

Hear Ye, Hear Ye



The HLA-Florida sun shines brightly in Providence

Members of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida brought rays of sunshine to Providence, Rhode Island for the annual Convention. They came from Tampa, Clearwater, Sarasota, Gainesville, Oviedo, Jacksonville, Fort Lauderdale, Tarpon Springs, Odessa, Valrico and St. Petersburg.

More than a thousand folks from all over the country converged on the completely accessible Convention Center to examine a stunning array of technology in the exhibit area and to attend workshops and meetings. Greeting old friends and making new ones was all part of the experience which included dinners, receptions, WaterFire and city exploration. Grateful thanks is extended to the staff of HLAA for once more outdoing themselves in their zeal to educate the rest of us.

For those of you who missed the convention or some of the workshops you can view PDFs at www.hearingloss.org/events/convention/schedule. Click on the day you want to see, and keep checking back as more presentations are posted.

Cheryl Heppner and Bonnie O'Leary of the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC) have once again described events at the Convention. You can view their reports at the Hearing Loss News website: www.tinyurl.com/88uyp3l

Convention photos are on pages 8, 9 and 10. And if you can, join us next year for Convention 2013 in Portland, Oregon.



We want YOU to turn to page three.

We want YOU to apply for membership on the Hearing Loss Association of Florida Board of Trustees.

We want YOU to help spread awareness of our mission to educate, support and advocate for those with hearing loss.



**Join us at our next board meeting,
Sat., Oct. 6, 2012, 9 a.m.
at the The Villages
Public Library at
Pinellas Plaza,
7375 Powell Road,
Wildwood, FL 34784**

Also in this issue:

- Call for Applications, page 3**
- Danette and Christian's story, page 4**
- Captioning for Sports Venues in Tampa, page 4**
- HLA-Florida Cruise, page 6**
- Marjie and Her Convention Experience, page 7**
- HLAA Convention photos, pages 8, 9 & 10**
- Frank Corica Never Said No to HLAA, page 11**
- Goodbye Ralph Intorcio, page 14**
- Our Chapters Speak, pages 13, 14, 15, 16**
- HLA-Florida Meeting in Jacksonville, page 17**



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of Florida**

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Caption Crew, page 5
Harris Communications, page 5**

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGSSat., Oct. 6, 2012 - The Villages Public
Library at Pinellas Plaza, 7375 Powell
Road, Wildwood, FL 34784Sat., Feb. 2, 2013
Place TBA

If you are a member of Facebook, check us out. You can add news and photos of your chapter, send announcements of events or share hearing loss news of general interest. You can follow us on Twitter or join our Yahoo group.

www.facebook.com/HLA.Florida
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health.groups.yahoo.com/group/HLA-FL/

You Can Help

☪ We publish six electronic newsletters (November, January, March, May, July and September). Circulation is 800. All editions are posted to the website and remain there.

☪ Advertising rates for the e-newsletter are \$150 for a

full page, \$85 for a half page and \$50 for a quarter page. Chapter leaders, please forward the link for this newsletter to your members or you may send us their e-mail addresses.

☪ Subscribe (or unsubscribe) to our electronic edition by sending an email to

HearYeHearYe2006@gmail.com

**Attention Florida
Residents****Join HLAA Now**

We hope you agree that there is nowhere else where people with hearing loss can benefit from a national advocacy presence, a website with reliable, organized, and archived answers to questions about hearing loss and assistive technology, the Hearing Loss Magazine, with credible, current information, over 200 local support chapters and 14 state organizations, discounts to annual national conventions and many regional conferences.

All issues of *Hear Ye, Hear Ye* will be posted on our website only. If you are on our mailing list, you will receive an email when it is available. If you want to subscribe, unsubscribe or are getting duplicate notices, please use this link to tell us:

HearYeHearYe2006@gmail.com



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FLAA Convention August 23 - 25

St. Augustine

See page 5 for details



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Maybe you're hard of hearing, or have a family member or friend who is. You may work as a hearing disability rights advocate or a hearing loss professional. Whoever you are, if you are passionate about hearing loss, we have a role for you! This is your chance to join a special team where your voice can be heard and you can make a difference. Simply submit a nomination for yourself or someone you feel could make a difference and submit to the Nominating Committee for the Hearing Loss Association of Florida Board of Trustees (HLA-FL). Each nomination application will receive a small gift from the Board!

