

CHAPTER CALENDAR

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

Every Monday: Lip Reading Practice, Stephen Fisher, 10 am to 12 Noon at Weingart.

Every Wednesday: Lip Reading Class, Linda DeGuire, 9:30 to 11:30 am at Weingart.

Apr 5, 2014 Walk4Hearing Kickoff Luncheon, 11 am to 1 pm, Dave & Buster's Restaurant, Irvine.

Apr 6, 2014 Meet & Greet with Anna Gilmore Hall, 1pm to 3 pm at Maxine's house at 5279 E. Paoli Way, Long Beach, CA 90803.

Apr 7, 2014 HAT Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm Coco's Restaurant.

Apr 10, 2014 Chapter Meeting, Auditory Rehabilitation; Election of Officers.

Refreshments provided by: Shirley Brooks, Gail Morrison, Walt Lowrie and Sally Geiger. THANK YOU!

Apr 18, 2014 Rocky Stone Hearing Device exhibit, 10 am to 12 Noon at Weingart.

Apr 23, 2014 HLAA Board meeting, 12:30 pm at Weingart.

June 1 - Walk4Hearing at Long Beach Shoreline Park (behind the Aquarium).

APRIL CHAPTER MEETING

Lisa Yuan, President of the Los Angeles (Pasadena) Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America will be our speaker at our April Meeting. Her topic will be "How Auditory Rehabilitation Helps CI and Hearing Aid Users." She will give an overview of research provided by Sandy Oba of the House Research Institute, research that focuses mainly on CI users and auditory training. In addition to being the President of the L.A. chapter, Yuan is also the newsletter editor. She has had bilateral hearing loss since her early 20s (about 20 years ago) and currently has one CI and one hearing aid. Last year, she decided to go back to school and is currently getting a master's at CSUN in Assistive Listening and Human Services.

CONVENTION



Hearing Loss Association of America 2014

Austin, Texas is the host city for Convention 2014, June 26 – 29.
Keynote Address, A Life in Music After Hearing Loss

Seeing that Austin is the Music Capital of the World, it seems especially fitting that the keynote speaker for Convention 2014 is music composer Richard Einhorn.

At one time, composer and record producer Richard Einhorn enjoyed hearing so acute he was described as possessing "golden ears." Then in June, 2010, while on a composing retreat, he unexpectedly lost most of his hearing overnight, probably from a viral infection. Since then, Richard has used his expertise in sound and music technology to find unique solutions to hear as well as he physically can. In his keynote address at HLAA's Convention 2014 in Austin, Richard will discuss his life as a professional musician whose work has been performed by some of the greatest orchestras in the world; his personal experience coping with sudden sensorineural hearing loss; and his efforts as a passionate advocate for people with hearing loss. Richard will describe the exciting spread of hearing loop technology in the United States, as well as numerous techniques he uses to hear in difficult environments including noisy restaurants, concert halls, and movie theaters. Finally, Richard will show some of the equipment he uses not only to compose and enjoy music, but also to stay connected to his family, friends, and colleagues. As a result of his activism and that of others in the hard of hearing community, Broadway has now invested in hearing loops. The global Nederlander organization, which operates nine theaters in New York City, has already looped the Richard Rodgers Theater and soon the Gershwin Theater will add the technology this month to mark the 10th anniversary of "Wicked."

For more information on the 2014 Convention, go to <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention>.

HUMOR





BIOGRAPHIES OF KATIE AND ALDEN WRIGHT

I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself and my husband since I am the new Editor of the Informer. Louise Allen, our former Editor, did such a fantastic job that I'm nervous about following in her footsteps. Thank goodness she's my very able assistant this month.

I'm Katie Wright. I retired last June after 38 years of teaching. As my hearing loss left me fatigued and unable to interact with my students as I wanted, I decided it was time to go – a few years early. Now I spend time with my grandsons after school, volunteering in their classrooms and working with the PTA. Appropriate for an ex-teacher, right?

