

SHHH News

Minnesota Chapter #1 Volume 20 Issue #21 January 2006

Calendar of Coming Events

January 21, 2006 - Dr. Jon Shallop, Mayo Clinic, speaking on "Causes and Treatments for Hearing Loss"

February 1, 2006 - Cochlear Implant Coffee and Chat at the U of MN, 10:00 a.m.

February 18, 2006 - Tina Childress, MA-CCC-A, Advanced Bionics

April 12, 2006 - Steak Fry to benefit MN SHHH Chapter #1.

June 29 - July 2, 2006 - National Convention in Orlando, FL



Meetings are held at:

Courage Center
3915 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55422-4249
September through May.
See the bottom of Page 12 for contacts and time



NOTE NOTE NOTE NOTE

At the January 21, 2006 meeting, Dr. Jon K. Shallop, PhD. from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester will be speaking on hearing loss. Don't miss the chance to hear Dr. Shallop! Bring your family and friends for what promises to be a most interesting meeting.

January 2006

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Our speaker for January 21, 2006 is Jon K. Shallop, Ph. D. from the Mayo Clinic



Ph.D.:

Speech and Hearing Services, Ohio State University,
Columbus, Ohio

Graduate School:

Audiology and Speech Pathology, Kent State University,
Kent, Ohio

Interview with Dr. Jon K. Shallop

Weber-Thank you, Dr Shallop ,for taking the time to help us get to know you better.

Let's start with your early years The name Shallop is not a common name .What nationality is it?

Dr,Shallop-My last name originates from the German family name Schalopp. My ancestors have been traced back to the mid-1400's..They live in southeastern Germany in the area of the Harz Mountains ,in the providence of Sachsen-Anhalt.

Weber-Where were you born? Can you tell us a little about your family?

Dr Shallop-I was born in Erie, Pennsylvania My Father was originally trained as a typographic plate maker and later worked in electroplating He worked for many years at Marx Toy Company in Erie and then developed his own business. My Mother came from a very large Scottish-Irish family named McCray. She was a secretary for most of her life and helped my father in his business. I have one brother, William .He is a commercial artist in Chicago.

Weber-What was your first job?How did you spend your earnings?

Dr. Shallop-My first job was delivering newspapers I would buy small electrical items. When I got older I started building up my chemistry set with money that I earned at various jobs.

Weber-What schools did you attend from grade school through high school?

Dr,,Shallop-I went to a one -room schoolhouse in Elgin Pa. I attended Brookside Elementary School in the later years of elementary school. I attended High School at Harbor Creek in Harborcreek, Pa.

Weber-My Grandkids are always asked "What do you want to be when you grow up?" How did you answer this?

Dr.Shallop- Probably one of my first interests was astronomy .I recall taking a picture of the moon through a very simple camera and a pair of binoculars. My Father was amazed that I could get such a clear picture and I clearly did not know what I was doing. I was just lucky!.I was very interested in chemistry in jr.high and high school. By the time I was in eleventh grade I had done all the experiments in my own laboratory in my basement .My interests switched to chemical engineering ,but after I completed military service I decided that I wanted to be a High School teacher and I majored in Chemistry and Physics.

Weber-Were you on the “Honor Roll” ?Did you have a favorite teacher?

Dr.Shallop- Yes, I was on the “honor roll’ and a member of the national honor society in high school but I was not at the top of my class. My chemistry and physics teacher was my favorite teacher He was an extraordinary teacher and a very kind person who I had a lot of respect for.

Weber-can you tell us how you came to be an audiologist?

Dr Shallop- I decided to become an audiologist when I was working on my undergraduate degree in chemistry and physics .I became very interested in physical acoustics .We had a small speech and hearing clinic at my undergraduate college .After I completed my master degree at Kent State University ,I went on to Ohio State University to work on my Ph..D. While there I had part time jobs as an audiologist .I became certified as an audiologist and a speech pathologist. .It was because of my interest in the cochlear implant that I moved to Indiana University to work at their cochlear implant program Since then I have concentrated my interests in working with cochlear implants.

Weber-I know that I would have been very disappointed had I not been a candidate for a cochlear implant. Is it difficult to tell someone that he/she is not a candidate?

Dr.Shallop-When patients are evaluated for a cochlear implant it is sometimes a disappointment in that they do not meet the criteria. It is especially difficult right now because of the difference between the FDA and the Medicare requirements The Medicare requirements are much stricter and that means that those who would qualify under private insurance will not qualify under Medicare That can anger patients and I am very sympathetic with them .I hope we can get those criteria changed sometime during the next year..

