

HLAA TC

October 2010

Calendar of Events.....

October 16, 2010 –

Dennis Martin – H2O
Hard of Hearing Online

November 19, 2010 – DHHS

celebrates anniversary – join them

November 20, 2010 - Paula

Schwartz, Au. D.- Tinnitus

March 25 – 26, 2011 – MN State

Hard of Hearing Conference,
Holiday Inn, St. Cloud

June 16 – 19, 2011 – National

Convention, Hyatt Regency in
Crystal City, Washington, DC

October 16, 2010
Where: Courage Center
3915 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55422
Time: 9:30 AM – Noon
3rd Saturday of each month

NO Meetings – June, July
or August



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Officer's emails

Carole Blowers - president@hlaatc.org

Hunter Sargent & Shannon Turley -
vicepresident@hlaatc.org

Holly Sargent - secretary@hlaatc.org

Bob Knoll - treasurer@hlaatc.org



This past August, my grandson Dayne turned eight. This does not seem possible! Then in September, my newest grandson Jared was born (over five weeks early)!! These are two special people to me who have and will continue to bring many special times to my life.

I mention my grandchildren in this article, as my hearing loss is hereditary and is only getting worse as time goes on. It is so important for me to be able to hear my grandsons laugh, talk, sing, and/or cry. I cherish this time right now in my life--that I can still hear them.

Hereditary hearing loss and deafness refers to the genetically caused loss or partial impairment of the ability to hear. It is estimated that at least half of the people with hearing loss and/or deafness in the developed world have it as the result of genetic causes.

Genetic forms of hearing loss can be congenital (present from birth) or delayed onset. These hearing losses can be progressive, in which the hearing impairment increases with time; or non-progressive, in which the hearing loss is stable over time. Both ears (bilateral) or only one ear (unilateral) may be affected, and the hearing loss may be equal in both ears (symmetric) or different in each ear (asymmetric). Hearing loss may be the only finding the affected person has (non-syndromic hereditary hearing loss) or the hearing loss may be associated with other findings associated with a specific genetic syndrome (syndromic hereditary hearing loss). Hereditary hearing losses cover the range from mild hearing loss or total deafness. Additionally, the hearing loss can be of the conductive, sensorineural, or mixed type. Read more at: Healthline.com - Connect to Better Health)

<http://www.healthline.com/galecontent/hereditary-hearing-loss-and-deafness#definition#ixzz115Ri6th6>

From time to time, I mention to my son and daughter, ages 30 and 24 respectively, that they could also develop a hearing loss. My mother was the one in our family who had the hearing loss, and didn't get hearing aids until she was in her late 70's. I was not so lucky---getting hearing aids for me came 20 years earlier for me. When she was diagnosed, *no one really explained all the details to me*. I mention this subject to my children so they are aware. I look at my grandsons and hope that they will have their hearing for as long as they live. I know how much my hearing loss has changed my life and how much a hearing loss for them would change their lives. We all take so much for granted in life at times. I know how much my mother struggled with her hearing loss, and how much I struggle today. If you suffer from hereditary hearing loss, be sure to talk this over with your children and your grandchildren so they are informed. CHILDREN ARE PRECIOUS---SO IS OUR HEARING!



Synopsis of the September 18, 2010 Meeting

Merrilee Knoll

Our room had been moved to 2nd floor, so this was a new experience for the regulars and the guests. We had plenty of both, the head count per Ross was 35, many of them guests (Mary, Tom, Stephanie, Marjorie & daughter, Kathy, Adriane) some became members today. Welcome to our group. Glad you found us.

The change of officers took place headed by past president Linda Miller to Carole Blowers.

Sue Brabeck gave a review of the DHHS 20th Anniv. of the Americans With Disabilities Act held in June at the Nicollet Island Pavilion in Mpls. attending were Dave Durenberger, Amy Klobuchar, Josh Blue (comedian). Sue told about the TED program, which helps people get phones they can use with a hearing loss, to use this program you must meet an income criteria. Much talk was continued on the subject, as many had no information about TED. Rich Diedrichsen (DHS-DHHS-St Cloud) was there to give first hand answers to everyone's questions. A new phone called the Jitterbug was brought up. Sue said Marie Koehler (DHHS) has been selected to be on a national FEMA Committee in reference to helping the Deaf and HOH.

Rich said he welcomes callers and emails asking for advice and where to go for assistance. He mentioned the St. Cloud conference coming up March 25th and 26th. This is like a small convention, speakers, vendors, displays, open mic, socials. It's also close to home, and the hotels are cheaper than national conventions. He promoted the Walk 4 Better Hearing, which he did, that was a 50-mile walk in 2 days by a 61 year old man, not bad, not bad at all. Rich said getting younger people to take the lead before the older ones are gone is essential to HLAA's continued growth.

