Hear It Is! Oregon



Spring 2008 Issue 33

A Lifetime Change

By Jeffery A. Newton

It was 1968: The Vietnam War was still in its infancy, America was still mourning the loss of President Kennedy, and the Cuban missile crisis had settled down a bit. NASA was still in the prep stages to launch the Apollo space program the following year.

While living in rural Douglas County in the late '60s, along the historical Applegate Trail, everyone in my family thought that I, "the cutest kid" from San Francisco, would grow up and experience the life of a cowboy. I eventually proved many of them wrong.

Living on the Applegate Trail was a prime experience, where you could hear the sounds of nature at its best. Then an unexplained medical condition took my hearing by surprise. It shook the family hard; scared my mother, grandmother, and aunt; and worried my grandfather and uncle.

Life would never be the same as my ability to hear sounds of nature would endure a lifetime of challenges and adventure. My grandfather was a military man, a by-the-book brass, who pretty much wanted things to go smoothly as possible. When I lost my hearing, he was more tragically traumatized than any other family member. Each summer, during his vacation, he'd take me from specialist to specialist, up and down the West Coast, to see what could be done to correct my "hearing problem."

He was told that a cochlear implant for me was the way to go, but the price tag was way out of his range. He was a risk-taker and was prepared to put it all on the line for his "boss," his first grandson.

He passed away of a massive heart attack in 1990, never knowing if I'd ever be able to hear again. In the spring of 2006, my hearing was getting worse in my left ear. I hadn't worn a hearing aid in my right ear for over ten years, since he passed away.

I was in a Catch-22 situation between the left and right. When I had my hearing test that same year, I was confronted with the decision of either having a cochlear implant or losing the remaining hearing in that ear and becoming deaf for life. I wished that my grandfather was still around to help with the decision, and time was running on short circuit. [> page 4]

Hear it is! #33, Spring 2008. Published quarterly by the Hearing Loss Association of Oregon, PO Box 22501, Eugene, OR 97402. Chuck Vlcek, Editor; Karin Smith, Assistant Editor; Karen Swezey, Business Editor.

Hear it is! will regularly print your hearing loss-related stories – personal experiences, coping strategies, and evaluations of technology are welcomed. Maximum word count is 500 words. Article contributions should be made to the editor at cvlcek@centurytel.net.

For advertising information and rates, contact Karen Swezey at kswezey@efn.org.

Deadline for Summer 2008 edition: June 15, 2008.

Here It Is! Oregon Spring 2008 Newsletter

From My Lips to Your Ears

Editorial by Chuck Vlcek

Michael Eury left some big shoes to fill.

As I look at what I inherited, I feel challenged to maintain his standard of excellence. After all, my only other editing experience was with a small local Lions Club newsletter, and I am still doing that. But I have capable assistance from Karin Smith who helps look for articles to include, and Karen Swezey who handles the ads and makes helpful suggestions.

The last issue already had articles selected. I just had to do the layout. There were some glitches in the process, but now that I have the template, that part should be easier. This is the first issue that is completely under my watch, and it comes at an interesting time. I just got my second implant on February 6 and am now tuning up my left ear with a Nucleus Freedom processor.

So how did I get to this point? I was born in 1945 with a severe bilateral hearing loss, courtesy of prenatal rubella. I was two or three when my parents suspected and confirmed the hearing loss. Rather intensive speech and hearing therapy followed, first at Washington Speech and Hearing Center, then at Bruce Street School in Newark, NJ. Then my parents moved back to my father's boyhood home in Idleyld Park, Oregon (near Roseburg) and I attended second grade at the public elementary school in Glide. After that I "mainstreamed", before that became a household word. Growing up hearing impaired in a hearing world during the 1950s had its difficulties, but it was pretty tolerable, at least up to seventh grade. After that I never really fit socially until I was well into my adult years. I did have enough intelligence to compensate and hang academically, and earned a B.S. degree in meteorology at the University of Washington.

