

The San Diego Branch of the International Dyslexia Association presents:  
**The First Annual Spring Conference**  
**May 8, 2010**  
**University of San Diego**



**Keynote Speaker:**  
**John Corcoran**

**John Corcoran is the author of the book, *The Teacher Who Couldn't Read*, a memoir of his years as a non-reader who did not learn to master the written word until the age of 48. Corcoran's 1994 autobiography catapulted him into the national spotlight as a literacy advocate and champion for those who linger in the sub-culture of illiteracy. Corcoran's second book, *Bridge to Literacy: No Child - or Adult - Left Behind* is a powerful call to action to eradicate illiteracy still prevalent in America. Corcoran's compelling personal experiences as an advocate over the past twenty years are interspersed with interviews with researchers, public school educators, policy makers, community-based literacy educators, parents, learners, media, and service organizations.**

Please join us for a full day of resources, information, and networking about dyslexia.

Workshops will cover the following topics:

- IEPs
- Neuropsychological Testing
  - Dyslexia Basics
- A simulation of dyslexia
- Special Education Law
  - Parent Resources

*(Continental breakfast and luncheon included)*

Conference will be held at:  
University of San Diego  
Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110-2492

**Space is limited!**  
**Send in your registration no later than**  
**April 8, 2010!**

# Workshop Descriptions

## Neuropsychological Tests

**Dr. Spencer Wetter**

This workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of how Dyslexia and other Learning Disabilities are assessed. Emphasis will be placed both on the actual testing itself as well as discussion of recent research on the brain changes associated with these difficulties. The link between assessment and treatment strategies will also be made.

## IEPs

**Dr. Diane Marques**

"IEP, SLD, ASD AND NVLD" This presentation will help parents understand how specific learning disabilities are defined under current California educational statutes, and how that relates to medical categories of learning disabilities and other operational definitions such as dyslexia, central auditory processing disorder and nonverbal learning disabilities. This presentation will help parents and professionals develop a crosswalk between these categories and recognize who talks "apples" and who talks "oranges".

## Parent Resources

**Elena Mendoza**

This workshop will introduce parents and interested parties to resources such as books, websites and DVD's that are useful in learning more about dyslexia and learning disabilities.



## Presenter Profiles on Page Four

### Walking in the Shoes of Someone with Dyslexia

**Presenters: IDA Board Members**

#### *First Half*

What is it like to have dyslexia? What does it feel like to struggle with everyday reading and writing tasks? This highly interactive workshop of simulations provides participants the opportunity to experience some of the challenges and frustrations people with dyslexia endure when trying to read and write. After completing the simulations there will be a thought-provoking discussion about your experience and what school, work and daily life might be like for people with learning disabilities.

#### *Second Half— Dr. Christy Hendrickson*

This session is geared to both parents and educators who want to better understand dyslexia and how it affects their children or students. Dr. Hendrickson will present and discuss our current neurological understanding of dyslexia and how this helps us to design effective intervention strategies with dyslexic children or adults. The second half of the talk will look at Learning Styles and Differences – how we process information and the impact on reading.

### Special Ed Law & Advocacy

**Thomas Nelson, Attorney**

Do you have a child with learning disabilities? Do you know what your rights are under California law? This workshop will cover the following topics:

- 504/IDEA – Assessments and Eligibility
- 504 Plan vs. an IEP
- FAPE
- services and Classroom accommodations,
- Advantages/disadvantages of public vs. private schools,
- paying for private testing and/or private tutoring, parent's rights for reimbursements and
- what is compensatory education?



## Workshop Presenters

**Dr. Spencer Wetter** received his Ph.D. at the University of California, San Diego and San Diego State. He has worked extensively with children and adults providing neuropsychological assessment. His experience includes several clinical populations, such as Autism, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Dylexia, Learning Disabilities, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Dementia. His career has been dedicated to understanding how these disorders affect the brain, how they impact people's lives, and what are the most effective methods of intervention. Dr. Wetter currently continues this work at The Applied Neuropsychological Institute in La Jolla, CA, and at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. He is also on the board of the San Diego Chapter of the International Dyslexia Association, and a contributing member of Pediatric Neuropsychology Rounds at Rady Children's Hospital.

**Dr. Diane Marques** has been a licensed psychologist since 1988, and has worked at RCHSD since November, 2007. Diane received her Ph.D. in 1986 from the University of Rhode Island and completed her predoctoral internship at Boston Children's Hospital Medical Center/Harvard Medical School. She has extensive experience as a staff psychologist at Boston Children's Hospital and served as Chief, Child and Adolescent Division, Lake Shore Hospital, Manchester, N.H. She also has had lengthy experience in the public schools, and holds a school psychology credential. Her special interests and training are in the areas of children's mental health and special education needs.

**Dr. Christy Hendrickson** is the founder and director of Learning Connections, an educational therapy practice. She received her Medical Degree from University of Oklahoma. She received her Certificate in Educational Therapy from UC San Diego. After 17 years of practicing clinical medicine and raising a son with dyslexia, she integrated her background in psychology, medicine and education to devote herself full time to an Educational Therapy practice. She has specialized training in Lindamood Bell, Spalding and Literacy Links. Her practice focuses on helping individuals overcome Learning Differences with a specialization in all types of reading problems, especially dyslexia.

**Elena Mendoza** is an Educational Therapist and an expert in the diagnosis and remediation of language based learning disabilities. As a former Consultant for Lindamood-Bell® Centers, Elena has experience with proven, process-based programs that address difficulties in reading, spelling, comprehension, language, and math.

**Thomas Nelson** is a Special Education attorney with over 22 years of Litigation experience who has prosecuted over 12 cases in State, Federal, and Administrative proceedings. Mr. Nelson is a two-time recipient of the State Bar Award for his Pro Bono Legal Services on behalf of Special Needs Children.

