



February 2022 Newsletter

Renew your membership in our local chapter for only \$15 a year! Ways to renew: pay at our website on the “Donate” button in the upper right-hand corner; mail your renewal with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail to: East Bay Chapter, HLAA, P.O. Box

12484, Oakland, CA 94604-2484. See the back page to sign up and support National HLAA.

Our February meeting will be held February 12 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Meet and Greet starts at 9:30 a.m. This meeting is a unique opportunity to ask our panel of expert audiologists questions. Here's your chance to talk directly with professionals in the Hearing Loss Community.

Our Panelists: 1) Rupa Balachandran, Director, University of Pacific School of Audiology; 2) Peg Lisi, Pacific Hearing, Menlo Park & Mezzo soprano, SF Symphony; 3) Jan Larky, Director Stanford Cochlear Implants

Please submit your questions by February 7th using the Zoom registration form at: www.hearinglosseb.org, or by emailing us at: info@hearinglosseb.org

Register for this free event [HERE](#). Or use this link if you are getting a hard copy of the newsletter: <https://www.hearinglosseb.org/monthly-meetings-1>. After you register, you'll be sent the link to join the meeting. Consider staying after the meeting for AfterWords – a chance to ask more in-depth questions, as well as discuss anything you want with fellow members!

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

MEETING NOTES: *CCHAT: Helping Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children Communicate with Clarity & Confidence*

At our Jan. 8, 2022, meeting, our guest speaker via Zoom was Licia Green, Development Director at the CCHAT Center in Rancho Cordova, CA. The CCHAT Center offers a program devoted to teaching children who are deaf and hard of hearing (HoH) to listen and develop spoken language. There are presently 55 children participating in CCHAT's program, which focuses on auditory, language, and speech skills, as well as cognitive and social development. CCHAT is state-certified as a non-public school. CCHAT is not residential, but provides daily services to children and their families.

In addition to her key role at CCHAT, Licia is also an alumni parent of 18-year-old twin daughters, Kolby and Kendall, who were born deaf and were student participants in the CCHAT program. Although Kendall was not with



Licia and Kolby Green

us today, Kolby did join us on Zoom and shared her personal experiences in the CCHAT program, as well as her future plans.

CCHAT Students: CCHAT serves children from birth thru 3rd grade who come from diverse backgrounds.

- 3 out of 1000 children are born with hearing loss (HL), although 95% of them are born to hearing parents.
- CCHAT currently serves students from 26 school districts & early intervention programs in No. California.
- Over 25% of CCHAT children come from homes where English is not the primary language in the home.
- 66% of CCHAT children are racial/ethnic minorities, and 49% of the children are from low-income families.

Funding: CCHAT is a 501©3 nonprofit organization that relies on several sources of funding.

- CCHAT is very expensive to run costing \$10,000 per student with personnel salaries as the highest costs.
- All services are provided at no cost to children and families who daily drive in from a broad service area.
- CCHAT receives funding from Calif. School Services, local school districts & county offices of education.
- 50% of CCHAT's \$2.1 million annual budget is provided by the challenge of fundraising in the community.

Educational Services: CCHAT offers a broad range of educational & training services to deaf & HoH children.

- ✓ Education & audiology support staff: 2 audiologists; 5 speech-language therapists; 6 teachers of the deaf.
- ✓ Newborn hearing services & diagnostic center.
- ✓ Full educational program birth to 3rd grade with daily listening, speech & spoken language therapy.
- ✓ Age-appropriate goals, curriculum, & training: Baby & Me; Toddler, Pre-school, & Pre-K; K-Primary Grades.
- ✓ Maintaining a child's hearing with support of listening technology, e.g., hearing aids & cochlear implants.

Mainstreaming Support Services: CCHAT's stated mission is ". . . to teach children who are deaf and hard of hearing to master critical communication skills before transitioning into a more traditional educational setting." The staff members are committed to helping and supporting the children as they develop not only listening, language and speech skills, but also thinking and social skills that allow the children to enjoy a successful mainstream experience.

Parent Education & Support: CCHAT promotes active parent involvement, including participation in class, therapy and school-wide activities. Parent education, guidance and involvement are recognized by CCHAT as integral components of each child's success in developing independence and self-sufficiency.

Deaf Mentor Services & Bilingual Services: CCHAT strongly encourages deaf mentors to visit the campus daily to serve as role models, answer questions, and offer support to enrolled students and families. As a result of a grant, CCHAT is able to offer bilingual services in providing language & speech therapy to children in their primary language.

