

LISTEN UP!

Newsletter of the Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc.

November, 2011

71 Glenwood Avenue, Queensbury, New York 12804

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



Director's Corner:

Thank you to each and every individual that accessed AFTHI services, participated in programs or contributed money, goods and/or volunteered services to the Association during the summer season. Kasey and my calendars during the next three months are quickly filling up but we always welcome the opportunity to schedule additional community outreach programs to audiences of all ages throughout the Tri-County Region. Please refer to the next 9 pages of this newsletter for specific information on upcoming activities and events.

Membership Campaign: Individuals/Families/Businesses Paying Dues are listed each month on page #2. Memberships are for one-year, effective the date that check or cash payment is received and support all AFTHI programs & services. The response to the attachment to last month's Listen Up! was encouraging and much appreciated. Please contact Executive Director Ben Driscoll or a member of the AFTHI's Board of Directors if you and/or your employer/organization are interested in further discussing membership benefits or in making a major gift to the Association.

Plant A Tree & Teach a Child or Adult American Sign Language! - Teresa Redden and AFTHI's Board President JoAnn Zales, Co-Chairs of the Be A Hear-O fundraisers the past two years and tireless volunteers are working with us on a Yard Tree Fundraiser initiative. More information to follow.

Be A Hear-O Planning Committee Wishes To Speak or Sign With You! - The AFTHI will hold a Be A Hear-O Planning Committee Meeting on Wednesday, November 9th beginning at 5:00 pm for individuals interested in and able to help us plan what we hope will be the best Be A Hear-O Dinner Dance & Auction ever. This will be the agency's 18th annual fundraiser. The event is likely to be held during the month of March; earlier than recent year dates. The goal of the Be A Hear-O is two-fold; to schedule an event that individuals familiar with the AFTHI as well as those interested in learning more about our programs and services will enjoy, talk about us in a positive manner and agree that their support of the Association was money well spent; and, equally important, to raise the dollars necessary to sustain our abilities to offer the public services and support to improve the quality of life for persons with hearing loss, their loved ones, friends, co-workers and classmates. *A Little Bit of Your Time Will Surely Go A Long Way!*

Hear-O's Get Screened For Hearing Campaign - The preliminary feedback that I have received from those that I have discussed this initiative with has all been positive. The AFTHI intends to provide additional details in the December 2011 edition of Listen Up!, announce specific details at its Annual Holiday Party on December 11th, through the local media and Kick-Off the Campaign on January 1st, 2012. Our modest goal for the first year (365 days) will be to receive confirmation that 365 area residents have scheduled appointments with Hearing Health Professionals prior to the end of 2012. A series of hearing screening clinics staffed by area Audiologists will be scheduled at sites throughout the Tri-County Region throughout the year. Much more to follow.

Get well soon Rose Stewart from your friends at AFTHI!!!

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.

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



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 www.drussellwolff.com

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 September. Contributions, great & small are all equally appreciated. Members Helping Members!

Warren County Office For the Aging (OFA)
 Washington County Office For the Aging (OFA)
 Glens Falls Lions Club (\$2,000 Annual)
 Tri-County United Way

Members:

Susan Boggia
 Kristine Burchfield
 Richard & Sheila Nason
 Jean Fontana
 Larrie Gouge
 Robin Murdock
 Charles & Elaine Ryder
 Martha VanPatten

Timothy Perry
 Helen Nolan
 Matthew Collins
 Robert Kearney
 Ginny Miller
 Jan & John Urban
 Marcie Johnson
 Pamela Green

Be A Hear-O

Please considers becoming a member of the AFTHI, Inc.
Members Helping Members Help Themselves!

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail _____

Membership includes a monthly newsletter and reduced registration fees for classes.

_____ Individual Membership @ \$ 15.00 \$ _____

_____ Family membership @ \$ 20.00 \$ _____

_____ Sponsor @ \$ 50.00 \$ _____

_____ Patron @ \$ 150.00 \$ _____

_____ Contribution /memorial \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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_____ **I am interested in learning more about membership benefits.**

_____ **I am interested in learning more about volunteer or internship opportunities at the AFTHI.**

KASSEY'S KORNER

Not to Late to Sign Up LIP-READING CLASSES

Lip reading will be offered on Monday, October 31st from 1:00pm-2:30pm at The Association. This class runs every other Monday, Oct 31 and November 14 & 28. Come learn how to lip read or sharpen your skills. There will be refreshments served. FREE—for members and \$10 for non-members. Sign up today by email or calling the office.



