



Two Upcoming HLAS Events: Hearing Health Expo, "Take Back Your Life" Reception



The HLAS Board has been busy putting together the Hearing Health Expo on April 13 and the Third Annual Wine and Cheese Reception and Fundraiser on May 1.

The Hearing Health Expo flyer is included in this month's Listen Up and HLAS is excited to report all space has been filled for vendors

The vendors include cochlear and hearing aid representatives, audiologists, some of our looped locations, USF, agencies and associations and all are listed in this month's Listen Up.

The Hearing Health Expo will be at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, April 13 and sem-

inar subjects and times have been tentatively set.

The seminar subjects are scheduled to include information on captioning and loops, brain training software, cochlear updates, hearing strategies and much more. The schedule is listed in this month's Listen Up so arrange your time to be at the Expo if there is a subject that interests you.

The Hearing Health Expo is free to the community and an opportunity to discover the latest ways to improve your hearing. Please bring friends who may have some hearing issues to this annual event.

All attendees will get a free guide to local hearing providers for resources ranging from financial aid to support groups to local theaters and community venues which provide either loop or captioning support.

The Hearing Health Expo is structured to help everyone with hearing

(continued on page 8)

Top: HLAS Chapter meeting

Above Left: Attendees at the 2012 Hearing Health Expo

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Listen Up! is a monthly newsletter of HLAS, offering Education, Advocacy and Support for the 110,000 people with hearing loss in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. For more information visit www.HLAS.org or call 941-706-4312. For comments or suggestions on the newsletter, contact the editor, Richard N. Williams at RNW1976@AOL.COM. ListenUp! is designed by Boost Studio.



"Best Cause"

April & May Special Chapter Meetings

There will not be a regular chapter meeting in April as the Chapter is focusing on our Hearing Health Expo. All members are urged to volunteer for or attend the HLAS Hearing Health Expo from 10am to 4:00pm on Saturday, April 13 at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, located east of I-75 and just north of University Blvd. The address is: 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.



The May Chapter meeting has been moved to Thursday May 2 at Noon. The Chapter was fortunate to fit into the schedule of HLAA's National Loop Advocate, Dr. Juliette Sterkens. The meeting will be held at Selby Auditorium on the Sarasota-Manatee campus of USF. USF is on



Route 41 and is just north of University Blvd. and across from the airport. The address is: 8350 N Tamiami Trail.

Welcome New Members!

Please invite friends with hearing loss to our next meeting as we grow our support group, learn about hearing loss issues and loop SRQ. Contact JoAnne DeVries at jdv.devries8@gmail.com for membership forms.

Karen Reynolds
Sarasota, Fl

Eunice Smith
Sarasota, Fl



Most of us have failed with attempts to file insurance claims or Medicare reimbursement for hearing aids or related assistive devices. This cartoon below is, unfortunately, the result we so often find.



"I said, it's the only hearing aid covered by your insurance."



NEED A RIDE TO A MEETING?

Let Ed Ogiba at hlaa.sarasota@gmail.com know if you need a ride, the nearest main cross streets of where you live and he will try to find a member close-by who can drive you to our meetings.



Save the Date • May 4th, 8am

Celebrate Sound, "Don't Walk in Silence"
Hamel Park, Main and Gulfstream, Sarasota
Park free at Palm Avenue Garage

Sign up a team, register to walk, or donate at: www.mycelebratesound.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1056767



MEMBERSHIP CONSIDERATION

Top Ten Reasons to become a member of HLAS

1. Our expert speakers teach how to significantly improve your listening and communication skills by 20% or more.
2. Learn how to prevent brain deafness and minimize the resulting risk of tinnitus, dementia and serious falls.
3. Retrain your brain to restore hearing and lost brain functions.
4. Learn which hearing aid features you need and how to control costs.
5. Discover improved hearing with the guidance of your own peer mentor.
6. Learn about new hearing loop systems to help you hear better at theatres, movies, religious services and throughout the Sarasota community.
7. Experience the most advanced form of captions at movie houses with our Movie Club.
8. Get discounted tickets for you and your partner to live looped performances at player's Theatre and the Van Wezel Performance Arts Center.
9. Become eligible for a \$1000 Scholarships to the HLA National Convention deemed to be the ultimate learning experience.
10. Master how to advocate for yourself to have more meaningful relationships with family, friends, and co-workers.

