

CHAPTER CALENDAR

Chapter and Board meetings held at:
Weingart 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.

Refreshments provided by: Ron and Elfriede MacIver, Sally Geiger, Craig Bowlby and Louise Allen. **THANK YOU!**

May 15 - HAT Committee meeting at Coco's, 12:30 p.m.

May 16 - Rocky Stone hearing device exhibit: 10 a.m. to noon (by HAT Committee).

May 28 - Chapter Board meeting, 12:30 p.m. at Weingart.

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

June 20 - Weingart Senior Health Fair, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

MAY CHAPTER PROGRAM

Anthony R. Candela, Chief, Long Beach Veteran's Administration Blind Rehabilitation Center will speak on "When the Blind Meet the Deaf and What Happens."

Mr. Candela will share his experiences and insights about hearing and vision, and what he's seen when visually impaired and people with hearing loss try to interact.

MEET OUR TEAM CAPTAIN



Connor Waterman is the captain of this year's Hearing Loss Association of America, Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter's Walk4Hearing team: The Beach Bums. He's the grandson of Chapter members, Katie and Alden Wright. His hearing loss was discovered during his kindergarten physical last July. Thanks to the John Tracy Clinic, he was able to start school with "loaner" hearing aids until he was able to get his own. Five years old, he's already an avid Dodger fan and is playing T-ball this season.

We all know that kids just like Connor need support, empowerment and help advocating for themselves and others who have hearing loss.

Come walk with us!!!

\$\$\$ NOW IS THE TIME \$\$\$

The Walk4Hearing is just a few weeks away. Won't you please donate to this great cause? Forty-percent of the money we raise comes back to our Chapter. Please give your checks to Maxine Barton-Bauman (payable to Walk4Hearing) at the May meeting or mail them to Walt Lowrie (5072 Fanwood, Lakewood, CA 90713). They will hold on to the checks until the day of the Walk. You can also go online to donate; go to walk4hearing.org. Click on the **green button at the top: DONATE**. Choose **Find a Walker** or **Find a Team**. Type in **Connor Waterman** or **Beach Bums**. Choose one of the purple buttons: **Donate** or **Join My Team**. To be sure to **mark your funds**, go to the **Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter**.

You can also click on these links: [Connor Waterman](#) or [Beach Bums](#).

HUMOR



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BLUETOOTH HEARING AIDS COULD TAKE OFF WITH BABY BOOMERS

Reprinted from Twincities.com.

By Julio Ojeda-Zapata
03/26/2014

Starkey plans to introduce its Halo iPhone compatible hearing aid in April. These hearing aids achieve a wireless connection with an iPhone or other iOS mobile device directly, much as consumer cell-phone headsets do.

GN ReSound, a Bloomington-based hearing-aid maker, recently began offering a similar product -- LiNX. GN ReSound is part of the Denmark-based audio-technology company GN Store Nord.

Both companies have worked closely with Apple Inc. in recent years to fashion the new class of iOS-compatible hearing aids. Recent upgrades to Apple's iOS mobile operating system include audio technology that enables the new hardware, which the device maker is dubbing "Made for iPhone Hearing Aids." The hearing aids also work with iPad tablets and iPod Touch media players.

The devices use Bluetooth wireless technology, which is what cell-phone headsets typically use. Apple's refinements specific to these hearing aids boost their audio quality while preventing the medical devices' batteries from being drained too quickly. This effectively turns the hearing aids into Bluetooth headsets, allowing users to engage in routine tasks such as making and taking calls, listening to music, engaging in video chats and heeding driving-navigation prompts.

Starkey and GN ReSound apps essentially turn the Apple mobile devices into hearing-aid control panels. With Starkey's app, Halo owners can record audio, use their iOS gadgets as microphones, fine-tune how the audio sounds in their ears and create noise-filter presets for different environments, such as cars and restaurants. They can even use their iPhones to find their misplaced hearing aids by using GPS.

Dusty Dorey, a 29-year-old Minneapolis software trainer with life-long hearing loss, has been testing the Halo hearing aid and is delighted with it. The technology's high degree of adjustability has allowed him to fine-tune it for situations he finds problematic, such as high-pitched voices or people speaking softly. In the past, he would have needed to visit his audiologist to have such adjustments made.

He's also impressed with how the Halo app can recall places he's visited and the corresponding hearing-aid settings, and activate them automatically as required. "When (Starkey) showed me that for the first time, I was pretty blown away by that," Dorey said.

The GN ReSound app for use with the LiNX hearing aid works on a similar principle. It lets LiNX users set volume levels, tweak treble and bass settings, and assign automated sound settings to frequently visited places like home, work and favorite restaurants.

