



**HLAA-NJ NEWS, VIEWS & DATES  
April 2017**

*Compiled by Joel Strasser, APR, Fellow PRSA,  
President, Hearing Loss Association of NJ (HLAA-NJ)*

\*\*\*\*\*

**The officers and trustees of the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey extend all best wishes to our members and readers for a very Happy Passover holiday, and a very Happy Easter.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Captioned Comedy Event April 19 -  
Arlene Romoff being honored**

Arlene Romoff, past president of HLAA-NJ, will be honored on the evening of Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at a benefit event at Caroline's

Comedy Club, 49<sup>th</sup> Street & Broadway, by the Center for Hearing and Communication, a New York hearing loss agency for which Arlene also serves on their board. The show of real standup comedy will have open captioning, assistive listening devices and sign interpreters. Tickets and/or further information is

at <http://chchearing.org/community/events/comedy-night-april-19-2017-nyc/> or call [917-305-7804](tel:917-305-7804). Doors open at 5:30 PM, with showtime at 7:30 PM - tickets are \$75 each, with other donation options available.

## **Scholarships for High School Seniors with Hearing Loss; Applications Due by May 1<sup>st</sup>**

As many as four scholarships of \$1,500 each are waiting to be claimed by high school seniors with hearing loss who file applications no later than Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, thanks to funds raised at the annual HLAA Walk4Hearing this past October. If you or a friend or relative are a high school senior with hearing loss, a resident of New Jersey between ages 17 and 20, and plan to continue your education in the Fall of 2017, and are ambitious and determined not to let hearing loss get in the way of your future dreams, you are encouraged to file now or before May 1<sup>st</sup>. The complete application consists of a form, required letters of reference, and an essay, so the applicant is encouraged to get started NOW. The application forms and requirement details can be found at the HLAA-NJ website, [www.hearingloss-nj.org](http://www.hearingloss-nj.org), and further information is available directly from the scholarship chair, Latisha Porter-Vaughn

at [Latisha.Porter-Vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:Latisha.Porter-Vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org). Scholarships will be awarded to successful applicants in June 2017, time and place to be announced.

## **NJ Theatre Alliance Invites Readers with Hearing Loss to Dinner and Focus Group on Wednesday, May 10th**

The New Jersey Theatre Alliance's Cultural Access Network, for which Past President Arlene Romoff is a member, invites readers to dinner and to participate in a focus group session for those with hearing loss to discuss barriers to participation at NJ cultural events. The Cultural Access Network is conducting focus groups to better understand participation to the arts, and to uncover the real barriers that prevent those with hearing loss from becoming full participants in cultural events. Based on their findings, the group will work with NJ's cultural organizations to help increase and enhance the cultural experiences for those with hearing loss.

Your thoughts and suggestions would be so valuable to this project, and they would be grateful if you can join the group at Montclair State University's Center for Audiology located at 1515 Broad Street in Bloomfield, NJ on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM to participate in the focus group. As a small way of thanking you for your participation, each participant will receive a \$25 gift card. CART

captioning and assistive listening system will be provided. RSVP no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> to participate to [Arlene.romoff@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:Arlene.romoff@hearingloss-nj.org) For further questions, please contact Robert Carr at NJ Theatre Alliance at [973-731-6582, ext. 15](tel:973-731-6582), or [orcarr@njtheatrealliance.org](mailto:orcarr@njtheatrealliance.org)

## **HLAA-NJ Setting Up Informal Speakers Bureau For Potential Presenters, Chapter Leaders**

If you would like to speak at a future HLAA-NJ chapter meeting or event, or if you are a chapter leader or program planner who needs an interesting speaker for a future meeting or event, please contact Joel Strasser, HLAA-NJ president, at [joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org) with your specific details or requirements. Please understand that HLAA-NJ chapters and our other subgroups generally do not have budgets to cover payments of speaker fees or honorariums.

## **We Are Interested in Publicizing Your News In Future Issues of this Online Newsletter**

“HLAA-NJ News, Views & Dates” is interested in following up news from our readers and followers. If you can tell us about a positive listening experience, or about a facility that has provided a very positive and accommodating area, or if you know people who would like to present at chapter meetings, health fairs and other events, please let us

know. Information should be sent by e-mail to [joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org), or to [jjas888@aol.com](mailto:jjas888@aol.com), and we'll do our best to spread the word.

