

November 2016



# 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.

## Meeting News

**Wednesday, November 16, 2016**

**Refreshments and Social Time begins 6:30pm.**

**Meeting begins 7:00pm.**

### *Topic: Latest Advances in Hearing Aid Technology*

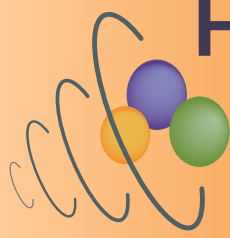


Susan the modern technology that is available in today's hearing aids. Computer chip technology and hearing aid connectivity and how these features benefit persons with hearing loss.

### *Speaker: Susan Peckins, AuD, CCC-A, Manager, Hearing Aid Dispensary, LIJ Hearing and Speech Center*

Susan Peckins, AuD, CCC-A is Manager of the Hearing Dispensary at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center. She holds a Doctorate in Audiology from Arizona School of Health Sciences/AT Stills University. Dr. Peckins has been at LIJ since 1997 and has spent over 30 years addressing the diagnostic and amplification needs of adults and children with hearing loss.





# Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore of Long Island Chapter

## Chapter Planning Committee

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

## October Meeting Recap

*By Claudia Block*

At our October 19, 2016 meeting we had the pleasure to have as our guest speaker, Mr. Richard Yorke, Assistant District Attorney from New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's Nassau Regional Office.

With the holidays right around the corner, our October meeting was quite timely and served as a good introduction to the upcoming season. The topic was "Fraud; Stopping Scam Artists Before They Strike and Identify Theft." Unfortunately both topics are now America's fastest growing crimes. These crimes are now more prevalent and on the rise with hearing impaired adults and senior citizens.

With our enthusiastic group the meeting was fast paced, informational, informal and conversational. Mr. Yorke reviewed the various frauds and scams now out there. Some of us shared our personal experiences with some of these scams. To tell you the truth, I wasn't aware that there were so many frauds and scams out here now being perpetrated on law abiding folks.

Due to our fast paced, anonymous internet society, criminals have become emboldened; permeating many aspects of our day to day lives via the telephone, the mail or the internet. Mr. Yorke shared some of the numerous "scams" now out there. As hearing impaired people, we may often be more vulnerable to this kind of fraud. A simple phone call can go south very quickly if there is a "fraudster" on the other end of the telephone talking too quickly or in a low voice. Often, we cannot hear but may act as if we can. Or we are too polite or too frightened by what the person on the other end of the phone is telling us. We may inadvertently give out personal information that we really should not be sharing or putting out there.

Mr. Yorke spoke in depth about several of the latest telephone and mail frauds. One of particular interest now was "the IRS scam." Intelligent, well meaning people have been involved in this scam. It is plausible to

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# Hearing Loss Can Creep Up On You Steathily, With Disturbing Repercussions

By Marlene Cimonis, *Washington Post* (<http://wapo.st/2bfnLSh>)

Former president Jimmy Carter, 91, told the *New Yorker* recently that 90 percent of the arguments he has with Rosalynn, his wife of 70 years, are about hearing. "When I tell her, 'Please speak more loudly,' she absolutely refuses to speak more loudly, or to look at me when she talks," he told the magazine. In response, the former first lady, 88, declared that having to repeat things "drives me up the wall." Yet after both went to the doctor, much to her surprise, "I found out it was me!" she said. "I was the one who was deaf."

Age-related hearing loss is like that. It comes on gradually, often without an individual's realizing it, and it prompts a range of social and health consequences. "You don't just wake up with a sudden hearing loss," says Barbara Kelley, executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America. "It can be insidious. It can creep up on you. You start coping, or your spouse starts doing things for you, like making telephone calls."

An estimated 25 percent of Americans between ages 60 and 69 have some degree of hearing loss, according to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. That percentage grows to more than 50 percent for those age 70 to 79, and to almost 80 percent of individuals older than 80. That's about 30 million people, a number likely to increase as our population ages.

