Dear AIA Members and website Visitors,

Greetings! October is International Aphasia Awareness Month.

The motto for this year is ‘Give Time’:

Give time * Zeit geben * Donner du temps * Dame Tiempo
* Ge tid * Dammi tempo * ΔΩΣΕ ΜΟΥ ΧΡΟΝΟ * Anna aikaa
* Adj időt * Gitt Zäit - Loosst Zäit * Dame Tu Tiempo ....

Below you will find a Listing of some of the activities taking place in the various countries. This list is not complete. For additional information please check the national websites for the country you are interested in.

Best wishes to you the organizers of the various events and to all those persons participating in the various activities.
If you all believe in AIA your participation can make a difference. The time you invest in AIA is well spent!

United we stand!

Especially in the International Aphasia Awareness Month we should reach out and make the general public aware of ‘APHASIA’!

Let’s try!

International Aphasia Awareness Month - October 2013
Spread the word and explain what ‘APHASIA’ is!

Argentina

In Argentina we are planning workshops for the months of October and November. A flyer about our contribution in the month of the awareness of Aphasia. We will do a campaign to rise the awareness of Aphasia and the prevention — through TV, radio programs and print media — as we do each year. Also we will give several courses about how to help the aphasic persons. These courses are for families, caregivers, students and professionals. All the participants will have the opportunity to share with aphasic persons at our "Day Center".
AUSTRIA

Throughout October, in addition to the weekly Tuesday meetings of the Aphasia — Club under the motto of ‘Give Time’, an open house dedicated to the topic of Aphasia is planned for October 10th, in the Academy of sciences main Building. The program consists of the showing of three films pertaining to living with aphasia with a discussion following each film. Jacqueline Stark and Christiane Pons will give a talk on the topic: ‘Why aphasia research?’ there will be an open-ended discussion with persons with aphasia and caregivers and the public on the topic of living with aphasia. Finally, a vernissage will be held with paintings by Tim Hind on that day.

BELGIUM

Quickly, some little words...
All the groups of the FéBAF (Fédération Belge des Aphasia — Francophones) have the same priority: INFORMATION about APHASIA!
A painful notice: when we hear information, see films or documentaries and so on, even if those channels are speaking about aphasia and problems around it, we nearly never hear the word “aphasia”...What a pity!!!
Do you know the film “Amour” of Michael Haneke? It was the gold palm of the festival of cinema in Cannes (France 2013), international festival.
Never and nobody said the word “aphasia” and yet, the story of this film was based on this pathology...
Another example: We staged with a stand and documentation about aphasia during one complete day in a big commercial center. We were very, very visible and we said that documents were gratuitous... 20 – 25 % people stopped at our stand...!!! The others asked us: „Where are the WC or such shop...!!! We were, at the same time, angry and sad...

IS IT THE SAME SITUATION IN YOUR COUNTRY?
Concerning the activities taking place in Belgium during the month of October Colette wrote:

The FéBAF monthly meeting for all of the aphasia member groups of FéBAF was held on the last Saturday in September and dedicated to the October “International Aphasia Awareness Month”.

Three couples from Belgium visit three couples in Aphasie Luxembourg to exchange views on living with aphasia and to support each other

Another activity is that Colette Choffray will visit various university and larger clinics in all of Wallonia, Belgium to provide information about aphasia and living with aphasia.

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Canada, Québec

Presently, we are planning our 15th anniversary — media releases, project development with researchers, new communication tools and the launch of the Aphasia card are part of the menu. To be followed...

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Estonia

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Finland

Speech handicap awareness week October 6th to 11th: dozens of happenings in 14 of the biggest cities in Finland. For example:

- A film about being unable to speak and a panel discussion on October 7th in Helsinki;
- A lecture about stroke and aphasia on October 10th in Savonlinna and also in Turku;
- October 12th in Turku: A public event in a shopping center about speech handicap;
- A book about surviving stroke published in Swedish and Finnish will be presented on October 10th and
- A lecture about aphasia and about living with aphasia for seniors will be given on October 10th in Helsinki.

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France

On October 11th the Conseil Exécutif Fédéral (FNAF) will be meeting.
The program for training families of Persons with aphasia and caregivers will be prepared and a convention will be signed between FNAF and the medical societies
Collaborative Work on a book titled ‘Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation : ‘communicating in spite of aphasia’.

On October 7th the members of the ‘Atelier d’expression verbale et corporelle’ du GATT will be performing in the Caisse primaire d’assurance maladie - Haute-Garonne. The musical part of this performance – Musicando – is the opening of the celebration for granting the ‘Sandrine Riaudo Award’. This award recognizes the best initiative of the self help groups for persons with a handicap.

For the International Aphasia Awareness Month, the Toulouse group has taken the ‘Give Time’ theme and used it to produce a small book, actually a small, rigid, photograph album 10x15 plastic pocket style. The inside cover page says (in French of course) ‘Give me time ...’ with a smiley and a call-out bubble ... I would like to talk about ...’. Next (double page) on one side a sheet giving personal information (and if required an ID photo of the aphasic person) and at the foot the contact details for the Toulouse group; the opposite page gives bullet points on how the other person can help him communicate — hints taken from various sources, starting with giving time for comprehension and expression. The rest of the album is empty, to receive photos of children or friends, postcards of places he’d like to visit, cutting from a shop catalogue, contact details for a taxi, Mobibus, ortho or whatever. It’s the
right size too to take a copy of the ‘Livret sans paroles’ to complement the images and information. This booklet is being offered to members at € 3,50– cost price + 1€ for the association!

