

April 11 Chapter Meeting:

Meet Jeanne Glass and her hearing dog Heather

Jeanne Glass will bring her service dog Heather and tell us about her experience with a hearing service dog: how she came to get Heather, what life is like with her service dog, and where to get further information on getting a hearing dog.



Jeanne has had a profound hearing loss for 60 years. For 25 of those years she has had a service dog. She volunteers with Canine Companions for Independence, BARK therapy dogs, and is a member of the Long Beach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Election and installation of your new chapter officers

Your nominating committee has prepared the following slate for your vote:

- President: Gail Morrison
- Vice President: Ram Kakkar
- Treasurer: Craig Bowlby
- Recording Secretary: Miryam Fernandez
- Corresponding Secretary: Van VonBurg

Candidates may also be nominated from the floor by any chapter member in good standing. Thank you to our Board members who offered to serve another term!

Mild hearing loss: not a mild problem

Jane Madell, Ph.D.

Mild hearing loss is a misnomer. I do not know what word to substitute but mild hearing losses are not a mild problem. The data is clear. Children with mild hearing loss are at risk for academic, speech-language, and social-emotional difficulties. Newborn hearing screening does not always pick up mild hearing loss so babies with

(continued on page 3)



UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

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

Apr 11 Chapter meeting: Jeanne Glass with her hearing dog Heather

Election and installation of officers
Thursday, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Apr 13 HAT Demonstration

Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Apr 24 Board meeting

Wednesday, noon to 2:00 p.m.
Open to any chapter member

May 9 Gloria Williams, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Counselor

will speak on exciting new ways CSULB is supporting students with hearing loss (to be confirmed)
Thursday, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

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!



The Hearing Loss Assoc. of America (HLAA) will celebrate its 40th anniversary at the upcoming HLAA2019 Convention, being held June 20-23 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center in beautiful Rochester, New York.

The HLAA2019 Convention, presented by CapTel Captioned Telephone, will feature an extensive lineup of educational workshops, a research

(continued on page 4)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from **Gail Morrison**

Happy Spring!

Have you been to the new Bob Murphy Access Center at CSULB? If you haven't already seen it, you must! Formerly called the Disabled Student Services Center, the new Access Center is now located in the Student Success Center on Bellflower Blvd.

As President of the Board of the Disabled Resources Center, I was invited to attend the Grand Opening of the new Center on March 15. As I was looking for Dolores Nason, the Executive Director of DRC, I saw a gentleman who looked like her husband George. I walked over to him, but it turns out it was Bob Murphy himself!

I asked for an ALD, but my escort said that they were all checked out by students. She guided me to the front row seats; I was a VIP! At the same moment. I saw Dolores and joined her. The PA system was very good and for the most part, I could hear. As the ceremony and ribbon cutting ended, all began moving around to chat. An employee, Gloria Williams came over to me and reminded me that she spoke to our Chapter

several years ago. She took me inside to show me the spacious reception area and down the hallway to the many offices, including her own. Everything was on the first floor and easily accessed. I was amazed by how clean, simple and modern the facility was. We stepped inside her office and she shut the sliding door so that it would be quiet for me to hear. I was touched by her understanding and comprehension of how difficult it is for me to hear in a large crowd!

I explained that when I was a student there from 1992-1998 I used their services. At that time it consisted of my taping the lectures, taking the tape to their offices and then picking up the transcribed lecture a week later! I was always a week behind. She began telling me what they offer now: A personal captioner sits in the classroom with the student and the student can either see the captions on a "table top" device or on a laptop. Everything that the professor says is recorded including comments from other students. I always missed these questions and comments while I was in class. I recall one teacher shaking her head and saying, "It was discussed in class!"

I invited Gloria to come to one of our meetings to share with us what CSULB is offering Deaf and HOH students! But do go and visit the Center. You'll be pleased as punch!

March chapter meeting recap

Katie Wright brought "Gadgets! Gadgets! and more Gadgets!" to our March meeting. So many of us have a difficult time hearing our doorbells or smoke alarms, having a conversation in a restaurant, or enjoying TV without disturbing others. It was great learning about devices that can help us cope so much better in a hearing world.

In addition, long-time member Linda DeGuire, retired Math professor at CSULB, shared her hearing loss story. She began to struggle with her hearing as a young adult but the hearing aids were so bulky and ineffective, that it was another 10 years before she tried again. Those went into a drawer also. As her hearing declined, she found that a single hearing aid was helping her teach—

not much but better than without—but wasn't really helping in other situations. As technology improved, so did her success with hearing aids. Teaching and meetings were still a struggle; her hearing continued to decline. Then, she found HLAA (then it was called SHHH (Self-Help for Hard of Hearing) and lipreading—which really helped in the classroom. Technology came to her rescue again with open-fit ear molds. She says they made all the difference in the world. Her hearing is continuing to decline but she's grateful for the support of her lipreading group and our chapter.



