

Fall 2024



Monthly Chapter Meeting

1st Monday of the month at 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Except June, July & August; on holidays, meets 2nd Monday

Veterans Memorial Senior Center
1455 Madison Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94061
One block from Jefferson Avenue and Valota Road

Register to attend meetings. If you don't get an email a week before, contact membership@hearinglosspen.org. A registration link will be sent to you where you'll provide your name and address, and then a link to the meeting will be sent to you.

Presentations (UPDATED 9/13/2024)

September 9 – VIRTUAL (Zoom)
“The Latest Updates on Cochlear Implant Technology”

Dr. Blevins, Stanford Medicine, Division of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

October 7 – VIRTUAL (Zoom)
“Hearing Loss affects us and those we talk with. Learn the challenges and solutions to help us communicate.”

Pat Dobbs, Life Coach for people with hearing loss, educator, author, blogger

November 4 - VIRTUAL (Zoom)
“The Latest Research on Appreciating Music with Hearing Loss”
Isaac Alter, M.D. Candidate, Columbia University

December 2 – IN PERSON
Holiday Party

Special Meetings

Saturday Connections
2nd Saturday of the month,
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
except June, July, August, December
(Meeting online until further notice)

Meniere's
2nd Friday of the month
12 noon-1:00 p.m.
(Meeting online until further notice)

Please contact us if you are interested in attending any of our meetings. We'll put you on the roster for the next meeting. You'll then receive an invitation and a link to attend.

info@hearinglosspen.org

Our mission is to support, educate and advocate for persons with hearing loss.



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Suite 100
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-854-1980

496 First Street, Suite 120
Los Altos, CA 94022
650-941-0664

www.pacifichearingsservice.com

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Bob Hall



There are changes, some temporary, coming to our monthly chapter meetings.

First, is that we want to try to have a successful hybrid meeting. Second, is that the construction of our new home near the Veterans Memorial Senior Center, is still unfinished and the Gold Star Room there is not capable of supporting the electronics needed for the hybrid meeting. The new building has been reported to be completed by December 2024 or after.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the Redwood City Main Library, in the second floor Community Room. This room is looped. The address is 1044 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City, CA. We expect the meeting will be a hybrid meeting with participants being able to choose to come the library in person or connect on zoom. The library parking lot charges for parking. Be sure to note the number of your parking spot and feed the meter near the library building \$1.

The speaker will be **Nikolas Blevins, MD** – the head of Stanford’s Otology program that includes the Cochlear Implant Center. Dr. Blevins is knowledgeable about medical treatments and current research for hearing loss.

The meeting the following month is on October 7th and is also scheduled for the second floor Community Room of the Redwood City Library. See the meeting schedule at the front of this newsletter for the name and subject of the speaker. This too, will be a planned hybrid meeting.

We were unable to get our Chapter meeting time (first Monday of the month), at the Library for November. We will advise everyone later about the plans for a November meeting, probably after the August Board Meeting.

We will update our plans by the chapter email if there are any changes.

Bob Hall, Co-President
(7/31/2024)

CHAPTER NEWS – Scholarship Report for 2024 Awards by Kate Szentkuti



Our Committee is comprised of Bob Hall, Eliot Terborgh, Bonnie Neylan, our newcomer Jim Lang and me. Our past Chairperson Raegene Castle has been incredibly supportive, single handedly raising money for us to hand out. Thank you Raegene and Jack!

We had more than the usual challenges this year, first getting the word out to the San Mateo County High Schools. Then, communicating with our five original applicants. Quite ironic that some hard of hearing folks have trouble connecting! Two of the original applicants dropped out; a third decided to take a gap year. Keep in mind that this age group lost most of their high school experience to the Pandemic. It was a rough time for all of them.

We awarded two scholarships at the picnic. LJefferson (pronounced Jefferson) is going to Foothill College. He is the first in his family to attend college. He received an award of \$1,000 with an invitation to come back for further support. The Junior colleges are not charging tuition, so we took that into account.

Our second award is going to Julieta. She is going to Cal State University, East Bay. She plans on a nursing career. Her award is \$2,000.

One thing that these two very different individuals have in common is supportive family members. LJefferson told of how his mother went to bat for him in the schools. Julieta told us that when she was born deaf, her parents moved to this country to make sure that she got the help she needed. This is a proud day for both sets of parents.

The Chapter has been supportive of our efforts and we appreciate that. If you wish to donate specifically to the Scholarship Fund, please indicate that on your contribution. If you have expertise or interest in grant writing, we'd love to hear from you!

