

Spring 2011

THE HEARING LOSS CALIFORNIAN

Hearing Loss Association of California

LONG BEACH WALK4HEARING June 5, 2011 at Long Beach Marina Green Park

Here we go! The Walk this year is going to be different and easier for us. Ronnie Adler and Rebecca Lander from the national HLAA office will be the Walk Co-Chairs. On February 10 they held a meeting at the HEAR Center in Pasadena. A group of about 20 members responded to the challenge to prepare for a fun-filled, successful Walk4Hearing in Long Beach, California.

Chapters represented at the Thursday night meeting were Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley and Orange County. Ronnie rallied the group to raise lots of money, get the excitement going, and do everything we can to make this the best Walk ever!

All chapters are invited to join the Walk4Hearing! This is an easy way to get money for captioning or for other local programs and services, since Chapters get 40% of the money raised by their team(s).

This is so much easier for us. National takes care of all the permits, insurance, signing contracts, porta-potties, exhibitors, entertainment, Kickoff event and cleanup. Our job is to form teams, get the word out about the Walk, get lots of walkers registered and help raise money.

The Walk4Hearing, produced by The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), is the largest series of walks of its kind, held in the spring and fall in major cities throughout the U.S. Look how the Walk program has grown.

- 2006 Walk4Hearing, \$304K
- 2007 Walk4Hearing, \$611K
- 2008 Walk4Hearing, \$749K
- 2009 Walk4Hearing, \$1,017,000
- 2010 Walk4Hearing, \$1,035,000
- 2011 Walk4Hearing goal, \$1,200,000



In 2010 the Walk4Hearing was held in 18 cities, raised more than \$1 million and had over 6,000 people step up for those with hearing loss. This year the Walk4Hearing will be held in 23 cities across the country. We have a fundraising goal of \$1.2 million and we NEED your help to reach it. Come out and step up for people with hearing loss at the Walk4Hearing at Long Beach Marina Green Park.

Why do we walk? We walk because **hearing**

loss is a public health issue that is third in line only to heart disease and arthritis. Hearing loss should be screened for just like blood pressure or diabetes. One in ten Americans has a hearing loss and yet only 20 percent receive the screening, technology and services they need.

- 17 percent of Americans have some degree of hearing loss
- One in five teens has hearing loss
- 58,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan return with hearing loss
- Among seniors, hearing loss is the third most prevalent, but treatable, condition after arthritis and hypertension
- Baby boomers who reach retirement age in 2010 are pushing the number even higher and are predicted to double it by 2030
- 30 school-aged children per 1,000 have a hearing loss

Now let's get started. **FIRST**, go to www.walk4hearing.org and start your teams as soon as possible. Online registration is easy... just follow the steps below:

1. Go to www.walk4hearing.org and click the link "Register" at the top of the page.
2. Select the Long Beach Walk4Hearing on the Register page.
3. Now you will be the Long Beach Walk page, select how you wish to register (Start a Team, Join a Team, or Walk as

- an Individual).
4. During the registration process you will be asked if you are a “Returning Walker” or “New Walker”.
 5. If you have previously participated in a Walk event before, then you are a “Returning Walker” and you can use the username and password from last year and click the Login button. If you have never participated in a Walk before, please select “New Walker”.
 6. Go through the registration process and you will notice that your contact information is already filled in if you selected “Returning Walker”, and you will not be asked to select a username and password since you will continue to use the same ones. If you are a “New Walker” please complete the contact information form.
 7. Complete your registration.
 8. On the “Thank You” page, click on the “Access My Walk Center” link.
 9. This will log you into your “Walk Center”, which you will notice has all the same fundraising tools and features but a brand new look and feel.
 10. If applicable, last year's address book and donation information should be available. In addition, don't forget to create or update your personal page with new content and dates.



Get your friends, family members and co-workers together and start a Walk team – it's time to step up for people with hearing loss. Instead of everyone walking for their respective chapters, it was suggested that people form their own smaller teams. This helps to raise more money as family members and other close associates will want to donate to “Team Mary Jane” rather than “Team Chapter”. The funds for each team will go to the chapter or association that is designated by that team captain.

People with a passion for hearing loss issues get involved for many reasons, either they have a hearing loss themselves or they want to show support for family members or someone they know with hearing loss. Parents of children with hearing loss walk as families and meet other parents along the way and share experiences. Company teams walk to build workplace camaraderie. Alliance groups such as schools for children who have hearing loss, hospitals, universities, and other non-profit hearing loss-related organizations, join the Walk4Hearing to raise money for their own projects.

SECOND, start getting donations! Help raise money for local programs and services for people with hearing loss such as

captioning, outreach, scholarships and assistive listening technology for your Chapter. Here is a basic breakdown of how the money is split up. National HLAA gets 50% of the gross, 10% goes to local walk expenses, and 40% goes to the local Chapters and designated Alliances. Or you can write a hard copy check made out to Walk4Hearing and mail it to our Treasurer: Danny Tubbs, 1200 Alameda Avenue, Glendale 91201, metromann@yahoo.com.

Kickoff Event.

This is a fun event for anyone who is interested in participating or getting more information about the Long Beach Walk. It is to get everyone motivated and fired up about fundraising and participating in the Walk. It will be at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 1431 Buena Vista Street, Duarte, CA 91010, on Sunday April 17th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. This is a FREE event for anyone who is interested in the Long Beach Walk. If you plan on attending, you MUST RSVP by April 8 to Rebecca Lander, at rlander@hearingloss.org.

Walk4Hearing

The 5K event will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2011, with registration starting at 9:00 a.m. and the Walk taking off at 10:00 a.m. Walkers will enjoy an approximately three mile stroll along the harbor with views of Shoreline Village, the Queen Mary in the distance and the huge sealife mural on the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific.

Driving Directions to Long Beach Marina Green Park

Keep in mind that you are going to “Shoreline Village.” Take the 710 south to the city of Long Beach. Go past the 405 (intersects the 710 from both north and south). Proceed on the 710 going south. When you get near Willow Street or PCH start bearing to the left lane where soon you will see an overhead sign that says "Aquarium", "Convention Center". Go past the 6th Street Exit, and keep to the right lane. This lane will take you right onto Shoreline Drive. Stay on Shoreline Drive (go past the Queen Mary exit). Turn right on to Shoreline Village Drive. The Walk4Hearing will be on your left at Marina Green Park.

Parking

The best place to park is at Shoreline Village, right across the street from the Walk start line. It is \$2.00 every 20 minutes, with an \$8.00 maximum. Shops and restaurants validate.

Metered parking

Is adjacent to the Marina Green start line. It has a two hour limit. You must repay every two hours. It is \$6.00 for 2 hours, 75 cents for 15 minutes. The meters take Master Card and Visa credit cards or exact change (one dollar bills or quarters).

