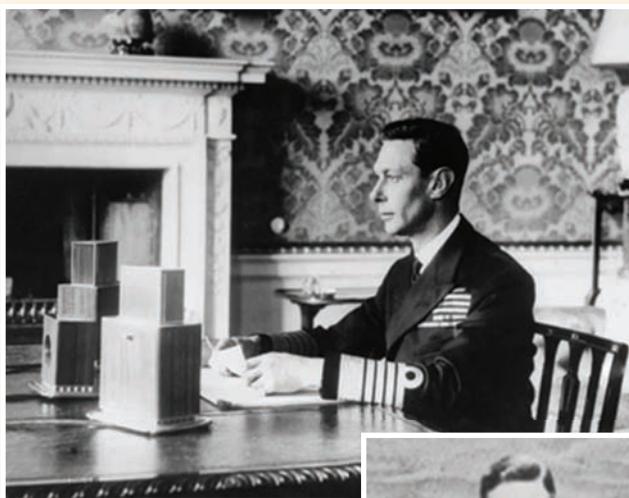
The film deals solely with George VI's stuttering and his relationship with Lionel Logue, an Australian speech therapist retained by the

Prince to help him overcome his stuttering in the years before, during and after the 1936 abdication by his older brother. While countless

other movies have had characters who stutter, this is the first one to

focus on the lead character's stuttering and speech therapy.

Like many people who stutter, Prince Albert had met with failure



in several speech programs. When Lionel Logue, played by Geoffrey Rush in the movie, saw the Prince give a speech in public, he turned to his son and said, "He's too old for me to manage a complete cure. But I could very nearly do it. I'm sure of that."

In his 1982 biography *King George VI*, Denis Judd writes, "Lionel Logue's methods were neither extravagant nor particularly controversial. However Logue's approach was not purely psychological and many of his patients had been reassured that their difficulties could be partly caused by incorrect breathing.

He required his patients to undertake daily breathing exercises

which he had devised, to gargle regularly with warm water, and to stand by an open window intoning the vowels in a fairly loud voice, each sound to last fifteen seconds." Logue's practice began in Australia treating shell-shocked World War I veterans experiencing speech difficulties and he moved his family to London to continue his practice there.

Logue was able to meet with the Prince and soon they began speech therapy sessions. From all accounts, Logue inspired his famous patient mentally by assuring him that his stammering could be cured and that there was nothing psychologically wrong with him.

Logue's constant positive reassurances contrasted the Prince's hurt over past speech therapy failures. King George's official biographer, Wheeler-Bennett, tactfully explained this negative attitude of the Prince: ".....the disillusionment caused by the failures of

previous specialists to affect a cure had begun to breed within him the inconsolable despair of the chronic stammerer and the secret dread that the hidden root of the affliction lay in the mind rather than the body."

The sessions with Logue greatly improved the Prince's confidence as well as his actual speech. The two enjoyed a friendship as well. When, to the surprise of the world, Prince Albert abruptly became King George VI, the new king's stuttering was heavy on his mind from the beginning as he knew that regular radio broadcasts and many more public appearances would put him and his speech in the



spotlight. Colin Firth recently assessed the situation by saying, "His only job was to speak for the nation on live radio – I mean, how cruel was that? ...there is no recording yet, there is no editing for radio... this is live to the Empire."

Four kings: King Edward VII (far right), his son George, Prince of Wales, later George V (far left), and grandsons Edward, later Edward VIII (rear), and Albert, later George VI (foreground), c. 1908.

King George VI, who reigned from 1937 until his death in 1952, has been depicted among the prominent

people on the Foundation's list of famous people who stutter.

Now with the upcoming release of *The King's Speech*, the world will be reminded of the king whose live broadcasts of hope and inspiration kept the spirits of the British people alive during the dark days of World War II. Younger generations should know about this gentle and courageous man.

After decades of characters who stutter being portrayed negatively in movies, it is thrilling for people who stutter to revisit the story of King George VI; without a doubt, they will be the first in line to buy tickets for *The King's Speech*!



This public service ad is now in magazines across the country.

Stuttering Gets the Royal Treatment



King George VI, whose live broadcasts of hope and inspiration kept the spirits of the British people alive during the dark days of World War II, met the challenge of stuttering with courage.

If you stutter, you should know about this gentle and courageous man, dramatized in *The King's Speech*. For more information on how you can meet your challenge, contact us.