CHAPTER NEWS – July Picnic held at the beautiful Elks Lodge, Redwood City



Bob, Ken, Sister Ann, Kate, Sally, Jim, Jaynie, Eliot, Bonnie



Sally and Miriam Sister Ann and Bob



Eliot Jim

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CHAPTER NEWS - July Picnic (continued from page 4)



Ken and Bonnie

Bob and Bob



Lleferson, Kate, Eliot

Julieta, Kate, Eliot



Bonnie's Beans

(She brings these to the picnic every year and people always ask for her recipe. She graciously agreed to share it. Lucky us!)

Calico Beans

1 can kidney beans, 1 can buttered beans, 1 can pork & beans, 1 can black beans, 1 can great northern beans, 1 cup brown sugar, 1/2 Cup vinegar, 1 tbsp prepared mustard, 2 slices of cooked bacon, or a scoop of the bacon that Costco has in a bag.

Simply combine all and heat in oven at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes or more.

This is from a cookbook from my Husband's Hometown Church in Iowa. In 1976.

CHAPTER NEWS – What I Enjoyed About This Year’s Convention



Sister Ann Rooney:

I was very impressed with the award assembly, which was held the last night of the convention. I especially liked hearing from the Parent Involvement Award recipient, Maureen Evans.

I met this mother at the convention two years ago when she came with her sister, Kelly, who was there again this time as well, to provide support. Both of them had come because Maureen’s young daughter, Abby, had a speech problem and she wanted to know more about hearing aids. Her family was very supportive of this.

Upon arriving home, Maureen immediately made an appointment with an Audiologist for her daughter. Within a few months, her daughter approached her mom again and said her hearing aids were "not working, not working". The mother immediately made an appointment with a Cochlear Implant Specialist and Abby had cochlear implant surgery for both ears, which were successful. She is now four years old, very verbal and speaks well for her age.

At the annual Walk4Hearing event, Maureen had a list of 141 participants for the Walk and two hundred showed up. Normally you are lucky to get 20-40 people. Kelly did a video of one of Abby’s brothers and asked, “What do you think of your sister?” and he replied “Oh, she’s fine, God made her as she is.”

Maureen switched from teaching elementary school to high school, and also applied to a disability school nearby. In one of her classes, she had a boy that wore a hearing aid and was very shy. She quickly helped him and explained to his classmates how a hearing aid helps him to better understand speech.

Since pediatricians take care of kids, I wish they were told how HLAA can be a great resource for children with hearing loss. Through them, more parents would be aware of how HLAA can help them find support earlier for their kids.

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CHAPTER NEWS – What I Enjoyed About This Year’s Convention (continued from page 6)

Bob Crawford:

What I enjoyed the most about the convention is that you learn how many products are available to you with hearing loss. As I am approved for a cochlear implant, I wanted to see what was available for me.

All of the sessions that I attended were very informative, and one of them was whether I need to have implants at this time. The last convention that I attended was six years ago and it was amazing how much has changed in technology. I am glad that I went.

Ken Peters:

I recently attended the HLAA annual convention held 6/26-29 in Phoenix. I had a wonderful time learning about new technology, leadership skills as well as meeting other attendees and members of the national Board of Directors and supportive staff.

I attended several informative workshops including 1. Chapter Leader Training 2. Advocacy for hearing aid coverage at the state and national levels 3. Embracing Auracast (new Blue Tooth Accessibility) 4. Research on Treatment for Sensorineural Hearing Loss 5. Promotion of Hearing Loops and 6. Assistive Technology and Communication Access. The General Session was an excellent research symposium on “The Emotional Side of Hearing Loss”.

I especially enjoyed meeting HLAA’s Executive Director Barbara Kelley, Chapter Engagement Manager, Melissa Krause and Chair of the Board, Michael Mayer. I also very much enjoyed attending our State of California social get together where I met other California members.

I highly recommend attending the 2025 convention which will be 6/12-14 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

CHAPTER NEWS – Tidbits from our members who want to share.



"Our chapter's participation in the Bay Area Walk4Hearing"

I want to thank ALL of you and your friends, family, and donors who made our recent Bay Area Walk4Hearing in Alameda on May 19th such a success. The Walk raised a total of \$43,760 and had 167 registered participants and 17 teams! This was our third year to have the Walk in Alameda across the Bay (previously they were held in San Francisco's Crissy Field) and each year we are having more participants at the Walk and more money raised for our National HLAA and our local chapters.

YOU, our chapter members, stepped up big-time, making generous donations and reaching out to family, friends, and businesses to raise \$4,435 for the Peninsula Chapter team. Additionally, our chapter sponsored the Walk with \$1500 from our treasury and one of our members sponsored from her business with another \$3000!! That brought the total donated through our chapter to \$8935. AWESOME! Sponsors' donations go directly to National and chapter donations receive 40% back to the chapter, helping both our national organization and our local chapters.

As attendance at the Walk has been increasing, we are hoping to see more of you next year attending the Walk in Alameda. It is truly a beautiful location at Robert Crown Memorial Park, and the short Walk alongside the beach of San Francisco Bay is breath-taking.

