



Hearing Loss Association of Houston

Hearing Loss Association of Houston

(Formerly SHHH Houston Chapter)

PO Box 572091

Houston TX 77257-2091

Website!: www.hearingloss-houston.org

(Be sure to type the dash between loss and Houston.

Best viewed with Internet Explorer Browser.)

We are an affiliate of **Hearing Loss Association of America** based in Bethesda, Maryland. Website:

<http://www.hearingloss.org>

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June 2010

Volume 11, Number 6

Hearing Loss Association of America is the largest consumer organization dedicated to the well being of people with hearing loss. We believe people can help one another, be helped, and participate successfully in society. Our primary purpose is to educate ourselves and those around us about the causes, nature and complications of hearing loss and what can be done to help. To join the local chapter, please write us at the above address or come to one of our monthly meetings. Our meetings have the following facilities available to attendees: Real Time Captioner and Induction Loop System.

We meet at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, in The Parlor Room. The address is 3471 Westheimer at Edloe, Houston, TX 77027. The Parlor Room has an in-place induction loop system! Note Room Change!

Our New Star!

Our favorite person, Lois Johnson, is now on a magazine cover! If you didn't see it yet, check out www.hearingloss.org website to see her cover picture. Better yet, join HLA and get all the benefits AND the Hearing Loss journal!

Sad News:

Patricia Berry passed away May 13th after a fall at her home. She was a long time National HLA member, a Houston chapter member and she went on to form the Clear Lake chapter, and was instrumental in helping to start the HLA Texas State Office. A memorial service was held May 15th at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Seabrook. She is survived by 2 children & their spouses, Michael & Carol Berry of West Chicago, Ill, and Rebecca and Winton Roberds of Seabrook, Tx. Grandchildren include Tamra and David Roberds-Roach, Lilly Roberds and Williams Roberds. See page 2 for excerpts from her life story as told by her daughter.

June 17-20: National HLA convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin!

<http://www.hearingloss.org/convention/index.asp>

For those attending the convention, the Texas state meeting will be held on Friday, June 18th from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in Room 203AB in the Midwest Airlines center (mezzanine level). Please email Lois Johnson if you plan on attending so we can have a count for the continental breakfast. ettalois@sbcglobal.net

Note: HLA received a donation for part of the breakfast cost in memory of Pat Berry, bringing the cost down to \$10.00 per person. See You There!

July 10, 9:30 a.m.-Monthly Meeting. Dr. Michelle Ludwig will speak on "Cancer Screening & Prevention". She will have her dog Marguerite with her.

August 14, 9:30 a.m.-Monthly Meeting. Sheila Aron, an author, will be the speaker. Sheila learned the lessons championed in her debut book, *I'm Glad I'm Me, Weaving the Thread of Love From Generation to Generation*, from her most cherished educators - her parents, Lena and Leon Aron.

A Houston native and child advocate, Sheila Aron served on the board of The Center for Hearing and Speech and also supports The River Performing and Visual Arts Center, which serves children with special needs. Here is her website:

<http://www.sheilaaronbooks.com/index.html>

Patricia Ann Berry

1927-2010

As told by Rebecca Roberds

Patty's death was a surprise to all of us. She came from a line of long-lived, hardy pioneers. But in spite of her good physical health, her mind was slowly slipping away and she was terrified of not remembering those that she loved. So I can stand here today and know that God showed infinite mercy in taking her so quickly. My Mom had a uniquely varied and rich life. Many of you may know only portions of her story, so I'd like to share a little about her experiences with you.

My Mom grew up as Patricia Ann Clay in Battle Creek, Michigan. Times were tough, it was the depression. She told of frequently having only bread and milk for dinner, or of being excited to find a bobby pin or penny in the street. Mom's life was simple but full. She got straight A's, obeyed her parents and was a goody two shoes. In the winter, she took her skates to school every day and stopped on the way home to skate until dinnertime. In the summer, she went to her cousin's house in rural Indiana. This cousin, Stark Sanders, became her life-long buddy and is here today with his lovely wife Caroline. Being a few years older, Patty felt it was her duty to tease him like a little brother. In particular, Stark endured her teasing over his assigned task of chicken beheading.

Forty years later, Stark finally got revenge when a large bird invaded his house, and a visiting Patty was handed a butcher knife and told to go to work.

When WWII broke out, many of the young men in her senior class left school to enlist. She still talked about the friends that didn't make it home, in particular a tall, dark handsome boy that she knew from church. His death broke her heart. Knowing that they were especially fond of each other, his parents asked her to give the eulogy at his funeral. She was only 16. I imagine the two of them are getting reacquainted about now.

