

Summer 2009

THE HEARING LOSS CALIFORNIAN

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



2009 CALIFORNIA WALK4HEARING November 8, 2009 at Long Beach Marina Green

The Walk4Hearing, produced by the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), is the largest walk of its kind in the country. The 2009 HLAA Walk4Hearing will be held in 21 cities nationwide with at least 5,000 people walking and raising money for programs and services for people with hearing loss and their families. Proceeds are shared between the national organization and local HLAA affiliates to benefit national and local programs. HLAA National has a goal this year to raise \$1,000,000.

Sun, sea, sand and friends walking together for a purpose. Lighthouses, boats, the Queen Mary in the distance, the huge sealife mural on the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific, shops and food enjoyed in a beautiful setting. The Hearing loss Association of California (HLA-CA) invites you to enjoy all of these things as a participant in the California Walk4Hearing on Sunday, November 8, 2009, at beautiful Long Beach Marina Green in Long Beach.

Prize. There will be a drawing among the top fundraisers nationwide for a Mexican vacation, a one-week stay for two at the award-winning Hotel Ixtapan Spa and Golf Resort.

Why Walk? Because hearing loss is a public health issue that is third in line only to heart disease and arthritis, hearing loss should be screened for just like blood pressure or diabetes. One in ten Americans has a hearing loss and yet only 20 percent receive the screening, technology and services they need.

HLAA launched the Walk4Hearing to:

- increase awareness among the general public about hearing loss and the 31.5 million Americans who have hearing loss

- minimize the stigma associated with wearing hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other assistive technology by educating people about hearing loss
- raise funds to expand services and programs for people with hearing loss and their families at the national and local levels
- empower the HLAA state organizations and chapters to work with community leaders to organize walks for fundraising and local outreach

How can you participate?

- Go to www.walk4hearing.org and donate to the team and/or chapter of your choice.
- Make out your check to Walk4Hearing, and send to the treasurer who will be identified on the website, and in all of the walk information packets.

- Watch your California website www.hearinglossca.org. We will post updates as they are announced.

What are "Team Leaders"?

- Team leaders will be the ones listed on the website, and walkers or donors can select the team they want to raise their funds for. Their job is to organize a group of volunteers who all plan to walk, or to



raise funds as a team, instead of individually.

- Team leaders can be in charge of a group of walkers, and help raise money as a team, often through an employer.
- This year we are challenging each chapter to form a team and see who can bring in the most walkers, who can bring in the most money, and who can come up with the most interesting name. The bookkeeping is much easier if each chapter forms their own team.
- Team leaders can also look for sponsors who will donate in their name for the walk on November 8th.
- They help distribute donation packets for all who need them.
- They are invited to the Kick-off event to meet the other teams, the walk sponsors, and pick up walker and team materials for distribution.

What are "Sponsors"?

- Sponsors are those who donate money for the event, usually prior to the event to help cover the costs of publicity and event planning with the incentive that they can have their names printed on the official walk T-shirts!
- Those who are recruited and donate as individuals toward a single walker, or chapter or team, are also called "sponsors".
- Business Sponsors may also wish to donate either money or "goods in kind". Goods in kind can be anything from the bottled water distributed during the walk, to T-shirts, to discounts on printing forms, to playing host to the kick-off event in southern California.

How can I help if I can't walk that far?

- You can come and help staff the information booths where information about the California HLA-CA organization will be available. Remember, publicity is one of our main goals, so walking isn't necessary to make a contribution.
- Walk-4-Hearing will be held at the Long Beach Marina in Long Beach.
 - located in downtown Long Beach just south of Ocean Blvd. off of Shoreline Drive.
 - the view is magnificent, the walk is on level ground
 - there are plenty of opportunities for awareness by the public and lots of things to do when the walk is over.
- Walk-4-Hearing will be 5 kilometers / 3.1 miles
 - half mile (.5), 1 mile and 1.5 mile increments will also be marked off.
 - Two loops will equal a 10K walk.
 - It is not a contest, so winning isn't important
- Participants may stroll, walk briskly, or jog along the waterfront and around Shoreline Village.
- Rental bikes and 3 and 6 person pedal surreys will also be available so everyone can participate and enjoy the beautiful scenery and the comradery of walking for a purpose with friends and family.

