

MESSAGE FROM NANCY

By Nancy Kingsley, State Director



HLAA-PA has been going **GREEN!** Our HearSay newsletter is currently mailed to 2200 recipients. That's a lot of trees, and a lot of printing and postage expenses for us! You can help save the trees and our costs by switching to an electronic copy that is sent to you by email. The process is simple--just go to www.hlaa-pa.org, click on "HearSay is offering email delivery," and fill out the short form. If desired, you can switch back to paper any time by using the link at the bottom of

the emailed version and requesting the mailed version. But we think you'll be delighted with the change to electronic, which will save you space, put all the issues instantly at hand, and make it possible for you to email copies to interested others.

So, save trees, HLAA-PA funds and your space by switching from paper to electronic copies of HearSay today!

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State Happenings and Outreach

By Carolyn Meyer



The Advisory Council is happy to welcome two new members, Alice Pakhtigian and Pat McGeever. Alice is the HLAA-PA Eastern PA Chapter Coordinator and a member of the GenX chapter. Pat is organizing the new Center City Philadelphia Chapter and resides in Philadelphia. We look forward to their fresh ideas and input at council meetings. The next Advisory Council meeting is March 22, 2014 if you want to be an observer or are thinking you might want to join the Advisory Council. Please contact Nancy Kingsley if you wish to do so, at kingsley@hlaa-pa.org.

HLAA-PA Chapter Loop Initiative

With great appreciation we acknowledge Don Groff's tireless efforts to evaluate all the loop inquiries from chapters across the state. As of now, we have used most of the Louis Cassett Foundation Grant for this purchase to enable chapters to update or purchase new loop amplifiers, wireless microphones, and induction loop receivers. Don has undertaken the task to test and then order these items as needed by chapters. This project has taken most of the past 8 months to complete and is just about in the "home stretch." Many chapters have benefitted and will continue to enjoy the benefits of this endeavor. In addition, Don is offering his own presentation, "Dealing with Hearing Loss in Public Spaces," at locations in southeast Pennsylvania. His focus is on hearing loops. His first presentation was October 17 at the Lansdale Public Library. Do you want to advocate for looping at some venue in your area? Do the administrators understand what a telecoil and looping are? You can reach Don at

Groff@hlaa-pa.org or 215-272-4450 for further information.

HLAA-PA Assistive Device Demo Kit on the Move

Bill Best, our HLAA-PA Assistive Device Coordinator (best@hlaa-pa.org), has been traveling to various locations throughout the state to demonstrate the ALDs and alerting devices in the HLAA-PA Demo kit. All demonstrations include a time for questions where Bill addresses individual concerns. He recently presented at the following chapters and public events:

June 10: Bucks County Chapter, Richboro

September 17: Congressman Meehan's Senior Expo, Glen Mills

October 2: Philadelphia/Suburban Northeast Chapter

November 2: State Representative Duane Milne's 55 and up Expo, Malvern

New Chapter Update

Pat McGeever, the founding organizer of the Philadelphia Center City Chapter has scheduled two meetings on November 7 and December 11 after spreading flyers throughout the greater Philadelphia area. If you know someone who may be interested in joining, please contact him at mcgeeve@hlaa-pa.org. Meetings are held at 6:30 pm at 1906 Locust Street, Philadelphia in the Ethical Society Building.

Outreach Schedules

December 11: YMCA , Ambler: Carolyn Meyer presents "Here's the Scoop on Hearing Loss"

December 19: The Plaza Apartments, Jenkintown: Carolyn Meyer explains coping skills to the "Golden Years" Adults

WHAT IS OUTREACH? How can you do it, too? Email Carolyn at meyer@hlaa-pa.org for suggestions and some guidance. You all can help in your own communities to spread the word about HLAA and hearing loss.

Diana Bender HLA A National Convention Scholarship

The Hearing Loss Association of America Pennsylvania State Office (HLAA-PA) has established the Diana Bender HLA A National Convention Scholarship to assist Pennsylvania residents who are members of the Hearing Loss Association of America to attend the HLA A convention. (Note that membership in a chapter is not the same as membership in HLA A; the latter is required for scholarship eligibility.) One scholarship will be available for a deserving person who has never attended an HLA A convention and is currently involved with hearing loss issues. The HLA A-PA Advisory Council's Scholarship Committee will select the qualifying applicant.

When and where is the 2014 HLA A convention? The convention will be June 26-29 (four days, three nights) at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas.

Who is eligible as a scholarship candidate? Any Pennsylvania resident with hearing loss, regardless of age is eligible, as long as he or she meets the following qualifications. The applicant must be a current HLA A member and have never attended an HLA A convention. He or she must have demonstrated an interest in remaining actively involved with hearing loss issues and must indicate that a scholarship would enable his or her attendance.

Scholarship amount: The recipient will be awarded \$500 (to be applied to transportation, lodging, and meals) plus the cost of registration for the full-activity convention package (includes banquet). Any amount exceeding \$500 will be his or her responsibility. The awardee must attend the convention or return the \$500.

Submission date: Application forms may be mailed or emailed (email preferred if possible). Deadline for receipt is April 7, 2014.

Diana Bender HLA A National Convention Scholarship

Application Form for 2014 Convention

Name: _____
 Address: _____ City _____ State: _____
 Telephone _____ Age: _____ Email: _____

What is the expiration date of your HLA A membership? (See your *Hearing Loss Magazine* label.)