While Patty was a very humble and seemingly conforming person, at her core she carried the spirit of adventure of those pioneer ancestors. At 18, she drove to California with a friend and had drinks with John Wayne. At 21 she moved to Minneapolis for an exciting job without ever having been there before.

And at 25 she joined the US Foreign Service and was sent to Vienna. Vienna was a bombed out mess at the time, occupied by the four Allied powers and surrounded by eastern block countries. Little Pat Clay from little Battle Creek was thrown into a world of political intrigue that included cloak and dagger spies, elaborate balls, parties and very real danger. Because Vienna was in the Russian sector, she was frequently followed by the KGB and her phone was taped. One time she inadvertently took a picture of a secret military installation and literally had to run for her life from a jeep full of Soviet soldiers.

It was in Vienna that Mom met my Dad. At the embassy, he was a picture perfect Marine guard who was assigned to security. My Mom was a knockout with a 36-22-34 "figure. Dad initially introduced himself to her by gluing down everything on her desk, claiming it was a safety precaution against stapler or pencil theft. I can't quite imagine how romantic that must have been for the two of them!

After a couple of years, Patty came home to get married and have babies...that being my older brother Mike and me. They settled back in Michigan and led a normal life for a decade or so. Mom was devoted and kind, couldn't cook, could never remember that my Dad liked a glass of water with dinner or that I was allergic to broccoli. But she didn't get mad when I brought home with pockets full rabbit droppings, or we ruined the frying pan making pancakes, or we used up all her stamps by gluing them to her face while she slept. The biggest gift she gave us was not making us color inside the lines, for which I will be forever grateful.

As Mike and I got older, Mom's thirst for learning new things led her into the art world. She had studied the fine art of enameling in Vienna, and this became her passion. Within a few years, Patty's enamels were highly sought after and her work exhibited all over the country.

Sadly, as Mike and I grew up, my parents grew apart and were eventually divorced. Patty moved to Houston, where I was living, and started a new life. She quickly landed a job with Houston Grand Opera and wound up working for the director for 20 years.

(continued on page 3)

He sent an email calling her a Girl Scout and a true friend. Life at the opera was a whirlwind of intense work, intense personalities and lots of parties. Once again, my Mom needed a steady supply of ball gowns and cocktail dresses. Pavorotti called her Patty (a name which stuck), Placido Domingo asked her to play softball, Maurice Sendak drew her little pictures, and she threw Leonard Bernstein in the pool.

Mom was in her seventies when she retired and moved in with my family. She probably would have continued to work if she hadn't lost her hearing. But she refused to consider her deafness as a disability or a liability and became very involved in Self Help for Hard of Hearing, or SHHH, both on a national level and by starting a local chapter in Clear Lake.

The last couple of years Mom really slowed down. When asked if she wanted to get involved in some activity or other she said she was relishing time with no schedules. She loved being with her family, especially her grandchildren Tamra, Lilly and Will. As a grandmother, Patty considered herself an expert. She put jackets on Will whether he was cold or not, gave Lilly pimple cream for her eighteenth birthday and presided over Tamra's wedding like a queen bee. Well, we all know there can only be one queen in the hive, so my Mom and I had some things to work out. . Because of her truly generous spirit we were able to learn from each other and grow and laugh.

All along the way Mom made friends and kept them and they continued to be a big part of her life. Her great regret was that lately she hadn't had the energy to stay in contact with people, but the many emails she has received in the last couple of days tells me she was always loved and not forgotten. . She touched many people and will always be a part of our lives.



BAHA event in Houston

Cochlear is excited to announce that we will host our first **Baha only** event in Houston on June 23rd at the Center for Hearing and Speech. They have graciously donated their space so that current Baha recipients as well as people interested in learning more about the Baha System, can connect and learn more.

When: June 23rd, 6:30 pm to 8:30 Pm

Where: Center for Hearing and Speech
3636 West Dallas Street
Houston, TX 77019

Please RSVP as space is limited: 800-805-8032, option 2, X848 or online at www.regonline.com/connectbaha

Family & friends are welcome to attend.

Please direct all questions regarding this event to Paula Moore at pmoore@cochlear.com

Hearing Loss Information Online

Get accurate information about hearing loss, its causes and what to do about it. The Hearing Loss Association of America contracted with Knowlera Media to produced a series of seven, four-minute, captioned videos on hearing loss. Information you need to be adequately briefed on the topic is all in one place in an easy-to-access format. If you think you have a hearing loss or know someone who does, please point them to the videos where hearing health care professionals and people with hearing loss talk about what you can do about it.

