

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

Joan Andrews, Grace and Determination

On June 7, 2008 the HLA-FL Board of Trustees voted to allocate a portion of the 2008 Florida Walk4Hearing proceeds to fund a scholarship which will enable a qualified individual to attend the 2009 HLA Convention in Nashville, TN. (See page 3 for details). The Board also made the decision to name the scholarship after former FLASHHH/HLA-FL President, Joan Andrews.

For those of you who do not know Joan, let me share a little about her. She's been an inspiration to many of us here in Florida for years. It's because of Joan's encouragement and mentoring that I became involved in Hearing Loss Association here in Florida and then at the national level.

Joan was one of a core group of individuals who helped to form our state organization, originally known as Florida Association of Self Help for Hard Of Hearing People. Joan served as FLASHHH's president in the late 1990s. Joan's involvement with SHHH began when she learned

about Rocky Stone's work while attending a speech reading class. She helped form a steering committee in an effort to start an SHHH chapter in her area. The Charlotte Ears Tri-County Chapter began in 1994. Frank Corica, former HLA-FL board member and current Charlotte Ears chapter member recalls that Joan served continually on the chapter's board as an officer and a highly key resource person. Through her knowledge, contacts, influence and hard work, the chapter grew to almost 75 members at one time.

Frank says, "I was so impressed with her work and role model status

for a successful HOH person and the impact on the community, that in 1997 I nominated her for the JC Penny Golden Crystal for her historic volunteer service to SHHH. She

was a recipient of the Crystal which came with a \$1000 stipend to the chapter. She has been a 'spark plug' continually. For example, about a half dozen years ago she put together a grant application which brought us approximately \$500 to purchase



*Long-time friends, Joan Haber,
Joan Andrews and Kathy Borzell*

You're Invited to the Florida Walk4Hearing Kickoff Luncheon
Saturday, January 24
at the Gainesville Golf and Country Club
7300 S.W. 35th Way
Gainesville
There is no charge to attend this event. Anyone interested in learning more about the Walk is welcome to attend.
RSVP by
Thursday, January 16
Call Lynn Rousseau at 352-331-331-9808 or email:
HLAFlorida@aol.com

Florida Walk4Hearing 5K Walkathon
Saturday, March 21



Kanapaha / Veterans Memorial Park
7400 S.W. 41st Place
Gainesville, Florida

For Info contact Lynn Rousseau
HLAFlorida@aol.com 352-331-9808
or Judy Martin 904-778-2265
judy40@bellsouth.net
OR CONTACT YOUR TEAM CAPTAIN

equipment and supplies to establish a monthly display for HOH persons. Staffed by chapter members, the display, set up at the Port Charlotte Cultural Center, exhibits assistive devices, supplies and brochures relative to easing communication for HOH

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Hearing Loss Association
of Florida
www.hla-fl.com

President:

Judy G. Martin, Jacksonville
 judy40@bellsouth.net
 904-778-2265

State Coordinator

Larry Kavanaugh, Winter Haven
 willowyndlk@gmail.com
 863-325-9839

Kathy Borzell, Tampa
 kborzell@verizon.net
 813-832-6810

Nancy Day, Gainesville
 dayjoy@cox.net
 352-377-7883

James Diaz, Oviedo
 James.Diaz@gdit.com
 407-366-3024

Joan Haber, Sarasota
 joan1@comcast.net
 941-921-9197

Richard Herring, Sun City Center
 rhmann@tampabay.rr.com
 813-642-0558

Flo Innes, Sarasota
 a4bh@msn.com
 941-349-3057

Lynn Rousseau, Gainesville
 HLAFlorida@aol.com
 352-331-9808

Don M. Shaffer, Plant City
 advocman4hi@yahoo.com
 813-719-3074

Katherine Shaffer, Plant City
 shafferm@msn.com
 813-719-3074

Melissa Trauthwein, Jacksonville
 melissat1977@bellsouth.net
 904-230-4248

• • •

Professional Advisors:

