

DIABLO VALLEY NEWS



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.

ALD Demo Library opens at 6:00 p.m.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

December 4, 2010

Holiday Open House

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Ann Thomas?

3118 Lunada Lane

Alamo, CA 94507

925.838.8306

AThomas@hearinglossdv.org

RSVP

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.

UPCOMING HLAA WEBINARS

December 15, 2010

Financing Your Hearing Aids

January 12, 2011

Hearing Research

February 24, 2011

The Masks of Hearing Loss, **Bluffing 101**

March 3, 2011

Cochlear Implants for Children and Adults

Transcripts available

Details available at: www.hearingloss.org

BUTTERFLIES IN NOVEMBER

By Debbie Sharp

At the last HLAA-DV meeting I attended in October, I didn't know that I would eventually move half way across the nation but it was always on the list as the last option due to my job and residence situations. When push came to shove, it was a very difficult decision to accept but then everything fell into place. Time was crucial and I was on overdrive until I arrived here. I drove a 16-foot moving truck 1,942 miles by myself from the Bay Area to where my parents live, a small town called Neosho. It took me four days to make the trip. Derived from the American Indians, the town name means *clear or abundant water*. There are nine springs within the city limits. Downtown is literally a town square with a courthouse in the center. Vehicle traffic goes one way all the way around.

I'm not living within the city limits but in the country. Less than a San Francisco-sized city block away from my home, is a railroad track that is busy at least a dozen times in a 24-hour period. The whistle blows often, no matter the time of day or night. For years when I used to visit this area, I imagined hobos jumping on and off the train while it sat for what seemed like hours before moving on. Armed with a pair of binoculars, I was relieved when I realized they were railroad employees.

The weather is turning bleak, the wind howls, no internet connection in the country where I live, and no HLAA chapter for miles. On the bright side, I see an abundance of yellow butterflies in the big yard around my parent's 100+ year-old farmhouse. Red cardinals are plentiful everywhere. Most importantly, my family is supportive during this transition.

So those yellow butterflies that I've been seeing every day since November 5th remind me that there is beauty even in the most trying life situations. I think of our chapter often and feel very appreciative for every person I met and the knowledge and experience I acquired.

Thank you - from my heart.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ann Thomas

I would like to wish all of you a warm and happy holiday season and a Happy New Year! If I don't see you at the Open House I look forward to seeing you at the January meeting.

Congratulations to our new BOT members, Jody Smith, Vice President and Derek Daniels, Treasurer. We still need a Secretary. If anyone is interested please let me know.



Crystal City is a suburb of Washington D.C

**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

Early Bird Special Deadline 12.31.2011

Register for the Full Activity Package or Loop
Conference for a chance to win a **Kindle 3G**.

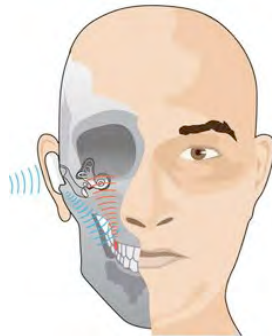
www.hearingloss.org/convention

GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE WITH SINGLE SIDED DEAFNESS

By Derek Daniels

In 2006 Amir Abolfathi, a Bay Area resident and Vice President of R&D for Invisalign, a company known for transparent dental braces, had an exceptional idea. Because his work involved teeth and jawbones he knew that bone was a good sound conductor. He wanted to know if he could use that knowledge to develop an oral, removable, hearing aid that would channel sound from the wearer's teeth to his/her ear through the bones in the head. As it turned out, the biggest challenge involved miniaturization. He decided to use a piezoelectric actuator, which needs very little power to generate the vibrations that travel through the bone and he was able to use a much smaller battery so that the entire insert would comfortably fit in the mouth. His 4 years of research led him to design what has become known as the SoundBite.

Nearly invisible when worn, the SoundBite system consists of an easy to insert and remove ITM (in-the-mouth) hearing device, which is custom made to fit around either the upper left or right back molar and a small microphone unit is worn behind the ear. No modifications to the teeth are required. The tiny microphone worn in the deaf ear wirelessly beams incoming sound to an electronic receiver in the molar insert, which transmits sound waves from the teeth through the bones in the jaw to the cochlea. The cochlea is the part of the ear that processes sound.



Unlike the BAHA, which also uses bone conduction, the SoundBite requires no surgical implant. Instead, the SoundBite can be popped in and out of the mouth like a retainer. Patients in a clinical trial reported that the SoundBite typically restored 80 to 100% of their hearing in the deaf ear and they scarcely noticed they were wearing it. Dr. Lawrence Lustig, Director of the University of California Cochlea Implant Center, was so impressed with the SoundBite that he says he will recommend it to people who would otherwise have to undergo surgery.