Come and help raise awareness of hearing loss issues, and make money at the same time! All who have participated in the past have claimed it was a very memorable experience, and rewarding beyond all expectations. Wouldn't you like to be a part of that?

FINANCIAL AID – Hearing Aids

The **Audient Alliance for Accessible Hearing Care** is a nationwide, nonprofit program that assists people who can't afford hearing aids. It's affiliated with the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing. This program helps provide **hearing aids at a greatly reduced cost** through the support of hearing care professionals and suppliers who care enough to offer their services.

To qualify, in 48 states and DC, a family of one must earn less than \$24,500 per year. The limit for a family of two is \$33,000; family of three, \$41,500; and it's an additional \$8,500 for each person added to the family after that. Limits are higher for Hawaii and higher still for Alaska.

To apply, call the toll free number, 1-877-283-4368 to reach a program services representative who will answer your questions and can send you an application. You can also email your request to info@audientalliance.org.

Audient's application form will need to be returned with a verification of your income - a copy of either last year's tax forms or your Social Security beneficiary letter. Information sent will be kept confidential. A determination of your qualification will be made as soon as this information is received by Audient. If accepted by the program, you'll be contacted by Audient to arrange a referral to a participating hearing health care professional near you.

Your total cost for a hearing aid is significantly reduced because hearing health care providers agree to discount their services, and suppliers such as Oticon, Phonak, Siemens, Widex, Westone and Precision Laboratories also offer discounts. There are currently 800 providers in 50 states, and more are joining everyday. Current costs are approximately \$875 to \$1,400 for one hearing aid and related care, or \$1,500 to \$2,400 for two hearing aids and related care when ordered at the same time. You'll receive digital hearing aids with a manufacturer's warranty, quality care from a licensed hearing health professional (exam billed separately), 30-day trial period and three follow-up visits during the first year.

HAAA, Deafness Research Foundation, Sertoma Foundation, Alexander Graham Bell Association, Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center, Oticon and Siemens are among the partners in the Alliance.

See www.audientalliance.org.

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*Everybody's Mother, Art Lover, Newsletter Editor,
Cochlear Freedom wearer*

GRACE WAEGELL TIESSEN 90 going for 100 (years)

Here is my story. I am the child of immigrants. **Mama (Tiessen)** was born in 1888 in London and came over in 1890. **Papa (Waegell)** was from a wine making family in Alsace Lorraine and a baker by trade who came to Sacramento in 1910.

In 1907 at age 19 my mother opened a dry goods store. She married my father, the handsome baker boy next door in 1912. They had 5 children. On my birth certificate, mama is listed as housewife, and papa as a merchant. But she started the store and worked full time at it.

Mama was ahead of her time. The store was called Tiessen & Waegell. My sister and I graduated from UC Berkeley around 1940, at a time when men did not even graduate from high school. She was of a class who were supposed to be beautiful and marry well. Ladies and gentlemen were not supposed to work, to soil their hands with the trades.

The Depression. My parents sold the store in 1928 and moved to the country when they were 40 and I was 10 years old. They were well to do, had property in Oakland and Sacramento and expected to retire or at least not have to make their entire living from farming. The depression came in October 1929. The banks closed. Prices were rock bottom for farm products. We were lucky we weren't homeless. Looking back, I ate the best food in my life—vegetable garden, fruit trees, grapes, free range turkey, open pasture lamb, all organic. My family still farms near Sacramento.

I have been hard of hearing all my life, going imperceptibly from a mild loss to wearing a CI many years later. Looking back, my mother acted as my speech therapist. She was English, and used to say 'you are known by the way you speak'. She corrected my speech for years.

At UC Berkeley, I met and married an artist, **Leonard Edmondson**, settling in Pasadena after the war. We raised three kids, and I exhibited and sold my husband's etchings. I went to swell art openings. Met **Anais Nin** once but couldn't understand a word she said.

