

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

HLA-FL Sponsors an Island Cruise for the Hard of Hearing

Join us for a sailing vacation aboard the Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship, *Mariner of the Seas*, on September 30. Departing from Port Canaveral, the ports of call include Cocoay, Bahamas, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Philipsburg and St. Maarten. This is just the beginning of a great time together among friends, family, and new acquaintances.



Don't miss this exciting opportunity to cruise the Caribbean Sea. Plan to relax and play because it's all there for you. To double your fun, this fabulous trip has been planned especially for people with hearing loss.

Unpack just once, then enjoy a week of unlimited food and top notch entertainment. You can see the sights and get ready for the holidays by shopping the islands! Or you can sit back and enjoy the sweetness of doing "nothing."

Share this opportunity with your friends, neighbors, and family right away since deposits are due April 25. For more information see page 10 or check out our webpage: www.hla-fl.com

HLAA 2007 Convention

The 22nd Annual Convention of the Hearing Loss Association of America will be held in beautiful downtown Oklahoma City from June 21 - 24. This convention will offer a wide variety of educational workshops, general sessions, and special events as well as opportunities to meet other people with hearing loss, healthcare and rehabilitation professionals, educators and vendors. Attendees can also enjoy hands-on testing of hearing assistive devices and telecommunication products in the Exhibit Hall.

You may register online at www.hearingloss.org/convention. Information about the convention is also available in the March/April issue of *Hearing Loss* magazine. If you haven't already registered, you may do so by visiting the HLAA website to complete your on-line pre-registration.

In addition to the excellent educational opportunities, fellowship with old and new friends, and the latest in technology you've come to expect from the HLAA conventions, you will be enthusiastically welcomed to Oklahoma City.

The city and state are filled with history: during the Oklahoma Land Run on April 22, 1889, some 10,000 homesteaders settled in what is now downtown Oklahoma City, creating a tent city in a single day; it is the site of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995, the largest act of terrorism on American soil prior to 9/11; and was home to Will Rogers, who was born on Dog Iron Ranch in Indian Territory in what would later become the state of Oklahoma. This much-loved humorist is the one who said, "Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip." Will Rogers is long gone, but his spirit lives on in the warm and friendly folks of Oklahoma.



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• • •

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FEBRUARY, JUNE & OCTOBER**JUNE 2, 2007 - DELRAY BEACH
OCTOBER 6, 2007 - ORLANDO
FEBRUARY 2, 2008 - TBA
JUNE 7, 2008 - TBA**President's Report**

Thank you to all who attended the Hearing Loss Association of Florida Board of Trustees meeting held in Tampa on February 3.

Members of Bylaws Committee worked hard to complete the final revisions for amendments to the Bylaws. Special reports were given by Joan Haber on goals of the FCCDHH and Kathy Borzell shared notes on the TASA and HLAA Board. Melissa Trauthwein was enthusiastic as she shared all her plans for making the Florida web-site an exciting one. She is doing a great job for all of Florida HLA members online!! As head of the newsletter committee, Judy Martin is also doing a fabulous job of creating our Florida newsletter. Please continue to contribute your stories to her for inclusion in the news! Don't forget to ask business and friends to place ads in the newsletter to help keep it in publication!

Everyone was present: Judy, Jim, Joan, Kathy, Flo, Wayne, Melissa, Barbara and Carol. Nancy Day was officially voted onto the Board of Trustee. *Welcome Nancy!* We also welcomed a guest, Janis Ward. Mike Cano did a great job of providing CART. Thank you, Mike!

Oscar Segal and chapter members of Delray Beach offered to host our next board meeting in June! Hope to meet many of you in that area at that time!

On a personal note: the best news of all was that Wayne Cook, our secretary, his family and friends were not harmed by the devastating tornado that swept through the Villages. Janis Ward, who just moved there, was also lucky to avoid any harm. Our heartfelt prayers go out to all who suffered loss of family, friends or their homes.

Our next goal is to see that weather alert radios/alarms for the hard of hearing are affordable. Flo Innes and Angie Nibert are working on that project.

Convention plans in Oklahoma (June 2007) were shared and we wish the Oklahoma Committee Chair as much success as we had in

Orlando in 2006. If you plan to go, please volunteer an hour or so of your time.

Cruising on the RCCL ship, *Mariner of the Seas* (September 30) out of Port Canaveral, Florida is another exciting event for all to consider! Specifically planned to make cruising fun for the hard of hearing, details can be found in the newsletter, and on the Florida website. Deadline for deposits is April 25.

