

LISTEN UP!

Newsletter of the Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc.

October, 2011

71 Glenwood Avenue, Queensbury, New York 12804

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



Director's Corner:

I reach out to you this month out of character and will make my remarks brief! Please be assured that Kassey and I have included valuable information in this month's edition of Listen Up! My Director's Corner will focus on two very important campaigns!

Membership Drive:

Included on page #2 is the AFTHI's Membership and/or Contribution Form. I regret that membership dues are at a record low. The fee for Individual, Family, Sponsor and Patron level membership has not changed in years. Prior to accepting my position at the Association, if you were not current with paying your dues, your name was removed from the Listen Up! mailing list. That policy was immediately changed and many past members as well as new customers and friends of the AFTHI have been added. In two short years, we have increased our bulk mailing & email list from 232 to more than 1,000 addresses. However, there are many more reasons to join! Memberships support the Assistive Hearing Technology Loan-Out Program and Resource Library and allows us to regularly add new equipment to our inventory of equipment available to you. Your financial assistance allows us to provide additional instruction to more participants in the Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers, (Fall 2009 - 8 participants / Fall 2011 - 25 children/youngsters), Lip Reading and American Sign Language classes. If you see Kassey or me and perhaps an AFTHI Hear-O at a community outreach or special event educating and informing the public about our programs and services as well as other opportunities for persons with hearing loss throughout Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties and beyond you can thank a dues-paying member of the AFTHI for our ability to be mobile. In 2010, the AFTHI had only 84 dues paying memberships / totaling \$2,540 or an average of \$30.24 per membership. For the first 8 months of 2011, numbers are even lower, we have received 51 memberships / totaling \$880 or \$17.26 per membership. In these economically challenging times, we thank you for considering the importance of your support of the Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. Please contact us if you have any questions about your past, current or future membership status.

Hear-O's Get Screened for Hearing Campaign:

According to the National Center for Hearing Statistics, 36 million (17%) of Americans have some degree of hearing loss making it a public health issue third in line to heart disease and arthritis. The Association is working to eradicate the stigma associated with hearing loss and raise public awareness regionally about the need for prevention, treatment and regular hearing screening throughout life.

It is our intent to share this important message with communities from throughout the Tri-County Region and beyond through the AFTHI's first annual *Hear-O's Get Screened for Hearing Campaign*. Our modest goal, for the first year of the campaign, will be to receive confirmation from 365 area residents that they have scheduled an appointment with an Audiologist/Hearing Health Professional to get their hearing screened. Additionally, we will extend an invitation those individuals and families to visit our agency, avail themselves of our programs and services and better educate and inform themselves about hearing health issues. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW IN UPCOMING WEEKS!

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 (c)(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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 Queensbury, NY 12804
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 Printing: Courtesy of Glens Falls Hospital

We thank everyone who supports our work, particularly



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rwolff@drrussellwolff.com
www.drrussellwolff.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)
 Tri-County United Way

Members:

John Abbott
 Thomas & Lynn Cumm
 Marie Markowitz

KASSEY'S KORNER

Well, the kids are back in school and hopefully by now your family is getting into a routine. I know October is a busy month for everyone. We need many volunteers this month. Look at all the opportunities you can get involved, even if it is for an hour. Our office is getting very busy and our programs are in full swing. The ASL Classes started, as did Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers (FFFF). The classes are growing by leaps and bounds! This year we have 25 children/young adults in FFFF. I am excited to say that our first class was great! I am looking forward to the upcoming classes and performances. We will be performing at Festival of Trees and the South Glens Falls Holiday Parade. If you know any places they can perform please email or call me with your ideas. We will have two groups of children performing this year..

LIP-READING CLASSES STARTING-

Lip reading will be offered on Monday, October 17th from 1:00pm-2:30pm at The Association. This class runs 4 weeks on every other Monday, Oct 17 & 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 on our website www.afthi.org , email or call the office.

TRAINING - We have four Queensbury High School Seniors that will be volunteering in and out of our office. They will be trained on the loan out equipment that we offer. If anyone would like to join us for training please contact me at 761-0554 or by email at, office@afthi.org. The training will be in the beginning of October so don't wait to sign up!

Help FFFF Raise Money- Looking for volunteers to help with our Coin Drop and Selling Candy Bars. Please contact us if you are available details for Coin Drop on Page 5. If you work in an office that you can sell candy bars please contact me. I will provide you with 30 bars (suitcase) each candy bar is \$2 they are the bigger size Hershey Bars. The money will go to help provide equipment and uniforms for the FFFF.



Join our Team TODAY or DONATE!!!
ASSOCIATION FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED HEAR-O'S

Saturday, October 15th
3K Walk starts at 10am

Bowdoin State Park, 85 Sheafe Road, Wappingers Falls

This is your **FINAL OPPORTUNITY!!!!**

Go to www.afthi.org where you can **join or donate** by clicking the link on the home page. If donating by check, please make payable to AFTHI and mail to 71 Glenwood Ave, Queensbury, NY 12804

BY: October 12th.

