

# THE HEARING LOSS CALIFORNIAN

California Newsletter of Hearing Loss Association of America



Mary at Clarity's "Artist Meet-And-Greet" reception  
TEDPA conference, Long Beach, September 2009.

## ANOTHER FACE OF HLA-CA

### Mary Rappazzo

**Meet Mary Rappazzo**, who is a fine arts painter, a digital artist, loves cats and dogs and gardens and wears Phonak Savia Art hearing aids. Mary's story shows that by taking responsibility for our hearing loss and modifying our environment, we can be successful.

**My hearing loss.** I have had a 70 to 75% loss in both of my ears since birth. Since I was born prematurely weighing 2.5 pounds, the theory is that my deafness could be related to it. I started wearing hearing aids at the age of 2, and am now on my fifth pair, Phonak Savia Art digital hearing aids. I'm very pleased with this set of aids. My friends and family have noticed an improvement in my comprehension. I particularly like being able to change the programming to block background noise.

**My education.** My mother was a strong advocate for my mainstream education, including attending a regular public high school. She stood up for me. When trying out for a softball team in

high school, the coach objected to my joining the team for fear of injury to my ears. My mother stepped in and fought for my rights. Eventually the coach gave in and I played on the team for three years.

I was the first person in my family to graduate from college, earning a B.A. in Graphic Design and Minor in Painting from California State University at Northridge (CSUN). CSUN was great providing services. In my lecture classes, I sat in the front row and mostly used notetakers. For my art classes and some lecture classes, I had sign language interpreters.

I am continuing my education in fine arts classes and on-line software training.

**Working at Disney.** I have worked at Disney Consumer Products for 9 years, doing digital art for a variety of character properties. This job is good for a person with hearing loss because I mostly communicate face-to-face and use email when discussing projects with my fellow colleagues. There is very little phone work. It is fun, creative and I love every minute of it.

In the work environment, the large group meetings are not easy for me. I always try to get as much as information as I can in advance. Later I ask a colleague to confirm my understanding. Sometimes I ask a colleague to use a laptop computer to translate the conversation. I have requested a sign language interpreter for a big event.

**Communicating.** With my hearing significant other, I do have difficulty over the phone sometimes, so we worked out a backup strategy using instant messaging to supplement our conversations while we talk. Hearing couples take for granted that they can talk while engaging in other activities (not facing each other, in different rooms, while working on something, etc.) and still communicate clearly. We need to face each other so I can lipread and see facial expressions.

**The good.** I'm very proud to have earned my college degree. I think my biggest career achievements are loving my digital art job at Disney Consumer Products and exhibiting my art at various venues, including a recent show at the L.A. City Hall, and the Dezart One Gallery in Palm Springs, which represents my art. I have been blessed with wonderful support from my immediate family, especially my mother and grandmother, when growing up. The same support continues on from my mother, brother, sister-in-law, my significant other and closest friends.

**I wish.** Some people's ignorance, lack of understanding, and fear have caused them not to get to know me or be friends with me. It's frustrating and sometimes upsetting when people think I'm not capable or appear uncomfortable around me because I am hard of hearing. I would like to have the opportunity to educate them and let them know that I'm no different except for hearing loss.

**My hopes.** Peace in the world and 350 ppm by 2020.

In September **TEDPA** (Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Assn) held a conference in Long Beach, at which Clarity had an exhibit booth. **Clarity** is the leading supplier of amplified telephones, notification systems, assistive listening devices and other communications devices for the hoh/d communities.

The theme for this year's conference was "**Charting the Course**" and the goal is that together we will map a future that ensures no clients are left behind as new and emerging technology continues to advance and change.

**Phones going wireless.** A study conducted by Nielson Mobile reported that one in five American households may have abandoned their landline phone (s) in favor of wireless phone(s) by the end of 2008. The trend for going wireless is expected to increase 3-4 percentage points per year. This wireless growth along with all the digital conversions make it a critical time for DDTP in providing assistive telecommunications equipment. **The challenge is making sure that the disability communities are not left behind as new and emerging technologies rapidly evolve.**

#### Clarity exhibit and

**Mary's art.** Mary was asked to exhibit some of her art at the Clarity booth and to create a poster expressing being fully engaged in life.

When Clarity asked me to create a poster that expressed fully engaging in life, I felt the theme was an excellent match to my art and I was excited to be part of this project. I appreciate the opportunity to reach a new audience.

**Artistic inspirations.** My grandmother first inspired me to paint. I began painting at age 10 with her encouragement, because she felt that I had good creative and spatial ability. She taught me to paint flowers, old barns and landscapes. Also, I was inspired early on by some well known artists, such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Edward Hopper. I love their themes and their use of rich colors.

Mary's art has been featured in many exhibits across California and has won awards for several pieces. She is represented by Dezart One Gallery in Palm Springs, CA.

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

**Hearing loss influences my art.** I think my hearing loss enhanced my intuitive abilities, sensitivity, and perceptions of how people engage and interact. Although I don't think about it on a conscious level, perhaps my experiences as a deaf artist makes me especially attuned to the themes I choose. I have noticed that the figures in my art are often created without a sensory organ or two, yet they are completely engaged in the world around them.



*Clarity's Amplify Your Life, a poster art by Mary A. Rappazzo*

When I examine my work, I see three common themes: One is of people connecting with each other. A second theme that moves me is social justice. Lastly, I am often inspired by the ideas brought to me in commission work. For example, I was inspired when Clarity approached me with the theme of this exhibit—a fully engaged lifestyle.

**Involvement with disability communities.** I helped prepare an exhibition by hoh/d artists at the Los Angeles City Hall's Bridge Gallery, which occurred in September. This exhibition's goal was to promote awareness of hoh/d artists to the mainstream public and included a competition for young hoh/d artists.

I have also taught art and graphic design to hoh/d students in the public school system and donated my art to contribute to fundraising

efforts in the hoh/d community.

**Mary's comment about Clarity phones.** As a result of my recent collaboration with Clarity, I was fortunate to learn more about their telephone products for people with special needs. I now own two new Clarity products that have substantially improved my telephone communication. I have the C4230 cordless telephone and the XL45 landline phone, both of which have very good amplification and clarity. The cordless phone is especially good because it does not have interference noise, even when I am right next to my computer and wireless modem, and it works beautifully with my t-coil. Those issues were big problems for me with my previous amplified telephones. For more information on these phones as well as others, please go to <http://www.clarityproducts.com>.

