San Diego

Sunday, October 14, 2018
Crowne Point in Mission Bay
700 Corona Oriente Rd

Beginning just three years ago, the San Diego Walk4Hearing has raised nearly $82,000 and has grown from 200 to 250 walkers. The fundraising goal for Walk4Hearing 2018 is $35,000.

Participants report that their walk is smaller and more intimate than others they have attended. Because there are restrictions on outdoor decorations, performers, and activities at Crowne Point, families have had more time for conversations with others. Play dates and outings which have been organized during these informal chats have had a huge social benefit beyond the Walk itself. Even better, families return each year to see one another and many lasting friendships have been the result.

To register for this year’s event or to support participants, visit Walk4Hearing.org. The prize for participants who raise $100 is a logo t-shirt and those who raise $500 will also receive a power bank.

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The Hearing Loss Californian is going green!

Due to high printing and mailing costs, we will be making some changes to the newsletter in 2019.

Complete details will be available in the Winter 2018-2019 issue.

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Sunday, September 23, 2018, 1-4 PM
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Register now at: www.hearinglossca.org

August 14, 2018
What do tree frogs, lava lamps and combat veterans have in common? They all made appearances at this year’s Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on June 21-24! Hundreds of participants traveled to the Hyatt Regency on Nicollet Mall in the heart of downtown to participate, with around two dozen of us representing various California chapters.

Kicking off the Convention were two annual recognition events. First up on Wednesday evening was the State and Chapter Awards Reception & Ceremony, sponsored in part by Hearing Help Express. The National Awards Breakfast & Ceremony took place the following morning, sponsored by CapTel Captioned Telephone. HLAA California is delighted to celebrate all the winners from our state! (See more info about California winners on page 5 and a complete list of HLAA2018 winners at hearingloss.org.)

National Awards

Spirit of HLAA – Four members nationwide were honored in this category, including:
- Robert Hall, co-President of Peninsula Chapter
- Lisa Yuan, past President of Los Angeles Chapter (now living in Washington, DC)

State Awards

Chapter Website:
- Tim Browning, Webmaster/Secretary of Los Angeles Chapter

Scholarships for first-time attendees:
- Verna Dow, East Bay Chapter
- Jennifer Nelson, Los Angeles Chapter

(Continued on page 3)
Following the National Awards Breakfast, we began the first of three full days of Exhibit Hall displays, technology demo sessions, book signings and educational workshops, which were divided into six tracks:

- Advocacy
- Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT)
- Living with Hearing Loss
- Hearing Loss in Health Care Settings
- Hearing Aids & Cochlear Implants
- State/Chapter Development

On Thursday evening, Barbara Kelley, HLAA Executive Director, welcomed all attendees at the Opening Session and introduced the keynote speaker, Gary Shapiro, president and CEO of Consumer Technology Association, who spoke about *Tech Innovations for All*. We also heard from HLAA Board of Trustees Chairperson Don Doherty, who presented a special National Access Award to live theater operator, The Schubert Organization.

After a dinner break, attendees traveled back to the 1970s to chill, confab, and hang with friends at the *Laugh-In* themed Get Acquainted Party sponsored by CaptionCall, complete with lava lamps, comedy skits, go-go-dancers in mini skirts and Courrèges boots, plus Edith Ann’s oversize rocking chair.

Friday began with a fascinating Research Symposium: *Listening in Noise*. Five science professors from prominent universities discussed their efforts to solve what is known informally as the “cocktail party problem.” Their topics included research involving directional hearing in flies and frogs (which may have applications for human hearing aid development) and how the brain distinguishes between relevant and background sounds to enable us to understand speech.

Officially, the day ended with a Convention edition of Walk4Hearing and a performance by *America’s Got Talent* finalist Mandy Harvey, who is hearing impaired. But the highlight for most of us in the California contingent was an early evening hospitality reception co-hosted by Heather Lehr, HLAA-Los Angeles president, and Katie Wright, HLAA-CA Board member and Long Beach/Lakewood chapter leader, two especially dynamic women!

Our final day was again filled with educational workshops and demo sessions. It wrapped up with an outing to see *West Side Story* at the nationally recognized Guthrie Theater, which had been looped for the occasion. The next day we all headed home, exhausted, but inspired for the coming year.

