

## Introducing Myles Mancuso, Young Musical Phenom

LETTING GO caught up with Myles Mancuso, a teenage professional musician who is very accomplished, especially considering his young age.

**Letting GO:** Hi Myles, can you tell us a little about yourself?

**MM:** My name is Myles Mancuso, and I'm 13 years old. I'll be turning 14 on October 2nd. I'm in the 8th grade, and my favorite pastime and my career is playing music. I first started playing piano when I was five years old. I then went to bass guitar, then the regular guitar – I caught on very quickly... I think so, anyway.

I've been playing around the New York area and playing ever since I was 9 or 10. My first major gig was at the Cutting Room in New York City when I was 10. The show was promoted by Sid Bernstein who is the guy who brought the Beatles to America. He's become a good friend.

From there I've played other venues in New York City like The B.B. King Blues Club and Madison Square Garden, for the Knicks halftime show. I have played all kinds of shows and on radio and TV, too. I will probably go to either the Berklee College of Music or another music school when I get out of high school.

### A Self-Esteem Boost

**LG:** Has performing on stage allowed you to become more confident in situations that, due to stuttering, may have otherwise been challenging?

**MM:** I think that playing on stage gives me an esteem boost and makes me feel that I can do anything. When I speak to the audience I feel like I have an easier time talking because I have very high self-esteem on stage and that makes it easier to speak. It's different than speaking one on one.

**LG:** Have you ever been to a speech-language pathologist or received any kind of speech therapy?

**MM:** Yes, I have – for most of my elementary school years and in the first part of middle school I went to speech therapy and practiced techniques and ideas on how to improve my speaking. I use the tools I learned in therapy all the time.

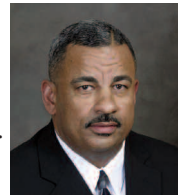
*continued on page 2*



## The Courage to Overcome

BY DR. RAYMOND TUCKER, CSCS

I am writing this article to motivate and encourage individuals who have a speech impediment or any other handicap to continue to pursue their goals and dreams. It is not going to be easy, but on the other hand, nothing worthwhile accomplishing is. It is easy for someone to encourage you, but unless you have had a speech impediment, you do not understand the emotional pain and embarrassment individuals with a speech impediment encounter in their daily lives.



Growing up in a military family were the best years of my life; they were also some of the most painful. At a young age, my father was stationed in Thailand. After he left, I developed this odd pattern in my speech, and my mother did not know what it was.

My mother took me to several doctors, and I was diagnosed as having a mental condition. Another doctor thought this odd pattern of speech was caused by abuse, which was certainly not the case. After months of doctor visits, I was diagnosed with a speech impediment. I was going to be stuttrer! At that time during my life, I did not know what that meant. I just knew I talked differently from my friends.

I spent most of my adolescence and teenage years traveling around the globe and going from school to school and speech therapist to speech therapist. My

*continued on page 5*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Chairman Insight . . . . .	2	Workshop for Youth Who Stutter . . . . .	4
Chapter News . . . . .	3	Odds & Ends . . . . .	6
Celebrity Golf Tournament . . . . .	4	Reasons Not to Miss the July Conference . . .	7
Pediatrician Brochure Now Availalble . . . . .	4	A Special Thank You . . . . .	8

# CHAIRMANINSIGHT

BY ERNIE CANADEO



As you know, the NSA has grown to become the largest association of people who stutter and their families in the United States. We offer support to thousands of people each year in a variety of ways, including chapter meetings at over 100 locations – with at least one chapter in almost every state. NSA chapters have been the foundation of the organization since its inception in 1977, and we will continue to give support and encouragement to our chapters and our chapter leaders who do so much to support the organization.

The strength of the NSA and our chapters was showcased in our tremendous support of National Stuttering Awareness Week in May, where the

NSA created and printed thousands of posters that were distributed to schools and libraries throughout the country. This unprecedented effort spread awareness of stuttering in communities where our NSA members live and work and will help to increase attendance at our local meetings and at our annual conference. Thanks go to all of our chapter leaders who rose to the occasion to help spread the word about stuttering.