Interested in volunteering or becoming more involved with the Walk4Hearing? Or have questions about the Long Beach Walk? Please contact Ronnie Adler or Rebecca Lander, Walk Co-Chairs, at radler@hearingloss.org or rlander@hearingloss.org.

Let's walk together in June as one to raise funds and awareness for people with hearing loss!



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MORE CAPTIONING Captioned Shakespeare Plays Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, OR

This is a first--to be able to see captioned Shakespeare plays. In Los Angeles at the Ahmanson Theatre, only musicals are captioned, but no plays.

Ashland Oregon is a great place to spend a vacation. Ashland is a pleasant small town of 20,000 inhabitants. Its main business is tourism and it welcomes you with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and charming bed and breakfasts to stay at. And Ashland is not too far--just 38 miles from Yreka, CA, 295 miles from Sacramento and 350 miles from San Francisco.

Ashland is well-known for its annual Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF), which brings thousands of visitors to the city every year. The festival has grown from a summer outdoor festival in the 1930s to a season which stretches from February to October, incorporating Shakespeare and non-Shakespearean plays in repertory at three theaters. OSF sells more tickets to more performances of more plays than any other theater in the country. In a typical year, OSF sells more than 350,000 tickets and attracts about 100,000 tourists.

The Oregon Shakespeare Theatre (OSF) in Ashland Oregon will present a number of captioned and sign interpreted performances this 2011 season and these will be **concentrated in a series of 3 and 4 day clusters making a trip to Ashland amenable to viewing a number of performances in one trip.** Access to OSF performances for those of us who are hard of hearing has been a focus of Oregon Communication Access Project (OR-CAP) and its sister organization, Wash-CAP, and OSF has done much to accommodate us.

OSF performs in three auditoriums: two **indoor**, Bowmer Theatre with 600 seats and New Theatre with 200-325 seats; and an **outdoor** theatre, Elizabethan Theatre with 1200 seats. OSF will be using portable LED reader-boards located to the side of the stage, and will reserve seats in one section of the theater from which the board is most easily read. They will offer a discount price of \$20.00.

As of this writing, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is sold out except for a few seats in the open captioned section of an added performance on Sunday evening, March 6th at 8:00. This highlights the fact that seat availability changes, and that it is important to specify that you need open captioned seating or sign interpreted seating.

To assure the best possible seating, it is strongly recommended that open-captioned tickets or sign-interpreted tickets be purchased directly through either the Access Coordinator or the Box Office. Please call the Box Office at 800-219-8161 or 541-482-4331, OTRS (711), ask for the OSF Box Office at 541-482-4331 or email boxoffice@osfashland.org. Please mention you need seats in the open-captioned section or the sign interpreted section.

The schedule for captioned performances is:

Mar. 31, 1:30 p.m. - *Measure for Measure*, Shakespeare
Apr. 1, 8:00 p.m. - *The Language Archive*, Julia Cho
Apr. 2, 1:30 p.m. - *The Imaginary Invalid*, Moliere

May 18, 8:00 p.m. - *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare
May 19, 1:30 p.m. - *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee
May 20, 8:00 p.m. - *The Imaginary Invalid*, Moliere
May 21, 1:00 p.m. - *August: Osage County*, Tracy Letts

Jul. 21, 8:30 p.m. - *The Pirates of Penzance*, Gilbert & Sullivan
Jul. 22, 1:30 p.m. - *Ghost Light*, Desi Moreno-Penson
Jul. 22, 8:30 p.m. - *Love's Labor's Lost*, Shakespeare
Jul. 23, 8:30 p.m. - *Henry IV, Part Two*, Shakespeare

Sept. 1, 8:00 p.m. - *Henry IV, Part Two*, Shakespeare
Sept. 2, 8:00 p.m. - *The Pirates of Penzance*, Gilbert & Sullivan
Sept. 3, 8:00 p.m. - *Love's Labor's Lost*, Shakespeare
Sept. 4, 1:30 p.m. - *The African Company Presents Richard III*

Oct. 18, 1:30 p.m. - *The African Company Presents Richard III*
Oct. 19, 1:30 p.m. - *Measure for Measure*, Shakespeare
Oct. 20, 8:00 p.m. - *Ghost Light*, Desi Moreno-Penson
Oct. 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare
Oct. 22, 8:00 p.m. - *August: Osage County*, Tracy Letts

The schedule for sign interpreted performances is:

May 27, 8:00 p.m. - *Measure for Measure*, Shakespeare
May 28, 8:00 p.m. - *August: Osage County*, Tracy Letts
May 29, 1:30 p.m. - *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee

Jul. 14, 8:30 p.m. - *The Pirates of Penzance*, Gilbert & Sullivan
Jul. 15, 8:30 p.m. - *Love's Labor's Lost*, Shakespeare
Jul. 16, 8:30 p.m. - *Henry IV, Part Two*, Shakespeare

Oct. 14, 8:00 p.m. - *The African Company Presents Richard III*
Oct. 15, 8:00 p.m. - *The Imaginary Invalid*, Moliere
Oct. 16, 1:30 p.m. - *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare

If you attend a captioned performance, be sure to let OSF know how much you depended upon and appreciated the captions!



WALK4HEARING HEAR YA NOW: The Young Adult Team

By Rhianon Gutierrez

Are you a young adult between the ages of 15-35? Consider joining HEAR YA NOW, the official Walk4Hearing team for young adults in Southern California.

This will be the second time that the team will participate in the Walk4Hearing. In November 2009, the team had over 40 walkers composed of high school and college students, young professionals, and young adults who were training in fields that service people with hearing loss. We raised over \$3,000, half of which went to National and the other half to HEAR YA NOW.

Why should you join HEAR YA NOW? As deaf and hard of hearing people, it's important that we connect with and support one another; it's the very reason why this team was formed. On the day of the walk, I saw how important it was that my fellow team members were there for each other. After we walked the 5K distance, our team formed a large circle. We shared our names, our stories, and our emotions. One woman was so moved to be in the presence of so many who "understood" her hearing loss that she cried. Her moment became ours too. We remained in the circle for almost an hour, then half of us went out to eat at BJ's for lunch, where we shared more stories. We spoke, signed, laughed, and exchanged numbers. New friendships were made and they continue to this day.

This year, HEAR YA NOW has three goals:

1. Build a team of committed fundraisers who will raise a minimum of \$100 each;
2. Raise a minimum of \$5,000 total in team funds; and
3. Use the money to fund scholarships for young adults in the state of California to attend the HLAA National Convention in 2012.

