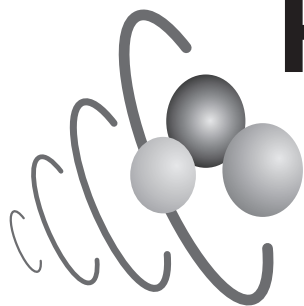


August 2012



Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore Chapter of Long Island

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.

Our Chapter

I wrote in last month's newsletter about my attending the National Convention in Providence, R.I. in June.

Now I'd like to tell you about the way I observed attendees interacting with one another, and with the vendors who were displaying their products. For the most part, everyone attending the Convention were people with hearing problems, and most of the vendors were hearing people.

The interaction between the two groups was almost flawless. The attendees were very interested in the products and wanted as much information as they could get. The vendors were well prepared to explain the products they were offering. Whatever it took for the vendors to communicate and get their message across – be it signing, looping, personal audio devices, or just speaking clearly and slowly – everyone took the time to do it.

There are many assistive devices that people with hearing loss can take advantage of which will improve their day to day quality of life.

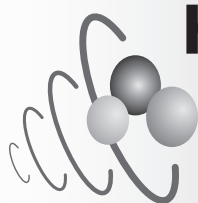
Unfortunately, there are people for whom these devices don't work well any longer. When your hearing loss gets to that advanced point, only a Cochlear Implant can help. I have met many people through the years with Cochlear Implants, and we have several members in our chapter with implants, but I was never as impacted by them as I was at the convention. At the convention, there were so many attendees with Cochlear Implants that I was able to observe their interactions on a very normal level that I hadn't ever seen before. At my hotel I saw a woman checking out and having a very long conversation with the staff. I am sure if it weren't for the Cochlear Implants (she had two), that conversation would never have happened.

Sometimes we think complete hearing loss can happen to others, and not to us. Unfortunately we also know that that is not true. If the time comes for some of us to consider Cochlear Implants we should have all the information available to make an informed decision for ourselves.

With that thought in mind, I would like to have a meeting devoted to this subject. We are in contact with experts, and making arrangements to do just that in the near future.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting in September,

Sal Sturiale



Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore Chapter of Long Island

Chapter Planning Committee

HLAA North Shore Chapter
Voice: 718-479-1098

Sal Sturiale
Chapter President
Sturiale@verizon.net

Charlie Kantor
Newsletter Editor

David Siegel
Meeting Reporter

Hilda Drucker
Events

Fred & Ruth Wiener
Publicity

Silvia & David Siegel
Hospitality

Charles Kantor
Technology

Members:

Ruth Dunitz
Claire Fox
Hilda Polonet
Helmuth Mooreman

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

Factory Workers Unaware Of Their Hearing Loss

In a survey, three out of four factory workers said that their hearing was good. However, 42% actually had a hearing loss.

Hear-it.org - March 12, 2012

An American survey has found that the prevalence of measured hearing loss among noise-exposed factory workers was 42%.

At the same time, 76% of the workers reported their hearing ability as good or excellent. The difference in perceived hearing ability was significant at each tested frequency between those with and without measured hearing loss. Thus, self-reported hearing ability was poorly-related to results of the audiometry.

In the survey, hearing loss was defined as above 25dB hearing loss at 2, 3 and 4 kHz in either ear.

Noise represents one of the most common occupational health hazards.

Although this group of workers was employed in a regulated environment and served by a hearing conservation program, hearing loss was highly prevalent. The researchers found that their results, together with national prevalence estimates, support the need for evaluation of hearing conservation programs and increased focus on reducing adult hearing loss in the US.

The data was collected as part of an intervention study promoting hearing protector use among 2,691 workers at an automotive factory in the Midwest in the US. The study was carried out by the University of Michigan, School of Nursing in the US.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

Announcing our new Chapter website:
www.hearingloss-longisland.org

NYC Walk4Hearing



Sunday, September 30, 2012

Riverside Park W 83rd St. & Riverside Dr.

New York City

Registration: www.walk4hearing.org

Everyone can participate!

Walk with the North Shore Team:

- Go to www.walk4hearing.org
- Click 'NEW YORK, NY' under 'Fall Walks'
- Click 'REGISTER' over the team scroll
- Click 'JOINING A TEAM'
- Type in North Shore Sandals next to 'ENTER TEAM NAME' and click 'SEARCH'
- Click 'NORTH SHORE SANDALS' in blue
- Click 'JOIN TEAM' and follow the prompts

Donate to the North Shore Team:

Checks of any amount are welcomed! Please make them payable to 'Walk4Hearing', and write 'North Shore Sandals' on the check. Mail checks to: Sal Sturiale, Walk4Hearing, PO Box 583, Glen Oaks, NY, 11004.