May was also an important month for promotion of the NSA with the launch of our new Web site, [nationalstutteringassociation.org](http://nationalstutteringassociation.org). Our new Web site is chock-full of information about stuttering and the NSA, and will become an important

resource for families and clinicians seeking more information about stuttering and our organization. We have begun promoting the Web site through a Google search campaign, which will reach many more people who seek help and support. Please take a look and let us know your thoughts. I hope you'll be as excited about is as we are.

The NSA office is busy making arrangements for our annual conference and research symposium taking place in Arizona in July. It promises to be the best conference ever. I look forward to seeing each of you there.

Sincerely, Ernie

**LG: In your experience, which of those tools have you found to be the most effective and the least effective?**

**MM:** I've learned in speech therapy that I need to put a little breath of air before each sentence as this helps me speak more fluently and not stutter so much. A few other tools that haven't been so helpful would be bumping into the word or stopping and starting again...because that just makes it seem like you're stuttering anyway. What helps me might not help someone else, but there will always be something that helps us gain control of our speech.

## Musical Influences

**LG: What performers, past or present, have influenced you?**

**MM:** I think one of my main influences would have to be Tab Benoit. He is a guitar player out of New Orleans. Others who have influenced me on guitar are Albert Collins and Freddy King. On piano I've been influenced by Ray Charles, Dr. John, and Jimmy Smith.

**LG: Being in the music business must require you to do a lot of live promotional activities.**

**Do you ever get nervous about having to talk with so many different people?**

**MM:** Yes, when I do interviews on radio, TV, or on the phone with a reporter but I usually get through it OK, using my tools. It depends on how big the opportunity is. Sometimes if it means a lot to my music career I will get a little nervous but usually it has little effect on my speech.

**LG: Are there any musicians you would like to play with but have not yet had the opportunity?**

**MM:** I would like to play with B.B. King or one of my other influences – Derek Trucks of the Allman Brothers.

**LG: You play both keyboard and guitar. Does one come more naturally to you than the other?**

**MM:** They both come naturally to me. When I'm rehearsing for a show sometimes I feel like I have to put a little more effort into the piano, but when I'm on stage I feel that I play them both equally well.

**Just because you stutter doesn't mean you can't pursue your dreams and passions.**

## Stuttering Makes You Stronger

**LG: What would you say to other young people who are hesitant to pursue their dreams because they stutter?**

**MM:** I feel that stuttering does not make you weaker – it makes you stronger because

when you overcome it it's possibly the hardest thing you will have to do in your whole life. I know that even though I have made progress in overcoming it, it is still a lot of hard work. So if you just keep at it, even if you still do stutter a little bit it's a natural thing. Everybody stutters once in a while. But just because you stutter doesn't mean you can't pursue your dreams and passions.

**LG: Thanks for taking the time to talk with us, Myles. Best of luck in what will no doubt be a terrific career.**

*To learn more about Myles Mancuso please visit [mylesmancuso.com/](http://mylesmancuso.com/).*

# CHAPTER NEWS

FROM BONNIE WEISS

## **Bowling Green, Ohio**

Scott Palasik writes that the Northwest Ohio chapter has been very busy recently. At one of their recent meetings they talked about advocacy of their speech along with “cheating” (avoidance) sometimes when they talk. With respect to advocacy, there were some different thoughts on this and all were great! Some members seemed to be in agreement with the idea of telling people about stuttering when they got to know them and others thought open disclosure right away was important or thought it was dependent on the situation. All ways are valid, and the group decided that being comfortable with the way they share their stuttering is what counts. The group then talked about some avoidance issues which included making phone calls, talking in public and using texting and e-mails to help with this avoidance. The group spoke to the Stuttering Class at Bowling Green State University on April 27th.

## **Madison, Wisconsin**

The Madison group held their monthly meeting at the Greenbush Restaurant. They had a “chat and chew” meeting where members discussed some activities for future meetings. After the food arrived there was more chewing than chatting, but they did get some chat in! They talked about having a summer picnic in the middle of August, which would be open to all members and their families. They also planned a movie night for the fall. Gloria Klumb said that while she had the members’ attention, she reminded them of the NSA conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. So far, three will be attending the conference.

## **Normal, Illinois**

The Illinois State group met on April 9th with eight people in attendance – three chapter leaders, three people who stutter and two graduate students. This was a first meeting for one of the people who stutters. She is a graduate student at Illinois State Speech Pathology Program. One of the topics they discussed was about feeling confident, and they all shared what makes them feel confident.