At HLAS, you will learn that you are not alone, but in a community with the highest incidence of hearing loss and all of the most advanced resources at your disposal.

Volunteer Opportunities



As an all-volunteer organization, HLAS carries out its goals of advocacy, education and support more effectively this year as more members give of their time to our efforts.

Gratefully, members have stepped up in key areas but assistance is always needed for ongoing activities and Chapter meetings.

Special Meeting Features HLAS Volunteer Openings

Interested members gathered on Feb 25 to hear about the volunteer posts that HLAS offers. 17 members signed-up for tasks, but since most openings require a team, slots for most volunteer jobs remain open. A major approaching need is for more volunteers for our April 13 Hearing Health Expo and the May 1 Take Back Your Life Reception. Contact JoAnne DeVries at: jdv.devries8@gmail.com

Above Left: Thank you Volunteers!

EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL EVENTS

Saturday, April 13, 2013

Hearing Health Expo

10am – 4pm

Lakewood Ranch Town Hall
8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.
Lakewood Ranch

Saturday, April 27, 2013

Sarasota Farmers Market

7am – 1pm

Lemon Ave, N. of Main, Sarasota

MAY EVENTS

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

“Take Back Your Life” Reception

5:30 to 7:30pm

6th Floor Community Room
1350 Main St., Sarasota

Thursday, May 2, 2013

Chapter Meeting

Noon

USF Sarasota-Bradenton Campus
Selby Auditorium
8350 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

HLAS Board of Trustees Meeting

3:00pm

N. Sarasota Library Meeting Room
2801 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Evening Hearing Group

6:00pm

ABH Hearing Center
4221 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Saturday, May 24, 2013

Sarasota Farmers Market

7am – 1pm

Lemon Ave, N. of Main, Sarasota



Meeting Update

UPCOMING MEETING PREVIEW, PRIOR MEETING RECAP

PRIOR MEETING RECAP

HLAS March Chapter Meeting



“Can we try that in b-flat?”

Presented by Dr. Brad Ingrao, AuD, The Hearing Spa

Our own HLAS Trustee, Dr. Brad Ingrao presented us with in an in depth explanation of how hearing loss effects our listening to music.

As a musician and an audiologist, he was able to convey medical information in a manner that we could understand.

Brad discussed the primary differences between music and speech. While both have the same basic pitch range, music has a much wider dynamic (loudness) range than speech. In addition, most musical instruments create a much more reflective, “bright” sound, where as the vocal tract creates a more muted “damped” sound. The issue is not these differences, but the fact that hearing aids and cochlear implants are designed to focus on, and amplify speech and speech-like sounds. Often, music, while it is audible, over-taxes the technologies.

In particular, Brad’s explanation of the inner ear outer hair cells and inner hair cells “working together” was informative. They work together as a pre-amp and microphone. When outer cells are damaged, we lose the ability to hear soft sounds and most other sounds as accurate. At the moderate to severe range, the inner hair cells are damaged as well and sound is distorted. Hearing aids are now being designed to be more compatible with the acoustic signature of music. Brad suggested we identify the sounds that fit our hearing loss rather than try to make the old music work. He summed up that we need to listen to our own drummer.



Trouble hearing over the phone?

Florida Relay can help!

If you’re one of the millions of Florida residents with hearing loss, you may benefit from Captioned Telephone, or CapTel:

- Works like any other telephone
- Displays every word the caller says
- Hear what’s being said and read a captioned (text) version of your conversation
- Free to use and available anytime

Free CapTel phones are available through Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) for qualified Florida residents.

To learn more:

Visit www.ftri.org

Call **1-800-222-3448** (voice)
or **1-888-447-5620** (TTY)

Florida CapTel service is made possible by AT&T.