**Mary's website is** <http://www.mar1eye.com>.



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Mary Clark

**Long Beach Walk4Hearing.** The Long Beach Walk4Hearing is now history. The planning, teamwork, the weather, the turnout, and the entire event could not be called anything but a success. By the early count, we had almost exactly 300 walkers.

We saw some of the old timers from HLA-CA, as well as many new faces, and the day turned out to be perfect weather. It would be hard to list a single memorable moment from the day, since there were many of them. One significant one that sticks with me was the comments made by one of the adult members, who remarked on the large group of young people, and expressing an emotional recognition that there was no such support for young people with hearing loss when she was young, and it was amazing to see. It turns out that some of the young people who had not met each other before coming to the walk, also expressed that same sentiment, with heartfelt gratitude in finding others with hearing loss.

**Raising awareness is a primary goal, but so is fundraising.**

The first walk in 2006 achieved \$304,665 for

HLAA; in 2007 that number doubled to \$611,721; and last year the results in the middle of a recession were \$749,318. The total so far this year posted on the HLAA website is \$988,428, with a goal of \$1,000,000 for 2009. The last two walks in Houston and Long Beach have not been reconciled yet, so that number may still be achievable! Thanks to everyone who donated, whether it was \$5 or \$5,000. Together we can make a difference. We'll publish the final results just as soon as they are available. Well done HLA-California!

**Phil Kaplan leaving the TADDAC.** It is with great honor that I wish to recognize the contributions of a lifelong advocate for hearing loss, who has worked in Sacramento on the TADDAC (Telecommunications Access for the Deaf and Disabled Administrative Committee). His term is now ending, and has been termed out. We owe him a debt of gratitude for the endless hours he has spent advocating on our behalf, with the voice of the hard of hearing population. Often, these committees focus on issues for the Deaf, and they are not always the same as issues for the hard of hearing population, so this tireless advocacy is one that has resulted in access to the CapTel phones, for example, and making sure that the CTAP program and equipment is relevant for our use. Thank you Phil for your devotion and lifetime of support for issues related to our needs.

**These experiences have made me reflect on what HLAA is all about,** and the thoughts are humbling. Here we are, a group of people with what is usually considered a disability, making a difference in the lives of others with hearing loss, even if they have never heard of us. We have a long list of activities and accomplishments that we have completed, and the results are outstanding! From every chapter member who has recruited and raised money for the walk, to those who have helped man a table or booth at a community event or convention, to chapter meetings where people connect with each other and share their frustrations with having a hearing loss--all of

these things add up to who we are. We have representation in Sacramento when the voice of people with hearing loss is needed, as laws that affect us are being considered. We have chapters who have sponsored lip reading classes, and the state board is hosting another Chapter Leadership Training session early in 2010. Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) graduates have provided information and training for local chapters.



Each chapter continues to answer questions about hearing loss and how to find resources, as the general public finds us through online contacts. We have every reason to stand proud of our achievements, and feel motivated to continue to reach out to the public to help raise awareness and provide support for hearing loss. Yes, even those days when it might be easier to keep quiet, just think back, and remember that these accomplishments weren't achieved by a single person, or in a single year, or by a single chapter, but by every single effort of every single member in the state. Alone, we are a single voice, but together we are a force to be reckoned with. You are empowered by the backing of all of those individual voices even if you can't hear them. We are there for you.

**Chapter Walk4Hearing funds.** As each chapter receives their portion of the funds raised for the Walk, I challenge you to identify a specific project to use those funds for. Some chapters would be delighted to be able to provide real time captioning at every meeting, others have talked about creating hospital kits, so come up with what you would like to do with your portion of the funds raised in the Walk4Hearing.

**Vote.** Be sure to send in your ballot that is inside this issue of the newsletter. Your vote counts, and we need to hear from you!

As always, Mary

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# Hearing Aids - An Unexpected Way to Improve Your Sex Life

By Sergei Kochkin, Ph.D., Executive Director, Better Hearing Institute

You've read the books on romance. You've devoted time and attention to improving your sex life. But you are probably ignoring a small electronic device that could really light a fire in your intimate relationships. You don't need to search for it in disreputable stores or web sites.



It's a hearing aid, and you can get one if you make an appointment with a doctor or a hearing health professional.

Nearly 1 in 5 Baby Boomers (ages 41-59) and 1 out of 14 Gen-Xers (29-40) now have hearing loss, according to research by the Better Hearing Institute. But only 1 out of 4 of them wear hearing aids. They are passing up a tool that research shows will not only boost their self-esteem and reduce anxiety; it may well make their sex lives more fulfilling.

Sexologists and couples therapists tell us that the best aphrodisiac in the world is effective communication. You don't need to be an expert on intimacy to understand that when two partners—or would-be partners—are at a romantic, candle-lit dinner and one has to shout across the table in order to be heard, it isn't exactly setting a mood for lovemaking.

But the impact of even mild hearing loss on relationships is usually more subtle. It can make a date partner seem remote and unresponsive, when in fact he or she just might be failing to hear certain key phrases or missing the subtle nuances of conversations. He or she will feel rejected when in fact he or she very much wants to be close to her or him. That is not the kind of date that is conducive to intimacy. The same problem often haunts couples in long-term relationships when one of them develops hearing problems but refuses to acknowledge or deal with them.

"It's hard to feel romantic and attracted to someone who never seems to listen. But that's how someone with untreated hearing loss often comes across," says Dr. Fred Piercy, a couples therapist in Blacksburg, Virginia. His wife Susan is an audiologist who wears a hearing aid.

But when the Piercys treat an unhappy couple that includes someone with untreated hearing loss, and that person gets a hearing aid, it often helps the spark to return to the relationship, both in and out of bed. You might even think of a hearing aid as **Viagra for the ears!**

Sex often depends upon the right atmosphere, the proper build-up to get one or both partners in the mood. If you or your partner has trouble hearing, a hearing aid can help make sure that romantic cues are picked up and that sweet nothings whispered in the ear are heard. Even something as routine as listening to music together, which is the prelude to sex for some couples, becomes much easier.