Weber-On the other hand-can you share your feelings at your patient’s activation?

Dr.Shallop-It is always a joy to see the expression on people’s faces when the speech processor is activated. In spite of what we tell patients that they will have difficulty hearing at first ,they are sometimes overwhelmed by their ability to hear and they continue to have positive feelings as their hearing improves over the next several months. That is a very happy part of the work that all of us do in working with cochlear implant patients.

Weber-Has there been a time when you wished you were in a different field?

Dr.Shallop- After I did my student teaching and I started thinking about graduate school, I switched to audiology and have not turned back It has been a very rewarding career .I would expect to retire in the next 4-5 years and when that happens ,I am very likely to renew my interest in astrology.

Weber-Now, let’s talk about what you do when you are not in your office .Can you tell us what you and your wife’s interests are?

Dr Shallop -My wife’s name is Anne. My main hobbies are photography ,flying and astronomy. Anne and I also like to garden We have several acres outside of Rochester, Mn so there is plenty to do to keep us busy.

Thank you Dr.Shallop.

(Editor’s note: Dr. Shallop will be our guest speaker on January 21, 2006. He will speak on
“ Causes and Treatments for Hearing Loss.”

Happy New Year!

Now that the Holidays have passed, it's now time to look forward making 2006 better than 2005. Well, we already got a good jump on that so to speak. On Tuesday, January 10th, a bunch of us got together for "Feed My Starving Children". I would like to thank all (21) of those that attended this function and made it a HUGE success. Those in attendance were as follows, Linda Senechal (Thanks for coordinating this function!), Bob and Merrilee Knoll, Lori and myself, Tiffany, Holly & Shannon Turley and friends, Brian Farrell, Cliff Miller's family, and friends from their church. A fun and rewarding experience was had by all. After the short intro of who and what Feed My Starving Children does, we assembled food packages consisting of a chicken base, soy, vegetable and rice. Each package made is enough to feed 6 people. When all was said and done, the final tally showed we produced enough packaged dry food to feed 7,344 people. The food we packed will be sent to Namibia in the next two weeks. I must say it was a very invigorating experience, and one I would love to do again.

See you on January 21st!

The Prez - Joe

Feedback

Resolve to do it!

Make a promise to yourself and the rest of our community that you will make one email, letter, or phone (voice, TTY or relay) contact each week in regard to hearing accommodations. You can:

- **Make inquiries** ("Does Stadium 20 theater ever have captioned showings?")
- **Praise the accommodations** ("The rear-view captioning at SMM really made my trip worth while!")
- **Make suggestions** ("It would be great if some of your captioned showings were on a Saturday night!")

Any such comments would improve the visibility of the need for hearing accommodations. It would only take 5 minutes to do. If we each do this once a week, that would be 52 (weeks) X 50 (members) = 2600 wake-up calls a year!



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Good News/Bad News

Vicki Martin

“Heard” any good news lately? If you’ve been getting your news from a TV network, chances are you aren’t sure whether it’s been good news or bad. That could be because your closed captioning isn’t getting the information to you.

I recently tuned in to a news broadcast after having been without a TV since the last millennium. A few things have changed in that time; some have not.

At the end of one news segment, the caption stayed in place long enough for me to glean some statistics. There were 30 letters on the screen for that caption. Of these, 16 were blocked out (a white block appearing where a white letter should be). Two of the remaining letters were not in the English alphabet. Thus, only 12 of 30 letters in a caption block were actually visible to the viewer. I could gather only a little of what was happening in the news, mostly from pictures.

I tried other news channels and found the same problem: many letters blocked out, and others from different alphabets.

I contacted KARE11 technical support, KSTP channel 5 technical support, and Paradigm Reporting and Captioning, which provides the captioning for KARE11. My hope was that they could help me track down the reasons for this dismal performance and correct the problems.

Lisa Richardson (Paradigm) noted that signal strength is critical to live captioning

transmission. Even if your signal is strong enough to give you a decent picture, it may not be enough for good captioning. Letters may drop out, she said, or it may just look bizarre.

I also received valuable help from Jeff Phillips at KARE11 and Richard Rice at KSTP. The result of all this correspondence is that the technical problems we experienced have been identified and resolved. I have summarized the information below, and I hope it will help you too, to get the news you need.