Pictured from Left to Right (Kayla, Brianna, and Kassey Granger)

I would like to thank all that supported the Hearing Loss Association of America Mid Hudson Walk4Hearing it was a huge success. Special thanks to Jim & Sandie Clark, Ben & Tawn Driscoll, Betty Balfour, Dr. & Mrs. Paul Gancher, Julie Perry, Anita & James Perry

Our first time experience was great. My girls, Kayla and Brianna left at 7am, which was a challenge trying to get two teenage girls up and out by 7am. We started on our way to Wappingers Falls but along the way we picked up Julie Perry who I had never meant, but wanted to participate in the walk with us. Her hearing loss story is on page 6. We arrived at 10am to register and start our walk at 11am. We met up with Dr. & Mrs. Paul Gancher, AuD and HLAA members from the Capital Region. We received hats and t-shirts and began our walk. It started off sunny and windy then started to rain only for a little bit then sunny again but very windy. All and all it was a great day and we met a lot of great people and I can't wait to participate again next year.

Outreach programs-

October 12th was a Hearing Health/Hearing Loss Prevention program that I did at Big Cross Street School for a Kindergarten class. The class was well behaved and were eager to learn.

Upcoming programs will be a presentation to Southern Adirondack Child Care Network at Great Escape Lodge on November 4th and on November 16th a presentation at Shendehowa Village in Clifton Park.

Saturday, November 5th—Please visit the AFTHI and many other health and human service agencies at the Saratoga Springs Lions Club/Alfred Z. Solomon Health Fair at the Maple Avenue Middle School in Saratoga. 10:00am—2:00pm

Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers Past and Present *EVENTS*



The children/young adults have been working extremely hard learning Holiday Songs. We have a total of 25 kids that consist of two groups Jr. and Sr.

COIN DROP - Thank you to AFTHI Hear-O's who helped us raise **\$935** to support our group and other children's/youth services/programs. Special thanks to Tom Albrecht of Hilltop Construction for the use of his CROP Walk sandwich board signs.

CANDY SALE— Thank you for all who have supported our candy sale drive. If you would like to take a box of 30 bars to work and sell them for us please notify Kassey at office@afthi.org or call the office 761-0554

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Saturday, November 5th at 2:30pm Desmond Hotel, Albany (Lions Club District Meeting)

Sunday, November 20th Glens Falls National Bank (South Glens Falls Holiday Parade)

Friday, November 25th at 12:00pm Queensbury Hotel (Festival of Trees)

Sunday, December 11th at 2:00pm Association for the Hearing Impaired Holiday Party

Sunday, December 18th at 6:45pm Sanford Ridge United Methodist Church

If you know of a place that the Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers could perform please contact Kassey so we can set up a date.

Coming Home with Hearing Issues:

A Conversation for Veterans, Active Duty Military, and their Families

November 8, 2011

6:30 – 8:00 pm

**St. Peter's Hospital, Albany, NY
Mercy Rooms**

In celebration of those who serve or have served in the U.S. Military, Hearing Loss Association of America – Albany Chapter in collaboration with St. Peter's Healthcare Partners will present a meeting for Veterans, Active Duty personnel, and their Families and Friends, and for anyone with interest in issues surrounding hearing and communication.

We would like to share what we know – from rich experience – about hearing loss and tinnitus (ringing in the ears), their impacts, and how to meet the various challenges they present.



HOLIDAY PARTY

Save the Date

December 11th at 2:00—4:30pm

(Location to be Announced)

Would you like to help with this event? We need volunteers to help with food, crafts, games and other jobs. Please let Kassey know if you can help by email office@afthi.org or calling the office.

Be A Hear-O Dinner Dance & Auction Fundraiser Planning Meeting Wednesday, November 9th at 5:00pm RSVP by phone or email

A Be A Hear-O Planning Committee Meeting for anyone who is interested in sharing their time and talents will be held at the AFTHI on **Wednesday, November 9th beginning at 5:00 pm**. Necessary details such as the date and location of this Be A Hear-O, as well as the theme of this year's event and the entertainment have yet to be determined.

Last year's Be A Hear-O was held on Saturday, April 2nd at the Great Escape Lodge in Queensbury. One-hundred & ten individuals attended and the fundraiser netted the AFTHI \$15,000. Foremost, the evening needs to be entertaining, an opportunity for attendees to meet old friends and make new ones, as well as to celebrate our common commitment to increase the public's awareness of and support of programs and services that help improve the quality of life for persons with hearing loss of all ages. This year's goal will be to both double attendance as well as monies raised. If you enjoy planning fundraisers and entertainment, soliciting items for a fundraising auction and raffle including theme baskets or selling event tickets to family, friends, co-workers, etc. we have a seat for you on the Planning Committee. Interpreters will be present and Assistive Technology available at the AFTHI's 18th Annual Be A Hear-O.



