

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

A peek into the new year – a cruise, a convention and a chapter gathering

Brenda Battat to visit Florida for a Red Letter Day of chapter meetings

Brenda Battat, the Executive Director of HLAA, will travel to Sarasota, Florida for three special meetings on Saturday, March 24, 2012. There will be a meeting for all Florida chapter members, an evening reception for the community and a morning workshop for all the state’s chapter leaders. All Florida members are encouraged to save the date. More details below.



Statewide meeting for all Florida HLAA members

The main event will be a statewide meeting for all Florida chapter members that afternoon, during which Brenda will discuss *How HLAA is Addressing Your Hearing Needs, Access and Rights*. This session will also offer an *Update on Hearing Loops* by Dr. Patricia Kricos, the past president of the American Academy of Audiology, which is partnering with HLAA for the nationwide “Get in the Hearing Loop” initiative.



Continued on page 16

Join HLA-Florida on its third cruise

Come to Ft. Lauderdale and cruise on RCCL *Independence of The Seas*, sailing December 8, 2012 for eight days to the Eastern Caribbean to the islands of St. Kitts, St. Marteen, San Juan, Puerto Rico and the private island of Labadee. There will be lots of sunshine, places to see and plenty of activities.

It’s a chance for HLAA members to get together once again. If there is a good turnout, a Bon Voyage

Continued on page 14

Four candidates are running for the HLA-Florida Board of Trustees to serve a three-year term. A ballot is provided on page 4 for paid-up HLAA members who reside in Florida. If you do not send in a ballot, it means you approve of the slate as published.

To help us identify the major issues to discuss at our Chapter Collaboration Workshop on March 24, 2012 in Sarasota, please consider taking this survey. Thank you.
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6SWB7BG>



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EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
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ACCOUNTANT
Don Powell, Gainesville

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Sat., March 24, 2012 - Sarasota
Sat., June 2, 2012 - TBA

Attention Florida Residents

Join HLAA Now

We hope you agree that there is nowhere else where people with hearing loss can benefit from a national advocacy presence, a website with reliable, organized, and archived answers to questions about hearing loss and assistive technology, the Hearing Loss Magazine, with credible, current information, over 200 local support chapters and 14 state organizations, discounts to annual national conventions and many regional conferences

**Next issue - January 15, 2012
Deadline - January 8, 2012**

We are on Facebook!

We are on Twitter!

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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. You can follow us on Twitter or join our Yahoo group.

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health.groups.yahoo.com/group/HLA-FL/

You Can Help

We publish six electronic newsletters (November, January, March, May, July and September). Circulation is 800. All editions are posted to the website and remain there.

Advertising rates for the e-newsletter are \$150 for a full page, \$85 for a half page and \$50 for a quarter page. Chapter leaders, please forward the link for this newsletter to your members or you may send us their e-mail addresses.

Subscribe (or unsubscribe) to our electronic edition by sending an email to

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All issues of *Hear Ye, Hear Ye* will be posted on our website only. If you are on our mailing list, you will receive an email when it is available. If you want to subscribe or unsubscribe, please use this link:

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Editor: [Judy G. Martin](mailto:judygmartin@bellsouth.net)
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HLAA Webinars

December 8, 2011 7:00 p.m.

Basic Acoustics and Electronics (Brad Ingrao)

People with hearing loss are dependent on the electronics in their hearing devices as well as the physics of sound (acoustics) of every room they listen in. This webinar will describe the basics of both acoustics and electronics as they relate to hearing loss and hearing technology.

January 10, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Limitations of Ear-Level Technology (Brad Ingrao)

While it is true that hearing technology has never been better there are still, and always will be, limitations to what a microphone-based listening system on your head can do in certain settings. This webinar reviews what factors will decrease your hearing device effectiveness and how to overcome them.

February 16, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Technology in the Workplace (Esther Kelly)

Do you use walkie-talkies or two-way radios at work or answer multi-line telephones? If so, you know how hard it can be with hearing loss. Learn "outside of the box" solutions to these and many other workplace difficulties for people with hearing loss. Esther Kelly will cover up to ten workplace situations and offer solutions and ways to overcome difficulties using technology in the workplace; including creative ways to use FM systems to interact with co-workers and students. [For more information or to register.](#)

Advertising rates for the e-newsletter are \$150 for a full page; \$85 for a half page, \$50 for a quarter page and \$30 for an eighth page (business card size). A 25% discount is given for a one-year contract (six issues).

Our circulation is about 800 focused only on those with hearing loss who reside in Florida. However, many chapter leaders forward the newsletter to their members or print copies for use at meetings, so the number is somewhat higher. We no longer have a printed newsletter, due to cost.

NEW! If you would like to be a sponsor for *Hear Ye, Hear Ye* to help support our newsletter and website, we have different levels. Your name and/or company and or/website link will be prominently featured with others for one year (six issues) in a listing of one, two, three or four lines. Let it be known far and wide that you are a friend of HLA-Florida.

