BRINGING LIGHT TO A LONG DARK TUNNEL

By Mary Frintner, Au.D, FAAA
Hearing Resource Center, Glendale and La Canada

When my husband and I went through the process of adopting our first child we knew no one else who was going through the adoptive process. We felt isolated and alone for a long 16 months while we waited for "the call" that told us we had a daughter.

When we went through the process the second time we quite by chance found a support group for people waiting to adopt. We not only found support and comfort, but we found life long friends and tremendous knowledge. I describe the process as walking through a long dark tunnel. You can do it without any light. It will take you awhile, it is cold and dark, and you will never know what is in that tunnel with you. Or you can do it with the light a support group gives, find that the tunnel is not so cold, that there are others in the tunnel with you, and that the tunnel walls are covered with beautiful drawings. Without the light, you may decide it is too scary or lose your way. With the light, you will find that it is a wonderful journey you are taking with others.

A little over two years ago, I started my own Audiology private practice. After about 6 months I realized that I was taking my hearing aid patients on a trip through that long dark tunnel. Then it dawned on me that I could give them the light that my husband and I found during our adoptive process. I could introduce them to SHHH. For only a $25 membership fee, I could give them the information, support and friendship that would bring them successfully through the long dark tunnel.

Every Audiologist has a plan for their hearing aid delivery appointment. Make sure the hearing aid fits in the patient's ear. Make sure the patient understands how to change the batteries. Make sure the patient can insert and remove the hearing aid independently. Make sure the patient understands how to take care of the hearing aid. Some Audiologist even buy things like dri-aid kits, air blowers, and cleaning cloths to give to their patients to take care of their hearing aids. You will notice that we are very focused on the hearing aid. Oh sure, many audiologists take a few moments to talk to their patients about getting the most out of their hearing aid. However, this is often only if time remains in the appointment. At some point we have to turn our attention to the patient and away from the instrument. By adding a membership to SHHH to the hearing aid delivery, the Audiologist can give their patients information about being a successful hearing aid user even when time will not allow them to personally give it to them. It is the light in the long, dark tunnel.

What does that SHHH membership bring to each patient--a newsletter, The SHHH Californian, to inform the patient of local news, local chapter gatherings and events, and information on legislation that affects all people with hearing loss. It brings the SHHH Hearing Loss magazine. This magazine gives the patient national even sometimes world news about hearing loss. Personal stories about a hearing loss triumph make the patient feel they are not alone and that they can succeed. Questions that the patient may not have asked their Audiologist can be answered through reading the magazine. And if the patient feels isolated and alone they can go to one of the local SHHH meetings and find many others to share the experience. At the State and National SHHH Conventions, the patient can meet hundreds of hard of hearing people and see assistive listening technology in action. SHHH membership seemed to me to be worth much more than the $25 I was investing. This was my long term investment in the success of my patients.

So I am asking all Audiologists to invest in the success of their patients. I am asking all Audiologists to add SHHH memberships to their hearing aid delivery procedure so that patients can continue to find support and information about hearing loss even when they are not with the Audiologist. It will be a wonderful feeling when the patient comes back to your office for a follow-up and they Thank You over and over for their SHHH membership.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TERRY PORTIS, SAYS
Do You Know Someone Who Needs Us? Give a Gift of SHHH Membership

Two weeks ago I gave my first gift membership to SHHH to my father who has recently started wearing hearing aids and is learning to live with the challenge of hearing loss. So, I would like to encourage everyone to think about your own friends and family and see if anyone would benefit from receiving a gift membership. It is an easy and inexpensive way to make a difference in someone's life. Make your gift at www.shhh.org/Memb/app.cfm
THE EVELYN GLENNIE NATIONAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP
Deadline July 2003

The Children’s Hearing Institute has announced the 2003 Evelyn Glennie National Music Scholarship Award competition, designed to encourage the pursuit of instrumental music among children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Three scholarships of $1,000 each will be awarded for beginning, intermediate, and advanced level skills.

Applicants must have a hearing loss of 75 DB or greater in the better ear, be in grades k – 11, have hearing loss onset at age 3 or earlier, demonstrate active involvement and/or interest in an instrumental music program and be citizens of the United States.

