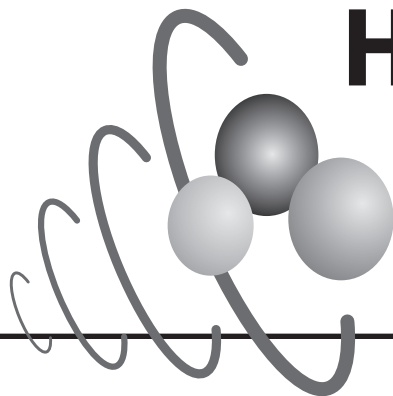


North Shore Chapter of Long Island

September 2011



Hearing Loss Association of America

Meeting Location

Long Island Jewish Hearing & Speech Center is located on the grounds of the Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Enter the grounds from LAKEVILLE ROAD and it is the first building on your left. Free parking is available behind the hearing and speech building: first entrance to parking lot after building. DO NOT go into the main parking building. Go to the Conference room on the Lower Level 270-05 76th Avenue New Hyde Park, NY 11040.

If you are in doubt as to whether there is a meeting, or if you'd like further information, please call Sal: 718-479-1098.

FYI

Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) are provided at our meetings. Headphones are available in the back. This room is Looped, so those who have hearing aids/cochlear implants can put on their T-coil switch.

Meeting News

November 16, 2011

Refreshments and Social Time begins at 6:30pm

Meeting begins at 7:00pm

Topic:

The Latest in Hearing Aid Developments, and How They Can Improve Your Hearing

Speaker: Tad Zelski, Regional Representative Widex USA

Bio: Since 1956, Widex hearing aids have helped millions of adults and children and Widex innovations have had a profound impact on the hearing aid industry.

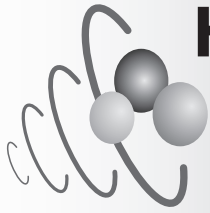
A Sad Note

Florence Halbright passed away on Oct. 19th. She joined our chapter when the Lexington Chapter closed. She was on the planning committee there, and was an active member of our chapter.

She will be missed.

Discounted Ticket Offers

If you'd like to receive discount offers for drastically reduced tickets to performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, please email mwaymire@midamerica-music.com, and be ask to be put on the "\$7 list." And be sure to "ask for Orchestra seats due to hearing loss."



Hearing Loss Association of America

President's Corner

By Sal Sturiale

Chapter Planning Committee

HLAA North Shore Chapter
Voice: 718-479-1098

Sal Sturiale
Chapter President
Sturiale@verizon.net

Charlie Kantor and
Ruth Dunitz
Newsletter Editor

David Siegol
Meeting Reporter

Helmuth Mooreman
Hilda Drucker
Publicity

Ruth Dunitz
Mailing

Silvia & David Siegel
Hospitality

Charles Kantor
Technology

Members:

Claire Fox
Hilda Polonet
Fred & Ruth Wiener
Sy Goldstein

It's been a while since you heard from me. Well I am back. Most of you have read or heard about the recent New York Times article on the "T" switch and the "Loop" system that is making great strides in this country.

The Loop system has been around for a long time. It has been used in Europe for many years. When you turn the "T" switch on, it will pick up the sound from your telephone or if you are in a location that has a loop system it will also pick up the sound. The big advantage of the system is that when listening in this mode all outside sound is shut off. Only the sound being transmitted is received by your hearing aid or earphones if you are using an external device.

If you think about it, that is a great improvement in your ability to hear what is being said. For example, if you are at an airport, with all the noise around you, it's impossible to understand what is being announced. With the loop system that is all gone. Only what is being announced is what you will hear.

This system can be used in many applications such as theater, movies, subways, trains, personal one on one devices; the list is endless. These are the type of issues that HLAA is involved with, and why your membership in not only the Chapter but the National of HLAA is so important.

Make it a point to join today if you are not already a member. The larger the membership the bigger the clout we have in getting these things in place for us and for future generations.

Last point: when purchasing new hearing aids, insist on "T" switch in your aids. Some audiologists disagree--don't be dissuaded on the importance of them!

HLAA of North Shore Long Island does not necessarily endorse the opinions of our speakers, goods & services.

You can still get a free Caption Call phone!

Don't miss this opportunity!
Contact Cameron Tingey at:
801-287-9421



What You Missed In October

By David Siegel

The meeting opened with our President Sal telling us that the South Shore and Huntington HLAA chapters closed down. Among the reasons were low membership, lack of dues to cover expenses, and the loss of a President. We hope everyone in our chapter will help us to continue our informative meetings.

