



**Chapter Calendar**

**All 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

June 13: Chapter meeting, Sandy Wedgeworth speaks on  
“Emergency Preparedness for People with Hearing Loss” 6:30  
p.m.

June 21: Weingart Senior Health Fair 10 a.m. to noon – HLAA/  
HAT participates

June 26: HLAA Board meeting, 12:30 pm

*REFRESHMENTS:* Treats will be provided by: Shirley Brooks,  
Lupe Smith, Maxine Barton-Bauman and Joan Schlegel.  
*THANK YOU!*

**Chapter Contact:**  
Bill Busch, 310-540-6322  
billbusch@ieee.org

**Brenda Battat Retires**

*BETHESDA, MD*—Brenda Battat, who has been executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) since March 2008, announced last week that she will retire effective August 31, 2013. She has been with the organization since 1989, when it was known as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People and was headed by its legendary founder, Howard “Rocky” Stone.

In a statement on the HLAA web site, the board of trustees stated that it “has accepted, with reluctance,” Battat’s decision to retire. Diana Bender, president of the board, said:

“I would like to thank Brenda for her more than two decades of service to HLAA. We thank her, too, for graciously giving us more than a year to identify and appoint a successor, time that will allow us a smooth transition to new leadership.

“Brenda’s early work with our founder, Rocky Stone, laid the foundation for her tireless work on behalf of people with hearing loss. As public policy director, Brenda’s advocacy on behalf of HLAA increased access for people with hearing loss in so many areas of everyday life.”

Bender added, “HLAA has flourished under her leadership and our organization now finds itself on sound financial footing and hard at work on the programs she and her dedicated staff have developed in order to fulfill our mission. Although we will miss her greatly, we have much to be thankful for as we wish Brenda a long and happy retirement.”

**From Ronnie Adler, Director of National  
Walk4Hearing, May 29, 2013**

Keep up the INCREDIBLE WORK Long Beach Walk4Hearing! We now have \$30,702 posted on the website and the thermometer is burning hot! We are at 56% of our walk goal. With 11 days until Walk day, there is still time to send out reminder letters and emails to family, friends and co-workers to help us continue to raise awareness about hearing loss. I know we will hit \$35K very soon! Thanks to each and every one of you. Your support and dedication to this cause has been amazing and truly shows on the website.

Below is all the information you need to know for the upcoming Long Beach Walk:

1. Sunday, June 9th
2. Walk Location: Long Beach Marina
3. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m.
4. The Walk route is 5 kilometers, which is 3.1 miles.
5. We have 33 teams and over 400 walkers registered so far. We appreciate every team on board - small and large. This is remarkable!
6. Don’t forget to have your team t-shirts made for all your team mates! If you need the Walk4Hearing logo, please contact me.
7. Dogs are allowed, but must be on a leash and please pick up after your pet.
8. All kinds of food and water will be provided at the Walk.
9. We will have lots of wonderful entertainment such as a face painters, magic, clown and balloon artists. In addition, Advanced Bionics will have a photo booth at their table. In addition, Buddy Melody the 2 famous Advanced Bionics characters will be there to entertain everyone.
10. Walk4Hearing hats are for sale priced at \$8.00 each. You can pay by check or cash.
11. Remember to bring your smart phones with you to the Walk because we will be streaming live CART to web-enabled smart phones. All pre-Walk speeches will be captioned on your iPhone, BlackBerry, or Droid. So, don't leave your smart phone at home!  
On Walk day all walkers who have their smart phone can go to [www.quickcaption.com](http://www.quickcaption.com). There on the website homepage will be a large purple Walk4Hearing icon. Simply click the icon, click the "CC" icon next to your Walk location, real time captioning will be enabled and displayed on your smart phone. This great service is provided by Quick Caption.
12. Walk day will be FUN, FUN, FUN!! We will be there rain or shine!
13. Have your family, friends and co-workers to join you on your big day. The more, the merrier!

