

HearSay

The Official Newsletter of HLAA-PA

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MESSAGE FROM NANCY

By Nancy Kingsley, State Director



I've always enjoyed sightseeing, including trips to museums, but oftentimes their videos have lacked captions. Happily, that's been changing.

Last year, my daughter and I visited "The Hershey Story," an interactive museum in Hershey that opened in 2009 and features the history of Milton Hershey and the candy business bearing his name. In addition to exhibits, the museum has a number of videos in various locations, all of which are open captioned.

A few months later, I saw *Jerusalem* at the Whitaker Center's IMAX theater in Harrisburg, which now provides devices to display captions at your seat. All

current films are marked "cc" to indicate that this access is available for them—as of this writing, the others are *Frozen*, *Watermelon Magic*, *Titans of the Ice Age* and *Grand Canyon Adventure*. You can find updated information at <http://www.whitakercenter.org/cinema>.

Captioning is becoming more widely available in museums, so be sure to ask about it. This access is sometimes, but not always, noted on the museum's website, so call ahead if you have any questions (and if the museum has this access but doesn't mention it, ask for it to be included on the museum's website so others will know).

Let me know about your experiences with museum access (or the lack of it) at kingsley@hlaa-pa.org.

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State Happenings and Outreach

By Carolyn Meyer



Congratulations to Don Groff, the recipient of the 2014 Marcia Finisdore Advocacy Award. Don spearheaded our HLAA-PA Loop Initiative Project, visiting chapters throughout the state to help them evaluate their needs to effectively use a loop system. Don is also our HLAA-PA webmaster, the vice-president of the Montco chapter, and a member of the Advisory Council. As a former Peace Corps volunteer, he is used to working steadily and persistently to convince people of programs that many initially reject as unnecessary. Don has actively supported hearing loss issues against a background of nonsupport or opposition. His determination is an outstanding personality characteristic to be admired.

FARM SHOW

Thoughts from a volunteer, Ron Girsch:

“While sitting at the table at our booth watching the throngs of people bypassing us and wondering if the expenditure of all this time and effort was justified to reach such a small number of people, suddenly a couple stopped to ask a simple question which led to an in-depth conversation revealing that they were both losing their hearing. We answered their questions and gave them suggestions to pursue so that when they left they had information that gave them hope. Another couple stopped to ask about hearing loss and hearing aids and we demonstrated my wife’s hearing aids, so they left ready to pursue a source for hearing aids. Yes, many people bypassed our exhibit. But the many that did stop left with more education than before and the knowledge that we have been where they are in the process of finding improved hearing. HLAA-PA listened and it made a difference for both the visitor and volunteers. The lesson we learned was to be true to our mission and be here for the people who need us.” Be sure to check out the Farm Show photos on the opposite page!

CHAPTER NEWS

As chapter leaders constantly search for ideas for programs, one chapter in Center City Philadelphia has its own ideas. According to its President, Pat McGeever, they are taking advantage of the cultural arts—leave the meeting room and enjoy some of the city’s special offerings!

“The Center City Philly Chapter includes HOH-friendly arts in its calendar. Last summer members attended the film *Boyhood*, using the theater’s Captiviews. Upcoming are a guided tour at the Philadelphia Museum of Art using new devices such as ones that use your t-coils for audibility, and a captioned performance of a play in one of the city’s participating theaters. If you’d like to be kept informed of our plans, contact Pat McGeever at pathlaa.phil@gmail.com.

OUTREACH

March 18 : Greater Philadelphia YMCA/ Ambler Area

Carolyn Meyer and Alice Dungan will present “Better Hearing with Hearing Loss” as part of the Active Older Adult education program.

COMING SOON TO HEARSAY: WELCOME LEE WILLIAMS!

Lee Williams joins the HLAA-PA volunteer staff of HearSay as its Development Manager. In future HearSay issues, Lee plans to provide the opportunity for businesses to advertise their products and services reaching a broad audience with hearing loss as well as professionals who work with them. If you are interested in learning more about this new program, or have suggestions or questions, please contact Lee at leewilliams@hlaa-pa.org. He would enjoy introducing himself and discussing the HearSay advertising rates with you to suit your needs. Potential advertisers are also welcome to attend the HLAA-PA Lunch and Learn, Sunday April 19 (flyer enclosed to register).