James Forstall, Tallahassee
 jforstall@ftri.org
 888-292-1950 X230

Dr. Patricia Kricos, Gainesville
 pkricos@csd.ufl.edu

• • •

Accountant:

Don Powell, Gainesville

MEETINGS

Feb. 7, 2009 Jacksonville

June 6, 2009 The Villages



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Judy40@bellsouth.net

OR

Judy G. Martin, Editor

8019 Leafcrest Drive

Jacksonville, FL 32244

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Association of Florida

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2009 HLAA CONVENTION

NASHVILLE, TN

JUNE 18 - 21

WWW.HEARINGLOSS.ORG/CONVENTION/

Did you know?

There is a Yahoo group online called the HLAA Newsletter Editors. Members discuss ideas for newsletter articles, issues with postal mailing and e-mailing, rising printing costs and other items of common interest. Membership is by invitation only, so if you are a newsletter editor for your chapter and are interested in joining, please email moderators Steve Frazier (hlaabq@juno.com) or Judy Martin (judy40@bellsouth.net).

Joan Andrews

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persons. Because of her enthusiastic efforts, many chapter members, including myself, were motivated to become meaningful advocates and workers for our fellow hard of hearing clientele."

Another significant impact made by Joan was her inspired leadership on "The Summit" which led to the formation of the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard Of Hearing. Joan received an award from SHHH on February 6, 2005 in Sarasota, FL.

Joan Haber, HLA-FL board member, recalls, "In 1998, Joan Andrews visited our Sarasota chapter meeting and she and I talked one-on-one about my hearing loss and the challenges I was facing. I was new to SHHH so did not know about National or the conventions at that point. She said to me that day, 'you need to apply for the scholarship so you can go to the convention in Boston to learn how to advocate for yourself.' Joan was always very matter of fact when she spoke. I did apply and won and went to my first SHHH convention that year and as they say, the rest is history. It was truly the beginning of the next phase of my life and I am forever indebted to Joan for believing in me and encouraging me to stretch myself. When I came back from Boston, she said, 'now, you need to be on the FLASHHH board - I am sending you the application.' How could I turn her down? So, of course, I did what she asked."

Thank you, Joan Andrews, for all of your selfless giving over the years. The HLA-FL Board of Trustees is proud to have your respected name associated with this scholarship.

—Kathy Borzell

Mark your Calendars

Sat., January 24 Florida Walk4Hearing Kickoff Luncheon

Sat., March 21 Florida Walk4Hearing in Gainesville

Awards celebrate 15 people who defy stigma of hearing loss

Fifteen outstanding individuals honored by the 2008 Oticon Focus on People Awards, a national awards program which recognizes people with hearing loss who prove that hearing loss does not limit a person's ability to live a full, productive and even, inspiring life. Created by Oticon, Inc. in 1997, the Focus on People Awards program is designed to focus attention on common misconceptions about hearing loss, correct negative stereotypes and motivate people with hearing loss to take advantage of the help that is available to them.

The five First Place Category Winners include Lynn Rousseau, Gainesville, our own immediate past president. Each first place winner received a \$1,000 award and a \$1,000 donation by Oticon, Inc. to a not-for-profit cause of their choice. Lynn designated the Hearing Loss Association of Florida to be the recipient.

Lynn won her award for advocacy and her nominating letter read, *Anyone who knows Lynn Rousseau today would be amazed to learn that ten years ago she was described as "a very quiet person." Today her life is filled with occasions when she speaks out on behalf of those*



The five First Place winners with the president of Oticon. Lynn Rousseau is second from left. -photo provided

Lynn is true to her organization's mandate to be a "voice for people with hearing loss." As president, she organized a full agenda of activities from a successful Walk4Hearing event, participation in numerous community health and awareness fairs, securing captioning communication on Florida's highways, collecting and distributing assistive devices to enable mothers with hearing loss to hear their babies and getting local fire departments to provide proper smoke detectors to the hearing impaired community. A delegate to the World Congress Conference of the Society for Accessible Travel, Lynn also generously gives her time to opening the world of dance and theater to hearing impaired elementary school students.

