

LISTEN UP!

Newsletter of the Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc.

August 2011

71 Glenwood Avenue, Queensbury, New York 12804

Phone: (518) 761-0554 - www.afthi.org



Director's Corner:

Who does the Association for the Hearing Impaired serve? The answer is thousands of individuals, over the past 25-years, with hearing loss of all ages. This summer, we have assisted a couple from Essex County who wanted to discuss Cochlear implants; filled countless requests for amplified telephones, pocket talkers, alert masters and alarm clocks; provided a personal FM system to an area resident so that she could participate in a 5-day training program; distributed FM receivers at the Wood Theater (their equipment); shared the AFTHI portable FM system and receivers with area theater/arts groups and provided a sponsorship to send an area teen to a camp for the deaf in Rochester. Every day, Kassey and I receive mail, emails, phone calls, office visits and referrals from persons with diverse needs. Some wish to borrow assistive equipment or learn how they can purchase their own and others want to register for American Sign Language or Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers classes. Information and Referral as well as advocacy remain the backbone of what the AFTHI has stood for these many years. Peer support, the ability to understand and share similar experiences with the public and help them to make decisions designed to improve the quality of their lives may be as rewarding as it gets.

In the July 2011 edition of Listen Up!, I spoke about Volunteerism and Fundraising/Development. Subsequently, in response to our friends at SUNY Adirondack, I prepared a sample syllabus for individuals interested in Interning (or volunteering) at the AFTHI. Kassey and I would welcome the opportunity to tailor an experience that best meets the needs, interests and time availability of Internship or Volunteer Candidates. Some of the duties that you might assist the AFTHI with, include:

- * Assistive Technology Loan Out Center: Learn about equipment so that you can assist customers
- * Listen Up!: Research, write and/or edit articles to include in paper & electronic versions of newsletter.
- * Edit and update AFTHI's website and assist in the development of agency Power Point presentation(s).
- * Assist at American Sign Language classes as well as training classes and performances of Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers.
- * Attend Community Outreach and Special Events and help promote the existence of the AFTHI and its programs and services throughout the Tri-County and Greater-Capital Regions.
- * Increase public's access to AFTHI Resource Library of books, tapes, DVDs & board games.
- * Assist with grant writing, special event and fundraising programs, including Be A Hear-O and Holiday Party.

Tickets (\$5.00) for the Kiwanis Club of Glens Falls Duck Race on July 30th must be purchased prior to July 28th to benefit the AFTHI. As of 07/20, we have only sold 46 tickets towards our goal of 400 duck tickets so we thank everyone for your 11th hour purchases. This morning I did a Duck Race promo on WCKM Radio and informed the Morning Team of Dan & Pete that funds would be used to support AFTHI programs for children and families, including the Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers, that they could not stop raving about.

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Lake George - The AFTHI helped sell Motorcycle Raffle tickets during Americade week and received a \$1,000 gift from the Club for our efforts. Thanks, also, to the Sandy Hill Foundation for approving our grant proposal to provide Introduction to ASL to village, town, city, county and state employees, as well as members of volunteer fire and EM's companies and law enforcement agencies (\$1,000)

Listen Up! readers receiving the newsletter electronically early this month are invited to join the AFTHI at East Field in Glens Falls. The Flying Fingers will perform the National Anthem prior to the Golden Eagles Baseball Game on Friday, July 22nd at 5:00pm. Tickets are \$4 at AFTHI office or \$5 at the game.

Your Dollars Make A Difference!

The Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. is a 501 © (3) non-profit corporation under the Internal Revenue Code. Your contributions are fully deductible and appreciated. If you would like to make a gift "in memory of" or "in honor of" a friend or loved one, we will notify the appropriate person of your thoughtful gift. You can also remember the Association in your will or life insurance policy.

Your generosity will make an important difference in the lives of deaf and hard of hearing children and adults. For more information about leaving the Association in your will or as a bequest, please contact the office at 761-0554.




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"Listen Up"
 is the Monthly Newsletter of the
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We thank everyone who supports our work, particularly


Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc.
Membership and/or Contribution Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____ E-Mail _____

Membership includes a monthly newsletter and notices of events and classes.