When the kids got older, I went back to school and got a degree in Math and Computer Science. I worked at Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena writing software for 11 years. It was the perfect job for a hard of hearing person. I worked on my own and if I needed help I asked for it. There were a few small meetings and almost no phoning.

Finding SHHH (now HLAA). Surprisingly no audiologist or doctor ever told me about HLAA. I was feeling really depressed and isolated. What to do? There was a bulletin board in the Audiology Department of my HMO. I wrote to everybody on the board, and somebody told me about SHHH. In 1984 I began going to the first SHHH meeting in LA, started by Rocky Stone's sisters. I felt really grateful to have found this wonderful organization and have been volunteering in any way I can ever since. I was president of the SHHH-CA Board of Trustees, 2001-2003, won SHHH's national honor, the Keystone Award, in 2003 and have been the editor of *The Hearing Loss Californian* since 2001. If I live to be 100, that's 40 more newsletters. Tiring. LOL

Time flies. I'm as surprised as anyone being 90. Here's **Mike Kaplan's** description of my 90th birthday party.

On a perfect sunny day in early April, in a bucolic neighborhood just steps from Pasadena's legendary Rose Bowl, she slowed down just enough to throw herself a 90th birthday party. And in typical Grace fashion, the day was all about helping others; in lieu of gifts, she'd asked her guests to bring food to donate to the homeless.

*The party itself was like a wedding reception, with vegetarian catering by Little Flower Candy Co. and décor by **Jim Tuck**, a neighbor who used a row of oversized patio umbrellas to shelter the house from the street and block out unwelcome views. Combined with the dappled sunlight and the many guests wearing hats (a request from Grace), the result was like stepping into **Renoir's** famous painting, "Luncheon of the Boating Party."*

*She's also been a mentor to many of the 50-odd HLAA members who shared in her 90th-birthday festivities, which included live musical performances by her grandson **Geoffrey**, who sang a cappella; her daughter **Maggie**, who played the cello; and oldest son **Leonard**, who played the flute. Her birthday present from her son **Stan** was a bird bath fountain.*

In other words, it was a very good time. And a memorable event.

For me, there is a bright side to hearing loss—quiet and friends. When I take off my CI, I feel as though I am in the redwoods. And friends. I am forever grateful to HLAA for giving me a huge family of hard of hearing friends and an interesting, busy, meaningful life. I am content.



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Sound and WAY Beyond™, computer-assisted speech training software, was developed by House Ear Institute researcher, **Qian-Jie Fu, PhD**, for use in clinical therapy.

Rehabilitation is critical for an adult to achieve the maximum benefit from a cochlear implant. Auditory training can help in listening situations including using the telephone, enjoying music and understanding speech in noise. Sound and WAY Beyond™ is a self-paced, interactive rehabilitation program for adults and teens that allows you to practice and perfect your listening skills at home. Your results can be summarized and printed, facilitating meaningful discussions with your audiologist and therapist.

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In published research it has been demonstrated that computer assisted speech training programs, when used in the recommended way, may improve speech recognition performance for cochlear implant recipients.

It is compatible with Windows operating systems only. Macintosh computers are compatible if using Parallels Desktop or Bootcamp.

Sound and WAY Beyond is available for purchase online for \$99. Google Cochlear, Sound and Way Beyond.

Captioned YOUTUBE

Google Youtube, Susan Boyle, caption and watch Susan Boyle singing *I Dreamed a Dream* from Les Miserables. And it's captioned!!

Youtube videos have a button that pops up at the bottom right. It will turn the captions 'on/off', or say 'captions are not available'.

Google Youtube, Obama weekly, the Saturday date (June 6, 2009 etc), caption. President Obama records the Weekly Saturday Democratic Radio Address on video and radio, captioned for people with hearing loss and translated for foreign language viewers. You can also read his speech by clicking on 'read the transcript here'. No president has ever turned his radio address into a multi-media opportunity before. A miracle! We have a President who realizes that if you want to communicate with everybody, you must caption and translate into other languages.