1. Hearing Loss Basic Facts:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/learn/hearingloss_vids.asp#1>

2. Hearing Loss Symptoms:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/learn/hearingloss_vids.asp#2>

3. Hearing Loss Diagnosis:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/learn/hearingloss_vids.asp#3>

4. Hearing Loss Treatments:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/learn/hearingloss_vids.asp#4>

5. Living With hearing Loss:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/learn/hearingloss_vids.asp#5>

6. Hearing Loss Causes & Prevention

<http://www.hearingloss.org/learn/hearingloss_vids.asp#6>

7. Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants and Assistive Listening Devices:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/learn/hearingloss_vids.asp#7>

http://www.hearingloss.org/learn/hearingloss_vids.asp

Remember when?: Hearing Aid Museum Website:

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

This Month in Bethesda

'This Month in Bethesda' is a report from Brenda Battat, Executive Director. It highlights activities of the National office thought to be of interest to members. All activities are in addition to the ongoing office work of supporting chapters, answering inquiries, publishing Hearing Loss Magazine and the HLAA e-News, producing the annual HLAA Convention, managing the Walk4Hearing™ and more.

HLAA has introduced two exciting new marketing and educational efforts which are being well received:

- During May, Better Hearing and Speech Month, Learn about Hearing Loss, a series of seven four-minute captioned videos debuted. The videos were produced by Knowlerra Media, written by Mark Ross, PhD. and Paul Hammerschlag M.D., coordinated by Barbara Kelley, deputy executive director, and filmed at the Bethesda HLAA office and the Johns Hopkins Hospital Listening Center. They are on the HLAA web site, the consumer monkeysee web site (<http://www.monkeysee.com/play/16596-hearing-loss-basic-facts-captioned>) and YouTube. This is part of our strategy to increase the public's awareness about hearing loss as a health issue and encourage people who think they might have hearing loss to seek help.

Even though they are on the internet, our plan is to also have copies made into DVDs for chapters to use at health fairs, presentations and at their regular meetings. We are receiving many requests from hearing health professionals for the videos to use in their waiting rooms. We are exploring the best way to distribute them and may make them a benefit of professional membership. The videos cover the following topics:

- Hearing Loss Basic Facts
- Hearing Loss Symptoms
- Hearing Loss Diagnosis
- Hearing Loss Treatments
- Living with Hearing Loss
- Hearing Loss Causes and Prevention
- Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants and Assistive Listening Devices

- Our second effort is reaching out to audiologists through "Everyone's a Winner," a scratch-off card inserted in the May/June issue of Audiology Today. The card highlights HLAA programs and explains the benefits of professional membership. We invite the audiologists to come see what HLAA has to offer them and their clients. They scratch off the circle where they find a code to use on our website to see if they have won a prize. Everyone wins a trial professional membership in HLAA and there are also other prizes that will be announced in October. We have had over 125 responses.

- Staff members are heavily involved in the last weeks before the Milwaukee Convention. Again, convention attendees will be given a Work Book that includes handouts from each presenter. This year we have 23 new exhibitors. People are invited to attend the exhibit hall free. All they have to do is go to the registration desk to get an entry badge. There are many exciting events planned and we are looking forward to seeing everyone.

- Chapter and state awards will be presented at the awards breakfast ceremony in Milwaukee on Sunday morning June 20, 2010. Once again the event is being generously sponsored by Ultratec. We are pleased to announce that the 2010 HLAA Keystone Award will go to Vic Matsui, HLAA board member and active chapter leader in the Williamsburg, Virginia area. Everything you need to know about the convention can be found at <http://www.hearingloss.org/convention/index.asp>.

- HLAA sent a letter of thanks to the Senators sponsoring Senate bill S 3304, the Equal Access to 21st Century Communications Act introduced by Senator Mark L. Pryor (AR) with co-sponsoring Senators John Kerry (MA), Byron L. Dorgan (ND) and Kent Conrad (ND). HLAA is thrilled that this legislation has been introduced in the Senate and that hearings are being held so quickly on the heels of its introduction. S. 3304 is related to and has many of the same provisions as HR 3101, the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2009. H.R. 3101 now has 47 co-sponsors (2 republicans).

- HLAA was successful in getting the US Department of Justice (DOJ) to alter its policy for testing in the Marshall Service for court security officers (CSO). Candidates for CSO positions may now be tested with hearing aids on. Several CSOs across the country were fired when they were unable to pass the hearing test without their hearing aids on. To bring attention to this testing requirement and to ensure employers have a standard for testing people who use hearing aids and cochlear implants,

(continued on page 7)

CAPTIONED ENTERTAINMENT

Check <http://www.moviewatcher.com/jsp/amg.jsp> to find titles and dates of OC and CC movies at AMC theatres.

