

# Hear Ye, Hear Ye

Florida Walk4Hearing to be held  
April 2008 in the Tampa Bay area



*A view of Old Tampa Bay from Philippe Park in Safety Harbor, Florida where the first Florida Walk4Hearing will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008.*

## You are invited to the HLA-FL Annual Membership Meeting

Come see your Board of Trustees in action. The meeting will take place on Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Center for Independent Living, 720 North Denning Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789 at about 9 a.m.

The tentative schedule for morning includes presentations by FTRI/Sprint; Dr. Pat Krikos, "1001 Ways to Say What"; and presentations by several other vendors. After breaking for lunch on the CIL premises, the public is welcome to browse the vendor displays and/or to observe the Board of Trustees meeting.

For more information, e-mail [jdiaz@gdit.com](mailto:jdiaz@gdit.com)

Jim Diaz,  
Immediate Past President  
Hearing Loss Association  
of Florida

Next spring, members of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida have a chance to stand up and be counted. This will be an event which has the ability to let the residents of our state, hearing loss or not, become more aware of our outstanding organization while raising much-needed funds.

We have 14 chapters in this state and one or two in the incubator. *Just imagine* if each chapter gathered 20 or 25 people to Walk4Hearing in Philippe Park, a crowd of more than 350. *Just imagine* if all chapter members did their best to help reach our goal of raising \$40,000 through sponsorship or through team efforts. *Just imagine* doing all this while knowing you are participating in a valuable cause.

There is no doubt. We need to be visible. We need to fund our outreach to three million Floridians with hearing loss. We need to inform our hard of hearing brothers and

sisters about hearing aids, cochlear implants, t-coils, assistive listening devices, open captioned movies and entertainment and other means of assistance. We need to let them know we are here to listen to them, to advise them from our experiences, to teach them to advocate for themselves. And finally, we need to let the general public know we are here, some of us with mild, moderate, severe or profound hearing loss, but all of us in the same big boat.

Please be a part of this ambitious undertaking. Ask your family members and your friends to work with you in making the Florida Walk4Hearing on April 12, 2008, a huge success.

If you have questions, Kathy Borzell and Judy Martin are Co-Chairs. Their phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed on page 2. Further details will be publicized as they become available.

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

President:

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

**Barbara Bavido**, Orlando  
bbavido2@cfl.rr.com  
877-243-2823 then  
407-403-5808

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

**Carol Christopherson**, Jacksonville  
buddyname@bellsouth.net  
800-549-2600

**Wayne Cook, Jr.**, The Villages  
cookeagle@aol.com  
352-751-6065

**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

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

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

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

• • •

Professional Advisors:

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

**Brad Ingrao**, Brandon  
bingrao@e-audiology.net

**MEETINGS**

OCTOBER 13, 2007 - WINTER PARK

FEBRUARY 2, 2008 - GAINESVILLE

JUNE 7, 2008 - SARASOTA



**Hearing Loss  
Association**

of Florida

**Report from  
the President**

It's been great summer so far, actually cooler in Florida some days than in many states out west!

Some of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida board members and HLA-FL members spent a few exciting days in Oklahoma City for the 2007 HLA National Convention. It was a casual and fun atmosphere as attendees caught up with members from all over the USA and Canada.

Workshops on relationships and effective communication skills, hearing technology, advocacy, access and employment, and healthy living were offered to those present. Two of our own Florida members, Patricia Kricos and Virgi Mills, gave interesting and informative presentations. The Get-Acquainted Party given by the Oklahoma City host committee allowed us to dress the part as cowgirls (or boys) and watch the *locals* square dance.

The Florida basket of goodies was auctioned off with no problem as it was filled with items that represented all areas of the state. Thank you to all who contributed to it.

The last event of the convention, the banquet, was filled with the sounds of drums as local Indians representing different tribes danced for us. Many left their chairs to join the Indians in a tribal dance of friendship. I truly believe that Florida opened the doors to all this wonderful entertainment at conventions with our *Welcome to Florida* production in Washington, D.C. in 2005 and at the convention in Orlando 2006.

Best of all, Florida was honored at the award ceremony for best state newsletter and best state website. What an honor. Thank you to all who help contribute to the newsletter with articles, pictures and advertisers. Keep up the contributions as this is *your* newsletter. Of course, many thanks go to our talented newsletter editor, Judy Martin and webmaster, Melissa Trauthwein, both from Jacksonville.

More exciting events are planned for Florida as we get ready to board the Royal Caribbean Cruise ship, *Mariner of the Seas*, for a cruise in the Eastern Caribbean. Just so you know, assistive listening devices (ALDs) and ADA kits will be available. CART for the main evening shows are planned. Closed captioning on the TVs are being worked out and it is *our job to help them learn to help us!* Helpful devices that allow us to use the T-coil on our hearing aids or cochlear implants to

hear the ticket agent will help at check-in at the noisy ship terminal. A special greeting as we board the ship is being set up for this group cruise. We are going on this cruise as a group; however, we are free to do what we please throughout the week. It will be nice to know others are on board who are members of the Hearing Loss Association of America. I hope the people going on the cruise will have great stories to share for our next newsletter (hint, hint).

Another cruise is planned for the Western Caribbean on a brand-new ship, *Jewel of the Seas*, in February. It is hoped that a captioned Broadway performance will be held post cruise. Details are still being ironed out. Check your HLA-FL.com web site for updates, since deposits will be due in November.

Get ready to don your walking shoes for the Florida Walk4Hearing event in April. Kathy Borzell and Judy Martin are co-chairs of this event to be held at Philippe Park, Safety Harbor, FL located on old Tampa Bay. It will be a first for us, but certainly not the last. Check out our *Hearing Happenings* section on our website and join your local members at the various planned events. Start telling others about the Florida Walk4Hearing now. Soon, I will be coordinating the team leaders throughout the state and know we will share an award-winning team spirit.