SOUND ADVICE FROM PEOPLE WHO CARE



The Bionic Ear Association (BEA) is a FREE support network for cochlear implant recipients, candidates, and their families brought to you by Advanced Bionics. Our mission is to provide the resources, information, and advice to make the hearing journey of those impacted by hearing loss easier and more rewarding. Services include:

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- The Listening Room—Access practice listening activities and interactive exercises
- Technical and personalized support—Receive encouragement throughout your hearing journey
- Monthly BEA eNewsletter—Keep up to date and connected to community events—for free!

Learn more or connect to a Mentor today. Call the BEA at **866.844.HEAR (4327)** or visit us online at www.BionicEar.com

LAINÉ WAGGONER 1933 – 2009

Laine Waggoner passed away March 12, 2009. She was 76 years old. Services were held in Camarillo where she and her husband Rex lived for 16 years before moving to Palm Springs in 2000.

Laine had an MA in Communication, another in Family Counseling, was a Peer Mentor and a certified Hearing Loss Support Specialist. She conducted assertiveness trainings, coached family members, spoke to groups all over the country, and volunteered her services at the Mizell Senior Center in Palm Springs as leader of the "Adjusting to Hearing Loss" Group.

Profoundly hard of hearing, she used hearing aids creatively for 50 years. Just this past summer she underwent surgery for a CI and was enjoying hearing well once again. We were so happy for her!

Laine and Rex performed in clever skits demonstrating the problems hearing loss can cause in married couples and how to avoid them. Many attendees of past HAAA Conventions still remember their humorous, witty approach to communication difficulties and their hilarious costumes, making learning a fun process for all.

We will never forget her dedication toward helping hard of hearing people. We will miss her.

NICK NICHOLS 1928 - 2009

Nick (Irwin E.) Nichols, of Escondido passed away April 12, 2009. He was 81 years old. His memorial was held at the First United Methodist Church of Escondido.

He was very active in SHHH and served as Co-Coordinator for Southern California when **Leo Maggio** was Coordinator. Nick organized several new groups but had the most success with a teen group. Those kids loved him and vice versa. They finally disbanded when they graduated from high school.

Nick also was the SHHH-CA and HLA-CA Desk for Youth Groups for a long time. A very nice, thoughtful man, much loved and respected, he will be missed by all who knew him.

SURYA NAMASKAR. Look to this Day ...

For it is life, the very Life of Life

In its brief course lie all the realities of your existence.

The bliss of growth, the glory of action, the splendour of beauty

For yesterday is only a dream and tomorrow is only a vision.

But today well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness,

Every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well therefore to this day.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



By Mary Clark

The results of the election for the Board of Trustees was a foregone conclusion. There were three people running for three open positions, so those re-elected to three year terms are: Mary Clark, Marilyn Finn, and Grace Tiessen. After the results of the election are announced, then the board elects their officers for the coming year. This year the new officers are: President: **Mary Clark**, Vice President: **Carol Waechter**, Secretary: **Pat Widman**. A search was initiated for a treasurer, and we are pleased to announce that our new treasurer (an appointed position, not elected so he does not have a vote) is **Jeffrey Chess** from the Orange County Chapter. Welcome Jeff!

Did you ever wonder what the state board actually does? How about a list of some of the things that this board has accomplished lately:

- Spearheaded an endorsement for our position to object to legislation that was being proposed that would have reduced the value of relay calls, because of a misinterpretation of the law requiring all those listening to be announced. HLAA National was instrumental in evaluating the proposed legislation, and a coalition of agencies and support groups in California was enlisted to make a big impression. **Marilyn Finn** worked with agency representatives, and helped our voice be heard in the right place
- The State Board of Trustees has made some very hard choices to make sure we preserve our budget for outreach, and chose to have our usual twice yearly meeting in March, in a remote format, so no travel expenses were incurred. This was groundbreaking, and exciting at the same time. For our first effort, this went remarkably well.
- **Jim Montgomery** volunteered to represent HLA-CA at the DCARA event this year, so we can continue to partner with other deaf and hard of hearing agencies and support groups.
- **Don Senger** along with members of his chapter were instrumental in designing a new brochure for the State Association which will be used for recruiting members of HLAA throughout the state.
- Several members of the board are also serving on the Steering Committee for the Walk4Hearing 2009 to be held on November 8, 2009 in Long Beach

Did you know that all of these efforts are done by volunteers who do not get paid for their efforts? A limited reimbursement policy is available if needed, but most of the list above was done by volunteers.