Many people think hearing aids will make them look older and less attractive. But they have an out-dated view of what modern hearing aids look like. Some are nearly invisible and fit in the ear canal or are very inconspicuous. Some can even be flaunted—manufacturers have begun to come up with hearing aids that are veritable fashion statements, in different colors and sleek designs. There is just no excuse to permit an obsolete stigma to stop you from treating your hearing problem. You'll be much sexier if you do something about it.

## No-Bluff Pledge

By Gael Hannon

I have the RIGHT to understand and participate.  
In my life, I will not bluff!

I will not pretend to understand when I do *not*  
Instead I will do all that it takes to engage, interact and  
communicate!

I will reclaim my life.  
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## HLAA CONVENTION Milwaukee, Wisconsin June 17-20, 2010

**Welcome Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).** To show our support and gratitude for your service, HLAA is offering a FREE one-year membership as well as a FREE convention registration to OIF and OEF veterans. For more information about registering for the convention, contact Nancy Macklin, Director of Events, [NMacklin@hearingloss.org](mailto:NMacklin@hearingloss.org)

**Keynote Speaker – Bill Barkeley.** Convention 2010 attendees are sure to be inspired by this year's keynote speaker, Bill Barkeley, a member of the HLAA Grand Rapids Chapter.

Bill has Usher's Syndrome, a condition characterized by hearing impairment and progressive blindness. His hearing loss is 85 percent, bilateral, progressive, severe sensorineural hearing loss and he has been wearing hearing aids since the age of five. He is also legally blind.

Being deaf-blind doesn't slow him down in the least. Bill recently completed a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. While hearing-impaired people can climb mountains, deafness combined with greatly diminished eyesight make such an exploit difficult. In order to achieve the summit, Bill used two top-of-the-line hearing instruments: Phonak Savia Art 411 dSZ, which actively monitors the environment and tailors the sound to its wearer's specific hearing loss as well as a wireless FM communication system (SmartLink SX, MicroLink ML9S and MicroBoom accessories) that worked in conjunction with Bill's hearing aids. The wireless microphone and transmitter allowed his guide, **Jeff Evans**, to speak directly into his hearing aids from up to 100 feet away. He also wore portable night vision goggles so that he could see in darkness.

Bill is taking a group of young adults with hearing loss to the Peruvian Amazon in July 2010 as part of the partnership of Global Explorers and Hearing the World. "If I can help just a couple of kids become advocates for themselves, be comfortable with what technology can do and that they can do just about anything they want, with adaptation, then we're doing a good thing."

"My mission is to educate people about all the available technologies and how they can transform and enhance their lives," Bill says. **"The greatest message that came out of my climb was that I had dual disabilities and I did not ask for**

**accommodations. The expedition team did not modify expectations, processes or goals to help me reach the summit. I blended in with assistive technology. That is incredibly liberating.** People describe me as deaf-blind but these words do not define me."

His six-day trip up the mountain was an experience that changed his life. "It was the hardest thing I ever did, and the most rewarding thing I ever did."

### Research Symposium

**Dr. Catherine Palmer** will moderate the Research Symposium, *Hearing Aid Research and Development: What It Means for the Consumer*, with the participation of these major hearing aid manufacturers: GNResound, Oticon, Phonak, Siemens, Sonic Innovations, Starkey and Widex.

Dr. Palmer is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders at the University of Pittsburgh and serves as the Director of Audiology and Hearing Aids at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Palmer conducts research in the areas of adult auditory learning post hearing aid fitting and matching technology to individual needs.

Dr. Palmer opened the Musicians' Hearing Center at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in 2003 and has focused on community hearing health since that time. This work has included a partnership with the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Pittsburgh Symphony that promotes hearing protection for young and professional musicians.

### Registration

- **Early Bird Registration.** Register for the full activity package by December 31st and your name will go into a drawing for 3 FREE nights at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center! (Must be used on the nights of June 17 -19, 2010; taxes are the responsibility of the winner.) Register now! It's never too early to start planning!
- **First-time Attendee Discount:** For first-time attendees, we are offering a registration discount! That's right. If you've never been to an HLAA convention before, now's your chance!
- **Chapter Delegate Discount:** One registration discount is available per chapter.
- **See [www.hearingloss.org/convention](http://www.hearingloss.org/convention).**

## Founder's Day Honoring Rocky Stone

In 1984, Hearing Loss Association of America established Founder's Day, the annual celebration of our anniversary to be observed by chapters during the month of November. It is a time to commemorate our beginnings (incorporated November 1979) and our Founder, **Rocky Stone**. Founder's Day is a time of gratitude, a time we remember "all our Novembers."

All chapters making a contribution of \$500 or more will be honored with a **Founder's Day Recognition** at the Awards ceremony at the 2010 HLAA Convention in Milwaukee, WI. Please make your check out to HLAA-Founder's Day and mail to HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814.



## MORE CAPTIONING Movies, Live Theatre, Trailers

**Captionfish, a Captioned Movies Search Engine.** DeafCode, LLC. has launched its first beta of Captionfish.com. The DeafCode Team was inspired to create Captionfish because of the need to find a comprehensive list of captioned movies in one place. Deafcode is adding more theaters every day and will continue to enhance the website's functionality with new features.

Founded in 2009 by three deaf internet professionals, **Greg Millam, Chris Sano and Brendan Gramer** with 30 years of combined experience, DeafCode LLC's mission is to utilize their skills and technological expertise to enhance the overall internet experience for people with hearing loss. DeafCode is based in Seattle, WA.

Highlights of Captionfish.com's features include:

- **Effortless Searching.** Using its Instant CC Film Finder(tm), Captionfish offers the easiest way for visitors to find captioned movie results within 30 miles of their location.
- **Custom Search.** Captionfish's Instant CC Film Finder(tm) results can be customized for up to 7 days in the future or up to 60 miles away from a specified location.
- **Open Captions and Rear Window identification.** Captionfish.com provides easy to identify icons that distinguish between an "open captioned" or "rear window captioned" showing. *(I am asking that they include subtitled foreign films in the future.)*
- **Works on mobile phones.** Find movies on the go. Mobile edition-Captionfish provides a mobile website optimized for mobile phones so deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors can find captioned movie results while they are on the go. Mobile applications for Smart phones are under development.
- **Watch Captioned Trailers.** Get detailed movie information. Captionfish links to a growing list of closed captioned movie trailers so the deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors can enjoy previews of current and upcoming movie releases.
- **RSS Feed for custom results.** Captionfish enables an RSS feed so each visitor can check for the latest captioned film results using their preferred RSS reader wherever they like.