This system is currently in clinical trials and is intended to support an initial filing for FDA 510(k) clearance to treat single sided deafness. Intended future indications include conductive and mixed hearing loss.

For more information contact:
www.sonitusmedical.com/product

JACK'S TWO PATHS

By Dr. Leslie Harrold

Jack Clemens is a member of our chapter and one of the world's good guys. For the past twenty years his life has taken two paths. One path has been, along with his wife Pat, the path of the impresario. Pat and Jack have discovered and presented the musical talents of a number of excellent performers, in venues all across the greater Bay Area.

Their first client was a young man who had devoted many years and intensive study of ragtime piano, especially the work of Scott Joplin. They first heard Scott Kirby in concert at a small venue in the Central Valley. They signed him immediately. And so was born, PJ Concerts. So now, how to present him? A friend had a big old Victorian home in San Francisco. Their friend is a musician and a collector of musical instruments. So it was a natural setting for Scott Kirby. Scott has been a client for many years. Others came along, Mimi Blais, a French Canadian performer and the marvelous Norwegian National Treasure, the Ophelia Orchestra. If you ever have a chance to see Ophelia, take it.

Jack's other path developed about the same time as PJ Concerts. It was a progressing hearing loss. Imagine the tragedy of being involved with producing musical shows for the joy of many and being increasingly unable to enjoy the music—a tough burden to live with.

Jack, of course, went down the road of technology. Some help for sure, but not enough to keep up with the loss. Finally Jack heard about cochlear implants. For a while he was told the loss was not profound enough yet. What a blow, being told to wait till it gets really bad.

Finally he was told about a study being done at The University of California Medical Center, San Francisco. Maybe he would qualify and that would be the way to an implant. And it was.

He qualified for the study, made his contribution in that way, and got one cochlear implant. Instant improvements in some areas, not as much in music sounds, but it's coming along. He is in an interesting class at University of the Pacific teaching him how to listen (Probably we could all benefit from that one). They tell him, music appreciation will come along.

Jack is grateful and optimistic. The two paths are parallel again. And all is well

CAP TEL CHANGES

Important Change to Remove Pre-recorded CA CapTel Announcement Message

CapTel telephone users in California currently see and hear a pre-recorded message at the beginning of each CapTel call that makes both call parties aware that another person is on the line.

Specifically, the CPUC has determined that CapTel users can comply with the law by directly informing the other participant on the CapTel call that a third party is on the call. The third party is a specially trained captionist who re-voices what the hearing party says using speech-to-text software. This technology automatically transcribes the CA's voice into text, which is simultaneously reviewed by the CA and is transmitted to the CapTel user's text screen. It is the CapTel users' legal responsibility to make the other party on the call aware of the captionist's presence.

What CapTel Users Now Need to Do: beginning on October 28, 2010 CapTel users will see a brief text-only message at the start of each call reminding them of their legal responsibility. This text message will say, "California law requires you to inform the other person(s) that there is an operator on the call." It is the responsibility of the CapTel user to inform the other party that there is a captionist on the call; however, the CapTel users will have complete control over the words they use.

CapTel Frequently Asked Questions go to:
ddtp.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CRS/CRS%20FAQs.pdf

SHARE NEEDS HELP

By Don Ray

Volunteer needed for the front desk.

SHARE is a food pantry supported by about 20 churches, including mine, The Walnut Creek United Methodist Church. I have volunteered for SHARE for more than 20 years. The pantry is located at the First Christian Church on Willow Pass Road, near the city offices and library. The church provides the space and utilities and all our workers are volunteers. Our expenses include food purchases from the Food Bank, garbage and some minor office supply expenses. A friend, Mark Hall provides computer support and created our computer program.

I work the front desk on Monday morning and enjoy this greatly. I receive those who come for food, most are regulars and some are new. Each client is entered in our computer, and allowed to come once monthly for a 3-day supply of food.

We get donated food from many churches, Safeway, Trader Joe's, Starbucks, COSTCO, Alpine Bakery & Grace Baking. The *Lemon Lady*, Anna Chan brings donations from Farmers Markets. She visits them at day's end and solicits donations.

This past Monday morning we served more than 35 clients. Some are individuals, some families, some Grandparents who support and care for grandchildren; a good many are homeless, just a few sleep out, others stay with friends, or rent a room. Some are mentally challenged, some addicted to drugs, but most just don't have enough money. There are many nationalities with no dominant one.

We are in great need of someone to work a half-day at the front desk. I would be pleased to have any interested person sit in on a Monday morning, as long as they wish, to see what is required.

Contact: Don Ray—donray1@astound.net

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 HLAA-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: Debbie Sharp

DSharp@hearinglossdv.org

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Open

Past President & Hearing Systems Specialist: Bob Zastrow

shhhbob@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editors: Debbie Sharp & Ann Thomas

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.eeoc.gov/facts/deafness