

September 2021 Newsletter



Renew your membership in our local chapter for only \$15 a year! Ways to renew: pay at our website on the “Donate” button in the upper right-hand corner; mail your renewal with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail to: East Bay Chapter, HLAA, P.O. Box 12484, Oakland, CA 94604-2484. See back page to sign up and support National HLAA.

Our September meeting will be held September 11th. Our speaker will be: Laura Gaeta, Ph.D., Director, Doctor of Audiology Program, California State University, Sacramento. This month's meeting focuses on aural rehabilitation with older adults. Listening with hearing loss is exhausting. The brain works overtime to *understand* what's being said. Aural rehabilitation improves listening skills and speech discrimination. While ears physically hear sounds, the brain makes sense of them. Your brain and your ears are a team. Dr. Gaeta will include lipreading and communication strategies training.

Register for this free event here: www.hearinglosseb.org After you register, you'll be sent the link to join the meeting. Consider staying after the meeting for AfterWords – a chance to ask more in-depth questions, as well as discuss anything you want with fellow members!

HLAA-EB posts our newsletters to the California State Association webpage and a link on our website. Check out our website at: <http://www.hearinglosseb.org/> Contact us at: info@hearinglosseb.org

MEETING NOTES: *California Telephone Access Program (CTAP)*

At the August 14, 2021 HLAA-EB meeting, our guest speaker was Outreach Specialist Elizabeth Wong, who provided an excellent overview of the California Telephone Access Program (CTAP). This Program offers a full range of **free** specialized telephones and accessories that make it easier to hear,



California Phones
Keeping you connected.

dial and call, as well as assist individuals who have difficulty hearing, seeing, mobility, speech or learning impairments. CTAP is a state program started in 1979 and governed by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). This **free**

state program, funded through a surcharge on our monthly telephone bill, has 3 qualifications: 1) You live in California; 2) You have phone service; and 3) You can obtain a signature from an authorized certifying agent verifying your impairment.

- **Specialized Devices for People with Difficulty Hearing**
 - Amplified Phones * Captioned Phones * Hearing Aid Compatibility
 - Tone Control for Clarity * Speaker Phones * Flashing Light When Phone Rings
- **Specialized Devices for People with Severe or Complete Hearing Loss**
 - Captions * TTY (Tele-Typewriter) * Hearing Aid Compatibility
 - Super Loud Ringers * T-coil Compatibility * Flashing Light When Phone Rings
- **Specialized Devices for People with Difficulty Seeing**
 - Extra-Large Buttons * High Contrast Phones * Talking Keypads
 - Speaker Phones * Lighted Keypads
- **Specialized Devices for People with Difficulty Moving**
 - Cordless * Speaker Phones * Phone Locator
 - Remote Operation * Speed Dialing
- **Specialized Devices for People with Difficulty Speaking**
 - Speaker Phones * TTY (Tele-Typewriter) * Outgoing Speech Amplification
 - Anti-Stuttering Devices * Artificial Larynxes
- **Specialized Devices for People with Difficulty Learning or Remembering**
 - Speed Dialing * Dial by Picture or Keypad * Voice-Activated Dialing
- **Mobile Accessories—Devices to Amplify & Enhance Hearing on Your Mobile Cell Phone**
 - Amplification * Hands-Free Speed Dialing * Corded & Bluetooth Connection
 - Speed Dialing * HearAll Cell Phone Amplifier * Quattro Mobile Phone Amplifier

CTAP Phone Features--The devices identified above & others offered by CTAP are described below:

- ✓ *Amplified*—Enhanced volume & tone control can be adjusted, raised or lowered to hear better.
- ✓ *Portable/Cordless*—Makes it easier to get to the phone & to move about while on the phone.
- ✓ *Captioned*—Allows you to read incoming conversations in text & has an amplified handset.
- ✓ *Flashing Light*—Features a light that flashes for incoming calls so you never miss a call.
- ✓ *Pager*—Vibrating will help to alert those with hearing loss that the phone or doorbell is ringing.
- ✓ *Flow Button*—Slows speech on the phone & answering machine so it's easier to understand.
- ✓ *Big Buttons*—Easy to see big buttons which make it easier to dial, plus braille is available.
- ✓ *Phone Locator*—Assists in locating & finding the phone when it has been lost or misplaced.
- ✓ *Talk-Back Button*—Remembers last button pushed; available even in foreign languages.
- ✓ *Talking Caller ID*—Phone talks out loud & tells you when a call is coming in.
- ✓ *Neck Loop*—Works with t-coil & wave frequency for HA's connected to tablet, ipad or computer.
- ✓ *Remote Control Phone*—Mobility-limited person can answer by pendant, air switch or tapping.
- ✓ *Speech Assist*—Specially designed to address stuttering & other speech-related issues.
- ✓ *Artificial Voice Box*—Person with speech-difficulty uses straw-like device & moves lips to speak.
- ✓ *Picture Phone*—Dialing by putting in a recognizable picture of the person you're trying to call.
- ✓ *California Relay Services*—By calling 711, an operator helps persons communicate by TTY.
- ✓ *Sonic Alert's HomeAware Main Unit*—Includes telephone ring signaler with bed-shaker package.

CTAP Application--To apply for a CTAP specialized phone or device, follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Complete, sign & date Part 1 of the application/loan agreement provided by CTAP.
2. Have Part 2 completed by an authorized certifying agent (e.g., medical doctor or audiologist).
3. Return the completed, signed, & dated application to CTAP by mail, fax or take it to a Service Center.