Florida continues to be involved in state and nationwide advocacy issues with Kathy Borzell working at the National level and Joan Haber working as chair of the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH). The Delray/ Boynton Beach Chapter, led by Oscar Segal, hosted our board meeting in June and I must say, we were all impressed with how easy they made it for us all. Thanks to Jim Diaz for always setting up the microphones. Our next board meeting is October 13 in Winter Park. Please join us, for it is going to be a nice chance to hear guest speakers as well as meet the board members.

Please keep in touch: write, e-mail or call. We want to hear from you, our members. Send in articles, chapter news, pictures and/or share stories of travel or everyday life. Your input is valuable to us.

Put on your thinking caps, cowboy hats or sunshades and become a part of Hearing Loss Association of Florida's all star team! Cheers!

Lynn Rousseau, President  
Hearing Loss Association of Florida

## Report from the National Board

by Kathy Borzell, Secretary  
Hearing Loss Association of America

*Here are highlights from the board meeting held on June 21, 2007 in Oklahoma City.*

- The Oklahoma City convention is on budget and some excellent programs have been planned.
- The walkathons have done extremely well, raising \$440,000, with several walks planned for the fall.
- The Strategic Plan has been put into place, and each board committee established goals in line with the plan.
- The board adopted goals; some of which are personal goals, which each board member is responsible for fulfilling. Each board member will (1) recruit three new members to the organization; (2) commit to five contacts with local hearing professionals; (3) raise \$1,000 in addition to making a personal donation; (4) identify a major corporate contact for our Executive Director to contact for donations and sponsorships; and (5) identify at least one media opportunity for marketing Hearing Loss Association.
- The board approved and committed to a target goal for the annual fund of \$250,000.
- The difference between the various funds for which we raise money was clarified. The annual fund pays for the organization's every-day expenses and, therefore, must make budget. Beyond the annual fund, a reserve or "rainy day" fund must be maintained. The third category of funds, the endowment group, includes the Rocky Stone Endowment Fund and some restricted stock given to the organization that cannot be sold. We must handle these three funds in a careful and judicious way.
- The Executive Committee will follow up on the results of the annual board evaluation recently conducted by

the Nominating Committee and review and address issues that need to be addressed.

- Between now and the November board meeting, the Executive Committee will explore various ways to honor our founder, Rocky Stone.
- The board elected the following slate of officers for 2007-08: Vic Matsui, Vice President; Pete Fackler, Treasurer; Kathy Borzell, Secretary. President Anne Pope will serve the second year of her two-year term.
- Annual Fund Chair Vic Matsui spoke about the need to develop a funding system that would permit the organization to do more and encouraged members to share with management their ideas and/or corporate contacts that may lead to potential funding sources. Because of Walk4Hearing, there was no spring appeal this year. There will be a fall drive. The annual fund goal this year is \$250,000, which is separate from Walk4Hearing. Vic stressed the importance of donating to the annual fund to make sure that our organization survives. He noted member comments that Hearing Loss Association stresses members with frequent solicitations and reminded everyone that the board and management are committed to making corporate contacts that lead to donations and future funding.
- Jeannette Kanter announced the formation of the Chapter/National Partnership committee and introduced the members of the committee. The goal of the committee is to strengthen the relationship between the chapters and national. The committee essentially communicates by email and will have a formal meeting tomorrow to develop a mission statement, goals and the rules for engagement on email.

## SARASOTA CHAPTER NEWS

by LaVonne Stocco

As president of the Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota (HLAS), I would like to share my belief with other Florida chapters that active members make active and successful chapters. I also want to give heartfelt thanks to HLAS members who have participated and contributed to our chapter's success.

This year has been a particularly interesting one because we have added several new programs to our agenda. Our outreach committee has developed a PowerPoint presentation that was used at a Sarasota retirement community in March to reach people who could benefit from the various chapter programs.

Because our chapter has over 100 members, a social program was added, so that members could get to know one another in smaller groups outside the monthly meetings. A May lunch/cruise event was very successful and another a luncheon event was scheduled in July. These two events were organized in private rooms to facilitate conversation between members.

AAARP and HLAS presented a two-day Driver Safety Training program that was held in April. The four-hour ses-

sions were real-time captioned and everyone learned many new safety issues and driving techniques.

And finally, a few meetings were scheduled in the evenings and on a Sunday afternoon to reach out to people who are unable to attend regular meetings. These programs included a presentation on the latest assistive listening devices; humor with a showing of comedian Kathy Buckley's film and readings of author Max Schneider's jokes; and coping with hearing loss in the work place.

	<b>Brandy Harvey</b> Regional Volunteer Manager
	<b>Cochlear Americas</b> 400 Inverness Parkway, Suite 400 Englewood, CO 80112 USA Direct: 877-742-1122 Cell: 904-254-9123 Facsimile: 904-287-8186 bharvey@cochlear.com
<a href="http://www.cochlear.com">www.cochlear.com</a>	

## Choosing Your Cochlear Implant

By Alice Adams

Many individuals who are considering a cochlear implant look for help in comparing the different types of implants.



They go to various internet groups to find out which implant is best. Comparing or recommending is not the place of CI users. Sharing experiences with what the implant user knows and experiences is. Sharing the websites that cite comparisons only creates a false sense of what is true and what is not. Unfortunately, those sites are written by opinionated individuals who are biased toward a particular type of implant thus they are negative towards the others. Herein, we find the very essence of what we know as the brand wars. It's amazing that you only see this happen with cochlear implant users but this device brings such a degree of passion and loyalty to the user's brand that they lose sight of the reality that all of the implants provide amazing sound that brings quality of life. *The Cochlear Implant makes miracles happen.*

So how does a new implant investigator decide which implant is the one they should choose? The answers are very straight forward. You will realize that these points are my opinion but they are based on over eight years of activity on various lists and internet chat rooms.