I had worn a hearing aid only in my right ear, partly because of cost (we weren't rich) and partly because sounds in my left ear were rather harsh. I was in my mid-thirties when someone talked me into getting a hearing aid for my left ear. By then

I was losing what was left of my higher frequencies in my right. With hearing aids my left ear alone sounded harsh and my right ear alone sounded pale but together I enjoyed a rather rich sound. However, hearing in my right ear continued to fade slowly, and finally died completely in 2002, two years after my retirement.

I had already been contemplating a cochlear implant as that technology was maturing, and the death of my right ear gave me a big shove in that direction. The next nine months, as I researched my implant options, were some of the longest in my life. On my not so wonderful left ear alone I could barely converse face to face and could not enjoy music at all. Finally, I got the implant done by Dr. Schleuning in March 2003, and after a period of adjustment, got my right ear back.

I knew that sooner or later I would have the left ear done since I was barely getting use out of it even with a powerful hearing aid. This time Dr. McMenomey did the honors. Now my ears are coming into balance, with the promise of the best aided hearing I have had in my life. They still sound different but binaural sound is rich and music sounds great!

Thus I can appreciate this issue's lead article by Jefferey Newton. His grandfather helped prepare him for his opportunity to get his hearing back. My parents' early intervention saved me from a serious speech impediment and an even harsher life. Audiologists have remarked on how good my speech was given the severity of my pre-lingual loss.

I can also appreciate Michael Eury's last editorial about the "benefits" of hearing loss or, as I call it, adjustable hearing. Some extrovert types have to have noise all the time, but I like my quiet moments. It lets me sleep and it lets me concentrate. I once had an apartment with a balcony near traffic and used it for some stargazing using a small telescope – with the sound turned off. Truly, I was in the world but not of it.

Relaytionships

Have a loved one, friend or co-worker you want to call today?



You can, with Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service.

Making a call will never be difficult again!

TTY: 711 or 1.800.735.2900 Voice: 711 or 1.800.735.1232

VCO: 1.800.735.3260

900 Services: 1.900.568.3323

ASCII: 1.800.735.0644 español: 1.800.735.3896 STS: 1.877.735.7525

www.rspf.org

Customer Service in English: 1.800.676.3777 Servicio al cliente en español: 1.800.676.4290



For questions or comments, contact the OTRS Account Manager: damara.g.paris@sprint.com

A Lifetime change (from page 1)

But something had to be done—I chose to have the implant done on my right ear, even though I hadn't worn a hearing aid in that ear for many years. I was told some of my sensorineural hearing in my left side would remain as long as I kept it stimulated with my hearing aid—it became a battleground of sorts.

On February 7, 2007, I was driven by my mother to Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital (OHSU) in Portland, Oregon, and had my cochlear-implant surgery done by Dr. Sean McMenomy.

Two weeks later, I once again took an enduring decision to have the speech processor turned on and experienced a moment of changing history. After thirty-eight years of wearing hearing aids, I was able to once again hear the natural voice of my mother's and my own voice.

The voices and sounds pretty much sounded robotic. But, the audiologist told me, it was normal for sounds to be that stage of life after so many years in the cubicle of profound deafness.

It took almost forty years to make a decision. Perhaps this was my grandfather's message, that his mission had been accomplished from heaven? A wish of a lifetime allowed him to keep his promise.



Call us today! And see what you've been missing. 1-800-848-4442

or 1-800-648-3458 (TTY) or email us at puc.tdap@state.or.us to see if you qualify and get back to using the phone again.

www.oregoncaptel.com



OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OTAP TDAP

* OREGON TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

* TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES ACCESS PROGRAM

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR MONTHLY PHONE BILL? CONTACT OTAP:

Oregonians who are on a qualifying assistance program may receive a reduction in their monthly bill for local residential telephone service.

E-mail: puc.otap@state.or.us

HAVING TROUBLE OR UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE BY TELEPHONE? CONTACT TDAP: Loans specialized telecommunication equipment at no cost and with no income restrictions to eligible Oregonians who are deaf, hearing, vision, speech and mobility impaired.