Discover All the Latest Ways to Improve Your Hearing... and Prevent Brain Deafness



Saturday, April 13, 2013
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

- **ADMISSION IS FREE**
- **Over 30 Exhibitors**
- **Latest Technologies & Programs**
- **10 Seminars by Hearing Experts**
- **Free Hearing Screenings**

Untreated hearing loss affects the brain increasing the risk of dementia by 2 to 5 times.

Learn how to prevent it and restore brain functions while improving your hearing by 20% or more.



Lakewood Ranch Town Hall
8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd
For more information,
www.hlas.org or 941-706-4312

Hearing Loss Association of America
Sarasota Chapter



Meeting Update

UPCOMING MEETING PREVIEW, PRIOR MEETING RECAP

UPCOMING MEETING PREVIEW

HLAS May 2nd Chapter Meeting



We have changed our meeting date and location in order to hear HLAA's hearing loop advocate, Dr. Juliette Sterkens. She is an audiologist in private practice and has led a successful loop initiative in her community of Oshkosh and the Greater Fox Valley area of Wisconsin which has resulted in nearly 200 hearing loop installations in the state.

In her role as hearing loop advocate, Dr. Sterkens has worked with HLAA volunteers in the United States to further the organization's mission to increase awareness about hearing loss, and the need for an increase in the use of hearing loops to improve hearing accessibility.

"Hearing loss requires the user to receive speech with an improved signal-to-noise ratio. Although hearing aid and cochlear implant technology has improved dramatically, the ear-worn microphones cannot entirely deliver what the user needs to understand speech with ease – something that has long frustrated me professionally. The good news is that a hearing loop can connect a user wirelessly to the sound sys-

tem via the telecoil in a hearing aid or cochlear implant, much like Wi-Fi connects a computer to the internet. Hearing loops can be installed in auditoriums, classrooms, checkout counters, metro cars, places of worship, meeting rooms, TV rooms, museums, nursing homes, hospitals and businesses – wherever acoustics, noise and distance from the speaker make hearing difficult. Hearing loops are inconspicuous and effortless to use, and, best of all, deliver sound customized to each person."

Dr Sterkens resides in Oshkosh, Wisconsin with her husband, LeRoy Maxfield and her two children. She holds a doctorate in audiology from A. T. Still University-Arizona School of Health Sciences in Mesa, is a member of the HLAA-American Academy of Audiology "Get in the Hearing Loop" National Task Force and has published as well as spoken publicly about hearing loop technology and hearing aid telecoil programming. She has received awards for her advocacy work on local, state and national issues.

The meeting will be held at the USF Sarasota-Bradenton campus, Selby Auditorium, 8350 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota Refreshments will be served following the program.

Meeting supported by hearing loop and CART



Next Evening Hearing Group Meeting May 21st at, 6pm

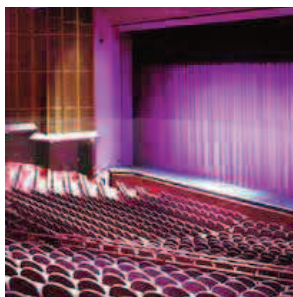
Topic: The Top 10 Reasons Why Sarasota is Becoming One of America's Most Hearing-Friendly Cities

The Evening Hearing Group caters to those of all ages who find it more convenient to attend a session after working hours. Sessions at Advocates For Better Hearing Center

COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING WINE & CHEESE!!

The meeting will be held at the ABH Hearing Center, 4221 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Please RSVP to Bob Leonard at bob@acsellerant.com. if you would like to attend to ensure we have speaker materials for you. Sessions are free and open to anyone in the community.



CONVENTION

Hearing Loss Association of America

2013

HLAA NEWS

Convention 2013

This year's HLAA convention will be June 27 to June 30 in Portland, Oregon.

Portland has so much to offer the Convention 2013 attendees. There are loads of parks, gardens, museums, theaters, tax-free shopping, and wineries. Plan a summer trip to the "other" west coast!