A recurring theme throughout Convention was the issue of hearing loss in veterans. A report from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, cited on HLAA’s website, estimates that more than 59,000 military members are on disability for hearing loss from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. And hearing-related problems are the most prevalent service-connected disability among American Veterans. HLAA offers all veterans a complimentary membership to the organization, and complimentary attendance at their first National Convention. For details, visit hearingloss.org.

Teri Breier is a freelance writer currently serving as the Membership and Outreach Chair for HLAA Los Angeles chapter. All photos used with permission.
Battery Alerts Please!

My fitness tracker sends me emails to alert me when my battery is getting low so I am never surprised. What if hearing aids did the same? An advance warning would help avoid the hassle of changing batteries on the fly or during an important conversation. Hopefully, batteries will be better in the future as well, or even better, fully rechargeable.

Sleep Feature

I know many people who remove their hearing aids at various times during the day to get a break from the ever-present sounds of life. Wouldn’t it be nice to turn the sound off every once in a while without having to remove the aids? My hearing aids have a sleep function which turns off the amplification in an attempt to mimic what I would be hearing without my aids. This provides a break from much of the sound, but keeps me safe through continued access to ambient noise. This could be a welcome feature on all types of hearing aids.

Sports Ready

With more than 65% of people with hearing loss under the age of 65 (according to the Better Hearing Institute), a sports ready hearing aid would be very popular. Imagine being able to wear your hearing aids to the gym, at yoga or while running or playing sports without worrying they would be damaged by sweat or an inadvertent swing of a racket. Sport glasses are quite common, and while hearing aids are more delicate given the electronic equipment inside, perhaps the hearing aids of the future will be wrapped in a more durable package.

Wearable 24/7

Did you ever wish you could wear your hearing aids all the time? It sounds crazy, but I really like it. Mine help mask my tinnitus so I wear them as much as humanly possible, even to sleep. Plus, I feel more secure at night knowing that if my children call out to me, I have a better chance of hearing them. Most hearing aids are worn during the day and removed at night. I’m not sure why. Perhaps this will change in the future.

Trackable by GPS

If I can easily locate my misplaced phone through a tracking app, why not my hearing aids? And what about alerting me if I leave them behind in a hotel or spa? This seems like a simple thing to implement and could help avoid an inconvenient search, or even significant financial loss.

(Continued on page 5)
The Spirit of HLAA is one of the most prestigious awards that HLAA presents. Recipients have contributed a positive outlook and countless hours of service to help inspire and encourage people with hearing loss, all while radiating the hopes and dreams of others, thinking selflessly, acting always out of love and appreciation for the joys and sorrows of all human beings.

HLAA recognized Lisa Yuan for her selfless commitment, tenacity, and passion as a representative of HLAA and those with hearing loss. More than 10 Years ago, Lisa arrived at her first HLAA Los Angeles Chapter meeting, overwhelmed and stressed by her own hearing loss. She was shy, withdrawn and terrified of speaking in public. Surrounded by helpful new friends, she quickly decided to pitch in. The first roles Lisa took on were chapter secretary and newsletter editor. Due to her creativity and hard work, she was recognized in 2011 with the HLAA Award for Best Chapter Newsletter. As she grew in confidence, Lisa went on to become vice president and later, president of HLAA-LA. Lisa made a positive impact in the lives of many people with hearing loss, and many tears were shed last year when she announced her move to Washington DC to accept a new job.

Robert Hall has been co-president of the Peninsula Chapter for the past five years. In 2010, he co-founded the Saturday4Lunch monthly group to reach out to members who are unable to attend monthly chapter meetings during the day. Bob and his co-leader often open their homes to the group; his hospitality and eagerness to reach out to others needing information and support regarding their hearing loss is one of his finest qualities. Bob is a psychologist who worked during his entire career in the VA hospital system. He is a skilled communicator and facilitator who leads chapter meetings during their Hearing Other People’s Experiences/HOPE session. He has a compassionate way of encouraging others to share their struggles and successes in dealing with their hearing loss and to support one another.

The Best Chapter Website is awarded for outstanding examples of informative, attractive websites that are easy to navigate and up-to-date while providing information about the Chapter and HLAA in a manner consistent with the HLAA mission statement. Website guidelines state that it must contain information about hearing loss as well as useful website links.

HLAA recognized the work of Tim Browning, webmaster for the Los Angeles Chapter, who created hlaa-la.org in 2016 with input from chapter members about the kind of content they found useful. From information about upcoming events to helpful resources to write-ups and pictures of past activities, Tim continues to maintain and enhance the website. He works as a project manager for Holland America Group.

