

# E-Hear Ye, E-Hear Ye

## Hot off the “press” – an e-newsletter

As some of you are aware, at the February meeting of the HLA-FL Board of Trustees in Tallahassee, the decision was made to reduce the number of issues from six per year to three. In addition, four pages will be published instead of eight. This will stay in effect until, and if, our financial condition improves. It costs approximately \$2,000 to print and mail each issue.

The print edition is mailed to 850 audiologists, 950 hearing instrument dispensers and more than 400 HLA members in Florida. This is our way to spread awareness about the state and national organization. Unfortunately, like many other organizations, our outgo is starting to exceed our income.

If you have enjoyed reading *Hear Ye, Hear Ye*,

the print edition, and would like to make a donation, we welcome your gift. It is tax deductible.

Meanwhile, the length of time between each issue is four months, a long time when there are new things happening constantly in the hearing loss world. This e-newsletter is being prepared to fill the gap. Although the circulation is considerably less than the mailed copy, it will still go to board members, chapter leaders, HLA members in Florida for whom we have an e-mail address, and other friends of hearing loss.

One advantage of the electronic issue is that space is not a problem. So send us your photos and articles. We look forward to hearing from you.

–Judy Martin, Editor

**COME HEAR THE SOUNDS OF THE CARIBBEAN**  
 The Hearing Loss Association of Florida invites you aboard the  
**RCCL FREEDOM OF THE SEAS** sailing **October 17, 2010**



**INSIDE CABINS** start at  
\$700 per person

**OUTSIDE CABINS** start at  
\$850 per person

**BALCONY CABINS** start at  
\$950 per person

Based on two passengers in cabin /  
 3rd / 4th passengers in same cabin  
 \$240 person/ call for single rates

Includes \$25 shipboard credit per cabin, \$25 matching funds for Hearing Loss Association of Florida and dinner at the Portofino specialty restaurant  
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 Immediate Past President at [HLAFlorida@aol.com](mailto:HLAFlorida@aol.com)  
**Deposit of \$250 per person due when making reservation - final due 8/1/10**  
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<b>Sun</b>	Port Canaveral		Depart 4:30 p.m.
<b>Mon</b>	At Sea		
<b>Tues</b>	Labadee, Haiti	Arrive 8 a.m.	Depart 5 p.m.
<b>Wed</b>	Ocho Rios, Haiti	Arrive 10 a.m.	Depart 6 p.m.
<b>Thu</b>	Georgetown, Cayman Islands	Arrive 8 a.m.	Depart 4 p.m.
<b>Fri</b>	Cozumel, Mexico	Arrive 10 a.m.	Depart 7 p.m.
<b>Sat</b>	At Sea		
<b>Sun</b>	Port Canaveral	Arrive 7 a.m.	

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, SEE OUR FLYER AT [HLA-FL.COM](http://HLA-FL.COM)**

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY!! WIN A CRUISE FOR TWO!**  
 Contest Dates: January 1, 2010 - July 1, 2010  
 Raffle Donation \$10.00  
 Contact your chapter leader or  
 Lynn Rousseau at [HLAFlorida@aol.com](mailto:HLAFlorida@aol.com)

## We are now on Facebook!

HLA-Florida has joined HLA as well as many other state and local chapters on this social networking site. A few Walk4Hearing pages have been popping up too. 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)



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**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

June 5, 2010 Sarasota  
October 2, 2010 - TBA

**HLAA Annual Convention**  
**June 17-20, 2010**  
**Hilton Milwaukee City Center**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**



**Judy G. Martin, Editor**  
**Kay Shaffer, Print Edition**  
**Assistant**

Until further notice, E-Hear Ye, E-Hear Ye, the electronic version of the printed newsletter, will be published for March, July and November. It will alternate with the printed edition which is published January, May and September. Deadline for either version is approximately the 15th of the prior month.

