



**Feb. 14 Chapter Meeting**  
**Let's Go to the Movies!**

How long has it been since you went to the movies because of your hearing loss? Did you know many of them have reclining seats? These days you can buy your tickets and pick where you want to sit before you go. Some will even deliver dinner to your seat! Theaters are required now to provide listening devices, but they can be confusing to use. Come hear what kind of assistance there is, how to get it to work, what to do if it doesn't...and "Let's Go to the Movies!"

*Katie Wright is a past president of the Long Beach/Lakewood chapter of HLAA, and current Chair of their HAT (Hearing Assistive Technology) Committee and works with multiple other committees related to hearing loss and technology. She has worn hearing aids for almost 20 years and is passionate about helping others discover how technology can help them live better in a hearing world.*



**Join us at the movies in March**

Hesitant to go alone? Join a chapter outing to the movies with Katie. Details to come!

**January chapter meeting recap**

Our Professional Advisor, Dr. David DeKriek, Au.D., spoke to us about audiograms. We learned about decibels, frequencies, X's and O's, and how audiologists interpret the results. We were all encouraged to bring our own audiograms for reference. Dr. DeKriek answered many questions after his presentation. It was very informational—one of our best programs!

*Happy Valentine's Day!*

**UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS**

*Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Weingart Center, 5220 Oliva Ave, Lakewood 90712. (See map on last page, or on the outside of print copies.)*

**Feb 9 HAT Demonstration**

Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to noon

**Feb 14 Chapter meeting: Katie Wright**

Thursday, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

"A Night at the Movies" Find out how to request and use assistive devices provided by movie theaters.

**Feb 27 Board meeting**

Wednesday, noon to 2:00 p.m.

*Open to any chapter member*

**Mar 9 HAT Demonstration**

Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to noon

**Mar 14 Chapter meeting: Katie Wright**

Thursday, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Gadgets! Gadgets! Gadgets! Katie introduces some of HAT's alerting devices.

**Lip Reading classes (ongoing)**

Wednesdays 9:30–11:30 a.m. with Linda

**Chapter meetings** are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month from September through May, and are always free and open to the public. Meetings are telecoil looped, with live projected captions, and free use of assistive listening devices so everyone can hear. Refreshments and a drawing are included. Come join us!

**Share your hearing story with the chapter**

If you'd be willing to speak at a chapter meeting for 5 to 10 minutes about your personal experience with hearing loss, see Ellen Matthis to sign up for a future chapter meeting. She'll give you some guidelines and tips for your talk.

**Time to pay your annual chapter dues!**

Only \$1.00 for all of 2019!

Pay your dues to chapter Treasurer Craig Bowlby. Cash only, please!



**Dead hearing aid batteries piling up?**

Bring them to any chapter meeting—we'll collect them and dispose of them responsibly.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from **Gail Morrison**

### Happy Valentine's!

I recently switched from a phone company to a cable company to supply my TV, Internet and phone. Since I use a caption phone, I felt confident about the process and gave the cable company a call. I wanted to use a coupon they'd mailed me, which would give me a substantial savings over what I'd been paying.

When I mentioned my coupon, the cable rep asked for the name on the coupon. I didn't understand and he looked it up and didn't find my name on his list. Later, I looked at the letter and there was my name on the letter. So, use your name if you receive a customized coupon or savings offer.

During the entire painful process, which took at least 30 minutes, I didn't hear everything that he

said and even mentioned that I use a caption phone and that there's a delay. ZERO. Didn't make a connection. On and on he rattled off my choices. They could give me every sports channel that I never watch, but not the one channel I really wanted. Finally, we got my package together. He then transferred me to an agent who reviewed my package and asked me questions. I was encouraged to say "Yes" to all of the questions so my package would be approved. But the agent spoke too fast for me and after a while, I had no idea what he was talking about, But I kept saying Yes anyway. (Later I reviewed the terms on my caption phone and everything was fine.)

The installer who later came to my home was so kind—he was able to get my favorite channel included—for an additional fee.

So, that was my experience switching providers. Now I'm left with two bills due: one for the phone company and one for the cable company. I'm still glad I made the switch!



## Farewell and thanks, Louise Allen

Louise Allen, a member of our Chapter for 25 years, passed away recently. She had moved away from Long Beach in 2017 to be closer to her family. At that time we honored her service to our Chapter with a celebration. She was truly an integral part of our Chapter and still kept in touch with some of us through email and text messages. We will miss her tremendously.



In 2017, our Chapter nominated her for the Community Service Award from the Disabled Resources Center. Many of us attended that Awards Ceremony to celebrate with her.

Diagnosed with severe to profound hearing loss and wearing her first hearing aids, Louise was brought "kicking and screaming" to her first HLAA meeting by her daughter.

Eventually won over by being with others who understood and shared her struggles with hearing loss, Louise gradually became a "regular." She soon

*(continued on next page)*

## news from HAT Hearing Assistive Technology

by **Katie Wright**, HAT Chair

*Gadgets! Gadgets! Gadgets! Can't hear your alarm in the morning? Worried about hearing your smoke alarm? Would love to know if your Amazon package is at the door? No worries! Katie will bring various alerting devices for you to explore—doorbells, alarm clocks, phone ring flashers, sound signalers, pagers—to name just a few. Come check them out!*

This was the topic of my recent presentation to the HLAA-LA Chapter. The LA Chapter is full of younger people and does a great job of reaching out through social media—close to 40 people attended! I brought along alerting devices from our HAT inventory for people to try out. Ilga Dravnieks went with me to experience another HLAA Chapter and to assist during the hands-on portion. I left feeling very good about the information I was able to share; a couple people even emailed me later with more questions. I'll be speaking at Laguna Woods in March and at the Low Vision and Hearing Loss group at Seal Beach Leisure World later this month. Busy, busy, busy spreading the word about Hearing Assistive Technology!

