



HEAR THIS !
(It's Personal)
by Marilyn Weinhouse

**LOCAL
EVENTS !**

President's Corner



We are privileged to have **Mary Clark** from Chicago, a long-time ALDA member who has held several Board positions with that organization, as well as

others. She will tell us about *Making Lemonade Out of Lemons: My Life's challenges with Hearing Loss*. For those of you who have never heard Mary speak, you are in for a treat!

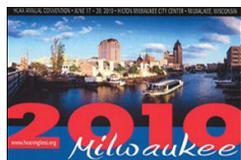
Note that we have added a back page to our newsletter to bring you additional news you can use.



OUR NEXT MEETING is June 19 at 10:30. We plan to have a discussion group, topic to be announced.

Bonnie Eggert-Zitrin
Pres, HLAA San Diego

It is never too LATE to plan to attend an HLAA convention! It is June 17-20 at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center and Midwest Airlines Center. More info at www.hearingloss.org/convention/



If you are not an HLAA member, you can sign up any time. Your membership is good for one

year from the date you join.

How much does membership cost? Yearly dues are \$35 individual or \$45 couple. Make checks out to "Hearing Loss Association of America" and notate on the check *for San Diego Chapter.* Checks will be collected and we will send them in to National. National will then send us \$10 back for each membership. Or mail to HLAA-SD, P.O. Box 2810, Alpine, CA 91903.

Member Spotlight

Since one of the great things about this group is knowing each other, we plan to showcase members in our newsletter. This month it is:



Joan Padilla

Joan Padilla was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She has 7



siblings, including an identical twin!

Joan moved to the San Diego area in 1981 and lives in Escondido with her husband, Albert.

They have one daughter who is studying to become a veterinarian. Joan works at the Naval Medical Center Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program as an Information Manager and Customer Service Representative. Joan and her twin were found to have a hearing loss in 3rd grade. In 1999, Joan received a cochlear implant that changed her life. ALDA (and now HLAA) is a huge support to Joan and she now feels that her hearing loss is a gift, as she is able to relate better to others with hearing loss and help them, as her friends in ALDA helped her. She has been a member since 1998, served as president for 4 years, and is currently on the steering committee. Joan is a great example of someone finding her voice through this organization.

HLAA San Diego now on Facebook



We are on Facebook! If you don't know about Facebook, we will be demonstrating it soon.

Facebook is a networking website on which you can hook up with new and old friends and is a good place to help people find our organization.

Please send your news to: Marilyn Weinhouse
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Hearing Loss Meet-up in Mission Valley, Saturday, June 5 at 10 a.m.

Starbucks, next to the food court.

Fashion Valley Mall
707 Friars Road, San Diego.

It is on the first Saturday of the month, June 5, 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Meet-up is at Starbucks on the upper level, next to the AMC theaters. The Fashion Valley Trolley stop is at the mall. The mall is located in Mission Valley off Hwy 163 exit at Friars Road West. Get directions on the web by using

tiny.cc/h2ffw

Our Monthly Mission Bay Walk Will NOT Be Held In June.

Organizer **Dale Laney** is on vacation in June so we are skipping the June walk. See you in July!



Garage Sale Results!



HLAA-SD had its first (and possibly last) garage sale on Saturday, April 24 at Larry and Char's house. Thanks to all who made contributions as we pulled in \$160 at the sale and \$90 more on craigslist. Char, Larry, Bonnie and Bill had lots of laughs even though we did not make the money we hoped. Jerome stopped by to say hello and even bought some "stuff." p.s. we think craigslist.org is the way to go from now on!

Did you know?

HLAA National had a booth at the **San Diego American Academy of Audiology convention** in April for the first time ever!! Bonnie and Bill Zitrin, Larry Sivertson and Deb and Brian from HLAA Carlsbad were the local representatives on hand to represent HLAA along with Executive Director of HLAA National, Brenda Battat and Nancy Macklin, HLAA Director of Events and Marketing.

President Bonnie passed along news from Elizabeth LeBarron, HLAA National.

• To refresh your minds about the HLAA Conference events go to <http://www.hearingloss.org/convention/> we have an inspiring keynote speaker, Bill Barkeley, a young man with hearing and vision loss who climbs mountains and takes youngsters on outward bound trips. Our research symposium this year is about hearing aid research and development. We also have a fun off-site event to the Harley Davidson museum, a full exhibit hall with the latest technology and much more. Eight scholarships have been awarded for people who have never attended an HLAA convention before and we just heard that we can award six more thanks to a \$3,000 donation from Starkey.

• Nancy Macklin led a "10 Reasons to Attend the Milwaukee Convention" webinar on April 28. It was excellent and you are urged to review. <http://www.hearingloss.org/Community/transcripts.asp>

• Penny Allen, president of Hearing Loss Association of Washington (state) had an article published by AARP on line, *Hearing Loss—It's Not Hopeless!* It is a great article. To view it go to www.aarp.org/wa

• Joan Marcoux of New Hampshire has reported that a bill requiring private NH health insurance companies to provide \$1,500 coverage over five years for hearing aids, fitting, and adjustment services passed the NH legislature this session. Kudos to HLAA members in NH who worked on this bill!

