



**Hearing Loss
Association
of America**
Cape Cod Chapter

Cape Ears January 2010

Chapter News

CHAPTER DUES--still only \$10!

Your \$10 goes a long way toward providing the newsletter and other projects. Organizations are judged on their number of members. If you want your voice to be heard on Cape Cod issues for the hearing impaired, please join us and help us advocate! There is strength in numbers. Please mail your 2010 dues or pay at the next meeting. Use the handy form inside this newsletter.

Holiday Luncheon December 2009

The Holiday Luncheon was lovely. Social Committee Chair Margaret Poxon surprised us with a Yankee Swap, and there was some good-natured swapping. The Yarmouth House was festive and the food was excellent, a great start for the holiday season. Thanks for your hard work, Margaret!

We normally have a luncheon in June, but 20 people is not enough to rate a private room in most restaurants. Should we be thinking of doing some other kind of a get together in the spring?

2010 Schedule 1:30 pm -->

- Saturday, January 23
- Saturday, March 27--David Roellke
Cape Cod Hearing Center
- Saturday, May 22-- Bob Prescott,
Wellfleet Bay Audubon Society
- June 12, 2010 -- something social

We meet at the Dennis Public Library in Dennisport where the meeting room is equipped with a loop that works with your hearing aid telecoil to bring sound right to your ear.
web: www.dennispubliclibrary.org

Happy New Year/New Decade to Everyone. We are making some changes to begin this new decade:

January 23rd -- Meeting time changes to 2 PM, with coffee and conversation at 1:30 PM -- Hearing Help for All Ages

We will have two speakers at our January 23 meeting at 2 in the AFTERNOON, meaning that we should gather at 1:30 for the coffee and conversation.

Cara Jordan, director of the Clarke School East in Canton. The school uses an oral approach successfully with young children. Massachusetts law requires that newborns be screened for hearing, bringing a very young age group into the client base and Cara will explain how these children are taught. The Clarke Boston website is



http://www.clarkeschool.org/content/Clarke_East/index.php

Our second speaker is **Tom Driscoll** who will talk about "Living and Excelling in the Land of the Hearing." Tom is an adjunct professor at Cape Cod Community College where he teaches American Sign Language.



Tom wrote: I will rely heavily on my first-hand experience with lip-reading lessons at a younger age, the various stages I went through (some nice, some gnarly) coping with my hearing loss and how I "survive" in the mainstream life of "voices, sound, music, etc." I will touch on technology as well as adaptive measures for "visual-oriented" communication whether lip-reading, picking correct settings, finger-spelling, sign-language, captions, CART, and so on.

Lip reading exercises on video will be set up for practice and tapes are available for loan.

Because some people may have problems driving home in the late afternoon when it gets dark, try to carpool and offer rides to members who need it. In March, late afternoon driving won't be an issue.

Noise Induced Hearing Loss

Hearing loss is common injury for soldiers serving in the Middle East. An important breakthrough in treatment of NIHL was described in *Hearing Health Magazine*, published by the Deafness Research Foundation, written by Elizabeth Stump of the HLA New York Chapter.

Antioxidants given immediately after the trauma may help. The article states: Loud noise causes the release of toxins, called free radicals, in damage to the delicate hair cells and nerve endings in the cochlea and leads to the death of irreplaceable sensory cells needed for hearing.

The loss of these cells proceeds in a predictable pattern called apoptosis, says Donald H. Henderson, Ph.D., professor of communicable disorders and sciences at the Center for Hearing and Deafness at the University at Buffalo, in Buffalo, N.Y.

Before studies showing that NIHL is largely caused by the production of free radicals, NIHL was thought to be caused primarily by intense vibrations, produced by loud noises, that tear the structures of the inner ear. Then with the discovery of the role of free radicals came the possibility that a pharmaceutical could be formulated to neutralize them.

