

May 13 Chapter Meeting



Guest speaker
Judy Osuna

**Thursday May 13
6:30 pm on ZOOM**

Judy will show us how to use the Wheel of Life as a tool in personal communication. She'll help us identify mental blocks and reveal the motivation to move forward, giving us at least one action for a greater sense of success in life now.

Judy Osuna is the Community Outreach and Education Manager at Alzheimer's Family Center. She is an inspirational speaker, teacher, Minister and author of the book *You Do Not Have to Be Behind Bars to Be in Prison*. She has traveled for Tony Robbin's MUST team, taught meditation in a men's prison and helped hundreds of seniors learn the art of meditation.

She experienced her own EAT, PRAY, LOVE story, traveling to India and meeting with the Dali Lama—seeking a greater purpose to be of service in life. This awareness has brought her back to Huntington Beach, serving the community she grew up in and loves.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Upcoming chapter meetings on Zoom

June 10 – Gary Dorf: “What’s New in Oticon Hearing Aids.”

July 8 – Roy Trafalski: “Teaching Tennis to the Deaf and HOH.”

August 12 – We may just chat and discuss problems or issues that you may have.

Warning consumers of misleading over-the-counter hearing aid sales

Thomas Powers, Ph.D, and Kate Carr, President, Hearing Industries Association, April 22, 2021

Over the last several months, the Attorneys General of Arizona, Louisiana, South Carolina and Georgia issued warnings to be alert for scams or misleading sales tactics regarding Over-the-Counter (OTC) hearing aids. These warnings are an important reminder for consumers since the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) has not yet created the regulations governing the sale of OTC hearing aids.

In 2017, Congress passed legislation that required the FDA to create a new category of hearing aids that could be sold over the counter, or without the assistance of a hearing care professional, to those individuals with self-perceived mild to moderate hearing loss. The legislation set a date of August 2020 for the FDA to issue proposed regulations. The COVID pandemic taxed the resources at the FDA and the August deadline was not met. There are currently no OTC regulations from the FDA or FDA-approved OTC hearing aids that can be lawfully sold to consumers.

“Until the FDA finalizes their regulations on over-the-counter hearing aids, South Carolina consumers, especially seniors and military veterans, need to be mindful of unlawful and misleading products on the market. We are seeing more and more companies attempt to sell hearing aids over-the-counter that use the FDA logo or claim to be ‘FDA-registered,’ even though this new category of hearing aids has not been approved by the FDA.”

—South Carolina Attorney General, Alan Wilson

Consumers should also be aware that with the current lack of labeling requirements, sellers of OTC hearing devices are not obligated to inform consumers that their products are not intended for adults with severe hearing loss or for children

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from **Gail Morrison**



We hope that this finds you well! We are pleased to hear that things are slowly getting back to normal and hope to see you soon at Weingart.

Recently, you received a call from one of our members to see how you were doing during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have missed you during the Stay at Home orders. We find that it is important that we stay in touch and stay connected during this time. Some of you know that we have been holding our monthly meetings virtually by Zoom and have had some fun seeing each other. Staying in contact with each other has helped us to stay informed on our Chapter and helped us from becoming (too) depressed and isolated from the lock down.

We hope to see you at our May 13 meeting!



Happy 100th birthday!

Long-time chapter member and Board member Ken Saw is celebrating his 100th birthday this month. Best wishes, Ken!



**Support our
Walk4Hearing
Team, Connor's
Beach Buddies!**

The money we raise for the Walk4Hearing is vital to our Chapter, and pays for captioning services at our meetings.

As of this writing, donations are up to \$1200!

Donate online here: [Connor's Walk4Hearing](#)

Or mail a check payable to "Walk4Hearing" to:

Katie Wright
7802 Kingbee St.
Downey CA 90242

Thank you for supporting our chapter!

Informer update

We have been busy gathering data about the readership of the Informer to help us make a decision about our newsletter's future format. We have 91 people on our Informer mailing list with an "open" rate of about 50%. This means that half of the people on our mailing list open the email that brings the newsletter to their Inbox. This data is true for both the traditional PDF email version and the online-only version.

During the month of May, 35 of our Informer readers responded to a survey about our newsletter. Thank you so much to all who participated! Here are the results:

31 reported that the newsletter is arriving in their Inbox. (Sometimes when bulk mailings go out, they get automatically sent to the Spam folder, so this is good news.)

31 reported that they open and read the PDF newsletter (5 said "sometimes.")

24 said they read the newsletter online; 3 print it; 6 said they do both.

Only 6 of our readers have ever gone to the chapter website and accessed the newsletter from there.

In response to why one reads the newsletters: (It was a "check all that apply" option.)

31 - to hear about chapter news
(to stay connected)

29 - to read the articles

26 - to learn about upcoming chapter meetings and events

In February and March—when we only sent out an online version—26 reported that they opened their email and read the newsletter with no problems.

The purpose of all this data gathering is to help the Board make a decision about the future of the Informer—whether to continue the traditional PDF email version that can be printed or move to an entirely online version. We will have a decision by August.