Dear HLAA Walkers,

I am pleased to be the National Business Chair for the HLAA Walk4Hearing, which you may have read about in the recent HLAA news release. You all know the mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

The HLAA Walk4Hearing is an opportunity to get everyone together to help a common cause that affects so many Americans. I know and saw this first hand when a huge crowd of walkers gathered at Lincoln Park in Chicago to support HLAA.

Why do we walk? Because hearing loss affects so many people. Whether you are born with hearing loss or develop a hearing loss, it has an effect on the individual as well as family and friends around them. The Walk4Hearing provides a great opportunity to come together as a community to support each other. It also provides a tremendous vehicle to spread the word to more and more people that there is a place to go and find the answers when faced with hearing loss. This is incredibly valuable.

Our fall Walk4Hearing events are approaching, so it is time to get your teams together! Spread the word! Share your experiences from last year's Walk with others. Walk day is a day to make new friendships, enjoy the entertainment from clowns and balloons artists, pick up some Walk4Hearing gear such as hats and t-shirts and of course get a little exercise. What a great way to spend the day!

NYC Walk4Hearing, Continued on Page 5

Ask the Audiologist

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

Question: Will getting hearing aids make my hearing worse? Is it better to wait until I REALLY need them?

Answer: Hearing aids are fit to your hearing loss, like a prescription. Digital hearing aids will not exceed a certain level or amplify very loud sounds like a truck driving by or a horn. This is for your safety and comfort. If you find some sounds are too loud, be sure to let your Audiologist or hearing aid dispenser know, so that they can be adjusted accordingly. This is also why it is important to have the aids fit by a professional and not buy them online or try a friend's.

For many new hearing aid users, there is a perception of hearing worse after they remove the aids than before they got them. This is simply a perception of things they are missing that they hadn't realized they weren't hearing in the past. The progression of age-related hearing loss cannot be predicted and will not be accelerated by getting hearing aids.

However, research does show that NOT getting hearing aids can cause a decrease in clarity ability, a more difficult time adjusting to new aids when you do get them and, more recently, research out of Johns Hopkins and Yale Medical Centers shows a decrease in gray brain matter leading to exacerbation of dementia caused by unaided hearing loss.

Hearing Aids A Nice Fit for American Girl

Suzanne Robitaille, <http://abledbody.com>

American Girl has taken a courageous step towards diversity with the launch of dolls with hearing aids, well as dolls without hair, signaling to the disability community that little girls who are differently-abled are important enough to have their own personalized doll experience.



Any 18-inch My American Girl doll can be fitted with one or two hearing aids to make her hard of hearing or deaf, whichever her owner desires. All it takes is a visit to the doll hospital, where a doctor will perform a permanent piercing behind one or both ears for a \$14 fee. New dolls also can be ordered with hearing aids already installed. The hearing aids are removable and sell at all American Girl stores, and online, for \$14 each.

The company also released an adorable service dog-in-training set for dolls who are blind or in need of assistance. The dog, Chocolate Chip, wears a service vest with a handle that a girl's doll can hold. The set comes with a selection of faux treats, and costs \$34. Chocolate Chip is receiving strong feedback from customers. On the American Girl website, a service dog handler says "the harness handle is the right length and the pockets of the vest are a nice touch."

American Girl isn't the first doll maker of its kind to cater to tween girls with disabilities. MyTwinn has long offered its dolls with removable hearing aids, and an online company named Sew Dolling has created Sew-Able, a line of Special Needs Dolls with a variety of impairments and disabilities. Sew-Able dolls have attachable above- and below-the-knee prosthetics, bald heads that come with wigs and hats to represent chemotherapy treatments, and dolls with walking braces, which are more realistic than crutches for kids with mobility impairments.

Dolls without hair are another customization American Girl now offers, making the doll-owning experience even more special for girls who have cancer or alopecia. The dolls must be ordered by phone, and can have light, medium, or dark skin tone. You can also choose your doll's eye color. Alternatively, a new head without hair can be created on your current doll, for a \$44 fee, at the doll hospital.

Continued on Page 5

As a bonus, “American Girl will offer one free doll head replacement should a girl’s need for a doll without hair ever change,” says Julie Parks, Director of Public Relations for American Girl, “because we know that not all hair loss conditions are permanent.” A new free head is a nice touch, and shows that American Girl is being sensitive to the needs of kids with disabilities. If a child’s life or hair situation changes, so should their doll’s.