Levels of Sponsorship:

Sapphire: \$25 - \$49 - one-line listing

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Emerald: \$100 - \$199 - three-line listing

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BALLOT

Hearing Loss Association of Florida (HLA-FL)

Candidates for the 2011 Class 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 **Theresa (Tess) Crowder, Tampa**
- YES NO **Cynthia Moynihan, Valrico**
- YES NO **Joseph Nadeau, Miami**
- YES NO **Terri Schneider, Lakeland**

If you have any questions or concerns about this ballot, direct your comments to: Lisa Tanner, Chair, HLA-FL Nominating Committee, lisatanneraud@adhs-Brandon.com

If you return this ballot by postal mail, include your name and address and send to Lisa Tanner, AuD, Advance Diagnosis & Hearing Solutions, 522 Oakfield Drive, Brandon, FL 33511, so she will receive it **no later than December 15, 2011.**

Theresa (Tess) Crowder, Tampa



Registered Professional Reporter
(RPR)

Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR)
Certified Broadcast Captioner (CBC)
Certified CART Provider (CCP)

•President – Realtime Communication Services, Inc.

•President & Executive Director - Communication Access, Inc.

•Vice President & Board Member

of the Clearwater Chapter of the Hearing Loss Assn.

•Board Member of the Suncoast Chapter of the Association of Late-Deafened Adults

•Board Member of Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf

Tess has been providing CART services for the deaf, late deafened, and hard of hearing communities since 1995, traveling across the country and overseas in all types of settings for many local, state, national, and international organizations. Tess also conducts seminars instructing other CART Providers and Captioners on sensitivity issues and basic conversational

signing, and has presented workshops about CART services for local, state, and national organizations. She recently established a new non-profit organization, "Communication Access, Inc." which provides services for people with hearing loss.

- Volunteers as a sign language interpreter at her church (over 20 years)

- Volunteers CART services for the Association of Late Deafened Adults (over 15 years)

- Volunteers CART services for local Hearing Loss Association of America Chapters:

Clearwater Chapter, Sun City Chapter, and occasionally Tampa Chapter for many years

- Volunteers CART services for mental health and rehabilitation counseling sessions

- Volunteers CART services for workshops, meetings, and conventions for non-profits

- Volunteers to teach children and adults basic conversational sign language

- Contributing Editor of the Journal of Court Reporting – National Court Reporters Association

Tess is married, has three boys, and is a 3rd Degree Black Belt and Certified Instructor in the American Taekwondo Association.

Cynthia Moynihan, Valrico

Hello! I am married with two children, Matt (15) and Stephen (12), and two dogs, Misty and Larue II (recently acquired hearing dog). Growing up with a hearing loss that progressively declined from third grade on introduced me to adaptability. It became my most useful word throughout life, with work experience in operational bank audits, facility management, business training, teaching, graduate school and eventually marriage, several moves and family. From past to present, my experience has reached a turning point from education and neighborhood committees and boards over the last ten years to hearing advocacy groups that can make a difference.



Today, I am profoundly deaf with a family reaching a level of independence. This has opened the door to my own personal calling to assist others with hearing loss. Technology continues to create new frontiers in hearing devices and information about hearing loss at one's finger tips. But deciphering which devices and how they can be used best can be overwhelming. Extended family members and friends are also often seeking advice on adapting and helping the one with the hearing loss. Those of us with experience and knowledge pertaining to these issues can pass along help, assistance, and a "lending ear" of support when possible to hard of hearing and extended family and friends. HLA-FL makes that happen and it would be an honor to support its efforts by becoming part of the Board team and putting to use my own personal experience with:

1. Interaction and understanding among hearing, hard-of-hearing and deaf people,
2. Member of various Deaf groups and current HLAA member,
3. Member of several School and Neighborhood Boards,
4. Basic understanding of sign language and adequate lip reader
5. Experienced hearing aid user and familiarity with all cochlear implant options
6. Experience and knowledge about audiologists and clients with hearing loss and
6. Recent training and public certification for first hearing dog, Larue II.

I look forward to hearing from and getting to know all of YOU!

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The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is back in business!
There are several seats open and among them is one for the Hearing Loss Association of Florida.
If you are interested and feel you have a good grasp of the precepts of HLAA, please consider submitting your application. The form can be found here:
<http://www.fccdhh.org/services/council-openings.html>

The next meeting of the Council, which meets quarterly and is open to the public, will be in Tallahassee on Thursday and Friday, February 9 and 10. Public comment period is scheduled for Thursday from 4 - 6 p.m. If you would like to listen in via teleconference, you may email Mary Grace Tavel –
MaryGrace.Tavel@doh.state.fl.us – to receive information for access to the meeting.
www.fccdhh.org

Joe Nadeau, Miami

I was born in Maine, but spent my high school and college years in Massachusetts. After graduating from Boston College, I served in the US Army - Artillery, with Airborne - Ranger status, which is probably where my hearing loss began. It didn't become a major problem until about 20 years ago. During the last 20 years, I've had about ten pairs of hearing aids, always hoping the newest and greatest would restore my hearing to what I once had. But, no such luck.