Another U.S. hearing-aid company, Chicago-based Beltone, also is run by Denmark's GN Store Nord and provides a LiNX-style hearing aid with another name, Beltone First. Users control that medical device using a HearPlus app installed on their iOS gadgets.

According to Beltone, the app remembers the places users visit and automatically switches to their preferred settings for those locations. The app also fine-tunes treble and bass, and has a "Find My Hearing Aid" feature.

Boomers, the post-WWII generation long associated with youth, are notorious about avoiding hearing aids, often waiting seven years after the onset of hearing loss to seek technical assistance, according to Starkey. About 12 million baby boomers are suffering from some kind of hearing loss, the company estimates. "By associating our product with Apple, we're hoping to get hearing aids on people sooner," said Kyle Acker, Starkey's manager of education and training. Such "Apple acceptance" can be a powerful motivator, Acker said.

This article was edited for space. To read the full article, [click here](#).

Angel Sound™

Our April guest speaker, Lisa Yuan, referred to this home-based auditory training program in her presentation at the Chapter meeting on April 10. There was much interest at the meeting in the program. It can be downloaded onto a PC, but not a Mac. There is a limited mobile application that can be installed. There are nine modules, including ones for music and a new one designed especially for children. Links to the website and download instructions are included at the end of this article.

This is not be considered an endorsement of the product.

Angel Sound™

Welcome to Angel Sound™, an interactive auditory training and hearing assessment program that lets you take control of your listening rehabilitation independently or self-administer your functional hearing test at home.

Auditory training is critical for hearing impaired users to achieve the maximum benefit from a cochlear implant and/or hearing aid. After 20 years' of extensive research at House Research Institute, Emily Shannon Fu Foundation proudly brings you Angel Sound, a self-paced, interactive rehabilitation program that allows you to practice and perfect your listening skills at home. You gain practice in discriminating and identifying sounds and speech components through a series of self-paced modules that cover different aspects of the listening process. The program provides audio-visual feedback, highlighting areas you can continue to practice. The level of difficulty is automatically adjusted to match your developing listening skills.

Available as on online download or installation CD for personal computers (PCs)

1. Online download:

<http://angelsound.emilyfufoundation.org>

<http://angelsound.tigerspeech.com/>

2. Request an installation CD via email:

angelvoice@emilyfufoundation.org

3. i-phone/i-pad application now available in the App Store:

i-angelsound

http://angelsound.tigerspeech.com/angelsound_mobile.html



IT'S HOWDY DOODY TIME!

By Herb Balkind,
Co-Chairman of HAT Committee

Yes, kids, it's that time again. Back in the 1950's, all we had to do was make sure the "rabbit ears" (that's the indoor TV antennas for you youngsters) were positioned correctly for a clear signal, and turn the channel selector to tune in Howdy Doody. Today for us Hard of Hearing (HOH) folks, it's a little more complicated. Most of us require some Hearing Assistive Device to hear the TV sound clearly. In our HAT DEMO we have been giving people a chance to try and listen to TV with the help of the **TV EARS SYSTEM**. This is an Infrared system, which means you need a direct-line-of-sight between the headset and transmitter which is connected to your audio out port on the back of the television, satellite or cable box. So if you choose to go to the kitchen for a snack, your direct-line-of-sight connection is broken and you'll miss any dialogue or music playing.

Well it's time to give you another option and that is exactly what the HAT Committee has done for future visitors to our monthly DEMO's. We have purchased the **Sennheiser RS120 Wireless RF Headphones with Charging Cradle**. Because the Sennheiser is a RF transmitter, it can broadcast a radio signal to the headphones, which simply means, you can go into the kitchen for that snack and not miss hearing, "It was Colonel Mustard, with the knife, in the library, who did the dirty deed". That is the difference between the **TV EARS** and the new **Sennheiser RS120**. You do not need a direct-line-of-sight. The radio frequency is broadcast in an area of 328 feet. You're free to move into any room without missing word.

The following is a thumbnail description of the new Sennheiser RS120: The RS 120 is a lightweight RF wireless headphone system with open, supra-aural headphones. It features a transparent, well-balanced sound with excellent bass reproduction, making them an ideal choice for both hi-fi and TV use. The transmitter is fitted with an "Easy Recharge" function for conveniently recharging the included headphone batteries. The RS 120 offers freedom of movement, stylish design and optimum comfort at an affordable price. I'm encouraging everyone to attend our next HAT DEMO on May 16th, and let our HAT Committee TV- Man, George Costello, give you a test drive with the new Sennheiser RS120. However, there is no guarantee that he will have an episode of "Howdy Doody" for you to listen to, but I'm sure he'll have some interesting programming for your viewing and listening pleasure.