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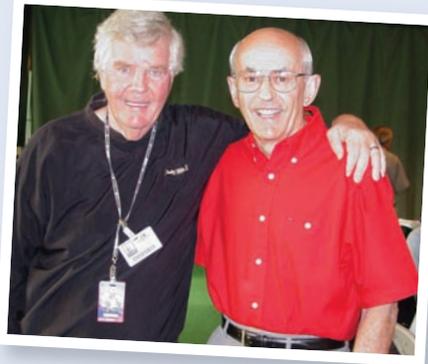
By Joan Warner

Like David Seidler said in his Oscar acceptance speech for *The King's Speech* - "We have a voice. We have been heard"- Stuttering Foundation friend, patron, and unofficial Public Library Ambassador Leon 'Jigger' Sirois has been espousing that sentiment for years. Tirelessly working with his late-in-life found fluency on behalf of the Stuttering Foundation and all people who stutter, he too says we can be heard.

And if there is one thing Jigger does not know the meaning of, it is this: dreaming small.

Jigger has set his heart on winning Oprah's heart in her final 25th season of *The Oprah Show*. Now, he isn't unrealistic, and never self-serving, so the aim is not to appear on Oprah himself.

All he hopes for is a mention of this Foundation's website and 800 helpline during one of her



Sports writer Dick Mittman, left, and Leon "Jigger" Sirois.

final shows. *The Oprah Show* has a worldwide audience just waiting to hear that we can provide help.

And his plan to woo Oprah is not whimsical. For more than six months Jigger has concentrated his efforts on donating – in Oprah's honor – Foundation resources, books and DVDs, to public libraries across the country in communities he hopes will capture her attention and her heart.

With Oprah's journey a public record, one doesn't have to do much digging to know her hometown, high school, first job, progress to Chicago and beyond. Therefore, appealing to her personal interest in communities she has connections to and harbors fondness for is the goal.

Since November 2010, Jigger and his wife, Juanita, have donated nearly 600 books and DVDs valued at almost \$4,000 in support of the work the Stuttering Foundation does. But more importantly, these resources are now accessible to the public in diverse communities while simultaneously continuing to vitalize our treasured and irreplaceable public libraries.

Oprah, are you listening? Jigger sounds like a man with the type of character you would find room to embrace. On his behalf, we hope you can honor his dream, as he tries to honor

Continued on page 12



Race Car Driver Still Revving to be Heard

For additional information on how Jigger has never dreamt small, read about our irrepressible Ambassador in our Summer 2007 Newsletter and our Winter 2008 Newsletter (www.StutteringHelp.org and click 'Newsletter' link). From professional car racing to conquering his life-long stuttering to advocating for early intervention for children who stutter, to leading Toastmasters with numerous awards, this gentleman cannot bother with "not likely to happen." He always dreams big and envisions success!

The comments from libraries give gracious accolades! "Jigger is delightful..." "...we are so

pleased..." "...it is our honor to provide these resources..." "...how fortunate we are to receive updated materials..."

A special thanks to all public libraries across the country for supporting National Stuttering Awareness Week May 9-15, this year. We appreciate all libraries for reaching out to patrons. Our selected resources are free of any charge to any public library by calling 800-992-9392. Special Library Ambassador Jigger simply likes to make this his way of supporting the Foundation while honoring people and benefiting the libraries.



Stuttering and the Big Cats



Alan Rabinowitz Shares His Story

The Stuttering Foundation's new hour-long DVD features conservationist Alan Rabinowitz discussing how struggling with stuttering shaped his life and his long-time relationship with the endangered species he helps to save. This intimate look inside the life of one of the world's greatest conservationists is sure to inspire.

\$9,979

This is the amount donated by **Susan Hamilton, Thrina Parent, Marlene Taylor, Kim Feighner, Frances Zanides and Mary Ann Vandergriff** from money raised selling Cookie Lee jewelry at conventions around the country.



The Stuttering Foundation of America is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is classified as a private operating foundation as defined in section 4942(j)(3). Charitable contributions and bequests to the Foundation are tax-deductible, subject to limitations under the Code.

Preschool Male to Female Data

2-year-olds	F	952	39.8%
	M	1439	60.2%
3-year-olds	F	1620	33.5%
	M	3215	66.5%
4-year-olds	F	920	26.1%
	M	2611	73.9%
5-year-olds	F	625	26%
	M	1802	74%
13,184 children			

Over the last several years, the Stuttering Foundation has kept accurate data on the calls it has received from concerned parents of 13,184 preschool children who are reported to be stuttering.

The number of enquiries rises sharply at 3 years of age and then lessens for children aged 4 and then further reduces for children aged 5 years.

Across all ages, we receive more enquiries from parents of boys than we do of girls, reflecting what we know - that more boys stutter than girls (Bloodstein, 1995; Yairi, 2005).

