



Monthly Chapter Meeting

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

All meetings are on Zoom

Register to attend meetings. If you don't get an email a week before, contact 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

January 8

“InnoCaption is a mobile app. Learn its latest features and major updates, and how to use it on other devices (tablets, iPads, laptops, desktops) as well.”

Matt Goncalves, Marketing Director

February 5

“Amptify is a leading digital aural rehabilitation program. Learn about their training, curriculum, and unique coaching/peer support structure.”

Anne Michele Puglisi, Au.D.

March 4

“Hearing Loss is a communication disorder that affects us and those we talk with. Learn the challenges and solutions to help us communicate.”

Pat Dobbs, Life Coach for people with hearing loss, educator, author, blogger

Special Meetings

Saturday Connections

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

Meniere's

2nd 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. We'll put you on the roster for the next meeting. You'll then receive an invitation and a link to attend.

info@hearinglosspen.org

Our mission is to support, educate and advocate for persons with hearing loss.



Newsletter Sponsor



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Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-854-1980

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

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Robert Hall



Hearing aids have greatly improved and with them assistive listening devices. The hearing aid alone is portable; but is effective for only 6-20 feet if the room is quiet and the user is looking at the speaker. Other people talking, reverberation from hard surfaces, background noise, even music can make it very difficult for some hearing aid wearers to comprehend what someone has said. In a group meeting – with increased distance from one another and back-ground noise it is very difficult to comprehend what is being said.

Enter the Loop and Tele-coil which first made their appearance in 1937. It took a while for these devices to catch on with hearing aid users. But the loop and tele-coils have been the only form of how one person can talk to many people and be comprehended by all.

Now there is a new version of Bluetooth that can broadcast wirelessly, called Auracast. You can buy a transmitter which will send a Bluetooth signal from your TV, in your car, in your house and in a theatre. The cost is modest - \$20 to \$30. The problem is that almost no hearing aids, CI processors, or headphones can use this signal. Cochlear Americas N-8 processor is said to be ready to receive it, but I have not met anyone with an N-8 processor who is using Auracast.

The idea that one must go out and buy a new hearing aid or processor to get Bluetooth is unrealistic. In the past manufacturers have sold relatively inexpensive items like a “my Link” that made it possible to use the Roger Pen without buying the expensive X receiver.

Advanced Bluetooth requires relatively inexpensive receivers and does not have the problem of electrical interference. We should be urging audiologists and makers of our devices to offer a more cost-effective method of receiving the signal until Auracast is more widely available. If you want to read more about Auracast, here's a link: <https://www.bluetooth.com/auracast/>

CHAPTER NEWS – Scholarship Update by Kate Szentkuti



We have been offering scholarships to San Mateo County high school seniors with hearing loss and BIG plans for their futures for several years now. Our distributions are over \$20,000 to over a dozen students! For the first time we have counselors contacting us to ask for information and applications. Our eligibility requirements are that a student either live in or attend school in San Mateo County, have a documented hearing loss, and have plans to attend a college (2 or 4 year) or trade school. Contact scholarship@hearinglosspen.org for more information.

Below is a half-page flyer—please print and post anywhere you feel it will be seen by our target audience of students and parents.

Kate Szentkuti, HLAA – Peninsula Chapter Scholarship Committee



Cut here



SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE COLLEGE, JUNIOR COLLEGE, TRADE SCHOOL FOR GRADUATING SENIORS WITH DOCUMENTED HEARING LOSS

**OFFERED BY PENINSULA CHAPTER OF HEARING LOSS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT scholarship@hearinglosspen.org

CHAPTER NEWS – Happy 40th Birthday Peninsula Chapter! by Sally Edwards

The history of our Peninsula Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) was put together by Elizabeth (Liz) Furber, who was our historian. She attributes the information to many sources, oral and written, with thanks to Raegene Castle, Sister Ann Rooney, Marge Heymans, Don Senger, chapter newsletters beginning in 1992, and Liz herself.

Our chapter was chartered August 15, 1983 as the Bay Area Chapter of our national organization, SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing), which was founded in 1979. Bill Cutler, Dick and Marge Heymans, Joe McLoughlin, among others were the chapter founders.