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## Louise Allen

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volunteered to fill the position of Corresponding Secretary, which led to taking Chapter and Board minutes. The Vice-President and President offices followed. The only office she didn't hold was Treasurer, but her husband, Roy, volunteered for the job if she would do the typing! Also, during her time in the Chapter, she has been Publicity for the HAT Committee, a staff writer and Editor of our newsletter and Chair(s) of our Ways and Means, Programs, and Membership committees. For years, she sought community donations for Founder's Day and the Walk4Hearing, thus showing them the "face of hearing loss."

Louise attended the Seattle and Reno National Conventions and three California State Conferences. She has participated in all of the Walk4Hearing events in Long Beach, California. At one of the Walks, she won a hearing loop which she promptly had installed in the room at the Weingart Center where our Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter Lip Reading Classes, HAT Demos and Board meetings are held.

A great accomplishment of hers was obtaining grants during the years 2005 to 2010 totaling \$12,500 from the Boeing Employees Community Fund; two for captioning at our meetings, one to fund the Hearing Assistive Technology Committee (HAT) inventory and one for a State Board Leadership Conference.

In her words: "So many doors were opened to me by HLAA, and I found volunteering with the association to be personally fulfilling." She truly had found a second career of volunteer advocacy and activism with our Chapter.

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## Hearing Assistive Technology HAT demonstration

**Saturday, Feb. 9, 10:30–12:00**

Weingart Senior Center in Lakewood

Try out a large variety of devices that can improve your ability to hear better in difficult situations. These devices can be very helpful to people with or without hearing aids and are a lot less expensive.

*HAT does not sell hearing aids or hearing assistive devices. We DO provide information on where to purchase items we demonstrate.*

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## Informer print subscriptions

Receive paper copies of our terrific newsletter, the Informer. A subscription for 12 monthly issues delivered by US mail is only \$10 per year.

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## HLAA, Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter

### Officers

**President** Gail Morrison/Joyce Bowlby acting

**Vice-President** Joyce Bowlby

**Treasurer** Craig Bowlby

**Recording Secretary** Katie Wright

**Corresponding Secretary** Van VonBurg

### Committees

**Hearing Assistive Technology** Katie Wright

**Lip Reading** Linda DeGuire

**Looping** Ram Kakkar

**Membership** Ellen Mathis

**Programs/Publicity** Gail Morrison

**Refreshments** Adela Praderas, Joyce Bowlby

**Ways and Means** need volunteer!

### Professional Advisor

Dr. David DeKriek, Au.D.

### Newsletter

**Editor** Katie Wright

**Layout** Ilga Dravnieks

### For more information about our chapter:

[hlaa-lb-lakewood.org](http://hlaa-lb-lakewood.org)

email: [info@hlaa-lb-lakewood.org](mailto:info@hlaa-lb-lakewood.org)

**Katie Wright** (323) 205-6794

[katie.hearingloss@gmail.com](mailto:katie.hearingloss@gmail.com)

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## HLAA Hearing Loss Association of America

Join HLAA to receive *Hearing Loss Magazine* and to become part of the one organization that represents the interests of 48 million people with hearing loss in the U.S.

Send \$35 for individual or \$45 for family membership to:  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
7910 Woodman Avenue, Suite 1200  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Or join online: <https://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/become-a-memberrenew/>

For more information:

(301) 657-2248 or email [inquiry@hearingloss.org](mailto:inquiry@hearingloss.org).

Membership brochures are available at chapter meetings.

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## CTAP California Telephone Access Program

For information, repair or exchange:

English Voice 1-800-806-1191

Spanish Voice 1-800-949-5650

[www.californiaphones.org/about-us](http://www.californiaphones.org/about-us)

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Hearing Loss Association of America,  
Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter  
c/o Katie Wright  
7802 Kingbee Street  
Downey, CA 90242

### Upcoming Programs

**Feb 14** Katie Wright: A Night at the Movies

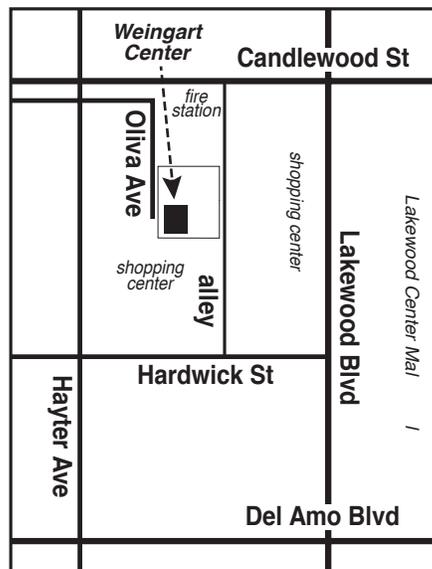
**Mar 14** Katie Wright: Gadgets! Gadgets! Gadgets!

### Monthly chapter meetings:

2nd Thursday of each month  
6:30-8:00 p.m.  
September through May

All Chapter meetings, Board meetings, lip reading classes, and HAT demonstrations are held at:

Weingart Center  
5220 Oliva Ave.  
Lakewood, CA 90712



### If you don't like meetings because you can't hear well, our meetings are different!

- We have a high quality sound system
- We'll lend you an assistive listening device
- If you have hearing aids with telecoils, we have a hearing induction loop.
- We project captions on the wall for you to read.

We provide all these options free so you can understand what is said.



### Hearing Loss Association of America

HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

Join HLAA now at

<https://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/become-a-memberrenew/>

to receive *Hearing Life Magazine* and become part of a nationwide nonprofit organization representing the interests of 48 million people living with hearing loss in the United States.