

Meetings held at the:  
New York School for the Deaf  
555 Knollwood Road  
White Plains, NY 10603

**WESTCHESTER CHAPTER NEWS**  
**November / December 2011**

[www.hlaawestchester.org](http://www.hlaawestchester.org) e-mail: [hlaawestchester@gmail.com](mailto:hlaawestchester@gmail.com)

Hearing Loss Association of America is the Nation's largest organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.



*President's Column*

Hi Everyone,

I hope that all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends with lots of delicious food and good memories.

Now, it's time to look forward to our **Annual Holiday Party** which will take place on **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** at the New York School for the Deaf in the cafeteria building. **Our party will begin at 1:00 pm.**

Join us for a delightful afternoon with your friends at Westchester Chapter. We will have some delicious food both hot and cold, plenty of drinks plus a terrific Silent Auction with some great items to bid on. The auction is put together by Karen Rogers who every year, works very hard to put this all together to make it a big success! Please make your reservation A.S.A.P by emailing me at [robertaseidner@aol.com](mailto:robertaseidner@aol.com).

The **Hearing Loss Association Annual Convention** is in Providence, Rhode Island on June 21 – 24, 2012. Register now and get the early bird registration rate, but hurry, the deadline for the early bird registration ends December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Host Hotel is the Westin Providence and is connected to the Rhode Island Convention Center and the new Providence Place Mall in downtown Providence. To register for the convention and hotel go to: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).

**Walk4Hearing** - Our walk on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at Mercy College was a big success! The total website figure is \$30,794.13 and counting, but unofficially we raised \$40,000 due to sponsor donations!

We had 250 walkers whereas last year we had 190

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COME TO OUR  
**HOLIDAY PARTY**

**SATURDAY – DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 1:00 pm**

**In the Cafeteria building**

**LOTS OF GREAT FOOD  
TREATS  
SILENT AUCTION  
RAFFLES  
MUSIC**





Assistive listening devices are always available as well as live **CART** captioning

RSVP to Roberta Seidner  
email:[robertaseidner@aol.com](mailto:robertaseidner@aol.com)



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# CHAPTER NEWS

## HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Anne Carney, John Correnti, Melva Johnson, Joanie Kaye, Al Levitt, Howie Ratner, Edith Shapiro, Anthony Taddeo and Ruth Wolff

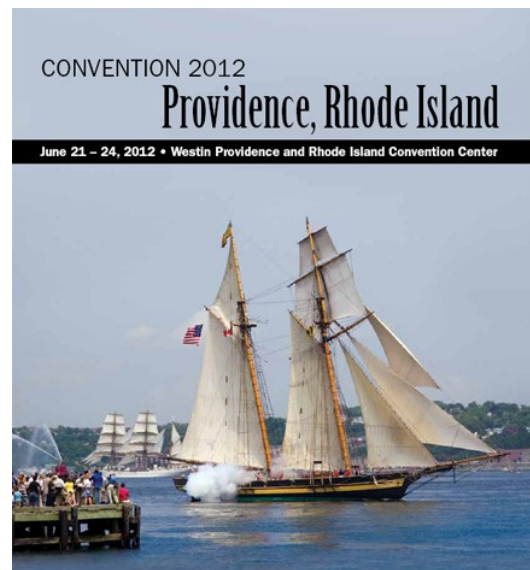
**Thank you** to Joan Oricchio for her donation to the Chapter.

**Good Luck Judy Ginsberg** on becoming bilateral - hope all works out well.

**Good Luck Harold Terk** on his first cochlear implant.

**In memory of Beamy**, beloved hearing dog of George and Pam Arpajian...We all will miss him...Thank you for sharing him with us...

## Convention 2012 is coming to New England



You can register now for the Convention

Go to [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) for more info. Register before December 31st for an Early-bird Discount

We invite you to the largest educational convention and trade show for consumers with hearing loss at:

The Westin Providence  
One West Exchange Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Rhode Island Convention Center  
One Sabin Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

### ► Upcoming Events ◀

**Saturday, December 10 – Holiday Party**, including Silent Auction

## **IMPORTANT:**

### **CHANGE OF HLAA WESTCHESTER CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2012**

**January** - Board Meeting\*

**February** - Board Meeting\*

**March** - General Meeting, speaker TBA\*\*

**April** - General Meeting, speaker TBA\*\*

**May** - Board Meeting\*

**June** - Elections / Scholarship / Social\*\*

**July** - Social / Picnic

**August** - NO MEETING

**September** - General Meeting, speaker TBA\*\*

**October** - Board Meeting\*

**November** - General Meeting, speaker TBA\*\*

**December** - Social / Holiday Party \*\*

\* Anyone can attend a Board Meeting which are held from 11am to 2pm.