The first meetings were held in Bill's home in Los Altos where he had converted his garage into a "plush" conference room. Eventually the meetings moved to a looped room in Mercury Savings in Menlo Park. The Bank provided meals before the meetings for \$3.95 as well as an annual Holiday dinner. When Mercury Savings closed during the loan crisis (1980's-90's), meetings moved to Kaiser and then eventually to Veterans' Memorial Senior Center in Redwood City (where we still meet today, 2023).

The Saturday4Lunch group, now called Saturday Connections, started in 2009, by Raegene Castle and Shelene Chang. After a couple years, Jaynie Kind and Bob Hall took over and now co-lead this group. A Meniere's Support group was started in 2012 with Bob Hall as it's leader, and continues to the present.

Our newsletters were printed from January 2002 to January 2009 by California Ear Institute and by Pacific Hearing Center ever since. Jaynie Kind has been our Newsletter Editor for fourteen years.

Tidbits from Liz:

At one time, chapter member Dick Pollack sometimes drove up from Ben Lomond (near Santa Cruz), picking up people from the Palo Alto area, until he became too ill.

A letter from Ann Turley, 9/11/01, to the membership via the newsletter, announcing her move to Portland, indicated she had been a member for 15 years and listed six tasks she had been doing and was now passing on to others.

(Continued on page 5)

CHAPTER NEWS – Happy 40th Birthday Peninsula Chapter! (Continued)

Sister Ann Rooney has provided a number of useful documents in a report to National. Some of that report included:

1984-1985 Kate Lowenstein, President; Treasury \$124.25; Dues \$5.00. In 1987, there were 57 chapter members with an average attendance of 22; Treasury \$600. A committee on Assistive Listening Devices was started. Members received the SHHH-BAM newsletter. Binders of newsletters go back to July 1992.

Per Don Senger, SHHH-BAM was an incorporated SHHH organization composed of several Bay Area chapters, including the Peninsula Chapter, Santa Clara Chapter and San Francisco Chapter. Napa Chapter may have been included but not certain. Other Bay area chapters were not yet in existence. SHHH-BAM was not a "chapter" but a coalition of Bay area chapters working together.

In the early 2000's things were precarious and the chapter was near folding. Then, Raegene Castle, brimming with enthusiasm, helped revive it.

Some of the PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE PENINSULA CHAPTER

1984	Kate Lowenstein
1985	Richard Heymons
1987	John Stoddard
1989	Richard Heymons
????	John Partch, served as President
1995	Marge Heymans
1999	William Dippe
2002	Raegene Castle
2007	Sister Ann Rooney & Raegene Castle
2008	Francis Cruz & Raegene Castle
2009	Raegene Castle & Sister Ann Rooney
2010	Sister Ann Rooney & Sally Edwards
2011	Sally Edwards
2012-present	Sally Edwards & Bob Hall

(Editor: Wow, Sally and Bob have served as presidents for eleven years! That's a record. Thank you both!)

CHAPTER NEWS – Happy 40th Birthday Peninsula Chapter! (Continued)

And now for a word from National:



December 1, 2023

Dear HLAA Peninsula Chapter Members,

Congratulations on your 40-year anniversary. You've committed yourselves to the mission of the Hearing Loss Association of America by providing information, education, support and advocacy in your community.

HLAA Chapters don't just happen. They take dedicated people who realize there are many like themselves who want to confront the issue of hearing loss. Your early members followed the lead of Founder Rocky Stone who had the vision that chapters should form all across the United States. Volunteers are at the heart of HLAA's work and it's volunteers like you who have directly impacted people's lives.

The Peninsula Chapter put a stake in California -- from your participation in the Walk4Hearing to your programs and the community of support you've built. You've earned respect among your peers, professionals, and other service organizations for being a trusted resource on all matters related to hearing loss.

We live in a time of great opportunity with innovations in hearing technology and more attention than ever put on the importance of hearing health. Your chapter members, supporters and friends of the chapter have given time, talents and treasure to ensure the HLAA Peninsula Chapter can look to the future.

HLAA Chapters everywhere can take inspiration from the HLAA Peninsula Chapter as you celebrate 40 years. On behalf of the entire HLAA organization, its board of directors, national staff and volunteers across the country, we send our heartfelt thanks for what you've created and sustained for 40 years.

Here's to our future together!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Barbara Kelley'.