Married for 38 years this month, Alden and I have two grown children and 3 grandsons. We met at Occidental College and were married a year later. He has a degree in Diplomacy and World Affairs from Occidental and a Multiple Subjects Credential from CalStateLA. I received my Bachelor's Degree and a Multiple Subjects Credential from Occidental. A few years later, I earned my Master's Degree and Administrative Credential at Pepperdine University. After spending a few years in various out-of-the-classroom positions, I learned I missed the classroom and would rather deal with 30 children than 30 adults! Alden and I taught 6th grade together - sharing the same students - for several years before he became disabled through a series of health issues. I rotated out of the classroom a few times after that but always found my way back. I used my leadership skills to advocate for teachers and students and stayed where I loved – in the classroom every day. Throughout the years, I taught every grade in Elementary and Middle School, ending my career in 8th grade English.

Hearing loss runs on my father's side of the family. Many of my relatives are hearing-impaired, including my 5-year-old grandson, Connor. His loss was just discovered last July during his kindergarten health screening. Thanks to the John Tracy Clinic, he was able to start kindergarten with "loaner" hearing aids. Whenever I hear Maxine remind us to turn in our old hearing aids, I say a prayer of thanks! In a future issue of the Informer, I intend to write about our family's experiences with his diagnosis and first year of school as a HoH student.

I am looking forward to the challenge of producing the Informer each month. I am impressed that so many of our members (60!) receive the Informer through email. Because of this, I am adding a section of interesting "Links" which are "clickable." I also read on a regular basis several "blogs" dealing with hearing loss; I plan to mention one of these each month. Please let me know of topics or websites you would like to see included. You can email me at hlaalbl.informer@gmail.com.

LINKS

Click on the link to go directly to the website. It will probably ask if you "trust the site.", click "Allow."

Hearing Loss Association of America, Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter

<http://www.hlalongbeachlakewood.org/>

Hearing Loss Association of America, California State Association

<http://www.hearinglossca.org/>

Hearing Loss Association of America

<http://www.hearingloss.org/>

Send ideas and suggestions to the Editor of the Informer

hlaalbl.informer@gmail.com

Stop Hearing Loss Bullying Campaign

<http://lipreadingmom.com/stop-hearing-loss-bullying/>

Shanna Groves: As a person with hearing loss, I have seen bullying first hand. I've been called 'stupid,' 'mule-headed,' and have been nicknamed 'La-La-Land Shanna.' I simply want to be known as Shanna. Help the more than 48 million people in the United States and worldwide with hearing loss and deafness by bringing awareness to the need to stop this kind of harassment and bullying. People who are deaf or hard of hearing need acceptance, not rejection, to thrive in school and the workplace.

The Better Hearing Consumer

<http://hearinghealthmatters.org/betterhearingconsumer/> *The Better Hearing Consumer addresses the personal experience of living with hearing loss. Editor Gael Hannan, and her occasional guest bloggers, explore every corner of the hearing loss life with humor and poignancy.*

American Tinnitus Association

<http://www.ata.org/> American Tinnitus Association is a global leader in the effort to find a cure for tinnitus. We bring together patients, researchers, healthcare professionals, industry partners and lawmakers to develop tinnitus management tools and fund vital tinnitus research.

Captionfish

<http://www.captionfish.com/>

Allows searching for open- and rear-window captioned films currently showing in US theaters.

REMINDER

If you wish to continue to receive the Informer paper copy in the mail, please send \$10 to Walt Lowrie, 5072 Fanwood Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713

EMAIL COPIES OF THE INFORMER

Electronic copies of the Informer are available to all members. If I do not have your email address on record and you would like to receive an emailed copy of the newsletter, please send a message to hlaalbl.informer@gmail.com.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Bill Busch

Annual Election of Officers.

At our April 10th chapter meeting we will be conducting our annual election of officers so I thought I would explain the procedure. Our bylaws dictate how the election takes place. It begins in January with a Nominating Committee whose job is to recommend qualified candidates for the various offices. Officers must be members of the Hearing Loss Association of America. This year the committee was headed by Maxine Barton-Bauman. These are the people recommended by the Committee:

- President – Bill Busch
- Vice-President – Gail Morrison
- Recording Secretary – Craig Bowlby
- Corresponding Secretary – Ken Saw
- Treasurer – Gordon Langsam

In addition to the above any member who has paid their annual dues and is a member of HLAA may be nominated from the floor.

