

The Listening Post



Hearing Loss Association of the Capital Region

“YOU ARE NOT ALONE”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE FROM STEVE SCHULTZ

I usually fly a season appropriate flag outside my home, and I try to remember to change it once or twice during each season. However, as I write this in early January with the temperature at 17 degrees outside, I just realized that I still have a pumpkin flag flying. Well, I can replace it with a snow-covered barn, but where do the seasons go?

Anyway, with the new season and my third and last year (I hope) as your President just beginning we have a lot to look for-

ward to. Shortly, we should be receiving our new induction loop and hand held mikes for our chapter meeting room; what a pleasure that will be!! In just a few days, many of us will “reach out and touch someone” from the Hearing Loss Association of PA Information booth at the PA Farm Show, helping them to cope with hearing loss or that of a family member or friend. I am especially looking forward to the fun-filled “Open Forum” at our chapter meeting on January 23rd, and the funny stories

that each of us must have related to our own hearing loss. I hope you will join us at the February and March chapter meetings, of which dates and topics are listed in this newsletter. And not to get ahead of myself, but, at our April meeting, our very “excited” and knowledgeable speaker will surprise us with the innovations in captioning that is now available or coming to movies and live theaters everywhere.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2012!



*Next Board Meeting
March 14 @ 7pm*

Inside this issue:

HLAA Convention Speaker / Tinnitus	2
Closed Captioning	3
Tinnitus continued	3
Member Profile / Bethesda News	4
Webinar Topics / Library Highlights	5
Officers / Membership Form	5
HLAA National Contact Information	6

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

January 23 @ 7pm

“Open Forum: Funny stories that happened with your hearing loss”. Come and share your stories and make us laugh.

Snack: Jude Marcus / Rick Rubin

February 27 @ 7pm

“Hearing Loss Management”

Sara Barron, local audiologist, will share communication tips and strategies on how to repair communication breakdowns.

Snack: Don Deppen

March 26 @ 7pm

“Cochlear Implants”

Med-El speaker will share the latest info on cochlear implants.

Snack: Darlene & Earl Smith

HOWARD WEINSTEIN, INSPIRING SPEAKER FOR JUNE 2012 CONVENTION IN RHODE ISLAND

In the midst of his successful professional career, Howard Weinstein's ten year old daughter unexpectedly passed away. One week later, the company he worked for (and preciously owned) laid him off. Howard tried to bounce back from the professional loss by creating a new company, but the event had changed his conception of business and his role in it.

Deciding to work abroad in the field of development, he took a volunteer position with the World University Service of Canada to work at Camp Hill Community Trust, a community for people with disabilities in Botswana. During his four years at Camp Hill, Howard implemented the startup company Godsia Technologies, where he employed persons with hearing loss and physical disabilities, primarily women, and trained them in jobs skills and also to increase their self-esteem and confidence through their work. Through Godsia Howard produced three new products: a solar energy powered hearing aid, an analog solar charger and a rechargeable battery. The innovation of these products won Godsia an international design award for the best products in Africa in 2005. Within three years, Godsia manufactured

more than sixty thousand hearing aids and became financially sustainable. After four years in Botswana, Howard went to Brazil to replicate the business. Howard employs people who are deaf to manufacture hearing aids run on new solar-powered battery technology, freeing hearing aid users from the economic burden off buying regular zinc batteries at \$1 per week. Through the broad distribution of these hearing aids, especially to children at a critical time in their development of speech and cognitive abilities, Howard will create new access to hearing aids and improved social integration for the largely excluded population of low income people with hearing loss in the developing world.

About the Hearing Loss Association of America

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979, opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support. HLAA publishes the bimonthly *Hearing Loss Magazine*, holds annual conventions (Convention 2012 is June 21 – 24 in Providence, Rhode Island), produces the national Walk4Hearing®, hosts online learning with the Hearing Loss Support Specialists Training, holds monthly webinars, and advocates for the rights of people with hearing loss. HLAA has an extensive network of chapters and state. The national headquarters is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Phone: 301.657.2248 or visit www.hearingloss.org.

Tinnitus: A Problem in the Brain? (Part 1)

Ringings in the ears, or tinnitus, can be so annoying that a person with it can't sleep, think or work. It's a common problem for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. But tinnitus can also start for no apparent reason.

A Problem In The Brain?