As my sensorineural hearing loss became progressively worse, I've become quite familiar with all the gadgets that make life *tolerable*, from assists with the telephone, microphones, FM transmitters, loops and the television, to *quiet corners* in restaurants. I've had my own business since 1974 as a management consultant, specializing in health care information systems technology.

After attending the National HLAA meeting in DC this past June, I decided it was time to explore cochlear implants, as my hearing had gotten to be severely profound. In the process of testing for the cochlear, we discovered I have an Vestibula Schwannoma tumor on my right internal auditory canal. Currently, I'm waiting to address the tumor before we do the CI on the left side and I'm not sure if I'll ever be able to do a CI on the right side. The reason for the delay is that I would not be allowed to do any more MRI's once I have a cochlear on the left side – metal and MRI's don't mix – so it seems logical to address the tumor first.

I am also a charter member of the newly-formed Hearing Loss Association of Greater Miami and serve on its Board of Directors. By joining the HLA-FL Board I would hope that I can share the excitement of spreading the word *that there is help for those with hearing loss*, especially in the very populous South Florida region.

HLA-Florida Board Changes

At the October Annual meeting, several changes took place.

Resignations were accepted from Carl Sjobeck from his seat on the Board and from the Office of Treasurer. Larry Kavanaugh resigned his Board seat. Kay Schaffer and Nancy Day have chosen not to run again as Trustees, and Kay thereby relinquished her Office of Secretary. Don Shaffer had earlier been appointed as Acting Treasurer and Judy Martin as Acting Secretary. Due to health concerns, Richard Herring has

Terri Schneider. Au.D., Lakeland



Dr. Terri Schneider is the sole proprietor of Healthy Hearing & Balance Clinic, Lakeland, FL. She has ten years of experience in the field of audiology including evaluation and treatment of balance disorders and verti-

go, hearing loss and tinnitus management among others. Additionally she owns Cornerstone Health Specialists, LLC where she employs a staff neurologist as well as a cardiologist and a growing team of over 15 technicians who provide evaluation for a variety of related disorders.

Dr. Schneider developed an interest in audiology while working as an interpreter for the deaf in the Polk County school system. She holds a degree from the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL as well as Marshall University in Huntington, WV. Dr. Schneider earned her Florida state license and medical quality assurance certificate in 2003 after passing national examinations. Additionally she holds certification from the American Speech Language and Hearing Association and has been a past member of The American Academy of Audiologist as well as the Florida Academy of Audiologist.

She has a love for the industry of hearing health care as well as the people the field serves and volunteers in the schools of to provide assistance in maintaining hearing aids and other hearing devices for the children in the county. She also is a member of Lakeland 1st Aviation Sertoma Club volunteering time to work to raise money to support the ongoing efforts of this Sertoma club whose goal is to provide hearing aids and FM systems to the schools of Polk County.

chosen not to run for President for a second term, but retains his Board seat. He is now the Immediate Past President. A few days following, Judy Martin was elected Acting President and Don Shaffer was elected as Treasurer until October 2012. The vote took place by e-mail as provided for in our Bylaws Article Five, A,12(e).

New Board members will be elected by the end of the year and an Acting Secretary will be appointed in March.

Some thoughts about buying hearing aids online

We cannot tell you how pleased we are to have this partnership between the Florida Academy of Audiology and the Hearing Loss Association of Florida. It has really been quite an eyeopener. As audiologists, we are well-trained in all the medical aspects of hearing loss as well as how to handle hearing loss, its remediation and rehabilitation. We have classes that address the psychological, social, and economic consequences of hearing loss. But the truth is, that when you get into the real world, nothing is what we are taught. The first time I used the term "hearing impairment" with active members, I almost got my head shot off. Audiologists don't realize that the terms mean different things to different people. That is why this partnership is so important. It is the open communication between our constituencies that allows audiologists to better serve the Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and deaf-blind populations. It keeps us more in the loop (no pun intended) with what we think you need versus what you really need. In essence, it makes us more effective in assisting your members.

Because of our mutual interests, I would like to share some thoughts about the latest news of online hearing tests and hearing aids sold via mail based on an online test or by United HealthCare or by a commercial company such as Best Buy. Do not be fooled by the price. Read the reviews, one of which said to save your money. You cannot take a test over the computer. It is not calibrated. There is no bone conduction, there is no speech testing, it is a violation of state licensure laws. The

state licensure laws governing licensed hearing healthcare professionals were put in place to protect you, the consumer. If a conductive problem is found, you MUST be referred to an ENT. If there is asymmetry, you MUST be referred to an ENT. If your ability to understand speech is significantly impaired, you MUST be referred to an ENT.

