



MESSAGE FROM DIANA

Earlier this year I received a note from a HearSay reader reminding me that our hard of hearing readers have a variety of interests. This reader felt that we devote too much of our newsletter to advocacy, an area which may be confusing to some who lost their hearing late in life and are mainly interested in learning about hearing aids, assistive and alerting devices, as well as coping skills which help them communicate more effectively.

People join HLAA for many reasons. Most of our members, as I did, initially come for information about hearing loss and how to best cope with it, as well as for the support that only those who have a hearing loss can give. What we often find as part of that support are things that other members had advocated for in the past. Closed captions on TV, the use of ALDs at movies and theaters, the availability of captioned telephones: all of these didn't just happen. And even if you don't need these accommodations today, isn't it nice to know they are available should your hearing

Continue to decline?

The vast majority of our members, and that includes those who have had a hearing loss for most of their lives, do not see themselves as disabled. We also don't see ourselves as a separate community; we're just people trying to live as normal a life as we did before we lost our hearing or as we see our hearing peers live. Some of our members, having found information and support within HLAA, enjoy trying to make our life more accessible and are willing to advocate for changes they see to be needed, and which benefit many of us.

I appreciate receiving feedback from our readers. Please contact me or our editor, Beth Ann Rejonis (email: Rejonis@pa-shhh.org) and send us suggestions on the kinds of articles you would like us to read.

*Diana Bender,
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How You Can Help to Bring Captioning to Pennsylvania Movie Theaters

Do you live within traveling distance of a Regal movie theater in Pennsylvania? If so, you can play a vital role in bringing captioned movies to your theater and others, seven day a week! Read on to learn how.

First, a little background information: There are 23 Regal movie theaters in Pennsylvania, only seven of which have any captioned movies, and the captioned showings are limited to the less popular hours and days. Regal uses OPEN captions, which can be seen by everyone. Movie theaters are NOT legally obligated to provide open captions. Some hearing people dislike seeing captions, so theaters with open captions choose less-attended times to show the captions. And the majority of Regal movie theaters have no captioning at all.

There is a form of CLOSED captioning called Rear Window Captioning (RWC), which is in use in almost 300 theaters throughout the U.S. Only the following three RWC-equipped theaters are in Pennsylvania:

AMC Neshaminy 24, Bensalem 215-396-8050
AMC Plymouth Meeting, 610 397-0780
Premiere Theatre 12 State College 814 272-3051

Unlike open captioning, closed captioning can ONLY be seen by the people who are using the captioning feature, so hearing viewers aren't disturbed and the captions are available for all showings of the captioned movie. RWC viewers use a plastic panel to reflect the captions onto (or just below) the screen from an LED display on the rear wall of the theater. I have used RWC a number of times in New Jersey, which has 50 theaters equipped with this technology due to a settlement with the NJ Division of Civil Rights. I could go to an RWC movie with my hearing family or my hearing friends at any time that the movie plays for general audiences. There are other forms of closed captioning technology, but RWC seems to be the most developed and most common.

I belong to Pennsylvania's Movie Access for All Coalition, which is pursuing a lawsuit against Regal Entertainment Group (the largest movie chain in Pennsylvania), requesting the installation of closed captioning technology in its Pennsylvania theaters. The legal expertise is being provided at no charge by the Disability Rights Network, and participation will cost you NOTHING.

We would like to have as many participants as possible. This is where YOU come in! We need participants with the following qualifications:

*You are deaf or hard of hearing and need captioning to understand the movies

*You live within traveling distance of a Regal movie theater in Pennsylvania (see listing of Regal theaters below to find out whether one is close enough) and you would like to attend movies there.

*You would be willing to use closed captioning technology AND you support the request that Regal install this technology in its Pennsylvania theaters

If you fit the above description, please help us to bring captioned movies to Pennsylvania! All you have to do is contact Carol Horowitz via email at chorowitz@drnpa.org (please cc me at Kingsnan@aol.com so I'll know how many responses we're getting). Provide the following information: your name, the Regal movie theater or theaters you want to attend, and whether you have already seen RWC or are making plans to see an RWC movie within the next few months. If you don't have email, you can contact Carol Horowitz at Disability Rights Network, 429 4th Avenue, Suite 1901, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1505, (412) 391-5225 [Voice], (412) 467-8940 [TDD], (412) 391-4496 [Fax].