Our circulation includes HLA-Florida board members, HLAA chapter leaders, HLAA members in Florida for whom we have e-mail addresses and other interested parties. You may submit news items and/or photos to: [Judy40@bellsouth.net](mailto:Judy40@bellsouth.net)

We are a 501(c)3 non-

profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

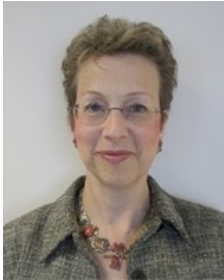
Checks may be mailed to 8019 Leafcrest Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32244.

Members of HLAA automatically receive a copy of the printed newsletter. Anyone may receive a copy of the electronic version by sending their e-mail address to [judy40@bellsouth.net](mailto:judy40@bellsouth.net)

Deadline for the May print edition of *Hear Ye, Hear Ye* is April 15. Because of the smaller size, space is very limited. Send your articles early. While they will be published on a first come, first served basis, items of urgent nature will take priority.

## HLAA Hires National Coordinator for States and Chapters

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is pleased to announce that they have created and filled a full-time staff position solely charged with supporting and developing the network of HLAA affiliates throughout the United States. HLAA selected Elizabeth LeBarron to fill the position of HLAA chapter and state coordinator.



HLAA created the position after the Board of Trustees named states and chapter organizations as one of their key strategic priorities.

Board members emphasized support for the existing state and chapter organizations as the grassroots network to reach people with hearing loss on a personal level.

Executive Director Brenda Battat commented, "Chapters are the grassroots of HLAA, where self-help thrives. We are delighted to have Elizabeth on board to focus on supporting our chapters and state organizations. She brings a wealth of experience in working with chapters and will bring a fresh look at how we can all work together as one organization to further our mission."

Ms. LeBarron brings a depth of experience in strengthening local organizations. From 1990 - 2001, she worked with 20-plus state chapters as membership manager at

the National Glass Association in McLean, Virginia. During her tenure there she transformed the national-chapter relationship from adversarial to a partnership of mutual respect and cooperation.

From there Ms. LeBarron moved to the Association for Conflict Resolution in Washington, D.C., where she served for over a year as director of membership and development. Since then she has worked for the American Occupational Therapy Association and the American Gastroenterological Association in the membership and education fields, respectively.

"I am delighted to be working with HLAA staff and volunteers to reestablish the close ties between the national office and the local affiliates. I am looking forward to continuing Founder Rocky Stone's legacy in working with states and chapters. I appreciate the opportunity learning how our organizations can support each other as we help people with hearing loss."

Ms. LeBarron experienced hearing loss herself as a toddler when doctors discovered impacted wax in her ear canals. The surgery left her left eardrum loose and her hearing continued to decline when, in her mid-forties, she sought help from her primary care physician who referred her to an audiologist. Citing vanity and denial as the main reasons for not pursuing treatment previously, she was amazed how much she had not been hearing.

"When I could not understand what my toddler was saying to me from the back seat of the car, I decided to seek help. Right after getting my hearing aids, I could hear the turn signal tone in my car for the first time since buying the car months earlier." Ms. LeBarron then learned that her own father had sustained a hearing loss at the same point in his life. At age 80 he wears two, in-the-canal (ITC) hearing aids, while Ms. LeBarron wears two, behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids.

HLAA's Toni Barrient, who previously served as chapter coordinator, will continue in her capacity as director of member services. In addition Ms. Barrient is also the national office's business manager to oversee its expanding technology and information systems operations. Lise Hamlin, who previously coordinated states, will continue to serve in her capacity as HLAA public policy director and advise states on advocacy issues.

Ms. LeBarron's first opportunity to meet with state and chapter leaders will be during the HLAA annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin June 17 - 20, 2010. Ms. LeBarron will oversee the chapter development tract and will conduct the chapter delegate meeting on Saturday, June 19 at 9 a.m. She can be reached at [Elebarron@hearingloss.org](mailto:Elebarron@hearingloss.org).