When we look at the proportion of those children who

are male and female, it is interesting to see that the ratio of females:males differs across the ages, with proportionally fewer calls from parents of 5-year old girls compared to 2 year olds.

Research has found that girls are more likely to recover from stuttering than boys (Yairi, 2005). Our data would seem to lend further support to this. Dr. Soo-Eun Chang's ongoing research with preschool children at Michigan State University may shed more light on neurological development during these crucial preschool years. (see SFA Newsletter Winter 2011)

Annual Audit 2010

The annual audit of the Stuttering Foundation financial reports for 2010 was recently completed by the accounting firm of Cannon and Company, Certified Public Accountants, Memphis, Tenn. Following is a recap of funds and expenditures for the year.

The 3.5% of expenditures for administration and general expenses and the 7/10 of 1% for fund raising are very low, and

since we are fortunate to have an endowment which more than covers our overhead expenses, donors can be assured that their gifts will go directly to support our program services.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private operating foundation which expends its funds on its own programs and operations and does not make grants to other institutions.

Funds expended for:

Creation, production, printing and distribution of educational materials	\$589,264	39.4%
Public information and education	323,307	21.6%
Educational symposia for professionals	167,729	11.2%
Research on causes/treatment of stuttering and therapy	254,869	17.1%
Maintain Web site and toll-free information hotline	97,259	6.5%
Total for Program Services:	\$1,432,428	95.8%
Other expenditures:		
Administration and general	52,283	3.5%
Fund-raising expense	10,237	0.7%
Total Expenditures:	\$1,494,948	100%

King's Speech *Continued from page 1*

honored the movie for raising awareness of stuttering “beyond any level we could ever imagine.” She also thanked the actors for their “accurate portrayals of the anguish faced by people who stutter” and for “opening up honest dialogue about stuttering and its treatment.” Finally, she thanked the director and screenwriter “for giving us a hero and a movie we can look to for inspiration, much as my father looked to King George VI more than six decades ago.”

She also announced Academy Award-winning actor Colin Firth has been named honorary chairman of National Stuttering



Awareness Week, May 9-15, 2011. “Colin and the entire cast and crew of *The King’s Speech* have done such an amazing job raising awareness for the stutter-

The Stuttering Foundation has printed King’s Speech awareness posters, which are perfect to display during National Stuttering Awareness Week, May 9-15. For more information, visit our Web site, www.StutteringHelp.org

ing community,” Fraser said. “Our focus during this special week and the months and years to come will be to convert that awareness into action.”

Seidler
Continued from page 3

many of the tricks depicted in *The King’s Speech* — having his mouth stuffed with marbles, reciting while listening to music on headphones.

The King’s Speech director Tom Hooper first heard of the project from his mother, who attended a reading of a stage version Seidler had written. Afterward, she called Hooper and told her son she had found his next project.

“It’s clearly the best script of his life,” Hooper said. “He’s really writing about his own childhood experiences through the guise of these two characters.”

Seidler shared another experience in his youth that Bertie undergoes in the film — when the king unleashes a torrent of cuss words in a burst of anger that momentarily frees him from his stammer.

At age 16, Seidler experienced his own F-bomb cure.

“Adolescence had hit, hormones were raging. I couldn’t ask girls out for a date, and even if I could and even if they said yes, what was the point? I couldn’t talk to them on a date. This was the ‘50s. You did talk on dates,” Seidler said.

Fury over his condition grew to the point that he was jumping

up and down on his bed, bellowing profanity. He found it empowering.

“If I am stuck with this stutter,” Seidler recalls saying to himself, “you all are stuck with listening to me. I am a human being, and I’m going to talk, and you’re going to have to F-word listen.”

With that psychological turn, Seidler’s stutter largely faded in a few weeks, to the point that he won a small part in a school play, *Androcles and the Lion* (“I played a Christian being eaten by a lion in the Colosseum, and I didn’t stutter as I died.”).

This article used with permission from The Associated Press.

Jigger
Continued from page 10

you, to benefit countless children, teens, and adults worldwide.

To date, the resources have been donated to: The Chicago Public Library, Los Angeles Public Library, The Eudora Welty Library in Jackson and Attala County Library in Kosciusko, Mississippi (Oprah’s hometown), The Milwaukee

Public Library, and public libraries in Nashville, New York, Detroit, Jacksonville (Fla.), Denver, Albuquerque, the Hennepin County (Minnetonka, Minn.) Library, and the Miami-Dade Public Library, a total of nearly 500 branch locations across the country.

Additional libraries slated to receive resources in honor of

Oprah are currently in the works as we go to press.

So, we say bravo to Jigger for dreaming big. And bravo to our public libraries — institutions of learning, keepers of the past, providers of ever-changing resources for the future. Dare we say bravo in advance for Oprah’s support? We hope to be heard!

