

HLAA Twin Cities

Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter June 2008
Formerly called....Self Help for the Hard of Hearing (SHHH)



Calendar of Events

2008

June, July, August – NO MEETINGS

June 12 –15, 2008 – HLAA National

Convention in Reno, Nevada

Sep 20, 2008 - Mary Clark, president, Orange County CA HLAA group: Emergency Preparedness for hard of hearing people

Oct 18, 2008 - Mary Bauer, DHHS - Equipment Lending Program

Nov. 15, 2008 – Linda Senechal – CI's

Dec. 20, 2008 – Rubin Latz - Dept. of Vocation Rehabilitation, Potluck, White Elephant Gift Exchange, Cookie Sale

2009

Jan. 17, 2009 – Mary Hartnett – MCDHH

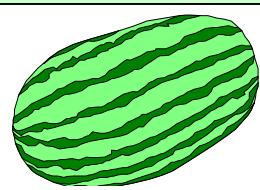
Feb. 16, 2009 – Lisa McDonald, Cochlear Imp.

Mar. 27-28, 2009 – State Convention in St.

Cloud, no mtg. at Courage Center this month

Apr. 18, 2009 OPEN

May 16, 2009 OPEN



June 2008

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THE NEXT MEETING IS
September 20th at 9:30 AM
Courage Center
3915 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55422-4249

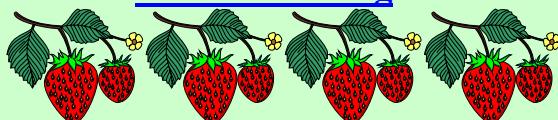
HLAA TC Website

www.hlaatc.org

Contains map to our location, resources, officers, upcoming events and newsletters.

HLAA National:
www.hearingloss.org

MN Contact Information:
info@hlaatc.org



The Mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

From your new President Vicki Martin



Greetings!

I can see we are off to a great start already, what with my missing the final meeting of the season, and then writing my first “president’s message” only to promptly lose it.

But never mind – I am assured by our editors that there is plenty of information for the June newsletter, and just a brief hello from me (or even none at all) is fine.

That reminds me of one reason I sought out and joined HLAA four years ago. Not only is there plenty of information, there are also plenty of dedicated people working to sift through it all, and bring it to every one of us, whether in person, in our newsletter, or in a less formal but equally worthwhile way – that of person to person contact between people whose lives have all been touched by hearing loss.

As your new president, I’d like to pay some of that dedication forward. I know I have some big shoes to fill. But – if precedent means anything – I also know there are many others who can step into them. So I tell myself, not to worry! I know you are all there for me, as I am for you.

So, let’s take a break, have a great summer, and I’ll try to get my act together before we meet again in September. See you then!

Vicki Martin

Kathryn Bakke

Kathryn Bakke, pianist entertainer and theme show specialist extraordinaire, performs many theme show series in the metro area for piano solo, vocal and piano and four-hands, one piano. She specializes in theme shows, for all the holidays as well as customized in response to her clients' needs. These theme shows are much in demand.

Kathryn also tours, to all of the larger metro areas in the Midwest and beyond for enthusiastic audiences. She appeared almost 250 times in 2006.

Kathryn also speaks professionally. As a profoundly hard of hearing professional pianist/entertainer and member of National Speakers Association, she demonstrates triumph over a disability. Her topics include "Overcoming Impossible Challenges" and "Beyond ADA: Adventures in Innovative and Affordable Hearing Loss Access."



Kathryn Bakke

Read her story “Reveal the Iceberg” on Page 9

Our President, Monique, called the meeting to order, by welcoming everyone to our last meeting till we return September 20, 2008. She reminded us how thankful we are to Paradigm. Without them, our meetings would be virtually impossible. Thank you to Lisa Richardson who offered us her C.A.R.T. Services.

Our speaker was Mr. John Kuzak. He is from the FCC or Federal Communications Commission. He informed us that by February 17, 2009, full power TV stations will only broadcast in digital TV formats. In other words, if you are receiving free over the air analog TV (through a open rooftop antenna or rabbit ears), you must take action before that date. You have three choices-connect your analog TV to digital converter box, buy a digital television or subscribe to pay TV services such as cable or satellite TV. For more information go to (www.dtv2009.gov). As for captioning, the FCC requires that all converter boxes pass through the existing Closed Captioning signals. This is a function of your TV set. TV's manufactured after 1993 have to have the ability to display Closed Captioning. Thank you John for sharing your knowledge with us. It has cleared up much confusion!

