

HLAS is the local chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) providing Education, Advocacy & Support for the 110,000 people with hearing loss in Sarasota & Manatee Counties.

www.HLAS.org



Bulletin

August 2012

Editor: Richard N. Williams
e-mail: RNW1976@aol.com



Wednesday, AUGUST 15 – 1:30 PM



Summer Rap Session

Bring all questions about hearing loss and learn how to address your needs from our mentors and members.

The meeting will be held at the North Sarasota Library Meeting Room,

2801 Newtown Blvd. Sarasota

(941) 861-1360.

Refreshments will be served following the program.

TOPIC—YOUR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Last month we discussed many topics including:

- How to cut the cost of hearing aids by asking your audiologist to "unbundle" the cost
- How one could by hearing aids directly to save on the cost
- What to look for in selecting the right audiologist
- How to use the loop that's at all the theaters in town
- How to get a free Caption Call phone which provides real-time captions throughout the call
- Where to find funding support for hearing aids
- Plus much, much more

Young Hearing Group (YHG)

Next Meeting -- Aug 14th, 2012

Susan Futon, Visiting Instructor for Speech-Language Science, USF



I Hear You! Communication Strategies for Home and Work'

Meeting will take place at the Sarasota Herald Tribune, 1741 Main St., Sarasota in the Conference Room from 6 – 7:30 p.m. (Meet in the lobby next to front reception.).

Location of Conference Room: Ground Floor behind the reception

For more information contact Alexander Magnus Boakes by phone: 786-457-6205 or by e-mail: alexboakes@msn.com

Welcome New Members

Carol Birch, North Port

Dick Gallette, Sarasota

Joan Mastrandrea, Sarasota

Barbara Meyer, Sarasota

Rose Mohr, Sarasota

Betsy Roberts, Sarasota

Mary Vanaman, Ellenton

Please invite friends with hearing loss to our next meeting as we grow our support group and loop our SRQ corner of Florida.

HLAS Members Mourn the Loss of Ralph Intorcio

Upon Ralph's death last month, our President Ed Ogiba said:

"The members of the Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota were very saddened when Ralph left town in March. He was our leader, mentor, supporter and a wonderful friend to so many of us. But we knew he was going to be with family, something that he was very excited about and needed.

It is rare to have someone in your life that can invite you to think, feel and laugh so deeply, often with just one dry remark or observation. He was and remains a happy soul, and his spirit was contagious.



Our farewell gift to Ralph was the first lifetime membership that we have ever bestowed to anyone. It was a great investment as Ralph continued to fill our e-mail in-boxes with welcomed wisdom, camaraderie and a daily chuckle. Bless you, Ralph, for making our lives richer. We will miss you a great deal”.

His friends with the “Young @ Heart Chorus” in Northampton Massachusetts said:



“Everyone adored Ralph Intorcio. His send-ups of Carol Channing

and Carmen Miranda were well known, but he had such great command of the stage. The Young@Heart would not be what we are today if it weren't for the years that we spent with Ralph Intorcio”.

HLAS Hearing Aid Recycling Program

Don't throw your batteries in the trash. Recycle!

Batteries for Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants and Assistive Listening Devices contain zinc, lead, mercury and other toxic metals that can harm our environment.

Now you can safely dispose of your used batteries at any:

-HLAS meeting

-Young Hearing Group (YHG) meeting

- The HLAS booth at the Downtown Sarasota **Farmer's Market** every 4th Saturday
- or one of the **Battery Plus+** stores in Sarasota (4401 Bee Ridge), Venice (511 US 41 By Pass N) or Bradenton (6240 14th Street W).

HLAS at Downtown Sarasota Farmers Market

Saturday August 25 - 7 AM to 1 PM

Our monthly information and support booth offers an opportunity for people to learn how to address their hearing loss. If you have a friend who needs help and cannot make one of our meetings, please suggest they visit us here. Our booth is normally on Lemon Avenue on the west side, one block North of Main.

BONUS! Free quarterly hearing screening available to anyone.



www.sarasotafarmersmarket.org

BIZ 941 REPORTED THE CHAPTER'S AWARD IN PROVIDENCE

“Sarasota Hearing Loss Group Honored as National Loop Award Winner”

“The Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota was awarded the first annual “National Get in the Hearing Loop” award for its advocacy work in getting the loop system accepted by local venues in the past year”.



**“Get in the Hearing Loop Campaign Award”
received by Manhattan, Sarasota and Albuquerque Chapters**

New Looped Locations in July

- Church of the Redeemer
- Covenant Life Church
- Pelican Pavilion at Pelican Cove
- Sarasota Memorial Hospital Auditorium

If you know a venue which might be interested in getting a loop or learning more about the system, contact Ed Ogiba at 941-706-4312.



Featured Links of the Month

The Hearing Loss Association of America's June, 2012 Convention was an unqualified success. This link has a summary of over 30 presentations and the speaker's power point in many instances. Current and informative!

<http://hearingloss.org/content/2012-convention>

The LACE listening program that retrains the brain to comprehend speech up to 40% better in difficult hearing situations was discussed at the July HLAS meeting. There is a cost but check out the adaptive technology.

