



East Bay Chapter:Newsletter ✿ April 2024 ✿

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DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! Easy way: Go to www.hearinglosseb.org and click on the "Donate" button to pay through Paypal. OR Mail a check to the address above. Only \$15/person!

Our April Meeting will be held Saturday, April 13. This will be a Hybrid (available in person and by Zoom) meeting event. For those who attend in person, refreshments will be served courtesy of our chapter! Last month it was bagels and cream cheese. The Panel Participants will be LIVE and IN-PERSON so make sure you come to the Fabiola building. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk with your fellow HLAA members before and after the presentation. If you really can't come in person, a Zoom link will be sent out.

TOPIC: What it's like to Have a Cochlear Implant

Many in our community have cochlear implants while others may be candidates either currently or in the near future. The chapter plans to host a panel discussion on Cochlear Implants, leveraging the experience and insights of several users within our community.

You're welcome to come socialize at 9:30 a.m.; Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Kaiser Fabiola Building, 3801 Howe Street, Oakland, in the basement. Take elevator down to basement, turn right down the hall to the end, Room G26. FREE PARKING is available at the parking structure across the street. Just park in an available slot and walk across the street to the Fabiola Building.

Social time: 9:30 a.m. Meeting begins: 10 a.m.

Register for this free event www.HearingLossEB.org and click on "Monthly Meeting". Once you register, you'll be sent the link to join the meeting.

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

Upcoming Meetings: May: Walk for Hearing, Sunday, May 19, at Crab Cove, Alameda (flyer below)

June: Claudia Marseille will talk about her memoir

July & August: Summer break! No meetings.

2024 HLAA CONVENTION NEWS- June 26 – 29, 2024

Are you interested in attending the HLAA Convention 2024? Registration is still open but sadly, the Early Bird registration has gone away. This year's Convention will be June 26 - 29 in Phoenix, Arizona at the Sheraton Grand in Wild Horse Pass. Much more convenient for us West Coasters! (The last few Conventions have been in East Coast or Southeast Coast cities.) This is a very nourishing event all about hearing loss. You won't be disappointed that you went!

Some of the events promised at the convention are:

- Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants Can Improve Your Quality of Life
- Why Is It So Hard to Treat Sensorineural Hearing Loss?
- Cybersecurity and Hearing Loss
- HLAA's Advocacy ABCs
- Growing Up with Hearing Loss and Raising Kids with Hearing Loss
- Finding Your Hearing Loss Community on Instagram
- And many more...

Go [here](#) to see more information and to register. Or, hearingloss.org and click on Events and then Convention.

MEETING NOTES: "Captioning in Glasses"

At our March 9., 2024, HLAA-EB Chapter meeting, our guest speaker was Riley Ellingsen, who is the co-founder and CEO of heARsight, which is a new invention that will provide captions literally before an individual's very eyes. Initially, Riley explained that he is part of a 6-person team that includes 2 co-founders/CEOs, 2 developers and 2 managers, which have commenced and run this innovative Augmented Reality heARsight (AR). He further explained that the genesis of the idea and plan behind this start-up occurred while working on a Master's Degree at Notre Dame, when they were called upon ". . . to be a force for good in the world". Many fellow classmates and others were trying to deal with the day-to-day range of hearing loss problems, including deafness, they were experiencing.



The Problem of Hearing Loss (HL) and the Lack of Diagnosis & Treatment: Recognizing the substantial number of individuals having some degree of hearing loss, Riley noted that a much lower number of persons get appropriately treated for their hearing loss problems. He speculated that the lack of proper diagnosis and treatment of hearing loss problems may be based on: 1) Stigma of hearing loss; 2) Inadequate usability of the current tools available to cope with hearing loss; 3) Expense of tools available to adequately deal with hearing loss.

