



# East Bay Chapter:Newsletter



April 2025

Poppy Season!

Chapter E-mail: [Info@HearingLossEB.org](mailto:Info@HearingLossEB.org)

Chapter Address: PO Box 2266,  
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**April 12, 2025 Meeting:** Troy Cascia, AUD, of UCSF audiology department will be presenting the 'Basics of Tinnitus'. What is the source of the tinnitus perception. What makes it so bothersome for some people. What are some management options that are available for people living with tinnitus.

**The meeting will be held in person and on Zoom. The in person meeting Event Details:**

- Date: Saturday, April 12, 2025
- Time: 9:30 Social; 10:00 Meeting; and 11:30 Lunch
- Location: Oakland Kaiser Fabiola Building, 3801 Howe Street, Room G26
- Cost: Free

**Please register at: [www.HearingLossEB.org](http://www.HearingLossEB.org) by Fri Apr 11**

While this session is a hybrid meeting, we encourage you to attend in person for an engaging and informative experience. Enjoy our usual morning coffee and bagels, and stick around after the meeting for pizza lunch (**PIZZA!**). We're looking forward to seeing you there!

*Questions?* [Info@HearingLossEB.org](mailto:Info@HearingLossEB.org) Please REGISTER for the meeting at: [www.HearingLossEB.org](http://www.HearingLossEB.org)

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](mailto:Info@HearingLossEB.org)

## Coming Soon:

- ❖ May: Walk for Hearing – May 18, 9 a.m. – noon, See flyer below.
- ❖ June: How to read an Audiogram
- ❖ July: No meeting
- ❖ August: No meeting
- ❖ September: Hearing Loss and Music

## MEETING NOTES: *“A Panel Presentation: Teachers Share How They Work with Their Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Students”*

At our March 8, 2025 HLAA-EB Chapter meeting, a panel of three local public school teachers discussed how they work successfully with their Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) students. Collectively, teachers Jessica Serrano, Mary Grace Basco, and Stephanie Knight-Shaw have several decades of experience working with students with hearing loss who range from infancy to high school age. After each teacher introduced herself, the teachers shared models of DHH education, what each teacher does, how they help their students learn self-advocacy skills and discover that learning can be a fun experience even with hearing loss. They also described and demonstrated some of the ways they work with other school personnel, as well as parents of students with hearing loss.



**Our Speakers’ Background:** Our 3 teacher panelists moved quickly into introducing themselves while providing a little background on their teaching jobs. They assured us they wanted to keep their presentation informal and welcomed questions from the audience along the way. In particular, they wished to share with us **“What They Do, What They Love and Challenges”**.

**Students’ Education Rights:** In an effort to coax the audience to get involved, they showed some pictures of high school graduates from an earlier era and asked audience members to think back to when they graduated from high school and whether there were any laws in place protecting the rights of all students to a free appropriate public education. As the audience was giving due thought to this provocative question, our speakers began to cite some of the major laws that led up to the existing legally enforceable protections of all students that are available today:

- ✓ **Before 1975:** There were no formal legal safeguards in place for children with disabilities to receive a free public education.
- ✓ **1975:** Congress passed Public Law 94-42, also known as Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EAHCA).
- ✓ **1990:** The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment (ADA) was signed into law. EAHCA is renamed Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- ✓ **1997 & 2004:** Amendments were added to IDEA.

**What We Do – Models of DHH Education:** In explaining **“What We Do”**, the teachers described how they fit into 3 different Models of DHH Education:

- **Schools for the Deaf:** Every state has at least one School for the Deaf. Since California. Is so large, it has two Schools for the Deaf, one in Fremont and another in Riverside.
- **Inclusion:** Jessica and Mary Grace are teachers in the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD), which uses the Inclusion model for DHH children. This means that every day is quite different for AUSD DHH teachers like Jessica and Mary Grace who daily work with a range of DHH children from infancy to high school in their home, in daycare or in a classroom which includes both hearing students as well as DHH students.

- **DHH Self=Contained Classroom:** Stephanie is a teacher in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) which uses a DHH Self=Contained Classroom model. This model is similar to the Special Education Self-Contained Classroom which typically has a variety of special-needs students. However, OUSD applies a DHH Self-Contained Classroom model where all are children who can benefit from DHH techniques.

