



WIRED FOR SOUND

The newsletter of the award winning Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque

Vol. 22, No. 6

February, 2011

Photo: Marble Street Studio

Advocating for the hard of hearing - you can make a difference.....

The guest speaker for the chapter's February meeting is someone who has put her words into action. Joan Haber has played a major role as an advocate for the hard of hearing at the local, state and national levels and her presentation will explore the importance and the rewards of being an advocate.

Ms. Haber's focus will be on how every one of us can effectively lobby for greater hearing access in schools, theaters, airports, business offices, medical clinics, government buildings and other public venues. She will point out the many opportunities for individual and group advocacy projects and offer guidance on building these initiatives through group brainstorming and networking.

Ms. Haber's devotion to the needs of the hard of hearing was recognized at the 2010 HLAA national convention when she was awarded the prestigious Rocky Stone Humanitarian Award.



She has been a key person in HLAA activities at both the local and state levels at home in Florida and served on the national HLAA Board of Trustees from 2002 thru 2005. As a member of the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, she ensured that the needs of hard of hearing people were represented on the agenda. She was heavily involved in the effort to get theaters in Florida to offer open-captioned movies and she has worked for access for people with hearing loss in medical and legal settings.

Joan has been a tireless source of hope and support for many people considering a cochlear implant. She has shared her own CI experience, provided information, and above all, encouraged them to know that their lives can open up again and be fulfilling.

Be sure to attend to meet and hear from this very special lady.

WHEN: Saturday, February 19 - 10 a.m.

WHERE: Los Altos Christian Church - 11900 Haines Ave. NE

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FUTURE MEETINGS

50 Plus and Counting
Why your listening needs
are unique

(Patricia Kricos, Ph.D. - President
American Academy of Audiology
Saturday, March 19

My hearing loss
Panel of chapter members
tell their story
Saturday, April 16



HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION
OF ALBUQUERQUE

*Providing support and advocacy
for people with hearing loss*

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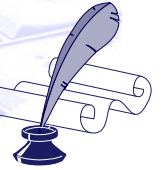
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www.cdhh.state.nm.us

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

By Steve Frazier



GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS

☺ First - the good news: After searching for a new chapter president for many months, one of our newer members, Gloria Inlow, stepped forward and volunteered to take on the vacant position. This was fantastically good news as Gloria brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge and will provide the leadership the chapter needs as we go into the next few very busy and exciting months.

☹ Now - the bad news: Gloria has just learned that she will be moving to Germany in June due to her husband being transferred there so our new chapter president will be unable to serve for the September, 2011 through June 2012 period.

This means that, like the rest of this page, the chapter president position will be vacant in just a few short months unless someone will step forward and, like Gloria did, volunteer to serve starting in September. Will you consider being that person ?

→ Special note to readers of WIRED FOR SOUND ←

If the word **COMP** appears after your name on this newsletter's mailing label, it is a complimentary copy that has been sent to familiarize you with our Chapter as part of our outreach to the hearing loss community in the hope that you will consider joining our group. The printing and mailing costs have been covered by our members or by the generous donors listed on page 7 of the newsletter.

The Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque does not endorse products or services. Mention of such in articles, ads or inserts, is intended only to provide readers with up-to-date information on such products or services that might be of interest and is not a recommendation or endorsement.

NATIONAL HLAA NEWS:

*We fight so hard for access
and then have no confidence using it -*

An extended discussion took place in January on the HLAA chapter leaders listerv that was prompted by an individual who had been called for jury duty.

Various leaders shared their experiences on the matter and offered advice and opinions. The whole matter was pretty much put in perspective when HLAA Executive Director Brenda Battat wrote:

I totally agree with Carrie. I have followed this discussion and was interested in the difference of opinions.

*I would not have expected anyone to forgo their responsibility or feel inadequate to serve on a jury due to their hearing loss. **There is no reason why someone with hearing loss should not serve on a jury as long as they are provided with the appropriate accommodations for effective communication.***

Title 11 of the ADA requires that state and local governments provide effective communication. Yes it may be a hassle to advocate for what you need whether that is an ALD or CART or both but it is our right under the law and we should make full use of that hard earned right to access in the court room and jury deliberation room.

Here in Montgomery County it took quite a bit of educating the court administrator but over time they have learned what people with hearing loss need to the point that now in the initial call for jury duty letter they actually list the accommodations that are available and how to request and acquire them. This is quite a step forward from not even knowing what CART or an ALD was in the beginning.

