



Telephone: (585) 266-7890  
Email: hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com  
Website: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org

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October 2011

### OCTOBER Calendar

**Tues., Oct. 4th – 11:00 am Daytime meeting**  
Brown Bag your lunch, then Program at Noon.

**7:00 pm - Refreshments and Social Time**  
**7:30 pm – Evening meeting.**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. and Westminster Road across from George Eastman House; enter thru rear door.

**Tues., Oct. 11th—Board of Directors**  
7:30 pm – Justin Vigdor Room, Al Sigl Center

**Tues., Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm –PAC Meeting –**  
Justin Vigdor Room, Al Sigl Center

**Wed., Oct. 19th** – between Noon & 3pm –  
RWC movie, Loew's Webster. Check theatre for movie & exact time; then social time.

**Sun., Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> -WalkAbout/RHSC –Marketpl.Mall,**  
Register 8:30am-East Entrance; facing Wegmans.

**Tues., Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> – Noon – Cochlear Implant mtg.-**  
Vestry Room – St. Paul's Church --(see page 6)

### **SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES**

**Sun., Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Saving Time Ends**

**Wed., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> – between Noon & 3pm – Rear Window**  
Captioned movie, Loew's Webster

### **Hospitality Duties for October**

Daytime Meeting – Jeannette Kanter, Sue Miller  
Evening Meeting –Mary Ann Coleman, Trish Prosser  
Board of Directors – Lisa Bailey

***WELCOME BACK, MEMBERS, and,  
WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLA!***



### **OCTOBER PROGRAMS**

(at St. Paul's Church, East Ave. & Westminster Rd.)

**Tuesday, Oct. 4th – Daytime Meeting – 11:00 am**

**“THE ESSENTIAL EAR MOLD”** - Deborah Sanderson AuD, RHSC

If modern hearing aids can be adjusted by clicking a computer mouse, are custom-designed ear molds still essential?. Ear molds direct sound to the eardrum without feedback; should be comfortable without irritation; and should provide an inconspicuous aesthetic appearance.

According to the article “Ear molds” (*Hearing Review*, Sept. 2009), “The perception of amplified sound can be modified through mechanical changes in ear molds and tubing.”

Deborah Sanderson AuD, an audiologist with RHSC comments on what can go wrong with ear molds and how to know if yours are malfunctioning. Rochester Hearing and Speech Center, a nonprofit United Way agency, was established in 1922 and maintains three locations in Monroe County.

**Tuesday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – Evening Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**“LOOPING ROCHESTER”** – Donald Bataille, AIA, CCS, and panel

Hearing loops (induction loops) work with hearing aid telecoil settings to provide clear sound, free of background noises. Used extensively in Europe, they

(continued on next page)

## **Oct. 4th –Evening Meeting – 7:00 pm** (continued)

are gaining popularity in the U.S. as a reliable and affordable assistive listening device in public and home settings. Applications exist for home, auto, business, commercial, banking, and public venues. Induction loops, technically known as audio frequency induction loop systems (AILS), have been installed in New York taxis, the Breslin Center Basketball Arena at Michigan State University, and over a hundred Rochester-area churches, meeting rooms, and residences.

**Donald Bataille** AIA, CCS, architect with SWBR Architects in Rochester, (and President of HLAA-Rochester) leads a panel discussion reviewing a comparison of induction loop, infra-red, and FM assistive listening systems. The program includes a hands-on installation demonstration and review of the international IEC60118.4 compliance standard. Attendees will receive a copy of an induction loop information packet.

*HLAA-Rochester chapter meetings are held in the Vestry Room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. at Westminster Road, across from George Eastman House.*

*All programs are Audiolooped. Those needing a sign language interpreter should contact Linda Siple at 585 475 6712.*

*Hearing Loss Association is a nationwide organization dedicated to advocacy, education and support for people with hearing loss. For more information visit [www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org](http://www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org) or telephone 585 266 7890.*

*Hearing loss is a daily challenge. You do not have to face hearing loss alone. You do not have to hide your hearing loss.*

### **CAPTIONED CHAPTER MEETINGS**

*By Ginger Graham*

CaptionCall, a division of Sorenson Corp., are in the process of using Rochester as a test market for a new captioned phone they've developed. **Bruce Nelson** has joined this company and is currently installing this new phone in the homes of members. In appreciation for cooperating with this research effort, Sorenson Corp. are willing to provide remote captions for our Day and Evening chapter meetings! This would run from September thru June, 2012 (at a cost of about \$3,450 to Sorenson Corp.) More details as they become available.