For a long time, doctors thought tinnitus was a problem in the ears. But they now think it's more of a problem in the brain. In the past 10 years, brain imaging has given clues that the tinnitus "sounds" may be caused by a brain that is not connecting its various sections clearly. Jay Piccirillo, a professor of

otolaryngology at Washington University in St. Louis, is trying to reset those brain connections by holding an electromagnet to people's heads. "We think that perhaps that electrical stimulation just clears away that pathological, or that faulty, connection," Piccirillo says, "with the hope that the reconstructions are more normal and more healthy." Mark Church decided to try transcranial magnetic stimulation as part of a clinical trial run by Piccirillo. The two-week trial of daily transcranial magnetic treatments found no improvement in participants, and Church dropped out of a second, four-week trial

CLOSED CAPTIONING NOW AVAILABLE FOR LIVE TELEVISION ONBOARD CONTINENTAL AIRLINES (PRESS RELEASE PRNEWswire— LIVETV 11/30/11)

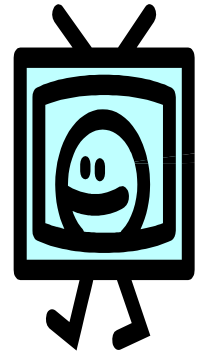
LiveTV is proud to announce that, for the first time in the history of in-flight entertainment, closed captioning is now available for live television content onboard an aircraft. This system enhancement is a major step forward in delivering the excitement of in-flight entertainment to those passengers with hearing loss and continues to drive toward LiveTV's goal of a fully realized "At Home in the Air" experience for each of its end-users.

The closed captioning enhancement will initially be offered to passengers on all LTV3-equipped Boeing 737NG aircraft operated by Continental Airlines, a subsidiary of United Continental Holdings, thereby putting each customer in control of the feature while interacting with the 100+ channels of DIRECTV-provided satellite television available onboard. Continental will be

the first airline in the world to provide this feature to its passengers.

About LiveTV

LiveTV is the world's leading provider of live in-flight entertainment and connectivity systems for commercial airlines. Founded in 1998 in Melbourne, Florida, LiveTV has installation and maintenance locations around the world to support the more than 700 aircraft equipped with its products. Current customers include JetBlue, Continental, Frontier, Air Tran, Alitalia, Virgin Blue, West Jet and Azul. For a full listing of products and partners, or for more information, please visit www.livetv.net. LiveTV is a wholly-owned subsidiary of JetBlue Airways.



TINNITUS: A PROBLEM IN THE BRAIN? (CON'T)

because he thought it was making his tinnitus worse. Piccirillo is analyzing the results of that second trial to see if any patients benefited. He's also conducting a study of military members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, doing MRI scans of their brains before and after deployment.

The Defense Department is giving a big boost to tinnitus research. That's because 20 to 40 percent of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have tinnitus due to hearing loss caused by exposure to loud noise from gunfire, aircraft or explosions. It is now the most common service-related disability, with 744,000 vets receiving compensation for tinnitus, according to the American Tinnitus Association, an advocacy group.

The fact that so many veterans have tinnitus after being exposed to loud noises has made it clear that even if tinnitus isn't generated in the ears, hearing loss is often involved. So some scientists are trying to retrain the brain to quit paying attention.

Part 2 : coming spring edition

(Article taken from July 18, 2011 National Public Radio)

LOOKING FOR SPONSORSHIPS: Group / Company / Individuals willing to sponsor an issue of this newsletter will receive free advertising! Help us defray HLAA's printing and mailing cost of each quarterly newsletter. If you know of a potential interested sponsor, contact one of the officers listed on page 5.

Member Profile: **Edward Becker**

Address: Mechanicsburg

Hobbies: flowers (perennial and plant); bird watching, golfing, enjoying grandkids, stateside travel, watching college football and Phillies

Family info: married to Joyceeeeeee (as I call her) for almost 52 years; 3 daughters whom all are local: Shelly, Pamela, and Janice

Job : retired in 1995 as a civilian employee from the Department of the Army, Fort Ritchie, Maryland

How long involved with HLA: 2 years; Steve & Barb Schultz acquainted me with the chapter

How lost hearing: 8-10 years ago (possibly before that per close friends) ; think loss might have come from 38 years of loud machines in the communication field

Greatest struggle with hearing loss: avoiding events because can't hear dialog even with hearing aids; background noises, and head colds and allergies that make hearing more difficult

NEWSROOM IN BETHESDA (HLAA HEADQUARTERS)

One in Five Americans age 12 and Older Experiences Hearing Loss Severe Enough to Hinder Communication (11/15/2011)

Nearly one in five Americans age 12 and older experience hearing loss severe enough to interfere with day-to-day communication.

