

Spring 2009

THE HEARING LOSS CALIFORNIAN

California State Newsletter of Hearing Loss Association of America
(Formerly Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc.)



Alicia Fernandez — Mommy, Advertising Art Director, Cat Fancier, Bilateral Advanced Bionics Harmony wearer

THE CHANGING FACE OF HLA “The Not-So-Terrible Twos”

“May you live in interesting times.” Some think it’s a curse, some think it’s a blessing. Whoever said it, it sure describes our lives right now.

My husband Michael and I became first-time parents in July, 2008. Our daughter, Samantha WuXi, was born in Nanchang, China. When we met Sam, we were both over 50, and she was just 17 months old. Parenting a toddler is hard. Adjusting and bonding with an adopted child is harder. Add to the mix that I’m late-deaf (I wear two CIs, both from Advanced Bionics) and “interesting” barely scratches the surface.

Take what happened a couple of weeks ago while doing laundry. I was glancing at my cell while Samantha played with the laundry basket. With my single CI, I could hear Sam’s continuous baby talk, the spinning laundry and the scraping of the basket on the floor. Then a series of loud bangs. My head jerked up and

Sam gave me her most angelic smile; she’d been banging plastic hangers together.

I breathed a sigh of relief and looked down for what seemed like a few seconds. Big mistake. Louder crashing sounds and hysterical screeching followed. I jumped out of the chair, but there was no Sam. Since I couldn’t locate the sound, I had no idea where she was. She wasn’t in the living room, not in her bedroom, not in our room. Panic set in, and I ran repeatedly from room to room while the noise continued. Suddenly I realized that I’d had my back to part of the dining room and I spun around. Samantha was sitting in the middle of scattered pieces of my British pottery collection. She was smashing cups and saucers together squealing and laughing. Shards of hand-painted china flew all over and rained on her. Had she cut herself? How did she do all this so fast?

What most upset me is that I’d been two feet away from her all this time. I screamed “NO! NO! NO!” and yanked her up into my arms. Mostly, I was scared to death for her but I was also fuming. Now it was her turn; Sam started having a screaming meltdown. But was I madder at Sam or at myself? I packed the pottery away, including the broken pieces, and stored the cabinet with the bad lock in the garage. Better safe than sorry.

A second parental story: I’ll call it “What you should never do if you wear implants and are totally deaf when you take them off.”

I had to go to the market in heavy rain. Sam was having a fussy day and getting ready was a hassle. I got Sam dressed in boots and a raincoat with a hood, but forgot to bring my own hood. At the store, I struggled with Samantha, the diaper bag and my purse. The heavy rain turned into a deluge. I worried that my CI would get wet when we ran to the store. I took it off and stuck it in my pocket. “Why would I need it right now?”, I thought. “I’ll put it back on inside.” At the time, I had just received my second implant but hadn’t yet been activated. Which meant without the CI, I was completely stone deaf.

By the time I reached cover, we were both soaked. My glasses were so fogged up that I couldn’t see. Sam was unhappy and I struggled to carry her. I pulled and kicked at the carts, but they were stuck together. A kindly man ran out and gave me his cart. I just wanted to tell him thank you and get inside. But he decided to strike up a conversation. I didn’t have a clue to what he was saying and I couldn’t see his lips. I got more agitated.

I looked down and realized that Sam kicked off one of her boots. I still couldn’t see or hear, and I was now too frazzled to realize I needed to wipe my glasses and/or put on my CI. Mainly I needed to just calm down.

Instead, I ran out into the rain trying to find the boot. A nice woman found it under her car and raced it over to me.

Now *both* good Samaritans were trying to talk to me under the store awning. I didn't calm down, I forgot all about assertiveness, I didn't tell them I'm deaf and to wait until I put on my CI. I said something like, "Thank you. Very kind," and ran into the store. Then I realized that since I can't hear my own voice any more (the result of the second implant surgery), I have a tendency to talk REALLY LOUDLY! So, to sum up, I've just yelled at two kind strangers having just ignored everything they'd said to me. No wonder they looked puzzled over there. I ran with Sam and the cart to the other side of the store and hid.

Interesting, huh?

A brief history of my hearing loss. I was born with normal hearing outside Buenos Aires, Argentina. I moved to the U.S. when I was nine, graduated Cal State Long Beach and started my career as a graphic designer. I first noticed some minor hearing loss in one ear in my late 20s (I could understand the phone in my right ear, but not always the left) but didn't see a doctor till my mid-30s.

For the next 15 years, I suffered through progressive loss in both ears, a failed stapedectomy, and three sets of increasingly expensive hearing aids. And I do mean suffered: the aids gave me tinnitus and a bad case of recruitment (that is, amplifying the sound enough for me to understand made it almost too loud to bear).

Along my journey I joined an ALDA chapter run by the teacher of a sign language class I took. A group of us later founded our own SHHH chapter, which is now the Los Angeles chapter of the Hearing Loss Association. The friendships, advice and support I've encountered were remarkable. But still, **one of the happiest days of my life was finding out I had flunked my hearing test badly enough to qualify for a Cochlear Implant.**

My first implant surgery went well but the recovery didn't. Others in our local chapter had bragged they'd been able to socialize with friends the day after surgery. Not me. I awoke in the worst pain I've experienced in my life. And while they'd warned me about swelling, I woke up two days after surgery with a head so misshapen that my husband joked I looked like a special effect from an old John Carpenter movie.

My implant was ultimately a success. My recruitment had ended, the pain was gone, and my hearing was soon better than it had been in years. However, I was still uncomfortable with the phone and developed a type of phobia about it. I enjoyed music from my youth, but couldn't "get" new music. Socially, I did fairly well with conversations, but when family got together and started talking over one another, I was as lost as ever. And when I heard Sam cry, I had to look to my husband to figure out where the sound was coming from.