After the nominations are complete, the election then proceeds. If there is more than one person running for an office, the election is by ballot. Officers are elected by a majority of members present and voting at the April chapter meeting.

Members in good standing have the right to vote at the election. To be in good standing, you need to have paid your \$1 annual membership dues. If you have not already paid your dues for 2014 please pay them to our treasurer, Walt Lowrie, before the meeting so you can vote. If you are not sure, please check with him since he has a list of those who have paid.

I would like to thank the present officers for their dedication and willingness to spend a great deal of their personal time helping people with hearing loss. They are all extremely competent, professional, dedicated and a pleasure to serve with. They are Vice-President **Herb Balkind**, Recording Secretary **Craig Bowlby**, Corresponding Secretary **Ken Saw** and Treasurer **Walt Lowrie**.

Unfortunately, I will not be present for the April 10th meeting. It is my birthday and my wife and I will be celebrating it on the island of Kauai. If you see fit, I would be pleased to serve for one more year as your president. After that I will be termed out and we will need someone else to take the reins. If anyone is interested please let me know.

At our May meeting, we will be thanking all our volunteers for the past year including especially our hard working committee chairs. Aloha



CTAP EVENT VERY SUCCESSFUL

*By Herb Balkind,
Co-Chairman of HAT Committee*

The HAT Committee is proud to announce that our ANNUAL CTAP EVENT, which occurred this past Wednesday, March 19th, provided a convenient opportunity for 13 visitors to have a hearing screening test by Dr. David DeKriek, and qualify for a specialized telephone from the California Telephone Access Program (CTAP). Although 13 people qualified, only 12 received phones that day. One of the criteria for receiving the phone is having a land line. The CTAP staff informed this individual that they might qualify for a program called LIFE LINE which enables people, based on income, to obtain a land line at a much reduced rate. Within a week of our event, this person now not only has a land line, but CTAP came out to the home, installed, and instructed them in the use of a caption phone. This was all part of the free service from CTAP. It is very satisfying for the HAT Committee to help these thirteen people receive a specialized phone.

You don't need to wait for our annual event to apply for a phone from CTAP. You can either call CTAP at (800) 806-1191 or go on line at www.ddtp.cpuc.ca.gov to obtain an application to be filled out and certified by your medical professional. You then mail the completed form to CTAP and/or visit them at their various locations to obtain your free specialized phone or they can shipped it to you for free. Remember, you must be a new client to participate in this Program.

Our next HAT DEMO will be April 18th, at the Weingart Senior Center, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. No appointment is needed. Just drop by and one of our HAT Committee members will be happy to show and demonstrate any of our 50 Assistive Listening Devices which might just improve the quality of your hearing ability, depending on those areas you have difficulty hearing in. There's no guarantee that we can help you, but it is always worth trying to see if new technology can be of some help.

This HAT Exhibit does not include hearing aids. These meetings are sponsored by the Hearing Loss Association of America Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter. This HLAA chapter does not sell any of the devices itself, nor does it otherwise profit from this demonstration service. The Weingart Senior Center and the HLAA Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter make no warranties, presentations or claims concerning the quality, quantity or availability of services or products herein.



SUMMARY OF MARCH CHAPTER MEETING



Panel Members: Bill Busch, Ram, Kakkar, Sonja Webb and Maxine Barton-Bauman.

At the March Chapter meeting, four members spoke about their experiences with cochlear implants. The panel was made up of Sonja Webb, Bill Busch, Ram Kakkar and Maxine Barton-Bauman.

Each one of them has one implant and also wears a hearing aid. They each addressed the following issues: how long have they been hearing-impaired, what led them to make the decision to get the implant, how did they choose their particular device, what was their surgical and post-surgical experience, and how has having the implant changed their life.

The motivations to go through the surgery were things the audience could all understand: hearing a grandchild's voice, carrying on a conversation with a spouse, functioning in a job and overcoming a growing sense of isolation.

They were very open about various issues they have experienced since the surgery: the necessary "training" of the brain to understand speech through the implant, vertigo, trouble synchronizing with a hearing aid, but each of them said it changed their lives for the better. In fact, Sonja is planning to receive an implant on her other ear later this year.