Congratulations to Secretary Sue's daughter, Kathy, who was inducted in the International Nurses Honor Society. We missed you Sue, but also celebrated with you. Today, we also wished Ross Hammond a Happy Birthday.

Thank you again to Mike Cowell, for donating another beautifully carved natural wood pen and pencil set for our door prize drawing. The happy recipient was Lisa Richardson! Also a big thank you to Mary Andresen for her talents with all of our cards.

Treasurer Bob, informed us that we now have generic business cards with our website, logo, our name and it's all in color. For one dollar, you may get a packet of 35. We also received donations of over \$700 to a memorial in honor of the passing away of Bonham Cross. These gifts came from family, friends and people who attended his memorial. Many thanks to all of these people and to Bonham. You will always be remembered.

Our visitors today were guests of Carol Blowers, Maynard and Marla Lenz. Carol's Grandson, Dayne. Dan Steiskal, and Lisa McDonald from Cochlear America. Welcome to all of you.

Thank you to Merilee, who gave us a wonderful tribute to Bonham, and in instructing us in an ASL lesson in Vicki's absence.

Many thanks to Monique Hammond, as she gives up her post to our new President, Vicki Martin. Linda Miller was elected Vice President, and thanks to our current officers who were once again elected: Sue Brabeck – Secretary and Bob Knoll – Treasurer. Thank you all for your willingness to serve.

VP Linda, closed the meeting. She thanked everyone for the delicious food and wishing all a wonderful summer till we return in September.

Linda



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Amazon.com Product Description

Stay alert to conditions that affect *you* with Midland's WR-300 weather/all-hazard radio. The unit offers technology (Specific Area Message Encoding), which preprograms the device to receive only those warnings that apply to your local area--you can choose state, county, and/or nearby counties. The single-speaker radio offers 30 programmable county codes, AM/FM tuning, date, time, alarm functions, and even auto switch from AM/FM to pertinent all-hazard alerts.

Wth free shipping, from Amazon.com

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00009V2YV>



Northern Voices is holding its **7th annual charity gold tournament** on August 7, 2008 at Bunker Hills. Northern Voices is an oral school for the deaf. www.northernvoices.org
Silent auction, prizes, dinner and more. Contact Erin at 651-639-2535 or golf@northernvoices.org

Airlines Face New Government Mandates

Phoenix Business Journal - by [MIKE SUNNUCKS](#)

May 8, 2008

The federal government is requiring airlines to better accommodate passengers with breathing, hearing and vision problems.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has issued new mandates telling airlines to include easy-to-read captions on safety videos and flight information in terminals and on aircraft to accommodate deaf passengers.

The DOT rules also tells airlines to better accommodate passengers with breathing problems who require oxygen tanks.

The mandates go into effect next year.

The Air Transport Association (an industry group representing airlines) said it is reviewing the new requirements.

The Transportation Department also is considering additional rules, including requiring airlines to provide oxygen to passengers with breathing problems upon request and requiring closed captioning and other accessibility elements for on-plane entertainment systems, airline Web sites and ticket kiosks.

The government actions come as airlines struggle with high fuel costs. US Airways Group Inc. (NYSE: LCC) lost \$236 million during the first quarter. The Tempe-based carrier saw its first-quarter fuel expenses come in at \$823 million, a 50 percent jump from a year earlier.

Help from CaptionsON VRB

CaptionsON.com

CaptionsON Viewer Relations Bureau (VRB) can help you submit your captioning feedback and present it to those that CAN do something (such as the FCC).

The diagram below shows how captioning is delivered for most television programs. Faults can happen anywhere along this chain. The Viewer Relations bureau will walk you through steps to help determine where the problem occurs.



Television Captioning Distribution Chain

Note: Our VRB is currently designed for television programming only. The VRB will include other media (Internet, iPods, mobile video) as they become accessible.

You should anticipate the following qualities in your captioning:

1. Your program is captioned from start to finish
2. The sentences make sense – the text mirrors what the speaker is saying
3. Words are spelled correctly
4. Captions are grammatically correct
5. Captions are referring to specifics - names and places (i.e. the name of a river instead of just “river”)
6. You can tell when the speaker has changed
7. The captions do not interfere with other displayed text

Common technical errors include:

A string of symbols and/or boxes in place of words

An excessive delay (you are waiting for the next series of sentences longer than usual) in the delivery of the captioning

Captioning changes in appearance - appears to drop to the bottom of your screen, the colors change, words are underscored If you are having any problems with captioning, first check your television. If the same problem occurs on more than one channel, the problem may be your set. After checking your television, contact your cable company and the network on which you’re having a problem.