Indeed, American Girl wants to make its dolls attractive to a larger number of girls. Each doll costs \$105, but the company also makes money from sales of its accessories and visits to the doll hospital and hair salon. Mattel, which purchased the Middleton, Wis., company in 1998, recorded American Girl sales of \$510.9 million last year and is jockeying for little girls’ hearts after Walt Disney Co. (Disney Princess) and MGA Entertainment (Moxie Girlz) entered the life-like doll market at lower price points.

American Girl first ventured into disability-themed doll accessories in 1997 by experimenting with a wheelchair accessory, which is still sold in stores. It branched out into dolls with temporary injuries and less visible disabilities. They also sell eyeglasses and orthodontics kits. The company’s big breakout this year is McKenna, the American Girl of the Year, who struggles with reading comprehension, or dyslexia. A gymnast, McKenna broke her leg at a gymnastics meet and — no surprise — McKenna’s cast and crutches set are a popular buy for \$30.

As for 2013, the doll world is lit up with wonder about the next American Girl of the Year, known as GOTY. On Doll Diaries, a website for tween girls, a reviewer named Lauren says GOTY should have a behavioral disorder, like autism. “I think high-functioning autism would be the best one they can choose, because people with high-functioning autism (like me) tend to be VERY smart... Did you know that Bill Gates has this form of autism? That — and I REALLY want an autistic American Girl doll like me.”

With American Girl looking for ways to include more girls, Lauren may get her wish. The new 2013 GOTY doll will be announced at the end of the year. Until then, to order a new doll with a hearing aid or without hair, contact American Girl’s contact center at (800) 628-5145.

NYC Walk4Hearing, Continued from Page 3

The Walk4Hearing is such a vital program of HLAA to raise awareness and to raise funds to help so many individuals with hearing loss and their families. The Walk4Hearing also helps our local HLAA chapters, local schools, hospitals and other hearing health-care-related groups.

We have a fundraising goal of \$1.3 million. To reach our goal we depend on every walker to do their part. We need everyone to commit to raising awareness about hearing loss as a public health issue and funds for programs and services. Let’s make this year’s Walk4Hearing a huge success!

Create and build your teams, get motivated and begin your fundraising campaign! I look forward to congratulating many of you in person at some of the Walk4Hearing events.

Good luck and thank you!

Chris Artinian



The Ultimate Captioned Telephone Experience!



With CaptionCall you will enjoy:

- A large 7" screen with adjustable text sizes
- Smooth-scrolling captions for easy reading
- Customizable frequency amplification to match your personal audiogram
- Fast and accurate captioning for a natural phone experience
- Location flexibility using a wired or wireless Internet connection
- A sleek design with touch-screen technology
- Free delivery and installation assistance

Get CaptionCall absolutely FREE! Go to www.CaptionCall.com, click on REQUEST INFO, and complete the form. Or call **1-877-557-2227**. Refer to promo code **MS1124**. Expires Oct. 31, 2012.

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

Evening Hours by appointment
Open Saturdays
Family Owned and operated

All Major Manufacturers
On-Site Repairs
30+ Years of Experience



70- 50 Austin Street, Suite 115
Located on the Lower Level
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Please call for an appointment (718) 793-9629



Stephan A. Weitz, BC-HIS

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist
NYS Licensed Audiologist & Hearing Aid Dispenser

Jennifer Weitz, Au.D., CCC-A

Doctor of Audiology
NYS Licensed Audiologist & Hearing Aid Dispenser

WE BUY AND SELL



Est. 1986

- Gold • Silver • Coins
- Jewelry & Antiques
- Watches • Painting
- Flatware & Sterling
- Military Collectibles

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES

COMET IS LOCATED AT
192-07 UNION TPKE., FLUSHING
718-479-0459

Assistive Listening System

Available for the Hearing Impaired

Parkside
Memorial Chapels, Inc.

To reach all branches:
(718) 896-9000 - 24 hours a day

Queens

98-60 Queens Boulevard

Brooklyn

2576 Flatbush Avenue

Nassau

175 Long Beach Road, Rockville Center
8000 Jericho Tpke., Woodbury

In Florida call:

Dade County - (305) 864-3774

Broward County - (954) 472-2821

Palm Beach County - (561) 655-6844



HLAA of North Shore Long Island

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership Dues

Stay abreast of pertinent news and information. Send in your dues today.

Dues include Newsletter.

Make check to:

HLAA of North Shore Long Island

Dues: \$15.00 (for the year)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE

and mail check to:

Sal Sturiale

80-38 212 Street

Hollis Hills, NY 11427



**Hearing Loss
Association
of America**

Join National

**to receive their Bi-monthly
Award Winning Magazine**

Dues: \$35.00.

You can either send in this form or
join online at www.hearingloss.org

Mail Check to:

Hearing Loss Association of America

7910 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____