**To find captioned movies, go to [www.captionfish.com](http://www.captionfish.com).**

**If you have a theatre or movie complex you would like to see listed, contact [feedback@deafcode.com](mailto:feedback@deafcode.com).**

**To learn more about Deafcode, go to [www.deafcode.com](http://www.deafcode.com).**

### **Captioned Live Theater Performances**

Here's a list of captioned live theatre performances nationwide.

Go to <http://www.c2net.org/list.htm>. At top of page, click on "Theatrical Performances by Theatre" to find what is playing locally.

### **Captioned Trailers**

See hundreds of captioned trailers.

Go to <http://dvd-subtitles.com>, Scroll down half a page and click on "Subtitled Trailers"

**Rare news footage of Helen Keller from the 1930s and captioned!** This was during the period when **Helen Keller, Ann Sullivan Macy and John Macy** had an "e-way marriage" and Helen Keller was a vaudeville feature.

Google Helen Keller captioned.

## Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) Neckloops

*By Bill Busch, HAT Committee Chairman,  
Lakewood/Long Beach Chapter*

Over the past month, **Herb Balkind** and I (Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter) have had a wonderful opportunity provided by **John Koste** with the state Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program to evaluate three different amplified neckloops being considered for use by the California Telephone Access Program (CTAP). The benefit of using the neck loop in conjunction with the various devices is that you are getting sound from your hearing aids that is corrected for your particular audiogram rather than the uncorrected sound of the device.

Neckloops are a convenient way for connecting a variety of electronic devices to our hearing aids (HA) and cochlear implants (CI). If you have a telecoil setting (also called a T-coil or telephone setting) in your HA or CI, I suggest you consider getting the top rated device to help you hear when using a cell phone, I-Pod, CD player, personal FM system, computer or nearly anything with a headphone jack.

**The three neckloops we evaluated were the Geemarc CLA7, Clarity CE30 and the ClearSounds CLA7v2.**

Both Herb and I already had a **CLA7** which we received free from CTAP. We learned about the availability of this accessory from one of our speakers earlier this year. We discovered that the device worked well with a cell phone and allowed hands free ability to talk and listen on the cell phone since the device has a built-in microphone which picks up our voice and delivers it to the phone so the cell phone can be on the seat next to you. The amplified neckloop delivers the other person's voice to our hearing aids quite well. It is powered by two AAA batteries.

The **CE30** that we evaluated was similar to the **CLA7** with the advantage that it features an on/off switch that is much better and doesn't get accidentally turned on; but a big disadvantage is that in order to replace the batteries you needed a tiny Phillips screwdriver, good eyesight and excellent manual dexterity. This makes it unusable by many of our group. I suspect in time they will change this poor feature.

The grand prize goes to the **CLA7v2** which outperformed both of the others in sound quality and usefulness. It had a good on/off switch and volume control, easily removable batteries and came with a variety of connecting cords that allowed it to be easily used with the variety of devices. All five of us that evaluated the devices rated the ClearSounds CLA7v2 as the best. Note that your hearing aid must be in the telephone mode and that neckloops work with most cell phones.

My hope is that the ClearSounds CLA7v2 will be added to the list of equipment that CTAP provides free to those who have a hearing loss. It would be a big plus to all of us. In the meantime if you can't wait, they are available online for less than \$100.

Contact me if you have questions. Phone 310-540-6322 or e-mail: [billbusch@ieee.org](mailto:billbusch@ieee.org).

## Read your voicemail PhoneTag

By Jaynie Kind, Peninsula Chapter, Newsletter Editor

Do you receive voicemails that you can't understand, due to the caller speaking too fast or their accent? There is a great technology out there that I just love called "PhoneTag". My husband just set it up and it's fantastic! People can leave voicemail messages on your home or cell phone and those messages can be transcribed and sent to your email or cell phone as TEXT messages! No more struggling to understand voicemail. You can read your messages instead.



**Here's how it works:** The company, **PhoneTag**, is a voicemail-to-text service. They transcribe your voicemail message using voice recognition technology and deliver it, along with the original audio to your email account and/or to your cell phones as a text message. It is all automatic.

They assign a 10-digit voicemail number to which you forward unanswered calls. This is usually very easy to set up on a cell phone or landline. And it works with all major cell phone providers and 90% of landline and office phones. For 40 voicemail messages a month, we pay \$9.95. Or you can just select the \$0.35/per message option.

For more information, you can visit their website at <http://www.Phonetag.com>.

## TEACHERS of hoh/deaf Art Competition

Encourage your hoh/d students to enter Rochester Institute of Technology's Digital Arts, Film and Animation Competition for Students with Hearing Loss. **The deadline is January 15, 2010.**

The competition is for students in grades 9-12 working in web design, graphic media, 3-D animation, film interactive media and photo illustration. Winners receive a cash prize and a trip for themselves and a parent or guardian to the awards ceremony at RIT in the spring.

Go to [www.rit.edu/NTID/arts](http://www.rit.edu/NTID/arts), click on "Enter now", Click on "Registration form".

## NON-PROFIT STATUS Can HLA-CA lobby?

The IRS rule on lobbying states: *No organization may qualify for section 501(c)(3) status (non-profit) if a **substantial part** of its activities is attempting to influence legislation (lobbying).* A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in **some** lobbying, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status.

HLA-CA is in no danger of losing its non-profit status since we are not devoting a substantial portion of our efforts to lobbying.



## Relay Anyone, Anytime

### Use your voice on the telephone again!

SIPRelay® with CaptionCall® Voice Carry Over (VCO) is a free text-based relay service for people with a hearing loss. It is ideal for those who want to use their own voice and residual hearing, but who would benefit from a captioning of the other party's voice. A computer with an Internet connection and a telephone is all you need to use SIPRelay with CaptionCall VCO. Communication is fast and easy—whether you're making a reservation, changing a doctor appointment, or calling a friend.

