

Hear Ye, Hear Ye



Barbara Emmons and Joan Andrews

Scholarship winner tells her story

Barbara Emmons, founder and current president of the Clearwater chapter, was the first winner of the Joan Andrews Scholarship given by HLA-Florida. Here is what she writes:

The Nashville Convention surpassed all of my expectations. Because my room wasn't ready when I arrived, I was upgraded to gorgeous penthouse accommodations. It had a breathtaking view of the atrium and when the lights were turned on at night, it became a dream world.

On Thursday, I attended the Orientation for Newcomers. I found it very helpful in meeting others like me

who were attending the annual HLA Convention for the first time. That evening, at the opening session, Dr. Vinton "Vint" Cerf, often called *the father of the Internet*, was the keynote speaker. He was so interesting and humorous that he made me want to go right to my computer to try the latest technologies available. One story he told was that his cellular is internet-enabled, sending him a text message when temperature and humidity levels become unfavorable!

I met people from all over the country. Several delegates and I sat together. We talked of the growth in our local chapters, how we acquired new speakers for each meeting and discussed many other things. I came away from all of them with even more ideas.

The vendors were very knowledgeable and helpful regarding their products. I even booked one of them to speak at our Clearwater chapter meeting in November.

On Friday, I attended a workshop for delegates. It gave me a clearer understanding of how to better meet the needs and expectations of those attending monthly meetings. That evening, the HLA 30th Birthday Celebration was filled with laughter, dancing and good food.

I attended another workshop for delegates on Saturday. Each workshop helped me to better understand exactly what I, as a chapter president, needed to incorporate in my meetings. Everyone shared productive suggestions and ideas. After each workshop, I took another stroll around the exhibition hall. One exhibitor even had *Patsy Cline* available for taking photographs with visitors. In another area, an artist sketched caricatures. Snacks and drinks were served in the

Continued on page 6 - Scholarship

FLAA + HLA-FL = *Something Wonderful*

You've read that the two boards of the Florida Academy of Audiologists and the Hearing Loss Association of Florida have agreed to join forces to promote better understanding of each other. We're off to a great start. During the third week of August, Joan Haber and I traveled to Palm Beach Gardens and set up our booth with literature extolling the benefits of HLA. We were near the registration desk and had pretty much non-stop visitors during the breaks. This was networking at its best. Joan and I attended numerous workshops and were able to hear many points of view and had our brains filled with much new technical knowledge. Noel Crosby, president of FLAA, and other Doctors of Audiology welcomed us warmly. Dr. Pat Kricos, our own Professional Advisor, led a workshop in which, among other things, she spread great awareness to the audience about HLA-FL.

At our annual meeting at Boca Raton (hosted by Oscar Segal's South Palm Beach chapter) on October 3, our featured speaker will be a member of FLAA. We look forward to that presentation as well as our future collaboration with *Something Wonderful* - FLAA.

- Judy G. Martin



Joan Haber, Noel Crosby and Judy Martin at the FLAA Convention in Palm Beach Gardens.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 3, 2009 Boca Raton

February 6, 2010 Tallahassee

June 5, 2010 Sarasota



**Hearing Loss
Association**
of Florida

**Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting and
Election of Officers & New Members
of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida
Saturday, October 3, 2009 in Boca Raton**

Hosted by the South Palm Beach Chapter

For further information visit our website

WWW.HLA-FL.COM or email judy40@bellsouth.net

Hello, Leaders, Members, and friends!

Remember the great time we had on our first HLA-FL Cruise in 2007?

Or did you miss that one? Well, here we go again.

COME HEAR THE SOUNDS OF THE CARIBBEAN!

**The Hearing Loss Association of Florida invites you aboard RCCL's
FREEDOM OF THE SEAS • Sailing October 17, 2010**

You don't have to have hearing loss to sail with us. So invite all your friends and family to come along. This ship is large enough to accommodate everyone you can think of. And speaking of accommodations – Royal Caribbean made everything so accessible to us, with captions at all the shows, listening devices that worked, and well-trained crew members who made sure we were able to enjoy every moment. By the way, cruising is the best vacation value anywhere. Your hotel goes with you to exotic places, all your meals are included, and you can do as much or as little as you like. Sea u soon!

