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Association

Northern Ohio Branch
Formerly The Orton Dyslexia Society

**NEWSLETTER** 

Fall 2014

For further information, please visit our website: NOBIDA.org



## President's Letter

By: Mary Jo O'Neill, Northern Ohio Branch of the International Dyslexia Association President

#### **Sharing Our Stories**

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

- Maya Angelou

If you are the parent of a child with a language-based learning difference, you know how difficult it is to effectively share your story with others in a way that will bring about true understanding and real change for your child. So many times, when parents try to explain that there must be a *reason* our otherwise bright and engaged child is struggling in school, we are met with responses such as a "he'll probably grow out of it," or "she just needs to pay better attention in class."

As parents, you know that your story is more complex than that. However, all too often we squash our own instincts and allow our narratives to be rewritten, praying that our child's struggles will somehow resolve with time and age. In Maya Angelou's words, the wait can be agony.

My goal as president of the International Dyslexia Association of the Northeast Ohio Branch is to connect you with others who can hear, share, and embrace your unique story. I want to help you tell your story in such a way that your child's school, teachers, and administrators will truly understand and appreciate what is actually necessary for your child to find success as a learner.

Continued on page 3



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Contact the office at:

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www.nobida.org

#### **HOW TO CONTACT NOBIDA**

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Mentor, Ohio 44061-0401

(216) 556-0883 | email: nobidainfo@gmail.com | www.nobida.org



Did you know that you can help the cause of dyslexia by designating a yearly United Way donation to the NOBIDA? Simply list the Northern Ohio Branch of the International Dyslexia on your pledge form. Join the effort to support education, teacher training, research, and services for individuals with dyslexia. Pledge today!

#### Did You Know . . .?

- NOBIDA has a directory of service providers?
- If you need the services of a person or team to diagnose dyslexia, we can help.
- If you need the services of an educational therapist or tutor for a child or an adult with dyslexia, we can help.
- If you want to be listed in the Directory of Providers for Educational Services, we can help. If you have been trained to provide Orton-Gillingham based, multisensory instruction and want to be listed in the Directory, please call the NOBIDA voice mail (216)556-0883 or email info@nobida.org or nobidainfo@gmail.com and request an application. Allied service providers, such as speech-language pathologists, educational psychologists, and others are welcome. To view the directory, click here: http://www.nobida.org/Portals/0/Directory%20of%20Service%20Providers%20Jul-2012.pdf

## The Northern Ohio Branch Mission Statement

The International Dyslexia Association is an international organization that concerns itself with the complex issues of dyslexia. The IDA membership consists of a variety of professionals in partnership with dyslexics and their families. We believe all individuals have the right to achieve their potential, that individual learning abilities can be strengthened and that social, educational and cultural barriers to language acquisition and use must be removed. The IDA actively promotes effective teaching approaches and related clinical educational intervention strategies for dyslexics. We support and encourage interdisciplinary study and research. We facilitate the exploration of the causes and early identification of dyslexia and are committed to the responsible and wide dissemination of research based knowledge.



#### President's Letter, continued from page 1

From my years as an educator, advocate and parent, I have found that so many families give up on telling their stories – especially if they feel they are not being heard. If someone is not hearing you, tell your story to the next person, or the person after that. Your goal is to find and build a team of advocates for your child, both inside and outside the school, who can act as a microphone through which your child's story can be broadcast.

So, when you feel every door is closing on you, how do you enlist that needed support? Remember that you are seeking to form deep connections with vour child's teachers, administrators and others in his/her circle. Just as vou want them to hear and respect you, so you should hear and respect them as well. Having an optimum pitch and quality tone level is a key factor for your teachers to actually hear your story. From my experience, I have watched teachers shine with excitement when connecting with students: teachers want to assist and guide you and your child. Be sure when speaking with them, you treat them as an appreciated member of your child's support team.

Also, remember that teachers manage incredibly heavy workloads and are constantly multi-tasking to meet the needs of their students. They teach because they are passionate about children and want to see them succeed; however, it is easy to become overwhelmed when they have large class sizes and limited time to spend one-on-one.

