



## February 2019

Call to renew your membership! Only \$15 for a year to join our local chapter! Please also support the National HLAA with a membership: individual \$35 or family \$45. National HLAA advocates on your behalf for cheaper hearing aids, more hearing access in venues, and much more. See end of this newsletter for details on how to join.

### MEETING INFORMATION FOR SATURDAY, February 9, 2019

**Topic and Speaker:** Pragati R. Mandikal Vasuki, PhD, Research Audiologist & Hearing Scientist, Clinical Department, will describe the latest innovation from EARLENS: **a hearing aid which is Light-Driven!** You won't want to miss this.

#### Schedule:

**9:00 a.m. - Set up:** We always love to have you come early to help!

**9:30 a.m. – Refreshments,** coffee and tea will be served.

**10:00 a.m. - Meeting starts:** Introductions, Announcements, speaker.

**NOTE:** Meeting is captioned, and the room is looped. You won't miss a word! Use the hearing-loop system by turning your hearing aid(s) to the Telecoil (T-coil) setting. Thanks to Peter Townsend, Steve Ulrich and the team for setting up our room, the audiovisual, and the captioning.

**11:30 a.m. - Meeting adjourns.**

**How to find us:** Come to the Fabiola building, 3801 Howe Street, Oakland. Free parking is available across the street, in the Kaiser parking structure. From the garage, walk across Howe Street and go into the Fabiola building. Take the elevator down to the ground floor and go to Room G26. For directions to Kaiser, call 510-752-1000.

**HLAA-EB will post to the California State Association webpage and our website**

Check out our website: <http://www.hearinglosseb.org/>

Contact us: [info@hearinglosseb.org](mailto:info@hearinglosseb.org)

Get ready! The **HLAA National Convention for 2019** will take place in Rochester, NY, June 20 – 23, 2019. Click [here](#) for more details. Or use this URL: [www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention](http://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention). Registration is open now. Reservations for rooms are open [here](#) at the Hyatt Regency Rochester. (or use this URL: [www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/new-york/hyatt-regency-rochester/roche?corp\\_id=G-AMHL](http://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/new-york/hyatt-regency-rochester/roche?corp_id=G-AMHL)) Use promo code: G-AMHL.

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

At the January 12, 2019 HLAA-EB meeting, our guest speaker was Outreach Specialist Contessa Bunn, who provided an overview of the California Telephone Access Program (CTAP). This Program offers a full range of *free* specialized telephones and accessories that make it easier to hear, dial and call, as well as assist individuals who have restricted mobility, speech



impairments, or are blind or deaf. CTAP is a state program started in 1979 and governed by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). This *free* state program, funded through a surcharge on our monthly telephone bill, has 3 qualifications: 1) You must live in California; 2) You have phone service; and 3) You can obtain a signature from an authorized certifying agent verifying your impairment.

As summarized below, CTAP offers a wide variety of *free* specialized phones & devices with some amazing features:

- *Amplified*—Enhanced volume & tone control can be adjusted, raised or lowered to make it easier to hear.
- *Portable/Cordless*—Makes it easier to get to the phone on time & handy to move about while on the phone.
- *Captioned*—Allows you to read incoming conversations in text & has an amplified handset.
- *Flashing Light*—Features a light that flashes for incoming calls so you never miss a call.
- *Big Buttons*—Easy to see big buttons which make it easier to dial, plus braille is available.
- *Speech Assist*—Specially designed to address stuttering & other speech-related issues.
- *Mobile Accessories*—Devices to amplify and enhance hearing on your own mobile cell phone.
- *Flow Button*—Slows down speech on the phone and answering machine so it's easier to understand.
- *Phone Locator*—Assists you in locating & finding the phone when it has been lost or misplaced.
- *Talk-Back Button*—Remembers last button pushed; available even in foreign languages.
- *Talking Caller ID*—Phone talks out loud & tells you when a call is coming in.
- *Pager*—Vibrating will help to alert those who are hearing impaired that the phone or doorbell is ringing.
- *Neck Loop*—Works with t-coil & wave frequency of hearing aids if connected to a tablet, ipad or computer.
- *Remote Control Phone*—Mobility-limited person can answer by using a pendant or air switch or tapping it.
- *Artificial Voice Box*—Person with speech-difficulty can use a straw-like device & move lips to speak.
- *Picture Phone*—Put in a picture to call other people.
- *California Relay Services*—By calling 711, an operator will help individuals communicate through TYY.