One of the members said that he has realized that he can still be a happy person who makes people laugh even though he stutters! He also feels that stuttering gives him something more and that he can be engaging in a conversation. The group also talked about people making fun of those who stutter and “rude listeners” and wondered why it is still somehow “acceptable” for people to make jokes about stuttering when it is not OK to make jokes about other disabilities. Jean Sawyer writes that all in all it was a great meeting!

## **Sacramento, California**

The Sacramento/Roseville chapter met in April. Nancy Barcal writes that there were seven adults, four parents of people who stutter, two people who stutter as well as two young children who stutter. The chapter started meeting at a new location in Roseville where they enjoyed pizza and soft drinks. The meeting started with one of the newest members, Paul, reading the welcoming words. This was followed by the introduction of a new co-leader, Sean. As the meeting continued, they separated and did different activities. Nancy, a speech-language pathologist, played a game with the younger children, Brooke and Kristen, while Paul and Sean had a question and answer session with the parents. The parents asked Sean and Paul what it was like growing up as people who stutter as they wanted to pick up some “tips” from them. The meeting ended with a great discussion of stuttering being just a part of who you are.

## **Syracuse, New York**

The Syracuse chapter recently had a meeting attended by three people who stutter and one speech-language pathologist. They are looking forward to increasing their attendance as they had recently put a new posting in the newspaper. Vince, a school psychologist, is working with a boy who stutters. The boy has never mentioned that he stutters, and Vince is struggling with the issue of bringing up his stuttering. Members in attendance also discussed

the issue of dating and proms. Another topic that was discussed was about talking on the phone. One of those present said he never talked on the phone until he was college age. Evan Sherman, the chapter leader, closed the meeting with the following questions: “What if there was a magic pill that cured stuttering forever? Knowing that stuttering has shaped us into the people who we are today, would we take that pill?”

## **Get Ready for a High Energy Keynote Speaker**



Some of the many highlights of an NSA national conference are the fascinating and inspiring talks delivered by keynote speakers.

This year’s conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, is no exception.

Gary Tietjen (pronounced Tee-jen) is one of our scheduled speakers. He has been motivating and educating audiences for over a decade. His vast background includes over 30 years in cable and radio advertising sales and management. He’s been a radio on-air personality, a copywriter, a producer... and he’s worked retail.

Gary’s talks are informative, fast paced, and humorous. His overall goal is to make you think, embrace change...not run away from it, focus on your success, and come away a better person. From leadership to motivation, Gary delivers messages with professionalism and passion. In fact, Gary knows that if you unlock your inner passion you’ll reveal your true success!

Gary, his four children and wife, Terry, live on Long Island, New York. He’s been involved with The Boy Scouts of America where he has served in many leadership posts and is the proud father of two Eagle Scouts. Gary is an active member of National Speakers Association and works with his daughter Kelly in community theater.

Be sure to attend this inspiring keynote speech! Gary and your fellow NSA members hope to see you in Scottsdale July 8–12. ■

## NSA Is Special Recipient for Celebrity Golf Tournament

Gary Benjoya, vice president of Special Kids Network in Chicago, says that the NSA has been selected as a "Special Recipient" of their 10th Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament. The charity organization raises funds for children with special needs. The event will be held August 3, 2009, in Chicago, Illinois.

"I am very excited to have the NSA be a part of our charity this year as [its mission] touches me personally," Benjoya says. "Our family became aware of NSA through Nina Reeves when Corey went to Nina for speech therapy. Nina initially directed us to the NSA Web site to review materials, and then we went to the NSA national conference that was in Chicago a few years ago. It was at the conference where we really gained an understanding as to how stuttering impacts families in different ways.

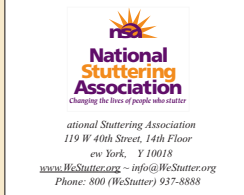
"While Corey is a very outgoing 12-year-old boy who does not have an ounce of shyness in his body, and is probably one of the more talkative kids of all his friends and hockey teammates, stuttering still impacts him in his day to day life. The conference really touched us."