**Turning Problems/Challenges into Solutions:** The teachers noted that they recognize that all kids of all ages have problems of one kind or another that may arise at birth or anywhere right up through high school and beyond. Nevertheless, those kids who are born with a hearing loss or begin to experience one as they grow older and go to school often face additional problems or challenges inside and outside the classroom.

As teachers of DHH children, they explained their role in moving so-called “problems” or “disabilities” of their DHH students into “solutions”. These solutions are what are called “accommodations” under the law and cited in each DHH student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP). No matter the Model of DHH Education, the teachers often apply some of the following teaching strategies to help their DHH students at each stage meet their educational goals while also discovering how they can become self-advocates for themselves in spite of their hearing loss. The teachers shared several of their favorite techniques through pictures, videos with closed captions, and a sampling of fun activities and games that work well in their classrooms to reduce or resolve some of these problems or challenges.

- **Offer Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT):** These HAT include personal FM systems & sound field systems.
- **Reduce Noise in the Classroom:** Use rubber coasters on chairs. Put little single seating boxes up close.
- **Preferential Seating:** Rather than basing student seating on size, allow students with HL to sit up front.
- **Make Your Mouth Visible:** Don’t cover your mouth when teaching and talking so students can lip-read.
- **One Speaker at a Time:** Point out to students who is talking at any time.
- **Get the Student’s Attention Before Talking:** Use a signal to students to get them to pay attention.
- **Use Colorful Visuals:** Use colorful chalk on a chalkboard or colored markers on a white board.
- **Face the Students when Talking:** Get in front of students, and lean down to their level when talking.
- **Repeat/Rephrase:** Say it again to clarify missed information or other students’ questions & comments.
- **Listening Breaks for Listener Fatigue:** Take short breaks when students seem weary or distracted.

**Our Students’ Journey:** The 3 teachers proceeded in sharing some of their DHH students’ journey in meeting common educational goals and standards-through age/grade-appropriate activities

that the teachers use. The teachers also described how they offer parent support and education, as well as communicate and work with other school personnel.

- ✚ **Infant - Newborn Screening:** Parent support & education; how to read your child's audiogram; audiogram of familiar sounds.
- ✚ **Early Start –Individual Family Support Plans (IFSP)** Services for DHH children in the home & services at daycare & in the community.
- ✚ **Pre-school –Individual Education Plan (IEP)** Developing self-concept through pumpkin-carving activity& teddy bear project where little teddy bears have HA's & CI's.
- ✚ **Elementary School:** Activity on sound: distance vs. loudness; self-advocacy posters drawn by students.
- ✚ **Middle School:** Self-advocacy video for future teachers. Books with DHH kids as protagonist.
- ✚ **High School:** ADA in the community/movie field trip; accommodations in college; field trip to SFSU.

**The Audience's Turn to Participate in a Fun Learning Activity:** At this point, audience members were invited to participate in an activity which the teachers sometimes use to teach their older DHH students how their ears work. Each audience member/participant was given a small, clear bag that contained 10 edible cookies and candies with each piece a different shape and size that resembled one component of the ear that makes hearing possible. After a brief description of how hearing works, each participant was asked to put the individual edible pieces in order as they are lined up and connected in the ear. Each person was then asked to verbalize to another person how the human ear functions to allow us to hear. Participants were rewarded only when they could correctly identify the ear components and describe their role in the hearing process. What a wonderful learning lesson for both kids and adults alike

**Wrap-Up;** In wrapping up their fascinating presentation, our 3 DHH teacher speakers expressed **"What We Love"** in their jobs of teaching DHH children. They described how they love to use their creativity and flexibility to assist their kids daily gain new skills and meet educational age/grade standards and see their DHH students gradually become more self-confident, while learning to advocate for what they need. These 3 Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing teachers made it perfectly clear that they **"love what they do"** in teaching their DHH students and feel like **"it's the best job in the world"**.

Finally, the teachers thanked us for the opportunity to come share some of the strategies, practical techniques, resources, and fun activities they utilize in working with their DHH students. They encouraged audience members to contact them with questions at their emails included below. They also assured us that they had no intention of recommending or endorsing any specific teaching technique or product for any particular student. Likewise, the HLAA-EB Chapter leadership reminded everyone that the policy of the Chapter is to not endorse any service, product or person that may have been mentioned or discussed during the current presentation, discussion or follow-up Q & A session.