National Student Speech Language Hearing Association

NSSLHA Loves the SFA



Carrie Anderson and Ashley Weede, students from the University of South Dakota.



Misericordia University 2010-2011 NSSLHA Chapter organized various fund raising events enabling them to donate \$500.00 to the Stuttering Foundation.



These are the NSSLHA chapters that have contributed to the Stuttering Foundation. Thank you for your support!

ILLINOIS

The Stuttering Foundation is this year's recipient of the student-led fundraising campaign organized each year by the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association.

NSSLHA Loves Campaign – January through December 2010

- University of Cincinnati NSSLHA Chapter – Cincinnati, OH - \$100.00
- Northwestern University NSSLHA Chapter – Evanston, IL - \$300.00
- Nova Southeastern University NSSLHA Chapter – Fort Lauderdale, FL - \$500.00
- University of Nebraska NSSLHA

- Chapter – Omaha, NE - \$100.00
- Truman State University NSSLHA Chapter – Kirksville, MO - \$250.00
- University of South Dakota NSSLHA Chapter – Vermillion, SD - \$500.00
- Minnesota State University NSSLHA Chapter – Mankato, MN - \$100.00
- Edinboro Univ. of PA NSSLHA Chapter – Edinboro, PA - \$50.00
- SUNY Cortland Speech & Hearing Club – Cortland, NY - \$267.50
- Lehman College – CUNY NSSLHA Chapter – Bronx, NY - \$500.00
- Utah State University – Logan, UT - \$20.00

NSSLHA Loves Campaign – January through March 2011

- Misericordia University NSSLHA Chapter – Dallas, PA - \$500.00
- Southeastern Louisiana University NSSLHA Chapter – Hammond, LA - \$100
- University of Illinois – Urbana NSSLHA Chapter – Champaign, IL - \$250.00
- University of Arizona – NSSLHA Chapter – Tucson, AZ - \$400.00
- Bowling Green State University – NSSLHA Chapter – Bowling Green, OH - \$150.00
- Clarion University NSSLHA Chapter – Clarion, PA - \$150.00

Meet Board Member Joe Fulcher

This is the first in a series of articles featuring Stuttering Foundation board members. This article about Joe Fulcher first appeared in Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute's Breath Magazine.

Joe Fulcher plays a valuable role in the smooth operations and financial excellence of the Stuttering Foundation. Since 1984 he has served in the roles of Vice President, and Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. He also serves on the annual Audit Committee.

His dedication to his work with SFA is an example to the entire board and staff.

Joe had the privilege of working directly with Malcolm Fraser, the founder of SFA, for many years. Malcolm thought highly of Joe's financial oversight and planning abilities that help SFA provide ongoing help to those who struggle with stuttering.

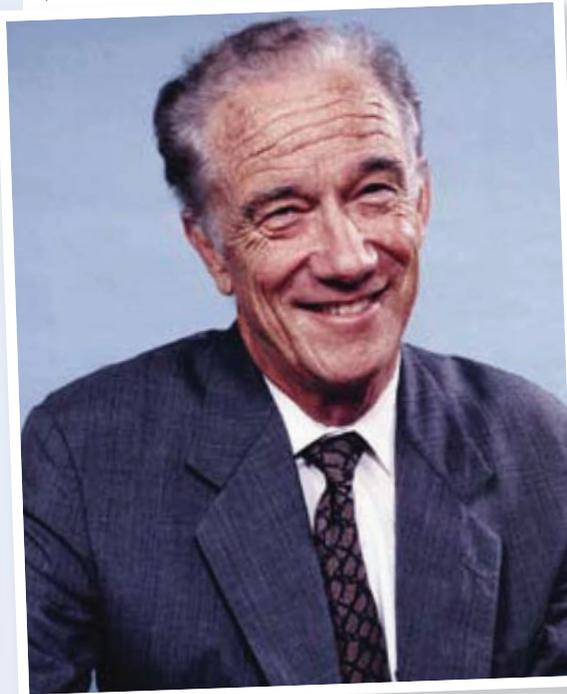
"The Foundation is fortunate to have someone of Joe's capabilities be a part of this important work," said Jane Fraser. "We have him to thank for our success."

The arc of Joe Fulcher's career has closely followed Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute's growth over the years. Fulcher first interacted with the Lovelace Clinic in 1951 when he moved from his home in Texas to Albuquerque as a part of a consulting team charged with reorganizing the clinic's accounting department. Inspired by the clinic's work, Fulcher joined the organization to serve as director of finance.

