

# Hear Ye, Hear Ye

## Convention Issue

### Excitement, technology, and networking are the stars at 2010 Convention in Milwaukee

For a few reasons, this was one of the more exciting hearing loss conventions I've attended. Maybe it was because of the recognition we were receiving – Joan Haber for the Rocky Stone Humanitarian Award, Lynn Rousseau and me for the Walk4Hearing, *Hear Ye, Hear Ye* for the Best State Newsletter, Molly Corum for the Spirit of HLAA award, and Shifra Shaulson for the Joan Andrews Scholarship. You can see all their photos inside this issue.

Another great reason for the excitement was seeing

#### Drawing for Cruise winner on July 10

Please join us as Paige Beck, local newscaster of TV 20 in Gainesville, draws the winning ticket for the *Cruise for Two* on Saturday, July 10 from 4-6 p.m. for the benefit of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida. Paige is well-known for her delicious desserts; in addition she is to bring us a surprise!



The drawing will take place at the Broadmoor Clubhouse in Gainesville. There is no need for special access at the entrance. The [Broadmoor Clubhouse](#) (in the Broadmoor Subdivision) is a half mile from I-75 at 1223 NW 101st Drive, Gainesville, FL 32606. Just off SR26, Newberry Road and 98th Street heading north on 98th street, it is on the left – (352) 331-7006.

If anyone wants to stay longer in Gainesville for dinner, let me know. My cell phone/text is 352-682-6282.

–Lynn Rousseau



old and meeting new friends. The circle grows larger every year and I've heard it over and over, that the HLAA Convention is like a family reunion. We don't see each other often, but the affection grows like that circle.

And what can we say about the people in Bethesda and the local Wisconsin members who planned this extraordinary event? That the Convention was so successful is, no doubt, the result of hundreds and hundreds of man/woman hours. Everything that happened – from the Opening Session with the inspiring Bill Barkeley, the Get Acquainted Casino Night, the dinner at and visit to the Harley Davidson Museum to the highlight of the Convention, the Saturday night Oktober Fest were as good as they could possibly be.

The Exhibition Hall, as usual, was filled with everything a person with hearing loss might have on his or her wish list. Workshops? There was something for every-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



Hearing Loss Association of Florida Board members are all smiles at the Oktoberfest at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center. Standing are Lynn Rousseau, Joan Haber, Flo Innes, Richard Herring. Seated are Judy Martin and Jim Diaz.

–photo by Tom Martin

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 2, 2010 - Vero Beach

### Mark Your Calendar

The 2011 HLAA Convention will be in Washington, DC June 16-19 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport. The Second International Hearing Loop Conference will coincide with the Convention.

### You Can Help

All links should be working. Please report any that are not, to [judy40@bellsouth.net](mailto:judy40@bellsouth.net)

We need advertising. Currently we are publishing three e-newsletters and three print editions annually. Circulation for the former is about 500 and 2,200 for the latter. All editions are posted on the website and remain there. Rates for the e-newsletter are \$150 for a full page and \$50 for a quarter page. In the print edition, the rate is \$150 for a quarter page. Larger ads are not available in print.

Chapter leaders, please send this newsletter to your members or send us their e-mail addresses.

Editor: **Judy G. Martin**  
Proofreading Assistant:  
**Kay Shaffer**

### We are on Facebook!

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.

[www.facebook.com/HLA.Florida](http://www.facebook.com/HLA.Florida)



## Webinars for HLA leaders

Webinar: (**WEB**-based **seminAR**) A workshop or lecture delivered over the Web. Webinars may be a one-way Webcast, or there may be interaction between the audience and the presenters.

HLAA has taken advantage of this technology and is now presenting monthly Webinars on different subjects. Participants are able to ask questions following the presentation. These captioned webinars take the place of the webchats.

Here's what's playing next:

**July 15, 3 p.m. EDT**

**Topic:** What HLAA is doing for you.

**Guest Speaker:** Lise Hamlin, HLAA Director of Public Policy and State Development.

### How to join the Chat:

A link is posted below, so all you need to do is click on it about 5 minutes before the scheduled Webinar.

### Test your connection:

If you have never attended a Connect Pro meeting before, [test your connection here](#).

Get a quick overview: [http://www.adobe.com/go/connectpro\\_overview](http://www.adobe.com/go/connectpro_overview)

### Replay past Webinars:

Help for Tinnitus, Young Children with Hearing Loss and Their Families, Sharpening Your Listening Skills with Hearing Aids or Cochlear Implants, Audiology and Hearing Aid Benefit for Veterans, Development and Regeneration of Hair Cells – the Latest News in Research, Psychological Strategies for Surviving the Holidays with Hearing Loss, Hearing Aid Compatible (HAC) Blackberry Smartphones, What Should I Expect from my Audiologist or Hearing Instrument Specialists?