View the HLAA website at www.hearingloss.org/convention/convention and note the fantastic seminars offered: ten on Thursday, ten on Friday and fifteen on Saturday. Seminars provide an opportunity to learn about hearing loss, assistive technology, hearing aid/cochlear implants, strategies for advocacy, relationships and communications.

From March to June, we will list some of the 35 seminar topics. This month, we list topics in the Advocacy block:

- **Telecommunications and You:** The Latest on Phone, Internet and Television Access
- **Traveling the Globe with Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants**
- **ADA Update:** Impact of Recent Revisions for People with Hearing Loss
- **Are You Ready?** Emergency Preparedness for People with Hearing Loss
- **Inclusive Communities:** Making Hearing Loss a Part of Senior Community Living
- **Must-know Tips and Tricks to Improving Access through Legislation in Your State**
- **The How-To's of Starting a Hearing Loop Initiative**

In addition, the exhibit hall will have 60 to 70 exhibitors with all the latest technology and information along with a demonstration room in the hall is reserved for specific product presentations throughout the run of the convention.

HLAS NEWS

HLAS Scholarship Recipient Announced

HLAS is pleased to announce the recipient of the 1st Annual HLAS National Convention Scholarship Award is **Alexander Boakes**. Alex has been a member of HLAA and HLAS for several years, serves on the chapter board and manages the chapter outreach efforts at the Farmer's Market and the Evening Hearing Group. This scholarship offers a deserving chapter member the opportunity to attend the HLAA convention for the first time to experience the rich experience this convention provides. Most chapter members who have attended national conventions often mention how the experience changed their lives in ways they could not imagine. We look forward to hearing about Alex's convention experience and support him in his desire to take a leadership role in our chapter and in the community.



Don't miss another word!

Enjoy phone conversations confident you'll catch every word! The CapTel® Captioned Telephone allows people with hearing loss to listen to their caller and to read everything the caller says. Like captions on TV - for your phone!

- Purchase a CapTel phone for a one time price of \$99
- Includes free captioning service (no monthly fees or contracts required)
- Built-in answering machine
- 3 month money back guarantee

Contact Your Local Outreach Representative Kim Grajcar
561-635-5325



Hi grandma my soccer game is next saturday morning would you and grandpa be able to come? great it starts at 10am at memorial park

Press ▲ to Review the Conversation

CapTel® 840i

CapTel®
Captioned Telephone
561-635-5325
www.CapTel.com

CapTel Captioned Telephone is designed exclusively for individuals with hearing loss and is funded and regulated by the FCC



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over 30 Exhibitors and 10 Seminars Offer the Biggest Bonanza of Insight in Years at the April 13 Expo

Our Hearing Care Expo on Saturday, April 13 at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall offers you an unprecedented opportunity to learn about the latest remarkable technologies in cochlear implants, captioned and amplified phones plus an amazing array of assistive listening devices that you can use at home, work and in the community.

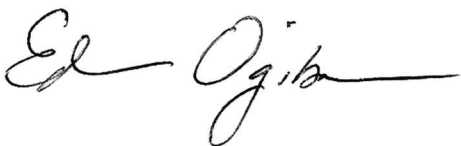
There will be leading audiologists and medical practitioners at your disposal to help you sort out your options for treatment. There will also be several support groups here that can offer financial assistance for those in need. You will also find several support groups that can help guide and support you throughout the process of how to best restore your hearing. Expert exhibitors can teach you how to access theatres, churches and community residences with the hearing loop system as well as movie houses with new captioning systems

The list of exhibitors is in the sidebar at right.

There are also 10 Seminars starting at 10 am through 3:30 pm and the schedule is on page 8. Every half-hour another expert speaker will help you to learn about a new way to improve your hearing, listening and communication skills.

The Hearing Care Expo will be the most comprehensive hearing health event in our area in quite some time. Please try to take advantage of this incredible learning experience and please pass the flyer that details this event to anyone who can benefit from it.