\*\* General meetings are held from 12noon to 3pm.

### **FCC Reverses Anglers' Order of 2006! More Captioning Likely**

Five years ago, in October 2006, several leading disability organizations filed for a "Review of the Bureau Order" and a "Petition for Emergency Stay" at the FCC in regard to what was referred to as "the Anglers' Order." Today, the FCC overturned the Angler's Order and the other 300 exemptions to providing captioning on TV that were based on the Anglers' Order.

By way of background -- to illustrate how damaging the Anglers' Order was, the FCC, from 1997, when it first adopted closed captioning rules, until mid-2005 -- received fewer than 75 petitions for undue burden exemptions by providers wanting to be exempted from the closed captioning requirement. It generally handled these on a case-by-case basis as the law required. However, from October 2005 through August 2006, the FCC received over 600 such petitions requesting exemption of TV captioning. In an unexpected and unprecedented move, the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) granted two of these petitions in the Anglers' Order, and during the two weeks that followed, granted an additional 301 petitions in reliance on the reasoning of that Order. The Order became known as "the Anglers' Order" as this was the name of one of the petitioners requesting an exemption. CGB, at that time, appeared to create a new exemption based on "hardship" and reasoned that

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## **HLAA's WALK4HEARING EXCEEDS FUNDRAISING GOAL OF \$1.2 MILLION!**



HLAA wants to congratulate the spring and fall Walk4Hearing sites! We had 23 successful Walks this year and have surpassed our fundraising goal of \$1.2 million. Congratulations! Thank you to all the Walk chairs, committee members, national and local sponsors, volunteers, team captains, donors, alliance groups and of course walkers. We couldn't have done it without everyone's hard work and dedication so THANK YOU!

HLAA e-News November 16, 2011

### **New York City Transit adds induction loops to its Station Booths as part of President Obama's Stimulus Package**

NEW YORK, [October 18, 2011]—The Hearing Access Program today announced that the MTA New York City Transit Authority has now added over 300 induction loops at the station booths as part of President Obama's Stimulus Package.

Hearing aids amplify all sounds. To ensure customers who wear hearing aids or cochlear implants can hear the speaker, MTA New York City Transit has installed induction loops at 24-hour station booths. Switching your hearing aid or cochlear implant to the T-setting (telecoil) will allow you to hear only the speaker.

"People who wear hearing aids with a T-coil can now hear directions at subway information booths and call boxes throughout NYC," said Janice Schacter, the founder and chair of the Hearing Access Program. "No longer will a person think the person in the booth said the C train when they meant the D train."

The list of station booths that have already been installed can be found at [http://mta.info/accessibility/station\\_booths.htm](http://mta.info/accessibility/station_booths.htm).

The project should be completed by Spring 2012. Induction loops have been added all over New York City including the Apple store in Soho, the American Museum of National History and The New York Botanical Gardens. New York City is the most culturally accessible city in the US for people with hearing loss.

The Hearing Access Program established in 2002, is the only organization dedicated to helping the world's corporations, cultural and entertainment institutions, government agencies, and mass transit organizations improve their accessibility for people with hearing loss. For more information, go to [www.hearingloop.org](http://www.hearingloop.org)

## A Hearing Aid That Cuts Out All the Clatter

The Hearing Access Program established in 2002, is the only organization dedicated to helping the world's corporations, cultural and entertainment institutions, government agencies, and mass transit organizations improve their accessibility for people with hearing loss. For more information, go to [www.hearingloop.org](http://www.hearingloop.org).

Then, in June, he went to the Kennedy Center in Washington, where his "Voices of Light" oratorio had once been performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, for a performance of the musical "Wicked."

There were no special headphones. This time, the words and music were transmitted to a wireless receiver in Mr. Einhorn's hearing aid using a technology that is just starting to make its way into public places in America: a hearing loop.

"There I was at 'Wicked' weeping uncontrollably — and I don't even like musicals," he said. "For the first time since I lost most of my hearing, live music was perfectly clear, perfectly clean and incredibly rich."

His reaction is a common one. The technology, which has been widely adopted in Northern Europe, has the potential to transform the lives of tens of millions of Americans, according to national advocacy groups. As loops are installed in stores, banks, museums, subway stations and other public spaces, people who have felt excluded are suddenly back in the conversation.