What can you do to show your appreciation for the work being done in the background on your behalf?

Our budget took a hit when we cancelled the state conference in 2009, which is one of our primary fundraisers, held every two years. **You can send a donation for the newsletter**, especially since we do not charge for subscriptions. A suggested donation is \$10, and can be mailed to Grace Tiessen, the editor at: Grace Tiessen, 714 Prospect Blvd, Pasadena CA 91103. Make checks payable to HLA-CA.

The National Convention is in Nashville this year, and as always, we will host a get-together of all of those from the wonderful state of California some time during the convention. I treasure the incredible group who were there for the Reno convention last year! Nashville is further away, but I have no doubt we'll have a good showing! Look for the message board for location and time for the HLA-CA get together! I hope to see many of you there!

IF DISASTER STRIKES! You'll Need a Special Whistle

These headlines can become a reality for anyone living in earthquake country. Here in California, we've seen an increase in small earthquakes lately, suggesting that the earth is working out some stress in her faults. When search and rescue personnel are trained, they are instructed to "call out" when searching in collapsed buildings or structures when looking for survivors. Those of us with a hearing loss could be entirely overlooked, if we were not able to make ourselves heard so the rescuers know to look for us.

One of the most popular workshops at the 2005 State Conference was entitled "**Disaster Preparedness**" with specific instructions for what we need to do as good citizens but especially what we need to do as people with a hearing disability. Special whistles were imprinted with "**Be Heard**" and sold at the conference. Due to popular demand, a new batch of whistles was imprinted for sale at the HEAR2009 conference that was cancelled. These are imprinted as follows: "**Be Heard**" **Hearing Loss Association California Conference 2009**. These whistles make wonderful handouts or giveaways for your chapters. With each "handout" comes the opportunity to remind everyone of OUR responsibility to make ourselves heard in a disaster scenario. Public service personnel are going to be searching in the way they have been trained. So, why not help us help ourselves and order some of these whistles at the special price of 75¢ each and sell them for \$1.00? The chapters make the money and we improve our ability to respond appropriately in a disaster at the same time.

The offer is made for batches of 20 whistles at 75¢ and postage is free!

Make check payable to HLA-CA and send to **Harriett Porch**, 23871 Willows Dr. #382, Laguna Hills, CA 92653. Include your name, chapter and mailing address. For larger orders, call Harriett at (949) 472-8278.

Hearing Assistive Technology Training (HAT) San Diego State University, February 2009

The Hearing Loss Association of America receives a grant from the Department of Education to conduct an annual two-day intensive training in hearing assistive technology (HAT) for people with hearing loss. This year the course was conducted at the San Diego State University in conjunction with Gallaudet University-RERC, and HLAA.

HLA-CA members who attended were:

Ann Thomas and Debbie Sharp, Diablo Valley Chapter
Mary Clark, Barbara Langford Hall and Lori Reich, Orange County Chapter,
Dan Smith and Myrtle Jumenez, Simi Valley Chapter
Bill Busch, Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter
Jennifer Williams and Diane Gross, Los Angeles Chapter
Sister Ann Rooney, Peninsula Chapter

The attendees must make a commitment to

- Link with their state's Technology Assistance Program on HAT issues,
- Make three presentations on HAT in their state; at least one of these to be given to vocational rehabilitation and hearing health professionals,
- Serve as chapter trainer on HAT, or otherwise to help train individuals in at least three HLAA chapters (or in chapters of other hearing loss organizations).
- Work with a local or regional library or demonstration center to develop resources about hearing loss and HAT.

- Turn to HLAA for follow-up technical assistance with their projects during the contract period and beyond.

