

## Chapter Calendar

All events at Weingart except as noted

**Every Monday:** Lip Reading practice, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

**All chapter and board meetings** held at:

Weingart Senior Center  
5220 Oliva Ave.  
Lakewood 90712

**January 7** - HAT Committee meeting 12 noon at Coco's.

**January 10** - Chapter meeting: Dr. David DeKriek : "From Audiologist Visit to Manufacturing and Programming of Your Hearing Aid". He will share his recent trip to the hearing aid manufacturing lab in MN, share pictures, and talk about the process of making a hearing aid. He will answer any hearing related topics. FM system used & Real-time captioned.

**REFRESHMENTS** - Treats will be provided by: Margaret Pyo, Diana Gilbert, Pat Andrews and Ken Saw. **THANK YOU!**

**January 18** - Rocky Stone Exhibit: 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**January 23** - Chapter Board meeting 12 noon. **Everyone** is welcome to attend the board meetings.

**January 23, 30** - Wednesday: Lip Reading instruction, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Chapter Contact:** Gail Morrison  
562-438-0597 gail7go@gmail.com

**Please bring your neck loop and / or Williams Sound receiver to use with our FM system.**

## **NOTICE – Educating Parents Committee**

Those who are interested in working for and on behalf of hearing impaired children are invited to come to a short meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a half hour before our monthly Chapter meeting convenes at the Weingart Center.

Maxine Barton-Bauman, Chairman of our Educating Parents Committee, has been in touch with the local John Tracy Clinic, and they have suggested several things that we as HLAA members can do to assist them in their work. These new projects will be discussed.

Please consider attending this meeting. Perhaps you can benefit a child who is hard of hearing.

## **New Year's Resolutions for Better (Hearing) Communication**

*By Gael Hannan*

On the cusp of each New Year, I dedicate some time to pondering my resolutions for the coming months. After about 30 seconds, I usually come up with a catch-all pledge to "be a better person."

This year, my resolve is more specific. In 2013, my goal is to be a Better Hearing Consumer, both in name and action.

The hearing people in my life will probably be confused by this, because they think I have this area already covered. In fact, if they were given a truth serum, they would bellow something along the lines of, "*She just goes on and on and ON about hearing loss! It's always speak up here, face me there, who turned off the captioning this, I can't hear through walls! I'm not being accommodated!*" Now, I admit to having cleared a room or two when I get going on my favorite topic, but I'm still far from being an expert on the consumer side of the hearing loss fence. There's plenty of room to grow, both as a communicator and as an advocate.

Here are a few of the resolutions that, if I keep them, well make me a Better Hearing Consumer.

### **Resolution #1**

I will not view every stranger with hearing aids as a potential recruit to the cause. Not every user considers their hearing aid to be a badge of honor or a membership card in the hearing loss community.

Therefore, when I see a hearing aid, I won't smile at the person in a knowing way, or point to my own ear conspiratorially. But, if the opportunity to communicate presents itself – the weather is always a good topic – I will indicate my own hearing loss and model good communication practices. We might learn something from each other and we'll both know whether to carry an umbrella.

### **Resolution # 2**

I will adopt a less confrontational approach to having my communication needs met. This is a nice way of saying that I'll try to drop the *you-have-to-accommodate-my-needs-or-I'm-gonna-bust-your-butt* method for a more positive, educational one. "*Hi, I have hearing loss. If you look at me at me while you're talking about your product, I'll better understand its benefits. And who knows? I may go home with a new thingy, and you will earn a commission.*"

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**Chapter Officers**

**President** - Gail Morrison  
**Vice - President** - Bill Busch  
**Treasurer** - Walt Lowrie  
**Recording Secretary** - Flo McDavid  
**Corresponding Secretary** - Ken Saw

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

**Newsletter**

**Publisher** - Lisa Rettino  
**Editor** - Louise Allen  
**Contributor** - Louise Allen  
**Photographs** - Ellen Mathis  
**Distribution** - Chuck & Temple Roath

**Committees**

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

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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.

Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday, ate everything that your heart desired, and had a great visit with family and friends!



In January, we will be asking for members to serve on our Nominating Committee to select a new slate of officers for the 2013-2014 year. Herb Balkind volunteered to be chairman and Maxine Barton-Bauman, Walt Lowrie and Ken Saw will assist. We need a member from the General Membership to serve on this committee. Will you help us, too?