Being lured into the purchase of these hearing aids via promises that are often misleading and false is unconscionable. Those of you who wear hearing aids know you need a knowledgeable professional to assist with the best style for your needs and any other assistive devices needed. These are not one-size-fits-all devices but need periodic reprogramming for your

needs. Who will tell you if there is excessive wax in your ear? Who will tell you if you have a perforation of which you are not aware. Who will spend the time to teach you how to best use the devices, how to put them in the ear, to counsel you on realistic expectations.

Yes, hearing aids are expensive but so is the training of your hearing healthcare professional as well as

the time committed to assisting you with your needs. Those of you seeing a licensed audiologist recognize the value of a good relationship with your professional. Don't let your friends be misled into thinking they are saving money when they may never use what they purchased.

We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship between our organizations. Thank you for your enthusiasm, for your practical knowledge, for your commitment to the betterment of all those with Hearing Loss. We look forward to assisting you with your hearing and with your goals.

Cindy Simon, Au.D.
FLAA Vice-president of
Professional Affairs



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AROUNDANDABOUT . . . at our Board Meeting



Above are (standing) Tom & Judy Martin, Jacksonville; seated are Bob Astle, Maitland; Don & Kay Shaffer, Plant City.

At our dinner the evening before our Annual Board meeting in Boynton Beach. Upper left, back row, Oscar Segal, President of the South Palm Beach County HLA (who was our gracious host, and who provided us with a meeting room and tasty goodies all the day long.) Next to him is Flo Innes. In front seated is Elizabeth Jankovsky, from CaptionCall; Lynn Rousseau, Gainesville; and Richard Herring, Sun City Center.

Below, Elizabeth Jankovsky of CaptionCall, one of our speakers.



Joe Duran, President-Elect of the Florida Academy of Audiology (FLAA), speaks about his organization's collaboration with HLA-Florida. Officers and members look forward to working with him as they have with past friends in the Academy.

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(We are often asked for names of CART providers in Florida. We offer this list as a service and are not responsible for errors or omissions. Please notify HearYeHearYe2006@gmail.com of any changes.)

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FTRI celebrates Deaf Awareness Week at the movies

In celebration of Deaf Awareness Week, FTRI sponsored a free, open-caption screening of "Dolphin Tale" on Saturday, October 8 at Regal Cinemas in Tallahassee. More than 100 people representing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community attended the event including educators, ASL students, interpreters and clinicians. Students from Lincoln High School's ASL club assisted with the event and Florida State University's Student Disability Resource Center donated interpreting services. Regal Cinemas generously donated 70 tickets.

FTRI Outreach Manager, Colleen Schuster kicked off the event thanking partners and explaining the FTRI program. FTRI Outreach Specialist, A.J. Sondossi discussed meeting the star of the movie, Winter, and how the dolphin vividly reminds us of overcoming a disability with a positive attitude and fighting against all the odds.



Regal Cinemas' General Manager Chris Hancock explained the theatre's accommodations for people with hearing loss, visual impairment or mobility issues.

The heartwarming movie left everyone eager to visit Winter at Clearwater's Marine Aquarium. If you can't make the trip, view Winter anytime through the virtual webcam at www.seewinter.com. Be sure to check your local www.captionfish.com listings for an open-caption showing of "Dolphin Tale" in your area. The event was a big success for the Tallahassee and surrounding community.

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. is a statewide non-profit organization that was established by the 1991 Florida Legislature's Telecommunications Access System Act (TASA) to administer the free specialized

A list of venues looped for sound in Florida

If you know of others, please email the information to HearYeHearYe2006@gmail.com

Anna Maria Island - Episcopal Church of the Annunciation
Clearwater - Our Lady of Lourdes
Clearwater - St. Michael Church
Dade City - Church of Christ at Trilacoochee,
Dover - First Baptist Church
Dunedin - The Kirk of Dunedin Community Church
Dunedin - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
Gainesville - Grace Presbyterian Church
Gainesville - Oak Hammock at University of Florida
Jacksonville - Whole Foods Market
Largo - City of Largo Public Library
Largo - Largo Community Center
Marco Island - Marco Presbyterian Church



Marco Island - St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Melbourne - Melbourne 7th Day Adventist Church
Merritt Island - Redeemer Lutheran Church
Merritt Island - St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Miami Shores - Miami Shores Presbyterian Church,
Naples - Moorings Park Retirement Community
Naples - Naples United Church of Christ
St. Petersburg - St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral
St. Petersburg - Westminster Presbyterian Church
Sarasota - Alderman Oaks Retirement Community
Sarasota - Caraglio's Restaurant
Sarasota - First United Methodist
Sarasota - North Sarasota Public Library
Sarasota - Owen's Fish Camp
Sarasota - Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
Sarasota - Whole Foods Market, Cash Register #1
Sun City Center - St. Andrew Presbyterian Church (Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall)
Tallahassee - Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation
Tampa - First Baptist Church
Tampa - First Presbyterian Church
Venice - Venice Presbyterian Church
The Villages - Ashley Wilkes Room, The Savannah Center
The Villages - Community Development District Boardroom
West Palm Beach - Hope Lutheran Church Parsonage
Williston - First United Church of Williston
Winter Haven - Village Church of God

telecommunication equipment to Florida residents who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind and Speech Disabled. FTRI also promotes the Florida Relay Service (711).

