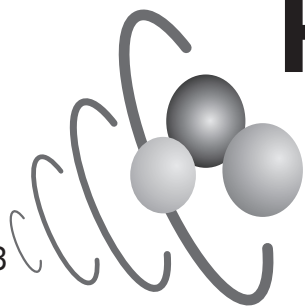


December 2013



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.

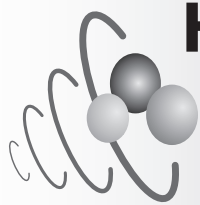
FYI

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.

**HLAA North Shore Chapter
wishes you and yours
a wonderful holiday season
and best wishes for the New Year!**



**There is no meeting in December, but stay
tuned for our exciting lineup of speakers for
2014—mark your calendars and join us every
third Wednesday of each month!**



Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore Chapter of Long Island

Chapter Planning Committee

HLAA North Shore Chapter
Voice: 718-479-1098

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Newsletter Editor

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Events

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Publicity

Silvia & David Siegel

Hospitality

Charles Kantor

Technology

Members:

Ruth Dunitz

Claire Fox

Hilda Polonet

Helmuth Mooreman

Our Chapter

Again, I must say, if you missed the last meeting in November, you missed a great meeting.

Our speaker Arlene Romoff, who is known as a great motivational speaker, author and advocate, certainly lived up to her reputation. She spoke to us on a number of subjects, and focused on cochlear implants—she has two herself.

She shared her personal history of her experiences and challenges of living with hearing loss, always moving forward and finding new and better ways to cope and improve her hearing and quality of life. Instead of giving in to hearing loss, she has made it a goal to accomplish things for people with hearing loss; for example, open captioning in Broadway theaters, and access for people with hearing loss at museums, movies, hospitals and public events.

So the next time you say “something should be done to help people with hearing loss,” think of Arlene—and how one person can make a difference in so many people’s lives.

Come to our meetings. Bring someone with hearing loss and experience what HLAA can do for you.

Sal Sturiale

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

Take Gallaudet University's Online Survey About Voice Telecommunications Use

Wed, 10/23/2013

The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Telecommunications Access at Gallaudet University is conducting an online survey to learn about the experiences of adults who are hard of hearing, deaf or have hearing loss in their use of voice telecommunications technology in the U.S. (regular telephones, cell phones, captioned phones, Skype, etc.).

Our goal is to better understand how such adults use current voice telecommunications technology, what barriers they face using it, and what needs they have for improved accessibility.

For the purposes of this survey, voice telecommunications means that you both listen and talk for yourself during telephone calls, even if you also supplement your listening experience by using text (for example, relay or captioning) to read what the other person on the call is saying while you listen.



To take this survey you:

1. must be 18 years or older
2. have hearing loss and
3. use voice telecommunications regularly (at least once a week).
4. have access to the Internet in order to complete the survey.

The survey will take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete, depending on the extent of your telephone use.

To participate in the survey go to <http://tap.gallaudet.edu/telecomsurvey/>

For questions about the survey, contact: Linda Kozma-Spytek at Linda.kozma-spytek@gallaudet.edu.

Music To The Ears Of Cochlear Implant Users

By medicalnewstoday.com

For many, music is a universal language that unites people when words cannot. But for those who use cochlear implants—technology that allows deaf and hard of hearing people to comprehend speech—hearing music remains extremely challenging.

University of Washington scientists hope to change this. They have developed a new way of processing the signals in cochlear implants to help users hear music better. The technique lets users perceive differences between musical instruments, a significant improvement from what standard cochlear implants can offer, said lead researcher Les Atlas, a University of Washington professor of electrical engineering.

“Right now, cochlear-implant subjects do well when it’s quiet and there is a single person talking, but with music, noisy rooms or multiple people talking, it’s difficult to hear,” Atlas said. “We are on the way to solving the issue with music.” Atlas and other researchers believe that hearing music has possible links to hearing speech better in noisy settings, another goal of this research.

Atlas and collaborator Jay Rubinstein, a UW professor of otolaryngology and of bioengineering, and members of their labs recently published their initial findings in the *IEEE Transactions on Neural Systems and Rehabilitation Engineering*. A study on eight cochlear-implant users showed that using this new coding strategy let them distinguish between musical instruments much more accurately than with the standard devices.