So if you haven't done so already, plan to work with your court administrator to educate them about what your needs are. Maybe it won't work out in time for

the first call for duty but it will be in place when you are called the next time.

Brenda summed up her thoughts by saying, "I feel strongly about this. We fight so hard for access and then have no confidence using it."

LOOP NEW MEXICO NEWS:

Churches led the way in recent hearing loop installations or purchases. Recently looped facilities are:

- ✓ Universalist Congregation Church of Santa Fe
- ✓ Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamos
- ✓ Las Cruces Church of Christ
- ✓ Los Alamos County meeting room

Also investigating installations are:

- ✓ Beth-El Temple, Las Cruces
- ✓ Christ King Anglican Church
- ✓ Manzano del Sol/Good Samaritan Residence
- ✓ Monte Vista Christian Church

If you attend services at a church or temple on the second list, please encourage the leaders there to follow through with an installation.

DUES ARE DUE

The annual chapter fee is due each year on January 1st regardless of when it was paid in the previous year.

Chapter meetings, the newsletter, the Loop New Mexico initiative and other outreach activities are possible only with the financial help of our members and the generous donors listed on page 7 of this newsletter.

Many have already renewed for 2011. Please join them by using the form on page 7.

The last two digits in the code after your name on this newsletter's mailing label will be an 11 or 12 if you have already paid.



Assistive Technology

by Steve Frazier, Certified Hearing Loss Support Specialist

Telephone retailers not hearing loss friendly

Retailers oppose any FCC in-store testing mandate for hearing aid compatible phones

The Consumer Electronics Retailers Coalition (CERC) and the Cellular Telephone Industries Association (CTIA) have submitted comments to the FCC that oppose any curtailment of previous exemptions and waivers for hearing aid compatibility (HAC) requirements for new telephone technologies.

Included in their comments was opposition to a requirement for in-store testing of cellular phones in independent retail shops that is being sought by hearing loss oriented consumer groups such as HLAA, the Alexander Graham Bell Association and others.

Failure of the FCC to require such in-store testing could force hearing aid users to shop only at cellular service provider company stores if they want to try a phone with their hearing aid before buying.

The consumer groups have argued that in store testing is an invaluable consumer tool for correctly selecting an appropriate handset that will function with that person's particular hearing aids.

They believe that, because most phones are sold packaged, even a liberal or unconditional return policy on the equipment is not an adequate substitute for the option of walking out of the store with a demonstrably functional telephone.

Currently, a hearing aid user may not know whether a particular phone works for him or her until after selecting a service contract, activating the phone and dialing a number and then listening to the party on the other end of the call.

With live, in-store testing prior to purchase, the consumer can make this critical decision without paying any money, incurring a credit card charge, and paying for air time.

Over the opposition of phone manufacturers and service providers, HLAA and other consumer groups are urging the FCC to require independent retailers to provide in-store testing prior to purchase to ensure reasonable access to telephone service for those with a hearing loss.

HLAA Convention 2011 June 16-19

This convention will be 4 days of fascinating workshops plus the opportunity to greet old friends and to make new ones. It includes an out-of-this-world assortment of products and services on display in the giant exhibit hall plus banquets and the opportunity for side trips to the nation's capital.



2nd International Looping Conference June 18-20

Attendees will learn basic, complex and creative installation techniques, hearing loop technology from a user's perspective, integration of loop technology with FM and infrared systems, the development and status of hearing loop standards and of installations in the U. S. and other countries.

Both events take place at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City - attend one or both !

Four nationally recognized experts will discuss *The Impact of Noise on Hearing* in the research symposium and Christopher Artinian, CEO and President of Morton's Restaurant Group, Inc., will be the keynote speaker. The Artinian family is the subject of the Oscar-nominated film *Sound and Fury*, which tells the story of brothers - one hearing, one deaf.



A Wicked Evening - Experience a captioned performance of the Grammy and Tony award-winning musical, *Wicked*, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, June 17 (7:30 p.m.), called "the best musical of the decade." The tickets are for seats in the Orchestra Section of the Opera House and seating is limited so make sure you purchase them when you register ! !

To register for the convention, the looping conference (or both) or, for more details, go to:
<http://www.hearingloss.org/convention/> or call (301) 657-2248

AAA president will discuss hearing problems unique to boomers and seniors

Researchers have found that older adults may have listening difficulties that are different from younger people with hearing loss.

Former president Bill Clinton and Reed Doughty, safety for the Washington Redskins, have something in common - they're both hard of hearing. What they don't have in common is the way their ears and their minds deal with the difficulties of listening.

