



IN THIS ISSUE...

- World-Renowned Baritone Robert Merrill Serves as Spokesperson for National Stuttering Awareness Week

A Non-Profit Organization Since 1947... Helping Those Who Stutter

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Merrill Recalls Meetings with Another Famous Person Who Stuttered

Early on in his career, Robert Merrill came face to face with another famous person who stuttered: General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"We were performing outside in Denver," recalled Merrill, "and General Eisenhower, his wife Mamie and his mother were in the audience. A rainstorm temporarily halted our performance, and General Eisenhower came on stage and we had a lovely, lovely talk. But I noticed he started some of his sentences in the same way that I did."

After the Denver concert Merrill said he and General Eisenhower discussed stuttering. Eisenhower explained to him that he had stuttered as a child. "I don't think he had as much difficulty in childhood as I did, but he definitely did have the problem."



Later on when I was performing at the White House after he became President, we talked about it again, and I noticed a great improvement in his fluency," Merrill said, "But, if you listen to his speeches, you'll notice that he sometimes hesitates when starting his sentences."

Merrill believes it is important for the public to hear success stories—not only his own—but also from others. "President Eisenhower never let stuttering stand in his way. It can be a very frightening disorder, but we need to work to overcome it." □

World-Renowned Baritone Robert Merrill Serves as Spokesperson for National Stuttering Awareness Week

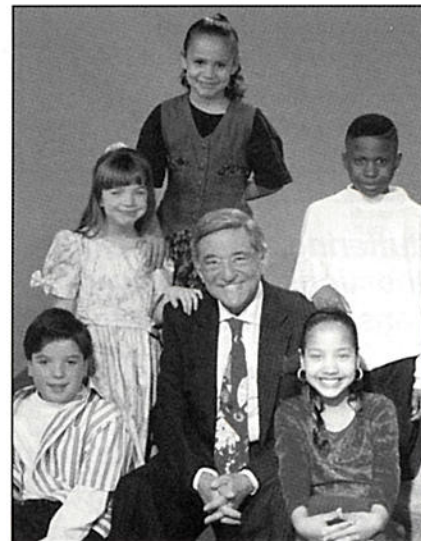
World-renowned baritone Robert Merrill will educate Americans about stuttering, a speech disorder that affects nearly three million Americans, during the eighth annual National Stuttering Awareness Week May 8-14.

Having overcome a childhood plagued with difficulties because of a stuttering problem, Robert Merrill believes it is essential to educate people about this complex disorder.

"I think it's a tremendously important issue because stuttering can make or break you as a human being," Merrill said. "You can lose so much from your life unless you conquer it and come to terms with it — not only in your professional life, but in your personal life as well."

During his early years, Merrill lived with the constant dread that his stuttering problem would be exposed. He avoided school whenever possible because he feared being called on in class and being ridiculed for his stuttering by classmates and even teachers.

"No one, not teachers, schoolmates or even my mother, seemed to understand that stuttering was not some-



thing I could control," said Merrill. "They thought I was nervous or trying to talk too fast, or worse, stupid."

The man who would go on to become one of the greatest baritones

Continued on page 4

Self-Therapy for the Stutterer Available in Japanese

Self-Therapy for the Stutterer by SFA Founder Malcolm Fraser is now available in Japanese.

The translation was completed this year by Shokichi Nakajimi, M.D. of Tokyo, Japan. A photograph of Malcolm Fraser with biographical comments is on the last page of the book, and a preface by Jane Fraser in Japanese translation is on page four.

Self-Therapy for the Stutterer has

been translated into French, German, Flemish, Persian, Arabic, Finnish, and Lithuanian and has been distributed in 62 countries around the world. Most of these translations have been done by professionals who stutter themselves and who want to share this book with others in their country as was the case with Dr. Nakajimi. □



For Someone Who Stutters, Stage Fright Can Be A Way of Life.

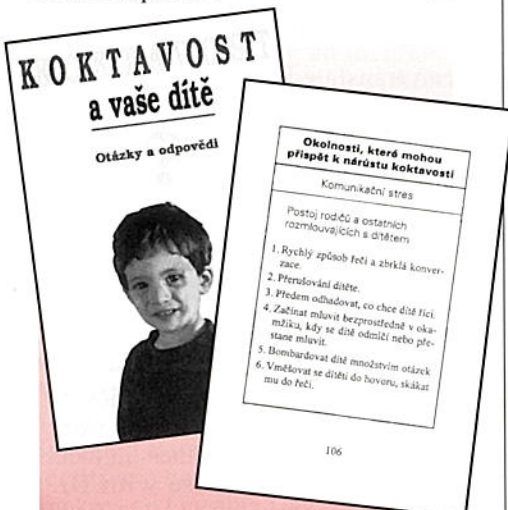


Until he conquered his stuttering problem, stage fright was an everyday occurrence for opera's renowned baritone Robert Merrill. Today he has sung on stages around the world.

Stuttering and Your Child: Questions and Answers Translated into Czech

Alzbeta Peutelschmiedova completed her translation of *Stuttering and Your Child: Questions and Answers* this year. It was published by Votobia Press in Olomouc, Czechoslovakia.

