



July 2012

A busy Summer ahead for everyone in the UK— we’ve had the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and before we know it, the Olympics and Paralympics will be upon us. Are any of your clients or former clients taking part? We would love to hear. Email Ceri on ceri@karten-network.org.uk or post on the Karten Network facebook page. It would be great to go along and give an extra cheer to those from the Karten family! So please let me know.

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Trustees meeting—March

The Trustees have agreed (in no particular order):

- Additional equipment at National Star College, including an Eduprint system
- Additional equipment for Percy Hedley foundation for a project promoting self employment
- Upgraded equipment at Action for Blind People, Bristol
- Additional equipment for the centre at David Lewis and the transfer of the Eduprint system to Macclesfield
- An Eduprint system at Jewish Care
- Upgraded equipment at Shaw Trust, Neath

New intern

Really pleased to welcome Matthew Kayne to the team as the new intern! The position became available as the person we had lined up found a job. Many thanks to Matt for stepping in.

Matt will be a real asset as he only recently graduated in IT (I think Babbage was still around when I was studying....). So look out for messages from Matt asking for updates, and if you have any news stories you would like on the website, please email Matt on matt@karten-network.org.uk.

Memorial Reception

It is hard to believe that it is over a year since Ian Karten passed away. On 13th May we held a memorial reception at The Athenaeum in Pall Mall in London in his honour. It was a wonderful occasion, and very well attended by members of the Karten Network as well as Ian and Mildred's friends and family. Tim Simon, Chair of Trustees, welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers: Mike Smith, CEO of Livability who worked with Ian in the early days of the Network, Tony Kushner from Southampton University and Ed Kessler from the Woolf Institute, Cambridge. Ian's life story tells more of his links with these organisations—contact me if you would like a copy.

It was a wonderful afternoon, and a fitting way to celebrate the life and work of Ian Karten MBE.



Mildred with Tony, Ed and Mike



The tea and scones were very nice too!



A unique clock in The Athenaeum—spot the error?

New Board members

We are all really pleased to welcome some new members to the Karten Network Board. Already members are Matthew Kayne and Joel Elias, both from Jewish Care. And we hope to welcome Stephen McGuane from Share Community to the next meeting. We should shortly have their details on the Karten Network website.

Trust Funding Strategy

The Trustees of the Ian Karten Charitable Trust last met in March (see page 2). For the first time, there were applications for twice the amount available. This led the Trustees to prioritise who they will support in future. As before, no new centres are being set up at the moment. In addition, no centre will in future be considered for additional funding for a period of three years. And all new agreements will have a timescale stated within which the grant must be spent. The next Trustees meeting is on 12th September, so finalised applications for additional or upgraded equipment need to be with Ceri by 15th August. So if you are thinking of putting in an application, you should be talking to Ceri NOW! There are always amendments to applications, and we need to arrange a visit. So 12th September might feel a long way away, but in terms of processing applications, it is actually very close. With only 2 Trustees meetings a year, the volume to be considered at each meeting is higher, so the end date needs to be fixed to allow the Trustees time to read the applications.

So if you are intending to submit an application, contact Ceri asap (ceri@karten-network.org.uk)

The Ian Karten Memorial Conference

In January, a Memorial Conference was held at Haifa University in Israel. It was very well attended—despite torrential rain! (very unusual in Haifa in January). Tim Simon, Chair of Trustees, and I spoke at the conference, and a number of people logged in from the UK. People spoke in Hebrew and English, with simultaneous translation. I was in awe of the people doing this: they were listening, translating and typing, with the result projected on screens either side of the speaker. The keynote speaker was Marcia Scherer from Rochester Institute of Technology. As well as speaking on 'Getting out of the state of stuck', Marcia also lead a workshop which examined the methodology for recommending assistive technology which was going to be used effectively. Amongst other speakers, we also heard from OTs in the Karten Centres in The Keren (a charity supporting disabled people in Israel), They each spoke about the different specialisms of their centres. So a fascinating day.