<http://www.neurotone.com/>

Don't forget to check the Hearing Loss of America website each month as well as our Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota website:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/>

<http://hlas.org/wp/>

HLAS Peer Mentor, Joan Haber, Graduates from Gallaudet University



Gallaudet University is pleased to present the 2012 graduates of its Peer Mentoring Certification Program. Six newly minted Peer Mentors gathered on campus June 25-27 to complete their two-year program and receive their certificates. Pictured are: (Top Row - left to right) Dr. Matthew Bakke, Program Director; Katherine Groom, Program Instructor; Peer Mentors Joan Haber, Lorraine Van Horne and Anne Taylor. (Bottom Row - left to right) Peer Mentors Barbara Burton and Linn Tearney; Zac LaFratta, Program Instructor and HLAA Board Member; and Peer Mentor Jeff Bonnell.

President's Message



HLAA Promotes Affordable Hearing Health Care

Each year HLAA announces its lead advocacy cause at the Convention and this coming year it will be **Affordable Hearing Health Care**. 80% of the people who need hearing aids do not get them with their high cost being the main deterrent.

One of the ways HLAA plans to address the issue is by promoting the practice of “**unbundling**”. Hearing aids are currently sold in a “bundle”, where the total price paid for the hearing aid includes many services, often for the lifetime of the device. The result is the total cost of a hearing aid priced at \$3000 can include nearly \$2000 in services such as the fitting, mapping, programming, in-office repairs and cleanings, plus all the consultations with your audiologist. While all these services can be very helpful to some, others may find that they cannot afford the steep entry price. In such cases, HLAA recommends asking your audiologist to unbundle the cost of the hearing aid with an item by item cost from which you can discuss which services you need.

We have been discussing this hearing cost issue at the Summer Rap Sessions and two of our members at last month's meeting mentioned they used **Care Credit** to help defray the expense of new hearing aids. Care Credit is an assigned credit card that can be used for health care payments only. Based on your arrangement, it allows you to repay the cost of your hearing aid over a specified period between 6 and 24 months with no interest.

The HLAA National Convention featured 5 speeches, 40 workshops, 10 product demonstration sessions and 75 exhibitors. The overall education and insights provided the over 1000 attendees was staggering. There was great deal of news on new technologies, new hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive listening devices, relationships, advocating and much more. You can find the Powerpoints for most of the presentations on the HLAA web site. Please bring your questions on anything covered at the convention to our final Sumer Rap Session on August 15 and don't miss our September 19 regular season-opening meeting when five attendees to the Convention will recap the major learning they took away.

To review the CART transcript for Brenda Battat's Executive Director's Report on the HLAA mission for the coming year, cut and paste the following in your browser.
http://www.hearingloss.org/sites/default/files/docs/BBattat_BOT_Report_Providence2012_transcript.pdf

To read more about unbundling , visit the link below. It provides Dr. Sjoblad's presentation called “Penny Wise and Pound Foolish”.
http://www.hearingloss.org/sites/default/files/docs/Sjoblad_Warren_thursday.pdf

These two presentations plus many others are also accessible on the HLAA Website (www.hearingloss.org) by clicking on Events, then Convention/ 2012 Archives.

As always, please feel free to call me direct with anything on your mind. 941-706-4312

Happy Hearing,

Ed

Humor of the Month

Experts tell us, *“People who live successfully with hearing loss must develop the ability to laugh at their mistakes. This helps to make family, friends and coworkers feel more at ease. Using self-deprecating humor to relieve tension and laughing with others is an expression of kinship or social bonding”.*

The experts are right and most Sarasota HLAS members do not lack for seeing the light side of a limitation.

Some of the humor we share comes from life situations. One member from another HLAS Chapter related this story about his summons to jury duty:

“One question was 'Are there any reasons you feel that you can not serve on a jury?' Well, I thought a while and wrote - 'Partial hearing loss at some frequencies.'

Well, I made it through the first three cuts and was getting even more apprehensive. The 4th cut required each person to be interviewed in the court room. The attorney for the state questioned me for about 5 minutes. Then, the defense attorney questions me. About 5 minutes into the questioning, he said - 'I see you have hearing loss at some frequencies. May I ask what frequencies?'

Well, not knowing how to reply to that, I thought a minute and replied -

'My Wife's.'

The attorney for the state started laughing and then her chair tipped over. The court room decorum broke down in a hurry led by the Judge's laughter. The defense attorney got flustered and finally dismissed me from jury duty”.

The Bulletin is a monthly newsletter of HLAS, which offers Education, Advocacy and Support for the 110,000 people with hearing loss in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

For more information on our programs, visit www.HLAS.org or call 941-706-4312.

AUGUST CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 1—

1:30 PM HLAS Board of Trustees Meeting

North Sarasota Library Meeting Room,

2801 Newtown Blvd. Sarasota

Tuesday August 14---

7:00 PM Young Hearing Group

Sarasota Herald Tribune, 1741 Main Street,

Sarasota

Wednesday, August 15 -

1:30 PM "HLAS Summer Rap Session"

3:00 PM – Refreshments and Social Time

North Sarasota Library Meeting Room,

2801 Newtown Blvd. Sarasota

Saturday, August 25 -

7 AM -1 PM Downtown Sarasota Farmers Market

Free hearing screening available

Lemon Avenue, north of Main, Sarasota