Why join? Because your voice will be heard here! The HLA-FL Board of Trustees works hard to be a leading advocate for people with hearing loss throughout the state. Together, we make a difference by sharing our stories and bringing professional and personal insight to enhance the quality of life for those with hearing loss. To help with this, we are working to modify our website, ex-

We make a difference as a member of HLAA in the state of Florida to reach out to those affected by hearing loss and we are excited about you becoming a member of the (HLA-FL) Board.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

pand our newsletter, stay connected with our state chapters and legislative offices and continue to reach out to those affected by hearing loss.

Interested? Read on! Currently, HLA-FL is seeking nominations for its Board of Trustees. All HLAA members residing in the state of Florida may apply. The HLA-FL Board has 18 elected three-year positions, with the ability to serve up to three three-year terms. Requirements are a desire to help others, access to email and the internet, ability to attend three meetings per year held in various cities around the state. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Board, complete the nomination application on our website www.hla-fl.org and email directly to the Nominating Committee address or contact us at nominations@hla-fl.org All applications must be received by September 1, 2012. Elections will take place October 6, 2012. Please note, additional nomination applications can be received after September 1 for our 2013 election process.

The 2012 HLA-FL Nominating Committee

Robert Astle, Tess Crowder

Cynthia Moynihan

*******NOT A MEMBER OF THE HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA?**

JOIN TODAY! Go to www.hearingloss.org *****

My journey through the education system

My name is Danette. I'm both a teacher and parent of a hearing impaired son, Christian. When I received the diagnosis that it was permanent nerve damage, I remember thinking to myself and asking the question, what does this diagnosis mean in its totality? I started to cry due to the fear of the unknown and I was also grieving all of the images I had



Danette and son, Christian

in my head as to how I was going to relate to my child. I knew then, that things were going to be different. No longer would I be able to teach my child his ABCs while driving in my car, or point out the different geometric shapes and colors as I envisioned in my mind.

I knew early on that I wanted to have my child mainstreamed into regular classes.

This goal has caused me a lot of sleepless nights. One of the hardest things I encountered was dealing with the harsh reality that there are some educators who didn't share my expectations and would try anything to convince me to change my mind. Another grim prospect is that our special needs children don't have the options to move from one teacher to another in the self-contained setting.

Parents, don't be discouraged and give up. Yes, I have encountered bullies in the education system who are used to doing things their way without anyone challenging them. However, there are some great teachers in education who understand and share the same passion and goals for your child as you do.

I can say in all honesty, during this journey I've learned some very important lessons: educate yourself about the school system; don't be afraid to ask questions or disagree; seek help outside of the school when no one will listen; and go with your gut feeling. Finally, don't be afraid to admit when you are wrong. As parents, we are doing the best we can and sometimes we don't make the best choices. Even when wrong, pick yourself up and continue the journey.

I did that and I'm happy to say my son is now mainstreamed. He had an awesome school year with

Captioning for Sports Venues in Tampa Bay and Beyond

YOU are invited to a town hall meeting to advocate "Captioning for Sports Venues in Tampa Bay and Beyond." **Communication Access, Inc.**, a non-profit, charitable organization, is hosting a town hall meeting on September 6, 2012, from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore, 2225 North Lois Ave, Tampa, Florida. **John Waldo, Esquire**, an attorney from the State of Washington whose practice focuses on the unique legal needs of the deaf and hard of hearing, will be assisting us in our efforts. He has been involved with lawsuits representing the Association of Late Deafened Adults and collaborates with the attorneys from the National Association of the Deaf involving issues of accessibility.



Raymond James Arena

There will be a presentation by Communication Access, Inc., about live captioning in sports venues, a presentation from John Waldo, Esquire, about the Americans with Disability Act along with a history of the lawsuits involving captioning sports venues in the United States and their outcomes. We will also have representatives from deaf and hard of hearing organizations and members of the community presenting brief statements about their support for this movement.

Television stations, radio, and newspapers – all forms of media – will be invited to this event. We encourage all members of the deaf and hard of hearing communities to join us in this effort to make our state fully accessible for people with hearing loss.

Please join us and be a part of history in the making!

For more information, please contact Tess Crowder at ExecutiveDirector@CommunicationAccess.org

his amazing teachers. I can't say that it wasn't difficult at times, but we survived. I don't know what the future holds, but I'm prayerful that God will equip me for the next chapter.