E-mail:

puc.tdap@state.or.us



MAILING: PO Box 2148 Salem, OR 97308-2148 **ADDRESS:**

550 Capitol St NE, Suite 215 Salem, OR 97301-2551

PHONE:

(800) 848-4442 Voice (800) 648-3458 TTY (877) 567-1977 FAX

(503) 378-6211 Videophone Monday – Friday 8am - 5pm



Download or complete applications at www.rspf.org

REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON DEAFNESS PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION PROGRAMS

American Sign Language/

English Interpreting Bachelor of Science . Bachelor of Arts

Rehabilitation Counselor Education

Master of Science • Deaf and General Options

Teacher Preparation: Deaf Education

Master of Science

In-Service Training

Region X Interpreter Education Center Rehabilitation Counseling with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults WROCC at WOU (a PEPNet Outreach Site)

Deaf and hard-of-hearing people and other members of traditionally underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Contingent upon continued federal funding, tuition waivers and/or stipends are available.

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

345 North Monmouth Avenue • Monmouth, Oregon 97361 503-838-8444 (V/TTY)

E-mail: RRCD@wou.edu · www.wou.edu/rrcd

Oregon Health & Science University

Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery



Hearing Services

- · Cochlear Implants
- Hearing Aids
- Hearing Screening
- · Baha Implants
- Vestibular Testing
- · Assistive Listening Devices
- Research and Education

Hearing, Vestibular, and Cochlear Implant Services 503-494-5171

Sean O. McMenomey, MD, FACS 503-494-8135

Cochlear Implant Staff

Sean O. McMenomey, MD, FACS Donald S. Plapinger, EdD, CCCA Elyse M. Jameyson, MA, CCCA

Audiology Staff

Amy L. Johnson, MA, CCCA Jennifer J. Strode, MS, CCCA Jessica L. Hagen, MA, CCCA

V/TDD cochlear@ohsu.edu www.ohsu.edu/ent



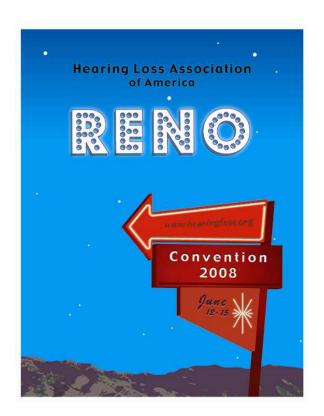
Convention 2008 • June 12-15 Grand Sierra Resort & Casino Reno, Nevada



The Hearing Loss Association of America Convention is a highly interactive and accessible event for all people who are affected by hearing loss. The program includes dynamic speakers, dozens of instructive workshops, and an informative research symposium. Plus, our Exhibit Hall hosts an array of hearing loss related products, services and information.

Hearing Loss Association of America Convention 2008 will offer a wide variety of educational workshops, general sessions, and special events as well as opportunities to meet other people with hearing loss, healthcare and rehabilitation professionals, educators and vendors. Attendees can enjoy hands-on testing of hearing assistive devices and telecommunication products in the Exhibit Hall.

To learn more about Hearing Loss Association of America Convention 2008 visit our website at www.hearingloss.org/convention.



Please join us this June! Hearing Loss Association of America Convention 2008 June 12 – 15 Reno, NV 4 Big Reasons to Attend HLAA Convention 2008... Education Program Exhibit Hall Trade Show Networking A Whole Lotta Fun for details visit www.hearingloss.org



Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) Application

Online OTAP applications: To print or complete an online application please visit: http://www.rspf.org.

The Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) can help you with your phone bill. If you have telephone service and receive one of the following qualifying benefits, you can receive the current reduction of up to \$13.50 off your phone bill.

- Food Stamps
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Certain State Medical Programs or State Medicaid

The following is a list of residential phone companies that participate in OTAP There are 3 cellular phone companies that participate ~ they are highlighted and marked with an * below. HOME PHONE CO. ASOTIN CLEAR CREEK PINE PHONE CO. MT. ANGEL ST PAUL BEAVER CREEK COLTON MALHEUR HOME NEHALEM PIONEER STAYTON CO. CANBY CO-OP COMSPAN MIDVALE TEL. EX NORTH STATE QWEST TRANS CASCADE CASCADE UTILITIES EAGLE MOLALLA OREGON TEL. CORP. ROOME TEL COM VERIZON OREGON/IDAHO GERVAIS MONITOR CENTURYTEL UTILITIES SCIO MUTUAL CITIZENS/FRONTIER HELIX MONROE PEOPLE'S SPRINT/EMBARQ WIRELESS TELEPHONE COMPANIES * U S CELLULAR * EDGE WIRELESS * UNICEL

(Cut on dotted line and mail the bottom portion of this application to the PUC)

Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) Application – Please WRITE clearly.