If you're interested in the CaptionCall phone, contact Bruce at: [bnelson1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:bnelson1@rochester.rr.com).

### **LEADERS COLUMN**

*By Don Bataille*



I hope everyone had the opportunity to read **Michelle Gross's** informative and timely articles in last month's award winning Newsletter. Thank you, Michelle. I found the neck loop article timely because it ties in very well with this month's evening meeting. This

month's program is a panel discussion covering the use of Induction Loops in everyday environments. An Induction Loop designed for group settings is simply a larger version of a personal neck loop. A loop typically encompasses an area such as the perimeter of the room. But Induction Loops can also be used as a desk loop, a chair pad, a bank teller station loop, or in an automobile. A person with a hearing aid does not need to wear a neck loop; he or she simply turns on the t-coil setting on their hearing aid and the loop signal is automatically received. Hope you can join us as several chapter members will be sharing their experiences with loop installations and will be available to answer questions you may have.

A reminder to everyone that has been outside enjoying Rochester's great weather this summer and fall, it's a good time to see your audiologist and switch out your hearing aid tubes (if you wear BTE aids) and install new clean filters. Hearing aid filters can become dirty and tubes become brittle due to sun exposure causing sound degradation and distortion. It's an easy fix and takes very little time.

In talking recently to one of our HLAA members, we discussed how difficult it is to understand some high frequency voices, especially women's or children's voices. To someone with moderate to severe or profound hearing loss this can be disconcerting. I find that high pitch (frequency) voices can be almost intolerable, and it takes considerable effort to listen and patiently attempt to understand a few words let alone endure the whole conversation.

So, what to do? First, practice good listening techniques—ask the person to face you and to speak slowly. A slower rhythm or cadence tends to relax the other person's vocal cords and hopefully will lower their

(continued on next page)

**LEADERS COLUMN** (continued)

speech frequency. You also need to receive the person's early voice signal before it becomes mixed with other voices or room background noises. Second—the next time you visit your Audiologist, explain the problem you're having and he/she may be able to fine tune your hearing aid program to automatically drop the bothersome frequency to a lower, more tolerable level. This has helped me, but it did require several visits before I could hear the difference. These are not easy fixes as each of us has a unique hearing loss, and it requires some trial and error (and luck) to find out what techniques work best for you.

**PARENTS COLUMN**

By Katy Kuczek

Professional Conference: On **October 15<sup>th</sup>**, HLAA/Rochester Chapter and Nazareth College will host a conference at Nazareth for professionals who work with children with hearing loss or who are deaf. The goal is to increase awareness of the needs of young children (0-5 years) and their families. Pediatricians, SLPs, Audiologists, TODs, EI providers, CPSE chairs, PPS directors from districts, ENTs, neonatologists and other professionals within Monroe, Ontario and Orleans counties are encouraged to attend. Contact Cathy Quenin at [cquenin0@naz.edu](mailto:cquenin0@naz.edu), or phone her at 585-389-2776, for more information.



If your child has hearing loss, please consider joining our Parents group at HLAA. Contact: [kkuczek@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kkuczek@rochester.rr.com)

for more information.

**WEBSITES OF INTEREST:**

Our Chapter website is: [www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org](http://www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org).

(Following submitted by Don Bataille)

Virtual forum on improving access to Federal info technology – Sept. 8, 2-5pm. Participants can suggest ways the federal gov't can improve how it buys and uses accessible technology. Go to: [https://www.disability.gov/technology/news\\_%26\\_events](https://www.disability.gov/technology/news_%26_events).

(Following submitted by Sue Miller)

The best tech reality video. The title says it all. Go to: [www.innovationamerica.us/index.php/innovation-daily/2024-what-sony-played-at-its-annual-shareholder-meeting-this-year](http://www.innovationamerica.us/index.php/innovation-daily/2024-what-sony-played-at-its-annual-shareholder-meeting-this-year).

(Following submitted by Al Suffredini)

The FCC has released two reports that examine online **closed captions and emergency communications** for people with disabilities. The first report, Closed Captioning of Video Programming Delivered Using Internet Protocol, discusses the transfer of closed captions provided on TV programs to the online environment.