Gratefully, Sally

Ken Peters has written his impressions of the recent Walk. See it below.
Thanks, Ken.

Walk4Hearing Report by Ken Peters

On May 19, I participated in the Bay Area HLAA Walk4Hearing. We were blessed with beautiful weather in Alameda as we walked along the Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach. I was able to reach my fund-raising goal and served as the monitor for Registration as I worked with several very efficient audiology students. I was very impressed with the Senior Manager for Walk4Hearing, Ronnie Adler. She was very organized and seemed to have the tables and booths set up within minutes and directed the event very efficiently. All the participants seemed happy to participate in this important fund-raising event.

THANK YOU!

We want to thank the following donors who gave to our chapter or national organization since the last newsletter, above and beyond membership dues. Your donations have helped pay for our captioning, student scholarships, refreshments, convention scholarships, brochures, assistive listening demo devices.

Danford Fisher Hannig Foundation (Scholarships)
Easter Cross Association (Scholarships)
Eliot Terborgh (Scholarships)
Bruna Gasparini Trust (Scholarships)

If we have missed someone, please let us know as we want to acknowledge each of you.



Whether you would like to donate to our chapter directly or have your family or friends donate instead of giving you a present, please make checks payable to HLAA-Peninsula Chapter and mail it to:

If it's an occasion, please tell Eliot, our chapter treasurer, if it's a Birthday, In Memory Of, Congratulations, etc.
and to whom to send the acknowledgement.

Eliot Terborgh
57 Parkwood Drive
Atherton, CA 94027

(We are a nonprofit 501c(3) organization and all donations to our chapter are tax deductible.)

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA!

HLAA ADVOCATES FOR YOU!

HLAA has started a new membership policy. To become a member or renew your membership, you now only need to make a donation of \$1.00/year or as much as you feel led to donate. If you want a hard copy of the HLAA magazine, "Hearing Life," the cost is \$45/year, sent to you by the national office. Otherwise, it is available free online at hearingloss.org/hearing-life-issues. One rationale for this change in policy is that there have been two groups supporting HLAA: members and donors who are not members. This policy combining the two groups better represents our actual number of supporters. If you are a current member, you do not need to renew your membership until 2025 (although all donations are welcome). To join/renew, go to www.hearingloss.org/membership or call 301-657-2248. Please remember to say you are with Peninsula Chapter.

CHAPTER NEWS – More Tidbits from our members who want to share.

Do you have hearing aids you no longer need?

What about donating them directly to Pacific Hearing Connection? They take hearing aids, refurbish them, and fit them to those who qualify for their program.

The primary locations where their patients reside are in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

In addition, Pacific Hearing Connection has developed their Circle of Giving model. As part of “payment” for hearing aids and services, patients who are seen by Pacific Hearing Connection, give back to their community by volunteering. Here’s the link in case you’d like to check it out:

<https://www.pacifichearingconnection.org/>



Hi,

I’m Lloyd May, an accessibility researcher at Stanford University. I am conducting a research study into strategies to improve the music listening experience for people with Single-Sided Deafness. That is, for people who experience severe to profound hearing impairment on one side, and have no major hearing impairments on the other side.

The study involves:

- A 15-30 minute online survey
- A 1-hour online interview

As a thank you for your time, you’ll receive a \$30 electronic gift card for your time.

If you are interested, please complete the first survey:

https://stanforduniversity.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8eKfC0SHsLg58bA

If you have any questions at all, please contact Lloyd May at lloydmay@stanford.edu

Thanks for your time.

Cheers,

Lloyd May *He/Him*

Music Technology Ph.D. Candidate, CCRMA, Stanford University

lloydmay.net

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Contact : Email: info@hearinglosspen.org; Telephone: 650-365-4868

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. The National support network includes the Maryland office, 14 state organizations, and 200 local chapters. Hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome. You do not have to hide your hearing loss. You do not have to face hearing loss alone.

Resources:

Hearing Loss Association of America-Peninsula Chapter:

<http://www.hearinglossca.org/Chapters/peninsula-chapter>

Hearing Loss Association of America: www.hearingloss.org

Hearing Loss Association of California: <http://www.hearinglossca.org>

Hearing Aid Reviews, Audiologists, etc. <https://www.hearingtracker.com>

CTAP and CRS (telephone access): <https://ddtp.cpuc.ca.gov>

Young Adults Social Network 18-35: https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/communities/students_youngadults/

American Tinnitus Association: www.ata.org

Hearing loops: www.hearingloop.org

To find and add venues that offer ALDs and Loops: www.ALDDocator.com

To find and install loops: www.loopamerica.com

Quick statistics about Hearing: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/quick-statistics-hearing>

Speech Recognition Test: <https://appsprod.ad.rit.edu/NSRT/>