

HEARSAY

The Official Newsletter of Hearing Loss Association of PA

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MESSAGE FROM DIANA

On Sunday, November 2, 2008 HLA-PA will once again host a banquet at the Conshohocken Marriott just outside Philadelphia. This year we are using the opportunity to hear from Brenda Battat, executive director of HLAA, and to introduce her to readers of HearSay who have not had the opportunity to meet her, as well as to community leaders. Brenda recently took the helm of our national organization and will share with us her vision for the future of the organization. Exhibit tables will give everyone a chance to learn more about the latest in hearing assistive technology, including phones which accommodate our hearing loss. We will be presenting the 2008 Marcia

Finisdore Award for Advocacy to recognize outstanding efforts on behalf of all hard of hearing people in PA. Although the location is most convenient for those living in Eastern PA, at past banquets we have welcomed people from throughout the state, as well as from neighboring states. I encourage all of our readers to consider attending this very special event. Additional information, including the registration form, can be found on page (add page #) of this issue of HearSay. I hope to see many of you in November.

Diana Bender,
HLA-PA State Director
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Hearing Loss Rises Among U.S. Soldiers in Iraq

Soldiers sent to battle zones are over 50 times more likely to suffer noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) than soldiers who do not deploy, according to research published in the December 2005 issue of American Journal of Audiology (AJA). The study, led by Thomas M. Helfer, Nikki N. Jordan, and Robyn B Lee of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, examined the cases of 806 U.S. soldiers diagnosed with NIHL.

Thousands of U.S. soldiers sent to Iraq have suffered NIHL due to a lack of education about hearing protection, a reduced force of military audiologists, and a lack of monitoring for threshold shifts, the research states. Of these soldiers, 5.6% suffered acoustic trauma from a single loud noise, such as a bomb blast. Another 1.6% had broken eardrums, which often heal, but leave soldiers vulnerable to ear infections in unsanitary battlefield conditions. About 29% had a permanent threshold shift, and in 15.8%, the hearing loss was considered significant enough to limit or disqualify a soldier from duty according to military standards.

"These are not just mild hearing losses that you and I might have from listening to music, or from aging," said Brenda Lonsbury-Martin, ASHA chief staff officer for science and research. "These are pretty severe hearing losses that will impact your life." Many of these injuries could have easily been prevented. However, there was an inadequate supply of earplugs for all soldiers, and a failure to provide unit commanders with information about troops having adequate hearing protection and pre-deployment baseline audiograms. The Army is also operating with a reduced force of audiologists-about half of the approximately 70 audiologists it employed in the 1990s-and currently only one audiologist is deployed in Iraq at any given time, said Helfer.

Helfer said a greater effort is under way to test the hearing of all new soldiers in basic combat training and those preparing for deployment. He said the Army in recent months has broadened its distribution of ear protection and increased training.

It is important to note that some NIHL is unavoidable despite use of hearing protection and other measures, Helfer said in the study. "This is because some exposures...are so extreme that they will exceed the protective capability of hearing protective devices. In addition, skull transmission of intense noise, the element of surprise, and the co-effects of inhaled toxins such as carbon monoxide in conjunction with noise can affect hearing loss outcomes."

NIHL is the third most common disability among veterans, the IOM report said, noting that the Department of Veterans Affairs pays \$805 million in compensation annually to veterans whose primary impairment is hearing loss or tinnitus.

Source: American Speech-Language Hearing Association; The ASHA Leader Online –www.asha.org

Telephone Contacts

For HLA-PA Activities or Other Information,
feel free to call:

Teresa Nellans, (Western PA) - 412-767-9769

Barb Beard, (Central PA) - 717-534-0820

Ronnie Adler, (Eastern PA) - 610-644-3154



Electrosonic Upgrades Independence Seaport Museum

Electrosonic Systems has performed a system upgrade to the concert hall at Independence Seaport Museum in Penn's Landing, Philadelphia. The task was to provide a multiuse entertainment system that is simple for the staff to operate and to create a technologically advanced space for the deaf and hearing-challenged.

The Independence Seaport Museum, located on Philadelphia's waterfront, uses the concert hall for many different types of functions including high school band rehearsals, ballet performances and Congressional hearings. The museum wanted to expand its capabilities to include corporate meetings, movie presentations and a theater for the deaf that could provide captions for both filmed and live presentations, the latter with a transcriber for real-time captioning.

Electrosonic equipped the concert hall with the latest in hearing-assistance technology, including real-time captioning-compatible presentation capabilities, closed-captioning-enabled projection equipment and an infrared assisted-listening system. Electrosonic has devised custom programming for the venue to allow staff to easily shift from one type of presentation to another.

The sound reinforcement system features a Peavey Digitool MC 8 x 8 audio mixer/processor and QSC MD-FP152 full-range loudspeakers located on each side of the stage. Two Bag End 18in subwoofers provide a thump factor, enhancing the hearing-challenged experience with a physical interaction with the sound. A Listen Technology LS-82-SIR IR-based assisted-listening system includes 32 stethoscope headsets. System control is provided via Crestron MC2E with TPS-2000L 5in color touch panel in the equipment rack.

The Independence Seaport Museum, which opened in 1960 as the Philadelphia Maritime Museum, is working with Creative Access, other members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities and the Arts & Business Council's Business Volunteers for the Arts to develop business and marketing plans to promote the concert hall's new features.

For more information, visit www.electrosonic.com.

