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Aphasia Newsletters

**Aphasia** (uh-fay-zhuh): A loss or reduction of language (i.e., speaking, understanding, reading, and/or writing) following brain damage, typically as a result of a stroke.

Spring 2002

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"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver ."

Maya Angelou

## 2001 Annual Report

The Center's financials for 2001.

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## **Five Years and Growing Strong**

The afternoon of October 6th was a picture perfect day for the Aphasia Center of California's 5 year anniversary educational seminar and celebration. More than 120 people with aphasia, family members, and friends gathered together in the ballroom of the Downtown Oakland Senior Center to learn about "Living with Aphasia" and the programs available at the Aphasia Center of California.

The keynote speaker of the afternoon was Dr. Audrey Holland, Regents' Professor from the University of Arizona. Her uplifting talk, entitled "Self-Determination and Aphasia," discussed the importance of people with aphasia taking responsibility for their future either by continuing to work on language skills or by becoming a participant in an aphasia group or by reentering the community.

As part of her presentation, Dr. Holland showed an inspirational videotape interview of the late Mr. Roger Ross, a stroke survivor with aphasia. Mr. Ross poignantly described his journey from deep depression to once again living life fully, even with aphasia.

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