

Meetings held at the:

Greenburgh Public  
Library  
300 East Main Street  
Elmsford, NY 10523



*Celebrating 35 years for  
48 million people with hearing loss*

## WESTCHESTER CHAPTER NEWS OCTOBER 2015

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### President's Message



Hello Everyone!!

I hope you are all enjoying the fall weather; the fall foliage is beautiful and even driving north on the New York Thruway is awesome. This is one of my favorite times of the year. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting due to the threat of Hurricane Joaquin hitting the New York area. The speaker, Jeanne Fredriksen of Med EL will be scheduled at a later

date.

Our next general meeting will be on Saturday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> at the Greenburgh Public Library. We will have as guest speaker, Linda Kessler of Center for the Hearing and Communication. Her topic will be on Speechreading: Addressing Your Specific Needs. Linda is asking that everyone who plans on attending, to prepare one or two questions about their specific problem - communication situations.

In case you haven't heard the HLAA National Convention 2016 has announced that their early bird registration opened on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The dates of the convention are June 23-26<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

We are looking for volunteers to get involved with the chapter. Even if you are not sure of what you like to do, just come to a board meeting and find out about our various committees. The next board meeting is on Saturday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at the Greenburgh Public Library. Please email me if you would like to attend the board meeting.

Look forward to seeing you at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Regards,

Debbie Dolgin Wolfe

### *Looking for Volunteers!*

The Westchester Chapter of HLAA is seeking volunteers to help with our Committees and Programs. We currently need a volunteer to publish the **Chapter Newsletter**. We are also seeking a **Grant Writer** and a **Loop Technician**. If you have "hidden talents" or skills in these or other areas, and would like to volunteer, please contact Debbie Dolgin Wolfe at [deborahdwolfe@gmail.com](mailto:deborahdwolfe@gmail.com). Your help would be greatly appreciated.

## OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

**SECRETARY** - Lina Razzao  
email - linarazzCRM@gmail.com

**TREASURER** - Phil Monteleone  
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**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT** - Roberta Seidner  
email - robertaseidner@aol.com

### COMMITTEES:

**BY-LAWS** - Karen Ratner  
email - klratner@aol.com

**GRANTS / SCHOLARSHIPS** - Karen Ratner  
email - klratner@aol.com

**HOSPITALITY** - Adrienne Stern  
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**FUNDRAISING** - Lina Razzao  
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**MEMBERSHIP** - Roberta Seidner  
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email - rogerskj@yahoo.com

**SOCIAL MEDIA** - Alicen Noselli  
email - alicen45@hotmail.com

**HEARING LOOP TECHNICIAN** - Robert Wolfe  
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**PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR** - Jeffrey Shannon, Au.D.

Please visit the newly designed  
HLAA Westchester  
Chapter Website!

**[www.hlaawestchester.org](http://www.hlaawestchester.org)**



## CHAPTER NEWS

### OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO:

Anne Carney on the loss of her father, James

### THANK YOU FOR CHAPTER DONATION:

Anne Carney's coworkers for their generous donation in the memory of her father

### Upcoming Chapter Meetings & Events

Saturday, November 7, 2015 - HLAA Westchester Board Meeting 10:30am; General Meeting 1:00pm . Greenburgh Library, Elmsford, NY

\* Please note dates may be subject to change.



Hearing Loss Association of America  
Hosts the  
HLAA Convention 2016 and the  
International Federation of Hard of Hearing  
People (IFHOH) Congress



June 23 - 26  
Washington Hilton  
1919 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20009 US

### **Early-bird Registration is Open!**

Discounted registration rates are good through 1/31/16

### **Please visit the Convention webpage**

<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention>

### **HLAA Westchester Convention Grant**

A convention grant is available for **first time applicants**, to the 2016 HLAA National Convention in Washington, DC. If you are interested, please contact Karen Ratner at klratner@aol.com for an application, which **must be submitted by December 20, 2015**.

The mention of suppliers, devices or providers within this newsletter does not signify endorsement or recommendation by HLAA Westchester.