• The Maryland Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (ODHH) introduced a bill in the MD State Legislature to require places of public accommodations to turn on television captions on request. The bill has passed. A refusal to turn captions on imposes a possible fine under the State Civil Rights Laws. HLAA provided letters of support for the bill and has been invited to attend the signing ceremony.

• HLAA exhibited at the American Academy of Audiology Convention in San Diego, California. Volunteers from the San Diego and Carlsbad HLAA Chapters helped at the booth. We used a new eye-catching HLAA booth banner for the first time. An estimated 7,500 people attended the convention and we interacted with many audiologists and student audiologists at our booth. Our message was the Walk4Hearing™, HLAA Convention, a drawing for a free professional membership and the HLAA Fact Sheet on consumer protection with a hearing aid purchase checklist.

At the Opening Session, before 4,500 people, Pat Krikos, Ph.D., president-elect of AAA, unveiled the joint HLAA/AAA "Get in the Hearing Loop" campaign. The campaign is being coordinated by a joint task force of HLAA and AAA members, Executive Director Brenda Battat, Steve Frazier, New Mexico and Cheryl Davis, Associate Professor Western Oregon University and author of *Demystifying Hearing Assistance Technology: A Guide for Service Providers and Consumers*, are representing HLAA.

• Nanci Linke-Ellis represented HLAA at the ShoWest Convention in Los Angeles to test different methods of captioning movies in the new digital format. She attended with the Executive Director of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association to impress upon studios and theater owners that there is a concerted effort in North America to caption movies. Canada has only 4,000 screens whereas the United States has more than 35,000.

• Brenda Battat met in Denver with Chris Smith, CEO of Cochlear Americas and members of his staff to discuss future partnership opportunities. Cochlear Americas is a national sponsor of the Walk4Hearing™ and Chris is this year's business chair of the Colorado Walk4Hearing™. Cochlear Americas is also sponsoring the Rumble Harley Davidson Museum event at the HLAA Convention in Milwaukee.

• Jeff Greiner, CEO of Advanced Bionics, announced he would be leaving the company effective May 1. To see the announcement go to http://www.advancedbionics.com/cms/files/AnnouncementLetter_3_31.pdf

Jeff has been a good friend of HLAA and AB has partnered with us as a national Walk4Hearing™ sponsor, convention sponsor, and exhibitor over the years. We look forward to building a relationship with his successor.

• HLAA supported legislation in California, Assembly Bill AB 2072, to provide parents with a range of options when their child is diagnosed with hearing loss. The National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) has prepared a brochure, titled *Communicate with Your Child*, to be used for this purpose. It has been translated into six languages and has an insert sheet with resources for each state. It is available free of charge to anyone who wants to use it. So far, it has been offered to 35 states and California is the only state that has refused to approve the state insert or to require that it be included in packets given to parents. Here is the link to the brochure: http://www.communicatewithyourchild.org/brochures/cwyc_english.pdf

The California State Department of Education Deaf and Hard of Hearing consultant, the coordinator of the Newborn Hearing Screening Program, and the Deaf community, are opposing this bill, claiming that parents should not be given options; i.e., that all deaf and hard of hearing children have a birthright to a visual language, and that the referral system is biased in favor of auditory-oral education. Nothing could be further from the truth. Last year, the California Legislature passed the Torrico bill requiring parents to be informed about the state residential schools at every IEP meeting, but no mention of various communication options. Here is the link to the Torrico bill for the state schools: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a20/press/20080714AD20PR01.htm>

• The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has established an initiative on the Year of Community Living and will hold Listening Sessions across the country for community stakeholders and consumers to help us develop and/or refine their policies on this important initiative. HLAA attended the Listening Session held in Fairfax, VA on April 19, 2010. Henry Claypool, director, HHS Office of Disability moderated the session. It was also attended by representatives from key HHS offices, including Office on Disability, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Administration on Aging, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration. In the two minutes allotted, HLAA emphasized the need to ensure that keeping people living in the community means ensuring communication access to all services. HLAA staff let HHS know about the experience of one senior who attempted to contact Medicare but whose captioned telephone call was refused. We also noted the need to ensure that accessible housing means safe housing for people who can no longer hear a fire alarm. For more information on the Year of Community Living go to <http://www.hhs.gov/od/topics/community/olmstead.html>

• HLAA, NAD (National Association for the Deaf), TDI (Telecommunications for the Deaf), and NVRC (Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons) representatives met with a representative from Google working on universal captioning of YouTube videos. In November 2009, Google released a way to provide automated time code for transcripts as another way to make captioning more available on YouTube. In March, they opened up auto-captioning to all users and have reported a surge in captioned videos since then. They are looking for more ways to get the word out and feedback. See: <http://www.youtube.com/t/captions> about Google also unveiled the new android system that supports closed captioning. Watch for upcoming announcements about that.