

Spring 2023



## Monthly Chapter Meeting

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

**THE MAY 1st CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE  
HYBRID (In Person and on Zoom)**

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

## Presentations

**Monday, April 3**

**“Using Multi-Sensory Stimulation to Improve  
Music Perception for CI Users”  
By Aaron Hodges, M.S. Stanford University  
(On Zoom)**

**Monday, May 1**

**“Weingarten Children’s Center: Helping Hard of  
Hearing or Deaf Children Build Language to be  
Mainstreamed into Public Schools” by William  
Doyle, Executive Director  
(In Person AND on Zoom)**

**No Chapter Meetings in June, July, and August**

## Special Meetings

### Saturday Connections

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

### Meniere's

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month  
12 noon-1:00 p.m.  
**(Meeting online until further notice)**

Please contact us if you are interested in  
attending Saturday Connections or  
Meniere's.

[info@hearinglosspen.org](mailto:info@hearinglosspen.org)

Request which meeting you're interested in  
and ask that you be put on the roster for the  
next meeting. You'll then receive an  
invitation and link to attend.

Newsletter Sponsor



3555 Alameda de las Pulgas,  
Suite 100  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
650-854-1980

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

[www.pacifichearing-service.com](http://www.pacifichearing-service.com)

## CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Bob Hall



The covid pandemic is falling into our rearview mirror. Despite the fact covid is still present, it seems like it is not nearly as infectious as it once was. We need to be vigilant, but at the same time people are seeking to be physically present with others and communication is easier without a mask.

There is an aspect of face-to-face meetings that allow individuals to talk one-on-one. Such interactions tend to be more spontaneous when there is a planned in-person meeting.

Virtual meetings on Zoom were a big help to those of us who have difficulty comprehending, especially in noise and you can speech read the face of the unmasked person on zoom. It is easier to get good speakers if they can address the audience on their computer and do not have to fly across the country to present in person. It is possible to have one-on-one interactions using Face Time (Apple iPhone videocalls), or even zoom, or other virtual meeting programs. But this is rare and difficult to arrange on the fly.

Hence it is time to try to have more personal interactions. We understand that not everyone is interested in returning to in-person meetings. Many prefer not to travel and they can understand and interact virtually better than they can in person.

So, the Peninsula Chapter Board has decided on a Hybrid meeting. The meeting is on May 1st, 2023, at 1:30PM and will be a zoom and in-person meeting. The meeting host will be ensconced in the Gold Room at the Veterans Memorial Senior Center (1455 Madison Avenue, Redwood City, CA\*). You are welcome to appear in person or you can log in with the zoom link and participate remotely. Those logging in from home will see some changes. There will be a camera that produces a video image of those at the Veterans Memorial Building. There will be two devices that are both microphones and speakers on the table. We tried them out. They pick up speech easily. The camera has a limited ability to zoom in and out, we are hoping it will identify hopefully the speaker correctly. In front of the table is a large video screen that will show video of those talking remotely and video of those who are in the meeting. You can enable captions on your computer at home, or there will be captions on the large screen at Vets Memorial.

One problem has already cropped up. There can be only one person with a computer, unmuted, at a time in the Gold Room. When two microphones are on at one a time and they are in close proximity, there will be very annoying feedback that will make it very difficult for anyone with a hearing impairment to comprehend what is being said. We will do our best to make sure only one microphone is on at any one time. That said, one need not bring their smart phone or portable computer to the in-person meeting as you will be able to speak, hear or read captions at the in-person meeting site.

We tried it out and it appears to work. But we are advised by others who have done this that problems will crop up that we may have to trouble shoot. We hope you'll join us in person. If not, we look forward to seeing you on Zoom.

\*The Gold Room is where the chapter met before the pandemic.

## CHAPTER NEWS – Scholarship Update by Kate Szentkuti



Believe it or not; it really is hard to give away money! The Scholarship Committee has struggled to reach potential applicants each year. Our Requirements are minimal: Be a high school Senior with a hearing loss, live in or attend school in San Mateo County, AND plan on further education after high school---a two year, four year college or a trade school.

Can YOU help spread the word? Through your audiologist, your church, your NextDoor page, or by posting flyers? Any, and all help, is appreciated and valid.

Applications are due April 15, 2023.