More importantly, we need to remember teachers are working with their individual educational background knowledge. Until recently, colleges and universities in Ohio were not teaching structured literacy to college students (http://www.interdys.org/IDA\_Approach.htm). Unless someone has a personal story to share and/or a background in dyslexia, it is unusual to find a teacher who inherently understands how to assist a child who is struggling with language-based learning differences.

The bottom line is that both teachers and parents need to rally together and stand on the same page. You cannot expect your teacher to understand your fears and educational concerns if you do not clearly explain your story and also try to empathize with theirs. Download from www.interdys.org: *Dyslexia in the Classroom: What Every Teacher Needs to Know.* This kit will help you raise awareness, share best practices, and be a resource to your teachers, schools administration and staff.

## Helpful Collaboration Strategies for Teachers and Parents:

Home Binder: (created by parent) Include all evaluations, report cards, progress reports throughout your child's education, accommodations that have been effective, ETR, and an IEP or 504 plan. Visit the Ohio Department of Education web site and print the Jon Peterson Scholarship deadlines, educational timeline, reports for tutor(s), and work samples: dated, community based and school resources.

**School Binder:** (created by parent and given to teacher(s) yearly) Include simple educational timelines, current progress reports, and recent tests; write out your child's story; list any accommodations that have been effective (IEP or 504 plan). This information should be updated yearly and have an easy-to-read format.

**Personalized Data Binder:** (created by teacher) Because data binders are fairly new, I find this must be teacherdriven. The binder needs to be unique, personalized, and related to the student's goals and objectives.

**Never Apologize:** (teachers and parents) Break your pattern of apologizing every time you ask for something you think is over and above what is typical. Instead, make your request and/or share your concerns with a smile.

**Create a Twitter Account:** (teachers and parents) Develop a Twitter account which focuses on educational information. Create an emotional or powerful statement and start Tweeting.

Personally, I would not post anything personal or your child's or student's photos. This account will help you store helpful information in one location.

Become an active member of the Northern Ohio Branch of the International Dyslexia

**Association:** (teachers and parents) Review our calendar of events and invite your family members and friends to our upcoming events.

## Follow the Northern Ohio Branch of the International Dyslexia Association on Facebook and

**Twitter:** (teachers and parents)
Follow us on Facebook by searching for the Northern Ohio Branch of the International Dyslexia Association.
Follow us on Twitter @NOBIDA2. In addition, visit our local website: www.NOBIDA.org, and our national website: www.INTERDYS.org.

Familiarize yourself with IDA's Knowledge and Practice Standards for teachers of

**reading:** (teachers and parents) You can download this at www. interdys.org/standards.htm.

And finally.... Share your Story! (teachers and parents)

#### Good Reads:

The Dyslexic Advantage by Ben Foss

The Human Side of Dyslexia: 142 Interviews with Real People Telling Real Stories About Their Coping Strategies with Dyslexia -Kindergarten through College by Shirley Kurnoff

Learning Outside The Lines: Two
Ivy League Students with Learning
Disabilities and ADHD Give You the
Tools for Academic Success and
Educational Revolution by Edward
M. Hallowell (Foreword), Jonathan
Mooney (Author), and David Cole
(Author)

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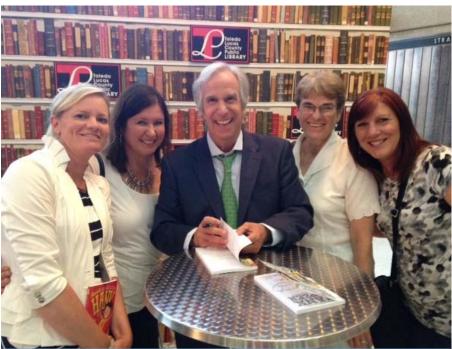
## Henry Winkler

By: Sister Marcia Kiser

The Lucas County Library of Toledo, Ohio, provided an informative evening to 1,500 people at the Stranahan Theater in June: An Evening with Henry Winkler.