Lori Reich's experience. As a HAT training participant I gained valuable knowledge about hearing assistive technology from the HAT speakers, mostly by **using** the technology at the lectures. This learning was wonderful and I also enjoyed the company of the other HOH participants.

I had never used an FM system; thinking that I did not need one and/or that it would not help me that much. I often can not hear at lectures, especially when members of the audience speak or ask questions. I always assume that the participants are talking so quietly that no one else can hear them either. What an eye opener for me at the HAT presentation when I could not hear (as usual); yet the captionist, who was at the far end of the room, was busily typing away, hearing every word and never missing a beat!

At HAT I tried an FM system for the first time and it was **liberating** to be able to hear almost everything! It was especially interesting to hear the consonants and even hear speakers take a breath between sentences. Any words I missed I could easily pick up from the captions. I felt like the Bionic Woman with super human powers! Surprisingly, this must be what the captionist and other people with "normal hearing" can hear all of the time.

Being in an all HOH group also helped me understand why the culturally Deaf like to socialize together. During the HAT training I never felt like I had a disability or that I had to fight to hear and fit in.

Spreading knowledge as to the HAT available for HOH people will help liberate others as I felt liberated by using it. Using HAT can **remove a barrier to full participation** for many of us with hearing loss. We no longer need to feel left out.

HAT Participants – February 2009



Back Row: Bill Busch, Chris Sutton, Mary Clark, Michael Shelton, Dan Smith, Matt Bakke, Marilyn Weinhouse, Paula Sutton
Front Row: Barbara Langford-Hall, Debbie Sharp, Christy Stolzer, Jennifer Williams, Myrtle Jumenez, Diane Gross, Ann Thomas, Lori Reich, Sister Ann Rooney, Margaret Wallhagen, Lise Hamlin

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

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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.



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2009 BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION Deadline September 15, 2009

The Hearing Loss Association of California Nominations Committee announces applications will be accepted to fill three Board of Trustees' positions. An applicant must be a member of Hearing Loss Association of America and a resident of California. The term of office is three years with two Board meetings a year in February and August.

Information for applying may be obtained online at www.hearinglossca.org/board.htm or from **Carol Waechter**, Nominations Chair, 6807 Gray Court, Foresthill, CA, 95631, (530) 367-6776, cwaechter@hearinglossca.org.

Free Sample Energizer Hearing Aid Batteries

Energizer is giving away free samples of its hearing aid batteries so users can try the new perforated pack. The tabs on the batteries have also been made wider and longer. Samples are available for sizes 10, 13, 312 and 675.

To order, call 866-449-EARS or go to <http://offers.energizer.com>

Two New HLA-CA Chapters Carlsbad and San Diego

Diane Gross, Southern California Chapter Coordinator, announces the opening of two new chapters in Carlsbad and San Diego. We have long needed some chapters in the San Diego area. Welcome!

- **Carlsbad Chapter**
Debra McClendon, debyell4@aol.com
Brian Deitz, brn.deitz@gmail.com
- **San Diego Chapter**
Bill Zitrin, wdzitrin@aol.com, 760-695-2737
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THE TECH CORNER

Personal Induction Loop Systems

By Gary Clark, clark50@pacbell.net

Those of you with t-coils have undoubtedly been involved in a large group meeting which had been “looped” to provide a signal direct to your hearing aids. If you found this a more effective method of hearing, how about utilizing the same process at home, in your car, and even as you travel?

Induction looping technology, which sends an amplified electromagnetic signal from a wire looped around a room to the t-coil in your hearing aid(s), offers the advantage of eliminating the background noise you pick up through your hearing aid microphones, allows you more freedom in moving around the looped area without loss of sound, doesn't require you to wear any additional equipment to take advantage of it, and has become reasonably available and affordable.

In this article, we won't worry about looping a conference hall or other large space. Instead we'll touch on smaller home based systems and leave the larger systems for you to explore if you want. The smaller systems are still versatile enough to suit many needs and you may find that with a little ingenuity you can expand upon the options and satisfy your own particular requirements without too much additional investment.