(Danette told her story to the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing when it met in Brandon in May. For more information on the Council, go to www.fccdhh.org)

FLAA 2012 Convention

The 16th Annual
Convention of the Florida
Academy of Audiology
August 23 -25, 2012

**Hours of Public
Attendance will be posted on
our website: www.hla-fl.org**

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Hearing Aid Funding for Florida Residents

The Hearing Research Institute, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to improving humanity, is available to fund hearing aids for Florida citizens who have no other resources to pay for them. **Audiologists** should contact the founder and director of The Hearing Research Institute, Dr. Robert E. Pickard, at hearingresearchinstitute@msn.com on behalf of any patients needing such assistance. Dr. Pickard will work directly with the patient's **audiologist** to determine eligibility and funding needed.

Robert E. Pickard, MD, Medical Director
Hearing Research Institute, Inc.
7000 SW 62nd Ave, Suite 210,
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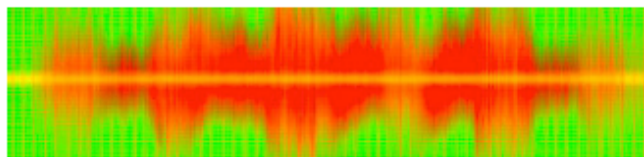
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A Caribbean Cruise Opportunity!

Reminder: The Hearing Loss Association of Florida invites you aboard Royal Caribbean's *Independence of the Seas*, sailing out of Ft. Lauderdale on December 8, 2012, an eight-day cruise to the aqua blue waters of the Eastern Caribbean.

A cruise is the best vacation value anywhere and easy too! Your "hotel" travels with you to the friendly islands of the Eastern Caribbean and you only unpack once! All your meals are included and you can do as much – or as little as you like.

Please note that one does NOT have to be a member of HLAA or have a hearing loss to sail with this group rate. So, invite your friends, family neighbors to come along.

On all our past group cruises, RCCL made everything accessible to us, with captions in the live theater, assistive devices that worked and well-trained crew members who were attentive to our needs. Dinner was fun as we shared the high-lights of our day!

Plan your holiday shopping for Hanukkah or Christmas with exotic gifts from the islands and come home with a real Caribbean tan! A \$50 on-board cabin credit is being offered to our group. Even if you do not decide to join us, pass this info to your Northern friends or anyone who may wish for a little warm paradise in December.

The RCCL cruise ship has loads of activities to do on board. One can learn to cook, visit backstage, go to the spa, partake in or watch a live auction of beautiful paintings, visit several pools aboard ship, visit the library, write to friends back home in the computer room, dance by the pool, BBQ's by the pool or try your luck in the casino. Perhaps the sweetness of doing nothing is what you wish for. It's all here for you! The Ft. Lauderdale airport is just five minutes from the pier and there are plenty of hotels nearby if one should wish



Our Spirit of HLAA, Molly Corum, enjoys the island life on shore.

to fly in the day before or stay a day later to visit the Ft. Lauderdale area.

It is not too early to plan for this group cruise; in fact, \$250.00 holds your cabin and is refundable.

Join us for the *Welcome Aboard Party*.

Note that the cost includes all applicable government taxes and fees. Most online prices do not cover the whole cost. Our GoTravel agent, Barbara Maher, can accept monthly payments so by the time your cruise vacation is ready, it is paid for.

Contact Barbara Maher at BARBARAM@GOTRAVEL.COM to book the cruise (Put HLA-cruise on subject line.)

Or call Barbara at 1-800-800-7703 x 112

You may contact me anytime at HLAFlorida@aol.com

Lynn Rousseau, President, Gainesville Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America

Hear Ye, Hear Ye • Next issue - Sept. 1 • Deadline - August 24

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Convention 2012

*By Marjie Anderson winner of the
2012 Joan Andrews Scholarship*

I arrived at the convention hotel. As the Joan Andrews Scholarship Award winner, my arrangements had been made for me by Florida State HLAA; I checked in and was off to start my first HLAA Convention with attendance at the newcomer's workshop.

I signed in at the registration desk, and then I ran into Eleanor Shafer (former Tampa Chapter member, along with her husband Dr. Dave and son Garrett). After a quick hug, she helped me apply my ribbons to my name tag – *Chapter Delegate, Chapter President, and Award Recipient* – find the workshop room number and sent me on my way. The weekend went a lot like that; everyone was willing to help everyone else.

At the newcomer's workshop, they encouraged us to meet the people next to us. I met Julie Leggett from the U.K. Julie's company, Hearing Link, will be sponsoring the Third International Hearing Loop Conference in the fall of 2013 in East Sussex. She was very



*Jane Andrews Smith presented Marjie Anderson with the -
Joan Andrews Scholarship in memory of her late mother.*

excited about it when she spoke to me. During the convention people I knew talked about wanting to go to the loop conference and I was able to introduce them



to Julie and let her tell about all the things her company had lined up for it.

