



# Virtual Mid-Atlantic Aphasia Conference

*Get The Word Out!!*

*Aphasia!!*

# Mid-Atlantic Aphasia Conference

- Created by members of aphasia support groups from Hopewell Township, NJ and Hamilton, NJ, Levittown, PA and Willow Grove, PA.
- Creating this group is to connect people living with aphasia as well as those who care for individuals with aphasia, and friends in the tri-state area.





# MAAC – Aphasia Support Group

- Creating an In Person Event during the National Aphasia Awareness Month.
- Creating a virtual quarterly aphasia support inter-group. (March, June, September, December)
- Creating a virtual caregivers/care support partners inter-group.



## Forming Members

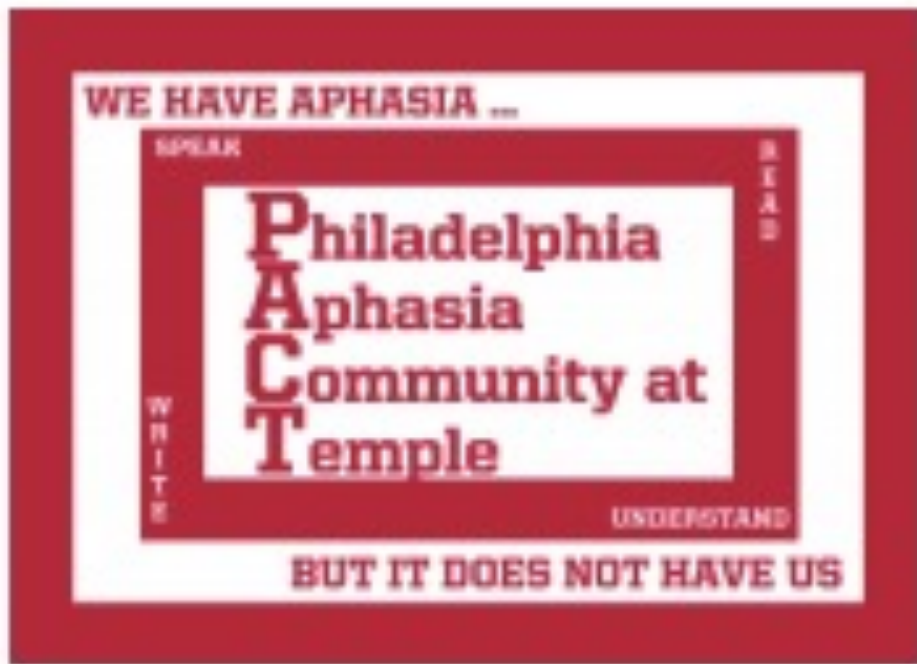
- Jim Burd  
[jim.burd@gmail.com](mailto:jim.burd@gmail.com)
- Denise Mendez  
[dr.denmendez@gmail.com](mailto:dr.denmendez@gmail.com)
- Jenn Derry  
[fwenbean@hotmail.com](mailto:fwenbean@hotmail.com)
- Dorothy Laven  
[dlaven4@hotmail.com](mailto:dlaven4@hotmail.com)
- Mark Harder  
[msharder.maac@gmail.com](mailto:msharder.maac@gmail.com)

# ARCH – Aphasia Resource Collaboration Hub

- Angelique Cauthorn
- [angie@aphasiaresource.org](mailto:angie@aphasiaresource.org)
- <https://aphasiaresource.org>



# Philadelphia Aphasia Community at Temple PACT



- Gayle DeDe, PhD, CCC-SLP
- [gayle.dede@temple.edu](mailto:gayle.dede@temple.edu)
- <https://sites.temple.edu/pact/>

# University of Delaware

## Aphasia Support Groups

Student led groups held virtually, twice a week.