Student Experiences: The success of the CCHAT program is well-documented by testimonies of participating students and their families, including Licia's own daughters, Kolby and Kendall. As Kolby shared her experiences, it became quite clear that this bright, well-spoken young woman is one more success story as a result of the excellent CCHAT program.

For More Information & Questions: Please contact Licia Green at the CCHAT Center, 111 Coloma Rd. Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Call (916) 361-7290, x2, or (916) 768-3185. Email: liciak@cchatsacramento.org. For a complete description of the CCHAT Center, please visit their website: <https://www.cchatsacramento.org>.

~ Kathy Fairbanks

Tech Talk

By (Ms.) Dale Davis
February, 2022



Top 4 NEW Hearing Aid Technologies

2022 promises to be an exciting year for advances in hearing aid technology. Though around for awhile now, here are 4 hearing aid improvements that are really revolutionizing the hearing aid industry. If you haven't upgraded in the last 4-5 years, these advances have really made a difference:

1. Lithium Rechargeable Batteries

Older nickel metal hydride and zinc rechargeable batteries were pretty unreliable and barely lasted a day when charged. But today, with advances in **lithium ion technology**, these smaller, quicker charging, and longer lasting batteries are now becoming standard in most new hearing aids.

2. Bluetooth Technology

Probably the most exciting technological improvement since hearing aids went digital in the 1990's, Bluetooth allows you to stream audio from a smartphone, tablet or TV directly into your hearing aids without the use of any other accessories. This provides the clearest, most distortion-free audio right to your ears along with personalized volume control.

3. Custom Ear Molds

Custom ear molds with venting is probably the most overlooked component to getting the best performance from your hearing aids. Though a generic rubber dome might work for some, the best results can be obtained from a customized 3-D digital impression of your ear. This digital impression is then sent to the hearing aid manufacturer for printing by a specialized 3-D printer. The results: a uniquely customized and fitted hearing aid that is virtually invisible in the ear canal.

4. Deep Learning

Advances in software and machine learning have led to far more sophisticated methods for hearing aids to process sounds. Rather than a human writing the instructions for a hearing aid to block out certain sounds (like background noise, feedback, whistling, etc.) sophisticated neural networks are able to teach themselves how to process sounds, enhancing some and filtering out others.

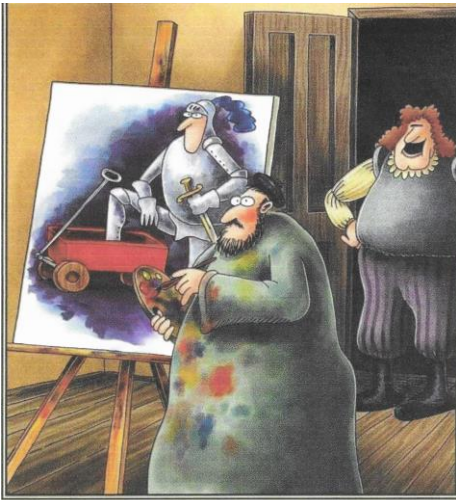
Please Note:

These products and innovations are brought to you for informational purposes only and do not reflect any endorsement by the National Hearing Loss Association of America or the East Bay Chapter. You can follow the links in the column for more in-depth information on the topics presented.

As with all hearing health device decisions, it is always best to consult with a professional Audiologist to find the best solution for your needs.

To contribute to this column, please contact: info@hearinglosseb.org

JOKE CORNER



“So, Andre! ... The king wants to know how you’re coming with *St. George and the Dragon*.”



East Bay Leadership Team

The chapter is run by a Steering Committee, Leader Dale Davis, ddavis94605@gmail.com, who also oversees the Membership Database.

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JOIN THE HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA – THEY ADVOCATE FOR YOU!

Go to this URL to join today: <https://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/become-a-memberrenew/>

OR, if you prefer to pay by check or card thru the mail, Nancy Asmundson has membership forms to send to you, or contact HLA at 301-657-2248 or e-mail membership@hearingloss.org. Your membership form & payment go to HLA, 6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852.

COSTS: Regular Membership/year (will receive *Hearing Life* magazine in print and digital format):

Individual - \$45; Couple/Family - \$55; Professional - \$80; Nonprofit - \$80;

Online Membership receives *Hearing Life* mag. in digital format only: Individual - \$35; Student - \$25.

Veteran Membership: Complimentary one-year Regular Membership & Lifetime Online Membership.