

Meetings held at the:

Greenburgh Public  
Library  
300 Tarrytown Road  
Elmsford, NY 10523



## WESTCHESTER CHAPTER NEWS MARCH 2016

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### President's Message



Hello Everyone!!

Hope you all enjoyed the winter which had been on the mild side. Spring is now here!

For those of you that missed the February meeting, we had a wonderful speaker, Jeanne Fredriksen, Sr. Consumer Outreach Manager with Med El. She spoke on the cochlear implant technology updates and MRI compatibility. Her presentation was well received and many questions were asked.

The next general meeting will be on **Sunday, April 10th** at the **Suffern Free Library in Suffern, NY at 1pm**. We will have guest speaker Dr. Jeffrey Shannon, Au.D. of the Hudson Valley Audiology Center. The topic will be "Balance and Vertigo and Connection to Hearing Loss".

Just a reminder that the **HLAA National Convention 2016** will be held in Washington, DC. The dates are June 23-26, 2016. If you haven't attended a convention this would be a wonderful opportunity as you would get to meet folks from other chapters, the exhibit hall with the different vendors is amazing and the workshops are educational. There are different packages so be sure to select the package that fit your needs. For more info on the convention, please go to [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) and click on convention.

Please check the website for the upcoming events which includes a bowling activity; flyer for bowling event will be distributed shortly. We are also planning another bingo event which will be announced shortly and plans are underway for the annual HLAA Westchester/Rockland Walk4Hearing. The Walk will be on Saturday, May 14th at the FDR State Park in Yorktown Heights.

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### GOING GREEN!!!!

The Chapter is trying to do our part!! Starting with this edition, **we will now be emailing the Westchester Chapter Newsletter** to our membership. By using this method of distribution, the Chapter will not only help the environment, but will also save on postage.

## OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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

**SECRETARY** - Lina Razzai  
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  
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**HOSPITALITY** - Adrienne Stern  
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**PROGRAMMING** - Melanie Brand  
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**RAFFLES** - Karen Rogers  
email - rogerskj@yahoo.com

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

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

**PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR** - Jeffrey Shannon, Au.D.

## 2016 Chapter Meetings & Events

**Sunday, April 3** - Westchester/Rockland  
Walk4Hearing Team Captain Rally

**Sunday, April 10** - General Meeting, 12:30pm  
Speaker: Dr. Jeff Shannon, Audiologist. Suffern Free  
Library, Suffern, NY

**Saturday, May 7** - Board Meeting, 10:30am. General  
Meeting, 1:00pm. Speaker: Lina Razzai, Audiologist  
Assistant, CRM Audiology, PC., Greenburgh Library

**Saturday, May 14** - Westchester/Rockland  
Walk4Hearing, FDR State Park, Yorktown Heights,  
NY

**Saturday, June 11** - HLAA Westchester Scholarship  
Awards/ Election of Officers/Year End Party,  
Greenburgh Library

**Saturday, September 17** - HLAA Westchester Annual  
Picnic, Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale, NY

\* Please note dates may be subject to change.

**CONVENTION**  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
**2016**  
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**

Please visit [www.hearingloss.org/content/convention](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention)  
<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention>

Chances are you or someone you know is affected by hearing loss.

Hearing Loss Association of America

**WALK4 HEARING®**

It's time to STEP UP!

**Westchester/Rockland Saturday, May 14, 2016**

<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>REGISTRATION:</b>
FDR Park	10:00 a.m.
2957 Crompond Road	
Yorktown Heights, NY	<b>WALK STARTS:</b>
	11:00 a.m.
<b>WALK CHAIR:</b>	<b>DISTANCE:</b>
Suzanne D'Amico	5K (3.1 miles)
<a href="mailto:sdamico@hearingloss.org">sdamico@hearingloss.org</a>	
<b>WALK DAY CHAIRS:</b>	
Alicen Noselli - <a href="mailto:Alicen45@hotmail.com">Alicen45@hotmail.com</a>	
Lina Razzai - <a href="mailto:WRWalk4Hearing@gmail.com">WRWalk4Hearing@gmail.com</a>	

Walk4Hearing is produced by

Hearing Loss Association of America

HLAA is the nation's largest consumer advocacy organization for people with hearing loss and is dedicated to providing information, education, support and advocacy to enable those with hearing loss to live full and productive lives.

For more information and to register today, visit [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org).

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

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

We are looking for volunteers to get involved with the chapter. If you are not sure what you would like to do please come to a board meeting. The next board meeting is at 10:30am in the Multipurpose Room at the Greenburgh Library on May 7th.

Hope you can join us at the April 10th meeting.

Regards,  
Debbie Dolgin Wolfe

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

### **Sunday, April 10, 2016, 12:30pm - 3:30pm**

At the SUFFERN FREE LIBRARY  
210 Lafayette Avenue  
Suffern, NY 10901  
845-357-1237

Guest Speaker:

**Dr. Jeffrey Shannon, Audiologist**  
Hudson Valley Audiology Center

“Balance and Vertigo and Connection to Hearing Loss”

Panel Discussion on Personal Experiences with Hearing Loss  
Information Resource Table

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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.*





## New Member Spotlight



### Evelyn Torzilli

My name is Evelyn Torzilli, and I'm a new member of HLAA as I reached out to them to overcome the struggles of being hard of hearing.