Happy Hearing,



Ed Ogiba
President, HLAS

Expo Exhibitors:

Advanced Bionics
Advanced Hearing Solutions
Advocates for Better Hearing
Alderman Oaks
All Ears Hearing Services
AudBling
Beyer Dynamics – USA (Synexis)
Cap Tel
Caption Call
Costco Hearing Aid Center
Cochlear Community Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)
Complete Hearing Solutions
Ear Research Foundation (Help Us Hear)
Florida Academy of Audiology
Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc
Florida Vocational Rehab
Gift of Hearing Foundation
Hearing Aid Systems
Hearing Loss Association of America
Hearing Loss Association of Florida
Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota
Herald Tribune
Manatee Speech & Hearing Center
Med – El
Player's Theatre
Regal Entertainment Group (Hollywood 20)
Sarasota Farmer's Market
Sarasota Magazine
Sony Caption Glasses
The Hearing Spa
University of South Florida – Sarasota-Manatee
Viscom Interpreting Services

COVER STORY CONTINUED

Hearing Health Expo

(continued from cover)

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The Hearing Health Expo is free to the community and an opportunity to discover the latest ways to improve your hearing. Please bring friends who may have some hearing issues to this annual event.

All attendees will get a free guide to local hearing providers for resources ranging from financial aid to support groups to local theaters and community venues which provide either loop or captioning support.

The Expo is structured to help everyone with hearing loss to find new ways to improve their hearing. Free Hearing Screenings will be provided and the event is open to the community for free. HLAS mentors will be available for assistance and counseling. Support groups and free resources will have tables for information.

Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd

COVER STORY CONTINUED

"Take Back Your Life" Reception



Left: Brenda Battat, HLAA's Executive Director, with HLAS members at 2012 reception.

On May 1, HLAS will host its third annual wine and cheese fundraiser for the business community, HLAS members and friends. It will be held from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at 1350 Main Street, the corner of Main and Palm.

Featured speaker is HLAA hearing Loop advocate, Dr. Juliette Sterkens who will speak at our Chapter meeting on May 2.

Dr. Sterkens will update us on the loop movement and how hearing loops allow you to "Take Back Your Life".

A limited number of tickets for \$10 are available. See details on page 12.

EXPO SEMINARS

Hearing Care Expo Seminar Schedule

- 10:00 Brain Deafness: Risks, Prevention & Hearing Restoration** • Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota
- 10:30 Your Hearing Journey** (review hearing aids/ cochlear implants) • Advanced Bionics
- 11:00 "Brain HQ" Improves Your Hearing With At-Home Exercises** • University of South Florida – Sarasota/ Manatee
- 11:30 Synexis – Hearing Assisted Solutions for Public Venues** • Beyerdynamic
- 12:00 "L.A.C.E." Improves Your Hearing With At-Home Exercises** • University of South Florida – Sarasota/ Manatee
- 12:30 When a Hearing Aid is Not Enough** • Cochlear
- 1:00 "Read My Quips" Improves Hearing With At-Home Exercises** • University of South Florida –Sarasota/ Manatee
- 1:30 Technologies and Strategies for Hearing Better in Noise** • The Hearing Spa
- 2:00 Med-EI's New Rondo: ALD Connectivity & Music Enjoyment** • Med-EI
- 2:30 Communication Strategies to Hear Better in Noisy Situations** • Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota
- 3:30 How Loops, and Captions Make Theatre & Movies Accessible** • Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota

Free Mentoring & Support

Never face a hearing loss issue alone. HLAS mentors and members can help with most issues that you and your family might have.

Call **(941)-706-4312**.

Medical News:

Findings reported in medical journals link diabetes to hearing loss

A Japanese study finds diabetics to be more than twice as likely as those without the disease to have hearing impairment.

A Reuters News Service report dated March, 2013 is worthy of publication in Listen Up. According to the study, people with diabetes may be more likely to have hearing loss perhaps because high blood sugar levels may damage blood vessels in the ears. While not conclusive, it should reinforce our efforts to eat healthy.

“(Reuters): Diabetes has already been tied to an increased risk of kidney and cardiovascular troubles, nerve damage and vision loss, and now a Japanese study finds diabetics to be more than twice as likely as those without the disease to have hearing impairment.

