

**HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH SUMMER PICNIC
SUNDAY JUNE 28, 1:00 PM**

The picnic will be held at the home of Teresa Nellans and Terry Reynolds on Sunday, June 28th from 1 to 5 PM. Chef Terry will be preparing dishes for the main course and each member attending is asked to bring either an appetizer, a salad, or a dessert.

Please RSVP with the number and the names of adults and children attending to Teresa Nellans at 412-767-9769 (voice/tty) or nellanst@aol.com.

Attendees will receive detailed directions to the location and parking options. Please try to carpool.

*Teresa Nellans, MA MBA
President,
Hearing Loss Association Pittsburgh
412 767 9769 v tty*

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Note new address and phone number:
Erich Kost, 826 Wheatland Circle, Bridgeville, PA, 15017, 412-319-7742
Chapter support and contributions should be sent to this address.

MEETINGS

Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh meetings are held at DePaul School for Hearing and Speech in Shadyside on the third Saturday of each month **except June, July, August, and December**. Light refreshments and a mini hearing clinic are available at 10:00 am; the meeting starts at 10:30 am. Everyone is welcomed so please bring your family and friends.



All meetings are captioned and the meeting room is equipped with an infrared surround sound amplification system. Contact Teresa Nellans , NellansT@aol.com, 412-767-9769 v/tty, with requests for additional accommodations.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Saturday, September 19, 2009.

WAYNE'S WORD

I intend to attend the HLAA convention in Nashville this month. Someone may ask why? The answer is both simple and complex. The simple answer is that our younger son and his family live in Nashville so we have a perfect excuse to see them AND take in the convention <grin>!

The more complex answer is that it is

- 1) an opportunity to see a number of HLAA folk I have become acquainted with over the years. In a way, they are also "family"! Not so incidentally, I can be there to cheer when the Pittsburgh chapter's newsletter receives the award for best newsletter!! Congratulations in advance to Kathy Niemeyer and all who have made that possible.
- 2) It is a place to learn more about what HLAA is doing. The workshops and presentations are always terrific and very helpful to anyone who is coping with hearing loss.
- 3) The exhibit hall will be a wonderful opportunity to see the latest "gizmos" available to those of us who use such in our effort to cope with our hearing loss.
- 4) There will be a banquet - banquets are always a plus, if you like to eat.
- 5) We get to go together to the Grand Old Opry. With all the HLAA folk there they will probably have the singers well "miked" and I will be able to hear what is being sung and done!

The downside of all this is that it costs money! To think positively about the parting my money from my wallet - it helps the economy!!

So why aren't YOU going?

Yours for the opportunity to learn even more about coping with hearing loss,

Wayne

(Wayne Benson, former President of HLA Pittsburgh, now lives in Chapel Hill, NC and can be reached at awbenson32@gmail.com)

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH MEETING SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009

Many thanks to audiologist Deb Albaugh for exploring the topic *Choosing a Cell Phone That Works for You* at the May 16 meeting. She covered the basics: M rating, T rating, and RF immunity level, but most importantly the consumer should test the cell phone for compatibility with his/her specific hearing aids, cochlear implant, or assistive device. Locally some Verizon Wireless stores have active phones that you can use. I visited the store on McKnight Road in the North Hills and was able to try out all the phones with my hearing aid on microphone and telecoil. Deb distributed informative handouts "*Hearing Aid Compatibility With Digital Wireless Cell Phones*", "*How to Buy a Cell Phone when You Have a Hearing Loss*" by Janice Schacter and "*Basics on Buying Cell Phones When You Have a Hearing Loss*". Copies will be available at future meetings and events.

~~Kathy Niemeyer

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA WORKING FOR FIRE SAFETY

HAAA submitted a grant proposal to the Department of Homeland Security on fire alarm safety. This was based on research conducted by Dorothy Bruck in Australia showing that current fire alarms are not effective for people with hearing loss. HAAA is collaborating with the University of Australia on the issue.

University of Australia scientists will conduct the research and the Fire Protection Research Foundation will put together an advisory council. HAAA will carry out a national media campaign in this country to inform the hard of hearing and others about fire safety and the special danger that inadequate fire/smoke alarms presents to the hard of hearing. The campaign will cite the research findings and will target consumers with hearing loss and community leaders such as firefighters, aging agencies and hearing health professionals.

People who are profoundly deaf are typically very aware of their inability to respond to auditory cues such as the doorbell, telephone and alarms. However, many people whose hearing loss is less severe (the "hard of hearing" people) may not feel a strong need for special devices, especially if their hearing aids are effective in increasing their functional hearing of signals. In such cases the major problem with hearing auditory alerting devices may be when they take their hearing aids out, as people do when they go to bed.