That difference is the topic of her presentation when American Academy of Audiology (AAA) President Patricia Kricos, Ph.D., addresses members and guests at the **March chapter meeting**.

Like all HLAAbq meetings, Dr. Kricos' presentation is open to the public and anyone with an interest in hearing loss is encouraged to attend.

Dr. Kricos is a professor of audiology at the University of Florida in Gainesville and has a special interest in the hearing needs of those entering their senior years. Her talk, entitled "50 Plus and Counting", will discuss why the listening needs of baby boomers and seniors are unique and what help is available to improve listening using technology and other options.



March speaker Dr. Pat Kricos

Researchers have found that older adults may have listening difficulties that are different from younger people with hearing loss. The many factors contributing to these difficulties will be discussed and suggestions made for addressing the everyday listening challenges facing those with hearing loss.

Hearing care professionals as well as hard of hearing people, their families and friends are encouraged to attend Dr. Kricos' morning presentation. In addition, plans are being made for hearing care providers to remain for an informal luncheon/reception followed by a short presentation on the benefits to both hearing care professionals and their clients when they counsel those clients on hearing loop technology and its use with the telecoils already in place in most hearing aids. It is hoped that CEUs will be available for professionals who attend either or both presentations.

Through Dr. Kricos' leadership, the AAA is participating in a joint national campaign with the Hearing Loss Association of America named "Get in the Hearing Loop" that is intended to raise awareness of this very user friendly and cost effective technology that can double the functionality of hearing aids, turning them into a very effective personal assistive listening system.

The campaign will include an international conference on hearing loop technology in Washington D.C. in June that is jointly sponsored by the Academy and the Hearing Loss Association of America.

Relay NM has new coordinator

Hamilton Relay has recently hired Laura Sanderlin for the position of Outreach Coordinator for Relay New Mexico. Ms. Sanderlin replaces Abbi Sanchez who left that position to focus on her career as an American Sign Language Interpreter.

Sanderlin, who moved here from Pennsylvania to take the position, is familiar and has worked with the Deaf community and is fluent in ASL. As the contractor with the state to provide relay services in New Mexico, Hamilton maintains an office in the offices of the New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Persons, the state agency with oversight for Relay services.

Relay service is the specialized telephone service for people with hearing loss that provides free captioned and other types of telephone services required by federal law. It includes CapTel service where the user can both hear and read what the caller is saying using a special telephone with a small screen that displays the caller's words as text.

For information on these free Relay services, contact Ms. Sanderlin at 505-369-8090 or by email: Laura.Sanderlin@hamiltonrelay.com.

Two hearing aids better than one for bilateral hearing loss

A recent newsletter from HealthyHearing.com states that, "Just like our eyes, our brains are wired to receive sound from both ears. Many first time hearing aid wearers think starting with just one hearing aid may be easier to adjust to or save them some money; however, two hearing aids are truly better than one."

It went on to point out that, "Binaural simply means 'two ears' – which is what nature gave you. Two ears are, indeed, better than one for a number of reasons." It recommended that if your audiologist says that you are experiencing bilateral hearing loss, that you should consider two hearing aids for a number of reasons.

The primary reason is that two are more powerful than one. Here are some of the other reasons they listed:

- Better localization – the ability to tell where sounds are coming from
- Better hearing in background noise
- Better sound quality ("mono" versus "stereo")
- Better hearing for soft sounds such as children's voices and sounds of nature
- Less strain on you while listening - with only one hearing aid you may often strain to hear various sounds and become fatigued, with two hearing aids listening is more relaxed
- Listening balance – you won't be turning your "good" ear to hear
- Higher success and satisfaction - studies indicate people who wear two hearing aids are much more satisfied with their hearing aids.

Studies have also shown when only one hearing aid is worn and the other ear is deprived of sound, the use it or lose it principle applies, causing the onset of auditory deprivation in the non-amplified ear.

The conclusion? You may save some money by going the one-hearing-aid route but you may also find that one hearing aid causes more trouble than what your savings are worth.

For those with Internet access, a more detailed discussion of the topic can be found at:

<http://www.healthyhearing.com/articles/47481-binaural-hearing-aids>

Tips on communication were January program

It wasn't a wedding but the January chapter meeting included something old and something new. Presenter Carol Sliney reviewed many of the guidelines for talking with the hard of hearing that she was trained in by psychologist Sam Trychin.

For some in the audience, there were some new ideas discussed while for others it was old ideas that they know (or knew) but need to be periodically reminded of.