A hearing loop, typically installed on the floor around the periphery of a room, is a thin strand of copper wire radiating electromagnetic signals that can be picked up by a tiny receiver already built into most hearing aids and cochlear implants. When the receiver is turned on, the hearing aid receives only the sounds coming directly from a microphone, not the background cacophony.

"It's the equivalent of a wheelchair ramp for people who used to be socially isolated because of their hearing loss," said [David G. Myers](#), a professor of psychology at [Hope College](#) in Holland, Mich., who is hard of hearing. "I used to detest my hearing aids, but now that they serve this second purpose, I love the way they've enriched my life."

After his first encounter with a hearing loop at an abbey in Scotland, where he was shocked to suddenly be able to understand every word of a service, Dr. Myers installed a loop in his own home and successfully [campaigns to have loops installed](#) at hundreds of places in Michigan, including the Grand Rapids airport and the basketball arena at Michigan State University.

"One of the beauties of this simple technology is that it serves me everywhere from my office to my home TV room to nearly all the worship places and public auditoriums of my community," Dr. Myers said.

The Midwest has been in the vanguard, but New York is starting to catch up. Loops have been installed at the ticket windows of Yankee Stadium and Citi Field, at the Apple store in SoHo and at exhibits and information kiosks at Ellis Island, the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) and the [American Museum of Natural History](#).

Even in that infamous black hole of acoustics — the New York subway system — loops are being placed in about 500 fare booths, in what will be the largest installation in the United States.

"This isn't just about disability rights — it's about good customer service," said Janice Schacter Lintz, the head of the Hearing Access Program, a group in New York promoting the loops.

"The baby boomers turn 65 this year," Ms. Schacter Lintz said, noting that more than 30 percent of people over 65 have hearing loss. "That's a big group of customers who won't go to museums or theaters or restaurants where they can't hear. Put in a loop, and they can hear clearly without any of the bother or embarrassment of wearing a special headset."

The basic technology, called an induction loop, has been around for decades as a means of relaying signals from a telephone to a tiny receiver called a [telecoil](#), or t-coil, that can be attached to a hearing aid. As telecoils became standard parts of hearing aids in Britain and Scandinavia, they were also used to receive signals from loops connected to microphones in halls, stores, taxicabs and a host of other places.

People in the United States have been slower to adopt the technology because telecoils were traditionally sold as an optional accessory, at an extra cost of about \$50, instead of being included automatically with a hearing aid. But today telecoils are built into two-thirds of the hearing aids on the market as well as in all cochlear implants, so there is a growing number of people able to benefit from loops.

Hearing loop systems are more complicated to install than the assistive-hearing systems commonly used in theaters and churches, which beam infrared or FM signals to special headsets or neck loops that must be borrowed from the hall. Installing a loop in an auditorium typically costs \$10 to \$25 per seat, an initial investment that discourages some facility managers. But advocates for the loops argue that the cost per user is lower over the long run.

"The joke among my friends is that the loop system sounds too good to be true, but it is," said Christine Klessig, a retired lawyer living near Stevens Point in central Wisconsin. "Before they installed a loop at the public library, I had to sit in the front row at lectures and try to lip-read because I missed so many words. Now I sit wherever I want and hear everything."

## **A Hearing Aid That Cuts Out All the Clatter (Con't from Page 4)**

The [Hearing Loss Association of America](#), the largest group representing people with hearing problems, has joined with the [American Academy of Audiology](#) in a campaign to [make loops more common](#) in the United States. The technology is a cost-efficient way to provide benefits that even the most expensive hearing aids cannot deliver, said [Patricia Kricos](#), an audiologist at the University of Florida and a past president of the American Academy of Audiology.

“Audiologists have always had a lot of faith in new high-tech hearing aids and cochlear implants, which are wonderful, but we’re coming to realize that these work primarily in relatively quiet places without a lot of reverberation and noise,” Dr. Kricos said. “In many settings, like a train station, they can’t give you the crystal-clear clarity that you can get from a hearing loop.”

In the pre-loop days at Dr. Myers’s church in Michigan, the assistive-hearing headsets were rarely used by more than a single person at any service. Other worshipers were dissuaded by the inconvenience and embarrassment, he said. Shortly after the loop was installed, 10 people told him they were using it, and the number has been growing as more people get hearing aids that work with the system.

“If we build it, they will come,” Dr. Myers said. “I see no reason why what’s happened here in West Michigan can’t happen across America.”

A version of this article appeared in print on October 24, 2011, on page A14 of the New York edition of the New York Times with the headline: A Hearing Aid That Cuts Out All the Clatter.

