

February 2015



# 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, February 18, 2015

**Refreshments and Social Time begins 6:30pm. Meeting begins 7:15pm.**

***Topic: Listen, Learn and Share—A conversation around Audiologic Rehabilitation***

Audiologic rehabilitation focuses on adjusting to your hearing loss, making the best use of your hearing aids, exploring assistive devices that might help, managing conversations, and taking charge of your communication.

Joining us will be Dr. Karen MacLennan and her graduate students from LIU Post. Listen to Dr. MacLennan describe audiologic rehabilitation and the training being provided to today's students. Exchange experiences and thoughts with members and students about living with hearing loss. Come join us for this interactive session to gain new insight to help deal with the day to day challenges we face.

*There will be CART (real-time captioning) at the February meeting!*



# Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore of Long Island Chapter

## Chapter Planning Committee

*HLAA North Shore  
Chapter of L.I.*

Sal Sturiale

Charlie Kantor

Rosemarie Mignogna

Trudie Walker

Ruth Wiener

Ruth Dunetz

Hilda Drucker

MaryAnn Weeks

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

## Our Chapter

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I went to a Broadway theater again last week and wanted to tell you all about it.

The show we saw is called "HONYMOON in LAS VEGAS." It was a light, fun show—nothing serious. Is it for everyone? I don't think so. However: if you are an Elvis Fan, there were 7 Elvis Presley impersonators on stage at one time.

I am not writing a review of the show. What I am writing about is the equipment that is available now in Broadway theaters that make going to a Broadway show accessible to people with hearing loss.

Many people will ask for a headset that utilizes standard ear phone technology. There is one other option you can use and that is called a neck loop. What you want to ask for is an additional neck loop and plug that into the headset. Put the loop around your neck, turn on your "T" switches on your hearing aids and the sound will go directly into your hearing aids without any background noise.

Do you get every single word? NO. Will you get enough to enjoy the show? DEFINITELY!

If you want to be able to enjoy a Broadway show this is one way you should try. The other option is called "open caption shows," which only have a limited number of dates available.

If you have an experience you would like to share with the chapter, please send it to our email address ([hlaalongisland@gmail.com](mailto:hlaalongisland@gmail.com)) and we will get it into the newsletter.

Till next time,

Sal Sturiale

# North Korea's Deaf Soccer Team

By ABC News (<http://ab.co/1GjenUm>)



Only a lucky few North Koreans get the chance to travel out of the country, but the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) first national hearing impaired football team is being given the rare privilege to play their first international friendly game against Australia in Sydney this weekend.

Formed just a year ago, the players are between the ages of 15 and 25 and they were handpicked to represent their country based on their health, skill and stamina.

To accommodate their disability, the coach gives orders using sign language and the referee uses a flag instead of a whistle.

"It's difficult to play when you're deaf but we are playing football together as a team," player O Jung Gol said. "We have good practice and with good team spirit, we can overcome all difficulties," he said.

The North Korean team's visit followed calls by the United Nations General Assembly's Human Rights Committee (HRC) last month to refer the DPRK to the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity.

The referral followed a UN Commission of Inquiry report published in February 2014, which detailed wide-ranging human rights abuses and atrocities in the country, including prison camps, systematic torture and starvation.

Professor Bronwen Dalton from the University of Technology said the football tour was a significant step towards the North Korean government's efforts to help improve international relations.

"Their visit is highly unusual and it's trying to send a few messages," Professor Dalton said. "It's that the North Koreans aren't always about violation of human rights. For example, they provide support for the physically disabled.

"It's also trying to signal a gesture of friendliness and a new experimentation with cultural diplomacy and sports diplomacy.

"Nevertheless, things are done with a purpose. It's a very rational act there.

"It's not a crazy rogue state. It does things in a calculated fashion and they would only be doing this, if they saw some benefit to their own international reputation."

