

# 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.

## **Meeting News**

September 19, 2012

Refreshments and Social Time begins at 6:30pm Meeting begins at 7:00pm

## Topic: Are Hearing Aids Not Enough?

Speaker: Jeanne Fredriksen, M.Ed, CED

Are hearing aids not enough? Would you like to know more about other options? Join us with Jeanne Fredriksen, M.Ed, CED, from MedEl, who will speak at the Sept. 10th meeting about this generation of implantable devices. She'll discuss who qualifies, and how these devices can help. She will also touch on the rehabilitation process.

**Bio:** Jeanne is a retired Special Ed. Director and Principal of an Oral School for the Deaf. She has over 35 years working in the field of hearing loss. In her roll with MED-EL as Sr. Consumer Outreach Manager, she travels the North East region helping others to learn about new technology and rehabilitation materials that are available for those with all levels of hearing loss.

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



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.

## Our Chapter

I hope you all have had a good summer. It is now time to get back to what we do best at the North Shore Chapter of HLAA, which is to give you information on new technology, act as a support group, and provide a place where you can ask questions and get help finding answers.

A question often asked is "What is National doing for us in terms of making things more assessable for people with hearing loss?" If you are a member of the National organization, you receive the Hearing Loss magazine and you see what a strong force our organization is in bringing new laws to the legislation, and achieving compliance with the existing ones. It is in the best interests of all members to join National as they need our support.

It is important to remember that we, people with hearing loss, are a growing number of the population. If you think you may not get the benefit of carrying on the fight for better treatment and accommodations for people with hearing loss, think again.

Hearing loss in many cases is heredity. Your children, your grandchildren, and in some cases your great grandchildren, may be affected in the future. What we do today to bring awareness about hearing loss will help people for years to come.

National is the single most effective organization in America to champion the cause of hearing loss. So, when I keep writing about the Walk4Hearing, which is raising money for HLAA, there is an important reason for it. The walk brings awareness to the general public of our organization and what we do and who we are. We are normal people who just don't hear very well. Your donation helps to educate people and get things done on a City, State, and National level. We at our Chapter are counting on **You**, your **Family**, and **Friends** to support this grand effort.

You will find information on how to donate to the Walk4Hearing in this issue of our newsletter. Please donate and make a difference.

Sal Sturiale

## 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 Walk-4Hearing 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:** How often should I have my hearing checked?

**Answer:** The American Academy of Audiology recommends checking your hearing annually.

For those with normal hearing, under the age of 40, I personally recommend a complete audiological evaluation every 3 years to monitor any changes. No matter how old or young you are, once you have been diagnosed with a hearing loss, it is important to be checked every year to monitor progression (whether or not you are noticing a change). Slight drops in your hearing may go unnoticed, but can amount to changes in your hearing aid prescription or your doctors' recommendations.

If you notice any sudden or significant changes in your hearing you should always have it checked as soon as possible. It may only be wax in your ears, but if it is a change occurring in the inner ear, the sooner you see your physician the better.

## Filings Detail Apple's Plans To Improve Support For Hearing Impaired Users

With this fall's launch of iOS 6 set to add support for new "Made for iPhone" hearing aids, a pair of new patent applications offer a glimpse of how Apple could even further benefit users who are hearing impaired.

The applications published this week by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and discovered by *AppleInsider* are entitled *Social Network for Sharing a Hearing Aid Setting* and *Remotely Updating a Hearing Aid Profile*. They both describe smart hearing aids that could wirelessly connect to devices to make life easier for users with hearing issues.

The applications come as Apple is set to offer built-in support for new "Made for iPhone" hearing aids later this year with the launch of iOS 6. The new hardware accessories will offer compatibility with Apple's latest-generation model, the iPhone 4S.

But Apple's newly published patent applications go much farther than just a certified iPhone accessory. Specifically, the social network patent describes a system through which users who rely on hearing aids could communicate with one another and share information in the interest of improving the overall quality of life of the members.

"With the advent of programmable hearing aids whose signal processing can be at least partially modified, what is desired is providing a hearing aid user the ability to modify the audio processing of the programmable hearing aid in the context for which the hearing aid will be used," the filing reads.

Apple's proposed networking system would rely on a user's portable device, like an iPhone, that is connected to their wireless hearing aid. The iPhone would then communicate with other users and share settings so that they might obtain an ideal hearing aid configuration for their current location or activity.

Ideal hearing aid settings could also be stored and shared through other devices, like a computer or television set.

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The second patent, related to remotely updating the settings on a hearing aid, describes how a system could save different configured profiles for specific circumstances. This would allow the user of a hearing aid "to modify the audio processing of the programmable hearing aid in real time in accordance with the context for which the hearing aid is or will be used."

These stored, quickly selectable profiles could be shared between iPhones in Apple's social networking concept, which could make life easier for users with hearing issues.

Both the social networking application and the concept for remotely updating a hearing aid profile were were first filed with the USPTO in January of 2011. Both proposed inventions are credited to Edwin W. Foo and Gregory F. Hughes.

#### Joke Corner

Question: What language do billboards speak?

Answer: Sign language

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**PHONAK** 





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

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-carerelated 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 Walk-4Hearing 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



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**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



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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

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