So when the note from the House Clinic came saying I'd likely be eligible for a second implant, it didn't take much convincing.

As I write this, I've only been wearing the second CI for about a week. And yet, the changes are obvious.

The recovery went well this time (thankfully) and my activation went even better. Dr. House was amazed. On my first day, I could understand speech and it sounded close to normal. I had lunch with a group of House Institute researchers, and under-

stood everyone. On the second day, they tested my implants separately and my hearing was almost identical between the older implant and the new one. Apparently, this is as rare, in a good way, as my "balloon head" had been rare in a bad way.

And yesterday while sitting in the back seat of the car, I could actually follow the conversation from the front seat. That's new.

I think the main reason for my success is that I retained some hearing in my right ear up to the day of surgery; my brain's hearing center never stopped being stimulated. Also, since my two surgeries were less than three years apart, I could take advantage of the same software *and* hardware. A lot of bilateral CI users I know from our HLAA chapter can't say that

And I'm currently discovering the advantages of removing both implants and becoming "deaf," as opposed to merely nearly-deaf. I can be in the room with my daughter and not have to hear the 50th playback of an episode of "Barney and Friends." I'm not woken during the night when Samantha has a bad dream and starts to scream or when she decides that 6:00 am is a great time to rearrange the furniture in her room.

Of course, as a bilateral user I hope to become less dependent on my husband and to stop using Michael as both my "hearing dog" and as my personal secretary, taking and making my calls. Also, it's been hard for me to be friendly with other parents and their kids. At the park or in toddler classes, I am often running after Sam while the parents try to talk to me. I find all of this a real challenge but I know Sam needs for me to keep her involved with other kids.

So, if I want Samantha to be comfortable with herself, I need to be the same. I don't want to hold her back. I want her to reach out to the world. She's already a happy, well-adjusted, energetic, friendly little girl, and I want to continue to let her grow. Hopefully, Samantha and I will be able to grow more comfortable and confident together.

One more quick story. I was sitting in our backyard, reading through a draft of this story. Samantha was running around, playing on the slide of our second-hand Little Tykes plastic playground. Michael was upstairs working in his home office. All seemed right with the world. Suddenly, I heard a thud and a loud cry. Without thinking, my head swiveled almost 180 degrees and I was staring at my daughter, who'd fallen while trying to carry a large rubber ball, her pillow, a cookie and a bottle. She's crying but more out of surprise and embarrassment than pain.

And then it hit me.

I didn't have to search her out. I didn't have to wonder where the sound was coming from. I didn't have to rely on Michael to hear her and run down a flight of stairs to help Sam out. And I certainly I didn't think about the two surgeries, \$200,000 in medical bills (thank God for insurance) or the high-tech advances in sound processing that had made the moment possible.

I didn't have to think about anything other than being a mother, scooping up my daughter and kissing the tears away.

There's no way around it. We're living in interesting times.

I can't wait to hear what happens next.

Comfort *Contego*® HD

The High Definition Digital Wireless FM Hearing System

The Comfort Contego is a unique, wireless communication system designed to improve and enhance the quality of sound. Unlike conventional FM systems, Contego's digital processing system provides high definition sound over multiple channels. The high definition sound is based on Comfort Audio's unique digital signal processing technology. The Comfort Contego transmits its signal encrypted to prevent electronic eavesdropping, an industry first.



Both the transmitter and the receiver have built-in zoom microphones that are user adjustable for maximum sound customization. Depending on conditions the microphones can be set for omni or directional use and volume levels can be adjusted remotely.

Contego has all the functions you need for better hearing in a discreet, easy-to-use and portable package that offers total flexibility whether one-on-one, in noisy crowded areas or in a lecture hall.



Comfort *DUETT*®

The Compact Multipurpose Personal Amplifier



Comfort Duett is a small, easy to use, rechargeable assistive listening device with superior sound. It is stylish and ergonomically designed. The Comfort Duett amplifies speech, conversations and sounds from a variety of sources like TV, radio, telephone etc.

The innovative base unit serves as an overnight charger and as an interface to audio equipment such as your TV and telephone. When using earphones the Comfort Duett is very discreet and resembles a stylish music player. Using headphones the Duett can be used as an alternative to Hearing Aids, or with its built-in T-coil and an induction neck-loop, as a compliment. All this makes Comfort Duett the ideal communications tool for a majority of users.

Comfort Audio, Inc.
847-656-5450 · www.comfortaudio.us

 **COMFORT audio**
Dispensers to Audiologists™

CAPTIONING in the Courtroom

Always ask for it

It's the law. It's your right.

By Cheryl Heppner, from NVRCnews

A recent decision made by the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board is of great importance to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. Both attorney **Russ E. Boltz** and his client, **Neville Grow** have hearing losses. Boltz requested communications access realtime translation (CART) for himself and his client for a hearing on Grow's case in April 2008. He was told that a sign language interpreter was the only accommodation that could be provided.

CART provides word-for-word text on a computer or television screen or through a projector to a screen that can be viewed by an entire room. The administrative law judge had refused to provide CART because "it isn't in our budget," but Boltz and Grow disagreed.

The Appeals Board, in reviewing the case, set aside the decision of the administrative law judge. One of the reasons the board cited for its decision is that **CART is already required by statute in California for every court and administrative agency, for attorneys, witnesses, judges, court staff, jurors and more. It is to be provided on request and free of charge.**

Russ E. Boltz, the lawyer representing Grow in the appeal, is a lawyer with offices in Laguna Beach and Huntington Beach, California. He cites the major step forward in the decision from the appeals court.