## **Unique December Holidays**

When it comes to December holidays, the first thoughts that most of us have is Hanukah, Winter Solstice, Christmas and New Year's Eve. But here is a list of some of the more unique and obscure holidays that take place in the month of December.

- Dec 7 National Cotton Candy Day
- Dec 9 National Pastry Day
- Dec 13 National Ice Cream Day / National Cocoa Day
- Dec 16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- Dec 17 National Maple Syrup Day
- Dec 21 Look on the Bright Side Day
- Dec 23 National ReGifting Day
- Dec 27 National Fruitcake Day
- Dec 31 Make Up your Mind Day

Source: Hubpages.com, December Unique Holidays, Birthdays, Fun Facts and Quotes.

The mention of suppliers, devices or providers within this newsletter does not signify endorsement or recommendation by HLAA Westchester.

## **President's Message (Con't from page 1)**

So all in all it was a most successful walk. The walk committee however, has decided to skip the walk in 2012 and go back to a Spring walk in 2013. It will be better timing for sponsors, it will give us time to generate new ideas and for those who are “burnt out” and “tired” a chance to “recharge our batteries”! A survey has been made up and handed out and/or mailed and we would appreciate your response. Either mail it to my co-chair Steve Wolfert whose address is on the survey or bring it with you to the Holiday Party. We definitely need your feedback....

Our Fundraiser event to benefit the **Blair and Anita Mazin Scholarship** Fund at California Pizza Kitchen is ongoing. However, we will skip the month of December due to holiday commitments. Our next event will take place on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at CPK.

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending a Cochlear Hearing Health Seminar held in Westchester at the Rye Hilton. It was a most interesting and informative seminar. Karen Ratner and I volunteered to man the HLAA Westchester Chapter table and we both met some very interesting people. There was a very nice representation from our own Westchester Chapter there. The exhibit hall had many vendors including: Clarke Schools for Hearing & Speech, Columbia University Medical Center, Hackensack University Medical Center, Long Island Jewish Cochlear Implant Center, Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, NYU Cochlear Implant Center, Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, Weill Cornell Medical College, The Westchester Cochlear Implant Center and Cochlear Americas. They had Education sessions on: When hearing aids are no longer enough, hearing and living with cochlear implants, getting a cochlear implant, meeting cochlear implant and Baha users and meeting local audiologists and physicians. Also a table was set up for questions about insurance coverage

and reimbursement. There was a panel discussion on cochlear implants with 10 of the top Cochlear implant surgeons. It was a very well run Seminar and I walked away having learned a wealth of information.

I wish everyone a Happy Chanukah, and a Merry Christmas – Enjoy the Holidays!

Best regards. Roberta

## **FCC Reverses Anglers' Order, (Con't from page 3)**

non-profit status and assertions by petitions of the non-commercial nature of the programming was sufficient for exemption.

Disability advocates were outraged at this wholesale granting of exemptions contending that both administrative process had been violated in that there had been no public posting and processing of these exemption requests, and that the law had not been followed as petitioners had been allowed to get away with not proving undue burden on a case-by-case basis through the mass granting of such exemptions.

Source: [www.coataccess.org/node/10069](http://www.coataccess.org/node/10069)

**DIRECTIONS TO  
THE NEW YORK SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

Via I-287 (Eastbound or Westbound)  
Get off Exit 4 - New York School for the Deaf  
Continue onto Route 100A North Knollwood Road, proceed approx. 1/8 mile  
School is on your right, turn into driveway and go to gate on your left even though it says "DO NOT ENTER" and **REMAIN IN YOUR CAR** - pull up to the keypad and punch in 4 digit access code. Make the first left turn and drive straight ahead. then make a right turn into the cafeteria building parking lot.

**Membership dues are from January to December**

**WESTCHESTER CHAPTER**  
**ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES**

- \$20 - Individual Membership Dues
- \$30 - Couple/Family Membership Dues
  
- Renewal Membership
- New Membership

Donation . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Please indicate Voice or TDD or CapTel or Cell

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**HLAA - WESTCHESTER CHAPTER**

Mail completed application to our Membership chair:

**Karen Rogers**  
**22 Kerri Lane**  
**Lincoln Park, NJ 07035**

Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Loss Association of America  
is a 501(c)3 organization

**HEARING LOSS**  
**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

**NATIONAL MEMBERSHP DUES**

I wish to join National HLAA and receive the Hearing Loss Magazine:

- \$35 - Annual Dues

Donation . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Please indicate Voice or TDD or CapTel or Cell

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
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Mail completed application to:

Hearing Loss Association of America  
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200  
Bethesda, MD 20814

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