A plaque was presented by Bob Knoll with members who had passed away and had contributed enormously to the growth of the group; they were Bonham Cross, Cliff Miller, Alfred Tsang and, Ralph Katz.



We had an open mic, and we talk about anything hearing loss related. Some of the topics covered were; is hearing loss (HL) heredity, how to converse with youngsters when you teach a Sunday School class, advocating for a loop system in church, Envoy and Sound Bridge implantable HA's, battery problems, work phones not good enough, where to dispose of HA batteries, what's a CapTel, telling people at work about your HL, captions,

From VP's Shannon Turley and Hunter Sargent

The topic about the problem with my batteries: I don't know what happens but they seem to go out or someone I put new batteries and I get no response so I was wondering if I'm using the wrong kind of equipment. The point is when you put a new battery in your hearing aid after you pull the tab off let it set for two minutes. Try to see if you have better luck, and if you are remember in the old days they tell you to put your batteries in the refrigerator. Do not do that. That little tab you pull off make sure that remains in place and secure on your batteries until your ready to use them. Also, it a good idea to have a plastic bag in case it rain because then if you are running in the store you can put your batteries in there and they won't get wet. Every night when you take your hearing aids out don't just open the battery door take the battery out because your husband or wife come in the bedroom they might heard is squealing. If your outside and especially in the winter time when you come in make sure take your hearing aid off take the battery out and get your hearing aid to room temperature before putting back on. I personally do not buy batteries

(continued on Page 10)

To Beg, Borrow, and Steal

By Sue Brabeck

Well, maybe not the last one, anyway.

Hearing Aids are delicate and fragile pieces of technology. When mine goes on the blink, it does so suddenly. The symptoms are hard to pin-point, but the sound is just isn't right, rather muffled. I wait a day or two, suffer with it, thinking maybe it's *me* and not *it*, but eventually I call my audiologist.

The result is always the same: "Well, something's not right, we have to send it in". Oh my! Being without my hearing aid means rendering me completely and totally deaf. My left ear is kaput, and I neeeeeeeeeed a hearing aid to function. Without it I couldn't work, I wouldn't feel safe driving, and I would have to just stay home. Plus the obvious issue of simply not being able to have a conversation of any kind with anybody. It would be worse than house-arrest for me!

Luckily, my audiologist noticed my alarm the first time she had to send in my device. She offered me a loaner! Yes, just like when your car is in the shop! When you get a loaner car, it's usually just your most basic vehicle with four tires and a steering wheel and no bells and whistles, and often has a few dents in the fender and maybe a tear in the upholstery. But who cares - it gets you through the next few days.

I don't know where they got these hearing aids that they lend out – they're all different. Maybe from patients who have turned in hearing aids and traded up for new models. Either way, I'm so very happy to get to have **something** for the few days I need to wait for hearing aid repairs.

My audiologist and I have zeroed in on one particular loaner that they have in the office. They even keep it in an enveloped marked with my name, so that they always know which one I prefer to use.

Keep in mind, just like a loaner car, the hearing aid they let me use is not exactly the Cadillac of hearing aids – rather more of a Pinto. It's a big clunky BTE, a huge physical adjustment for me. Plus, I have to wear one of those squashy orange temporary ear-fittings, because of course I don't have a custom ear mold of my own to use on the loaner. Additionally, the device is clearly not precisely tuned to my personal hearing loss. Things simply sound different – sometimes worse, sometimes better, but definitely different.

THREE CHEERS for my audiologist for offering this as a free service. It never occurred to me to ask, they brought it up to me after I panicked the first time I had to get mine repaired.

So, if you feel you need a loaner, speak up and ask! I'm guessing that a lot of people are like me – it would never occur to ask for a temporary medical device. It's such a common sense approach and can take a lot of the stress and anxiety out of being without your own hearing aid.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Brabeck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "S" and "B" being particularly prominent.



The Ostman's visit Alaska



The Knoll's Granddaughter



The Miller Family



The Sargent's Wedding





Incoming and Outgoing Officers – Sept. 2010 mtg.



Memorial Plaque – Carole & Bob



Sue and Monique



Rich



Linda



Mary



Our new meeting room





Important message from **Caption Max** and thanks to Ellen Thibodo for passing this along.

Jay Wyant, from Caption Max, is working on a project to encourage folks to watch for campaign ads both captioned and not captioned. As of 2008, all candidates who receive public funds MUST caption TV, Internet, and even radio ads!

