



Chapter Calendar

**Chapter and Board meetings held at:
Weingart Senior Center, 5220 Oliva Ave, Lakewood 90712**

Every Monday - Lip reading practice: 10 a.m. to 12 noon –
Craft Room

Every Wednesday - Lip reading instruction: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30
a.m. – Craft Room

October 7 - HAT Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m. at Coco's
restaurant.

October 10 - Chapter meeting: 6:30 P.M. - Founder's Day –
Basket Drawing – Fund Raiser

**Refreshments at Chapter meeting will be provided by Ron
& Elfriede MacIver, Sally Geiger, Elinor Townsend, Katie
Wright. Thank you!**

October 18 - Rocky Stone hearing device exhibit (by HAT
Committee)

October 23 - Board meeting – 12:30 p.m.

Chapter Contact:

Bill Busch, 310-540-6322
billbusch@ieee.org

Chapter: www.HLALongBeachLakewood.org

California: www.hearinglossCA.org

National: www.hearingloss.org

**Newsletter Subscription is \$10/year; send to Treasurer.
(Attend meetings and get a free subscription)**

Gail Morrison writes:

Warren Willard of HearingNowUSA is hosting a loop demonstration on Sunday, November 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Garden Grove: 11832 Euclid Street (92840). Warren is looking for our people of the Hearing Loss Association to bring their friends to learn about the loop. He will "turn on" the loop after everyone present is there. If you would like to go, he would appreciate your RSVPing to him at **warren@hearingnowusa.com**. Refreshments will be served. Also, he will send out packets of information, too, so it sounds like a very nice meeting. Knowing Warren, it will be very well organized, too!

See you there!

FOUNDER'S DAY – October 10, 2013

In October of each year, we celebrate Founder's Day, the anniversary of the establishment of our organization by Rocky Stone, to assist hard of hearing people.

Traditionally, we have held a fundraiser to commemorate this event, and the proceeds are presented to our national organization. National uses the monies raised to start new Hearing Loss Association Chapters wherever they are needed – to assist HOH people in other communities. Our own chapter received funds from National to get started in 1989.

In the past few years, our Chapter has received recognition at the National Convention for our contributions to a fund for forming new Chapters. At the 2013 Convention, Gail Morrison accepted a certificate – which will be displayed at our October 10th Chapter meeting – thanking us.

As last year, we are asking that people contribute by preparing a basket which will be given away at the Founder's Day meeting. This year, there have also been some special, valuable items donated which will be offered at a 'silent auction', apart from the ticket-drawing.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the meeting, and you may place your ticket stub in a small container in front of each basket, so you are bidding only on the basket(s) you want. One free ticket will be given to each attendee. Tickets: one for \$2, three for \$5, six for \$10, nine for \$15, twelve for \$20. Cash or check will be accepted.

Bring your donated basket, and come join us for a worthwhile evening of fun.

SEPTEMBER MEETING VISITORS

We welcomed the following guests: Diane and Shirlee Morris, James Schmerbauch, Yoko Gutierrez, Julie Hernanda and Kenneth Noernberg. Please come again! We look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Current members: bring a guest to our next meeting.

SCOREBOARD

	Members	Guests	Total
September	34	6	40
August	33	10	43
July	30	5	35
June	30	1	31
May	35	0	35
April	39	7	45

Editor's Note: We continue to reprint biographies of members as originally written by Ron and Elfriede MacIver when they were publishers / editors of The Informer. This biography was printed in October 2007.

GAIL MORRISON



Our special spotlight falls on Gail Morrison, our Recording Secretary, this month. Gail was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan to, as she describes, older parents. Many of us may chuckle at a forty-year old father and thirty-two year old mom being described as “older”. She also has an older brother, Joe. He was four when she arrived and she describes him as someone she adores. After chatting with her for a few moments, one is hard pressed to imagine Gail not liking everyone she meets and being well-liked in return.

Gail was walking and talking at nine months of age. Her mom proudly declared her a “genius”. Unfortunately, shortly thereafter, a bout with whooping cough interfered with her development and she stopped walking and talking until she was two.

Her family moved to Alma, Michigan, when Gail was two and this is where she and Joe grew up. Her mom taught piano lessons in their home and Gail could hear the tunes the students played and could repeat them easily. It gave her an outlet but at the age of 3 or 4, her schoolteacher aunt, who was taking a child development class, became aware that there was something missing in Gail’s development. To determine if Gail was retarded, her aunt gave her a 3-part command: “Go to the kitchen, get a cereal box, and bring it back to the living room”.

When Gail didn’t immediately return, her mom and aunt feared the worst, partially confirmed by her return empty handed. When her aunt calmly questioned her, her answer made them both ecstatic! With arms folded across her chest, Gail adamantly replied, “Shorty couldn’t reach it”.

Gail’s story of her education really is a triumph of her will to succeed. Her mother, aunts Ruth and Mart played a great role in this success story. Gail was sent to public school. On her first day of kindergarten, she sat atop the piano, not realizing that she was overwhelmed by the sound of the children’s voices. She describes her public schooling as a chore.