## **HLAA-NJ Seeks More Chapters, More Leaders**

If you are located in or near Middlesex, Bergen, Ocean or Monmouth Counties, HLAA-NJ has both participatory and leadership opportunities available for members who want to either join or start or help re-start chapter operations, or assist with the augmentation of programs in those and other areas throughout New Jersey. If you are interested, you can count on state association leadership help for moral support, some financial aid and program assistance to help move things along. If interested, please call or write to either the local contact shown on the HLAA-NJ web site, or write or call directly to [joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org), or telephone [732-475-7399](tel:732-475-7399).

## **Making Music with a Hearing Loss Is Topic of July Conference at Kean University**

The Association of Adult Musicians with Hearing Loss will hold their second biennial conference for adults with hearing loss, July 13-16, 2017, at Kean University in NJ. Conference is of interest to individuals who enjoy playing music despite the challenges presented by hearing loss. There will be opportunities to develop ensemble skills and

listening skills with the assistance of hearing loop technology during the conference. Saturday afternoon, July 15, will also feature captioned presentations on the challenges of making music with a hearing loss and a viewing of the documentary, *Lost and Sound*. The conference will conclude with a public concert on the evening of July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Adults who do not play an instrument or sing, but are deeply interested in the issues of music and hearing loss are invited to register as patrons to attend activities taking place Saturday afternoon and evening. For more information about the AAMHL 2017 Conference, visit AAMHL conference website. <https://www.musicianswithhearingloss.org/conference/>

## **NJ DVR/SRC Schedules Public Forum Meetings Throughout April**

New Jersey's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVRS) and its State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) will conduct public forums during the month of April. DVRS is a division within the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and provides services to eligible individuals with disabilities to achieve employment outcomes consistent with their strengths, priorities, needs, abilities and capabilities. SRC provides oversight and advises the DVRS. SRC is comprised of partnerships of people with disabilities, advocates and other interested persons, and is committed to ensuring through policy development, implementation and

**advocacy that New Jersey has a rehabilitation program that is both comprehensive and consumer-responsive, but also effective, efficient and adequately funded. Input from consumers with hearing loss during the forums helps DVRS and SRC develop the State Plan, as mandated by the WIOA, and to review topical issues impacting consumers, vendor communications and dialogue with employers. Input from consumers is extremely important to both DVRS and SRC and will help to mold program delivery and policy to insure that people with disabilities receive rehabilitation services that result in employment.**

**Representatives from DVRS and SRC will be available to provide information on available services, and various work incentive initiatives. Interpreter and CART captioning services will be available at each public forum location.**

**The topic-driven forum discussions will cover:**

- Community-based services
- Pre-employment transition
- Employer focus/outreach
- Services to individuals with complex intellectual disabilities.

**The following are the dates and locations for the April public forums:**

**Ocean County Library, Toms River Branch, 101 Washington Street,  
Green Room, Toms River, NJ -- April 11, 2017, 9:30 to 12 Noon**

**Hudson County Park, Administration Building, Lincoln Park, Jersey City,**

**NJ – April 13, 2017, 1 PM to 4 PM.**

**Salem RIL, 193 N. Broadway, Pennsville, NJ – April 18, 2017, 1 PM to 4 PM.**

**Somerset County: Manville Library, 100 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Manville, NJ – April 24, 2017, 1 PM to 4 PM.**

**Burlington County: Westhampton 1-Stop, 795 Woodlane Road, Lecture Hall B, Westhampton, NJ – April 28, 2017. 9 AM to 12 Noon.**

**Written comments: 1) Can be included with the registrant's electronic registration, or 2) a hard copy provided to the DVRS/SRC representative, or 3) Faxed to the attention of S. Walker-Hunt at [609-292-8347](tel:609-292-8347) indicating the DVRS/SRC public forum date and location.**

**Online registration: You can register on the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's website (public forum section), at the following link:**

**[http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lwdhome/content/DVRS\\_PublicForums.html](http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lwdhome/content/DVRS_PublicForums.html)**

## **Be Vocal About Looping; Hand Out Request Cards**

**When Juliette Sterkens, HLAA's national hearing loop coordinator,**



visited us in New Jersey in November, she provided us with large quantities of Looping Request Cards, to be given to facilities and venue managers and owners to formally request that they install looping in their locations. If you would like a quantity of these cards to give to owners and managers of non-compliant facilities, please contact Joel Strasser, ([joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org)). Be sure to provide me with your US postal mailing address, as that's probably the only way I can get the cards into your hands. When you give the cards to facility managers, be sure to also give them copies of our looping installers list, which is posted in the looping section of our HLAA-NJ website.

