



President's Post

Summer approaches and the media provide us with "summer reading." Schools close and provide students with reading lists. In this last newsletter before our HLA Pittsburgh break, I provide you with suggestions for learning and assistance until our fall meeting in September.

Explore the new website from AG Bell www.listeningandspokenlanguage.org, focusing on the adults with hearing loss. The phone accessibility section provides charts describing VCO networks and different cell phone providers. Under accessibility, it is suggested to use twitter for conversations or even public group meetings open to questions from people on the web. There is an explanation of the FCC position on 10 digit numbers and video relay use for speech reading. Learn about hearing loss at www.hearingloss.org, the Americans with Disabilities Act at www.adainfo.org or www.ada.gov or www.pittsburghpa.gov (select ADA resource info) and loops at www.hearingloop.org. Details on assistive technology laws, video captioning etc. are at Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology www.coataccess.org and www.wou.edu/education/sped/wrocc/demyst_files/frame.htm. To learn more about coping with the stress and anxiety associated with hearing loss, go to American Psychological Association www.apa.org and click on topics. Try out www.healthbridges.info viewing videos with captions and sound or sign language.

If your Captel or TTY breaks down, call me for a loan of donated machines. We also have a pocket talker if your hearing aids break and you need immediate assistance at an important meeting. I or Erich Kost can email you a list of CART providers. If you need assistance with obtaining accommodations, contact me or Hearing Deaf Services Center www.hdscenter.org or the PA Disability Rights Network 800 692 7443 www.drnpa.org, or Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 1800 233 3008 or Richard Meritzer 412 255 2102 richard-meritzer@pittsburghpa.gov or Christina Chamberlain at Three rivers Center for Independent Living 412 371 7700 or cchamberlain@trcil.org or to an HLA Pittsburgh board member. (continue Page 3)...

May 2012

Chapter
Newsletter

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Meetings:
DePaul School
6202 Alder St.
Pittsburgh

Date: 5/19/12
Time: 10:00 am

Contact:
Teresa Nellans
nellanst@aol.com

412-767-9769
voice/tty

MAY IS
BETTER HEARING
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY WWW.HOWSYOURHEARING.ORG MONTH

REGULAR MEETINGS—HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH

Meetings are held at DePaul School for Hearing and Speech in Shadyside on the third Saturday of each month except June, July, August, and December. Light refreshments are available at 10:00 AM and the meeting starts at 10:30 AM. The meetings are free and everyone is welcomed so please bring your family and friends. All meetings are captioned and the meeting room is equipped with an infrared surround sound amplification system and hearing loop. Contact Teresa Nellans, NellansT@aol.com 412-767-9769 v/tty, with requests for additional accommodations.



DEPAUL SCHOOL FOR HEARING & SPEECH
Where children who are deaf or hard of hearing learn to listen and speak

Directions To DePaul (Located in the Shadyside area of Pittsburgh)

From the West: Follow 376 (Parkway) East to Homestead-Squirrel Hill Exit; left of the exit onto Forward; remain on Forward, crossing Murray and bearing right up the hill; left onto Shady; follow Shady across Fifth Avenue; left onto Alder.

From the East: Follow 376 (Parkway) West to Homestead-Squirrel Hill Exit; left off the exit onto Forward; remain on Forward, crossing Murray and bearing right up the hill; left onto Shady; follow Shady across Fifth Avenue; left onto Alder.

From the South: Proceed North through the Liberty Tunnels and across the Liberty Bridge; follow signs to Bigelow Boulevard; proceed on Bigelow to Baum Boulevard; left onto Baum; right onto S. Highland; left onto Alder.

From the North: Proceed South on 279; cross the Veteran's Bridge; follow signs to 376 (Parkway) East; proceed to Homestead-Squirrel Hill Exit; left off of the exit onto Forward; remain on Forward, crossing Murray and bearing right up the hill; left onto Shady; follow Shady across Fifth Avenue; left onto Alder. **OR** if you live east of 279 (like Glenshaw, Allison Park, etc) cross the Allegheny River via the Highland Park Bridge, bear right on Allegheny Blvd to the stop light. Turn left, go up the hill past the zoo, through the stop sign and take a left at the next intersection. This will take you to Highland Avenue. Go right and follow Highland through Highland Park and East Liberty to Alder St. and turn left. School is on your right.

Bus Routes: Take 71B from Downtown, Hill or Oakland to Highland Ave. & Alder St. Walk right on Alder St. for 3 blocks, crossing Carron St., Yardley Way, and Emerson St. DePaul should be on right immediately after crossing Emerson.

DePaul School for Hearing and Speech - 6202 Alder Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 924-1012 <http://www.speakmiracles.org>

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH MEETING

Saturday, May 19, 2012

May Topic: Many of us feel tension and stress coping with our hearing loss yet we hear better when we are relaxed. Our April presenter will be Dr. Clara Gautier, a psychologist, and she will teach us about relaxation training which may include progressive muscle relaxation, deep breathing, and meditation.

Next Month: HLAP does not meet June-August. See you in September. Topic TBA.