Larry Kavanaugh, Angie Nibert, Melissa Trauthwein, Jim Diaz and Lynn Rousseau were invited to tour the ship March 18 with lunch being served in the dining room while docked at Port Canaveral.

In all, we still have lots of work ahead of us to make the Hearing Loss Association of Florida an organization of great support for all of our members, their families and friends. We welcome all suggestions for what changes *YOU* wish to see happen in Florida.

Remember, *Cherish your hearing. If it is good preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve alone, seek support! The Hearing Loss Association of Florida is here to help you with education, advocacy and support.*

Lynn Rousseau, President
Hearing Loss Association of Florida

**Share your
newsletter?**

Joan Andrews, former president of FLASHHH, has suggested that chapters which publish newsletters might share them with other chapters in the state. There are 14 such groups and you can find their contact information on the HLAA website: <http://www.hearingloss.org/chapters/index.asp>



**SPOTLIGHT ON
OUR NEWEST
CHAPTER IN
THE VILLAGES**

New group wants to be heard

By GARY CORSAIR, DAILY SUN

LADY LAKE — A small but potentially vocal group is determined to dispel the notion that hearing-impaired people are content to sit on the sidelines and wait to be recognized.



Muriel Raine, Maddy Hauth and Debbie Cook, from left, meet at Dunkin Donuts for the newly formed chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America's first meeting Feb. 6. --Photo by Katie Derksen / Daily Sun

The message on buttons worn by Hearing Loss Association members leaves no doubt that they want — rather, demand — to be recognized. The message: "Please face me."

"I'm hard of hearing."

Hearing Loss Association of America members want to do more than be able to read your lips; they want everyone to hear the words coming out of theirs.

"HLAA helps hearing-impaired people become their own advocate," says Wayne Cook, one of the organizers of the recently formed Lady Lake chapter.

Cook knows a thing or two about advocacy — and what HLAA members can accomplish when they join voices. Before moving to a home in the Village of Woodbury, Cook was a HLAA chapter president and state coordinator in Rhode Island. He also served on the state commission for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Cook saw firsthand the power Hearing Loss Association chapters can have when they have the support of members and the national organization.

"In Rhode Island, we passed a hearing-aid insurance bill," Cook said. "That's one thing we want to do in Flor-

ida. My wife and I just spent \$12,000 on new hearing aids, and we don't get anything. No help from Blue Cross Blue Shield, no help from our health care provider."

While national and state Hearing Loss Association chapters monitor state and federal regulatory agencies, local chapters — like the one just formed — seek to improve the quality of life of each hearing-impaired person in the community they represent.

The help offered takes many forms.

"We provide information about devices to improve the lives of hearing impaired. We can tell them how the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) affects them, and how to approach different medical situations," Cook said. "It's all about empowering you. Things like making people understand you have the right to say, 'Please look at me when you talk to me.'"

"Many people who move here don't know where to go for help," said Muriel Raine, a hearing-impaired Lady Lake resident who wants to help deaf people new to the area. "We will have that information to share with the group at our meetings."

Raine, who moved from Minnesota, says the need for a HLAA chapter is greater than ever.

"For many years the local services were adequate, but we're seeing a shift in baby boomers moving down here. And as they get older, more and more of them are experiencing hearing loss," Raine said.

Initially the local Hearing Loss Association chapter will focus on getting information from people it hopes to serve. Once needs and concerns are identified, chapters call upon the state association, which then involves the national organization in obtaining support.

Fourteen HLAA chapters are chartered in Florida, but most are in major metropolitan areas far from Lake, Marion or Sumter counties.

"Tampa and Gainesville are the closest chapters," said Debbie Cook, Wayne's wife.

"We're trying to get all chapters to participate in a grassroots effort," Cook said. "We need to find out what the hearing-loss community wants. Is it insurance? More captioned movies? Job protection? Once we get all the info, we'll take it back to the state council."

Anyone interested in learning more about the Hearing Loss Association of America is invited to attend the local chapter's first meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Lady Lake Library, 225 W. Guava St.

For more information, call the Cooks at 751-6065.

Gary Corsair is a senior writer with the Daily Sun. He can be reached at 753-1119, ext. 7907, or gary.corsair@thevillagesmedia.com

Boca Raton Chapter of HLAA

The Boca Raton chapter of HLAA held its annual joint meeting on the March 26 at 7 p.m. with the CISG (Cochlear Implant Support Group). The speaker was Dr. Mark Widick, a well-known Otologist in Boca who spoke on "What An Otologist Can Do For You."