Mild hearing loss

(continued from page 1)

mild hearing loss may not get identified until they demonstrate delays.

Why are newborn hearing screenings missing mild hearing loss?

Current standard newborn hearing screening techniques are good at identifying moderate or greater hearing loss. So when the baby passes hearing screening the family is told the baby has normal hearing. Since the parents and pediatricians have been told that the baby has normal hearing, if concerns develop, it may not occur to parents or the pediatrician that hearing loss may be a factor.

What exactly is *mild* hearing loss?

The definition of mild hearing loss varies depending on the researcher so results indicating the effects of mild hearing loss vary. Some audiologists define mild hearing loss as hearing thresholds of 15-30 dB, others use 20-40 dB. Statistics vary from 1-3% of the newborn population to 54/1000 in the school population. Whatever criteria is used results in a significant number of affected children. The topic cannot be ignored.

What are the effects of a mild hearing loss?

Children with mild hearing loss will have less access to speech. A child with a 30 dB hearing loss will miss 25-40% of what happens in the classroom. A child with a 35-40 dB hearing loss will miss about 50% of what happens in the classroom. Bess et al, (1998) reported that 37% of children with minimal hearing loss (mild or unilateral) failed a grade by third grade.

A child with mild hearing loss will hear speech that is spoken close to the child, but when the child is 10 feet from the person talking, it will be difficult to hear. This is not an insignificant problem.

More than 80% of what children learn they learn by overhearing things not specifically directed to them (incidental learning). If a child has, even a mild hearing loss, he will miss a lot of what is said, resulting in delayed language.

Likely the delay will not be recognized for several years by which time we are talking about having to try and correct deficits rather than preventing delays.

Children with a mild hearing loss can be expected to have more problems hearing in noise than their typically hearing peers. Since the world is a noisy place it is not possible to avoid noise. If speech perception decreases in noise we expect a child to have language learning, and academic delays.

Counseling about mild hearing loss.

The worse thing we can say to a family is “it’s only mild.” It is not a mild problem. The data is very clear that children with mild hearing losses struggle. Does this mean they will never succeed? No, of course not. But it does mean that they will have to work harder. So let’s do what we can to make things as easy as we can. Let’s use technology and provide necessary therapy and school assistance. Our goal is to have all kids with any degree of hearing loss be able to do whatever they want to do.

Help pass AB 598 Let California Kids Hear

AB #598, a bill to mandate health plans cover hearing aids for children, will be heard on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 in CA Assembly Health Committee.

Call or write your Assembly Member and urge them to support AB 598. All letters and calls to Assembly Members, especially if your Member sits on the Health Committee, need to happen before April 23 to ensure it passes out of the Committee.

If successful, the next stop will be the Assembly Appropriations Committee a few weeks later. Let’s keep this moving through the legislative process to get this on the Governors’ desk.

Thank you for doing your part—this is so important for children and their families in our state and our legislators need to hear from all of us—parents and the professionals who serve them.

(continued on page 4)

Help pass AB 598

(continued from page 3)

Does my legislator sit on the Assembly Health Committee? Visit <https://ahea.assembly.ca.gov/membersstaff>

Who is my Assembly member? Visit <http://findy-ourrep.legislature.ca.gov>

Where can I find template call scripts and letters for parents and professionals to use as starting point? Visit <https://letcakidshear.com/take-action/>

To learn more, visit www.letcakidshear.com

Postcard writing campaign to support AB598 - Hearing Aids for Minors

Some ideas of what to write on the postcards:

- 24 states mandate hearing aid coverage for children yet California is not one of them.
- Only 1 in 10 children in California have hearing aids covered by private insurance
- Hearing aids can cost up to \$6000 for a child—a heavy financial burden for young families.
- The first 6 months of a child's life are the most critical in forming the brain pathways for speech and language development.
- California's Newborn Hearing Screening Program helps identify an infant's hearing status and guides families to services. However, many parents soon discover that necessary interventions and services are not covered by their health insurance.
- The estimated cost of special education and loss of productivity when a single child who is deaf or hard of hearing does not receive early intervention is \$1M

Here is a link to find your CA Assembly Member and State Senator, either by map or address: http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html

Most representatives have email contact pages on their websites and Facebook pages but we've heard that postcards are more effective. "Snail mail" addresses are usually on their websites. And they do tally every phone call. Absolutely the more the merrier!