I went to sign up for a table at the Friday Night gala as instructed in the newcomer's meeting and was told that I was already signed up. All I could think was that when Judy Martin, President of Florida State says she'll get you all signed up, she really means it! Go Judy! I am normally outgoing but it was nice to find I'd be sitting with others from Florida that I am familiar with.

I took some time between workshops to walk through the exhibit hall. I was familiar with many of the exhibitors. I talked to quite a few people, asked questions and bought some things. After the next workshop my roommate Jess from Montana texted me that she had arrived.

Jess and I went to the opening session. We learned many things from Brenda Battat, saw some videos, met people who would be leading HLAA efforts in the future and of course heard from the keynote speaker, Dr. David G. Myers.

I had dinner with old friends and met some new people including Chris and Peter Artinian. It didn't register with me who they were until after we had left them and one of my friends mentioned their last name. They were regular people like everyone else at the convention trying to find their way through life with some hearing loss thrown into it.

The Get Acquainted Party was the last event of the night. I met many people in person that I have known only online. On my way back to my room, I got a text that friends were meeting in the hotel bar. I went and experienced some of that "whatever works" kind of communication where some people sign and some only speak and listen and of course I use them all.

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I thought I was tired after the early morning Thursday to catch my plane and the late night chatting with friends, but apparently I was too excited to sleep in on Friday, I awoke before my alarm and was soon off to experience another day of full access workshops. It seems so different that everyone here is not afraid to show their hearing aids and cochlear implants, proud even. Many have bright colors (not many of those tan ones.) I've seen green, red and blue besides my own purple and the CI users not only have colors but patterns too. A few of the CI users have flowers and such on their magnets and many people have bought bling for their tubes in the exhibit hall.

Saturday morning Johns Hopkins brought researchers to explain How the Brain Makes Sense of the World of Sound. Most of the information was delivered at a level for us lay persons, but if you didn't have some ideas about the ear structures, functions and hearing loss you might have some problems following. I was surprised at the high expertise level of questions from the audience and see that HLAA has people who

don't ask, "Why me?" but rather, "What is going on with me?"

I was thankful for the CART during this session, as even though I was using the room loop connected to my hearing aid's telecoil, the vocabulary was not familiar enough to me to understand without the added written input. The many different ways of access, CART in every room, loops in most and infrared in others, keep me from having to work so hard just to hear and allows me to more effectively process the information contained in what I hear without fatigue.

I was especially pleased to have Jane Smith, Joan Andrew's daughter, tell us about the award I had won and her mother's work for people with hearing loss.

The weekend rushed by with workshops, informative breakfasts, lunches with friends and even strangers who felt like friends with their Convention Name Badges on. There were dinners, banquets, entertainment in the evenings and so much conversation, many new friends, new ideas, new experiences. It was overwhelming at times but extremely satisfying as so many of my needs as a person with hearing loss were met in a few days.



Florida fun-lovers at the Friday night gala banquet at the Convention in Providence. Sitting, from left, Pat Kricos, Flo Innes, Joan Haber, Lynn Rousseau. Standing, Cynthia Moynihan, Tom and Judy Martin, Molly Corum, Marjie Anderson, JoAnne DeVries, Jim Diaz. Missing in action: Ed Ogiba, Tess Crowder

—photo by Jen Thorpe

Aroundandabout at Convention 2012



*From above left, **clockwise**, the Capitol; Kathy Borzell, former Keystone Award winner; Joan Andrews Smith, Joan Haber, former Rocky Stone Award winner; Pat Kricos, holds her 2012 President's Award; Joan Andrews Scholarship Award committee, Lynn Rousseau, left and Judy Martin, Flo Innes far right. Winner; Marjie Anderson, second from left and Jane Andrews Smith, center; Get in the Hearing Loop Awards. Representing Sarasota is Ed Ogiba, center; Judy Martin, holds her 2012 Keystone Award.*



More aroundandabout at Convention 2012



Enjoying themselves at the President's Executive Reception were, left, Kathy Borzell from NC formerly of Tampa and Tom Martin, Jacksonville. At right are Ed Ogiba and JoAnne DeVries from Sarasota.



Above, Linda Mastriani, from Fort Lauderdale, made the trip to Providence and now HLA-Florida has its eye on her!



Scott Rinehart from Tampa is standing with three beautiful ladies – Kathy Borzell, left, of NC formerly from Tampa, and her sister Rosemary Tuite, also from NC. In front is Janet, Rosemary's Dog Daughter.