The next meeting will be called "Sharing Information"

whereby we will go around the room and each person will talk about their hearing situation.

We have Realtime Captioning at every meeting. We meet on the 4th Monday of the month from September through May at Patch Reef Community Center. The chapter was founded in 1993 by Geri and David Young. Please call Geri Young at 561 451-8494 for further information.

Hearing Loss Association of Florida Calls for Applications

The Hearing Loss Association of Florida (HLA-FL) is seeking qualified individuals to serve on the HLA-FL Board of Trustees for a three-year term beginning October 6, 2007.

Who is Eligible?

All members of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) who are Florida residents are eligible.

HLA-FL is committed to assembling a board composed of individuals with a diversity of skills, backgrounds, hearing loss, and ages. Hearing applicants with sensitivity to the needs of people with hearing loss will be considered. Ability to work with others is essential. Positive thinkers with the desire to improve the quality of life for hard of hearing Florida residents are urged to apply. HLA-FL members can nominate themselves for board membership or nominate another Florida HLAA member (with permission).

What is Required?

The board meets at least three times a year in locations that vary to provide equitable geographical access. Members are encouraged to attend all meetings. Costs of travel are the members' responsibility. Members are asked to take active roles on standing and ad hoc committees. Meetings are presently held on Saturdays to accommodate employed members. Major committee work occurs between board meetings and is most often transacted by e-mail or chatroom, and thus, Board members are required to have email access. Reimbursements of previously approved expenses on behalf of HLA-FL are available to trustees upon request.

How to Apply for the HLA-FL Board:

Application forms are available by contacting: Kathy Borzell, Chair, Nominating Committee, 5010 S. Elberon Street, Tampa, FL 33611 or by email at: kborzell@verizon.net
Applications must be returned no later than August 15, 2007.

League Receives Grant

The League for the Hard of Hearing-FL, Broward County, Florida, received a grant from the Broward Public Library Foundation to present a "Better Hearing and Speech" month event all day on May 19 at the Northwest Regional Library. The emphasis is on the aural hard of hearing population and emphasis on hearing conservation. A national speaker, hearing screenings, speech evaluation, and many programs for all ages will be offered. The library is located at 3151 University Drive, Coral Springs. For more information, contact the League at 954-731-7200.

--Andrea Wilson



Hearing Loss Association of Charlotte County Chapter News

Sometimes it seems like mission impossible but consistent and creative strategies have brought additional HOH people into the chapter, as well as educated some about available resources. The chapter has been in existence for about twenty years with involvement locally, state wide as well as with National, on various activities. Some board members have served on committees and have been recognized with awards.



Frank Corica

Locally, one example is the MEMORY BOX presented annually to a member illustrating above-average work and dedication in chapter goals. The BOX, made of mahogany, contains chapter historic documents and memorabilia. Each recipient's name is etched on a brass plate, with the year of the award. There are more than half a dozen name/plates on the lid. The BOX originated in memory of Mildred Savell, influential in SHHH.

For a half dozen years HLACC has set up an extensive display/information table, once a month, in the Port Charlotte Cultural Center. The table is stocked with a variety of assistive listening/alerting devices as well as brochures and printouts relating to hearing loss (acquired from National). All items on the table were purchased with grant money. Several chapter members man the table, demonstrating and explaining table wares, as HOH people get the word about its availability. Each person is asked to sign their name and address in a log which is used to invite them to a chapter meeting.

When new HOH persons join HLACC, the chapter encourages them to join HLAA by paying one half of the National membership fee, initially. Monthly meetings encourage support discussions followed by a speaker program, such as the Chief Audiologist of the Florida Veterans Association.

Each year we get a little closer to accomplishing mission impossible.

Frank Corica
 Board Member, HLAC

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WWW.INSIGHTCINEMA.ORG

**Delray/Boynton
Chapter of HLAA**

The February 16 meeting of the Delray/Boynton Chapter of HLAA hosted a first-rate program featuring two excellent presenters who kept everyone interested throughout the two-hour meeting. Typically, the monthly meetings actually start 15 minutes earlier so arriving members can enjoy free coffee and bagels with cream cheese before the 10 a.m. "official" start time.

Oscar Segal, chapter president, opened the meeting by greeting first-time visitors; they were encouraged to stand and introduce themselves and tell how they learned about HLAA. He also offered a short introduction about HLAA to the newcomers, describing the benefits of joining and attending the monthly meetings.

