

Spring 2026



### 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

**Our meeting place in Redwood City is under construction. When we can meet again in person, we'll let you know.**

### Presentations

**April 6 – IN PERSON (Old or New Vet's Memorial)**

“HOPE-Hearing Other Peoples Experiences”. We can learn a lot from one another as we talk about our hearing loss journey. Bob Hall, Psychologist, will moderate this meeting. Think about your hearing loss and events that have been good (or not) for your ability to communicate with others.

**May 4 – ZOOM ONLY**

“Emergency Preparedness for People with Hearing Loss” by Ann Thomas

**July 18 – Picnic at Flood Park, Menlo Park**

**No Meetings in June, July, 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, and twice a year in person. To find these in-person dates and locations, contact us at [info@hearinglosspen.org](mailto:info@hearinglosspen.org)**

**Register to attend any of our Zoom meetings on our website:**

**<https://hearinglossca.org/peninsula/>**

**Once you register, you'll receive an email with the link to join.**

If you have more questions, feel free to contact us at [info@hearinglosspen.org](mailto:info@hearinglosspen.org)

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

Newsletter  
Sponsor



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[www.pacifichearingsservice.com](http://www.pacifichearingsservice.com)

## CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

### Eliot Terborgh



Dear Members and Friends of the HLAA – Peninsula Chapter

In our last newsletter, Jim Lang introduced himself as the new co-president of our Chapter. Now it's my turn to introduce myself and to say hello to all our HLAA members and friends. I've been a member of HLAA since 2017 and have served our wonderful volunteer-run organization as Treasurer and member of our Scholarship Committee. My HLAA membership has been a wonderful source of support, education and fellowship.

I began to lose my hearing in the early 1980s because of Meniere's Disease. By the mid-nineties I was completely deaf in my left ear and wore a hearing aid in my right ear. By 2000, my otolaryngologist told me that one day I would be a candidate for a cochlear implant. Sure enough, I received my first CI in 2014 and my second in 2015. I often say how lucky I am to live in a day and age when this incredible technology is available.

As Jim mentioned in our Winter newsletter, we are now very close to moving our Chapter meetings to the new Veterans Memorial Senior Center in Redwood City. If all goes well, we will have our first live meeting in the new facility on Monday, April 6, but at this writing it is more likely that we will still be in the Gold Star room of the "old" Vet Center. In either event, the meeting will be a live HOPE session (Hearing Other Peoples' Experiences), hosted by our past chapter co-president, Bob Hall. We will announce the exact location in our regular meeting announcements.

Raegene Castle has resigned from her role as Vice President of Programming. All of us from Peninsula Chapter wish to thank her for her many years of exemplary service to our chapter, in this role and including her many years as President. I also want to thank Ken Peters for taking over for Raegene in addition to his advocacy work. His new title is Vice President, Education and Advocacy.

This year, Jim and I are committed to increasing our Chapter membership. We would like to emphasize the importance of maintaining your HLAA membership (or signing up if you are not already a member). The HLAA national organization has recently changed the membership fee structure to encourage everyone to join. This is important because a big part of what HLAA does is to lobby Congress on behalf of our members to support programs for people with hearing loss, including expanding Medicare to cover hearing devices. Hence, the more members we have, the more "clout" we have with Congress.

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Co-President's Message (continued from page 2)

HLAA annual dues can now be as little as \$1, which includes access to all the programs and webinars offered by HLAA, plus an email digital version of *Hearing Life* magazine. *Hearing Life*, published three times a year by HLAA, is an excellent resource filled with the latest technical innovations and human-interest stories about people from all walks of life who have successfully dealt with the challenges of hearing loss.

If you can comfortably afford annual dues of \$45 or more, you can receive a print copy of the *Hearing Life* magazine. Since many of us prefer sitting down to read an “old fashioned” magazine over a cup of coffee, the print version is well worth the extra membership fees. Please register today at <https://www.hearingloss.org/>.