Henry Winkler cowrote 25 children's novels - the Hank Zipzer series - featuring a boy who has dyslexia, who is comical, gets in trouble, and is a favorite character for many middle-grade students. Hank Zipzer is someone Henry Winkler can relate to since both are challenged with dyslexia. Unlike Zipzer, Winkler's condition was diagnosed when he was 31 years old. Until then, he did not know why he struggled academically.

Henry Winkler spoke of his personal struggles with academics which made the audience laugh and empathize with him. Inspiration, comedy, and sincerity characterized Henry Winkler's sharing. "It is up to us to make sure our children can meet their destiny... I would like to thank you very much for listening because my parents never did." His German-born father, a lumber-firm president, who spoke 11 languages and had young Henry tutored in German and French, could not understand Henry's problem. Mr. Winkler was born in Manhattan in 1945. His middle name is Franklin



Pictured left to right: NOBIDA members Mary Jo O'Neill, Tammy Alexander, Henry Winkler, Sister Marcia Kiser and Becky Malinas

which was a tribute to the U.S. president in 1939 when his Jewish parents arrived from Nazi Germany. At 68 yrs. old, Mr. Winkler, who played "The Fonz" during the ten TV seasons of Happy Days, is a story of success.

Winkler claims a life-time career as an actor, producer, director and author despite living with dyslexia. He was so appreciated in England, they named him Honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire as well as a 2013

Literacy Hero.

Winkler has determination and strength of character, which are traits often found in individuals with dyslexia. "When you have dyslexia," he said, "you spend a third of your time trying to figure out school, a third of the time wondering why you can't figure it out, and a third of your time covering up your shame and humiliation. I covered it up by trying to be funny."

# The Dyslexia Font

A new font has been created that has shown promise, through research, to help students with dyslexia. Learn more about the font here:

http://www.dyslexiefont.com/en/dyslexia-font/



## Spotlight On:

### **NOBIDA Board Members**

By: Morgan Amend



Elizabeth **Anderson** ioined the **NOBIDA** Board in 2011. She has been in public school education since 1995. She holds a B.A. in French from Denison

University, an M.A. in French from Middlebury College, and an M.Ed. in education administration from John Carroll University. Currently an assistant superintendent on the west side of Cleveland, Liz began her career teaching French, Spanish and German at the middle and high school levels. She spent two years as a high school assistant principal and four years as a middle school principal before becoming a district level administrator.

She specializes in curriculum and instruction, has led two district strategic planning initiatives, and has supported two successful National Blue Ribbon School Award campaigns during her tenure as assistant superintendent. She serves as an adjunct professor at Cleveland State University and Notre Dame College.



Marcia Obermiller became passionate about dyslexia education. advocacy and legislation after her daughter was diagnosed with

dyslexia in 2010. Unable to find an available Wilson tutor for her daughter,

DYSLEXIA

University of Arizona Department of Disability and Psychoedcational Studies "The Elephant in the Room, What We Overlook Regarding Dyslexia"

Breakout Sessions include:

Northern Ohio Branch

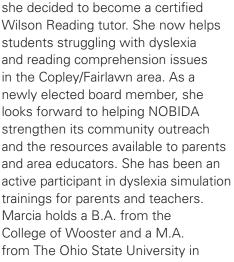
Featuring: Dr. Nancy Mather

Parent Track: IEPs, IEP terms, Support for Parents

Technology in the Classroom for Instruction

Understanding Test Scores for Intervention
Dyslexia and State Legislation ...and More!

students struggling with dyslexia and reading comprehension issues newly elected board member, she looks forward to helping NOBIDA strengthen its community outreach and area educators. She has been an trainings for parents and teachers. Marcia holds a B.A. from the College of Wooster and a M.A. from The Ohio State University in Education and Research.





## Dyslexia Simulation

in Toledo, Ohio on Monday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym of **Our Lady of Perpetual Help School** 2255 Central Grove Toledo, Ohio 43614

Please register ahead of time by contacting Sue Moyer at dyslexiaadvocates@gmail.com



## 2014 Dyslexia Symposium

The 2014 Dyslexia Symposium kicked off with dinner with keynote speaker Dr. Kenneth Pugh at the Cleveland Intercontinental Hotel and Conference Center. Dr. Pugh's research examined the brain basis of reading disabilities. Ongoing longitudinal studies

have revealed key differences in the brain systems that develop for reading in children that have reading disabilities. His treatment studies, conducted to date, indicated that effective interventions significantly impact these brain differences.