The Mission, Vision & Objectives of heARsight: Riley set out heARsight's guiding statements, as follows:

- **Mission Statement:** The mission of heARsight is to do the following:

- ✓ *Empower people who are deaf or hard of hearing (HOH) with innovative solutions to their problems:*
 - ✓ *Contribute to their clear speech comprehension and improved quality of life;*
 - ✓ *Produce a transcription application that seamlessly pairs with smart glasses that provide real-time subtitles in a heads-up display.*
- **Vision Statement:** heARsight will empower people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing to:
- ✓ *Feel more included in social settings;*
 - ✓ *Pursue new career opportunities and/or return to former careers lost;*
 - ✓ *Strengthen and maintain relationships;*
 - ✓ *Navigate life with enhanced confidence and independence.*
- **Their Objectives:** The specific objectives of heARsight are three-fold:
- ✓ *To ensure precise, reliable, trustworthy and dependable transcription of speech communication;*
 - ✓ *To offer comfort and convenience by selecting light weight and slim hardware;*
 - ✓ *To provide ease of use through simple learning to navigate and pair speech and captions in glasses.*
- **Other Types of Screen Transcriptions:** Other forms of screen captioning often have limitations such as:
- ✓ *Limited mobility*
 - ✓ *Difficulty of clear speaker identification, especially in groups*
 - ✓ *Disruption of flow of conversation or discussion*
 - ✓ *Limited engagement with speakers or other people*

How heARsight (AR) Works: Referring to his PowerPoint slides, Riley next described step-by-step how heARsight works:

- Create an account from their AR website & choose a trial option under the AR plan.
- Choose companion glasses on their site.
- Download heARsight, soon to be available.
- Pair the glasses & activate the AR application.

ActiveLook's Engo Glasses: Again directing us to the pictures on his PowerPoint slides, Riley proceeded to describe the Engo Glasses offered by ActiveLook that are compatible with their heARsight

captioning application. He pointed out some features of the Engo Glasses which make them particularly compatible with heARsight:

- ✚ Designed for “on the go” work and personal lifestyle.
- ✚ Wireless/no cords 12-hour battery life for all-day heads-up captioning.
- ✚ Crafted with light-weight materials for wearer’s comfort & convenience.

Membership Plan Options: Riley set out the membership plan options available through heARsight, as well as the costs and trial period for each one from which interested parties can choose. Riley went on to cite some of the details of a choice of either the monthly option or annual option under the single heARsight plan. He did note that the monthly option is more flexible, but the annual option is the best value in terms of costs and length of trial period. He urged interested folks to review specific costs and trial periods for each option, along with costs of Engo Glasses, on their website, while reminding us that costs and trial periods may change over time.

Progress, Early Access and Wait List: Riley explained that both heARsight and ActiveLook’s Engo Glasses are currently evolving and are in various stages of development and testing before launching of their unique captioning products. Nevertheless, Riley and his heARsight team members feel like they are making good progress toward full launching of heARsight and Engo Glasses. Meanwhile, they wish to offer an opportunity to enjoy a demonstration of their products and a possibility to join their wait list for participating in one of their trial tests by visiting their sites identified below:

- ❖ www.hearsight.net
- ❖ info@hearsight.net
- ❖ 1400 E. Angela Blvd., South Bend, IN 46617

Wrap-Up: Our guest speaker Riley Ellingsen supplemented his very interesting informative presentation on captioning in glasses by showing a video demonstration of how heARsight and Engo Glasses actually work together. He also followed up his presentation with an open-ended Q & A session where he responded to audience members’ many questions about a wide range of practical captioning issues, such as accuracy and readability of captions in various settings, along with hardware considerations of costs and trial periods for heARsight and Engo Glasses. Finally, Riley extended an invitation to anyone interested to contact him directly by email or phone for further information or questions about heARsight and Engo Glasses.

For More Information and/or Questions: Email: riley@hearsight.net Call: (208) 819-8659

~ Kathy Fairbanks

DO YOU KNOW?

We received an inquiry on our website "looking for someone who knows if there is anyone working on remediation of hearing loss for specific chromatic pitches in the Western musical scale frequencies." If you have suggestions, please send to info@HearingLossEB.org. Thank you.

GET READY! WALK4HEARING IS COMING! SIGN UP NOW!
OUR WALK4HEARING MANAGER: CONNIE GEE, cbgee2014@yahoo.com
Join our team: HLAA East Bay Chapter
Look for us at walk4hearing.org



Together, we're bringing hope to hearing loss.



Bay Area Walk4Hearing

Sunday May 19, 2024

**📍 Robert W. Crown Memorial
State Beach**

8th Street, Otis Drive
Alameda, CA

9:00 am - Registration
10:30 am - Stage presentation
10:45 am - Walk begins



**Scan to Register today
or visit walk4hearing.org**

👤 Walk Manager: Ronnie Adler

✉ radler@hearingloss.org

Are you Interested in participating in noise reduction hearing aid research?