Marcia Scherer addressing the conference

We also held a researchers meeting –the Karten Centre at Haifa is within the OT Department at the University. As well as hearing about the research currently underway, we discussed the potential for research collaboration across the network—there is a vast amount of data within the Karten Centres. If anyone is interested in following this up, please let me know.

Many thanks to Dalia Sachs and Naomi Scheurer for making us so welcome and entertaining us in our free time.

Network Board members do it for charity

Just in case you thought that the Network Board members are busy enough with their day jobs, their families and being on the Network Board, some have also been busy raising money for other good causes:

Mubina Asaria took part in the Race for Life for Cancer Research, running 5k with her family

Dawn Green walked an amazing 45 miles for the National Autistic Society

Matthew Kayne walked through Golders Green on his frame to raise money for Rela Goldhill Lodge.

Joel Elias had his head shaved to raise money for Dementia Care. For those who haven't met Joel, he did have very long dreadlocks—but no more!

Many congratulations to them all!

Sadly I don't have room for photographs.....

Conference 2012

October 23rd

Make a date in your diary now: the next Karten Conference is on October 23rd at QAC in Birmingham. More details will be coming out shortly. But we are focusing this year on volunteer programmes, apprenticeships and social enterprises, as well as a session on keeping safe on-line. And I have heard a whisper that there will be new developments for i-pads available by then, so a supplier is already lined up to demonstrate!

We will, of course, have Karten Awards again, so over the summer please start thinking about what you are especially proud of in your centre—whether that is an individual or your overall work. We have a board meeting in 2 weeks, so final details on the awards will be out shortly afterwards.

There have been lots of suggestions recently of ways to harness the strength of the Karten Network (see page 11), so please come to the Conference ready to join the discussion or talk to Ceri about your ideas directly.

This conference is feeling like a very practical one which will fire you up with ideas, so don't miss it! Please let Ceri know who from your organisation will be coming.

Print Centre Facebook Group

Do you have a Print Centre in your organisation? Do you sometimes need someone to bounce ideas off or ask a quick question? We are setting up a Facebook Group just for you! Please email Matt Kayne matt@karten-network.org.uk if you want to be a member

Karten CTEC for Persons with Deaf-Blindness of the Beth David Institute remember Ian Karten

We were deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Ian Karten, MBE, may he rest in peace. To us, Ian was truly a special person, one who not only cared about others less fortunate but truly championed their cause. Hundreds of Israelis were touched by his tremendous generosity and that of **The Ian Karten Charitable Trust** that he and Mildred created. Few people have can truly be said to have made a real difference in the lives of so many.

In the hope of helping in some small way to perpetuate his blessed memory we held a memorial ceremony in his memory on August 1, 2011. Many members of our staff and clients attended, including current and former students at our **Karten CTEC**.

Our Executive Director, Mr. Chaim Fuchs, opened the evening with a brief description of Ian, his life and how **The Ian Karten Charitable Trust** enabled us to open our **Karten CTEC**. He then lit a memorial candle in his memory, talked about a few relevant Jewish texts and recited the Jewish prayer for the deceased, the mourners Kaddish.

The second part of the evening was devoted to our students with deaf-blindness, three of whom spoke about how studying at our **Karten CTEC** changed their lives. Tova spoke (in Israeli Sign Language) first, and said that she learned to use a computer for the first time and that she and all of her fellow students are very, very grateful for the opportunity to learn to communicate and to get information via computers! Next, Batsheva, who now works as an actress, spoke, also in Israeli Sign Language. She talked about how she remembers that at first she did not believe that she could ever learn to use a computer, but thanks to her teacher and the user friendly equipment, she succeeded! Then, after learning to successfully use the computer at our CTEC she succeeded in using a computer at home as well! Now, instead of communicating only by fax, she communicates by computer, as she has learned to do so efficiently and effectively. She too expressed her deep gratitude to **The Ian Karten Charitable Trust** and to her teacher. The third student who spoke was Shoshana, who said that prior to studying at the Learning Center she knew nothing about the world, that she was as isolated as if she lived on a desert island. Now, thanks to what she learned at the Karten CTEC, she knows what's going on and, perhaps even more importantly, she can communicate with the world!