Benjoya adds, "I am very thankful that Nina introduced my family into the NSA and that in some way I have been able to give back to the NSA financially through the Special Kids Network. I am also thankful for the help that Special Kids Network gets from Tammy [Flores, NSA executive director] and Nina every summer at our Annual Celebrity Golf and Tennis Outing. Their hard work and tremendous dedication does not go unnoticed."

*If you would like to be a part of this golf tournament, please contact Tammy Flores at 800-364-1677 or [info@westutter.org](mailto:info@westutter.org). For more information about the Special Kids Network, please visit [specialkidsnetwork.org](http://specialkidsnetwork.org).*

### Childhood Stuttering:

Information for  
Pediatricians and  
Family Physicians



## Pediatrician Brochure – Now Available!

Hot off the press, a brochure for Pediatricians and Family Physicians is available!

YOU are a critical part of the process. We need our NSA members to help get information out about stuttering.

We now have an informational brochure about childhood stuttering designed specifically for pediatricians and family physicians – Childhood Stuttering: Information for Pediatricians and Family Physicians. Wouldn't it be great if every pediatric and family physician office had one for caregivers to refer to? You can help by providing a brochure to your pediatrician or family physician. Simply e-mail us at [info@westutter.org](mailto:info@westutter.org) and we will send you out brochures to distribute, or check out our Web site at [WeStutter.org](http://WeStutter.org).

How easy is that? If each person that receives this message passes one brochure along to their child's doctor we will have reached

healthcare professionals who are in a position to help young children who stutter whose parents may be unsure about what to do.

### What Can You Do?

Take this brochure to your pediatrician or family physician, and/or volunteer to play a more active role in the pediatrician outreach program – e-mail Stephanie Copen at [delaney72@sbcglobal.net](mailto:delaney72@sbcglobal.net).

## Successful Workshop for Youth Who Stutter

BY DIANE COLLINS, M.A., CCC-SLP

On Saturday, May 2, 2009, District 10 of the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association sponsored a workshop for "Youth Who Stutter, Their Families, and SLPs" at the Truesdail Center for Communicative Disorders. This center is located at the University of Redlands in California.

District 10 encompasses San Bernardino, Riverside and Inyo Counties. The Director of CSHA District 10 is Paige Shaughnessy from Loma Linda University. Kathy Little is the District 10 Director-Elect from the Palm Springs USD.

The National Stuttering Association donated numerous books and brochures for the many speech-language pathologists (SLPs), speech-language pathology assistants, graduate students, parents, and children, teens, and adults who stutter. Family scholarships to the NSA conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, were given away through a raffle.

Gail Wilson Lew and Sherri Wolff presented this workshop. Gail and Sherri, who are SLPs, are also ASHA board recognized fluency specialists. Gail has a private practice in addition to teaching at California State University, Northridge. Sherri is the clinical director of

the Center for Children who Stutter at California State University, Fullerton.

Throughout the day, various sessions took place. Gail and Sherri provided presentations on therapy techniques in addition to conducting group discussions with parents to address their concerns about disfluency. Concurrently, Dr. Christopher Walker, from the University of Redlands, who is also an SLP and an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association board recognized fluency specialist, and Dr. Mira Rendon, an SLP from the Upland Unified School District, conducted discussion groups with teenagers and adults who stutter.

Christine LeRoy, Cheri Gale-Sadler, Connie Tieche, Kaye Sheffield, and Diane Collins, who are SLPs from District 10 and graduate students from the University of Redlands and Loma Linda University, provided activities for younger children, and helped in other capacities throughout the day. This day proved to be very rewarding for all who attended. ■

.....  
*Diane Collins is the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association president.*

family and I thought these treatments would eliminate my speech impediment, but we were wrong. I was taught every technique to minimize this problem from breathing techniques to relaxation techniques, but I still stuttered, and I hated it.

### Speech Avoidance

Being teased and laughed at was a normal routine for me, as was crying and not wanting to go to school so I could avoid the way I was treated. This was a very emotional time for me, and I became angry and frustrated. To bring an end to the teasing and laughing, I developed my own ways of dealing with my speech impediment, which resulted in my trying to hide it by doing everything I could to avoid public speaking.