 Describe the reasons why you should be selected (necessary for consideration). Continue on a second page if necessary.

Date: _____

Application must be received by April 7, 2014. Email form to Mitchell Bilker, HLA-PA Scholarship Committee Chair, at scholarship@hlaa-pa.org or mail to him at 821 Rosehill Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406 (email preferred).

HLAA Convention 2014 in Austin, Texas!

Austin, Texas is the host city for HLAA's 2014 convention! Fun as well as educational events are promised such as a "Get Acquainted" party, Emerging Technologies Symposium, various workshops, an awards breakfast and ceremony, a Fiesta Banquet and an off-site event – Texas Swing!

Our keynote speaker will be music composer Richard Einhorn. Richard's "opera with silent film," *Voices of Light*, has been hailed in reviews as "a great masterpiece of contemporary music" and a work of "meticulous genius." In his keynote address at the convention, Richard will discuss his life as a professional musician whose work has been performed by some of the greatest orchestras in the world; his personal experience coping with sudden sensorineural hearing loss; and his efforts as a passionate advocate for people with hearing loss.

The deadline for early bird registration, including a reduced rate, is January 31, 2014, so register now to join us in Austin!

HLAA chapters are encouraged to send a delegate to the convention. Delegate deadlines, including reduced fees, may be found below:
 Registration by January 31, 2014 is \$125
 Registration by March 31, 2014 is \$150

Walk4Hearing 2013 Puts the "Fun" in Fundraising!

This year's Pennsylvania Walk4Hearing combined entertainment, friends and family with fundraising for HLAA. Almost 1500 walkers from 57 teams helped to contribute to the important work done to support those living with hearing loss. The Philie Phanatic, as well as cheerleaders and mascots from Villanova, LaSalle and Temple provided fun and camaraderie. We also enjoyed a visit from Anna Gilmore Hall, HLAA's executive director. The top fundraisers and teams are noted below:

Top Fundraisers

Jim Saunders	\$7,615
Carolyn Meyer	\$7,090
Madeline Bozzone	\$5,966

Top Teams

Madeline's Milestones	\$11,693
Clarke in the Park	\$8,503
Montco Marchers	\$8,237
The Movin' Meyers	\$7,215

We also have exciting news – the Pennsylvania Walk will be moving to Philadelphia for 2014! Keep an eye on HearSay for more details, and don't miss the pictures from the 2013 Walk in this issue of HearSay!

Submitted by Ronnie Adler, Director of Walk4Hearing



Save the Date for Lunch & Learn!

Next year's "Lunch & Learn" will be held again at the Radisson Hotel Valley Forge at 1160 First Avenue in King of Prussia, from 11:30 to 2:30 on Saturday, May 3, 2014. The topic is "Legal Rights of People with Hearing Loss," presented by Rachel Mann, an attorney with the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania. The special guest speaker will be Anna Gilmore Hall, the new executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America. A buffet lunch is included, and exhibitors will be on site. The registration form will be in the spring issue of HearSay, so be sure to look for it!



Lansdale Public Library Is Now Looped!

It's hard to notice if you don't know what to look for — just an enclosed wire running around the ceiling of the Lynn Janoff Community Room at the Lansdale Public Library. But that enclosed wire is a critical part of a newly installed hearing loop system which can make a big difference for those who are hard of hearing, according to library volunteer Don Groff. Groff and library Director Tom Meyer jointly worked over the past two years to install the hearing loop system in the community room.

The hearing loop system works by creating a magnetic charge that carries an audio signal from an input source, such as a microphone or music or DVD player, through a mixer and a hearing loop amplifier. That amplifier transmits that magnetic signal through the wire around the top of the room, and from there it's picked up by T-coils, a miniscule component located within many hearing aids.

"A T-coil is a magnetic sensor which is an alternative to the microphone, and then the T-coil picks up the magnetic signal that's generated by the loop," Groff said.

A member of the Hearing Loss Association of America and its Montgomery County chapter, Groff — a retired electrical engineer — said both groups advocate for systems like hearing loops that can benefit those hard of hearing, and are working to raise awareness of the advantages and drawbacks of those systems.

Read the article in its entirety at <http://www.thereporteronline.com/general-news/20131013/lansdale-library-demos-hearing-loop-system>

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

Name _____

Address _____

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Email: _____ Phone _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible, contribution of \$ _____ to support HearSay. Please make checks out to HLAA-PA.

I would like to remain anonymous.

I cannot donate but would like to receive HearSay.

Mail to: Bill Pfeifer
126 Cedarcroft Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348

About HLAA and its State Office, HLAA-PA

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979, is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss.. HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy. The national support network includes the Washington, DC area office, 14 state organizations, and 200 local chapters. HLAA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Hearing Loss Association of America
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
www.hearingloss.org

HLAA-PA is the all-volunteer state office of Hearing Loss Association of America. We were established in 2001 to carry out the mission of HLAA for Pennsylvanians with a hearing loss, their families and friends.

HearSay QR Codes!

Scan the code on the left to receive HearSay by email. Scan the code on the right to access HLAA-PA's website.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Assist the HLAA-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:

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Sandy Duncan
Carlton R Andrews
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HearSay by e-mail



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