_____ Individual Membership @ \$ 15.00 \$ _____
 _____ Family membership @ \$ 20.00 \$ _____
 _____ Sponsor @ \$ 50.00 \$ _____
 _____ Patron @ \$ 150.00 \$ _____
 _____ Contribution \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

**Please make checks payable to AFTHI
 & mail to: 71 Glenwood Ave,
 Queensbury, NY 12804**

Memberships, Contributions & Grant Funds

The Association for the Hearing Impaired truly appreciates the financial support of all of its members as well as from those who provide private contributions, grant monies or wish to honor the life of a loved one with a Memorial Contribution. The AFTHI wishes to thank those individuals by recognizing them in the monthly edition of Listen Up! The list includes those that have either paid dues or sent a contribution during June/July as well as Be A Hear-O Sponsors. Contributions, Great & Small are all equally appreciated. Members Helping Members!

Warren County Office For the Aging (OFA)
 Washington County Office For the Aging (OFA)
 Tri-County United Way
 Lake George Rotary Club Foundation Inc.
 Sandy Hill Foundation
 Mary T Bush

Members:
 Phyllis Goodro
 Laura Antonsen

PAYPAL: The AFTHI hopes to soon offer the public the option of using paypal for on-line payments of membership dues, program/special event registrations and charitable contributions. More info to follow.

KASSEY'S KORNER

The logo for Clarity, featuring the word "CLARITY" in white capital letters on a blue rectangular background.

The Association received a generous donation from Clarity which is a company that carries assistive devices. The donation was in the form of equipment that has been added to the AFTHI loan out program. We received a package of assorted telephones and an alarm clock valued at approximately \$550.



Join our Team TODAY!!
ASSOCIATION FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED HEAR-O'S
Saturday, October 15th

Go to the website and join our team. We are called Association for the Hearing Impaired HEAR-O'S or donate to a team member or the team. Click on Join a Team or Find A Team then type in our name. We will be carpooling on that day to the Mid-Hudson Valley (approximately 2 1/2 hours)

http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR?fr_id=1905&pg=entry

ASL CLASS BEGIN

Fall Season American Sign Language Classes begin the week of September 19th. ASL Level I will be offered on Wednesday nights and ASL Level II class will be on Monday nights 6:30—8:00pm. If anyone is interested in a Level III class please send me an email at office@afthi.org or call the office at 518.761.0554. We are looking into the possibility of offering a Level III Class depending on the interest. All classes are 10 weeks. You can register online anytime.

FABULOUS FRIENDS WITH FLYING FINGERS

Fall classes begin Tuesday, September 20th at 6:00pm. I will be offering two classes one from 6-7 and another from 7:15-8:15 this depends on how many children sign up and the level of skills they have which class they will be in. Please sign up online today or call office at 518.761.0554 Ages 7 & up cost is \$40 non-members and \$30 members second child is \$35 non-member \$25 member.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS OUT MUSIC SERIES

Downtown Glens Falls in front of Scoville's Jewelers at Centennial Circle August 3rd, Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers will perform at 5:30 before the Band "Closer Still" performs. We will also have a booth set up that night to inform people of AFTHI.

Covidien

The AFTHI was sad to hear that Covidien, a catheter manufacturer will be closing their plant in Argyle next year. The Association thanks Covidien again for their \$6,000 gift from their Partnership For Neighborhood Wellness program in 2010

**The 21st Annual
Kiwanis Club of Glens Falls
\$1,000,000
Duck Race
and Family
Fun Day . . .**

**\$2,100 Cash Prize
for the First Place Duck!**

Additional prizes for subsequent winners.

**Race begins at 12:31 p.m.
Saturday July 30th, 2011**

**FAMILY FUN DAY
11:00 a.m. til 2:00 p.m.**

**Haviland's
Cove Park
Glens Falls**

Buy a
ticket for \$5.00
and
take a chance on a
Million Dollar
Duck



**THE 16TH ANNUAL DEAF
AWARENESS DAY**

**Hosted by: Deaf Awareness Commit-
tee Six Flags of New England**

RIDE ONLY

Early Bird \$25 per person before July 25th,
2011 After the price will be \$27

Where: Route 159, Agawam, MA

When: Saturday, August 6, 2011

Ticket Booth Hours 10am—5pm

Park Hours 10am—10pm

Children Age 2 and Under are FREE

Proceeds to educational scholarship program

**Make Checks payment to Deaf Awareness
Day Below:**

The Center for Living & Working Inc

484 Main Street Ste 345

Worcester, MA 01608

508.755.1003 (V/TTY)

508.762.1164 (VP)



**Hayleigh's
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*Making Hearing Im-
paired Children and
Adults Proud of their
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Hi! I'm Hayleigh Scott
and I'm 11 years old.