"First, this appears to be the only reported decision of an administrative agency or court in the state of California that says, 'Follow the law and provide CART on request without excuses,' he said. "The only case in California to deal with the issue of individuals who are hard of hearing or deaf to have CART before this statute said basically that a criminal defendant did NOT get a raw deal by not hearing a lot of his trial." That case was *People v Freeman*, 8 Cal 4th 450 (1994).

Boltz finds the lack of awareness by lawyers and judges of the statute requiring access through CART to be troubling. What is more troubling is that **California is the only state we know of with such a statute** and access to CART is a key tool in ensuring a fair trial for many individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

OBAMA

Disability Policy

Kareem Dale, has been appointed as the **Special Assistant to the President on Disability Policy – the first time ever such a position has been named.** He urged all disability groups to work together for change and to resolve any philosophical differences for effective outcomes

Inauguration. There were jumbo-trons (large television screens) with open captioning positioned on the Capitol Plaza and within the Mall Standing Area. Sign Language Interpreters were located at designated positions within each ticketed section, with the exception of the Mall Standing Area.

CAPTIONING - Precedent

Sports Stadiums

Editor: I just watched the 2009 Super Bowl. Cheryl Heppner (NVRC) documented the captioning status of the Super Bowl ads. The overall results show almost twice as many ads NOT being captioned as captioned! Of 128 ads, 48 were captioned and 80 were not. I might have bought something if I had known what you were selling!! Hearing loss is a barrier to effective communication. You must caption your ads. Spanish speakers can hear the sounds, but cannot understand the words. Likewise hard of hearing people can hear the sounds, but cannot understand the words. We need captioning!

Sports Fans Win Their Day in Court

In an opinion issued on September 30, 2008, a federal district court in Maryland held that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires the Washington Redskins **"to provide deaf and hard of hearing fans equal access to the aural information broadcast over the stadium bowl public address system at FedEx Field, which includes music with lyrics, play information, advertisements, referee calls, safety/emergency information, and other announcements."**

The lawsuit was brought in August 2006 on behalf of Redskins fans Shane Feldman, Brian Kelly, and Paul Singleton, who are deaf or hard of hearing and who regularly attend Washington Redskins home games at FedEx Field. The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Joseph B. Espo of Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP, represent the plaintiffs. The court's ruling requires that FedEx Field, the home of the Washington Redskins, must provide auxiliary aids and services to make the game-day experience fully accessible for deaf and hard of hearing fans.

"This victory is the first of its kind and carries great significance" said Nancy J. Bloch, NAD Chief Executive Officer. "As the court recognizes, there are hundreds of stadiums, arenas, and sports venues throughout the United States. This groundbreaking decision is expected to have nationwide ripple effect as these stadiums look to this decision for guidance on ADA requirements with respect to the communication access needs of deaf and hard of hearing consumers."

This is a tremendous breakthrough for deaf and hard of hearing sport fans. "This decision, supporting equal access, will benefit the entire deaf and hard of hearing community," said Mr. Feldman. "This outcome would not have been possible without the valiant efforts of the NAD and Mr. Espo."

"We expect that stadiums, arenas and other sports venues will take heed and begin to follow the law on providing equal access to individuals with disabilities, including providing equal access to aural information for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing," said Mr. Espo.

"The court's decision marks a significant victory for plaintiffs and the deaf and hard of hearing community," said Marc Charnatz, NAD Senior Attorney. **"The ADA applies to stadiums, and now a court, for the first time, has recognized that deaf and hard of hearing fans have a legal right to equal access at stadiums."**

See www.nad.org/GroundbreakingRedskinsCase



Quality is the Key

Quality is what you deserve and that's what we offer at WCI. Every time you shop you'll receive only the best quality products, prices and service. Whether you count on a signaler to alert you or enjoy your conversations with an amplified phone we have the right equipment to enhance your life style.

www.weitbrecht.com

1-800-233-9130 (V/TTY)



926 Colorado Avenue • Santa Monica, CA 90401-2717 • email: sales@weitbrecht.com

Peace

Peace

YES WE CAN

Peace

Peace

Captioning Unlimited

4740 Candleberry Ave.
Seal Beach, CA 90740

Seminars
Conventions
Depositions
CART
Closed Captioning
Business Meetings

Marilyn M. Cicerone, CSR, RPR
(562) 760-8315
(562) 596-8202 Fax
E-mail: Marimarcsr@aol.com

Total TR Recall

Your Realtime Captioning Professionals

CART BROADCAST CAPTIONING TRANSCRIPTION COMMUNICATION FACILITATION

SANDY EISENBERG
info@yourcaptioner.com

phone (818) 991-2413
fax (818) 991-4368



WWW.QUICKCAPTION.COM

ANTHA A. WARD

- REALTIME CAPTIONING
- TRANSCRIPTION ■ LED DISPLAY SALES

4927 ARLINGTON AVENUE ■ RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92504
TEL 951.779.0787 ■ EMAIL QUICKCAPTION@AOL.COM



HLAA Convention in Opryland Nashville, Tennessee June 18-21, 2009

Whether this is your first or your 24th convention, get set to be amazed and exhilarated!

Welcome Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

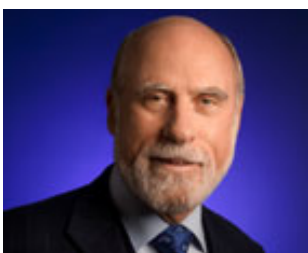
Free HLA Convention 2009 Registration for Veterans. HLA would like to show its support of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom by offering a **free** one-year membership as well as a **free** convention registration. For more information about registering for the convention, contact Nancy Macklin, nmacklin@hearingloss.org.

30th Birthday Celebration

You're invited! Join us as we mark 30 years of extraordinary accomplishments and have fun at the same time! We are planning a very special 30th Birthday Celebration for Friday, June 19, 2009. Ticket to the celebration is included in the Full Activity Package only (additional charge of \$65 if purchased separately).

