

# SHHH News

Minnesota Chapter #1 Volume 20 Issue #20 December 2005

## Self Help for the Hard of Hearing

### Calendar of Coming Events

December 17, 2005 – Annual Christmas Party – Pot Luck Luncheon, White Elephant gift exchange, cookie sale

January 3, 2005 – Cochlear Implant Coffee & Chat at the U of M, 10:00 AM

January 10, 2006 – Feed My Starving Children (see page 5 for more info.)

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

February 18, 2006 – Tina Childress, M.A., CCC-A, Advanced Bionics

April 12, 2006 - Steak Fry to raise funds for SHHH

June 29 – July 2, 2006 – SHHH National Convention in Orlando, Florida



**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

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Greetings Everyone,

Christmas is fast approaching. The snow is here, and hopefully it stays so we can have a White Christmas. I am looking forward seeing everyone for our Annual Holiday/Meeting Party. This year we are going to add watching a movie and play games since it is a party, right? Of course we will have the traditional "White Elephant" gift exchange. So bring something either bought or something you just feel someone else would want. We will also have a cookie sale with proceeds going back into our club. Please bring as many cookies you can and we will arrange all of them into a take-out box for \$3 /box. Lori and myself wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Remember though, spending time with family and friends is the best present you could give one another!

Joyfully,  
Joe "Santa's Helper"

## **An FM Success Story**

by Leslie Cotter

I am long term sub teaching in a deaf-ed program. Early in the year, the school audiologist and I talked to one sophomore boy about using wireless FM with his new hearing aids, last year we got him the same kind I use as our losses are very similar. His new aids have the FM built right in, no boot required! Well, he balked. No, he was doing fine, he claimed. Well. I told him how

I use my FM and love it. We talked for several weeks. With a little encouragement from me, he tried it. When he discovered that he could hear and understand me when my back was turned to him, he got so excited! He agreed to try it in class. After his first class with the FM, he came back to my room with a huge smile, "It's great!", he claimed. I don't think I had ever seen him smile! He is now using it daily and really getting the benefit. His first grades with it will come out soon, I am curious to see if there is improvement. He was a good student before, but it's easier for him now.

An FM is your own private radio station! It puts the microphone (transmitter or station) near the speaker's mouth. In my case it is a small microphone about the size of a 'snack size' candy bar. about 1 inch by 4 inches. The speaker can clip the extended lapel mic to a collar, or hold the microphone

( Continued on Page 9 )

## **November Synopsis**

by Dora Weber

Joe opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and with a reminder about the Crystal Lions sponsored steak fry that will be held on April 12. Each member will be given 6 tickets to sell. Our group will receive 80% of the profits.

Wendy Ensign was welcomed into the group. Lisa brought an understudy, her friend Kelly

John reported that there is a balance of 1,051.15 in the treasury.

Lori reminded everyone about the Christmas potluck, white elephant gift exchange and the cookie sale . She also reported that anyone who has not paid their dues by the end of November will no longer receive the newsletter.

Dave Miller took the spotlight by announcing that he has a new son named Josiah.

Merrilee told about the Feed the Starving Children project . Anyone who wishes can go as a group on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> at Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park. She also told of the National SHHH name change to Hearing Loss Association of America. Our T-shirts with the SHHH emblem will become a collector's item.

Vicki urged everyone to take part in the letter to the editor column of our newsletter.

A ten minute break was taken before Joe introduced Ron Pettit our speaker

( Continued on Page 5 )

## 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.

( Continued on Page 4 )

**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?

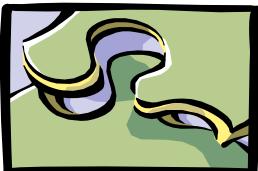
**Dr.Shallop**- After I did my student teaching and I started thinking about graduate school, I switched to audiology and have not turned back It has been a very rewarding career .I would expect to retire in the next 4-5 years and when that happens ,I am very likely to renew my interest in astrology.

**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.”



BITS  
AND  
PIECES

**Feed My Starving Children** will meet on Tues., January 10, 2005 from 8 to 9:30 PM at the FMSC in Brooklyn Park, 6750 West Broadway. We have pledged to provide 24 volunteers. Third grade children and up are able to come and help. No one is too old. Please send an email to Linda Senechal at [cilinda97@yahoo.com](mailto:cilinda97@yahoo.com) for more info. and tell her how many people will be joining you.

June 29 – July 2, 2005  
**Convention in Orlando, FL**

Every year SHHH members get a special offer of reduced savings above and beyond the regular discount for members for the annual convention. This year is no exception.