Why are we raising money for scholarships to national conventions? National conventions are an ideal source of networking and community building for young adults with hearing loss. At national conventions, young adults will have the opportunity to learn about the latest telecommunications devices, assistive listening devices, hearing aids, and cochlear implants, as well as attend daily workshops and panel discussions that are moderated by people with hearing loss and professionals in the fields of audiology, speech pathology, telecommunications, education, and more. Most importantly, they can network face to face with professionals and peers from out of state and even out of the country.

I can personally attest to how enriching these friendships have been year-round for HEAR YA NOW members. These friendships have strengthened our knowledge of services and laws, our power as advocates, and our joy in traveling because we know we have places to stay and friends to be our tour guides if necessary.

The HLAA National Convention has proven to be an invaluable experience in recent years for young people, and we want to encourage their interest and participation in issues and occupations that address the communicative, social, technological, legislative, and personal needs of people with varying degrees of hearing loss. Attending one of these conventions is expensive, and we want to be able to give young people the opportunity to attend and make the connections that some of us are privileged to already have. Please join our team and help us raise money to nurture future leaders.

To register for our team, please find us at: <http://www.hearinglossca.org/young-adults>.



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Victory! Movie Captioning Regal Cinemas Pledges Full Nationwide Movie Captioning



By John Waldo

Looking back at the piece I wrote for the newsletter in October, I'm amazed at how much has happened in the last three months concerning movie captioning. One captioning lawsuit has been filed. One has the green light to go forward, and one is nearing resolution. The federal rule-makers have heard from us in huge numbers. And due to a convergence both of money and technology, the theater owners are finally making concrete strides towards making movies truly accessible to those of us with hearing loss.

For anyone new to the issue, it's relatively simple to make movie dialogue understandable to those of us whose hearing loss is such that we can't understand what is being said even with the volume-amplifying Assistive Listening Devices that the theaters furnish. The aural information can be converted to written form and displayed visually in the form of captions, either open captions visible to the entire audience or closed captions visible only to people who request a viewing device.

Originally, captions had to be laser-etched onto the print of the film itself. Insight Cinemas, run by Nanci Linke-Ellis and her husband Steve, pioneered that approach to captioning. They borrowed film prints from the studios, provided the captions, and distributed the prints to theaters. That delayed the release of the captioned print until some weeks after the movie had debuted. But that effort built an audience for captioned films. More recently, some studios, including all the major studios, contract with an arm of WGBH television from Boston to prepare captions that are distributed on either a computer disc or as part of a digital package. Those captions are separate from the film itself, and are either superimposed on the film print for some showings or show up on a special viewing device.

What has prevented access for people with hearing loss hasn't been the absence of captioned product. Rather, the problem has been the reluctance if not outright refusal of theater owners to purchase, install and operate the equipment needed to show the captions. Frustrated with the lack of positive response from the theaters, people with hearing loss took their grievances to court. Initial court cases were less than satisfactory, and those cases seemed to harden the resistance of the theaters.

The tide turned in a major way in the spring of 2010. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in a case originating in Arizona, declared that while the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) did not require theaters to show open-captioned movies, which might change the movie-going experience of the rest of the audience, **nothing in ADA exempted theaters from a requirement that they show closed-captioned movies to the extent that doing so would not constitute an "undue" financial burden.** While that case established a precedent binding throughout the Western states that are part of the Ninth Circuit, it only directly affected the Harkins theater chain, which is a dominant player in Arizona but has only a small presence elsewhere.

Meanwhile in Washington, an advocacy group called the Washington State Communication Access Project (Wash-CAP) filed a case against the corporate theater chains operating in the Seattle area, including the three largest corporate owners, Regal, AMC and Cinemark. I represented Wash-CAP in that case. Our claim was that our state disability law requires businesses like the movie theater to take those steps reasonably possible in the circumstances to make their movie soundtracks understandable. At the same time the Ninth Circuit ruled favorably in the Arizona case, a judge in Seattle agreed with us, saying our state law does require theaters to take action leading to accessibility, and leaving for trial the question of precisely what each of the owners must do.

Two other events have proved very important. In July of 2010, emboldened by the Ninth Circuit decision, the federal Department of Justice announced that it was considering a rule to the effect that movie theaters must, over the next six years, make 50% of their movies accessible through captioning. It invited public comment, and scheduled three hearings across the country, one of which was held in San Francisco in January of this year.

Second, two hard-of-hearing individuals and an advocacy group filed suit in California state court in Oakland against Cinemark, claiming that it violated both state and federal laws by failing to provide captioning at its theater complexes in Alameda County. The plaintiffs are being represented by me and by a public-interest law firm in Berkeley, Disability Rights Advocates. We filed the lawsuit only after Cinemark failed to respond to a letter asking them to agree to provide captioning. Shortly after the case was filed, we amended the claim to make it a statewide class action. While the case right now is only against Cinemark, we have also sent out letters of inquiry to

Regal and to AMC asking them to agree to captioning.

Over the last few weeks, all of these threads seem to be coming together. Here is what has happened: First, in December, Cinemark finished equipping all of its movie theaters in the State of Washington to show closed-captioned movies. It is displaying the captions on a free-standing device called CaptiView. The viewing device is attached to a flexible gooseneck that fits into the cupholder and displays the captions, which are transmitted electronically and wirelessly.

CaptiView is somewhat similar to the more familiar Rear Windows Captioning, but there are differences. Rear Windows involves an LED reader-board mounted on the rear wall of the theater, and a transparent reflector on an adjustable gooseneck. The reader-board displays the captions in mirror image, and the viewer can read them in a normal fashion on the reflector. Because the reflector is transparent, it can be superimposed on a portion of the movie screen,

RWC certainly has some drawbacks. It can be hard to adjust the reflector, it works best only from certain seats, and it can be disrupted if someone stands up behind you. CaptiView overcomes those obstacles. However, because the CaptiView display module is solid, it can't be superimposed on the screen like the RWC reflector, which means either that the captions are not in the same direct sight line as the picture, or a certain area of the movie screen is blocked, as is the case with television captions. Despite those drawbacks, CaptiView is certainly a step in the right direction, and the Wash-CAP members that have tried CaptiView are generally positive. Eyewear that displays captions is in the development stage. It is currently not available commercially, but may be developed and marketed in the future, and that may provide a better viewing experience than the devices that are now available. At present, there is no well-developed technology for showing captions with 3-D movies.

Second, the response to the Department of Justice proposal was overwhelmingly large, and generally uniform to the effect that while it surely should require captions, it should not settle for half measures. Therefore, we panned the proposal to require that only half the movies be captioned, and that the theaters be given five years to do even that much. We argued that the "undue burden" standard in the ADA requires individualized, case-by-case determinations of what each theater must do, and we said that while some small theaters in smaller towns might be unduly burdened if even half of their theaters had to be outfitted to show captions, the major corporate theater owners could provide full accessibility, and could do so in much less than five years.