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# HLAA - Long Beach / Lakewood Board Chapter Officers

**President** - Bill Busch  
**Vice - President** - Herb Balkind  
**Treasurer** - Walt Lowrie  
**Recording Secretary** - Craig Bowlby  
**Corresponding Secretary** - Ken Saw

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**Programs** - Gail Morrison  
**Ways and Means** - Stephen Fisher  
**Professional Adviser** - Dr. David DeKriek

## Newsletter

**Layout** - Lisa Rettino  
**Editor** - Louise Allen

## Committees

**Educating Parents** - Maxine Barton-Bauman  
**Hearing Assistive Technology** - Herb Balkind / Bill Busch  
**Refreshments** - Joan Schlegel  
**Lip Reading** - Linda DeGuire  
**Looping** - Ram Kakkar  
**Membership** - Flo McDavid

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

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## HLA Websites

**Long Beach/Lakewood:** [www.HLALongBeachLakewood.org](http://www.HLALongBeachLakewood.org)  
**California:** [www.hearinglossCA.org](http://www.hearinglossCA.org)  
**National:** [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

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**CTAP** California Telephone Access Program  
Information, Repair & Exchange  
**English Voice** 1-800-806-1191 **Spanish Voice** 1-800-949-5650

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## What Is HLAA?

**Hearing Loss Association of America** was founded in 1979 as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. (SHHH). It is a national non-profit, nonsectarian, educational organization devoted to the welfare and interests of those who cannot hear well. Our members are catalysts that make mainstream society more accessible to people who are hard of hearing. We strive to improve the quality of life for hard of hearing people through: education, advocacy, and self-help.

Many of our chapter members have joined national and look forward to its publication, **HEARING LOSS**. An excellent magazine.

To join send \$35/\$45 for individual / family membership to:

Hearing Loss Association of America  
7910 Woodman Avenue, Suite 1200,  
Bethesda, MD 20814.  
phone: (301) 657-2248 Voice;  
(301) 657-2249 TTY

Membership brochures are available at our chapter meetings.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Dr. Bill Busch

### A Hidden Disability

It isn't easy having a hearing loss. Hearing is so important to being able to communicate that those with good hearing take it for granted. Usually they can't begin to understand how much effort it takes for us to be able to hear especially when there is background noise and echoes. Whether you lost your hearing at an early age or are gradually losing your hearing today it can make life much harder and you can miss a lot of good things.

We talk about all the marvels of electronics like new digital hearing aids, cochlear implants, personal FM systems, etc. but the most important aspect of hearing better is being proactive. It is speaking up for yourself and admitting that you have a problem. I can assure you that we all struggle with this, even if we have been in the Hearing Loss Association of America for many years.

I recently had the opportunity to practice what I preach when my wife and I attended our Granddaughter's graduation from Whitman University in Walla Walla, Washington. Instead of waiting until the last moment to do something about it, I decided to get prepared for the many planned events because I didn't want to miss out on anything.

I surfed the university's website and looked for numbers to call to inquire about the availability of assistive listening devices (ALDs). I ended up reaching the Assistant Vice-President for Communications. Although they didn't have any ALDs, she offered to seat me in the American Sign Language section which was near the front so I could see the person signing. I told her that the vast majority of people with hearing loss including myself did not know ASL but being close might help me to hear better and be able to read lips better. I also suggested that my personal FM system might help me if I could get my microphone near the people speaking or near a loud speaker if one were located in a convenient place. After we spoke, she followed up with e-mails to several other people that could help me with preferred seating and microphone placement. By doing this in advance, I was able to make arrangements to meet the appropriate people at the designated times. Everyone was very gracious and I greatly appreciated their help at a very busy time for them.

I am happy to say that my extra effort paid off. The first big event was the Baccalaureate Ceremony at which our granddaughter spoke. I arrived an hour in advance to give my FM transmitter to the person in charge of the ceremony who placed it on the lectern with the microphone pointing at the person speaking. I was able to understand every word our granddaughter said at such a special event. In addition, because I arrived so early, I was one of the first people to enter the auditorium so I was able to secure 7 seats for our family in the 3<sup>rd</sup> row of a 1500 seat auditorium directly in front of the lectern. What a treat!

The next day was the graduation itself which was outdoors. Once again I arrived early and met the person in charge. She showed me the handicapped area close to the signer where my wife and I could sit. I noticed a loud speaker that was nearby and suggested that instead of placing my transmitter and microphone on the lectern, I

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The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) truly appreciates everyone's support for this great cause. Each and every one of you is part of the largest hearing loss awareness movement in the country. I know Sunday, June 9th at Long Beach Marina will be amazing. Thank You!