Sonja summed up the value of her cochlear implant: "This Christmas - that same little one I wanted to hear say 'Grandma,' - said his first part in the Christmas play. He was a shepherd, and he said, 'Grandma, did you hear?' 'Yes, I heard you.' That meant a lot to me."

MARCH MEETING VISITORS

We welcomed the following guests: Mr. and Mrs. Ananias Ayroso, Hartley Kern, Linda Banez, Jay Kay, Louise Reed, and Gary Martinez

Please come again! We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Current members: bring a guest to our next meeting.

CAPTION CALL BANKRUPTCY FILING

Sorenson Communications Inc, parent company of CaptionCall, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection earlier this month as declining revenue and mounting debt forced the company to consider restructuring. We have received official word from the Senior Marketing Manager on this issue: CaptionCall recently was part of a debt restructuring through its parent company Sorenson Communications. All operations and services will continue uninterrupted and the bankruptcy filing is not expected to affect any users, employees, or suppliers. Your CaptionCall service will continue without any interruption or changes. If you have any questions, please contact CaptionCall Customer Service at 1-877-557-2227.

UPCOMING HLAA WEBINAR: TINNITUS

Did you know that HLAA offers educational "webinars?" The term "webinar" is short for **Web-based seminar**. It is a presentation, lecture, workshop or seminar that is transmitted over the Web using *video conferencing software*. A key feature of a Webinar is its interactive elements -- the ability to give, receive and discuss information. Webinars will take place at a minimum of one time per month with top-notch professionals in their fields. All webinars will be captioned and will be recorded for playback later (with captions); while live webinars must be viewed on a computer, the replay may be viewed on mobile devices.

The Webinar offered on April 16, 2014, is titled "Tinnitus Today, Silence Tomorrow." It will begin at 8:00 EST. The guest speaker will be Cara James, Executive Director, American Tinnitus Association. She will be exploring the facts about tinnitus, review effective therapies, and discuss ongoing scientific efforts toward a cure. With over 50 million Americans affected, tinnitus is one of the largest health issues facing the nation today, yet relatively few patients and doctors are equipped to manage it.

There is no cost for the Webinars if you are a HLAA member. Non-members may attend public webinars but will need to become a member in order to attend members-only presentations. To find out more, go to <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/webinars>. Directions on how to get ready to participate and what software you may need is available through that link.

STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Dr. David Baldrige Professor at Oregon State University and HLAA member needs study participants who are hard of hearing, currently employed and willing to participate in a study.

He is a deafened HLAA member and professor at Oregon State University. His research investigates the workplace experiences of people with hearing loss and was recently featured in the January/February 2014 issue of *Hearing Loss Magazine*. He will also be presenting at this year's HLAA conference.

He is currently working on a research project titled *Work Place Experiences of People who are Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing* (Deaf/HOH) that collects interview and survey data from hearing loss experts, people with hearing loss, their supervisors and coworkers. Please contact him at david.baldrige@bus.oregonstate.edu if you would like to participate.

BLOG OF THE MONTH

A "blog" ("Web Log") is a personal website or web page on which an individual journals, record opinions, links to other sites, etc. on a regular basis.

Lip Reading Mom <http://lipreadingmom.com/>.

This is the online journal of a woman who discovered 12 years ago she had a progressive hearing loss. Her first child had just been born. In addition to her blog, she has since written two books and started three Internet awareness campaigns, "Lipreading Mom Captions Campaign," "Stop Hearing Loss Bullying" and "Show Me Your Ears."

Here is an excerpt from her "about me" page:

I am Shanna Groves, but you can call me Lipreading Mom.

Hearing aid wearing mom? Not me, no way. Back then, I'd rather have dyed my hair purple with pink polka dot highlights than worn chunky electronics in my ears.

I blew that doctor off.

Two years later, my son was old enough to talk. A lot. I had every reason to hide my ears from him. I couldn't understand a word he said unless it was at piercing scream-level pitch. No more cooing and cuddling for us. It was Hard of Hearing Mom versus Screaming Child.

