

March 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: 516-331-0231.

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, March 18, 2015

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

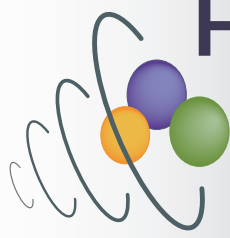
There will be CART (real-time captioning) at our meetings!

Topic: No Limits Theatre Group presents a screening of "Silent No More," a collection of inspiring life stories read by No Limits alumni.

Q&A with cast to follow

About our presenter: Linda Davidson is a parent of a child with a hearing loss who is also a cast member in the original production. Linda founded Hear Us Long Island and is actively involved in the community through the arts and in the field of deafness.

About No Limits: No Limits produces original plays specifically written for deaf and hard of hearing children who are learning to speak and listen. Founded in 1996 by Dr. Michelle Christie, No Limits is a nonprofit organization that teaches children with a hearing loss the skills to succeed in school and in life through its national theater program and educational centers.



Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore of Long Island Chapter

Chapter Planning Committee

*HLAA North Shore
Chapter of L.I.*

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

On The Road

I'm writing this month about something that could affect any one of us who wear hearing aids...

My wife and I had a great flight down to Florida this past month.. We rented a nice car and were ready for a wonderful vacation and exploration trip to see if we were ready to begin spending our winters there.

We started in Fort Lauderdale, went north to Hutchinson Beach and then south to visit friends and look around at places we might be interested in.

Everything was going just as planned; good company, good food, good drink... you get the idea, everything was really good. Right? Well it was before we went to the west coast to visit more friends, for more good food, and good drink, as well as looking around some more.

This is where the story takes a little turn for the worse. On the second night, and while visiting friends and after we had some more good food, good drink, and wonderful conversation, my right hearing aid went out. I thought it was the battery so I changed it two times but it still didn't work. After you change the battery twice you know for sure something is wrong.

Well fortunately, the vacation was not lost for me. You see, I travel with backup hearing aids. These are the last hearing aids I used before I got my new ones, so they work fairly well. If I didn't have them I might as well just have gone home. They saved the day, so we could indulge in more good food and good drink, and we could continue our search for that magic place to watch the sunset.

Till we meet again,

Sal Sturiale

P.S. I also travel with my last pair of prescription eye glasses.

Our February Meeting

By Claudia Block

The thermometer read below freezing on February 18, but inside at our monthly HLAA meeting the climate was anything but cold.

The February 2015 meeting of the North Shore/Long Island Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America was quite a lively meeting- Members braved the cold to attend this highly interactive meeting with Dr. Karen McCullen and her speech pathology students from LIU Post. Dr. McCullen introduced the topic as; "Listen, Learn and Share- A conversation Around Audiologic Rehabilitation." The students were introduced as future speech pathologists, preparing to work with individuals with hearing loss. Dr. McCullen described audiologic rehabilitation and outlined the clinical training now being offered to students in the field. Student volunteers and members introduced themselves and the meeting was open.

The conversation quickly became an animated session of questions and answers. Dr. McCullen facilitated the meeting to exchange ideas and experiences in order to have an open conversation and exchange between the students and members about living with a hearing loss. She explained her goal of training new hearing professionals to work with clients to reduce the stigma and the impact of hearing loss. The session began with some of the students speaking of the reasons they choose this field and members sharing stories of their experiences with hearing loss, and their interactions with varied hearing professionals.

Members spoke of their hearing losses and the challenges and interactions through the years. Some members opened up to share personal stories about their hearing "journeys;" their experiences in the workplace and also living with a hearing loss at home. Members also exchanged tales of both good and bad experiences with hearing professionals.

The students asked thoughtful and insightful questions. They were interested in how hearing loss affected relationships with family and friends, as well as everyday life and in social and professional work settings.. They were interested in learning how folks dealt with hearing loss in the work place. Some students had little experience with cochlear implants and members were very helpful in showing and demonstrating their cochlear implant processors and how they worked. There was something for everyone at this meeting.

When people share their experiences, there are always new things to learn. This meeting was certainly proof of that. I believe that we all walked away from this spirited meeting armed with more knowledge and with continued empathy for others. This meeting did not fail to provoke insightful thinking for all and important information that the students will hopefully carry over long into the careers.