1. Select the right choice from your closed captioning services: confirm that your TV is set to monitor CC1, and not other CC or XDS services (R. Rice). How can you be sure that you have made the right selection? If you select the wrong one, you won’t see any captioning box at all (J. Phillips).

2. If you have cable service, you should always be getting good reception, and should not be seeing strange characters or blocked-out letters. A possible exception might be if you are using Comcast. They have had some problems this year with captioning. If you are having technical issues with captioning even though you are using cable, you should contact your cable provider and ask for someone in technical service (J. Phillips).

3. If your TV can receive digital broadcasts, select digital. You will get a clear signal that transmits the live captioning correctly. The only newscast I found that broadcasts both regular and digital is KARE11 news. Find the KARE11 regular news broadcast and press the ‘+’ button on your remote. You will see “11.1” displayed at the top right of the screen. This is channel 11, digital 1. This is identical to the regular channel 11 news broadcast, except that it comes through a digital signal.

Does this seem too complicated? Well, if you can wait three more years, by 2009 all TV broadcasts should be digital. I’d prefer to start getting them right now.

4. If you are using an antenna, be sure that the

antenna is aimed to Shoreview. All Twin Cities TV stations except 41 are broadcast from Shoreview. Be careful though – it is easy to aim the antenna backwards! (J. Phillips). It could also be that you need a bigger or better antenna, or need to mount it where it can pick up the signal better.

These four suggestions should resolve most of the technical problems you have in receiving live captioning via TV broadcast.

The news captioning I saw on KARE11 was done well, and it made sense.

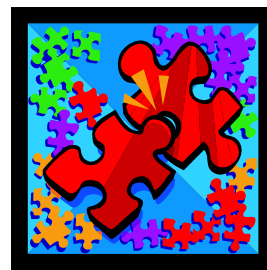
Even with good reception, however, there may still be some technical issues. Sue Brabeck (a guest of mine at our December meeting) observed that captioning is often not synchronized with the program. There are big gaps in the captioning where multiple sentences or even complete stories are left out. Some sentences aren't completed. Sometimes there is such a timing lag that the captioning being broadcast is about a story already completed, while the news broadcast has gone on to something else.

It's not that there isn't enough time to show all of the captions. Often we are waiting on the edge of our seats to find out what comes next – and nothing does.

We need to communicate these concerns to the networks. Broadcasting stations have websites, and you can usually find a "contact us" button, after which you can select "technical assistance" or something similar. This should put you in contact with the right people. In my experience, they want to help, and have been helpful. Let them know that you are watching!

Sorry, I can't do anything about the news itself. It's not always good. But if we continue these efforts to stay in touch, we will at least know what it is.

Bits and Pieces Items:



<http://www.petetownshend.co.uk/diary/display.cfm?id=231&zone=diary>

Read Pete Townshend from the British band, "WHO" tell about his hearing loss.

Celebrities & Musicians with Tinnitus and hearing loss. These are just a few of the many celebs who suffer from hearing loss. Osmonds (4 of them), Micky Hart, Huey Lewis, Bobby Sherman, Neil Young, Barbara Streisand, John Entwistle, William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, David Letterman, Paul Schaffer, Bill Clinton, Tony Randall, Engelbert Humperdinck, Steve Martin, Richard Thomas, Burt Reynolds, Eric Clapton, Morgan Fairchild, Cheryl Tiegs, Rosalyn Carter.

Congratulations to **Dora Weber** who will begin serving on the Advisory Committee of The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services-Metro Office. She will serve from January 06 - Dec. 08. Two other members from SHHH are also on this board, Cliff Miller and Merrilee Knoll.

Please bring you December **Holiday cards** to the next meeting and give them to Mary Andresen. Take off the signature page please, and no cards with personal writing inside.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) on Jan. 10th had in attendance 21 people from SHHH. Thanks Linda Senechal for getting this together.

NEW YEAR USHERS IN NEW CAPTIONING RULES

New captioning regulations went into effect on Sunday, January 1. In general, 100 percent of new programs must be closed captioned. However, there are several loopholes. New networks, for example, are exempt during their first four years in operation. Programs between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. are not required to be captioned, nor are TV commercials, locally produced instructional programs or public service announcements of less than 10 minutes. ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and their affiliates must real-time caption their news programs in the top 25 television markets. If the new rules are violated, consumers may send complaints to the TV station or cable/satellite company. If no response is received after 45 days, a complaint may be filed with the FCC. More information may be obtained from Jerald Jordan of DHHCAN, a national coalition of organizations, at Jerald.Jordan@verizon.net.



