



## Holiday Luncheon for Members

December 12th at noon at  
The Yarmouth House.

*Reservation Form- p. 3*

Social Committee Chair Margaret Poxon has put together a lovely menu. The members price is still only \$15 and the chapter will pick up the rest. The Yarmouth House is beautifully decorated and festive and will get you in the mood for the holidays. The private dining room is very comfortable and quiet, until we get there. :-) BUT you must send Margaret your reservation and payment by December 1st.

## *2010 Schedule*

--January 23, 2010 2 pm  
HELP--Lip Reading, Sign  
Language and other assistive  
techniques

--March 27, 2010 2 pm TBA  
--May 22, 2010 2 pm Bob Prescott,  
Wellfleet Bay Audubon Society, with  
research updates and slides  
--June 12, 2010 Luncheon

**Note that our meeting time will  
change to 2 pm.** We feel strongly  
that CART is important for our  
meetings, but it is very expensive.  
We will save a significant amount of  
money by having remote CART, so  
that our CART provider doesn't have  
to make the long drive from off Cape.  
(and let's not even talk about the  
bridge construction!)

All meetings are at the Dennis Public  
Library, in Dennisport. The meeting  
room is equipped with a loop that  
works with your hearing aid telecoil to  
bring sound right to the ear.  
[www.dennispubliclibrary.org](http://www.dennispubliclibrary.org)

*30th Founder's Day Celebrated in November. A Message from Toni Barrient.*

Thirty years ago this month the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) was founded to bring attention to hearing loss.

At that time many people were skeptical that people with hearing loss could organize, since we were dispersed among the general population, in all walks of life, different socio-economic situations, and little in common but our hearing loss. What we had in common were communication needs that were not understood or taken into consideration at the policy level or even at home in the family environment. We were alone seeking help in coping with the daily challenges of hearing loss.

## **Fast Forward to 2009 - HLAA's 30th Anniversary**

Have we proved the skeptics wrong who said that people with hearing loss could not organize to effect change? Yes, we have! HLAA has pushed for laws allowing people with hearing loss to fully participate in society, our successes now require:

- \* Landline and cell phone to be compatible with hearing aids and cochlear implants.
- \* Television programs are captioned,
- \* Theaters and other public places must install assistive listening systems, and
- \* Courtrooms and classrooms must be made accessible.

Our advocacy work has resulted in two major milestones:

- \* Establishment of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIH), and
- \* Introduction of assistive listening devices to Americans during the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

HLAA continues to influence policy for affordable products and services that make our world hearing and communication friendly. And daily, for 30 years, HLAA has helped real people with real problems.

The work of HLAA for 30 years has only been possible because YOU believe in the work we do and support us.

November is an important time for our organization. It is the time that we reflect on our past accomplishments and look forward to the future, and take pride in being the Hearing Loss Association of America. It is also the time when our Chapters from across the country celebrate Founders Day and assist in raising funds for the Chapter Development Office so that it can provide the ongoing support it provides to over

*continued on next page -->*

## Chapter News--New Volunteers

For the first time in years, the chapter has a Publicity Committee. **Janet Jansson** will be handling publicity and she has some great ideas. Please let her know if you are interested in helping.

**Frances Buehler** has volunteered to become Secretary. Helen Norton has resigned for health reasons and we have been without a Secretary for a while. Hope to see Helen soon!

Thanks to **Margaret Poxon** and everyone who brought food to the October meeting. It was a lavish spread, and David Swanson came early to set up and make great coffee.

*Thanks to all of you!*

## Penny Pinching News Briefs

**Cape Light Compact** will do a free energy audit of your home. You may get thousands of dollars worth of insulation and a free, new refrigerator. One of our members replaced her 30-year-old refrigerator at no cost. Call 800-797-6699 or go to the website at [www.capelightcompact.org](http://www.capelightcompact.org)

Free compact fluorescent light bulbs are part of every audit. If every U.S. family replaced one incandescent light bulb with a CFL, it would be the equivalent of taking 7.5 million cars off the road, AND you will save over \$30 on your electricity over the life of each bulb. They give a wonderful warm light, work with dimmers, and even outside flood lights. If you haven't investigated these bulbs lately, you should. Yes, they have an extremely small amount of mercury, but it's far less than the mercury put into the atmosphere by electrical power plants.