An important reminder, the HAT Committee takes the summer off, during the months of June, July and August, and that applies to the DEMO's also. So, May 16th will be the last DEMO until we resume on September 19th. We will be present at the June 20th Weingart Health Fair, which will be from 10:00 a.m. to noon, with a very limited display of our devices.

So till September, the HAT Committee wishes everyone a very enjoyable summer... and remember, we keep on trying to find the technology that helps give you that extra ability to hear better.

Our next HAT DEMO will be May 16th, at the Weingart 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 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.



Dr. Bill Busch

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why Do We Walk4Hearing?

Every year the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) sponsors Walks to increase public awareness about hearing loss, help eradicate the stigma associated with it and raise funds for programs and services. There are 48 million people (20%) in the United States with some form of hearing loss. It affects all ages, from babies to the oldest.

If you have hearing loss or know someone who has it, you know that it can be a big problem in many people's lives. Losing one's hearing can easily lead to isolation and depression. The good news is that there are many ways this loss can be lessened. That is why we have joined together, but we have to spread the word and get others involved. The Walk helps us achieve that.

Funds raised by these Walks support HLAA which advocates for all of us at a national level. They work with the FCC, Congress, and other government entities to see to it that our rights are enforced so that we have equal access to TV, movies, plays, courts, doctors, hospitals, workplace, and the internet. There is no one solution to hearing loss so it means access to a variety of different programs, including captions, looping systems, assistive listening devices and low cost hearing aids.

In addition a portion of the money raised comes back to the local Chapters to help defray the costs of our local programs, allowing for education and advocacy at the local level. Remember that none of us at the local level are paid for what we do. We do it as a way of paying back for what HLAA has done for us.

We need you to join us in the Walk and to tell your family, friends, neighbors and local businesses. Encourage them to walk with us and/or contribute to this very worthy cause.

We are very fortunate that our Walk is at Shoreline Park on Aquarium Way in Long Beach on Sunday June 1, with registration and check-in at 9 a.m. At 10 a.m., the Walk starts. The next closest Walk is in Littleton, Colorado. Contribute if you can and/or encourage others to contribute. Walk if you are able or come, enjoy the fun and support the walkers.

SUMMARY OF APRIL CHAPTER MEETING



Our guest speaker for April was Lisa Yuan, President of HLAA Los Angeles Chapter. She gave us an overview of Sandy Oba's research on "Auditory Rehabilitation," which is defined as a regimen of varied listening exercises, designed to improve an individual's ability to perceive speech. It can lead to improved speech discrimination in both hearing aid and cochlear implant

users. The research has shown several benefits:

- practice active listening;
- improve the awareness of your abilities;
- improve self-confidence in listening situations which helps people to relax; when we relax we hear better;
- produce changes in our brains in response to the tasks.

She referred to a study that found people with moderate hearing loss had less gray matter volume in the auditory and speech processing brain structures. Researchers felt this reduction in gray matter was not a reflection of lost brain cells but of shrinkage due to a lack of stimulation. The theory is that if you stimulate that part of the brain, you can get those brain cells back.

Ms. Yuan's presentation was very well received. Please see the follow-up article on a free home-based auditory rehabilitation program in this edition of the Informer.

A YEAR SINCE MARATHON ATTACKS, MANY OF WOUNDED STRUGGLE

April 15, 2014 Reprinted from *The Boston Globe*
By *Kay Lazar* and *Sarah Schweitzer*

A year later, shattered bones have knitted back together, burned skin has regrown, and the survivors who lost legs are walking on prosthetic limbs. What remains for many are the relentless injuries nobody sees.

One of the most lasting and widespread challenges, say caregivers, is hearing problems, with about 40 survivors continuing to receive treatment at Massachusetts Eye and Ear .

David Yepez is among those still grappling with ear damage. He is back playing football and wrestling, a rebound his Andover family finds hopeful. Second-degree burns on his left arm have healed, as has the wound from a 3-inch piece of shrapnel embedded deep in his left leg.

As his father, Luis Yepez, puts it, "There's some beauty to being 15 and how the body recovers." But both of the teenager's ear drums were perforated, and Yepez, now 16, has some hearing loss and ringing in his left ear, a nearly constant, high-pitched tone, "the sound you hear after going to a concert," he said. It bothers him when he is trying to sleep or study.

Dr. Alicia Quesnel, an ear specialist at Mass. Eye and Ear and Harvard Medical School, is leading a study following 93 patients who suffered ear injuries in the Marathon blasts. It is one of the few studies to track hearing-related problems in such a large group that was not exposed to military explosions.