Dr. Pugh presented on neuro-imaging studies of language development and reading disabilities

and the research that is taking place on brain pathways that are associated with reading skills. He also focused on the cognitive challenges of learning how to read and the skills that good readers have and use when reading. Dr. Pugh provided in-depth information on the underlying causes of reading disabilities as well as the characteristics of a child with a reading disability. To name just a few characteristics presented by Dr. Pugh, slow-labored reading, non automatic word reading. consistent errors at the word level, guessing at words, word

retrieval difficulties and language specific deficits.

Throughout the presentations on Friday, parents, students, teachers, therapists and administrators discovered new information, ideas, and skills associated with learning disabilities. This new information, as many had said, provided them the

Pictured at the 2014 Symposium are Dr. Kenneth Pugh, NOBIDA Board President, Mary Jo O'Neill, Mayor Frank Jackson, and NOBIDA Executive Board Member, Stephanie Gordan

...tools they need to take back to their schools, classrooms and homes to use with their children and other adults to continue their growth and success.

tools they needed to take back to their schools, classrooms and homes to use with their children and other adults to continue their growth and success.

The breakout sessions were: Technology with Lawrence School Staff members, Multi-Sensory Math for Basic Skill,

Geometry, Algebra and Fractions with Marilyn Zecher, Writing Matters with Developing Sentence Skills and Word Smarts Using Morphology to Develop Word Attack and Vocabulary Skills with William Van Cleave, Basics of Orton-Gillingham Instruction with Tammy Alexander, Avoiding the Development of Learned Helplessness and

Executive Function
with Dr. Cheryl
Ann Chase as well
as The Facts of

Dyslexia through a Dyslexia Simulation led by Melissa Spangler.

Time and time again, attendants from various backgrounds showed their enthusiasm with the different presentations. At the end of several presentations, many attendants wanted more, more, and more. The excitement and desire to use their new found information and skills was inspiring.

We look forward to sharing this excitement with all you as well as your peers on February 26 and 27, 2015 at our new location, the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel!



## **Dyslexia Splash News**

By: Katie Bodnovich

The second annual Dyslexia Splash was held on August 8th at the Wickliffe Aquatic Center. This year's Splash saw an increase in attendees from last vear's inaugural event. While some of the participants were back for a second year of fun, this summer they were joined by many new faces for an evening of swimming, snacking, and sharing laughs. Anna Discenzo, a parent who has attended both "Splashes" commented that, "It's such a wonderful event, and such a great way to build community." She added that her daughter, who is dyslexic, was a bit surprised to encounter so many other students who were "like me," in her words. "It was a wonderful way for her to cap off her summer with other students. especially after all the hard work

she put in with her tutor. She is so encouraged that her strengths and challenges can be recognized and celebrated with others who are able to relate," Anna says of her daughter. Here's hoping that even more families will attend the Dyslexia Splash next summer to continue to build community, raise awareness, and have FUN!

She is so encouraged that her strengths and challenges can be recognized and celebrated with others who are able to relate





## **Tribute to Brian King**

By: Stephanie Gordon



A frugal banker and Sr. Vice President at First Federal of Lakewood, Brian King was our first treasurer who invested our money prudently and processed our non-profit 501.c.3 status. From founders, appreciative words and memories.

Karen Dakin, "smiling face, critical expertise that kept NOB/IDA on firm ground financially."

Karen St. Amour, "our guiding light while establishing our mission, setting goals, and watching over our money."

Ellen Brick, "a visionary, a mentor to me, our guide through long range planning, a gift."

So again, farewell Brian with a special thanks from me for your guidance and remembrance.

With love...