Captain Larry

For more information check our website <http://www.hla-fl.com/>

or email Lynn Rousseau at hlaflorida@aol.com

Payments of \$200 per person due 11/1/09 – final due 8/1/10

Judy G. Martin, Editor

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Send news items, photos, ads or checks to:

Judy40@bellsouth.net

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Your donations are tax deductible

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◆ **6 Issues of Hear Ye, Hear Ye, state newsletter of HLA-Florida**

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For more information contact Joan

Haber joan1@comcast.net

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OR go to

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BALLOT

Hearing Loss Association of Florida (HLA-FL)

Candidates for the 2009 HLA-FL Board of Trustees

If you wish to vote for this entire slate as recommended and endorsed by the Nominating Committee, you need not return the ballot. You must be a current member of HLA-FL in order to vote.

The current HLA-FL bylaws state that the Board shall consist of a minimum of seven, 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 with hearing loss.

- YES NO **Robert P. Astle, Maitland**
- YES NO **James Diaz, Oviedo**
- YES NO **Flo Innes, Sarasota**
- YES NO **Nancy Jane Muscato, Tampa**
- YES NO **Lynn Rousseau, Gainesville**
- YES NO **Carl Sjobeck, Lauderhill**
- YES NO **Lisa Tanner, Plant City**
- YES NO **Melissa Trauthwein, Jacksonville**
- YES NO **Brett L. Woods, Tampa**

If you have any questions or concerns about this ballot, direct your comments to: Richard Herring - Chair, HLA-FL Nominating Committee, at rhmann@tampabay.rr.com or telephone Joan Haber at 941-921-9197.

If you wish to return this ballot by mail, include your name and address and send to Richard Herring, 1317 Caloosa Lake Ct., Sun City Center, FL 33573-4869 so he may receive it **no later than the deadline date of October 1, 2009.**

HLAA Board of Trustees Candidate Biographies

Robert P. Astle, Maitland

Bob was born in the midwest and was raised in Massachusetts. He has resided in the Orlando area for fourteen years. At age four, he was diagnosed with a sensorineural hearing loss, which progressed to legal deafness at age 42. He has studied culinary arts and has made a career in that profession.

He currently works as the pastry chef at Village on the Green, in Longwood.

After attending a Coping with Hearing Loss workshop facilitated by Merv and Bev Daniels in 2002, Bob joined the Orlando Chapter of HLAA. Being involved with this group has allowed him to see that he is not alone with his hearing loss. He currently has a cochlear implant. By joining the HLA-FL Board of Trustees, he hopes to inspire others with hearing loss with the knowledge that they are not alone and can live productive, fulfilling lives.



James Diaz, Oviedo

Jim currently is a Senior Software Engineer working on military training, simulation, and war game software. Previous, he held a position as Electronic Engineer designing underwater acoustic sensors. Jim received a Master's Degree in Engineering at the University of Central Florida specializing in Digital Signal Processing.

Active in HLAA, he served the HLA-FL board as President for a period of six years. Jim's hearing loss "challenge" began at age 15 with a moderate conductive hearing loss. Coping strategies include high technology, hearing aids, lip reading, and awareness of the effects of hearing loss. Hobbies include dancing, acting, bicycling and photography.



Biographies continued on next page

Biographies continued from previous page

Flo Innes, Sarasota

Flo Innes, is Founder and President of Advocates For Better Hearing, Inc., and promotes community awareness of assistive hearing devices by professional services and technology. She has had a hearing loss since birth. When growing up there was no advocacy, no support and nowhere to turn for help. Some of her dreams, such as the Peace Corps, were denied because of her hearing loss. Today, thanks to the American Disabilities Act, no one can be rejected because of their disabilities.



In Sarasota, the blind have the Lighthouse; the deaf have the Deaf Services Center; the handicapped have Easter Seals to support them. There was no one to help the 110,000 people with hearing loss find a way to better hearing. Flo, with her business, helps people learn about and how to use assistive listening devices. Her passion is to continue to enrich the lives of all children and adults who experience hearing loss or deafness.

Flo has served as treasurer of HLA-FL for a number of years and is a longtime member of the Hearing Loss Association of America.

Nancy Jane Muscato, Au.D., Tampa

Dr. Muscato is a clinical instructor and rehabilitation audiologist in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of South Florida. Dr. Muscato received her Au.D. from the University of South Florida in 2001.

As a teenager, Dr. Muscato had an interest in working with individuals with learning disabilities. Her youngest brother was born quite premature, weighing only 2 pounds, and subsequently was diagnosed with a specific learning disability and dyslexia. After working with her brother over the years, Nancy decided to pursue a career in speech pathology and audiology.