with hearing loss. The immediate past president of the Florida Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America,

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Joan Andrews Scholarship Award

The Hearing Loss Association of Florida announces the first annual "Joan Andrews Scholarship." Joan Andrews, former president of the Florida Association of Self Help for Hard Of Hearing People, now known as the Hearing Loss Association of Florida, worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for individuals with hearing loss. The Scholarship will be awarded to an individual who demonstrates in writing (by completion of the application process) a sincere educational interest in and commitment to sharing the mission of the Hearing Loss Association with others affected by hearing loss. The Selection Committee will give priority consideration to an applicant who meets all the criteria as set forth in the application process AND who cannot afford to attend the HLAA convention without the assistance of this scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION: The scholarship will entitle the winner to a registration to the Hearing Loss Association of America convention in Nashville, TN from June 18-21, 2009. The scholarship will also include a room at the convention hotel for three nights and round trip airfare or automobile travel expense between Florida and Nashville, TN. The maximum value of the scholarship is \$1,200.00. The winner is responsible for making all travel, hotel and convention registration arrangements.

ELIGIBILITY: An applicant must be a Florida resident and member in good standing of the Hearing Loss Association of America. Current members of the HLA-FL Board of Trustees are not eligible.

The deadline for receipt by HLA-FL of the completed application is March 15, 2009. For more information and/or to receive an application, please contact Kathy Borzell, Scholarship Committee, kborzell@verizon.net or call 813-298-6380. The application is also available at www.hla-fl.com

Food for Thought

by Don Shaffer

I recently read about a research study involving autistic individuals. This study demonstrated the effects of defective processing of sounds in the brain on understanding speech of other individuals. The study illustrates that the slower speed of processing sounds (speech) in the brain helps explain why autistic individuals develop communication problems with other people.

This raises a question in my mind about persons who are having difficulties in understanding speech through their cochlear implants. If a person has not heard amplified speech for a long time, his auditory nerve and neurons in the sound processing areas of his brain have deteriorated over time. Once fitted with a CI device, it is assumed that the recipient's exposure to sound stimulation through the CI processor would cause his auditory nerve and neurons to regenerate over time. If the nerve and neuron regeneration is only 90% complete, would the remaining 10% of the remaining nerve and neuron cells that remain damaged result in the processing of speech through the CI to be slowed down, thus causing a problem in discriminating speech? Could this brain wave procedure be used to determine which potential CI candidates would benefit from a CI implant and which candidate's nerve and neuron degeneration may be too severe for him to be able to discriminate speech effectively? How much nerve regeneration can take place in individuals over 65 years of age when their bodies are not replacing dying cells as effectively due to advancing age? This procedure could potentially be used to more effectively screen potential CI candidates as to whether they could discriminate speech effectively with a CI device. I found this article interesting, because it focuses on the speed of neuron processing of speech sounds in the brain, a process that may play a big role in many types of hearing losses.

The Study

- *Finding biomarkers – like the brain waves – that could enable earlier diagnosis and treatment is the "holy grail" for autism scientists.*
- *The brain wave study used noninvasive technology called magnetoencephalography to measure magnetic fields generated by electrical currents in brain nerve cells and record brain activity in real time.*
- *Researchers at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia had 64 autistic children ages 6 to 15 listen through headphones to a se-*

ries of rapid beeps while under the helmet-like device which recorded the brain's response to the sounds.

- *Those brain waves, shown as highlighted areas on an imaging screen, were compared with responses in a group of non-autistic children.*
- *In autistic children, response to each sound was delayed by one-fiftieth of a second.*

My question is, could a similar study be done on deaf and hard of hearing persons to determine how effectively the auditory nerve and neurons in their brains are functioning after a long period of partial or no auditory stimulation? This procedure might be a good diagnostic test to determine which CI candidates are would be able to use a CI for speech discrimination. The article does not address this question, but it might encourage research to look into this technique as a means of predicting maximum CI function and usage. To read the original article: <http://www.star-telegram.com/health/story/1066314.html>

(Don Shaffer is a member of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida Board of Trustees. He recently received a cochlear implant.)