Celebrate Deaf Awareness All Year

The last full week of September (09/18-09/24) was "Deaf Awareness Week." The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) first launched "International Day of the Deaf" in 1958 and it has continued every year, gradually becoming a week-long celebration. Finally in 2007, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Deaf Awareness Week. This international and national event is an opportunity to celebrate and promote deaf culture, American Sign Language and deaf heritage. Different organizations and communities find creative ways to recognize the lives and achievements of deaf Americans. For September 2012, this organization seeks feedback from individuals and families interested in our scheduling of activities and events to celebrate this week. Events draw attention to the achievements of deaf people and educate business leaders, politicians and the general public about issues and concerns that deaf people face in everyday life as well as honor the history and culture of people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing (Statistics indicate that as many as 90% of deaf people are born into hearing families).

On September 22nd, Kasey and I convened a meeting between a deaf adult, an Employment Advocate and three representative from his former employer to discuss the reasons behind his recent job termination. Any opportunity to educate and inform the public about the rights and responsibilities of people with hearing loss is certainly time well spent!

Wednesday, October 12th at 7:00pm— FREE film at the Saratoga Springs Public Library in the H Dutcher Community Room. It is about a deaf teen, Aneta Brodski and ASL poetry. There will be a discussion afterward.

Silent Chat— Uncommon Grounds in Saratoga Springs at 7:00pm-9:00pm on Friday, October 21

Save the Dates! - Gallaudet University football team will play TWO games in Vermont!

October 15 – Norwich University – 12 Noon – Northfield, VT

October 29 – Castleton State College – 12 noon – Castleton, VT

Your support is Needed to Stop Cuts to Hearing Loss Benefits

The AFTHI has joined the Hearing Loss Association of America in fighting to ensure that the rights of people with hearing loss are represented in Washington and throughout the United States. Right now, **Health Insurance and Medicaid are under attack, leaving people vulnerable to repealed or reduced hearing healthcare benefits.** The HLAA has implemented its *Campaign to Make Hearing Aids Affordable* by stopping cuts to hearing loss benefits. What does this mean for people with hearing loss? **It means that private health insurance plans may not include the hearing health benefits that people need! It means that 8 million Americans with disabilities and 6 million low-income Medicare recipients who rely on Medicaid to fill Medicare's gaps are at risk of losing their coverage.** Who is impacted by reduced health insurance coverage? People of all ages and backgrounds who go to work every day to support themselves and their families - who have seen premiums rise and benefits decline and now face uncertainty over their coverage. Who is impacted by reduced Medicaid benefits? Seniors, people with disabilities, and at-risk populations - the most vulnerable - those who need services that allow them to remain independent, employable, and able to have access to cost-effective healthcare services, especially in these uncertain economic times. **Now is the Time to Speak Up! - Make Your Voice Heard!** In states across the nation, hearing healthcare is being cut from Medicaid coverage. Washington State recently eliminated funding for hearing aids, cochlear implants, implantable hearing devices, parts and batteries and repairs for all equipment. Could New York State be next? Contact your Representatives in Washington, D.C. - **Say No, to Arbitrary Medicaid Cuts.** The HLAA has joined a coalition of disability advocates who are working to put hearing health habilitation and rehabilitation on the table when talking about healthcare benefits for all - **Say Yes, to Hearing Healthcare Benefits.** In addition, the HLAA is working to help pass laws in the states that would ensure coverage for hearing health care - **Say Yes, to Hearing Healthcare Benefits.**

Help Is On The Way!

The Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. has its "Creative Thinking Caps" on and are always interested in exploring opportunities to raise dollars to support AFTHI programs and services as well as awareness about issues that impact the lives of persons with hearing loss and their families.. We are, also, always looking for volunteers/individuals interested in sharing their time and talents with us. Listed below are a few of the upcoming initiatives that we will be involved in. Contact Ben or Kassey for more information.

2nd Annual Coin Drop: To support the Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers (FFFF) and other programs/ services for children, youth & families. Saturday, October 1st, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at two sites on Glen Street in Glens Falls. Volunteers will meet in the parking lot of the Traveler's Insurance Building (333 Glen Street) at 9:30 am. FFFF families and other friends of the Association invite employees of area companies or members of civic organizations to wear apparel that recognizes that their employer/club supports the work of the Association. Last year nearly \$1,000 was raised.

Adirondack Stampede Charity Rodeo: This will be the third year the AFTHI will participate. Volunteers are needed to help sell tickets and distribute programs at the two-day event to be held at the Glens Falls Civic Center on Friday & Saturday evenings, November 4th and 5th.

South Glens Falls School District: The AFTHI hopes to partner with the South Glens Falls School District to provide American Sign Language & Deaf and Hard of Hearing Culture Classes to promote creativity, growth and educational opportunities in the communities encompassing the SGF School District.