## From Invisible to Invincible, a Newbie's Experience at the HLAA Convention 2010

by Shifra Shaulson

As I begin to write this article, it amazes me that I have actually attended a convention geared toward the hearing impaired population. A decade ago, broadcasting my hearing loss to anyone but close friends and family would have been a completely absurd idea.

I have a severe to profound hearing loss in one ear and a profound loss in the other since the age of two years. I've worn hearing aids all my life and my parents did a wonderful job of mainstreaming me into hearing society along with providing me with the appropriate therapies needed to succeed in school. And I did succeed in a way they had only previously hoped for. I graduated high school and attended college and did all the "normal" things their other hearing children did.

Hearing loss is known to some as the invisible disability and to me its invisibility is measured by the ignorance my closest friends and family have toward the struggles that hearing impaired individuals face every day. I have never known or had the opportunity to befriend anyone in my situation. The struggles to communicate effectively and maintain my lifestyle were silent ones.

Well, it is over two decades later and, although my needs have changed, my attitude and situation have remained much the same. That is, until last weekend. Attending the convention and meeting the hearing loss family at large was an experience that went beyond my wildest expectations. All of a sudden, I was surrounded by multitudes of people who were all going through the same thing. Both the attendees and the tireless convention organizers made communication accessible to everyone. For the first time in my life, I spent a day without missing a single word! The sense of empowerment was overwhelming.



But the impact this convention had on me went beyond simply finding a hearing loss family. I learned so many powerful lessons involving both societal and personal components. From the exhibit hall to the workshops to the wonderful

people I've met, each offered a whole new world for me to inhale and experience. Attending workshops on advocating for the hearing loss population to receive its due accommodation made me realize that advocating for individuals faced with hearing loss is a responsibility that belongs to each and every one of us, including myself. In addition, it encouraged me to consider advocating for my own needs

with no shame attached. I see now that educating the individuals around us is a necessary tool that will truly enable me and the hearing loss population. The exhibit hall was a show of which I covered every inch. Examining and sampling all the new technology opened a whole new world to me which was previously murky with vague descriptions from various people. Seeing it all for myself gave me a sense of empowerment to equip myself with all the assistive listening technology available. Bill Barkeley made that point strongly in his keynote address in addition to his many other thought-provoking comments. One in particular that speaks to me was "we need to feel comfortable accepting help from others."

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And last, but not least, I've learned that two people can accomplish more than one, and three, more than two. Networking and meeting all the wonderful people taught me that together the hearing loss community is reaching far beyond anything of which I was remotely aware. Being part of this now is an indescribable feeling and is summed up by knowing that I am not alone in this anymore.

Thank you to HLAA and HLA-Florida and particularly to Joan Haber, Kay Shaffer, Barbara Emmons and Nancy Day of the Joan Andrews Scholarship Committee. I appreciate the opportunity you gave me to attend, and for believing in my ability to value the convention experience. I look forward to seeing all the faces I've met and new ones, next year in D.C.!



Ahme Stone presents the Rocky Stone Humanitarian Award which honors her late husband. She and this year's recipient, Joan Haber, are shown on the screen during the presentation.



Joan and Steven Haber enjoy the Oktober Fest at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

one – young adults, seniors and in-betweeners, parents of kids as well as plenty for the techies and the newbies.

Molly Corum, upon receiving her Spirit award, said it best, that she was “very, very honored and that all the happy people at the HLAA chapter meetings and the HLAA convention are the Spirit. That’s the message she shares.”

It was said of Molly that “she reaches out to others, again and again, encouraging them to participate in and support the Hearing Loss Association of America. Although she belongs to many other organizations, she has been front and center when it comes to attending the national conventions, being part of the Walk4Hearing, and going to her local chapter meetings in Tampa.” Her speech was received with great appreciation by the audience.

When Joan Haber received the Rocky Stone Humanitarian Award her family – including her brother and sister – were there to rejoice with her. So were her friends from the “Florida table.” They made enough noise to be sure that everyone in the ballroom knew she was such a deserving person. Her speech on Saturday night was warmly received. Joan spoke of being so happy to receive the award in Milwaukee, of all places, just sixty miles south of her birthplace in Wisconsin. She told those in attendance that “We’re all here because we each have our own hearing loss story, our own journey. But, each story shares a common thread: We have lost or are losing our hearing and we have found our way to each other at this moment, in this room.”

She had many mentors along the way, but mostly, it was Rocky himself who taught her to be the hero of her own story. Joan used his quote which sums up self-help

in a nutshell: *The self help concept means that an individual has made a conscious decision to change his or her life circumstances for the better. Only the individual can make that decision. Self-esteem and confidence rise through knowledge and shared experiences. We grow beyond the independence of that basic decision to help ourselves to the mature realization that we all need each other, that we are interdependent. Then we become involved in mutual support. And finally, we are able to look beyond our own problems and work in a community where others need our help. We become a sharing community. What better basis can we have for hope?*

It was a great time in beautiful Milwaukee and a remarkable week for the Hearing Loss Association of Florida.