We've received some circumstantial indication that DOJ agrees with our argument. After the Ninth Circuit sent the Harkins case back to the trial court to determine how much the theaters could do before captioning would become an "undue burden," DOJ then announced its proposal to make a captioning rule. Not surprisingly, the theater asked the court to suspend action on the case and wait to see what DOJ might decide. To everyone's considerable surprise, DOJ filed what it called a "statement of position," saying that the case should go forward, and that it is

up to the courts to determine what is and what is not an "undue burden." The court agreed, and the Arizona case is moving forward.

Most recently, and almost totally out of the blue, Regal Cinemas filed a declaration in our Washington case stating that after it converts its theaters nationwide to digital projection, which it expects to do by the end for 2012 if not sooner, it will then equip each and every one of those theaters to show captioned movies. Because of Regal's position as the largest theater owner and operator nationwide, this promise will mean more access to captioned movies than we've ever had before.

This was a stunning change of position on Regal's part even in our Washington case, much less as a blanket statement of intent. Its position had generally been that it would do what DOJ required it to do when and if DOJ promulgated any requirement.

Why the change? I think two things were at work. First, I think Regal understood that if DOJ said theaters would have to do what they could afford to do, and that DOJ would leave that determination to the courts, Regal understood that it would likely face serial lawsuits that it would likely not win. Second, I think Regal realized that a class-action lawsuit in California, where people denied access are entitled to seek significant money damages as well as an order requiring access, could be disastrous. So I think Regal decided that with the conversion to digital display, which makes displaying captions much less expensive, it would simply agree to provide complete access rather than try to justify something less.

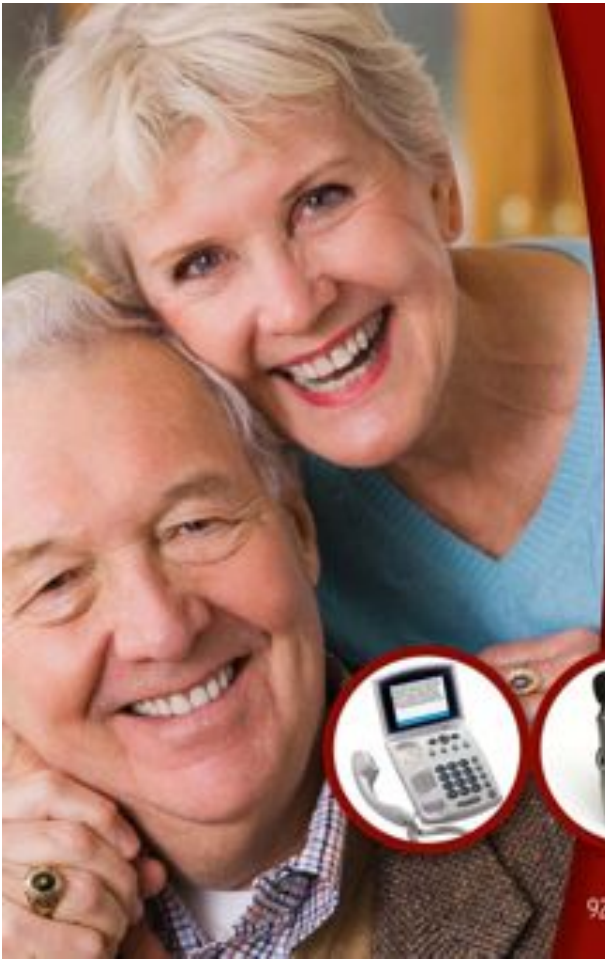
So change is coming. As of this writing, AMC is still holding out, saying it will do what DOJ requires. They will put that argument to the test in Washington before the end of February. We are cautiously optimistic about the outcome of that argument. But rest assured, captions are coming soon to a theater near you. Last-minute clean-up skirmishes continue, but **the battle for movie captioning has basically been won.**

HLA-CA Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees meeting was held in Pasadena on February 12, 2011. The newly elected members of the board are: Maxine B. Barton (Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter), Debbie Clark (Peninsula Chapter) and Ellen Mastman (Peninsula Chapter).

Pat Widman (Los Angeles Chapter), Sister Ann Rooney (Peninsula Chapter) and Carol Waechter (Sacramento Chapter) are retiring from the Board. We thank them for all their hard work.

The officers are elected once a year by the current board. Officers for the term from February 2011 to February 2012 are as follows: President, Jim Montgomery; Vice President, Barbara Tucker; Secretary, Maxine B. Barton; Treasurer, Jeffrey Chess. Cindy Jagger was reinstated as Northern CA Chapter Coordinator. Congratulations to those who were elected, and for the new officers!



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Hmong: 1.866.880.3194

Nanci Linke-Ellis joins Captionfish as Partner, General Manager

Role in Promotion & Marketing to widen the scope of captioning awareness and deepen captioned entertainment ties to the motion picture industry and its partners

Captionfish--one of the Internet's leading captioned movies search engines that finds open captioned, Rear Window® captioned, foreign/subtitled, and descriptively-narrated movies--proudly announced today the addition of Nanci Linke-Ellis to its team, focusing on Promotion, Marketing, Vendor Relations, and Partnerships.

"This was a natural next step to taking captioned entertainment to the next level. You can have thousands of successful captioning outlets, but if there isn't a consistent marketing presence, no one will ever take advantage of it," said Linke-Ellis. "The fact that Captionfish is technology neutral was also important to me. The marketplace will ultimately determine which forms of entertainment and which accessible applications will come out ahead and Captionfish will be there to support captioning awareness."

"Nanci brings a wealth of experience to the table," said Captionfish founder, Chris Sano. "We believe that her presence will help us strengthen ties with the entertainment industry and help us expand Captionfish's reach."

About Nanci Linke-Ellis

Nanci Linke-Ellis, of Santa Monica, has been recently appointed to the World Institute of Disabilities, and to the State of California Rehabilitation Council. She has spent over sixteen years advocating for issues critical to individuals who are deaf or have hearing loss, including efforts to have captioning available in movie theaters. Linke-Ellis worked as the Executive Director for InSight Cinema from 2002 to 2008, Executive Director for Tripod Captioned Films from 1996 to 2002, and worked in the Television industry and in story development of TV movies and mini-series from 1986 to 1994.

About Captionfish

Captionfish is the Internet's leading captioned movies search engine that finds open captioned, Rear Window® captioned, foreign/subtitled, and descriptively-narrated movies showing at theaters across the United States. Visit Captionfish.com to start planning your next movie night.