Good News: Caption Call has begun installing their telephones in our area and Silvia and David received theirs today. They can't believe how wonderful it is to communicate by phone with big captions and just a small acceptable lag time, plus even being able to adjust the volume. There are many more new features to work with on this version, and well worth the wait from June. First time user David can really hear on a phone with quality sound, and no stress.

Dr. Susan Antonellis, the Clinical Coordinator of Audiology at the St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center in Queens, was our very special guest speaker for this evening. She explained that she does not sell hearing aids, but instead focuses on Aural Rehabilitation, which is related to the follow-up care for a person after buying a hearing aid. Many people hear with their aids but not clearly, and rather than putting the aid in a drawer her Department offers other alternatives. They offer a free half-hour community service which helps the aid-wearer to learn how to use the aid, plus suggestions and counseling to make it function better. To contact the Center call 718-990-6480.

Other services are offered on a fee basis, for example: reprogramming the aid, hearing tests, and other helpful programs.

"LACE" is a unique program described as a training program for home use, with a CD and a computer. It trains people with hearing loss to improve their Lip and Face reading techniques, to help understand language better in 20 days. This CD Can be purchased for \$30.00 at www.neurotone.com

If you you ever wondered if your hearing aid was doing the best job for you, then consider further counseling at the St. Johns Speech and Hearing Center.

LACE™
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Holiday Party

Our annual holiday party
will be held
Wednesday, December 6
6pm
Pier 25 Restaurant
215-16 Northern Blvd
Bayside.

There will be a
three-course dinner
with tax and tip included
for \$25.

We will be having a
raffle at the party and ask
you to bring a gift valued
at approximately \$5 to be
included in the raffle. This is
always lots of fun.

There is free valet parking
and wheelchair accessibility
at the restaurant.

Please contact
Ruth Dunitz at the next
meeting, or call her at
718-225-6577, or mail your
check to Ruth at:
57-21 224th Street,
Bayside, NY 111364.
She can provide directions
if needed.

Join in the fun!
Hope to see all of you there.

Ask the Audiologist

Jennifer Weitz, Au.D, CCC-A,
Doctor of Audiology,
Certificate of Clinical
Competency from the
American Speech-
Language-Hearing
Association

Questions: What will happen to my hearing aid if I sweat a lot? Is there anything I can do to prevent damage during the warm, humid summer months?



Answer: One of the biggest enemies of hearing aids is moisture, and the older the hearing aid, the more sensitive it is to the effects of moisture. Leaving the battery door on your hearing aids open at night does not only extend the life of your battery, but will also allow any unseen moisture that may have gotten inside of your hearing aid to dry out.

For those patients that sweat excessively, Dri-Aid kits are an affordable option that will help prolong the life and sound quality of the hearing aid.

Musicians Suffer Less Age-Related Hearing Decline than Non-Musicians

While hearing studies have already shown that trained musicians have highly developed auditory abilities compared to non-musicians, this is the first study to examine hearing abilities in musicians and non-musicians across a broad age range, from 18 to 91. Investigators wanted to determine if lifelong musicianship protects against normal hearing decline in later years, specifically for central auditory processing associated with understanding speech.

“What we found was that being a musician may contribute to better hearing in old age by delaying some of the age-related changes in central auditory processing. This advantage widened considerably for musicians as they got older when compared to similar-aged non-musicians,” said lead investigator Benjamin Rich Zendel at Baycrest’s Rotman Research Institute.

In the study, 74 musicians (ages 19-91) and 89 non-musicians (ages 18-86) participated in a series of auditory assessments. A musician was defined as someone who started musical training by the age of 16, continued practicing music until the day of testing, and had an equivalent of at least 6 years of formal music lessons. Non-musicians in the study did not play any musical instrument.

Participants completed four auditory tasks that assessed pure tone thresholds, gap detection, mistuned harmonic detection, and speech-in-noise. The scientists found that being a musician did not offer any advantage in the pure-tone thresholds test, across the age span. However, mistuned harmonic detection, gap detection, and speech-in-noise, the musicians showed a clear advantage over non-musicians.

Moreover, the advantage gap widened as both groups got older. By age 70, the average musician was able to understand speech in a noisy environment as well as an average 50-year-old non-musician, suggesting that lifelong musicianship can delay this age-related decline by 20 years.

Most importantly, the three assessments where musicians demonstrated an advantage all rely on auditory processing in the brain, while pure-tone thresholds do not. This suggests that lifelong musicianship mitigates age-related changes in the brains of musicians, which is probably due to musicians using their auditory systems at a high level on a regular basis. In other words, “use it or lose it.”