SUNY Adirondack Internship Opportunities: Kassey and I have met and discussed with representatives from SUNY Adirondack opportunities for the students to participate in an invaluable learning experience at the AFTHI.

RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) - The AFTHI is a new Worksite for the RSVP, sponsored by the Tri-County United Way. In fact, three RSVP participants will be helping with this month's Listen Up! mailing. If you are interested in becoming an RSVP member, please contact Kim or Katherine at (518) 793-3136.

WALK4Hearing: The AFTHI's Hear-O's Team is still looking for both walkers and sponsors for this annual event that will benefit both residents of the Tri-County and beyond as well as the work of the Hearing Loss Association of America. The (5k / 3.1 mile) walk to take place at Bowdoin State Park, 85 Sheafe Road, Wappingers Falls, New York on Saturday, October 15th. Carpools to this Mid-Hudson Valley community (2 1/2 hours away) are being formed.

Candy Bar Sales: The AFTHI invites FFFF and ASL Class participants as well as all friends of the AFTHI to help us sell suitcases of candy - All You Need is a Sweet Tooth and a Couple of Dollars!

Queensbury High School Community Service Project: Four (4) Queensbury High School Seniors have signed up to complete their school's Community Services Project at the AFTHI. We look forward to the enthusiasm that we are certain that they will bring to the agency.

Be A Hear-O: Planning for our 18th Annual Fundraiser to take place locally in late March-early April 2012 began on Monday, September 26th. Please help us help you make this year's celebration the best event ever!

AFTHI Holiday Party: Planning for our annual Holiday Party will begin soon. The event will be held on a weekend in early December. Volunteers are needed. More information to follow!

Grantsmanship: The AFTHI will soon begin to use grant funding from The Sandy Hill Foundation and are saying our prayers that we will receive during the next couple of months positive responses to other applications recently submitted.

Glens Falls Lions Club

Kassey Granger, program coordinator of the Association for the Hearing Impaired, was inducted into the Glens Falls Lions Club at their luncheon meeting on September 13.

Kassey role at the Association is to help people who have a hearing loss. Lions mission is to assist sight and hearing impaired people in need. Their motto is "TO SERVE". Kassey and Lions are a perfect match!

Area Lions Club annually fund the Association, support the equipment loan out program, and Volunteer to help at varies events.

If you would like to learn more about joining the Glens Falls Lions Club contact Kassey at 761-0554 or office@afthi.org



Pictured from Left to Right: Lion President Sandie Clark, Past District Governor John Samples Sr., Lion Kassey Granger

Hints to help you become a champion lipreader

- *Be sure you see clearly
- *Relax
- *Be alert
- *Be confident
- *Cultivate a good visual memory
- *Train the muscles of your mouth to remember
- *Keep at it
- *Be patient
- *Develop a sense of rhythm
- *Above all, don't forget

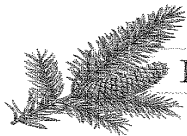
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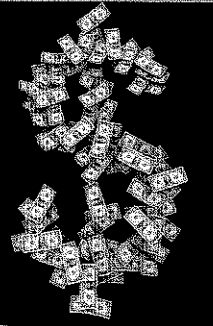
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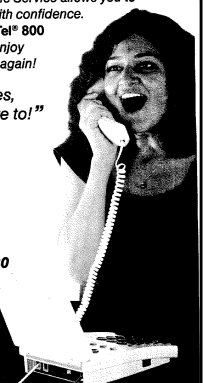
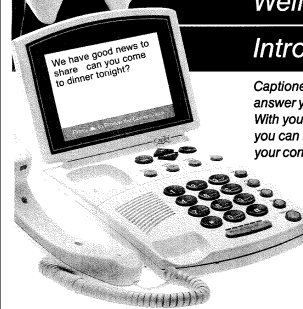
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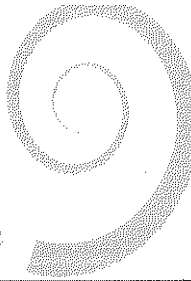
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September/October 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			28	29	30	1 Coin Drop Glen Street 10am-1pm
2	3 ASL I	4 FFFF Class 6:00-7:00 7:15-8:15	5 ASL II 6:30-8pm	6 Mature Living Expo Wilton Mall	7	8 8:00am-12:00pm Hearing Health Seminar Albany Marriott 189 Wolf Road Albany, NY 12205
9	10 ASL I 6:30-8pm	11 FFFF 6:00-7:00 7:15-8:15	12 ASL II 6:30 -8pm	13	14	15 Walk4Hearing Wapping Falls
16	17 Lip Reading 1:00-2:30pm ASL I	18 FFFF Class	19 ASL II Wesley Women's Health Fair 2:30-5:30 Saratoga Springs	20	21	22 Hadley Luzerne Li-oness Health Fair 9am-12pm
23	24 ASL I	25 FFFF Class	26 ASL II	27	28	29
30	31 Lip Reading ASL I					