

DIABLO VALLEY NEWS

Happy New Year!

DIABLO VALLEY CHAPTER MEETINGS

1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Except June, July, August and December

Walnut Creek United Methodist Church
1543 Sunnyvale Avenue
Wesley Room of the Education Building
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

The meeting room and parking are
at the back of the church.

Our meetings are open to the public. Donations are
accepted. We have an assisted listening system so
you can use your t-coil and most of our meetings
are captioned.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

January 5, 2011

Nazanin Noorei
Starkey Research

Hearing Loss Solutions

How the ear works, problems with hearing and
solutions to help you hear better.

February 2, 2011

Hamilton Web CapTel

Will give a presentation about the variety of
services Hamilton offers to people who are hard of
hearing.

March 2, 2011

Dr. Mimi Salamat, Ph.D., CCC-A, FAAA
Clinical Audiologist & Tinnitus Specialist

Real Ear Measurement

April 6, 2011

Randy Wright
Rossmoor

Induction Loops

Everything you wanted to know, how does it
work, how to set one up and can I have one at
home or in my car?

UPCOMING HLA WEBINARS

January 12, 2011
Hearing Research

February 24, 2011
The Masks of Hearing Loss, **Bluffing 101**

March 24, 2011
Cochlear Implants for Children and Adults

Transcripts available
Details available at: www.hearingloss.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ann Thomas

I would like to wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

As the New Year dawns I am occupied with family health issues. My 87-year old mother became ill, prior to Christmas and I spent the Christmas holiday in the hospital with my family. She is now home and making a slow recovery. My brothers and I have been taking shifts to help my Dad.

My experiences with my mother in the hospital motivate me to focus attention in the coming year on determining what services are being provide to people with hearing loss in the hospitals in our county. If you are interested in being on a hospital disability accessibility committee please contact me: AThomas@hearinglossdv.org

I am hoping to be able to be at our first meeting in 2011, but that may not be possible. If I am not able to be there, please warmly welcome our new Board of Trustee members Jody Smith and Derek Daniels. We still need a secretary and we would love to have someone volunteer.



Come on the 16th & stay through the 20th,
2 events at the same time.

HLAA Convention 2011

June 16-19, 2011

Hyatt Regency Crystal City

2nd International Hearing Loop Conference

June 18-20, 2011

HLAA & American Academy
of Audiology.

Hyatt Regency Crystal City

Crystal City is a suburb of Washington D.C

www.hearingloss.org/convention

FEELING GRATEFUL

By Debbie Sharp

Winter is here and with it comes a wide assortment of new and familiar experiences and memories. Since arriving here, temperatures range from 19° to 62° F, but it is mostly cold with nothing white and fluffy to go with it.

Outside with my dog on the morning of December 25, I giggled with glee when it started to snow. This spectacular sight and feeling, if you are a little bit nostalgic like me, lasted all of about 15 minutes. That was the last time it snowed here. Thank you.

Recent life changes brought the addition of new sounds to my repertoire. Most of the time, I can tell what it is and others I have to ask about before giving it a name. Some existing sounds seem as though they are now at maximum volume, in addition to being somewhat irksome (train whistles). Each day, new and existing, albeit amplified noises become easier to live with. Thank you.

I could not believe my eyes when I recently read the letter Ann wrote on the chapter's behalf. HLAA-DV members voted to forgive my \$500 loan in support and recognition of my volunteer services to the chapter. I am truly grateful to be the recipient of your generosity. Thank you.

Finally, congratulations to the 2011 Board of Trustee members Derek and Jodi. I wish continued success to Ann and Bob for their combined array of dedicated services to our chapter and organization. Thank you, too.

ANOTHER LESLIE

By Dr. Leslie Harrold

This other Leslie had a hearing loss far greater than mine and far longer lasting. The other Leslie is, of course, Leslie Nielsen, the actor. He had a hearing loss for most of his life.

He had a kind of a loss that could be treated by hearing aids. He wore them most of his life and saw many many technological advances. As he went along in his career, he always supported the

organizations for people with hearing loss. He became President of the International Better Hearing Institute, a powerful international force for our cause.