In a review of past research on the issue, published in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, scientists found that younger diabetics were at even higher risk than older adults, though they could not explain why.

‘Current meta-analysis suggests that the higher prevalence of hearing

impairment in diabetic patients compared with nondiabetic patients was consistent regardless of age,’ wrote lead researcher Chika Horikawa, at Niigata University Faculty of Medicine, and colleagues.

It's not the first time researchers have found a link between diabetes and hearing loss. In 2008, researchers from the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) saw similar patterns in a sample of more than 11,000 people, with people with diabetes twice as likely to have hearing loss as those without.

It's thought that high blood sugar levels brought on by diabetes may lead to hearing loss by damaging blood vessels in the ears, said Horikawa.

Horikawa and colleagues collected information from 13 previous studies examining the link between diabetes and hearing loss and published between 1977 and 2011. Together, the data covered 7,377 diabetes and 12,817 people without the condition.

Overall, Horikawa's team found that diabetics were 2.15 times as likely as people without the disease to have hearing loss. But when the results were broken down by age, people under 60 had 2.61 times the risk

while people over 60 had 1.58 times higher risk.

Some experts caution that this kind of study does not prove that diabetes is directly responsible for the greater hearing loss rates.

‘It doesn't definitively answer the question, but it continues to raise an important point that patients might ask about,’ said Steven Smith, a diabetes specialist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

The researchers note that future studies that take more factors into account, such as age and noisy environment, are needed to clarify the link between diabetes and hearing loss.

Still, Horikawa told Reuters Health in an email, people should recognize that diabetics may be at risk for hearing loss based on their results.†

‘Furthermore, these results propose that diabetic patients are screened for hearing impairment from (an) earlier age compared with non-diabetics,’ said Horikawa, adding that hearing loss has also been linked to an increased risk of depression and dementia.”



Movie Club Vanishes in What Police Call a “Disappearing Audience Act”. Was it Foul Play or a Publicity Stunt?

Nineteen members of the HLAS Private Eyes Movie Club mysteriously disappeared at the Hollywood 20 on Wednesday. As is their tradition, the club posed for photos after this month’s movie, “The Incredible Burt Wonderstone”, but they all instantly vanished in the split-second between the two photos above being taken.

Police later confirmed it was a hoax perpetrated by actor Steve Carell, who stars as a famous magician performing a similar stunt in the film. Carell reported, “The HLAS 19 safely landed in Las Vegas seconds after the movie ended”. A first time club member was said to scream: “AWE-SOME!! I had no idea that Sony Caption Glasses were that good”. **Next Movie Club is Apr 24.** Joan Haber cautioned: “these glasses are excellent, but we can only guarantee future first timers a free ticket.” Contact joanhaber2012@gmail.com to join.

Featured Links/Blog

A hearing loss related link or blog addressing hearing loss issues will be featured here each month.

This month’s feature is:

www.nytimes.com/2013/03/06/booming/looking-for-the-right-solution-to-hearing-problems.html?pagewanted=1&r=0&src=rechp

The New York Times

The article contains answers to reader questions from Neil J. DiSarno, staff officer for audiol-

ogy at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and a former chairman of the department of communication sciences and disorders at Missouri State University.

The article is an in depth discussion about hearing aids and the business of hearing aid dispensing reflecting comments that have been made by HLAS speakers in the past.

NOTE: The link may require you to register with the New York Times site but if you are interested in the topics discussed and the 47 comments, it will be worth that effort.



Just click “like” and you will be informed of all the things going on at HLAA and HLAS.

Here is a link:

www.facebook.com/pages/Hearing-Loss-Association-of-Sarasota/204770239533667?ref=ts&fref=ts

At the Market



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 it to one of our meetings, please suggest they visit us here. We are pleased to announce that based on demand, we will be offering free monthly screenings by local medical providers. To facilitate this, the HLAS booth will also be at a new location monthly, on State Street in front of the Farmer’s Market office at 1920 State Street. Our booth is usually on Lemon Avenue on the west side, one block North of Main.