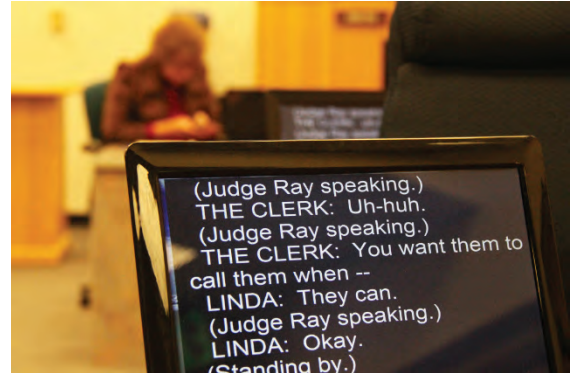
Driving home, while thinking aloud, I once again considered how grateful I am to be a member of and of this particular HLAA chapter. We all learn from each other in an open and nonjudgmental manner. There is something for everyone at our meetings; -- for the folks with hearing loss, their family members and the friends and the professionals who impact their lives on a regular basis. There is always support, comradery and information available at our meetings. The February 2015 meeting was no exception!

Deaf Justice in Rural Alaska

By Austin Baird, Political, Rural Reporter, <http://www.ktuu.com>

As the years passed, Chuck Ray struggled more and more with thoughts of what he would lose when his hearing eventually failed.

Ray spent many years as an Anchorage lawyer, building a renowned private practice focused on coastal and maritime issues. His greatest professional passion was the give-and-take that occurs inside a courtroom, the challenge of arguing a complex case, the rush of successfully representing a client.



How could that continue when the hearing loss he suffered degraded to full-blown deafness? And doctors for a long time knew nothing except the obvious: something was wrong with his hearing, and it was getting worse.

In 2007, when Ray was in his fifties, the noise became a constant cacophony of high-pitched ringing, screeching, something like an idling airplane engine: no more words.

"I would be less than honest if I said that it wasn't frustrating," he said. He shrugged his shoulders, and his head shook side to side.

For a moment he thought seriously of early retirement, but instead he settled on a less certain, more difficult path: he decided to find a way to stay at work. He learned to read lips, and he learned that specialized court reporters can provide realtime translation, so that nothing is lost.

In an ordinary court hearing, the reporter enters sworn testimony into the official record. Realtime translators write every word spoken in a courtroom, whether from sworn testimony or a member of the public attending a hearing, and the words are transmitted constantly to a series of screens. To attain the certification, one must type at least 200 words per minute with 96 percent accuracy. In action the process looks something like a teleprompter run by hands that move as fast as those of a concert pianist.

"I would wager that a significant percentage of Alaska judges don't hear as well as the reporters I have," he said. "With that I knew I could interact with the legal community – witnesses, jurors, all that. My concern was whether clients would be a little concerned."

As it turned out, Ray was preceded by his reputation as an expert on coastal matters, and his practice continued to thrive.

Continued on Page 5

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Continued from page 4

DEAF JUSTICE

A seat on the Bethel bench of the Alaska Superior Court opened up in 2012. Ray submitted an application to become one of two Superior Court judges serving the Fourth Judicial District, an area composed of a huge stretch of rural Alaska that stretches from the Canadian border across the interior to Bethel. The Alaska Judicial Council graded Ray's application as the best submitted, and it was one of four forwarded to Gov. Sean Parnell.

The Republican spent many years working as a lawyer before entering politics and remembers interacting with Ray in court.

"I had the chance many years ago to spend about a week in Glennallen on a case that Chuck Ray was a part of," Parnell said. "He was a very competent, qualified attorney and just a 'salt of the earth' kind of guy."

Read More at: <http://bit.ly/1pfQNxh>

Can You Really Reverse Hearing Loss? Drugmakers Try Gene Therapy

By Simeon Bennett - Bloomberg

Drugmakers have a slew of treatments for afflictions related to sex and drugs. Now they may have one for rock 'n' roll.

Novartis AG (NOVN) is developing a gene therapy that may reverse hearing loss by stimulating the regrowth of microscopic hair cells in the inner ear, allowing people to hear. The hairs are destroyed by prolonged exposure to loud noise, and don't take root again naturally. Novartis treated the first patient in October after successful tests on rats.



While hearing loss is most common in the elderly, rates are high in the music industry and the military, and rising among teenagers who listen to music at high volume. Almost 13 percent of children and adolescents under 19 in the U.S. have permanent damage caused by excessive exposure to noise, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/1KzBsaX>

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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
lglaizer@nshs.edu



North Shore of Long Island Chapter

<http://hearingloss-longisland.org>

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

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