The teachers, too, greatly appreciate the modern equipment. One, Yaakov, who himself has Usher Syndrome (a genetic condition involving both congenital hearing loss and a progressive and degenerative eye disease) addressed the group and talked about the difference getting new computer equipment meant to him and to his ability to teach. He has been teaching at the CTEC Center since the beginning, and also told the audience a bit about how the Center has developed. After he spoke, Chaim briefly recapped the moving personal testimonies.

Then, we had the honor of hearing Tim Simon, who is now chair of **The Ian Karten Charitable Trust**. He spoke first about Ian as a person and the amazing story of his life, including the places he lived and studied, his degree in Medical Engineering, service in the RAF and success in business. He continued with a description of the establishment of **The Ian**

Karten Charitable Trust and its history. On a personal note he also mentioned the highlights of our CTEC and the Trust, including the year one of our students – who after completing her studies became a teacher herself – won an award at the annual conference in Birmingham. All of this was particularly important in light of the fact that most of our clients had no idea who was behind **The Ian Karten Charitable Trust**. This was their first opportunity to learn about him, to hear about the person behind the name.



Tim addressing the group

After Tim, Professor Rimerman, an expert in the field of disabilities who has been a friend of our organization for many years, spoke briefly about the accomplishments of **The Ian Karten Charitable Trust** in Israel, and about the unique blend vision and practicality that he admired in Ian. He said that our Center is a particularly exciting one, a true triumph of technology, a victory for the dream of inclusion. He concluded by saying that he hopes we will attract ever growing numbers of students. Despite his many years of academic experience in the field, this was the first time he heard first hand from our students about the revolutionary change in their life that was brought about by studying at the Karten CTEC.



The audience, intently listening, with the assistance of finger spelling

Chaim's closing remarks were that equipment alone is not enough – one needs to have, as Ian did, a dream, a vision of a better world, hope and faith in ourselves and the strength to move ourselves and others forward. He sent his best wishes to Mrs. Karten, with the hope that she will have the strength and health to continue on, from sadness and mourning to joy and pride as the Karten CTECS go from strength to strength.

Network Collaboration

You know those conversations that happen at just the right time? At Ian's memorial reception a group of us were discussing ways in which the network could work together—perhaps offering apprenticeships or work experience to clients in other centres, or even having a common on-line gallery and shop. Then shortly afterwards a call for funding bids for the Community Learning Innovation Fund was published. Timing was very tight—especially with the end of term approaching, but we did it! An application has been made for funding to set up a common portal to a shop and gallery, with on-line learning resources giving skills needed for self-employment. So not only can the work of centres be showcased (increasing the market for their work) but disabled artists can sell their original work, or engage with a Print Centre to produce other products such as cards and calendars, as well as learning about self-employment. It will be self-financing by taking a percentage of each transaction to cover costs. An exciting project, I'm sure you'll agree. I'll let you know if there is good news!

But how else can the Network collaborate and support each other in these challenging times? Rohan Slaughter of Beaumont College came to a recent Board meeting and spoke about the difference the grant from the Karten Trust had made in enabling Beaumont to develop their technological capability: they are now an exemplar college. As well as expressing their appreciation verbally, Rohan spoke about ways that that appreciation could be expressed more practically. Rohan suggested that Beaumont could offer perhaps a couple of days of technician time to a

Centre with less in-house technical capability. But perhaps that centre has a wealth of knowledge a specific disability group, or with social enterprises: everyone has something to offer. I see that on every visit I make. So we could formalise this exchange of skills and expertise.

So can we make this work? More importantly, is there the enthusiasm in the Network to make it happen? I will start a conversation on our Facebook page—please add your comments. If you don't Facebook, email me directly and I will post on your behalf. But this is a way of making the resources stretch further for mutual benefit.

If you would like to talk to Rohan about Beaumont's offer, could you email me in the first instance please?

We will have a workshop on this at the conference, but if you have any ideas for taking this forward, please let me know.

If you have something for the next newsletter, or one of your clients would like to contribute a piece, please email me.

Contact us:

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