



# PARENTS EDUCATION NETWORK

Educate • Collaborate • Empower

## PEN's Mission:

A coalition of parents collaborating with educators, students and the community to empower and bring academic success to students with learning and attention difficulties.

## Who We Are

Parents Education Network is a grassroots organization founded in 2003 by a group of parents whose children have learning and attention difficulties, and who individually struggled to find the information, services, and expertise to help their children succeed academically. They did not want other parents to experience the isolation and frustration they encountered. They came to believe strongly that parents and educators must work collaboratively to help LD children.

## The Challenge:

- Dyslexia affects one in five children in the United States, and is the number one cause of illiteracy and school drop-out in the nation.
- 60% of adolescents receiving treatment for substance abuse have a learning disability.
- Twice as many young adults in the criminal justice system show signs of dyslexia compared to the general population (Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy).
  - Local impact per year: 19,000 in SF County Juvenile Hall
- A 1992 study found the presence of learning disabilities among a sample of clinically depressed hospitalized children to be seven times higher than in the general population.
- University Education Departments do not include or have limited information about learning differences in their curriculum.

## What We Believe:

- The child suffers if the parent-school relationship is adversarial instead of collaborative.
- Understanding learning and attention difficulties, as experienced in the classroom and at home, is the key to a good partnership between the school, parents and students.
- Parents can't teach educators; parents must teach other parents and educators other educators.
- A strength-based approach at school and at home is most effective in helping students reach their full potential.

## PEN's Impact:

PEN's impact in the Bay Area has been significant in the six years it has been in existence.

- Individual membership has grown to over 1000.
- School membership has grown from 39 schools in its first year to over 50 schools in the current year representing over 15,000 students and 1500 teachers. Our 3 year goal is to grow school membership to over 150 schools.
- Over the past six years, our Speaker Series, Workshops and Conferences have been attended by over 12,000 attendees, of which approximately 4000 have been teachers.
- S.A.F.E. Voices, a teen group launched three years ago, has grown to about 100 teens who mentor younger children, deliver teen panels to schools and other organizations where they are able to articulate their learning and attention difficulties, and published a book Read This When You Can which gives them a forum to tell their stories..
- Teacher Education Network "TEN", successfully launched this year, delivers brain based training and practical strategies to teachers. This year two sessions have been held with over 400 teachers in attendance.
- 10 e-newsletters are published each year providing valuable information to mailing list of over 2000.
- PEN's website provides valuable information to the general public as well as its membership, and provides a forum to connect people.

## What We Want To Achieve:

- Provide ongoing education, for the purpose of increasing awareness and appreciation of the strengths and challenges facing students with learning and attention difficulties.
- Foster collaboration among parents, educators, students and the community to understand those strengths and challenges.
- Educate and support parents of students with learning and attention difficulties to help them accurately understand their child's abilities and challenges.
- Promote a strength-based, research-driven approach that benefits all students, in the classroom and at home.
- Empower students with learning and attention difficulties to reach their full potential.

## What We Do

Conferences, Lectures and Workshops: We bring locally and nationally renowned experts to speak to parents and educators throughout the school year.

SF Giants Awareness Event: We hold an annual LD Awareness Night, in collaboration with other organizations, at a San Francisco Giants ballgame.

SAFE Voices: We run a group for LD teens, with volunteer assistance from local educational and psychological professionals.

School Liaisons and Support Groups: We train parent volunteers in local schools who create a bridge between PEN and the administration and provide a PEN presence in the school for other parents. We also help parents of LD kids set up parent support and advocacy groups at their schools.

We provide opportunities for parents to network with other parents to discuss common issues.

e-Newsletter: We publish a monthly e-newsletter providing information to the local LD community.

## Board of Directors

### **DEWEY ROSETTI, PRESIDENT**

Ms. Rosetti resides in San Francisco with her husband Bill, and two daughters who both have learning disabilities and ADD. She has been a tireless advocate for her daughters and others with learning and attention difficulties for over fifteen years. Ms. Rosetti retired from Levis Strauss as Merchandise Manager responsible for 125 million dollar business. Prior to Levis, she was a Research Analyst at McKensy & Co. Ms. Rosetti is President and co-founder of the Parents Education Network, and the founder of the Parent Support Group at Katherine Delmar Burkes School. She is currently a Trustee of the Charles Armstrong School, and past Board member of Burkes School and California Pacific Medical Center. She was also past President of the Little Sisters of the Poor Auxiliary. Ms. Rosetti received her M.B.A. from University of California at Berkeley, and B.A. from the University of Florida.

### **SANDY OTELLINI, VICE PRESIDENT**

Ms. Otellini resides in San Francisco with her husband, Paul, and daughter who is dyslexic. She retired from Intel Corporation in 1995 where she held several legal and management positions. Prior to joining Intel, Ms. Otellini was an associate with the legal firm Paul, Hastings, Janofsky and Walker where she represented Fortune 500 companies in all aspects of employment law. Currently Ms. Otellini is co-founder and Vice President of the Parents Education Network. She also is a former Trustee of the Charles Armstrong School, and Director and Vice Chair of the Exploratorium. Ms. Otellini served on the Steering Committee of the Hearts in San Francisco Project, a project benefiting the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation. Ms. Otellini received her law degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, and a B.A. in political science and psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

### **MARTHA GREGG, SECRETARY**

Ms. Gregg lives in San Francisco with her husband, Jim, and is the mother of two dyslexic daughters who attend an independent school. She is an Interior Designer with clients throughout the Bay Area. Ms. Gregg has also been a film editor and florist. She currently is a Board member of the Blauvelt-Demerest Foundation which supports wildlife conservation and education.