www.ftri.org

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nearLIFE EXPO An educational program took place in mid-September which provided information about the causes of severe hearing loss and how cochlear implants can help you or your child hear again. Presenters from Jacksonville Hearing & Balance Institute, were Dr. J. Douglas Green, Jr. and Dr. John C. Goddard. People who have

received cochlear implants were in attendance as well. The Hearing Loss Association of Florida was represented with an information booth. Captioning and an induction loop system was provided by Theresea Taylor of The Caption Company, Jacksonville and Jim Scott, Complete Hearing Solutions, St. Petersburg. LeAnne Boone, Au.D., Gainesville, represented the Med-El Corporation.



Jim Scott



Theresea Taylor



Dr. Green and Dr. Goddard

Implantów ślimakowych



That is *cochlear implants* in the Polish language.

Magdalena Greger, from Fort Worth, Texas, spoke at the Med-El meeting. She is from Poland so my ears perked up at that, since half my ancestry is Polish and I

visited there a few years ago. She brought her four-year-old daughter, a little Polish beauty, who is bilaterally implanted.

She told how her daughter had passed her newborn hearing test, but about a year later she and her husband noticed that something was not quite right. They had

ordered a king-size mattress for their bedroom. The baby's crib was next to their bed and though three men came in to deliver it making considerable noise, she did not wake up. They learned a few weeks later that their daughter was profoundly deaf. It was not a hard choice to make to have her implanted, because as Magdalena said, speech is a process in which our most personal feelings become public, so how would her daughter communicate? The little girl was implanted at 17 months and four months later received a second one. After the first one, they went to see the Nutcracker and her daughter didn't care for it that much, but the following year with two implants, she was able to pick out the different instruments. Of course, they do daily speech therapy using TWO languages!

Magdalene says her daughter is about a year behind and wished they'd had the surgery done earlier. But, with a glass-is-half-full attitude, she says, "Because I'm thinking she has 80 years to live, at least, well, if she is one year behind – one year to catch up – she will be just fine.

I agree that the personable Mom and daughter will be just fine if their visibly warm and loving relationship is any indication.

–Judy Martin

OUR CHAPTERS SPEAK . . .

The Lee County Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America is gearing up for the new year. They will be meeting on Friday, Jan. 26, from 10:30 - 12 noon. The first meeting will be a getting-to-know-you session.



Lori Timson, Executive Director of the Deaf Service Center of Southwest, FL, Inc. has graciously invited the chapter to use the facilities. The address is 1860 Boy Scout Drive, B208, Fort Myers. You may learn more about the center by going to www.dsc.us

Lois Smith, who is leading the group, has said that a CART provider will be present. You can contact her at lojims@embarqmail.com

The October 5th chapter meeting was attended by 55 members and guests who gathered to hear speaker LeAnn S. Boone, Au.D., CCC-A, Hearing Implant Outreach Specialist, MED-EL Cochlear Implant. Also, a demonstration of the CaptionCall telephone by Sorenson was provided by Andrew Finlayson from The Villages.

Members and guests polled stated that LeAnn had the clearest elocution they have heard in a long time and that her presentation was outstanding. They also commented on the excellent and helpful demonstration of the CaptionCall telephone which Andrew provided.

Babson Park holds first meeting

In Babson Park, an exploratory meeting was held on October 11 at 10 a.m. in the Babson Park Community Church, Highway 17 & Rainbow Road.



Terry Longval and Dr. Kevin Barlow

This group is being led by Terry Longval and Kevin Barlow, AuD. About ten people attended. Judy Martin, State Chapter Coordinator, showed an HLA video and told about the many benefits of belonging to the Association. Terry talked about her plans and a lively discussion followed.

The chapter's next meeting is November 15 at 10 a.m. in the church. The program is on t-coil technology and hearing loops.

Terry has programs scheduled through February, so she is moving the chapter along!

Babson Park, which is in a lovely area with rolling hills and orchards, is working toward obtaining its official status as a chapter.

A hearing loop and CART are provided at every HLA-SCC chapter meeting which takes place the first Wednesday from September to May. Speakers have been booked in advance to speak on topics related to hearing loss. The location of the monthly meetings take place at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Sun City Center. On December 7, a Holiday program is scheduled, presented by Bolestra Center/USF Children, Kelly Teegardin, M.S., CCC SLP, Auditory Verbal Therapist. January 4 the program is: *Have You Ever Thought About Doing Something About Your Hearing Loss and Don't Where to Start?* presented by Joan Haber, former Chair of FCCDHH, Peer Mentor for People with Hearing Loss.