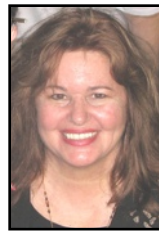
Dr. Muscato moved to Fort Worth Texas where she practiced audiology as an Educational Audiologist in the Ft. Worth Independent School District. She was integral in supporting the establishment of the Tarrant County Parent Group for parents of children with hearing loss. Nancy continued to work in Ft. Worth and was later associated with the Regional School for the Deaf where she promoted spoken language development in children with varying degrees of hearing loss. She has worked as an audiologist for Hillsborough County Schools, Children's Medical

Services and the University of South Florida where she is currently the Coordinator for the USF Cochlear Implant Program. Dr. Muscato supervises Au.D. students in the clinical setting in the areas of cochlear implants, aural rehabilitation, auditory processing disorders and tinnitus management.

Nancy has two children, Laura, 23, and Matthew, 20. She has resided in South Tampa since March 1984.

Lynn Rousseau, Gainesville

I was born and raised in Hollywood, Florida, a preschool teacher discovered my hearing loss. Johns Hopkins Hospital proved I had a severe nerve deafness/hearing loss but also did remarkably well reading lips. At three years old, it was hard to tell. Twelve years of speech therapy followed to help me in school.



Dance class /performing arts allowed me to socialize without talking. It wasn't until many years later that I had the courage to speak out to people other than my family and close friends. After all, *I knew no one else like me.*

Married to Joel, I have four grown children and seven grandchildren to grace our lives.

I have received The State of Florida Humanitarian and Civil Rights Advocacy Award in 1996; am past member of the Human Rights Equal Opportunity Board; Founder, Gainesville SHHH Chapter; Chair, Alachua County Citizens Disability Advisory Committee; Member, FLASHHH Board; State Chapter Coordinator; Co-chair, 2006 Convention; Co-chair of the HLA- FL 2009 Walk4Hearing. I was also awarded Oticon's People Focus Advocacy Award in Denver and the HLA Advocacy award at the HLA 2009 Convention in Nashville.

Along with keeping up with new technology and new hearing aids throughout the years, Assistive Listening Devices and the use of a computer, I believe a sense of humor and educating others goes a long way in helping one cope with the daily challenges of living with hearing loss.

Carl Sjobeck, Lauderhill

I was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. My hearing loss was first noted by the public school Health Nurse as part of the Department of Education routine hearing and vision testing at the age of six.

My parents did follow through with my education in speech reading; however, I continued to be educated in the public school system and graduated from High School in the upper percentile. From there I attended

Biographies continued on next page

Biographies continued from previous page

and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College, in St. Peter, MN, with a double major in Economics and Accounting.



My entire profession career has always been in accounting and finance. As an auditor, I worked for several government agencies and private corporations. I have been an accountant, controller, and Director of Finance for several hospitals, and I also was part of the management team of a book and periodical publisher. In 1992, I relocated permanently to the Fort Lauderdale, Florida area and continued working until I retired in 2007.

At the age of nine I began wearing a hearing aid – a big box strapped to my chest with a long wire to a two-piece apparatus in my right ear. As technology progressed, I finally ended up with two BTE's which were powerful and very lightweight until 2004 when I began hearing with a cochlear implant. This single event changed my life and perception by great measures.

Lisa Tanner, Au. D., Plant City

Lisa Ellen Tanner, Au.D., earned her Doctorate in Audiology from the University of South Florida. Dr. Tanner is the director of Advanced Diagnostics and Hearing Solutions in Brandon, Florida where she offers hearing care for both children and adults.

Passionate about hearing health care, Lisa offers hearing care for both children and adults. She provides complete hearing, tinnitus and cochlear implant candidacy evaluations. She also prescribes and fits high technology hearing aids and assistive listening devices. In addition, she offers cochlear implant and BAHA programming, counseling and education in hearing preservation, hearing loss and tinnitus. She is a licensed audiologist in the state of Florida and is certified and a member of the American Speech Language Hearing Association. Additionally she is a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology, the Florida Academy of Audiology and the Academy of Doctors of Audiology.

Lisa resides in Plant City.

Melissa Trauthwein, Jacksonville

I have had a severe bilateral sensorineural hearing loss since birth. I found HLAA back in 2006 in my search to find others with hearing loss. I didn't know one single person with a hearing loss that could relate to my daily struggles and victories, but now I know more than I can count! I am vice president of my local



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HLA-Jacksonville group and vice president of the HLA-FL Board of Trustees, and I am webmaster for both websites: www.hearinglossassociationofjax.com and www.hla-fl.com.