1. Each implant company provides a website with information which is relative to its particular brand. You can find them at the following:

<http://www.bionicear.com>

<http://www.cochlear.com>

<http://www.medel.com>

There you will find everything you want to know about these implants. They provide videos and CDs along with informational packets full of what you want to know. You can e-mail/call them with your questions and concerns and they will be happy to respond. All of the instructions on how to do this are found on each individual site.

2. If you have reached the state of

making this decision, you have likely been to a qualified CI Center where you have met with a surgeon and an audiologist. If you have not done this, that is your next step. Do not read on until you have done that. If you have, you need to trust these individuals who now have your hearing health in their hands. Go to them prepared to ask questions. Write down your concerns if you must and don't leave the office until they have answered every one of them. Most centers will not tell you which implant they feel is best, but they will tell you which implant they have more experience with and/or enjoy working with.

3. The implant centers have dummy models of the implants for you to view and handle. Take these models and try them on. See how they feel. Is this comfortable or does it feel uncomfortable? Make sure that the model has the weight of the batteries in it so that you can get a true feeling of what to expect. A cochlear implant is not normally uncomfortable, in fact they are far more comfortable in my opinion than any hearing aid. Still, having the opportunity to test their comfort level for you should be considered as you should be wearing this most of your waking hours once you are hooked up.

4. Ask the center to bring in individuals who have been implanted and who would be willing to talk to you about their implant story. Always keep in mind the majority of implant users are going to be very partial to their implant type because it has given them the gift of sound. If children are being considered for the implant, ask to speak to other parents and their implanted child. Talking to a child who has been implanted is a pure delight. It's important to weigh the length of time a user has had his or her implant as this can have a bearing on their hearing ability.

5. Often people go a far distance to to be implanted in a particular CI center only to find out afterwards that there are no audiologists in the area where they live, who have the equipment or experience to program the device which they chose. They therefore are forced to travel further than they had expected and many times the inconvenience of that travel prohibits them from getting programmed as often as they really need it. This is a big consideration for many who are not fortunate enough to live near a large implant center.

nate enough to live near a large implant center.

6. Join and read messages on internet lists knowing that there is a tremendous loyalty to the company the user has chosen and this is very much deserved. Most of us have struggled with making the decision but once it was made, we are happy because the results are life altering in a positive way. Our quality of life is restored, which is a miracle. I cannot honestly tell you whether I would have done better with another type of implant. Since I am happy with mine, it's not important. Others cannot honestly tell you either. Only a very small percentage of implanted individuals are on these internet lists. Many more of them take on full lives that don't leave them time to be active on the internet. You may even find those who have had two implant types and have found that one worked better for them than another. This is not a normal occurrence and very few of them share this with groups such as ours. From what I've seen, the scores on this are quite even.

Not everyone is a star player with a cochlear implant. The goal is to do the best you can with what you have. Practice and perseverance are key words. Remembering what you don't have when the processor is off helps you to appreciate how much the processor gives you.

7. Cochlear implants are speech processors. That is the intent of the equipment. Since speech is the important element in life that we need for communications, it is and should be on the top of the list of things accomplished by your CI. Anything beyond that is just a blessing to you and for you to enjoy. The sound is not normal. It is not normal hearing. It is stimulated through a series of electrodes that generate energy to the auditory nerve which feeds the brain with electronic sound. Over time, this electronic sound becomes more and more normal as you use it daily for your listening needs. Eventually, people sound much like you remember and this is very enjoyable. Always keep in mind that understanding what is being said is the most important feature and remembering that is extremely important, no matter how the sound comes to you.

Cont'd on page 6

## A Parent's Story

by Brandy Harvey

All of the sudden I was taking my eight-week-old baby boy out of the back seat of the car. I do not recall the walk to the elevator, the ride in the elevator or the drive home from the audiologist. I was now in my living room looking at my sweet, round-faced, chubby baby trying to digest what the audiologist had just told us. "Your son has a hearing loss and will need hearing aids right away." The words still echo in my mind when I think back to 2002. What an emotional year for our family. Why did he fail his newborn hearing screening? I kept "testing" his hearing. I really thought he was fine. Family members told us that the professionals were wrong. We still grudgingly put hearing aids on Dylan. I can recall when Dylan was at the children's clinic receiving a new set of ear molds and I requested that we have his older sister's hearing checked because something was just not sitting right with me about her. Megan always seemed kind of "naughty," a little difficult. But really, how bad could an 18-month-old be?

There we were in the sound booth at the children's clinic with Megan on my lap. She was actually sitting nicely, playing with some toy in her hand. The noise was so loud coming from the speakers to our left and right sides. She didn't turn. She wasn't interested in "The Wheels on the Bus" song. And so the journey began. We had two children with moderate-to-severe, sloping hearing loss that eventually went profound.

So, what did I eat when I was pregnant with these children? We had no hearing loss on either side of our family. How could this happen? Was it the Taco Bell sauce that I put on my salad? Was it because I took a prenatal vitamin that included Folic Acid, instead of a separate Folic Acid supplement? The questions went on and on and on.

Those questions helped me through the denial and the grief. The denial, well, that's obvious. Grief, why grief? I was surprised to realize that I felt this way. I was thinking of all of the things that my children didn't hear. All of that singing when I

was pregnant, was that all for nothing? Now I understand why Megan didn't come when I called her. How could I miss a hearing loss? I began to think of all the limitations that came with hearing loss. Would other children make fun of their hearing aids? Other children . . . would they ever go to school? Could they learn like I did? Could they order a cheeseburger, medium-well at a restaurant? Would they ever learn to read? You can learn so many things by reading. How can you read if you don't know the alphabet? How can you learn the alphabet if you don't know the sounds? So many thoughts came to mind.