Here's the listing of Regal theaters in Pennsylvania (the seven with limited open captioning are marked with an asterisk):

[Saucon Valley Stadium 10](#) Bethlehem, 610-814-2340

*[Moraine Pt. 10](#) Butler, 724-282-0800

[Carlisle Commons Stadium 8](#), Carlisle, 717-249-5511

[Plymouth Meeting 10](#), Conshohocken, 610-940-3893

[Downingtown Stadium 16](#), Downingtown, 610-518-3401

[Barn Plaza Stadium 14](#), Doylestown, 215-491-4413

*[Northampton 14](#), Easton 610-559-7901

[Schuylkill Mall 4](#), Frackville, 570-874-2503

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Another Oticon Award Winner!

Nancy Stanley Maso was the third place winner for the Oticon 2007 Focus on People for Advocacy award. The following information was taken from the nomination submitted by Janyce Mose, Nancy's audiologist:

Nancy has a severe-profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. Her hearing loss has continued to worsen over the years, as is the case with several members of her family.

Nancy Stanley is a fireball of an advocate. State College, PA, is a town in transition. The presence of Penn State University means there is a constant flow of people in and out and it can be very challenging to establish a viable advocacy group. There had been tries in the past to establish a SHHH chapter, but it had always been a student effort and once the student graduated, the chapter fell apart. Nancy was the first permanent resident to take the challenge. After a career in Library Sciences at PSU, she retired several years ago. Rather than sit on her laurels, she started right in on establishing an advocacy group for people with hearing disabilities. Along with two or three other committed people, Nancy worked to publicize, organize and operate what is now the Central PA Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America. She has been chapter President for two years and has worked tirelessly to bring better communication facilities to the area. Thanks to her, there are now education and entertainment venues more accessible to people who are deaf and hard of hearing. Her efforts with Captel have made it possible for many to use telephones successfully for the first time. Her own hearing loss makes it difficult to communicate in many everyday situations; however, she never lets that stop her. She continues to move forward advocating for the rights of and benefits for people with disabilities. I truly believe that Nancy is a shining example of what a truly committed advocate is and I know our region is richer for her efforts.

2008 Marcia Finisdore Award for Advocacy

The Marcia Finisdore Award for Advocacy was established by Hearing Loss Association of Pennsylvania in 2004. This award is presented to an individual in recognition of excellence in improving communication access for hard of hearing people.

The criteria for selection are:

1. A positive vision for the hard of hearing community and a continuing commitment to leadership
2. A demonstrated record of advocacy work for the rights and needs of hard of hearing people in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Nominations should include a written statement about the nominee and why this individual deserves the award. Please include contact information for yourself, as well as for the nominee.

Nominations are **due by August 30, 2008** and should be sent to:

Ms. Iris Boshes, Director
Deaf Hearing Communication Centre
630 Fairview Road, Suite 100
Swarthmore, PA 19081

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[East Whiteland Stadium 9](#), Frazer 610-251-0413

*[Harrisburg Stadium 14](#) Harrisburg 717-526-2140

[Hazleton Stadium 10](#) Hazleton 570-450-7454

*[King Of Prussia Stadium 16 & IMAX](#) 610-337-0282

[Manor Stadium 16](#) Lancaster 717-392-1511

[Oxford Valley Stadium 14](#) Langhorne 215-750-3390

[Main Street 6](#) Manayunk 215-482-6230

[Edgmont Square 10](#) Newtown Square 610-325-8100

[Marketplace Stadium 24](#) Oaks 610-666-6564

[Grant Plaza 9](#) Philadelphia 215-677-8019

*[Riverview Plaza 17](#) Philadelphia 215-755-2219

*[Richland Crossing 12](#) Quakertown 215-536-7700

[69th Street 9](#) Upper Darby 610-734-0202

*[Warrington Cr. Stadium 22](#) Warrington 215-918-1660

[West Manchester Stadium 13](#) York 717-764-7796

Nancy Kingsley

HLA-PA Advocacy Chairperson

Kingsnan@aol.com

Art-Reach and PhillyFunGuide Offer Accessible Arts Events

Art-Reach has partnered with the PhillyFunGuide to provide a calendar of accessible arts events for people with disabilities and their families and friends. The calendar, which can be found online at www.phillyfunguide.com/picks.php?id=9, lists cultural events that feature captioning, sign-language interpretation or audio description.

