

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER NEWS

September 2011

www.hlaawestchester.org

e-mail: hlaawestchester@gmail.com

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



President's Column

Hi Everyone and Welcome Back,

Can you believe summer is almost over! I don't know about you, but I find the older we get the faster the months go!

Our last meeting before summer break was on Saturday, June 11th. At that time we had our Annual Blair and Anita Mazin Scholarship Awards. We were delighted to honor three high school seniors from the Greater Westchester area, recognizing their accomplishments and positive approach to the challenges of hearing loss. The award winners were Arienne Dzubak from Carmel High School, Carly Italiano, Tappan Zee High School and Shavone Moncrieffe, Blind Brook High School. Each recipient received a \$1,000 check to be used towards the college of their choice. The Scholarship Awards program is funded by the proceeds of Westchester Walk4Hearing. A delightful afternoon was had by all.

Westchester Chapter lucked out weather wise with a really great day for our annual picnic on Sunday, July 17 at a new location, Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale. We had a great crowd of people who came from near and far and it was wonderful seeing friends who I hadn't seen in a long time. The park had a huge pavilion which protected us from the hot sun. There was a small playground nearby which amused the children for awhile. Phil Monteleone, Joe Noselli, Howie Ratner and Gary Rogers shared the barbequing. The hot dogs and hamburgers were really great and Judy's corn from New Jersey was yummy. Lots of people brought delicious goodies so we had plenty of food and plenty to drink. We had a fun time playing games and just an overall good time was had by all.

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COME TO OUR Next Meeting

SATURDAY – SEPTEMBER 10th

Time: 2:00 pm

In the Cafeteria building

John Herrion

New York State Division of Human Rights

ADA on the Job: What People With Hearing Loss Can Expect in the Workplace



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

Refreshments will be served

► Upcoming Events ◀

WALK4HEARING

Sunday, September 18th - Walk4Hearing at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry. For information about the Walk contact: Roberta Seidner robertaseidner@aol.com or Steve Wolfert swolfert@optonline.net.

Please note: There will NOT be a meeting in October

Saturday, November 5 - Meeting - CaptionCall

Saturday, December 10 - Holiday Party



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Mark Your Calendar



Saturday, December 10th
(second Saturday)

Holiday Party



**Walk 4 Hearing
September 18,
2011
Mercy College
Dobbs Ferry, NY**

CHAPTER NEWS

HAPPY JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Jane Daniel, Harriet Jacobster, Lillian Levitt, Irene Matz, Debbie Meyer, Phil Monteleone, Linda Montgomery, Mary Neff, Alicen Noselli, Dianne Patrick, Thelma Roberts, Linda Ruggiero, Dan Taddeo, Tristian Taddeo, Harold Terk, Evelyn Wassermann, Amy Winkler, and Robert Wolfe

WE WISH TO THANK:

Tamara Gottfried for a generous donation made to the Scholarship Fund in memory of her beloved children, Anita & Blair Mazin

Roberta Seidner for her donation which was used for the purchase of the Chapter's new portable lectern

Chapter Meeting Recap

What You Missed at Our May Meeting



us
Jeff Wax

As Director of Emotional Wellness at Center for Hearing and Communication in NYC, Jeff Wax is well qualified to address all kinds of emotional distress which those of us with hearing loss often experience.

Don't you always feel that you are already exhausted from staying alert all the time, before you even have to deal with a difficult situation? Don't you sometimes feel that hearing people don't understand how hard it is? Don't you often feel frustrated and angry when you can't seem to communicate with someone?

Jeff has clearly heard all this before from his clients, but he was very open to questions, comments and stories from the audience, and we felt heard!

He taught us breathing and visualization techniques, which have been proven to help people get control of their own feelings and be ready to cope with whatever situation is causing distress. Here are some comments from people who attended the program:-

- "He pointed out how to cope with your inner self by taking the time to meditate alone to release the anger and frustration and bring in positive attitude doing deep breathing / relaxation techniques"
- "When stressful moments occur periodically, I think of his message to BREATHE. It helps"
- "I would like him to come back for another question and answer session"
- "Jeff Wax was very informative and I learned a few things I didn't realize before"
- "Jeff's presentation was soothing. I felt relaxed"
- "Loved his nice soothing voice, found it very relaxing and meditating and I am trying to remember to "Breathe" more often. Thanks Jeff."
- "Jeff has such a smooth voice when he speaks, make people stay calm. Good speaker and learned some things"
- "I will remember his positive words and remind myself and others to "BREATHE"

Thanks to Carolyn Tanen for recommending Jeff to us.

Vivien Maisey, Vice President
& Program Coordinator

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

Hearing Aids Running On Methanol

In just a short time, hearing aid batteries could be replaced by a drop of methanol.

Danish scientists are working on replacing the existing batteries in hearing aids with easily rechargeable fuel cells which run on methanol.

"We have come further than we ever could have hoped when we started this project of designing methanol-based batteries which can replace the traditional zinc batteries in hearing aids today". That is what Leif Højslet Christensen, head of the Danish Technological Institute, and head of the project, says.

Recharging in 30 seconds

The vision of the project is that the batteries in a hearing aid should not need to be replaced for five years. Instead, one should simply take the hearing aid with its in-built fuel cell out and fill it with methanol for 30 seconds in a recharger. After this, it can be put back in the ear.

"Our realistic hope right from the start was to get a fuel cell to last for a month before it needed to be changed. Now, we have reached a life of five weeks. We are very satisfied with that," says Leif Højslet Christensen.

"We are also very satisfied that we have developed a docking station – a recharger- about the size of a mobile phone, in which one opens the lid, puts the hearing aid in, closes it again and pushes a button, so that the fuel cells are refueled with methanol."

Leif Højslet Christensen explains, that they have already attached a hearing aid to a fuel cell via wires and can, in practice, say that the hearing aid runs on methanol. The goal now is to make the fuel cells small enough that they can be put directly in the hearing aid.

Perhaps ready by 2012

"We expect to launch the first fuel cells, which can be used directly in hearing aids, in 2012 – 18 months earlier than expected," explains Leif Højslet Christensen.

There are around 40 million hearing aid users in the world. They use 3.7 million batteries per year, which today contain mercury. The more of these which can be replaced, the better it is for the environment.

Leif Højslet Christensen explains that each fuel cell uses 1:100-200 thousandths of a liter of methanol in each recharging. According to him, the waste products are water vapor and carbon dioxide, which are both totally harmless to both people and the environment.

The Danish Technological Institute is working with scientists from DTU Nanotech in Copenhagen and Institute of Chemistry at the University of Aarhus.

Source: www.hear-it.org, News: August 12, 2011

**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.

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER
ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES

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

- Renewal Membership
- New Membership

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Total \$ _____

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HLAA - WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

Mail completed application to our Membership chair:

Karen Rogers
22 Kerri Lane
Lincoln Park, NJ 07035

Birthday: Month _____

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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