

MAY, 2012

WASHTENAW CHAPTER



LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

May Events:

- *Senior Awards Ceremony Monday May 7, 2012*
- *Dyslexia Program: Warning Signs, Testing and Diagnosis Wednesday May 8, 2012*
- *Dyslexia Program: Interventions: Three Perspectives Wednesday May 16, 2012*

August Events

- *Open Membership Meeting and Picnic*



Some of our senior award recipients of 2012 with Madelon Possley (center)

President's Report

May 2012

I am happy to report that the Washtenaw Chapter of the Learning Disabilities Association is growing and changing to meet the needs of individuals with learning disabilities in our county. Our most exciting news is that we have established our own website: www.washtenawlda.org, in great part due to the persistence, talents and hard work of Ruth Berean. Reinstating our newsletter is another big step toward establishing better communication with our membership. The reports on WLDA included with the State newsletter did not do our Chapter justice. We are the most active chapter in the state and we have a rich history. Thanks to Carol Marino, a paper trail of our activities has been maintained at the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan for many years. LDA of Michigan began in 1962 and our chapter began in 1968 under the name of the Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (MACLD), Washtenaw County. Yes, that's 44 years of dedication to the learning disabled. We have always consisted of a relatively small but very dynamic group of individuals committed to community awareness, services and programs. When I look at what we have accomplished over the years I feel it is a privilege to serve in this organization. We are "community organizers" in the best sense, because we serve on a ground-roots level. While you may not know our names, we hope you know about our activities and services. If not, it is my hope that this newsletter will bring you up to date.

I'll tell you a bit about myself. I have served on the WLDA Board since 1997 when I met Alice Warshaw who was an amazing woman - a great tutor and a tireless advocate for children with LD. Ann Murray was president then and she welcomed me warmly to my first meeting. I came to know how much she contributed to the LD community in numerous capacities. I miss them both so much because I feel guided by their example and inspiration. When I completed my M.A. in Reading and Literacy at U of M, I knew that I wanted to work with children with reading

Continued on page 2

President's Report, continued



Kathy Cambria

challenges. Alice turned me on to Orton-Gillingham and I eventually studied with Arlene Sunday. I worked for many years as a Montessori teacher but five years ago I was able to go back to my first love, which is tutoring. Being on the WLDA Board has put me in touch with so many people who have touched my life: Janice Weisz mentored me and gave me tons of materials, Kathy Cambria brought wonderful trainers to WISD for many years and sponsored tutor gatherings that were

so helpful. Kathy continues to serve on our Board and we are reassured by her continued good health.

During my fifteen years with WLDA I have been inspired by the work of so many people. My plan for this and future newsletters is to take the time to focus on our Board members and highlight how they have served WLDA. As we do this a picture of our programs and services will emerge in a more personal light.

Please visit our website. We have there a blog that will focus on transition from the K-12 school environment to the public sphere of employment or higher education. We will be meeting soon to review several new applicants for our Harary Scholarships. Two of our Senior Award Recipients have applied for our Washtenaw Community College scholarship., started in honor of Alice Warsaw. Even as we embrace change we honor our tradition.

Madelon Possley

Carol Marino

"I can't think of any personal qualifications I have... just the real, everyday experiences which anyone possesses who has nurtured a child with learning disabilities.

You must do it! So... unless it is viewed as a 'labor of love', it is just another responsibility"

There are some people, like Carol Marino, who are drawn to a special work because of a personal challenge. Carol's youngest son, Tony, was born with brain damage and Cerebral Palsy in 1960. When she and her husband Quentin came to Ann Arbor (Quentin taught at Concordia University), Carol found WLDA. Tony enjoyed

the programs offered by the Ann Arbor Recreation Department and with their help Carol collected the names of some of the children that had also been part of their programs. She started a "Friendship Group" for these children in 1984 and continued it even after Tony died in 1985. When Rec and Ed

could no longer sponsor the group, WLDA agreed to help sponsor it. The group has lasted for 26 years and Carol and Quentin have become involved in the lives of these special people who have grown into older adults. To anyone who has visited their meetings it is clear that these people have special ties to one another and to the Marinos.



Carol (right of center) and some of members of the Adult Friendship Group

Throughout the years Carol has edited a newsletter for them. Their activities have included monthly meetings at Tappan School where they learned new skills, shared their interests and gave back to the community. Every year at their "Monday Madness" they made decorations for Christmas dinners for groups like Perry Nursery School and Safe House.

Carol and Quentin have taken the special friends on many field trips, overnight trips to Chicago and organized a yearly summer picnic.

group together is what it means for them to know one another and to share their challenges and victories. Sadness is a part of their lives—they have lost eight young people over the years. Several have lost parents. Carol and Quentin have certainly sustained their "labor of love".

The Marinos are retiring this year and they are looking for individuals who might want to carry on their work. In you have any interest in helping with this group in any capacity please contact Madelon Possley at madelonp@comcast.net

What is obvious to anyone who sees this