Finally, don't forget the HLAA annual convention, held this year in Lexington, KY, from June 10 to 12. For more information and to register, visit [hearingloss.org/get.involved/hlaa-convention/](https://www.hearingloss.org/get-involved/hlaa-convention/). The Peninsula Chapter is offering a \$250 scholarship to a member who is a first-time attendee and who agrees to share their convention experience with us at a future Chapter meeting.

We look forward to seeing you (live or via Zoom) at one of our future Chapter meetings.

Eliot

## CHAPTER NEWS – SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE by Kate Szentkuti



The Scholarship Committee met on February 9. We are going through the quiet period when “our kids” are sending out applications to college, taking exams and SAT’s. Their next priority is PROM—remember that?

Seriously, March is the month that colleges send out acceptance letters and the search for funding assistance begins in earnest. Our deadline for submission is April 15. If you know a high school senior with a hearing loss, living in San Mateo County, please let them know about our scholarship awards.

We’ve planned for some time to follow Raegene Castle’s lead and be more proactive in searching for grants. To date we’ve funded nineteen students for the total of \$46,000. Not bad for our little group!! And helped some really worthy kids. If you have any experience or willingness alone to help with grant hunting, please contact any one of the committee members: Bob Hall, Bonnie Neylan, Eliot Terborgh, Jim Lang, or Kate Szentkuti. We’d appreciate your help!

Thank you,  
Kate Szentkuti, Scholarship Committee

## CHAPTER NEWS - PUBLICITY AND ADVOCACY UPDATE by Ken Peters



Ken Peters MD is continuing giving his well-received presentations on “Hearing Loss in Seniors”. He is scheduled to give his next one on March 13 at CALRTA-CA Retired Teachers Association in San Jose. He is reaching out to the centers he spoke at last year for updated presentations and welcomes any ideas from chapter members for new venues. Ken will also be serving as our chapter coordinator for our monthly meeting speakers. Please let him know if you have any requests of topics or speakers you would recommend. He is also interested in any advocacy issues that you would like to have the chapter’s assistance with. His e-mail is [kpeters@pacbell.net](mailto:kpeters@pacbell.net).

### **PRODUCT REVIEW AURACAST -- A BETTER WAY TO HEAR YOUR TV**

Like most of us who have struggled with hearing loss for years, I have experimented with many ways to listen to our home TV.

Years ago, I started out with a product call TV Ears, which is still on the market today. This is a reasonable solution for those with mild to moderate hearing loss but does not work well for anyone with a cochlear implant (CI) or a hearing aid with an ear mold.

More recently, many hearing aids have been equipped with Roger or Bluetooth technology which does provide a wireless connection between the TV audio and one’s hearing devices. But in my case, this technology was not available until a very recent CI upgrade which allowed me to finally have a Bluetooth connection between my iPhone and my CIs, which opened up a number of new options for me.

At our *Saturday Connections* meeting in November, one our my fellow HCAA members discussed some of the recent developments in the new Auracast technology, which is gradually being built into newer hearing aids. Auracast is a subset of Bluetooth, but unlike Bluetooth, which is a one-to-one wireless signal, Auracast is one to many, meaning that multiple listeners

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## AURACAST – A BETTER WAY TO HEAR (continued from page 4)

can receive an audio signal in a theatre, auditorium, or place of worship. However, the adoption of Auracast is a classic chicken and egg problem. How do we take advantage of this new Auracast technology when so little compatible equipment is available?

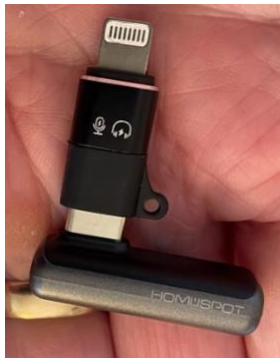
Well, it turns out that a few participants in that *Connections* session had already purchased some Auracast devices, which inspired me to do likewise. I'll describe the configuration I put together for my wife and me to watch TV with clear, low latency audio.

For the transmitter I purchased a HomeSpot BA210 Broadcaster (\$50 from Amazon) which I easily connected to my TV's digital optical output, using the cable provided with the device. Cables are also provided for two other connection options: RCA audio jacks and a 3.5mm microphone jack. The physical connection was quite easy, but the documentation provided with the product was disappointing because the product had been revised through firmware upgrades since the user manual was printed. But thanks to some troubleshooting assistance from ChatGPT, I was able to get it working properly.



