



## **JULY, 2012      BULLETIN**

### **JULY MEETING**

**Wednesday, July 18– 1:30 PM**



### **Summer Rap Session**

Bring all questions about hearing loss and learn how to address your need 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.

[Last month, we covered CaptionCall, looping, audiologists, vertigo, cochlear implant success and much more—YOU set the agenda]

### **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'*

*Location of Conference Room: Ground Floor behind the reception (Back to the same location)*

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

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

## **Welcome New Members**

Julie Eisele

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

## **Meet HLAS Members Alex and Anna Jean Schmidt**

Alex was the owner and manager of an auto repair shop in Port Huron, Michigan. Anna Jean was an early elementary teacher. After their spouses had passed away, one of cancer, the other of heart disease, Alex and Anna Jean were married in 1982. Together they have 8 children.

At the time they moved to Sarasota, Anna Jean was already wearing two hearing aids and was looking for more help. Dr. Silverstein told her he could give her a series of tests to determine the cause of her hearing loss, but very likely she would, in the end, just need more hearing aids. Dr. Silverstein was right. That was when she met audiologist Noel Crosby, who became her audiologist, and also introduced her to SHHH. Noel was the founder of that local organization.

SHHH was then meeting in a building at Doctor's Hospital. At that time various people took turns leading the meetings. Harold Apel was the treasurer and Dick Kantor a regular

member. The group then moved to several different locations. It was with President Frank Wiseman as president that it moved to the library in the Senior Friendship building. There Flo Innes joined and became president, with Mary Perkins as co-chair. Soon after Mary left the group because of ill health, and Flo carried on alone, even baking home goodies for our refreshments.

Along with a move to the Selby Library, came many of the active members who are now present.

She hesitates to mention names, there are so many, for fear of accidentally leaving one out. Over the years Anna Jean served as treasurer, librarian, and board member. She also took many classes learning to lip read.

At one of our meetings a member of SHHH National Board spoke on the effects of hearing loss on others in general, on the family, on spouses, along with the hearing loss person himself. Alex was so impressed with what he had learned, he began to attend meetings with Anna Jean, taking an active interest in hearing loss in general, and helping in Anna Jean's progress with her cochlear implants.

Hooray for HLAA and HLAS and for interested and helpful spouses.

## **CAPTIONCALL—THE PRICE IS RIGHT**

CaptionCall is once again offering one of their highly versatile, captioned phones for FREE to all members for a limited time.

The full details are below, but in a nutshell there is no cost associated with the offer as the phone and installation come free (regardless of income!), and there is no charge to your phone bill for this service. Full details are below.

Any HLAS or YHG member is eligible for a free phone. This phone is \$149 regular price and the cost of a membership is only \$25 for HLAS or \$10 for YHG. If you are not a member, you can get an application for membership at our web site by going to <http://www.hlas.org> and clicking on the Membership page or using this link: [http://hlas.org/wp/?page\\_id=493](http://hlas.org/wp/?page_id=493)

If you would like to see a live demonstration of this phone, you can do so by calling Advocates For Better Hearing at 941-922-1241. This store at 4221 So. Tamiami Trail and specializes in all sorts of assisted listening devices and is well worth a visit.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
-or one of the **Battery Plus+** stores in Sarasota (4401 Bee Ridge), Venice ( 511 US 41 By Pass N) or Bradenton (6240 14<sup>th</sup> Street W).

## HLAS at Downtown Sarasota Farmers Market

**Saturday July 28 - 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.



## ALL EARS –MOBILE LOOP SUPPORT



All Ears Hearing Services, the only hearing clinic on Florida's West Coast to provide mobile service, has added a hearing loop system to support their patients and educational programs. This is the first commercial application of a mobile loop in Florida and is also believed to be the first use of a loop to support a mobile hearing services provider in the country.

The hearing loop is the only system that sends sound from a microphone, television or another sound source directly into a hearing aid. The loop, which has suddenly burst onto the local scene at so many major community venues in the area in the last six months, delivers the cleanest, clearest, interference-free sound for hearing aid wearers. Mark Selis, a Certified Hearing Aid Specialist, who founded All Ears, noted, "The loop allows our audiologist to provide postdispensing service with greater hearing support for our patients. It will also help us to educate patients on this new development so they can get out into the community more often. Many of these people had given up on theatre and religious services long ago, but with a loop they can enjoy these events again." Jim Scott of Complete Hearing Solutions which installed the loop, said, "We have recently installed a lot of mobile loops in people's cars, but All Ears is the first to acknowledge the enormous potential for mobile services. We believe taxis, buses and trains will soon recognize the value it offers to such a large part of our population." Mobile loops, while quite popular in Europe, are still quite new in the US where the New York City Subway system and Manhattan taxicabs are the only noteworthy commercial mobile applications to date. For more information, call 941-920-2122 or visit [www.allearshearingservices.com](http://www.allearshearingservices.com)

## Humor of the Month



Marvel Comics' **Hawkeye** is now teaming up with fellow hearing-impaired hero the Blue Ear to help boost one real life kid's confidence and inspiring him to wear his hearing aid.

The kid in question is four-year-old New Hampshire resident Anthony Smith, who was refusing to wear his "blue ear" hearing aid because, he explained, superheroes don't wear hearing aids. Desperate for help, Anthony's mother Christina D'Allesandro wrote to Marvel, hoping to discover a superhero that proved him wrong - and that's where the man with the bow, arrows and penchant for purple clothing comes in (Maya Lopez a.k.a. Echo is another hearing-impaired character in Marvel's stable of heroes, although unlike Hawkeye, she is completely deaf and wouldn't benefit from a hearing aid). Hawkeye, as longtime fans know, has been hearing-impaired since a battle with Crossfire in the 1980s,

The artwork did its job, according to D'Allesandro. "it's just so captivated Anthony and his little buddies," adding that the boy has shared the images with friends and been inspired to start wearing his hearing aid no matter what. Even when he complains about the discomfort, she says, "I tell him he has to hear people calling for help. He gets the whole connection. He's loving it."

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