

CHAPTER CALENDAR

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

May 14 – Chapter Meeting, Weingart Center 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Program: “Purchasing a Smart Phone” by Robin Itzler.

Refreshments provided by **Marion Camilleri, Dave Cooper, Eleanor Palmer, Betty Rainey, and Lorraine Collins.** *Thank you!*

May 15 – HAT Demo: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Weingart Craft Room. **Note:** Last meeting until September.

May 18 – LAST Monday Lip Reading class until September.

May 27 – HLAA Chapter Board Meeting 12:30 pm at Weingart.

June 6 – Walk4Hearing, Marina Green Park, Long Beach.

Lip Reading Classes – at Weingart
Mondays - 10 am-noon & Wednesdays 9:30 am -11:30 am.
Note: LAST Monday class will be May 18th until next semester.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with heavy hearts that we bring you the sad news of Alden Wright’s passing on April 29.

Alden and Katie Wright have been stalwart supporters of our Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter and we send our heartfelt condolences to Katie and family.

Katie is Editor of The Informer, a member of the Membership Committee, and our best cheerleader.

Please see page 2 for details on the date and location of the services.

MEET OUR TEAM CAPTAIN



Connor Waterman is again the captain of our 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. He’s now in first grade and doing well with the support of his teacher and his parents.

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

The Walk is just a few weeks away - June 6th. Please donate to this great cause. Here is what HLAA does with the funds:

- Raises public awareness and providing education about hearing loss
- Leads efforts to de-stigmatize hearing loss;
- Advocates for the rights of people with hearing loss, including captioning in theaters and the internet;
- Offers local seminars on coping with hearing loss for families;
- Offers support for parents of children with hearing loss;
- Offers outreach to war veterans with hearing loss.

Forty percent of the money our Chapter raises comes back to us.

HOW TO DONATE

- Bring a check to a meeting
- Mail a check to Walt Lowrie
5072 Fanwood, Lakewood, CA 90713
- Online:
 - √ go to walk4hearing.org
 - √ Click on **Donate**
 - √ Find a **Walker**:
 - √ Type in **Connor Waterman**
 - √ Click on **Donate** or **Join My Team**

If you pledged a donation at the March meeting, don’t forget to bring your check made out to Walk4Hearing.

BREAKTHROUGH IN ANTIBIOTIC - CAUSED HEARING LOSS

By *HearingLikeMe Editorial Staff*
January 15 2015

<http://www.hearinglikeme.com/blog/breakthrough-antibiotic-caused-hearing-loss>

Did you know that some antibiotics can cause hearing loss? Aminoglycosides are powerful antibiotics, but they can have serious side effects, including kidney damage and permanent hearing loss. Between 20 and 60 percent of people treated with these drugs suffer partial or total hearing loss as a result. Despite this, aminoglycosides are used to treat infections such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, and sepsis; they're also used in neonatal intensive care.

Now, scientists at Stanford University School of Medicine have developed a modified version of one aminoglycoside, called sisomicin. The new version has been shown to work effectively in mice without the ototoxic (literally "ear poisoning") and nephrotoxic (damaging to the kidneys) side effects.

MESSAGE FROM KATIE WRIGHT

Dear Family and Friends,

In celebration of Alden, we will be swapping stories and dipping our feet in the waves south of the Seal Beach pier from 10 am to 11:30 am on Saturday, May 9th. Hawaiian shirts and sandals encouraged. The celebration will continue at the Wright household after 1:00 pm with sandwiches, snacks and more stories. Join us and share your memories of Alden at one or both of these events.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to [Long Beach Walk4Hearing, Alden Wright](#).

Thank you ... and hug your loved ones ...

From Katie Wright and family
Kristi, Jay, Sean, Connor and Liam



<https://www.facebook.com/HLAALongBeach.Lakewood>

MAY PROGRAM



Robin Itzler, "The Marketing Maven" in the Orange County Breeze, will share her experiences on purchasing her first smartphone. A Columnist, trainer and author, Robin Itzler has been involved in marketing and communications for more than 35 years. Her columns on the Orange County Breeze

often blend politics, motivation and marketing to offer unique perspectives about headline issues.

As a member of the newly-formed Orange County Hearing Loss Association of America chapter, Robin shares her experiences and determination for succeeding in the hearing world. Her columns have appeared in Hearing Loss Magazine, most recently the March/April 2015 issue.

A former NASD licensed securities representative, she once served as president of the Animal Assistance League of Orange County. She and her husband Larry own Royal Care Pet Sitting. An award-winning editor and writer, Robin is the former editor-in-chief of Toastmasters International Founders' District where her articles and newsletters were read by members in 180+ clubs. Currently, she handles publicity and public relations for several local non-profit associations.

Legally deaf from hereditary progressive nerve deafness, Robin doesn't let her hearing loss define her. A former New Yorker, she has one word for anyone who doubts her abilities: Fuggedaboutit!

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.