## Segerstrom Center for the Arts – Catch Me If You Can

Wanted to let you know about a fun and exciting musical happening soon at Segerstrom Center for the Arts – Catch Me If You Can. The Open Captioned performance will be on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 @ 2pm. The dance numbers are amazing.

Here is a little information about the show:

### What is the story of *Catch Me If You Can*?

*Catch Me If You Can* tells the true story of Frank Abagnale Jr., a world-class con artist who passed himself off as a doctor, a lawyer and a jet pilot all before the age of 21. With straight-arrow FBI agent Carl Hanratty on Frank's trail, we're off on a jet-setting, cat-and-mouse chase as a jazzy, swinging-sixties score keeps this adventure in constant motion. In the end, Agent Hanratty learns he and Frank aren't so different after all, and Frank finds out what happens when love catches up to a man on the run.

### What is *Catch Me If You Can* like?

This bright and bouncy show features a topnotch cast and a sixties-influenced score by the *Hairspray* team of Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman. Narrated by Frank as if his story is a television special, *Catch Me* draws audiences into his web of relationships with his parents, FBI agent Hanratty and eventually his girlfriend and her parents. The show manages to walk the fine line of making Frank likeable in spite of his crimes. (From the show's first scene, we know he'll eventually pay for his misdeeds.) Whether or not you've seen Steven Spielberg's hit movie based the same subject doesn't matter, if you enjoy a comic caper, *Catch Me If You Can* is the musical to see.

### Is *Catch Me If You Can* good for kids?

Although *Catch Me If You Can* is not a classic "family show," there is nothing objectionable in the script and songs, and the musical's peppy vibe will appeal to school-age kids.

For more information, visit [CatchMeTheMusical.com](http://CatchMeTheMusical.com). Tickets are available now. Please visit [www.scfta.org/access](http://www.scfta.org/access) to choose your own seats. Tickets start at \$39.00.

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could place the transmitter on top of the speaker with the lapel mic hanging down in front of the speaker. She agreed. Since the orchestra was playing I was able to check it out. Unfortunately, I discovered that although our seats were within the normal range of my system, there was something causing the range to be far less so my system was acting intermittently where we were to be seated. To solve this, she moved us to the first row which worked for me. Not only was I able to hear perfectly, but when our granddaughter went on stage to receive her diploma, she passed just a few feet in front of us so I was able to get a close-up picture of her. My extra efforts really paid off.

I had many other opportunities to be proactive that weekend. Sometimes I was successful in hearing better and sometimes not. Overall, I was very satisfied that I did what I could to improve my situation and was very pleased with the large number of people who were willing to graciously help me if I asked for help.

## Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT)

By Committee Co-Chair - Bill Busch

### Free Assistive Technology Guide

We have received free Assistive Technology Guides from Harris Communications, a reputable supplier of Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) also referred to as Assistive Listening Devices. They will be available for you at our June 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting. Feel free to take extras to give to friends. We can easily get more. You will find much useful information about the various kinds of devices that are available, along with descriptions of options and features to consider in purchasing. This 20 page booklet is written in plain English so it is easy to understand. You don't need to wait until the meeting. If you have internet access, you can download the guide today at [www.harriscomm.com/freeguide](http://www.harriscomm.com/freeguide).

I must remind you that the Hearing Loss Association of America does not endorse any suppliers. We will be happy to provide you with the names of other suppliers upon your request so you can shop around. With any supplier, I recommend highly that you check out the return policy. Since every person's hearing is different you may decide that a product you purchase does not fit your needs after you have tried it. Be sure to save all the packaging and pay attention to how it is packaged in case you have to return it.

The HAT Committee will be taking a summer break from June through August so everybody can rest up and be ready to continue the Rocky Stone Hearing Device Exhibits each month for the rest of the year. The next exhibit will be on September 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 to noon in the Weingart craft room.

On June 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 to noon we will have a table at the Weingart Senior Health Fair to hand out information about our chapter and the HAT Committee. We will also have a few of our devices available for you to examine. We will be happy to answer questions but due to room constraints we will not be able to do the one on one demonstrations that we do at the Rocky Stone exhibits.