The second report, Report on Emergency Calling for Persons with Disabilities, looks at equal access to emergency services by individuals with disabilities as part of the country's switch to a national internet protocol-enabled emergency network, also called the next generation 9-1-1 system ("NG 9-1-1"). Go to: <http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/EAAC/EAAC-REPORT.pdf>.

Because of recent weather-related emergencies in many parts of the country, the FCC is reminding video programming distributors—including broadcasters, cable operators, satellite TV services and other distributors of video programming—of their **obligation to make emergency info accessible to persons with hearing and vision disabilities**. Go to:

[http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2011/db0617/DA-11-1070A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0617/DA-11-1070A1.pdf). Read the guide at: Emergency Video Programming Accessibility to Persons with Hearing and Visual Disabilities, <http://www.fcc.gov/guides/emergency-video-programming-accessibility-persons-hearing-and-visual-disabilities>.

For info on Assistive Technology Webinar – Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>: The PACER Center will host free webinar Sept. 8 from 10:30 am til 12:00pm Central time, on how assistive technology can improve the lives of people with disabilities. Learn about statewide resources available to help people of all ages get and fund needed assistive technology. Go to:

[http://www.pacer.org/webinars/upcoming-info.asp?webinar\\_id=62](http://www.pacer.org/webinars/upcoming-info.asp?webinar_id=62). Register online at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/169019946>.

Noise-Induced Hearing Loss - Explains how we hear, causes, effects and symptoms of noise-induced hearing loss; and describes treatments and research. For how to recognize hearing loss, go to:

[www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/noise.asp](http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/noise.asp).

### **We Welcome All Donations**

Please make your check payable to: HLAA-Rochester  
*HLAA is a 501©(3) organization.*

Mail to: Mr. Don Bataille, HLAA Board President,  
 8 Springwood Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534.

*Be sure to designate:*

This donation is: In Memory of; or, In Honor of,  
 or, Birthday congratulations.

And who to send the Acknowledgment to. Thank you.



### **for your donation to HLAA:**

Amy Crandall, Terence Coholan, Maureen Obrien Dipola,  
 Will Hooper, Game Plan Marketing, Brian and Monica  
 Murray, Leana Dugaetabia Palumbo, Kwang Hee Park, Sara E.  
 Petrie, H. J. Schindler, Andrew and Jean Speer.  
*(donations received via Dr. Hart Marathon)*

Canandaigua City School District, *(via the United Way).*

### **FOR SALE**

#### **Used Phone and Doorbell Signaler System \$100**

Sonic Alert Telephone signaler Model TN55  
 Sonic Alert Doorbell signaler Model DS700  
 3 Sonic Alert Remote receivers, Model SA201

The telephone signaler must be plugged into a modular phone jack on the phone and has a plug to connect to the house wiring.

The receivers are usually used with lamps and also have plugs to connect to the house wiring.

The doorbell signaler must be connected to the existing doorbell & also to the house wiring.

There are instructions for these connections and equipment is available for viewing and testing.

Contact--email: [jewing1@frontiernet.net](mailto:jewing1@frontiernet.net)

**Purchase price will be donated to HLAA**

### **About HLAA**

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979, opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out <http://www.hearingloss.org/>. HLAA has chapters and state organizations across the country.

### **RBTL LIVE THEATRE--- CAPTIONED!**



Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm –  
**“Million Dollar Quartet”**

Tickets become available 6 weeks in advance of each show. Request seats in “open captions” viewing section. Call 222-5000; email, [info@rbtl.org](mailto:info@rbtl.org).

### **COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP**

The CI meeting is held twice a year. The next meeting will be from Noon to 1:30pm on Tuesday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, East Ave.

Special speaker will be Ramona Pompea. If you are considering a CI, or already have one and would like to interact with others, please plan to attend. You may brown bag your lunch. A beverage will be served. For more information, email either: [JKanter@rochester.rr.com](mailto:JKanter@rochester.rr.com), or [rbradshaw@aol.com](mailto:rbradshaw@aol.com).