If you have a situation that prevents you from providing certain information, please contact OTAP for assistance.

Applicant's First and Last Name (The applicant's name MUST be on the phone bill)	Applicant's Social Security Number	Date of Birth
Applicant's Home Address	City Oregon	Zip
Applicant's Mailing Address (only if different from your home address)	City Oregon	Zip
Applicant's Phone Company (eligible phone company from list above)	Applicant's Phone Number	

I want the phone company to reduce my phone bill each month under OTAP. I give PUC permission to verify I receive benefits from a public assistance agency and to share the information on this form with the phone company. I understand the following:

- OTAP benefits start on the date the PUC approves the signed application.
- OTAP benefits will stop if I no longer receive one of the qualifying benefits. I will call the PUC when I no longer receive the qualifying benefits.
- My name must be on the telephone bill and I must have phone service in order to receive OTAP benefits.

I need to allow 30-90 days for the phone company to apply the credit to my phone bill.

				Is this <u>NEW</u> phone service in the last 60 days? YES NO

Applicant's Signature

Date

Do you have questions? Call the PUC 1-800-848-4442 or 1-800-648-3458 (TTY) [Salem area: 503-373-7171] Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Email Address: puc.otap@state.or.us

Please Mail Application to: PUC, PO Box 2148, Salem OR 97308 or Fax to: 503-378-6047

PUC Form FM784 (12/01/06) ENG

Within Earshot: News You Need to Know

New!! Growing Up With Hearing Loss Email Group

There's a new group at Yahoo called GUWHL---Growing Up With Hearing Loss.

"The list "Growing Up With Hearing Loss" was formed to encourage people to discuss thoughts about growing up with hearing loss in a hearing world (without using sign language as the primary language). People with early-onset hearing loss who grow up in a hearing world frequently had no one else in their lives to discuss the common impact of hearing loss upon their lives, compared to people who grow up with other people who use sign language. This list is intended to be a vehicle for communication specifically between adults who grew up with hearing loss from a very early age and parents of children with hearing loss/Cochlear Implants (CI's), professionals working with people with hearing loss/CIs, and potentially teenagers with hearing loss and/or Cls. (This list is not intended to replace lists created specifically for parents of children with Cls or children with Cls or similar lists. or to discuss technical issues about CIs or hearing aids that are or can be addressed by other email To minimize spammers joining this list, people joining this list will be asked to provide an explanation for their interest in this list. "

The best way to join this group is to log into or register at http://groups.yahoo.com before or after going to the new group's web page at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GUWHL/

When you request the ability to join this list, you'll be sent a text file with rules for the group that you'll be asked to read and agree to, and you'll also be asked to explain your interest in the group.

Another way to join this new list is to send email to <u>GUWHL-subscribe@yahoogroups.com</u>, but this way might not let you view the other features of the GUWHL web site if you are not registered at Yahoo.

FCC Inaugurates Online Disability Complaint Form

Source: Captioning listserv

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) revised their online complaint Form 2000 so that consumers with disabilities may find it easier to alert the FCC of accessibility problems in telecommunications and media, including filing of captioning complaints.

You may access the FCC Form 2000C DISABILITY ACCESS COMPLAINT which you can get to at https://esupport.fcc.gov/sform2000/formC!input.action OR you can use your mouse to click on Form 2000 at http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/complaints_general.html

On the Form 2000 page, click on "C". You will note the following message: This form should be used for complaints about disability access. If your complaint is about closed captioning only, you must first contact the station or video programming distributor. More info about closed captioning is available at www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/closedcaption.html. Then click NEXT.

When you get to this page, first click on YES to the "security" question, and then scroll down to blue FORM 2000C in the middle of the page, and then fill out the information they ask for. Remember to scroll down and click SUBMIT at the bottom of the page to make sure the FCC gets the information. Retain the acknowledgment number they send back as this will be your complaint number that can be used to track your complaint later.