Dr. Knox completes training

The Cochlear Implant Program at Mandarin Hearing and Balance Center in Jacksonville is proud to announce Dr. Glenn Knox, Center Director, has completed specialized training at Cochlear America's laboratory at Swedish Hospital in Denver. The training involved the implantation of a new device, the dual-array electrode cochlear implant. Dr. Knox is one of only approximately 30 surgeons trained in this technique.

The dual-array electrode cochlear implant is used in cases where the patient's cochlea has become ossified (labyrinthitis ossificans). This is often the case where the patient suffers from post-meningitis hearing loss.

For more information on their Cochlear Implant Program, please call 904-292-9777 or email gwknnox@bellsouth.net



The Delray-Boynton HLA-Chapter

--Oscar Segal

I am happy to report that The Delray-Boynton Chapter is going strong. We enjoy great attendance and continue to grow; averaging two to three new paid-member sign-ups each session even though we make it known that all meetings are open to the public; no obligation.

Our meetings are, as usual, a productive and informative experience for our members and first-time visitors alike (50 or more attendees). In addition to an impressive roster of speakers – professionals and prac-



Typical meeting attendance

tioners in audiology and ENT medicine - we have presentations by experts in hearing disorders from the University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University and other related organizations. We also feature members of law enforcement and fire-rescue responders who talk about the difficulties of communicating with persons who are hearing impaired in a 911- situation or law enforcement encounter.

Our meetings are dynamic; in addition to speakers, at nearly every meeting, we show a PowerPoint slide presentation of a particular life-situation where a HOH person is at risk. We have created a series of these informative and educational 20-minute programs under the very appropriate heading of “The Dangers of Being Hearing impaired.” The series includes such topics as:

Surviving in a Hospital Environment
Law Enforcement and The Deaf driver
Friendly Skies – Deaf Flier Beware
ADA – Hotel/Motel Safety for Deaf Travelers
T-COILS - Importance of T-Coils on Phones & in Public Places
Implants – Cochlear vs BAHA; Similarities & Differences
ICE - Emergency Notification Device if Unable to Respond
SUNPASS – Timely Battery Check for Hard Of Hearing

Our emphasis, in keeping with the original mandate of “Self Help for Hard Of Hearing,” is education and we make it our business to provide that at every meeting. The more people who suffer hearing loss know about the why’s and wherefores of their ailment, possible treatments, devices and interventions that are available, the better they are able to cope and make informed choices about seeking help.

But it “ain’t” just meetings!

In addition to monthly meetings, we conduct seminars in public libraries, at wellness fairs and at meetings of community associations such as men’s Clubs, Ladies Clubs and other social gatherings where we talk to groups ranging from 25 to 100 or so. The seminars are complete with slide shows highlighting the advantages of what HLAA can do for those suffering loss of normal hearing.



Table Top display at Seminars

We typically add several converts as a result of these encounters.

We are also heavily committed to a public service program called the “Visor Card” program.

The Visor Card program is an initiative to educate Law Enforcement people in organizations like the Sheriff’s Department, Local Police, and Highway Patrol personnel how to communicate with Deaf and Hard Of Hearing drivers.

Our President Oscar Segal, and Mort Mazor, Board member and Public Relations chair, met with several influential groups in the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s department to introduce the program.

On the following page is a photo of the Captains of the five districts in the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s organization. This is typical of the meetings we had with other such groups in the law enforcement community. More are planned.

Continued on next page



Captains in the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office. Oscar Segal, president of HLA-Delray-Boyton is at far right.

We have already seen progress in Palm Beach County. Deputy Richard Jackson, District 1 Crime Prevention Coordinator, is working with our chapter implementing this program. To date, Sheriff's Deputies already are receiving training in this important effort.

And in October, Deputy Jackson introduced the program at the Southern States Crime Prevention Symposium. He will be reporting on that at our December meeting.