Fast forward to the time we learned that the children have enlarged vestibular aqueducts and Pendred Syndrome. My husband and I are genetic carriers of this syndrome. We each carry the syndrome, on different DNA alleles. We were asked to be part of a genetic research study for NIH (National Institutes of Health). This was a defining moment. It is amazing how we could meet and create a Dominant gene out of two recessive genes. Those chances are slim. I always wanted an exceptional family, but didn't realize how exceptional it would be.

Megan and Dylan received their Nucleus cochlear implants in 2004 and 2005. Within five months, they received their second implant in the other ear. The children have received so much help from many professionals. The audiologists, speech/language pathologists, auditory-verbal therapists, and cochlear implant manufacturer have become part of our family. Some days I think that they grew up in the car between appointments and therapy. I thank those professionals every day when my children say, "I love you, Mom."

It is so hard to put our story in an article. There are years of information that I could put in this. Feelings, milestones and many miraculous moments have passed. We have met so many wonderful people all because of our children's hearing loss. Our lives have been touched by those whom we would have never met otherwise. I



Patrick & Brandy Harvey, of Jacksonville, with their children, Megan and Dylan.

feel it is my duty to help parents. The focus of the parent should be the child's future. I hope I try to share the important role they play in deciding what is best for their own child. But, also parents need support from someone who has been through this. In a moment, any situation, movie, television show, commercial, someone's comment, a song, a quote, or just about anything can take you back to the moment when you felt no hope. With today's technology and educational options, there is hope. Your child can have his or her best life.

God had quite a plan when he introduced my husband and me to each other. My plan was so very different than what I'm living now. Thank God He intervened and made this life more meaningful to us. Megan and Dylan are in public school with their hearing peers. They enjoy the noisy playground, the obnoxious cafeteria, the whisper in the library, the surround sound of the movies and the constant praise of our voices. We thank the professionals, the cochlear implants, God and of course, Megan and Dylan's very hard work, persistence and strength. They are the true heroes that are making each moment count.

*Continued from page 4*  
**Cochlear Implants**

8. Everyone is different. You may experience understandable sound when you go for your activation. Or, it may take weeks, months and in some cases, years. Keeping your expectations low and your hopes in balance will help you through those days when you might feel as if you have made the worst mistake of your life. It does get better. For some, it's faster than others, but very few people report no improvement at all. Patience, patience, patience.

9. Your job is to make the decision of which type you want for yourself or your child. To make this a little easier, after you have been through all the processes above, take a sheet of paper and write the pros on one side and the cons on the other of each implant type. Be sure that what you have written is what is most important to you. Once this is done, you should have your decision and when you do, stick with it, no matter what it is. Don't look back. Don't let others try to tell you that your decision is wrong. It is your decision and if they sway you in another direction and you end up disappointed, you are going to feel the need to blame them. This is a very important decision, a very happy decision, and a very meaningful decision. Enjoy your right to make it.

No matter what you choose, I doubt you will go wrong. Good Luck! There's a great big hearing world out there waiting for you.

<http://www.cihear.com>

**Coming in the next issue: How To Choose Your Hearing Aids**

**New Chapter forming in Central Florida**

Winter Haven members of the Hearing Loss Association of America are starting a new chapter in Central Florida.

There will be monthly meetings with emphasis on courses to help members, such as Lip (Speech) Reading, Hearing Aid Maintenance, How to listen in a crowd, devices you need in your home or apartment (some of which have just been mandated by law).

There will be speakers and member demonstrations of assistive devices for the hard of hearing.

We anticipate starting regular meetings in October. In the meantime there are ongoing "start-up" meetings, some of which are online. If you are interested or need more information, e-mail [pappy1don@verizon.net](mailto:pappy1don@verizon.net)

**Delray-Boynton Beach Chapter Meeting**

The May meeting was the last meeting before the summer break. Typically, there were fewer members present due to snow-birds heading north for the hot Florida months, but we still enjoyed a fair sized attendance. The next meeting – the first of the 2007-2008 season - will be in October due to the major Jewish holidays that fall on the scheduled meeting date.

As we do every year at the last meeting of the season, we re-capped some of the highlights of previous meetings and reinforced a number of helpful hints and products that are of particular value to people suffering hearing loss.

One of the most memorable programs was a PowerPoint presentation entitled "The Inherent Dangers of Being Hearing Impaired." The presentation illustrated some of the every day situations where an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing can be at risk (it can even be life threatening) because they cannot hear important questions or instructions properly; misunderstanding



can mean loss time-wise or financially, it can exacerbate an injury or illness and can even lead to unnecessary and avoidable death.

Coincidentally, a member of the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Service shared the program that day to talk about how that service functions, and was so impressed with the "Dangers" presentation she volunteered to assist with our Visor Card program – an initiative to educate all law enforcement personnel in Palm Beach County how to communicate when confronting deaf and hard of hearing people.

We are currently working to expand our efforts on behalf of this program with an eye to taking it state-wide once it is established in Palm Beach County.

By Oscar Segal, President, Delray/Boynton Chapter

•••

**HLA-FLORIDA MEETING**

On June 2, the Delray/ Boynton Chapter was proud to host the mid-year HLA-FL Board of Trustees Meeting at the local holiday Inn. Delray/Boynton Chapter members Jerry Tamber and Oscar Segal were present for the entire day. George Hoppen, Nina Tamber and Merry and Morris Rubinstein also spent time participating and adding their thoughts to the discussions. It was impressive to see the amount of time and effort that obviously went into working and maintaining the organization.

The dedication and purpose of all in attendance was, to say the least, inspiring.