Scholarship applications and further information can be requested from:
Ms. Melissa A. Willis, chimelissa@aol.com.
The Children’s Hearing Institute
210 East 64th Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10021
212-605-3794

Applications may be downloaded from the Evelyn Glennie website at www.evelyn.co.uk

Entries will be judged by a panel of musicians and professionals working in the field of deafness. Selection of the finalists will be made by Glennie, an internationally renowned concert performer and believed to be the first full-time solo percussionist in the world. Deaf since the age of eight, Glennie gives more than 100 performances in more than 20 countries per year, has won numerous awards including a Grammy and the Queen’s Commendation Prize for all-round excellence. She also became an Officer of the British Empire in 1993.

AWARDS AT ATLANTA SHHH CONVENTION
Deadline April 10, 2003

It’s that time of year again to nominate people for their outstanding achievements. Do you know of any deserving individuals who might qualify for an Award?

The following awards will be presented at the Atlanta Convention 2003 Awards Reception: The Spirit of SHHH, Outreach, Employment, Outstanding Employer Search, Education, Advocacy, National Program Support, Professional Advisory Support, Newsletter (chapter and state), Website (chapter and state).

Applications and detailed information are available at the www.shhh.org Home Page. Click on 2003 Convention Awards. Criteria for judging are described for each category. Please use the Award application cover sheets provided

Good Luck!

STATE BOARD ELECTION

Bob Rennie and Richard Brown are retiring from the Board. We thank them for all their hard work.

The newly elected Board members are Jayna Altman, San Diego Youth Chapter, and Marilyn Finn, Diablo Valley Chapter. Grace Tiessen, San Fernando Valley Chapter, was reelected.

The Bylaws, Section 6.05 - Terms of Office, have been changed to read that:

Officers shall hold office for a term of one year. No officer shall serve more than four consecutive full terms in the same capacity.

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And More!
WELCOME TO HOLLAND

by Emily Perl Kingsley. ©1987 by Emily Perl Kingsley. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of the author.

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability - to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this......

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip - to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

"Holland??" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy."

But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place.

So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills...and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away... because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss.

But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ... about Holland.

HOPE FOR HEARING GIVES $5000 FOR HEARING AIDS

William and Julie Sivley's seven month old daughter Hannah was just recently diagnosed with a moderate bilateral high frequency hearing loss and is in need of hearing aids immediately. Her UCLA audiologist has prescribed aids which will cost $5,830, but Hannah's father is a state employee whose Blue Cross plan only covers $1,000 every 36 months. What shall they do? Hope for Hearing, www.hopeforhearing.com, saved the day by offering to pay up to $5,000 for Hannah's hearing aids!!!

SPRINT - FREE LONG DISTANCE

Sprint CRS announces that their free long distance offer has been extended for another year -- to October 1, 2003. Just dial one of these Sprint CRS numbers and talk long distance free.

See www.sprint-crs.com

TTY 1-877-735-2929
Voice 1-888-877-5379
ASCII 1-888-877-5380
Spanish 1-888-877-5381 (translation provided)
VCO Direct Line 1-877-877-8859

SIGN UP FOR SHHHNews

Please sign up for the online SHHHNews. It comes out twice a month and is full of news that you can use in your newsletters, ideas for getting new members, and just in general lets you know what is going on.

To subscribe, go to www.shhh.org. Go to the bottom of the Home page, enter your email address and click on Join.

PROMISE YOURSELF

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile. To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own. To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
Hello Everyone,

Californians, are you going to attend the 18th International SHHH Convention Thursday, June 26 through Sunday, June 29 in Atlanta, Georgia? I am. I have been to every convention except the first one, and I wouldn’t miss one for the world.

So mark your calendars for Hearing Sounds and Having Fun in Atlanta. Come make new friends, renew old friendships, share stories and learn new skills.

What I like best about the SHHH Conventions is that they are a showcase of assistive technology. Assistive listening devices and real time captioning are provided in workshops, large meetings, the banquet, small business meetings. I don’t have to rush to get there early to get a seat up front. With assistive listening devices I can hear from every seat. I can walk in late to the banquet, sit in the back of the room and hear. And what a joy to talk to all those wonderful hard of hearing people who know your problems, who know to face you, to speak a little louder, to speak a little slower.