I went back to the doctor. *You still have those hearing aids*, I asked him. *'Cause I need them more than ever now.*

That day, I finally accepted my hearing loss.

Now that I have three children ages 5, 8, and 12, communication depends on my acceptance. I must remind my kids to look at me so I can lipread them, speak up and repeat their words slowly.

I am a Lipreading Mom, not just Mom or a Lipreader. Both aspects must find a way to live together.

Come along on the ride with me.

Take Survey on Your Hearing Loop Experiences

by Neil Bauman, Ph.D.
Center for Hearing Loss Help
<http://www.hearinglosshelp.com/index.htm>

Audiologist and Hearing Loop Advocate, Juliëtte Sterkens, AuD, is asking you to please take her survey on your experiences using hearing loops, whether you use loops with your hearing aids, cochlear implants or loop receivers. There are 11 or so questions in the survey, and it will only take 5 minutes of your time. She is looking for experienced hearing loop users to complete a web-based survey. Multiple entries are allowed for different hearing loop experiences (for example you can complete the survey twice if you have experienced a loop in a home versus a lecture hall). You can access it here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/hearing_loop.

REMINDER – Donate Your Old Hearing Aids

Old hearing aids are still being collected for the John Tracy Clinic. Bring them to the next meeting.

If you have a question or problem that relates to your hearing, please submit to: info@hllalongbeachlakewood.org.

If you have old copies of the magazine "Hearing Loss" please bring them to the next meeting.

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

Newsletter

Layout - Lisa Rettino
Editor - Katie Wright

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

Chapter Contacts:

Bill Busch, 310-540-6322, billbusch@ieee.org.
Gail Morrison, 562-438-0597, gail7go@gmail.com.

HLAA

To join online, click here <http://hearingloss.org/>
or 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.

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

SCOREBOARD

	MEMBERS	GUESTS	TOTAL
March '14	34	7	41
February '14	31	4	35
January '14	30	3	33
December '13	38	3	41
November '13	30	5	35
October '13	32	2	34



OPEN-CAPTIONED THEATER EVENTS

Ahmanson Theater

213-628-2772 or 213-680-4017 (TTY)

<http://www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets/Project-DATE/>

HARMONY	Sat., 4/12 @ 2pm
PORGY AND BESS	Sat., 5/31 @ 2pm
THE LAST CONFESSION	Sat., 6/28 @ 2pm
WE WILL ROCK YOU	Sat, 8/23 @ 2pm

Segerstrom Center for the Arts

714-556-2787

<http://www.scfta.org> then click on 'Ticket' then 'Accessibility'.

MAMMA MIA!	Sat., 5/12 @ 2pm
BOOK OF MORMON	Sat., 5/24 @ 2pm
JERSEY BOYS	Sat., 7/5 @ 2pm
GHOST	Sun., 7/13 @ 1pm
ONCE	Sat., 8/30 @ 2pm

Pantages Theater

323-468-1780

<http://hollywoodpantages.com/accessibility>

GHOST THE MUSICAL	Sun., 7/13 @ 1pm
ONCE THE MUSICAL	Sun., 8/3 @ 1pm

Maxine Barton-Bauman is our Chapter's Captain for this year's Walk4Hearing on Sunday, June 1. We urge you to go to the Walk4Hearing website (www.walk4hearing.org) and find our team, Beach Bums, and make a donation by credit card. All donations are tax-deductible and our Chapter receives 40% of what we raise. Our Chapter's goal is \$500 which means our team needs to raise \$1250. Every little bit helps!

Other ways to donate:

- Give Maxine a check and she will turn it in on the day of the Walk.
- Mail a check to: Walt Lowrie, 5072 Fanwood Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713.

We also would love for anyone to join us in the actual walk! It's great fun! The Long Beach event will take place on Sunday, June 1, with check-in/registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the 5K (3.1 miles) Walk beginning at 10 a.m. There will be refreshments, snacks and family-friendly entertainment. You are encouraged to walk, but if not, bring a lawn chair and just enjoy being in the beautiful surroundings and share the excitement of seeing so many teams and families stepping up for people with hearing loss. For more information, go to www.walk4hearing.org.