To see full text of the article:
www.drf.org/magazine/38/Winter+2010+Issue/article/300

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Theresa Cullen and David Roellke of the Cape Cod Hearing Center in Hyannis have arranged for a donation from Siemens Hearing Instruments to pay for a CART reporter for our meetings this year. We are very grateful for your generosity and support!

News Briefs from National

House Bill H.R. 1646 and Senate Bill S.1019 --To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

- \$500 per hearing aid every 5 years.
- 110 sponsors in the House, including Congressman Delahunt

from Lise Hamlin <LHamlin@hearingloss.org>, Director of Public Policy & State Development for HLA in response to our question: Do the bills have to be resubmitted this year?

Quick civics review: There are two sessions of any given Congress, for the 111th Congress the Session dates are:

Session 1: January 6, 2009 - December 24, 2009

Session 2: January 5, 2010 - TBD

As long as a bill is introduced during a given Congress, it doesn't need to be re-introduced. So, we are good to go.

If you want to check the status of the bills, you can do it by going to <http://thomas.loc.gov> Library of Congress website. Just pop in the bill number.

Here's another issue we're working on with this Congress. Right now, with Health Care Reform, **there has been a proposal to tax hearing aids, along with a number of other items.** HLAA has signed a letter asking for an exemption from any additional taxes. If you want to get your chapter members on that as a letter writing campaign, that would also be helpful. Below is part of a letter we signed onto, and you can pass along to members:

"The hearing health community is supportive of well-structured legislation that increases access to hearing aids for people with hearing loss and parents of children with hearing loss. We are concerned, however, that the medical device tax proposal in health care reform legislation adopted by the House of Representatives on November 7 would actually work against this goal by applying a 2.5% tax on hearing aid sales.

"The majority of hearing aid sales are not paid for by insurance, but are paid for by individuals as an out of pocket expense. 72% of hearing aid sales involve no third party reimbursement unlike most medical devices utilized by doctors or in hospitals. Most people with hearing loss pay for hearing aids out of pocket. Any tax will drive up costs to these people, regardless of whether they had medical insurance under previous plans or new plans created by the legislation.

See the complete letter on the HLAA website, and urge Rep. Delahunt and Sen. Kerry (not a cosponsor to the tax credit bill) to support the tax credit for hearing aids and make them free of additional taxes. In preparation for the upcoming senatorial election, ask the candidates what their stand is on issues like hearing aid tax credits.

Upcoming Meetings--all begin at 2 pm with coffee and conversation at 1:30 pm. Dennis Public Library in Dennisport.

-Saturday, March 27 -- David Roellke of Cape Cod Hearing Center in Hyannis will discuss some of the exciting new advances in technology of hearing aids and other assistive devices.

--Saturday, May 22-- Bob Prescott, Wellfleet Bay Audubon Society. "Understanding our Local Wildlife: Current Research at Wellfleet Bay"

What do piping plovers, diamondback terrapins, horseshoe crabs and the Wellfleet oyster have in common? They are all subjects of long-term projects conducted by Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.

And the majority of these projects are executed with the help of citizen scientists—trained volunteers, many with no previous experience, who work with Wellfleet Bay staff to meet the goals of the projects. This exciting network of volunteers helps raise our understanding of Cape Cod's wildlife on multiple levels. This presentation will highlight Wellfleet Bay's current research and monitoring projects and provide insight into what we have learned from our studies.

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Bobbie McDonnell, 302 Lower County Rd, HarwichPort, MA 02646

Your Name(s):

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Make new friends and support our mission in a direct way by joining the Board or a committee. Do you have a special skill or a great idea? Tell us! We're looking for a few good volunteers who want to get involved and make a difference!

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Ken, our incredibly organized treasurer since 1991, has resigned. Details at the next meeting. We wish him all the best.

We are an official chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America. *Join now and add your voice to the thousands of other members. Some chapters have made a goal of 100% membership in National.*

www.hearingloss.org a very informative website

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**next meeting: Sat. January 23
1:30 pm for coffee**

**Dennis Public Library
Dennisport**