Grand Ole Opry, Here We Come

The Opry began as a radio broadcast in 1925 and is the longest running radio show in history. A trip to Nashville wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Grand Ole Opry. So strap on your cowboy boots and get ready for a night of hootin' and hollerin'. This communication accessible off-site event is scheduled for Saturday night, June 20, 2009. Tickets just \$45 and include transportation.



Opening Session

We are very excited to announce that **Vint Cerf, Ph.D.**, vice president and chief Internet evangelist for Google, and widely known as one of the "Fathers of the Internet," will deliver the Keynote Speech at the Opening Session. In a pre-convention statement, Dr. Cerf said, "I will talk about technology and hearing assistance including the role of mobile, Internet-enabled devices. The Internet is becoming a pervasive infra-

structure and it can be put to good use assisting people with hearing loss to function in the hearing world more effectively."

Research Symposium

Scientists from across the US will be on hand to present their latest findings. Thought you knew all there is to know about hair cell regeneration? Think again! Sponsored by the Deafness Research Foundation, the 2009 Research Symposium will be "**An Update on the Latest Hair Cell Regeneration Research.**" For the first time, the symposium will not be on the final day of convention and instead, it will take place from 9 a.m. - Noon on Friday, June 19, 2009.

The Gaylord Opryland Resort Welcomes HLA

If you've never been to the **Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center**, be prepared to be amazed. After a short trip from the Nashville International Airport, you will arrive at the most magnificent hotel you've ever seen: there are nine acres of lush indoor gardens, cascading waterfalls and even an indoor river equipped with a Delta flatboat. You'll enjoy fine and casual dining, a spa and fitness center, shopping, and Fuse Nightclub. **Reserving your hotel room.** Go to <http://www.hearingloss.org> and click on Convention. Then click on the link to the reservation system.

Veterans with Hearing Loss

HLAA would like to show its support for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom by offering:

- **Complimentary Membership in HLA**
Membership includes *Hearing Loss Magazine*, a helpful resource on the latest in technology, medical issues, legislation, personal stories, and more. For more information about a free one-year membership, contact <http://www.hearingloss.org/aboutus/membership.asp>.
- **Free HLA National Convention 2009 Registration**
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center Nashville, Tennessee, June 18-21, 2009
Email Nancy Macklin, nmacklin@hearingloss.org for more information about a free registration.
- **Socialize with young people, ages 28 to 35**
HearingLossNation is a non-profit online social network community designed specifically for HoH individuals between the ages of 18 and 35. HLA 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>.
- **Education for Veterans**
Learn more about HLA's partnership with the **National Technical Institute for the Deaf** at Rochester Institute of Technology to address the educational needs of veterans of recent conflicts. See <http://www.rit.edu/ntid/veterans/>.
- **Veteran's page on HLA website.**
Visit <http://hearingloss.org/veterans/index.asp>.



2008 WALK 4 HEARING Top fundraiser Sally Edwards wins Mexican vacation prize

Sally Edwards, member of the Peninsula Chapter and a retired nurse, returned from a medical mission in Peru last week to the news that she was the winner of a Mexican vacation for being a top fundraiser for the 2008 Walk 4 Hearing.

"I've never won anything before," exclaimed Edwards, who wears a hearing aid and a cochlear implant. "This is especially sweet because last year our six-year-old granddaughter Hadley was diagnosed with permanent hearing loss. While heartbreaking, I know she will be able to get the help she needs because of organizations like HLAA."

Edwards raised \$4,300 from family and friends who sponsored Edwards and her granddaughter in the Walk 4 Hearing held in the fall in San Francisco. She was one of the top fund-



Sally Edwards and granddaughter Hadley

raisers nationwide, making her eligible for the drawing for the Mexican vacation prize, a one-week stay for two at the award-winning Hotel Ixtapan Spa and Golf Resort. Sally and her husband Ron are planning to go to Ixtapan in the spring.

"International medical missions are an integral part of our lives and we have been blessed to serve others in this way," says Edwards. "It is a real joy to receive this gift of a fun vacation from God and HLAA."

Started in 2006 at six walk sites around the country, this year 4000 walkers in 17 cities raised more than \$750,000 for HLAA's national and local programs. The annual walkathons will expand to 20 cities in 2009 and hope to raise \$1,000,000. It has become the organization's largest awareness-raising and fundraising program to support and advocate for people with hearing loss.

Questions: Ronnie Adler, National Walk 4 Hearing Manager, RADler@hearingloss.org.

WebCapTel®

www.sprintcaptel.com

No special equipment needed – just a phone and a computer with internet access.

Captions everything spoken to the CapTel* user, which is displayed prominently on their computer screen.

Sprint

For more information:
www.sprintcaptel.com
www.sprintrelay.com

* CapTel is an acronym for Captioned Telephone.

Although Sprint WebCapTel can be used for emergency calling, such emergency calling may not function the same as traditional 911/E911 services. By using Sprint WebCapTel for emergency calling you agree that Sprint is not responsible for any damages resulting from errors, defects, malfunctions, interruptions or failures in accessing or attempting to access emergency services through WebCapTel, whether caused by the negligence of Sprint or otherwise.

WebCapTel is a trademark of Ultratec, Inc.





