

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER NEWS

January / February 2012

www.hlaawestchester.org

e-mail: 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 ~

A Happy, Healthy New Year to all!

Our Annual **Holiday Party** was a fun-filled afternoon, with lots of great food, beverages and desserts for the members and friends who attended.

It was heartwarming to see such a large crowd of 67 people who came from near and far, people who have not attended our Chapter functions in a very long time and some new faces too who signed up and became members!

The room was decorated festively with holiday trimmings. The variety of hero sandwiches and different kinds of hot food, along with side dishes were delicious! There were lots of desserts, many were homemade and others were brought in by our guests.

The highlight of the party was our wonderful silent auction event with many, many items that were up for bidding! Everyone had fun checking the items and trying to outbid the prior amount noted on the sheets before the auction was closed. We all walked away with some wonderful goodies.

Westchester Chapter made a nice profit on the auction as well as on the raffle event. Thank you Karen Rogers for working long and hard on the auction and putting it all together – it was a big success. Thank you also to Carolyn Tanen who did a terrific job with our raffle event, getting the prizes and organizing it.

I would like to thank those who came early to help set up, to Phil Monteleone for bringing the heroes from

(Continued on Page 3)

COME TO OUR
Next Meeting

SATURDAY – MARCH 3th

Time: 12:00 noon
(Please note the new time)

In the Cafeteria building

Linda Kessler
Assistant Director of Communication
Center for Hearing and Communication

Speechreading:
The Hows, Whys, and "Secrets"
of This Skill



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

Bring your friends and family and spend a
delightful afternoon with us.

Refreshments will be served



OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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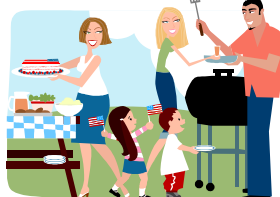
Dr. Harriet Jacobster, Audiologist

Sharon Rosen Lopez, Speech Pathologist

George Arpajian, Webmaster

SAVE THE DATE!

HLAA Westchester Picnic
Saturday, July 28, 2012
Ridge Road Park



CHAPTER NEWS

HAPPY JANUARY / FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Dianne Aquilino, Barbara Bartelson, Ira Cohen, Leslie Cohen, Elyse Lemonda, Karin Mango, Karen Rogers, Roberta Seidner, Phyllis Simon, Maureen Throop, Mary Whalen, Debbie Wolfe.

WE WISH TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Ira Cohen, Arlene & Edward Esgar and Irene & Paul Stargot.

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS FOR THEIR CHAPTER DONATIONS:

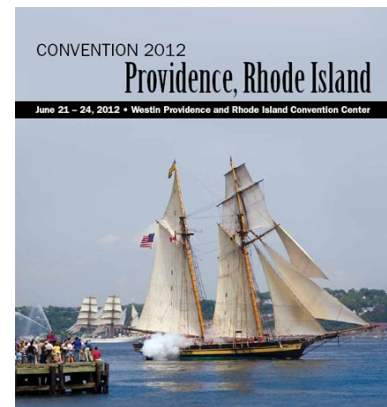
Paul Anthony, Karin Mango, Dr. Mary Neff, Hagen Von Burchard and Dr. Evelyn Wassermann for her very generous donation towards our Holiday Party.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE

When submitting your **Chapter Membership renewal**, please send to: Roberta Seidner, 3419 Irwin Ave., #1709, Bronx, NY 10463.

If anyone wishes to make a donation to the Blair & Anita Mazin Scholarship Fund, please make your check payable to **Westchester Scholarship Fund**.

Convention 2012 is coming to New England



You can register now for the Convention

Go to www.hearingloss.org for more info. 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

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

Long Island, to Anne Carney for arranging for the hot food, to the many people who donated different dishes, to Adrienne Stern, our new hospitality chair, who did a marvelous job coordinating the food, buying the paper goods etc. and to those who stayed to help clean up. Last but not least, a big thanks to all of you who attended and made this event very special.

PLEASE NOTE: We will **NOT** be having a **general meeting** in February, just a **Board meeting** but anyone can attend. Board meetings will start at 11:00 am. Our next **General meeting** will be on Saturday, March 3 at 12 noon at that time we will have our regular meeting plus a speaker. Please mark your calendar!

2012 HLA A Convention – Providence, Rhode Island June 21 - June 24

Early bird registration is over, but you still have time to register for a discount go check out the website at www.hearingloss.org

The year 2011 is nothing but a memory now, but we welcome 2012 with open arms and the hopes of another wonderful, exciting year for Westchester Chapter.

Roberta Seidner

Westchester Chapter Updated 2012 Meetings & Events

Saturday, February 4 - Board Meeting*

Saturday, March 3 - Education/General Meeting,
Speaker: Linda Kessler

Saturday, April 14 - Education/General Meeting,
Speaker: TBA

Saturday, May 5 - Board Meeting*

Saturday, June 9 - Elections, Scholarship Social

Saturday, July 28 - Annual Summer Picnic, Ridge Road Park

Saturday, September 8 - Board Meeting*

Saturday, October 6 - Education/General Meeting,
Speaker: TBA

Saturday, November 3 - Education/General Meeting,
Speaker: TBA

Saturday, December 1 - Holiday Party Social, Event starts at 1:00pm

* Board meetings run from approximately 11 am to 2 pm, anyone can attend a Board meeting.