January is also the time to appoint a Delegate to represent our Chapter at the National Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Convention to be held in Portland, Oregon from June 27-30, 2013. The Delegate has certain responsibilities, attends the National Board of Trustees meeting and attends Leadership Training workshops. We are looking for someone who hasn't attended Convention before. We are offering \$100 to help defray expenses. National also offers about \$100 off the Registration cost which is \$299 until January 31. We will discuss this at our January meeting. The benefits of attending National Convention are many. The workshops cover many topics, from how we hear to new technology to amazing professional people speaking to us about hearing loss. Last year, we had doctors from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine speaking to us and the information was invaluable. Vendors numbering more than 50 are available to check out the new iPhones, iPads, and CaptionCall to name a very few. We have found speakers from Convention that come and talk to us. It was a National Convention that I first experienced "looping" and could hear like a normal person!

Bill and Herb have spent countless hours checking out our PA system as it had a lot of static. They discovered that it was the sound cable and Herb showed us that the sound cable must be stored very carefully, which differs from an ordinary cord. He purchased a new, wireless microphone for us to use at our Chapter meetings so that we can hear what people say from the audience.

Bill Busch has been updating the Bylaws with input from Louise Allen, Maxine Barton-Bauman, Ellen Mathis and myself to better serve you. They will be presented at the January 10 Chapter meeting for your review and then voted on at the April meeting. Many items were outdated and needed to be reviewed with a better, simpler way of handling our organization. We hope that you will read them carefully so that you will understand them.

In December, I passed out a Speaker/Program rating system. I received 9 responses and the consensus was that you liked the Pot Luck and felt that it was fun and that you liked to socialize. You like programs that offer information on new technology. Many expressed

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concern about difficulty in hearing and next time we will make sure that each group is further apart so it's easier to hear. Thank you for your comments and we will be conducting this survey at each meeting.

We're off to a new year and what better way than to have Dr. David DeKriek, our Professional Advisor as our speaker on January 10th. Dr. DeKriek will talk about his most recent visit to the hearing aid manufacturing lab in MN. He will share some pictures and talk about the process of making a hearing aid from the visit to the audiologist to the manufacturing and programming of each hearing aid. He will also answer questions on any hearing related topic.

Who could ask for anything more!

We look forward to seeing you at our January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Warmly,*

*Gail Morrison*

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## **Obituary Notice - DR. WILLIAM F. HOUSE**

William F. House, M.D., who pioneered the cochlear implant that allows the deaf to hear, died at his home in Aurora, Oregon on Friday, December 7. He was 89 years old. Based on his innovative treatments of deafness, acoustic tumors and tumors arising from the base of the skull, he has often been referred to as the Father of Neurotology.

"William House was considered the father of Neurotology because of his pioneering development approaches for the removal of acoustic tumors and the management of patients with disabling vertigo," said William House's nephew, John House, M.D., who is a House Clinic physician and House Research Institute president. "He is also credited with the development of cochlear implants. He persevered despite resistance by established medicine. They said it could not be done and he should not continue this work. Millions of deaf children and adults are now hearing because of his pioneering work," continued John House, M.D.

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### **Resolution#3**

I will learn more about hearing assistive technology, so that I can share my expertise with other people. But for the moment, this is a rough outline of my technical knowledge:

**Hearing aids:** Go in the ears and make sounds louder and sometimes understandable. They're expensive and come in a variety of shapes and colors.

**Cochlear implant (CI):** Go inside *and* outside of the head, restoring the ability to hear to people who no longer could. Very complicated, very amazing.

**Neckloop:** Goes around the head like a necklace, plugs into something, and allows you to hear sound from a transmitted source. Comes in a variety of sizes and shapes, and basic grey/black.

**Cables and Wires:** Connect/couple with an infinite number of devices to allow access to you-name-it. However, plugs must be the correct size, e.g. 2.5mm or 3.5mm – usually the one I *don't* have.

**Telecoil:** Presumably a coil inside the hearing aid that works with other technical stuff to bring sound into my hearing aids. Awesome with the telephone!

**Bluetooth:** If you don't like wires and cables (see above), this is a magical thing that sucks sound from the air and into your ears. Have no idea why it's called Bluetooth but it sounds pretty.

### **Resolution #4**

I will write more letters and emails encouraging public service providers to comply with accessibility guidelines and laws. Recently, a major theatre charged me \$2 to rent assistive technology that would allow me to understand the show. \$2 may not sound like much, so let me put it another way. Instead of paying \$1000 to see the show like other people, I had to pay \$1002.

Did the person in the wheelchair have to pay an extra \$2 to take the elevator to the next floor? No.