–Judy Martin, President  
HLA-Florida



Party Time at the Habers in Sarasota



# Please Join Us



The Bionic Ear Association (BEA)'s mission is to improve the quality of life of individuals with severe-to-profound hearing loss by providing valuable information, education, awareness, and guidance on cochlear implants.

## The BEA

- Connects you to knowledgeable AB cochlear implant recipients.
- Offers one-on-one support for your journey to hearing.
- Hosts social gatherings and fun events for you to make new friends and share your experiences.



Whether you are an AB recipient or considering a cochlear implant, the BEA wants to help you Hear and Be Heard.

## Central Florida and Gulf Coasts BEA Chapters

**When:** Both groups meet quarterly, typically on a weekend. Join the Central Florida Chapter for a Summertime Picnic on July 31st, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m

**Where:** Locations vary. The July 31st Picnic will be held at Maitland Community Park  
1400 Mayo Ave \* Maitland, FL  
BYOE: Bring Your Own Entree! We will provide roasted corn, fruit, vegetables, drinks and desserts.



**RSVP:** To RSVP or to sign up for information on upcoming events, contact: Alan Brown, BEA Chapter Leader [datbrown312@gmail.com](mailto:datbrown312@gmail.com)

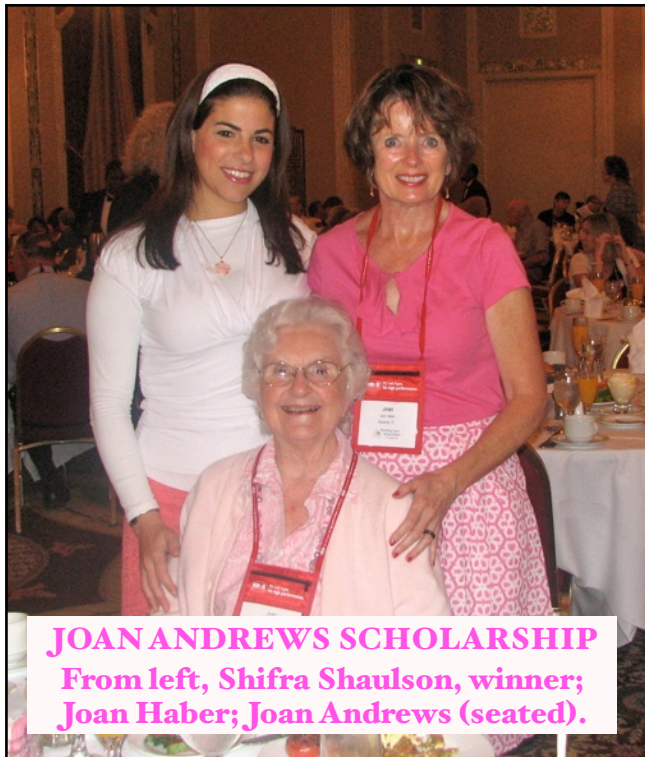
If you are unable to join us this time, but would like information on the BEA or on cochlear implants, call 866.844.HEAR (4327) or email [hear@AdvancedBionics.com](mailto:hear@AdvancedBionics.com)



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**WALK4HEARING AWARDS**  
**Judy Martin & Lynn Rousseau**



## HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

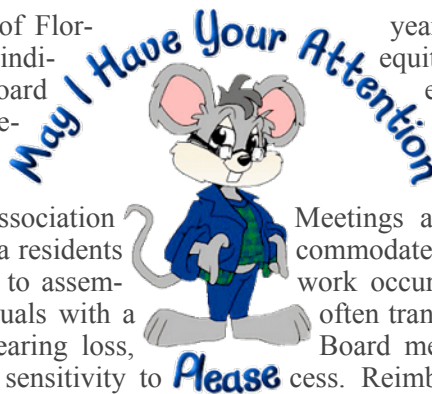
The Hearing Loss Association of Florida (HLA-FL) is seeking qualified individuals to serve on the HLA-FL Board of Trustees for a three-year term beginning October 2, 2010.

### 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 comprised 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 encouraged 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 geographic 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 chat room, and thus, Board members are required to have e-mail 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 Katherine M. Shaffer, Chair, Nominating Committee, 2806 Aston Ave., Plant City, FL 33566-9315 or by e-mail at: [shafferm@msn.com](mailto:shafferm@msn.com)

Applications must be returned no later than August 7, 2010.

## Cable / FIOS / Satellite TV Set-Top Box Manuals

Special digital set-top boxes are available for receiving digital television broadcasts on TV sets that do not have a built-in digital tuner. The following is a compilation of manuals available online.