The following article is from a longer piece by Edward C. Baig for AARP, April 22, 2021. The full article contains lots of interesting information on hearables and other over-the-counter products that may help with mild to moderate hearing loss.

Read the entire article here: [Mild Hearing Loss? Hearing Aids Aren't the Only Answers](#)

Using your cell phone as a directional microphone

Apple's [Live Listen](#) feature can similarly turn an iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch into a directional remote microphone that lets you hear conversations in noisy environments. Once enabled in Settings, you can turn on Live Listen from the phone's Control Center.

Tap Settings, then Control Center and then the plus sign to the left of Hearing. You should now see an ear icon when you open the Control Center (by swiping down from the top right corner if you have an iPhone X or later, or by swiping up from the bottom edge of the screen for an earlier model). Click the ear icon to pair your AirPods or a compatible device to the phone. When you move your phone closer to the person, you'll hear them better through your AirPods.

An app in development called [HeardThat](#) could provide a similar function for Android devices. (It's in early release in both the Google Play and Apple stores.) Singular Hearing, the Canadian company behind HeardThat, says it is free for a limited time and could be unstable, but user feedback could help improve the experience in the long term. The app won the What's Next Innovation Challenge in June 2020, a contest sponsored by AARP Innovation Labs.

misleading hearing aid sales

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and could potentially lead to serious and unnecessary health risks if used by these consumers.

In March 2021, FDA issued a bulletin warning firms that are misrepresenting their products as being "FDA approved" or "approved OTC devices". The FDA does not issue registration certificates and has requested companies to stop showing certificates next to products that may imply FDA approval. The best way to ensure that a hearing aid is legitimate is to seek guidance from a medical professional.

The Hearing Industries Association strongly recommends that a consumer's first step be to visit a hearing care professional to understand their unique hearing difficulties. The Attorneys General in the states that issued warnings have the following recommendations when seeking treatment for your hearing loss:

- * Have your hearing evaluated by a medical professional. These professionals can screen you for underlying conditions that may be contributing to hearing loss and which need to be addressed. They can inform you of proper hearing aid usage and any associated risks.
- * Have your hearing aid fitted by an audiologist, medical doctor, or hearing aid dispenser.
- * Check the Better Business Bureau's website (bbb.org) to see if the hearing aid seller has a good rating and whether consumers have submitted complaints against the company.
- * Get all terms in writing, including what is covered in the price, extra charges, warranties, and refund policies.

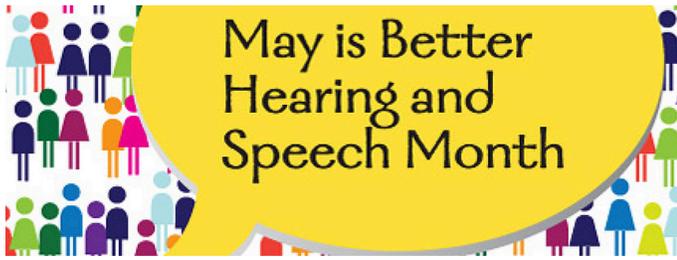
Finally, if a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is!

https://hearinghealthmatters.org/blog/2021/warning-consumers-of-misleading-over-the-counter-hearing-aid-sales/?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=HHTM_Weekly_Copy_238&utm_medium=email

For more information about our chapter, visit hlaa-lb-lakewood.org

Questions? Contact us by email at info@hlaa-lb-lakewood.org or phone Katie Wright (323) 205-6794

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A poll conducted in May 2021 by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) reveals the overwhelming disconnect between the high value that Americans say they place on their hearing and their low willingness to be treated for any hearing loss. Here are some of the key findings:

- 80% of Americans say maintaining their hearing health is extremely important or very important to their quality of life.
- Yet only 2 in 10 (20%) adults have had a hearing test in the past 5 years, compared with roughly 6 in 10 (61%) who have had their vision tested.
- More than half (51%) of all adults reported having hearing problems, but only 11% of those respondents have sought treatment.
- More than three-quarters (78%) of those with hearing problems have had these difficulties for 1 or more years—and over one third (35%) have had trouble for 5 or more years.
- 42% of Americans understand that mild hearing loss can impact a person's life or daily functioning. Yet 56% of those with untreated hearing problems say that they would be unlikely to treat it unless it was "severe."

HLAA Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter Meeting

Hearing Loss and Benefit Administration Claims

We invite veterans with hearing loss to attend the next Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter Meeting (VAAVC).

May 18, 2021 at 5:00 pm on Zoom

Join from your computer or mobile device.

Michelle Andersen, Veterans Benefit Specialist, will speak on submitting claims for service-related hearing loss to the Veterans Benefit Administration.

Contact:

Carla Beyer-Smolin, 301-657-2248
email: chapters@hearingloss.org

Register here: <https://hearingloss.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEIc-yurDMpGdM-koVYszi7Z08GA4uopJ0UZ>



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