Nanci Linke-Ellis Appointed to Board of Directors World Institute on Disability



Nanci Linke-Ellis, longtime advocate for individuals experiencing hearing loss, joined the World Institute on Disability's Board of Directors in February.

"We are so fortunate to have Nanci Linke-Ellis join the board of the World Institute on Disability, bringing her vast experience in

work on hearing loss related issues to WID's think tank approach to impacting critical disability rights policies and practices," said WID's Executive Director, Anita Shafer Aaron.

"WID is doing many great things, and now the Policy Think Tank is working to engage the world by showing how people with disabilities can use technology to inspire others to high levels of achievement," Linke-Ellis said.

The World Institute on Disability, a public policy institute committed to the social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities in the United States and worldwide, serves as a convener of thought leaders to research, analyze and test policies affecting people with disabilities ability to live independently and equitably in the community, and promotes effective benefits planning, financial planning and employment planning as methods for achieving economic equity and independence.



NEW! Captionfish iPhone App

Captionfish now has an application that you can download to your iPhone to find accessible movies while on the go. This is a historic mobile application, the first to offer streaming captioned movie trailers for the deaf and hard of hearing community on the iPhone.

Here are some of the great features you'll enjoy on this site:

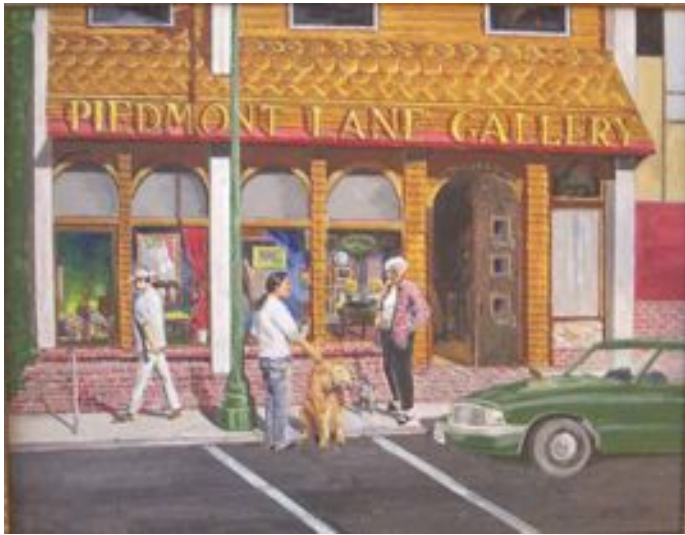
- **Effortless Search.** Find all of the accessible show times playing at theaters within 60 miles of the selected area
- **Locate Theaters.** See which theaters are showing accessible movies
- **Movie Trailers.** Watch trailers with captions
- **Movie Details.** Get the synopses for all current and upcoming movies
- **Theater Details.** Find theater addresses and view their upcoming schedules

Available now. The Captionfish iPhone application is now available on the App Store. Download it today!
www.captionfish.com/iphone

Requirements

iOS4 is required. For optimal experience, the iPhone4 is recommended, although the iPhone 3Gs and the 2nd/3rd/4th generation iPod Touches are also supported.

Help make Captionfish a totally comprehensive captioning site. If you know of a theater or movie complex you would like to see listed, contact feedback@deafcode.com.



Barbara with her little hearing dog Rags. Artist unknown

BARBARA BISHOP, 1926 – 2010

Long time Hearing Loss Association member Barbara Bishop passed away peacefully in her sleep in October 2010. At various times she belonged to the following chapters and held a number of positions: Peninsula, Diablo Valley, Tri-Valley and East Bay. Despite all the technology, hearing aids and cochlear implants and ALDs, she believed that the best way to have a full life with hearing loss was to learn and practice good coping strategies. We remember her humor, kindness, and willingness to impart her skills at coping that have helped so many, and we are full of gratitude.

Some thoughts from her HLAA family:

Margaret Azcona: She was an inspiration for me and helped me look on the lighter side of life. HLAA was very important to her, especially Sam Trychin's influence. His coping classes, weeklong workshops at Ghost Ranch and Train the Trainer programs were a big factor in her becoming a 'Coping Pro'.

Peter Townsend: I was at a difficult time in my life. Meniere's syndrome had destroyed a lot of my hearing and I was pretty depressed. Barbara's coping class was the first time I had been around a lot of people with hearing loss. She did a great job making the class entertaining and her sense of humor helped us all. I will never forget all she has done for me.

Dorothy Brookover: Barbara gave speech reading classes with about 20 people seated in a semi circle so we could see everybody's face. I was feeling very isolated and she taught me how to cope. So this was a fun and a social time for me. We love you Barbara.

Bruce Harris: Barbara introduced me to a \$12 Radio Shack amplifier she called her "Marriage Saver." That started me on a career of testing, using, and writing about ALDs (Assistive Listening Devices). She also invited me to her speech reading class. I was not very good at it. Being an engineer, I liked the electronic solutions better.

The children of Barbara Bishop (Ruth, Kathie, Mark, Gail, Matt and Amy) want to thank you for the love and support you all showed our mother.

A funeral mass was held in November 2010 at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church. She will be missed.

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* Phone and high-speed Internet connection required.



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For more information visit www.siprelay.com



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Claudia Herczog and Kathy Gilles staffing the Farmer's Market booth in Carpinteria.

Hearing Loss is a PUBLIC HEALTH Issue

By Brenda Battat, Executive Director, HLAA

Since March 2008 when I became the executive director of HLAA, one of the organizations's goals has been to have hearing loss recognized as a health issue. The demographics alone make it a leading public health concern.

- 17 percent of Americans have some degree of hearing loss
- One in five teens has hearing loss
- 58,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan return with hearing loss
- Among seniors, hearing loss is the third most prevalent, but treatable, condition after arthritis and hypertension
- Baby boomers who reach retirement age in 2010 are pushing the number even higher and are predicted to double it by 2030.

Stigma prevents people who think they have a hearing loss from seeking help. While the vast majority of people with hearing loss could be successfully treated with hearing aids, only eight million of the 36 million Americans with hearing loss use them.

Hearing aids are costly items. Some insurance plans cover hearing aids, including the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan, Tricare (the health plan for active duty military), Medicaid in some states, and 17 states that have insurance coverage for children. But that still leaves millions of people without hearing aid coverage and Medicare specifically excludes coverage. A bill to try to make hearing aid tax credit law has been introduced three times. The bill is still on the books and is supported as a good first step by HLAA and other consumer groups, audiologists, hearing instrument specialists, and manufacturers. Essentially, hearing loss is not given the attention it should receive as a health issue and, consequently, hearing aids that should be the standard of care for those for whom they would benefit are not considered medically necessary.

