



JUNE, 2012 BULLETIN

JUNE MEETING -- NOTE [a week earlier than normal]

Wednesday, June 13 – 1:30 PM

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE



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.

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

BOOKS AND AUDIO BOOKS AVAILABLE AT SARASOTA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Books and corresponding audio books can be a way to improve your hearing at your leisure and in your own home, simply by reading and listening at the same time. The following unabridged books and audio books can be reserved at your local Sarasota Library for you to pick up when they become available. It is only a partial list of what is actually available.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Djibouti by Elmore Leonard

The Wilder Life: My adventures in the lost world of little house on the prairie by Wendy McClure

Lost Books of the Odyssey by Zachary Mason

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

The Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

The Innocent Man by John Grishom

Eat Pray Love by Elizabeth Gilbert

Welcome New Members

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

Burns Court Cinemas is the first movie house to offer a Hearing Loop

Burns Court Cinemas has become the first movie house in Florida to provide a hearing loop system for its audience. The system has been installed for both screen number one and three at its downtown Sarasota location.

A Hearing Loop is an Assistive Listening System that provides a magnetic, wireless signal that is picked up by the hearing aid when it is set to the 'T' (Telecoil or T-coil) setting. The Loop System consists of 3 parts: an amplifier, loop cable, and receiver. The amplifier processes an audio signal (from a microphone which picks up the spoken word or from a CD). It sends the signal through the loop cable (a small, concealed wire placed around the perimeter of a room or sanctuary to act as an antenna) which creates a low-level magnetic field. This magnetic field is picked up by the hearing aid, which serves as the receiver.

When a hearing aid user selects the 'T' setting, he or she can pick up the sounds heard through the sound system directly in their hearing aids instead of through the hearing aid's internal microphone. This results in improved speech understanding because the listener receives a clear signal without any background noise.

HLAS Hearing Aid Recycling Program

Introducing our new 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 June 23 - 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.

President's Message

Keep Yourself & Your Aids Cool & Dry to Beat the Summer Heat

The National Weather Bureau is forecasting that this summer has a 50-50 chance to be one of the 10 hottest summers on record. That means more of the same as the last two summers hit #1 and #2 on the heat wave charts since records began in 1871.

Your hearing aids and cochlear implants are very vulnerable to costly damage from the summer heat and moisture in any form to include humidity, sweating and exposure to water. Moisture can collect in an aids' tubing, corrosion can form on contact points and ears may produce more wax. Daily checking and cleaning is a must. You can control moisture in several ways. If you perspire heavily, remove your aids and wipe off them, as well as the battery and blot the moisture from behind and inside your ear. Never expose your aids to a steamy bathroom. And don't keep hearing aids out all night exposed to air conditioning. For nightly storage, there are hearing aid dehumidifying blocks and kits, or consider a Renew Dryer & Fresher device, my personal favorite. You can check out your options at Advocates for Better Hearing at 4221 S. Tamiami Trail.

Of course, performances at an air-conditioned theatre offer us a way to personally beat the heat. This marks the first summer any theatre in the area offers the hearing loop system as 16 playhouses, plus Burns Court Cinema, have added the system. Check our www.hlas.org website for a complete list of looped venues. And there's usually a selection of captioned movies available wherever your summer trips take you. Visit www.captionfish.com and put in your zip code for a complete listing.

Remember our Summer Rap Sessions on June 13, July 18 and August 15 offer everyone a great chance to explore your personal questions and opportunities in greater detail. Happy trails to all this summer!!

Ed Ogiba

Meet HLAS Members Lee and Mary Ibsen

Lee & Mary Ibsen have been married over 50 years. After service in the USAF and college at Penn State, Lee began a 37-year career in Aerospace Engineering and Computer Systems in Washington, DC. His career started as an engineering manager but around age 30, as his hearing began to deteriorate, he switched career paths to become a technical specialist. Over his career, Lee's hearing aids progressed from one in-the-ear aid to finally two large behind-the-ear aids. His job required a lot of travel and when travelling alone waking up in time to catch a flight was always a concern. When he retired Lee estimates he had a little over 50% hearing with the hearing aids. Mary, in addition to raising their four children and running the household, worked as a medical and executive secretary.

In 1994 they retired and moved to Sarasota. In the mid 1990's they began attending SHHH meetings at the South Gate Community Center. About 2005 Lee's hearing took another steep decline to the point where he could no longer hear on the telephone or understand speakers at the

various meetings they attended. Mary and Lee went to the CCDHH and enrolled in sign language classes. Lee also began taking lip reading classes at the SCTI. About this time they began exploring cochlear implants. Two HLAS members, Dennis Silver and Barbara Chertok, wore cochlear implants at that time and shared valuable information with Lee and Mary. In the summer of 2007 Lee decided to go ahead with the implant.

Following a month of healing the implant was activated and Lee immediately knew that he had been given a new lease on hearing. Of course everything sounded different but at least there were sounds. So every week Lee & Mary travelled to Dr Bartels office in Tampa to work with audiologist, Dr Lisa Tanner. Understanding Mary's voice was the first goal. During this time Lee read talking books several hours a day and listened to the radio for the first time in years. After about a year, Lee's hearing was retested. Results showed an 85% understanding on the same test that he had scored only 28% on before the implant. He could also use the telephone for the first time in years.

After retirement they bought their first RV and began to realize a lifelong dream of visiting all the National Parks in our great country. Each summer, in addition to visiting family, they visit several National Parks. So far they have visited over 50 National Parks. In the winter they typically stay close to Florida and are involved in various volunteer activities. For the past six years Lee has been the HLAS Webmaster and Photographer and has served on the board of trustees for two years. During the last year they have been heavily involved in training their dog to become a Hearing Service Dog.

Humor of the Month

A man feared his wife wasn't hearing as well as she used to and he thought she might need a hearing aid. Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family doctor to discuss the problem. The Doctor told him there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the doctor a better idea about her hearing loss. Here's what you do," said the Doctor, "stand about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response." That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he was in the den. He says to himself, "I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens." Then in a normal tone he asks, 'Honey, what's for dinner?'

No response.

So the husband moves closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Still no response.

Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Again no response.

Next he moves into the kitchen doorway where he is about 10 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

She turns and says, "For the FOURTH time, chicken!"