The first day of school, when we had to stand up and introduce ourselves, I would leave and go to the bathroom and never come back. Before class, I would leave my books in my locker so I would not have to read aloud. In class I spent time not concentrating on my studies but thinking of ways to leave the classroom in case my teacher were to call on me. This was a painful experience for me because I was always on guard to avoid talking or manipulating my way out of situations in which I would have to talk.

I spent countless hours at night in my bed crying and asking myself, “What is wrong with me? Why do I talk funny?”

I felt as though I was an embarrassment to my family. At restaurants, my parents ordered for me. If I were out with friends, I got what they ordered. I just did not want to talk. At school, my peers gathered around me and asked me questions to hear me talk just so they could get a laugh in and tease me later. If I began to stutter, they would either interrupt me or finish the sentence for me; I felt like a clown at a circus.

I became very unsociable, quiet, and withdrawn. In college, people asked my roommate why I was so quiet. I did not want to be bothered with anyone. I had made up my mind that I was never going to talk again.

### Oral Presentations

When I attended college, I wanted to be a coach so I majored in physical education. A professor at Sam Houston State University

told me I had to give an oral presentation. I told him, “I can’t do that because I stutter.” My professor told me that if I refused to do the presentation, I would never be able to be a teacher, yet alone a coach. I refused to do it, and I failed the class. At the time, I did not care because I had been running and hiding my speech impediment all of my life, so this was no different.

I tried to join ROTC, so when I graduated, I could come in as an officer. The military recruiter told me I would never be an officer in the U.S. Army because I couldn’t communicate as an officer. I changed my major to criminal justice, and I did not like it. I was again trying to find ways to avoid talking. I would have majored in truck driving had they offered it so I wouldn’t have to talk.

### Inspired by Ron Harper

One night, on television I saw an interview by a professional basketball player, Ron Harper, who stuttered; his interview brought tears to my eyes. I finally saw someone like me who has felt the pain, embarrassment, and abuse you go through as a stutterer. However, he had the courage to do an interview on national television.

After hearing this interview, I decided to change my major back to physical education. In one of my classes, I had to give an oral presentation to graduate. I finally found the nerve to do it, and I graduated.

When I attended graduate school, I had no choice but to give oral presentations because it was a requirement for each class. After my first class I talked to my professor about not doing these presentations. Over the years, I had become a master of hiding my speech impediment and manipulating my way out of it, but I was faced with it again. My professor told me “Raymond, I understand, but you will be okay; we will help you get through it.”

I reflected on the interview by Ron Harper, and it was time for me to finally get the courage to make some decisions in my life. Was I going to keep running from my dreams, or was I going to find the confidence and courage to finally overcome this? I did it, and my classmates understood I had a speech impediment, and they encouraged me to do my presentation. In fact, I can remember giving a presentation and not wanting to sit down; I loved it, I loved talking!

### Stuttering Doesn’t Hold Me Back

I still suffer from my speech impediment, and on occasion, I still get laughed at and teased, but I have not let it hold me back. There are times when I get sad because I wonder what or where would I be if I did not stutter. I have also wondered if stuttering has held me back from other career opportunities in life.

Recently I interviewed for a position as head football coach. I prepared myself; I was ready. When I walked into the room, there were 20 people sitting there. During the interview, I began to stutter very badly, but I kept going. I could see from the people in the room that my speech impediment made them a little uneasy. Nevertheless, I did the best I could.

When I walked out of the interview, I felt bad. As I was walking to my car, I could not hold back the emotion anymore. I began to feel bad, and I started to cry. I wondered if anyone would anyone just give me a chance. I can do it; I know I can.

Thomas Edison said, “Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” This has motivated me to keep trying. I am going to accomplish my goals in life, and I will not give up. I have a speech impediment, and I need to use this handicap to motivate and inspire other people who have this handicap to not give up on their dreams in life.

The Bible tells a story of Moses who also had a speech impediment and became one of the greatest leaders in history. I have learned that this is a gift, and this gift makes us special people. We can and will be successful one day, if we do not give up and keep pressing forward. ■

.....  
*Dr. Raymond Tucker graduated with honors from the United States Sports Academy with a Doctorate in Sports Management in 2008. His other accomplishments include being named 1974 European Karate Champion at the age of 10 and earning a first degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do at the age of 11. Dr. Tucker published an article titled “Wasted Potential” in Ebony Magazine in 1997. He is a teacher and athletic coordinator in Bastrop, Texas, where in 2007–2008 he was voted teacher of the year for his campus, and soon after, he was voted by Bastrop Independent School District and the community as Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the Year for the 2007–2008 school year.*

## 2009 Tacoma Workshop

Seattle's **Joe Mirly** wrote to us about a workshop for adults in the Pacific northwest:

"Saturday we had our annual adult workshop in Tacoma, WA, which runs concurrently with a Family Day workshop. The day went great, and I got lots of positive feedback from the attendees.