In reaction to HLAA's push for a focus on health, there has been misinformation on the Internet about whether hearing loss is a health issue or a disability. HLAA's position is that it is both. We need to balance the need for treatment of hearing loss with the need for accessibility especially for those people with more significant hearing loss. A health focus leads to prevention, regular screenings, and follow up with available treatment options—with hearing aids as a first step. Disability includes coverage as required by anti-discrimination laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. Some examples of accommodation are assistive listening devices, captioning, CART, etc. Health and disability are not mutually exclusive.

Hearing loss is not given the attention it deserves by the public, federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and health insurers. We need to draw attention to the 75 percent of people with early hearing loss who could benefit from hearing aids but do not get them and do not consider themselves as disabled.

CHAPTER NEWS

Santa Barbara Chapter. HLA- Santa Barbara provides information about hearing loss at Carpinteria Farmer's Market once a month. They meet a lot of tourists and give them information on chapters near their homes. Co-leaders Claudia Herczog and Bonnie Adams along with Kathy Gilles set up and staff the booth.

They offer HLAA Fact Sheets and brochures, guides for purchasing hearing aids, catalogs for assistive devices, 'Face Me' buttons, 'Driver is Hard of Hearing' visor cards, and chapter flyers about monthly meetings. They keep a file of many other materials for people with specific needs.

Ventura County Chapter. This is a **NEW** chapter, meeting in Thousand Oaks, founded by Rick & Ruth Pealer and Anni Settingsgard. Congratulations to all.

Sacramento Chapter. Hospital kits. HLA-Sacramento will begin distributing hospital kits to local hospitals over the next few months. They designed, printed, and assembled the kits themselves and expect to have more than 1,000 kits delivered to local hard of hearing patients for FREE!

Each kit includes a planning / information sheet, stickers for the patient chart, a sign for the bed, a hearing loss lapel pin, bag for hearing aids or cochlear devices, pad of paper and pencil for written notes, information on real-time captioning services, and customizable patient request cards to be used with hospital staff.

Orange County Chapter. Award. The Pacific South Coast Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society announced that Rob Lammers was nominated as the 2010 MS Activist Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations!

Rob is a long time member of the HLA-Orange County Chapter, serving as the Socials Coordinator and is a valued member of the leadership team.

NEW Implant Device for MENIERE'S

The UW Medicine clinicians who developed the implantable device hope that success in a 10-person surgical trial of Meniere's patients will lead to exploration of its usefulness against other common balance disorders that torment millions of people worldwide. The device being tested -- a cochlear implant and processor with re-engineered software and electrode arrays -- represents four-plus years of work by Drs. Jay T. Rubinstein and James O. Phillips of UW's Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. They worked with Drs. Steven Bierer, Albert Fuchs, Chris Kaneko, Leo Ling and Kaibao Nie, UW specialists in signal processing, brainstem physiology and vestibular neural coding. Rubinstein is also a UW professor of bioengineering.

"What we're proposing here is a potentially safer and more effective therapy than exists now," said Rubinstein, an ear surgeon and auditory scientist who has earned a doctoral degree in bioengineering and who holds multiple U.S. patents.

In the United States, Meniere's affects less than 1 percent of the population. The disease occurs mostly in people between ages 30 and 50, but can strike anyone. Patients more often experience the condition in one ear; about 30 percent of cases are bilateral. The disease affects hearing and balance with varying intensity and frequency but can be extremely debilitating. Its episodic attacks are thought to stem from the rupture of an inner-ear membrane. Endolymphatic fluid leaks out of the vestibular system, causing havoc to the brain's perception of balance.

"To stave off nausea, afflicted people must lie still, typically for several hours and sometimes up to half a day while the membrane self-repairs and equilibrium is restored," said Phillips, a UW research associate professor and director of the UW Dizziness and Balance Center. Because the attacks come with scant warning, a Meniere's diagnosis can cause people to change careers and curb their lifestyles.

Many patients respond to first-line treatments of medication and changes to diet and activity. When those therapies fail to reduce the rate of attacks, surgery is often an effective option but it typically is destructive in nature. In essence, the patient sacrifices function in the affected ear to halt the vertigo -- akin to a pilot who shuts down an erratic engine during flight. Forever after, the person's balance and, often, hearing are based on one ear's function.

With their device, Phillips and Rubinstein aim to restore the patient's balance during attacks while leaving natural hearing and residual balance function intact. A patient wears a processor behind the affected ear and activates it as an attack starts. The processor wirelessly signals the device, which is implanted almost directly underneath in a small well created in the temporal bone. The device in turn transmits electrical impulses through three electrodes inserted into the canals of the inner ear's bony labyrinth.

By re-engineering existing cochlear implant technology to adapt it for Meniere's patients, the vestibular implant serves as a pacemaker for the inner ear. "It's an override," Phillips said. "It

doesn't change what's happening in the ear, but it eliminates the symptoms while replacing the function of that ear until it recovers." The specific placement of the electrodes in the bony labyrinth is determined by neuronal signal testing at the time of implant. The superior semicircular canal, lateral semicircular canal and posterior semicircular canal each receive one electrode array.

A National Institutes of Health grant funded the development of the device and its initial testing at the Washington National Primate Research Center. The promising results from those tests led the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, in June, to approve the device and the proposed surgical implantation procedure. Shortly thereafter, the limited surgical trial in humans won approval from the Western Institutional Review Board, an independent body charged with protecting the safety of research subjects.

By basing their invention on cochlear implants whose design and surgical implantation were already FDA-approved, Phillips and Rubinstein leapfrogged scientists at other institutions who had begun years earlier but chosen to develop novel prototypes. "If you started from scratch, in a circumstance like this where no one has ever treated a vestibular disorder with a device, it probably would take 10 years to develop such a device," Rubinstein said.

The device epitomizes the translational advancements pursued at UW's academic medical centers. Rubenstein credited the team's skills and its access to the primate center, whose labs facilitated the quick turnaround of results that helped win the FDA's support. **A successful human trial could lead the implant to become the first-choice surgical intervention for Meniere's patients**, and spark collaboration with other researchers who are studying more widespread balance disorders.

The first patient will be a 56-year-old man from Yakima, Wash. He has unilateral Meniere's disease and has been a patient of Rubinstein's for about two years.

Cochlear Ltd. of Lane Cove, Australia, will manufacture the device. Cochlear is a medical equipment company and longtime maker of devices for hearing-impaired people.

Margaret Wallhagen NEW HLAA Board member from CA

Congratulations to new HLAA board member, researcher Meg Wallhagen, Professor in the Department of Physiological Nursing, University of California at San Francisco School of Nursing. Meg recently completed a four year longitudinal study of the experience of hearing impairment in older adults and their partners. She has been successful in getting funding from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) for her proposal to develop a cost effective hearing-screening tool for physicians to use when taking a patient's history. These grants are highly competitive and go through a rigorous review process.