### SIPRelay on the go:

Use SIPRelay anywhere with your Blackberry® Smartphone running SIPRelay Mobile for Blackberry or your mobile device running AOL instant messenger (AIM®).



Did we mention that SIPRelay is free?  
Visit [www.siprelay.com](http://www.siprelay.com) to find out more.

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**SIPRelay™**  
with VCO

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



# Hear and enjoy phone calls once again!

The State of California is now providing Clarity® cordless telephones free of charge through CTAP. The Clarity Professional® C4230™ is specially designed for those who suffer from moderate-to-severe hearing loss, low vision or limited mobility.



**CLARITY**  
Professional

The C4230™ features:

- Amplification of incoming sounds up to 50 decibels
- A loud, bright visual ringer that flashes to signal incoming calls
- Digital answering machine with variable-speed playback
- Generously spaced backlit buttons for easy dialing
- Hands-free conversations with dual speakerphones

**The C4230™ is now available at no cost to California residents with a qualifying hearing, vision or mobility need.**

**Contact CTAP to find out how to qualify.**



California Telephone Access Program  
[www.ddtp.org](http://www.ddtp.org)



Speech  
To  
Speech  
California Relay Service  
*The power to connect us all.*

Programs of the California Public Utilities Commission  
Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program

Information, application forms, equipment requests:

English: 1-800-806-1191  
Español: 1-800-949-5650  
Hmoob: 1-866-880-3394  
TTY: 1-800-806-4474

國語 1-866-324-8747  
廣東話 1-866-324-8754  
Fax: 1-800-889-3974  
Website: [www.ddtp.org](http://www.ddtp.org)

Multi-language materials: Voice: 1-866-821-3733

Multi-language Demonstrations: Voice/TTY: 1-800-995-6831

English/Spanish Certification Forms: Yellow Pages Coupon Section



## BALLOT - Deadline December 31, 2009

The Hearing Loss Assn-California Nominations Committee is proud to submit the following well-qualified candidates for the Hearing Loss Association-CA Board of Trustees. The term of office is three years. Successful candidates will begin their term at the February 2010 Board of Trustees meeting. **Please vote for no more than three candidates by entering an "X" in the space next to the candidate's name.** Voting for more than three will invalidate your vote.

**Note: Only members in good standing of the Hearing Loss Association of America National organization may vote.** Qualification will be based on the list obtained from HLAA National office showing current members as of December 1, 2009. The return address is the only identifier used, so it is important that your return address matches the records of HLAA membership. Family memberships are identified as Mr. and Mrs. or as two names on the membership records from HLAA National. In this case, each member is entitled to vote. If copies of the ballot need to be made, it is the responsibility of the members to make a second copy or print a copy from the online version of the newsletter available at **www.hearinglossca.org**. Return envelopes containing ballots must show the voter's name and address in the return address area of the envelope, but not on the ballot. Envelopes not bearing a return address and/or postmarked after **December 31, 2009** will be considered invalid and will not be counted.

Please send your completed ballot to: **Carol Waechter, 6807 Gray Court, Foresthill, CA 95631.**

### **Diane Gross** – Los Angeles Chapter

I have been involved with HLAA for most of my life. As a founding member of both the San Fernando Valley and Northridge chapters, I have served in every role except treasurer. I was a member of the state board from 2000-2003, serving as Nominations Chair. Most recently I held the position of Southern California Chapter Coordinator, overseeing 19 chapters. I currently serve on the steering committee of the Los Angeles chapter where I am newsletter co-editor.

If elected to the HLA-California state board, I look forward to continuing a favorite responsibility: communicating with chapter leaders and members to make sure they have vital information related to HLAA's mission of providing information, support, education and advocacy to hard of hearing people.

### **Rhianon Gutierrez** – Orange County Cochlear Implant Chapter

I am a filmmaker and disability rights activist. Diagnosed at age three with a severe to profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss, I grew up wanting to use cinema to manifest the stories of real people and inspire social change. For four years, in film school, I cultivated skills in short narrative and documentary films, including my award winning documentary about a transgender man, *When I'm Not Alone* (2009).

I am involved with various non-profits, including Special Olympics Southern California and Oxfam America. At Chapman, I facilitated Inclusion Trainings for students and faculty and continue to work closely with administrators on disability services, including accessibility for the deaf and hard of hearing.

I was raised oral/auditory and wear a cochlear implant in my left ear. I was a Rocky Stone Scholar at the 2009 Nashville Convention and my involvement with HLAA chapters spans from the Banning Chapter to the Orange County Cochlear Implant Chapter where I am based. I became a national member in 2009 and serve as a moderator on Hearing Loss Nation, HLAA's social networking site for young adults.

I am interested in expanding HLAA's outreach to high school students and young adults, including those with multiple disabilities. I want to build up a network of high school students and young adults throughout the state of California and facilitate youth-led advocacy trainings and workshops on relationships, media, education, and the workplace.

My goal is to prepare the next generation of young adults to be self-directed advocates who will act as facilitators in their communities.

### **Jim Montgomery** – Diablo Valley Chapter **Incumbent**

I have been a state and national member of Hearing Loss Association of America for over 26 years. HLAA has vastly enriched my life as a hard of hearing person. I am proud that HLA-CA and the California Chapters continue to provide hard of hearing Californians with the help and education they need to improve their lives. It is my hope that they in turn will help others.

I'm a 1984 co-founder of Diablo Valley Chapter in Walnut Creek and was a member of SHHH-BAM (Bay Area members) before that. I served as California State Chapter Coordinator, as President of the HLA-CA State Association and as president of Diablo Valley Chapter, the last position more than once.

I enjoyed being a sometime photographer for 20 of our national HLAA conventions and have served as a national convention volunteer from the days of the organization's beginnings. I have chaired or co-chaired four HLA-CA state conventions.

I was presented with the HLAA Spirit Award years ago and more recently received the HLAA Keystone Award. I am currently on the HLA-CA board and wish to continue in my seat.



# HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

### **Northern CA Chapter Coordinator**

Cindy Jagger, [cjagger@hearinglossca.org](mailto:cjagger@hearinglossca.org)  
707-422-3753 V/CRS

### **Diablo Valley Chapter** - Walnut Creek

Don Senger, 925-264-1199  
[DSenger@hearinglossdv.org](mailto:DSenger@hearinglossdv.org)

### **East Bay Chapter** - Oakland

Barbara Bishop, [ptownmoma@aol.com](mailto:ptownmoma@aol.com)  
510-601-9828 V/TTY  
Dorothy Brookover, [Tulipup007@cs.com](mailto:Tulipup007@cs.com)

### **Fresno Chapter**

Michele Shields, [mishell@pacbell.net](mailto:mishell@pacbell.net)

### **Napa Valley Chapter** - Napa

Bern Klein  
[bern3280@aol.com](mailto:bern3280@aol.com)  
707-226-9832 V

### **Peninsula Chapter** - Redwood City

Raegene Castle, [peninsula@hearinglossca.org](mailto:peninsula@hearinglossca.org)  
650-369-4717  
Marjorie Heymans, 650-593-6760 V

### **Sacramento Chapter**

Wendy Gualderama  
916-961-6477  
[wofairoaks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wofairoaks@sbcglobal.net)

### **San Francisco Chapter**

Ronda Bonati,  
[RondaBonati@sbcglobal.net](mailto:RondaBonati@sbcglobal.net)  
415-705-0550 V  
Marilyn Finn, [mfinn@hearinglossca.org](mailto:mfinn@hearinglossca.org)

### **Shasta County Chapter** - Redding

Sharon Hunter  
530-242-1574  
[sleehunter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sleehunter@sbcglobal.net)

### **Silicon Valley Chapter** - San Jose

Rufus Wesley, [rufuso@pacbell.net](mailto:rufuso@pacbell.net)  
408-229-1041  
Marjorie Iller, [marjieiller@earthlink.net](mailto:marjieiller@earthlink.net)

### **Tri-Valley Chapter** - Pleasanton

Hiram Van Blarigan, 925-455-6591  
[Hvanblarigan@hotmail.com](mailto:Hvanblarigan@hotmail.com)

### **Woodland Chapter** - Woodland

Clare Childers, [clarehear@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clarehear@sbcglobal.net)  
530-662-5102

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### **Southern CA Chapter Coordinator**

Nanci Linke-Ellis,  
[nlinke-ellis@hearinglossca.org](mailto:nlinke-ellis@hearinglossca.org)  
310-452-8700

### **Beaumont Chapter**

Barbara Tucker, [babsjt@aol.com](mailto:babsjt@aol.com)

### **Carlsbad Chapter**

Debra McClendon, [debyell4@aol.com](mailto:debyell4@aol.com)  
Brian Deitz, [brn.deitz@gmail.com](mailto:brn.deitz@gmail.com)

### **Coachella Valley Chapter** -

Thousand Palms  
Betty Weiss, [bweiss5@dc.rr.com](mailto:bweiss5@dc.rr.com)  
760-343-3828

### **Escondido Chapter**

Dorothy Wormser, [dorthi@cox.net](mailto:dorthi@cox.net)  
760-747-3813 V 760-737-9149 Fax

### **Irvine Chapter**

Lorraine Fanizza, [hear@hearpros.com](mailto:hear@hearpros.com)  
714-669-0401 V/TTY/FAX

### **Laguna Woods Village Chapter**

Denise Welch, [dennywelch@aol.com](mailto:dennywelch@aol.com)  
949-770-5760

### **Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter** -

Lakewood  
Ellen Mathis, [EPMathis@verizon.net](mailto:EPMathis@verizon.net)  
562-433-6509

### **Los Angeles Chapter** - Pasadena

Pat Widman, [pwidman@hearinglossca.org](mailto:pwidman@hearinglossca.org)  
Katherine Burns, [kkjump7@earthlink.net](mailto:kkjump7@earthlink.net)

### **Los Angeles Cochlear Implant Chapter**

Diane Rott, [dianeshear@msn.com](mailto:dianeshear@msn.com)  
626-331-7547

### **Mission Viejo Chapter**

Lola Attinger, [Lattinger@cox.net](mailto:Lattinger@cox.net)  
949-858-9024 V  
Pril Kirkeby, [pwkirkeby@cox.net](mailto:pwkirkeby@cox.net)  
949-855-6786 V

### **Northridge Chapter**

Diane Gross, [dgross@hearinglossca.org](mailto:dgross@hearinglossca.org)  
818-515-7587

### **Orange County Chapter** - Orange

Mary Clark, [mclark@hearinglossca.org](mailto:mclark@hearinglossca.org)  
714-694-0627

### **Orange County Cochlear Implant Chapter** - Orange

Jack A Belt, [JABELT@aol.com](mailto:JABELT@aol.com)  
626-934-0127

### **Redlands Area Chapter** - Redlands

Barbara Tucker, [babsjt@aol.com](mailto:babsjt@aol.com)

### **San Diego Chapter**

Bill Zitrin, [wdzitrin@aol.com](mailto:wdzitrin@aol.com)  
760-695-2737  
Larry Sivertson, [lsivertson@juno.com](mailto:lsivertson@juno.com)  
858-278-9630

### **San Fernando Valley Chapter** - Encino

Phil Kaplan, [philillini@aol.com](mailto:philillini@aol.com)  
818-368-1303

### **Santa Barbara Chapter**

Anne Szymanski, [Mama1811@verizon.net](mailto:Mama1811@verizon.net)  
Claudia Herczog, [czog16@cox.net](mailto:czog16@cox.net)

### **Santa Monica Chapter**

Carpool to HLA Los Angeles Chapter  
Nanci Linke-Ellis  
[nlinke-ellis@hearinglossca.org](mailto:nlinke-ellis@hearinglossca.org)  
310-452-8700  
Valerie Stern [vsstern@hearinglossca.org](mailto:vsstern@hearinglossca.org)

### **Simi Valley Chapter**

Dan Smith, [danr\\_smith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danr_smith@sbcglobal.net)  
805-526-0518

### **Where/when do chapters meet?**

<http://www.hearinglossca.org/html/chapters.htm>

**Please join us.** Meet others who are facing the challenge of everyday life with a hearing loss. Meetings are free and informal. Bring a friend or family member. Everyone is welcome. Hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome. **You do not have to face hearing loss alone.**

### **No chapter near you?**

Our Chapter Coordinators will help you to set up a local group.