I was so honored to have been awarded a scholarship to go to the 2009 HLAA Convention in Nashville. The most valuable thing was to meet other young adults there. I would like to find new ways to bring together young adults with hearing loss in Florida so I'm excited to become a part of the Hearing Loss Nation (<http://hearinglossnation.ning.com/>) online social community and the HLAA Young Adults Initiative.



I work full-time for an insurance company as a data analyst in the Statistical Reporting department, and have been blessed with co-workers that are very accommodating and understanding to my hearing loss. I use a CapTel phone for the occasional phone call and use email as my main communication tool. I also have a Phonak Mylink FM system that I can use in meetings and other situations.

Brett L. Woods, Tampa

Brett L. Woods, CFRE, is a seasoned fundraising professional focusing on higher education fundraising. Woods serves as the Director of Development for the University of South Florida College of Engineering where he oversees all aspects of fundraising and a staff of three. Prior to his service with USF, Woods served as the Senior Director of Development for Western Carolina University in North Carolina and as Director of Development for Brevard College in NC. He began his fundraising career at Spring Hill College located in Mobile, Alabama and while at Spring Hill, Woods also completed his Masters in Liberal Arts (MLA).

Woods holds the professional designation of Certified

Biographies continued on next page

Biographies continued from previous page

Fund Raising Professional (CFRE), an achievement attained by less than 5% of all fundraisers internationally. He also holds a certification in Non Profit Management from Duke University. Early in his academic career, he completed a BS degree in Management with a concentration in Marketing. Prior to his career in fundraising, he worked for a decade with the U. S. Courts, Southern District of Alabama.



Woods has served most recently as President of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in Asheville, NC where he served on the Board as Board Member at Large and President Elect. In addition, he served the town of Sylva, NC and city of Brevard, NC on their respective Planning Boards. Woods has been a longstanding member of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Woods has extensive experience working with donors in the academic arena of Communications Sciences Disorders. While at Western Carolina, he worked with a number of donors (audiologists and academicians) to create scholarships and other gifts to support the Communications Sciences Disorders program.

Brett has dealt with hearing loss for four decades and has experienced his loss progressing from moderate to severely profound. He has been recently declared a candidate for a cochlear implant and is navigating through exactly what that means.

Brett lives in the historic Old Seminole Heights district in Tampa, Florida with his English Springer Spaniel named "Buck" (who also probably now qualifies for a cochlear implant). In his spare time, he enjoys advocating for his neighborhood, cycling (road and off road) and running.

Brett is delighted to be involved as an advocate and voice for thousands of hard of hearing Floridians through his affiliation with the Hearing Loss Association of Florida.



Carolyn Meyer and Lynn Rousseau with their Advocacy awards presented to them in Nashville.

Scholarship – continued from front page

late afternoon. Saturday evening, most everyone attended the Grand Ole Opry. What a thrill it was for me to be there. I can remember, as a child, listening to the Opry on the radio on Saturday evenings. For the first time in history, the Opry provided captioning in honor of more than 450 HLAA members sitting in the audience. It was wonderful to actually *hear* what was being said and sung on stage. While the screens used to display captioning are not yet permanent, it is a step forward.

Sunday morning, I attended the Ecumenical Service which was led by Mrs. Rocky (Ahme) Stone. What a wonderful woman she is. I met her daughters and son as well and found them to be an exceptional family. A little later, at the Awards Breakfast, it was a thrill and honor to be the recipient of the first Joan Andrews Scholarship Award. It was an even greater honor to be able to meet and chat with her. She is a woman who has eyes that sparkle with the joy of life. Joan was one of the core group of people who founded FLASHHH (now HLA-FL) and became its first president. All who know her describe her as an exception role model.

I received far more from attending the convention than can be put on paper. I am excited to begin my fourth year as president of the Clearwater chapter on September 1 and will have so many pictures and experiences to share with members. My only regret is there were not enough hours in a day to attend all workshops. Each one offered sounded fascinating.

I humbly thank all the members of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida Board of Trustees for choosing me for this wonderful award that afforded me a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

– Barbara Emmons



Taking a much-needed rest in the beautiful atrium of the very, very large Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville are Lynn Rousseau, Gainesville; Melissa Trauthwein, Jacksonville; and Stephanie Krivich, Port Orange.

Hello, from the NC Mountains.....