# **Come To Our Next General Meeting!**

**Saturday, November 7, at 1:00pm**

At the Greenburgh Public Library

**Linda Kessler**

**Assistant Director of Communication  
Center for Hearing and Communication**

**“Speechreading: Addressing Your Specific Needs”**

~

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

***Refreshments will be served***



## **Meetings Supported by Loop and CART**

*At our chapter meetings you should not miss a word as we offer two communication access systems. The hearing loop system sends the voice of the speaker from the microphone into one's hearing aid. CART (see right photo) or Communication Access Real-time Translations types every spoken word onto a screen.*



## **Student makes discovery when it comes to extending hearing aid battery life**

By DeeDee Stiepan

Published: May 5, 2015

ROCHESTER, Minn. – An 8th grade student may have made a discovery that could save people who wear hearing aids significant money.

Ethan Manuell is an audiology patient at Olmsted County Medical Center and wears a hearing aid in his left ear. He began a study, with the help of his audiologist, Mary Meier Au. D, looking into the effect wait time has on hearing aid batteries, which is the time between activating the battery and placing the battery in the hearing aid.

To activate a hearing aid battery, users need to remove a sticker on the battery which allows oxygen to mix with zinc-oxide inside the battery. Manuell did tests to see if waiting a little longer before putting the battery into the device would make a difference. What he found was if users wait 5 minutes after pulling off the sticker, the battery will last 2-3 days longer, which is significant considering batteries usually last anywhere from 2-7 days depending on the model.

“The more energized zinc you have, the longer it lasts. So this discovery I made, if you wait five minutes, it improves the battery life by 80%,” explains Manuell.

Ethan has won several awards and received recognition for his “5 minute rule” discovery, including earning a US Naval Science Award.

Source: NVRC for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons; [www.nvrc.org](http://www.nvrc.org)

## **RESEARCH IN THE NEWS**

### **New Findings Hint Toward Reversing Hearing Loss**

July 15, 2015

By Julia Evangelou Strait

Unlike birds and amphibians, mammals can't recover lost hearing. In people, the cells of the inner ear responsible for detecting sound and transmitting those signals to the brain form during early stages of development and can't be replaced if lost due to illness, injury or aging.

Studying mice, scientists at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have identified two signaling molecules that are required for the proper development of a part of the inner ear called the cochlea. Without both signals, the embryo does not produce enough of the cells that eventually make up the adult cochlea, resulting in a shortened cochlear duct and impaired hearing.

The study, available online in the journal *eLife*, contributes to the understanding of inner ear development, a first step toward the goal of being able to recover lost hearing.

"To eventually be able to restore hearing, we would like to be able to regenerate the sensory hair cells of the cochlea," said senior author David M. Ornitz, MD, PhD, the Alumni Endowed Professor of Developmental Biology. "If the inner ear in birds and fish is damaged, for example, cells in the inner ear are naturally turned back into progenitor cells that are capable of replacing the sensory cells. But mammals are more complex — with a better sense of hearing over a wider range of sounds. However, it is thought that in exchange for better hearing, we have lost the ability to regenerate sensory hair cells."

In the new study, Ornitz and his colleagues showed that proper inner ear development in mice depends on the presence of two signaling molecules called FGF9 and FGF20. Normal signaling of these molecules in the inner ear turns on at about day 11 of the mouse embryo's typical 20-day development. Over the next two to three days, these two molecules direct the progenitor cells to multiply. By embryonic day 14, the progenitor cells stop multiplying and begin to differentiate to become functional adult sensory cells. At this point, the cellular population that comprises the adult ear is largely complete, according to this and other studies.

"In mammals, including mice and people, the number of sensory progenitor cells is fixed," said first author Sung-Ho Huh, PhD, instructor in developmental biology. "This number is determined by cell division or cell death in early stages of development. In mice, that's between about embryonic days 11 and 14. Once that developmental window is closed, the number of cells you have is all you get. There is no compensating for low numbers."

The hair cells of the inner ear pick up sound vibrations and transmit those signals to the brain. Hearing loss occurs when these hair cells are damaged, most often by loud noise, some types of medications and the aging process itself.

According to the new study, FGF9 and FGF20 send signals to their receptors, which are located in nearby cells that surround the developing sensory cells. Through signaling to these surrounding cells, FGF9 and FGF20 promote the growth of the sensory progenitor cells. This signaling activates a feedback loop that helps to direct proper development of the cochlea. According to Ornitz and Huh, future work is focused on identifying the molecules involved in the feedback mechanism.

