

**MESSAGE FROM NANCY**

*By Nancy Kingsley, State Director*



Do you enjoy learning? Would you like the opportunity to take free online courses from professors at leading universities, with the option of turning on English subtitles? If so, check out the numerous MOOCs (massive open online courses) offered at [www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org). The courses vary in length from several weeks to a full semester, and you determine how you want to participate. You can just watch the videos or you can also download the provided readings, and you can even obtain statements of accomplishment by doing assignments, taking quizzes, and participating in online discussion boards. Information provided for each course indicates approximately how many hours a week are needed to complete everything.

Coursera was started two years ago and has seven million participants. I recently took a fascinating course on social psychology conducted by an engaging Wesleyan professor. Interestingly, the main readings for this course are chapters selected from two psychology textbooks written by Dr. David Myers, whom many HLAA folks will recognize as a leading proponent of looping and a former HLAA convention keynote speaker. If you are interested in taking this course, the details are at <https://coursera.org/course/socialpsychology>. Coursera covers many fields, with a particular emphasis on health, humanities and social science. EdX ([www.edx.org](http://www.edx.org)) is a similar free MOOC program with subtitled courses that was also started in 2012. It's owned by Harvard and MIT and has 2.5 million users.

There's no easier way to quench your thirst for knowledge than through one of these free and accessible programs!

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## State Happenings and Outreach

By Carolyn Meyer

### Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday Hearing Loss Association of America!



Across the country, chapters are beginning to celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, pursuing the vision of our founder, Rocky Stone. Under the theme, *Celebrating 35 Years for 48 Million People with Hearing Loss*, HLAA has suggested that chapters work to educate people about the importance of regular screenings, new and emerging hearing assistive technology, and strategies needed to be successful in the workplace, in school, in the community and at home. Activities began this past November and will run until November 2015. The celebration will continue at the National HLAA Convention 2015 at the Saturday evening banquet. For more information, go to the State and Chapter Development blog at <http://hlaachapternews.blogspot.com/2014/10/35th-anniversary-plans-for-chapters.html>.

### STATE AND CHAPTER NEWS

The HLAA-PA Advisory Council announces that Bill Pfeifer has joined the Council as of October 18. Bill is past president of the Chester County Chapter and the current Treasurer for the Walk. He was also previously the Treasurer of HLAA-PA.

**Chapter Development:** Ed Ogiba, Director of Chapter Development, has been helping current chapters to grow and trying to build new ones. He is willing to give chapters direction and support. Lycoming Chapter President Kay Tyberg has benefitted from his expertise. Kay states, "My conversation with Ed was very productive from the standpoint of what I need to do with our chapter. The pointers he gave me would be helpful to any of the chapters." As chapters who are facing different issues across the state, please do not hesitate to

contact Ed at [Eogiba@hearingloss.org](mailto:Eogiba@hearingloss.org).

Gen X Chapter of Delaware Valley has now changed its name to "All Generations" of Delaware Valley. The chapter anticipates that the new name will appeal to potential members of all ages. Board members hope to attract new members and "not quite new" to HLAA as well. Alice Pakhtigian ([apakhtig@hotmail.com](mailto:apakhtig@hotmail.com)) is the President, Colleen Gallo ([moxie615@gmail.com](mailto:moxie615@gmail.com)) Vice-President. The chapter meets at the Clarke School for Hearing and Speech in Bryn Mawr, PA. Meetings are November 4, March 24, with a social in May. Visit [www.hlaa-pa.org](http://www.hlaa-pa.org) for more details.

### OUTREACH

**September 19:** Over 700 persons attended the Senior Expo at the Northeast Philadelphia Armory which was sponsored by Senator Mike Stack. Philadelphia Chapter 1 exhibited for HLAA. Sonia Loigman, Eva Shore, Bernadette Dougherty and Lee McIlhenney worked at the booth answering inquiries and distributing materials. The chapter has just published its own brochure and it is available to anyone interested by contacting Sonia Loigman [loigman@hlaa-pa.org](mailto:loigman@hlaa-pa.org).