### **GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CI**

*(By Ramona Pompea, Director, Audiology Operations, RHSC)*

As a cochlear implant user, you rely daily on your processor to meet your communication needs, but are you really getting the most benefit possible? Do you use one program all the time or do you take advantage of multiple programs depending on your listening environment? Do you use the available accessories such as the remote or Bluetooth technology? Are you able to use the phone? Do you know about available rehabilitation materials designed to enhance your speech perception, your use of the phone and your enjoyment of music? Beyond the device itself, what can you do to optimize your programming visit with your audiologist? Whether you are a new or experienced user, there may be steps you can take to get more from your implant. **Hope to see you Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> at Noon.**

## CLOSED CAPTIONS ON LOCAL TV

*By Bruce Nelson*

There are two methods currently in use to create closed captions on live TV programs.

In the **Active method**, the audio from the TV program is transmitted by telephone to a captioner who uses a stenographic device to capture the words. A computer translates the stenographic output to text which is then transmitted via data lines back to the station, and the captioning is inserted into the video signal at the station

The **Passive method** involves pre-scripted stories which are fed from the newsroom automation system to both the teleprompter and to the closed caption encoder. The teleprompter operator controls when the output of the teleprompter is sent to the closed caption encoder to be inserted into the video signal. However, non-scripted remote coverage, ad-libbed comments by the newscasters, and weather reports are not captioned. Usually the weather report is encoded into the teleprompter, and although the weather person is not reading it verbatim, the weather forecast is sent via the closed caption system.

When closed captioning first came to Rochester, the local stations used live captioning. However, live captioning is very expensive, about \$150/hr while passive captioning costs almost nothing. With the local stations producing about 5-8 hours of live newscasts daily, the cost of live captioning would be \$300,000 to \$400,000.

Broadcasters can choose where to put the captions on the screen. The major networks can afford to have a separate technician who can move the caption as needed above or below critical picture elements, but the local stations pick a fixed position since they do not have that extra person.

Several months ago, I noticed that the closed captioning on two of the local channels were positioned at the bottom of the screen, and covered, what they call, "lower-third" content-- the place where the names of people being broadcast are superimposed on the picture. I took the initiative to contact the "caption coordinator" at those stations, sending them pictures from their newscasts pointing out the problem. They agreed that there was a problem, and moved the captions, and I am happy to report that the position of the closed captions on channels 8, 9, 10, and 13 no longer cover the "lower third" content area.

## 9-1-1 ACCESS FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

*By John Merklinger*

The Rochester/Monroe County 9-1-1 Center currently has several means of access for those with hearing loss and is pursuing ways to enhance this access in the future. If I only impart one piece of knowledge to everyone from this article it is **that 9-1-1 cannot currently receive text messages from anyone.** That is not unique to Monroe County and, in fact, as far as we know there are only three 9-1-1 Centers in the United States that currently can receive text messages. Current access to 9-1-1 can be accomplished via the following formats: voice, TTY/TDD devices, and via a video relay service. We also offer a cell phone registration for emergency situations where we need to contact the public. You simply go to [www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov) and click on register your cell phone. It will guide you through registering your cell phone with 9-1-1 and link it to your address. Then during an emergency where we need to contact the public, we can call your cell phone, text your cell phone, or deliver an e-mail to your cell phone. It is ironic that software exists today for us to provide this service in an outgoing format but right now does not allow for incoming access for 9-1-1.

Our local 9-1-1 Center has been very active on a national level as an advocate for the community of people with hearing loss. Efforts over the last few years include participating in a USDOT study for the federal government on future access for 9-1-1 also known as Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG-911). This proof of concept (POC) was a federally funded study on how the traditional 9-1-1 network can be upgraded and made available in an internet protocol (I/P) format for the future. This would allow for texting to 9-1-1, video relays, automatic crash notification such as On-Star and more. Our center has also participated in the FCC called Communications, Security, Reliability and Interoperability Committee (CSRIC). I know more government acronyms! However, the purpose of that committee was to review current and future technologies and how they can all interoperate together to enhance the public's ability to communicate with 9-1-1. This group specifically had a sub-committee addressing hearing impaired access and the limits of today's technology. I am proud to say this eighteen month committee is just completing its important work.

We continue to review new and emerging technologies as they come to market that will allow texting access to 9-1-1. However, like any technology, there are limits to the technology, and today, texting access for 9-1-1 is not reliable even with newly released software. Simply think how many times you have sent a text message and it never gets delivered or there is a significant delay. In daily life that is just a nuisance but in the 9-1-1 environment that could be a recipe for disaster if a critical message was delayed during say a heart attack. I believe many of the cellular providers today are much more proactive and headed in the right direction with development to provide access for all. One of the collaborations we have in NYS is our statewide 9-1-1 group,

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**9-1-1 ACCESS** - (continued)

which continues to work and participate with the NYS Wireless Association who is the wireless provider within the state. Establishing those working relationships is crucial to moving us forward. Recently we have worked with NTID on a study they are working on for access to 9-1-1 and other access for people with hearing loss.