Volunteers JoAnne DeVries and Bob Leonard take a time-out with Liz Alpert.



Plugged-In

HEARING LOOP LOCATIONS, ACCESS, CLUBS, & LINKS

FCC UPDATE



The FCC has issued a temporary regulation that all captioned telephone users are required to manually turn captions on at the beginning of every call. Many phone providers such as Cap-Tel and CaptionCall phone worked to satisfy this requirement and sent software to your phone to change the default for captions from

"on" to "off". The providers received such strong negative feedback that they reversed that change until the FCC issues a final ruling.

The formal proceeding is posted as 47 CFR Part 64 and the FCC docket number is 13-24. The issue is entitled, "Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals With Hearing and Speech Disabilities".

The comment period expired March 12 and some action is expected soon. The phones and caption service are funded by telephone taxes. A set amount is budgeted for the service but the FCC noted a spike in use and cost. They suspect the \$50 incentive for phone referral and the default of "captions On" contributed to this rise. They are proposing to eliminate the incentive and to change the default as well as requiring certification of hearing loss to be eligible for the phones. The providers and some hearing loss agencies are opposing these changes as a burden to the deaf and hard of hearing. The FCC stated in posting the notice that "The proposed rules are intended to address certain practices related to the provision and marketing of IP CTS that appear to be contributing to a recent and dramatic spike in reimbursement requests to the TRS Fund of sufficient magnitude to constitute a serious threat to the Fund if not promptly and decisively addressed".

LOOP ADVOCACY

We now have 71 looped facilities in Sarasota-Manatee. If you wish to advocate for a looped facility, contact Ed Ogiba who leads our advocacy for looping at ed@groupefo.com



Left: The HLAS Theatre Club saw "Harvey" at the Player's Theatre. Harvey joined the photo next to Frank Stocco (both kneeling).

HLAS Goes to the Theatre

HLAS receives tickets from the Player's Theatre and on occasion, the Van Wezel. Tickets are available to all members on a first come/first serve basis. Recently, 50 HLAS members and guests attended the Van Wezel's Rat Pack show on Feb. 22, which revived the music & antics of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr, Dean Martin and Joey Bishop. HLAS offers free outings for members to Player's Theatre nearly every month. Contact [Frank Stocco@aol.com](mailto:Frank.Stocco@aol.com).

All Ears Hearing Services



The Ears Mobile is a Looped facility so that we can determine and demonstrate how to use a T-coil Hearing Aid to connect to one of the 62 looped facilities in Sarasota-Manatee.



Please Call For Free Consultation and Evaluation

- Hearing aids with t-coil and loop compatibility
- 'Try Hearing Aids before you decide to Buy' policy



Video Otoscopy
Ear Wax Removal



Hearing/Speech
Evaluations



60-Day Risk Free
Hearing Aid Fitting

2620 S Tamiami Trail Suite 101
Sarasota, Florida 34239 (941) 320-2122

www.AllEarsHearingServices.com
AllEarsHearingServices@gmail.com

TAKE YOUR BACK LIFE

The Loop is Your Ticket



We are the fastest growing loop county in U.S., bringing people back to theatres, movies, businesses, congregations, and community events!

71
SRQ Venues Looped and More Soon!

Wine & Cheese Reception May 1, 2013

1350 Main St. • 5:30 to 7pm • Sarasota



Dr. Juliëtte P.M. Sterkens, AuD

National Hearing Loop Advocate, HLAA
Wisconsin Audiologist of the Year 2011
Larry Mauldin Award 2011
Presidential Award Am. Academy of Audiology 2011
HLAA Technology Access Award 2011
Member National HLAA/AAA Hearing Loop Task Force

18
Performing Arts Centers Looped!

Learn how to Spark Loop Acceptance & Lasting Success at Your Venue!

Tickets \$10

(includes wine, beer, beverages and light bites)

Send check made out to "HLAS" to: HLAS, P.O. Box 48643, Sarasota FL 34230

Contact: 941-706-4312 or HLAofSRQ@gmail.com



A SARASOTA TREASURE

Advocates For Better Hearing on the South Trail in Sarasota is unlike any hearing store you have ever visited



ABH cannot sell you a hearing aid. But it has everything you need to complement your hearing aids for better TV viewing, listening on the phone, plus all the support you need when your aids are not enough or off for the night.