“I always missed so much and this confused the teachers when my brother excelled and was their favorite.” Gail never gave up and managed to graduate in the upper third of her class.

In 10th grade, the school nurses discovered her hearing loss. Aunt Ruth took her to Henry Ford Hospital and there they found that Gail had a “severe hearing loss”.

In spite of this diagnosis, and because she had compensated so well, nothing further was done. As she so eloquently stated, “That was that!” No agency or government funding existed to help children with disabilities. Gail had to continue “compensating” without any sort of outside help. Even her brother called her “Dumb Girl” until her family came to realize that Gail had a disability and was far from dumb! Joe has apologized profusely for not understanding and Gail still adores her wonderful brother.

She worked during her junior and senior years of high school and paid for her first year of college. With the help of her two loving aunts, Gail graduated from Michigan State University in Elementary Education/Speech-English, even though she struggled throughout with the “trials of hearing loss”. The story should now have a happy ending, but the college did not recommend her for a teaching certificate. So in spite of her struggles to be educated, she was never able to pursue the career she was trained for. As she says, without bitterness, “A situation that probably would not happen today”. Gail married, had three children and now has six grandchildren. She has obviously been an overachiever all her life, having to work harder than most, but succeeding in carving out a very full life. She lived in Brea, California, for twenty-five years and wrote a ‘chit-chat’ column called “Exclusively Brea” for the Daily Star/Progress newspaper under her own byline, Gail Oestrich. She also earned a Certificate in Fashion Design. In 1998, she earned an MA from Cal State University Long Beach in English (British Literature, 19th Century). She now reads 30 or more books per year. Since we always encourage everyone to get to know our special person, we urge you to talk to Gail about her early encounters with “learning to read”. They will further illustrate what level of frustration had to be overcome and the determination Gail has exhibited in her life.

Gail has just completed a term as President of the Long Beach Chapter of the American Association of University Woman (AAUW). She volunteers in her community and church and is not afraid of joining committees. Her Mom is 99 years old and like Gail, feels that one must have love in life to live life fully, not worry, develop a sense of humor, have faith and good genes.

Gail’s final thoughts are to express her gratitude to Ellen Mathis, our HLA President, for bringing her to HLA. She tells us that she is amazed at each meeting to be learning so much about hearing loss and the help that is available. “It’s truly inspiring to sit amongst a group of people just like me”. Gail didn’t begin to wear hearing aids until 2001. Her only regret has been that it wasn’t sooner because they improved her hearing and speech significantly.

To update Gail’s biography: in the intervening six years, Gail has been widowed, has served as President of our Chapter for three years, is serving her second year on the HLAA-CA Board of Trustees, has attended 2 national conventions, and has become a leading advocate for looping local meeting sites. Sadly, Gail’s mother passed away in December 2007 at age 99, but Gail became a great-grandmother on April 30, 2013 to Addyson I’Hilani Forsberg. Addyson is the daughter of Gail’s grandson, Robyn Forsberg and his wife, Ashley. Robyn is the son of our “temporary member” Liz Forsberg, Gail’s #2 daughter. Incidentally, I’Hilani is “Robyn” in Hawaiian. They live in Las Vegas. Who says what happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas?



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Founder's Day Celebration

At our chapter meeting on Thursday October 10, we will celebrate the founding of Self Help for Hard of Hearing (SHHH) in 1979 by Howard E. "Rocky" Stone, which in 2006 was renamed the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), our parent organization.

Rocky was born in 1925 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He began working at an early age to help support his mother and two sisters during the Depression. During World War II military service at age 19, a nearby explosion resulted in a bilateral hearing loss. Following military discharge, he attended the University of Southern California, where in 1949 he earned a degree in International Affairs. He then won a scholarship to the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, but did not complete the program because his hearing loss precluded him from taking the oral exams.

Recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency, he spent 25 years in federal service and retired with the agency's highest award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

Because there were no services for hard of hearing people, Rocky founded the non-profit organization SHHH in 1979, serving as its volunteer executive director until 1993. Having overcome the challenge of childhood poverty and a profound hearing loss, Rocky believed in the ability of individuals to help themselves; "I established SHHH as a membership organization run by people with hearing loss. We provide information necessary for them to make choices, but emphasize the choice must be theirs. The challenge is to develop togetherness within diversity."

The growth of SHHH was phenomenal. Within four years, the membership grew to almost 6000. By the end of 1984, there were 122 SHHH chapters. Our Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter was formed in 1986 so our chapter is over 25 years old. As one of the oldest chapters we feel that it is important to help new chapters get started so each year at this time we have a special fund raiser event where all the proceeds are donated to HLAA to specifically be used to help new chapters.

We always manage to make it a fun event as well. As we did last year, a number of volunteers are making baskets of goodies. Tickets will be sold and if you are interested in a basket you can put one or more of your tickets into the container for that that basket. Someone will draw the winning ticket out and announce the winner. Everyone who attends will get a free ticket so everyone will have a chance to win. I hope to see you there.