Please come to our fully communications accessible Convention. Come say hello to me in Atlanta.

I want to thank the behind-the-scenes people who help with the newsletter and the website. Colette Noble and Mary Frintner wrote articles for this newsletter.

Raymond Blue of Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter, is the layout person for The SHHH Californian newsletter. He takes the text, formats it into the newsletter using Publisher software, and then puts it on disk.

Toni Barrient at SHHH in Bethesda works on the mailing list database, keeping the database current, maintaining it, and emailing it directly to Licher Direct Mail.

Wayne Licher at Licher Direct Mail takes the disk from Raymond and the mailing list from Toni and prints, folds, collates inserts, tabs, labels, sorts for bulk mail, ties and mails the newsletters at the Main Post Office in Pasadena.

Cheri Lee at HEAR Center is the web designer for www.shhca.org. She takes the text and formats it into our website, using Dreamweaver software.

Dmitri Bovaird, my son-in-law, takes care of my computer when it crashes or gets a virus.

Thank you all for your hard work and continuing support and cooperation.

Be a person who gives to the community from the heart. Spend a few hours a month with a Hard of Hearing child, doing things you enjoy and do. Become a mentor! Men and women needed!

Contact: Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program

(213)251-7760 TTY
(213)251-9800 Voice
(213)251-9855 FAX
Info@catholicbigbrothers.org

Catholic Big Brothers, Big Sisters serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and volunteers of all faiths since 1982.

A TRUE FRIEND OF SHHH

Kaiser Permanente

Thank you, Kaiser Permanente, for your Community Grant of $5,000 to support our newsletter, and for working to make your HMO communications accessible to hard of hearing people.

Three Anonymous
Gertrude Barab
Ethen Barkell
Alan Beggs
Gertrude Byrd
Kit Case
Raegene Castle
Nancy Chubbs
Jean Collop
Betty Coombs
Galen Fisher
Fred Fletcher
Elizabeth Furber
Catherine Gaspar
Stanley Goldman
Dorothy Heinecke
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Don Senger
Eleanor Staretz
John Taylor
Lana Tinsman
Peter Townsend
Doris Traber
Gail & Mark Turner
Hiram Van Blarigan
Stuart Watson
Sally Wood

In Memoriam
Bernardine Halbert for Myron “Mike” Halbert

Audiologists: Help your hard of hearing clients become informed consumers. Please consider giving a one year membership to SHHH National to every hearing aid purchaser. (See Page 11). For this, they will receive 6 issues of the Hearing Loss magazine and 4 issues of this newsletter, The SHHH Californian.
The California Public Schools are unprepared to provide services to the cochlear implanted children who are beginning to come into the system.

In a case taken on by AG Bell’s Educational Advocacy Initiative a California judge ordered Foothill Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) to pay for services given by Oralingua, a private school. This SELPA is a group of public schools in the Pasadena/Glendale area. To read the case, see www.agbell.org.

This was a case of a cochlear implanted girl whose parents wanted her to have an Auditory-Verbal program of communication. Under this type of program, a cochlear implanted child is taught to communicate by interpreting sounds and speaking. Other types of communication such as sign language, visual cues, and pictures are avoided and the child’s environment is made language rich.

The parents found it impossible to get the services needed from the public schools, so they paid for private Auditory-Verbal therapy and part time enrollment in Oralingua, a private school.

The issue to be decided in this fair hearing was whether the Foothill SELPA offered the parents appropriate early intervention services The court found for the parents and ordered Foothill SELPA to pay for the child’s participation in the Oralingua school.

Lack of auditory-oral or Auditory-Verbal language options is a growing problem in California education. Public school teachers and therapists presently favor visual language options such as Total Communication and sign language. They tend to emphasize speech rather than listening and provide visual cues rather than stressing listening skills. They are not knowledgeable enough about cochlear implants to be able to create and implement an appropriate program for children with CIs. They lack the skills and experience to monitor the CI or to fix any problems that may arise.