**CAPTIONFISH**   
FIND CAPTIONED MOVIES NEAR YOU!

[www.captionfish.com](http://www.captionfish.com)

## HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

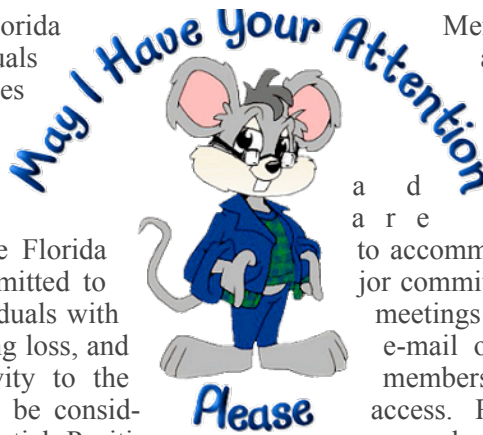
The Hearing Loss Association of Florida (HLA-FL) is seeking qualified individuals to serve on the HLA-FL Board of Trustees for a three-year term beginning October 2, 2010.

### 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.**

### Having problems with the closed captioning on your television?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has made it easier to complain about poor captioning on TV. You can go online at: <https://esupport.fcc.gov/sform2000/formC!input.action>

Fill out the form and file your complaint directly with the FCC. The form can also be used to file a complaint about relay telephone service, accessibility of emergency information on TV or wireless / wire line phone equipment or service.

### New Event at the Convention

There will be a new event at the convention! HLAA is inviting large employers in Milwaukee to offer to their employees and their family members a free visit to the convention exhibit hall and free hearing screenings. The Hearing Industries Association (HIA) is providing and shipping the booth for the screenings.

### Membership Brochure in the works

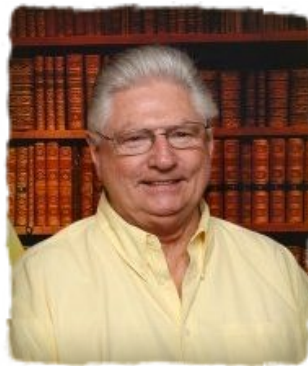
HLAA has completed the final draft of a revised membership brochure to include more area in which chapters can insert their name. This is in response to a recommendation from the HLAA Board of Trustees Chapter National Partnership Committee. Feedback was sought from a member of the committee on the content of the brochure with regard to Chapters to ensure it was what the committee had in mind.

HLAA is mourning the death of Marcia Dugan, who served on the board of trustees from 1991 to 2000 and as president from 1996 to 1998. In 2002 she received the Rocky Stone Humanitarian Award. Marcia was also instrumental in the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People and served as its president. We would like to name an award in Marcia's honor. For more information about this remarkable woman go to <http://www.hearingloss.org/marciadugan.asp>

# Meet the HLA-Florida Board of Trustees



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(Continued on following page)

Meet the HLA-Florida Board of Trustees (Continued from preceding page)



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## Win a cruise to the Caribbean for two and help your chapter too!



The Hearing Loss Association of Florida's Board of Trustees has made available raffle tickets for a \$10.00 donation to raise funds for your chapter needs. The prize? A week's cruise for two on the RCCL Freedom of the Seas, sailing out of Port Canaveral on October 17.

Two thousand tickets have been printed so your chances of winning are much, much better than winning the lottery. HLA-FL's goal is to encourage you sell as many tickets as possible. Chapters receive half of every ticket they sell so it can really add up if you approach family members, friends, churches, clubs, etc. The success of raising money for your chapter will depend on your enthusiastic sales! The cruise is worth \$1800.00 and includes all Port

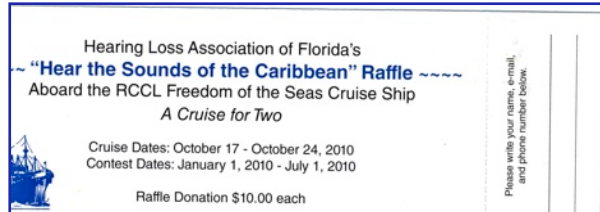
Charges, Government fees and Taxes.