At the annual **Florida party**, which has been hosted by Lynn Rousseau and Flo Innes for many years, all who attended had a wonderful time.

At left, are Debbie Mohnney, Colorado; Molly Corum, Tampa, FL; Jim Diaz, Oviedo, FL; Marisa Sarto, Wisconsin.

Frank Corica never said “No” to HLAA

Frank Corica writes that he is reluctantly moving back North. He goes on to say,

“It is complicated but it’s time to rejoin the family there. We have seven adult children, many grandchildren, relatives and friends. All have been urging us to move. I believe being with the family is what’s most important. We are both in our eighties now so it’s time to spend these few remaining years with the kids.

The following was written about Frank in the June 2006 issue of *Hear Ye, Hear Ye*.

Frank Corica was married in 1955 at the Church of the N. America Martyr, Putnam Valley, NY and recently celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary. Frank’s children include seven daughters of whom six are married with children. There are sixteen grandchildren and one great grandchild. Frank lived and was employed in Pearl River, NY by the Board of Education as a teacher, elementary school principal, and as various department heads (such as music, art and school libraries) and finally as assistant to the superintendent. His educational background includes BA, St. Michael’s College, Vermont; MS degree State University, NY; additional school administration, courses, Teacher’s College, Columbia University. He authored a sixth grade Social Studies work/text book and a published poem, “In Search of a Distant Tomorrow.”

Frank has been hard of hearing since the age ten as result of auto/bicycle accident. Now deaf in one ear, his hearing situation worsened from US Army service in Korea during that conflict in the early nineteen-fifties and he has used various hearing aids since 1965.

In his volunteer activities, he is a former JayCee President in Pearl River; a 40-year member of Knights of Columbus, served as “Lecturer” (program chairman) and received the Knight of the Year award 1988.

His history with SHHH, now HLAA, is extensive. Frank was SHHH chapter president in the New York area and newsletter editor; SHHH chapter president

Port Charlotte, FL and newsletter editor; had several articles published in local newspapers relative to SHHH; was instrumental in getting Venice Community Center equipped for HOH people; had ongoing discussions with local libraries concerning issues for HOH patrons; provided information to FLASHHH in newsletter article about LIONS CLUB provider for low-income assistance HOH people to acquire hearing aids.

Frank has been on the FLASHHH Board for more



Mr. & Mrs. Frank Corica

than five years; assisted in searching out information of grant-writing procedures for FLASHHH and presented to board; was FLASHHH Secretary and Vice-President; participated in joint AARP/SHHH National training workshop relative to helping HOH people prepare for job interviews; advertised such sessions in Rockland County, NY several years ago; attended Central Florida U. / Federal Government two-day work shop on Virtual Learning for

HOH and Deaf children and adults; requested to attend to represent SHHH National. Whew!

Frank retired to Florida 1995 and has been volunteering as Meals on Wheels driver for six years. He will be 76 on June 28 and is ready to retire again!

Since that article was written, he and his wife have moved to Jacaranda Trace in Venice to an Independent Living condo. Here he’s been active as a four-star volunteer (a star for each year volunteering). He’s served on, after election, the Resident Advisory Council, called numbers at bingo, served on the Welcoming Committee, served on the Activities Committee, helped start and wrote articles for a resident newsletter named The Tracer, helped reestablish a wood-working shop, played a major role in establishing the FM Assistive Listening System in the auditorium, have been monitoring the sound system at performances in the auditorium and informed management of the need to go a step further with an eye to installing a Loop System.

Continued on next page

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They plan to do it in the near future.

In the meantime, he continued serving on the HLA of Charlotte County for a few years but had given it up due to moderate heart problems. He's now the proud owner of a pacemaker with accompanying meds that render him less active, although he does exercise regularly. Up North in Bergen County, NJ, he may attend a local HLA chapter.

There is not much else he can say except to reminisce about the good friends, influence, and education he received while serving on HLA of Florida several years ago with Joan Andrews (a great lady), Joan Haber, Flo Innes, Jim Diaz, Kathy Borzell, James Forstall, Merv Daniels, Alan Brown, Lynn Rousseau and Judy Martin.

Godspeed, Frank. New Jersey's gain is definitely Florida's loss.

TSA Shares Tips to Streamline Summer Travel

WASHINGTON – As more than [200 million](#) passengers begin their summer travel, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) reminds travelers of recent modifications to airport screening procedures and provides tips for travel preparations.

