

Meetings held at the:
New York School for
the Deaf
555 Knollwood Road
White Plains, NY 10603

*Unless Otherwise
Noted



Hearing Loss Association of America

Westchester Chapter

CHAPTER NEWS JANUARY 2014

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President's Message



Hi Everyone ~

Wow, is this weather crazy! One day it's frigid, next day it goes up into the 50's. Plus, we've had our share of snow, rain and in between ice..... Mother Nature just can't seem to make up her mind!

I'll start my message off with a bit of good news.... Westchester Chapter celebrated its 30th Anniversary on Sunday, November 17. A lovely party was held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Tarrytown, NY. Forty people attended including five of our Chapters past Presidents: Edith Shapiro, Mary Whalen, Melanie Brand, Judy Ginsberg & Karen Ratner along with the current President, Roberta Seidner. The ballroom was looped by Metro Sound Pros and our CART reporter was Lauren Schechter. A lavish brunch was served, many lovely raffles were given out and we had some wonderful speakers. Our guest of honor was National's new Executive Director, Anna Gilmore Hall, a most charming lady and eloquent speaker. Two other great speakers were Mary Whalen, past president, spoke about how Westchester Chapter was founded in 1983 by Miriam Koryn and Rosalyn Fein. Karen Rogers, a member of our chapter spoke on how Westchester Chapter helped her overcome her hearing loss and shyness and become much more outgoing and assertive. A candle lighting ceremony with our past and present presidents, along with Anna Gilmore Hall ended the party on a truly

(Continued on Page 3)

Come To Our Next General Meeting!

Saturday, February 1, at 1:00pm

At the New York School for the Deaf, Cafeteria Building

Rap Session:

“Everything you want to know about hearing loss but were afraid to ask”.
Come to our group discussion.

Assistive listening devices are always available as well as live **CART** captioning

Bring your friends and family and spend a delightful afternoon with us.

Refreshments will be served

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT - *Roberta Seidner*
(718) 884-8634
email - robertaseidner@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT - *Anita Goldwasser*
email - anitagoldwasser@aol.com

SECRETARY - *Debbie Dolgin Wolfe*
email - deborahdwolfe@gmail.com

TREASURER - *Phil Monteleone*
email - pmtaxes@aol.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT- *Karen Ratner*
email – klratner@aol.com

COMMITTEES:

BY-LAWS – *Melanie Brand*
email – mbrand3958@aol.com

Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology
Alicen Noselli
email - alicen45@hotmail.com

CONVENTION GRANT – *Arlene Esgar*
email – hprin1012@aol.com

HOSPITALITY – *Adrienne Stern*
email – adriannestern@yahoo.com

FUNDRAISING – *Carolyn Tanen*

MEMBERSHIP – *Roberta Seidner*
email – robertaseidner@aol.com

NEWSLETTER - *Anita Goldwasser*
email - anitagoldwasser@aol.com

PROGRAMMING/PUBLICITY - *Debbie Dolgin Wolfe*
email - deborahdwolfe@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP - *Karen Ratner*
email – klratner@aol.com

ALD TECHNICIAN - *Judy Ginsberg*
email - judybginsberg@gmail.com

HEARING LOOP TECHNICIAN - *Robert Wolfe*
email - robertmwolfe58@gmail.com

CHAPTER NEWS

HAPPY NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Leslie Berg, Anne Carney, John Correnti, Mike Domis, Linda Gasparri, Melva Johnson, Miriam Koryn, Al Levitt, Karin Mango, Howie Ratner, Joan Reitzen, Juan Rocha, Kate Schwerin, Edith Shapiro, Marilyn Weisler, Ruth Wolff, Debbie Wolfe

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

Jean Marie Wilson

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR CHAPTER DONATION:

Marvin and Tanya Goldman

Karin Mango

Tamara Gottfried for her \$100 donation to the Blair and Anita Mazin Scholarship Fund