More Bits and Pieces



San Francisco International Airport is going to install 80 visual paging monitors due to terms of a lawsuit settlement announced recently. The large plasma screens will display text messages that duplicate announcements made over the airport's public address system. The messages will scroll so that passengers with hearing difficulties may view recent announcements. The airport will also set up a special phone number for deaf travelers, install TTYs in baggage claim areas and provide a video service for use in emergencies. Watch to see when Twin City airports follow this idea.

A new program called "**Signing Time**" premiered Sunday on KCET, the PBS station in Los Angeles. The program will be featured on other PBS stations nationwide, and more information may be found at www.kcet.org. Check you TV schedule for the showing times in the Twin Cities. In Los Angeles it will be 8 AM on Sunday Jan. 15 and Jan. 22

Read in the **Hearing Health** magazine (winter 2005 issue) about how diabetes and hearing loss are related. More diabetics losing their hearing, why?

SHHH – Self Help for the Hard of Hearing

Our mission statement.....Our mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

Bill Gates Recognizes Founder of e-websmart and the Cochlear Implant Awareness Foundation for Her Unique Use of Windows Technology

After conducting a five-month nationwide search, Microsoft Corp. announced the five winners of its Start Something Amazing Awards, honoring Michelle Tjelmeland of Springfield, Ill., for her unique and inspiring use of Microsoft Windows-related technology to pursue her passions of building Web sites and helping families affected by hearing loss. Microsoft Chairman and Chief Software Architect Bill Gates met with Tjelmeland on November 10 at Microsoft's headquarters, where he presented her with the award for the Culture & Community category and discussed how she integrates technology into the operation of her Web-development business, e-websmart (<http://www.e-websmart.com/index.html>), and nonprofit organization, the Cochlear Implant Awareness Foundation (www.ciafonline.org).

"Today we celebrate the achievements of highly creative individuals who used the Microsoft Windows platform to pursue their passions," Gates said. "Their stories, along with those of thousands of others who entered the Start Something Amazing Awards, are inspirational examples of the transformative power of technology." The Start Something Amazing Awards were created to support the global awareness campaign which celebrates the countless possibilities for Windows to bring what people are passionate about to life using the hundreds of thousands of software applications and devices that work with Microsoft Windows XP.

When Tjelmeland became deaf at 22, she relied on technology to help cope with her hearing loss. She earned an online master's degree in computer technology and education, and started her e-websmart business out of her

home. The company provided Tjelmeland with an avenue to successfully earn a living by using her Windows-based PC to communicate with clients and manage the business, from developing Windows Server(TM)-based Web sites and using Microsoft Office PowerPoint(R) for client proposals to tracking finances in Microsoft Office Excel(R). After her daughter Ellie was born deaf, Tjelmeland developed the Web site <http://www.iloveellie.com> to share their inspiring story and connect with other families in similar circumstances. She also founded the Cochlear Implant Awareness Foundation, a nonprofit organization providing information, resources and support to prospective cochlear implant recipients and their families. With these efforts, Tjelmeland has relied on Microsoft Office, MSN(R) Messenger and Windows Media(R) Player to connect with people in the deaf community. Tjelmeland is also a member of the National Association of Women Business Owners(<http://www.nawbo.org>).

"I can't imagine what my life would be like without technology," Tjelmeland said. "Everything I do involves technology -- from communicating with others to using my cell phone with text messages and digital camera on a daily basis -- but, more importantly, technology gave me my life back by helping me go from silence to sound."

As the winner in the Culture & Community category, Tjelmeland will receive \$5,000 worth of the latest Windows technology, including a Media Center PC, Tablet PC and iRiver H10 portable music device. She will also receive a once-in-a-lifetime travel opportunity for herself and a guest, by selecting one of four exotic National Geographic Expeditions to either discover the cultural and natural wonders of Bhutan, explore Tanzania and Zanzibar, take a classical journey through Greece, or chart China's past.



NOTE - PLEASE READ THROUGH TO THE END, AS THERE ARE SOME MAJOR CHANGES I'D LIKE TO MAKE AND NEED YOUR INPUT. THANKS!!!

Happy New Year, Everyone!