Aphasia Support & Communication Group  
Every Tuesday at 11:30am

Aphasia Movie Club  
Alternating Fridays at 11:30am

Great Games!  
Alternating Fridays at 11:30am

Contact: Kristen Palmer, M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-S  
Email: [aphasiaUD@udel.edu](mailto:aphasiaUD@udel.edu)



# MossRehab Aphasia Center



- Programs for those with aphasia
  - chronic
  - progressive

- Sharon M. Antonucci, Ph.D. CCC-SLP
  - Email: [sharon.antonucci@jefferson.edu](mailto:sharon.antonucci@jefferson.edu)
  - <https://mrri.org/mossrehab-aphasia-center/>
  - Phone: (215) 663-6344





# MossRehab Aphasia Center Advanced Clinical Therapy Program

- Individual treatment with a speech-language pathologist
- In-person in Elkins Park, PA



# MossRehab Aphasia Activity Center



**CONVERSATION GROUPS**  
*Constance Sheerr Kittner*  
*Conversation Cafes*



**TALKING BOOK CLUB**



**VIRTUAL VARIETY HOUR**  
*Reta's Games Group*  
*Presents Virtual Variety Hour*

# MossRehab Aphasia Activity Center



COMPUTER LAB

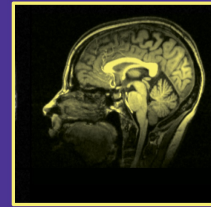
## VIRTUAL RESOURCE LIBRARY

### Aphasia and the brain 101: “Why what’s difficult... is difficult”

Date: Thursday, June 18  
Time: Noon to 1:00 P.M.

LiveStream available on: 

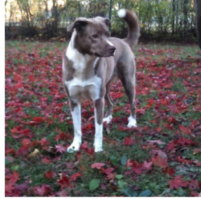
 



## EDUCATION PROGRAM VIDEOS

Name

Sound  

Image 

 Choose image

 Take photo

## LANGUAGE APP PERSONALIZATION & HOME PRACTICE VIDEOS

BLOG: <https://mrrri.org/welcome-to-the-mossrehab-aphasia-center-blog/>

- People with aphasia and their loved ones
- Clinicians
- Students

# MossRehab Aphasia Center Research

- MossRehab Aphasia Center



- Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute

# University of Pennsylvania - Good Shepherd Penn Partners Virtual Aphasia Support Group

- Alex Merlino M.S. CCC-SLP CBIS
- Krisy Earley M.S. CCC-SLP CBIS
- Monica Coran M.A. CCC-SLP

When: Second Wednesday of every month from  
3:00pm-4:00pm EST

Where: Virtually, via Microsoft Teams

Registration/Information: 215-294-9216

Or email [aphasia.group@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:aphasia.group@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)





# The Speech Language Institute (SLI) Aphasia Support Group and The SLI Book Club

Ali Finkelstein, M.A., CCC-SLP  
Clinical Educator

215-780-3150  
[SLInstitute@salus.edu](mailto:SLInstitute@salus.edu)

## Focus: Living With Aphasia

- Extend services for Persons with Aphasia (PWA) outside of traditional treatment
- Bridge the gap by providing opportunities to meet holistic goals beyond language competence
- Provide a social, therapeutic environment supported by the Life Participation Approach to Aphasia

# Benefits of Aphasia Group Support

- Facilitates natural environment for language usage
- Offers opportunities for PWA to establish a new and positive identity
- Provides a nurturing and accepting community



# The SLI Aphasia Support Group

- Established in July 2017 as an affiliate of the National Aphasia Association (NAA)
  - Meets In-Person once a month and Virtually once a month

# Focus is on SUPPORT

- Supportive environment for communicating, learning, and participating in a socially comfortable setting.
- For some members, the group is in addition to their weekly individual speech-language treatment.
- For others, it's part of extended life participation treatment when they have been discharged from individualized services.

# The Specifics

- Facilitated by 2 first year graduate student clinicians
- Supervised by a Clinical Educator who is a certified Speech-Language Pathologist
- Care Partners are welcome and encouraged to participate

# Group Facilitation Strategies

- Visual aids
- Encouragement of multi-modality means of expression
  - Supportive conversational cues, questioning, and reinforcement of participation
- Members and Care Partners are encouraged to expand on topics, share personal experiences, offer helpful hints, discuss challenges, and provide suggestions.