### By manufacturer:

#### Motorola:

<http://www.motorola.com/Consumers/US-EN/Consumer-Product-and-Services/Home-Digital-Video>

#### Scientific Atlanta (Cisco):

[http://www.cisco.com/web/consumer/support/prod\\_tv\\_set\\_tops.html](http://www.cisco.com/web/consumer/support/prod_tv_set_tops.html)

### By service provider:

#### Comcast:

<http://customer.comcast.com/Pages/FAQViewer.aspx?seoid=Troubleshooting-Your-Set-top-Box&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

#### Direct TV:

[http://support.directv.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/2500](http://support.directv.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2500)

#### Dish Network:

<http://www.dishnetwork.com/support/documents/receivers/default.aspx>

#### Verizon FIOS:

<http://www22.verizon.com/residentialhelp/fiostv/receivers/user+guides/user+guides.htm>

Courtesy of Robert MacPherson, Venice, FL

(Bob is owner/moderator of bhNews -

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/bhNEWS/>)



Florida's Fabulous Festivities, hosted by Flo Innes and Lynn Rousseau, was just the thing to kick off the Convention. Joining in at this annual party was our Joan Andrews Scholarship winner, Shifra Shaulson and our beloved former member of the Board, Kathy Borzell. She is our loss and North Carolina's gain. From left are Shifra Shaulson, Lynn Rousseau, Kathy Borzell, Judy Martin, Joan Haber, Flo Innes and Jim Diaz.

-photo by Tom Martin



One of the many workshops was a popular one run by Dr. Pat Kricos, our Professional Advisor and President-elect of the American Academy of Audiologists. Her presentation, *50+ and Counting? Why Your Listening Needs are Unique & What Help is Available Using Technology*. With Pat's vast knowledge and sense of humor, it could be considered the **best in show**.



*Annual Convention photo of Molly Corum and Tom Martin*



Twenty-six members of the CAPU group (Cochlear Americas Product Users) from Florida, Texas, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona, Colorado, Tennessee, and Kentucky gathered for a Meet-and-Greet in Milwaukee. For some, it was the first time they'd met face to face. Two four-legged friends, Janet and Mackenzie, were growly happy to be there too!

## My very first HLAA Convention – a few random thoughts

–Deborah Marcus, NC

Well, well, well. All the commentary in the world from hard of hearing and deaf friends could not prepare me for the feelings I experienced at my first HLAA convention. Not unlike the sensation of hearing with a cochlear implant, others can tell you until the cows come home about the experience. Only living it will really make plain what it's all about.

I arrived at the hotel and convention center on Thursday afternoon. I was nearer to the Convention registration than I was to the registration for the hotel room that I was to share with Karen K. and Carol C. for three nights, so I decided to sign in and get my resource packet and then go on to the hotel. I approached the long registration counters, and I became aware of the strangest sensation: milling about were dozens upon dozens of other attendees. Well, yes, you are thinking, of course! But imagine this: as I looked to my right, to my left, and all around me, I saw a constant stream of men and women just like me! Folks with cochlear implants (some bilateral too!), or with hearing aids, or with one CI and one HA, with cochlear implants and communicating in ASL, hard of hearing folks who had service dogs, and a few who also use white canes to accommodate vision challenges. I would soon learn that a fantastic bunch of individuals who have Usher syndrome – a total of eleven and reportedly the largest group to date – were in attendance. Although I did not immediately see anyone I knew or was looking forward to meeting after connecting through CI forums, Facebook, or Cochlear Community, I was struck by a powerful awareness: I was HOME. I'd certainly never had

anything remotely reflecting my perception of what Home "is" while standing amongst a large crowd of strangers. Yet here I was, with a rather sizable group of people I did not know, and I felt so at ease. It was joyful.

All in all there were about eight hundred of us participating in a wide range of informative and inspiring workshops and activities. There was plenty of fun in the main Demo room, where marketing was the order of the day(s), but it was all about us and there was no sense of pressure, just a desire on the part of a wide range of manufacturers and service providers to share the latest technology and resources – not to mention plenty of free goodies! Our night at the Harley Davidson Museum was a blast whether bikes were your thing or not. Both the banquet on Saturday night and the awards breakfast on Sunday were great fun.

Throughout the weekend I saw old friends, met those wonderful friends I'd never had the pleasure of being with face to face, and made some great new friends as well. Doing a quick count, I believe I now have personal friends in the broader HOH community in 25 states. How cool is that! Not bad for someone who spent most of her life saying she wasn't very good at socializing.

Beyond all the wonderful workshops and meetings and resources, and the special times shared with friends, there are a few things I've learned that I think are worth sharing. Enjoy!

I have learned that:

- Some folks still have their shirts with the old SHHH logo on them. When one woman I spoke with commented that hers is quite old, I

said it's not old, it's retro!

- Service dogs not only help with alerting one to potential dangers and retrieving dropped items for those with balance issues. They are also really good at carrying little bags of pastries from Starbucks.