(Continued from page 4) Hearing Aid of the Future

Less Expensive

Hearing aids cost a lot, especially the ones with advanced features like cell phone connectivity. As new products enter the market supported by the recent OTC law, this will hopefully change. Innovation certainly will improve with increased competition and more varied approaches to product design and distribution. Audiologists will remain critically important as consumers navigate the wider variety of more affordable and technologically advanced options.

Shari Eberts is a hearing health advocate, writer, and avid Bikram yogi. She serves on the Board of Trustees of Hearing Loss Association of America. She is the former Board Chair of Hearing Health Foundation. Shari has an adult-onset genetic hearing loss and hopes that by sharing her story it will help others to live more peacefully with their own hearing issues. Follow Shari on her blog: livingwithhearingloss.com and please visit Shari’s blog to add your thoughts in the Comments section.
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Paying for Hearing Aids: Breaks from Uncle Sam

By Cary W. Tucker, CFP®

One of the most frustrating things about having had a severe hearing loss since childhood has been the high cost of hearing aids. Not only do hearing aids typically cost over $2,000 a pair, many health insurance plans, including Medicare, do not provide any coverage for hearing aids at all. Nevertheless, as an adult working in financial planning, I have also learned that there are a few tax breaks and pre-tax savings plans that can help ease the cost of hearing aids.

Fortunately, the Federal government recognizes hearing aids as a deductible medical expense. According to IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses), “the cost of a hearing aid and batteries, repairs, and maintenance needed to operate it” all count toward your medical expense deduction. In other words, the IRS has stated explicitly that qualified medical expenses include not just the cost of hearing aids, but also the cost of hearing aid batteries and hearing aid repairs.

Unfortunately, there is a catch. Specifically, on your Federal income tax return for 2018, you can only deduct the portion of your medical and dental expenses that exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). In other words, if your total medical and dental expenses for the tax year fall below your deduction threshold, none of your health expenses are deductible, no matter how much you spent on hearing aids. (Note that starting in 2019, the medical expense deduction threshold or “floor” increases to 10% of your AGI.)

On the positive side, there are some basic strategies to increase your odds of exceeding the threshold and being able to take a deduction for health expenses. You can reduce your AGI, perhaps by contributing to a retirement account or donating to a charitable organization. Conversely, you can increase your health expenses, perhaps by scheduling needed surgery or other medical procedures within the same calendar year that you buy hearing aids. Meanwhile, the new tax law, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, has substantially increased the standard deduction to $12,000 for individuals and $24,000 for married couples filing jointly. Rather than trying to claim health expenses and other itemized deduction on your Federal income tax return, there is a fair chance that you may be better off just taking the standard deduction.

Wouldn’t it be nice if you could simply deduct the entire cost of hearing aids? Fortunately, you do have a few options in that regard. Depending on your situation, you may be able to pay for hearing aids using a Health Savings Account (HSA) or a Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA).

With both the HSA and FSA, there are no deduction thresholds. All of the money contributed to the HSA or FSA counts as a Federal income tax deduction and can then be used to pay for qualified medical expenses such as hearing aids and hearing aid batteries. However, if you take distributions from your HSA or FSA for reasons other than to pay (or be reimbursed for) qualified health expenses, you may be subject to tax penalties.

In order to contribute to a HSA, you must be enrolled in a high deductible health insurance plan (HDHP). To qualify for a HSA in 2018, the annual deductible on your health insurance must be at least $1,350 for individual (self-only) coverage and $2,700 for family coverage. (The minimum HDHP deductibles are the same for 2019.)

However, just because a health insurance plan has a high deductible, this does not necessarily mean that it is eligible for a HSA. For example, an individual plan with a deductible of more than $2,000, but only a small co-pay for prescriptions may not be HSA permissible. Furthermore, the high deductible requirements apply only to general health insurance, so you can have other, specific coverage and still qualify for an HSA. Within IRS Publication 969 (Health Savings Accounts) is a list of other health coverage that is permitted with an HSA, including workers’ compensation and dental care. So if you want to contribute to a HSA, be careful to verify that your health insurance plan qualifies for a HSA.

The tradeoff for the higher deductible is that you are then allowed to take advantage of the tax deduction from HSA contributions. To clarify, while contributions to a HSA count as a deduction on your Federal income tax return, the HSA contributions may not necessarily count as a deduction on your State income tax return.
It depends on where you live. As of 2018, there are two states (California and New Jersey) that do not allow a State income tax deduction for HSA contributions.

