

April 2014



Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore of Long Island Chapter

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

Wednesday, April 16th

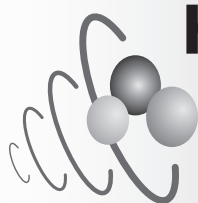
Gathering at 6:30pm. Meeting begins 7:00pm.

Topic: "Effective Communication... It's a Right, Not a Privilege!"

Rights, Responsibilities & Challenges in Healthcare Settings

What needs to happen to ensure that people with hearing loss and their families can make informed decisions, actively participate in their healthcare, and have all their questions answered. How do we work collaboratively and change the culture in a meaningful and sustainable way? We will discuss the laws, regulations and guidelines that are intended to support and protect rights and how to apply them.

Our Speaker: Jody Prysock is a nationally certified sign language interpreter, adjunct professor at CUNY in the Disabilities Studies program and the former director of Language, Cultural & Disability Services at NYU Langone Medical Center. While Jody's early professional life focused on working in the signing Deaf community, her 11 years at NYULMC, introduced her to the profound challenges of deaf and hard-of-hearing people who do not communicate in a signed language. It was there that she began to learn about unique and often overlooked communication and other related challenges and became a strong advocate and problem solver for patients, families and healthcare providers. By applying the laws and regulations and educating, she hopes to continue to inform, guide and support healthcare facilities, hospitals and private physician offices, in efforts to provide effective communication for ALL patients.



Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore Chapter of Long Island

Chapter Planning Committee

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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

Our March meeting was very interesting and informative. Our speaker, Danette Baker who is the manager of the dispensary at LIJ Hearing and Speech Center, gave us an insight on things to come in the future in the hearing aid industry. Some of the new charges that audiologists will be passing on to the clients are:

- Number of visits that are free after the purchase of hearing aids. Usually 4 visits to program new aids; after that you may be charged.
- Charges for new tubing and minor repairs that were free in the past. These will have a charge now.
- If you can extend your warranty, this should be done at the time of purchase.

Make sure you know all the charges that you may incur before you make your purchase. Ask what services you will be getting when you make your purchase such as ear molds, type of hearing aid, programming of the aids, and follow up services.

It's up to you to know what you are getting into. Ask questions and make sure you are satisfied with the answers before you sign on the dotted line. If you aren't sure, don't do anything until you have the answers.

The Chapter is a good place to get answers. We are a very savvy group of people when it comes to these issues. Come to a meeting, talk to us and see what I mean.

The other thing I would like to address is our Chapter, which is going through some changes. We are trying to improve all aspects of our Chapter goals. We want to be sure the topics our speakers address at meetings are the same ones our members want to be informed about. We're also working to improve outreach to the community to provide information to people who may not be able to attend meetings; we're also re-evaluating the number of meetings our Chapter has each year. We're also working to have CART (real time captioning) at all of the meetings.

Most important of all is getting you—the membership—to attend the meetings. It's up to you if our Chapter moves forward or not. Remember: you are the backbone of HLAA and of our Chapter. All this work and effort is to improve the lives of people with hearing loss. If you would like to get involved with Chapter projects, that's great; just let me know. Chapter members and

Continued on next page

HLAA Annual Convention

CONVENTION



**Hearing Loss
Association
of America**

2014

Austin, Texas
June 26 - 29, 2014

Go to: www.hearingloss.org and click on "EVENTS" for more info

HLAA's national office is asking members to write personal letters to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (via Lise Hamlin, HLAA's Director of Public Policy), urging her to co-sponsor the "Hearing Aid Tax Assistance Act." See <http://www.hearingaidtaxcredit.org> for more on this bill.

Address your personal letter to:

The Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand
United State Senator
478 Russell
Washington, DC 20510

A sample text is below. If possible, choose your own words:

Please support S. 1694 to provide a modest \$500 tax credit once every five years for the purchase of up to two hearing aids.

There is little or no health insurance coverage for hearing aids. They are not covered by Medicare. Over 60% of hearing aid purchases involve no third-party payment. And because a single hearing aid today can cost as much as \$3,000, and 80% of people with hearing loss require two devices, most people cannot afford them, either for themselves or for their children. This cost burden prevents our poorest citizens and a disproportionate number of senior citizens from getting help and forces them to become increasingly cut off from communication and further and further into a world of silence.

48 million Americans—one in every five—have lost some hearing in at least one ear; this includes 1.2 million children under 18, one in three people over 65 and one of every two over 75.

Please co-sponsor this vital legislation.

Members: Please send your letter via email to: Lise Hamlin (lhamlin@hearingloss.org), and she will forward to Senator Gillibrand.

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nonmembers who receive this newsletter are counting on you to build out Chapter and make it a place that we all feel comfortable attending meetings and exchanging ideas.

Please attend meetings and grow with us.

Sal Sturiale

RESEARCH ON DEAFNESS

New Test Identifies Cause of Childhood Deafness

*From HLAA Rochester Newsletter Dec 2013
(excerpt from Wisconsin Newsletter, winter 2013)
Suggested by Ginny Koenig*

A new genetic test has been piloted by scientists at the University of Antwerp that will ultimately make it possible to rapidly screen all known deafness genes to give a far more accurate diagnosis of the cause of a hearing loss.