Each chapter leader has received tickets to sell. If you need more, please ask. We hope you will find this an easy way to earn money for your chapter as well as help us with funding *Hear Ye, Hear Ye*, the state newsletter. This fundraiser donation of ticket sales is not limited to Florida residents, so sell them

to out-of-state friends and family too! Just remember to keep track of all pertinent info so we may notify the winner in July.

All unsold tickets must be returned before July 5th, 2010. Any questions may be sent to me at [HLAFlorida@aol.com](mailto:HLAFlorida@aol.com)

—Lynn Rousseau



## HLAA 2010 Convention June 17 - 20

### Keynote speaker inspires

Convention attendees will be certainly be inspired by this year's keynote speaker. Being deaf-blind doesn't slow Bill Barkeley down in the least. Bill, who has Usher's Syndrome, recently completed a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. Next he'll be leading a group of young adults to the Peruvian Amazon, July 8 - 17, as part of the partnership of *Global Explorers* and *Hear the World*. Bill is on the executive committee of the HLAA Grand Rapids Chapter, and is past-president of the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Bill also serves on the Board of Directors of Metro Health Systems which is the fourth largest employer in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area.

"My mission is to educate people about all the available technologies and how they can transform and enhance their lives," Bill says.

"The greatest message that came out of my climb was that I had dual disabilities and I did not ask for accommodations. The expedition team did not modify



Bill Barkeley on the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro

expectations, processes or goals to help me summit. I blended in with assistive technology – it was assimilation versus accommodation. That is incredibly liberating. People describe me as deaf-blind but these words do not define me."

## South Palm Beach County Chapter - HLAA

*(Oscar Segal is the dynamic leader of this chapter. Here's his President's Message for March.)*

Hearing loss is not something that just happens, and that's it. Hearing Loss is not static: it's progressive.

No matter how or when a hearing problem develops, it is sure to get worse over time. There are as many reasons for this as there are different ways in which hearing can be affected.

One thing is certain, as of this morning (I checked the internet), there is no cure. But that doesn't mean we are stuck with the problem and have to accept that we are doomed to miss out in the world of sound. There are



The South Palm Beach County Chapter is on the ball: We're not just about meetings; we established a Visor Card program in Palm Beach County where all Sheriff's Deputies learned how to communicate with deaf and hard of hearing citizens. Now we are initiating a drive to introduce loop systems in libraries, public auditoriums, gated community clubhouses, etc.



Oscar Segal

things that we can do; there are ways to alleviate the impact; there are devices designed to help us overcome the negative aspects of hearing impairment.

Unfortunately, too many of those millions of Americans who have hearing problems stumble along not really sure where to turn for reliable help. The yellow pages can't tell you who or what is good for you - what works for your relative your neighbor, or for a friend is not necessarily a solution for your problem. How many doors will you knock on before you get

the help you really need?

That's why there is HLAA! That's why there are so many HLAA chapters throughout the U.S.A. An HLAA chapter is the only place that offers person-to-person advice, information, and hands-on help for anyone with a hearing problem, regardless of who or what they are or their station in life. We are a support group of individuals who have been there, done that, and are working hard



to get back as much of what we've lost as we can.

How I solved my problem, could quite possibly be a solution for you. Come to a meeting and find out.

*(Contact info on back page)*

**PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE GUIDELINES**  
**WHEN REFERRING TO A PERSON'S DISABILITY,**  
**USE PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE!**

PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE	LABELS NOT TO USE
People with disabilities	The handicapped or disabled
People with mental retardation He has a cognitive impairment	The mentally retarded He's retarded
My son has autism	My son is autistic
She has Down Syndrome	She's a Downs kid, a mongoloid
He has a learning disability	He's learning disabled
I have paraplegia	I'm a paraplegic
She has a physical disability She has a mobility impairment	She's crippled
He's of short stature	He's a dwarf (or midget)
She has an emotional disability	She's emotionally disturbed
He uses a wheelchair	He's wheelchair bound or confined to a wheelchair
A typical person or a person without a disability	Normal and/or healthy person
He receives special education services	He's in special education
Congenital disability	Birth defect
Accessible parking, bathrooms, etc.	Handicapped parking, bathrooms, etc.
She has a need for . . .	She has a problem with . . .