Upcoming Chapter Meetings & Events

Saturday, February 1, 2014 - General Meeting: Rap Session

Saturday, March 1, 2014 - Board & General Meeting: Mitchell Levy, Hamilton/Sprint CapTel App on the smart phones/tablets as well as Hamilton CapTel for PC/Mac

Saturday, April 5, 2014 - Board & General Meeting: Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy, National HLAA, Topic: Self Advocacy

Sunday, April 6, 2014 - Walk4Hearing Kickoff, ArtsWestchester, White Plains, NY

Saturday, April 19, 2014 - Defensive Driving Class, Location & Time TBA

Saturday, May 3, 2014 - Board & General Meeting at Suffern Library, Topic TBA

Saturday, May 17, 2014 - Walk4Hearing, FDR State Park, Yorktown, NY

Saturday, June 14, 2014 - Elections, Scholarship Awards and Year end Party

* Please note dates may be subject to change.

President's Message (Con't from page 1)

memorable note. Westchester Chapter has come so far in 30 years. We have expanded to serve from not only Westchester, but Rockland counties, Long Island, New Jersey, Connecticut and New York City. Here's to another great 30 years!!

Unfortunately, because of snow and bad weather, I had to cancel our Annual Holiday Party in December. We had 72 people coming from all over, but I felt "better safe than sorry". Lots of people did not want to travel the distance and drive over bridges with slippery roads. So I hope that we will have our Holiday Party at some future time, even if it means waiting till the Spring time!

If you have not registered and/or signed up for the HLAA Convention June 26 – 29 in Austin, Texas you have till the end of January for the early bird registration. So get your boots and cowboy hats and I'll see ya all there! Go to www.hearingloss.org and click on convention.

Looking ahead: We'll have our 3 year renewal Defensive Driving Course again sometime the end of April.....Our Westchester/Rockland Walk4Hearing Kickoff event is Sunday, April 6 from 1 to 3 at ArtsWestchester in White Plains and our Walk4Hearing is Saturday, May 17 at FDR State Park in Yorktown Heights, NY

We hope that you join us at all our events.

Roberta Seidner

Hearing Aid Tax Credit Reintroduced in the U.S. Senate

Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Dean Heller (R-NV) reintroduced the Hearing Aid Tax Credit on November 13, and they plan to work to insure that the legislation is considered when Congress addresses tax reform. The bi-partisan bill is nearly identical to legislation introduced in the past, and it is similar to H.R.1317 that was introduced in the House of Representatives in February by Reps. Tom Latham (R-IA) and Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY). Both bills would provide a tax credit of \$500 per device to people of all ages who need a hearing aid.

Senator Harkin has been a long-time champion of hearing health issues since joining the Senate in 1985, and Senator Heller has emerged as the new Republican champion in the Senate after Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) retired in December. The reintroduction effort was supported by joint teams from HIA and HLAA during Hearing on the Hill (HOTH) earlier this year, as well as by HOTH teams from ADA, ASHA and IHS. For details on the legislation, and to contact your Senator to urge him/her to support the bill, visit www.hearingaidtaxcredit.org.

Source: www.hearingloss.org, Nov.20, 2013

Gerbils Provide Critical Insight Into How the Ear Processes Sound

The cochlea is a coiled part of the inner ear that processes sound and converts information to the brain. By using live gerbils, researchers from Columbia University have uncovered evidence of how the cochlea actively amplifies sound waves. The study provides critical insight into how the ear processes sound and can help improve hearing aids and cochlear implants.

Built-in power amplifier

Sensors were tucked in to the ears of live gerbils. These sensors measured small pressure fluctuations and cell-generated voltages within the ear. The study revealed changes in the vibrations of the sound waves within the ear, so-called phase shifts. These phase shifts suggest that part of the ear is amplifying sound, which indicates that the ear has a built-in power amplifier.