\$ TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES \$

It's time to pay your Chapter dues for the new year. Walt Lowrie will be accepting your of \$1.00 cash at the next few meetings. You can also mail it to him at Walt Lowrie 5072 Fanwood Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713.

NEW WHITE HOUSE RECEPTIONIST IS A WEST WING PIONEER: “DEAF PEOPLE CAN DO ANYTHING”



Eun Kyung Kim TODAY
March 27, 2015

Anyone wanting to speak to the president must stop by her desk first. Leah Katz-Hernandez, 27, is the new White House receptionist.

She is also deaf.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity and also to show that deaf people can do anything,” she said through an interpreter, who is provided for her at work.

With a desk just steps away from the Oval Office, Katz-Hernandez is usually the first to greet anyone — from world leaders to White House staff members — who has an appointment with the president or his top-level aides. She also oversees the White House guest book and the Roosevelt Room, the West Wing meeting room, and is responsible for collecting cell phones before meetings with the president.

Katz-Hernandez is defined by her accomplishments, not her disability, said Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary. “She represents us very well,” he told NBC’s Peter Alexander. The Connecticut native was born deaf to two deaf parents — a Jewish, social worker mother and a Mexican-American father who put himself through college and earned a PhD.

A former White House intern, Katz-Hernandez worked for President Obama’s re-election campaign before being hired onto the staff of First Lady Michelle Obama, who used sign language the first time they met to introduce herself.

“It is a great responsibility to be here as a deaf person and I feel very proud of the opportunities that have been given to me,” she said.



APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

Business - \$1211 Chapter Director and Officer Insurance extension for this year: Special thanks was given to Betty Evans, the daughter of Raymond Blue, for her \$1000 donation for this insurance again this year. Extension of the insurance was approved by vote of the members.

Vote and Installation of Chapter Officers: The following officers for this coming year were elected and installed: Dr. Bill Busch, President; Gail Morrison, Vice President; Walt Lowrie, Treasurer; Craig Bowlby, Recording Secretary; and Ken Saw, Corresponding Secretary. Dr. David DeKriek, our Professional Advisor, installed the new officers.

Program – As led by Katie Wright, we played Bingo as a social event with the opportunity to win prizes at no cost to the players. The prizes included hearing aid batteries and flowers donated by Dr. DeKriek, 9 used but operational amplified telephones compliments of the HAT Committee, a Starbucks card donated by Katie Wright and a bottle of wine donated by Stephen Fisher.

Announcements - Dr. Bill Busch

Refreshments - Served by Marie O’Brien and Marion Camilleri our refreshment co-chairs. Thanks to all those who provided the refreshments.



Don’t forget to sign up for the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. Ralphs will contribute a small percentage of your dollars to the Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America if you enroll in the program.

You can register online at www.ralphs.com or you can get a scan bar letter from Stephen Fisher, Ways & Means Chairman, at our Chapter meeting. You can also arrange to have a letter mailed to you. Take the letter and your Rewards card with you the next time you shop.

Ask your friends and family to sign up also!

SPRING CLEAN YOUR HEARING AID



Many of us consider spring the season of clean up and repair. Much like an automobile, it may be time to give your hearing aids a little extra attention to keep them running at peak performance. While you should be cleaning your hearing aids all the time in order to keep these investments

in your hearing health functioning as long as possible, now may be time to take your maintenance routine to the next level.

Are you keeping your hearing aids dry enough?

Moisture is your hearing aids' enemy. If perspiration or water collects in the delicate circuitry they will stop working. If your regular drying routine simply consists of laying your hearing aids down on a towel at night with the battery compartment open, it's time to invest in a dehumidifier. These handy gadgets will dry out your hearing aids much more effectively than air drying alone, saving you money on repairs and extending the life of your hearing aids.

Are you getting out *all* the wax and dirt?

Wiping the outer components and earmolds (if you have them) of your hearing aids with a soft cloth may seem sufficient to clean them of wax, debris, dust, and other contaminants, but you may be missing a lot of build-up that, over time, will affect the performance and longevity of your devices. Make sure you have cleaning tools you can use to get into tiny openings like the receiver, tubing, microphone, and vents. As for earmolds, ask your audiologist for advice on removing and washing them in mild soapy water for extra cleanliness. And if you're having a lot of difficulty with earwax, ask how best to address the problem, perhaps by having your ears professionally cleaned. Just don't take a DIY approach to earwax removal — using cotton swabs or misusing over-the-counter wax removal kits can do far more harm than good.

Have you had your hearing aids professionally serviced in the past year?

If you haven't seen your hearing care professional for awhile, spring is as good an excuse as any to bring your hearing aids in for a "tune-up". Your audiologist can clean or replace microphone screens if need be, check and replace any plastic tubing starting to break down due to wear and tear, and otherwise make sure your hearing aids are in tip-top shape. Just like any high-tech device, hearing aids that are regularly cleaned and maintained will work better and last far longer than their neglected counterparts.