As part of TSA's [risk-based security](#) approach, the agency has implemented changes in screening protocols that strengthen aviation security by better focusing its resources and, at the same time, improving the travel experience for lower risk passengers. Summer travelers may be able to take advantage of these modifications at airports across the country.

The changes include the implementation last fall of modified screening procedures for passengers 12 and younger. Passengers 12 and younger can now leave their shoes on during security screening. These new screening procedures also include permitting an additional pass through advanced imaging technology to clear any alarms, as well as greater use of explosives trace detection.

Additionally, TSA recently concluded a modified screening pilot program for passengers aged 75 and older. As the program proceeds toward full implementation, passengers 75 and older will undergo similar modified screening procedures to those 12 and under and will be able to leave on a light jacket or outerwear when passing through security. Passengers 75 and older may see these procedures in place as they travel this summer.

TSA anticipates these changes will further reduce – though not eliminate – the need for a physical pat-down for these passengers. However, the agency reminds travelers that they may be required to remove their shoes or undergo a pat-down if anomalies are de-

tected during security screening that cannot be resolved through other means.

Last fall, the agency also launched [TSA Pre✓™](#). To date, TSA Pre✓™ has provided expedited screening to more than one million passengers and is currently available at 15 airports, with plans to expand to more airports and airlines throughout 2012.

As the busy summer travel season gets underway, TSA reminds passengers to prepare for the security check-in process before arriving at the airport. Passengers can find travel tips and a list of allowed and prohibited items on www.tsa.gov. Passengers with smartphones are also encouraged to visit [TSA's mobile site](#) or [download](#) the "MyTSA" app. Passengers can access helpful information about TSA policies and procedures including the "Can I Bring" feature that allows passengers to type the name of any item to see if it is allowed to be carried through the checkpoint.

As an added convenience, the [TSA Contact Center](#) (TCC) recently extended its hours, and representatives are now available Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. Eastern time, and weekends and federal holidays, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Eastern time. Passengers can contact the TCC with questions about TSA procedures, upcoming travel or to provide feedback or voice concerns. The TCC can be reached at 866-289-9673.

Travelers and families of passengers with disabilities or medical conditions may call the [TSA Cares](#) helpline toll free at 855-787-2227, 72 hours prior to traveling with any questions about screening policies, procedures and what to expect at the security checkpoint. A TSA Cares helpline representative is available during all TSA Contact Center hours.



OUR CHAPTERS SPEAK . . .



Claudia Scott, Public Education/CERT Program Manager in the Emergency Preparedness Division of the Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department presented the final program before summer break. The presentation was most appropriate as Florida is in the midst of the hurricane season.

*Theresea Taylor, from The Caption Company, has provided captioning to the chapter **pro bono** since February 2006. She was presented with a card and gift. Following the meeting, chapter members joined together at the nearby Cracker Barrel. The next meeting in September will feature **Canines for Independence**.*



Members gather during the final meeting before summer break. From left, Wayne Armondi, Tom Logue, Waldo Romero, Tom Martin, Verona Romero, Walt and Aimee Ivey, Melissa Trauthwein, Virgie Mills, Cindee Deen. Seated are CART provider Theresea Taylor and Judy Martin.

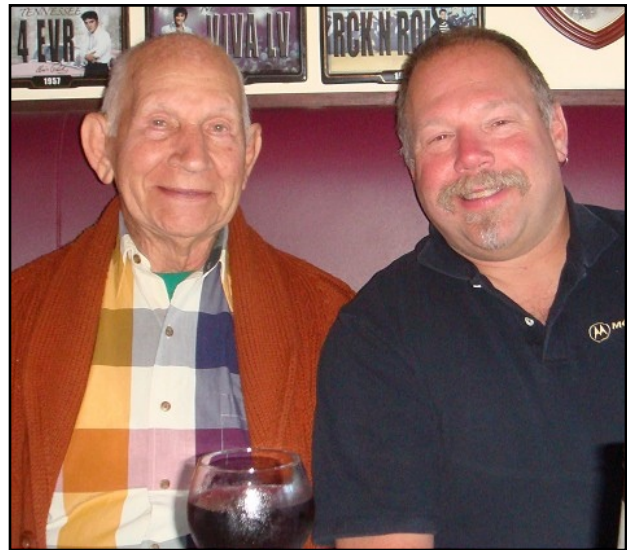


The members of the Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota were very saddened when Ralph Intorcio left town in March. He was our leader, mentor, supporter and a wonderful friend to so many of us. But we knew he was going to be with family, something that he was very excited about and needed.