We have big plans for the 2007-2008 season, not the least of which is to grow our membership. Our tri-county area has arguably the largest concentration of people with hearing loss than anywhere in our state, and it behooves us to make our services available to as many needy folk as we possibly can.

by Oscar Segal



*Elyse Weintraub Brown, Palm Beach Fire Rescue Service, Community Education Specialist*

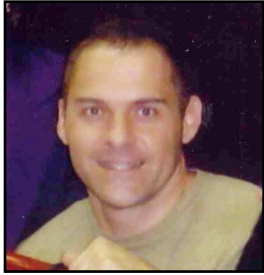
**Boca Raton Chapter**

The Boca Raton Chapter of HLAA will hold its next meeting on September 24 at 7:00 at Patch Reef Community Center. The speaker for the evening will be Ed Kissel from Mobile Source who will speak on Hearing Aid Compatible Cell Phones and Accessories. There are many interesting meetings planned for the year. We meet every 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. from September through May. We have Realtime Captioning at each meeting which is expertly done by Glenda Powers. Feel free to attend or call Geri Young at (561) 451-8494 or send e--mail to [gerindave1@yahoo.com](mailto:gerindave1@yahoo.com) for further information.

Geraldine Young, President

## CART Provider honored

Mike Cano, of Tampa, was presented with the Professional Advisor Award at the June 2007 Hearing Loss Association of America Convention in



Oklahoma City. He was nominated by the Hearing Loss Association of Tampa and this is what the chapter had to say:

In January, 2000 Mike Cano, a court reporter, learned that our Tampa chapter was in need of CART services, and we did not have the financial resources to pay for them. Mike offered his services to "practice" CART writing for us. Fortunately for us, he also wanted to learn more about hearing loss. Right from the start it was apparent that his skills were superior. We also quickly recognized that he was a caring and dependable individual who approached this volunteer opportunity with the same professional attitude he brought to his work in the legal field. On the very rare occasions that Mike has not been able to CART for us in the last seven-and-a-half years, he's always arranged for a colleague to fill in for him. Several months ago Mike was working in Chicago on one of our chapter meeting nights. He made all the necessary arrangements to provide remote CART so our meeting would be accessible, and we'd have the opportunity to experience remote CART.

Several years ago Mike offered, with the help of a friend, to create and maintain our Tampa web site. Mike became our contact person and continues to respond to telephone calls and emails from individuals who want to learn more about our chapter and our meetings.

Mike has enthusiastically given of his time and his personal resources without asking for anything back, financially or otherwise. Several years ago, he asked that in lieu of a Christmas gift, we begin making yearly donations on his behalf to Hearing Loss Association.

Mike continues to refer individuals with hearing loss and their families to Hearing Loss Association and has provided the necessary resource information for chapters looking for CART services, as was the case with a new chapter in Fountain Hills, AZ. Additionally, when he learned that the FH chapter would be without CART for a meeting because of a scheduling conflict, he volunteered to provide remote CART from Florida.

Congratulations, Mike. You are the best.



## Spotlight on Molly Corum

On March 31, Molly Corum of Tampa, received the Denney Award. This award was named after Ethel "Denney" Bolesta, the founder of Bolesta Center ([www.bolestacenter.org](http://www.bolestacenter.org)).

Born profoundly deaf, Molly was a student at the age of three and four in 1951 and 1952. The late Mrs. Bolesta was her teacher. Mainstreamed in kindergarten, she was a successful hearing aid user starting in the first grade. School was not easy, but some funny things happened.

She says, "I got my first hearing aid in first grade. It had a long cord and body aid. I began wearing one BTE in the third grade. I showed it off at 'Show and Tell.' It must've been in 1957. I wonder if that was the first public awareness in the USA! Well, it was unique. A few months later I got my second BTE so in case you missed the first 'Show and Tell' I presented the other BTE. I think it is funny and am proud I did that."

Molly was diagnosed with Usher Syndrome at the age of 40 which means



her hearing loss is hereditary (tunnel vision and hearing loss). She was a successful hearing aid user for 39 years. Suddenly, in 1993, Molly lost the last of her usable hearing in the ear that was aided.

Molly says, "I was told I might be a possible candidate for the cochlear implant. The thought of surgery did not bother me, but an implant! Dad said, 'this is what we have worked for, a time when something better comes along.'"

Molly's first cochlear implant was in 1995 and she became bilateral in 2006.

"I will always be grateful for Denney, my parents, and the doctors who helped me in the hearing world. But this is an invisible and most misunderstood condition. We need to educate the public more. Children and adults have no excuse being deaf. HLAA, AG Bell and implant centers have so much information for all of us."

Molly is modest about her activities at Bolesta for many years, giving donations, volunteering as a teacher and as a board member, and helping in other ways. She is more assertive, however, about her admiration for the late Mrs. Bolesta, a war bride from England, who came to Tampa in 1944. Soon after, she started teaching a deaf baby in her home using only oral techniques. The Robert McCord School was opened in 1960. Denney passed away two weeks before the opening of the new building in 1991 and it quickly became the Bolesta Center.

Knowing Molly Corum, we can vouch for the success of those who passed through the Bolesta Center.



**2008 Walk4Hearing**  
**Saturday, April 12**  
**Philippe Park**  
**Safety Harbor, FL**  
**on Old Tampa Bay**

## The FCCDHH Council goes to Jacksonville

By Joan Haber, Chair

The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH) held its quarterly meeting in Jacksonville on Aug. 23 and 24 at the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk. The FCCDHH consists of 17 individuals appointed by the Governor who are committed to finding solutions to problems that face the nearly three million deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind citizens of Florida. Two of the seats on the FCCDHH Council are held by HLA-FL board members – Joan Haber of Sarasota and Carol Christopherson of Jacksonville. Joan Haber served as Chairperson of the Council for the past year and was reelected to that position for another year at the Jacksonville meeting. Rick Kottler, Executive Director of the Deaf Service Center Association was reelected Vice-Chair.