There is a limit on how much you can contribute to a HSA each year. For 2018, the maximum HSA contribution is $3,450 for individual (self-only) coverage and $6,900 for family coverage. (The respective maximum HSA contributions increase to $3,500 and $7,000 for 2019.) If you are over age 55, you may also be eligible for additional “catch-up” contributions to the HSA, up to $1,000 a year.

While the HSA allows some flexibility in timing when you contribute to the account, the FSA requires a committed schedule of contributions. When you sign up for a FSA plan, you must decide how much to contribute from each paycheck. As with the HSA, there is also a limit on how much you can contribute to a FSA over the course of a year. For 2018, the maximum annual FSA contribution is $2,650.

Unlike the HSA, from which you can only withdraw funds you have previously contributed, once you designate a specific contribution for your FSA, all the money you signed up to contribute for the year is available to you right away. For example, if you sign up to contribute $200 a month, you do not have to wait until several months have gone by before withdrawing $2,000 from your FSA. Rather, the entire sum of $2,400 is available to you at the beginning of the year.

A further difference is that while funds in the HSA can roll over and grow from year to year, the FSA is a “use it or lose it” plan. The savings in an FSA expire at the end of the plan year or shortly thereafter and cannot be rolled over entirely from year to year. Depending on the FSA plan offered by your employer, not all of the unused balance may have to be forfeited at the end of the year. Specifically, the FSA plan can allow for either a carryover or a grace period.

With a carryover, up to $500 of unused FSA funds from the previous plan year can be carried over and used to pay for qualified medical expenses in the following plan year. With a grace period, any unused FSA funds from the previous plan year can be used to pay for qualified medical expenses incurred during a period up to two and a half months after the end of the previous plan year. After the grace period, any remaining FSA funds from the previous year expire completely.

Moreover, if your employer FSA plan includes a grace period (rather than a carryover), you may be able to pay for hearing aids by drawing from two years of FSA contributions. Suppose that your FSA plan year ends in December and that you signed up to contribute $2,400 to your FSA; however, you had only withdrawn $400 in health expenses and have $2,000 left in your FSA at the end of the year.

For the following year, you again designated a total FSA contribution of $2,400 (i.e., $200 a month), and you confirmed that your FSA plan has a two and a half month grace period. So in mid January, you make an appointment with your audiologist and order two new hearing aids. Even though you may have only contributed $200 to your FSA for the current year so far, you can immediately withdraw up to the full annual contribution amount, or $2,400. Moreover, since you are still within the grace period, you can also draw on the $2,000 balance remaining in your FSA from last year. Therefore, thanks to some careful planning, you now have a total of $4,400 of pre-tax money to spend on hearing aids.

Eventually, there may come a day when Medicare and most other health insurance plans provide extensive coverage for hearing aids. Until that happens though, you can continue easing the high cost of hearing aids by taking advantage of medical expense deductions, Health Savings Accounts, and Flexible Spending Arrangements.

Cary W. Tucker began wearing hearing aids at age five and got his cochlear implants in 2013. He is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) who currently works in the field of personal finance.

An earlier version of this article originally appeared on the HearingTracker website: hearingtracker.com
Dear HLAA-CA Members,

The HLAA-CA third annual Hearing Loss Tech Expo will be on Sunday, September 23, 2018, 1-4 PM, in the William E. Walker Recreation Center, in Foster City. Attendance is free and open to the public. People with hearing loss, their families, and their friends, as well as hearing professionals are especially welcome. Complimentary reusable tote bags stuffed with valuable information will be provided to all attendees. Complimentary refreshments will be served. For more details and to register, please visit www.hearinglossca.org.

HLAA-CA is looking for board members. In the winter elections, four board member positions will be open. This is a great opportunity to serve our community at the state level. We meet once or twice a year, alternating between Southern California and Northern California. For more information, please visit http://www.hearinglossca.org/board-application or email info@hearinglossca.org.

I look forward to seeing you at the Tech Expo!

Zina Jawadi, HLAA-CA President

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By John Waldo

Last month, I was privileged to attend and speak at a conference organized by the Kennedy Center called the Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disabilities (LEAD). Most attendees were representatives of non-profit arts organizations like live theaters, museums, festivals and parks of various sorts.