It is rare to have someone in your life that can invite you to think, feel and laugh so deeply, often with just one dry remark or observation. He was and remains a happy soul, and his spirit was contagious.

Our farewell gift to Ralph (shown below) was the first lifetime membership that we have ever bestowed to anyone. It was a great investment as Ralph continued to fill our e-mail in-boxes with welcomed wisdom, camaraderie and a daily chuckle. Bless you, Ralph, for making our lives richer. We will miss you a great deal.

—Ed Ogiba



Ralph Intorcio with his son John
on Father's Day 2012
Rest in Peace
3/29/1927 - 6/29/2012

Declaration of Meritorious Service

This is to proclaim the outstanding leadership and mentorship that our good friend,



Ralph Intorcio

has generously given to all the members of the Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota and to many others that he reached out to in our community.

His exemplary dedication as our President and Board Member has been evidenced by consistently supporting those in need and his legacy demands our deepest respect, admiration and appreciation. We would be honored if you would grace us with your presence always by accepting our token of heartfelt gratitude with this gift of a

Lifetime Membership

Board of Trustees



Hearing Loss
Association
of Sarasota

February 15, 2012

A word from Dr. Dave Myers

It's often said that people with the most need for hearing assistance exceed the national percentage of hearing aid users with telecoils (84% of HLAA members in one survey some years back indicated they had hearing instruments with telecoils).

Juliette Sterkens provided a vivid demonstration of this when she asked convention attendees to raise their hands in they were using the ballroom hearing loop (installed for the occasion by Contacta). Although the audience included some people without hearing loss (exhibitors, spouses, etc.) the response was overwhelming, as recorded by Juliette's husband Max.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-P3WhsaVsk
www.davidmyers.org

Hearing Loss Association of America Lakeland Chapter

The chapter members elected their Planning

Committee. Included are: Jackie Bowman, Norma Meyer, Art Matlock and Gail Smith.

Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month, at 6 p.m., and are held at the Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center, 3020 Lakeland Highlands Road, Lakeland, FL 33803.

The third meeting was held on Thursday, June 14, and was attended by at least sixteen people. At that time the chapter's Planning Committee and the chapter's treasurer were installed. Possible topics for future meetings, including a presentation by Edward Ogiba, President of the Sarasota Chapter, were discussed. CART service for the meeting was provided by Susan Wasilewski. The Center provided pizza,



salad, beverages, and strawberry shortcake for the attendees. The next meeting will be held on July 12, 2012.

—Kay Shaffer

Hearing Loss Association of America Lee County Florida Chapter

In May we participated in Paraprofessional Day for Lee and Collier County librarians. Our contribution was to show how the library staff could help those with disabilities like hearing loss. We were able to distribute over 70 copies of HEARING LOSS magazine and other HLAA literature including Tips for Communicating. Our time was very short but we did get in a plug for the DVD, LEARN ABOUT HEARING LOSS. Interest was very high. CART was available for everyone to read.

On June 3 an article we wrote on hearing loss was published in the Ft. Myers News-Press. We were thrilled with the interest that it generated. Fortunately our Chapter had already decided to meet during the summer. We hope to have a good attendance on July 6. We have programs planned for August through November. Perhaps a Christmas Party/Holiday Social could be planned for December. We would need a Social Committee for that, and we are waiting for volunteers.

—Jim and Lois Smith

Our Thursday, July 12 meeting at 6 p.m. will feature two presentations:

Advocating for Loops: 25 Lessons Learned.

Chapter Building: Meeting Your Memberships' and Community's Needs

The speaker is Ed Ogiba, the President of the Sarasota chapter, which developed a loop advocacy program that has convinced over 40 major locations in their area, including 16 theatres, to add a hearing loop system in the past 10 months.

A new chapter membership program started at the same time has resulted in more than doubling attendance at meetings, as well as more than



doubling their ranks to 157 members.



The session will be held at Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center, which provides loop support. The address is 3020 Lakeland Highlands Road, Lakeland, FL 33803. Other chapters welcomed.

For driving directions visit:

<http://www.cfshc.org/contacts/how-to-find-us/>.

For more information, contact Jacqueline Bowman at 863-686-3189 or Art Matlock at 863-853-3130.



Oscar Segal, president of the South Palm Beach County chapter, and his wife are going to be in Killington, Vermont July and August where they

attend a program for the summer renters called SummerFest. Professionals or experts from Universities, etc. are brought in to provide educational lectures every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during both months.