Pennsylvania
Farm Show
Jan. 10-17, 2015

PA Farm Show Complex
and Expo Center
Harrisburg, PA



HearSay Subscription Info
To receive HearSay via email, please visit www.hlaa-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@hlaa-pa.org, or send a note to her home address at:
88 Whetstone Road
Horsham, PA 19044

7 Mind-Blowing Ways Smart Hearing Aids Can Change Your Life

Smart devices are everywhere today. From phones and watches to appliances and even toothbrushes, smart devices are easy and intuitive to use, anticipate your needs and desires, are interactive, and seamlessly connect with your other high-tech devices. Even hearing aids are getting a high-tech upgrade, with brands like Siemens now making smart hearing aids. But how do you know if a smart hearing aid is for you? Check out the top seven features of smart hearing aids and see how they can redefine quality of life for you and your loved ones:

1. They mimic the way your brain hears

Did you know you hear with your brain, not your ears? When fit as a pair, smart hearing aids share and exchange information in real time, imitating how the brain naturally hears. This type of technology is called binaural (two-ear) hearing.

2. They outperform normal hearing

Ever had trouble hearing in a busy restaurant? Smart hearing aids automatically tune in to speech you want to hear while suppressing unwanted background noise. This has been proven to provide better hearing in these situations than people with perfectly normal hearing.

3. They outsmart wind

If you've ever been on the phone when the wind is blowing, you know what it's like to have wind wreak havoc on your conversation. With traditional hearing aids, the same thing happens when wind hits the tiny microphones. Smart hearing aids outsmart wind by taking the audio signal from the hearing aid with less wind and instantly transferring it to the side with more wind.

4. They anticipate and adapt automatically

Smart hearing aids constantly scan the environment to determine the optimal listening mode for your current situation. For example, at a noisy family gathering, the

hearing aids can automatically focus on Aunt Sally talking in front of you. They even know when you're driving a car from the sound of the engine. The microphones automatically adjust to the side or back seat so you can hear passengers clearly without turning your head.

5. They continuously learn

Manual volume or treble adjustments are sometimes needed when you first wear hearing aids but nobody wants to be constantly fiddling with these controls. Smart hearing aids remember and learn from every volume adjustment you make, so in just a few weeks they will have learned your personal listening preferences.

6. They put you in control

Automatic adjustments are very convenient, but in some situations it's good to know you can still take manual control when wanted. Smart hearing aids make these manual adjustments easy and discreet by integrating with your smartphone. Free smartphone apps allow you to discreetly control the volume, program and treble of your hearing aids. Another app lets you choose the direction you want to listen just by tapping your phone.

7. They connect to other devices

Smart hearing aids use Bluetooth technology to transform your hearing aids into wireless stereo earbuds. They give you the freedom to interact with all of your devices, so you can stream a phone call, listen to iTunes or Pandora radio, or stream Netflix from your TV or tablet.

Remember, all hearing aids should help you hear better but the most intelligent hearing aids take advantage of the latest technology to address all of your listening needs. Talk with your hearing care professional to find out if smart hearing aids are the right solution for you.

Source: <http://newsok.com/7-mind-blowing-ways-smart-hearing-aids-can-change-your-life/article/feed/798217>



LUNCH AND LEARN: HEARING LOSS RESEARCH

Sunday, April 19, 2015 - 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Radisson Hotel Valley Forge, 1160 First Avenue, King of Prussia, PA

Join us for a delicious buffet and important information about research on hearing loss. Dr. James Saunders, Professor Emeritus of Research Otolaryngology, Physiology and Neuroscience, Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, will update us on what has been learned. Exhibitors will be onsite throughout the event, which is open to the public and will also introduce winners of the Marcia Finisdore Advocacy Award and Diana Bender HLAA Convention Scholarship Award. CART (realtime captioning), ASL interpreters, and a loop will be provided.

For directions, call the hotel at 610-337-2000 or visit its website at <http://www.radisson.com/king-of-prussia-hotel-pa-19406/pavalley/area/map>

Cost: \$28.00 per person Registration deadline: April 11, 2015

Questions? Contact Nancy Kingsley at Kingsley@HLAA-PA.org

Please complete this form, make your check payable to HLAA-PA, and mail to Alice Dungan, 6906 Shalkop Street, Philadelphia, PA 19128-3217

Amount enclosed: _____ (\$28 per person)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Email: _____

Names of additional attendees: _____

Name of HLAA-PA chapter you belong to (if applicable):

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.

A special thank you to the Louis N. Casset Foundation for their generous grant to be used towards our Lunch and Learn!

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

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

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Carolyn and Joe Meyer in honor of

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