At its May 2007 meeting, the FCCDHH Council authorized the formation of a new task force addressing specific problems concerning lack of accessibility within the Florida legal system. The first task force meeting was held on Aug. 22, the day before the Council meetings, at the same hotel in Jacksonville. Participants included representatives from the Florida Bar, FL Sheriff's Association, FL Dept of

Corrections, Office of the Attorney General, Legal Interpreter Trainers, CART providers, FAD, HLA-FL, Disability Independence Group, FL Corrections Accreditation Commission, Office of the Public Defender, FRID (Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) and Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. Sharon Caserta, Esq and Lisa Schaefermeyer are co-chairs of the task force. Attendees were trained on the specific needs of the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind populations with respect to accessing all areas in the legal arena. Watch for upcoming reports in the *Hear Ye, Hear Ye* newsletter about the progress of this important initiative.

The Council meeting began at 8:30 Thursday morning, Aug. 23 and concluded at 1 p.m. on Friday. Susan G. Allen, Founder and Director of the Clarke School for the Deaf – Center for Oral Education in Jacksonville, made a presentation to the Council. In addition, the Council received training in ethics and purchasing procedures from the Chief Legal Counsel and Fiscal Unit Director from the Department of Health, which administers the budget for the Council. The Council members also engaged in a three-hour strategic planning session to formulate future goals and action plans.

The public hearing was held on Thursday, Aug. 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. HLA-FL members made a prominent

showing at the public hearing. Present were Lynn Rousseau, President of HLA-FL; Judy Martin, HLA-FL Vice President; Kathy Borzell, HLAA National Board member; Melissa Trauthwein, HLA-FL board member; and Don Shaffer, HLA-FL board member-elect. Topics brought before the Council at the public hearing included: looping systems and the telecoil; problems communicating with medical personnel in an emergency; lack of funding for private oral schools; not receiving adequate resources for a disabled child's IEP plan; and workplace accommodations. Minutes of the entire meeting will be available at [www.fccdhh.org](http://www.fccdhh.org) in the near future.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Nov. 8 and 9 in The Villages, FL. If this location is close to you, please consider attending a meeting to observe the efforts being made on your behalf and to offer your valued input. Council meetings are fully accessible with CART, ASL Interpreters, and assistive listening devices provided. Remote CART is now available as well so if you cannot travel to the meeting site, a website link can be provided to you to observe the proceedings live over the Internet. If you have any questions or comments about the Council, or this article, please email Joan Haber at [joan1@comcast.net](mailto:joan1@comcast.net) or phone 941-921-9197.

## HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

In its quest to educate and to provide information about available resources for the general public, and especially people with hearing loss, HLACC is planning to extend its monthly display, now held at the Cultural Center. Board member Millie Helyer, in association with Joan Andrews, has been communicating with Charlotte County Libraries' personnel.

Millie reports, "We plan to display in local libraries several items from our present Exhibits and Demonstrations, such as strobe smoke alarms, personal communication devices, amplified phone, CapTel, shake awake alarm

clocks, telephone and door bell alarms, and pocket talkers."

Millie further states, "These items are solicited from various catalogs or local merchants and will be displayed at the libraries for certain periods of time along with literature about the items and about our chapter. We feel this is appropriate as many people do not realize that such devices are available to enhance our hearing aids and to help us."

Additionally, HLACC continues to educate and provide appropriate information for the general public as well as chapter members with its own publication/newsletter—HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY (Serving Charlotte County as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People). -

ing People). The newsletter is comprehensively published four times a year under the capable hands of editor Gail Schafer (with an assist from husband Bill). President Everett Johnson, his wife Jean, Millie Helyer and Jean Shunk handle the distribution and mailing of the newsletter. Bill Schafer and Joan Andrews have spearheaded the effort to acquire ads to pay for each issue.

The activities mentioned above are necessary strategies to make up for the increasing difficulty of getting articles in local newspapers about our chapter's goals, services, programs and efforts. Newspapers, it seems, currently are increasingly turning to their own computer/websites, as a means of cost savings.

Frank Corica, Board Member  
HLA of Charlotte County

## Welcome to Brad Ingrao

Brad Ingrao, AuD, who lives in Hillsborough County, has agreed to take the post of one of HLA-FL's Professional Advisors. Consequently, he has been appointed by our Board President.



Brad Ingrao

Dr. Ingrao has a long history of responding to the needs of consumers, parents and colleagues through his participation on over a dozen hearing loss-related listservs and a pro-bono website for parents. As the Coordinator of Audiology Information Services of the Hearing Instrument Manufacturers' Software Association, he addresses quality and accessibility issues in software used for fitting hearing aids. He has authored a multimedia software tutorial for the hearing aid industry that was one of the first such tools to include closed captioning. Dr. Ingrao is a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Boston Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America (formerly SHHH) and a member of the Advisory Boards for the National Center for Hearing Assistive Technology and the Audiology Foundation of America.

He was an adjunct lecturer in audiology, and part time clinical supervisor at Northeastern University from 2000 to 2005 and is now principal audiologist and consultant for e-audiology.net. Dr. Ingrao's work on earmolds has been published in *The ASHA Leader*, *The Hearing Journal*, *Volta Voices* (A.G. Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing), and as an Expert Seminar on [www.audiologyonline.com](http://www.audiologyonline.com)

His professional affiliations include the Academy of Dispensing Audiologists, the American Academy of Audiology, the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, the Educational Audiology Association, the Interna-

tional Hearing Society and the Hearing Loss Association of America.

We welcome Dr. Ingrao as a Professional Advisor to the Hearing Loss Association of Florida Board of Trustees.

## Woman's cochlear implants helped her hear the world

By Patty Allen-Jones

May 24 was a significant anniversary for Barbara Chertok.

Fifty years ago that day, Chertok lost her hearing "very suddenly and practically overnight." She was 21.

The Sarasota resident recalls having a horrible episode of vertigo while walking back to her job at a Boston ad agency after a lunch break.