GE Presents the 21'st Annual Adirondack Stampede Charity RODEO

Friday, November 4th

Saturday, November 5th

7:30pm

Glens Falls Civic Center

Get your Tickets Today and help support the AFTHI!!!

Great Family Fun Package for ONLY \$17 per person

Admission to:

***The Adirondack stampede Charity Rodeo**

***Fright Fest 2011 at Great Escape**

***\$5 off Adult Course Admission to Adirondack Extreme**

***\$3 off Adult Ticket for any 2011 Phantoms Hockey**

November home game

TICKETS SOLD UNTIL TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

My Hearing Loss Experience

By: Julie Perry (Washington County Resident)

Have you ever sat through a television program or dinner conversation and thought you were missing out on something? I have. Once I started school it was apparent that I was missing out on things. Shortly later I was diagnosed with a sensorineural hearing loss. I have what is described as the “cookie bite” type hearing loss. Below is a graph and an explanation of this type. My loss is bi-lateral with the left side being slightly worse. Once I was diagnosed, I was able to take action to improve my hearing. It took me awhile to come to terms with my loss but I now wear two Oticon Agil hearing aids which help me to hear what I had been missing.

When I was first diagnosed, it was very difficult for me to deal with being hard of hearing. I didn't have a support group or other people with hearing loss around me so I felt very alone and isolated. I didn't really know who to talk to about this other than my family. As a result, I was very private about my hearing loss because I didn't want people to know that I was different. Sometimes I would play the bluffing game trying to pretend I knew what people were saying. This became more and more frustrating as time went on and I finally realized that I needed to wear hearing aids.

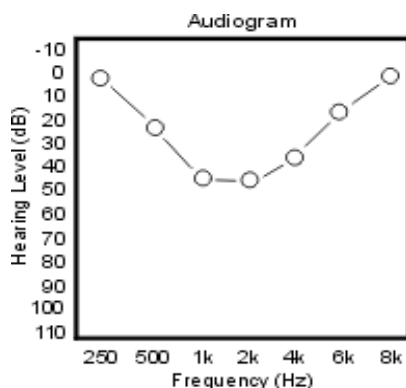
Acknowledging that I needed hearing aids was very difficult for me. I could not accept the fact that there was something different about me. I didn't start wearing hearing aids until I was about 14. I was too stubborn to wear them before that. When I did start to wear hearing aids, I wore my hair down so they wouldn't draw attention. Slowly I began to realize that wearing hearing aids made a difference in my life and the people around me. People no longer had to repeat what they were saying when I didn't hear it the first time. Also, when trying on hearing aids for the first time I couldn't believe all the sounds that I had been missing. I could finally hear things like the birds chirping in the spring and leaves crunching under my feet in the fall. It was an amazing difference; I could hear things without having to strain.

After high school, I went to Morrisville State College for Office Technology and during that time I met the person who would go on to become my best friend. It just so happened she also suffered from hearing loss. When I met her I felt so relieved that I had finally found someone that experienced the same things I did. We shared more than just hearing loss but it was great to know that there was finally some type of support group for me. Dealing with hearing loss still has its challenges even with hearing aids but having someone to share my thoughts with who is experiencing the same things makes it easier.

I have come a long way in dealing with my hearing loss and new advances are being made all the time. Just in the short time I have worn hearing aids smaller and more advanced hearing aids have come out that make sounds clearer than the aids before them. Also, devices with Bluetooth technology are making it easier for people with hearing loss to use cell phones and other audible technology.

I want to get my story out to others who are newly diagnosed or dealing with hearing loss. I want them to know that it's ok and that there are people out there that are experiencing the same things they are. I'm a member of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and attend the annual conventions in June.

I'm always trying to learn about the new technology that is coming out and what medical studies are in the works to help people with hearing loss or deafness. The future is bright and there are many new advances being made all the time that continue to help us share in the variety of sounds in the world.



Cookie-Bite Loss

A cookie-bite loss looks like someone took a bite out of the top of the audiogram (Fig. 9). Thus, the curve is higher at both the lower and higher frequencies and lower in the middle. People with cookie-bite losses hear low and high frequency sounds well, but have a loss in the mid-frequencies. This kind of loss is less common than the ski-slope loss.