The book is attractively laid out on 6½ inch by 4 inch pages which include only one question per page. SFA hopes that the profits from this book will go towards helping the cause of those who stutter throughout the Czech Republic. □



Free Videotape Sent to Over 1,000 Public Libraries

In 1994 the Stuttering Foundation offered a free copy of *Stuttering and Your Child: A Videotape for Parents* to approximately 1,000 public libraries across the country. Most called or wrote back immediately requesting the tape. A press release was then sent to the newspapers where each library was located to apprise local residents of the availability of the videotape.



Because of the tremendous success of this project last year, SFA has expanded it to include 2,500 more libraries in 1995.

If your local library would like a free copy of *Stuttering and Your Child: A Videotape for Parents* and also a free copy of the eighth edition of *Self-Therapy for the Stutterer*, have them call or write the Foundation at 1-800-992-9392. □

SFA Financial Report for 1994

The annual audit of SFA financial reports for 1994 was recently completed by Ernst & Young, Certified Public Accountants. Following is a recap of sources of funds and expenditures for the year.

The 4.7% of expenditures for administration and general expenses and the less than 1% for fund raising are very low; and since we are fortunate to have an endowment which more than covers our overhead expenses, donors can be assured that their gifts will go directly to support our program services.

Sources of Funds:		
Contributions for Operations	\$232,111	32.2%
Receipts from distribution of Educational Materials	127,694	17.7
Income from Endowment	361,729	50.1
Total Funds available for Operations	\$721,534	100.0%
Funds expended for:		
Printing and distribution of Educational Materials	\$343,522	53.2%
Public Information and Education	172,105	26.7
Educational Symposia	61,727	9.5
Stuttering Information Hotline	34,203	5.3
Total expended for Program Services	\$611,557	94.7%
Other Expenditures:		
Administration and General	30,531	4.7%
Fund Raising Expense	3,547	.6
Total Expenditures	\$645,634	100.0%

*Does not include contribution from the Estate of Malcolm Hough Fraser, Founder of SFA, which funds are added to the endowment.

The Stuttering Foundation of America is a private operating foundation which expends its funds on its own programs and does not make grants to other institutions.

What Leading Speech-Language Pathologists Say About Stuttering, Your Child, and This Year's Summer Vacation

"Parents always report that the holiday season is a hard time of year for the child who stutters—summer can bring on the same problems. Parents should keep excitement levels down about family trips, the Fourth of July and fireworks. Certain children build up considerable tension when excited and this usually results in increased stuttering."

"Beginning speech therapy during the summer can bring great results. Schedules aren't so cluttered and many summer activities are optional. It can be great if the child feels that she will go back to school in the fall talking better!"

—Hugo H. Gregory, Ph.D.
Northwestern University

"Parents are quite surprised to find that stuttering is often more evident in summer. Some parents assume that school is the most stressful time, but in fact, summer is so much more unstructured that it leaves a child on his own more. This can cause stuttering in your child to increase."

"A lot of socializing goes on (in summer) that can put pressure on a child's speech. Vacations, visiting relatives, meeting strangers means children use their speech in a social way more than they're used to."

—Barry Guitar, Ph.D.
University of Vermont

"Stuttering is very individualized. However, children who stutter more in the summer like a sense of structure and when the structure of school is loosened, it precipitates more disfluency."

"Parents should try to keep the pace of vacation from being overly hectic; try to reduce general stress levels within the home. For instance, if a child gets overly excited about going to the pool, parents can work on making a more relaxed preparation of getting to the pool. This includes the parent having a relaxed manner of speaking and making sure there is plenty of time to get to the pool."

—June Campbell, M.A.
Northwestern University □

SFA Co-Sponsors Conference with Easter Seal Society of Dallas

One hundred and seventeen speech-language professionals attended the recent conference, "Prevention of Chronic Stuttering in Preschool Children," co-sponsored by the Stuttering Foundation of America and the Easter Seal Society and ably organized by Janice B. Westbrook, Ph.D. The conference was held at The Callier Center at the University of Texas Dallas.



Left to right: Woodruff Starkweather, Janice Westbrook, Jeff Salmon of Easter Seal Society.

Beginning last fall, the Easter Seal Society distributed 1,500 copies of the Stuttering Foundation of America brochures, *If You Think Your Child Is*

Stuttering and The Child Who Stutters: Notes to the Teacher, to schools and day care centers throughout the greater Dallas area. Four hundred copies of SFA's *The Child Who Stutters: To the Pediatrician* were mailed

to area pediatricians to help educate them about this complex disorder.

These efforts culminated in a daylong seminar presented by C. Woodruff Starkweather, Ph.D. The course outlined a program of early intervention to be used with the families of preschoolers who are at risk for chronic stuttering. Direct therapy techniques were also addressed.