When I was little and at-
tended a school for hear-
ing impaired children, I

notice that some kids tried

to hide their hearing aids behind their hair. I wanted to
make my hearing aids shine and be fancy and be proud of
my hearing aids.

I started drawing pictures along with my sisters showing
them how I could make my hearing aids shine. My mom
helped me make our designs into jewelry for my hearing
aids and they were so fancy. Other kids and adults started
wanting them too!

And so with the help of my mom and dad, I started my own
little business... Hayleigh's Cherished Charms. I have my
own work area at my house where my sisters and I make all
the jewelry. I even have a provisional patent on my crea-
tions and will have a full patent soon!

You'll love these charms!!! My patented clasp ideas, hear-
ing aid scrunchies, ad tube twists are made so that little
hands can use them and the designs hanging from the clasps
face forward for all to see.

We also make regular earrings because sometimes a mom
or sister who doesn't have hearing aids wants to match their
child/sister/brother who is wearing the charms. Yes, we
have charms for boys and even for adults!

Visit my website to see al my charms at

www.hayleighscherishedcharms.com

Thank you for your support and please note that 10% of the
proceeds will go to furthering hearing impairment research
and education of the hearing impaired.

CORPORATE HEARO'S



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383 Bay Road
Queensbury, NY 12804
(518) 793-4163



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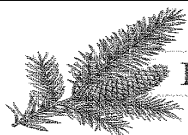
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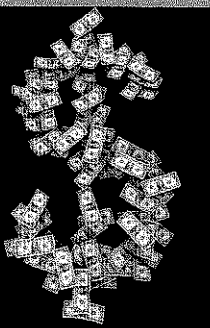
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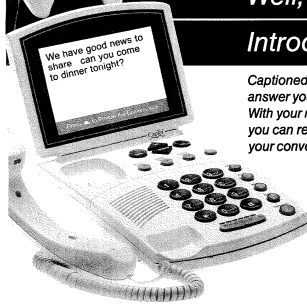


"I'm sorry. Can you repeat that, please?"

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NYS School for the Deaf in Rome, NY: looking to fill the following vacancies for the 2011-2012 school year; ASL Instructor, Speech Instructor, Special Education Instructor, Teacher of the Deaf Instructor, and Instructor Substitutes. Please send your cover letter and resume to: NYS School for the Deaf, c/o Carriann Ray, Superintendent, 401 Turin Street, Rome, NY 13440.

Welcome to PEPNet, the Postsecondary Education Programs Network

PEPNet provides resources, expertise and services that support a deaf or hard of hearing student's transition from high school to advanced educational program, colleges and universities, and other training programs. PEPNet's Northeast Region Center is located at the Rochester Institute of Technology, 52 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623, phone (585) 475-6433 (V/TTY), fax (585) 475-7660 or email Director Dianne Brooks - dkbnca@rit.edu .

Hiring and Working With An Interpreter

The Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. welcomes hearing from individuals certified to provide professional interpreter services as well as persons with experience providing volunteer interpreter services for family, friends and other colleagues. AFTHI Board Members Nancy Crosby, Sara McKay and I are compiling lists that we would soon like to post on the AFTHI website and include in future editions of Listen Up! The AFTHI seeks to work with service providers, community organizations and the general public to assist them in complying with the law, locating the most appropriately, locally qualified interpreters and cost-effective terms.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, most organizations are required by federal law to provide interpreting services as necessary to ensure effective communication with deaf and hard of hearing people. In other words, when interpreting services are necessary, it is the service provider's (e.g. lawyer's, doctor's, hospital's, state agency's, educational institution's, court's) responsibility to secure and pay for these services.