"What they were doing—combining medical services, medical

research, and medical education—was really interesting so I was happy to stay on," explains Fulcher. His involvement with the organization has continued ever since.

Fulcher advanced through the



ranks at the organization until 1969 when he decided to enroll in University of New Mexico's law school.

"I heard a well-known speaker say that a man should be repotted every ten years. I liked that and thought it was time to do something different," explains Fulcher. While attending law school, he continued to serve as Administrative Vice President and Trustee of the Lovelace Foundation. After earning his juris doctorate in 1973, Fulcher joined Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris and Sisk, a law firm in Albuquerque.

Subsequently, he became general counsel for the Lovelace Foundation and later of Lovelace Medical Center, Inc., the organization set up to com-

bine the medical service operations of the clinic and hospital. Fulcher retired from the law firm in the late 1980's, but continued to serve as general counsel for a few years on a part-time basis. Today, Fulcher is still a member of the LRRRI Board of Directors.

While Fulcher has been involved professionally with the organization for 59 years, he's also been personally satisfied with the medical research. Years ago, when he had heart bypass surgery at Lovelace, he remembered the times when Lovelace scientists and surgeons were conducting early research on an artificial heart pump. "It was gratifying to reflect that I had a small hand in supporting the kind of research that ended up helping so many people—including myself," he comments.

Throughout his career Fulcher was involved with the evolution of the organization from three separate entities—a hospital, clinic and research institute—to a combination of all three, and finally, with the medical service operations separated, to the organization that it is today. He says it's been very gratifying to see LRRRI change shape over time as its breadth and depth of research expanded.



"Under Bob Rubin's leadership this has become the leading respiratory research institute in the world... it's unique. Having watched it all these

years, I'm thrilled with LRRRI's outstanding success. I see it as a tribute to the many scientists, physicians, and devoted Board members who are a part of its colorful progeny."

Dear SFA: Reader Response



Send letters to SFA, P.O. Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749 or e-mail info@StutteringHelp.org.

Speech Therapy Helps

My name is Josiah and I am 11 years old. I love to play football with my friends. I stutter. When I stutter, I can't get my words out. Stuttering bothers me. I sometimes feel ashamed because my words get blocked. The good news is that my speech is better. Speech therapy has helped me to talk better and learn new things.

Josiah, 11

Cheltenham, PA

I Like Me for Who I Am

StutteringHelp.org changed my life! It gave me a list of things that would help people who are talking to someone who stutters, which my mom really needed. It also gave me a video of how much I'm not alone, and best of all, it actually gave me a feeling where I don't care if I stutter anymore. This was my real, meaningful Christmas present and ya'll helped me through my worst terrible things ever. I like me for who I am and that's all that really matters. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I want you to know this really helped me more than you can ever think possible.

Madelyn, 12

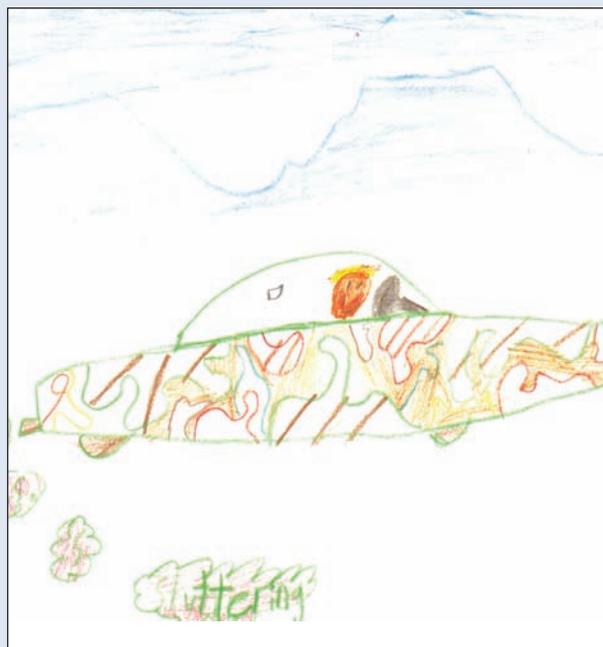
York, S.C.

Stuttering is OK

I don't mind that I stutter. It doesn't really bother me. But sometimes it just gets annoying. I try to stop stuttering, but I can't.

Nathan, 7

Hamilton, Ontario



I am Austin. I stutter and I go to speech therapy. I tap in my head or on my lap so I talk smoother. If people make fun of you, you should say "thank you." If people ask why you stutter, just say, "My brain talks faster than my mouth can go." It is OK to stutter. If I stutter, people in my family will say, "Please use your tapping." My picture is when the car starts it goes "s, s, stuttering."

