



Chapter Calendar

All chapter and board meetings held at:
Weingart Senior Center
5220 Oliva Ave.
Lakewood 90712

Every Monday: Lip Reading practice 10 AM to 12 noon in Craft Room.

Wednesday lip reading **on vacation**. Restarts on August 21, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM in Craft Room.

Rocky Stone hearing device exhibit (by HAT Committee) **on vacation**. Restarts on September 20.

August 8, 2013 - Chapter meeting – Maxine Barton-Bauman presiding. 6:30 PM. HLAA National Convention Keynote Speaker Howard Weinstein - DVD.

Refreshments at Chapter meeting will be provided by Pat Andrews, Eleanor Palmer, Flo McDavid & Louise Allen.
Thank you!

August 28, 2013 Board meeting – Maxine Barton-Bauman presiding - 12:30 p.m.

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

work in Africa. We plan to show the DVD of his talk at our August Chapter meeting. Don't miss it!

“Thursday began with a workshop presented by the research and audiologists from the Portland Veteran’s Administration Research Center. They spoke on diabetes, tinnitus, auditory rehabilitation as related to hearing loss. “That afternoon was an interesting presentation by Dr. Perry Hanavan on ‘Communication with Smart Phone Technologies’.

“Saturday was a workshop on the history of SHHH evolving to HLAA, then a workshop on ‘Improving Access through Legislation in your State’. In the afternoon we heard Dr. Juliette Sterkens talk about how to start a hearing loop initiative. Later, our California delegates met with outgoing national Executive Director Brenda Battat and incoming Executive Director, Anna Gilmore Hall, to discuss issues concerning name change. That evening was the farewell banquet for Brenda Battat.

“Sunday morning was the Awards Banquet Breakfast and Ceremony where I was privileged to receive our Chapter’s Founder’s Day Award for the \$500 we raised to be used as start-up money for new chapters.

Gail concludes by saying, “It was empowering to be with so many people (600+) with hearing loss. I saw old friends, made many new friends, and am looking forward to attending next year’s National Convention in Austin Texas. Thank you for allowing me to be your Delegate!”

BIOGRAPHIES

Through the years, our Chapter newsletter has published biographies of many of our members. The best and most notable of these were written and published by Ron and Elfriede MacIver during the time they published *The Informer*. It has been suggested that we continue this practice, so herewith we are reprinting the biographies of some of our members beginning with Bill Busch’s which was first published in **December of 2007**. Bill and all the others mentioned are now six years older, and he now serves as our Chapter President! He had to give up volleyball due to a balance disorder resulting from his late stage Meniere’s disease. It doesn’t stop him from snow and water skiing, though.

“Ron and Elfriede MacIver Present Bill Busch”

Our interview with Bill Busch introduced us to someone you will also enjoy meeting. Bill is a fairly new member of our Hearing Loss Association family, but when you talk with him, you will soon see that he is a welcome addition. He has just taken over the all important job of coordinating refreshments as co-chair with Alice Blackwell, who is also responsible for mailing our *Informers* so promptly each month. Bill is intelligent, friendly, eager to learn and an advocate of self-help. He has had a hearing loss for some forty years as a result of Meniere’s disease but it has neither stopped nor

NATIONAL CONVENTION – JUNE 2013

Have you ever attended an HLAA National Convention? This year, Gail Morrison, our Chapter’s past president, was appointed to be our delegate to the convention held on June 27 in Portland Oregon. Gail has set down a list of her activities and experiences at the Convention so we can get an idea of how it all happens, what it entails, and some of the subjects to learn about – all captioned and looped!

“Convention began a day early for me on Wednesday, June 26 to attend the State Leader’s Workshop which was a review of information sent out by Elizabeth LeBarron, who is the National and State Coordinator. The next day, Thursday, was the CA Board of Trustees annual business meeting. That afternoon, I attended a workshop on Group Dynamics presented by Dr. Sam Trychin and his wife, then later attended “Advocacy Made Easy” by Malik El Amin and Georgia Fleischer. Malik is an actor, and he was magnificent!

“Next was the opening session, with Howard Weinstein as the keynote speaker who spoke on his solar powered hearing aid and his

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slowed down his positive attitude. He lives life to the fullest!

He was born in Chicago, Illinois. He was the middle child, since his older brother is seven years older and his younger brother is fourteen years younger. His 'stay-at-home' mom claimed that she had raised three 'only' children.