(continued from Page 1)...Finally, here are books I recently enjoyed reading: Anticancer by Servan-Schreiber, The Happiness Hypothesis by Haidt, The Places that Scare You by Chodron, The Tipping Point by Gladwell, Wherever You Go There You Are by Kabat-Zinn, Rachamin (forgiveness) by Naar, The New Yorker Cartoons, and Dreams of Hope (Iraq War) by Grossman.

Enjoy your summer, keep well, and see you in September!

-Teresa Nellans, President



News & Tidbits



Captioning in Movies: The Regal Movie Theater chain has stated that they believe all of their theaters in Pennsylvania will be captioned within the next 12 months and nationwide by the end of 2013. Cinemark has already captioned all of its movie theaters. AMC has promised in its settlement in Illinois that it will caption all of its theaters within the next 24 months. HLAA member and chair of HLA-PA Captioning Committee will meet with general counsel of Carmike to learn of their plans.



FEMA

Public Safety: HLAA sent a letter to Senator Susan Collin's (R-ME) supporting the proposed Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Modernization Act of 2012. One of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) core responsibilities is to keep Americans informed about threats to public safety, but the current public alert and warning system is not always accessible to people with hearing loss. The proposed legislation updates the system to incorporate multiple communication technologies and adapt to emerging technology, and it requires the system to reach people with hearing loss and other disabled people. The bill also ensures that organizations representing people with hearing loss will sit on an advisory committee that will make recommendations on modernization of the system, keeping people with hearing loss engaged with Federal agencies during this process.



Publicity: On April 9, 2012, The Washington Post published excellent articles about hearing aids and loop systems. Below is the link to the online versions:
<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/hearing-aids-and-loops-highlighted-washington-post-articles-tuesday-april-10-2012>

(Tidbits continued...)

In the News: IDA Competition for Hearing Loss Awareness Campaign... More than 250 million people worldwide have hearing loss and 80 percent go untreated. HLAA members are encouraged to submit ideas for the awareness campaign of the Ida Institute Ideas Competition. Please go to www.awarenessforhearingloss.com where you can read other people's ideas, comment on them and submit your own. This is a global collaborative effort to create ideas to raise awareness about hearing loss and encourage people with hearing loss to take action and live life to the fullest. HLAA Executive Director Brenda Battat was filmed in an interview for the Ida Institute Ideas Competition promotional video and is a member of the judging panel.

In the News: Hearing Aids at Discounted Prices... In addition to United HealthCare's direct-to-consumer hearing aid benefit program - hi HealthInnovations, a second health insurance company, Aetna, has introduced a hearing care discount option to its Medicare Prescription Drug Plan members. HLAA met with the ASHA executive director and audiology practices staff to discuss issues surrounding the hi HealthInnovations direct-to-consumer hearing health care services and other issues. ASHA is going to be promoting itemization of audiology services to its members.

Help Needed for Cochlear Implant user: My name is Karla Miller. My mother Althea Troutman had a Cochlear implant in 1989. My mother is 92 years old. She is also totally blind. The cochlear took her from a totally silent world into a world with some sounds. Being blind hinders her from getting the best use out of her cochlear but she thanks God everyday for the implant. Mom is not a candidate for a new implant. Her audiologist and I are desperately seeking anyone who might have the out dated model processor cochlear Spectra 22. Please contact me if you can help. Thank you. Karla Miller ohoppy@hotmail.com 724 727 3107.



*****Newsletter Content Request*****

We are looking for fun/humor content. Please save jokes, cartoons and funny stories to share with our newsletter and send to HLAP.News@gmail.com

We are looking for personal stories. Please send your picture and short story to HLAP.News@gmail.com.

Do you have other information to share? Don't be shy... please email us with your submission.

Thanks!

HLAP Board Officers

President
Teresa Nellans

Vice President
Pam Magyar

Treasurer
Erich Kost

Secretary
Kelli King

HLAP Board Members
Terry Reynolds, Suzanne Yoder, Cindy Pugliano, Don Sweiger, Arlene Miller, Helen Mixter, Kathy Neimeyer, Steve Kovsek

Board Announcements The board does not meet again until September. Have a nice summer break.



ATTENTION: Members are encouraged to be active in HLA Pittsburgh. We would love to hear from you if you have an interest in serving on the board. Please contact our President, Teresa Nellans if you have questions or if you would like to help.

WAYNE’S WORD

Has the Post-Gazette or the Pittsburgh Tribune carried those full-page ads from Audibel that have the headline “Hearing Loss and Dementia Linked in Johns Hopkins Study”? It certainly gets one’s attention. However, if you read it closely or look up some other sources, the studies that have been done point to a correlation between hearing loss and dementia. The problem lies with those who don’t do anything about their hearing loss - they don’t get hearing aids or cochlear implants. Most, if not all, who may be reading this column ARE doing something about the need. The headlines are a scare tactic, but we all know folk who are in denial about their hearing loss. I have to admit that the ads may get the attention of those who have resisted doing anything about their hearing loss. I must confess that I know next to nothing about Audibel. Are they legitimate? They make it sound like a good deal. But are their “hearing care professionals” well trained? I made a phone call to one of their offices and was assured that their hearing care professional was a clinical audiologist. Perhaps Suzanne would like to chime in here.