President's Corner

By Mary Clark

Just like everyone else in the country, non profit organizations are feeling the effects of a struggling economy. The Hearing Loss Association of California is incorporated as a separate non-profit organization, and depends solely on the funds raised by the state organization. In the past, we have depended heavily on the profits from our state conferences held every other year, alternating between northern and southern California. With the cancellation of the conference that was planned for February 2009, we are facing serious shortfalls, and have initiated unprecedented steps to retain our role of leadership while we continue to provide education, support, advocacy and information to the members in our state. Examples include:

- We will hold our next board meeting using remote technology, saving the travel cost associated with face to face meetings (since these meetings are open to the membership, watch the website for details of how to join the meeting when the schedule and locations are finalized);
- We are being more aggressive in collecting advertising dollars for the newsletter, so it pays for itself, and includes the <http://www.hearinglossca.org> website which is your resource for everything happening in the state, including resources for lipreading, loops, free telephones, hospital stays and more;
- We are including ideas for chapter projects that don't require much money but still have value to the members (see next column);
- We are in the planning stages for the next Walk4Hearing to be held in southern CA. Our goal is to make this the biggest and best one so far, so watch for how everyone can get involved even without walking yourself.

We have not lost our focus on the primary objectives of our board of directors. We had chosen two years ago to focus on two main areas, chapter development with increasing membership, and cultivating our relationship with the hearing health professionals in our state, the audiologists, hearing aid dispensers and ENT professionals.

For chapter development, under the lead of the board member assigned to mentor this activity, **Nanci Linke-Ellis, Diane Gross** is working with a team in San Diego to help set up a new chapter there. With no chapters currently in San Diego this is a huge opportunity to broaden the benefits we all know can enhance the lives of people with hearing loss.

When we learned that HLAA National was sponsoring a HAT training session on the west coast we were thrilled! The Training will be held February 6 though 8 in San Diego, and was set up by a grant from the US Department of Education, NIDRR, through Gallaudet University to train local HLAA members in hearing assistive technology (HAT). The course will be held at

San Diego State University. Those who attend have agreed to give presentations on Hearing Assistive Technology to local chapters, and expand the audience to include hearing health professionals, and find ways to promote the technologies at the local level through libraries, for example. With a new pool of freshly trained specialists, we can make significant progress in educating our local chapters, and communities in the technology that makes the difference between accessible events and those which essentially exclude those of us with hearing loss. Watch the next issue of the newsletter for a report on how this went, and the list of newly trained specialists. Congratulations to those who were accepted for the training!

With prudent choices and oversight of our budget, your state organization is committed to doing everything we can to help sustain not only the state organization, but especially to help support every chapter in the state. Thank you for your understanding.

Chapter challenge

With our current economic situation, the need for ideas and resources for hearing loss have never been greater. The State of California is still without a budget and funding for Health and Human Services is expected to be at an all time low and with no rescue in sight. We can become one of the best resources for local people with hearing loss. So, what can you do? Take a look at this list of ideas for each of you to consider as projects for your chapters. Call it outreach or advocacy or education but all are within your ability and most require little or no cost.

1. Prepare a hospital kit for every chapter member. These can be simply a ziplock bag with a tablet and pen, a container for your hearing aids, some stickers with the universal hearing loss symbol for use on your chart, to place on the intercom button at the nurses' station, or any place else where you can alert the staff of your hearing loss. It can include a communications tip sheet for speaking with someone with a hearing loss, and extra batteries.
2. If you want to take this to the next level, the next time one of your chapter members is going to be in the hospital, or even just going through some procedures, why not create a buddy system and have another person there to help advocate for you? When you are the one being hospitalized, or having the procedure, you are not in the best frame of mind to be a hearing loss advocate, you are simply thinking of what you need to do, and maybe even a bit under the weather, so having another person there as your advocate can help relieve a bit of the stress.
3. Sign up to be a team for the Walk4Hearing to use as a fundraising page. Just because you sign up does not mean you need to be present to walk at the event. Once you create the team on line, you can recruit people to donate on your behalf, AND then a portion of the funds raised in the name of your chapter will come back to you. This is a win-win fundraising effort, so why not take advantage of it!

4. Update your chapter's page in the website with the newest programs you have scheduled so that anyone looking on line will see them. This is one of the easiest ways to advertise your chapter and events. More and more people are hearing about HLAA through the internet, and our state website receives thousands of hits from people who are searching for help. This only requires that you keep your information up to date, and keep your list of meetings and programs up to date.
5. Find out how to place an ad – usually free, in your local newspaper. Most of the local and neighborhood papers are happy to get material to print; so next time you pick up that little neighborhood newspaper, before you throw it away, find the “instructions for authors” or the contact information to figure out how to advertise your chapter meetings for the local residents.
6. One of the items that is most in demand from the state and national are some “Face Me” buttons. They have various messages, but all of them say “Face me”. With the minimal expense of purchasing a button maker, you can print the messages on paper, and create these buttons for sale to anyone who asks. They typically go for \$1 plus shipping. I've depleted the few I had, and I'm always looking for more. This is a simple way to raise money; THEN you need to put up on your chapter's webpage that they are available for sale, and who to contact.
7. For those who want to do something for earthquake preparedness, we have heard more than once, that although we may have our food and water and flashlights handy, if we have our hearing aids sitting on the nightstand, they can get shaken off and lost. Why not sew a pouch or envelope style bag with a handle that separates into two pieces with Velcro attachments? You could use a drawstring as well. This way you can put your hearing aids into the bag at night, and have it attached to the bed, or nightstand for retrieval in the event of the loss of power, or heaven forbid, an earthquake.
8. Talk to your local library about sharing the information you have on assistive technology. When the new HAT graduates return, they will be available to help you with this project, and we can become a resource for our community. You will have a built in topic for the coming year for every chapter, since the HAT graduates will be from up and down the state.
9. Look on line at the Hearing Loss Association of America for ideas on programs, and come up with one you have not done before. Expand your list of programs by using the internet for resources. We all struggle to find speakers, so why not share the good ones with each other. Use your chapter coordinators for this information. They can become the clearing house for information on speakers, or at least they can have contact information for you if you need to reach a chapter who listed a speaker who looks interesting to you. The coordinator can help you reach the chapter who arranged the speaker.
10. Lipreading (or speechreading) resources are becoming more and more scarce. Here is one project that you can take on, although this one would take a few dollars. There are several computer based training programs for lipreading available, but we could use some evaluation of each of them. If a chap-

ter wanted to work on getting copies of as many of the computer based programs as possible, and then do an evaluation of them, you could send the results to the state newsletter with the outcome of your evaluation. You could set up the evaluation to be done by experienced lipreaders, as well as novices, and see what your members think, and then share those comments with the state through the website. There is already a page on the state website with a listing of resources for lipreading, so let's support that list with some actual hands on evaluations?