Most of the attendees were the access coordinators for their organizations, so these were the people trying to do the right thing for individuals with disabilities. I spoke about their obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, largely to provide them with ammunition to help them persuade their management and boards about the need to provide access for people with hearing loss, the only issue where I can claim any expertise. More important, though, I listened to those people tell me what they were doing that worked, information I can use to help other organizations improve their accessibility.

Not surprisingly, there was considerable interest in the Fabulous Fox Theatre case from St. Louis that I reported on in the last issue. The judge in that case agreed with us that the ADA requires people with disabilities to be treated equally with non-disabled people, and that the equality requirement is violated when a theater offers to provide captioning for only a single performance of each production on a date selected by the theater.

The two themes I heard repeatedly are that the theaters themselves (and bear in mind that these are the access people, not necessarily the ultimate decision-makers) are really looking for ways to provide captioning for every performance of every show when a request is made. The second theme I heard is that many people are interested in finding new and less expensive ways to make that possible.

As I reported in the 2017-18 Winter issue, Broadway League theaters, spearheaded by the Shubert Group, are working on a system whereby captions are prepared in advance (essentially a very long Power-Point, with hundreds of slides) and then displayed through a software program that uses both lighting cues and voice recognition cues to synchronize the captions with the pace of that specific performance. The captions are transmitted wirelessly to individual smart phones through an app called GalaPro.

GalaPro seems to work really well sometimes, but not always. When I tried it on Broadway last November, the captions were almost perfect. But reports about efforts to use GalaPro on the road with touring shows have been a little more mixed—some really good results, some not so good. Nevertheless, we heartily encourage all of these efforts, and remind ourselves that we can’t let the hope for perfect blind us to the reality that what we are getting, even if not perfect, is hugely better than nothing.

Nor is GalaPro the only game in town. The Smith Center, a large theater in Las Vegas, has a particularly impressive and ambitious program. They prepare their own captions in house, then transmit them to viewing pads called iCaption devices. The synchronizing is done by a live operator who is on staff. The result is that Smith Center can offer closed captioning to personal viewing devices for every show and from every seat. As an added bonus, Smith Center will, on two weeks’ notice, provide open captioning, where captions are displayed on a portable LED reader-board placed to one side of the stage.

Other improvements seem to be in the works. Shubert is spearheading an effort to create a library of captions from older shows no longer on Broadway but performed frequently around the country, classic musicals from Rogers & Hammerstein, etc. A developer in Chicago is working on software that will create captions easily from scripts. Our hope is that in the near future, theaters of all sizes will be able to access captions for a vast variety of plays and musicals.

Fox Theatre is appealing the trial court’s decision. I have not yet seen its brief and don’t know what the argument will be. But in my estimation, the decision of the trial court was well reasoned, and I expect it to stand. Having a similar decision coming from a court of appeals will provide some additional heft, and in that sense, it will benefit all of us.

A court ruling to the effect that the ADA is not satisfied by offering captioning only one performance on a date selected by the theaters is an important step forward. But we should not overplay our hand here. I agree that if any of us can’t attend a scheduled captioned performance for a show we want to see, we should get in touch with the theater and ask for an additional captioned performance. But if the theater provides open captioning on a portable reader-board, it must also make available seats from which the caption board and the stage can be seen in the same line of sight, and a caption-provider needs to be available.

So if we request captioning for a non-scheduled show, we should give the theater as much notice as possible, and a number of dates that could work for us. Even then, it simply might not be possible for the theater to match a workable date with available seats as well as a captioner’s schedule. If the theater is willing to work on putting together all of the pieces but is unable to make it work, I hope we’d thank them for a good-faith effort.

After many years of effort, federal movie-captioning regulations are now in effect. Those regulations, (Continued on page 12)
require theaters that use digital projection systems to offer individual devices that will enable those of us with hearing loss to view closed captions, for every showing of every movie distributed with captions. [Note: closed captions are visible only to patrons who use the viewing devices; open captions display on the screen for everyone to see, like foreign film subtitles.] The regulations specify a minimum number of viewing devices that must be available, require that those devices be kept in good working order, and require that a staff member be available at all times to assist patrons in operating the devices. Importantly, the theaters are also required to inform us in all advertising, including their websites, that captioning is available, and for which movies.