- **Northern CA Chapter Coordinator**  
Cindy Jagger, [cjagger@hearinglossca.org](mailto:cjagger@hearinglossca.org)  
707-422-3753 V,

- **Southern CA Chapter Coordinator**  
Nanci Linke-Ellis,  
[nlinke-ellis@hearinglossca.org](mailto:nlinke-ellis@hearinglossca.org)  
310-452-8700

# RESOURCES FOR HEARING LOSS QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

## Hearing Loss Resource Specialists

**Jennifer Stuessy**, Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness (GLAD), Los Angeles 323-478-8000, [jstuessy@gladinc.org](mailto:jstuessy@gladinc.org)

**Pauline Strickland**, Center on Deafness Inland Empire (CODIE), Riverside 951-275-5000, [pstrickland@codie.org](mailto:pstrickland@codie.org)

**Susan Coulter**, Fresno [susanc@dhhs.org](mailto:susanc@dhhs.org)

**Colette Noble**, Sacramento 916-359-1893, [cnoble@gmail.com](mailto:cnoble@gmail.com)

**Sr. Ann Rooney**, Burlingame [arooney@hearinglossca.org](mailto:arooney@hearinglossca.org)

**Bruce Harris**, Berkeley [bjharris@iecc.org](mailto:bjharris@iecc.org)

## For Parents

### Independently Merging Parents Association of California (IMPACT)

Parent group focused on securing the best for children regardless of methodology, <http://www.deafkids.org>

### Hands and Voices

Similar approach as IMPACT but nationwide <http://www.handsandvoice.org>

### Education

Helen Walter [rhijah@earthlink.net](mailto:rhijah@earthlink.net) 951-849-6713

## For Youth

### HLAA Young Adults Group

Interactive social website <http://hearinglossnation.com>

### Training and Advocacy Group (TAG), Los Angeles

A self-advocacy group for deaf/hard of hearing children and teens. <http://www.tagkids.us>

## Cochlear Implants

**Cindy Jagger** (Northern CA) 707-422-3753, [cjagger@hearinglossca.org](mailto:cjagger@hearinglossca.org)

**Darlene Fragale** (Southern CA) 909-882-4680, [dmfragale@gmail.com](mailto:dmfragale@gmail.com)

## Clinics

### The HEAR Center

Hearing/speech therapy, Community outreach, hearing aid dispensing. All ages, <http://www.hearcenter.org>, 626-796-2016

### House Ear Institute

213-483-4431, <http://www.hei.org> Research on hearing loss and vestibular disorders. Cochlear implant services.

### Stanford University

Cochlear implant services [cochlearimplant@stanford.edu](mailto:cochlearimplant@stanford.edu), (650) 736-4351 <http://www.med.stanford.edu/ohns>

**Hearing and Speech Center**, San Francisco 415-921-7658, [info@hearingspeech.org](mailto:info@hearingspeech.org) <http://www.hearingspeech.org>

### Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford

Pediatric hearing loss  
**Jody Winzelberg** AuD, FAAA 650-498-2738, [jwinzelberg@lpch.org](mailto:jwinzelberg@lpch.org)

### John Tracy Clinic

Pediatric hearing loss, free services worldwide <http://www.johntracyclinic.org>, 213-748-5481

### Oberkotter Foundation

Pediatric hearing loss, free materials, oral schools <http://www.oraldeafed.org>

## Financial Aid

### Audient Alliance

<http://audientalliance.org>, 206-838-7194

### Let them Hear Foundation, Palo Alto

650-462-3143, <http://www.letthemhear.org>

## Career Counseling and Employment Services

### HLAA Employment Toolkit

Interview strategies; hearing loss and ADA; communication tips; insurance coverage for hearing aids. [www.hearingloss.org/advocacy/Employment.asp#jobtoolkit](http://www.hearingloss.org/advocacy/Employment.asp#jobtoolkit)

### GLAD/EDD

GLAD/Employment Development Department <http://www.gladinc.org> 213-478-8000, [info@gladinc.org](mailto:info@gladinc.org)

### Vocational Rehabilitation provides service

for clients who meet eligibility requirements. Assistance with hearing aids and devices may be provided to clients who need such devices to secure or retain employment. <http://www.dor.ca.gov>

## Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Access (DDTP)

### Administrative Committee (TADDAC)

**Colette Noble** (Hard of Hearing) 916-359-1893, [cnoble@gmail.com](mailto:cnoble@gmail.com)  
**Nancy Hammons**, (Late Deafened) [hammonsn@aol.com](mailto:hammonsn@aol.com)

**Chriz Dally**, (Deaf)

**Patrick Boudreault**, (Deaf)

### Equipment Program (EPAC)

**Brian Winic** (Hard of Hearing), [lovetwohear@aol.com](mailto:lovetwohear@aol.com)

**Richard Ray** (Deaf), [rlrayada@aol.com](mailto:rlrayada@aol.com)

**Ken Rothschild** (Deaf)

**Vacant** (deaf/blind)

### Free Telephones (CTAP)

[www.ddtp.org/ctap](http://www.ddtp.org/ctap)

## Captions

### Captioned movies search engine

[Captionfish.com](http://Captionfish.com)

### Captioned videos of world's leading thinkers.

[TED.com](http://TED.com)

### Captioned Live Theater Performances

[www.c2net.org/list.htm](http://www.c2net.org/list.htm)

### Captioned trailers

[dvd-subtitles.com](http://dvd-subtitles.com)

### Find song lyrics

[Lyrics.com](http://Lyrics.com)

## How to get Real Time Captioning

Captioning for workshops, lectures, courts

**Arlene Patton**,

[arlepatton@aol.com](mailto:arlepatton@aol.com)

(626) 337-8331

Captioning at College

**Colette Noble**

916-359-1893, [cnoble@gmail.com](mailto:cnoble@gmail.com)

## Assistance Dogs for hard of hearing / deaf

### Canine Companions for Independence

<http://www.cci.org> 800-572-2275

### Sam Simon Foundation

Rescues and trains assistance dogs for the deaf and hard of hearing <http://www.samsimonfoundation.com>, 310-457-5898