"We have discovered that an FGF signal is instructive in forming the cochlea," Ornitz said. "These FGF signals tell the surrounding tissue to make a factor — we don't know yet what that factor is — but we know it regulates progenitor cell growth. And being able to grow progenitor cells, or instruct cells that can become progenitor cells to grow, is one key to restoring hearing."

Source: Washington University of St. Louis; <http://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/New-findings-hint-toward-reversing-hearing-loss.aspx>

## **Westchester Chapter and HLAA National Unified Membership Program**

HLAA-Westchester Chapter is pleased to announce that we recently joined in the Unified Membership pilot program with HLAA National. This means there will be only **ONE** membership fee that would cover both National and Westchester Chapter.

There are 3 ways you can join, renew or give as a gift. Please specify Westchester Chapter as the one you belong to.

1. Complete the Membership Form, make your check payable to **HLAA** and return it or mail it to: Roberta Seidner - 3419 Irwin Ave. # 1709 Bronx, NY 10463 **OR**
2. Mail or fax the Membership Form with your credit card information to the HLAA office at the address listed on the form **OR**
3. Visit [www.hearingloss.org/content/join](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/join) and use your credit card online.

If you wish to make a personal gift donation to the Westchester Chapter and/or to the Scholarship Fund, make check payable to **HLAA WESTCHESTER CHAPTER** and give this to our Treasurer, Phil Monteleone.

Thank you for your continued support of HLAA.

Regards,  
Debbie Dolgin Wolfe  
HLAA Westchester Chapter, President  
[deborahdwolfe@gmail.com](mailto:deborahdwolfe@gmail.com)  
845-368-0968



## **Top 10 Reasons to Join HLAA**

HLAA changes lives by opening the world of communication to people with hearing loss through education, advocacy and support. HLAA has been instrumental in getting legislative and industry support for people with hearing loss, such as passing of the Americans with Disability Act, closed captions on television and the Internet. Today HLAA is advocating for lower cost hearing aids, more health insurance support for hearing aids and communication access in public venues like theaters, movies and community meeting places. An HLAA membership helps underwrite advocacy efforts, plus entitles you to the follow benefits of membership.

1. **Hearing Loss Magazine (HLM) subscription**
2. **Discounts on hearing aids from American Hearing Benefits**
3. **20% discount on phones and assistive listening devices**
  - Harris Communications & Telex
4. **Travel and Technology discounts at cooperating companies**
  - Avis, Clear Sounds Communications, HLAA Travel, HiTEC, SoundAid
5. **Training programs** - Leadership training & Hearing Support Specialist Training
6. **Educational programs** - Captioned webinars and HLAA news
7. **Self Help** - chat rooms and support forums
8. **Discount to HLAA National Convention**
9. **Support for you at 160 HLAA local chapters across the country**
10. **Knowledge that you are supporting an organization that makes a difference**

To learn more ask your chapter leader or go to [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).





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Website: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)



***HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support, and advocacy. HLAA is a 501(c)(3) organization.***

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

**I'd like to:** ☐ Become a member of HLAA ☐ Renew my membership ☐ Give a gift membership

### My Membership/Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter I belong to: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about HLAA? \_\_\_\_\_

### Gift Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

|                   | Annual USA<br>Membership Fees   | Annual Non-USA<br>Membership Fees       |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Individual        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 (1 year)<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$95 (3 years)<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$140 (5 years) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)  |
| Couple/Family     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$55 (1 year)  |
| Professional      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 (1 year)  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)  |
| Library/Nonprofit | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (1 year)  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)  |
| Student           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (1 year)  | N/A                                     |
| Corporate         | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 (1 year)   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$325 (1 year) |

My membership fee is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Plus I'm adding a tax  
deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My total is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Ways to Join, Renew or Give a Gift Membership

1. Return this form to your chapter with your check made payable to HLAA.
2. Mail or fax this form to the HLAA office at the address above with your credit card information
3. Visit [www.hearingloss.org/content/join](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/join) and use your credit card online. (this is a secure website)

Credit Card Payment Information: ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (as it appears on card)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Include your billing address if different than membership address above.)