So what is involved in setting up a home system? There are really only a few essentials needed. To get started, you'll need a loop amplifier and either a loop wire or a loop pad. Loops can be placed in attic spaces, inside crown molding, along baseboards, or under the floor if you have access. If you are using a loop wire, as long as you stay inside the perimeter and don't exceed the maximum wire length supported by the amplifier, you will still be able to pick up sounds. If you want to capture TV or other electronic device sound, or use your phone with the system, you'll need to purchase the appropriate connector cables and adaptors. Finally, you'll want a microphone or microphones so that others in the room can communicate with you.

If you need to loop your whole house, especially if you have multiple stories and larger areas to loop, you will have to consider whether a larger loop amplifier or a series of smaller amplifiers will be more effective and cost efficient. Obviously, the larger and more complicated the system, the higher the cost. A system capable of looping 300 linear feet costs about \$900.

If you don't want to take on the challenge of looping the whole house or if you are content with looping only a portion of the space, a smaller home system will allow you to enclose 100 linear feet (approximately a 9' x 12' space) for about \$225 - \$300. This variation in cost is due to differences in amplifiers.

For those who just don't need a large area covered or feel technically challenged, a more compact solution, with minimal wiring requirements is a loop pad. The pad simply connects to the amplifier and sits in your favorite chair. Whenever you're in the chair, you're in the loop zone.

If you want something for the car, the same kit is available with a car pad and an adaptor for the amplifier that plugs into the DC (cigarette lighter) plug allowing you to use the system as you drive. Depending on the amplifier used, these sets also cost about \$225 - \$300.

As an aside, Mary and I don't have a loop system for the car but I can relate to you the remarkable improvement in communication we were able to achieve when Mary and her sister, who's also hearing impaired, each used an FM neck loop and we provided everyone in the car their own microphone. There were lots of wires, receivers, and transmitters but for the first time both sisters could communicate with everyone in the car without straining. I would expect similar results using the car pad, loop amplifier and microphones.

OK, we've taken care of creating an output that can transmit to your t-coil, now let's talk about providing input to the loop amplifier. The simplest mechanism is a microphone clipped to whoever is speaking. With some 'Y' adaptors and additional microphones, you can wire more than one person so they won't have to pass the mikes around. If you want to receive sound from a TV, stereo system, MP3 player, DVD player, or other electronic device, you will need to purchase a patch cord with the appropriate connectors to transmit the device output to the loop amplifier input. If you wish, you can connect both an electronic device and a microphone at the same time so you're able to listen to the device and still communicate with others in the room. Connecting a phone may be a little more complicated. A landline phone will likely require an adaptor which costs about \$15. Unfortunately, this solution doesn't result in a “hands-free” situation and still requires that you hold the phone to speak. If the phone has speakerphone capability, you may be able to go hands free.

If you want to be mobile, in addition to the car loop there are a couple of portable self enclosed loop systems. These are comprised of a mini amplifier, a loop, a battery and a microphone. One system is enclosed in a legal size, functional clipboard and is very unobtrusive. The other system comes in a plastic case with a prominent “Portable Induction Loop” label. This system can be carried by its handle or placed in an optional shoulder bag. The range of both units is only four to five feet but they are suitable for one-on-one or small group conversations. Their cost is in the vicinity of \$300. I've stayed away from mentioning manufacturers and/or distributors as I don't want to appear biased. As you might expect, there aren't too many manufacturers of this type of equipment.

If this topic has piqued your interest, try searching online with the key words “hearing induction loop”, “portable induction loop”, “induction loop”, “induction loop amplifier”, or similar phrases. Note that induction loop systems are used for more than assistive listening, so be prepared to get some unexpected results. If you don't want to do your own searching, please feel free to email me and I can give you a list of the sources I've uncovered.

For a much more comprehensive discussion of induction loop systems, check out the following websites:
www.haringlosshelp.com/articles/loopsystems.htm and
www.ovalwindowaudio.com/loopintro.htm.

Finally, I'd really like to hear from you. Let me know if these columns are useful to you and/or if there are topics you'd like to see covered in the future.

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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>

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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

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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

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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>



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- 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
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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.

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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.

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<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.

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