Behind these statistics are disturbing repercussions such as social isolation and the inability to work, travel or be physically active.

"It's not just about the inability to communicate," says James Battey Jr., director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. "It has a broader impact on individuals' lives. It makes them uneasy participating in activities where hearing is important, such as any kind of social interaction—going to parties or going out to dinner in a restaurant where background noise might make it difficult to engage in a conversation. It also can be dangerous—for example, not being able to hear a warning siren."

Studies have shown that hearing loss is associated with depression and the early onset of dementia and that it can increase by threefold the risk of falling, "because you need your ears as well as your eyes and feet to maintain a sense of balance," says Charlotte Yeh, chief medical officer for AARP Services. "Hearing is extraordinarily important to health and social well-being."

Most important, "these effects could potentially be reduced with hearing-loss treatment," says Frank R. Lin, an associate professor of otolaryngology at Johns Hopkins, who is designing a clinical trial to determine the extent to which treatment could forestall and reduce the risk of cognitive decline and dementia among older adults.

*Continued on Page 5*

see how people get caught up in these scams when the bad guys can manipulate our phones in order to have an official IRS telephone number come up on our caller ID. Some folks have been frightened enough by the IRS scam that they have actually sent checks to the "IRS" when they get these calls late in the evening or early in the morning. Mr. Yorke also told us about mail frauds targeting various religious or ethnic groups via some very real looking mailings from some of our favorite charities or sweepstakes frauds. He talked about how some of our most personnel information like social security numbers, banking information, medical documents and more are online, in the mail and out there for the taking.

Being that the holiday season is upon us and that scam artists and identity thieves are now the fastest area of growing crime in American today, it is particularly important to be aware, be smart and be vigilant as we move into the gift giving, generous holiday season.

As hearing impaired adults, it is even more important to be aware of what's going on out there and how "not so nice people" are going to try to use everything within their means to prey on generosity and vulnerability to separate well meaning people from their money.

Enjoy the coming holiday season but be cognizant, be aware and be vigilant of the things going on around us. When in doubt, trust your instincts and do not share personal information with strangers. Report any and all suspicious activity to his office. Mr. Yorke offered many helpful and practical suggestions to help make sure that we are informed and stay away from these scams and frauds.

## **Assistive Listening System**

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In June, the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine released a report describing hearing loss as “a significant public health concern,” and recommended removing barriers that make it difficult for people to receive care.

These barriers include the price of hearing aids, which can be very expensive and are not covered by Medicare or by many private health plans. The report also called on the Food and Drug Administration to remove the requirement that adults have a medical evaluation before buying a hearing aid, and to establish a new category of over-the-counter wearable hearing devices—separate from hearing aids—that could help people with mild to moderate impairment.

Individuals generally pay a single charge for hearing aids and all associated fitting services, according to Lin, who served as a member of the National Academies panel.

“The average cost of two hearing aids is about \$4,700, which is absurd. . .[because] hearing aids, when purchased in bulk, cost about \$400 for a pair,” Lin says. “One possibility for a model of insurance coverage would be for insurance companies to routinely provide coverage of audiologic services and possibly just a set amount of reimbursement for the actual hearing aid.”

Original Medicare has always excluded hearing aids and fittings, although the program does cover exams prescribed to determine whether a person needs medical treatment. Some Medicare Advantage plans, which often offer additional benefits and are alternatives to original Medicare, may cover hearing aids. Medicaid sometimes covers hearing aids, depending on state requirements.

“There’s been an overwhelming tendency until just recently to view hearing loss as being an inevitable and hence relatively inconsequential part of aging,” Lin says. “This impression, as well as the lack of effective therapies for age-related hearing loss at that time, served as the rationale for excluding coverage from Medicare. . .Both of these assumptions have now radically changed.”