HomeSpot BA210 Auracast Broadcaster

For the receiver, I chose the HomeSpot BA308 Recast Nano Dongle (\$80 from Amazon), which is a small Auracast receiver which plugs into the USB-C or Lightning connector at the bottom of an iPhone. (Android phones are also supported.). The BA308 dongle requires a free app, Recast by QK Audio, that is available for download from the Apple App Store. The dongle allows the iPhone to receive the Auracast signal which then transmits directly to my CIs, in the same manner as receiving a telephone call.



HomeSpot BA308 Recast Nano Dongle

The Auracast audio is very clear, with good fidelity with both speech and music. The range is also impressive, as I was able to receive a clear signal anywhere in my house, if I had my phone with me. The downside may be a very slight latency, which is noticeable only when listening to Auracast in my CIs and the speaker output from my TV at the same time. To solve this problem, I purchased another BA308 receiver for my wife, who wears hearing aids. That way we can each hear the TV audio via Auracast with the TV speakers off.

This approach works fine for us except when a family member or guest wants to watch TV with

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## AURACAST – A BETTER WAY TO HEAR (continued from page 5)

us at the same time. This requires having the TV speakers turned on which, again, does not work well due to latency issues. This led me to try another Auracast receiver, The Avantree AuraGo (\$60 from Amazon). Using a cable provided, I connected this device to my Med-El AudioLink XT streamer, which sends the audio directly to my CIs. By using the streamer, I can



mute the microphones on my CI processors and hear only the Auracast audio, thereby eliminating the latency problem. The Avantree device has a much better user manual and was very easy to hook up without the need for a special app. Avantree AuraGo

So after years of experimentation with various ways to hear TV audio (TV Ears, ClearSounds powered neck loop, ZVox sound bar, among others), I'm very pleased with the performance of these new Auracast devices. Because the technology is so inexpensive, I predict that in five years Auracast will be built into most new hearing aids and CIs and will have replaced most telecoil hearing loops and FM or Infrared assisted listening devices in public venues. It will be a welcome improvement that we can all enjoy.



Avantree AuraGo with Med-El AudioLink Streamer

Finally, I must give a shout out to our *Saturday Connections*, which I have attended regularly since I joined HLAA in 2017. I learn something new at every session. Please join us on the second Saturday of each month.

If you have any questions about the products I reviewed, please contact me at [admin@hearinglosspen.org](mailto:admin@hearinglosspen.org). I will be happy to help in our mutual quest for better hearing.

Eliot Terborgh

# Bay Area Walk4Hearing

May 30, 2026

Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach  
Alameda, CA



Scan here to register!

## Go the distance for hearing health!



### Join us for Walk4Hearing

- Activities for all ages
- Guest speakers
- Hearing health exhibitors
- Live DJ

**Registration – 10:00 am**



Dear Friends,

Spring has sprung and with it one of my favorite joys of the season is participating in the annual Bay Area Walk4Hearing. Our chapter has been supporting the Walks (now 20 nation-wide) since they began in 2006. We were one of the 5 pilot Walks that first year when it was called the San Francisco Walk4Hearing. My sweet grand-daughter, age 5, had just been diagnosed with a hearing loss and received her first hearing aids, and participated in the Walk.

I would like to strongly encourage you to be a part of our Walk this year. Come to the Walk, bring family and friends, fund-raise to help us support our great organization. The Walk is a celebration and a fun event to raise awareness of our national organization, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), and to support it and our local chapters. HLAA is the largest non-profit organization representing people with hearing loss in our country, advocating (with a strong lobbying presence in Washington, DC), providing information, education and support for those of us with hearing loss and our families.

The Walk is not just a walk. It is a fun event at a beautiful location along the SF Bay in Alameda. Registration begins at 10 a.m., Presentations at 11:15, and then the Walk. It is a 5-K walk but you can walk as little or as far as you want or NOT AT ALL! There's plenty to enjoy at the event: Music by a DJ, childrens' (& adults') activities like face painting, balloon fun, information tables from sponsors, snacks throughout the day, and pizza at the end of the Walk! The park is lovely and seating is available. Getting to share this event with family and friends and meet new folks is the highlight for me.