The sound emitted by most fire or smoke alarms is at a level that is not heard (or not heard well) by a significant portion of the hard of hearing population. According to a study entitled, "Waking Effectiveness of Alarms for Adults who are Hard of Hearing," the typical audible signal used by smoke alarms failed to wake up 43 percent of tested subjects with mild to moderately severe hearing loss despite the fact that all were able to hear the typical 3100 Hz tone when awake.

The findings of this study indicate that millions of people with hearing loss will not be wakened from deep sleep by audible alerts which use only one tone in the high frequencies rather than a range of frequencies beginning at approximately 500 Hz. Strobe lights woke up only 27 percent of the hard of hearing subjects. In contrast, a specific audible multiple frequency signal consisting of a 520 Hz square wave [1] - a much lower tone - successfully alerted 92 percent of the subjects at the benchmark level of 75 dBA and alerted 100 percent at 95 dBA. 75 dBA is somewhat louder than the typical vacuum cleaner while 95 dBA would be comparable to a very loud power lawn mower.

GINNY HALT AND SHIRLEY SCHULTZ FEATURED IN CAREGIVER MAGAZINE

In the Winter 2008 Pennsylvania Caregivers magazine there was an article focusing on hearing loss that featured interviews with Hearing Loss of Pittsburgh members Shirley Shultz and Ginny Halt (also a picture of Ginny square dancing). Both emphasized the importance of recognizing there is a hearing problem and the willingness to seek help, noting that Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh is a good source of information and support. Website is pacaregiver.caring.com/pa-features.



Virginia Halt, left, doesn't miss a beat as she and fellow dancer Ed Eighmy, right, swing with the North Hills Squares square dancing club, at the Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church.

HEALTH INFORMATION

FOR PERSON WHO ARE DEAF, DEAF-BLIND, AND HARD OF HEARING: A WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA INITIATIVE

In our region, and nationwide in fact, persons who are Deaf, Deafblind and hard of hearing are grossly underserved by both the physical health and the behavioral health care system. Persons with any level of hearing loss often have difficulty accessing health related information. In many cases, the patient as well as the health care provider who may provide service to them, is unaware of laws that mandate the provision of accommodations in the health care setting so that all persons have equal access to health related information.

A new local web site called www.healthbridges.info was created by local people who are Deaf, Deaf-blind and hard of hearing. The site is for people who are Deaf, Deafblind and hard of hearing and for health providers and insurers too.

This newly developed website seeks to provide reliable health and advocacy related information in a format that is accessible to all. Each month the topics discussed will change.

Please visit the site www.healthbridges.info today and let us know about topics that you want to learn more about.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18-21, 2009 ----- HLAA Convention 2009, Gaylord Opryland Resort Nashville
June, 28, 2009 ----- Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh Summer Picnic
September 19, 2009 ----- Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh Meeting
September 26, 2009 ----- PA Walk4Hearing, Newton Square

ASK THE EXPERTS WEB CHAT JUNE 25, 2009

[Hearing Loss Association of America](#) is proud to present live moderated chats, featuring leading experts in hearing loss. This is your opportunity to ask a question and learn more about hearing loss from leaders in a number of fields associated with hearing loss.

Topic: "Everything you wanted to know about movie, live theater captioning"

Guest Speaker: Nanci Linke-Ellis

Date & Time: June 25, 2009 at 9 PM (Eastern Daylight Time)

Nanci Linke-Ellis has been a lifelong advocate for captions since forming Tripod Captioned Films in 1993, and later, InSight Cinema, a non-profit organization that forged alliances with the major film studios and theatre chains to distribute and promote captioned versions of first-run films to deaf and hard of hearing audiences nationwide. Nanci's outreach and advocacy efforts have grown to include in two new projects: Captions West, an entity to bring live theatre, opera and all forms of captioned entertainment to the Deaf/Hard of Hearing communities. She has also formed a new company, known as SightLine Media; along with a group of partners to bring an innovative wireless captioning technology designed for deaf and hard of hearing and deaf-blind audiences to market.

Before her entry into the world of film captioning and advocacy, Linke-Ellis began her career in television with diverse production credits and is a member of the Director's Guild of America. She was given the 1982 Silver Award by the International Film and TV Festival in New York for her short on the Fashion Institute of Technology. She served on the Educational Programs Committee for the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (ATAS) Foundation for 15 years. Linke-Ellis is a member of the Motion Picture Industry's Digital Cinema Initiative's Committee created to establish captioning standards and a universal file for digital transmission.