Many private insurers also exclude hearing aid coverage, although three states — New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Arkansas — require insurers to cover some related costs, according to AARP, which offers advice on getting financial help and sponsors a discount hearing-aid program for its members. The Hearing Loss Association of America also has a website with guidance on how to obtain financial assistance for hearing aids. The assistance is mostly available for children and low-income adults.

Fewer than a third of Americans older than 70 who could benefit from hearing aids have ever used them, according to Battey. In addition to the expense and the requirements for obtaining the devices, “it is also a stigma, although I have never understood why the same stigma is not associated with putting on a pair of eyeglasses,” Battey says. “My own dad had significant hearing loss, and I could not convince him to use a hearing aid. He had plenty of resources to buy any device he needed, and he just wouldn’t do it.”

Battey and others believe that increased public awareness, including intervention by primary-care doctors, could encourage more people to seek help. “There should be no shame,” Battey says. “Just like other things that deteriorate as we age, hearing is no different. It’s a health issue. It’s a safety issue, and it’s a quality-of-life issue.”

Read the article here: <http://wapo.st/2bfnLSh>



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**HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support, and advocacy. HLAA is a 501(c)(3) organization.**

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

**I'd like to:** ☐ Become a member of HLAA ☐ Renew my membership ☐ Give a gift membership

### My Membership/Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chapter I belong to: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about HLAA? \_\_\_\_\_

### Gift Membership

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

	Annual USA Membership Fees	Annual Non-USA Membership Fees
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 (1 year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 (3 years) <input type="checkbox"/> \$140 (5 years)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)
Couple/Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55 (1 year)
Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)
Library/Nonprofit	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (1 year)	N/A
Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325 (1 year)

My membership fee is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Plus I'm adding a tax  
deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My total is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Ways to Join, Renew or Give a Gift Membership

1. Return this form to your chapter with your check made payable to HLAA.
2. Mail or fax this form to the HLAA office at the address above with your credit card information.
3. Visit [www.hearingloss.org/content/join](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/join) and use your credit card online. (this is a secure website)

Credit Card Payment Information: ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

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## Hearing Aid Recycling



## Donation Information

HAAA Lakeland Chapter in Florida is sponsoring a Hearing Aid Recycling Program. The purpose of this program is to collect new/used hearing aids, clean/repair them, and offer them (at no cost) to those who are financially challenged in our community.

Hearing aids can be shipped in a small box. Carefully wrap the hearing aid in cotton, bubble wrap or other soft material, or put in a pill container.

First, fill out the form here: <http://www.hla-lakeland.org/donate/hearing-aid-donation> and print out the receipt you will get. Then mail the hearing aid(s) and the printed receipt to:

**Hearing Loss Association – Lakeland Chapter  
Hearing Aid Recycling Program  
3020 Lakeland Highlands Rd.  
Lakeland, Florida 33803**

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North Shore of Long Island Chapter

<http://hearingloss-longisland.org>

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80-38 212 Street

Hollis Hills, NY 11427

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## Apple Responds to the Concerns of People With Hearing Loss About New iPhone

*By HearingLoss.org*

In the weeks following Apple's announcement that new iPhones will not have a headset jack, HLAA received more than one call from people outraged by the company's decision. Apple did not consider the impact removing the jack would have on people with hearing loss who use and depend on a neckloop or other wired solution to hear audio on the phone. When we brought this issue to Apple they responded.

Apparently, the "lightning jack" that has been the iPhone's connection for recharging the battery will now double as a connector to a headset or, yes, a neckloop. Apple provides an adapter and the people in charge of accessibility at Apple tell us it's been tested with neckloops and that it works.

While initially skeptical, we have learned from at least one independent source that the lightning connector does work with the adapter and a neckloop.

*(To read the rest of this article please go to: <http://hearingloss.org/content/apple-responds-people-hearing-loss-new-iphone>)*

If you are frustrated in your attempts to find a hearing aid compatible phone by not being allowed to try it before you buy it, complain first to the provider or manufacturer. If that doesn't work you can file a complaint directly with the FCC: <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us>.