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## **Dyslexia Awareness** Night

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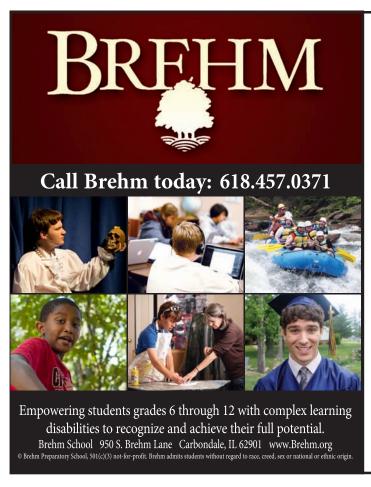
Apply Now!



For more information or to apply visit www.msj.edu/reading-science

**Contact**: Sonia Milrod, Mayerson Academy, milrod.sonia@mayersonacademy.org, 513-475-4145 Jack Ballman, College of Mount St. Joseph, jack\_ballman@mail.msj.edu, 513-244-4228





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- Contact Jack Ballman at jack.ballman@msj.edu or Sonia Milrod at milrod.sonia@mayersonacademy.org

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- » Nationally recognized Academic Support Center for Students with Learning Differences



Notre Dame College is one of the best colleges and universities in the Midwest according to The Princeton Review.

The Mission of the Academic Support Center for Students with Learning Differences is to provide quality educational opportunities and support services beyond those required by law to individuals with documented learning disabilities, a group traditionally underserved in post-secondary education.

Some of the services provided by the Academic Support Center are:

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- » Professional individual tutoring four hours per week
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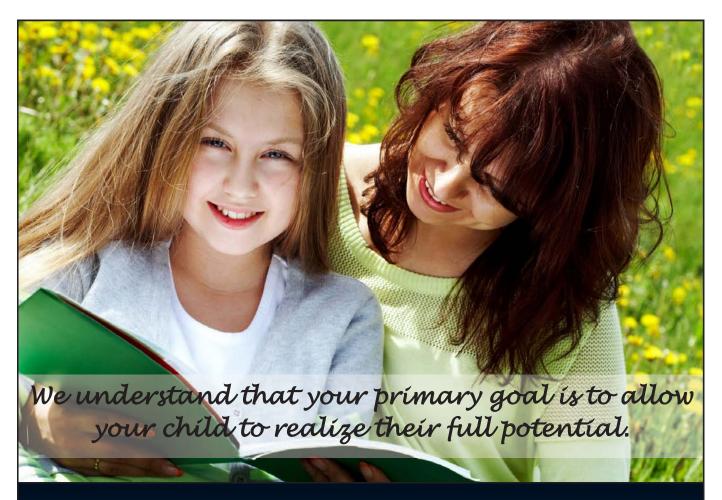
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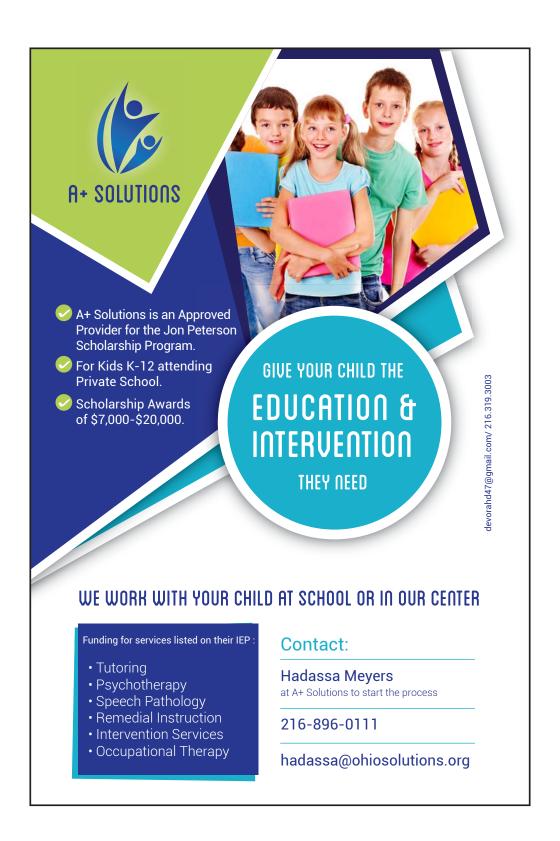
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