Encourage your family, friends and D/hoh contacts to follow these campaign ads and contribute information:

Web: <http://captioncampaignads.org/>

FB: <http://www.facebook.com/CaptionCampaignAds>

If you have any questions pertaining to this program, please contact Jay at CaptionAds@gmail.com

Now more than ever, it's important that we are informed of each political candidate's platform. Our future depends on it!

Thanks!
Ellen

“Bionic Man” - by Andrew Letten / Cosmos magazine, Australia - September 16, 2010

Graeme Clark - cochlear implant pioneer and recipient of the Lister Medal in 2010.

For 10 years, Graeme Clark had been working tirelessly to develop an implant that would help the deaf to hear. The theory made sense. The electronics had been developed, and the design was near finalized.

But there was one seemingly insurmountable hurdle: how to actually get the implant into the intricate spiral of the inner ear.

During one Melbourne summer in 1977, he took his young children to the beach to escape the heat. While they were playing in the shallows, Clark noticed a seashell lying on the ground - and that its helical structure was a crude replica of the human cochlea.

Inspiration hit. He pulled up some grass blades and experimented with teasing them into the shell's opening. Owing to their flexible tips and stiff bases, the blades slid smoothly into the tightening spiral. It revealed a simple solution to a complex problem.

Complete story: <http://tinyurl.com/28jpi5q>

Linda Kozma-Spytek Web Chat
"All about T-Coils in Hearing Aids and
Cochlear Implants"
Oct. 20, 2010, 7:00 p.m. EDT
<http://www.hearingloss.org>



Collette Ramsey Baker founder of **Deafness Research Foundation**, who suffered a severe hearing loss passed away on May 9, 2010, she was 91. At age 35 she had her hearing restored completely with an early fenestration operation and in gratitude she started the organization.
www.drf.org

Petco in Colorado, hired a profoundly Deaf woman who has 30 years experience grooming pets. Telling her the phones would not be a problem and appointments would be made in accordance to her shift. The phones were answered with "she does not work here anymore" and all her appts. were given to others. A suit was filed for \$146, 000 + other benefits, she won her case.

Sign Language in Italy-will be recognized as the language of the Deaf community.

There are approximately 70, 000 Deaf in Italy that use it.. The reason this is of importance to us is that when Brookdale Shopping Center had a weekly ASL get together, which included people like Mona Anderson, Bonham Cross, Crystal Bright, Merrilee Knoll, it also included a foreign exchange student from Italy, Stefania.

Former President Bill Clinton has had a busy year, along with walking Chelsea down the aisle, he was also here in St. Paul promoting "**The World May Hear Gala**" on July 25, 2010 at the RiverCentre. Seven million dollars was raised at the event. Celebrities included Ozzy Osbourne, Steve Martin, Magic Johnson, Muhammad Ali, Sam Moore (the original man of soul), Adrian Peterson, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, and the Doobie Brothers.

Plymouth, Minn - HearPO, a provider of hearing healthcare benefits and a subsidiary of Amplifon, will partner with the American Diabetes Association in finding people with diabetes (D), who are twice as likely to have hearing loss (HL) and educate them, and help with their hearing loss. The plan is to: offer more testing sites and educational seminars, a booklet coming out in 2011 about D. and HL, the web site (Diabetes.org) will have items on HL as a complication of D. In years past no one ever thought of HL as a complication of D.

One of our members, Dave Miller sent me a very interesting Forbes article from Sept. 2010 <http://tinyurl.com/2aqor53> on the use of text messaging now being used by everyone under the sun, including the HOH and Deaf communities. Then Oprah Winfrey, daytime host and one of the most respected people in the television industry started a campaign against texting or talking on a cell phone while driving, because they cause so many accidents. But, now there is a new problem. In the states that outlaw texting before. How can this be you ask? trying to drive, because they this affect the hearing loss eyes, ears, hands and attention texting is a great invention there is a time and place for it. off the road to use your phone.



while driving, there are more accidents than People are hiding their machines while know they may get a ticket. So how does industry? It goes without saying; keep your on your driving, not the phone. While especially for the HOH/Deaf consumer, Behind the wheel is not one of them. Pull

Editor's Note

That's Entertainment

Captionfish.com is a free site that automatically provides information about showings of captioned films in your area (based upon your computer's IP address). In contrast to Fomdi.com, it's able to show the schedule of movies for the next 7 days (if known). It also indicates what kind of captioning is provided.