Under ideal circumstances--early detection, informed, involved and assertive parents, immediate intervention and choice of an auditory-oral or Auditory-Verbal language option AND due to recent technology--digital hearing aids, cochlear implants, captioning, assistive listening devices, amplified telephones, California Relay Service, web sites and the fact that testing of all newborns may soon be a reality--most deaf or hard of hearing infants can be of the hearing world, no matter what the degree of hearing loss.

Ninety percent of deaf/hard-of-hearing babies/children have hearing parents. These hearing parents want oral language options such as auditory-oral and Auditory-Verbal, and these parents want a child who can function in the hearing world.

What can be done? The California Teacher Credentialing requirements need to be changed to address the specific needs of Cochlear Implanted and Hard of Hearing Children. Teachers of the D/Hoh trained in the California Public Universities are largely trained to teach deaf children. Little or no coursework is required to learn how to teach hard of hearing or cochlear implanted children. Few courses are given in the uses of Assistive Listening Technology.

Universities settle suit brought by hearing-impaired students

UC Davis and UC Berkeley will improve services. Five plaintiffs will get $10,000 each.

Megan Conway, who has a severe hearing disability, remembers crying because of her inability to actively participate in graduate classes at UC Berkeley. An amplification device helped her hear the professors' lectures, but anything else said in the room was lost to her. She felt the university did not provide adequate assistance.

"It put me into tears many times," said Conway, now an assistant professor at the University of Hawaii's Center on Disability Studies. "It's very frustrating because you know it could be better, you know it could be different. It's like being in a glass box. You're watching all these other students participating, and you're an observer."

Conway, then known by her maiden name of Jones, is one of five current and former hearing disabled UC Berkeley and UC Davis students who filed a 1999 class-action lawsuit against the two universities. The students contended that the campuses had violated their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act by not providing reasonable help to deaf and hearing-impaired students.

Without admitting fault, the universities agreed in a recent court settlement to improve services for hearing-impaired and deaf students, to pay each of the five students in the suit $10,000, and to pay $1.1 million in lawyers’ fees.

"I think that the settlement and the services described in the policies are really going to be a model for other universities to follow in the provision of communication services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community," said Guy Wallace, an attorney for the students.

Under the settlement, the universities will provide additional listening devices for students' use and make sure all videos, films and DVDs used in classes with a deaf or hearing-impaired student have captions. They will also streamline how students get services, such as note taking, sign language interpreting and real time captioning for classes and other activities. About 10 hearing-impaired students are enrolled at the two campuses.

The settlement also deals with safety, increasing the number of public and emergency telephones on campus that deaf and hearing-impaired students will be able to use, and adding signs directing students to them.

Visibility in the Language

Hard of hearing people want to be visible in the language. When speaking about people with hearing loss, the language used should be deaf and hard of hearing, unless one is specifically talking about the culturally Deaf.

The main organization of California Public School Teachers is called CAL-ED, Educators of the Deaf. This organization needs to be more inclusive and be renamed CAL-ED, Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, to reflect the true background of the students they teach. There are far more hard of hearing students than deaf students.
NEW TECHNOLOGY CAPTEL PHONE

About Ultratec

Ultratec is the world's leading manufacturer of TTYs amplified phones, and other assistive equipment for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired. The company has been leading the field for more than 25 years, developing new technologies for TTYs, relay services, emergency service care providers, and public telephone facilities to ensure that telecommunications is accessible to everyone.

CapTel, developed by Ultratec, is currently under development in the consumer testing phase, and therefore is not yet available to the general public. By the end of 2003, CapTel will have trials running in 10 states. California expects to begin trials March 1, 2003.

How Does CapTel Work?

CapTel users place a call in the same way as dialing a traditional phone. As they dial, CapTel automatically connects to a captioning service. When the other party answers, the CapTel user hears everything they say, just like a traditional call. Behind the scenes, a specially-trained operator at the captioning service transcribes everything the other party says into written text, using the very latest in voice-recognition technology. The written text appears on a bright, easy to read display window built into the CapTel. The captions appear almost simultaneously with the spoken word, allowing CapTel users to understand everything that is said—either by hearing it or reading it.