But here's the thing about Leslie Nielsen. He played in more than 50 films and in many television shows. All told, he portrayed some 220 characters. He started out by studying acting at the Lorne Green Academy in Canada but worked his way up the acting ladder in the United States. His early work was in drama, but his calling was comedy, at which he was a master.

Through it all, never once did Leslie Nielsen let his disability define him. Thank you, for this life principle for us.

Better hearing Institute: www.betterhearing.org

FEDS TO REQUIRE MOVIE INTERNET-VIDEO CAPTIONING

By John Waldo

The United States Department of Justice today observed the 20th anniversary of the **Americans with Disabilities Act** in dramatic fashion by announcing that it will require movies and many internet videos to be captioned, and thereby made accessible to people with hearing loss.

DOJ is proposing that within five years of the adoption of the regulations, at least 50% of all movie theaters must be equipped to show every movie in closed-captioned form. DOJ does not intend to require any specific form of caption display, but will leave that decision to the individual theaters.

Consistent with its past approach and with the **Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision** in the Harkins case from Arizona, DOJ is going to require closed-captioned movies, where the captions are visible only to people whom request display devices. The proposal states that if some theaters wish to show open-captioned movies, they may be permitted to do so, and in that case, would not be required to engage the captions for every showing. DOJ did state, though, that a theater that elected the open-captioned option would

need to show some prime-time weekend evening movies with captions.

There is a lot to like here.

First, DOJ correctly stated that the obstacle to accessible movies has been the theaters -- that the studios prepare captions for the vast majority of first-run movies (this is actually done by the **Media Access Group** at WGBH public television in Boston), but that the theaters show only a tiny proportion of movies with captions.

Second, DOJ rejected the theaters' argument that no captioning requirement should be imposed until they convert from analog display using film to digital display. DOJ said the time frame for conversion is too uncertain, and has been promised for too long, to continue delaying making the movies accessible to people with hearing loss.

Personally, I think DOJ is biting off way too little by proposing captioning for only 50% of the screens, and by calling for a five-year phase-in period. While the general economy may be sour, times are good for the theaters -- 2009 was their best year since the Great Depression. I think they can afford to do a great deal more, and do it considerably faster.

DOJ's proposal to require captioned internet videos is even more audacious, because unlike movie theaters, isn't clear that ADA regulates the internet, or that DOJ has the legal authority to impose these regulations. DOJ is basically taking the position that as more commercial activity goes on line, fair treatment for people with disabilities can only be achieved if they have reasonable access to the internet.

The two Advance Notices of Proposed Rulemaking were published July 26 in the Federal Register. That is the first step in promulgating regulations that will have the force of law nationwide. DOJ has posed a number of questions, and invites responses from interested individuals and groups for the next six months. It will consider those responses, then draft and propose final regulations, which will also be subject to a comment period. And after it adopts those

regulations, affected parties can appeal to court. So DOJ's actions are only the beginning of a process that may take some time.

This appears to be a huge leap forward for DOJ. After spending many years and millions of dollars dealing through regulation with the needs of people with mobility challenges, it's great that DOJ is now proposing to address the needs of the enormously larger population of people with hearing loss. So Happy Birthday ADA from us.

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John Waldo Hearing Loss Law
www.hearinglosslaw.com

Notice of Public Hearings

The Department of Justice Proposed Rulemaking to Revise the ADA Implementing Regulations

January 10, 2011

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., PST
San Francisco Marriott Marquis
55 Fourth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

The Department of Justice has scheduled a public hearing, which seek public comment on the possibility of revising the ADA regulations to address **accessible web information and services, movie captioning and video description**, accessibility of Next Generation 9-1-1, and accessible equipment and furniture. The ANPRMs were published in the Federal Register on July 26, 2010, and the comment period for them closes on January 24, 2011.

There is advanced and on site registration. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person or organization, but commenters who wish to may supplement their testimony with written statements that will be made part of the official hearing record.

Information:
www.ada.gov/anprm2010/anprm_nov-jan_2010.htm



CLASS ACTION ALLEGES CALIFORNIA FAILS TO ACCOMMODATE ITS DEAF WORKERS

A class action lawsuit has been filed by employees of the state against Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the State of California alleging that the state has systemically failed to provide basic accommodations for its deaf employees in violation of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and state law. Deaf and Hard of Hearing State Workers United, an organization formed to protect the rights of employees with hearing disabilities, is also a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

Disability Rights Advocates, a Berkeley-based non-profit law center, and the civil rights firm Schneider Wallace Cottrell Brayton Konecky LLP, which together brought a similar, and successful, nationwide class action against United Parcel Service represent the employees in 1999.