First on the program was James Forstall, Executive Director, Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI). Mr. Forstall, using a nicely-crafted PowerPoint presentation, explained CapTel Phones, how they work, and the service that makes captioned phone conversations available.

Detective Daniel Wood, Special Investigator for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Financial Crimes Unit, brought us up-to-date information on how to protect ourselves from scams aimed at senior citizens. Detective Woods also used the chapter's laptop and projector to employ his PowerPoint program that illustrated the many different scenarios of fraud aimed at the unsuspecting retiree.

It is unsettling to learn how many different ways thieves have invented to rip off seniors of their life savings.

--Oscar Segal, President
Delray/Boynton HLA



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Are you interested in helping improve the quality of life for you, a family member or friend with hearing loss? HLA-FL is continually educating, advocating for and supporting the hard of hearing. This might be the place for you. You will find details on page 4. Application forms are available by contacting: Kathy Borzell, Chair, Nominating Committee, 5010 S. Elberon Street, Tampa, FL 33611 or by email at: kborzell@verizon.net

Applications must be returned no later than August 15, 2007

FCCDHH Council Goes to Tallahassee

Since the last newsletter, the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH) held its quarterly meeting in Tallahassee, on February 22 and 23. February is a hectic and crowded time in Tallahassee as legislators, aides, lobbyists, advocates and media gear up for the beginning of the legislative session, which begins in early March. It was no different for the FCCDHH, as many Council members arrived early so they could visit the Senate and House to talk with legislators about increasing funding levels for the Council in the 2007/2008 budget. During the first two fiscal years of operation, the FCCDHH Council received \$250,000 each year, from the Department of Health budget. While the Council has used these funds prudently, it is not enough money to accomplish most of the recommendations that the Council has outlined in their 2005, 2006 and 2007 reports. These reports can be accessed and read on the Internet at: http://www.fccdhh.org/policy_recommendation.htm

The Chair of the FCCDHH, Joan Haber, met with Senator Lisa Carlton, who is one of the leaders of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, to ask for her support of a Community Budget Issue Request (CBIR) in the amount of \$400,000 for the next fiscal year. If you are reading this article and are willing to advocate for this CBIR for the Council, please contact your Senator in the Florida Senate and ask for his/her support for Senate Tracking Bill #1476 (the Tracking # in the House is 1718). Joan also met with Bill Palmer, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and told him of the numerous challenges and roadblocks people with hearing loss face as they try to maintain their jobs or find gainful employment. In addition, Joan met with the new Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr. Viamonte Ros, who is also the first Surgeon General of the State of Florida. Joan and Dr. Viamonte Ros discussed the toll that hearing loss presents across the continuum of life and how the Department of Health may be able to support more programs for children and adults with hearing loss.

The formal FCCDHH Council meeting began at 1 p.m. on February 22. After an hour of committee meetings, the Council listened to two presentations. The first was from the DeafSun Project, a first-of-its-kind program that serves deaf and hard of hearing victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse. The second presentation came from Paul Martell, Accessibility Program Manager of The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, which oversees Florida AmeriCorp. Paul asked the FCCDHH Council to assist his efforts by encouraging people with hearing disabilities to volunteer with Florida AmeriCorp (stipends are provided).

The Public Hearing was held from 4-6 p.m., with a good turnout. Some of the topics heard by the Council include: lack of accessibility to the legal system, lack of interpreters provided in medical settings, lack of knowledge by consumers of the T-Coil and unwillingness by some audiologists to explain the T-Coil during fitting of

hearing aids, lack of employment assistance from VR, uncaptioned media being shown in the public schools, lack of hearing aid insurance, and some TV news programs still not being captioned.

The next day, the Council reconvened and conducted business from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Discussion of the public hearing drives the activities of the Council between quarterly meetings. Various Council members take on projects to tackle problems, research alternatives and present solutions to the Council. Midmorning, there was another presentation from Ted Granger, President of United Way of Florida, who advised the Council on the most effective ways to advocate to legislators when trying to raise funds. Rick Moses, Chief of the Bureau of Telecommunications Service, gave the Council an update on the Florida Public Service Commission's activities. Many questions concerned CapTel and continued efforts to improve the service. The Medical Accessibility Task force, led by Rick Kottler, Vice-Chair of the Council, is co-sponsoring a workshop scheduled for March 29 with the Florida Hospital Association in Orlando, to train hospital administrators how to support and assist patients with hearing loss. Joan Haber will do two presentations at that workshop and Jim Diaz (former President of HLA-FL) will staff an exhibit table to inform participants about HLA-FL.