## Other Resources

### Lip reading classes

[hearinglossca.org/html/lipreading.htm](http://hearinglossca.org/html/lipreading.htm)

### Aural Rehabilitation Group for CIs, San Diego

**Mellisa Essenburg, M.S., CCC-SLP** [mellisaslpl@yahoo.com](mailto:mellisaslpl@yahoo.com), 858-232-5842 [www.SanDiegoSpeechPathology.com](http://www.SanDiegoSpeechPathology.com) [www.auditoryverbaltherapy.blogspot.com](http://www.auditoryverbaltherapy.blogspot.com)

### Hearing Aids 101

Information about all brands of hearing aids. <http://www.hearingaids101.com>

### Better Hearing Institute

Educates the public and medical profession on hearing loss, its treatment and prevention, 202-449-1100, <http://www.betterhearing.org>

### Living and Coping with Hearing Loss by Sam Trychin

[samtrychin@adelphia.net](mailto:samtrychin@adelphia.net) <http://www.trychin.com> 814-897-1194

### Hearing Loss Network & Web, San Diego

<http://www.hearinglossnetwork.org> <http://www.hearinglossweb.com> [larry@hearinglossnetwork.org](mailto:larry@hearinglossnetwork.org) 858-278-9630

### Deafness in Disguise

A fascinating look at the history of hearing devices. <http://beckerehibits.wustl.edu/did>





## Board of Trustees

**Mary Clark, President**  
Orange County Chapter  
714-529-0218  
mclark@hearinglossca.org

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cjagger@hearinglossca.org

**Nanci Linke-Ellis, ex officio (2 CIs)**  
So. CA Chapter Coordinator  
310-452-8700  
nlinke-ellis@hearinglossca.org

**FOUNDER Howard E. "Rocky" Stone, 1925-2004.** In 1979, Rocky Stone founded the organization as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH).

**JOIN US! Membership** includes national and state memberships, *Hearing Loss Magazine* and *The Hearing Loss Californian* newsletter. Rates are \$20 Student, \$35 Individual, \$45 Couple, \$60 Professional. For international and corporate rates, please visit [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).

Please make check out to HLAA and send it to Hearing Loss Association of America, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814 (include name/ mailing address/zip code/ email/phone) OR you can join on line at [www.hearingloss.org/membership/renew.asp](http://www.hearingloss.org/membership/renew.asp)

**Remember**, in order to **VOTE** in state elections, you must be a National member.

**SUPPORT BRENDA BATTAT & HLAA.** Join the Premier Club.

Please join the **Premier Club** by giving an ongoing monthly pledge of \$20 or more. Premier Club donations help HLAA predict their financial resources more reliably and manage their expenditures more wisely.

This is automatically deducted from your credit card and applied directly to the work of HLAA, to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy, and support.

**I have joined the Premier Club. Have you?** [www.hearingloss.org/donations/index.asp](http://www.hearingloss.org/donations/index.asp).

**ITINERANT TEACHERS OF HOH/D** support your graduating seniors in their transition from high school by giving them a **FREE** trial subscription to *The Hearing Loss Californian*. Please send student name/ mailing address/zipcode/email to [gtiessen@hearinglossca.org](mailto:gtiessen@hearinglossca.org).

**YOUNG PEOPLE ages 28 to 35, Socialize.**

**HearingLossNation** is a non-profit online social network community designed specifically for HoH individuals between the ages of 18 and 35. HLAA member **Patrick Holkins**, a Harvard University senior, moderates the discussions for young adults. Go direct to <http://hearinglossnation.ning.com> OR access it thru <http://hearingloss.org>.

**FREE trial subscription to *The Hearing Loss Californian*.** Please send your name/ mailing address/zipcode/email to Grace Tiessen, 714 Prospect Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91103, [gtiessen@hearinglossca.org](mailto:gtiessen@hearinglossca.org).

**FREE. *Hearing Health* magazine**, a quarterly publication of Deafness Research Foundation. Sign up on line at <http://www.drf.org>.

HLA-California publishes *The Hearing Loss Californian* quarterly in mid February, May, August and November. The newsletter is available through mail, and on line at <http://www.hearinglossca.org/html/newsletter.htm>.

**Demographics.** Our database consists of 5500 records--1250 California HLAA members; 1345 California audiologists; 1350 California Hearing Aid Dispensers; Dept of Rehabilitation HoH/D counselors; Itinerant Teachers of the HoH/D; Office of Deaf Access outreach centers; members of the Assn of Late Deafened Adults; Kaiser Permanente audiologists; members of AG Bell Assn for the D/HoH; Costco Hearing Aid Centers; HEARx Hearing Aid Centers; Sonus Hearing Aid Centers and others interested in hearing loss issues.

Editor: Grace Tiessen, [gtiessen@hearinglossca.org](mailto:gtiessen@hearinglossca.org)

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Submissions for the Spring 2010 issue are due no later than January 15, 2010, and should be sent to [gtiessen@hearinglossca.org](mailto:gtiessen@hearinglossca.org). Inclusion and/or editing will be at the full discretion of the Editor.



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## HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

*A Hearing Loss Association of America  
state association supporting chapters throughout California*

### Who We Are

**Hearing Loss Association of California (HLA-CA)** is a state association affiliated with Hearing Loss Association of America. Residents of California who join our national organization automatically become members of HLA-CA.

**Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)** is an international, non-sectarian, educational, consumer organization of hard of hearing people, their relatives and friends. It is devoted to the welfare and interests of those who cannot hear well but are committed to participating in the hearing world.

**Hearing Loss Association of America**  
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
(301) 657-2248 Voice  
(301) 657-2249 TTY  
(301) 913-9413 Fax  
[info@hearingloss.org](mailto:info@hearingloss.org)

### Hearing Loss Association of America

The Nation's voice for people with hearing loss.

**Hearing Loss Association of America** opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

The national support network includes the Washington, D.C. area office, 14 state organizations, and 200 local chapters.

Our clear, straightforward message has changed the lives of thousands of people.

*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.*

HLAA: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

HLA-CA: [www.hearinglossca.org](http://www.hearinglossca.org)

**Find a chapter near you:** [www.hearinglossca.org/html/chapters.htm](http://www.hearinglossca.org/html/chapters.htm)