Chertok spent three weeks in the hospital getting the wrong treatment because of a doctor's misdiagnosis. She found out 35 years later she suffered from an autoimmune disorder. Some of her hearing could have been saved if she had received the right medication.

She used hearing aids up until nine years ago, when Chertok received a cochlear implant, an electronic hearing device that gives her better, clearer and more natural sounds.

As chairman of the Sarasota Hearing Loss Association of America's Cochlear Implant Committee, Chertok fully endorses the ever-improving technology, especially for children.

"Cochlear is becoming very popular," she said. "Most importantly, babies and children can learn to speak and go to regular school and be mainstreamed."

Chertok had hearing aids most of her life, but heard either nothing or a tiny bit with them.

"I was lip reading as much as I could," said Chertok, who studied operatic voice and piano before the disease.

She was used to looking at people's mouths, and that "helped me become an instant lip reader."

It was strenuous having a normal conversation, she said, but "fortunately I'm an extrovert, very outgoing and a very social being," she said. "I kept the same friends and stayed in the mainstream."

She married in 1961, but could not understand her now-deceased husband's thick New Hampshire accent. Friends along on double dates interpreted.

And her mother was the go-between for arranging dates.

"I never thought of entering the deaf world, and to this day I believe mainstreaming is the way to go for people with disabilities," she said.

Cochlear implants became available to adults in 1985, and for children in 1990.

Chertok got hers nearly 10 years ago. An internal receiver is placed beneath the scalp, implanted into the bone behind the ear. A wire passes into the cochlea and wraps around the internal spiral of the cochlea. A microphone and sound processor is placed behind the outer ear.

"I feel it is a miracle device," she said. "I'm fortunate to be living at a time when I can take advantage of it. I recommend that everybody out there who need one to not wait."

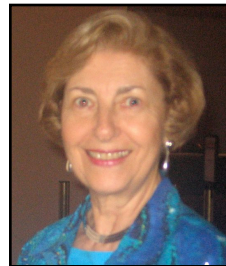
"Those of us who have it are very thankful for the sound," she said. "You put it on, and it puts you in touch with the world."

Chertok also serves on the American Hearing Research Foundation Advisory Board and is a member of the Alexander Graham Bell Association. She was the first hearing-impaired juror in Maryland.

The former lip reading teacher still helps others who are hearing-impaired.

The Hearing Loss Association of America can be reached at (301) 657-2248 or [info@hearingloss.org](mailto:info@hearingloss.org). The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is also a source of information on cochlear implants. That number is (202) 337-5220 or [info@agbell.org](mailto:info@agbell.org).

(Copyright 2007, Sarasota Herald-Tribune. Reprinted by express permission of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.)



Barbara Chertok

## Captioned live theatre performances in Florida

During this upcoming fall/winter theatre season, there will be fourteen open captioned (OC) live performances offered in four cities –Sarasota, Fort Lauderdale, Palm Beach, and Tampa.

Open captioning provides the



means for deaf and hard of hearing audience members to read the dialogue or song lyrics of a performance in real-time; that is, while the actor/s are speaking without having to use any kind of special equipment. The text is displayed on a large LED sign placed near the stage. Audience members with hearing loss are usually seated in the orchestra section so they can easily see both the text and the actors. This allows them to fully understand what is being said and they can more easily enjoy a performance.

Captioning is the most effective way to provide enhanced access in theatres for people with hearing loss who constitute the largest disability group in the country. Sign interpreted live performances are offered for a smaller

number of shows, but over 98% of people who are hard of hearing and deaf that could benefit from enhanced access do not use, understand and most likely will not learn sign language.

The Theatre Development Fund (TDF) of New York City is sponsoring many of the performances. For the past twenty-seven years, the TDF and its Theatre Access Project (TAP) has been the nation's leading advocate for enhanced live theatre accessibility. TDF, a non-profit service organization for the performing arts, sponsors open captioned performances of Broadway and Off Broadway productions in three states—New York, Connecticut, and Florida.

If you would like to experience the joy of open captioned live theatre performances, please see the schedule below and plan to attend with a family member or friend. To purchase tickets, you should contact the respective box offices and be sure to **ask for seating in the open captioning section of the orchestra.**

**VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL - Sarasota** Phone: 1-800-826-9303

*THE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE* – Sat., Dec. 29, 2007 at 2 p.m.

**ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE – Sarasota** Phone: 1-800-361-8388

*A TALE OF TWO CITIES* – Sun., Nov. 4, 2007 at 2 p.m.

*THE PLAY'S THE THING* – Sun., Jan. 20, 2008 at 2 p.m.

**BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS – Ft. Lauderdale**

Phone: 1-877-311-7469

*THE WEDDING SINGER* – Sat., Oct. 13, 2007 at 2 p.m.

*THE DROWSY CHAPERONE* – Sat., Jan. 12, 2008 at 2 p.m.

*DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS* – Sat., Feb. 9, 2008 at 2 p.m.

*WICKED* – Sat., March 22, 2008 at 2 p.m.

**KRAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS – Palm Beach**

Phone: 1-800-572-8471

*MY FAIR LADY* – Sat., Nov. 3, 2007 at 2 p.m.

*SPAMALOT* – Sat., March 15, 2008 at 2 p.m.

*RENT* – Sat., April 12, 2008 at 2 p.m.

*CAMELOT* – Sat., April 19, 2008 at 2 p.m.

*SWEENEY TODD* – Sat., May 17, 2008 at 2 p.m.

**TAMPA BAY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER – Tampa** Phone: 1-800-955-1045

*RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR* – TBA. Visit [www.tdf.org](http://www.tdf.org) for more information.

*JERSEY BOYS* – TBA. Visit the TDF website at [www.tdf.org](http://www.tdf.org) for more information.