He has been invited to do a series on hearing loss Mondays during July – the 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.

THERE'S MORE TO HEARING LOSS THAN JUST LOSS IN VOLUME.

July 9. HEARING LOSS, THE INVISIBLE DISABILITY

What is Hearing Loss; not just loss in volume different causes, different manifestations; difficulties in various Venues but there is hope; who we are video about HLA National's work on our behalf and the role of chapters.

July 16. UNDERSTANDING HEARING LOSS

I have a video (from Australia) that simulates how life sounds to those of us that are hard-of-hearing. A hearing person will actually be able to experience sound as we do.

July 23. DANGERS OF BEING HEARING IMPAIRED

Surviving in a hospital or medical situation; Dangers while traveling (staying in a hotel or motel) because we can't hear when aids are removed; Dangers on a plane or in a terminal because we can't hear public announcements, etc.

July 30. ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES

An extensive display and product demo of a number of the more popular assistive listening devices available to help in Those situations where an aid is not enough. including the need for Loop systems and captioning in public venues.

All in a day's work

Working at the post office, I'm used to dealing with a moody public. So, when one irate customer stormed my desk, I responded in my calmest voice, "What's the trouble?"

"I went out this morning," she began, "and when I came home, I found a card saying the mailman tried to deliver a package, but no one was home. I'll have you know, my husband was in all morning! He never heard a thing!"

After apologizing, I got her parcel.

"Oh good!" she gushed. "We've been waiting for this for ages!"

"What is it?" I asked.

"My husband's new hearing aid."

(Send us your hearing loss jokes, please. We are tired of recycling. –Ed.)

Accessibility on Florida's Turnpike

Years ago, when I was state chapter coordinator for Hearing Loss Association of Florida, I contacted the Florida Turnpike authorities to discuss the use of captioning on all televisions in the service plaza. All service plazas have gone under reconstruction in the last year and should be completed by now. I was concerned that in the process of redoing the plazas that the televisions in the restaurant areas were not set up for captions upon reopening.

With the hurricane season upon us, it is vital to be informed of bad weather while using the Florida Turnpike for travel. Therefore, I wrote to the Turnpike Information officer to remind them how important this accessibility is for hard of hearing-deaf individuals. I also mentioned it is helpful to all patrons of the service plazas because it can be quite noisy. For others who speak a different language, reading English is often easier than hearing the spoken word. They had not even considered the use of captions until I explained how important it was to those who cannot hear. The Turnpike Authorities were happy to provide this accommodation. They reported that, to make it happen, it only took awareness on their part of what will help the individuals who visit the plazas.

I received a reply to verify that closed captioning is now working at all service plazas that have televisions installed. In addition to network closed captioning, the Turnpike has its own alert system in the service plazas which can be used for texting of emergency information, as well as overhead systems and radio alert systems on the roadway itself. The Business Development and Concessions Manager, Tom Wilke, will be checking to see that this is implemented in all plazas.

It is wonderful to know that Florida cares about its travelers on its Turnpike.

–Lynn Rousseau, Past President
Hearing Loss Association of Florida

Here are two fascinating videos, both of which are captioned. The first is from the Utah State University National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management. The second is from the Hearing Health Foundation. They are both captioned.

How does your Baby Hear?

<http://tinyurl.com/7s2sjes>

How Hearing Works

<http://tinyurl.com/7q8s6qp>

The HLA-Florida Board met in Jacksonville. At right is the Class of 2012: Back row: Jim Diaz, Richard Herring, Bob Astle, James Forstall; middle row; Lisa Tanner, Lynn Rousseau, Flo Innes, Tess Crowder. Front row, Cynthia Moynihan, Pat Kricos, Don Shaffer, Judy Martin, Terri Schneider.



Judy Martin presented a plaque of recognition to Richard Herring for his term as President 2010-2011.

Lynn Rousseau, center, presented gifts to Patricia Kricos, left, and Judy Martin in honor of their awards to be presented at the national convention.



Website Chair, Bob Astle, presented to Melissa Trauthwein of Jacksonville a gift of appreciation for her work on the HLA-Florida website. She is a member of HLA-Jacksonville.



Website Chair, Bob Astle, presented to Aimee Ivey of Jacksonville a gift of appreciation for her work on the HLA-Florida website. She is a member of HLA-Jacksonville.



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Other chapters are forming and not yet official. If you are interested in joining them, please contact the people listed:

Babson Park meets the 2nd Tuesday. Write to Terry LangVal, 3 Fort Clinch Heights Rd., Frostproof, FL 33843