General meetings run from approximately 12 noon to 3:00pm.

Please note that there is no meeting scheduled for August.

Save The Date

On March 10, 2012 the HLA A New York State Association, together with Westchester Chapter and Manhattan Chapter will be hosting an Educational and Information Session. The subject will be "Families of Children with Hearing Loss." Specific information as to location and times will be provided on our website once those details are available.

Winter Fun Facts

The world's biggest snowflake fell on January 28, 1887, in Ft. Keogh, Montana. It was 15 inches across and 8 inches thick.

The largest single snowstorm on record lasted five days in Alaska, 1955, and left more than 141 1/2 feet of snow.

The heaviest snowfall on record was in Silver Lake, Colorado, on April 14-15, 1921, when the town received 67 inches of fresh snow in 14 hours!

Source: <http://tidbitfun.com/12/28/winter-fun-facts/>

Closed Captioning Now Available for Live Television Onboard Continental Airlines

Press release from PRNEwire - LiveTV, 11/30/11

LiveTV is proud to announce that, for the first time in the history of inflight 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 inflight 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, Live TV 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, AirTran, Alitalia, Virgin Blue, WestJet and Azul. For a full listing of products and partners, or for more information, please visit www.livetv.net. Live TV is a wholly-owned subsidiary of JetBlue Airways.

Landmark, AMC Commit to Captioned Movies

In a significant expansion of movie access, the Landmark and AMC theater chains have agreed to add closed-captioning capacity to most if not all of their theaters in conjunction with their conversion to digital projection.

Landmark's commitment came in a personal meeting last week with Ted Mundorff, the chain's Chief Executive Officer. Mundorff said that the cost-sharing formula that the movie studios have offered to the major theater chains like Regal and AMC does not work with Landmark's emphasis on independent and art films, which means that digital conversion may take longer and may not include all of Landmark's theaters. He said that Landmark anticipates having its digital conversion plans finalized by the middle of 2012, and that when conversions are undertaken, Landmark will add closed-captioning capabilities. Closed captioning displays the captions on individual viewing devices, thereby not altering the movie-going experience of other patrons.

Although Landmark operates far fewer theaters than Regal, AMC or Cinemark, its commitment to captioning may in some respects be more significant than the commitments of those larger chains. Landmark theaters focus on showing movies that appeal to an adult audience in the best sense of the word, and that audience includes the older population groups that have the greatest prevalence of hearing loss. Thankfully, Mundorff agreed that making films accessible to people with hearing loss may benefit Landmark significantly more than it would benefit the typical suburban multiplexes that cater more to younger movie-goers.

Landmark plans to use Sony projector/servers in those theaters that it converts to digital projection. It will experiment with caption-display devices. It has installed the CaptiView modules at its theaters in Los Angeles and Baltimore, but is having some difficulty working the bugs out of the equipment that supposedly makes CaptiView compatible with Sony servers. Mundorff said Landmark is very interested in obtaining and testing the Sony eyeware that Regal is using on a trial basis in Seattle.

As to those theaters that Landmark will not convert to digital projection, Mundorff said he would investigate the feasibility of installing Rear Windows Captioning devices.

Mundorff also acknowledged that Landmark may be in a position to encourage more of the independent and art-house film-makers to include captioning as part of their package, and Mundorff committed to asking for captioning. Captions are done under contract with the studios by an operational arm of WGBH public television, and are furnished to the

theaters without charge. According to WGBH, the one-time cost of captioning a typical movie is less than \$2,000.

In Washington, Landmark owns the Egyptian, Harvard Exit, Guild 45th, Metro, Varsity and Crest theaters, all in Seattle. In California, Landmark owns the Landmar, NuArt and Regent in Los Angeles, the Hillcrest, Ken and La Jolla Village in San Diego, the Embarcadero, Bridge, Lumiere, Opera Plaza, Aquarius and Guild in San Francisco and the Peninsula, and the Albany Twin, California, Piedmont and Shattuck in the East Bay.

AMC's formal announcement of a nationwide commitment to captioning came in the form of a corporate press release dated Dec. 20. That press release was anticlimactic. AMC orally made that commitment in an Aug. 10 meeting involving representatives of the Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA), myself and attorneys from the public-interest firm of Disability Rights Advocates in Berkeley. The meeting with AMC was a follow-up to the resolution of a lawsuit ALDA filed against Cinemark in California. In an amicable resolution of that action, Cinemark, America's third-largest movie-theater owner, committed to closed-captioning of all its first-run theaters in California upon conversion to digital projection, then made that commitment national in scope. Regal, America's largest theater owner, made a similar commitment.