The lawsuit, which seeks no damages, is focused on making improvements to the State's policies and procedures for handling accommodations for its deaf employees. The lawsuit alleges that the State regularly fails to fulfill interpreter requests for staff meetings, job trainings, departmental meetings, performance reviews and meetings with consumers and the public at large. The lawsuit also asserts that the State does not have adequate emergency evacuation procedures or warning lights to alert its deaf employees in the event of an emergency.

The complaint, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, details problems at the Department of Rehabilitation, Department of Justice, California Public Employees Retirement System and the Department of Social Services.

Information:
www.dralegal.org

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Did you receive a reminder to renew your membership from HLAA? If so, please send it to us rather than to them. Instead of charging chapter dues, we receive \$10 from HLAA for each membership that is processed through our chapter.

*If you don't mail your check to us,
we don't get the \$10.*

RECYCLE UNUSED HEARING AIDS

Mail them to the address below:

The Hearing Foundation, Ear of the Lion

850 San Jose Avenue, Suite 115
Clovis, CA 93612

Contact:

Terry Brooks
800.327.8077
hearfoundation@aol.com

CALLING ALL WRITERS!

We are seeking YOUR stories about YOUR life. Have you had an eye-opening experience relating to hearing loss or tried a new technology lately? Tell us about it!

All articles will be edited for availability of space, accuracy and style. Articles should be 350 words or less and **single**-spaced after periods.

Submit via email by the **5th** of the month to:
HLAADV@hearinglossdv.org

HLAA-DV MONTHLY BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

HLAA-DV BOT meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Bride's Room at the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church. Chapter members are encouraged to attend.

Join Us!

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Membership includes national, state and local Diablo Valley Chapter memberships, *Hearing Loss Magazine*, *The Hearing Loss Californian* and *Diablo Valley Chapter* newsletters. For international and corporate rates, please visit www.hearingloss.org.

\$20 Student

\$35 Individual

\$45 Couple

\$60 Professional

Please send the Diablo Valley Chapter newsletter by:

E-mail

US mail

None

Chapter Donations: Please donate! We need your help. Your donation can help us better serve our community.

100

\$75

\$50

\$25

\$10

Other _____ no amount too small

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to

HLAA-DV

P.O. Box 5495

Walnut Creek, CA 94596-1495

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Your dues and donations may be tax deductible.

HearingLossNation

The social network for young and hard of hearing

HearingLossNation is a nonprofit online community designed specifically for hard of hearing (HOH) individuals between the ages of 18 and 35.

<http://hearinglossnation.ning.com>

<http://hearinglossnation.ning.com/video>



Hearing Loss Association of America

Diablo Valley Chapter
P. O. Box 5495
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-1495

Please send all correspondence to our P.O. Box

**Our next Chapter meeting is
January 5, 2010**

We have an HLAА-DV Information Booth at the WC Farmers' Market. Contact Ann if you are interested in participating.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Ann Thomas
AThomas@hearinglossdv.org

Vice President: Jody Smith
JSmith@hearinglossdv.org

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Derek Daniels
DDaniels@hearinglossdv.org

Past President & Hearing Systems Specialist: Bob Zastrow
shhhbob@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor: Ann Thomas

Web Master: Debbie Sharp

HLAA-DV MESSAGE CENTER:
925.264.1199
info@hearinglossdv.org

HLAA-DV WEBSITE: www.hearinglossdv.org
Check our website for up-to-date information about chapter meetings, local advocacy, assistive technology and resources.

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. The National support network includes the Washington D.C. area office, 14 state organizations, and 200 local chapters. Hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome. You do not have to hide your hearing loss. You do not have to face hearing loss alone.

RESOURCES

HLAA: www.hearingloss.org

HLACA: www.hearinglossca.org

HLAA-DV: www.hearinglossdv.org

Captioned movies:
www.captionfish.com
www.fomdi.com

California Telephone Access Program and the California Relay Service: www.ddtp.com

Q & A in the workplace: www.eeeoc.gov/facts/deafness