A cherished event in Bill's memory is the summer cottage his parents bought when he was in seventh grade. He and the family spent summers at the lake until after his graduation from college. In fact, there are now five cottages on Lake Geneva in Wisconsin owned by Dad Bill, one of his sons, a cousin, and his two brothers. Three months of the year are spent there by Bill and his wife of thirty years, Barbara.

Bill earned a BS and MS in Electrical Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology, as he terms it, the "Cal Tech of Illinois." Hughes Aircraft sent Bill to California on a fellowship to USC where he earned a PhD in 1970. He then went on to a thirty-one year career with TRW where he worked in satellite communications until his retirement in 2000.

All the "children," two boys and two girls, are grown, have successful careers and have blessed Bill and Barbara with nine grandchildren ranging in age from ten months to twenty-one years. Bill and Barbara enjoy travel. They went on an African safari two years ago and are planning a trip to Antarctica to see the penguins soon. They will be traveling on the cruise ship that recently rescued tourists from the freezing waters of Antarctica after their ship cap-sized.

Most years they plan a trip to Hawaii where they trade homes and "cat and house sit" for their friends. Their active life includes playing bridge each week, and Bill enjoys beach volley ball on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Snow skiing is done all over the west.

Many of you may be interested in learning more about Meniere's. Bill will explain this disease with great patience and clarity. To briefly touch on some of the highlights: its proper name is **ideopathicendolymphatic hydrops**. The most obvious symptoms are hearing loss, a feeling of fullness in the ears, tinnitus and vertigo. The disease sometimes can go into remission, but it does return. It takes good medical management to get an accurate diagnosis and care because many of its symptoms can have other causes. A positive attitude seems to be key to so many of our ailments as we age. Bill is definitely an excellent role model for optimism and cheerfulness. A person you will enjoy chatting with!

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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Dr. Bill Busch

New Technology is Amazing

Although I miss you all while I am spending the summer in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, my wife and I are having a wonderful time with our family. New technology is allowing me to do things I could not do in many years so I wanted to share them with you.

My parents bought a small one bedroom cottage on a street that ends at the lake when I was 13 years old. The lake was about 100 miles from my parents' home in Chicago so we were able to spend our summers at the lake with my Dad joining us on the weekends and during his vacation. When my parents passed away, I inherited the cottage and have been spending my summers at the lake since I retired.



I learned how to water ski when I was 16 and when I am water-skiing at age 71, it feels very much the same. Very exhilarating! In the accompanying picture, my brother is driving his ski boat for me. What looks like a pole behind me is actually the ski rope which is attached to a canopy over his head. The swim cap I am wearing keeps my waterproof Advanced Bionics cochlear implant headpiece in place. In addition the waterproof cochlear implant processor (Neptune) which is under my swim shirt and ski vest allows me to hear the driver if he wants to tell me something when I am in the water. It also allows me to hear another boat if it is approaching from the rear which is an important safety feature.

When I am exercising by swimming laps in the lake I wear the CI so that I can hear boats if they are nearby and communicate with other swimmers in the area. Lastly, the waterproof CI allows me to swim out to the community trampoline raft where my grandkids play. Using this new technology while at the lake, I have been able to enjoy these water activities this summer with our 2 sons, their wives, a daughter and 8 of our 9 grandkids. Precious!

CHAPTER SUMMARY

The Chapter meeting held July 11, started promptly at 6:30 to hear our speaker, Vivian Chikisawa-Beckker, who has been an occupational therapist at the Veteran's Hospital for ten years. Vivian works with young veterans, all of whom have traumatic brain injuries. Balance problems are an effect of this condition, and Vivian conducts classes in tai chi to benefit them.

Tai chi operates on the yin/yan theory that everything is eternally changing in cycles, which occur and flow everywhere throughout nature and the universe. In teaching tai chi, Vivian demonstrated the various slow movements that you can use all your life. Her young veteran patients had suffered many injuries, some to their joints, and cannot run or do push-ups but find the slow easy movements of tai chi to be of great benefit, not only physically, but in many other ways.

Vivian called on the audience to stand (if they wished) to follow her in a couple of basic tai chi movements. We were encouraged to take a long, deep breath, press our hands together, lift them, bring slowly down – this is the beginning of the basic movement called the Tree of Life, one of about 52 different ones. She said practicing the movements in the outdoors, in the morning, is especially nice. Tai chi harnesses our energy, is calming, aids in composure, and helps stress levels to go down.

