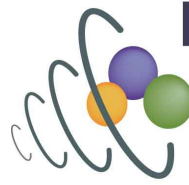


# HearSay

The Official Newsletter of HLA-PA

Volume 11, Issue 4

Winter 2012



Hearing Loss  
Association  
of Pennsylvania

## MESSAGE FROM NANCY

By Nancy Kingsley, State Director



I am a student in Gallaudet's peer mentoring program, and my most recent assignment was to survey five to seven hearing people to find out whether they believe various common myths about hearing loss. The myth on my list that was most often accepted by those I interviewed was that most people with hearing loss are over 65. In reality, only 40% are in that age range--60% are younger. Why is this myth so widespread? One reason is that hearing loss becomes more common with increasing age, affecting a third of people by the time they are over 65. Another significant factor is hearing aid advertising, which usually features

photos of elderly people. So it's not surprising that many--perhaps most--people are unaware of the fact that most people with hearing loss are not senior citizens.

The erroneous association of hearing loss with old age contributes to many people's resistance to acknowledging, even to themselves, that they have a hearing loss. This myth may also make it harder to get young people to take seriously the danger of noise-induced hearing loss, as from listening to excessively loud music, since (they think) hearing loss only happens to elderly people (in actuality, 16% of teenagers currently have a noise-induced hearing loss). So it's vital for us to get the message across that hearing loss affects people of ALL ages.

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## State Happenings and Outreach

By Carolyn Meyer



HLA-PA is anxious to find an HLAA member to fill the position of Chapter Coordinator for the Eastern part of the state. Please contact Nancy Kingsley (kingsley@hla-pa.org) if you or anyone you know is interested in the details of this important volunteer assignment.

### **OUTREACH**

September 6 Huntingdon Valley Library, Huntingdon Valley, "Advocating for Looping in the Community and Workplace" Educational Workshop for HLA-PA leaders presented by Terry Krutz of Loop America. What are the skills needed? How do we get started? What are the comparative costs?

Carolyn Meyer, Co-President of Philadelphia Chapter 1, organized the session and has Terry's Power Point Presentation if you would like it. Contact meyer@hla-pa.org with the subject heading, "Looping Advocacy Skills" and she will send it to you.

September 9 Richboro Middle School

The Bucks County Chapter of HLAA staffed a table/display at the Northampton Days Celebration. Bucks HLAA provided information to visitors on how to determine if you have a hearing loss; how to purchase a hearing aid or qualify for a cochlear implant. Bucks members offered support to families and obtained the names and email addresses of potential new members. The chairperson of Northampton Days is Bucks HLAA member Fred Stewart.

September 10 William Jeanes Memorial Library in Lafayette Hill.

### **HLA-PA ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE (ALD) DEMO KIT SPRINGS INTO ACTION:**

Montco Chapter President, Patty Cortez, introduces the HLA-PA ALD Demo Kit to chapter members. Purpose: To encourage those at the meeting to use a variety of devices that might enable them to enhance their hearing ability at home or work. All would receive the 15 % discount from Harris

Communications when ordering any device from their catalog. ([www.harriscomm.com](http://www.harriscomm.com))

More details on borrowing the ALD Demo Kit for your Outreach presentations will be on the HLA-PA website soon. ([www.hla-pa.org](http://www.hla-pa.org))

October 15 Harrisburg: Capital Area Intermediate Unit (CAIU) sponsored "Information Night for Families of Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing."

Each of the seven presenting organizations (including HLA-PA) gave a brief overview of the services they have available, followed by time to visit displays and ask the presenters questions. Steve Schultz gave a brief introduction about HLAA and its state and local affiliates to the other presenters, attending families, and CAIU teachers of students who were deaf or hard of hearing. Steve used this opportunity to promote HLA-PA's "Working Together: One-Day Conference for Hard of Hearing Employees, Job Seekers and Employers" to be held in Harrisburg on April 19, 2013.

### **STATE EVENTS**

October 2 Crowne Plaza Hotel, King of Prussia

"Emergency Communication: Are you speaking the Right Language"

Diana Bender, Marcia Finisdore, and Carolyn and Joe Meyer attended a symposium which addressed communication challenges and recommendations for First Responders, community leaders, and individuals with sensory disabilities (those with vision limitations or hearing loss). This was the Second Annual Functional Needs Symposium, sponsored by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force. The event gave HLAA members an opportunity to express our concerns to represent those who were hard of hearing.

October 24 Philadelphia

"Southeastern PA Regional Task Force Functional Needs Subcommittee Meeting" held at the center city Associated Services for the Blind office. Marcia Finisdore and Diana Bender attended. One of the committee's objectives is to raise awareness of preparedness issues affecting individuals with functional needs who might need additional assistance in the event of an emergency situation.



*And they're OFF!*

### **Pennsylvania's 2012 Record-Setting Walk4Hearing!**

Pennsylvania's 2012 Walk4Hearing was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Ridley Creek State Park in Newtown Square. It was a record-setting event for Pennsylvania; approximately 1,200 walkers raised over \$122,000 to raise awareness about hearing loss! Pennsylvania's walk is the second largest walk in the country (out of 21 walks across the nation). Only the New York City walk was larger, this year raising over \$209,000 from more than 1,500 people.