HAAA 2019 Convention

(continued from page 1)

symposium presented by leading experts in the field, an exhibit hall filled with the latest technology for people with hearing loss (which is free and open to the public), several inspirational speakers and opportunities to explore the beauty of Rochester.

HAAA2019 Highlights and Details

At the Opening Session attendees will hear keynote speaker Rebecca Alexander, a psychotherapist, disability rights advocate, group fitness instructor, and extreme athlete tell her inspiring story. As a teenager, Rebecca learned that by age 30 she would be completely blind and deaf due to a rare genetic disorder called Usher syndrome (type III). Rebecca shares her deeply moving and personal journey of loss, resilience, perseverance, and hope that has led her to an illuminated life filled with tremendous meaning, hard work, intimacy, fulfillment, and self-acceptance. Opening Session is sponsored by Advanced Bionics.

This year's Research Symposium, *The Latest on Genetics and Hearing Loss* will be presented by world-renowned geneticists who will discuss the latest research on hearing loss that occurs later in life and what can be done for families who have inherited the gene. In a rapidly moving field, much has been accomplished since the last symposium on genetics in 1999.

The Latest on Genetics and Hearing Loss is supported by a grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), National Institutes of Health, and is sponsored by Cochlear Americas.

Additional details and highlights of the HAAA2019 Convention include:

- **Educational and State/Chapter Workshops** where we will dive into the advocacy, hearing assistive technology, genetics, and lifestyle of hearing loss. There will also be a special track dedicated to our State/Chapter leaders. Every workshop room will be fully accessible with hearing loops and CART/captioning. Sign language interpretation is also available by request.

(continued on page 5)

HLAA2019 Convention

(continued from page 4)

- **Cheers to 40 Years! HLAA Anniversary Celebration and Awards Gala** on Saturday, June 22 will be a special night where we pay tribute to our many accomplishments over the years, as well as honor those receiving an HLAA National Award, including former HLAA Board member Barry Kasinitz, who will be presented with the Rocky Stone Humanitarian Award. The Cheers to 40 Years Gala is sponsored by CapTel Captioned Telephone.
- **Night at the Museum**, on Friday, June 21, is an off-site event at the George Eastman Museum, an educational institution with a mission to provide leadership in the field of photography and cinema; preserve and develop world-class collections, as well as George Eastman's estate, a National Historic Landmark.
- **Complimentary registration for veterans** with hearing loss attending for the first time!

Hearing loops and CART/Captioning will be in use in all workshops and plenary sessions. Sign language interpretation is available for all plenary sessions. You may request interpreters for specific workshops by emailing convention@hearingloss.org. Please send your request by May 31.

For more information about the Convention, including how to register, the full schedule, and information about sponsorship, marketing and exhibiting opportunities, visit the [HLAA Convention page](#).

Hearing Assistive Technology

HAT demonstration

Saturday, April 13, 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.

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.

HLAA, Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter

Officers

President Gail Morrison

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

email: info@hlaa-lb-lakewood.org

Katie Wright (323) 205-6794

katie.hearingloss@gmail.com

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.

Membership brochures are available at chapter meetings.

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

DISCLAIMER: We believe the information contained in this publication has been compiled from reliable sources. However none of the contributors, sponsors, or anyone else connected with the Informer in any way whatsoever can be responsible for the appearance of any inaccurate or libelous information or for your use of the information contained in or linked from these pages. If you need specific advice, for example, for your particular hearing concerns, please seek a professional who is licensed or knowledgeable in that area. We further do not recommend or endorse any product or professional but supply such information as a public service.

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

Upcoming Programs

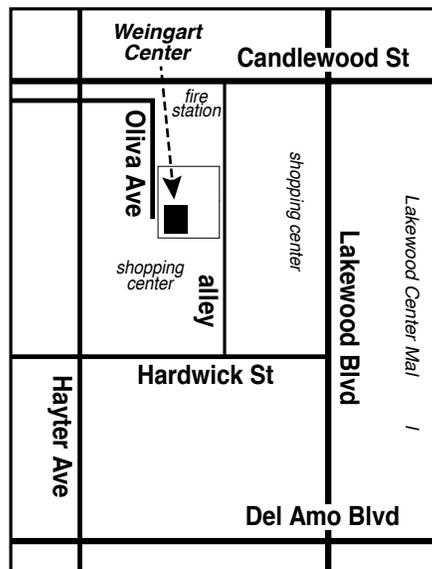
- Apr 11** Jeanne Glass with her hearing dog Heather,
Elections and Installation of officers
- May 9** Gloria Williams: new CSULB accommodations
for deaf and hard of hearing students

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.