"This year we didn't have any guest speakers; rather we used the time to really go in-depth into our conversations. It was much like a day-long chapter meeting. After introductions, which took about an hour, we broke into groups and discussed pre-prepared questions. Each group had a different set of questions that they discussed among themselves while taking notes. Taken as a whole all the questions related in some way or another to acceptance. After the breakouts we gathered again as a group and discussed all the questions and answers. Everybody had lots of opportunities to speak and share their opinions, which everybody did.

"We met up with the Family Day participants to share a generously donated pizza lunch and other refreshments, and again for the open mic and closing words.

"Next year will likely feature a guest speaker or two. We're also thinking of adding a second Family Day + Adult workshop in Seattle in the fall. I'll keep you all posted."

## NSA Member Is Guest Speaker at Seton Hall

On March 24, **Steven Kaufman**, leader of the NSA's Long Island, NY, chapter, was a special guest speaker in the class of **Dr. Vikram Dayulu** at **Seton Hall University** in South Orange, NJ. In addition to speaking for an hour and half, Steven aired a brief segment from MTV's "True Life: I Stutter" which featured the NSA conference in Atlanta. Steven also participated in a mock client interview. Overall, it was a great experience and all the students enjoyed what was truly an engaging and insightful lecture, which also included a **Britney Spears** song.

## Our Time Gala

On Monday, April 13, **Our Time Theatre** hosted their seventh annual gala. Our Time, founded by NSA member **Taro Alexander**, provides children and teens with an artistic venue where they can express themselves free from humiliation and teasing. Photographer **Howard L. Bingham** was honored both for his legendary accomplishments of capturing some of America's defining moments and for being an inspirational example for people who stutter. Among the highlights included dazzling performances from the Our Time kids with the help of Broadway performers **Kate Jennings Grant** (*When A Stranger Calls*), **B.D. Wong** (*Law & Order: SVU*), **Daphne Rubin-Vega** (*Rent*), and **Kelli O' Hara**. A special presentation of a speech written by NSA member **Danielle Diesu** was part of the performance, and she received a thunderous ovation after ending with "I stutter, and I am damn proud!"

The NSA was well-represented, with guests including chapter leaders **Steven Kaufman** (Long Island, NY), **Caryn Herring** (Pittsburgh, PA), **Mitch Trichon** (Queens, NY), and **Mike Cohn** (Manhattan, NY). Other members included **David Friedman** (Manhattan), **Dr. Phil Schneider**, and **Lee Caggiano** as well as her daughter, **Jessie**.

## Summertime Programs and Events

*Note: The National Stuttering Association (NSA) does not affirm the competence of treatment providers nor guarantee/endorse their treatment. You are encouraged to contact the providers directly for details about their experience and expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of children and adults who stutter.*

**National Stuttering Association** Annual Conference and Research Symposium July 8–12, 2009. Check our Web site for details: [WeStutter.org](http://WeStutter.org).

August 9–16, **Camp Our Time** is a sleep away arts camp for young people

who stutter and their siblings, family, and friends, ages 8–18. There is limited availability so register for Camp Our Time today! Call Our Time at 212-414-9696 or e-mail [camp@ourtimetheatre.org](mailto:camp@ourtimetheatre.org). Check their Web site for details: [ourtimetheatre.org/camp](http://ourtimetheatre.org/camp).

The Speech and Hearing Clinic at **Bowling Green State University** will run from June 13–20. Up to 10 participants over the age of 13 will be accepted and 50 hours of formal treatment will be provided during this clinic. Scholarships and sliding scales may be available. Those interested in this program can contact **Rod Gabel** at [rgabel@bgsu.edu](mailto:rgabel@bgsu.edu) or 419-372-7168.