What Equipment and Services Are Needed?

1) A Captioned Telephone (CapTel)
   A specialized telephone designed specifically to interact with the Captioning Service in order to display captions. It can also be used as a traditional amplified telephone, without the captions feature.

2) Captioning Service
   Sprint provides the captioning service, whose cost is covered by Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) funds as part of Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Benefits of CapTel

1) Calls are made in a natural manner. Simply dial the telephone number directly to the person you are calling.
2) Users enjoy natural telephone conversation and can check the captions for added clarity.
3) Everyone can use CapTel. Simply turn off the caption feature to use it as a traditional telephone.
4) CapTel includes an amplified handset and tone control for clarity.

See Ultratec's CapTel telephone at www.ultratec.com/info/CapTel.html

NEW TECHNOLOGY
CAPTIONED LIVE THEATRE

by Colette Noble, SHHH-CA Board of Trustees, cnoble@sonn.com

The American Music Theatre of San Jose, www.amtsj.com, has been making their performances accessible to visually impaired and deaf people for over 10 years. For the first time ever, in the 2002-2003 season, they will be adding open captioning services for deaf/hard-of-hearing patrons. For each show, there are two signed performances for the deaf, six audio described performances for the visually impaired and six open captioned performances for the hard of hearing.

Called the Live Theatre Captioning System by its inventors, Personal Captioning Systems, Inc., www.personalcaptioning.com, the system provides each patron with a small device which will scroll the dialog and song lyrics as they are spoken/sung on the stage. The device will also reflect sound effects, segue music, and other important aural characteristics of the show. The system is pre-programmed with the dialog and other direction, but is controlled real-time by an operator seated in the back of the theatre, which allows for natural pacing and timing issues that occur with live theatre.

Grace Tiessen, President of SHHH-CA, asked me to attend a performance of the Sound of Music at this theatre and check out the Personal Captioning System and the infrared system.

First I contacted Lorraine Gilmore, Director of Community Outreach and Education. I told her that I had been asked to check out the captioning system and write an article about it for The SHHH Californian. I mentioned that I would bring a hearing guest to make an evaluation of how well the system worked. She offered me two free tickets to the show.

On the night of the performance we came across a kiosk where I got a Sennheiser infrared (IR) receiver. Luckily I was able to get one with a loop so that it could interface with my AVR hearing aids as the normal built-in headset receivers do not work for me.

The usher gave us information on the IR system, saying that the music did not come through the headset system, only the voices from the stage. This was disappointing since when using the T-Coil setting I am restricted to hearing only what comes through the T-Coil, and cannot hear any sounds through the AVR’s built-in microphones. During the performance I was amazed at the clarity of the IR system and was able to hear the singer’s voices very clearly. I tried to listen to the performance with only my hearing aids to see if I could hear the music and understand the words, but I could not.

The captioning unit was already placed in front of our seats. The stand it was mounted on had been placed directly in our line of sight, and we were able to bend the pole into an S shape. This allowed us to move it into a position where the device was below the stage visually, and made it more like captioned television where both the stage and the captioning were visible at the same time.

My guest and I had problems with our vision when switching between the stage and the captioning screen, the screen being bright had an affect akin to walking from a dark room into the sunny outdoors.

(Continued on page 8)
SHHH’s 18th Annual International Convention, June 2003

Mark your calendars for Hearing Sounds and Having Fun in Atlanta, the Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) 2003 18th Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, starting Thursday, June 26 through Sunday, June 29. More than 1,000 people with hearing loss, parents of children who have a hearing loss, exhibitors, hearing care specialists, and other professionals who work in the field of hearing loss are expected to attend.

Heather Whitestone McCallum, Miss America 1995 and recent Nucleus 24 Contour™ cochlear implant recipient, will kick off the Convention with a keynote address and will meet and greet attendees at the reception following the Opening Session.