# Topic Areas

- Facing Challenging Situations
- Aphasia Awareness: What Do You Tell People?
  - Emotions: Effect on Communication
  - Aphasia and Communication Modalities
  - Living With Aphasia and Life Participation
  - Mindful Meditation and Finding Positivity
    - Goal Setting
- Managing Stress and Anxiety During COVID 19
- New Transitions and Positive Affirmations

# Hands-On Activities

- Creation of Masks depicting oneself before and after aphasia
  - Aphasia Tree of Support
  - Cornucopia of Thanks
- Positive Affirmation Collages

# Providing Education

Our graduate students providing a brief overview of the brain and language



# Group Project

Masks that were made  
depicting  
images before and after  
acquiring aphasia





# The Speech-Language Institute Book Club

Goal:

Increase reading and social engagement through  
supportive group facilitation

# Reading Supports

- Visual Modifications
  - Text to Speech
  - Partner Support
- Audio Only (audiobooks)

# The Specifics

- Facilitated by two graduate student clinicians
- Supervised by a Clinical Educator who is a certified Speech Language Pathologist
  - Meets every other week

# What We Do

- Members choose book
  - Chapters are assigned every two weeks
- Student clinicians facilitate the group by showing visual aids and asking questions
- Members discuss characters, setting, key plot points
  - Movie clips augment readings if applicable

# No Pressure!

- Clients read at their own pace or listen to audio books
- Members can share ideas during meetings with just a few words or just listening to others
  - Visual aids during meeting help members participate

## Benefits of the SLI Aphasia Support Group and SLI Book Club

- Socialization and peer support
- Opportunity for expression of ideas through many modalities
- Gaining different perspectives and learning strategies from others
- Feelings of accomplishment and success!

# Thank you!

The Speech Language Institute  
at Salus University

For more information:

215-780-3150

[SLInstitute@salus.edu](mailto:SLInstitute@salus.edu)



# CAPITAL HEALTH APHASIA SUPPORT GROUP

Sandy Stein, Speech Pathologist  
Sarah Contor, Licensed Social Worker





# About Capital Health Aphasia Support Group

A message from  
Sarah Contor,  
Licensed Social  
Worker

## Support Group Contributions

- ▶ A message from Sandy Stein, Speech Pathologist
  - ▶ Aphasia Community Support Group Aphasia Book
    - ▶ Stories, poems, paintings created by the members of our group- stay tuned for more information

# Aphasia Support Group



## Aphasia Support Group

**Second Saturday of Every Month | 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Location: Zoom Meeting

This support group is for individuals who have sustained aphasia or some form of communication disorder from a neurological condition. This group is meant for patients as well as their loved ones to meet other people who share similar circumstances. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their experiences, share ideas, form friendships and provide emotional support for one another.

The group will also offer individuals education on subjects of interest to all and an opportunity to receive resources and tools for coping with their situation. We will have guest speakers on different topics once every three months.

All support group meetings are currently taking place virtually through Zoom. The link to the meeting will be emailed about 30 minutes prior to the start of group.

Register online at [capitalhealth.org/events](https://capitalhealth.org/events) or email your contact information to Sarah Contor at [scontor@capitalhealth.org](mailto:scontor@capitalhealth.org). For additional questions or assistance, call 609.537.7157.



TO JOIN

<https://www.capitalhealth.org/classes-events/main/aphasia-support-group>



# Caregivers/Care Partners

- Dorothy Laven - [dlaven4@hotmail.com](mailto:dlaven4@hotmail.com)
- Kevin Derry



A Get Together with people living with aphasia, family, and friends.

Bring your own lawn chairs.

- Meet us on June 26, 2022
- 2:00PM ET to 4:00PM ET
- 2501 Bath Road, Bristol, PA 19007  
Bristol Township Amphitheater
- Aphasia Information
- Water/soda, snacks...
- "GET THE WORD OUT!! APHASIA!!"  
wristbands and more...

