

# LISTEN UP!

Newsletter of the Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc.

September 2011

71 Glenwood Avenue, Queensbury, New York 12804

Phone: (518) 761-0554 - [www.afthi.org](http://www.afthi.org)



## *Director's Corner:*

I began writing my Director's Corner from Crandall Park in Glens Falls. Today, the AFTHI is sharing information about ourselves at the *Coming Together for Hope*, an annual fundraiser for the Open Door Mission (Soup Kitchen) and an event that brings together faith-based and not-for-profit organizations that provide programs and services throughout this region. Whenever participating in a community outreach event our emphasis is to increase awareness of and participation in our programs and services - *getting people into a better kind of life*. How does the AFTHI reach those individuals and families? Not through radio, newspaper or television advertising! Each day, the Association seeks new or better ways to promote our very existence, raise necessary funds and communicate, cooperate and collaborate with other not-for-profits, area employers, school districts & higher education institutions, elected officials, clergy and, most of all, those individuals and families whose lives have been impacted by hearing loss.

September begins the next season of American Sign Language (ASL) classes as well as the Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers (FFFF) - see registration forms attached. It also marks the date (Monday, September 26th at 5:00 pm) when volunteers first meet to plan the AFTHI's Annual Be A Hear-O Dinner Dance & Auction. This year's event raised \$15,000. How can YOU help us continue to serve? Volunteer Event Planners are desperately needed! Our goal (minimum) that we will strive to achieve at the 2012 Be A Hear-O is \$25,000. Additionally, the AFTHI's HEAR-O Team is soliciting persons interested in walking or supporting our team as we participate for the first time in *WALK4HEARING* on October 15th (see attachment). Two weeks prior, on Saturday, October 1st the AFTHI will hold its *2nd annual Coin Drop* at two Glen Street locations in Glens Falls from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. A "Who's Who" of local community leaders is being assembled/persons interested in volunteering their time to help raise funds for the Flying Fingers as well as other AFTHI Children's & Youth Services. A "Virtual" Coin Drop is currently being developed which will allow individuals not driving through Glens Falls on 10/01/11 to drop off at our office, mail or use Paypal (hope to have set up shortly) their contribution to the Association. We are interested in learning which approach will raise more money! More information to follow.

A lot of space is devoted to fundraising events & activities - but I cannot apologize for that! Please be assured that we will not be distracted from delivering the quality programs and services, that the AFTHI has been known for, to the public -however, budget numbers do not lie. In order to, at the very least, maintain our current work load (Program Coordinator Kassey Granger's 21-hour work week really needs to be increased), as well as to provide more outreach in Saratoga, Washington and northern Warren Counties; provide ASL and Introduction to Deaf & Hard of Hearing Cultures to area police & fire departments, municipalities, business employees, school teachers & administrators as well as health & human service professionals; and, schedule additional training workshops and support groups, the AFTHI needs to raise a minimum of \$20,000 during the next 7 months. As September 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. we respectfully ask, realizing these are difficult times for many, for your financial support and/or for your volunteer hours.

**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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**Executive Director**  
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**director@afthi.org**

**Kassey Granger**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**E-mail address is:**  
**office@afthi.org**

"Listen Up"  
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 \*\*\*\*\*

We thank everyone who supports our work, particularly



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## 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 August 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  
 Queensbury VFW Post 6196  
 Galway Lioness Club  
 Robert, Kara & Keegan Hendrick

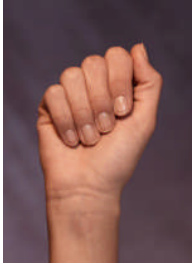
**Memorial for Rita L. Matthews**  
 Mark & Caroline Sherman

### Members:

Joseph DeMeo  
 Edward Kokesch  
 Ian & Janet Loudon  
 Sharon Venn

# KASSEY'S KORNER

## WEBSITE SIGN UP or MAIL IN



Now is the time *ASL Class* and *Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers* sign up has started. Limited number of space available for all class so don't delay sign up on line today or by mailing in form on next page.

[www.afthi.org](http://www.afthi.org)

**PASS ON NEWSLETTER and SHARE with others what the AFTHI has to OFFER!!!!**

## OCTOBER WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW SO DON'T WAIT

**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**



Go to [www.afthi.org](http://www.afthi.org) and on the home page you can join or donate by clicking the link. You can also mail us a check to donate. We will be carpooling on that day.

**Looking for** Sound equipment that you would like to donate to FFFF. We have been using a boombox for many years and we would like to upgrade. Please call or email me. If you would like to donate money for new equipment mail check and specify what the money is being donated for.