While most theaters are complying, including all of the major theater chains like AMC, Regal and Cinemark, some smaller theaters do not appear to be compliant. This is an area where we need to exercise self-help, and be proactive. So how do we determine whether a movie theater we like is compliant? First, the regulations apply only to indoor theaters (not to drive-ins) that use digital projection systems. Any theater that shows first-run movies, whether mainstream films or art house movies, is now using digital systems since traditional .35 mm film is rarely used. Second, the theater website or other advertising must indicate which movies are offered with captions and which are not. If the website does not indicate that captioning is available, then the theater is not in compliance.

The best way to proceed, if any theater that any of us wishes to attend is not in compliance, is to contact the manager, politely remind him or her of the obligation to provide access, and ask for a response. I suspect that in many cases, the problem may be that the theater is providing captions but is failing to let the public know that it is doing so. In other cases, it may be that the theater plans to offer captioning at some point, but simply hasn’t gotten around to doing so.

This latter situation provides us with an interesting opportunity. The regulations state that the theaters are never required to provide open captioning, but they also state that a theater has the option of complying with the regulations by offering open captioning either for every showing or on request prior to the start of the show. Some smaller theaters that are either waiting for closed captioning equipment or wish to avoid the cost of buying that equipment altogether are complying by offering open captioning on demand. Since open captioning is the display mode most of us prefer, let’s encourage any non-compliant theater to choose that option, at least in the interim. Who knows? They may find that offering open captions on demand does not drive away hearing audiences, and may decide that it is a good thing for everyone.

Now for some not-so-good news, what you might call the dark side of the captioning regulations. In the Spring 2018 issue, I reported on a case in Seattle seeking captioning for Fathom Events, those special events like Metropolitan Opera, Broadway and London stage performances as well as classic movies shown at many theaters, almost exclusively without captions. We sued the three largest theater chains which show Fathom events (AMC, Regal and Cinemark) as well as those same theatres which own Fathom Events.

Our argument was that because pretty much anyone can put captions into a format that will allow the captions to be displayed on the individual caption viewing devices that the theaters presently have, the ADA requires that Fathom material be similarly formatted and displayed. We argued that because the ADA assigns the obligation to provide access through means like captioning in places of public accommodation—which clearly includes movie theaters—the owners, either in their own right or as owners of Fathom, have the obligation to do that. The theaters did not argue that this could not be done. Rather, they argued that the Federal movie captioning regulations (which took effect in June, 2018) require theaters to display captions when captions are furnished by the studio and exempt them from the need to do anything else. The trial court agreed with them, and threw the case out.

We are appealing that decision. These arguments are esoteric, even to lawyers, because they involve the interplay between laws, regulations and commentary, but we think we have a solid shot at reversing the trial court’s decision.

John Waldo is an attorney whose practice focuses on advocacy for people with hearing loss. He is national Advocacy Committee Chair for the Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA), and consults with non-profit advocacy groups in Washington and Oregon. He can be reached at: johnfwaldo@hotmail.com
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City of Orange Chapter
Marla Peoples, 714-681-2494
hlao.cityoforange@gmail.com
hearinglossscoo.org

Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter
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323-205-6794
www.hlaa-lb-lakewood.org

Los Angeles Chapter - Pasadena
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Santa Barbara Chapter
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cheriea@hlaa-sbc.org
www.hlaa-sbc.org

Santa Monica Chapter
(Currently inactive)
Nanci Linke-Ellis 310-829-3884
nanci@linkeellis.com

No Chapter Near You?
Our Chapter Coordinators will help you to set up a local group.

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

Hearing Loss Resource Specialists
Theodore Horton-Billard, Los Angeles
Greater LA Agency on Deafness GLAD
323-285-5306, thorton@gladinc.org

Guy Gomez Center on Deafness
Inland Empire (CODEI), Riverside
951-801-5688 ggomez@codei.org

Sr. Ann Rooney, LMFT, Burlingame
annrooney@sbcglobal.net

Ann Thomas, Walnut Creek
AThomas@hearinglossdv.org

Lisa Mira Lawson, LMFT, Psy.D
Marriage and Family Therapist
lindalawson21@twc.com 310-454-5138

Valerie Stern, LCSW, Sunland
Psychotherapist - hearing loss and grief,
certified equine assisted psychotherapist
www.valeriesternlcsw.com 310-936-0939,

Alison Freeman, PhD, West LA, Sherman Oaks
Psychologist - hearing loss, trauma
and crisis counseling, stressmgmt
teletherapy, 310-712-1200,
www.doralisonfreeman.net

