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Talking through a difficult time

Speech disorders caused by brain injuries on rise



PHOTOS BY KAREN MANCINELLI/CORRESPONDENT
Scott Daniels of Rockaway Township expresses his opinion on the presidential candidates at the Aphasia Communication Group's meeting.

LORRAINE ASH @LORRAINEVASH

Every other Friday, a half-dozen aphasia patients gather around a table at Cornerstone Family Programs in Morristown. ♦ They're all smiles because they have everything they need for a good chat — coffee brewing, a speech therapist with a miniature whiteboard and each other. ♦ Like the others, Charles Stipo of Wantage lives with a language disorder caused by brain damage. One recent Friday, he brought to the Aphasia Communication Group a variety of products made by the business he started in 1971, the same one his son now runs. ♦ Dark eyes flashing with delight, Stipo holds up an endodontic bur, a few inches long, for his friends to see. ♦ "Root ta nal," he says.

"This is what goes into your mouth during a root canal?" asks Trish Ochoa-Werschulz, a speech therapist and group facilitator from the Maywood-based Adler Aphasia Center.

"One, two dollars, we," Stipo says.
"That's what you made off of this?" Ochoa asks.

"Yes."
The conversation, always lively, shifts from topic to topic — Donald Trump as a presidential candidate, immigration policy, the drug tunnels under the U.S.-Mexican border.

The group, which has been meeting since last fall, talks about all the things people normally would discuss at a lunch counter or water cooler. But there's an important difference: in this room, Ochoa-Werschulz says, nobody interrupts, and no man ever impatiently finishes another's sentences, as happens so

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Lingraphics' TalkPath News software is designed to help those with aphasia.

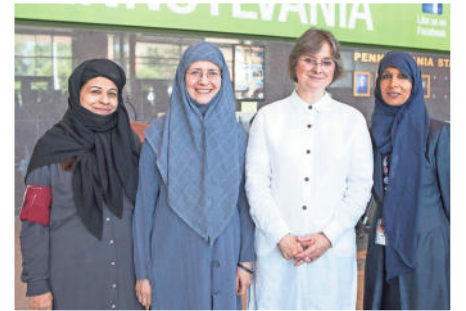


PHOTO COURTESY OF NUSRAT QADIR
Nusrat Qadir (right) meets Frances Wolf (second from right), wife of the Pennsylvania governor, during the 67th annual Jalsa Salana conference.

Local attends Muslim meeting

WILLIAM WESTHOVEN
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Pursuing their holy mission to "end religious wars, condemn bloodshed and reinstitute morality, justice and peace," members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community — including hundreds from North Jersey — descended on Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for their 67th annual Jalsa Salana convention.

The three-day conference earlier this month drew thousands of Ahmadiyya Muslims to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, where the faithful, along with interfaith speakers and politicians, discussed the current ideological climate and how to solve the extremist threat.

"It kicked off with Friday prayers, and that sermon is always one that reminds of us of why we come," said Nusrat J. Qadir, a Morristown resident and neonatal nurse at New York Presbyterian Hospital who attended the conference along with about 250 members

"It brings to mind how we are supposed to be with one another, and taking that and extending it back to our neighborhood and community."

NUSRAT J. QADIR
A MORRISTOWN RESIDENT AND NEONATAL NURSE

of a mosque in Clifton. "It starts the mindset that you're really here to re-commit yourself to God and humanity. It brings to mind how we are supposed to be with one another, and taking that and extending it back to our neighborhood and community. That kind of excites me."

The Ahmadiyya Muslim community, founded in 1889, is an international reformist movement within Islam, claiming membership in excess of 10 million. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, founded in 1920, is among the first American-Muslim organizations.

After Friday prayers, Qadir said, she was able to mingle during lunch with some 8,000 people from as far away as Guatemala, followed by individual sessions and speeches, many focusing on current issues in the world.

The Aug. 15 sessions included a women's-only session among members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, which is known for championing the

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Giants, Jets fans mix it up at MetLife



JANE HAVSY/STAFF PHOTO
Lester Ghent of Fort Lee and Robert Lisi of Lakewood attend the Snoopy Bowl with Ed and Lisa Robillard of Boonton.

JANE HAVSY @DAILYRECORDSPTS

EAST RUTHERFORD — When Michael Ruiz got in the car on Saturday afternoon, he told his son, David Matthew, they were going to Newark Airport "to pick up Odell Beckham Jr., my good friend, to bring him to training camp."

Instead, father and son drove to MetLife Stadium for the annual preseason game between the Giants and Jets, the first David would watch in person.

David, who just turned 10, completely believed his father knew the Giants wide receiver — until they pulled into the parking lot at the stadium and Michael pulled out matching Victor Cruz jerseys. Two

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