The proprietor of Advocates is a past President of HLAS and a Trustee of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida. She is Flo Ennis.

Years ago, Flo was left in charge of a trust to help the hearing impaired. With this financial backing, she was able to start a hearing center and become founder and president of Advocates for Better Hearing, Inc., www.advocatesforbetterhearing.com. Unique in the United States, ABH is a non-profit agency through which Flo offers choices and good, solid, in-your-pocket

advice; advice you can carry with you when shopping for hearing aids or personal hearing amplifiers. For over ten years Flo has been offering assistance to the community as well as those who come to Florida to retire, only to find that hearing loss has become a barrier to family and community life.

If you have not been there or know of anyone with hearing loss, it is a wonderful outing to stop by and not only review the products but listen to Flo who has a great sense of humor (note the sign in the window below right) and will entertain as she demonstrates devices such as the "sonic boom" alarm clock. Be sure to call ahead at 941-922-1242 as Flo is sometimes out at hearing loss related meetings.

Above: Flo Innes who runs ABH has had hearing loss since birth and has been a long-time leader with HLAS, HLA-FL and HLAA.

Right: Playful sign in the ABH window; this travel alarm is just one of the many products available at ABH for the hearing impaired.



New Looped Venues!

- Michaels on East
- Church of the Palms
- Englewood United Methodist
- Faith Lutheran
- Faith Baptist
- Bay Village
- Jacaranda Trace
- Kobernick House
- Bayport Beach and Tennis Club
- Pelican Pavilion
- Residence at Ritz Carlton



Discover the Latest Ways to Improve Your Hearing

Saturday, April 13, 2013

10 AM- 4 PM,

Lakewood Ranch Town Hall

Try the latest advancements in:
Hearing Aid Technologies
Cochlear Implant Developments
Captioned and Smart Phones
Assisted Listening Devices
Hearing Loop Systems at
Local Theatres & Movie Houses

**Free Expo
Open
to the
Community!**



- Meet Leading Hearing Care Providers**
- Get Free Counseling from HLAS Mentors**
- Learn about Support Groups & Free Resources**
- Attend one of 10 Educational Seminars**
- Bring Questions & Get Answers**
- Enter to Win Valuable Prizes**

Lakewood Ranch Town Hall
8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., Lakewood Ranch, FL

From I-75, take Exit 213 "University Parkway".
Go 3 lights East to LWR Blvd and turn left. 1 mile on right.

**For more information on exhibitors, seminars
or sponsorship packages,
contact: ed@groupefo.com
or (941) 706-4312**

Hearing Loops Can Help Build Your Practice!

Special Invitation to Audiologists, Ear Nose & Throat MDs

Breakfast Meeting, Thursday May 2, 7:30am



Dr. Juliëtte P.M. Sterkens, AuD

National Hearing Loop Advocate, HLAA
Wisconsin Audiologist of the Year 2011
Larry Mauldin Award 2011

Presidential Award Am. Academy of Audiology 2011
HLAA Technology Access Award 2011
Member National HLAA/AAA Hearing Loop Task Force

LEARN:

Why hearing loops are being added to so many local venues:

Theatres • Houses of Worship • Community Residences • Hospitals • Medical Offices

How hearing aid wearers have responded:

Greater attendance at theatres, religious services and community meetings
Greater use and improved overall satisfaction with hearing aids

How the loop affects those with untreated hearing loss:

86% of people with hearing loss have not sought treatment
Recent Brain Deafness findings from Johns Hopkins could renew call to action

How to benefit professionally – Get In the Loop

Implement the Loop at your offices • New patient-directed approaches - receive handouts

Complimentary Breakfast

Confirmed Reserved Seat Required – Space Limited
6th Floor Club 1350 Main Street, Sarasota
RSVP to 941-706-4312 or hlaa.sarasota@gmail.com