- Do not refer to a person's disability unless it is relevant... REMEMBER, people are **PEOPLE FIRST, DISABILITY SECOND!**
- Use **disability** rather than "handicap" to refer to a person's disability.
- Avoid negative or sensational descriptions of a person's disability.
- Don't use "normal" to describe people without disabilities; instead say **people without disabilities** or **typical**, if comparisons are necessary.
- Never assume that a person with a communication disorder also has a cognitive disability such as mental retardation.
- Don't portray people with disabilities as overly courageous, brave, special, or super human.

## Hearing Loss Terminology

We have an obligation to call attention to and correct terminology. The reason we use the phrase *hard of hearing* rather than *hearing impaired* is to call attention to a specific population. This is important for program development and funding. The words *deaf* and *hearing impaired* are often confused and misused. When the phrase *hearing impaired* is used, there is no way to know if this refers to a person who is hard of hearing or deaf. Using the phrase, *People who are hard of hearing*, in a title or reference establishes a specific population.

Many do not like the word *impaired* because it implies that people with hearing loss are less than perfect or afflicted. Also, the terms such as *the blind*, *the deaf*, *the hard of hearing* refer to people as objects (nouns) rather than individuals. It is important to recognize hard of hearing people as *people first* and the hearing loss as secondary. We are people who are hard of hearing. If your terminology is correct, others will catch on in time.

*(Do you disagree with this? Send us a letter telling why and indicate what you would prefer instead.)*

## Webinars for HLAA leaders

**Webinar: (WEB-based semi-NAR)** 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 the schedule through May:

**March 25, 9 p.m. EDT**

**Topic:** Young Children with Hearing Loss and Their Family: Listening and Talking

**Guest Speaker:** Judy Sexton M.S., C.E.D., Director of Clarke Pennsylvania Auditory Oral Center

**April 22, 3 p.m. EDT**

**Topic:** Top Ten Reasons to Come to Convention 2010 in Milwaukee

**Guest Speaker:** Nancy Macklin, Director of Operations, HLAA

**May 20, 5 p.m. EDT**

**Topic:** Help for Tinnitus

**Guest Speaker:** Michael D. Seidman, MD., FACS

### 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/connect\\_pro\\_overview](http://www.adobe.com/go/connect_pro_overview)



Bill Scheibe

### **The Hearing Loss Association of Jacksonville**

recently welcomed Lori Cimino, an instructor in sign language interpreting at Florida Community College at Jacksonville. Lori, who is typically hearing, told the story of how she and her friend would playact at being deaf. At the age of seven or eight, they would pretend to sign to each other using their invented gestures. This was a harbinger of things to come for Lori. She took her first American Sign Language (ASL) in high school and her passion has continued to this day. The chapter members enthusiastically joined in as Lori taught us how to spell our own names. She went on to instruct

us in different signs, such as my name is, what is your name, are you deaf or hard of hearing, different types of weather and many other every day terms.

The business meeting included discussions of the convention, distribution of chapter brochures to local businesses, national membership, raffle tickets for the HLA-FL Cruise. Our treasurer, Bill Scheibe reported that more than 40 raffle tickets had been sold and that he would like the ticket stubs and money back to him by our May 18 meeting. The speaker at our next meeting will be Dr. Glen Knox, a cochlear implant surgeon, who will cover the topic, "Is Cochlear Implantation ever performed unnecessarily?"



Lori Cimino



## Get in the Hearing Loop

HLAA, the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) and Sertoma/Hearing Charities of America have agreed to collaborate on an educational campaign *Get in the Hearing Loop*. The purpose of the campaign is to educate both consumers and professionals on a national and state level about the benefits of telecoils and hearing loops. This fits in completely with our push for the last 12 years to get cell phones to be hearing aid compatible without the need for extra wires and plug-ins. The same goes for assistive technology – it should be hearing aid compatible to work with telecoils either through neck loops or loops. It should also be low cost, seamless, unobtrusive and effective.