Herb Balkind, my Co-Chairman will be the person to contact for HAT matters now that I am the chapter president. I intend to continue to support the Committee meetings and the demonstrations as often as I can.

You can contact Herb about HAT or to ask him about his model trains by phone at **562-425-5651** or e-mail [herb.trainman@verizon.net](mailto:herb.trainman@verizon.net).

## SCOREBOARD

	Members	Guests	Total
May	35	0	35
April	39	7	45
March	32	7	39
February	37	4	41
January 2013	38	6	44
December	35	0	35

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

“The beauty of HLAA Chapters is sharing the hearing loss journey with other people. Along the way, people feel validated, their self-esteem improves and they learn new and better ways to cope with their hearing loss. Chapters extend HLAA’s reach by showing people with hearing loss that there is help and hope for them despite their hearing loss.”

From *Hearing Loss Magazine*, March-April 2013, HLAA State and Chapter News by Elizabeth LeBarron.

## VIDEO ABOUT LOOPS

In case you still are confused about hearing loops and t-coils – or just want to learn more about them, the following captioned video on YouTube may help clear up some of your questions. All you need to see the video is a computer with Internet access. If you don’t have one at home, your local library surely does, and a member of the library staff will assist you in reaching the following website:

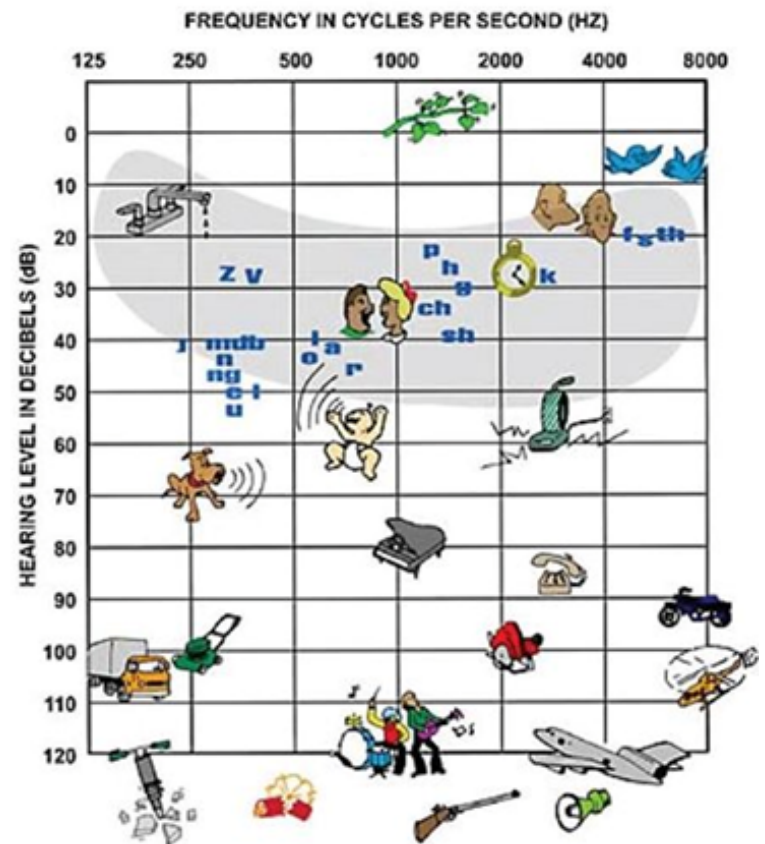
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BUR1rChKfw>

## HELP WANTED

I'm looking for an assistant(s) to assist me with Programs and Publicity. I need help with ideas, contacting prospective speakers and then sending information to our newspapers to get this out to the public about our upcoming speakers. We can work alongside of each other. It's fun and not all that difficult. I hope that you are looking for something to do, like this.

Thanks: Gail Morrison [GAIL7GO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GAIL7GO@GMAIL.COM).

## AUDIOGRAM OF FAMILIAR SOUNDS



- T** Talk normally, do not shout
- I** I speech read, please face me
- P** Please don't cover your mouth
- S** Speak clearly