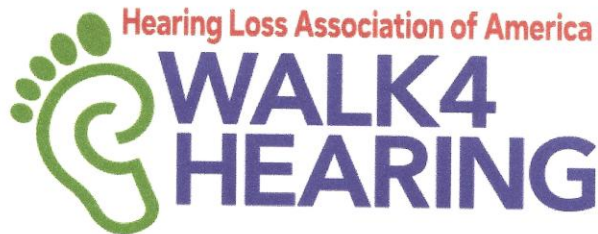
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Email: [sknightshaw@gmail.com](mailto:sknightshaw@gmail.com)**

~ **Kathy Fairbanks**





*Celebrate. Empower. Inspire.*



# Bay Area Walk4Hearing

Sunday, May 18, 2025

**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



**Scan to Register today  
or visit [walk4hearing.org](http://walk4hearing.org)**



 **Walk Manager: Ronnie Adler**

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

## **HLAA 2025 Convention**

**Make plans now to Join the HLAA's 40th annual convention, June 11-14, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana—host of the famous Indy 500 automobile race. Our annual event brings together hundreds of people with hearing loss from around the U.S. to learn, discover and connect. Check out the latest technology and hear from health and industry experts during a series of empowering events designed to help you live your best life with hearing loss.**

**Registration is now open for the Convention so reserve your spot today! Although the Early Bird pricing is over, you can still go. To sign up, go [here](#). Then click on “Learn More and Register”.**

### **Convention Highlights**

- **Hear an inspiring keynote speaker during the General Session**
- **Attend our Research Symposium exploring “Stigma: Making the Invisible Actionable”**
- **Celebrate and connect at the Welcome Back event and other social functions**
- **Learn from our exciting educational workshops on a wide range of topics**
- **See product demonstrations of the latest technology for people with hearing loss**
- **Walk through the Exhibit Hall featuring cutting-edge tech and hearing health industry advances. Free Exhibit Hall-only passes available**
- **Enhance an HLAA Chapter or State Organization at the HLAA Leadership Training**

**Every member who has attended a convention came away impressed with the amount of good information! If interested in finding out more impressions, you can talk to Linda Gee, Connie Gee or Verna Dow, who all went to the 2024 Convention.**

**Research Symposium: Hearing Loss Stigma: Making the Invisible Actionable**

**Exhibit Hall: Many companies that deal with hearing aids and other hearing related items. See what you'll discover!**

**Parent's Education Track: Learn about what you can do to help your child with hearing loss.**

**Indy Walk4Hearing: Saturday, June 14, morning!**

**Closing Activity: Indianapolis Indians baseball game at Victory Field!**



**We need your help! Can you volunteer? Contact us at: [info@hearinglosseb.org](mailto:info@hearinglosseb.org)**

Here is a list of volunteer positions we are seeking to fill:

- **Zoom Assistant** - Assist George Chin, Sr. to run Zoom, cameras, and PA/Audio Loop during in person/hybrid meetings.
- **Camera Operator** - Use a remote control to operate our 2 cameras for in-person Zoom meetings.
- **Volunteer Coordinator**: Contact people who said they could volunteer and tell them about volunteer needs. Recruit for those positions.
- **Outreach Coordinator**: Organize a table for our chapter at various street fairs and other venues. Set up the table. Recruit volunteers to help with the events. Reach out to people who participate in our meetings. Let people know about our chapter.
- **Just want to help?** All of our committees need helpers! All volunteers are welcome! Contact us and we'll help you figure out what would be a good fit for you.

### ***HLAA SF/East Bay Leaders***

Our Steering Committee, Leader: Len Bridges, [lenbridges3993-hlaa@outlook.com](mailto:lenbridges3993-hlaa@outlook.com)  
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Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services: Audrey Spinka, [captionit@gmail.com](mailto:captionit@gmail.com)

### ***JOIN HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (HLAA) – THEY ADVOCATE FOR YOU!***

[hearingloss.org](http://hearingloss.org) Membership is now open to all of our valued supporters who help fuel our mission and change the lives of people with hearing loss. **Everyone who gives is now an HLAA member, helping to amplify our HLAA voice, and fulfill our important mission— together!**

**COST OF MEMBERSHIP:** The HLAA national office had consolidated the donation and membership processes. Presently, anyone who donates as little as \$1 would become a member of the national HLAA. Additionally, with a donation of \$45 annually, individuals have the option to receive a hard copy of the Hearing Life magazine from the national office.