For Parents
California Hands & Voices,
Parent driven, nonjudgmental support
for families with D/HoH children
Family camps, Mom’s Night Inn
www.cahandsandvoices.org
National, www.handsandvoices.org
info@cahandsandvoices.org

Parent Links, Parent to Parent Support
for families with D/HoH children
Parent Mentors are Parents of D/HoH
children, www.myparentlinks.com

For Youth
Training & Advocacy Group (TAG), LA
Self-Advocacy group for D/HoH children
& teens, www.tagkids.us

HEAR YA NOW. Young Adults Group
Social events, online community
www.hearyanow.tumblr.com

NO LIMITS Individual therapy, literacy,
parent education thru educational center,
national theatrical group, for ages 3-18.
All services free, 310-280-0878
www.nolimitsfordeafchildren.org

Lawyers
David Grey, david@greyslaw.com
Special education law

John Waldo, john@wash-cap.com
Captioning of movies/theatre

Gaylord & Nantais, gaylordnantais.com
Hearing Loss Claims

Resource Guide
UC San Francisco online guide:
Navigating Your Hearing Loss , A
Comprehensive Resource for the San Francisco Bay Area and Beyond
hearing.ucsf.edu

Clincis
UC Irvine, Cochlear implant services
714-456-5853, www.ent.uci.edu

The HEAR CENTER, Pasadena
Hearing/speech therapy, Community out reach,
hearing aid dispensing. All ages, www.hearcenter.org 626-796-2016

House Ear Clinic, Los Angeles
Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants
Ear surgery, 213-483-9930 www.hei.org

UC San Francisco,
Audiology Clinic, 415-353-2101
Cochlear Implant Center, 415-353-2464
ucsfhealth.org/clinics/audiology

Stanford University Ear Institute
650-736-4351
http://med.stanford.edu/ohns/earinstitute/

Stanford Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital
650-498-4327
Childrens/hearing@stanfordchildrens.org

Hearing and Speech Center, San Francisco
415-921-7658, info@hearingspeech.org
www.hearingspeech.org

John Tracy Clinic
Pediatric hearing loss, low cost services
world wide, www.jtc.org 213-748-5481

Oberkotter Foundation
Pediatric hearing loss, oral schools, free
materials www.oraleafed.org

Financial Aid
Audient Alliance
audientalliance.org 206-838-7194

Let them Hear Foundation, Palo Alto
650-462-3143 http://www.letthemhearr.org

Refurbished Hearing AIDS, Sacramento
916-340-5493 cnoble@sonn.com

Career Counseling/Employment Services
HLAA Employment Toolkit
www.hearingloss.org/advocacy/
Employment.asp#jobtoolkit

GLAD/Employment Development Dept
www.gladinc.org
213-478-8000 info@gladinc.org

Dept of Rehabilitation, (DOR)
Deaf/HoH Advisory Comm (DHHAC)
stephanie.stansell@yahoo.com

Vocational Rehab provides clients
with hearing aids/devices necessary to secure
or retain employment. www.dor.ca.gov

Tinnitus and Implantable Devices
Shahrzad Cohen, AuD, FAAA
5900 Sepulveda Blvd, Ste 335
Sherman Oaks CA 91411
818-989-9001
AuditoryProcessingCenters.com

Deaf/Disabled Telecomm Program
(DDTP)
Katie Wright (Late Deafened)
katiewri@gmail.com
Jennifer Nelson, (Hard of Hearing)
jennelsion18@aol.com

Equipment Program (EPAC)
Free Telephones (CTAP)
www.ddtp.org/ctap

Smartphone Classes for Seniors
Basic Training on Android or iPhone for
Seniors with Hearing Loss
Call or email for a schedule of classes near you:
866-271-1540
smartphonetraining@ddtp.org

Online Videos
Listen and Speak, children
www.oraleafed.org/movies/index.html

HearingLoops
LoopFinder
Find Hearing Loop enabled venues
www.LoopFinder.com

All about Loops
www.hearingloop.com

Lip Reading Classes
GLAD listing of local resources
for updates 323-478-8000
www.hearinglossca.org/communication

HLAA Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter
Weingart Senior Center, Lakewood CA
323-205-6794

Captions
Movies search engine Captionfish.com
Netflikx instant library www.phlxiex.com
TED Talks videos TED.com

Advocacy Group
www.CCACaptioning.org

Auditory Therapy/Rehabilitation
Angel Sound - FREE
Online download
http://angelsound.emilyfufoundation.org