Applications and flyers are available through [Scholarship@hearinglosspen.org](mailto:Scholarship@hearinglosspen.org)

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

*Do you have a hearing loss? Are you a **young professional (ages 25-35)**? Interested in meeting other young professionals with hearing loss here in the **Bay Area**? Come join HearTogetherFriends! We meet once a month, alternating between in-person meets and Zoom meetings. We aim to provide a safe space to share our personal stories with hearing loss and learn from each other, to provide social opportunities, and a chance to build a professional network. Through this group, we encourage new friendships to form and to lift each other.*

*(Editor: Contact Jaynie Kind for Cleese's email.)*

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Stephen O. Frazier writes: “**Google Maps** has recently begun including **hearing loops** in the accessibility information on its website. This has received little notice from the national media or hearing loss–related entities but, for the hard of hearing, this is important news.” You can also add information about loops you know about. This information gets updated monthly. To read more:  
<https://hearinghealthfoundation.org/blogs/google-maps-adds-hearing-loops-information?fbclid=IwAR2Wc BXybK0xYUL 3ZOtk04Lt GIMUUxxQ9dg0 q0gTIWmDNwU DZH8ijJ0>

## Peninsula Chapter is Proud to Support Walk4Hearing on Saturday, June 3



**Saturday, June 3, 2023**

**Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach, 8th Street, Otis Drive, Alameda, CA**

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite summer events is coming up on June 3, the Bay Area Walk4Hearing! Our chapter has been an active participant in the nation-wide HLAA Walks which support our National HLAA as well as our chapters and alliances. AND we're all about raising awareness of Hearing Loss and advocating for the 1 in 7 who have hearing loss.

This year our Walk will be on Saturday, June 3, at the same beautiful spot as last year: Robert Crowne Memorial State Beach in Alameda. A leisurely 3.1-mile walk (or as far as you want to go) is a lovely way to spend a summer morning or day with family and friends and help promote hearing health. Vendors representing the hearing industry will have booths to demonstrate their products (and some nice little gifts!) Lots of snacks and drinks of course and live entertainment! It's a fun event! (You might even want to think about bringing a picnic lunch for after the Walk. 😊)

As in the past, our Peninsula Chapter will be raising funds for this great cause. I am the team leader for Peninsula Chapter, or you can also form your own team or make individual donations. You can raise a lot more donations by forming your own team!

To donate on-line, go to

1. [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org). Click on "Find a Walk" and select "Bay Area Walk".
2. To register, select "join a team" or "walk as individual."
3. Click on "new walker" or "returning walker."
4. Click on "search for a team." Choose either "Peninsula Chapter Team" or create your own team or be an individual walker.
5. Make your donation.

OR. you can always just mail me your check made out to "Bay Area Walk4Hearing", on notation line "HLAA Peninsula Chapter" addressed to Sally Edwards 720 Paradise Way, Redwood City, Ca. 94062.

I hope you will consider coming to the Walk. Bring some of your family and friends along! Raise awareness and financial support for this just cause.

See the flyer on the next page for more info.

Blessings, Sally



**Together,  
we're  
bringing  
hope to  
people with  
hearing loss.**



## **Bay Area Walk4Hearing**

**Saturday, June 3, 2023**

**📍 Robert W. Crown Memorial  
State Beach**  
8th Street, Otis Drive  
Alameda, CA

9:00 am - Registration  
10:30 am - Stage presentation  
10:45 am - Walk begins

**👤 Walk Manager:** Ronnie Adler

**✉️** [radler@hearingloss.org](mailto:radler@hearingloss.org)

**Learn more at  
[walk4hearing.org](http://walk4hearing.org)**

## Do You Have Any Hearing Loss Relationship “Complaints”? by Gael Hannan

Regardless of who you live with, if one of you has hearing loss, communication is going to be affected. It can be tough to navigate, or not so tough, depending on a few key factors applicable to all parties.

How well do they communicate in general? How patient are they in dealing with challenges? Most importantly, how much do they care for the other person and how *willing* are they to make adjustments in personal communication? (The *degree* or *type* of a person’s hearing loss, or the technology they use, may not be as relevant as these other points to successful interactions.)

How many of these sound familiar or apply to your life? Have you worked any of them out with your communication partners?

(Note: To prevent having to use “*s/he*”, I use *she* in the second column to refer to the person with hearing loss, and because that’s how I self-identify.)