Each card has the looping disability symbol, along with this message: *"I'm one of 48 million Americans with some degree of hearing loss. Today, I had great difficulty hearing the proceedings in your facility. May I recommend you consider installing a Hearing Loop? A loop would make your venue hearing-friendly and ADA compliant?"*

When you give the cards out, we'd also request that you give us the postal mailing address of the person you gave each card to. If you do that, we can send a follow-up letter to each, and furnish them with specific information on nearby looping installers who make installations throughout New Jersey.

## **Steve Gregory Appointed To TRS Advisory Board**

With the voluntary retirement of Bev Sudler as HLAA-NJ's representative of the TRS Telephone Relay Advisory Board, HLAA-NJ has appointed Steve Gregory to take her place on the board. This board monitors the captioned telephone services of particular relevance to the HLAA-NJ constituency. Steve routinely attends those board meetings as an interested member of the public and as the former two-term president of that board representing HLAA in its prior organization, Self Help for the Hard of Hearing People. As such, Patricia Campbell, administrator of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has been so informed of this change.

## **Chapter News for April**

### **Chapter program help:**

Your state organization is now maintaining a special list of audiologists and other hearing health professionals who are interested in making presentations at chapter meetings, health fairs and other appropriate events. Chapter leaders, as well as potential guest speakers, can advise us of interest or opportunities and we'd be pleased to make these resources available when we are advised of such needs or opportunities. Please contact [joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org), or [jjas888@aol.com](mailto:jjas888@aol.com) for further information.

**HLAA-Morris County Chapter** will have no further meetings

in April 2017. Be sure to check the May 2017 newsletter for information about meetings in May. For further information, please contact Pat

Dobbs at [pat.dobbs@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:pat.dobbs@hearingloss-nj.org)

In addition, HLAA-Morris County seeks to attract 18 - 35 year olds so they can start their own group. Please pass this information on to anyone in that age group. Questions may be directed

to [Pat.Dobbs@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:Pat.Dobbs@hearingloss-nj.org)

## **HLAA-Essex County Chapter**

will next meet on Saturday, May 13th, 2017, 11 AM to 12:30 PM, to hear Guest Speaker Jacqueline Lee McNulty, doctoral student in audiology (AuD.), Montclair State University Graduate School, Center for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, discuss hearing loss, the car, hearing aid options, special services available to the public, and the speaker's personal experiences as a person with congenital hearing loss. Meeting will include an open floor to air and discuss personal concerns, as well as games played for prizes. Meeting location is at the Union County Public Library, 1980 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ. For questions or info about this chapter or event, please contact Latisha Porter-Vaughn at [Latisha.Porter-Vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:Latisha.Porter-Vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org)

## **HLAA-South Jersey Shore**

will meet Thursday, April 20, 2017. This group serves deaf and hard-of-

hearing residents of Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland Counties, and meets starting at 6 PM, at Cape Regional Medical Center, Maruchi Room, 2 Stone Harbor Boulevard, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210. Interested participants are encouraged to make further contact with Carolyn Richards at [Carolyn.richards@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:Carolyn.richards@hearingloss-nj.org)

## **HLAA-Paterson Chapter**

will not meet in April, but the next meeting will be held Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 2:30 to 4:30 PM, program to be announced. Also, those with hearing loss are eligible to receive a free captioned telephone from CapTel. To learn more, please attend our meetings. For further information about meetings or programs, please contact Sharrieff Bugg at [862-262-8862](tel:862-262-8862), or email [minister7929@aol.com](mailto:minister7929@aol.com)

**HLAA-Bergen County Chapter** remains on hold with no regular general membership meetings for the immediate future while the Chapter works to install a looping system in one of its traditional meeting places, either the Ethical Culture Society building in Teaneck, NJ., or the Puffin Center. Other locations being considered include the Ridgewood Public Library and/or the Teaneck Public Library, with one or both considering adding looping. Potential members interested in serving on a staff committee of potential chapter leaders should make their interests known. Until there is more to report, the Chapter welcomes comment and participation from those interested in the local

Bergen County chapter effort, as well as contact from interested potential members and leaders, who are invited to contact Ken Keuhlen at [kbk1011@hotmail.com](mailto:kbk1011@hotmail.com)

**HCAA-Middlesex County Chapter**, held its final meeting in November 2016. For further information about future plans and opportunities, or if you have questions or further interest in helping re-start this chapter, please contact [joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org), or telephone [732-475-7399](tel:732-475-7399).