The super saver registration rate is offered to members in good standing until December 31, 2005. After December 31, rates will be \$50 more for individual registrations and \$110 more per couple (a couple is two people from the same address.)

For an interview, with **Buzz Aldrin, Astronaut** on the topic of The Early Space Program and Otosclerosis. [http://www.healthyhearing.com/library/interview\\_content.asp?interview\\_id=101](http://www.healthyhearing.com/library/interview_content.asp?interview_id=101)

Phonak to Launch National Campaign Featuring Buzz Aldrin

Chandlergroup, an integrated marketing firm based in Evanston, IL, has announced a partnership with Phonak Hearing Systems to introduce a new hearing health campaign titled, "HearLikeBuzz," to the U.S. market.

( Synopsis continued from Page 2 )

Ron, himself hard-of-hearing, is Mgr. for customers and disabilities at NW Airlines. Flyers were passed out so that everyone could follow along. Ron gave us many tips to make flying a more comfortable experience for us. I have included those which stood out to me.

- 1-Get a travel agent. Some specialize in helping the deaf and hard of hearing.
- 2-Tell the agent that you are deaf or hard of hearing and what your needs are
- 3-Request any special needs
- 4-Use the Code- DEAF –it will be printed on the reservation system and will be given to the flight agent
- 5-Sign up for flight status notification
- 6-get to airport early
- 7-Use self service check in
- 8-Tell check point screener that your are deaf or hard of hearing
- 9-can request pre-boarding

If not sit close to the podium and be alert. Watch the screen for info.

Ron closed with a question and answer session

Joe closed the meeting with reminders about the Christmas party and our website.

In the **Nov. SHHH News on page 3** was an article written by **Vicki Martin**;

**Update on TTY "progress" at bank:**

Last month I reported on the progress made by my bank in installing and using a TTY for deaf and hard of hearing customers. Though the first call went well (mission accomplished in one call), the next time I used their TTY line, it took eight calls to accomplish my task. The 8th call (the one that succeeded) was to their regular number via 711 relay. Clearly, much depends on the skill and training of the bank personnel answering the call!



## **Closed Caption Law Goes Into Effect 1/1/06**

On January 1, 2006, 100% of new TV programs, both digital and analog, must be captioned. There are also regulations for Spanish language programs that currently require 50% of new programs to be captioned, to be increased to 75% in January 2007.

There are, however, several exemptions from the closed-captioning rules:

"Pre-rule" programs are ones that were first shown on TV before January 1, 1998 (when the closed captioning regulations took effect). For programs with digital captions, pre-rule programs are ones first shown on TV before July 1, 2002.

- Most programs shown from 2 am to 6 am local time
- Locally-produced and distributed non-news programs with no repeat value, such as parades and school sports events
- Commercials of five minutes or less
- Instructional programs produced locally by public TV stations for use in grades K-12 or postsecondary schools
- Programs in languages other than Spanish and English
- Programs shown on new networks for the first four years of the network's operations
- Public service announcements and promotional ads of less than 10 minutes
- Programs by providers with an annual gross revenue under \$3 million (but

these programmers must still "pass through" the captions of any programs that already have them)

If after Jan. 1, 2006 there is no CC on your favorite show and is not exempt, contact the FCC with the name of the program, time, date, station (ABC, CNN etc.) and voice your complaint to the address below.

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554



### **YOUR UNITED WAY CONTRIBUTION CAN BE DIRECTED TO SHHH**

Even though SHHH is not a United Way agency, you may designate SHHH MN Chapter 1 as your "donor choice" for your United Way fund drive. The form should have a space to "designate" United Way funds to another charity. If not, you can write SHHH MN Chapter 1's information (PO Box 8037, Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037) anywhere on the form and notify your Financial Coordinator.

## **Invisible Children**

Submitted by Vicki Martin

Being invisible is a common childhood wish. For hard of hearing children, it is an idea played out in real life, where its consequences are not so desirable. Since hearing loss is invisible, and “out of sight [is] out of mind”, these children are easily forgotten.

In 1977, the University of Minnesota published the first edition of “Our Forgotten Children: Hard of Hearing Pupils in the Schools”. Edited by Julia Davis, it contained articles on medical, social, educational and technological issues related to hard of hearing students. The book has been updated about once per decade, and is now in its third edition.

The same year that the University published “Our Forgotten Children”, they also tested all three of our own children for hearing loss and academic readiness. The two older children were in school by that time, and were referred to the University after a routine screening at their schools.

First to be tested was our mentally handicapped son, who was in first grade at Sheltering Arms. He was followed by his sister, who had just turned 5 and had started school that year as an “early entry”. Tagging along was our 18-month-old daughter, who was there only because the rest of us were.