Free Hearing Screenings will be offered (with audiometer). Cecelia Wickert, M.S., HEARx

President, Richard Herring, says all are welcome.


www.hla-scc.com/

Hearing aids can be dangerous to your health I learned that the Hard Way.

— Oscar Segal, Pres.,
HLA-South Palm Beach County

Many of us wear hearing aids; but do we really know what we bought? Here is something I never imagined was possible: *There's a hidden danger when buying a hearing aid.*

Hearing Loss – But Life Goes On



I have been fighting the hearing loss battle for as far back as I can remember. I think I actually tried nearly every device available over the years to help me hear. Some worked to a degree; others were a waste of effort and money. As better hearing aids came available, I always opted for *what's new* because I wanted to maximize my level of hearing. And I bought from any convenient neighborhood aid dispenser. The price was right. For a long time, I had about 80 percent hearing in the right ear but only about 10 percent or so in the left ear that was helped along with a hearing aid. In those days, I bought what was currently the latest-and-greatest aid. But there were voices and places where discrimination was a problem sometimes. Like so many of us, I managed. I thrived in my job as an engineer, was active in sports – tennis and golf, fishing – and piloting my own aircraft.

Ignorance or Stupidity?

I had never heard of HLAA and never bothered to learn about the causes and ramifications of hearing loss. It was a problem that I simply had to live with as best I could. About six or seven years ago, I had to admit that what family and friends were telling me was fact; my hearing had gotten worse. I went to a local hearing aid dispenser that was the closest to my home. After a hearing test – with only headphones and a sound generator in an open room – no sound suppression booth – the Certified Aid Dispenser announced his diagnosis; left ear down to about 7 or 8 percent, right ear down also. He prescribed an aid for the right ear that will, as he said, “Give you better than normal hearing.”

Better than Normal?

Who could pass that up after years of frustration trying to hear better? I said, “Let’s go with it!” Two weeks later my new aid arrived; couldn’t wait to try it out. The next day was Saturday and I wore it to a party that night. I was only slightly concerned because it was so big - almost the size of a walnut. But, hey! I didn’t care about cosmetics, to hear better is what it’s all about. That party was a huge success for me. Finally, I was able to hear every sound loud and clear – and then some. In fact, the volume was so good, I kept turning it down! For the first time in many years, I felt that I could hear like everyone else. Got home that night a very happy man. Got up the next morning totally devastated. I went to sleep that night dreaming of a whole

new world. And my wish came true, but not the way I expected.

Disaster after Midnight

Some time during the night I was awakened by an overwhelming sound; loud enough to wake up the whole neighborhood. My first thought was it’s the car alarm from the garage until I realized our car did not have an alarm! But loud doesn’t really describe it; it was an all-encompassing, pervasive onslaught of unimaginable noise that sounded like a thousand banshees screaming. When the realization hit me that it was all in my head and I couldn’t stop it, my blood pressure went through the roof, body turned clammy and I passed out. My wife called 911. In the emergency room, I was given tranquilizers and other nameless meds in an attempt to bring the pressure down. But nothing that was done at the hospital that night and into the next day helped to alleviate the horrible sound in my head. The terror of thinking I would have to live with that sound for the rest of my life led me to want to end it right there. A frantic search started to find an ENT but, being a weekend that was all but impossible. The ENT on the hospital staff was at a loss to explain what it was and could not offer a suggestion for treatment. By late afternoon on Sunday, some 14 hours after it started, the noise suddenly stopped. Completely! There was no sound! The right ear was now totally deaf. Zero! Nilch! *That particular hearing aid, with its excessively high volume capability, allowed me to unknowingly destroy my hearing.*

Life was Over

The left ear had something less than 10 percent. Even with the aid in the left ear, communicating was so difficult, I stopped trying. Typical reaction – I refused to join friends at restaurants; sat and sulked during those times when my wife and I were invited somewhere (invitations became less frequent because of me). I went from being an active, productive and ambitious person to a do-nothing lump sitting on a couch. I suspect many of you reading this will understand that feeling.

HLAA – Life Begins Again

Someone coerced me into going to a chapter meeting (at that time, know as the Delray/ Boynton Chapter). I was reluctant to go because, “Hey; I can’t hear so why bother?” What I learned at those meetings introduced me to a whole new world where I was not alone and where I learned how to go about finding and implementing what I needed to get me back into the mainstream of life. Today, thanks to HLAA, **I’m Back!**



The Sarasota chapter has been advocating for hearing loop systems using an Advisory Board of influential community leaders, which includes the heads of local government, theater groups and the Sarasota Sertoma club, to support their plans.

On October 5, the **Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall** became the first theater in Sarasota to offer a hearing loop system. The theater, which seats 1709 people and has some 200 performances a year, is the most prominent performance hall in Southwest Florida. The loop was made possible through a generous grant from the Sarasota Sertoma Club. Before loop service began, the Sarasota chapter provided loop and T-coil training classes for the Hall's 500 ushers.