LINKS

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/>

HCAA Convention Registration
<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/registration>

TSA
<http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/deaf-or-hard-hearing-passengers>

Livestrong - Flying With a Cochlear Implant
<http://www.livestrong.com/article/1006692-flying-cochlear-implant/>

Hearing Aids: Airport Security & TSA Rules
<http://www.healthyhearing.com/content/articles/Hearing-aids/Fitting/47668-Hearing-aids-airport-security>

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles – Travel Tips for Individuals with Hearing Loss

HCAA 2011 Convention Presenter: Tina Childress, CCC-A
http://www.hearingloss.org/sites/default/files/docs/Travel_Tips_forPeoplewithHL.pdf

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST PAPER "INFORMER" UNLESS ...

In an effort to save money, the Board has decided to ask everyone who wants a paper copy of the Informer to send their \$10 to Walt Lowrie at 5072 Fanwood Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713. If we don't hear from you, we will assume you're not interested in receiving the newsletter and this will be your last paper issue.

The subscription period will be for the calendar year 2015. To accommodate those of you who paid mid-year 2014, if you paid for a subscription in July or later, you are considered "paid" for 2015.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bill Busch at 310-540-6322 or email him at billbusch@iecc.org.

Email copies of the Informer are free. If you are not already receiving an electronic copy, please send your email address to informer.hlaa@gmail.com.

OPEN – CAPTIONED THEATER EVENTS

Ahmanson Theater Open-Captioned Performances 2:00pm	213-628-2772 or 213-680-4017 (TTY)
http://www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets/Project-DATE/	
MATILDA, THE MUSICAL	6/27/15

Segerstrom Center for the Arts Open-Captioned Performances 2:00pm	714-556-2787
www.scfta.org/access	
Tickets in the open captioned section can be purchased online or by contacting the ticketing services department at 714-556-2787 Seats are available at every price level (while available).	
MOTOWN THE MUSICAL	6/27
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	8/15

Assistive Listening Devices

Patrons with hearing impairments are encouraged to use Segerstrom Center's Sennheiser System for performances in Segerstrom Hall. Wireless, lightweight devices are available at no cost.

Induction Neckloops: If you have a hearing aid that is equipped with a t-coil, we have induction neckloops available that can interface with your hearing aid. Just ask the usher working the podium.

You may bring your own headphones/earbuds to use in place of our headphones for Segerstrom Hall shows. It just needs to have a 3.5mm audio jack.

Pantages Theater Open-Captioned Performances 1:00pm	323-468-1780
http://hollywoodpantages.com/accessibility	
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	6/28
The Hollywood Pantages Theatre is equipped with an Infrared Listening System and offers 3 different devices. These devices amplify all stage sounds and may be checked out at the Audience Services desk located in the lobby and are available fee-of-charge	

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 hlaabl.informer@gmail.com.

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA LONG BEACH / LAKEWOOD CHAPTER

Officers

President - Bill Busch
Vice - President - Gail Morrison
Treasurer - Walt Lowrie
Recording Secretary - Craig Bowlby
Corresponding Secretary - Ken Saw

Committees

Hearing Assistive Technology - Herb Balkind / Gordon Langsam
Information - Vacant
Lip Reading - Linda DeGuire
Looping - Ram Kakkar
Membership - Flo McDavid / Katie Wright
Newsletter - Katie Wright
Programs/Publicity - Gail Morrison
Refreshments - Marie O'Brien and Marion Camilleri
Ways and Means - Stephen Fisher

Support

Newsletter Layout - Lisa Rettino
Professional Adviser - Dr. David DeKriek, Au.D.

Chapter Contacts:

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

HLAA

Join HLA now to receive *Hearing Loss Magazine* and become part of the one organization that represents the interests of 48 million people with hearing loss in the United States. 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

To join online, go to <http://hearingloss.org/>

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

SUBSCRIPTION 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.



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

FUTURE PROGRAMS

May 14, 2015 - Robin Itzler, Marketing Maven from the Orange County Breeze, "Purchasing My First Smartphone."
See page 2 for details.

June 11, 2015 - Pot-Luck and Innovative Rap Session

HLAA Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.
We meet at the **Weingart Center, 5220 Oliva Ave, Lakewood 90712**

All meetings are Captioned with CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation), the hearing Induction loop and Williams Sound System. Light refreshments are served.
For more information, please call **562-438-0597** or visit www.hlalongbeachlakewood.org.



The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. The national support network includes the Washington, D.C., national office, state organizations and local HLAA Chapters. **Join HLAA now** to receive **Hearing Loss Magazine** and become part of the one organization that represents the interests of 48 million people with hearing loss in the United States.

DISCLAIMER

We believe the information contained in this publication has been compiled from reliable sources. However none of the contributors, sponsors, or anyone else connected with the Informer in any way whatsoever can be responsible for the appearance of any inaccurate or libelous information or for your use of the information contained in or linked from these pages. If you need specific advice, for example, for your particular hearing concerns, please seek a professional who is licensed or knowledgeable in that area. We further do not recommend or endorse any product or professional but supply such information as a public service.