A family foundation has agreed to cover the cost for a media firm to roll out the project professionally over the next three months.

Hearing loops were popular in the US in the 1990s. Many HLAA Chapters used them to make their monthly meetings accessible. Gradually there has been movement away from hearing loops in favor of FM and Infrared systems. This happened for a variety of reasons: greater ease of set up, avoidance of problems such as spill-over, dead areas, and electrical interference (note: these have largely been overcome as the technology has improved), marketing practices, relatively low dispensing of telecoils by US hearing healthcare providers, and the perception that telecoils were for telephone use only. In contrast, in Europe, most hearing aids have telecoils, and hearing loops are popular and installed widely to provide universal access to sound by individuals with hearing loss.

The Expected Outcomes for

Consumers are:

- Double the functionality of hearing aids by using them as customized wireless loudspeakers.
- Better hearing and access at home and in public places.
- Low cost, simple to use hearing aid compatible assistive listening systems.

The Expected Outcomes for Audiologists are:

- Greater consumer satisfaction with hearing aids.
- Reduction in hearing aid returns.
- More client referrals.
- Active participation in promoting compliance with the ADA and in enabling access to hearing in the community (e.g., religious services, local government meetings and forums, performance halls, banking, etc.).

## HLAA video to be ready for May's Better Hearing and Speech Month

The outlines for the seven-part captioned video series on hearing loss that HLAA is producing with Knowlera Media have been written by Mark Ross Ph.D and Dr. Paul Hammerschlag. We are now at the filming stage that includes interviews with consumers with hearing loss; Dr. John Niparko, Director, Division of Otolaryngology, Audiology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery at Johns Hopkins; and two Hopkins audiologists, Steve Bowditch and Jennifer Yeagle, who is an HLAA

professional advisor.

They answer questions about what medical treatments are available for hearing loss and what an audiologist is and what they do. The captioned videos will appear on [www.monkeysee.com](http://www.monkeysee.com) and distributed to local NBC stations to coincide with May which is Better Hearing and Speech Month. HLAA will have its own branded copies to use on its web site, YouTube and to distribute to Chapters.

### YouTube turns on automated closed captioning, gets hilarious results

You may have noticed a new option on some YouTube videos: the ability to turn on closed captioning. Next time you see it, do. It's absolutely hilarious.

The service is still in beta, and it really shows. Engadget first spotted how weird Apple's iPad launch video got when the feature was activated — sometimes the text is so different from what's being said that you wonder if Google is just having a laugh.

"A high-res color display" becomes "a high risk going to split," and when one of the designers says he doesn't have to change himself to use the iPad, the captions make it sound like he very clearly does. If you were relying on these captions, it would be a very different commercial.

How about an even more topical example? Remember when Sandra Bullock said that about workers and Florida and t-shirts? No? That's be-

cause you're not crazy; she never did. It's safe to say that, while an awesome idea, YouTube auto-captioning needs a little bit of work.

Check out the iPad commercial [here](#), and be sure to click on the "CC" at the base of the video.

You can also see Bullock's acceptance speech [here](#) — be sure to do the same

—From dvice.com



Ludwig von Beethoven

*Oh you men, who think or say that I am malevolent, stubborn, or misanthropic, how greatly do you wrong me. You do not know the secret cause which makes me seem that way to you. Oh how harshly was I flung back by the doubly sad experience of my bad hearing.*

*Yet it was impossible for me to say to people, 'Speak louder, shout, for I am deaf.' Ah, how could I possibly admit an infirmity in the one sense which ought to be more perfect in me than others, a sense which I*

*once possessed in the highest perfection, a perfection such as few in my profession enjoy or ever have enjoyed.*

*But what a humiliation for me when someone standing next to me heard a flute in the distance and I heard nothing, or someone standing next to me heard a shepherd singing and again I heard nothing. Such incidents drove me almost to despair; a little more of that and I would have ended my life - it was only my art that held me back.*



## May is Better Hearing and Speech Month



### Hearing Loss Association of America Chapters in Florida



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