The **First United Methodist Church** in Sarasota and **Venice United Presbyterian Church** will become the first churches in Sarasota County to add a loop system. The Sarasota chapter held training sessions for both Churches' ushers before these systems went on-line in late October.

Advance Magazine, a national medical monthly, interviewed HLAS President Ed Ogiba on the chapter's advocacy progress for Let's Loop SRQ! Their article details the chapter's strategic plan to try and turn Sarasota into a hearing-friendly city. http://www.hearingloss.org/sites/default/files/docs/Lets_Loop_SRQ.pdf. BIZ941 Magazine honored Ed Ogiba in their annual review of the Top 20 People to Watch, who changing the community for the better. For more details, visit their September issue. <http://biz941.com/ARTICLES/Current-Issue/People-to-Watch.aspx>

CRUISE Continued from page 1

Sail Away Party will take place. A \$50 credit per cabin will be available to use as you please .

The date is timely as it is not during the hurricane season and takes place prior to Hanukkah and Christmas. Travelers can plan to do some holiday shopping in the Caribbean. A \$50 deposit per person will hold a cabin and would make a wonderful holiday gift for family, friends or yourself!

Calling on Lakeland area residents

The Hearing Loss Association of Lakeland wants to become a reality. If you live in that area, give a shout-out to Jackie Bowman or Edythe Lach, two enthusiastic women who would like to form a hearing loss group. They may be reached in Lakeland at the Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center. They attended the meeting at Babson Park and are anxious to hear from you! jbowman@cfshc.org elach@cfshc.org

If you know of other areas where people with hearing loss might be interested in having an HLA chapter in their neighborhood, please let me know. Please contact me if you would like more information about the above groups.

Judy Martin,
Florida State Chapter Coordinator
judy.martin@bellsouth.net

Sarasota's Player's Theatre adds Captioning for All Plays This Season

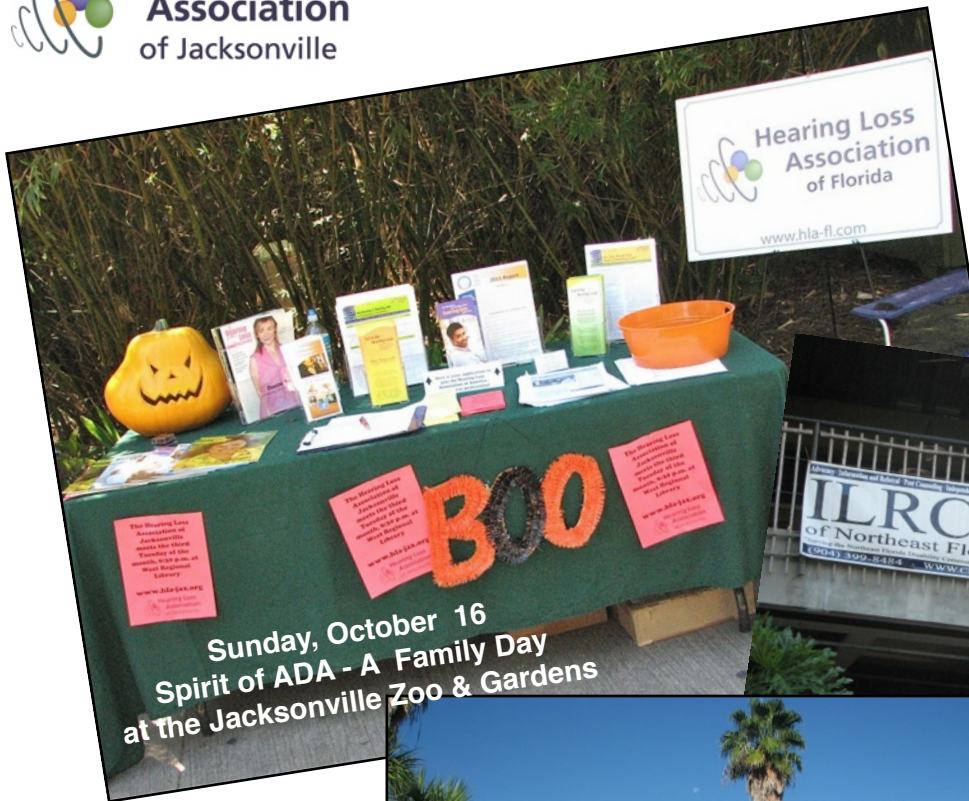
The Player's Theatre in Sarasota has added captioning to two performances of every play, which they will show this season. Their system employs two large screens above the stage to showcase the captions. This technique has eliminated the criticism that many movie houses get from normal hearing people who find open captions on the screen, or in front of the action, too distracting. In contrast, the theatre has received many compliments from normal hearing, as well as hearing loss, people for the dialogue support. Captions were developed earlier this year by HLAS member Frank Stocco for Player's showing of Neil Simon's play *Rumors*, which the theatre agreed to test as a result of his long-standing advocacy efforts.

Being a member of HLA or having a hearing loss is not required to take advantage of this group rate. Ask hearing friends to join in and only be sure to put HLA-Florida Cruise on the subject line of your deposit check.