To file your feedback go to:

<http://captionson.com/viewer1.asp>

Q and Answers: what needs to be captioned, why are some DVD's not captioned, why are some TV programs not captioned, are there captions in Spanish, how do I turn captions on, why do captions look different on different channels.....these questions and more answered at

<http://captionson.com/faq.asp>

Bits and Pieces

ASL Conversational Group to start in Maple Grove on June 4th and 18th. Intentions to continue on 1st and 3rd Wed. of each month, but depends on the turnout and what the people want. Meets at the Barnes and Noble in Maple Grove at 7 PM with Jennifer Strang. FREE just come and chat. For more info.

bjstrang@embarqmail.com

Unique Sign Language Dictionary Now

Available Online – 2,7000 signs \$39.99 1 yr .
<http://www.ntid.rit.edu/dig/index.php> dig@rit.edu
A popular sign language dictionary has recently been adapted for online use. Rochester Institute of Technology's (RIT) National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) has developed the ASL Video Dictionary and Inflection Guide. It is the first and only product that links thousands of signs to sentences illustrating how the signs change, or inflect, from sentence to sentence to show different meanings.

Closed captioning is in its 3rd decade. Visit **CaptionsOn** to register a captioning issue, watch captioned video of why and who uses captions, questions and answers
<http://www.captionsON.com>

World Without Hearing has upgraded its website and has moved to a new location at the link below. A new edition was posted on May 4th.
<http://ca.geocities.com/wwhnews@rogers.com>

Canadian rocker **Bryan Adams** in 1984 told people to "Turn It Up, Turn It Up" but after years of outlandishly high volumes he is facing his own hearing loss. The musician was selling his signed photos in New York on May 15. It was sponsored by the hearing-aid company Phonak.

Next year, the **HLAA National convention** will be in Nashville, Tennessee, June 18-21, 2009

Life is a daring adventure or nothing
Helen Keller

\$40 Converter Box coupon, 2 per household, must be used within 90 days from mailing date, easy to order online, transition goes into effect Feb. 17, 2009 <https://www.dtv2009.gov/>

CaptionMax with headquarters in downtown Mpls. was awarded the Technology Innovation Research Grant. With offices in NY, VA and CA. More info. see <http://www.captionmax.com> CM is a full service captioning and audio description company. About 4 yrs. ago HLAA TC was given a tour of CaptionMax.

Are you an American Idol fan? See <http://www.redlasso.com/ClipPlayer.aspx?id=a5384946-dd23-495a-ab0f-f057fa1056f0> for captioned videos of the show, be sure to click on the CC button.

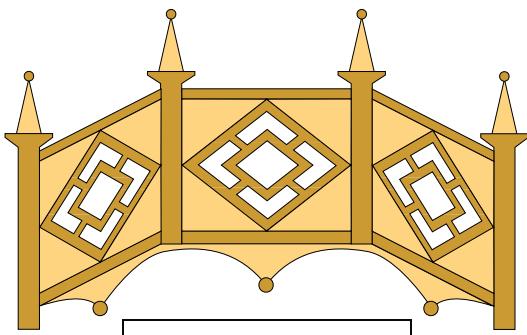
<http://www.aslpro.com/> Just a reminder of this **ASL large screen website** suggested by Lori Snyder, has thousands of words, history and lots of good information.

State seeks advice on **employment services** for individuals with disabilities at **Golden Valley forum**, 7800 Golden Valley Rd, Golden Valley City Hall, Wed. June 25, 9 AM - 6 PM
More info. Gail Lundein 651-259-7364 (v)
1-800-657-3973 (tty)

Before the famous Helen Keller there was **Laura Bridgeman** <http://tinyurl.com/3l7xun>

Support legislation that provides up to \$1000 **tax credit for 2 hearing aids**
www.hearingaidtaxcredit.org
(click - Write Congress Now)

If you do not have a computer at home, you can go to any MN library, take along this newsletter and ask the librarian how to visit some of the sites mentioned in the paper. Let him/her show you how to get around on the computer. That's what they are there for....to help you learn.



Thank you to the **Crystal** and **Maple Grove Lions Clubs** for their contributions and support and the two HLAA TC members who are also Crystal Lions Club members.
Bob Knoll and Joe O'Brien



Dizziness or Vertigo?

From Delray/Boynton FL Chapter

It is estimated that 76 million Americans will have vertigo in their lifetime. Balance related falls cause 250,000 hip fractures a yr. In people over 65. Balance can affect a person's ability to stand, walk, see clearly, read, watch TV and think

Symptoms include feelings of lightheadedness, loss of balance, spinning sensations or unsteadiness of gait. The cause may be an inner ear disorder, which can occur even without hearing loss.