HLAA Convention, Washington DC June 16-19, 2011 And Hearing Loop Conference June 18-20, 2011

Editor: I love HLAA Conventions. For four days I can understand everything, everywhere, all the time. Everything is captioned; rooms are looped; IR or FM ALDs are loaned out for the length of the convention. It's a hearing friendly environment. Restful.

Registration is now open! This convention will be 4 days of interesting workshops plus the opportunity to greet old friends and to make new ones. It includes an out-of-this-world assortment of products and services for the hard of hearing in the giant exhibit hall and the opportunity for side trips to the nation's capital.

HLAA members and first-time convention attendees receive a discount, and vets with hearing loss who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan can attend for free.

And, if you need extra incentive to register, why not go to support our local talent? We're thrilled that three SoCal HLA members are presenting workshops--Malik El-Amin, Dr. Alison Freeman and Rhianon Gutierrez.

- **Malik El-Amin.** Young Adult track, titled *Young, Hard of Hearing and Exceptional: Achieving Success in Your Professional Career*
- **Dr. Alison Freeman.** Young Adult track, titled *The Art of Telling - Or How to Tell Your Date/Boss/Friend About Your Hearing Loss*
- **Dr. Alison Freeman.** Parents and Educators track, titled *Common Pitfalls of Parenting Your Child with Hearing Loss*
- **Rhianon Gutierrez and Svetlana Kouznetsova.** Young Adult track, titled *Developing Young Adult Chapter Leaders: Opportunities and Challenges.* It will be a panel discussion with other young adult leaders, including Zac La Fratta (HLA-DC), Dennis Selznick (HLA-KC), and James Battat (Hear at Boston).

Congratulations to them all!

Second International Hearing Loop Conference

Overlapping the HLAA convention will be the Second International Looping Conference, June 18-20. HLAA will be hosting the Loop Conference in collaboration with the American Academy of Audiology.

Though we recognize the value of all types of hearing assistive technology, the main focus of the conference is hearing loop technology. Attendees will learn basic, complex and creative installation techniques, hearing loop technology from a user's perspective, integration of loop technology with FM and infrared systems, and the status of hearing loop installations in the United States and in other countries.

Keynote Speaker, Chris Artinian

The Artinian family is the subject of the Oscar-nominated film *Sound and Fury*, which tells the story of brothers: Chris, who was born with hearing, and his older brother Peter, who was born deaf. Both brothers married and both had children who were born deaf. The difficult decision whether to provide cochlear implants for their children ripped the family apart. Chris and his wife Mari chose to have a cochlear implant for their son, while Chris's brother and his wife Nita, decided they weren't quite ready for such a medical procedure for their three deaf children. The families finally came full circle and have put the period of "fury" behind them.

A Wicked Evening

One of the highlights of the Convention will be a captioned performance of the Grammy and Tony award-winning musical, *Wicked*, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. *Entertainment Weekly* calls *Wicked* "the best musical of the decade." The tickets are for seats in the Orchestra Section of the Opera House, the second largest theater in the Kennedy Center. Tickets are limited so make sure to purchase them when you register as this event is sure to sell out! Don't miss it!



Research Symposium on Noise

The Deafness Research Foundation will sponsor the Research Symposium, *The Impact of Noise on Hearing.* Four nationally recognized experts will speak, moderated by George A. Gates, M.D., medical director of the Foundation.

Veterans of OIF or OEF with Hearing Loss

To show our support of veterans with hearing loss who have served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan, we offer a complimentary one-year membership as well as a complimentary convention registration! Email Nancy Macklin, nmacklin@hearingloss.org, for more information.

To register for the convention, the looping conference (or both) and for detailed information about schedules, workshops, hotel reservations, travel information, go to www.hearingloss.org/convention/ or call (301) 657-2248

RESOURCES FOR HEARING LOSS QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Hearing Loss Resource Specialists

Jennifer Stuessy, Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness (GLAD), Los Angeles 323-478-8000, jstuessy@gladinc.org

Pauline Strickland, Center on Deafness Inland Empire (CODIE), Riverside 951-275-5000, pstrickland@codie.org

Colette Noble, Sacramento 916-359-1893, cnoble@gmail.com

Sr. Ann Rooney, Burlingame arooney@hearinglossca.org

Bruce Harris, Berkeley bjharris@ieec.org

For Parents

Independently Merging Parents Association of California (IMPACT)

Parent group focused on securing the best for children regardless of methodology, www.impactfamilies.org

Hands and Voices

Similar approach as IMPACT but nation wide <http://www.handsandvoices.org>

Education

Helen Walter hwalter1@dc.rr.com
951-849-6713

For Youth

HLAA Young Adults Group

Interactive social website
<http://hearinglossnation.com>

Training and Advocacy Group (TAG), Los Angeles

A self-advocacy group for deaf/hard of hearing children and teens.
<http://www.tagkids.us>

Cochlear Implants

Cindy Jagger (Northern CA)
707-422-3753, cjagger@hearinglossca.org

Darlene Fragale (Southern CA)
909-907-1188, dmfragale@gmail.com

Clinics

The HEAR Center

Hearing/speech therapy, Community outreach, hearing aid dispensing. All ages, <http://www.hearcenter.org>, 626-796-2016

House Ear Institute

213-483-4431, <http://www.hei.org>
Research on hearing loss and vestibular disorders. Cochlear implant services.

Stanford University

Cochlear implant services
cochlearimplant@stanford.edu,
650-736-4351
<http://www.med.stanford.edu/ohns>

Hearing and Speech Center, San Francisco
415-921-7658, info@hearingsspeech.org
<http://www.hearingsspeech.org>

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford

Pediatric hearing loss
Jody Winzelberg AuD, FAAA
650-498-2738, jwinzelberg@lpch.org

John Tracy Clinic

Pediatric hearing loss, free services world wide
<http://www.johntracyclinic.org>,
213-748-5481

Oberkötter Foundation

Pediatric hearing loss, free materials, oral schools
<http://www.oraldeafed.org>

Financial Aid

Audient Alliance

<http://audientalliance.org>, 206-838-7194

Let them Hear Foundation, Palo Alto

650-462-3143, <http://www.letthemhear.org>

Career Counseling/Employment Services

HLAA Employment Toolkit

Interview strategies; hearing loss and ADA; communication tips; insurance coverage for hearing aids. www.hearingloss.org/advocacy/Employment.asp#jobtoolkit

GLAD/EDD

GLAD/Employment Development Department
<http://www.gladinc.org>
213-478-8000, info@gladinc.org

Vocational Rehabilitation provides service

for clients who meet eligibility requirements. Assistance with hearing aids and devices may be provided to clients who need such devices to secure or retain employment. <http://www.dor.ca.gov>