- * Title I - Employer with 15 or more employees must make their programs and services accessible; prohibits employment discrimination against "qualified individuals with disabilities."
- * Title II - All "public entities" which includes state and local government must make their programs and services accessible. All activities, services and programs of "public entities" are covered, including activities of State legislatures and courts, town/city meetings, police and fire departments, motor vehicle licensing and employment.
- * Title III - All places of public accommodations must be accessible to deaf and hard of hearing persons. This includes private establishments, including retail stores and the wide range of service businesses such as hotels, theaters, restaurants, doctors' and lawyers' offices, optometrists, dentists, banks, insurance agencies, museums, parks, libraries, day care centers, recreational programs, social service agencies and private schools. It covers both profit and non-profit organizations. This part of the ADA applies to all such offices and businesses, regardless of size.

Computer Aided Realtime Translation (CART)

CART combines the court reporter's stenography machine, special translation software and a notebook computer to almost instantly display the spoken word so that people with hearing loss can fully participate in a variety of settings by reading the computer screen as the session is occurring. (When more than one deaf and/or hard of hearing person is in need of this service, a television monitor is provided with a readable text at the bottom of the screen. This service is called Captioning). CART and Captioning Services can be used for conferences, classes, workshops or any other large gathering.

CART / Captioning services are for people who are fully competent in English, both written and oral, and who are either not able to use ASL interpreters or sign language translators or do not choose to do so in particular situations. In general, persons who choose to use CART service are people who have lost their hearing as adults, oral deaf persons and some hard of hearing persons.

By Brenda Battat



© Chris Dyer

From the Executive Director's Desk

HLAA Encourages Transparency of Hearing Aid Pricing

Hearing Loss Association of America®

7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
301/657-2248 Voice
301/657-2249 TTY
301/913-9413 Fax
www.hearingloss.org
info@hearingloss.org

The Hearing Loss Association of America is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. Hearing Loss Association of America opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. The national support network includes the Washington, D.C., area office, 14 state organizations, and 200 local chapters. Our clear, straightforward message has changed the lives of thousands of people: *Hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome. You do not have to hide your hearing loss. You do not have to face hearing loss alone.*

HHLAA's "Campaign to Make Hearing Aids Affordable" is an attempt to find ways to encourage and make it possible for more people to get treatment for their hearing loss and do it much earlier. These days there is no reason to put up with not hearing well. There are more and better options—both in technology and services—than ever.

However, while 95 percent of people with hearing loss could successfully be treated with hearing aids, only 22 percent currently use them according to MarkeTrak report. And, 68 percent of people with hearing loss cite financial constraints as a core reason they do not use hearing aids.

This campaign has several components because HLAA believes there is no "one way" to get more people to seek treatment for their hearing loss. We are focusing on the following:

- Increasing awareness about hearing loss and reducing stigma
- Advocating for unbundling of hearing aids and professional services
- Supporting low-cost options for consumers
- Advocating for insurance coverage and tax relief in the states
- Supporting the Hearing Aid Tax Credit legislation H.R. 1479 and S. 905
- Creating an opportunity on our website for consumers to rate the hearing health services they receive and comment on their hearing aids

My comments here are on one aspect of our campaign—encouraging transparency of pricing. In most professional practices today the cost of a hearing aid is bundled with costs for the professional services of the hearing health care provider including follow-up visits for hearing aid adjustment and counseling in successful hearing aid use. HLAA is calling for a cost breakdown so that consumers know what the device costs and what they are paying for the services. Going even further would be a "pay-as-you-go" model currently being used successfully in two clinics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Paying for services of the professional and the device separately has several positive effects that benefit consumers:

- It starts an important dialog between consumers and hearing health providers.
- It takes the focus away from the device as the answer
- It sets up more realistic expectations of what the device can and cannot do
- It "brands" the professional services of the hearing health provider placing value on those services and the need for them
- It reveals the need for a rehabilitation program of which the device is just one, though important, part
- You get what you pay for and need and no one patient is subsidizing another
- It may be easier for the consumer to pay smaller amounts gradually than one large amount up-front.
- The consumer can know exactly what they are paying for and how it all fits together in their effort to hear better—hearing test, device, earmold, functional communication and lifestyle assessment, programming and testing of the hearing aid, counseling during the trial or evaluation period, follow-up visits for tweaking, and group rehabilitation sessions, when available.