By the end of business on Friday, a total of 27 "Action Items" was compiled with each Council member knowing what they were responsible for before the next quarterly meeting. Many of the Council members will travel back to Tallahassee several times before the end of this legislative session in early May, to advocate for all persons with hearing loss in the State of Florida. Please support the FCCDHH Council as you do your own advocacy work. Take an interest in what the Council is trying to do for YOU! The next FCCDHH meeting occurs May 10 and 11 at the Crown Plaza West Palm Beach Hotel at 1601 Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach. The public hearing takes place on May 10 at that location from 4-6 p.m.

(Joan Haber is the Chair of the FCCDHH Council. She represents the interests of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida on the Council. You may contact her at joan1@comcast.net or 941-921-9197.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 2, 2007 HLA-FL BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 15, 2007 DEADLINE FOR HLA-FL BOARD APPLICATIONS

AUGUST 20, 2007 DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF HEAR YE, HEAR YE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 30, 2007 HLA-FL FUN CRUISE

OCTOBER 6, 2007 HLA-FL ANNUAL MEETING



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NOTICE OF PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

In accordance with the Bylaws of SHHH FLORIDA, INC. (aka Hearing Loss Association of Florida), Article X, A., all Hearing Loss Association of Florida members in good standing are hereby advised that certain proposed Bylaw amendments will be submitted to the Board of Trustees at its June 2, 2007 Board Meeting in the Holiday Inn Catalina, 1601 Congress Avenue, Boyton Beach, Florida 33426 for its approval. All members of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida in good standing will be provided a forum for discussion before a vote is taken by the Board of Trustees. Please notify the chair in writing or by e-mail at least 10 days before the date if you intend to appear. Late notification will not be honored.

If you would like a copy of the 21-page Proposed Bylaws (which is color-coded to show the changes) by e-mail, please send your request to judy40@bellsouth.net If you would like a black and white paper copy of either the 1995 Bylaws or the Proposed 2007 Bylaws, the cost is \$2.00 for each set. The cost for a color-coded paper copy is \$14.00. Please mail your remittance to Judy G. Martin, 8019 Leafcrest Driver, Jacksonville, FL 32244.

Following are references to the proposed amendments:

- References to FLASHH OR SHHH Florida revised to read Hearing Loss Association of Florida (HLA-FL).
- References to Self Help for the Hard of Hearing (SHHH) revised to read the Hearing Loss Association of

America (HLAA)

- All mention of hearing impaired revised to hard of hearing or people with hearing loss.
- Changes to Organizational Objectives.
- Article II - Purposes: Additions, Revisions and renumbering.
- Article III - Functions: Additions, Revisions and renumbering.
- Article IV - Governance: A,1,b,c,d (Voting Trustees). Additions, Revisions and renumbering.
- Article IV - Governance: A, 2, b,c,d.(Officers) Additions, Revisions
- Article IV - Governance: A, 4 (FCCDHH Appointees) Addition
- Article IV - Governance: A, 5,a,6 (Committees) Revisions
- Article IV - Governance: A, 8,a,b (Vacancies) Additions
- Article IV - Governance: A, 12,c (Annual Meeting) Revisions
- Article IV - Governance: A, 12, d (Quorum) Revisions
- Article IV - Governance: A, 12, e (Electronic Voting) Addition
- Article IV - Governance: A,13,1,a,b,c,d (Nominating Committee) Revisions
- Article IV - Governance: A,13,2,a,d (Elections)
- Article X - Amendments B,C (Revisions)
- Article XI - Standing Rules of Order - Revision

Respectfully submitted for the
Bylaws Committee, HLA-FL
Judy G. Martin, Chair



BAHA: WHAT IS THAT?

By Oscar Segal, President,
Delray/Boynton Chapter, HLAA

The following is not a medical nor a scientific treatise, but a layperson's interpretation of two types of implant—the BAHA and the cochlear. The BAHA procedure I know from first-hand experience; I learned about cochlear implants from the internet, from a person wearing a cochlear implant, and from a pamphlet in the surgeon's office. The drawings also came off the internet with some minor modifications I made for simplicity.

Until a couple of years ago, I had never seriously thought about "implant" other than an occasional reference to something called cochlear; some sort of implant device. About a year ago, I became intimately acquainted with another implant device called BAHA which stands for Bone Anchored Hearing Aid.