A total of 62 teams participated, which is 6 more than last year. "Madeline's Milestones," the largest team ever in the history of the PA Walk, raised over \$12,000. Many Pennsylvania chapters and 12 non-profit alliances were involved as well. A big thank you to all of our team captains, walkers, volunteers, sponsors, professionals and alliances for supporting us and for making a difference for people with hearing loss!

Next year's PA Walk4Hearing will take place on Sunday, September 22, 2013, so be sure to mark your calendars now. If you would like to volunteer to work on the Walk planning committee, please contact Ronnie Adler at [radler@hearingloss.org](mailto:radler@hearingloss.org) or by phone at 610-644-3154.

*Submitted by Ronnie Adler, HLAA Director, Walk4Hearing*

***Look for Walk pictures throughout this issue of HearSay!***

### **Regal Movie Captioning Event**

*By Alan Kutner*

*Chairman, Movie Captioning Committee (HLA-PA)*



On December 2, 2012, HLA-PA held a mass closed-captioning viewing of several motion pictures. In all, 105 people attended and 39 pairs of captioned glasses were used. Hard of hearing and deaf movie patrons are now able to read the words on the movie screen with these special captioning glasses as they're being said by the actors. And what's more, most of the newly released movies are captioned!

Everyone met at the Regal King Of Prussia 16 Movie Theater and received a brief introduction as to how the captioned glasses work. They are supplied free of charge by Regal Movie Theaters and produced by Sony Systems. Everyone then enjoyed one of the many captioned movies showing that afternoon. Afterwards there were refreshments and an informal discussion of everyone's impressions of this new movie captioning system.

HLA-PA [www.hla-pa.org](http://www.hla-pa.org), in cooperation with the Collaborative for Communication Access via Captioning (CCAC) <http://ccacaptioning.org>, represented the state of Pennsylvania in this multistate event. Thus far we are leading all states in attendees by a wide margin!

Regal theaters expect to have all their theaters in PA equipped with these glasses by the end of 2013; Carnike Theaters, which use a form of captioning called Captiview, already provide captions in all 12 of their theaters in rural areas of PA. See [www.hla-pa.org/captions/](http://www.hla-pa.org/captions/) for a complete listing.

### **The Diana Bender HLAA National Convention Scholarship 2013**

HLA-PA will once again offer a scholarship to an HLAA member who is a resident of PA and has never attended an HLAA convention (June 27-30, 2013 in Portland, OR). Details and application form will be on the state website ([www.hla-pa.org](http://www.hla-pa.org)) with applications due April 15. Chapter presidents will also have information.

**Annual Pennsylvania Farm Show**

Saturday, January 5 through January 12,  
Admission: Free. Parking: \$10.00.

Steve Schultz will once again coordinate the event for HLA-PA. HLA-PA provides an Information Booth (#5114 on the main floor) staffed by members from all over the state. 8 volunteers from our newest Pennsylvania chapter, the Hearing Loss Association of Lycoming County (led by Kay Tyberg), will join us this year!

The Pennsylvania Farm Show is the largest INDOOR agricultural event in America and welcomes over 400,000 visitors. It includes approximately 300 commercial exhibitors, over 13,000 competitive exhibits, the PA Marketplace and the Pennsylvania Food Court.

**WORKING TOGETHER**

**What:** One Day Employment Conference for Hard of Hearing Workers, Job Seekers and Employers

**Where:** Holiday Inn East, 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA

**When:** Friday, April 19, 2013, 8:30am to 5:00pm

**Cost:** \$40 per person/\$70 for a student and parent (includes welcome coffee/tea and buffet lunch)

More information and registration forms are available at <http://www.hla-pa.org/NewsEvents/EmpConf13/>

**By mail** at HLA-PA, PO Box 1553, Camp Hill, PA 17001-1553;

**By phone** at 717-761-3632

**By email** at [Conference@HLA-PA.org](mailto:Conference@HLA-PA.org)

**'Hearing Loops' Installed At Johns Hopkins Facility To Improve Sound Quality For People With Hearing Aids And Cochlear Implants**

People with hearing aids or cochlear implants who visit the audiology clinic and Listening Center at Johns Hopkins can expect much clearer and enhanced sound the next time they check-in at the reception desk, their numbers are called over the public speaker system, or are given directions to clinic examination rooms. They can also directly tune into the waiting-area TVs and audio entertainment system without distortion or interference from background noise.

The technological improvements result from installation this month of so-called hearing loops, thin metal wires that are installed around the ceilings and floor of the audiology clinic's main public areas, located in the Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center on Johns Hopkins Medicine's East Baltimore campus. Officials at the clinic say if all goes well, they hope other clinics at Johns Hopkins, as well as other medical centers and public places nearby, will outfit their own facilities.