Other exciting Convention events include:

Research Symposium
Cochlear Implant Research: Past and Present, a Research Symposium moderated by Paul Hammerschlag, MD, FACS (Clinical Associate Professor at the New York University School of Medicine) with presentations by seven experts in the field who will discuss cochlear implant candidacy; the impact of cochlear implants on cognitive, behavioral, and social development; and the future of cochlear implant technology. (Sunday, June 29)

Workshops
Dozens of workshops and training sessions on topics such as advocacy, coping strategies, and hearing technology.

Social Gatherings
Social gatherings such as the Get Acquainted Party, Banquet, Awards Ceremony, and Receptions where attendees can get together with old and new friends.

And a Big Fat Greek Party!!
will be held June 27 from 7:30 till 11:30 p.m. The cost is only $42 and listen to what you get: Music by the Greek Islanders (a live band), free wine, free transportation, and an all you can eat buffet!!! This buffet will include: Pastitsio (Greek version of lasagna), kabob (beef on skewer and marinated), Greek style chicken, Greek style potatoes, Spinach pice (spinach baked with olive oil, feta and topped with filo. Greek salad with feta, Greek bread, Melomacarouna, Kourabiedes, Baklava, and more!

Raffle
Fun and fabulous raffle drawings in the exhibit hall and at the Banquet.

Exhibit Hall
The Exhibit Hall where attendees can meet over 80 vendors exhibiting the latest innovative products, services, and technology at the nation's largest consumer trade show and convention for people with hearing loss.

Meet other Californians
Come meet your fellow Californians. Connect an email address to a friendly face. The meeting time and place will be posted on the bulletin board near the registration desk. Please come join us.

Tours
Here are some outstanding tours to plan on in and around Atlanta--the Atlanta Skyline, Presidential Pathways, Old South, Antebellum Trail, Atlanta’s World Class Attractions, Gone with the Wind and a side trip to Chattanooga. Prices range from $23 to $80, so there is something affordable for everyone!

Information and Registration
Visit the SHHH Web site often. Log onto www.shhh.org to check for updates on the convention and to download your registration form. Informational flyers, registration forms, hotel information and tours are posted as information becomes available. If you don’t have a computer, ask someone from your SHHH chapter who does to give you a registration form print out. If you register before April 26, the cost is only $235 - that’s a saving of $50 off the regular registration rate! After April 26, the cost will be $285.

Hotel Reservations
The Convention will be at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel, 255 Courtland St., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30303; Reservations: 1-800-774-1500; Local: 404-659-2000 Fax: 404-222-2967, www.Hilton.com. Hotel reservations are $99 a night for a single, a double, a triple or a quad, By sharing a room, you can stay for as little as $25 per night.

Air Travel
Delta Airlines is the “official airline” for the Convention in Atlanta. The telephone number is 800-242-6760 and the TTY number is 800-831-4488. When making reservations use the Special File Number194805-A. This number identifies our Convention.

A fully accessible convention
Assistive listening devices and realtime captioning will be provided at all meetings, Research Symposium, workshops, and the banquet. This convention is fully communications accessible everywhere. When will the real world become accessible to us?

See you in Atlanta!
When I discussed these issues with Gilmore, she said that she has been looking into better listening systems for the theater, ones where the music could come through as well as the voices. She also said that many people have told her that the captioning system affected their vision, but mentioned that it was less of a problem the second time they came to a show, as they had gotten used to it. Since the theater is owned and operated by the City of San Jose, she does not know what will happen in the future with the systems.

I really appreciated being able to try out the systems used in the theater and plan to contact Gilmore in the future about her investigation into new equipment, where both the voices and the music will be available to hard of hearing attendees.

Thank you, Lorraine Gilmore and American Music Theatre of San Jose.

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**TRIPOD CAPTIONED FILMS IS NOW INSIGHT CINEMA**

Tripod Captioned Films which brings open captioned films to theaters nationally is now its own 501c3 nonprofit with a new name, InSight Cinema.

See Nanci.Linke-Ellis@insightcinema.org or info@insightcinema.org or www.insightcinema.org.

Nanci Linke-Ellis, former Executive Director of Tripod Captioned Films, will continue her outreach and advocacy efforts under the new organizational umbrella and will be joined by David Keith, former Senior V.P., Sales Operations for New Line Cinema and founder of the David Keith Company and Mike Doban who spent ten years at United Artists before leaving to head up Trans Lux Cinema Consulting.

