

May 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, May 20, 2015

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

Topic: "HELP" is a four-legged word: Some angels have wings, others have tails



About our presenter: Canine Companions for Independence enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. Volunteer breeder caretakers provide homes for the breeder dogs and whelp the puppies. Canine Companions is the largest non-profit provider of assistance dogs and is recognized worldwide for the excellence of it's dogs, and the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people.

We will have a graduate student of the program present at our meeting with a live puppy to demonstrate the possibility of a life full of increased independence and loving companionship. Don't miss this one!

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



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.

The Guggenheim Museum

At the beginning of this month my wife and I went to the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. The last time we visited the museum was when we were dating...which was quite a while ago. Well, it was a beautiful Sunday, so we decided to reacquaint ourselves with the Guggenheim Museum.

Frank Lloyd Wright designed the building in 1953. The thing about this museum is that the building itself is a work of art. The outside is still stunning after all these years. As you enter the building and look up at the spiral design with an open space in the center, it is so impressive you could leave the museum and still be satisfied with making the trip.

You may love or hate the building, you may love or hate the exhibits, but what I want to share with you is about what the museum offers people with hearing loss. The things I write about are the opportunities you will have to see and hear what the many museums have to offer. You could never before experience the wonders they have if not for the audio earphones or neck loop that are offered to people with hearing loss for no fee.

My wife and I keep going to places that interest us: the theater, movies, museums and our HLAA meetings. I feel very lucky that we are here in New York where all this is easily available to us. All we have to do is get up and take advantage of it.

I hope this stimulates you to get out and take advantage of all that is offered to us, people with hearing loss...*especially getting to our meetings.*

Sal Sturiale

10th Anniversary Walk4Hearing



This year, the Walk4Hearing celebrates 10 years of Walking for hearing loss awareness. Since 2006, the Walk4Hearing has raised more than \$7.7 million and has become the largest walk for hearing taking place in cities across the United States.

Join us and walk together to make this our best year yet!
Donate and help us reach our 2015 fundraising goal of \$1.4 million

View our team page, the “North Shore Sandals”: <http://bit.ly/1NMUg4v>

Join our team: <http://bit.ly/1NMUcBT>

Donate to our team: <http://bit.ly/19TtGYv>

For more information: <http://hlaa.convio.net>

Updates From HLAA National

HLAA Supports HR 1653, the Medicare Hearing Aid Coverage Act of 2015

On March 27, Representative Debbie Dingell of Michigan introduced the Medicare Hearing Aid Coverage Act of 2015. Representative Dingell spoke of the need for change.

“I have learned in recent months how many seniors are burdened by this problem,” said Dingell. “When I learned of this, the ENT doctor who brought it to my attention told me more than half the patients she saw who needed a hearing aid were unable to afford or obtain one. No one should feel isolated, confused or shut out from the world around them because they cannot afford the treatment they need. This bill is just one piece of the puzzle to bring our fragmented and unnavigable health care system into the 21st Century to better serve seniors and families.”

Representative Dingell’s bill would improve access to hearing aids and related examinations by removing part of the Social Security Act that prevents Medicare from covering hearing aids. The bill also directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study on insurance programs that provide services to help with hearing loss.

HLAA is thrilled that Representative Dingell has introduced this bill. We will be working to ensure that all members of Congress understand the importance of hearing health care for seniors.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/1dO43uH>

April Meeting Notes

By Claudia Block



Our April 15 HLAA North Shore Chapter meeting was a well-attended, informative meeting. The presenter, Dr. Jacqueline Spitzer, is the Director of Audiology at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University Medical Center. She is also the Director of the Cochlear Implant Team at Columbia. Her extensive background encompasses over 30 years experience in the field of audiology and cochlear implants.

Dr. Spitzer shared her knowledge about cochlear implants and the new hybrid cochlear implant, recently approved for use in the USA by the FDA. The hybrid is a new option for some hearing impaired people who previously did not qualify for traditional cochlear implants, including those people no longer benefiting from traditional hearing aids. Until now, hearing aids have been the only option for those with mild to moderately severe high frequency hearing loss. Those who received little or no benefit from traditional hearing aids were simply “out of luck!” With the new hybrid cochlear implant, there may be another option for some adults. Presently, Cochlear is the only company in the USA that is approved to manufacture hybrids but the other companies are in the process of developing similar products. This is an exciting new development that will open the door to better hearing for many more people.

Dr Spitzer presented information and answered all questions about traditional cochlear implants and the newly approved hybrid cochlear implant. She detailed the 2 products and discussed each device, clearly defining who would benefit from each product based on their particular type of hearing loss. She gave an in depth presentation of the two devices and which type of person with a specific kind of hearing loss would be successful with each device. She explained how the traditional cochlear uses digital input while the hybrid cochlear implant hearing device uses both digital and acoustical means in a combination. The hybrid is now covered by most insurance plans including Medicare and Medicaid.

She let us know that technology has advanced so quickly recently that it can now reach many more people who were not able to be helped in the past. Hearing impaired people who previously have been told they did not qualify for cochlear implants may now qualify as candidates for either a traditional cochlear implant or the new hybrid, under newly revised government new government guidelines, based on their hearing loss. According to Dr. Spitzer, these devices are now capable of helping so many more people than in the past. Previous, only people with 0-20 % correct understanding of speech, considered severe to profoundly impaired could be candidates. With new

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OUR CENTER IS HERE TO SERVICE ALL OF YOUR HEARING HEALTHCARE NEEDS

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products and guidelines it is now possible for people with some hearing to be eligible for the hybrid cochlear implant!

Dr Spitzer patiently answered many questions from audience members. She stated that there is now a great deal of information out there and those who interested in finding out more about either device should seek out more information. Those interested can call the Cochlear Implant Team at Columbia University or another site in our area. In our area we are lucky to live near several major hospitals in Manhattan and on Long Island now doing this work. The process for either device involves an in depth workup, including a CT scan, a detailed audiology workup and a physical as both procedures are surgery involving anesthesia. She invited audience members to contact her or another center if they were interested or had additional questions. This was one terrific meeting. We learned a great deal about some new options now available to help enhance our lives by improving our ability to hear. We send a big thank you to Dr. Spitzer for sharing her extensive knowledge with us at our April 2015 HLAA meeting.

Osteoporosis Tied to Hearing Loss

By *Dallasnews.com*

Although the reason for the connection isn't clear, osteoporosis and sudden, temporary hearing loss often occur together, a new study from Taiwan finds.

A team led by Dr. Kai-Jen Tien of the Chi Mei Medical Center in Tainan City looked at more than 10,000 Taiwan residents diagnosed with the bone disease osteoporosis between 1999 and 2008. The researchers then compared them with nearly 32,000 people without the condition.

By the end of 2011, people with osteoporosis had a 76 percent higher risk of developing sudden deafness — an unexplained, rapid loss of hearing that typically occurs in one ear.

This type of hearing loss can occur all at once or over several days and is often temporary. According to background information from the researchers, about half of people who experience sudden hearing loss will regain their hearing, and about 85 percent of people who are treated for the condition recover some hearing.

The study was published recently in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*.

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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



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

Sal Sturiale
80-38 212 Street
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