You can also use this form for HDTV captioning complaints, Relay Service complaints, Section 255 Complaints, and for Access to Emergency Information on TV complaints. We recommend that you file one type of complaint at a time with this form. For example, fill out the form for a complaint on TRS or VRS relay service, and then submit a new form for a captioning-related complaint.

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 3, 2008, Bethesda, Maryland: Brenda Battat, M.A., of Bethesda, Maryland, has been named executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), the nation's largest organization for people with hearing loss. She officially assumed the title and duties on March 3, 2008, having been unanimously chosen for the position by the HLAA Board of Trustees at their February 29-March 2 meeting in Bethesda.

Ms. Battat brings a wealth of experience to the position having joined the HLAA national staff in 1989. She has been deputy executive director and served as acting executive director on three interim occasions. She brings this experience to the position as well as her personal exposure to hearing loss as a user of a cochlear implant and a hearing aid.

Ms. Battat is well known among her peers in the field of hearing loss, disability access, and key industry, government, and hearing health professions. Her collaborative approach to advocacy and finding common ground among consumers, industry, and government is well known and respected. Among her most noted accomplishments at HLAA is her work on hearing-aid-compatible mobile and cordless phones and Internet captioned telephone.

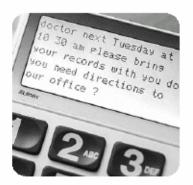
Her skills as a leader are well recognized by her colleagues, national staff, and HLAA leaders and members who trust her judgment and avidly seek her advice. As a leader with a unique intelligent common-sense approach, plus a faculty for teamwork, she is a proven strength of the organization.

Battat says after her tenure with HLAA: "I am ready to take on the challenge of leading this great organization in a changing world where hearing loss is burgeoning, technology exploding, and social networking a way of life. Nothing in today's society is business as usual, with the exception of the stigma of using hearing aids and we have to change that."

Ms. Battat holds a bachelor's degree in physical therapy with 15 years working in the field in Europe and North America. She holds a master's degree in counseling from Indiana University. She is married to Joe Battat and lives in Bethesda. They have two grown children Anna and James.

Anne T. Pope, president of the HLAA Board of Trustees commented: "The Board of Trustees is delighted that Brenda Battat has agreed to become the next executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America. Brenda is unequalled as an advocate for people with hearing loss. For almost 20 years, she has been a key leader in securing federal legislation and regulation to accommodate our challenges, and has taught thousands of our members how to work for accessibility at the state and local levels.

"Millions of people with hearing loss have benefited from her efforts. In the short time that she has been acting executive director, we have seen the same creativity, skill, and energy in her executive leadership that has made her such an effective advocate. We cannot imagine a better person to lead the organization in educating the general public about hearing loss and its challenges."



CapTel[™] Relay Service



Hear your caller's voice and see captions of everything your caller says.

CapTel™ Relay Service

- Offered at no cost through participating state relay programs
- ▶ Dial the person you're calling directly
- ▶ Enjoy natural phone conversations

"Users are responsible for their own long distance charges.

CapTel™ Captioned Telephone

- ▶ Bright, easy-to-read display
- Functions as a traditional telephone so everyone can use it
- ▶ Simultaneous voice and captions

Visit www.captionedtelephone.com for more information.



www.sprintrelay.com | Sprint Relay Customer Service TTY/Voice/ASCII: 1.800.676.3777 fax 1.877.877.3291 | sprint.trscustserv@sprint.com | Individuals with speech disabilities can contact Customer Service through Speech-to-Speech Relay at 1.877.787.2660.

60885 Spirit Nestel. All rights reversed. 998NT, the "Going Researd" logs, the NEXTR. name and logs; and other trademarks are trademarks of Sprint Nestel



HEARING LOSS AND JOB INTERVIEWS

Reprinted from the national SHHH (now HLAA) newsletter

SHHH Advocacy and Legislative **Update 21 November 2005:** When to disclose your hearing loss. Whether you are working in a large company, engaging in a conversation strangers, or attending a professional conference, you'll be faced situations where you'll need to know when and how to disclose your hearing Ultimately, it is a loss to others. personal decision. Depending on the industry that you work in, you should ask yourself several questions to help you decide when you should disclose your hearing loss to your employer.