# New Device Could Allow Deaf People To “Hear” Through Their Tongues

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*Published on <http://www.iflscience.com>*

Since their introduction, cochlear implants have transformed the lives of many people across the world, allowing deaf or severely hard-of-hearing individuals to regain their sense of sound. Unfortunately, the devices also have their drawbacks; they have to be surgically implanted, aren't suitable for all forms of hearing loss, and can cost a whopping \$100,000.

But now, an alternative could well be on the horizon, as scientists from Colorado State University (CSU) have come up with a novel way to achieve the same outcome: a device that allows users to “hear” with their tongues. The system doesn't restore hearing, but rather it converts sounds into distinct patterns of vibration that can be felt by the tongue, and thus helps the user to interpret sensations as sounds or words. Not only would this technology be significantly cheaper than cochlear implants, but it wouldn't require surgery either.

Cochlear implants and hearing aids work in very different ways. Whereas hearing aids amplify sounds so that they can be detected, cochlear implants bypass damaged parts of the ear and directly stimulate the auditory nerve. Sounds from the environment are picked up by a microphone and then analyzed by a speech processor. This information is then converted into electrical impulses which are then sent to different regions of the auditory nerve. It takes some training, but eventually users learn to recognize different impulses as particular sounds or words.

The CSU device works in a similar way, but what happens to the sounds after they're picked up is different. A Bluetooth-enabled earpiece transmits sounds to a processor which then converts them into patterns of impulses that represent a word. Rather than stimulating the auditory nerve, these signals are then sent to a smart retainer held in the mouth. When the user presses their tongue against the mouthpiece, tiny electrodes within the device send out patterns of impulses that stimulate nerves on the tongue, which then fire and relay the signals to the brain.

“Some people suggest it feels like the sensation of having champagne bubbles or Pop Rocks on their tongue,” engineer and project leader John Williams told PopSci.

As explained in the video below, once you've taught your tongue and brain to work together, you've effectively taught your tongue to “hear.” It will take weeks, if not months, of training, but eventually the brain will learn to recognize the tingles as useful sound information.

*Continued on Page 5*

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### Additional Location

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*Continued from page 4*

The reason that the researchers chose to stimulate the tongue is because it houses thousands of nerves, and our brain is very good at interpreting complicated touch sensations from the tongue.

"We're able to discriminate between fine points that are just a short distance on the tongue," Leslie Stone-Roy told PopSci. "It's similar in terms of your fingertips; that's why we use fingers to read Braille. The tongue is similar in that it has high acuity."

At the moment, the device is pretty hefty, but the researchers are hoping to eventually develop a smaller mouthpiece that's like a retainer, which wouldn't be visible. They also believe it shouldn't cost more than \$2,000, which is significantly cheaper than cochlear implants. There's much more work to be done, but for now, the team is focusing on mapping the nerves on the tongue so that the researchers can select the best places to stimulate.



# CART Case Victory Supports Students

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Via: <http://bit.ly/1BhcaW9>

A recent court case provided a victory for students who are deaf and hard of hearing to gain access to Computer-Assisted Realtime Transcription (CART) as an accommodation in mainstream K-12 classrooms. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the plaintiff in K.M. v. Tustin Unified School District (No. 11-56259) that school districts must consider student's request for CART. AG Bell filed an amicus brief in the case in support of K.M., a high school student who is deaf and uses cochlear implants and speechreading to communicate.

In the case, the Court of Appeals reversed summary judgment against K.M. and another high school student who sought CART—a service in which a transcriptionist provides live captioning—from their school districts as an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Court ruled that compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, two federal laws that provides special education services and accommodations for students with disabilities, does not mean compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The requirements of the ADA are broader and more stringent. Under the ADA, public schools must provide students who are deaf and hard of hearing with equal and effective communication.

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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](mailto:lglazer@nshs.edu)



North Shore of Long Island Chapter  
<http://hearingloss-longisland.org>

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)**

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