My challenge to each chapter is see what you can do to improve the visibility of the Hearing Loss Association of America, and specifically the Hearing Loss Association of California by taking on one of these activities. Many times your members just want to come to a meeting and sit and listen, but if you can enlist some help with one thing, during your socialization time, together we can make a big difference for the world of those with hearing loss.

We are at a crossroads for our state organization, and each chapter and each member can help ensure our future is strong. Let's take this opportunity to take one step each, and see what we can do. Remember, your state board is here for you, so contact any one of us, and we will gladly give you a hand with some of your ideas. The email contacts are in this newsletter, to take advantage of those who you elected to represent you at the state level, and close the loop for us and help your chapters at the same time. Good luck!

Harris Communications

Your Better Hearing Store



Find a large selection of products for hearing loss at Harris Communications. From amplified phones and TV listening devices to loud alarm clocks and smoke detectors, we have what you are looking for.

HLAA Members
Save 15%*

Must be an HLAA member. Use code **hlaadisc** along with member number at checkout.
*Save 15% off regularly priced items. Restrictions apply.

HARRIS
COMMUNICATIONS

Request a catalog
www.harriscomm.com
(800) 825-6758

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.



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

Information, application forms, equipment requests:

English: 1-800-806-1191	國語 1-866-324-8747
Español: 1-800-949-5650	廣東話 1-866-324-8754
Hmoob: 1-866-880-3394	Fax: 1-800-889-3974
TTY: 1-800-806-4474	Website: 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



RESEARCH

New software improves CI Mapping

A cochlear implant mapping is a pretty **subjective** process in which both the user and the audiologist make judgments regarding device setting. Now scientists at the University of Florida (UF) are working to develop more **objective** ways to program cochlear implants.

Cochlear implants provide dramatic results for patients who may have been unable to hear for many years. But the process of fine-tuning the device for a patient's optimal hearing could be more efficient and accurate.

With the help of a grant of \$156,000, UF investigators led by Alice Holmes, Ph.D., and research partners at Audigence Inc. can now test the cochlear implant optimization software program they jointly developed with a group of 120 implant recipients and hearing aid users.

In a pilot study of the optimization software, UF researchers found that the new software program resulted in improved performance in all outcome measures, including speech perception and the ability to hear over background noise. Seventeen of the 20 cochlear implant recipients who participated in the research preferred to continue using the new optimized programming over traditional cochlear implant mapping.

"The traditional approach for cochlear implant device tuning has several pitfalls," said Holmes, a UF professor of Audi-

ology. "First, there are **several million combinations** of device parameters making it impossible to evaluate a patient's performance for every possible combination. This method also relies on the patient's **subjective** judgment, which is typically variable and inconsistent and may not reflect the best device settings for their speech recognition."

The new software program, known as Clarujust, is the first standard analytical approach to tuning cochlear implants. The program tests the patient's hearing using actual speech sounds, not the tones used in the traditional tuning process. The software program quickly analyzes the patient's speech comprehension to determine the best cochlear implant settings for a particular patient.

The idea for the optimization software came when Lee Krause, a computer engineer, received a cochlear implant in 2002.

"I realized during the mapping that I was never going to achieve my objective of being able to better understand speech," Krause said. "Working with my audiologist, Dr. Alice Holmes, I convinced her that there had to be a better way to tune the device and that we could utilize some of the technologies that were emerging associated with artificial intelligence to help us solve the problem."

Krause founded Audigence and worked to develop the software with Holmes; Rahul Shrivastav, Ph.D., a UF associate professor and Purvis Bedenbaugh, a former UF professor. See <http://www.audigenceinc.com>.



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 to find out more.

© 2009 Sorenson Communications, Inc. All rights reserved. All trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

SIPRelay™
with VCO

www.siprelay.com

YOU ASKED FOR IT!



Introducing The REDESIGNED Mobile Ear ME2



With the new ME2, we've removed the receiver in ear extension, allowing hearing aid users to enjoy the Wireless TV listening freedom without having to remove their hearing aid.

Like most hearing aid devices, you've got tons of ALD'S that need more power and versatility. But you don't need some over – priced ALD to get the quality, versatility and performance you are looking for. Try our new Mobile Ear ME2 today specifically designed for our hearing aid clients.

Visit our website today and get a 10% discount if you purchase by November 25,2008



www.MobileEar.com

call us at
888-316-6245

MOBILE EAR

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Northern CA Chapter Coordinator
Cindy Jagger, cjagger@hearinglossca.org
1213 Pheasant Dr,
Suisun City, CA 94585
707-422-3753 V/CRS

Diablo Valley Chapter-Walnut Creek
Bob Zastrow,
shhhbob@sbcglobal.net
2300 Wildwood Ct.,
Antioch, CA 94509

East Bay Chapter -Oakland
Barbara Bishop, ptownmoma@aol.com
33 Linda Ave, #2502
Piedmont, CA 94611
510-601-9828 V/TTY
Dorothy Brookover, Tulipup007@cs.com

Fresno Chapter
Michele Shields, mishell@pacbell.net
1814 Gettysburg Ave, Clovis

Napa Valley Chapter - Napa
Bern Klein, bern3280@aol.com
3200 MacLeod St. Napa, CA 94558
707-226-9832 V