—Kathy Borzell

In March of this year, my husband, Tom, and I retired to our mountain home here in Sapphire, NC. The past five months have been quite an exciting journey. After 30 years in Florida, I didn't know what to expect. I wondered how we'd adjust and didn't fully anticipate the challenges and opportunities ahead. We were more than pleasantly surprised to meet so many wonderful folks. Some, like us, live here year round, and others spend late spring, summer and early fall here. The majority, it seems, are from Florida. After all of our years in Florida it was a comfort, at least at first, to be among so many other former or current Floridians. We have a home we love with a beautiful long-range view of the mountains. We are truly blessed.

It's been an interesting transition for me with my hearing loss. I was very much in a comfort zone in Florida. All of my hearing friends were well "conditioned" to deal with my hearing loss. They knew me when I was struggling with hearing aids and then saw me start to relax and enjoy life more as the result of my cochlear implant. I'd gotten to the point where I'd almost forget about my hearing loss when we were out with friends. Moving here has been a refresher course, dealing with hearing loss and new relationships. I've been challenged to once again advocate for myself. Wow, how lazy I'd gotten! I've had to brush up on the skill of let-

ting folks know what I need and why. I thought I'd moved way past the acceptance stage, but I've been surprised by some challenging moments. Bottom line – this is another opportunity for personal growth, and it's reinforced the importance of taking care of myself and sharing my experiences with others who face the same challenges.

A few days ago we were invited to dinner at a neighbor's house. She wears hearing aids and shared about her struggles. For example, she didn't know how to set up captioning on her TV, so we helped her with that easy fix. When I told her I was meeting a group of folks in Hendersonville, NC to have lunch and see a captioned movie she asked if she could join me. I was delighted! The following day she emailed me to ask if she could bring a friend who has a moderate hearing loss and would benefit by the captioning. What a wonderful day that turned out to be. Coordinated by Dianna Attaway of Hendersonville, we had a delightful lunch and then made our way to a nearby theatre to see *Julie & Julia* (terrific movie!). My sister, Rosemary, and her husband now live in Asheville half the year so she was at our get-together. And, by the way, our delicious lunch was at the Fireside Restaurant, owned by Lynn Crist, sister of HLA-FL board member Joan Haber!

We all hope to meet on a regular basis. I'm ever so grateful for these new people in my life and to be, once again, in my comfort zone.

(Kathy is a board member of HLAA and formerly with HLA-FL.)



Awards Breakfast in Nashville

Having a good, early morning laugh on the last day of the convention were, from lower left, Judy Martin; Joan Andrews; Joan's daughter, Judy; Melissa Trauthwein. Back row from left, Lynn Rousseau, Kathy Borzell, Jim Diaz, Flo Innes and Joan Haber.



8019 Leafcrest Drive
 Jacksonville, FL 32244



Melissa Trauthwein, right, with Brenda Battat, Executive Director of HLAA at the Awards Breakfast in Nashville. Melissa was a recipient of the Rocky Stone Scholarship.

Attention, Young Adults with Hearing Loss living in Florida!

Did you know there is a valuable resource at your fingertips geared just for us? Check out Hearing Loss Nation: <http://hearinglossnation.ning.com/> This online social community was put together as part of the young adult initiative started by HLAA. Meet people your age from all over the country (and even some from other countries) that can relate to the struggles of living with hearing loss. Sign up today and join our community! While you're there, look me up. I would love to hear from you!

Melissa Trauthwein
 Vice President, HLA-FL
 Vice President, HLA-Jacksonville

Opening on the FCCDHH Council – is it *your* time to serve?

The Hearing Loss Association of Florida has two dedicated seats on the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH). One of those seats, currently held by Joan Haber, will be coming up for renewal on July 1, 2010. Joan will not be seeking another term. It seems like a long way off, but the application process takes a very long time once it is received by the Governor's Office.

The Governor's Office also requires that 3 people apply for each open seat, so that means 3 people from HLA-FL need apply, so that the Governor has 3 applicants to pick from. The length of the appointment is 4 years. If you are selected by the Governor, **you would also be required to serve on the HLA-FL board.**

If you have any questions about what is expected, feel free to email Joan Haber at joan1@comcast.net or by phone at 941-323-1418. If you wish to request application materials, contact: Mary Grace Tavel, Assistant to the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. • Phone: (850) 245-4913|Toll-free: (866) 602-3275 • Email: MaryGrace_Tavel@doh.state.fl.us

(Joan Haber was recently re-elected to a third one-year term as Council Chair.)

If you have pain in your ears after leaving a noisy area or you hear ringing or buzzing (tinnitus) in your ears immediately after exposure to noise, consider this as a warning sign that the sounds are TOO LOUD.