## **CAPTIONED LIVE THEATER PERFORMANCES IN NJ**

*By Arlene Romoff*

Below is a listing of the Open Captioned (OC) performances at the five theaters in NJ that provide one open captioned performance per production, for the 2017 season. All of them provide discounted ticket prices. To order tickets, call the box office and request to be seated in view of the captioning - and be sure to request their discounted price.

**Paper Mill Playhouse - Millburn, NJ – [973-376-4343](tel:973-376-4343)**

<http://www.papermill.org/about-us/audience-info/accessibility-info.html>

**Million Dollar Quartet** - Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 7 PM

**Mary Poppins** - Sunday, June 18, 2017 at 7 PM

**George Street Playhouse - New Brunswick, NJ – [732-246-7717](tel:732-246-7717)**

<http://www.georgestreetplayhouse.org/accessibility.php>

Open-captioned performances for patrons with hearing impairments follow below:

**Curvy Window** - May 20, 2017 at 2 PM

**McCarter Theater - Princeton, NJ—[609-258-2787](tel:609-258-2787)**

[http://www.mccarter.org/VisitorInfo/VisitorDefault.aspx?page\\_id=32](http://www.mccarter.org/VisitorInfo/VisitorDefault.aspx?page_id=32)

Tickets are a discounted \$25 each

Intimate Apparel - Saturday, May 27, 2017 at 3 PM

**Two River Theater - Red Bank, NJ—732-345-1400**

<http://www.tworivetheater.org/about/accessibility.php>

Tickets are a discounted \$25 each

<b>Scheduled Open Caption performances for the 2016/17 Season:</b>	
<i>The Women of Padilla</i>	Saturday, April 29 at 3pm
<i>The Ballad of Little Jo</i>	Saturday, June 24 at 3pm

**For open captioned performances in NYC**, one must register with TDF at their website - [www.tdf.org](http://www.tdf.org) and click on Accessibility Programs and follow instructions. Tickets need to be ordered in advance and are mailed. <https://www.tdf.org/nyc/33/TDFAccessibilityPrograms>

## **HLAA-NJ Assembling List of Looping Installers for New Jersey**

Looping installers in or near New Jersey who would like to be listed in an active directory to work on projects, facilities or venues inside the State of New Jersey are being asked to make contact with HLAA-NJ so that we can refer you for projects being planned or researched. Also, facility managers or owners who have used looping installers to satisfactorily complete projects within New Jersey are asked to recommend such installers by providing us with company names and contact information so that their services can be listed in a statewide directory now being compiled for use by HLAA-NJ and by state officials who seek to refer projects for subsequent installation.

To list installers in the New Jersey Looping Installers directory,

please send information directly to: [joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org), or telephone [732-475-7399](tel:732-475-7399). Be sure to include company name, e-mail address and business telephone numbers, and the name of the company's principal contact or project manager for looping installations. In addition, please let us know if there is any cost involved for providing an estimate, and if you have any comments, good or bad, on the quality of the installer's workmanship and/or installation quality. Please indicate if the installer's work meets or exceeds the IEC 60118-4 international standard.

## **Important Dates on the 2017 HLAA-NJ State Calendar**

Members and friends of HLAA-NJ are cordially invited to attend business meetings and other functions of HLAA-NJ as we meet at various times during the year to plan and finalize the activities of the state association. Help us further our collective mission to represent and provide New Jerseyans with hearing loss with information, education, support and advocacy outreach that allows them to function in mainstream society, and enhance their quality of life, while raising awareness of hearing health/hearing loss.

Our successful initiatives have included bringing captioned movies and open captioned live theater to NJ, improving patient care in hospitals/medical settings, an annual scholarship program for high school seniors with hearing loss, bringing captioned telephone and

conference call services to NJ, ensuring full communications access at public events, and advocating for increased funding and staffing at agencies and organizations serving people with hearing loss.

**May – 2017**

**Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey**

**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**East Brunswick Public Library**

**2 Jean Walling Civic Center**

**East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3529**

**August—2017**

**Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey**

**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Saturday, August 5, 2017**

**1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**East Brunswick Public Library**

**2 Jean Walling Civic Center**

**East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3529**

**November—2017**



**Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey  
Board of Trustees Meeting & Annual Meeting  
Saturday, November 18, 2017  
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
East Brunswick Public Library  
2 Jean Walling Civic Center  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3529**

***NEWS from HLAA-NATIONAL:***

Please note that all newsletters from HLAA-National can be sent separately to all members of this distribution list as they are issued by our national office. Or, if you have not seen any recently, please go to the national HLAA site, [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org), and register for features and publications that you'd like to receive.