"We're grateful to the PhillyFunGuide for hosting this service," said Art-Reach Executive Director Michael Norris. "It's the region's go-to resource for information about culture and entertainment, so it's the ideal place for the calendar to reach the widest possible audience."

The new calendar continues Art-Reach's 20-year commitment to connecting people with disabilities to cultural opportunities. "Our job is to do all we can to make sure that people with disabilities have access to the vast cultural riches we are so fortunate to have in our region," said Norris. "The calendar is another way of doing that, and it's also a great way for arts organizations that are committed to making their programming more accessible to find audiences who will appreciate their efforts."

The calendar complements Art-Reach's online Access Guide, which profiles over 100 cultural venues across the region and is available at www.art-reach.org.

Founded in 1986, Art-Reach is a Delaware Valley nonprofit cultural service organization that helps underserved audiences to experience arts and cultural programming and that serves as a community resource by increasing accessibility to cultural venues and events. Through its programs, each year over 15,000 people of all ages, economic backgrounds and abilities are able to experience the richness of the arts. For more information log on to www.art-reach.org or call 215-568-2115.

In Memory of Gerry Rusher

Gerry Rusher, a staunch volunteer and advocate, avid skier, enthusiastic hiker, engineer, Sports Editor for the Springfield Press and self-professed "cookie monster" died on January 10, 2008 at the age of 87.

Gerry was born in Millburn, NJ on February 22, 1921. He grew up there and spent his summers in Bozeman, Montana where his mother was from. He had one older brother, Robert. In his youth he was active in the Boy Scouts.

Gerry was a well known fixture at the Hearing Discovery Center (HDC) since its inception in 1991. Both Gerry and Bill McConeghy, two long standing friends and volunteers for the HDC worked tirelessly and selflessly to promote assistive listening devices around the state of PA. Gerry was also a co-founder for the DELHOH HLAA group. Anywhere Gerry went, he willingly helped people understand more about hearing loss and the ways to create answers for various situations.

Gerry had hearing loss for most of his life. He went through college and the workforce before the ADA was even in existence. Gerry has volunteered his energy to the Hearing Loss Association for America, in PA since Rocky Stone promoted what was then called Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH). Due to all the years of hard work, Gerry received an award in 2006 for "Hard of Hearing Person of the Year" from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Council of Southeastern PA.

Gerry was a man who enjoyed life, and people. He loved telling stories and being involved with anything dealing with hearing loss. He truly was a memorable individual who will not soon be forgotten in the tapestry of our lives. He has affected a lot of us, hopefully in challenging us to better ourselves and that is something to be recognized when we think of Gerry Rusher. He was a go-getter, and I know that I learned a great deal from Gerry. I admired his energy, spunk, sense of adventure, attitude and humor. The DELHOH chapter and the individuals Gerry befriended and helped will miss him. I know I will.

Alice Pakhtigian, member Gen X HLAA

apakhtig@verizon.net

With additional information from Bill Pfeifer

Note from Editor: *There was a wonderful memorial service held for Gerry at the Hearing Discovery Center in Darby on Sunday, February 3rd. Many people shared stories and thoughts about Gerry. Bill McConeghy brought all of the photo albums that Gerry had in his apartment and they were wonderful to look at to see many other aspects and experiences of Gerry's life. People made and continue to make memorial contributions to:*

<i>Hearing Discovery Center</i>	<i>HLA-PA</i>
<i>Friendship Circle</i>	<i>4 State Road</i>
<i>1515 Lansdowne Avenue</i>	<i>#109</i>
<i>Darby, PA 19023</i>	<i>Media, PA 19063</i>