AMC Studio 30, Willowbrook AMC 24, Deerbrook 24, Katy Mills 20, Gulf Pointe 30, First Colony 24 also have Rear Window Captioning. Be sure to request the closed captioned show when you buy tickets.

Note: AMC is no longer listing the upcoming captioned films on their main website. Now you have to check each theatre individually to locate the time of any films!

Edwards Greenway Palace 24, 3839 Wesleyan, have also been showing OPEN captioned movies. They are showing the 'OC' in front of the movie that is captioned, so check www.REGmovies.com and input 'Houston' in the search field, or the daily newspaper for movie dates & times.

You may link to the open captioned movies in Texas at : <http://www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/opencaptionedshowtimes.aspx#TX>

Another source of captioned movie listings is <http://www.fomdi.com/> You will need to input your zip code.

New source for captioned movies:-go to www.captionfish.com and click on 'change Search' Button. Then enter your city and state & click 'Go'.

IMAX @ Museum of Natural History-Rear Window Captioning- Anytime -Ask for the device at the door. Not all films are captioned so please ask before you buy tickets. Alley Theatre-615 Texas Avenue,

For tickets to the Alley Theatre call the Box office at 713 228-8421 (voice) through Relay Texas. www.alleytheatre.org -Click on "Education and Community" on top bar, then click on "Programs for the Audience" then on "Access Services". **Discounted tickets are available from Illuminations Arts: (713) 529-6910 Voice/FAX (813) 529-6909 TTY**.

Captions are provided at the Saturday matinee performance during the preview week.

Toyota Center: For non-Rockets events, captioning requests should go through Guest Services @ 713-758-7230. They will make arrangements for seating and accommodations for the captioner.

Theatre Under the Stars:

Check www.tuts.com for details and ticket information. Single tickets are available at 713-558-8887 or online, or at the TUTS box office, M-F 9am-6 pm; Sat.-Sun 11am-4 pm.

Broadway Series-see www.broadwayacrossamerica.com/houston for shows at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. Only one show of each performance is captioned.

The TDD# for tickets is 800-755-6244, or phone (713) 627-3570. Be sure to request tickets in the best spot to read the captioning. Please confirm this when you call to request tickets).

A.D. Players -Captioned Plays: (www.adplayers.org)

Call the box office at 713-526-2721. 2719 West Alabama. Be sure you request a seat with the best view of the captioning bar.

Houston Family Arts Center at Barker Cypress and 290 plans to caption all its plays. The center, also known as Berry Center, is located at 8877 Barker Cypress, Cypress, TX 77433. The website and tickets can be found at: <http://tickets.houstonfac.com/>

IN-SYNC CAPTIONING

2009-2010 SCHEDULE

July 3, 2010, 2:00, WICKED, Broadway Houston

July 22, 2010, 8:00, WICKED, Broadway Houston

Listing provided by In-sync Captioning service and

Teri Wathen.

Go Green!

We have a number of members who receive our newsletter via email. If you would like to receive it in email instead of paper format, please email the editor at mmhonomic@comcast.net with your email address.

Chuckle Corner: A Jack Daniels Fishing Story

I went fishing this morning but after a short time I ran out of worms.

Then I saw a cottonmouth with a frog in his mouth. Frogs are good bass bait. Knowing the snake couldn't bite me with the frog in his mouth I grabbed him right behind the head, took the frog out of the snake's mouth, and put it in my bait bucket.

Now the dilemma was how to release the snake without getting bitten. I grabbed my bottle of Jack Daniels and poured a little whiskey in its mouth. His eyes rolled back, he went limp. I released him into the lake without incident and carried on with my fishing using the frog. A little later, I felt a nudge on my foot. There was that same snake with two frogs in his mouth.

LIFE is GOOD in TENNESSEE !!!