Our goal is to eventually make this program a standard for all law enforcement agencies in the State of Florida.

On the other side of that coin, we are faced with the problem of educating Florida's drivers how to respond as part of the program.

Ah, yes – working in a HLAA chapter; it's what keeps me young! Plus it impacts negatively on my golf game.

Hearing Loss Support group meets in Orange City

Doris Branch of Orange City is the leader of The Hearing Loss Support Group. She is the leader because she realizes there should be help somewhere.

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Craft room on the third floor of John Knox Village.

We would be very happy for others to join us and eventually, we hope to have at least four HLAA members which is required to become a chapter. I was disappointed that we did not have that pleasure when we started. That is the reason for our current name.

We would be very happy for others to join us and eventually we hope to have at least four members who would pay the fee to become a Chapter. I was disappointed that we did not have that pleasure when we started.

We shall strive to have a special speaker at each of our meetings. For information, please call 386 775-3106 or e-mail dorisbranch@cfl.rr.com

--Doris Branch

State Government Update

•Joan Haber

The November 13-14 meeting of the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard Of Hearing (FCCDHH) was cancelled due to budgetary restraints. An abbreviated teleconference was held instead to discuss plans for next year's meetings and the looming budget cuts being forecast within Florida state government. A group of concerned members of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida, the Florida Association of the Deaf and the Deaf Service Center Association, among others, is meeting in Daytona Beach on December 12 to discuss the dire situation confronting the FCCDHH with respect to future funding. Future articles in *Hear Ye, Hear Ye* will keep you up-to-date about what is happening. It is possible we will issue a legislative alert and ask you as HLAA and HLA-FL members to get involved as advocates for increased state funding of direct services to Floridians who are deaf and hard of hearing. Stay tuned.

On another note, the Governor's Commission on Disabilities (GCD) has begun their second year of working on solutions facing all disability groups in Florida. The GCD holds most of their meetings in Tallahassee, Orlando and Tampa. If you can possibly attend a meeting in person you will get a better feel for what the GCD is trying to accomplish. You can also participate by listening to their teleconference meetings by phone and requesting remote CART so that you can read what is being said on your computer screen in addition to listening on the phone. This accommodation must be requested 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Check the GCD website for important meeting notices at: http://dms.myflorida.com/other_programs/commission_on_disabilities

(Joan Haber is a member of the HLA-FL Board of Trustees and serves on the FCCDHH. Contact her at joan1@comcast.net if you have any questions concerning this article.)

CLIP AND SAVE. GIVE TO YOUR HEARING FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Tips: Talking to the Hard Of Hearing