Zendel, who recently accepted a new position at the Université de Montréal, expects to have a follow-up study published within the next year that examines differences in brain function of older and younger musicians and non-musicians.

The study, *Musicians experience less age-related decline in central auditory processing*, was published in September, 2011 in the journal *Psychology and Aging*.

Groundbreaking Clinical Trial Launches to Treat Hearing Loss with Cord Blood

A new clinical trial is laying the groundwork to help transform medical care for patients with hearing loss. This innovative study, held at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas, will evaluate an infusion of a child's own (autologous) cord blood stem cells to treat acquired hearing loss. It follows the publication of promising preclinical data and several ongoing trials evaluating autologous cord blood infusions in novel cellular regenerative therapies.



Approximately 15% of children in the US suffer from low or high-frequency hearing loss.

1. The most common type of hearing loss, especially at high frequencies, is sensorineural, which is typically caused by damage to a type of cell in the inner ear or cochlea called a hair cell. The damage can result from a myriad of causes, including illness, medications, noise exposure, birth injury, head trauma, and genetic syndromes.
2. A child's ability to hear impacts the development of language skills, and impairments can lead to poor academic and social development.
3. No existing therapy has the ability to repair sensorineural damage. Rather, current intervention focuses on using cochlear implants to improve hearing. Yet this intervention carries surgical risks and shows varying degrees of impact.
4. Researchers at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital are working to develop a new therapeutic option that utilizes cord blood stem cells to stimulate cellular repair to restore hearing. The inspiration for the trial arose from research using an animal model of hearing loss caused by damage to the hair cells from exposure to high intensity noise or an ototoxic chemical.
5. The researchers found that animals treated with an intravenous infusion of cord blood showed dramatic repair of the cochlear damage marked by regrowth of the hair cells. There were no signs of cochlear repair or hair cell regeneration in the animals treated with a placebo control. They concluded that their study suggests a potential therapeutic strategy using cord blood in hearing rehabilitation therapies.

Building on this research, Dr. James Baumgartner and colleagues are investigating a first-of-its-kind intervention using autologous cord blood infusions for children with hearing loss. Their primary objective is to determine safety, and secondarily they hope to show functional, physiologic, and anatomic improvements following the intervention. The trial will enroll ten patients aged 6 weeks to 18 months who have their own cord blood stored at Cord Blood Registry® (CBR®) and suffer from acquired sensorineural hearing loss. This study marks the third clinical trial held in partnership with CBR, following a trial at the University of Texas Health Science Center for traumatic brain injury and a trial at Georgia Health Cbr Systems, Inc.

Kids and Hearing: Assistive Listening Devices

From Kids and Hearing 9/21/11

Hearing aid technology can greatly improve listening for children with hearing loss. What they can't do is "fix" a hearing loss and they can't conquer the issue of trying to listen in a difficult environment such as a classroom. But, there are options for improving classroom listening. Classrooms tend to be filled with hard surfaces: tile floors, desks and tables, white boards, computers, windows, walls... you get the picture. Sounds bounce or reverberate off of hard surfaces making listening in this kind of environment difficult, but even more so when background talking, chairs moving or other classroom noises are added in. The addition of area rugs and curtains can help absorb some of the background sound to improve listening. But the most effective method of improving the listening environment is with technology known as assistive listening devices or ALDs.

There are two primary ALDs used in classrooms: 1) personal FM system and 2) soundfield amplification. With both technologies the teacher wears a microphone which picks up his/her voice. With the soundfield system, speakers are mounted in the classroom. The teacher's voice is picked up by the microphone and delivered through the speakers. Soundfield systems can be beneficial to students with and without hearing loss. The personal FM system delivers sound directly from the teacher's microphone to the student typically with a "boot" that is a small receiver that connects directly to their hearing aid or cochlear implant. The advantage to the FM system is that the sound does not have to travel across the room. It is essentially as if the teacher is speaking directly into the child's ear.

The Pediatric Audiology Project in Wyoming put together a short video as an instructional guide for teachers using FM systems in their classroom. The video provides both good information for teachers and parents alike, but also simulates how the child might hear differently with or without the proper use of the FM system.

Located in the same building for 30 years!!!!!!!

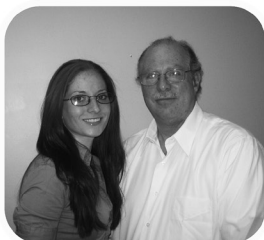
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HLAA of North Shore Long Island

Sal Sturiale
80-38 212 Street
Hollis Hills, NY 11427

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Dues include Newsletter.

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