Like so many of the hearing impaired, especially those of us whose loss got progressively worse over the years, I became quite conversant with the many gadgets, *aka* assistive hearing devices, that periodically came on the market as I fought against becoming immobilized because of not being able to hear properly.

Whenever something showed up that promised a chance at better hearing, I checked it out, and if it looked like it might work for me, I tried it.

I was determined that being deaf was not going to ruin my life.

That's why, while sitting around the pool one afternoon, I heard something that intrigued me. I overheard a neighbor talking about an implant procedure she was scheduled to undergo to improve her hearing. "Is that a cochlear?" I asked, not really being sure exactly what a cochlear did. "No," she said. "It's a BAHA." She went on to explain



Oscar Segal

that she had lost her hearing in the right ear, but still had good hearing in the left ear. Her otolaryngologist suggested she was a candidate for a BAHA implant, since it was designed specifically for single-sided deafness.

After she had the procedure, I stayed in contact to learn as much as I could about the process, and because I was curious to see how it would turn out.

Following a three-month healing period to allow the device to integrate solidly with the skull bone, the device was installed. From the first moment, she had near-perfect hearing from that side. Her brain somehow believed she was actually hearing from both sides.

I was hooked! Maybe it was something that would work for me. Several surgeons later, the prognosis was that I was not a likely candidate because the one so-called good ear had only limited capability.

But I was never one to take no for an answer if there was a possibility of success. So on May 19, 2006, I underwent the surgical procedure for a BAHA implant. Since then, every time my implant came up in conversation, the question most always was "is that a cochlear?"

So I decided to document my procedure and present it as a program at one of our chapter meetings. However, since there were so many questions about cochlear, I structured the presentation to not just introduce the BAHA procedure, but to illustrate the similarities and differences between the two types of implant.

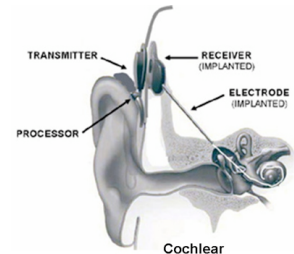
To begin with, implants are recommended only for persons who would attain no benefit from a hearing aid. Of the two

types we are discussing here, typically cochlear is more invasive while BAHA takes longer to heal. Otherwise, there are some similarities. Both involve only a short surgical procedure as an outpatient, in and out the same day. Occasionally a cochlear surgery may require an overnight stay.

Cochlear Implant

The cochlear implant provides a new mechanism for hearing when a hearing aid is not enough. It is an electronic device that restores partial hearing to the deaf. It sometimes requires a period of learning to be effective.

Cochlear implants bypass damaged hair cells and convert speech and environmental sounds into electrical signals and send these signals to the hearing nerve.



The implant consists of a small electronic device, which is surgically implanted under the skin behind the ear and an external speech processor, which is usually worn behind the ear resembling a BTE hearing aid but somewhat larger. The processor includes the microphone to capture incoming sound. Another option is the bodyworn processor which can be worn on the belt, in a shirt pocket, or for children, in a harness.

The speech processor translates the sound into distinctive electrical signals. These "codes" travel up a thin cable to the headpiece (external transmitter) and are transmitted across the skin via radio waves to the implanted electrodes in the cochlea. The electrodes' signals stimulate the auditory nerve fibers to send information to the brain where it is interpreted as meaningful sound. The external transmitter is joined to the internal receiver by a magnet.

About one month after surgery, the signal processor, microphone and transmitter are placed. Cochlear implants do not restore normal hearing. Users find they require a period of training in order to fully appreciate the benefits of the implant.

BAHA Implant (Bone Anchored Hearing Aid)

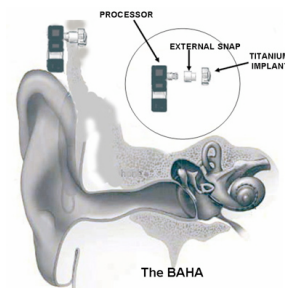
Again, the BAHA implant provides a new mechanism for hearing when a hearing aid is not enough. The BAHA is a surgically implantable system for treatment of hearing loss that works through direct bone conduction.

The BAHA consists of three parts: a titanium implant, an external snap, and a sound processor.

The titanium implant is placed during a short surgical procedure, and over time (typically about three months) naturally integrates with the skull bone.

The external snap is installed after the implant is fully integrated at which time the sound processor can be attached. The processor can easily be removed by the wearer as needed.