- Whenever possible, face the hard of hearing person directly, and on the same level.
 - Your speech will be more easily understood when you are not eating, chewing, smoking, etc.
 - Reduce background noises when carrying on conversations – turn off the radio or TV.
 - Keep your hands away from your face while talking.
 - If it's difficult for a person to understand, find another way of saying the same thing, rather than repeating the original words. Move to a quieter location.
 - Recognize that hard of hearing people hear and understand less well when they are tired or ill.
 - Do not talk to a hard of hearing person from another room. Be sure to get the attention of the person to whom you will speak before you start talking.
 - Speak in a normal fashion without shouting or showing impatience. See that the light is not shining into the eyes of the hard of hearing person.
 - A woman's voice is often harder to hear than a man's, because of its pitch. A woman might try to lower the pitch of her voice when talking to the hard of hearing to see if that helps.
 - Speak slowly and clearly.
 - If the hard of hearing person wears a hearing aid, make sure that it has batteries installed, the batteries work, the hearing aid is turned "on" and that the hearing aid is clean and free from ear wax.
 - If you know (or if it becomes evident) from which side the person hears best, talk to that side.
 - It is better to speak directly face-to-face in situations where relatively diffuse lighting is adequate and lights the speaker's face. This allows the hard of hearing listener to observe the speaker's facial expressions, as well as lip movements.
 - Persons with hearing impairment can also benefit from seating themselves at a table where they can best see all parties (e.g. from the *end* of a rectangular table).
 - Announce beforehand when you are going to change the subject of conversation. Doing so might avoid an unfortunate "faux pas" by a hard of hearing listener.
 - Sometimes hard of hearing persons have "good" or "better" sides *right or left* ask them if they do. If they indicate a preference, direct your remarks to the "good" side or face-to-face, as they wish.
 - Check to see that a light is not shining in the eyes of the hard of hearing person. Change position so that you are not standing in front of a light source such as a window, which puts your face in shadow or silhouette and makes it hard for the hard of hearing person to *speech read*.
 - Avoid abrupt changes of subject or interjecting small talk into your conversation, as hard of hearing listeners often use context to understand what you are saying.
 - If the hard of hearing person wears an aid, trying raising the pitch of your voice just slightly. If the hard of hearing listener is not wearing an aid, try lowering the pitch of your voice.
 - If all else fails, rephrase your remarks or have someone whose voice is familiar to the hard of hearing person repeat your words.
 - Don't talk too fast.
 - Pronounce words clearly. If the hearing-impaired person has difficulty with letters and numbers say: "M as in Mary," "2 as in twins," "B as in Boy," and say each number separately, like "five six" instead of "fifty-six," etc. The reason for doing so is that m, n and 2, 3, 56, 66 and b, c, d, e, t and v sound alike.
 - If you are around a corner, or turn away, you become much harder to understand.
 - Keep a note pad handy, and write your words out and show them to the hard of hearing person if you have to, don't just walk away leaving the hearing-impaired listener puzzling over what you said and thinking you don't care.
- Many hard of hearing are embarrassed that they can't hear. Many avoid crowds or situations that make hearing difficult. Certain environments, such as radios, TVs, and ventilation systems are also a problem for the hearing impaired – especially for those that wear hearing aids.

From the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Captioned Telephone Goes Mobile

by Neil Bauman, Ph.D.

Until now, captioned telephone service has been restricted to landline phones (CapTel), or to phones (landline or cell) used in conjunction with a computer (WebCapTel). Now, if you have Apple's iPhone (cell phone) with 3G service, you can have CapTel captioned conversations where ever you are by just using your cell phone.

If you don't have Apple's iPhone with 3G service, you can use any cell phone for the speaking part, but you'll need another web device in order to read the captions. This could be any portable computer with web access, one of the following smartphones--Apple iPhone, Motorola Q9C, HTC Mogul or the Treo800w or a mobile device that uses Windows Mobile 6 or Apple Mobile Safari.

Once this service becomes widely available on most cell phones, hard of hearing people will be able to "hear" on their cell phones, just like people with normal hearing. But for now, the Apple iPhone with 3G service is a viable option, and points the way to what will hopefully become commonplace in the future.

You can read about it in the CapTel News from Ultratec--Fall 2008 edition at http://www.captionedtelephone.com/customer_service/newsletters/200811

Singing on Key--Here's One Way to Do It

by Neil Bauman, Ph.D.

A lady asked: "I am looking for a (small portable) device that would provide feedback when I sing to let me know if my voice is actually matching the note on the piano or the note sung by another singer. I know that there are computer programs to teach voice and pitch matching but I am more interested in something portable that I can put on my piano and carry around with me when I sing in a choir or solo to piano accompaniment. Does such a thing exist, and if so, can you point me in the right direction?"

Yes, such a gizmo does exist to help you sing on pitch. The good news is that it is both portable and relatively inexpensive. The device you want is the MetroTune (MT9000). It only costs \$34.95.

One source for the MetroTune is www.SingerCity.com. Click on the "Search" button across the top, then put "sabine-mt9000" in the search box and you'll find it, or better yet, click on this link (<http://tinyurl.com/6nyu74>). Check out its specifications and see whether it is just the gizmo you are looking for

Check out Dr. Neil Bauman's website for the latest news and many, many helpful ideas and suggestions. <http://www.hearinglosshelp.com>

Hearing Loss Association of Florida
8019 Leafcrest Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32244