AMC initially resisted any commitment to full captioning. In July, though, the King County Superior Court ruled in a lawsuit brought by the Washington State Communication Access Project (Wash-CAP) that AMC can afford to provide the necessary equipment to show all caption-equipped movies in captioned form, and ordered AMC to do so within 90 days of conversion to digital projection. Although it is appealing that order, AMC made a verbal commitment to full captioning shortly after that decision.

Although it has been a long time coming, I believe we are now moving towards a time when those of us with significant hearing loss will be able to enjoy any movie, any time, with our friends and families.

By John Waldo

Source: www.hearinglossweb.com. HOH-LD-News, Vol.50, Issue 2, January 14, 2012

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

Coming Soon to a Theater Near You

For people with any degree of hearing loss, going to the movies can be a frustrating experience. Assistive listening devices, when available, may be outdated and difficult to obtain. Worse, many theaters offer no auditory aids, forcing potential patrons to wait to watch the movie at home.

Even on the small screen, there are often issues. For example, a class-action lawsuit was filed against Netflix in March 2011, claiming that the entertainment service failed to offer captions for streaming video in violation of state and federal laws.

Sony is currently working on a solution for the big screen: a special pair of "subtitle glasses." Development work on the breakthrough glasses is taking place in the United Kingdom.

"What we do is put the closed captions or the subtitles onto the screen of the glasses so it's superimposed on the cinema screen," Sony representative Tim Potter explained to the BBC. He said the goal is to make it look like the subtitles are actually on the cinema screen so that movie-goers don't have to adjust their eyes to focus on two fields at once. Sony aims to test the glasses in theaters this year.

A second theater solution is also in the works. Salix is a wireless audio distribution system designed by Cambridge Consultants. Salix has been licensed by California-based Doremi Cinema to develop lower-cost technology to improve its services for hearing and visually impaired patrons.

The small, relatively inexpensive systems run on several channels and can be configured in a single transmitter at the theater. Because it eliminates the need for multiple transmitters that must each have a clear line of sight to receivers in order to work properly, the system, which will be marketed under the brand name Fidelio, may have widespread appeal for reducing cost and complexity.

By Andrea Delbanco, Senior Editor
Hearing Health, A Publication of Hearing Health Foundation, Vol. 28,
No. 1, Winter 2012

Our Next California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser for the Blair & Anita Mazin Scholarship



Wednesday, February 15, 2012
All Day
365 Central Park Avenue
Scarsdale, NY

A CI-operation made me want to give something back

As a child, Hermund Feldborg, contracted meningitis which meant that he lost much of his hearing. This was taken into consideration at school, but his hearing deteriorated little by little and by the time Hermund started upper secondary school and the academic level rose, he began to encounter problems keeping up in lessons. He realized that he had to do something to improve the situation and a CI-operation was the answer.

The operation opened up a whole new world for Hermund. Suddenly he could listen to music and use a mobile phone. Before the operation, the idea of Hermund studying medicine was something he could only dream of. "I had thought about medicine for a long time, but I knew, that my hearing set certain boundaries for that". That all changed after the CI-operation. That, as well as the positive experience of the health sector, made Hermund want to give something back. Today, Hermund is halfway through his studies. He studies in Krakow and even though it is a long way from home in Vr dal in Telemark, he is not affected by home sickness, as 90% of the other students are Norwegian. His studies are intense, but in his rare free time Hermund likes to snowboard in the winter and wakeboard in the summer.

As a part of his studies, Hermund was in practical training at the University Hospital in Oslo in the ears-, nose- and throat department. There he was involved in all sorts of treatment, from earache to cancer of the throat. Because of his own hearing-related treatment, he has a special understanding. "When patients say, that their hearing is bad and have problems on a day-to-day basis, I understand them," explains Hermund. He has considered specializing as an otologist, but with three years of his training left, he does not want to commit himself to anything just yet. "We'll see," he says. The possibilities are there.

The teaching in Krakow is carried out in English, and that was something Hermund was afraid of, because his marks from upper secondary school were only average because of his hearing difficulties. "I thought that it would be problematic, but spoken English is going quite well. The school in Krakow is not set-up for the hearing impaired, but the teachers speak good English and we work in small groups — an absolute advantage for me," says Hermund. Since the CI-operation, Hermund has experienced, that his ability to pick up foreign languages has become better.

Hermund's decision to follow his dream of becoming a doctor shows great drive. "Many people say that things are impossible, but you do not know that until you have tried. My experience is that willpower goes a long way. It does not help to sit and feel sorry for yourself," says Hermund. "We have to enjoy ourselves while we're alive"

Source: <http://www.hear-it.org/index.dsp?page=18606>, Din H rsel, HLF (H rselshemmedes Landsforbund) 08/2010

**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 \$ _____

Name _____

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:

**Roberta Seidner
3419 Irwin Avenue, Apt #1709
Bronx, NY 10463**

Birthday: Month _____

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

**HEARING LOSS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

- \$35 - Annual Dues

Donation \$ _____

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Please indicate Voice or TDD or CapTel or Cell

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Please make checks payable to:
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7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
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