Austin, 8

Lake Geneva, Wis.

Bigger than My Stutter

I stuttered a lot when I was younger but then when I met my speech therapist, she helped me be bigger than my stutter. She helped me use talking tools. That's how I am now... bigger than my stutter.

Mary, 8

Duluth, MN

I Am an Expert

My name is Brennen. I am 10 years old and in fourth grade. I go to speech because I stutter. My favorite strategies right now are stretching and pausing. Mrs.

Lisa, my speech teacher, says I am an expert because I have taught her a lot about stuttering. We just did a presentation to my class on stuttering. We told my classmates lots of important things. We even got them to practice some repetitions. We told them about some famous people who stutter. We also told them about things they can do to help and that it is okay to stutter. We described how our speech helpers work together and did a poster on facts and myths about stuttering. I really enjoyed making our posters. My principal and my mom came to our presentation too. My classmates asked lots of good questions. I was excited to pass out snacks at the end.

Brennen, 10

Berwick, La.

Teasing Hurts

My name is Varney. I am in 4th grade. Kids laugh at me because I stutter. My mom and my uncles used to stutter. Kids say, "ha, ha you can not talk," to make me feel bad. Other kids' moms used to stutter too. I don't tell on people when they make me feel bad because they will say that I'm a snicher.

Varney

Levittown, Pa.

Techniques Help

My name is Carter. I was 5 when I started stuttering. But as I get older, I kept getting better and better. Now I'm in 4th grade. I feel like I don't even

Continued on page 16

Letters

Continued from page 15

stutter at all. Now I'm 9, so I can understand more and more about stuttering. Even about how bad it can be. In 2nd grade, I didn't know what to do because I thought my friends would laugh if I used my techniques. Now I'm not scared to use my techniques.

Carter, 9

Richmond, Minn.

Growing In Self-esteem

I started stuttering when I was little, but I only can remember stuttering from grade 3. Right now I go to my therapist every two weeks. Some useful strategies are pausing, starting in a easy relaxed way, and talking slow. My parents, friends, and other people have helped me by paying attention and not asking me way too many questions about why I stutter.

I have a little brother who is 5 and he's the biggest negative impact on my stuttering because he interrupts a lot and talks fast. When he interrupts me, I get very frustrated.

One more important thing that has helped me is better self-es-

teem which I got from a conference where I met a lot of people who stutter more than me. Practicing and activities with speech have also helped.

I used to get teased but not because of my stuttering. The real reason I got teased is because I am missing a finger. I don't get teased anymore because I don't care about having a missing finger. I feel like I'm a great kid and my stuttering also doesn't bother me because I have great self-esteem now, and I also use my strategies.

Steven, 12

Richmond Hill, Ontario

Talking Fears

Hi. My name is Peter. I'm 10 years old and I am in 5th grade. I have been stuttering for as long as I can remember. I have a fear of talking or when I have to read something to the class because sometimes I stutter a lot when I am reading. It makes me feel like I slow down the whole class. No one makes fun of me for that but when I do get bullied I can't get my words out fast enough to defend myself. It's really frustrating. None of my speech teachers has helped me at school so I am

going to another speech teacher outside of school. I think it is going to help me a lot. When I grow up I'm going to be the lead singer in a rock band. I think I'm going to be a really great one!

Peter, 10

Homer Glen, Ill.

Stuttering is Confusing

I don't like to stutter. Sometimes it makes me and other people really confused. It also makes people tease me because it sounds really funny. Sometimes when I talk, it feels like everyone wants me to stop stuttering so they can guess what I am trying to say. When I try not to stutter and get the words straight out, it gets worse and then I repeat the words several times. But when I am calm and talk slowly, it helps me and it makes talking a lot easier then it used to be.

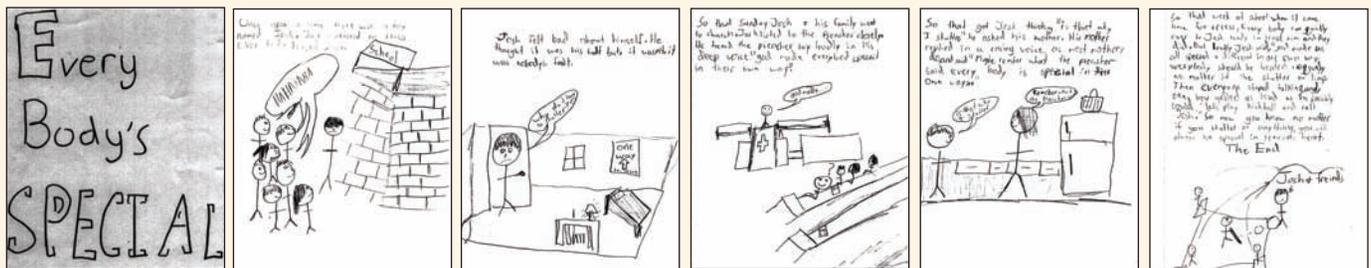
Sophia

Toronto, Ontario

Turtle Talk

My name is Avery. I am 4 years old. I learned "turtle speech" - that means talking slowly. Miss Linda and I pretended we were at the doctor's office. Some doctors talked