Experts say the hearing loops, also known as induction loops, act like antennae, relaying sounds picked up by local microphones, which are then transmitted wirelessly by magnetic signal directly to any nearby listening devices. People with hearing aids or cochlear implants would set their devices to the "T," short for telecoil, setting to receive the signal. Johns Hopkins is believed to be the first and only medical center in Maryland to install the loops. The simple technology, Hopkins experts note, has been available for decades in churches, symphony halls, and other venues, but slow to be adopted by facilities that service the estimated 36 million Americans who live with some form of hearing loss. To let people with hearing loss know about the induction sound improvements, the Johns Hopkins Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, like other public spaces equipped with the technology, displays bright blue signs in the shape

of an ear outlined in white and a "T" symbol in the corner. "People with hearing loss get really excited about hearing loops; many even cry with relief because the improvement in sound quality is so dramatic," says Frank Lin, M.D., Ph.D., the Johns Hopkins otologist and epidemiologist who led departmental efforts to get the loops installed. "Many of them say it is the first time they can actually hear what other people are saying – free of the din from crowds or other background noises."

Lin, an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the university's Bloomberg School of Public Health, says he was inspired to have the loops installed after a special performance in March by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, for which the concert hall had been specially outfitted with the loops. "People were truly amazed at the difference in sound quality," says Lin, "and it seemed like a relatively simple way of making the most out of technology for the benefit of our patients." He estimates that more than 5,000 people with listening devices pass through the Johns Hopkins audiology clinic and Listening Center annually, and could make use of the system, which cost less than \$10,000 to purchase and install.

**Source:** <http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news>

### Hearing Loss Humor

In the past I have written articles for HearSay about the benefits of using humor when I tell people about my hearing loss. Not only do I feel better when I use humor, but the people who are informed about my hearing loss also feel better, too. Why is that? Informing people about my unique communication style can sometimes create uncomfortable feelings or even awkward feelings. For me, humor helps to get rid of those feelings. That is why humor is such a great ice breaker! I like it when people say they can't hear what someone is saying then I quickly say "welcome to my world!" Then, we all laugh!

Not only is humor great to use with other people, but I recommend using humor on ourselves. There are many situations where people with hearing loss are not always able to understand what is being said. I know these situations create much frustration for me to the point that I would be mad at myself for missing what was said. I wanted to let go of this frustration and tension, so I finally decided to use humor on myself. When I laugh at myself, those feelings of tension and frustration go away. When I miss what was said, I just say to myself, "Oh well, I guess my hearing receivers are not working right now." Or I might also say, "My hearing signal went into the Twilight Zone again!" I treat my hearing loss as a technical difficulty instead of having defective hearing. This is a huge difference for me. It feels much better to look at my hearing loss in a technical capacity instead of a functional capacity. To me, functional capacity implies a defect to the point that something is broken; whereas, technical capacity implies it is not working at this time, but there is a workaround solution. And that solution is laughing at ourselves; after all, laughter is the best medicine.

*Submitted by Linda Rusinko*

### HearSay is Going Green!

HearSay will soon be available via email, helping to save both mailing costs and the environment! To sign up, please visit [www.hla-pa.org](http://www.hla-pa.org).



Salus University Walk Team

To receive HearSay, the HLA-PA newsletter, complete and mail this form to the address below. Subscriptions are free; however, HLA-PA is a not-for-profit organization run exclusively by volunteers, so we are grateful for donations. Donations are tax-deductible.

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Enclosed is my tax-deductible, contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support HearSay.

I would like to remain anonymous.

I cannot donate but would like to receive HearSay.

Mail to: Marcia Finisdore  
4 State Road, #109  
Media, PA 19063

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Assist the HLA-PA State Director by serving on the Advisory Council or one of its committees. The Council meets periodically at locations convenient to its membership. But committees conduct most of their business by e-mail and occasionally meet in various parts of the state. If you think you would like to serve on the council or any of its committees, please contact one of the state leaders listed here:

### State Director:

Nancy Kingsley (kingsley@hla-pa.org)

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### Advocacy:

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### Government Affairs:

Steve Schultz, Chair (schultz@hla-pa.org)

### Outreach:

Carolyn Meyer, Chair (meyer@hla-pa.org)

### Chapter Coordinators:

Dale Long, Central PA (long@hla-pa.org)

Teresa Nellans, Western PA (nellans@hla-pa.org)

### Donor List

Anthony and Terry Myers

Louis Malissa

Norma Jenkins

George Stair

Thomas Hornstein

Wilma and Ina Eliot

Rose Shertzer

### Memorial Gifts

Joe and Carolyn Meyer in memory of Max Weiner  
Philadelphia HLA Chapter in memory of Howard Ingber

*HLA-PA is the all-volunteer 501(c)3 state office of Hearing Loss Association of America providing advocacy, information, education and support to Pennsylvanians with a hearing loss.*

**Save the Date!**  
GenX of HLA  
Retro LIVE Party featuring music from the **60s,**  
**70s & 80s**  
Benefitting the GenX Scholarship Fund  
March 2, 2013  
King of Prussia Fire Hall



Taking a break under the pavilion!