Fig. 9. Cookie-bite loss

Gallaudet University - "A National Treasure"

The first 100 years: In 1856, Amos Kendall, a postmaster general during two presidential administrations, donated two acres of his estate in northeast Washington, D.C. to establish a school a housing for 12 deaf and 6 blind students. The following year, Kendall persuaded Congress to incorporate the new school, which was called the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind. Edward Miner Gallaudet, the son of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, founder of the first school for deaf students in the United States, became the new school's superintendent.

Congress authorized the institution to confer college degrees in 1864, and President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill into law. Gallaudet was made president of the institution, including the college, which that year had eight students enrolled. He presided over the first commencement in June 1869 when three young men received diplomas. Their diplomas were signed by President Ulysses S. Grant and to this day the diplomas of all Gallaudet graduates are signed by the presiding U.S. President. Through an act of Congress in 1954, the name of the institution was changed to Gallaudet College in honor of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet.

A time of expansion: In 1969, President Lydon Johnson signed on an act to create the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD). That same year, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and Gallaudet President Leonard Elstad signed an agreement authorizing the establishment and operation of MSSD on the Gallaudet campus. A year later, President Richard Nixon signed the bill that authorized the establishment of Kendall Demonstration Elementary School. Today, the two schools are part of Gallaudet's Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, which is devoted to the creation and dissemination of educational opportunities for deaf students nationwide.

By an act of the U.S. Congress, Gallaudet was granted university status in October 1986. Two years later, in March 1988, the Deaf President Now (DPN) movement led to the appointment of the university's first deaf president, Dr. I. King Jordan, '70 and the Board of Trustee's first deaf chair, Philip Bravin, '66. Since then, DPN has become synonymous with self-determination and empowerment of deaf and hard of hearing people everywhere.

In the 1990's, a generous contribution from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation enabled the University to construct the Kellogg Conference Hotel at Gallaudet University, which has become a popular venue for meetings, seminars, receptions, and other events for both on- and off-campus groups.

The new millennium has brought events such as the Deaf Way II festival that attracted 10,000 deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people from throughout the world; the opening of the I. King Jordan Student Academic Center; and, thanks to the generosity of James Lee Sorenson, Chair of Sorenson Development, Inc., the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communications Center, a unique facility that provides an inclusive learning environment totally compatible with the visu-centric "deaf way of being."

The University's undergraduate students can choose from more than 40 majors leading to bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degrees. A small number of hearing undergraduate students - up to five percent of an entering class - are also admitted to the University each year. Graduate programs at Gallaudet are open to deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing students and offer certificates and master of arts, master of science, doctoral, and specialist degrees in a variety of fields involving professional service to deaf and hard of hearing people.

Through the University's Career Center, students receive internships that provide a wealth of experimental learning opportunities. Recent internships were offered at Merrill Lynch, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institute of Health, and the World Bank.

Today, Gallaudet is viewed by deaf and hearing people alike as a primary resource for all things related to deaf people, including educational and career opportunities, open communication and visual learning; deaf history and culture; American Sign Language; and the impact of technology on the deaf community. In the fall of 2010, 1,793 students were enrolled at Gallaudet.

My attendance at the Hearing Loss of America (HLAA) 13th annual Hearing Assistive Technology training at Gallaudet University on September 23-25th, with due respect to my alma mater Boston University, may have been the three most productive days of learning that I have ever experienced. With that said, Kasey and I, the AFTHI's Board of Directors and our dues paying members are committed to finding new and better ways to improve the Association's financial situation as well as our inventory of Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) available to the public through our Loan-Out Program.

October 12th DEAF JAM, a film by Judy Lieff, attended by 51 individuals from throughout the Greater Capital Region at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. "Aneta Brodski, a deaf teen living in New York City, discovers the power of *American Sign Language* poetry. As she prepares to be one of the first deaf poets to compete in a spoken-word slam, her journey leads to an unexpected collaboration. Thank you to Paul Shreeman for moderating a group discussion following the film, to Trudy Gilbert and Kelly Decker for interpreting and everyone for attending. The AFTHI hopes to have other viewings of the film on different dates and at multiple sites in the future. Also, the AFTHI will soon begin to discuss with representatives from venues throughout the Tri-County Region and beyond about the importance of offering the public *captioned entertainment*.

The Deaf Jam Film will be on television on PBS on Thursday, November 3 at 10:00 PM. Check out deafjam.org.