If you are planning to attend the Walk, you can go to the QR code on the above flyer, click on "Register" and make your donation. Be sure to designate "Peninsula Chapter" so our chapter receives our share of your donation. (There will also be registration at the Walk.) If you do NOT plan to attend the Walk but want to make a donation, just use the QR code and click on "Donation", again listing Peninsula Chapter. Those who donate \$100. or more and are at the Walk, will receive a Walk t-shirt.

Other ways to donate are to go on-line to the website, [Walk4Hearing.org](http://Walk4Hearing.org). Click on Find a walk, choose Bay Area Walk4Hearing, and follow the prompts to donate. Again please be sure to choose that you are donating for the Peninsula Chapter of HLAA. Or If you prefer, you can send me a check made out to "Bay Area Walk4Hearing", on memo line - "Peninsula Chapter of HLAA." Mail to Sally Edwards 720 Paradise Way, Redwood City, Ca. 94062. Questions? You can reach me at [sallyedwards888@gmail.com](mailto:sallyedwards888@gmail.com) or 650-529-5445. If you want to go to the Walk but need a ride, we can work on car-pooling.

BLESSINGS, Sally

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BAY AREA WALK4HEARING (continued from page 8)

This is last year's picture; you can see us. We hope to see you there this year, please do come!




(Photo courtesy of Peter Townsend, East Bay Chapter)

Bob & Sharon (left at the end); Ken (center in bright green tshirt with arms raised); Bonnie (center in orange shirt, white hat, pink sunglasses); Sally Edwards (center in front of Eliot and to the right of Bonnie); Eliot (center and behind Bonnie); Janet (right in front of Eliot, between Bonnie and Sally, in light blue dress and wide brimmed hat with "Queenie", her hearing dog at her feet.

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## TIDBITS FROM OUR MEMBERS WHO WANT TO SHARE



A friend at boxing told me about the sunflower  lanyard. You wear it and people know you have an invisible handicap!!! Useful at airports and such. A gentler way to get assistance.

<https://hdsunflower.com/us/> You can also buy it on Amazon.

Kate Szentkuti,



## Full Gallop to Louisville!

The annual HLAA National Convention is June 10-12 in Louisville, Kentucky. If you've never attended one, why not go this year?! Our chapter is offering a \$250. scholarship toward the \$425. fee (\$725. for a couple). for early bird registration by Mar. 15. Only requirement is that you are a first-time convention attendee, and that you share about your experience at one of our monthly chapter meetings. Go to [hearingloss.org/convention](http://hearingloss.org/convention) for all the information you need about the Convention.

If you want to apply for our chapter scholarship please go to [scholarship@hearinglosspen.org](mailto:scholarship@hearinglosspen.org). After my first convention in 2005 this is one thing I wrote about it: "The greatest impact of this experience for me was being with so many others with hearing loss or deafness who are living their lives fully and joyfully. They were not allowing their disability to disable them."

Sally Edwards

## THANK YOU!

**We are so grateful to our donors. All donations to our chapter have helped pay for our captioning, student scholarships, refreshments, convention scholarships, brochures, and assistive listening demo devices.**



If you would like to donate to our chapter directly, and/or have your family or friends donate instead of giving you a present, please tell Eliot, our chapter treasurer if it's an occasion such as a Birthday, In Memory Of, Congratulations, etc., and to whom to send the acknowledgement.

Please make checks payable to HLAA-Peninsula Chapter and mail it to:

Eliot Terborgh  
57 Parkwood Drive  
Atherton, CA 94027

(HLAA-Peninsula Chapter is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation to our chapter is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.)

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Contact : Email: [info@hearinglosspen.org](mailto:info@hearinglosspen.org) ; Telephone: 650-529-5445

### 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:** <https://hearinglossca.org/peninsula/>

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

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.ALDDocator.com](http://www.ALDDocator.com)

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

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