The system works by enhancing natural bone transmission as a pathway for sound to travel to the inner ear, bypassing the external auditory canal and middle ear. For hearing, the sound processor transmits sound vibrations through the external abutment to the titanium implant. The vibrating implant sets up vibrations within the skull and inner ear that finally stimulate the nerve fibers.



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

What are you optimistic about?

Each year, the website www.edge.org asks a question of some 160 authors. Hope College (Michigan) social psychologist David Myers (davidmyers.org) offered the following response to this year's question: *What are you optimistic about?* Myers' books include *A Quiet World: Living with Hearing Loss* (Yale University Press). He is also the creator of www.hearingloop.org, which further explains his vision for assistive listening.

Doubling Hearing Aid Functionality

I foresee a friendlier future for us 31 million Americans with hearing loss. It's no news that cochlear implants, which were unavailable to my late-deafened mother, should spare me her fate. But few people are aware that many more of us could benefit by doubling the functionality of our hearing aids.

We can dream of a future where hearing aids serve not only as sophisticated microphone amplifiers, but also as wireless loudspeakers that deliver clear, customized sound. In theatres, auditoriums, worship centers, airport lounges, drive-up order stations, and home TV rooms, sound signals will be transmitted via in-the-ear loudspeakers, much like wi-fi transmissions to laptops.



David Myers

Good news! That future has arrived in the UK and much of Scandinavia, and now here in more than one hundred west Michigan facilities, and it is coming to several other American cities. When people experience public address or TV sound via "hearing aid compatible assistive listening" (with their flick of a hearing aid switch) they typically respond with amazed

joy. What's more, they report increased satisfaction with their hearing aids.

It's a challenge to persuade a nation to exchange its current hearing assistive technology (which requires locating, checking out, and wearing conspicuous headsets) for a technology that many more people would actually use. But the results of our west Michigan experiment, and another in 1,000 California homes, supports my optimism. Doubling hearing aid functionality will greatly increase hearing aid acceptance and use.

With on-the-horizon technology, we can also foresee music buffs with wireless ear bud loudspeakers. When that day comes, having something in one's ear will become as mundane as glasses for the eyes, and millions of people with hearing loss will be enjoying fuller and more connected lives.

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BAHA CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

BAHA is used to help people with chronic ear infections, congenital external auditory canal atresia, and single sided deafness that cannot benefit from conventional hearing aids. With BAHA there is no occlusion of the ear canal to aggravate infection because the BAHA sound processor transmits sound directly to the hearing nerve without involving the ear canal.

A BAHA sound processor offers sound quality at least as good as a conventional air conduction device (hearing aid). For those who need high levels of amplification, problems related to feedback and discomforts are resolved.

As for me, although the prognosis was that it would not help me because the one good ear had limited capability, the BAHA proved to be an excellent support device working in tandem with the BTE aid that I wear. By itself, the BTE aid still leaves me with some discrimination problems in theatres, in a restaurant or watching TV. By the same token, the BAHA without the BTE aid is not sufficient to give me the volume needed since the one "good" ear has only about five percent hearing ability (as mentioned previously, BAHA is recommended for single-sided deafness – where one has good hearing ability).

However, with the BAHA device turned on, and the BTE working, my discrimination somehow is near perfect in all the above-mentioned environments. Again please remember – my situation is unique. For those with reasonable good hearing in one ear, and if they are diagnosed as a candidate, it does the job admirably.

Cochlear or BAHA (or whatever device is available that enhances sound), the bottom line here is, never give up trying to find something that will help maximize your ability to hear.



Hearing Loss Association of Florida

Hearing Loss Association of Jacksonville

Our chapter continues to reach out to the hard of hearing in Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties. Jacksonville is the largest city in the U.S.A. in terms of land area, so many of our members drive a considerable distance to be with us. We appreciate their loyalty.

We are deeply sorry that we will be losing one of our valuable members, Susan Scheibe, and her husband Brian, because of a new position for him in the Nashville area. Susan has been the person who wrote articulate and diplomatically-worded letters for us to various venues which were not hard-of-hearing friendly. She also arranged for many speakers and handled our finances as well. Thank you, Susan and Brian. We wish you well and want you to know your absence will be keenly felt.

Our speaker in February was Leslye Domingo from the Independent Living Resource Center of N.E. Florida in Jacksonville. Leslye gave a delightful presentation on the



CapTel system. Although some of us had heard other presentations on this subject, hers was given from the point of view of being at the front lines;

that is, as the person who actually determines the qualifications of the applicant. Leslye peppered her talk with anecdotes, some poignant and some humorous. The audience was warmly appreciative.