After testing the older two, the audiologists asked if they could test the baby. “Oh, she’s fine”, I assured them, thinking how verbal and responsive she was even at a year and a half. “But we’d like to test her too,” they said. “Do you have time to stay?” We had time, and she was tested.

I went home that afternoon with three hard of hearing kids. Just one day before, I’d had no idea. Though I was a hard of hearing mom myself, I saw no signs of the disability in our children. Yet the audiologists had found mild to moderate bilateral hearing loss in all three children, and recommended two hearing aids for each of them.

Our 5-year-old appeared to be an average kindergartener. When her hearing was tested at the University, they also tested her general knowledge, and she scored at grade level. No problem, it would seem.

No teacher would be likely to request special services or support for such a child. Yet she needed special support, even though she was keeping up with her classmates. The support she got was her hearing aids.

She didn’t want to look different, of course. We told her she was privileged to have “bionic ears” in hopes that the TV connection would win her over. She didn’t buy it though.

( Continued on Page 8 )

She took them off at school: she hid them in her desk, she put them in her pockets. When confronted and made to wear them, she covered her ears with hair or something else. What percentage of the time she actually had them on is not known, but she did wear them at least some of the time.

Six months later, at the request of the University audiologists, she was retested for general academic knowledge. This time she scored as an average 9- or 10-year-old.

It is important to realize that this was not an IQ test. Her intelligence had not changed. She had simply been able to glean so much more information through wearing hearing aids even part-time that she nearly doubled her academic age in 6 months.

The results of this testing before and after the use of hearing aids are so astonishing that we might be tempted to think it is an isolated case. This was a child of normal speech, language, behavior and achievement. Her hearing loss was mild, and unnoticed even by me. Yet in a very real sense, she was lagging.

As it turns out, such a lag is typical of hard of hearing students, whether or not it is noticed by others.

Studies summarized in “Our Forgotten Children” show that the majority of hard of hearing students score at or below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile in standardized tests of vocabulary and English comprehension (Dr. Mark Ross, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, “Definitions and Descriptions”).

“Elementary school children with moderate losses performed on academic achievement tests an average of three years behind their normally-hearing counterparts” (Daniel Simmons, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, “Overcoming the Expectation Gap”).

Continuing this tale of defeat, Ross notes that over ten times as many hard of hearing children as hearing children fail one or more grades in school (p. 31).

These are shocking figures, and they tend to worsen as children get older.

Perhaps the most surprising thing about these statistics is that they apply to children whose hearing loss is termed “mild” or “moderate”. The studies included all levels of hearing loss except the profoundly deaf.

On a level playing field, we expect performance to average about the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. There will always be some who score below that, but those who are hard of hearing do so in disproportionate numbers.

No remediation is going to work quite as well as a pair of perfect ears, but achieving greater visibility for this hidden handicap, along with the earliest possible intervention and academic support can open the information door a lot wider for these children.

Author’s note:

“Our Forgotten Children” 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (2001), edited by Julia M. Davis, is available free of charge from the National SHHH organization. It can be ordered online at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org). Shipping and handling is about \$2.

( FM Success Story cont. from Page 2 )

My hearing aids have a 'boot' receiver-the radio- a small piece that slips onto the bottom of my aid. New ones can have them built in. Her speaking tells my aid to shut off the HA mic and focus only on the FM mic. I have another program for FM only. With no strings attached, her voice is received in my hearing aid with no distance distortion and minimal background sound. with the FM/HA program, when she stops speaking, the HA takes priority again and I can maybe catch the audience question (that's with my hearing loss, others can pick it up with no problem).

It is easy and so nice. In big meetings, I can put the mic on the table and it will pick up with amplification most of what is said, it helps me to follow, gives that added boost of clues that will help me process and follow the meeting. In classes as a teacher, I use it for student presentations, so I can sit in back of the room and concentrate on the info, with even the softest speaker.

All my principals and co-teachers have been very willing to use it and are comfortable doing so. One staff meeting, the presenting teacher was holding it upside down, speaking into the antenna! That was fun, but she was very comfortable when I corrected her with a sense of humor. It can be 'high-tech" which makes it quite a conversation piece in some situations and impresses people with your up-to-date equipment.

**FM's are no longer the bulky thing connected with wires that are cumbersome and obvious. If you are in situations at work or school or dining out, I suggest you try one of the several on the market today.**



## Entertainment

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** - Feb. 4 at 8 PM, tickets \$8-14, see <http://theatre.umn.edu> or call 612-624-2345 via MRS, Dept. of Theatre Arts and Dance, 580 Rarig Center, Mpls.