### **MARIANA WILSON, TREASURER**

Ms. Wilson resides in San Anselmo with her husband, Anthony, and three children. Her youngest son is dyslexic and attends an independent high school in Marin. Ms. Wilson has extensive experience in international finance. Her most recent experience before moving to the Bay Area, was Vice President in charge of International Investment for Rittenhouse Financial (A subsidiary of Nuveen Investments), where she managed a portfolio of over 200 million dollars. Prior to Rittenhouse Financial, Ms. Wilson was Vice President in charge of Latin America and Europe for Corestates Financial in Philadelphia. Ms. Wilson received a B.S. in Accounting from Villanova, and a B.S. in International Business from University of San Francisco.

### **CALLA FLEISCHER**

Ms. Fleischer resides in San Francisco with her husband, Spencer, and four children. Born and educated in South Africa, she has lived in several countries and has been actively involved in schools in London, Hong Kong and San Francisco. Her interest in this field stems from her own education, in which learning differences were ignored, and also from the needs of her children. Ms. Fleischer has been a long time champion of schools around the world addressing the needs of children with learning and attention difficulties around the world. Directly after high school, Ms. Fleischer spent two self-supported years traveling alone and working in Europe and North America, an experience to which she credits a pragmatic and organized approach to life. She attended Burnham Business College and then founded and ran her own company, "Organization Unlimited", which managed events in catering and sports promotion in South Africa. Ms. Fleischer has also worked as sales director for Lorton Publications. She was a member of the fund raising board of "Action on Addition", a London-based charity providing drug-related treatment and rehabilitation. She currently represents an African safari company, "Passage to Africa" in the U.S.

### **LAURA MALONEY**

Ms. Maloney resides in Pacifica with her husband, John, and two children. Her daughter is a wonderfully talented writer and a dyslexic learner. Ms. Maloney is herself a dyslexic learner, and is a dedicated advocate for her children. Ms. Maloney has worked in the restaurant and hospitality industry and also spent time working as an escrow officer in the field of real estate. She is also one of the founding members of the Parent Group on LD at Presidio Hill School and the Summer Resource Fair for LD Kids. Ms. Maloney was very involved in the 100% volunteer effort to build a wonderful new playground in Pacifica. She was also one of the founding members of the Parent and Teacher Association at Lamping Elementary in Nevada. She is currently training to run the Honolulu Marathon in support of the San Francisco Aids Foundation. Ms. Maloney attended the University Nevada Las Vegas majoring in hotel restaurant administration. She also attended Mount St Mary's College in Brentwood, CA majoring in business.

### **ELLICE SPERBER**

Ms. Sperber resides in San Francisco with her partner, Dale, and is the parent of two talented daughters with learning disabilities. She has worked as an American Sign Language Interpreter for the Deaf and Deaf-Blind and has been a disability rights advocate for over thirty years. She was the Artistic Director of a theatre company dedicated to integrating the artistry of deaf and hearing actors onto the stage. Ms. Sperber is currently a Trustee at Gateway High School in San Francisco and serves on the Advisory Board of Northern California Branch, International Dyslexia Association. She is a past Board member of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, Northern California Unit and a past Chair of the Parent Group on Learning Differences at San Francisco Day School. Ms. Sperber received her B.A. in Linguistics from California State University, Northridge and interpreting and translating certification from Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

### **JULIE TRAUEN**

Ms. Traun resides in San Francisco with her husband Tony Tamburello, and daughter who is dyslexic. She has been active in starting a parent support group at Presidio Hill School. Ms. Traun has been an attorney in private practice since 1979. Currently she is a sole practitioner and employed part time by the Bar Association of San Francisco as an administrator in the Indigent Defense Program. Ms. Traun has taught as an adjunct professor of law at Golden Gate University Law School and USF Law School, and New College of California School of Law. Ms. Traun is a long time member of the Conflicts Committee of the Bar Association of San Francisco, the National Lawyers' Guild, Women Defenders, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice and the California Criminal Trial Lawyers' Association. She has been honored by the Bar Association of San Francisco and Women Defenders as an "Outstanding Criminal Defense Attorney." Ms. Traun received her law degree at the New College School of Law, and B.A. from the University of Minnesota.

### **DR. ROSALIE WHITLOCK**

Dr. Whitlock currently resides in Half Moon Bay, and is the parent of two children with learning and attention difficulties. She has thirty years of experience in education and education publishing, with expertise in developing curriculum and classroom materials, and expertise in guidance and development of teachers and administrators. Dr. Whitlock is the Head of School at Charles Armstrong School, a school dedicated to the dyslexic learner who has difficulty learning in more traditional schools. She is also Director of the Charles Armstrong Teaching Institute that is dedicated to export its research based best practices to public and private school teachers. Dr. Whitlock professional experience includes Executive Director of Accelerated Schools Project, Stanford University School of Education; Vice President of Elementary Product Development, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company; and Elementary and Secondary School teacher. Dr. Whitlock is also past President of the Board of Children's Health Council, Palo Alto, CA, and a member of the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD); Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA); National Association of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), and International Reading Association (IRA). Dr. Whitlock has a B.A. in elementary Education, Ohio State University; a M.A. Education, University of Maryland, and Ph.D. Diagnostic and Prescriptive Teaching in Mathematics and Reading Education, University of Maryland.

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