**October 18:** Pittsburgh Chapter Welcomes Bill Best. HLAA-PA Assistive Device Coordinator Bill Best demonstrated many items to a large attendance. Bill commented that the audience was very enthusiastic, responsive and posed many questions after the presentation.

We appreciate all the work that Bill has done for HLAA-PA. His tireless commitment has benefitted so many of us. At this time, Bill will be leaving this position and HLAA-PA is looking for a new coordinator. If you are familiar with Assistive Devices and want to volunteer your time for Outreach with this Demo Kit, please contact Nancy Kingsley ([kingsley@hlaa-pa.org](mailto:kingsley@hlaa-pa.org)) for further details. The commitment is very flexible and we can use your skills.

**HLLA-PA at the Farm Show:** For the sixth consecutive year, members of various Pennsylvania HLLA chapters will staff the HLLA-PA State Office's Information Table at the PA Farm Show. The 99<sup>th</sup> edition of the Farm Show will be held from Saturday, January 10, 2015 through Saturday, January 17, 2015, and our exhibit presents a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the 400,000 or more people who visit each year. For details and information, visit the event website, [www.agriculture.state.pa.us/farmshow](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/farmshow), and when you come, look for us on the Main Floor, Booth 5174. Many thanks to Steve Schultz for organizing this exhibit for us once again.

### **SAVE THE DATE : SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2015**

HLLA-PA will host its annual Lunch and Learn at the Radisson Valley Forge Hotel in King of Prussia, PA from 11:30 AM until 3:00 pm. Dr. James Saunders, our keynote speaker, is a Professor Emeritus whose expertise in Research Otolaryngology, Physiology and Neuroscience at the Perlman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania will provide us with insight into how the auditory system becomes damaged and what are the consequences of untreated hearing loss. How may this affect our senior population as well? Can those consequences of hearing loss be reversed with hearing assistive technology? Please join us as he discusses these topics and answers some of our questions. The Marcia Finisdore Advocacy Award and Diana Bender HLLA National Convention scholarship recipients will be honored at the conclusion of the program. Exhibitors will be available throughout the afternoon. A full buffet luncheon will be served. Registration forms will be in the spring issue of HearSay and on the HLLA-PA website at [www.hllaa-pa.org](http://www.hllaa-pa.org)

### ***New App Lets Deaf People 'Hear' Group Conversations***

Researchers have developed the first mobile app to make group conversations possible between deaf people and their hearing peers. The Transcense app "listens" and interprets conversations, providing real-time captioning on mobile devices. The app was developed by researchers from Berkeley, along with University of San Francisco graduates from the US, France, the Netherlands, and Taiwan.

Transcense connects multiple smartphones belonging to conversation participants in a room and leverages their microphones so the app can "listen" to those speaking. A hearing impaired person can also use the app to respond and get the attention of a group by using a personalized digital voice. "It's a really fantastic development, to just be included, and feel included," said Josephine Schallehn of the Hearing Loss Association. "Every day, 360 million people are left out from group conversations because of hearing loss," said the developers. "We thought we could do better." The researchers say they have consulted over 300 people – including audiologists, deaf and hard of hearing people, and seniors, as well as speech and behavioral design experts – to help them with their research. They are currently raising money on [Indiegogo](http://Indiegogo) to bring the innovative app to market.

***(HearSay note: Josephine Schallehn is the HLLA San Francisco Chapter Treasurer)***

See the full article at: : <http://on.rt.com/n21a9t>

#### ***HearSay Subscription Info***

To receive HearSay via email, please visit [www.hllaa-pa.org](http://www.hllaa-pa.org) and click "Get HearSay by e-mail." We would hate to see you go, but if you wish to discontinue your HearSay subscription, please send an email to Pam Reiher at [reiher@hllaa-pa.org](mailto:reiher@hllaa-pa.org), or send a note to her home address at:  
88 Whetstone Road  
Horsham, PA 19044





### ***PA Walk4Hearing Surpasses 2014 Goal!***

This year's PA Walk4Hearing was held at our new location, the Philadelphia Navy Yard on Sunday, October 5th. Almost 2,500 people came to support HLAA in its mission to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. While we were joined by many Pennsylvanians at the Walk, walkers also came from New Jersey, Delaware, and even Maryland!