–submitted by Frank Stocco

**EVERY LIFE HAS A  
STORY. HOW HAVE  
HEARING AIDS  
AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?  
TELL US YOUR STORY.**

## Every Life Has a Story

–featuring–

### Walter Renner

Walter Renner is a member of the Naples chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America and he tells his story: “I grew up on a farm in Ohio. After a stint in the service, he continued farming. The noise of the tractors and other machinery took its toll on my hearing. Little thought was given of the noise effects on hearing.

It's interesting to note that my father and my brother, both farmers, had a hearing loss. My mother and my

sister never had a hearing loss and my brother who never farm didn't suffer any loss of hearing.

In the 1960s I realized that I had a hearing problem. At some point in the late sixties or early seventies I was examined by an ENT. After the exam, he said my hearing loss was in the high frequencies and that the available hearing aids would do little to help and would be a waste of money.

In the late seventies, my wife Cynthia said that her friend mentioned big improvements had been made in aids and suggested I should have have my ears check again. Of course, I knew better; my problem was in the high fre-

quencies and *nothing* would help. At her insistence I did get tested and bought new aids. Wow! There had been great improvement. Welcome to the world of high tech.

Over the years, my hearing has continued to deteriorate. I am on my fourth set of aids and each new set has been a big improvement over the previous pair, again, thanks to ever-newer discoveries in the field.

Although nothing can compare to natural good hearing, I am thankful for the ever-forward march of technology.

I am also thankful for Cynthia's and other people's patience in dealing with my hearing loss.

# Hearing Loss Association of Florida (HLA-FL) BALLOT

## Candidates for the 2007 HLA-FL Board of Trustees

**NOTE: If you wish to vote for this entire slate as recommended and endorsed by the Nominating Committee, you need not return the Ballot. Thank you!**

The current HLA-FL bylaws state that the Board shall consist of a minimum of 7, but no more than 18 members who shall serve on the Board as voting Trustees. At least two-thirds of the Trustees shall be people who are hard of hearing. All 11 current Trustees have a hearing loss, as do the two candidates on this ballot.

- |   |
|---|
| <p>□ <b>Don M. Shaffer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the Hearing Loss Association of Tampa</li> <li>• Member of the Hearing Loss Association of America for 16 years</li> <li>• Relocated to Florida from Indiana in July 2006</li> <li>• Retired after 31 years as a State of Indiana VR Coordinator for the Deaf</li> <li>• Collaborated with the Indiana Lions Speech and Hearing Program to develop statewide hearing aid loaner bank, and other programs associated with infant screening and deaf and hard of hearing youth leadership camps</li> <li>• Received the “Sagamore of the Wabash” award from Governor Joseph Kernan, Indiana’s highest honor, which the Governor bestows “to dignitaries and ordinary citizens who have made a significant contribution to the citizens of Indiana.”</li> <li>• Resides in Plant City, FL with wife Kay</li> </ul> |
| <p>□ <b>Richard Herring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the Hearing Loss Association of America for 15+ years</li> <li>• Retired Director of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Trenton, NJ</li> <li>• Received the “Special Friend of Persons with Hearing Loss” award presented by Rocky Stone in California at the 1998 SHHH conference</li> <li>• Active in the American Professional Society of the Deaf</li> <li>• Member/Director of the Lions District 35-R Hearing and Speech Foundation</li> <li>• Honorary Citation for leadership role in establishing New Jersey Relay Services</li> <li>• Member of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA)</li> <li>• Resides in Sun City Center, FL</li> </ul>  |

If you have any questions or concerns about this ballot, please direct your comments to: Kathy Borzell, Chair of the HLA-FL Nominating Committee, at: [kborzell@verizon.net](mailto:kborzell@verizon.net) or telephone at: 813-832-6810. If you wish to return this ballot by mail, please send to Kathy Borzell at 5010 S. Elberon St., Tampa, FL 33611

**Awards & Honors**

**Flo Innes**, Sarasota, was honored by the City Commissioners of Sarasota at the July anniversary celebration of the passage of the ADA, for her dedication to people with hearing loss in Sarasota.

**Lynn Rousseau**, Gainesville, accepted the ADA proclamation from Alachua County on July 10 at the County Commissioners building.

**Melissa Trauthwein**, Jacksonville, won the Best Chapter/State Website Award at the 2007 Hearing Loss Association of America Convention in Oklahoma City.

**Judy Martin**, Jacksonville, editor of *Hear Ye, Hear Ye*, was given the Best State Newsletter Award, also in Oklahoma City.

**Mike Cano**, Tampa, was presented with Professional Advisor Award for his support at the 2007 HLAA Convention.

**Hearing Loss Assoc. of Central Florida**

This new chapter meets the first Tuesday at St. George’s Episcopal Church in The Villages from 7 to 9 p.m.

The members are looking forward to the meeting of the FCCDHH in their area on Nov. 8 and 9. Upon hearing of this opportunity, there has been much excitement expressed by residents who are members of hearing loss groups in The Villages. It is expected that there will be enthusiastic attendance at the Public Comment part of the meeting.

Residents have already expressed interest in sponsoring and walking in the 2008 Walk4Hearing in April.

At their meeting, some of the questions most frequently asked are where to find reputable sources of hearing aids and how to compare the cost of hearing aids.

–Janis Ward

**Advertising Rates**

- Full Page \$325.00
- Half Page \$175.00
- Quarter Page \$100.00
- Business Card \$60.00
- Donor (one line)
- Individual \$10.00
- Company \$20.00

Send news items, photos, ads or checks to:

Judy40@bellsouth.net

**OR**

Judy G. Martin, Editor  
8019 Leafcrest Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32244

Make checks payable to:  
Hearing Loss  
Association of Florida

**DONATIONS**

*Please help keep this newsletter in print.  
We gratefully receive your tax-deductible donations.*

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