A few moments spent in these activities has proven very beneficial to the veterans she teaches, and is recommended for all ages and conditions.

We received many positive responses from the audience: "Spoke at a good pace", "Had fun participating", "Demonstration was very good", "Graceful and non-judgmental", "Well informed and not stuffy", "I could use this!" and "Please invite Vivian again!"

Many people wanted more information as to where they might find tai chi, and Vivian responded that tai chi is everywhere! Weingart has classes and in fact, a tai chi class was going on in another room at Weingart during our meeting. Check with your city's Parks and Recreation Department to find a tai chi class to learn this wonderful exercise/art.



Pictured is our speaker, Vivian Chikisawa-Beckker, receiving a certificate of appreciation from Acting President Gail Morrison.

AUGUST 8 CHAPTER MEETING

A DVD of the opening session of the National Hearing Loss Association of America's National Convention at Portland, Oregon keynote speaker, **Howard Weinstein** will be shown at the Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter on Thursday, August 8 at the Weingart Center, 5220 Oliva Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Weinstein is the inventor of the solar-powered hearing aids.

In the midst of his successful professional career, Howard Weinstein's ten year-old daughter unexpectedly passed away. One week later, the company he worked for (and previously owned) laid him off. Howard tried to bounce back from the professional loss by creating a new company, but the event had changed his conception of business and his role in it.

Deciding to work abroad in the field of development, he took a volunteer position with the World University Service of Canada to work at Camp Hill Community Trust, a community for people with disabilities in Botswana. During his four years at Camp Hill, Howard implemented the startup company Godisa Technologies. There he employed persons with hearing loss and physical disabilities, primarily women, and trained them in job skills and also to increase their self-esteem and confidence through their work. Through Godisa, Howard produced three new products: a solar energy powered hearing aid, an analog solar charger, and a rechargeable battery. The innovation of these products won Godisa an inter-national Design Award for the best product in Africa in 2005. Within three years, Godisa manufactured more than sixty thousand hearing aids and became financially sustainable.

After four years in Botswana, Howard went to Brazil to replicate his social business. Howard employs people who are deaf to manufacture hearing aids run on new solar-powered battery technology, freeing hearing aid users from the economic burden of buying regular zinc batteries at \$1 per week. Through the broad distribution of these hearing aids, especially to children at a critical time in their development of speech and cognitive abilities, Howard will create new access to hearing aids and improved social integration for the largely excluded population of low-income people with hearing loss in the developing world.

JULY MEETING VISITORS

We welcomed the following guests: Marcia Harris, Alden and Katie Wright, Marsha Epstein, and Gail Boyd.

Please come back! We look forward to seeing you again. Current members: bring a guest to our next meeting.

SCOREBOARD

	Members	Guests	Total
July	30	5	35
June	30	1	31
May	35	0	35
April	39	7	45
March	32	7	39
February	37	4	41

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Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter
c/o Louise Allen
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Long Beach CA 90808-3704

Address Service Requested

LET'S HELP!

Did you read about "Jacob's Ride" in the July/August issue of *Hearing Loss Magazine*?

It is the story of a young man with a history of hearing loss that is passionate about bike riding, baseball, and helping others. He is biking across the country and stopping at 30 baseball stadiums in hopes of raising \$1 million for others who could benefit from cochlear implants or hearing assistive technology - but cannot afford them.

Gail Morrison reports that she heard this wonderful young man speak and that National is asking everyone to contribute \$10 to his ride - we are limited to donating \$10.

Go to www.jacobsride.com/donate to help, OR go to his Facebook page: **JacobsRide2013**, OR text "**JACOB**" to **50555** on your cell to make a \$10 donation right now.

MORE ON THE WALK4HEARING

Pictured in top right side column are Ellen Mathis, Long Beach Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, and Ronnie Adler, Walk Director, at the June 9 Walk4Hearing held at the Marina Green in Long Beach. Ellen is holding her smart phone to show Gerrie that her talk was being captioned for the hard of hearing audience.

Also pictured in the bottom right side column is the Certificate of Appreciation presented by Ms. Schipske to the Hearing Loss Association of America for our contributions to the community.