Peninsula Chapter -Redwood City
Raegene Castle, peninsula@hearinglossca.org
650-369-4717
Marjorie Heymans, 650-593-6760 V
1505 Ralston Ave. Belmont, CA 94002

Sacramento Chapter
Wendy Gualderama
916-961-6477
wofairoaks@sbcglobal.net

San Francisco Chapter
Ronda Bonati,
RondaBonati@sbcglobal.net
935 Diamond Street,
San Francisco, CA 94114
415-705-0550 V
Marilyn Finn, mfinn@hearinglossca.org

Shasta County Chapter - Redding
Marion Peterson, bomarx@aol.com
PO Box 864, Anderson, CA 96007
530-365-0790 V

Silicon Valley Chapter - San Jose
Rufus Wesley, rufuso@pacbell.net
369 Manila Drive, San Jose, CA 95119
408-229-1041
Marjorie Iller, marjieiller@earthlink.net

Tri-Valley Chapter -Pleasanton
Hiram Van Blarigan, 925-455-6591
716 Katrina, Livermore, CA 94550
Hvanblarigan@hotmail.com

Woodland Chapter - Woodland
Clare Childers,
clarehear@sbcglobal.net
530-662-5102

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Southern CA Chapter Coordinator
Diane Gross, dgross@hearinglossca.org
818-995-8857 Cell 818-515-7587

Beaumont Chapter
Betty Hemm
951-797-1692 V, TTY
bettyhemm@aol.com

Coachella Valley Chapter-
Thousand Palms
Betty Weiss, bweiss5@dc.rr.com
760-343-3828

Escondido Chapter
Dorothy Wormser, dorthi@cox.net
851 Concerto Glen, Escondido, CA 92025
760-747-3813 V 760-737-9149 Fax

Northridge (4Lunch) Chapter-
at various locations
Diane Gross, dgross@hearinglossca.org
818-995-8857 Cell 818-515-7587

Irvine Groves Chapter -Irvine
Lorraine Fanizza, hear@hearpros.com
5200 Irvine Blvd., #308, Irvine, CA 92620
714-669-0401 V/TTY/FAX

Laguna Woods Village Chapter
Woodley Butler, woodjr@teambase.com
2248-A Via Mariposa East,
Laguna Woods, CA 92653-2179
949-859-4088 V 949-699-2931 Fax

Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter -
Lakewood
Ellen Mathis, EPMathis@verizon.net
63 St. Joseph Ave, Long Beach CA
562-433-6509

Los Angeles Cochlear Implant Chapter
Diane Rott, dianeshear@msn.com
451 E. Rowland #29, Covina, CA 91744
626-331-7547

Los Angeles Chapter - Pasadena
Pat Widman, pwidman@hearinglossca.org
Katherine Burns, kjump7@earthlink.net

Mission Viejo Chapter
Lola Attinger, Lattinger@cox.net
949-858-9024 V
Pril Kirkeby, pwkirkeby@cox.net
949-855-6786 V

Orange County Chapter - Orange
Mary Clark, mclark@hearinglossca.org
6160 Salem Rd. Yorba Linda, CA 92887
714-694-0627

Orange County Cochlear Implant Chapter - Orange
Jack A Belt, JABELT@aol.com
626-934--0127

Redlands Area Chapter - Redlands
Barbara Tucker, babsjt@aol.com

Riverside Chapter
Shari Kone, shari.kone@yahoo.com

San Fernando Valley Chapter - Encino
Phil Kaplan, phililini@aol.com
818-368-1303

Santa Barbara Chapter
Anne Szymanski, Mama1811@verizon.net
Claudia Herczog, czog16@cox.net

Santa Monica Chapter
Carpool to HLA Los Angeles Chapter
Nanci Linke-Ellis
nlinke-ellis@hearinglossca.org
310-452-8700
Valerie Stern vstern@hearinglossca.org

Simi Valley Chapter
Dan Smith, danr_smith@sbcglobal.net
(805) 526-0518

Victor Valley Chapter
Victor Valley Chapter - Victorville
Tricia
HearingLossAssociationof
America_VictoryValleyChapter
@webtv.net

Where / when do these chapters meet?

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

No Chapter near you? We can help you start one.

Cindy Jagger, cjagger@hearinglossca.org
Diane Gross, dgross@hearinglossca.org

RESOURCES FOR HEARING LOSS QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Hearing Loss Association

National, 301-657-2248,
<http://www.hearingloss.org>

California

<http://www.hearinglossca.org>

California President, Mary Clark

714-694-0627, mclark@hearinglossca.org

California newsletter

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

Hearing Loss Resource Specialists

Jennifer Williams, Greater Los

Angeles Agency on Deafness (GLAD), Los Angeles 323-478-8000,
jwilliams@gladinc.org

Pauline Strickland, Center on Deafness

Inland Empire (CODIE), Riverside
 951-275-5000, pstrickland@codie.org

Susan Coulter, Fresno

susanc@dhsc.org

Colette Noble, Sacramento

916-359-1893, cnoble@gmail.com

Laine Waggoner, Palm Springs

lainewaggoner@dc.rr.com

Sr. Ann Rooney, Burlingame

arooney@hearinglossca.org

Bruce Harris, Berkeley

bjharris@ieee.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 nation wide <http://www.handsandvoice.org>

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

Darlene Fragale (Southern CA)

909-882-4680, dfragale@dslextreme.com

Clinics

The HEAR Center, Pasadena since 1954

Audiology, Hearing therapy, Speech pathology, 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,
 (650) 736-4351
<http://www.med.stanford.edu/ohns>

Hearing and Speech Center, San Francisco

415-921-7658, info@hearingspeech.org
<http://www.hearingspeech.org>

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford

Pediatric hearing loss

Jody Winzelberg AuD, FAAA

650-736-7319, jwinzelberg@lpch.org

John Tracy Clinic

Pediatric hearing loss, free services world wide

<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>

Captioned movies

Regal Entertainment Group, twice a day,
 7/365

www.regmovies.com/ticketsandshowtimes/

Mann Theatres

<http://www.manntheatres.com/movies/dtsaccess.php>

Rear Window Captioned Films.

ncam.wgbh.org/mopix/nowshowing.html

Fomdi, Captioned Films by zip code search.