- Sharing a hotel room with other cochlear implant recipients means that when I say "I'm taking my ears off" and remove my speech processors, I am assured that they will not mistake my action as a signal to begin speaking to me.

- When a group at dinner all take off their speech processors or hearing aids to show the products they are using...it's weirdly a little bit like a strip tease.

- When walking into the demo area for Med El for a free cup of their delicious coffee, I had the briefest sensation of walking into "enemy" territory. Should I remove my Cochlear brand speech processors? Luckily, the marketing staff recognized the look that was undoubtedly on my face, smiled and said, "come on in, you can get some too." LMHO!

- Attending this convention is like living in a warm, welcoming small town (population this year - 800). Everyone says hello when you pass, offers assistance, wants to know what brings you here and if you'll come on back again soon.

I realized that I'd gone for four



Deborah Marcus

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE  
 days surrounded by women who don't bother me with chit chat from the adjoining public bathroom stall. I

didn't even know until a few years ago that this is a common thing among women who are not hard of hearing. Really???

I know there are more, but this is good enough for now, no? Feel free to add your own!



## Stop me if you've heard this one.

Seems an elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years.

He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%.

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

To which the gentleman said, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

...

Three old guys are out walking.

First one says, 'Windy, isn't it?'

The second one says, "No, it's Thursday!"

The third one says, "So am I. Let's go get a beer."

—submitted by Lynn Rousseau

## FCC to launch the Accessibility and Innovation Forum and Blog in July

To address the barriers that people with disabilities face in accessing technology, the National Broadband Plan ("NBP") recommends, among other things, that the Commission establish an ongoing Accessibility and Innovation Forum ("A&I Forum" or "Forum"). At the March 10 event rolling out the NBP's accessibility recommendations, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski and the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau Chief Joel Gurin announced that the Commission would launch the A&I Forum in July.

In July, we plan to (1) launch a clearinghouse; (2) announce guidelines for the Chairman's Award for Accessibility and Innovation; (3) expand blog coverage of ongoing accessibility efforts in the public and private sector; and (4) announce future workshops and field events. Over the next 12-18 months, we will expand these efforts and add new initiatives.

To monitor the the forum's progress, go to <http://blog.broadband.gov/?categoryId=13843> You can also sign up to receive periodic e-mails about the Forum's activities and other Commission accessibility issues by sending an e-mail to [AccessInfo@fcc.gov](mailto:AccessInfo@fcc.gov).

—Karen Peltz Strauss



TWO Richard Herrings? Can that be? Yes, and at the last convention in Nashville, it caused a merry mix-up. This year, both were prepared and received the correct registration packets. On the left is Richard Herring, HLA-FL vice-president from Sun City Center; next to him are Susan and Richard Herring (Mr. & Mrs.) from Pensacola. She is a member of the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing [FCCDHH](http://FCCDHH).

## Some Things Never Change

"A deaf person is always more or less a tax upon the kindness and forbearance of friends. It becomes a duty, therefore, to use any aid which will improve the hearing and the enjoyment of the utterances of others without any murmuring about its size or appearance."

— *Hawksley Catalogue of Otacoustical Instruments to Aid the Deaf, 1895*

*Courtesy of the Bernard Becker Medical Library, Washington University School of Medicine, 660 S. Euclid, Campus Box 8132, St. Louis, Missouri.*

## In the Olden, Golden days . . .

### Statistics of the Deaf and Dumb

The numbers of deaf-mutes in the world are roughly calculated to be from 700,000 to 900,000, and of these 63 per cent, are said to be born deaf, the others losing their hearing by different accidents. The number of deaf-mutes in Great Britain amount to probably about 20,000.

To meet the the educational wants of these there are on the face of the globe 397 institutions, containing 26,473 inmates of both sexes and employing over 2,000 teachers. Australia has 2 institutions, Austria-Hungary 17, Belgium 10, Brazil 1, Canada 7, Denmark 4, France 67, Germany 90, Great Britain and Ireland 46, Italy 35, Japan 2, Luxemburg 1, Mexico 2, Netherlands 3, New-Zealand 1, Norway 7, Portugal 1, Russia 10, Spain 7, Sweden 17, Switzerland 11, United States 55, Bombay 1.