The schedule for movies shown in theater often seems to be reset every Thurs., so in general, Thurs. would be a good day to look for information about movies for the next 7 days (though late Wednesday may work as well). <http://www.captionfish.com/>

Run by Brendan Gramer

Dana Mulvany

The House of the Spirits

by Caridad Svich from the novel by Isabel Allende. **Performed by:** Mixed Blood Theatre.

Location: Alan Page Auditorium at Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 South 4th Street, Minneapolis 55454.

ASL Captioning: Thursday, November 11, 7:30 PM. **Captioner:** Scott Artley. Is this CART???

Tix: Reduced to \$12 access rate (regular \$22, \$18 student/senior, \$14 group); phone: 612-338-6131.

Web: www.mixedblood.com .

Description: The often unjust politics of Latin America play out through three generations of the Trueba family in this adaptation of the epic, witty and unforgettable novel. Marcela Lorca directs a bilingual cast of ten in a song-filled theatrical feast, performed in Spanish and English (accessible to all via projected translations).

Run: October 22 – November 14, 2010.

WHICH WAY ARE WE GOING ???

Davey and I were watching a CD video from the library this past week, and it didn't dawn on me at first, but afterwards I realized that I would have done just wondrously in the era that this was originally filmed

The film was a Buster Keaton movie (okay so I am older than dirt). A silent film, and the sound was mute, but the words were flashed on the bottom of the screen.

Flash forward, how great would we all find it, if the movies produced today could have sound AND captioning, just as natural as breathing, without anyone having to petition or argue for this great way to understand what the hearing take for granted sometimes.

Maybe, just maybe, with the amazing abilities of computers and the whole field of technology, there will come a time that more movies in theatres and venues, as well as those in libraries and stores, will be available to us in a manner to understand them.

Until then, I say, where is the next silent movie? Let me at it!

Judi Swan

DHHS (30 yrs.) and **MCDHH** (25 yrs.) of service to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities will celebrate at the Kelly Inn, 161 Saint Anthony Ave. in St. Paul on Fri. **Nov. 19, 2010** at 3:30 - 6 PM. Formal Program 4:30 - 5:15 PM.

RSVP/QUESTIONS: dhhs.metro@state.mn.us or call 651/431-5940 (V), 651/964-1514 (VP) or 888/206-6513 (TTY)

COMMUNICATION ACCESS: ASL interpreters, CART and Assistive Listening Devices will be provided for the formal program; all other accommodation requests must be received by November 1, 2010. Email: stephen.r.medlicott@state.mn

DHHS
& **MCDHH**

National HLAA in Maryland

Mark Your Calendars for June 16–19, 2011! Join us for the 26th National Convention at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, USA 22202, located just a short ride from Reagan National Airport. The Hyatt offers free shuttle transportation from the airport as well as the Crystal City Metro (just a short metro ride to the heart of downtown DC).

- HLAA TC Website

www.hlaatc.org

- HLAA National

www.hearingloss.org

- MN Contact Information

info@hlaatc.org

Minnesota Deafblind Association Thanksgiving

Banquet – Saturday November 13, 2010, 4 – 9 PM

Cost: Members \$13, non members \$16

Silent Auction

RE: Halle Q. Brown Building, 270 N. Kent St.,
St. Paul, MN 55102

Contact: Tricia Borman or Jamie Taylor 651-772-4027

(Continued Synopsis from Page 3)

more than six months supply and the reason for it is because I know generally I'm not going to buy something that's going to expire in six months that my personal history. Don not throw batteries away. You can recycle the batteries like at the library. If you don't have anywhere to recycle bring them to the class Carole mentions about batteries that she was putting some hand lotion on her hands and put the battery in and it didn't work. And it was a brand new battery. Any kind of lotion, oil on your hand get on the battery so make sure your hands are dry and clean when you are putting a new battery in. There another thing I would like to mention like at your work place make sure you remind your co-workers that you are hearing impaired so they can get your attention before they start talking to you. Then they know that you are listening to them. And also I think having a mirror up then you can see when people are coming up behind you then you are ready for them to talk to you.



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Alohathere is an Aloha event this Saturday, Oct. 9th Please contact Ellen Thibodo at (651) 423-2249 (TTY)

Aloha

Or email: ThibodoD@aol.com



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Our next meeting is Oct. 16, 2010

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This month's editor is Merrilee Knoll

Meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of the month September through May at the Courage Center in Golden Valley, MN. We gather at 9:30 to socialize and the meeting starts at 10 AM. All meetings are real time captioned by Lisa Richardson and her staff of *Paradigm Captioning* (www.paradigmreporting.com). Please visit the chapter's web-site at www.hlaatc.org