

Disorders include speech, language



RENEE MAHLER

Recently there have been many inquiries concerning older adults and speech and language disorders.

These communication problems, which often involve speaking, understanding the speech of others, reading and writing can have very serious effects, as communication is an important aspect of our daily life. Those suffering from communication disorders may experience many problems in their social and personal life. Families and friends need to be understanding, and often help from communication disorders professional is required.

Probably the most common speech disorder is aphasia. The majority of people suffering from aphasia are those who have had strokes. Aphasia affects people in several different ways. The ability to speak may be totally lost, as is the ability to understand what other people are saying. Reading, writing and direction following also may be affected. Some may find difficulty in being able to put their words in proper sentence sequence while others may have mild difficulties in recalling names or words.

Dysarthria is the disorder that causes a loss of normal control of the speech mechanism. Speech may be difficult to understand or slurred and the coordination of breath, lips and tongue may be affected. Stroke, Parkinson's Disease and bulbar palsy can be the causes of dysarthria.

Additional communication problems may be the result of progressive brain disease or dementia: losses of memory; orientation to people, place and time; and the disruption of the thought process lead to a reduction in the ability to communicate.

It is also important to consider hearing loss as a problem with

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communication. As one ages there is a hearing loss called presbycusis. While the person may be able to hear what is being said, he or she may not be able to understand what is being said. A hearing aid often can improve this situation.

Help is available for people with speech and hearing disorders. A speech-language pathologist is a professional who can evaluate and treat language and speech disorders. The pathologist will assess, design and follow through with individualized programs to help in the recovery or maintenance of speech and language functions. An audiologist is a professional trained to assess the need for hearing rehabilitation. The audiologist too will help with programs or determine whether or not a hearing aid will help with the problems.

This information has been provided by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Services described are provided in clinics, hospitals, private practices and many types of health-care facilities. Home services also may be available. For information call, toll free, 1-800-638-8255 (Voice/TDD). The association can provide a list of services in your community.

Renee Mahler is a gerontologist and the director of communications and admission at a Rochester Hills nursing facility. She is a former member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to the Aging.

To leave a message for Mahler, from a Touch-Tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1889. Send your questions to her at The Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48069.

Where your energy comes from



WOODY BOYD

Measure with care. There are four possible sources of energy you have to call upon at the card table. Your sound judgment, your excellent technique, your unflinching concentration and your humble, but ardent partner.

I have been assessing two in our midst that I'm sure will delight you as you read what I've penned about them. Bud and Sally Waterstone of West Bloomfield play our game for the joy it generates and the challenge to develop excellence, but they are the first to acknowledge that the exasperation it exacts to achieve such sophistication is consequential.

Bud's game dates back to maize and blue days some 40 years ago when he was in dentistry school and playing with the memorable Barry Crane whose glory had not yet been written. Sally's first duplicate partner was Ruth Brownstein, but the Waterstones were playing party bridge before that. Inevitably, duplicate became their game too, and today this seasoned pair has its share of victories to show for that earnest perseverance.

Unless you knew, you would never guess that this lovely couple has successfully tripped the light fantastic at numerous ballroom dancing classes and has the silver trophies to show for its artistry in partnership rhythm. Ask either and he or she will tell you the other is better at both of the couple's enjoyable pursuits, but humility is part of their makeup as it flatters their characters pleasingly.

Bud is a sound believer in the probabilities and rarely bids a game or slam without the percentages weighted his way. Sally, on the other hand, has no aversion to lowering those standards slightly when she is on a hunt for a top, for she knows Bud's declarer play is exceptional. Occasionally those forays put considerable strain on her husband's playing talent, and today's hand played recently at the Wednesday evening game at the Bridge Connection in Farmington Hills is a case in point.

Sally	E	Bud	W
1♠	3♦	—	—
4♦	—	4♥	—
4NT	—	5♠	—
5♥	—	—	—
Both vulnerable			
♠ K 10 6 5 3	Sally	♠ A J 8	♠ 4
♥ K J 9 8	W	♥ A Q 10 4	♥ —
♦ K	E	♦ A	♦ —
♣ Q J 10	Bud	♣ A 9 8 7 6	♣ —
		♣ Q 9 7 2	♣ —
		♥ 8 7 6 3 2	♥ —
		♦ 5 4	♦ —
		♣ K 3	♣ —

W. led ♦ K

East's timidity bidding only three diamonds didn't stand in Sally's way with 19 plus HCP, but the final contract seemed beyond the reach of even the gifted Zia Mahmoud. But Bud was certainly willing to give it his best shot. As Sally once reminded him, "The only failure that lacks dignity is the failure to try."

Bud recognized there was an infinite chance of success, but the bridge god had to be with him. How good was West's preempt he wondered? Most of the missing HCP had to be with West. The club had to behave and the trump honors and spade king had to be right for a throw in at the appropriate moment if there was to be any chance for victory.

He won the diamond ace in dummy and played a small club to his king. Next a small heart to dummy's 10 which held, and Bud experienced a fleeting second of satisfaction. Now the 35 percent play! The club ace and a club ruff and both opponents followed. Calery stalks along the highway and dust in upper Sandusky if everything wasn't working to perfection.

At trick (6), a trump to dummy's queen and the trump ace. At trick (8), the trump four throwing West in with his king. West's only out card was a spade and he did his best to confuse declarer by playing the 10, but Bud let it ride to his queen.

Next a spade to dummy's jack and the ace. The last two tricks were dummy's established club eight, seven and the contract was home. Bud was too stunned to say much, but he does remember Sally saying, "See, I knew you could do it. That wasn't so difficult! ... You be the judge!"

Woody Boyd teaches local bridge classes and is a life master. He lives in Bloomfield Township. To leave a message for Boyd, from a Touch-Tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1853.

Free health screenings offered

A free physical therapy/orthopedic screening for those awaiting warm weather activities is being offered by Physician's Physical Therapy Services in Troy.

The screening is designed for individuals who want an assessment of their physical health in relation to such activities as

walking, gardening, golf, tennis, cycling, jogging, softball and soccer.

The screenings are available throughout April. For an appointment including evening and Saturday hours, call 643-7373. The rehabilitation facility is at 1777 Axtell, Suite 102.

Metro Detroit: the newspaper readership story

Detroit is a "city of suburbs."

As the graph shows, suburbanites comprise more than 72% of Detroit's metro population.

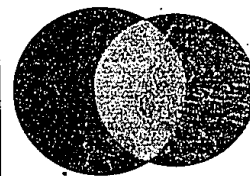
In fact, the suburbs account for 85% of metro Detroit's

twice the audited suburban circulation (707,214) of the daily Detroit News (274,510) or Free Press (348,698).

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Sources: Survey of Buying Power, ABC (RTT), CAC, Belden

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