The **American Institute for Stuttering (AIS)** offers eight intensive programs per year. Please go to [stutteringtreatment.org](http://stutteringtreatment.org) for information about the AIS, their treatment process, and schedules.

The **Friends** annual conference will be held July 23–25, 2009. E-mail **Lee Caggiano** at [lcaggiano@aol.com](mailto:lcaggiano@aol.com) for more information.

A 3-week intensive summer program will be held August 3–23, 2009, in Naples, FL, from 4 pm to 8:30 pm Monday–Friday for adolescents and adults. Contact **Susan Cochrane** at 585-229-5235 or [freedomtospeak@frontiernet.net](mailto:freedomtospeak@frontiernet.net).

The **New England Fluency Program**, an intensive 3-week program, is offered five times per year in the Boston area for children, teens, and adults. For more information, please visit [stutteringtherapy.org](http://stutteringtherapy.org) or call **Adriana DiGrande** at 781-665-6623.

For information about upcoming intensive programs at **ISTAR** please call 780-492-2619 or visit [istar.ualberta.ca](http://istar.ualberta.ca).

The **Successful Stuttering Management Program (SSMP)** still has openings for the summer. Dates are June 29–July 18. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. Contact **Kim** at [kk505@aol.com](mailto:kk505@aol.com) or 509-702-2140.

The **Wasatch Stuttering Management Program** is a 1-week intensive program from July 27–31, 2009. Partial scholarship assistance may be provided. Call **Tom Gurrister** at 801-308-0400.

## Reasons Not to Miss the July Conference in Scottsdale

*Here's a glimpse of some of the workshops and events that will be offered this year at the annual conference. We hope to see you in Scottsdale, Arizona, July 8–12!*

Facilitator	Workshop/Event
Nina Ghiselli	My Tongue Is in My Friend's Mouth: Using Storytelling to Establish a Stuttering Culture
Robin Timmerman	There Are No Words and Letters in Speech: Then Why Do You Stutter on Them?
Samantha Gennuso	Fearless Stuttering
Judith Eckardt	SLP Orientation – Getting the Most Out of the NSA Conference
Gregg Benedikt	First Timers
Family programs	Family Orientation
Family programs	Kids Icebreaker
Research	Research Symposium   Thursday   10:15 – 12:30
Chloe Whittaker	Make a Memory (T-shirts)
Sarah D'Agostino	Kids: Make Our Conference Better
Steven Kaufman	A Is for Attitude!
Family programs	Parents: Opening Parent Roundtable
Nina Reeves	Ask the Expert
Kathy Scaler-Scott	Cluttering: A Different Type of Fluency Disorder
Dennis Drayna, PhD	Discovery of Causes of Stuttering – Treatment Implications
Tammy Flores	First Timers' Gathering
Jeff Goodman	How to Find a Job Without Really Interviewing
Russ Hicks	The Iceberg Analogy of Stuttering
Robin Timmerman	Experience Normal Speech! Successful Stuttering Therapy From the Netherlands.
Amanda Lara	Kids: Scavenger Hunt
Cathy Olish	Singles' Gathering
Sarah Onofri	"Nice to Meet You, I Stutter." – Taking the Bite Out of Advertising
John Tetnowski	Real-Life Issues for "20-Somethings" Who Stutter: An Interactive Workshop
Family programs	Kids/Parents: Pool Party – Grab Your Bathing Suits; We Are Headed to the Pool
Tammy Flores	Thursday Night Opening Reception
Bobby Bodenhamer	To "Block" or to "Stutter" – How Do You Do What When?
To be announced	Open Microphone – Back by popular demand
Nobby Lewandowski	CEU – Building Self-Confidence – Elevating Self-Esteem
Gunars Neiders	The Courage to Speak: Taking the Fear Out of Communication
Jeff Olevson	Toastmaster Demo Meeting
Nina Reeves	Kids: Stuttering Jeopardy Fact vs. False
Vivian Sisskin	Self-Help Strategies from Avoidance Reduction Therapy: Choices That Lead to Comfortable Communication
AL Thomas	Passing Twice: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Stutterers & Their Allies
John Wade	Coping With the Blues
Alex Rosenbaum	Kids: Open Mic
Bonnie Weiss	Stutter Buddies
Sean Hare	Teens (18–21) – Stuttering: Braving the College Scene

### Masker Repairs

For Edinburgh Masker repair service at reasonable rates, contact **G.D. Germeyer** at [dgermeyer@verizon.net](mailto:dgermeyer@verizon.net) or 717-432-3103. G.D. will also buy used Maskers.

