

## **In Memory of Anita Halper**

The Board of Governors of the Academy of Aphasia wishes to honor with deep respect and enduring gratitude the life and legacy of Anita Halper. Anita was a founding member whose vision and commitment helped shape the Academy from its very beginnings more than 60 years ago.

Anita's contributions to our community were truly foundational. On November 1 and 2, 1963, when the Academy held its very first meeting at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago, it was Anita who chaired the Local Arrangements Committee (then identified as the "Chairman of the Committee on Time and Place"), ensuring that this inaugural event ran smoothly and successfully. That meeting would set the tone for what would become a longstanding tradition of collaboration, inquiry, and friendship among aphasia researchers and clinicians. Without Anita's early efforts, our cherished organization would not exist.

In addition to serving on the inaugural Executive Board of Governors from 1963 to 1965, Anita continued to be a driving force in the Academy's growth. She again took on the role of Chair of Local Arrangements in 1966 at the University of Chicago Center for Continuing Education, led a panel discussion at the 1975 meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, and returned to coordinate local arrangements for meetings in Montreal in 1977 and Chicago in 1978. For those of us who have served in any of these roles, the level of dedication Anita brought is nothing short of extraordinary. Her consistent leadership and tireless commitment helped strengthen the Academy's presence and continuity during its formative years.

Anita's dedication did not wane with time. Beyond this early organizational leadership, she played a sustained and essential role in the life of the Academy. She served for many years as Treasurer, through 1999; this is a role often unnoticed but vital to the stability, growth, and sheer survival of any organization. Through meticulous financial stewardship, Anita ensured that the Academy would thrive and could continue to support the scientific exchange and clinical progress at the heart of our mission. In 2003, Anita was elected Historian of the Academy.

Beyond these official roles, Anita is remembered with deep affection by her colleagues for her warmth, approachability, and tireless devotion to the field. We heartily appreciate that her commitment extended beyond the Academy to the field of aphasiology itself. She was one of a very special group of visionaries who understood the need for an interdisciplinary space dedicated to aphasia, where professionals from a variety of fields could come together to tackle the complexities of language and the brain. That vision remains central to the Academy's identity – and Anita's imprint remains woven into its very fabric.

We are deeply grateful for all that Anita gave to the Academy of Aphasia. Her legacy will endure not only in the institutional history she helped build, but in the values of dedication, scientific inquiry, and service that continue to guide us.

Anita is remembered with respect, with admiration, and with heartfelt thanks.

– The Board of Governors of the Academy of Aphasia