Continued on page 17



Written and illustrated by Gabe, Okla. — Once upon a time there was a boy named Josh. Josh stuttered. At recess, everyone teased Josh. Josh felt bad about himself. He thought it was his fault. But it was nobody's fault. So that Sunday, Josh and his family went to church. Josh listened to the preacher closely. He heard the preacher say loudly in his deep voice, "God made everyone special in their own way." So that got Josh thinking, "Is that why I stutter?" he asked his mother. His mother replied in a caring voice, as most mothers do, and said, "Maybe. Remember what the preacher said? Everybody is special in their own way." So that week at school when it came time for recess, everybody ran quickly over to Josh ready to tease him and they did. But Josh said loudly, "God made us all special and different in our own way. Everybody should be treated equally no matter if they stutter or limp." Then everyone stopped talking and one boy yelled as loud as he possibly could, "Let's play kickball and call Josh." So now you know no matter if you stutter, you will always be special in someone's heart. The End.

Letters

Continued from page 16

slowly and some talked fast. Dr. Turtle and Dr. Snail speak slowly and Dr. Kangaroo and Dr. Rabbit speak fast. I know how to talk both ways, but talking slow is good.

Avery, 4
Jefferson, Mass.

Please Don't Interrupt

My name is Benson. I am in the eighth grade and I am 13 years old.



Benson

My favorite school subject is science. When I grow up I would like to become a doctor.

Some fun stuff I like to do is make origami figures. Origami is the art of folding paper into things or figures. Sometimes origami is hard and sometimes it is easy. Origami is relaxing most of the time.

About my stuttering... sometimes I get stuck when I'm talking and I can't say what I want to say. Also, it would help me if people would not cut me off when I'm talking. I don't like it when people start talking about what they want to talk about when I haven't finished and am stuttering a little bit. Thanks for listening!

Benson, 13
Torrance, Calif.

Speech Group is Fun

My name is Allen. I'm in 6th grade in Torrance, California.

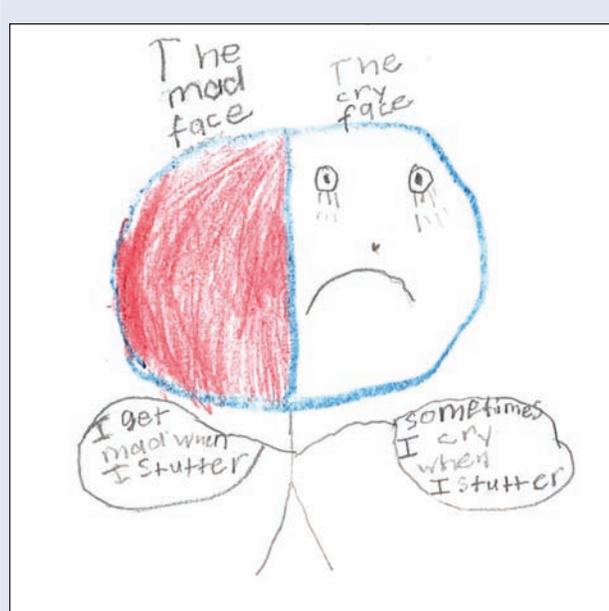


Allen

On Fridays, I go to speech at my school with some other guys. My speech teacher is Mrs. D. The guys and I have a lot of fun in speech. One warm day we had a

wonderful field trip to the Redondo Beach pier. When we were there, we ate at the most wonderful pizza place called Zeppy's. There are three boys in my speech group. On the field trip, we gave pamphlets about stuttering to people in the community.

I started stuttering at age 3.



I am 11 years old. I have been in speech for a long time. I work on speech sounds but started stuttering about a year ago. I feel a little bit sad because I stutter. The words don't come out when I want them to. My speech teacher is helping me talk better. Maybe some day I won't stutter. Sometimes I cry when I stutter.
Clay
Hurricane, Wash.

When I stutter, I feel like there is a big ball of air in my throat. Sometimes when I talk to my friends and I stutter, my friends interrupt me. It doesn't make me feel good when people interrupt me. Some of my friends don't care if I stutter, which makes me feel good. Thanks for reading my letter!