### Mary Austin

**Mary Austin**, wife of NSA member **Doug Austin**, passed away on March 9, 2009. The Austins were a valuable asset to the Riverside, CA, chapter and also conducted the Renaissance workshop at the NSA's Long Beach conference in 2006. During the last two years, they stayed busy traveling, even as Mary fought pancreatic cancer.

The following obituary appeared in the Idyllwild Town Crier on March 18, 2009:

*"Local child-reading advocate, pianist and violinist Mary Austin passed away Monday, March 9, 2009, with her beloved husband, Doug, at her side. Mary lived full-time in Idyllwild twice, from 1986 to 1989 and from 1998 to the present. She loved Idyllwild and often said, 'The real treasure of Idyllwild is its people.'*

*Mary was born in Michigan in 1948; her family moved to California in 1960.*

*She was married to her beloved husband, Doug, for 26 years and she took the greatest of pride that Doug sent her a fresh rose every week for 28 years."*

She will be missed.

Facilitator	Workshop/Event
Russ Hicks	All You Ever Wanted to Know About Stuttering but Were Afraid to Ask
Bill Parry	Beating Stuttering Blocks
Amber Snyder	SpeechEasy: An Integrated Approach to Stuttering Management
Reitzes/Jackson	StutterTalk.com Live Podcast with Audience Participation
Erin Dyer	Revive Your Inner Spirit: A Session for Tired, Worn-Out, Discouraged People
Nina Ghiselli	Rethinking Psychotherapy for People Who Stutter
Jay Jones-Doyle	Dispelling the Myths and Addressing the Fears About Succeeding With a Stutter
Judith Eckardt	CEU – You Make the Difference: Avoid Avoiding
Phil/Uri Schneider	Living with Stuttering: A Lifetime of Change
Robert Demers	From Stuttering to Success
Sean Hare	Teen: Open Mic
Stephanie Pace	Stuttering in a High-Tech World: Online Social Networks, Virtual Reality, and Neuroscience Research
Bill Parry	Fighting Discrimination Under the New, Improved ADA
Will Ross	Hold Your Head Up High: Stuttering and Unconditional Self-Acceptance
Phil/Uri Schneider	Sharing Feelings
Beth Bienvenu	The Only Thing We Have to Fear Is...The Perfect Job: Tips for Landing (and Keeping) the Job You Want
Jeremy Cohen	Stuttering and Getting a Date: Creating the Social Life That You've Always Wanted
Duffield/Richards	Parents/Teens: Know Your Rights – IEP 411
Gerald Maguire	CEU – Update on the Use of Medications for the Treatment of Stuttering
Cathy Olish	Covert Stuttering – Exposed!
John Wade	Applying Positive Psychology to Your Speech and Your Life
Sarah D'Agostino	Kids/Teens: Let's Get Ready
Kathy Filer	What Happened? The First Time You Stuttered!
Lois Hare	Parents: Closing Parent Roundtable
Pamela Mertz	Pushing Past the Fear
Diana Richards	Parents: Closing Parent Roundtable

**Editor**  
Sonya Kunkle, kunkles22@comcast.net

**Art Director**  
Janet Lenzer

**Assistant Editors**  
Bonnie Weiss  
David Blazina

**Phone**  
212.944.4050  
800.WeStutter (937.8888)

**Fax**  
212.944.8244

**E-mail**  
info@WeStutter.org

**Home Page**  
www.WeStutter.org

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

©2009 National Stuttering Association.  
All rights reserved.

## A Special Thank You

We thank the Sam & Ethel Garber Foundation for their generous donation at the request of Rabbi & Sylvia Goldman. The donation honors their late grandson, Aaron Goldman, whose father is one of the founders of the NSA.



**National  
Stuttering  
Association**

*Changing the lives of people who stutter*

119 W. 40th Street, 14th Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
800.937.8888 (WeStutter)  
212.944.4050 • 212.944.8244 fax  
email: info@WeStutter.org

www.WeStutter.org

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 2367  
Richmond, VA