Hearing loss is hereditary in my family with my father, myself and my identical twin sister. My father first struggled with it thinking it was from his job which was clearly not the case. He's now 85 yrs. of age and totally deaf. My twin sister opted for the cochlear implant and was in her 40's at that time. As for me, I'm using two hearing aids. I also have what they call tinnitus. Tinnitus is a common first sign that there is something wrong with the ears. While not always a sign of hearing loss, ringing in the ears is always something to get checked out. Everyone else in my family, is fine.

I truly believe I was undiagnosed in the early years of schooling. I struggled to hear in the classroom and had trouble hearing in a noisy environment. The school audiologist would give me hearing tests which I failed the first time around but it would be asserted that I did have normal hearing.

It didn't sink in that I had a hearing problem until I developed ringing in my ears that never stopped. At the age of 25, I started noticing that I'm not understanding what people are saying to me so I started to lip-reading in order to compensate for the loss. Due to the slow gradual loss you're really not aware of all the sounds that you are missing in the course of everyday life. Sounds that everyone takes for granted.

As years went on I have my stories of discrimination, because of my hearing loss. It takes its toll on you emotionally. I tried to hide the fact that I was hard of hearing in order fit in. Co-workers noticed something was wrong. However, they didn't quite get it since I was able lip-read and would tried to put their sentences together.

Finally, the time came to get fitted for my first pair of hearing aids. A whole new world opened up for me as well as a lot of new challenges. I marveled about all the new sounds that I had been missing out on.

Hearing loss impacts everyone, not just the person experiencing loss of hearing, but also family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and everyone who you communicate with on a daily basis.

I was referred to HLAA to help me overcome my struggles with hearing loss. In that short period of time I have learned quickly lots of new ways to communicate. I'm not saying that I don't struggle on a daily basis as I'm considered profoundly deaf with moderate to severe hearing loss. But I try to overcome my fears by reaching out and letting people know that I'm hard of hearing. I try to look for all the latest technologies that are offered and see if it's right for me. HLAA is a vital source of great and wonderful information. I receive HLAA Magazines, which provides the latest information on products, services, research, and technology in the hearing health care field.

I'm very grateful for HLAA and all they are doing to promote awareness for all those who are struggling with hearing loss or deafness. HLAA is bringing the community of hard of hearing/deaf people together, to give us the resources and educate us in our daily struggles. It is a truly wonderful and great experience knowing that I'm not alone and reaching out to others who are just like myself.

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### *Looking for Volunteers!*

The Westchester Chapter of HLAA is seeking volunteers to help with our Committees and Programs. 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.

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

### **What is the Unified Membership Program?**

The Unified Membership Program is an exciting way to combine the benefits of membership in the HLAA national organization with the benefits of membership in a local HLAA Chapter. How? Anyone who joins the HLAA National organization automatically receives a membership in the local HLAA Chapter closest to them or any chapter they choose to designate as their home chapter. Joining creates a unified membership at both the national and the local level. No more paying dues to both a local chapter and the national organization. One small annual dues payment of \$35 does it all!

### **Why Have a Unified Membership Program?**

HLAA is one organization - national office, state offices and associations and HLAA Chapters - all working to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. HLAA offers the most comprehensive array of local and national resources that help people live successfully with their hearing loss.

## **HLAA WESTCHESTER PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2016-2018**

The Westchester Chapter HLAA Nominating Committee has proposed the following members as officers of the Chapter for the upcoming two year term.

**President** - Alicen Noselli

**Vice President** - Steve Wolfert

**Secretary** - Lina Razzaio

**Treasurer** - Phil Monteleone

Elections will be held at the June 11, 2016 Chapter Meeting at the Greenburgh Library. Members who have paid current HLAA National dues will be eligible to vote. Officers will be elected by a majority vote of those members present.

## **Westchester/Rockland Walk4Hearing Team Captain Rally**

The 2016 Westchester/Rockland Walk4Hearing is having a **TEAM CAPTAIN RALLY**.

April 3, 2016 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Greenburgh Public Library  
300 Tarrytown Rd  
Elmsford NY 10523

We welcome all previous Team Captains and all those looking to become Team Captains.

Please RSVP to [wrwalk4hearing@gmail.com](mailto:wrwalk4hearing@gmail.com) no later than March 27 if you plan to attend.





7910 Woodmont Avenue, Ste. 1200  
Bethesda, MD 20814-7022  
Phone: 301.657.2248 • Fax: 301.913.941  
Email: [membership@hearingloss.org](mailto:membership@hearingloss.org)  
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 Membership Fees	Annual Non-USA Membership Fees
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 (1 year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 (3 years) <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.)