### Common Complaints

By the Person with Hearing Loss	By the Hearing Partner/Friend/Family Member
They mumble.	She doesn't give me credit when I do communicate well.
They walk away from me while talking.	She walks away from me while talking.
They call me from another room.	She starts conversations from another room!
Sometimes they seem to do it on purpose.	I just forget sometimes.
He over-enunciates which I find demeaning.	She asks me to repeat myself even if she doesn't need it.
I have to turn the closed captioning back on all the time.	Why <i>can't</i> it be off when she's not watching?
I am neglected in group conversations.	She tunes out and bluffs during group conversations.
They are just not sensitive to my needs.	Everything is about her hearing loss.
They forget about my hearing loss.	She hears fine sometimes, and not in others. I'm not a mind reader.
I like to be the one to explain my hearing loss.	I just try and help her with people we are meeting for the first time.
They are slow to answer my questions during conversations.	I can't always repeat or interpret as quickly as she would like.
They really try. They are my mountains of support.	I love her. I want us to understand each other – and <i>others!</i>
I'm a better communicator because of them.	I'm a better communicator because of her.

(continued on page 7)

## **Do You Have Any Hearing Loss Relationship “Complaints”?** (continued from page 6)

Looking at these twin lists of complaints, the solutions may seem self-evident. However, remembering a partner’s communication needs in any given moment is not always easy, especially during an argument, or when tired, or when there are more than two people in the conversation. But without this attention to communication needs, the person with hearing loss is effectively sidelined and excluded.

Good communication takes commitment and caring, as seen in the last two rows of the chart.

Note: This chart is adapted from my book, *The Way I Hear It: A Life with Hearing Loss* (pg. 93), which is part memoir and part survival guide.

(Source: <https://hearinghealthmatters.org/better-hearing-consumer/2021/do-you-have-any-hearing-loss-relationship-complaints/>)



Did you miss some of our chapter meetings? Alan from Diablo Valley volunteered to edit them and put them on the HLAAC-CA YouTube page. Thank you, Alan! They are all captioned. Here are a few links:

The Psychological Nuts and Bolts of How to Form a Resilient Identity (March 6, 2023)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQOPZxQzf6s>

Earlens, a Unique Technology That Can Significantly Improve Hearing (February 6, 2023)

<https://youtu.be/Wc8pURJ80qc>

Hearing Challenges with Family: Julia Stepp of Hearing Loss Live (November 7, 2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EouBJO0vC8c>

My Cochlear Implant Journey: Dr. Michelle Hu (October 3, 2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnotmelUrpE>

Neosensory Buzz – Expanding Perception (March 7, 2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAe9OKrBgEM>

HeardThat (February 7, 2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmNFcaBe20w&t=19s>

America’s Getting in the Hearing Loop (January 3, 2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyHemVi8jCY&t=37s>

(P.S. There are recordings from other California chapters as well. Or you can go to our National website for HLAAC Webinar and Virtual Meeting Recordings:

<https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/webinars/schedule-recordings/>)

Did you forget what the topic was for an upcoming meeting? Delete or toss your newsletter? You can find our newsletters online here: <https://hearinglossca.org/support/peninsula-chapter/>

## NATIONAL NEWS



### HLAA 2023 Convention, June 29-July 1

The HLAA 2023 Convention is June 29 – July 1 in New Orleans, Louisiana! A timeless city with a unique way of life, New Orleans is steeped in European traditions and Caribbean influences. This picturesque city calls curious minds to sweet sounds of jazz and the enchanting aroma of savory spices. This year’s convention in the “Big Easy” promises to action packed with educational workshops, demo presentations, the exhibit hall, social events, and our Research Symposium. This year the Keynote Speaker at our Opening Session will be [Dr. K. Renee Horton](#). We are also very excited to have you join us at our Welcome Back Bash – “A Taste of New Orleans” which will be held June 29th at [The Presbytère](#).

The convention will be held at the Marriott New Orleans. Located on Canal St, in the French Quarter, the hotel is convenient to the many shops, restaurants and other attractions that New Orleans has to offer. When you aren’t learning and networking at the most communication accessible convention for people with hearing loss, you can window shop along Royal St., explore Woldenberg Park or people watch in Jackson Square while eating a New Orleans delicacy – a beignet. Start booking your trip now and laissez les bons temps rouler – let the good times roll!

For more information and to register [bit.ly/3vHRg71](https://bit.ly/3vHRg71) There is also information in your Hearing Life Magazine.