The causes of deaf-mutism are, according to the Abbé Lambert and other authorities, damp atmosphere, uncleanliness, bad air in dwellings, certain occupations followed by the parents such as laundresses, excavators, miners, weavers, and all who have to work in damp and badly ventilated places; the age of the parents, either when one or both are too young, or in cases where the mother is much older than the father (the opposite does not matter), developing in, rarely the first, but often the second and third generation of deaf-mute progenitors, scrofulous and nervous temperaments, marriages of consanguinity, a fault in the construction of the ear, fright, grief, or ill-treatment of the mother before the birth of her infant, awkwardness of mid-wives at the birth, exposure to cold directly after birth, and the innumerable maladies to which children are subject during teething, convulsions, fevers, and many other causes, some of which have not yet been fathomed. Drunkenness in one or other of the parents is also a predisposing cause, and on this point a Swiss collector of statistics, M. Merkle, says that he found the fewest deaf-mutes or half deaf in the wine districts and most in the districts where spirit (*eau de vie*) was the favorite drink of the inhabitants. Canon Moufang, of Mayence (Germany), says that more than one-fourth of the deaf-mute children admitted to the institutions are the issue of marriages between relations, and the editor the *German Organ for the Deaf and Dumb* gives the following statistics upon the same subject: "In Berlin the greater proportion of deaf-mutes is found among the Israelites, where consanguineous marriages are frequent, and the smaller number among the Catholics, to whom such marriages are forbidden. The proportions in that city are, among the Jews, 1 in 675; the Evangelicals, 1 in 2,175, and the Catholics, 1 in 5,179.

### The New York Times

Published October 19, 1884.  
Copyright The New York Times

"Most hearing aids are of such size and shape that they clearly draw attention to the imperfection of the wearer. This condition is, as we *have* experienced, enough to make many people shrink back from using such an aid."

— A. C. Grønbech, M.D., 1891



### Floral Aurolese Phone

This floral Aurolese Phone was made by F. C. Rein about 1802. Over 200 years old, this device still shows its original white and green paint. Despite its fragile appearance and small size, the Aurolese Phone provided an acoustic benefit up to 10 dB over a limited frequency range and was appropriate for a person with a mild hearing loss.

View a [frequency gain chart for the Aurolese Phone](#)  
View an [Object VR movie of the Aurolese Phone](#)



### Acoustic Fan with Ear Trumpet

Some acoustic fans had tiny ear trumpets attached and could be used either open or closed. The Hawksley Catalogue states, "Its power varies according to the size of the instrument which is attached to the fan . . . used with the fan open it gives rather better results . . ."



### Shell-type Auricle Headband

This headband by F. C. Rein was introduced around 1830 and was designed for men. Another London firm, T. Hawksley & Co., manufactured similar shell-shaped devices.



### Trumpet Headband

This Trumpet headband by F. C. Rein, England, was made about 1850. The metal headband could be worn either on top of the head or around the base of the neck.

**For more tidbits from the olden days, go to:**

<http://beckerexhibits.wustl.edu/did/index.htm>

Courtesy of the Bernard Becker Medical Library, Washington University School of Medicine, 660 S. Euclid, Campus Box 8132, St. Louis, Missouri.



Here is the Hearing Loss Association of Florida Board of Trustees minus just one member. It was the last board meeting for Joan Haber, (seated, second from left). Joan was presented with a crystal wine cooler complete with a bottle of Pinot Grigio. It was a party weekend with Joan and Steven opening their lovely home on Friday evening. Saturday was all business. There was much to be discussed and it was very productive. Following the meeting, it was on to Flo Innes' gorgeous villa. Many others drifted in and out during the two evenings. One of them was Deanna Boenau (at right) our CART provider. She brought along her personable husband, Jack. Others included Jim Scott; Tom Martin, Jody Pate, and Ed Ogiba.



## It's no big deal

My 15-year-old daughter, who has normal hearing, comes home on the last day of school with a picture. She informs me that this was her first boyfriend. I say, "Good-looking kid. Is he nice?"

She says, "Yes." I, of course, curious, ask a bunch more questions. Like, "How did you get to know him?" and stuff like that. She tells me they talk everyday in a couple of classes and they have a lot in common – movies, music, and so on. Anyway, she pins his picture up on her wall and time goes by.

A few days later I go in to get her dirty clothes and take another look at the boy's picture. "What is that?" I think. Looks like something's on his head.

The picture was a little fuzzy. So later I ask my daughter if he was wearing an IPOD at school – *a real big no no!* She says, with no hesitation "Oh, that's his cochlear implant." I ask her why she didn't tell me when I was

giving her the third degree. I say, "you had to know I would be interested since your little brother has one."

She rolls her eyes and says, "That's why I didn't think about it. It's just part of life. It's like wearing glasses, it's no big deal." Then off she trots and shrugs her shoulders like I should already know this. Teenagers! Ya gotta love them.

I knew she had a boy in her class at school with a CI because she mentioned it to me after her brother had gotten his in March but she never said anything else about him until now. Who knew?

I think that she is comfortable with his CI because she is so familiar with them at home. She can see the boy for who he is and not how he hears. I love her attitude.

I thought it was cute and just wanted to share.