Besides our walk, we also enjoyed many fun activities such as face painters, a clown, balloon artists, a caricature artist, a DJ and so much more!

Our 88 teams and many alliances raised over \$160,000, more than \$30,000 over the \$130,000 goal! We are looking forward to the 2015 Walk, which we are working to make even better!

For more information about the Walk4Hearing, or to volunteer, please contact Walk Chair Ronnie Adler at [radler@hearingloss.org](mailto:radler@hearingloss.org).



### ***A Special Thank You to Our Local and In-Kind Sponsors!***

PA Relay, Smokey Bones Bar and Fire Grill, Brookman Hearing Services, Comcast Business, Jefferson Hospital, Mainline Health, XL Group, Deaf Hearing Communications Centre, Penn Medicine, American Automobile Association, AELitho Offset Printing, Bonds Eye Care, Collegetown Speech and Hearing, East Coast Hearing Loop, First Trust Bank, Hearing Technology, Hoppy Days Moonbounce, Nemours Alfred A. DuPont Hospital for Children, Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Progressive Business Publications, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, PA Academy of Audiology and PA Captioned Telephone.



## Diana Bender HLAA National Convention Scholarship

The Hearing Loss Association of America Pennsylvania State Office (HLAA-PA) has established the Diana Bender HLAA National Convention Scholarship to assist Pennsylvania residents who are members of the Hearing Loss Association of America to attend the HLAA convention. (Note that membership in a chapter is not the same as membership in HLAA; the latter is required for scholarship eligibility.) One scholarship will be available for a deserving person who is currently involved with hearing loss issues. The HLAA-PA Advisory Council's Scholarship Committee will select the qualifying applicant.

**When and where is the 2015 HLAA convention?** The convention will be June 25-28 (four days, three nights) at the St. Louis Station Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri.

**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 HLAA member, 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. Preference will be given to those who have never attended an HLAA convention.

**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 March 23, 2015.

## Diana Bender HLAA National Convention Scholarship

### Application Form for 2015 Convention

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Have you ever attended an HLAA convention? (Check one)  yes  no

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Application must be received by March 23, 2015. Email form to Mitchell Bilker, HLA-PA Scholarship Committee Chair, at [scholarship@hlaa-pa.org](mailto:scholarship@hlaa-pa.org) or mail to him at 821 Rosehill Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406 (email preferred).

To receive HearSay, the HLAA-PA newsletter, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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: Mitch Bilker  
821 Rosehill Drive  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

#### 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.



HearSay by e-mail



hlaa-pa.org

#### **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:

#### **State Director:**

Nancy Kingsley (kingsley@hlaa-pa.org)

#### **HearSay and HLAA-PA Website**

Pam Reiher, Editor of HearSay (reiher@hlaa-pa.org)

Don Groff, HLAA-PA website (groff@hlaa-pa.org)

#### **Advocacy:**

Nancy Kingsley, Chair (kingsley@hlaa-pa.org)

#### **Government Affairs:**

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

#### **Outreach:**

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

#### **Arts & Entertainment**

Kay Tyberg, Co-Chair (tyberg@hlaa-pa.org)

Alan Kutner, Co-Chair (kutner@hlaa-pa.org)

#### **ALD Demo Kit**

Bill Best, Chair (best@hlaa-pa.org)

#### **Chapter Coordinators:**

Alice Pakhtigian, Eastern PA (pakhtigian@hlaa-pa.org)

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

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

#### **Donor List**

Anthony and Terry Myers

Sam Rubin

Ronny Riegel in memory of Dr. Richard Riegel

Marion Haines