Yours for every effort to help one another cope with hearing loss,

Wayne.

Wayne Benson, former President of HLA Pittsburgh, now lives in Chapel Hill, NC and can be reached at awbenson32@gmail.com



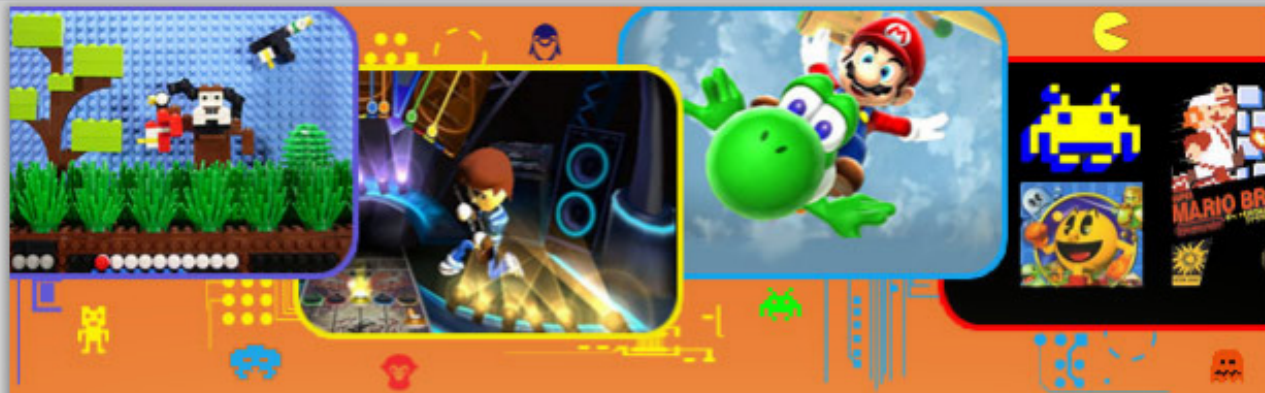
Dear Wayne,

I’m responding to your inquiry with the following... The link between untreated hearing loss and cognitive decline is one of many good reasons for someone not yet treating their hearing loss to seek audiological care. It is also a good reason for those that do wear hearing aids or implants to have their hearing checked regularly to ensure proper treatment.

As for your question about Audibel... this is one of many hearing aid manufacturers. Audibel has a full line of products. Note: Only Audibel providers can fit and program Audibel hearing aids.

The deaf or hard of hearing consumer must be their own advocate in determining the best provider for their hearing care. Hearing aid technology is only as good as the provider’s care. Therefore, choosing a brand should be secondary to choosing a provider you trust and building a long-lasting working relationship. When you see a provider, use the HLAA Consumer Checklist available at www.hearingloss.org by searching [HearingAidChecklist](#) or from HLA Pittsburgh.

Sincerely, Dr. Suzanne Yoder, Au.D., Doctor of Audiology



GameMaker Workshop 2012

Saturday, June 9th, 2012

One Day Free Workshop for Deaf and Hard of Hearing High School Students

Learn how to Create a Simple Game
Learn How to Market Your Game
Great for Beginners!

School of Computer Science Carnegie Mellon University

Sponsored by AccessComputing
and CMU's School of Computer Science

More Information:

Carol Frieze <cfrieze@cs.cmu.edu>

Joyce Maravich <jmaravich@wpsd.org>

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~cfrieze/Workshop/index.html>

HLAP Chapter Support is \$12.00/year {Membership year starts in January}
 Make checks payable to *Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh* and mail to:
 Erich Kost, Treasurer, HLAP, 826 Wheatland Circle, Bridgeville, PA, 15017

Name:	Date:	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone :	FAX:	
E-mail:		
Do you prefer to receive our Newsletter by:	<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> US Postal Mail
Please indicate if you need a receipt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Chapter Support	\$
Jim Stoltz Memorial Captioning Fund	\$
Steven Worrell Memorial Fund	\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED <i>(tax deductible)</i>	\$



Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh shares your information with the Pennsylvania State Hearing Loss Association for distribution of the state quarterly newsletter HearSay. If you do not want your information shared with the state organization or to receive their quarterly newsletter, please initial here _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter is published approximately ten times a year and distributed to all members of HLA of Pittsburgh, as well as to hearing loss professionals and other interested parties. To submit articles for publication or for information regarding the newsletter, please e-mail HLAP.News@gmail.com.

Opinions expressed in articles appearing in this newsletter are those of the author. Mention of goods or services in articles does not mean HLA endorsement, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

National Membership Information: *Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh is an affiliate of [Hearing Loss Association of America](http://www.hearingloss.org) the largest national consumer advocate organization for persons with hearing loss and their families and friends. National dues, payable annually in the month of joining, are \$35 per year and include a subscription to the bimonthly journal, *Hearing Loss*. To join Hearing Loss Association of America, send your check to HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814 or log on to www.hearingloss.org. While strongly encouraged, national membership is not required to participate in our local chapter.*



**Hearing Loss
Association**
of Pittsburgh

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