**Nonie (Mom to a teenage girl and son, Joey, 6 years old, bilateral N5 cochlear implants)**

## Hearing Loop Systems – helping those with hearing loss participate in LIFE again!

–by Jim Scott

When a person has hearing loss, they often say that they can **hear** a sound or a voice but don't understand any or all of what is being said. Hearing aids and cochlear implants have come a long way in improving the clarity of speech but sometimes a little more help would be nice. This is especially true in certain situations such as at the movies, worship services, lectures, plays, or even while watching TV. Assistive Listening Devices are one of the ways to get a little helping hand to increase clarity and comprehension. One in particular is rapidly becoming the way of the future, although it has already been in use for many years. The **Audio Frequency Induction Loop System** or Hearing Loop (System) for short, has been widely used in Europe and the UK for over 30 years but has only in the past few years become more commonplace here in the US.

The Loop System consists of a sound source such as a microphone, PA system or TV, an amplifier, a loop of wire around the perimeter of a room, and a receiver. The sound source sends a signal through the amplifier and the loop of wire which creates a magnetic field that essentially connects with the receiver. The receiver, which can be a hearing aid, cochlear implant, or special receiver, has a component found in it called a Telecoil (T-coil). When a T-coil is activated in a hearing aid or cochlear implant, it turns off the external microphone of the aid or implant which eliminates all the excess noises in the room. Ambient noise or competing sounds, the distance sound travels, and echoes or reverberations are all things that can interfere with comprehension. These are all eliminated when using a Loop System, because the sound is transmitted directly into the ear via the hearing aid or cochlear implant.

A Hearing Loop System is one of three Assisted Listening Devices recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In fact, the ADA requires Assisted Listening Devices be installed in certain circumstances. The other two are Infrared and FM. They require the use of special headsets/receivers which usually means hearing aids must be removed from the ears.

Loop systems are:

- Hearing aid compatible – they work in conjunction with hearing aids which have “prescriptive” settings in them specific to the person who wears them. This is mandatory for clarity!
- Hygienic - do not require the use of borrowed equipment that perhaps hundreds of others have had in or on their ears so they are clean
- Inconspicuous – since the primary receiver in Loop Systems is a person's own hearing aids, it does not require an separate receiver that draws attention (separate receiver available for those that do not wear hearing aids or cochlear implants)

Some places Loop Systems should be installed are: houses of worship, movie theaters, play houses/theatres, museums, auditoriums, pharmacies, physician offices, audiology offices, hospitals, reception windows, ticket counters, tour buses, senior living facilities, meeting rooms, and living/TV rooms. Many people stop going to these activities or locations because they cannot understand what they are hearing. A Loop System can change that and allow a person with a hearing loss to enjoy participating in LIFE again.

The President-Elect of the American Academy of Audiology, Dr. Pat Kricos and the Executive Director of the Hearing Loss Association of America, Brenda Battat, have recently announced a joint campaign titled “Get in the Hearing Loop” to promote Hearing Loops and to “double the functionality of hearing aids.”

Anyone can join in the campaign and help restore some sense of normalcy to those who are living with hearing loss.

*If you would like more information on Loop Systems, would like to have a Loop installed in your home, business, or place of worship, or on how to participate in the Get in the Loop campaign, call Complete Hearing Solutions at 727-260-3488 or visit us at [www.CompleteHearingOnline.com](http://www.CompleteHearingOnline.com).*



**Are you a Veteran with a hearing loss and a FL resident?**  
**The Hearing Loss Association of America would like to give you**  
**a gift of a one-year membership.**

To qualify for this offer, the following criteria is required:

- You need be a legal resident of Florida
- You are a veteran of any war or conflict beginning with the current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan going as far back as WW2
- You have a hearing loss
- You would like to gain valuable information and help adjusting to your hearing loss
- Have not previously been a member of HLAA



The Hearing Loss Association of America is the largest consumer group in the US that represents people with hearing loss. Florida HLA is a state organization that promotes the principles of HLAA and supports the 3 million Floridians with hearing loss. Membership in the Hearing Loss Association of America entitles you to the benefits of both organizations.

Check out the website at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

Here's what your membership provides:

- 6 issues per year of the award-winning magazine *Hearing Loss*, full of news that is actually helpful
- Network of Chapters located throughout Florida where you can learn more about your hearing loss and valuable resources that are available
- Assistance from the State office of HLAA with education/advocacy and support services and referrals

To Receive our free offer, just complete the simple application below and mail to:

Nancy Day, HLA-FL Veterans Outreach

300 NE 13th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601

Email Nancy at [dayjoy@cox.net](mailto:dayjoy@cox.net) or phone 352-377-7883 for additional information if needed

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number with Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Years and Branch of Military Service: \_\_\_\_\_

## A BRIEF GUIDE TO MODERN HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY

From Better Hearing Institute [www.betterhearing.org](http://www.betterhearing.org)  
 Gus Mueller, Ph.D. Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee  
 Ruth Bentler, Ph.D. University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

In addition to basic features of hearing aids, there are many other features available in modern hearing aids—some of them are for convenience and ease of use, others are designed to improve speech understanding or listening comfort.