The new test will help parents of a deaf child understand the chances of future siblings also being born deaf. Knowing the cause of a child's deafness can make it easier to predict how their hearing loss may change over time, and help parents choose the most appropriate treatment or method of communication.

The findings, published in the American Journal of Medical Genetics, show that by screening just 34 known deafness genes, an accurate diagnosis could be given in roughly half the cases. Ultimately, all known deafness genes could be screened for the same cost as it takes to test one or two genes today.

Source: Action on Hearing Loss Study Links Cognitive Deficits and Hearing Loss

A new study by researchers at Johns Hopkins Medicine suggests that elderly people with compromised hearing are at risk of developing cognitive deficits—problems with memory and thinking—sooner than those whose hearing is intact. The study in JAMA Internal Medicine was led by Dr. Frank Lin, a hearing specialist and epidemiologist who over the past several years has documented the extent of hearing problems in older people and their association with falls and the onset of dementia.

For caregivers and older adults, the bottom line is “pay attention to hearing loss,” said Kathleen Pichora-Fuller, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto who was not involved in the study. Most people seek medical attention for hearing difficulties 10 to 20 years after they first notice a problem, she said, because “there’s a stigma about hearing loss and people really don’t want to wear a hearing aid.” That means years of struggling with the consequences of impairment, without interventions that can make a difference.

One consequence that may help explain Dr. Lin’s findings is social isolation. When people have a hard time distinguishing what someone is saying to them, as is common in older age, they often stop accepting invitations to dinners or parties, attending concerts or classes, or going to family events. Over time, this social withdrawal can become a self-fulfilling prophecy, leading to the loss of meaningful relationships and activities that keep older people feeling engaged with others.

The full article, published in the New York Times is available at the link below.
<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/11/straining-to-hear-and-fend-off-dementia/>



PICNIC *in the* PARK

Join us for our 10th Annual
Summertime Picnic!

(The picnic will be in place of our June monthly meeting.)

Wednesday June 18th (rain date June 19th)

6:00 PM to 9 PM

Steppingstone Park, Great Neck, L.I.

\$5 per person, including all food and beverages

Friends, significant others, and even wives and husbands are welcome!

As always, Hilda Drucker is in charge of this event. Please reach her at
(516) 482-6433 or hildad@mailbug.com to confirm you attendance.

We need to know how many people will attend.

Directions: From LIJ Hearing and Speech Center (a starting point we all know)

North on Lakeville RD	2 mi
Turns into S Middle Neck Rd	2.8 mi
Left onto Redbrook Rd	.09 mi
Left onto Kings Point Rd	.01 mi

Right onto Stepping Stone Lane. On your left is the park.
You can also Google "Steppingstone Park, Great Neck" for directions.

Make it a point to be there. You won't be disappointed!

Research Request

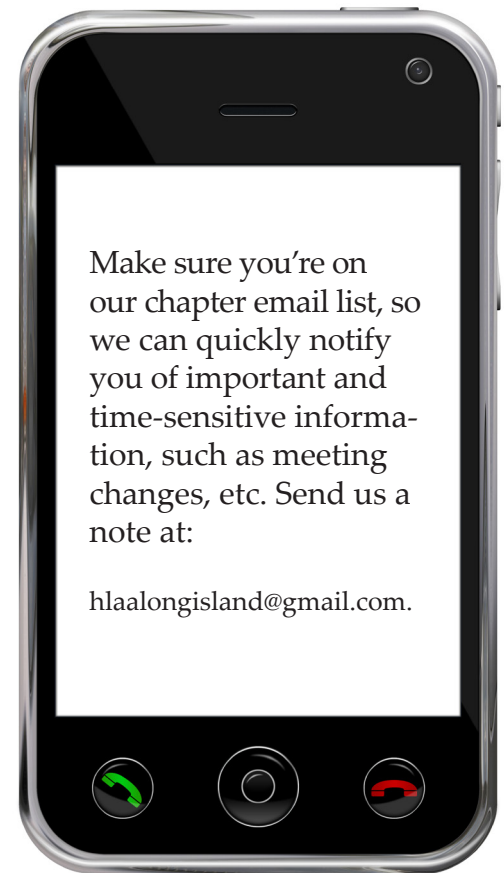
David Baldridge is a HLAA member and professor at Oregon State University. His research was featured in the January/February 2014 issue of *Hearing Loss Magazine*. He is currently working on a research project titled *Work Place Experiences of People who are Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing* (Deaf/HOH) that collects interview and survey data from hearing loss experts, people with hearing loss, their supervisors and coworkers.

Please contact him at

david.baldridge@bus.oregonstate.edu

if you would like to participate.

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*Certification of hearing loss by a hearing-care professional is required to participate in this offer. A standard phone line and Internet connection are also required to use this service.

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 for your donation. For example: "this donation is: In Memory of; or In Honor of; or Happy Birthday; or Congratulations to..."

And please let us know who to send the acknowledgment to.

Thank you!

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

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: _____

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