Celebrate Deaf Awareness All Year

The Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers, since mid-summer have been under the direction of Kasey Granger. This season's class of 25 children & youth have been working very hard to learn and practice the songs that they will sign at special events during the holiday season. In addition to introducing these young girls and boys to ASL, each time the FFFF's perform, the group is educating, informing and helping the public to better understand and appreciate the contributions and successful lives that Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons of all ages lead, including many from within our own Tri-County community and beyond. From the world of sports, two deaf athletes have competed on the world's stage. They are:

Deaf Swimmer Terrance Parkin (1980-) - Born deaf, sport enthusiast Terrance Parkin hopped into the water at age 12 to begin a career that took him to the Olympics. Using sign language to communicate with his swimming coach, he set the African records for both the 200 and 400 meters individual medley.

When he began swimming, he couldn't hear the starting tone for the races, so his coach would stand on the sidelines and sign "Go." (Technology today uses the flash of lights to signal the start). At the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Parkin finished the 200 meter backstroke and looked up to see a "2" on the scoreboard next to his name. He's been swimming in lane 2 and didn't realize for a moment that he had just won a silver medal against hearing competitors! Today, Parkin is married and enjoys painting when he isn't coaching both deaf and hearing kids in swimming at the Parkin-Widex Swimming Academy, a venture that he founded with the hearing aid manufacturer.

Deaf Baseball Player Curtis Pride (1968-) - A major league outfielder, Pride distinguished himself on the field and went on to become head baseball coach at Gallaudet University. (Editors note: I saw Curtis Pride play at Fenway Park in Boston and stood outside his office this past month during my visit to Gallaudet U.)

Deaf at birth due to rubella, Pride developed oral skills with his five percent residual hearing and was a standout athlete in high school before starting as point guard on the College of William & Mary's basketball team. Pride also played soccer for the U.S. at the 1985 FIFA U-16 World Championship in China, where he scored two goals in the tournament, including the match winner vs. Bolivia.

Pride made it to the majors with the Montréal Expos, becoming the first deaf player in the league since 1945. In eleven seasons, Pride batted .250 with 20 home runs and 82 runs batted in 421 major league games. In 1996 he garnered the Tony Conigliaro Award, given to the major leaguer who best overcame adversity through the attributes of spirit, determination and courage. With his wife Lisa, Pride puts his free hours into the Together With Pride foundation to aid hearing-impaired children obtain hearing aids.

Caitlyn's Home from Camp: Thanks, in great part to dues paying members as well as private contributions and grants, the AFTHI has been able to offset the cost of sending Schuylerville Central School student Caitlyn Brewster to Camp Mark Seven in Old Forge, NY and this past summer to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf's Techgirlz Camp in Rochester, NY. A letter written by Caitlyn appears below.

Dear Association for the Hearing Impaired,

Thank you for the scholarship money to help us pay for my camp "Techgirlz." Techgirlz went from July 31st to August 5th. It took place at NTID (National Technology Institute of the Deaf) which is part of RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology.) Techgirlz was an all-girls camp. This camp was to learn about Science and Technology. Dinging Commons and Pizza and Pasta was where we ate breakfast, lunch and dinner. All the campers slept in the dorms at NTID. WE went to the Rochester Museum and Science Center. This Museum was all about science like gravity, energy, how things work, etc. We made our own computer tower. It came with everything, keyboard, mouse, etc. Four animals came over to our camp from the zoo. The four animals were Chinchilla, Armadillo, Owl and Turtle. Techgirlz was a fun camp for me. I learned so much. So again thank you for the scholarship money.

Sincerely,
Caitlyn Brewster, 8th grader
Schuylerville Jr./Sr. High School

Silent Chat— Uncommon Grounds in Saratoga Springs at 7:00pm-9:00pm on Friday, November 18 & December 16th

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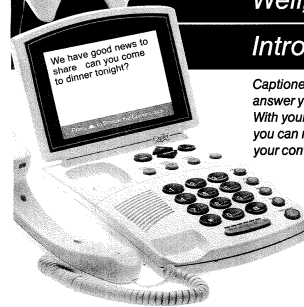


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October/November 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	31 Lip Reading 1:00-2:30pm ASL I 6:30-8	1 FFFF Class 6:00-7:00 7:15-8:15	2 ASL II 6:30-8pm	3	4 Early Childhood Development @ Great Escape Lodge	5 Lions Club District Meeting @ Desmond Hotel in Albany FFFF Performance
6	7 Board Meeting ASL I 6:30-8pm	8 FFFF Class 6:00-7:00 7:15-8:15	9 ASL II 6:30-8pm Be A HearO Meeting 5:00pm	10 Inter-Agency Meeting 8:30am	11 Office Closed	12
13	14 Lip Reading 1:00-2:30pm ASL I 6:30-8	15 FFFF Class 6:00-7:00 7:15-8:15	16 ASL II 6:30-8pm Shenendehowa Valley Sr Living Presentation	17	18	19
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