Did the person with low vision have to pay an extra \$2 for preferred seating? No.

So why should I pay \$2 more for something as basic as understanding what the actors are saying?

I sent a well-worded email to the theatre's general manager on behalf of all people with hearing loss, explaining why this surcharge is neither fair, nor good customer service. We are currently in negotiations, which are so far cordial and very interesting.

### **Resolution #5**

I will not miss an opportunity to explain that good communication is not solely dependent on how well we *hear*. It goes beyond the neurological act of hearing to embrace visible cues, technology and, most of all, the *commitment* to connect. We connect on many levels and I don't want to miss any of them.

Happy New Year. Best wishes for a peaceful 2013, full of good communication and wonderful connections.





## Captioned Movies in Our Area

By Bill Busch, Committee Co-Chair,  
Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT)

In the November Informer, Herb Balkind told you about his experience with captions at the movies. It motivated me to try out the new Sony captioning glasses. My wife and I went twice to the Regal Cinemas in Palos Verdes to see Anna Karenina and Lincoln. With these glasses the captions appear on the captioning glasses so that only you can see them. You can use them over your regular glasses and watch both regular and 3D movies with them. The great thing about the glasses is that you can see almost all movies at all times with captions. Previously, captions were only available on certain movies on a few selected days at unpopular times.

In our area you have many theaters to choose from including: Edwards Long Beach 26 & IMAX, (20 different movies); Edwards South Gate 20 & IMAX, (13 different movies); UA Long Beach Market Place 6, (6 different movies); UA Los Cerritos Galaxy Stadium 11, (11 different movies); Regal Promenade Stadium 13, Palos Verdes Peninsula, (13 different movies).

For show times consult your newspaper or on the internet, go to: [www.captionfish.com](http://www.captionfish.com).

Here are some helpful tips. The glasses are a little heavy on the nose at first, but seem OK after awhile. The bridge that rests on your nose is very adjustable to fit any width nose so don't be afraid to bend them to the most comfortable position. The nose piece can also slide up and down to change the location on the screen where the captions appear. In addition the eyepieces have several different positions relative to the frame to also help you position the captions on the screen. Try different locations for the captions like above the screen, below the screen or in the middle. Lastly, on the box that hangs around your neck, there are 3 buttons. The center one is the menu and the side ones allow you to select different brightness and apparent distance of the captions (near, mid range and far away). I liked the far away setting the best so my eyes didn't have to refocus. For a quick start, go to: [http://pro.sony.com/bbscms/assets/files/mkt/digicinema/latest/STW-C140GI\\_Quick\\_Start\\_Guide.pdf](http://pro.sony.com/bbscms/assets/files/mkt/digicinema/latest/STW-C140GI_Quick_Start_Guide.pdf) or you can search in google: "Captioning Glasses Quickstart Guide".

Call me for more info or if you would like join other members go to the movies: 310-540-6322.

Lots of great shows out. So, see you at the movies!

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Summary – DECEMBER POTLUCK MEETING

Our December Chapter meeting was the annual Christmas potluck with lots of good food contributed by all members. It was fun to see everyone line up, plates in hand, eager to sample the enticing dishes, and then go back for more – or desserts.

When everyone was finished eating, we had a short business meeting, then broke up into small groups to share stories of embarrassing HOH moments, funny misunderstandings because of hearing loss, and lots of good tips on living life in spite of not understanding all the 'noise' around us. A spokesman from each group then relayed these stories to the general audience. The stories were received with lots of laughter, nodding of heads, and good feelings shared by others who understand the struggles. It was fun to socialize and learn to appreciate each other and our wonderful organization.



This picture was taken at the semester end of Linda DeGuire's lip reading class in early December 2012. Everyone brought 'finger foods' and enjoyed socializing after the day's lesson.

### SCOREBOARD

| 2012      | Members | Guests | Total |
|-----------|---------|--------|-------|
| December  | 35      | 0      | 35    |
| November  | 33      | 2      | 35    |
| October   | 30      | 3      | 33    |
| September | 35      | 10     | 45    |
| August    | 29      | 3      | 32    |
| July      | 30      | 7      | 37    |
| June      | 28      | 1      | 29    |

### Editor's Note

We hope you like the new format for The Informer. Kudos to our new publisher, Lisa Rettino, who is credited with our 'new look'. Comments may be sent the Chapter's email address: [HLALngBchLkwd@AOL.com](mailto:HLALngBchLkwd@AOL.com).