<http://www.fomdi.com>

Career Counseling and Employment

Careers

GLAD/EDD

GLAD/Employment Development Department

<http://www.gladinc.org>

213-478-8000, 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

Telecommunications Access for Deaf and

Disabled Administrative Committee

(TADDAC)

Philip Kaplan (Hard of hearing) Chair,
Philillini@aol.com

Sheri Farinha (Deaf),

sfarinha@norcalcenter.org

Mark Finn, (Late Deafened)

California Relay Service (CRSAC)

Colette Noble (Hard of Hearing)
 916-359-1893, cnoble@gmail.com
Vacant, (Late Deafened)

Equipment Program (EPAC)

Brian Winic (Hard of Hearing),

lovetwohear@aol.com

Richard Ray (Deaf),

rlrayada@aol.com

Free Telephones (CTAP)

<http://www.ddtp.org/ctap>

How to get Real Time Captioning

Captioning for workshops, lectures, courts

Arlene Patton,

arlepatt@aol.com

(626) 337-8331

Captioning at College

Colette Noble

916-359-1893, 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

Aural Rehabilitation Group for CIs,

San Diego

Mellisa Essenburg, M.S., CCC-SLP

mellisasl@yahoo.com, 858-232-5842

www.SanDiegoSpeechPathology.com

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

<http://www.trychin.com>

814-897-1194

Hearing Loss Network & Web, San Diego

<http://www.hearinglossnetwork.org>

<http://www.hearinglossweb.com>

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

Carol Waechter, Vice President
Sacramento Chapter
cwaechter@hearinglossca.org

Pat Widman, (CI), Secretary
Los Angeles Chapter
pwidman@hearinglossca.org

Gene Cox, Treasurer (CI)
CIAI-LA Chapter
gcox@hearinglossca.org

Marilyn Finn
San Francisco Chapter
mfinn@hearinglossca.org

Nanci Linke-Ellis, (2 CIs)
Santa Monica Chapter
Nlinke-ellis@hearinglossca.org

Jim Montgomery, (CI)
Diablo Valley Chapter
Jmontgomery@hearinglossca.org

Sister Ann Rooney
Peninsula Chapter
650-343-0114
ar Rooney@hearinglossca.org

Valerie Stern, (2 CIs)
Los Angeles Chapter
vstern@hearinglossca.org

Grace W. Tiessen, (CI)
San Fernando Valley Chapter
Gtiessen@hearinglossca.org

Don Senger, Emeritus (CI)
Diablo Valley Chapter,
dsenger@hearinglossca.org

Cindy Jagger, ex officio (2 CIs)
No. CA Chapter Coordinator
707-422-3753 Voice
cjagger@hearinglossca.org

Diane Gross, ex officio (2 CIs)
So. CA Chapter Coordinator
818-995-8857
Cell 818-515-7587
dgross@hearinglossca.org

AUDIOLOGISTS, CHAPTER LEADERS, KAISER PERMANENTE

- Help spread the word about hearing loss and the Hearing Loss Association of America.
- Reach out to hard of hearing people looking for support and information.
- Send copies in bulk of *The Hearing Loss Californian*.
- \$15 – 10 copies, \$25 - 25 copies, \$35 - 50 copies
\$100 per year for 25 copies each issue
payable in advance.
- Please send check to Grace Tiessen, 714 Prospect Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91103, made out to HLA-CA.

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.

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>.

YOUR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP. To join or renew, please make out check to HLAA for \$35 and send it to Hearing Loss Association of America, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814 (include name/ mailing address/ zip code/email) OR you can sign up on line at <http://www.hearingloss.org/membership/renew.asp>.

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.

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
Layout: Lisa Rettino, leftylisa63@yahoo.com

Contributions are eligible for income tax deductions as provided in Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

Mention of goods and services in articles or advertisements does not imply endorsement, nor does exclusion suggest disapproval.

Any portion of this newsletter may be reprinted or disseminated, as long as credit is given to the individual author or to this publication.

Submissions for the Summer 2009 issue are due no later than April 15, 2009, and should be sent to gtiessen@hearinglossca.org. Inclusion and/or editing will be at the full discretion of the Editor.



Grace W. Tiessen
714 Prospect Blvd,
Pasadena, CA 91103

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pasadena, CA
Permit #740

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
(Formerly Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc.)
FOUNDER, Howard E. "Rocky" Stone
Supporting HLA Chapters throughout California

Who We Are

Hearing Loss Association of America, *(formerly Self Help for Hard of Hearing, Inc.)* 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.

HLAA

7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
301-657-2248 V 301-657-2249 TTY
301-913-9413 FAX

<http://info@hearingloss.org>
<http://www.hearingloss.org>

HLA-CA, California State Association of Hearing Loss Association of America, is affiliated with the national organization headquartered in Bethesda, MD. Both are non-profit and tax-exempt. Anyone residing in California who has joined our national organization is a member of HLA-CA.

Hearing Loss Association of America, Inc.

is the largest consumer organization of hard of hearing people in the United States.

Our Mission Statement:

To open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

Watch your websites for the latest news.

HLAA: <http://www.hearingloss.org>

HLA-California: <http://www.hearinglossca.org>

Webmasters (HLA-CA):

GraceTiessen@gmail.com & MihoIkeda@gmail.com