## HELP WANTED

Come to our first annual Be A Hear-O meeting Monday, September 26th at 5pm. If you can't make the meeting and would like to help out with the event contact me through email or phone to let me know. Please RSVP if you will attend. We want 2012 year to be the best ever!!!! We need your talents!!! Everyone has something to offer so come and join us.

# Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers Registration Form

The "Fabulous Friends with Flying Fingers" sign language troupe is open to all children ages 7-14 that are willing to learn a variety of Patriotic & Popular Songs in sign language to perform at various events throughout the Tri-County community, ex: Be-A-Hear-O (AFTHI fund raiser), Lions Clubs Meetings, Memorial Day Parade, etc. The performance schedule will be finalized and distributed to the participants soon after the classes begin.

The goal of the troupe is to learn basic sign language and promote deaf culture awareness within the community. Please contact the Association for the Hearing Impaired at 761-0554 for more information.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 20th, 2011  
**TIME:** 6:00pm Meeting for Parents and Child  
**WHERE:** Association office, 71 Glenwood Ave., Queensbury  
**COST:** \$40 non-members \$30 members  
Second Child from same family \$35 non-members \$25 members  
New children to the group will need to purchase uniform at an addition cost.  
This is a 10 week program plus performances.

**-Please complete and return the following with payment by September 16th**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to the Association for the Hearing Impaired and mail to  
71 Glenwood Avenue, Queensbury, NY 12804**

## AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

*Classes start the week of September 19th*

*6:30 - 8:00pm*

Check the appropriate box

**MONDAY - 9/19/11 - 11/28/11 Level II Intermediate Class**

**WEDNESDAY - 9/21/11 - 11/30/11 Level I Beginners Class/Refreshers**

Class fee is \$40—Non Members \$25—Members , plus Book fee

Classes are 10 weeks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (518) 761-0554 or E-Mail us at office@afthi.org.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to AFTHI, Thank you .Classes will be held at AFTHI Office, 71 Glenwood Avenue, Queensbury

## **AFTHI EQUIPMENT FOR LOAN**

### **Pocketalker**

Personal amplifier: Ideal for one-to-one communication and T.V. listening.

### **Infrared T.V. Listening System**

Wireless T.V. infrared system with headset or earpiece.

### **Personal FM System**

Wireless, portable amplification system. The System transmits up to 300 feet. It is helpful for an individual or large group situation.

### **Captioned Telephone**

A phone that uses voice-activated software to generate simultaneous captions on the display screen.

### **Ring Max or Super Phone Ringer**

Provides an adjustable ring volume, frequency and pitch tone.

### **Whistle Stop**

Phone adapters to prevent feedback when using telephone.

### **Smoke Detector with Strobe Light**

Strobe light flashes when amplified smoke alarm has been activated.

### **Telecommunication Device for the Deaf**

Telephone communication by means of a typewriter style keyboard used in conjunction with the telephone (referred to as TTY or TDD).

### **Voice Carry Over (VCO) Telephone**

Amplified volume control, super loud ringer. "Read and speak" phone. Your caller's voice is converted to text by a toll free relay operator service. Easy to read display on the phone.

### **Amplified Telephone**

Adjustable volume control, super tone ringer, and large number buttons.

### **Cordless Amplified Telephone**

Adjustable volume control, compact handset, complete with charging unit.

### **Doorbell Alert**

Wireless doorbell with strobe light and doorbell chime.

### **Digital Alarm Clock**

Wake up to an alarm, a flashing light, or a portable pillow shaker.

### **Alert Master**

Uses a pillow shaker and a lamp flashing simultaneously to alert you to a smoke detector sounding, door knocking, telephone ringing, and alarm clock activation.

### **Telephone Signaler**

A lamp will flash when the telephone rings.

\* For list of other loan out centers including Saratoga Springs, Albany, Troy, and Amsterdam please contact Kassey or Ben

## Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)

The Association for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. is a member of the HLAA and its Albany Chapter. Information and training that Kassey and I receive from the HLAA is shared with our membership and customers through the Listen Up! newsletter, community outreach presentations and regular programs and services. To schedule a visit from the AFTHI please contact Kassey or Ben.

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is the nation's leading organization representing people with hearing loss. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 36 million (17%) of Americans have some degree of hearing loss making it a public health issue third in line after heart disease and arthritis. HLAA provides assistance and resources for families to learn how to adjust to living with hearing loss. HLAA is working to eradicate the stigma associated with hearing loss and raise public awareness about the need for prevention, treatment and regular hearing screenage throughout life. The HLAA impacts on communication access, public policy, research, public awareness and service delivery related to hearing loss. Its national support network includes an office in the Washington, D.C. area, 14 state organizations and chapters. "Through collaborations with the HLAA, the AFTHI is able to expand the scope of our programs and services with individuals from the Tri-County and Greater Capital Regions," stated Ben Driscoll.