Barbara Kelley
Executive Director

CHAPTER NEWS – Happy 40th Birthday Peninsula Chapter! (Continued)

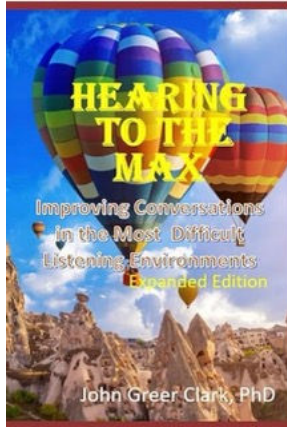
We celebrated our anniversary at our annual holiday party on Monday, December 4th.



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

A Review of *Hearing to the Max* by Cindy Wallbrink

I made it a point to ask questions about my friend's trip to the beach.



I've been thinking about the importance of self-advocating, and how I REALLY need to share what it takes for me to successfully communicate. A useful book, *Hearing to the Max* by John Greer Clark, PhD, has been a bit of a game changer for me.

In my email response, I asked if she would be alone or with others, and would be sitting and able to talk while there. I told her I needed to focus on her because I rely on speech reading too. I explained captioning is available on Zoom, but if she was at home in front of her laptop, that would be best.

She understood and we will be rescheduling.

Are you familiar with Clark's book?

I thought I knew everything until I read it!

What a great resource!

Technology – More on Auracast by Anonymous

Here's how the new Auracast assistive listening standard is making inroads. As more of the Auracast capable hardware is produced (in hearing aids, Auracast handheld receivers, mobile phones, etc.) the easier people will experience the benefits of the system. Auracast can offer very high-quality multiple channel audio for much less power, hassle, and frustration of non-maintained equipment hearing loops.

<https://www.hearingtracker.com/news/windows-11-to-directly-pair-with-hearing-aids-with-bluetooth-le-audio>

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

HearTogetherFriends

A social meetup group for young adults (Ages 25-35) with hearing loss who are looking to connect with other young adults with hearing loss in the Bay Area. Our mission is to create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment to share about one's experiences with hearing loss, to learn from each other, and to discover fun activities in the bay area together. We also assist each other in developing better self-advocacy skills and to establish professional networking opportunities among our members. No membership fees required. If you are interested, you can reach out to Dr. Cleese Relihan at jcrelihan@aol.com with questions or if you would like to receive a link invitation to HearTogetherFriends' Facebook page.



**Save the Dates to Attend the
HLAA 2024 Convention, June 26–29**

As HLAA's first-ever event at a resort rather than an urban hotel, next year's convention in Phoenix, Arizona, promises to be a brand-new experience! So mark your calendar and plan to join us at the luxurious **Sheraton Grand Resort at Wild Horse Pass**, June 26–29, 2024.

Recordings of Peninsula Chapter Meetings

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

Lipreading Strategies by Hearing Loss Live (November 6, 2023)
<https://youtu.be/uTIWDWcMiuo>

Cochlear Implants – My Personal Story of Hearing: Loss, Evaluation, Surgery, Activation, and Miraculous Results! (October 2, 2023)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMq09UCjivE>

Pacific Hearing 2023 Hearing Care Update (September 11, 2023)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXKeaMUTWPU>

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.

Uccelli Foundation (Scholarships)
Kevin Castle (Scholarships)
Gloria Kennett (Scholarships)

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 HLAА-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 Kate Szentkuti

We have about the same number of members, maybe a little fewer. It is important to keep your membership current and to support Hearing Loss Association of America in their endeavors on our behalf. The cost is \$55 annually for couples, \$45 for individuals, and FREE for a year for Veterans. Renewals can be done online or the old-fashioned way by mail.

The addresses are: <https://www.hearingloss.org>

Or download a form off the website, and mail it to:

Hearing Loss Association of America
6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 320
Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Contact : Email: 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 Maryland 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

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

Hearing Aid Reviews, Audiologists, etc. <https://www.hearingtracker.com>

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

Young Adults Social Network 18-35: https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/communities/students_youngadults/

American Tinnitus Association: www.ata.org

Hearing loops: www.hearingloop.org

To find and add venues that offer ALDs and Loops: www.ALDDocator.com

To find and install loops: www.loopamerica.com

Quick statistics about Hearing: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/quick-statistics-hearing>

Speech Recognition Test: <https://appsprod.ad.rit.edu/NSRT/>