Hitting a home run for hearing

Jacob Landis involved in hit and run accident on Florida highway (September 22, 2013) Jacob Landis, 24, was struck last evening on US Highway 27 South while cycling towards Miami, Fl. A witness to the event said Landis was hit by the nose mirror of a blue Freightliner truck pulling a refrigerated trailer. Landis was transported to Florida Hospital Heartland in Sebring, Florida by ambulance. He suffered a severe concussion, broken nose, a two small fracture on each cheekbone, a chipped front tooth, and his right lip is swollen with cuts and bruises on his nose and face. His left arm is in a sling and he has been advised not to ride his bike for at least 2 weeks.

Landis has cycled more than 10,000 miles and has completed visits to 29 of the 30 major league baseball stadiums across the country to raise money and awareness for cochlear implant surgeries. Jacob was on his way to the Jacob's Ride finale in Miami, Florida scheduled for Tuesday, September 24 when this incident occurred. The Polk County, Florida Sheriff's office has opened an investigation.

Landis was cycling with chase van driver and cousin, Jack Riddle, at the time of the accident. Says Landis, "Yesterday, with less than four miles to go to the hotel I was struck by a tractor trailer's mirror. I don't remember anything that happened until I woke up at the hospital. I just want to thank everyone for their kind words through my Facebook account and special thanks to all of my supporters who made this ride possible."

Born with normal hearing but deaf by age 10, Jacob Landis received a cochlear implant allowing him to be fully functional in the hearing world. Since April 3he has been cycling in the hopes to raise \$1 million for children who could benefit from a cochlear implant but cannot afford one.

Landis WILL attend a finale party at Whole Foods in North Miami on Tuesday, September 24 along with a finish line rally at Marlin Park before attending the last game of Jacob's Ride, Miami Marlins vs. Philadelphia Phillies at 7:10pm.

To Ralph's shoppers:

Remember to re-register with Ralph's to continue their contributions to our Chapter. Each time you purchase your groceries there, they donate a percentage of your purchase to us, if you are registered. Pick up a scan sheet from Stephen Fisher at Chapter meeting, or go to www.ralphs.com, click on Community, click on Community Contributions, click on "For participant questions, click here". All contributors were purged from their files on August 31, so you must re-register to continue.

Hearing Loss Association
Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter
c/o Louise Allen
3033 Chatwin Avenue
Long Beach CA 90808-3704

Address Service Requested

WARNING TO MEMBERS

An article published in the August issue of "Hearing Loss" describes a proposed class action lawsuit against Walmart by dispensers objecting to unlicensed hearing aid sales.

Hearing healthcare professionals in Texas are vying with a new hearing aid dealer. Walmart has been selling over-the-counter hearing aids through its in-store pharmacies, but a group of hearing providers has now filed a proposed class action lawsuit in Texas federal court, claiming that the company is violating state law by dispensing without a license and that this practice has cut into providers' bottom line.

One Audiologist's Experience: As an individual practicing audiologist and not as a Texas State Board Examiner, Dr. Vickie Dionne decided to purchase an over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aid at her local Walmart in Port Arthur, TX, in March 2011.

OTC hearing aids are not available on the shelf but are located behind the pharmacy counter, Dr. Dionne said. "You have to take a placard from the store shelf to the pharmacy desk to obtain one," she explained. Dr. Dionne took her placard to the pharmacy cashier to order a \$394 Simplicity Smart Touch for her right ear. Instead, the cashier pulled a hearing aid for the left ear and did not understand how that might be problematic, Dr. Dionne said. Dr. Dionne was also informed that she had to complete and sign a product warranty information card before she could purchase the device. Signing the card waived the FDA-recommended physician's clearance for a hearing aid.

The bottom line is, do not buy a hearing aid without having a hearing test, and proper calibration. You should have a hearing examination before purchasing any hearing device.

HELP WANTED

Three candidates are needed to run for CA-HLAA Board of Trustees. Term is for three years (2014-2017) beginning February 2014.

The Board meets twice a year, once in Northern California (February in Oakland) and once in Southern California (August in LA) for an all-day meeting (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Applicants must be a member of National HLAA and reside in California. A bio is needed, plus the following by October 20.

1. Endorsed by chapter leader (Bill Busch)
2. Resume (Title, Position, Education, Experience) also, if HOH, how you came to be HOH.
3. A statement from the applicant explaining how their background/experiences will add to the board and what they hope to accomplish (an area of interest such as looping, public relations, membership, etc.)

Bios will be published in the winter newsletter of The Hearing Loss Californian along with the ballots for voting by **December 31, 2013**. Contact Gail Morrison, committee member at [gail7go@gmail](mailto:gail7go@gmail.com) or **562-438-0597** for more information.

REMINDER – Donate Your Old Hearing Aids

Bring your old hearing aids to Chapter meeting, and they will be put to good use helping young families to obtain new ones for their little ones. We will give them to the John Tracy Clinic who will receive money to buy new hearing aids for those who cannot afford them for their little children.