What we need from the community of people with hearing loss is continued advocacy for your cause with federal, state and local representatives. For example, in NYS our state government continues to raid the cellular surcharge from the cellular telephone bills. This is the \$1.20 or \$1.50 fee on your cell phone bill (depending on county). In fiscal year 2010, New York State collected \$192 million dollars and only shared \$9.3 million dollars with the local 9-1-1 Centers. NYS kept the rest of the money and much of it, a little over \$95 million, went into the NYS general fund. This money will be crucial moving forward to pay for any new technology so we can serve the hearing impaired community better in the future. I urge you to contact your state representative and raise this issue with them.

I would also encourage all of you to visit your local 9-1-1 Centers. Most offer tours of their facilities and love to learn how the community has used their services and how they can continue to improve those services. People who work at our 9-1-1 Centers do so because they are there to help other people. There is no greater satisfaction in life than knowing you were able to help someone else in their time of need!

If I can answer any questions, please feel free to contact me at 585-528-2207 or, via e-mail at [jmerklinger@monroecounty.gov](mailto:jmerklinger@monroecounty.gov).

(Mr. Merklinger is Director of Monroe County 9-1-1 Communications Center)

**IF YOU MOVE**

Please don't forget to let **Barb Gates**, at 28 Country Gables Circle, Rochester, NY 14606, or, via email at [Cdgbg28@aol.com](mailto:Cdgbg28@aol.com) know even if your change of address is a temporary one. HLAA is charged for each piece of returned mail, which the post office won't forward.

**RUNNING FOR A REASON**

By Steve Hart, AuD.



Support HLAA by sponsoring **Dr. Steve Hart** when he runs his first marathon, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC! Suggested donation 1 dollar/mile = \$26; or 50

cents/mile for \$13. Supports to be listed on his website: [www.HartHearing.com](http://www.HartHearing.com), and you'll be given a link to track Dr. Hart's progress during the race!

As you know, I am training for the Marine Corps Marathon on October 30 and I am using it as a fundraiser for HLAA's scholarship program. My goal is to raise \$2,000 and I am well on my way to make that happen.

Training for a marathon requires training runs three to four times a week with varying lengths and generally cross training (bike riding, aerobic exercise class) on the other days of the week. My training was interrupted during the month of August as I suffered a detached retina on July 30. Had surgery on August 1<sup>st</sup> and received the OK from my doctor to start running again on August 31st (my wife's birthday!). So I am back at it and plan on completing the marathon. One thing that I have learned during the training is that this will probably be my first and last marathon. I love to run but not the distances required to train for a 26-mile race. I much prefer 5/10/15 kilometer distances.

Here's a little **history** about the Marine Corps Marathon:

The Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) is a 26.2 marathon held in Arlington, VA and Washington, DC. The MCM was established in 1976, and as of 2009 the MCM became the 4th largest marathon in the United States and the 8th largest in the world, with runners from more than 50 countries participating. The race typically occurs a few weeks before the United States Marine Corps birthday on November 10. The MCM is known as "The Peoples Marathon" because it is open to all runners, ages 14 and above, and is the largest marathon not to offer prize money.

*It's not too late to sponsor me for the race and contributions go directly to HLAA's scholarship program. Checks made out to HLAA can be sent to Steve Hart, 468 Titus Ave. Rochester, NY 14617. We will be happy to list your name as a donor on our website, [www.harthearing.com](http://www.harthearing.com).*

**Newsletter Deadline**

**Friday, September 30th**  
**(for the NOVEMBER Newsletter)**

Email: [ggraham859@frontiernet.net](mailto:ggraham859@frontiernet.net)

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY**

"I don't measure America by its achievement, but by its potential."

Shirley Chisholm, *American lawmaker and educator (1924 – 2005)*

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Grant to help RIT expand NTID

*By James Goodman, D&C, 8/16/2011*

Deaf and HOH students are underrepresented in the technological and scientific professions. But a \$4.5 million federal grant to RIT's NTID will help address the problem. The grant will establish the DeafTEC: Technological Education Center for deaf and hard of hearing students at NTID. There is no center like this in the country. This initiative is a way of tapping into an under-utilized pool of potential workers to fill needed jobs.