The new research, published in the Archives of Internal Medicine, examined data from the National Health and Nutritional Examination Surveys, or NHNES, which has collected health information from thousands of Americans since 1971. The researchers looked specifically at people age 12 and older -- men and women of all races -- whose hearing had been tested during NHANES exams.

"Hearing loss is inevitable in many ways, and a lot of people view it as inconsequential, which is where there is a big mistake," said Dr. Frank Lin, assistant professor in the department of otolaryngology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and lead author of the study.

"Hearing loss has a great impact on cognitive abilities and can progressively lead to social isolation and loneliness," he told ABCNews.com.

"When people can't communicate effectively, the brain actually has to reallocate resources to help with hearing, and that may affect dementia and other cognitive impairment," said Lin.

And with an older population that's living longer, hearing loss could become a serious impediment to social intercourse.

FCC Releases Internet Proposed Close Captioning Rules (10/3/2011)

The Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 ("CVAA") requires the Federal Communications Commission to take many actions on accessibility.

On September 22, 2011, the FCC released a document called a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that asks the public to comment on proposed rules to ensure that televised programming with captions will continue to have captions when delivered over the Internet. The NPRM proposes the following phase-in schedule for implementation, once rules are adopted (in a Report and Order):

- pre-recorded/unedited programs be captioned within 6 months of the rule
- live and near live programs be captioned within 12 months
- pre-recorded/edited programs be captioned within 18 months

This info is provided by the national organization for the Hearing Loss Association of America. For more information on advocacy, public policy work, Hearing Loss Magazine, HLAA e-news, conventions, and more, go to www.hearingloss.org.



LOCAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FEES Year 2012

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ TTY/ Voice

E-mail: _____

Birthday: _____

___ New Member ___ Renewal

Annual Fee: \$10. (Includes Newsletter) \$ _____

Newsletter Subscription only: \$5 \$ _____

Additional Contribution: \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Make Checks to: **Hearing Loss Association
of The Capital Region**

Mail to: Don Deppen
37 South 24th St.
Harrisburg, PA 17103

Hearing Loss Association of The Capital Region Officers & Board

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Upcoming Webinars online with HLAA

January 10, 2012, 7pm (EST) - *Limitations of Ear-Level Technology* with Brad Ingrao, Au.D.

This webinar reviews what factors will decrease your hearing device effectiveness and how to overcome them.

February 16, 2012, 7pm (EST) - *Technology in the Workplace* with Esther Kelly

Do you use walkie-talkies or two-way radios at work or answer multi-line telephones? If so, you know how hard it can be with hearing loss. Learn “outside of the box” solutions to these and many other workplace difficulties for people with hearing loss. Esther Kelly will cover up to ten workplace situations and offer solutions and ways to overcome difficulties using technology in the workplace; including creative ways to use FM systems to interact with co-workers and students.

March 2012 : check HLAA website—currently not available

Go to hearingloss.org / online community / webinars to register (free webinars)

Mobile Library Book/DVD's of the Quarter Highlight:

Rebuilt: My Journey Back To The Hearing World. 2006. MICHAEL CHOROST

The author's story of becoming a “cyborg”; having a computer implanted in his head to overcome his deafness.

“Say That Again Please!” Insights in Dealing with a Hearing Loss. 1991. Tom Bradford

This book is written for the layman. It's purpose is to enlighten those who are interested in learning more about the world of hearing impaired.

Silent Ears, Silent Heart: A Deaf Man's Journey Through Two Worlds. 2003. Blair and Michelle Lacrosse

A poignant look at the life of a deaf child and his hearing parents.

*Mission Statement of Hearing Loss
Association of America:*

HLAA and our members are catalysts that make mainstream society more accessible to people who have hearing loss. We strive to improve the quality of life of people who are hard of hearing through education, advocacy, support, and self-help!

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION (HLAA)

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Bethesda, MD 20814

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www.hearingloss.org

National Individual Membership: \$35.00



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Address Correction Requested

HLA of the Capital Region meets on the 4th Monday of each month from September– June. The annual picnic is during July or August and the Holiday party is in December. Our meeting location is in the GIANT Food Store, Community Room, 2nd floor in the Camp Hill Shopping Center. An elevator is available for easy access.
CART is provided at meetings! **New Loop System Coming Soon!!!**