Contact Lynn Rousseau (HLAFlorida@aol.com) or Barbara Maher for more info. barbaram@gotravelorlando.com



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NEWLY-REVISED
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www.hla-jax.org



**Sunday, October 16
Spirit of ADA - A Family Day
at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens**



**Tuesday, Sept. 20 - Natasha Richardson (above)
Vocational Rehab Counselor
Florida Dept. of Education**



**Tuesday, October 18 - Dick Valentine (right)
Civil Rights Officer, Florida Department of
Children and Families**

Red Letter Day -

Continued from page 1

Check with your chapter leaders for group transportation possibilities.

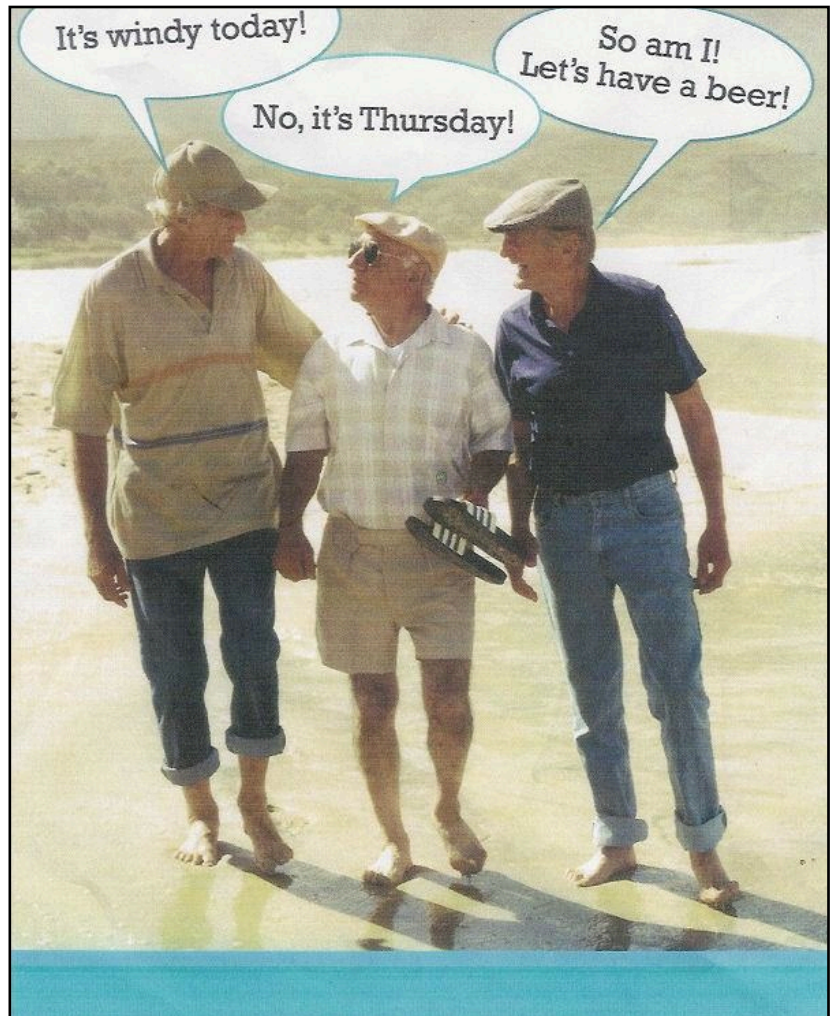
Hearing Loss Affects Everyone, Including Businesses

The evening of March 24 will feature a community reception entitled "*Hearing Loss Affects Everyone . . . Including Businesses.*" Both Brenda and Pat will discuss how loops are transforming many communities across the country and how cities in Florida can do the same. The focus will be to educate Florida organizations on how a hearing loop system can help build their business. Anyone who wants to learn more about loops is invited. For sponsorship packages or program advertising details, contact Ed Ogiba, at 941-966-8999 or ed@groupefo.com.

Chapter Collaboration Workshop

The day will begin with Chapter Collaboration Workshop in the morning for the leaders of the Florida's 14 HLAA chapters. The focus will be to discuss solutions for the major opportunities and challenges that all chapters face. To pinpoint the agenda for this meeting, chapter leaders are encouraged to complete the Leaders On-line Survey. In addition, the Hearing Loss Association of Florida requests all members of any Florida chapter take the Members On-Line Survey to help your leaders confirm the most significant opportunities for your chapter.

For more details on the meetings or the links to either the Leader Survey or Member Survey, please contact HLA-FL President Judy Martin at 904-778-2265 or judygmartin@bellsouth.net.



As of October 1, Florida has a new department called the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The Executive Director is Doug Darling. He has asked for your help to think of ways to create more jobs and enhance economic development. Please think of how those of us with hearing loss could create more jobs in promoting advocacy, awareness, ADA compliance, and advances in technology. Send your suggestions to:

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