### Museum Discount Passes Available

*(from Webster Post, 8/18/2011)*

The Monroe County Library System has announced its **new V.I.P pass program**. This partnership with the Memorial Art Gallery, RMSC, Genesee Country Museum, GEVA, and George Eastman House allows libraries to circulate discount passes for each of these institutions. (V.I.P. stands for "Very Important Places.")

Library card holders can visit a participating library, choose a pass to a museum or theatre, check out the pass, and show it at the admissions desk of the museum, etc, to receive a discount. Then return the pass to the library for the next user. Call the library for details and availability.

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## HEALTH FAIR AT DOME ARENA

NYS Senator Jim Alesi is sponsoring the 22<sup>nd</sup> Family Health and Fitness Fair at the Dome Arena. This year, the date is **Thursday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Over 100 exhibitors. Free testings and screenings, both hearing and health, and food samplings, prizes, etc. HLAA has a table and Joe Damico is looking for **your help for a couple of hours Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**. Our volunteers describe the functions of HLAA—you don't need to be a professional! This is a great way to get the word out about our Rochester Chapter. It is the premier health show of the year, and it's FREE—parking and admission.

Please contact Joe Damico at 426-3191 or, at [JGDamico@frontiernet.net](mailto:JGDamico@frontiernet.net), right away, and thanks!

### **Subjects of Nov. 1st Chapter Meetings**

**Daytime Meeting:** "Ask The Audiologists" – Steve Hart, Joe Kozelsky, John McNamara, Carrie Morabito

**Evening Meeting:** "What Can National HLAA Do for You, and What Can You Do for National?" – Pete Fackler, HLAA President

### **SECONDHAND SMOKE MAY HURT TEENS' HEARING**

*(By Bill Hendrick, WebMD Health News, Reviewed by Laura J. Martin, MD)*

*(submitted by Mike Rudnick)*

July 18, 2011 -- Adolescents who are exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke have nearly double the risk of hearing loss than those who are not exposed, according to a new study. The researchers say the study is the first to show a connection between hearing loss in adolescents and exposure to tobacco smoke. It involved more than 1,500 people ages 12 to 19 nationwide.

The young people were first evaluated in their homes and then given extensive hearing tests and evaluation of blood samples to determine levels of the nicotine chemical "cotinine" in their blood. The findings are published in the July 2011 issue of *Archives of Otolaryngology -- Head and Neck Surgery*.

**Reducing Exposure to Secondhand Smoke:** Researchers say the teens exposed to [secondhand smoke](#), as measured by "cotinine," were more likely to have sensorineural hearing loss, a condition most often caused by problems with the cochlea, a snail-shaped hearing organ in the inner [ear](#).

"It's the type of hearing loss that usually tends to occur as one gets older or among children born with congenital deafness," study researcher Michael Weitzman, MD, of NYU School of Medicine, says in a news release.

Another study researcher, Anil Lalwani, MD, also a professor at NYU School of Medicine, says the results strongly suggest that more needs to be done to reduce childhood exposure to tobacco, both in their homes and at public places.

Also, children may need to be screened more regularly for hearing problems because few realized they have hearing difficulties. "More than half of all children in the U.S. are exposed to secondhand smoke, so our finding that it can lead to hearing loss in teenagers has huge public health implications," Lalwani says.

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## SECONDHAND SMOKE (continued)

The study shows that teens exposed to smoke performed worse across every sound frequency tested, especially mid-to-high frequencies that are important for understanding speech.

Also, teenagers with higher "cotinine" levels were more likely to have one-sided or unilateral low-frequency hearing loss. The researchers conclude that overall, their findings indicate that tobacco smoke is "independently associated with an almost two-fold increase in the risk of hearing loss among adolescents."

**Unaware of Hearing Loss:** More than 80% of the affected teens in the study were not aware they had any hearing problem, and Lalwani says milder hearing loss is not always noticeable. Therefore, he says, just asking a person whether they think they have hearing loss may not be a sufficient way to determine if they do.

Weitzman says the mild hearing loss may have several causes, including a detrimental effect on the blood supply to the inner ear. All infants born in the U.S. are required to be screened for hearing loss, but Lalwani says that there are no guidelines for testing a child's hearing past the early school years. Children exposed to secondhand smoke need to be regularly screened.