Also, from the U.S. EPA and U.S. Dept of Energy-  
[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

*Barrient, continued from page 1.*

200 Chapters across the country and the new ones that form each month.

With your ongoing support the Chapter Development Office has been successfully able to:

- \* Launch a Wiki -a comprehensive HLAA website providing leadership support and information materials - <http://www.hlaaleaderswiki.org>,
- \* Reintroduce Chapter Development workshops at the HLAA Convention.
- \* Provide monthly web chats for Chapters.

In 2010 we plan to continue our efforts and:

- \* Hold a Leadership Training Workshop in Bethesda,
- \* Expand and improve Chapter/Leadership workshops at the Convention,
- \* Improve the accessibility of Chapter related monthly web chats.

Together we ask your Chapter to give a gift to HLAA to honor our past, but even more importantly, to ensure our future. Please give whatever you can so that together we can be a part of a shining future for people with hearing loss. Help keep HLAA vibrant and keep proving the skeptics wrong who said 30 years ago that people with hearing loss can't organize.

We can and together we are!

Sincerely,

Toni Barrient , Director of Chapter Development & Member Services  
Christopher T. Sutton, Director of Development & Education

*South Shore Town Forum Report [www.mass.gov/mcdhh](http://www.mass.gov/mcdhh)*

**MCDHH Commissioner Heidi Reed** gave an informative talk on the work of the Commission and the upcoming budget cuts. Details are on the chapter website and also [www.mass.gov/mcdhh](http://www.mass.gov/mcdhh). Because of recent legislation on the enhanced 911, the captioned phone is now available in Mass. There are new assistive devices in the EDP--Equipment Distribution Program, though no captel phones yet.

Two excellent publications are available for downloading are *The Savvy Consumers Guide to Hearing Loss* by Karen Rockow *MCDHH Resource Directory*, which lists over 600 sources of help.

**Karen Keefe of MassRelay** ([outreach@massrelay.com](mailto:outreach@massrelay.com)) announced that a new captel phone can be bought for only \$99. Even if the EDP makes it available later at some point, you will have two useful phones. **Nancy Ames** said she paid twice that for her captioned phone in Maine.

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Get well wishes go out to **Olivia Brum**. Get well soon--we miss you!

Congratulations to **Betty Keeshan** who will be a great grandmother for the second time!

**Hearing Loss Association of America Live Webchat  
November 19, 2009 at 9 PM**

www.hearingloss.org/Community/schedule.asp

**Topic:** "Development and regeneration of hair cells – the latest news in research" with Dr. Douglas A. Cotanche. "In 1985 he co-discovered that birds can regenerate their cochlear hair cells after sound damage and regain their hearing. He has continued his research on regeneration and has been a prominent force in the drive to develop hair cell regeneration as a potential treatment for sensorineural deafness. Currently the work in his lab is also exploring the therapeutic potential of stem cell transplantation into the damaged mammalian cochlea."

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**What a bargain!**

Our chapter dues are only \$10 and help pay for this newsletter, special projects and small discounts at our luncheons. \$10 gives you a 2010 membership and the rest of 2009. Sure, we can send you the newsletter for free by email, and you are welcome at our meetings, but you will not be able to attend the luncheons or participate in the fun activities we are planning for next year. Send your dues and contact info to

**Ken Amesbury, Treasurer, 105 Annable Point Rd, Centerville, MA 02632**

**Place an ad in the newsletter--only \$75 for the year!**

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- Dennis Public Library [dennispubliclibrary.org](http://dennispubliclibrary.org)
- Cape Cod Community College  
[www.capecod.edu/web/occ/events/films](http://www.capecod.edu/web/occ/events/films)
- Regal Theater (Hyannis)  
[www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/opencaptionedshowtimes.aspx](http://www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/opencaptionedshowtimes.aspx)



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[bobbie@lilyweb.net](mailto:bobbie@lilyweb.net)

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to contact a board member, use  
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**Hearing Loss Association of America**

www.hearingloss.org

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How We Advocate

We often say "advocate means telling people what you want."

Board member Bill McCormick went all the way to the State House and requested Rep. Cleon Turner of Dennis to file House Bill 2939, an Act Amending the Community Preservation Act. Read it on the state website--www.mass.gov. It seems so many towns struggle with this act at Town Meeting. Bill was lucky that in his town of Dennis, the town always provides CART at Town Meetings so he could take part in the discussions.



c/o Marita Cable  
7 Spruce St.  
So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

**Make reservations by  
December 1st for the Holiday  
Member Luncheon December 12**