(From TX Hearing Loss listserve)

HLAA receives award

- HLAA was honored by the Center for Hearing and Communication (CHC) (formerly the New York League for the Hard of Hearing) at their 100th Annual Meeting in New York City on May 25, 2010. Brenda Battat, executive director, accepted the Sheldon Williams Leadership Award that was bestowed by his son, Donald M. Itzkoff, Esq. The award honors the memory of Sheldon Williams, CHC's long-standing board member, friend and advocate and recognizes an exceptional leader in the field of hearing health. Cited was HLAA's wide-ranging, highly effective advocacy that exemplifies deep commitment. Many HLAA chapter leaders and members were there to support HLAA from Manhattan, Westchester and New Jersey. (From 'This Month in Bethesda' by Brenda Battat)

STAP

The Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program (STAP) was devised to assist individuals with disabilities to obtain a specialized telecommunications device or services to facilitate access to the telephone system. STAP provides a voucher to eligible individuals that may be exchanged for specialized telephone equipment or services. Communication Access Ability Group provides an equipment demonstration room conveniently located at our North Loop office. You may schedule an appointment by calling 713.807.1176 or you may e-mail the STAP Specialist, Ray Wathen, at ray.wathen@caag4.com

HOH

Communication Access Ability Group proudly offers Hard of Hearing Services (HOH) through a grant from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) - - Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. The basis for HOH is to eliminate communication barriers and to facilitate communication access through projects to expand or otherwise improve the provision of service to individuals who are hard of hearing, late deafened or oral deaf. To schedule a speaking engagement, seminar or conference, call 713.807.1176 or e-mail the Houston coordinator, Teri Wathen, at HLRS6A@dars.state.tx.us.



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HLAA MEMBERSHIP

Hearing Loss Association of America, (formerly SHHH - Self Help for Hard of Hearing People Inc.), is a national organization headquartered in Bethesda, MD.

You are invited to join the national organization. HLAA dues, payable annually in the month of joining, are \$25 a year and include a subscription to the bi-monthly, award winning Hearing Loss Journal, which is always filled with interesting and pertinent articles on hearing loss. Renewals of National membership dues are billed directly by National HLAA.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Annual Dues:

Individual \$35.00 _____

Couple/Family \$45 _____

Student \$20 _____

Professional \$60 _____

(Benefits include being in the online catalog)

Non-Profit Org & Libraries \$50 _____

Corporate \$300 _____

(with upgraded benefits)

Check benefits for each level at www.hearingloss.org/membership

Make Check Payable to "HLAA" and Mail to:
 Hearing Loss Association of America
 7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 1200
 Bethesda, MD 20814

Or you may join online by credit card at :

<http://www.hearingloss.org>

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(continued from page 4)

we met with the director and staff of the ADA Division of the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission (EEOC) to request that the EEOC put out guidance to employers about qualification testing – in particular allowing candidates to be tested with hearing aids and cochlear implants on.

As a result of this issue around testing in employment situations we now have a new Position Paper on Job Qualification Testing that may be found at <http://www.hearingloss.org/advocacy/positionpapers.asp>

Brenda Battat, 6/2/2010

**Hearing Loss Association of Houston
 (formerly SHHH Houston Chapter)**

HLA Houston Chapter is an affiliate of Hearing Loss Association of America. Please remember that making a donation to the Houston chapter does NOT automatically make you a member of HLAA. We encourage you to join both so you may receive maximum benefit from your membership. Membership donations for the Houston chapter are \$12 per year for individuals, or \$20 per year for a family, which includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter.

Date _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: () _____

Circle: V or TTY or both

Business Phone: () _____

Circle: V or TTY or both

Fax: () _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Would you like your Email address added to the chapter group list on Yahoo Groups? Yes or No

Would you prefer an email newsletter in place of the paper copy? Yes or No

Would you like to include your above personal information in the membership directory? Yes or No

**HLA Houston Membership – includes
 newsletter subscription:**

Individual (\$12) \$ _____
 or Family (\$20) \$ _____

National's Founder's Day
 contribution (voluntary) \$ _____

Additional Tax Deductible Local contribution –
 helps pay the newsletter and outreach expenses

(voluntary) \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

HLA Houston Chapter

and mail to:

**PO Box 572091
 Houston, TX 77257-2091**

Reminder: We welcome your donations in memory of , or in honor of, a loved one, or to commemorate any life event.

Calendar:

NO MEETING IN JUNE!

June 17-20: HLA National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

July 10, 9:30 a.m. Monthly Meeting. Dr. Michelle Ludwig, presenter

August 14, 9:30 a.m Monthly Meeting, Sheila Aron, presenter

Attention: New meeting room at the church in the Parlor Room!



HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON CHAPTER MEETS ON SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, except for June and December, at 9:30 AM., At ST. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3471 Westheimer at Edloe, Houston, TX 77027. Now in the Parlor Room. Park behind the church and walk through the fenced garden. We will try to have a sign pointing the way.

***HLA of HOUSTON CHAPTER
PO BOX 572091
HOUSTON TX 77257-2091***

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