"Unfortunately for many of them, even if the hearing has improved, the tinnitus [ringing in the ears] seems to be a persistent problem," she said.

The sensation — in which a patient hears ringing, hissing, roaring, whistling, chirping, or clicking when no sound is present — is created by the brain in response to ear damage. There is no cure.

Half of the patients in the Mass. Eye and Ear study suffered perforated ear drums, the thin tissue that separates the ear canal from the middle ear. The ear has "an amazing ability to repair itself," particularly for small holes in the ear drum, Quesnel said. But Celeste Corcoran and some of the other survivors had operations to repair larger tears.

"There is so much ... healing to be done," said Celeste, "and we are just at the very beginning."

This article was edited for space. To read the article in full, [click here](#).

CONGRESSMAN ALAN LOWENTHAL LENDING SUPPORT TO HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION, LONG BEACH



United States Congressman Alan Lowenthal paid a surprise visit to our Meet and Greet for Anna Gilmore Hall, the new Executive Director of HLAA. The Meet and Greet was graciously hosted by our Chapter member, Maxine Barton-Bauman. On April 6, 2014, Congressman Lowenthal was on hand to meet the new Executive Director and to lend his support to people with hearing loss.

Ms. Hall traveled from National HLAA headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland to help officially KICKOFF the WALK4HEARING scheduled to take place June 1 at Shoreline Park, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach. Ms. Hall enjoyed the warm weather and remarked, "Even though you're in a drought, the grass is green. It's been a long time since I've seen green grass," she graciously exclaimed.

Approximately 30 members of the Chapter were in attendance at the Meet and Greet. It was great fun to eat, drink and socialize with friends.

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.

Deafened But Not Silent.

How to live life to the max with hearing loss.

I am a man who wears many hats. I have a lovely, intelligent wife and a handsome, amazing son. I have the sweetest dog in the world named Amie. I love to fish, kayak, hike, play tennis, golf and travel. I have a fantastic career with Phonak Canada as the FM and SoundField Product Manager. I have a degree in Audiology from the University of Western Ontario.

I also learned how to play the bass guitar and have played in several bands live. I have even mustered up the courage to sing a few songs.

And I also lost all my hearing. I currently use a Cochlear Implant in my right ear and a hearing aid in my left ear.

But I am all of these things, not just a person who can't hear. I am always searching for ways to live my life to the fullest, despite my hearing loss. That's what this blog is all about. I plan to share with you both personal and professional stories about overcoming challenges associated with hearing impairment.

Stay tuned for updates on my journey!

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

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

Hearing Loss Association of America, California State Association

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

Hearing Loss Association of America, Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter

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

California Telephone Access Program

<http://californiaphones.org/index.html>

Walk4Hearing Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter Team Page

http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR/Teamraiser/LongBeachWalk?team_id=34030&pg=team&fr_id=2208

Hearing Health Foundation

<http://hearinghealthfoundation.org/>

How to Read an Audiogram – a YouTube video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ie1SdWdWErg>

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@hlalongbeachlakewood.org.

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

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA LONG BEACH / LAKEWOOD CHAPTER

Officers

President - Bill Busch

Vice - President - Gail Morrison

Treasurer - Gordon Langsam

Recording Secretary - Craig Bowlby

Corresponding Secretary - Ken Saw

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Hearing Assistive Technology - Herb Balkind / Gordon Langsam

Information - Vacant

Lip Reading - Linda DeGuire

Looping - Ram Kakkar

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Newsletter - Katie Wright

Programs/Publicity - Gail Morrison

Refreshments - Sally Geiger

Ways and Means - Stephen Fisher

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Newsletter Layout - Lisa Rettino

Professional Adviser - Dr. David DeKriek, Au.D.

Chapter Contacts:

Bill Busch, 310-540-6322, billbusch@ieec.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



Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter

Hearing Loss Association of America -
 Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter
 c/o Katie Wright
 7802 Kingbee Street
 Downey, CA 90242

First Class

Address Service Requested

SCOREBOARD

	MEMBERS	GUESTS	TOTAL
April '14	32	6	38
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

APRIL MEETING VISITORS

We welcomed the following guests: Judy and John Hennessey, Camille Rivera, Lisa Ferguson, Sean and Connor Waterman. Please come again! We look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Current members: bring a guest to our next meeting.

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

OPEN-CAPTIONED THEATER EVENTS

Ahmanson Theater

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

Accessibility Website

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

Seegerstrom Center for the Arts

714-556-2787

Accessibility Website

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

Accessibility Website

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

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