Mechanics of the cochlea

The findings give a better understanding of exactly where sound waves hit the inner ear, as well as the mechanics of the cochlea. The study can then lay the initial building blocks for even better hearing aids and implants in the future. Better cochlea models could make it possible to focus sound more precisely within the inner ear, theoretically making it possible to both amplify and sharpen hearing.

The study was published in the scientific 'Biophysical Journal' and carried out by a team of researchers from Columbia University, led by biomedical engineer Elizabeth Olson.

Source: www.scientificamerican.com and www.hear-it.org, January 10, 2014

Research finds positive long-term outcomes of cochlear implantation

From Penn State Brandywine Campus, 11/26/2013

Penn State Brandywine Assistant Professor of Psychology Daniela Martin is on the frontline of significant, unique research. With the first generation of cochlear implant recipients reaching adulthood, Martin and her colleagues are out to discover the long-term psychological outcomes of this relatively new medical procedure.

A cochlear implant is a small electronic device surgically implanted into the inner ear that provides a sense of sound to those who are profoundly deaf or who are hearing impaired.

Because of today's cochlear implant technology; profoundly deaf children frequently attend mainstream schools with children who have normal hearing, which wasn't always an option in the past.

Martin said that this integration of deaf children into mainstream schools is great but "it raises many questions related to the child's social and psychological adjustment. Now you're dealing with a disability status, minority population with specific needs that is integrated into a mainstream environment. That's where our research comes in."

Martin's latest study, co-authored by Bat-Chava and Imperatore, was published in *Child: care, health and development*, and is titled "Long-term improvements in oral communication skills and quality of peer relations in children with cochlear implants: Parental testimony." The study examines the continuing developments in oral communication skills and peer relationships of 19 implanted children.

Martin said they used a longitudinal interview design, meaning they contacted the parents and implant recipients on various occasions to follow-up with their progression over time. The study follows children for an average of nine years after receiving implants.

The research shows that on average, children improve in oral communication skills and have better peer relationships years after implantation, rather than immediately after. Even implant recipients who performed poorly several years after the procedure continue to improve.

"Since the implants are still very new, we didn't actually know how implanted children would do as young adults in mainstream schools," Martin said. "Now we're finding out for the first time. The message in the years of research that we have done is that the children are doing very well overall."

What helps deaf adolescents cope in middle school? The findings of their study suggest that deaf children should be supported in their early development to build healthy levels of self-esteem and confidence. The degree to which implanted children are accepted by mainstream schools – whether they are understood by their teachers and peers – can also help improve their peer relationships.

Martin hopes this research will help people better serve children with cochlear implants, improving their lives on numerous levels.

"There are people waiting to find out how these children are doing: parents, teachers, school counselors," Martin said. "Our study helps us understand how the needs of these children change as they go from kindergarten to middle and high school. The social environments are very different. The challenges change."

Distributed 2013 by Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC)



2014 HLAA National Convention

Austin, TX is the host city for the 2014 HLAA National Convention from June 26-29. The host hotel is the Renaissance Austin Hotel, Arboretum Blvd. Austin, TX.

Start planning your trip by visiting the Convention Website at www.hearingloss.org/content/convention.

Registration is now open and the Convention agenda is being developed. Please visit the HLAA Convention website for links for registration.

Untreated hearing loss has a negative impact on cognition

Older adults with untreated hearing loss are more likely to develop problems thinking and remembering than older adults whose hearing is normal, according to a study by hearing experts at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in the US.

In the study, volunteers with hearing loss, who underwent repeated cognition tests over six years, had cognitive abilities that declined some 30% to 40% faster than in those whose hearing was normal. Levels of declining brain function were directly related to the amount of hearing loss, the researchers say. On average, older adults with untreated hearing loss developed a significant impairment in their cognitive abilities 3.2 years earlier than those with normal hearing.

Frank Lin, assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, tells that the possible explanations for the cognitive slide include the ties between hearing loss and social isolation, with loneliness being well-established in previous research as a risk factor for cognitive decline. Degraded hearing may also force the brain to devote too much of its energy to processing sound at the expense of energy which otherwise would be spent on memory and thinking. He adds that there may also be some common, underlying damage that leads to both hearing and cognitive problems.