Allen
Torrance, Calif.

Stutter Buddies

My name is Roderick and I am 13 years old. I'm in seventh grade in Torrance. My favorite

subject is math. I'm good at it.

Not only am I a good dancer, but I'm also good at sports. My favorite sports are football and basketball. My favorite team is the Lakers.

Sometimes when I talk, I have trouble and I stutter. It's embarrassing when other people are

looking at you when you're stuttering. When I stutter, I say it more slowly so I can say it better. My speech group at school has gone on field trips. We gave information about stuttering to people in the community. It is good to be a



Roderick

speech expert in your city. I tell people that it helps me if other people let me say the words I want to say. Interrupting is not good. Stuttering is just part of me. Thanks for listening Stutter Buddies!

Roderick, 13
Torrance, Calif.

A letter from France

Je m'appelle Iman.
J'ai 7 ans.

Je suis en CE1.

Le bégaiement

Dans ma vie, le bégaiement est énervant. Parce que il m'empêche de parler.

Dans ma maison, le bégaiement vient parfois.

Ca me dérange.

A l'école le bégaiement vient parfois. Je parle souvent à la maîtresse en bégayant.

Je ne suis pas contente du tout. Les mots sont bloqués dans ma gorge. Je voudrais chasser le bégaiement de ma gorge.

Parce qu'il m'énerve.

National Stuttering Awareness Week is May 9-15

www.StutteringHelp.org • 800-992-9392 • www.tartamudez.org

News Briefs

▶ Stuttering Foundation two-week workshop, *Cognitive Approaches to Working with People Who Stutter*, will be June 13-24, 2011, at Boston University.

▶ The Stuttering Foundation's five-day workshop, *Diagnosis and Treatment of Children Who Stutter*, will be July 11-15, 2011, at Portland State University.

▶ **2011 World Congress** May 17 to 21, 2011, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Visit www.stutterisa.org for more information.

▶ **National Stuttering Association** is holding its annual convention in Fort Worth, TX, July 6-10, 2011. For more information, visit www.nsastutter.org.

▶ **Friends Who Stutter** is holding its annual convention in Washington, D.C., July 21-23, 2011. Visit www.friendswhostutter.org

▶ **The 9th Oxford Dysfluency Conference (ODC)** is Sept. 1-4, 2011 at St. Catherine's College, Oxford, UK. Further information is available at www.dysfluencyconference.com.

Books

▶ *Stuttering: Foundations and Clinical Applications* by Ehud Yairi and Carol H. Seery. 2010. Pearson Education. Boston. www.pearsonhighered.com

▶ *The King's Speech: How One Man Saved the British Monarchy* by Mark Logue and Peter Conradi. www.Amazon.com

▶ *Treatment of Stuttering: Established*

Foundation Gets Starring Role on New DVD



The DVD of *The King's Speech*, which was released in April, includes the Stuttering Foundation's 60-second Public Service Announcement.

This PSA will let the millions of people who view the movie in the years to come know that the Foundation offers free resources.

Volume 19, Issue 2

Renee Shepherd Editor
 Scot Squires Designer
 Special thanks to Joan Warner, Patty Reed, Susie Hall, Pat Hamm, Lisa Hinton, Terri Jones, and Carol Ecke. This newsletter is published quarterly. Please e-mail address changes and story ideas to info@StutteringHelp.org.

and Emerging Approaches: Conventional and Controversial Interventions by Barry Guitar and Rebecca McCauley. 2009. Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore. www.LWW.com

▶ *Clinical Decision Making in Fluency Disorders* by Walter H. Manning. (2009) Delmar Cengage Learning, Clifton Park, NY. www.cengage.com

▶ *Practical Intervention for Early Childhood Stammering* by Elaine Kelman and Alison Nicholas. (2008) Speechmark Publishing, Ltd. Milton Keynes, U.K., www.speechmark.net

▶ *Stammering, Advice for All Ages* by Renee Byrne and Louise Wright. (2008), Sheldon Press, London, www.sheldonpress.co.uk

▶ *Speak Freely: Essential Speech Skills for School-Age Children Who Stutter* by Mark Allen, Ph.D., (2007) Speak Freely Publications, Evanston, IL, www.cfst.com

▶ *Beyond Stammering*, Revised edition by David Maguire. (2008) Souvenir Press, London.

Visit www.StutteringHelp.org, for a complete list of books.



Dr. Barbara Moore poses with **Mark Vidor** of The Art Theatre of Long Beach, Calif. The theatre donated a portion of ticket sales from *The King's Speech* to the Stuttering Foundation. Before the showing, Dr. Moore made a lively presentation and answered questions about stuttering.