**Kudos to Matt Lauer and the TODAY Show  
Lexington Hearing & Speech Center (NYC)  
Lauds Lauer for Story on Adult Hearing: August 11th**

Matt Lauer's story about adult hearing loss on the TODAY Show highlighted a critical health concern that is under-recognized and under-reported, according to the Lexington Hearing & Speech Center, located in New York City. "In submitting to a hearing test on the air, Mr. Lauer performed a genuine public service that helps bring attention to the growing health crisis of hearing loss in adults under 65."

"The truth is that younger Americans are losing their hearing at an alarming rate, and recently, I found out that includes me as well," Mr. Lauer said. Mr. Lauer, 53, reported that although hearing loss is commonly thought to predominately affect the aged, currently more adults under age 65 suffer hearing loss than those over 65. He was advised by the audiologist conducting his hearing test that his impairment was attributed to the earphone he routinely wears in his right ear as part of his job.

"Regular earphone and headphone use is the single most common factor leading to hearing loss in adults under 65. Teenagers and young adults who "plug in" to listen to music for hours at a time are especially vulnerable, and parents should make sure that their children are getting hearing tests as part of their annual health checkups. Testing is covered by most insurance plans, is painless and take only a few minutes," stated the Lexington Center's Audiology Director. "Hearing loss is irreversible. Identifying any problem early on will enable appropriate steps to prevent further deterioration and reduce the impact of hearing loss on quality of life.

### **Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)**

During the past two years, the AFTHI, thanks in great part to the Tri-County United Way, area Lions Clubs, the Glens Falls Rotary Club, Glens Falls Kiwanis Club, membership dues, many generous contributions and memorials, as well as numerous grants, especially those from C.R. Bard and Covidien has been able to purchase additional items for the AFTHI Assistive Technology Loan-Out Program. We have also received donations of equipment from Williams Sound, Clarity, Oticon and locally from Ray Supply. Our office's Resource Library maintains a large supply of Harris Communications catalogues; brochures, magazines, books, tapes and DVDs that can help explain the technology and options available to you. We would be pleased to share web sites with you to visit to learn and understand more about hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive listening devices, tinnitus, meniere's disease, as well as the rights of individuals with hearing loss, of all ages. If our supply of amplified telephones, pocket talkers, personal FM system, alert masters and other devices are not all signed out, Kassey and I would be happy to demonstrate their usage and let you borrow items that you are interested in to take home.

One such website that the AFTHI often refers to is PEPNët which has many resources that focus on hearing assistive technology. Four such sites are: **Demystifying Hearing Assistance Technology: A Guide for Service Providers and Consumers:** This book covers information on hearing aids, audiograms, cochlear implants and other auditory implantable devices, the definition of communication access, assistive listening devices, speech-to-text accommodations, alerting devices, and telecommunications options; **Telecoils (Tipsheet):** This tip sheet describes how telecoils, now available on both hearing aids and cochlear implants, can make a vast difference in the quality of sound for an individual with hearing loss; **A Hearing Aid Primer:** Addressing the basic types of hearing aids (analog, digitally programmable, and fully digital), this brochure includes definitions and explanations about the variety of hearing aid technology available today; and **PEPNet Tipsheet: The Role of Assistive Listening Devices in the Classroom:** ALD's have proven to be an effective teaching tool for students with hearing loss. This tip sheet summarizes various types of ALDs and strategies for using them.

Kassey and I look forward to taking advantage of any opportunities to learn more about ALDs. We also extend an invitation to anyone who is interested in learning more about ALDs and being trained so that they might share valuable information at home, at work, at school, in the community or as a VOLUNTEER or INTERN at the AFTHI.