The study says more than 50% of children in the U.S. are exposed to secondhand smoke. The researchers say the rate of hearing loss appeared to be cumulative, increasing with the level of "cotinine" detected in the blood.

The researchers say their finding "may have profound implications in light of the high exposure rates among adolescents" in the U.S. Future research, they say, needs to be done because of the adverse affects caused by hearing loss in children, including poorer academic performance and social development.

## 2011 HLAA PICNIC ENJOYED BY ALL !

*By Barb Law, Special Events Chair*



From the smiles on everyone's faces and cheery conversations inside the Miller's lovely cottage at Keuka Lake, you would never know that it was raining outside on August 14. We would like to thank **Sue and Scott Miller** for their hospitality and

all of their work involved with preparing for our picnic—especially to Scott, who stood outside in the rain and grilled hot for everyone!

The food everyone brought was delicious. With all of us inside, we had the opportunity to visit and catch up with each other's news, and make new friends. Toward the end of the day, the rain stopped and we went outside on the porch and dock and viewed beautiful Keuka Lake. We missed those of you who could not attend this year.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL "LOOPING CONFERENCE" WAS A BIG SUCCESS

(excerpt from Albuquerque, NM Newsletter, Sept. 2011)  
(submitted by Ginny Koenig)

Along with the annual HLAA Convention in Washington, DC this summer, HLAA and the American Academy of Audiology sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> International "Looping Conference."

Looping advocates and professionals from 9 countries came to learn more about this technology and how to promote its proliferation as the most user-friendly assistive listening system for people with hearing loss.

The conference was funded by a grant from a foundation and registration had to be cut off when nearly 250 people registered far before the deadline. Had sufficient funds been available, the figure would have been much larger. Including the U.S., there were an even dozen countries represented (Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands).

Workshops ranging from "Hearing Loops—the Basics (for those who wanted to learn what loops are and how they work) to technical offerings such as, "A Systematic Approach to Evaluation and/or Validating Loop Systems" were offered. There were workshops designed for hearing care professionals and others for loop system operators.

Included in the mix was a workshop by New Mexico member and Certified Professional Broadcast Engineer, Mike Langer, on microphones that can optimize the audio for assistive listening technology.

Such interest was created by this conference that HLAA is unable to handle all of the email requests for information, so a small committee of HLAA volunteers has been created to respond to the inquiries.

To view the conference schedule and access some of the power point presentations offered, go to: [www.hearingloss.org/convention/2011Convention/2011conference\\_workshops.asp](http://www.hearingloss.org/convention/2011Convention/2011conference_workshops.asp).

\*\*\*\*\*

Visit our HLAA National website for section devoted to the Get in the Hearing Loop campaign, with detailed fact sheet on how to advocate for loops. Some links are not yet activated, but go to: [www.hearingloss.org/content/get-hearing-loop](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/get-hearing-loop).

To learn more, go to: [www.hearingloop.org](http://www.hearingloop.org), or, join the loops and telecoils Yahoo listserv ([http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/Loops\\_and\\_Telecoils/?yguid=270791028](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/Loops_and_Telecoils/?yguid=270791028)) where 175 looping advocates from around the country answer questions and share information.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Ginny, you will be greatly missed while you're out for your hip surgery and later, knee surgery. Our thoughts are with you! gg*





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Hi megan I am so glad I caught you before you go on your flight our meeting has been postponed to 3pm

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**HLAA Membership Information**

Hearing Loss Association (HLAA) Rochester Chapter, a tax exempt and volunteer group, is a chapter of a national, nonprofit, nonsectarian, educational organization devoted to the welfare and interests of those who cannot hear well. We meet the first Tuesday of the month from September through June at St.Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. While our primary focus is directed toward hard of hearing, we welcome everyone to our chapter meetings whatever their hearing ability.

For more information, Call  
**585-266-7890**

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^^

**Newsletter**

*Newsletter deadline first day of the month preceding the issue month.*

*Send articles to:*

*Ginger Graham  
 859 Meadow Ridge Lane  
 Webster, NY 14580  
 ggraham859@frontiernet.net*

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - ROCHESTER CHAPTER**

[ ] Yes, I want to join -- support entitles me to receive the newsletter in order to be alerted to programs for Daytime, & Evening Chapter Meetings and Cochlear Implant meetings.

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