To learn more about unbundling and an unbundling model that has been used successfully over the past six years, we have asked Stephanie Sjoblad, Au.D., clinic director, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, to write an article for the next issue of *Hearing Loss Magazine* to explain how it works in her clinic. One indicator of the success of the UNC model is that their hearing aid return rate over a six-year period is less than one percent. Compare that to an annual national return/exchange rate between 17.5 percent and 18.5 percent reported in studies by Strom. We can conclude that UNC is doing something right. ■■■■

The Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. believes that community outreach is an integral part of our service to the community. In each edition of Listen Up! we list and describe opportunities that the AFTHI has had to present to community organizations, participate in special events such as Health Fairs, and/or discuss and share information about our programs and services with large groups of people. We list outreaches that will take place during the next month/six weeks, as well as activities/events we have already confirmed our attendance at:

- 7/22 Glens Falls Golden Eagles vs. Albany Baseball Game fundraiser at East Field/Glens Falls 5:00 pm
- 7/30 Kiwanis Club of Glens Falls 21st Annual Duck Race & Family Fun Day—Havilands Cove/Glens Falls
- 8/03 BID & LARAC Wednesday Night Out in Downtown Glens Falls 5:30—7:00 pm (AFTHI is the evening's featured not-for-profit) Please visit our information table.
- 8/06 Sixteenth Annual Deaf Awareness Day @ Six Flags New England (Agawam, MA.) 10:00 am —5:00 pm
- 8/07 Prospect Child & Family Center Volleyball fundraiser in Lake George (Is there interest in putting together an AFTHI TEAM(S) to support our friends at Prospect next year (start to practice)
- 8/13 The Open Door's *Coming Together for Hope* community awareness day at Crandall Park/Glens Falls
- 8/14 Kingsbury-Fort Edward Senior Citizens Center 1st Annual Par 3 Golf Tournament in Fort Ann
- 8/18 Tri-County United Way Directors Meeting
- 9/05 Labor Day AFTHI Closed
- 9/10 SAIL (Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center) Fundraising Cruise on Lake George

The Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened Adults are EXCLUDED on the CENSUS

Deaf Advocates and leaders are requesting the Federal Government mandate the Census Bureau to add on the 2020 census how many people use American Sign Language (ASL) in their homes to communicate. Another request is that Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened Adults be allowed to self identify as a Cultural Linguistic Minority group on the census form as well.

Why is it important that we ask how many use ASL in their homes? Researches claim that 1 out of every 4 profound Deaf people write or read English because ASL is their primary language. They also suggest that the only way those numbers can be monitored is by asking on the census how many use ASL in their homes. **Self Identifying** as a Cultural Linguistic Minority group would not only give the Deaf, HOF & LDA Community leverage and recognition with legislator's when they are asked to introduce bills on behalf of their Communities, but necessary state and government funding would eventually filter into this community resulting from the census. **Where would the money go?** This money could be used for much needed services such as public service announcements, additional ASL classes in colleges/universities, telecommunications equipment and software programs for Deaf children and adults, training for fire, police and other public officials to educate on Deaf culture, workshops, and much more. But in order for these opportunities to be made available, there must be precise record population totals to monitor growth in communities. **Why isn't the Deaf Community included on the short form as other minorities are so that there population growth can be tracked?**

Lions Club to host wine, food tasting

The Schuylerville Lions Club will hold the 5th annual wine and food tasting on JULY 30 at the Schuyler Yacht Basin. Rte 29 East next to the Hudson River Bridge going toward Greenwich.

The event will start at 4pm-8pm Tickets are \$20 each they will be available at gate and from members and various businesses in the village. People must be 21yrs of age to attend.

Russell S. Wolff, Ph.D. *Licensed Psychologist*

Counseling Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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July/August 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			27	28	29	30 DUCK RACE Noon at Havilands Cove in Glens Falls
31	1	2	3 Bid & Larac FFFF perform downtown GF 5:30-7:00	4	5	6 16th Annual Deaf Awareness Day @ Six Flags New England 10am-5pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Kings- bury Fort Edward Sr Citizens Ctr Annual Par 3 Golf	15	16	17	18 Tri-County United Way Directors Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				