Request an installation CD
angelvoice@emilyfufoundation.org

Online Directory
http://hearingloss.org/content/listening-
training-programs

Speech Therapy
Mellissa Essenbug, M.S., CCC-SLP
mellissasl@ymail.com 858-232-5842
www.SanDiegoSpeechPathology.com

Assistance Dogs for Deaf/HoH
Canine Companions for Independence
www.cci.org 800-572-2275

Sam Simon Foundation
www.samsimonfoundation.com
310-457-5898
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Segerstrom Center - Costa Mesa
www.scfpta.org/AccessibilityInformation

South Coast Repertory Theatre - Costa Mesa
http://www.scr.org/tickets/ticket-information/special-needs

Hollywood Bowl
https://www.hollywoodbowl.com/visit/accessibility (scroll to bottom of page)

Hollywood Pantages Theatre
https://www.hollywoodpantages.com/visit/accessibility

La Jolla Playhouse
http://www.lajollaplayhouse.org/tickets-and-subscriptions/accessibility-services

La Mirada Theatre
http://lamiradatheatre.com/accessibility/

Center Theatre Group
Ahmanson & Mark Taper – Los Angeles
Kirk Douglas Theatre – Culver City
https://www.centertheatregroup.org/programs/audiences/access/

Grammy Museum – Los Angeles
Email pgarces@grammymuseum.com

The Music Center - Los Angeles
Walt Disney Concert Hall & Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
https://www.musiccenter.org/visit/Getting-Here-and-Around/Accessibility/

CSUN/Valley Performing Arts Center - Northridge
http://www.valleyperformingartscenter.org/visit/accessibility/

Pasadena Playhouse
https://www.pasadenaplayhouse.org/visit/#accessibility (Inductive loop system)

San Diego Theatres
Balboa & Civic
http://sandiegotheatres.org/audience-services/

Griot Theatre of the West Valley
Email Sabah El-Amin, Executive Director
Sabah@griottheatre.org/
www.Griottheatre.org/about/aboutus.html

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
Berkeley Repertory Theatre
https://www.berkeleyrep.org/boxoffice/accessibility.asp

California Shakespeare Theatre – Orinda
http://www.calshakes.org/v4/visit/accessibility.html

California Musical Theatre - Sacramento
Community Center Theatre & Music Circus
https://www.californiamusicaltheatre.com/about/accessibility/

Curran Theatre - San Francisco
https://sfcurran.com/visit/#accessibility

SHN Theatres - San Francisco
Golden Gate & Orpheum
https://www.shnsf.com/online/article/ADA

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley
Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts
Lucie Stern Theatre
Palo Alto
Lohman Theatre - Los Altos Hills
https://theatreworks.org/venues/accessibility/

HLAA-CA publishes The Hearing Loss Californian quarterly in early March, June, September and December. To view the newsletter online or to sign up for a free subscription visit: www.hearinglossca.org

Newsletter Articles: We welcome contributions of original content! Please contact the editor with submissions: erlesan@hearinglossca.org
Submission deadlines are Spring: Jan 25, Summer: Apr 25, Fall: Jul 25, Winter: Oct 25.
Hearing Loss is a Leading Public Health Issue

Hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome.
You do not have to hide your hearing loss.
You do not have to face hearing loss alone.

Please share this information! When you’ve finished reading the Hearing Loss Californian pass it along to a friend or colleague.

To subscribe to this free newsletter, go to hearinglossca.org
Under the Newsletter tab, select Sign-up for Newsletter.
Now available as an email link.

Because there were no services for hard of hearing people, Rocky Stone founded Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) in 1979. The thinking behind the self-help philosophy for SHHH was to enhance each of us as human beings. Hearing loss is an important but secondary consideration. Once we accept responsibility for ourselves, we have to learn to love ourselves, and then, each other.

SHHH was renamed Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) in 2006. Today, HLAA is the premier consumer organization for people with hearing loss. The HLAA mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through education, advocacy and support.

Hearing Loss Association of America
The Nation’s voice for people with hearing loss

HLAA is an international, non-sectarian, educational, non-profit 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.
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Ste 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
inquiry@hearingloss.org
301-657-2248 Voice
301-913-9413 Fax

HLAA, California State Association
Supporting chapters throughout California

HLAA-CA is a separately incorporated non-profit affiliate of HLAA.
California residents who join our national organization automatically become members of HLAA-CA.
info@hearinglossca.org
650-449-0091