Can I conduct an interview without accommodations? Will I need accommodations to perform my job? What kind of accommodations do I need?

Working in the field of social science (i.e. social work, non-governmental organizations, clinical work, etc.), it may be easier for you to disclose your hearing loss to your coworkers and employers because they may be more understanding and flexible than a more competitive work environment (e.g. law firms, politics, business, etc.).

Therefore, you should decide whether you want to disclose your hearing loss at the interview, before you are hired, or after you are hired. There is no right or wrong way to do it, but whatever you decide you must be prepared to face the consequences. Though subtle, you could experience discrimination if you announce your hearing loss up front. Even though there is a law to protect

against such discrimination, people hire people, and they enter the process with their own biases and degree of awareness of hearing loss. That can impact their decision to hire or not to hire you.

How should I disclose my hearing loss? Learn all you can about the interview (i.e., place, time, number of people attending, etc) and prepare accordingly. For example, if you learn that your interview will be a group interview in a noisy environment then you may need an FM system to operate at your optimum capacity, then prepare yourself in advance just like you would prepare yourself for any interview.

Make sure you bring all of the devices that you'll need. Briefly explain in your introduction that you have a hearing loss, and that you'll need to use an FM system for the interview.

Just like an introduction should be, your explanation should be very short. Remember that employers want to know what you have to offer their institution. Your self-confidence, applicable skills, personality, and motivation will get you the job, not your storytelling ability.

Finally, it is extremely important to remember that disclosure is a personal choice. Unless you are comfortable with your own hearing loss, you will not be able to ask for the accommodations that you need. Your hearing loss is personal, and the details of how and when to disclose your hearing loss may be situational.

Further information on the more general topic of disabilities and job interviews can be found on http://www.miltwright.com/articles/ArtOfDisclosingYourDisability.pdf

10 REASONS

- 1. Dr. Mehr is the most experienced doctoral-level audiologist in the Salem area.
- 2. Pacific Audiology Center is a state-of-the-art diagnostic audiological facility.
- 3. All of your hearing testing and fitting will be conducted personally by Dr. Mehr.
- 4. Our hearing aid prices are the same everyday. There are no special sales, "this week only" schemes, coupons or gimmicks.
- 5. The results of your comprehensive hearing evaluation will be explained in detail, and we will provide you with a complete printout of those results.
- The benefits or lack of benefits of hearing aids for your personal hearing needs will be explained in detail.
- 7. Even if you are a candidate for hearing aids, you will never be told you have to purchase one. (Hearing aids are only of benefit if you are ready to use them)
- 8. We carry a complete array of assistive listening devices (i.e. bluetooth for cell phones, amplified phones, TV listing systems, etc.). Come see our new store.
- 9. Professional treatment, prompt care, personal attention and still hearing aid prices consistent with that offered by the Big Box outlets.
- **10.** We offer a 12 month no interest and a 5 year low interest payment plan to qualified buyers.

Why you should trust Dr. Allan Mehr with all of your Hearing Health

Dr. Allan S. Mehr Board Certified in Audiology





Pacific Audiology Center 120 Ramsgate Square SE (Off Liberty just south of Madronna) www.pacificaudiology.com

503-364-2828

Dr. Mehr has over 27 years experience working with individuals with hearing loss. He has served on the Oregon Speech and Hearing Association and Oregon Academy of Audiology Boards and as chairman of the Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology.

We provide the same or better discounts found in all insurance benefit programs, including:

Blue Cross • Secure Horizons • Lifewise

Thanks - We Can't Do It Without YOUR Help!

HLA-OR needs your financial support to continue this newsletter.

(Please note: This is different and separate from any local chapter fee you may pay.)