### ADAPTIVE FEEDBACK CANCELLATION:

Acoustic feedback (whistling from the hearing aid) can be annoying, embarrassing, and in some cases, prevent the hearing aid wearer from using the correct amount of gain. Many of today's hearing aids have an automatic feature that quickly detects acoustic feedback and cancels it. This feature is designed to manage transitory feedback (e.g., caused by placing one's hand or a telephone next to the ear), and is not a solution to a poorly fitted ear mold or hearing aid.

### AUTOMATIC GAIN CONTROL-OUTPUT (AGCO):

AGCO or output compression is used to put a "ceiling" on loud sounds. It handles the output after the amplifier, and can be adjusted to correspond to the patient's threshold of discomfort (maintaining sounds below this level).

### AUTOMATIC GAIN CONTROL-INPUT (AGCI):

AGCI, or input compression, often referred to wide dynamic range compression (WDRC) is used to "re-package" the speech signal (and other incoming sounds) to correspond to the reduced dynamic range of the hearing aid user. That is, if the incoming sounds have a 60 dB range, and the patient only has a 30 dB range of useful hearing, the sounds might be "compressed" by 2:1 to fit into the useful auditory region. The notion is that most people with a hearing loss need more gain for soft sounds than for average, and more gain for average sounds than for loud. WDRC accomplishes this automatically—in fact, if the WDRC is programmed correctly across frequencies, many hearing aid users have little need for a volume control.

### DIGITAL NOISE REDUCTION:

With digital hearing aids, it is possible for the hearing aid to analyze an incoming signal and differentiate speech from a broad-band noise signal. This can be

accomplished simultaneously in several channels. If the dominant signal is believed to be noise in a given channel, there is a reduction in gain. Note, however, that what a typical hearing aid user might consider to be "noise," (background talkers at a party) might not be considered "noise" by the hearing aid. While this feature has the potential to improve speech understanding in typical difficult listening situations, this has yet to be verified by research.

### DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING:

Until recently, the majority of hearing aids utilized analog signal processing. This has changed rapidly the past few years, and today, nearly all hearing aids sold in the U.S. utilize digital signal processing. The advantage of digital processing is that less space is required, allowing manufacturers to include many more "programmable features" in a small package. Through the use of digital signal processing, the hearing aid can conduct an analysis of an incoming signal, and make a reasonable classification of the content—speech versus broad-band noise versus acoustic feedback (whistling) versus music, for example. This classification can then be used to trigger automatic activation of other special features.

### DIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE TECHNOLOGY:

Using special microphones or phase cancellation signal processing, it is possible to configure a hearing aid so that sounds from the side, and especially the back of the hearing aid user are amplified less than sounds originating from the front. It can serve as a type of "spatial" noise reduction if the user is correctly positioned. Directional technology is available on all hearing aid styles except CICs (because of size constraints). Importantly, directional technology does not improve localization of sounds. Research has shown that many hearing aid users prefer directional technology for listening in noise, usually when:

- the noise originates from behind the listener,
- the talker is in front of the listener,
- the listener is close to the talker,
- the room has low reverberation.

Some hearing aids automatically switch to a directional mode when the signal type and/or input intensity are matched to the characteristics of the algorithm. Adaptive directional hearing aids automatically tracks a dominant single noise source (e.g., a car passing by someone on a sidewalk), attempting to provide maxi-

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mum reduction in gain toward the location of the source.

**MULTIPLE CHANNELS:**

The majority of today's hearing aids have multiple channels. Each channel represents a portion of the frequency range important for understanding speech. One advantage of multiple channels is that features such as gain and compression can be programmed differently to reflect changes in the patient's hearing across frequencies. Multiple channels also are useful for implementing other features such as digital noise reduction and feedback cancellation (which will be discussed later). There is no consensus regarding how many channels are enough (or how many are too many)-to some extent, this depends on the feature utilized within the channels.

**MULTIPLE MEMORIES:**

A memory is a location to store hearing aid settings that are designed for a particular listening situation. It is common for hearing aids to have two or three memories. For example, in a hearing aid with three

memories, it is common that memory one will be for listening in quiet, memory two will be for listening in noise, and memory three will be for telephone. On the other hand, many hearing aid users find that a single memory works in a variety of listening situations, and may only use one memory. Changing memories is accomplished by using a button (or toggle switch) on the hearing aid, with a remote control device. In some digital hearing aids, it happens automatically.

**TELECOILS:**

With this special circuit, electromagnetic signals can be picked up from the handset of the telephone and amplified in a manner similar to the amplifying function of the hearing aid. Although many hearing aid wearers report benefit with this circuit, there is substantial variability across hearing aids. Telecoils are not available in some smaller custom-made models due to space limitations. Often, hearing aids with multiple memories will devote one memory to the telecoil. In these instruments, the telecoil can be accessed through a push button on the hearing aid or by the use of a remote control device.

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