The research team plans to launch a much larger study to determine if the use of hearing aids or other devices to treat hearing loss in older adults might forestall or delay cognitive decline.

An earlier study, conducted for the National Council of Ageing in the US, found that hearing aid users were perceived as having better cognitive functioning than non-users and to be less introverted. In general, hearing aid users had a greater overall health status than non-owners, including higher self-confidence, better social life and better mental and physical health.

"Our results show that hearing loss should not be considered an inconsequential part of aging, because it may come with some serious long-term consequences to healthy brain functioning," says Lin.

"Our findings emphasize just how important it is for physicians to discuss hearing with their patients and to be proactive in addressing any hearing declines over time."

He also says that only 15% of those who need a hearing aid in the US get one, leaving much of the problem and its consequences untreated.

Source: hear-it.org

3rd International Hearing Loop Conference

More than 190 people from as far away as Nairobi and as close to home as Bethesda, Maryland attended a two-day conference devoted to the art and science of hearing loops in Eastbourne, England. As it turns out, opening ceremonies coincided with Eastbourne's Guy Fawkes celebrations, so not only did they have a warm welcome from hosts Nigel Williams, chair, Hearing Link, and Dr. Lorraine Gailey, Chief Executive of Hearing Link (a consumer organization in the U.K., www.hearinglink.org), attendees were treated to fireworks over the sea and bonfires on the beach of that seaside town as they raised our glasses to the 3rd International Loop Conference. The Conference was packed with information on what to do to ensure that more working hearing loops are installed and used. The Americans made a strong showing, with nearly 20 attending, including one Canadian. For us, it was a great opportunity to learn from countries that have been installing loops in public places for many years. We heard from consumers and professional sponsors (Contacta and Ampetronic), techies and advocates, and even a Member of Parliament.

Among American attendees were HLAA Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall; HLAA Director Public Policy Lise Hamlin; Former Executive Director Brenda Battat and her husband Joe; Dr. David Myers; Richard Einhorn and Juliëtte Sterkens. Other HLAA members that attended included Lois Johnson, Katherine Bouton, Jerry Bergman and Pat Kricos. Company representatives included Andrew Thomas, business development director of Contacta; Richard McKinley, managing director of Contacta, Inc; and Julian Pieters, managing director of Ampetronic.

Source: *Hearing Loss Association of America, This Month at HLAA Headquarters, October 2013*

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Please note that 2014 chapter membership dues are now due.

Please refer to page 6 for membership application and mailing addresses.



SAVE THE DATES!

Westchester / Rockland Walk4Hearing

**Kickoff: Sunday, April 6, 2014, ArtsWestchester
Grand Banking Room, Mamaroneck Avenue,
White Plains, NY**

**Walk4Hearing: Saturday, May 17, 2014, FDR State
Park, Yorktown Heights, NY**

DIRECTIONS TO THE NEW YORK SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Via I-287 (Eastbound or Westbound) - Get off Exit 4 - New York School for the Deaf, Continue onto Route 100A North Knollwood Road, proceed 1/8 mile. School is on your right, turn into driveway and go to gate on your left even though it says "DO NOT ENTER" and **REMAIN IN YOUR CAR** - pull up to keypad and punch in 4 digit access code. Make the first left turn and drive straight ahead, then make right turn into the cafeteria building parking lot.

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES

- \$20 - Individual Membership Dues
- \$30 - Couple/Family Membership Dues

Donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____
Please indicate Voice or TDD or CapTel or Cell

E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to:
HLAA - WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

Mail completed application to :
Roberta Seidner
3419 Irwin Avenue, Apt #1709
Bronx, NY 10463

Birthday: Month _____

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NATIONAL MEMBERSHP DUES

I wish to join National HLAA and receive the Hearing Loss Magazine:

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Please make checks payable to:
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Hearing Loss Association of America
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814

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