Deaf/Disabled Telecomm Access (DDTP)

Administrative Committee (TADDAC)

Colette Noble (Hard of Hearing)
916-359-1893, cnoble@gmail.com
Nancy Hammons, (Late Deafened)
hammonsn@aol.com
Chriz Dally, (Deaf)

Equipment Program (EPAC)

Brian Winic (Hard of Hearing),
lovetwohear@aol.com
Richard Ray (Deaf),
rlrayada@aol.com
Ken Rothschild (Deaf)
Vacant (deaf/blind)

Free Telephones (CTAP)

www.ddtp.org/ctap

Lawyers

Real Time Captioning at school
David Grey, david@greyslaw.com
Captioning of movies/theatre
John Waldo, john@wash-cap.com

Online Videos

HLAA

www.hearingloss.org/learn/hearingloss_vids.asp

Listen and Speak, children

www.oraldeafed.org/movies/index.html

Captions

Captioned movies search engine

Captionfish.com

Captioned videos of world's leading thinkers.

TED.com

How to get Real Time Captioning

Captioning for workshops, lectures, courts

Arlene Patton,

arlepatt@aol.com, 626-337-8331

Captioning at College

Colette Noble

916-359-1893, cnoble@gmail.com

Assistance Dogs for hard of hearing/deaf

Canine Companions for Independence

<http://www.cci.org> 800-572-2275

Sam Simon Foundation

Rescues and trains assistance dogs for the deaf and hard of hearing
<http://www.samsimonfoundation.com>,
310-457-5898

Other Resources

Lip reading classes

hearinglossca.org/html/lipreading.htm

Aural Rehab Group for CIs, San Diego

Mellisa Essenburg, M.S., CCC-SLP

mellisasl@yahoo.com, 858-232-5842

www.SanDiegoSpeechPathology.com

www.auditoryverbaltherapy.blogspot.com

Hearing Aids 101

Info about all brands of hearing aids
<http://www.hearingaids101.com>

Better Hearing Institute

Educates the public and medical profession on hearing loss, its treatment and prevention, 202-449-1100,
<http://www.betterhearing.org>

Living and Coping with Hearing Loss by

Sam Trychin

samtrychin@adelphia.net
<http://www.trychin.com>

Hearing Loss Network & Web

<http://www.hearinglossnetwork.org>
<http://www.hearinglossweb.com>
larry@hearinglossnetwork.org

Hearing Loss Help E-zine

www.hearinglosshelp.com
neil@hearinglosshelp.com

Deafness in Disguise

A fascinating look at the history of hearing devices.
<http://beckerehibits.wustl.edu/did>

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714-669-0401 V/TTY/FAX

Ventura County Chapter - Thousand
Oaks
Rick & Ruth Pealer,
ruth_6572@sbcglobal.net
Anni Settingsgard, hlaanni@aol.com

Where/when do chapters meet?

<http://www.hearinglossca.org/html/chapters.htm>

Please join us. Meet others who are facing the challenge of everyday life with a hearing loss. Meetings are free and informal. Bring a friend or family member. Everyone is welcome. Hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome. **You do not have to face hearing loss alone.**

No chapter near you?

Our Chapter Coordinators will help you to set up a local group.

- **No. CA Chapter Coordinator**
Cindy Jagger, 707-422-3753
cjagger@hearinglossca.org
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FOUNDER Howard E. "Rocky" Stone, 1925-2004. In 1979, Rocky Stone founded the organization as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH). Renamed Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) in 2006.

JOIN US! Membership includes national and state memberships, *Hearing Loss Magazine* and *The Hearing Loss Californian* newsletter. Rates are \$20 Student, \$35 Individual, \$45 Couple, \$60 Professional. For international and corporate rates, please visit www.hearingloss.org.

Please make check out to HLAA and send it to Hearing Loss Association of America, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814 (include name/ mailing address/zip code/ email/phone) OR you can join on line at www.hearingloss.org/membership/renew.asp

Remember, in order to **VOTE** in state elections, you must be a National member.

SUPPORT BRENDA BATTAT & HLAA. Join the Premier Club.

Please join the **Premier Club** by giving an ongoing monthly pledge of \$20 or more. Premier Club donations help HLAA predict their financial resources more reliably and manage their expenditures more wisely.

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ITINERANT TEACHERS OF HOH/D support your graduating seniors in their transition from high school by giving them a **FREE** trial subscription to *The Hearing Loss Californian*. Please send student name/ mailing address/zipcode/email to gtiessen@hearinglossca.org.

YOUNG PEOPLE ages 28 to 35, Socialize.

HearingLossNation is a non-profit online social network community designed specifically for HoH individuals between the ages of 18 and 35. HLAA member **Patrick Holkins**, a Harvard University senior, moderates the discussions for young adults. Go direct to <http://hearinglossnation.ning.com> OR access it thru <http://hearingloss.org>.

FREE trial subscription to *The Hearing Loss Californian*. Please send your name/ mailing address/zipcode/email to Grace Tiessen, 714 Prospect Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91103, gtiessen@hearinglossca.org.

FREE. *Hearing Health* magazine, a quarterly publication of Deafness Research Foundation. Sign up on line at <http://www.drf.org>.

HLA-California publishes *The Hearing Loss Californian* quarterly in mid February, May, August and November. The newsletter is available through mail, and on line at <http://www.hearinglossca.org/html/newsletter.htm>.

Demographics. Our database consists of 5300 records--1250 California HLAA members; 1345 California audiologists; 1350 California Hearing Aid Dispensers; Dept of Rehabilitation HoH/D counselors; Itinerant Teachers of the HoH/D; Office of Deaf Access outreach centers; members of the Assn of Late Deafened Adults; Kaiser Permanente audiologists; members of AG Bell Assn for the D/HoH; Costco Hearing Aid Centers; HEARx Hearing Aid Centers; Sonus Hearing Aid Centers and others interested in hearing loss issues.

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A Hearing Loss Association of America
state association supporting chapters throughout California

Hearing Loss is a Leading Public Health Issue

Who We Are

Hearing Loss Association of California (HLA-CA) is a state association affiliated with Hearing Loss Association of America. Residents of California who join our national organization automatically become members of HLA-CA.

Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) 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.

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Hearing Loss Association of America

The Nation's voice for people with hearing loss.

Hearing Loss Association of America opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

The national support network includes the Washington, D.C. area office, 14 state organizations, and 200 local chapters.

Our clear, straightforward message has changed the lives of thousands of people.

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.

HLAA: www.hearingloss.org

HLA-CA: www.hearinglossca.org

Find a chapter near you: www.hearinglossca.org/html/chapters.htm