In March, we welcomed Susan Allen, the Director of Clarke Jacksonville, School for the Deaf-Center for Oral Education. Clarke is a private, non-profit educational program devoted to teaching deaf and hard-of-hearing children to listen and talk.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Susan explained that there are five campuses up and down the east coast. Our chapter members



were spellbound to see how the children learn. Some had hearing aids at the age of two months and some have coch-

lear implants at the age of 10 months or even younger. Most are reading before they attend mainstream kindergarten and are blessed with clear speech. On screen we watched a little girl who was brought to Clarke fairly late (maybe 4 or 5 years old) who could not be understood when she spoke. To watch her a few years later singing a solo sweetly and clearly at a school recital for parents brought tears to many of our eyes. Susan was kept for a good while after her presentation answering many questions.

HLA-JAX meets the third Tuesday of the month at the West Regional Library on westside Jacksonville. You can get directions and keep up to date on our activities by going to our website: <http://www.geocities.com/hearinglossassociationofjax/>

Judy G. Martin, President
Hearing Loss Association of Jacksonville

**The Hearing Loss Association of Florida
Invites you to join us in our First Annual
FUN Cruise! Sept. 30-Oct. 7, 2007**

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Experience a different kind of cruise with the Hearing Loss Association of Florida. Whether you're a veteran or first-timer you've never cruised like this! You'll be among friends who relate to the struggles you go through on a daily basis. Accommodations will be provided to increase the pleasure of your cruising experience. Make our presence and our needs known to the cruise industry and change the way the hard of hearing cruise. Let's make a difference together and have a good time doing it!



What is a cochlear implant?

A cochlear implant is an electronic device that is designed to help people with a hearing loss communicate more easily in the hearing world, and to take advantage of educational, employment and social opportunities. These devices have the potential to enhance communication and improve the quality of life. Many deaf people, who use a cochlear implant, are able to hear their children, talk on the telephone, participate in advanced education, and communicate effectively in social and work environments.

When a person receives a cochlear implant, he or she undergoes a surgical procedure. The surgery is performed in a hospital by an implant surgeon and takes about two hours. Most people go home from the hospital the same day. About one month after the operation, when the incision has healed, an audiologist turns on the implant and the person hears sound through the implant for the first time. This is also referred to as the initial stimulation, hook up or acti-

vation.

Cochlear implants are a proven medical option for adults and children who are severe to profoundly deaf. They have been used by deaf individuals for 25 years. To find out more about a cochlear implant, visit www.cochlear.com. You can join an online forum, The Nucleus Forum, where you can read about the experience of others with a cochlear implant. You may also contact the contributor of this article who works with a group of cochlear implant recipients, all volunteers for The Cochlear Awareness Network. These volunteers share their experience and passion to educate individuals about how the cochlear implant can dramatically improve the communication and quality of life for those impacted by a significant hearing loss.



Brandy Harvey,
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**Calendar of Events****April - October*****Apr. 17** - HLA-Jax, West Regional Library***Apr. 24** - Boca Raton, HLAA, Patch Reef Community Ctr.***Apr. 25** - Fun Cruise Deposits Due***May 10 -11** - FCCDHH, West Palm Beach***May 15** - HLA-Jax, West Regional Library***May 19** Broward County Better Hearing and Speech Event, Coral Springs**May 19**, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. University of Florida Cochlear Implant Support Group Kick Off

Teenagers and Children, Florida Museum of Natural History , Gainesville

May 22** - Boca Raton, HLAA, Patch Reef Community Ctr.June 2** Boynton Beach - HLA-FL Board of Trustees***June 19** - HLA-Jax, West Regional Library***June 21** - June 24 - HLAA Convention, Oklahoma City***Aug. 15** - HLA-FL Board applications due***Aug. 20** - Deadline for *Hear Ye, Hear Ye* September newsletter***Aug. 23 - 24** - FCCDHH, Jacksonville**Sept. 18** - HLA-Jax, West Regional Library***Sept. 30** - HLA-FL Fun Cruise, Port Canaveral***Oct. 6** - Orlando - HLA-FL Board of Trustees Annual Meeting***Contact & information inside this issue.****To appear in this column, send us your dates**

**DEADLINE FOR
SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
AUGUST 20**

Hearing Loss Association of Florida

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