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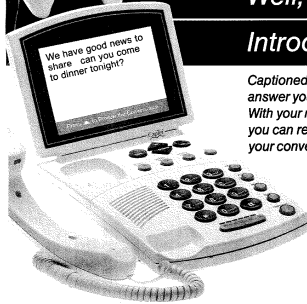


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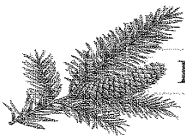
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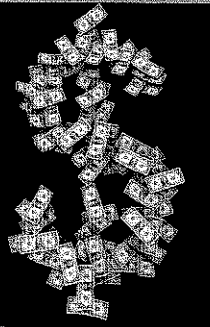
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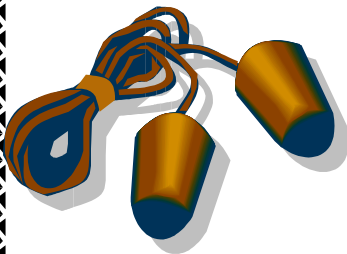
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# INFORMATION

**The Hearing Loss of America (HLAA) will conduct its 13th annual Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) training at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. on September 23rd-25th.** Selected as one of 20 individuals from NY, VA, NJ,, MD, NC, PA, GA and Washington, D.C. to participate in the exclusive training opportunity will be the AFTHI's **Ben Driscoll**. The training is made possible through a grant awarded to Gallaudet University's Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Hearing Enhancement by the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. The training was initially developed to expose adults with hearing loss to hearing assistive technology ranging from devices and services like captioned telephones, pocket talkers, communications access real-time translation (CART) and alerting devices to personal and wide-area listening devices. Overwhelmingly, this year's class participants will be filled with advocates who are already working to improve the quality of life for persons with hearing loss. One of the requirements for acceptance into the weekend-long workshop is that participants enter into an agreement with the HLAA to work with the local HLAA Chapter (Albany) to serve as a resource for hearing assistive technology. Those who complete the workshop are expected to conduct outreach and education activities on their own for the next year. Patricia Tomczyszyn is a program manager at HLAA and administers the HAT Training Program. For more information about the HAT training contact her at [ptomczyszyn@hearingloss.org](mailto:ptomczyszyn@hearingloss.org) .

Kassey and I will continue to provide those services locally and are interested in speaking with individuals from the Tri-County and Greater Capital Regions who would like to be trained to assist us with outreach to health & human service organizations, schools, businesses and area congregations.

**Is Your FM System Working?** Recently, Lions Hearing Conservation Society President Jim Clark and I visited the Queensbury Senior Citizen Center to check on how well their FM System, that Jim had installed years before, was working. Thank you to Town officials for seeing us and for interest in purchasing new Head Phones for the Center's FM Receivers. AFTHI and Lions Club representatives would be pleased to visit and evaluate the condition of systems at area public facilities as well as offering recommendations to sites either looking to upgrade and install for the first time.



**Are You Practicing Prevention?** Kassey and I joined members of area Lions Club at the Washington County Fair on Saturday, August 27th to distributed complimentary **ear plugs** to persons attending the event's Tractor Pulls. Educating and informing people about simple ways to help prevent hearing loss has always been a too often underutilized program of the AFTHI. To schedule a *Hearing Loss Prevention* workshop/presentation, tailored for groups of all ages, please contact the AFTHI office.

**Is Your Company/Organization hosting an Employee Health & Human Service Fair?** The AFTHI is excited to have been invited to Finch Paper on Thursday afternoon & evening, September 8th to discuss our programs and services with FP employees. How can the AFTHI be of service to your profit or not-for-profit organization, of all sizes?

**YMCA Sign Language Classes:** The Glens Falls Family YMCA will offer a 7-week Sign Language class for children ages 6-9 years old at both their Glens Falls (Tuesday's) and Moreau (Thursday's) sites from 6:30 - 7:15 pm beginning the week of September 12th. A separate 8-week class will begin the week of October 31st. Vocabulary and finger spelling through fun games and activities. The Instructor will be Kimberly Dina.



**Silent Chat:** Are you deaf or know someone who is and would like to be involved with starting up a silent chat group in the Greater Glens Falls Area. Please email or call Kassey at 518-761-0554 or [office@afthi.org](mailto:office@afthi.org)

Association for the  
Hearing Impaired, Inc.  
71 Glenwood Avenue  
Queensbury, NY 12804

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**August/September 2011**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			31 FFFF perform at Glens Fall Kiwanis	1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day CLOSED	6	7 Kiwanis Duck Race Check	8 Finch Paper Employee Health Fair	9	10 SAIL Boat Cruise Fundraisers
11	12 AFTHI Board Meeting	13	14 AIM Services 4-6pm 7th Annual Family Info Fair	15	16	17
18	19 ASL Level II Class Starts 6:30-8pm	20 FFFF Class Starts 6pm	21 ASL Level I Class Starts 6:30-8pm United Way kickoff	22 Deaf Poet Program in Schenectady	23 Balloon Festival	24 Balloon Festival
25 Taste of the North Country	26 ASL Level II Be A HearO planning meeting 5pm	27 FFFF Class	28 ASL Level I	29	30	01 Coin Drop