Source: www.broadcastengineering.com

Volunteers Needed! 2009 Pennsylvania Farm Show Harrisburg, PA January 10 – 17, 2009

HLA-PA will be exhibiting at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, PA. The Farm Show is the nation's largest indoor agricultural event. The 2009 show will last for 8 days, from January 10 – 17, 2009 and will be open from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to help man our exhibit table for a few hours on each of those days. Admission is free and HLA-PA will reimburse for the small charge for parking. If you would like to volunteer and use this chance to see the biggest farm show in the country, or if you would like more information about this event, please contact:

Barb Beard

Email: beard@pa-shhh.org or by snail mail at
313 Hallmark N.

Hershey, PA 17033-2343

Hearing Loss Association of PA invites you to a
 Banquet Reception honoring Brenda Battat,
 the new Executive Director of the Hearing Loss Association of America

November 2, 2008 - 12:00 noon to 3 p.m.
Sunday Buffet Luncheon

Philadelphia Marriott West Hotel
 111 Crawford Avenue, West Conshohocken, PA 19428

Join us for lunch and meet Brenda Battat and hear her goals for the future of our organization, and for all with hearing loss. All Hearing Loss Association members, family and friends are invited. Exhibitor tables with hearing loss information will be available. CART (real-time captioning) will be provided.

For directions, call the hotel at 610-941-5600 or visit their website at <http://maarriott.com/property/mapandnearbyairports/default.mi?marshaCode=phlwe>

Cost: \$40.00 per person Deadline: October 28, 2008

*Any questions, contact: Ronnie Adler – (610) 644-3154 (v/tty)
 Carolyn Meyer – meyer@pa-shhh.org - subject "HLA-PA Banquet"*

*Please return this form, make checks payable to "HLA-PA" and mail to:
 Alice Dungan, 6906 Shalkop Street, Philadelphia, PA 19128-3217*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Names of additional attendees: _____

Name of local chapter you belong to (if applicable): _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ (*\$40 per person*)

Hearing Loss Does Have a Positive Side

One Friday afternoon, my co-worker asked me if I had any headphones. I knew that he wanted the headphones because of the loud noise from the construction work in our building. I told him that I did not have any headphones, but I explained that our Safety Office had earplugs which are designed to block out loud noise. He shared that he prefers the headphones so that he can listen to music instead of the loud drilling noise. I just smiled and said that I can turn off my hearing aids and not worry about the noise bothering me. Then we both laughed.

A family member was having difficulty sleeping with the windows open this summer because the sound of the traffic kept him awake. I told him that was not a problem for me because I remove my hearing aids when I sleep. We laughed.

It was not until a few years ago that I was able to think about the positive side of my hearing loss. Being positive helps me to see the humor in my hearing loss. The technology such as digital hearing aids, assistive listening devices (ALD), and the communication strategies have helped me with my various communication situations. But it is still a challenge for me since these tools do not totally correct my hearing loss. I finally decided that every hearing loss challenge has a positive side and can even be humorous as long as it is tasteful. Have you ever thought about the positive side or the humor of your hearing loss?

If you have any positive and/or humorous stories that you would like to have published in this newsletter, please send them to "Editor" at rejonis@pa-shhh.org. Depending on how much space is available, your story may be published.

Submitted by: Linda Rusinko lrusin7@ptd.net

HLA - Delaware County

The Delaware County Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLA-Delaware County) resumes with a welcome back meeting on Sunday, September 7th. We hope to start invigorating our group to honor the memory of long time volunteer and past president – Jerry Rusher – who was so dedicated to continuing the mission of reaching our in Delaware County.

Under the auspices of Senior Community Services/Friendship Circle center director – Christine Helmandollar – is determined to make this a vital program through outreach and support committed to advocating for issues related to hearing loss and the hard of hearing by participation in local health fairs and senior expos where we are able to demonstrate assistive listening devices and give information on the lending library and refer people to different resources to help in the financial issues ones faces in obtaining care and devices.

Some of the issues and concerns which our group will learn about this year include a presentation on October 5th by Naomi Wisenkowski from Clark PA Auditory World School regarding oral rehabilitation for adults who have had cochlear implants and on November 9th, a representative from Hamilton Relay will be with us to give a demonstration of the CapTel phone and Web CapTel. And in December, a local acting group will present a short play that just may include some hearing issues!!

Submitted by Donna Schumacher, HDC Program Coordinator

HearSay Subscription

If you would like to receive your own copy of *HearSay*, the official newsletter of HLA-PA, please fill in this form and mail it to the address below. A *HearSay* subscription is free; however, HLA-PA is a not-for-profit organization run exclusively by volunteers and we are grateful for any donations.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ to support HearSay. Donations are tax deductible.

Make donations payable to HLA-PA and mail to:

**Marcia Finisdore
HLA-PA
4 State Road, #109
Media, PA 19063**

- I would like to remain anonymous
- I cannot contribute, but would like to receive HearSay.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Assist the HLA-PA State Director by serving on the Advisory Council or one of its committees. The Council meets periodically in Carlisle but committees conduct most of their business by e-mail and occasionally meet in various parts of the state. If you think you would like to serve on the council or any of its committees, please contact one of the state leaders listed here:

State Director:

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HLA-PA Donors

A special thanks to those who help make it possible.

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Jane Watts

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In memory of Pat Graham

Chapter Listing Correction

In the June issue of HearSay we regret to have printed the incorrect information for the Lancaster and Lebanon Chapters. The correct information is below.

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