Continuing Education Manager for Easter Seals Jeff Salmon wrote SFA, "Thank you for helping to provide a wonderful opportunity for the speech-language pathologists of North Texas." □



Stuttering Awareness Week Posters and Brochure Available

National Stuttering Awareness Week is May 8–14, 1995! Order your color posters now. They feature U.S. Open champion golfer Ken Venturi, legendary Chicago Bulls star Bob Love, world-renowned baritone Robert Merrill who was the first American to sing over 500 performances with the Metropolitan Opera, and our newest poster featuring ten famous people for whom stuttering was a concern: Robert Merrill, James Earl Jones, Carly Simon, John Updike, Bob Love, Frank Wolf, Ken Venturi, Winston Churchill, King George VI, and Marilyn Monroe.

The posters are a colorful addition to your office, classroom or home. Also back by popular request is our black and white poster of Winston Churchill.

National Stuttering Awareness Week brochures featuring ten famous men and women who stutter are also available.

For more information on the five posters and the brochure, call SFA toll-free at 1-800-992-9392. □



Robert Merrill

Continued from page 1

the opera world has ever known recalls that when his mother asked him to sing for guests and relatives, he would only perform if allowed to sing with the lights off or while standing alone in the bathroom.

"Stuttering makes you unsure of yourself, it makes you feel that you are really less than you are—which is a terrible thing."

Merrill overcame his stuttering problem, though not through formal speech-language therapy, which he strongly recommends today. "Singing helped me find my voice, my own cadence. It's a miracle because if I hadn't conquered the

"Stuttering makes you unsure of yourself, it makes you feel that you are really less than you are—which is a terrible thing."

problem, I wouldn't have had a career. It is why I believe it's very critical for people to understand and for those who stutter to get help.

"It is also essential to stay on top of the problem, it can sometimes re-occur without warning," counseled Merrill, remembering an incident during which he began to stutter while meeting the great Italian Maestro Arturo Toscanini. The Stuttering Foundation advises that relapses can be common occurrences—even for those who have achieved some degree of fluency.

Merrill not only conquered his problem, he became the first baritone to sing and perform 500 operas for the New York Metropolitan Opera. Always an avid baseball fan, Merrill hopes this year to sing the "Star Spangled Banner" for the 25th consecutive year for the New York Yankees on Opening Day.

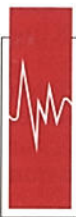
More than three million Americans stutter, and as many as 25 percent of all children go through a developmental stage in which they may stutter. During National Stuttering Awareness Week, Merrill will help the Stuttering Foundation of America accomplish its goals: to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information available about the prevention of stuttering in children, and to guide teens and adults to the best and most effective treatment available.

"We are very pleased to have someone as our spokesperson who has given joy and inspiration to the world through his own voice," said Jane Fraser, president of the Stuttering Foundation of America. "Mr. Merrill did not let stuttering stand in the way of success, and we hope that his message of hope will encourage anyone who deals with a stuttering problem."

Since its founding in 1947, the Stuttering Foundation of America has distributed more than three million publications to educate the public on stuttering. Its books have been translated into fourteen languages worldwide. Other Stuttering Foundation of America resources include a toll-free information line and a nationwide referral list of speech-language pathologists specializing in stuttering. □

The Stuttering Foundation of America is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is classified as a private operating foundation as defined in section 4942(j)(3).

Charitable contributions and bequests to the Foundation are tax-deductible, subject to limitations under the Code.



STUTTERING FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

FORMERLY SPEECH FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

A Non-Profit Organization
Since 1947—
Helping Those Who Stutter

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NEWSBRIEFS

■ The XXIII World Congress of The International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics will take place in Cairo, Egypt, August 6-10, 1995. For more information, write Professor M. Nasser Kotby, Chairman, 11 El Ansary Street, Manshiet El Bakry, Cairo, ET 11341, Egypt.

■ This year's SFA conference on the schoolage child who stutters will be held in Baltimore on June 23rd and 24th, 1995. For more information, contact Dr. Nan B. Ratner or SFA at 1-800-992-9392.

■ The tenth annual "Stuttering Therapy: Workshop for Specialists" co-sponsored by the Stuttering Foundation and Northwestern University will be held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, from July 10 through July 21st, 1995. For more information about the workshop, contact the Stuttering Foundation at 1-800-992-9392, or Dr. Hugo Gregory, Stuttering Programs, Northwestern University, 2299 Campus Drive North, Evanston, IL 60208. This unique workshop brings together speech-language pathologists from all over the world.

■ For those interested in joining Toastmasters International as a way to improve fluency, communication or public speaking skills, their address is: Toastmasters International, Inc., Attention: Membership Department, P.O. Box 9052, Mission Viejo, CA 92690, Telephone: (714) 858-8255; Fax: (714) 858-1207.

■ Krister Larsson of the Swedish Stammerers' Association announces the 4th World Congress of People Who Stutter in Linköping, Sweden, July 26 to July 29, 1995. For more information, write to him: Krister Larsson, Norrsvängen 1a, 1tr, S-582 47 Linköping, Sweden.

■ For those wishing to obtain a copy of *Self-Therapy for the Stutterer* in French, write to Mr. Richard Parent, 175 Desnoyers, St. Hilaire (Quebec), Canada, J3H 4E2. Please enclose \$10.00 Canadian to cover printing, postage, and handling costs.