Open captioned films are the preferred method of captioning for hard of hearing people. We want to be able to go to the movies 7/24, but presently there are very few open captioned film showings. We hope that with InSight Cinema’s new high-powered lineup, that all new releases will be open captioned and available daily in the large movie complexes.

Hard of hearing people want to be able to go to the movies when everyone else does and not have to wait six months until closed captioned videos are available for rent.

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**DRF PURCHASES HEARING HEALTH MAGAZINE**

In November 2002, Paula Bonillas founder, editor and sole owner of Hearing Health, sold the publication to the Deafness Research Foundation (DRF), a long-time supporter of the magazine and a leader in the field of hearing health.

Founded in 1958, DRF is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., charged with a mission of making a lifetime of hearing health possible for all people through quality research, education and advocacy. In addition, DRF sponsors the National Campaign for Hearing Health.

Deciding to sell the magazine was not easy for Paula who has devoted the past 19 years of her life to serving people like herself who face the challenges of living with hearing loss. However, the decision was easier knowing that current and future readers will only benefit from DRF’s 45 years of commitment to improving hearing health.

Lorraine Short, long a member of the Hearing Health team, will provide continuity as she steps into the role of editor. Karyn Butts, DRF’s director of public education joins the editorial staff as assistant editor.

Hearing Health will continue to be a quarterly publication with the next issue appearing in March 2003. Readers will notice a few changes to design and content to reflect DRF’s mission for the magazine: to increase awareness of real-world applications of hearing research, technology and trends and to educate people about the effects of hearing loss on health and quality of life.


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**Captions Live Theatre**

(Continued from page 6)

There were two ASL interpreters spotlighted at the side of the stage, for the many deaf people in the audience. There were also many visually impaired and blind people in attendance, some with their seeing-eye dogs. I spotted about 10 of the captioning devices around the theater and saw several people who were using the IR system.

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**FREE COMPUTERS**

Deadline March 31, 2003

The Beaumont Foundation was established with funds generated by the settlement of a class action lawsuit. They are using unclaimed funds to promote their vision: to fulfill the promise of the Information Age by providing every American access to technology and the skills to use it.

They will be giving out almost $400 million in computer equipment starting in 2003. These computers will be Toshiba laptops. Persons with disabilities and those who are homebound because of disability or illness are especially encouraged to apply for these individual grants.

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CONTACT THESE DESKS WITH YOUR HEARING LOSS QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS!

Desks are volunteers with expertise in subjects that interest hard of hearing people. They will answer your questions, give advice or just lend an ear, depending on your specific needs. Why not contact a Desk right now and just see how she or he can “make your day!”

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LILS- Locations with Installed Listening Systems (customized lists available for $3)
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To find an SHHH group near you or to start a new SHHH group
Cindy Jagger, Leo Maggio
Barbara Tucker, Nick Nichols
See page 9 for address/phone

We welcome your suggestions or comments about the Desks Program. Please contact:
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Is some hard of hearing person you know feeling isolated and alone?
Give them the gift of an SHHH membership.
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Join SHHH. There is strength in numbers.
Please subscribe to this newsletter. It’s only $7.00 a year.

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Please make your check payable to SHHH-CA and mail to Grace Tiessen, 714 Prospect Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91103

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**TAKE CARE OF YOUR EARS.**

**THEY CONNECT YOU TO THE WORLD.**
Who We Are

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. is an international, non-sectarian, educational, consumer organization of hard of hearing people, their relatives and friends. It is devoted to the welfare and interests of those who cannot hear well but are committed to participating in the hearing world.

SHHH: www.shhh.org
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SHHH-CA, California State Association of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, is affiliated with the national organization headquartered in Bethesda, MD. Both are non-profit and tax-exempt. The SHHH-CA Tax ID number is 77-0033506 Anyone residing in California who has joined our national organization is a member of SHHH-CA.

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. is the largest consumer organization of hard of hearing people in the United States.

Our Mission Statement:
To open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

SHHH Web Pages Are For YOU!

SHHH-California: www.shhhca.org
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