The researchers hope to fine-tune the signal processing to make it compatible with cochlear implants already on the market so users can improve their music perception right away. They also are working on algorithms to better support device users’ perception of pitch and melody.

“This is the critical first-step that opened the door,” Atlas said.

A cochlear implant is a small, electronic device that lets a person who is profoundly deaf or hard of hearing perceive sound. One piece is placed on the skin behind a person’s ear, while another portion is surgically inserted under the skin. The implant works by directly stimulating the auditory nerve, bypassing damaged portions of the ear. The implant’s signals are sent to the brain, which recognizes the signals as sounds.

Cochlear implants are different from hearing aids, which amplify sounds so they can be detected by damaged ears.

The UW scientists developed a new way to process the sounds of musical melodies and notes, which tend to be more complex than speech. Specifically, they tried to improve the ability of cochlear-implant users to detect pitch and timbre in songs.

Continued on Page 5

FCC Warns of Captioned Phone Scam

Tuesday, 10/08/2013

The Commission has received information that consumers using Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Relay Services (IP CTS) may have received calls from one or more persons purporting to be from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), requesting the consumers to schedule a visit to the consumer's home regarding the consumer's IP CTS phone.

The purpose of this notice is to alert all IP CTS consumers that the FCC has not been scheduling any home visits to IP CTS consumers. If you receive a phone call from any individual claiming to be from the FCC who wants to schedule a home visit, we recommend that you do not provide any information to the caller, and do not agree to let the caller into your home. In addition, we request that you please report such calls to the FCC's Disability Rights Office at 202-559-5158 (voice/videophone) or Gregory.Hlibok@fcc.gov.

Music To The Ears Of Cochlear Implant Users, Continued from Page 4

Pitch is associated with the melody of a song and intonation when speaking. Timbre, while hard to define, relates most closely to the varying sounds that different instruments make when playing the same note. For example, a bass will sound much different from a flute when they both strike a middle C.

People who use cochlear implants usually perceive words by their syllables and rhythms, not through tone or inflection. The researchers tested their new processing technique on cochlear-implant users by playing common melodies such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" with the rhythms removed. They found that timbre recognition—the ability to distinguish between instruments—increased significantly, but the ability to perceive a melody was still difficult for most people.

"This is the first time anyone has demonstrated increased timbre perception using a different signal-processing system," said Rubinstein, a physician at the UW Medical Center and Seattle Children's hospital and director of the Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center. "With cochlear implants, we've always been oriented more toward speech sounds. This strategy represents a different way of thinking about signal processing for music."

Atlas has a background in music, having designed guitar amplifiers and effects for rock musicians before becoming an electrical engineering professor. Rubinstein plays a variety of instruments and has been a classical, jazz and blues musician since he was 5 years old. His interest in neuroscience started around that time when he wondered why minor chords sound sad. Rubinstein comes from a musical engineering family—his brother, Jon Rubinstein, invented the iPod.



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In Florida call:

Dade County - (305) 864-3774

Broward County - (954) 472-2821

Palm Beach County - (561) 655-6844

Holiday Party

Our annual holiday party will be held
Wednesday, December 11 at 6pm
at Pier 25 Restaurant, 215-16 Northern Blvd, Bayside, NY

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

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.
You can also get directions from Google Maps, using the restaurant address (above).

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

We Welcome All Donations

Please make checks payable to: HLAA
North Shore of L.I.

Mail to: Sal Sturiale
8038 212 Street
Queens Village, N.Y. 11427

Be sure to designate who to acknowledge
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And please let us know who to send the
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Thank you!

Stay Connected

Make sure you're on our chapter email list, so we
can quickly notify you of important and time-sen-
sitive information, such as meeting changes, etc.
Send us a note at: hlaalongisland@gmail.com.

Support Group for Parents of Hearing Impaired Children

**Meets at the Hearing and Speech Center of
LIJ Hospital**

For more information: Contact Dr. Linda Glazer at
(718) 470-8631 or e-mail lglazer@nshs.edu



HLAA of North Shore Long Island

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

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