ALD for Art Museum Tour

The Michener Art Museum in Doylestown now has three FM listening systems available for use on their private tours, which are on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00pm. The tours are free with museum admission (\$6.50 per person), and reservations are required. Martin and I took the tour yesterday, and it was fabulous! We were able to hear everything with the devices, which worked like a charm (along with lip-reading)! It's a wonderful way to visit an art museum, because you get the inside scoop on everything -- I highly recommend it. If you are interested in taking a tour, you need to make reservations with Diane Ambrose, the Tourism Sales Manager, at:

dambrose@michenerartmuseum.org

Phone: 215-340-9800 Ext. 140

Website: www.Michenerartmuseum.org

If you go, you may want to check out the Doylestown Library, which is right next door -- huge!

Let me know if you have any questions!

*Marianne Lock, President,
HLAA - Bucks County Chapter
MCL0312@comcast.net*



Understanding the Client Assistance Program

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is the State-wide advocate for individuals with disabilities who are seeking or receiving vocational rehabilitation services from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Blindness and Visual Services and federally funded programs of the Centers for Independent Living.

CAP can help you understand what vocational rehabilitation services are available to you and can advise you of your rights and responsibilities as they relate to these services for employment.

We help individuals be their own advocate. We also help clients pursue appeals within the VR system if a resolution to their concern cannot be agreed upon.

You can contact CAP at either our Philadelphia or Harrisburg office.

Our contact information is:

Philadelphia CAP office

(215) 557-7112 Voice/TTY

1(888) 745-2357 Voice/TTY

Harrisburg CAP office

(717) 364-1733 Voice/TTY

1(888) 367-2954

I encourage individuals to look at our website, www.equalemployment.org for lots of good information on our services and other resources.

Margaret McKenna

215-557-7112

The Hearing Loss Association of America Convention

Is a highly interactive and accessible event for all people who are affected by hearing loss. The program includes dynamic speakers, dozens of instructive workshops, and an informative research symposium. Plus, our Exhibit Hall hosts an array of hearing loss related products, services and information.

Convention 2008 will offer a wide variety of educational workshops, general sessions, and special events as well as opportunities to meet other people with hearing loss, healthcare and

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HearSay Subscription

If you would like to receive your own copy of *HearSay*, the official newsletter of HLA-PA, please fill in this form and mail it to the address below. A *HearSay* subscription is free; however, HLA-PA is a not-for-profit organization run exclusively by volunteers and we are grateful for any donations.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL : _____

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ to support HearSay. Donations are tax deductible.

Make donations payable to HLA-PA and mail to:

**Marcia Finisdore
HLA-PA
4 State Road, #109
Media, PA 19063**

- I would like to remain anonymous
- I cannot contribute, but would like to receive HearSay.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Assist the HLA-PA State Director by serving on the Advisory Council or one of its committees. The Council meets periodically in Carlisle but committees conduct most of their business by e-mail and occasionally meet in various parts of the state. If you think you would like to serve on the council or any of its committees, please contact one of the state leaders listed here:

State Director: Diana Bender (bender@pa-shhh.org)

Membership: Russ Green, Chair (green@pa-shhh.org)
Barb Beard (beard@pa-shhh.org)
Ronnie Adler (adler@pa-shhh-pa.org)

Communication: Linda Rusinko (rusinko@pa-shhh.org)

HLA-PA DONORS

A Special thanks to those who help make it possible.

Dr. John Dzwonczyk, Jr.

S.P. Ryave

Levona Martin

Sam Rubin

Susan Streib

Norma Jenkins

Bill McConeghey

Jane Beach

Anna Miller

Anna Lois Flack

Lucille Colleran

James Johnson

Generation X Chapter in honor of
Gerry Rusher

Telephone Contacts

For HLA-PA Activities or Other Information, feel free to call:

Teresa Nellans, (Western PA) - 412-767-9769

Barb Beard, (Central PA) - 717-534-0820

Ronnie Adler, (Eastern PA) - 610-644-3154

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rehabilitation professionals, educators and vendors as well as hands-on testing of hearing assistive devices and telecommunication products in the Exhibit Hall.

To learn more about Hearing Loss Association of America Convention 2008 visit our website at www.hearingloss.org/convention.