Diagnosing Vertigo: To evaluate the function of the balance system, physicians can request (ENG) testing Electromyography or Auditory Brainstem Response testing (ABR). This series of tests is not painful or demanding. Your physician must order these tests.

Captions vs Megayacht

A massive retirement community in FL called the **Villages**, which houses over 70, 000, is not complying with the FCC's mandate that their local TV programs be captioned for the 33, 000 who live there who are Deaf or HOH. The "news" events include things of importance to the elderly like golf events, church events, spots events, community mtgs., closings, emergencies, weather alerts, Village events etc. etc. I guess those are things of importance to the hearing world only right?

They also claim to be 100% accessible to all their tenants.

The Villages owner says it's too expensive. Lets see now, they can afford 3 corporate jets and a single engine airplane, paying its pilots, maintenance and fuel. It chauffeurs VIP's and lays out \$137, 515 annually for US customs agents to staff the airport so passengers aboard don't have to clear customs. Then there is the Dutch built 147 ft. megayacht registered in the Cayman Islands. Lets see to fill one jet at \$5.19 a gallon it takes \$12, 362. Since Jan. of this yr. one jet has made 95 trips. Do think they could give up one trip to the Bahamas to put in closed captions for one year? NOPE



C A P T I O N S



ALOHA

Hi, Everyone,

What: Aloha Party

Host: Mark Mikkelsen's home

Where: White Bear Lake

What: Brats and buns along with condiments, paper plates, cups and napkins will be provided by the host.

When: Saturday, June 14th

Time: 3:00pm to Midnight.

THINGS TO DO: Outdoor games: Lawn

Games- Bocci Ball and Bago if weather permitting. Indoor games; Card Games- Texas Hold'em, Golf, Pool table, Ping Pong, Darts etc

What to Bring: Bring your own drink and a folding chair. Bring food or appetizer for those who wish to share.

Here are the food distribution listing according to your 1st letter of your last name to make it easier for everyone so here it goes to avoid many duplicates. :-) For those who can't afford to bring the food, Chips/dips or snacks, candies are acceptable.

A- E = DESSERT

F- G= FRUIT SALAD or FRUIT JELLO

H-M= PASTA SALAD

N-P= VEGGI TRAY w/DIP or Cold Casserole

Q-Z= VEGETABLE SALAD/ Hot Casserole

Note for the next 2 Aloha parties:

July 11 will be at the home of Lynne Voss in Blaine

August 11 will be at the home of Laurie and Al Fuechtmann

Hope to see you at Mark's and hope/pray/dance for some decent weather!

Ellen

If you plan to attend, please RSVP Ellen by Thursday, June 12th (651) 423-2249 (TTY)

E-mail: ThibodoD@aol.com

National Convention in Reno – events booklet

52 page PDF copy of the program at <http://www.hearingloss.org/> (click conv 2008)

Be sure to call these places as schedules change.

Kerasotes Block E Stadium 15 – Mpls.

Captioned movies in Twin Cities

612-338-1466

www.kerasotes.com

Science Museum of MN Omni

651-221-4585

www.smm.org/info/accessibility.php

MNOCFILMES

Open/closed captioned movies in Twin Cities

<http://www.mnocfilms.org/index.html>

Pianist and Speaker

Kathryn Bakke

<http://www.kathrynbakke.com/>

MN Hands and Voices Family Picnic

For families of children who are HOH/deaf

August 7, 2008 5 - 8:30 PM (rain or shine)

Como Park Midway Pavilion South

More info:

www.familyconnection.org/index.htm

Click current events

What: CI Picnic

Date: Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008

Time: 11AM - 3 PM

Where: Brookview Park in Golden Valley

More info.: Linda Senechal

cilinda97@yahoo.com



COCHLEAR IMPLANT PICNIC

Reveal the Iceberg

By Kathryn Bakke

A huge potential of members and advocates exists in the boomers and other seniors who are gradually losing their hearing.

HLAA is about self-help. We feel some pride in being able to function as well as we do, with the degree of hearing loss we have.

We need to realize that, if we are ever going to mobilize the whole population of hard of hearing people, we must address the fact that, a large majority of them, like an iceberg are hidden. We need to find ways to get them out in the open.

This past weekend I attended a conference. My cochlear implant made it possible for me to get most of the information. Still, it was a study in the necessity of advocacy. From requesting a repeat of the questions to suggesting that the presenter actually use the closed captioning which was written right there on the DVD.

While Roald and I were taking a breather, we began a conversation with a woman looking over the book sales area. We introduced ourselves. I said, I'm the one that was asking for the repeat of questions.