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GERMANY

On October 6th the Regional headquarters of (Landesverband) Sachsen-Anhalt in Magdeburg will sponsor a charity concert under the motto of the International Aphasia Awareness month: ‘Give time’.

On October 12th in Fulda the autumn meeting of the Board will be held. At least 2 members from each regional organization will discuss relevant topics (approximately 35 persons).

In Koblenz on October 18th a theater workshop organized by the Regional group for Rheinland-Pfalz will be held.

From October 23rd to 25th a national working conference of Active Persons with Aphasia will be held. An important topic will be the needs of young persons with aphasia and building up a network. On October 26th the first Aphasia Day in Berlin will be held under the motto of the International Aphasia Awareness month: ‘Give time’. In the morning session two talks will be given on language therapy and in the afternoon 4 different workshops for persons with aphasia and their caregivers are planned.

Together with the national German Speech therapists organization (DBL) the German Aphasikerverband will publish a press release to draw attention to the situation of persons with aphasia.

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GREECE
Our Hungarian colleagues are proud to announce that a delegation consisting of persons with aphasia has been invited to meet with a member of the European parliament in Brussels Dr. Ádám Kósa. Seventeen language impaired persons and two SLPs from „Afázia Egyesület” http://www.aphasie.hu/ and from Démoszthenész Egyesület http://demoszthenesz.hu/ will discuss problems that persons with aphasia have in everyday life. Their trip to Brussels will be for 3 days.

Throughout the month of October activities will take place in their meeting place: 1076 Budapest, Péterfy S. u. 40. ground floor 6. Ella persons with aphasia can participate in two activities per week free of charge. In addition they can receive advice with regard to health service benefits.

**Monday 10:00-11:30** Large group (10-15 persons) will be working with a SLP  
**Monday 10:00-11:30** Kleine Gruppe (2-5 persons) will be working with a SLP

**Tuesday 9:30-12:00** Occupational therapist (konduktor) will work with 2 groups one after another (2-5 persons)

**Wednesday 14:00-17:00** Small group (2-5 persons) will be working with a SLP  
**Wednesday 16:00 –17:00** Dr. Pataky Ilona (neuropsychologist) will talk about ‘Language across the life span’ (20 persons)  
**Wednesday 17:00-18:00** Aphasiien-Kranken untereinander
Thursday 16:00-17:30 Large group (10-15 persons) will be working with a SLP

Tuesday and Thursday afternoon — New clients can register and receive information regarding various services- legal advice, health insurance, etc.

意大利

In October there will be meetings of the regional groups in Bologna, Sardinia and Livorno (Tuscany). A photo exhibition will take place in Rome and there will be aphasia information stands in various hospitals and squares all over Italy.

In Venice a new AITA center will be opened on October 15th:

Luxemburg

Spain
The campaign "I cannot talk" which is organized by the Spanish Aphasia Organization in collaboration with the Consortium of Transportation, will be launched. Posters and leaflets have been developed especially for the campaign: I can not speak Poster

Check out the video that will be shown throughout the month of October. The 30 seconds long video can viewed at https:\vimeo.com\69626647  (type in the password: afasia2013). This video will be shown on the screens of all metro stations during the month of October. An information table will be placed in one of the most popular metro stations for a week. There will be a press conference to present the campaign (no specific date) There will be two conferences one at La Salle University, another at the headquarters of the Spanish foundation of psychosomatic medicine on valid dialogue mechanisms with a patient with aphasia.

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SWEDEN

On October 10th and the week around the Aphasia Association's provincial association meetings various activities will be held around Sweden for international aphasia day.

On October 18th the Aphasia Association's board meeting will take place.

On October 19th and 20th the annual meeting of the Swedish provincial associations will take place.

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SWITZERLAND

2013 marks the 30th anniversary of Aphasie Suisse with various events also taking place in October.

A special event taking place in Lucerne in October is the 51st Annual meeting of the Academy of Aphasia from October 20th to 22nd. Aphasie Suisse helped organize
this scientific meeting. Jacqueline Stark and Christiane Pons are among the presenters at this meeting.

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United Kingdom

Members of the AIA may be interested to learn of the recent media campaign and video that has been launched to make Aphasia better known and better understood with GPs – General Practitioners/Doctors. The campaign was funded by the Stroke Association and Speakability was invited to be a key partner in this initiative.

The link is: 
http://www.stroke.org.uk/aphasia?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Stroke+Association&utm_campaign=3034920_Media+-+Aphasia+Campaign&utm_content=website&dm_t=0,0,0,0,0

This campaign will continue to be Speakability’s focus throughout the international Aphasia Awareness month of October.

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United States

Please check the NAA website for Announcements of events taking place throughout the United States: www.aphasia.org

Best wishes from Vienna,

Jacqueline Stark, Ph.D.
President of AIA