As announced by Shariq Mobin in March's meeting, [Professor Hu](#) at the University of the Pacific in San Francisco is running a pilot study and looking for participants. The study will test the benefits of different AI hearing aids. It will take approximately one hour and you will be compensated with a target gift card for your time. The University is two blocks from the Powell Street BART station. If interested, please email thehumulab@gmail.com with the subject "Interest in OTC Pilot Study" and they will take it from there. See below for the inclusion criteria, and the official advertisement.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Over 18 years old
- Mild or Moderate hearing loss
- Bilateral hearing loss (have some hearing loss in both ears)
- No cochlear implants
- Have difficulty with noisy environments

OFFICIAL ADVERTISEMENT

Participants Needed Efficacy and Effectiveness of Over The Counter Hearing Devices

You are invited to participate in a research study at the University of the Pacific, Department of Audiology. If you are 18+ years old, think you have hearing loss and are interested in participating in research, please contact us!

The purpose of this research is see how an over the counter device can help people hear better. If you participate in this study, you will undergo a hearing screening (assessment for your hearing sensitivity), measurement of sound output of the hearing devices, speech comprehension assessments and satisfaction surveys.

Your participation in this study will last approximately 2 hours. Pending completion of the study, you may be entitled to a compensation rate of \$50 up to 2 hours for your participation.

Contact Dr. Hu at thehumulab@gmail.com

We need your help! Can you volunteer? Contact us at: info@hearinglosseb.org

Here is a list of volunteer positions we are seeking to fill:

- **Zoom Assistant** - Assist George Chin, Sr. to run Zoom, cameras, and PA/Audio Loop during in person/hybrid meetings.
- **Google Contacts Assistant**: Assist George Chin, Sr. to maintain our Google Contacts based email distribution information. Basic level Excel skills helpful.
- **Volunteer Coordinator**: Contact people who said they could volunteer and tell them about volunteer needs. Recruit for those positions.
- **Outreach Coordinator**: Organize a table for our chapter at various street fairs and other venues. Set up the table. Recruit volunteers to help with the events. Reach out to people who participate in our meetings. Let people know about our chapter.
- **Program Team**: Work with Robin Miller to contact potential speakers and arrange for them to speak at one of our meetings.
- **Just want to help?** All of our committees need helpers! All volunteers are welcome!

HLAA SF/East Bay Leaders

The chapter is run by a Steering Committee, Acting Leader: Len Bridges
Outreach, National Chapter Coordinator/Liaison: Linda Gee, linda.gee4@gmail.com
Treasurer: Len Bridges, lenbridges3993-hlaa@outlook.com
Programs: Robin Miller, robin@robinmillerlaw.com
Technology: George Chin, Sr., georgechinsr@gmail.com
Membership: Connie Gee, cbgee2014@yahoo.com; Marlene Muir, muircmc@comcast.net
Volunteer Coordinator: (need a volunteer)
Newsletter Editors: Nancy Asmundson, nasmundson@comcast.net; Kathy Fairbanks, mkathyfairbanks@att.net
Publicity: Marlene Muir, muircmc@comcast.net; George Chin, Sr., georgechinsr@gmail.com
Technical/Audio Loop: Peter G. Townsend, peterg.townsend@gmail.com
Website updates: George Chin, Sr., georgechinsr@gmail.com; Peter G. Townsend, peterg.townsend@gmail.com2

JOIN HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (HLAA) – THEY ADVOCATE FOR YOU!

hearingloss.org Membership is now open to all of our valued supporters who help fuel our mission and change the lives of people with hearing loss. **Everyone who gives is now an HLAA member, helping to amplify our HLAA voice, and fulfill our important mission— together!**

COST OF MEMBERSHIP: The HLAA national office had consolidated the donation and membership processes. Presently, anyone who donates as little as \$1 would become a member of the national HLAA. Additionally, with a donation of \$45 annually, individuals have the option to receive a hard copy of the Hearing Life magazine from the national office.

Go to this URL to donate: [Donate Today - Hearing Loss Association of America](#)