In order to apply for a CTAP specialized phone, an applicant must follow the 3 easy steps described below:

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



Phones demonstrated by Ms. Bunn



Ms. Bunn discussing a phone

An individual who mails or faxes the application might look for an approval letter in the mail within a week. Then, he or she may call to select the right phone and have it shipped or, in the alternative, visit a CTAP Service Center where an individual may test out phones before picking out one and taking it home. A CTAP phone is *free* and considered a loan forever, but must be returned or exchanged if no longer needed. Each eligible applicant is limited to one *free* phone and one *free* device under CTAP rules. If you need help in connecting or using the CTAP equipment, *free* training classes, as well as Customer and Field Advisors who will even visit your home, are readily available. The CTAP Application/Limited Liability Agreement states in part: "The applicant hereby agrees that the CPUC and/or the State of California, and/or the CCAF makes no warranties, either express or implied . . . shall have no liability to the applicant or any other person with respect to any liability, loss or damage caused . . . However, CTAP will repair or exchange equipment if 1) the equipment loaned to the consumer stops working or malfunctions or 2) the consumer's disability certification changes."

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



Great presentation  
Contessa!

~ Kathy Fairbanks

Here is one of the more unique mobile accessories available from CTAP:



### HearAll™ SA-40 Cell Phone Amplifier

- Hands-free speakerphone use
- Connects using Bluetooth for use with cellphone
- Amplifies incoming sound on cellphone up to 40 decibels
- Provides tone control for additional clarity

## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS (NIDCD)

Research demonstrates that infants who are born deaf or hard-of-hearing have a better chance of learning language if the hearing loss is found immediately after they are born and if they learn a spoken or signed language as early as possible. Given this information, the NIDCD has placed a high priority on understanding the causes, possible treatments, and progression of hearing loss during early childhood. Approximately two to three in every 1,000 children in the United States are born with severe to profound deafness. In 1989, less than five percent of newborns received hearing screening prior to leaving the hospital, and most children were not identified to have a hearing impairment until two to three years of age. That delay during a critical period for language development led to lifelong difficulties in language acquisition and the need for costly special education in schools for the deaf. The implementation of universal newborn hearing screening, a joint effort by the NIDCD, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has dramatically improved the identification of infants with hearing loss early in life and accelerated the initiation of services for these children. Today, more than 95 percent of children are screened for hearing loss shortly after birth. The NIDCD continues to examine the outcomes of children identified through newborn hearing screening.

## WANT TO TRY OUT SOME NEW HEARING TECHNOLOGY?

Earlens Hearing Aids in Menlo Park seeks test subjects for a new hearing aid technology using induction coils. No invasive procedures. Please email or call: (Ms) Pragati RM Vasuki by e-mail: [pragati.mandikal@earlens.com](mailto:pragati.mandikal@earlens.com) or phone: (650) 739-4557 or (408) 338-8635 cell

## HEARING AID BATTERIES!

Gerry Niesar or another Costco member can get them at 17 cents apiece! Your old batteries can be recycled by putting them in a plastic ziplock bag and placing on top of your recycling waste container on your trash pick-up day. Batteries are considered hazardous waste and may not be thrown in the regular trash.

**DONATE USED HEARING AIDS and/or HEARING EQUIPMENT!** To donate, place them in a ziplock baggie and give to the person at the reception desk at the next meeting. These items will benefit low income persons through the Lions Club "Ear of the Lion" program which refurbishes them. For more information, talk to Dale Davis at a meeting or [ddavis94605@gmail.com](mailto:ddavis94605@gmail.com).

### East Bay Leadership Team

The chapter is run by a Steering Committee, Leader Dale Davis, [ddavis94605@gmail.com](mailto:ddavis94605@gmail.com)

Advocacy: Gerald Niesar, [gniesar@nvlawllp.com](mailto:gniesar@nvlawllp.com)

Outreach: Susan Jeffries, [susanlj29@gmail.com](mailto:susanlj29@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary: Peter Townsend, [peterg.townsend@gmail.com](mailto:peterg.townsend@gmail.com)

National Chapter Coordinator/Liaison: Peter Townsend, [peterg.townsend@gmail.com](mailto:peterg.townsend@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Len Bridges, [lenbridges3993-hlaa@outlook.com](mailto:lenbridges3993-hlaa@outlook.com)

### Committees

Programs: Susan Jeffries, [susanlj29@gmail.com](mailto:susanlj29@gmail.com) and George Fitzgerald, [revcgf@gmail.com](mailto:revcgf@gmail.com)

Technology and AfterWords Small Group: George Chin, Sr., 352-1569, [georgechinsr@gmail.com](mailto:georgechinsr@gmail.com)

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**Yes, I want to join or renew membership in the East Bay Chapter of HLAA and the benefits it entails! Only \$15/person.**

☐ Join      ☐ Renewal (due by 1/31/19)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send newsletter by mail: \_\_\_\_ or e-mail: \_\_\_\_

Annual Dues (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact me to help volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: East Bay Chapter, HLAA, P.O. Box 12484  
Oakland, CA 94604-12484

### HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**YES! I want to join or renew membership in National HLAA, entitling me to the magazine *Hearing Loss*, and a number of discounts. Membership also means I'm supporting advocacy for people with hearing loss nationwide.**

☐ Individual \$35      ☐ Family \$45

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:                      National HLAA  
                                    7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 1200  
                                    Bethesda, MD 20814

Or join online at [www.hearingloss.org/content/join](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/join)