CTAP Procedures & Rules

An individual who mails or faxes the application might look for an approval letter in the mail within a week or so. Then, he or she may call to select the right phone and have it shipped or, in the alternative, visit a CTAP Service Center where an individual may test out phones before making a selection and taking it home. A CTAP phone is **free** and considered a loan forever, but must be returned or exchanged if no longer needed. Under CTAP rules, each eligible applicant is limited to three devices (e.g., one **free** landline phone, one **free** landline accessory, and one **free** accessory for your cell phone). If you need help in connecting or using the CTAP equipment, **free** training classes, as well as Customer and Field Advisors who will even visit your home, are available.

The CTAP Application/Limited Liability Agreement states in part: "The applicant hereby agrees that the CPUC and/or the State of California, and/or the CCAF make no warranties, either express or implied . . . shall have no liability to the applicant or any other person with respect to any liability, loss or damage caused . . . However, CTAP will repair or exchange equipment if: 1) the equipment loaned to the consumer stops working or malfunctions; or 2) the consumer's disability certification changes."

Smartphone Training

CTAP also offers an opportunity to participate in **free** online, small-group training in how to fully utilize and navigate your Android or iPhone smartphone. The 2-hour training, divided into Part 1 and Part 2, focuses on the basic and specialized features and functions of your smartphone, as well as text messaging, settings, accessibility to apps, WiFi, and Bluetooth connections. Contact CTAP to register and schedule a time to participate in this **free** smartphone training.

For More Information or Questions

Contact CTAP at: www.CaliforniaPhones.org; Call 1-800-806-1191; TTY 1-800-806-4474; Fax 1-800-889-3974. Full-time Service Center: 3075 Adeline St., Suite 260, Berkeley, CA 94703 (inside the Ed Roberts campus) (M-F 8:00-5:00).

~ Kathy Fairbanks

A New Movie Is Out: CODA. Quotes from a Review by Gael Hannan

Here is a quote from Gael Hannan's review in *Hearing Health & Technology Matters (HHTM, Aug. 2021)*: "Last night, we watched CODA (child of Deaf adults), the new movie about a family that has both Deaf and hearing family members. Mom, Dad, and the grown son are Deaf, and the teenage daughter is Hearing-- as well as her family's interpreter for their communication with other people in their town and fishing business. The film was charming and moving. I cried a bit and so did the Hearing Husband because we both saw bits of ourselves in the movie. He, as the spouse of a woman with profound hearing loss, saw the challenges that he lives with daily. I teared up at some brilliantly acted moments that were spot-on and painfully familiar. A lifetime of making *a lot* of noise and not realizing it because I couldn't hear it. The isolation when everyone around me understands what's going on or being said. The having to stare intently at someone's face to make out what they were saying."

She further states: "When we have hearing loss, we need *help* to communicate in the language we know. We must learn to use technology and non-technical strategies such as using visual cues. We must become comfortable, through practice, in expressing our communication needs and how to have them met." Isn't that why we are in HLAA? Let's support each other!

You may want to check out the movie! Available on *Amazon Prime* (rental \$3.99) or in select theaters or on *Apple TV*.

Do You Have a Roger Select? Use the link below (Page 8) to connect it to your TV's digital audio cable! Page 24 has the directions to connect to the TV.

https://www.phonakpro.com/content/dam/phonakpro/gc_hq/en/products_solutions/wireless_accessories/roger_select/documents/user_guide_roger_select_029-0550.pdf

Nine Facts to Know About Hearing Protection to #KeepListening

Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) is probably the biggest global public health emergency you've never heard of. The World Health Organization (WHO) says 1 of every 5 U.S. teens (ages 12–19) has a measurable hearing loss likely from loud noise. In fact, the WHO calls hearing loss a global health crisis with 1.1 billion young people at risk from damaging sound, largely from personal listening devices turned up too loud. [Read on to find out more critical information that will help you or your loved ones preserve their hearing for longer. NIHL is the only type of hearing loss that is completely preventable.](#)

PhonoGraft, Harvard's 3D-Printed Eardrum Graft, Enters Commercial Development

From Hearing Health and Technology Matters (HHTM), August 2021

The PhonoGraft device is a 3D-printed, biocompatible graft that could be implanted to repair a damaged eardrum. If its clinical development is successful, the PhonoGraft technology could mitigate the pain, drainage, and hearing loss associated with ear drum perforations that affect millions of individuals worldwide. More information can be found here: [PhonoGraft, Harvard's 3D-Printed Eardrum Graft, Enters Commercial Development – HHTM \(hearinghealthmatters.org\)](#)

East Bay Leadership Team

The chapter is run by a Steering Committee, Leader Dale Davis, ddavis94605@gmail.com, who also oversees the Membership Database.

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JOIN THE NATIONAL HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION – THEY ARE ADVOCATING FOR YOU!

Go to this URL to join today: <https://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/become-a-memberrenew/> OR, if you prefer to pay by check or card thru the mail, Nancy Asmundson has membership forms to send to you, or contact HLA at 301-657-2248 or e-mail membership@hearingloss.org. Your membership form & payment go to HLA, 6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852.

COSTS: Regular Membership/year (will receive *Hearing Life* magazine in print and digital format):

Individual - \$45; Couple/Family - \$55; Professional - \$80; Nonprofit - \$80;

Online Membership receives *Hearing Life* mag. in digital format only: Individual - \$35; Student - \$25.

Veteran Membership: Complimentary one-year Regular Membership & Lifetime Online Membership.