Ms. Linke-Ellis is a member of the Entertainment Industry Council and the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation and Women In Film. Linke-Ellis has also served on the FCC Consumer Disability Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

Ms. Linke-Ellis also serves on the advisory boards of VITAC and RAPIDTEXT captioning companies. She has been honored for her efforts in media access and as a captioning advocate 1982 Outstanding Young Women in America, the 1998 Who's Who of Media, the 2001 Academy of American Audiologists with the "Oticon Focus on People" Award. Additionally she was honored by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) in 2001, Tripod in 2002, and the SHHH-CA State Association in 2005 for her work in Media Access.

You can submit a question prior to the web chat: www.hearingloss.org/askExpert.asp.

THE PENNSYLVANIA WALK4HEARING



On **September 26, 2009** HLA-PA is hosting the Pennsylvania Walk4Hearing at Ridley Creek State Park in Newtown Square, PA. Walkers will have the option of walking either 2.0 or 4.3 miles.

*Walk4Hearing*TM events are fundraising walks to be held in over 20 locations across the United States in 2009. Supporters walk in the *Walk4Hearing* for many reasons: to support a family member or loved one; to create awareness of their own hearing loss; and to support the Hearing Loss Association of America. The Hearing Loss Association of America has seen the importance of walks for other organizations around the country and know that these walks have created awareness and education. We believe that hearing loss is something everyone should have knowledge of. The walk is creating awareness and becoming an educational tool for HLAA, to help make hearing loss an issue of national concern.

Anyone can participate family, friends, coworkers, businesses, schools and caring professionals that want to make a real difference for people affected by hearing loss. Thousands of families in our community, and millions across the country will benefit from your support and the success of the Walk4Hearing program.

This year, we are encouraging all Pennsylvania HLAA chapters to join in the Pennsylvania Walk4Hearing by organizing at least one walk team. This is a perfect time to raise funds not only for our national office, but also for your local chapter. Half of the money raised by each team can go to a local chapter or the state office, while the remainder will go to our national office in Bethesda. In the past local chapters have used the funds raised to purchase assistive listening systems for chapter meetings, pay for CART for meetings or to provide scholarships for college students.

Walkers will gather beginning at 9 a.m. on September 26, 2009 at Pavilion # 11B in Ridley Creek State Park and the walk will start at 10 a.m. Ridley Creek State Park encompasses over 2,606 acres of Delaware County woodlands and meadows. Refreshments will be available before, during and after the walk.

To start a team, be a walker, or to get more information about Walk4Hearing, please contact Diana Bender, State Director of Hearing Loss Association of Pennsylvania, by email at Bender@hla-pa.org by phone at 610-731-9387 or write to her at 4 State Road, #109, Media, PA 19063.

Note: Though the walk location may not be easily accessible for those of us from the western part of the state, there are a number of ways to support the walk. If possible, I will walk to represent Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh so you can contribute to support a Pittsburgh chapter member. If I'm not able to attend, we can create a virtual Pittsburgh team or donate to other teams or walkers. Personally I think it's important that we, as a chapter, participate and support in whatever way we can.

Kathy Niemeyer

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP

Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh is an affiliate of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA formerly SHHH) the largest national consumer advocate for persons with hearing loss, their families and friends. National dues, payable annually in the month of joining, are \$35 per year and include a subscription to the bimonthly journal, *Hearing Loss*. To join Hearing Loss Association of America, send your check to HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814 or log on to www.hearingloss.org. While strongly encouraged, national membership is not required to participate in our local chapter.

CHAPTER SUPPORT OF \$12.00/YEAR IS DUE IN JANUARY

Make check payable to "Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh" and mail to"

ERICH KOST, TREASURER, HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH
826 Wheatland Circle, Bridgeville, PA, 15017

Name:	Date:	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone :	FAX:	
E-mail:		
Do you prefer to receive our Newsletter by:	<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> US Postal Mail
Please indicate if you need a receipt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Chapter Support	\$
Jim Stoltz Memorial Captioning Fund	\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED <i>(tax deductible)</i>	\$

Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh shares your information with the Pennsylvania State Hearing Loss Association for distribution of the state quarterly newsletter HearSay. If you do not want your information shared with the state organization or to receive their quarterly newsletter, please check here. ____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH OFFICERS

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Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter is published ten times a year (not in July or August) and distributed to all members of HLA of Pittsburgh, as well as to hearing loss professionals and others. The Newsletter can also be accessed on the web at www.hla-pa.org/chapters/Pittsburgh.html. To submit articles for publication or for information regarding the newsletter, please e-mail HLAP.News@comcast.net.

Opinions expressed in articles appearing in this newsletter are those of the author. Mention of goods or services in articles does not mean HLA endorsement, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.



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