Among the guidelines for hearing people who want to talk with a hard of hearing person were:

- Get the listener's attention before starting a conversation.
- Face the listener and don't block the listener's view of your face and mouth.
- Speak clearly, at a moderate pace and a normal level.
- Rephrase when the listener doesn't understand what you said.

Among the tips to help those with hearing loss hear and understand what's being said to them:

- Avoid facing bright windows or lights behind a speaker.
- When possible, plan ahead to avoid noisy or dark rooms or other settings where you will have difficulty hearing.
- Ask the speaker to speak slowly and clearly.
- Tell the speaker what your listening needs are.
- Use assistive technology when available.
- Provide feedback to the speaker when he or she is doing something helpful or problematic.

Situations were discussed where the hard of hearing person may feel left out such as when another person carries on a long telephone conversation and then sums it up by telling the HoH person "not much" when asked what was discussed. In this situation it was suggested that the telephone user take notes in order to recap the conversation for the HoH person or to use a speakerphone.

Two "rules" the hard of hearing would like to see enforced in a home are:

- 1 When in separate rooms, the initiator of a conversation should go to the room occupied by the other party.
- 2 Never say "nevermind" when asked to repeat something that was said.

We thank these donors for their very generous support*

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in memory of Pat Lester

A special thank you to the UNM Department of Linguistics and the student volunteers for providing American Sign Language interpreting at our meetings, and to the many chapter members who volunteer to assist in setting up and conducting our meetings.

DONATION CATEGORIES

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* Donors listed here have made a donation to the chapter within the last twelve months

All donations to the Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque or to the Hearing Loss Association of America are tax deductible

The HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA is a volunteer association of Hard of Hearing people, their relatives and friends. It is a nonprofit, non-sectarian educational organization devoted to the welfare and interest of those who cannot hear well. Membership is by annual dues which are separate from the annual Chapter Fee paid to this local chapter. National membership includes a subscription to the bimonthly publication **Hearing Loss Magazine**.

National dues are: Individual: \$35; Student: \$20; Library/Nonprofit: \$50; Professional: \$60; Corporate: \$150

To join, please send your name, full mailing address, email address and a check or money order in the appropriate amount (above)to:

Hearing Loss Association of America
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

For more info: www.hearingloss.org
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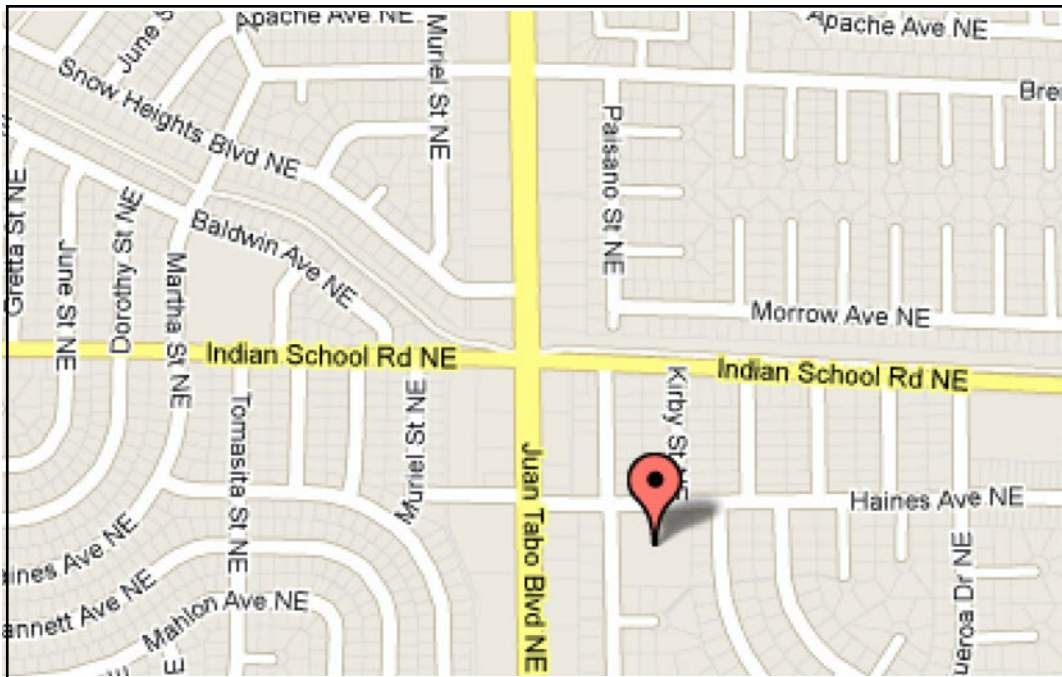
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