**NOTE: Our chapter is awarding two \$250 scholarships for members attending their first convention. (Must be members of HLAA or you can join beforehand.) If you’re interested in going, please contact Eliot Terborgh for details. So far, Sister Ann Rooney, Sally Edwards, Bill Coggshall and Janet Littlefield are planning to attend, so you’ll see some familiar faces.**



## THANK YOU!

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

Scholarship Donation in honor of Raegene and Jack's 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays and 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary from their son, Kevin Castle

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



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

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

Eliot Terborgh  
57 Parkwood Drive  
Atherton, CA 94027

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

### Important Message on Membership from Sally Edwards

Now more than ever, with distancing keeping us apart, we need to be there for one another. And as we will not be physically together for the time being, staying connected by phone, email, Zoom or other virtual platforms including HLAA meetings and webinars, is really important.

With this in mind, I want to urge you to KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT AND IF YOU HAVEN'T, PLEASE REJOIN. There are so many ways HLAA is reaching out to help us who are hearing impaired to cope with the isolation many are feeling. Webinars, Leaders' meetings, and the local chapter meetings keep us connected and learning and sharing what is helping us in this difficult time.

Memberships support all of this work and are now renewable yearly. See information below on how to do that. National does send out a reminder letter the month before your membership expires. And the date of your expiration is also on the Hearing Life Magazine if you are receiving it in hard copy. HLAA wants to help you as much as possible and also needs your support for this work. The cost is \$45/year for an individual, and \$55/year for couples/family. I look forward to seeing many of you who have drifted away, returning and benefiting from your renewed membership.

Blessings to all and STAY CONNECTED SAFELY, Sally

You can renew online: <https://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/become-a-member-renew/>  
Or download a form off the website if you do not wish to renew online: [https://www.hearingloss.org/wp-content/uploads/HLAA\\_MembershipForm\\_8.2021.pdf](https://www.hearingloss.org/wp-content/uploads/HLAA_MembershipForm_8.2021.pdf) and mail it to: [6116 Executive Blvd, Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852](mailto:6116 Executive Blvd, Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852)

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For those folks who receive a printed copy of this newsletter:

Snail mailing the newsletter is both expensive and labor intensive. Would you like to get it via email? You receive it much sooner and instead of typing a link to a web page, a video, etc., you can just click on it. You can always print it if you prefer to read it that way. Let me know.

Kate Szentkuti, Membership Chair  
membership@hearinglosspen.org

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**Buying personal amplifiers, phones, clocks, alerting devices, etc? Harris Communicatons is now at <https://www.diglo.com>**

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Sunday, after church, I went up to the preacher and asked if he would pray for my hearing. He put his hands on my ears and prayed while shaking my head back and forth. When he finished, he asked how my hearing was. I said I don't know it's not until Tuesday at the courthouse.

(reprinted with permission from Ronnie Adler)

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**If you use Facebook, there are some groups worth checking out:**

"Hearing Loss Association of America – Official Community & Support" (This is a social group where people can ask questions, share experiences, and offer support on how to live with hearing loss; Private, you request to join)

"Hearing Loss: The Emotional Side" (designed to help support persons with hearing loss and anyone interested in understanding the complexities of hearing loss and emotions; Private, you ask to join)

"Hearing Loss Live" (open)

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Contact : Email: [info@hearinglosspen.org](mailto:info@hearinglosspen.org); Telephone: 650-365-4868

### HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

#### Resources:

**Hearing Loss Association of America-Peninsula Chapter:**

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

**Hearing Loss Association of America:** [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

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

**Hearing Loss Web** has resources for people with hearing loss: <http://www.hearinglossweb.com>

**Hearing Aid Reviews, Audiologists, etc.** [www.hearingtracker.com](http://www.hearingtracker.com)

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

**Young Adults Social Network 18-35:** [https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/communities/students\\_youngadults/](https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/communities/students_youngadults/)

**American Tinnitus Association:** [www.ata.org](http://www.ata.org)

**Hearing loops:** [www.hearingloop.org](http://www.hearingloop.org)

**To find and add venues that offer ALDs and Loops:** [www.ALDDLocator.com](http://www.ALDDLocator.com), [www.loopfinder.com](http://www.loopfinder.com)

**To find and install loops:** [www.loopamerica.com](http://www.loopamerica.com)