I hope you all had an enjoyable "holiday", be it Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, St Canute's Day, Feast of the Nativity or running through the streets naked!!! I don't know about you, but I'm always relieved once the Halloween-Thanksgiving-Xmas to New Years hub is behind us as the commercialism really gets to me - as does all my pigging out!

Couple of things here.... more and more restaurants are no longer accepting reservations. Some will allow for a call ahead one hour before our intended arrival time. However, they will NOT seat us unless everyone in the party is present. Or, if we do decide to sit down with whoever's there, they will NOT let us save a place for anyone else that comes in after they seat us.

Here are a few other things I need to pick your brains on:

We seem to be getting a bit of a reputation (I think it's the Restaurant Association of the Twin Cities, or something to that affect) that we tend to stay too long, can be too noisy,

and (grrrrr) we do a lot of that "hand business"! Granted, there have been some places that probably didn't mind us in the least, but we have had our share over the years of some restaurants that did not appreciate our signing and let us know it. The Chart House in Lakeville is one sore point that comes to mind.

One of the things I've been contemplating is that instead of going to a restaurant each month, we could do something else that would allow us to

1. Stay as long as we want
2. Mingle around and visit with everyone
3. Feel comfortable in an environment in which we're all hearing impaired and signing, lipreading or writing notes is the norm
4. There won't be any background noise with music, waitstaff clashing dishes together or having the conversations of 30 to 100 other customers adding to the din
5. We'll save money, and probably eat better by not eating restaurant food

We've been doing these monthly dinners now for 13 years - since 1992, and it's just getting more and more difficult to find places that will accept reservations, a large group, separate checks and/or aren't too expensive (or cheap) for our group.

So ... what do we do???? Here are a couple of my ideas:

1. Have a potluck each month at a member's home and everyone bring their own beverage as well. The host will supply paper products.
2. Rotate having our dinner at a different member's house each month and we can either

(a) Have the "host of the month" provide the meal and everyone chip in about \$3 to \$5 per person, depending on what will be served.
Or

(b) The "host of the month" will call and order a pizza for everyone and the bill divided evenly among those present.

3. Have our dinners at a VFW or American Legion place, providing they will allow that on a Saturday night and it's in a "reasonable" location. The drawback to this is that there may be smoking allowed in these places. Is there anyone that is a regular at such a place and will know more?

4. Would anyone who attends Thompson Hall functions on a regular basis know if it's possible to have our monthly dinners there, even if it means changing to a different Saturday each month? Is it a non-smoking environment? Would we have access to the bar? Do we want to? Potluck or Pizza?

Does anyone else have any brainstorming ideas they can add to the above? I can collect your ideas and cut and paste them onto another email, without your name shown, and send it out to everyone. So how about if you send me your idea(s) or comment(s) and/or questions between now and the end of the month and then I'll print it all out sometime in the beginning of February?

And, finally, one last reminder, especially for those of you that are new to Aloha - please do not wear any scented perfumes or lotions to our functions as we have several people that are allergic to them. Thanks!

Ellen

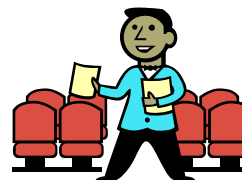
ThibodoD@aol.com



TWIN CITIES Hospitals, Clinics Form Consortium

A group of 22 hospitals and urgent care clinics in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area have formed a consortium to provide better emergency medical treatment for deaf and hard-of-hearing patients. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHS) of the Minnesota Department of Human Services developed the partnership over a three-year period, with staffer Marty Barnum leading the way. CSD, a national nonprofit telecommunications and human services organization, will provide sign language referral services to the new consortium, and Joan Del Rio has been hired as project administrator. The new partnership represents a long overdue solution to the interpreting needs of deaf people in the Twin Cities, said Jan Florand, executive director of CSD of Minnesota.

Most HOH do not sign, so this does not benefit the majority of HOH.



Movies:

For captioned movie showings, go to www.tcdeaf.com and click on "open captioned movies" on the left hand side. You can navigate from there.

National Website:
www.hearingloss.org

Minnesota Website:
<http://deafvision.net/shhmn1/>

MN Contact Information:
shhmn1@hotmail.com

**SHHH
Members
Bonus**



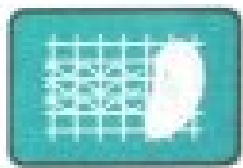
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Please note

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First Class



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This month's editor is Linda Senechal

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*. Please visit the chapter's web-site at www.deafvision.net/shhhmn1