Using the form on the back of the newsletter, please mail your tax-deductible gift to:

HLA-Oregon PO Box 22501 Eugene, OR 97402

We thank the following folks who have sent donations since the last issue:

8 Anonymous Ruth Arndt Susan Triplett Anne McLaughlin Grace Tiessen Karen Whitaker Jo D'Antonio Cathy Sanders

Mary Louise Powell George Johnson Victor Buenzle Camille Atherton Ann Cushman Josephine Bateman Elizabeth Gillespie Nina Rae Cleveland

AN INTERVIEW WITH BEETHOVEN

Based on letters from Beethoven to his brothers

From: **KnowledgeNews** < info@knowledgenews.net>

Mr. Beethoven, some have accused you of being impetuous, fiery, and even a bit nasty. Care to respond to them?

"Oh! ye who think or declare me to be hostile, morose, and misanthropical, how unjust you are, and how little you know the secret cause of what appears thus to you! My heart and mind were ever from childhood prone to the most tender feelings of affection, and I was always disposed to accomplish something great. But you must remember that . . . I was attacked by an incurable malady."

Right. You went deaf near the height of your career. You think the critics mistook your malady for misanthropy?

"My misfortune is doubly severe from causing me to be misunderstood. No longer can I enjoy recreation in social intercourse, refined conversation, or mutual outpourings of thought. Completely isolated, I only enter society when compelled to do so."

But why didn't you just tell people that you were going deaf, and that you were suffering emotionally from it?

"Alas! how could I proclaim the deficiency of a sense which ought to have been more perfect with me than with other men -- a sense which I once possessed in the highest perfection, to an extent, indeed, that few of my profession ever enjoyed!"

Well, no one denies your remarkable accomplishments, made all the more remarkable by your affliction.

"Let anyone similarly afflicted be consoled, by finding one like himself, who, in defiance of all the obstacles of Nature, has done all in his power to be included in the ranks of estimable artists and men."

An inspiring thought. Thank you, Mr. Beethoven.

"Farewell, Love each other. . . . Amen!"

WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

Oregon members of Hearing Loss Association of America we need you to help us form the Board you believe will best serve your interests. Ballots for the Hearing Loss Association of Oregon's Board of Directors will be available as of April 6, 2008. Requests may be made at any time from now until April 10, 2008 for ballots and should be sent to:

Peter Johnson Attn: Ballot Request 3075 SW Flower Terrace Portland, Oregon 97239

Or by email: moggio85@gmail.com with the word "Ballot Request" in the subject line.

All ballot requests should be submitted by email or by US Mail by April 10, 2008. Ballots will include instructions for how to complete them.

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY EMAIL BY THE CLOSE OF APRIL 15, OR IF SUBMITTING BY MAIL, POSTMARKED APRIL 13, 2008 TO:

HLAO Board of Directors ATTN: ELECTIONS PO BOX 22501 Eugene, Oregon 97402

GOT DEAF GENES? Check out http://depts.washington.edu/hearing/pdf/genpost.pdf

Chapters in Oregon

Local chapter meetings are open to all. Family, friends, and professionals are encouraged to attend and become involved. Through chapter meetings and newsletters you'll find:

- Insights into effectively living with hearing loss
- Support/Referrals/Information
- Information about the latest technology
- Coping strategies & tips
- An opportunity to make a difference
- Diminished feelings of isolation and aloneness
- Opportunities to share concerns and hear from others



We believe in education - for those who hear well and those who cannot - so that both may understand the causes, challenges and possible remedies for hearing loss. At our meetings, you'll find a comfortable place where hearing loss is accepted and not a problem. Many people report that being a part of a Hearing Loss Assoc. group has made a major difference in their lives. Your participation benefits not only you, but others who attend as well. Following is a list of the current chapters and contact people in Oregon.

Bend Hearing Loss Association meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month – 6:00PM at the St. Charles Medical Center -Rehabilitation Conference Room - Bend

Contact: Lois Johnson e-mail: tomloisj@yahoo.com

(541) 388-6869

Hearing Loss Assoc. of Lane County meets 2nd Thursday each month - 7 PM at the Hilyard Community Center, 2580 Hilyard Street - Eugene.

Contacts: Andrea Cabral e-mail: angora@comcast.net (541) 345-9432 voice

PO Box 22501 Eugene, OR 97402

Linda Diaz warmheart2@

warmheart2@comcast.net

(541) 345-3212

Central Oregon Coast Hearing Loss Assoc. Chapter is currently inactive. Interested people can contact Cindy Campbell for information and support as well as updates on meeting dates and times.