Information submitted from Vicki Martin

**Marcus Theaters**, Oakdale North (694 and Highway 36, next to Fleet Farm) presents captioned movies!

As more theaters are recognizing the need for captioning, I am happy to report that Marcus Theater in Oakdale is planning captioned showings of "Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" December 23, 24 and 25. They will be showing the new Harry Potter movie "Goblet of Fire" with captions January 6-7-8. (You will need to contact the theater for times.)

Notice that these are WEEKEND showings!

For other captioned movie showings, go to [www.tcdeaf.com](http://www.tcdeaf.com) and click on "open captioned movies" on the left side. You can navigate from there.

Go see your favorite movie and enjoy knowing what they are saying. Then -- this is important -- let the manager know how much you appreciated it!

Hello, Everyone!!!

RSVP by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Editor's Note:** This info. came to late to make the Nov. paper, but perhaps if you give Ellen a call. she can still make room for you.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and an enjoyable long weekend. Ours was nice and quiet and spent at home. In fact, we haven't even left the house yet!

Already the Holidays are upon us, which means it's almost time for our annual Holiday Aloha Dinner! Once again we are fortunate, thanks to Patti Chase, to get the beautifully decorated party room at the Summit Townhouses in Burnsville to have our dinner party.

**Where:** **Summit Executive Townhouse Partyroom**

**Address:** **1500 Mc Andrews Road West in Burnsville**

**Date:** **Saturday, December 10**

**Time:** **5:00 PM to 9:00 PM**



**Directions:** Whether you're coming from 35W or 35E, from the North or the South, you will want to take the exit for County Road 42 / Burnsville Center. Go West on County Road 42, driving past the Burnsville Center Mall on your left. You will go about a half mile to a stoplight at Irving Avenue South. There's an Olive Garden and Red Lobster on your left and a gas station on your right. Make a Right to go north on Irving. You will come to a stop sign at McAndrews Road. Go straight across McAndrews into the Summit complex. The partyroom is in the Executive Office Building that is directly to your right. You can park in the front lot or go around the back to the side. The partyroom has it's own private entrance, near the parking spot around the back.

Potluck Dinner- this year I'm going to assign what you'll bring, according to the letter your last name begins with:

**A through D, VEGETABLE DISH**

**E through H, SOUP OR SALAD**

**I through L, APPETIZER (Cheese & Crackers, Breads, Fruit or Veggie tray,**

**M through P, PASTA, RICE OR POTATO DISH**

**Q through U, DESSERT**

**V through Z, MEAT DISH**

**I will provide condiments, coffee and tea. If you wish to drink another beverage such as bottled water, soda, beer (alcohol is allowed), etc, then please bring your own.**

This is one of our heaviest attended events of the year, so I hope as many of you can make it as possible. We always have a wonderful time and the food is about as good as the company!!!

Have a good week and hope to hear from you soon!

Ellen

## SHHH Members Bonus



Get 15% off using your SHHH member number when shopping at Harris Communications!



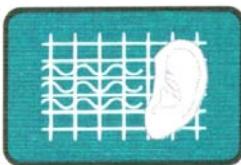
[www.harriscomm.com](http://www.harriscomm.com)

To take advantage of this offer, use **promotion code "ads-shhhpc15"** when you checkout.

Please have your SHHH member number ready when ordering by phone or online.

### Please note

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the person submitting the information and not necessarily those of SHHH MN Chapter #1. Mention of goods or services does not mean endorsement nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.



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### National Website:

[www.hearinggloss.org](http://www.hearinggloss.org)

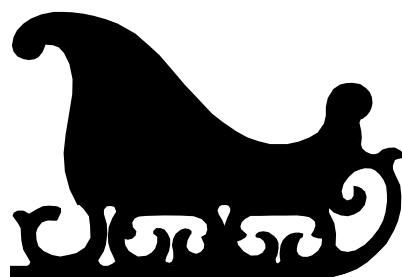
### Minnesota Website:

<http://deafvision.net/shhhmn1/>

### MN Contact Information:

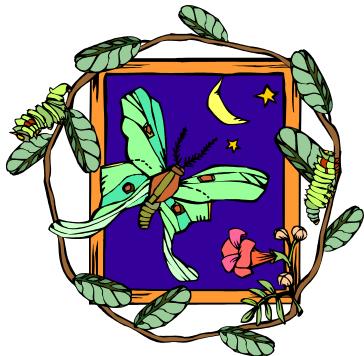
[shhhmn1@hotmail.com](mailto:shhhmn1@hotmail.com)

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**MN Chapter #1 SHHH  
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**First Class**



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**MN Chapter #1 Welcomes You**

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This month's editor is Merrilee Knoll

**Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.deafvision.net/shhhmn1)**