And she said, "Oh, I remember. I have a hearing loss in both ears too." She had noticed that the presenter kind of blew me off.

As we continued the discussion, it became apparent that, even though she knew she had a hearing loss and found it difficult to hear in noisy situations, she had not even looked into hearing aids. The classic statement is "I get along all right."

But if you don't hear, you don't know what you don't hear!

As we continued, I commented that the presenter had obviously thought I was the only person with a hearing loss in the auditorium (because I was the only one who spoke up), she said, "I guess you're right. I should speak up. And I'm going to look into hearing aids and a cochlear implant.

For her, it took just a little nudge. But many people, it's not just that they don't want to admit their hearing loss. Or that they feel inertia and decide not to ask for help.

Some of them just don't know. It's come on so gradually. All they know is life isn't much fun any more. They laugh less. They figure they're just getting old.

When they finally know, there's another brand of inertia. They're tired.

What's my point?

Self help aside, if we advocate for them and build in access for them, they begin to realize there *is* life after a hearing loss. They may begin to advocate for themselves.

(Continued on Page 10)

Accessible Entertainment

Note: Due to space limitations in this newsletter, we are usually not able to list all entertainment events every month which are accessible to hard of hearing people. If you are interested in receiving a complete list every month, please ask that your name be added to the email directory from VSA Arts Minnesota. To receive this list by email each month, send an email to jon@vsaartsmn.org. Please specify if you want to receive the Captioned shows, Audio Described shows, ASL-Interpreted shows, or the combined list.

Bootleg Copies selling for \$12. 99

"Hear and Now" is currently airing through June 22 on HBO.

Because of the popularity and critical acclaim of the film, dubious sellers on the internet are claiming they can sell you a DVD of Hear and Now. *Please note that any sale of the Hear and Now DVD currently on the internet is a scam and you will not get the DVD you pay for. It is illegal to both manufacture and purchase pirated DVDs. As a consumer, purchasing a DVD through unlicensed vendors is not only against the law, it hurts films and filmmakers.

The film will be released for institutional distribution (universities, schools, research and medical centers) in June 2008 and released for Home Video purchase and rental in early 2009. Please stay updated by visiting the official Vermilion Films website to learn more about Hear and Now, future release dates and film festival screenings around the world.

<http://www.vermillionpictures.com/hearandnow>

Thank you,

Irene Taylor Brodsky

Director, "Hear and Now"

Did you know?

Mrs. Grace Coolidge, 1879 - 1957, was an only child, she came from a well to do family in VT. When she decided to teach at the Clarke School for the deaf, people wondered why she took on such a tough job. She made the Clarke School her life's work and was devoted to the school and people with disabilities. When Calvin left the White House, they retired in Hampton, MA to be near the school. Helen Keller was a frequent visitor at the White House to see Mrs. Coolidge.

Reveal the Iceberg by Kathryn Bakke continued from Page 9

Brainstorm! Get them to a presentation. Make sure they can hear every word – and then – remove the CART or whatever else has been helping them. They may realize that there are ways to rejoin the world.

What else can you try? How can you help them?

That's my mission – to help them know how good life can be. I know it's yours too.

Pay Pals in trouble with the NAD

A few months ago a deaf patron placed a call to order some merchandise via the relay system. It went via Pay Pal to the employees in India who were not aware of a third party system being on the line and a part of the transaction. The customer was treated rudely; a complaint was filed with NAD (National Association of the Deaf) in Washington, DC. Pay Pal was made aware of what happened, apologized and said they would make sure employees were trained in the future to handle relay calls.



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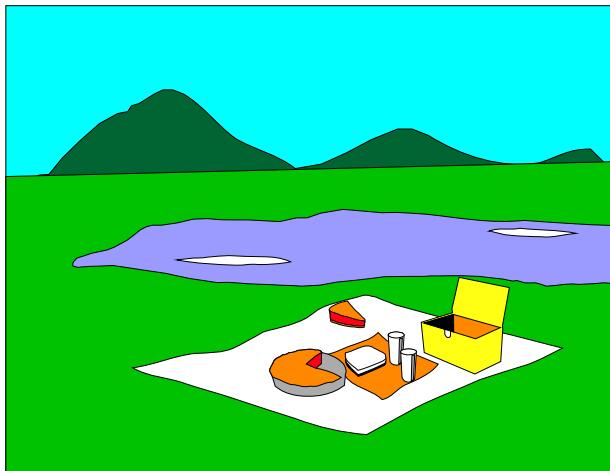
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First Class

Next meeting: Saturday, September 20, 2008

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

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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