Contacts:

Cindy Campbell

e-mail: hgnw@charter.net

(503) 922-1961 or

1 (877) 271-7620 toll free

4202 NE 43rd

Neotsu, OR 97364

Hearing Loss Assoc. of Clackamas County meets 2nd Tuesday each month - 2PM at the Adult Community Center, 505 G St. - Lake Oswego

Contact: Karen Jacobson e-mail: jkaren4@comcast.net

(503) 635-3856

3166 Stonebridge Way Lake Oswego, OR 97034 Hearing Loss Assoc. of Portland meets the 3rd Tuesday each month - 7 PM at the Good Samaritan Hospital in the Wistar-Morris Conference Room - NW 22nd & Marshall - Portland

Contact: Mark Foster

e-mail: hey_foster@hotmail.com (503) 413-7348 - voice or TTY

PO Box 2112 Portland, OR 97208 www.shhhor.org/portland/

Hearing Loss Assoc. of Douglas County meets the 2nd Monday each month - 7 PM at the Mercy Hospital Community Education Room - 2459 Stewart Parkway -Roseburg (between Parkway Pharmacy & OfficeMax)

Contact: Lorene Russell e-mail: rlrussell@mcsi.net

(541) 679-9655 732 Mulberry Lane Roseburg, OR 97470

Hearing Loss Assoc. of Lebanon meets the 3rd Thursday of each month – 6:30 PM at the Senior Center – 65 "B" Academy Square – Lebanon

Contact: Bob Williams

e-mail: robertiw@comcast.net

(541) 258-5818 2020 South 12th #111 Lebanon, OR 97355

Hearing Loss Assoc. of Salem the 2nd Wednesday each month - 6:30 PM at the Salem Rehabilitation Hospital - Room 2A 2561 (2nd floor) 2561 Center St. NE

Contact: Kathy Ladd

e-mail: SHHHSalem@aol.com

(503) 394-3863 38427 Shelburn Dr. Scio. OR 97374 If you are interested in starting a chapter in your area, contact:

Cindy Campbell,

Oregon Chapter Coordinator e-mail: hqnw@charter.net (877) 271-7620 Toll free or

(503) 922-1961 4202 NE 43rd

Neotsu, OR 97364

or

Chapter Coordinator

Hearing Loss Assoc. of America

(the National Office)

e-mail: tbarrient@hearingloss.org

(301) 657-2248 - voice (301) 657-2249 - TTY (301) 913-9413 - FAX

7910 Woodmont Avenue Suite 1200

Bethesda, MD 20814

DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual author and are not necessarily those of HLA-OR. Mention of products and services does not mean endorsement, nor should exclusion indicate disapproval. Personal experiences and diverse opinions related to hearing loss are welcome for publication, and should be mailed to HLA Oregon at the address listed below. Unless otherwise noted, readers interested in duplicating or distributing any or all material found in the "Hear It Is!" have our permission to do so. Please credit the source when using such material.

Hearing Loss Association of Oregon PO Box 22501 Eugene, OR 97402

e-mail: cvlcek@centurytel.net (editor)



NONPROFIT US POSTAGE **PAID EUGENE OR** PERMIT NO 471

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Here It Is! Oregon Spring 2008 Newsletter

I would like to receive (or continue to receive) this newsletter.

Na	me_	
Ph	one	
Or	gani	zation Name
Ad	dres	ss
Cit	у	State Zip
E-I	Mail	
l le	arn	ed about the newsletter from:
[1	Enclosed is my contribution of \$ to support the Hearing Loss Association outreach programs in Oregon. Contributions will be acknowledged in the next issue.
[1	I wish to remain anonymous.
[]	I cannot contribute but would like to receive the newsletter.
[]	I want to join Hearing Loss Association of America , the National Organization. Please enroll me as a member. I'm including my \$25 membership fee.
		Or you can sign up online at www.hearinglossOR.org (click membership, then click application)
		Donations to support Hearing Loss Association outreach efforts should be made payable to