



HLAA-NJ NEWS, VIEWS & DATES DECEMBER 2016

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

Happy, Happy Holidays for the Current Season's Greetings!!!

The officers, trustees and Chapter leaders of HLAA-NJ take this opportunity to wish all our members, friends, relatives and fans our most sincere best wishes for a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and/or a Happy Kwanzaa, as well as a Happy, Healthy and Productive New Year for our incoming activity period of 2017.

Annual Meeting with National Looping Guru, Plus Looped Sound System on 20th Anniversary, Hailed as Great Success

HLAA-NJ's combined 2016 Annual Meeting, Looping Exposition, and

20th Anniversary Celebration has been hailed as a great success, judging from comments from attendees and past leaders who attended the gala event on Saturday, November 19th. Guest speaker for the event was Dr. Juliette Sterkens, retired audiologist and now HLAA's National Looping Coordinator, who spoke quite convincingly of the virtues of introducing looping at the large array of non-compliant venues throughout the State of New Jersey. In addition, the meeting room at the East Brunswick Public Library was temporarily enhanced with an operating looping system by the good folks at Emcom Systems, a recognized supplier of looping hardware and systems. Also, a certificate was presented to HLAA-NJ by HLAA National, marking the State organization's 20th anniversary. Present for the occasion was Carol Granaldi, HLAA-NJ's first president who commented and recognized the event with her collection of appropriate documents dating back to the pioneering days of 1996, when the organization was still known by its earlier name as Self Help for the Hard of Hearing (SHHH).

Dr. Sterkens was introduced by HLAA-NJ's vice president, Dr. Ann Marie Olson, herself an AuD (Doctor of Audiology). The speaker covered many and most of the advantages of looping, and spelled out numerous methods of spreading the gospel of looping throughout the State so that additional non-compliant venues might be permanently looped. In addition, Dr. Sterkens provided some additional facts and guidance information which has been posted on the HLAA-NJ website.

During the meeting, service certificates were presented to Pat Dobbs, recognized for accomplishing looping accessibility objectives of Jersey City's Liberty Science Center and her own Morris County Chapter's advocacy initiatives, to Marie Nordling, who had led the Middlesex County Chapter for some two decades, and to Arlene Romoff, for improving accessibility efforts at the multiple entertainment venues in both New Jersey and New York.

This year's annual meeting was also an opportunity for facilities and business managers who received customer requests, complaints and/or ADA compliance demands to hear, see and learn about looping technologies and associated technical and financial details from advocates, technologists and at least one installer who installed and demonstrated an ADA-compliant system

and technology for the meeting. Refreshments, socializing, award presentations and a “mini-fair’ of exhibitors and installers – were available for attendees. Board elections to fill trusteeship vacancies were also held, and Ken Keuhlen and Ann Marie Picardo were elected.

Here’s a partial listing of agencies and organizations that were invited, some of whom were present, to staff tables and speak directly with attendees about the many resources and services they offer. If you or yours was there, we do appreciate and thank you for your participation:

- NJ Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing – services and resources
- NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – services and resources
- NJ Division of Civil Rights – services and resources
- NJ Theater Alliance/Cultural Access Network
- EmCom Systems – induction loop demonstrations
- Sprint CapTel – captioned telephones, services
- CaptionCall – Captioned telephones, services
- “Ask the Audiologist” – available to answer questions (Dr. Ann Marie Olson)
- Cochlear Implant (CI) Support Group
- Ahrens Hearing Center
- East Coast Hearing Loops
- Elequip (Contacta)
- Hearing Access & Innovations
- Hearing Loops Unlimited
- North East Hearing
- Total Video Products
- Sound Choice Unlimited, Inc.
- Hearing Loss Association of America

Communications assistance was provided by the NJ Division of Deaf & Hard of Hearing, including CART Captioning, an assistive listening system, and sign language interpreters. And, again, many thanks to Emcom Systems, which made sure we were properly looped.

Chapter News for December

Would You Like to be A Potential Chapter Leader? If so, please read on:

Chapter leadership opportunities: We are looking for leaders, OR groups of leaders. If you are located in or near Middlesex, Bergen, Ocean or Monmouth Counties, HLAA-NJ has leadership opportunities available for either individual members, or teams of members who want to start or help re-start chapter operations, or assist with the augmentation of programs in those areas. If you are interested, you can count on the state association's leadership help for moral support, some financial aid and program assistance to help move things along. If you are interested, or even thinking about it, please call or write directly to joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org, or telephone [732-475-7399](tel:732-475-7399). Yes, we can help you set up and publicize interesting meeting programs for your members and potential attendees. We also have membership recruitment brochures which are now being sent to all chapter leaders

Also, if you are a supplier, vendor, appropriate professional, and want to speak at one or more of our chapter meetings, please let us know of your interest and/or availability. Be sure to call or write to joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org, or telephone [732-475-7399](tel:732-475-7399).

HLAA-Morris County Chapter will hold its annual holiday party on Saturday, December 17, 2016. This is a wonderful time to get together and enjoy each other's company. Please join us for good cheer. The time is 4 to 8 PM, **and the place is Alice Glock's** home at: 77 Fairwood Road, Madison, NJ What to bring: Food to share. We'll supply the rest. We look forward to seeing you all.

Let us know if you have any questions. For further information, please contact Pat Dobbs at 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

HLAA-Paterson Chapter will hold its annual fundraiser on December 2nd through 4th.

[sports. media. crafts. party. candy. room. style. now.](#)

The Best Place To Get ^{Hot} Stuff At _{Cool} Prices And Raise Money For Our Organization!

fiVe BEL^OW carries stationery, school supplies, computer software, books, electronic accessories, sporting goods, games, t-shirts, jewelry, hobbies, collectibles, bath and body, candy, snacks and beverages, room décor, storage, seasonal items plus much more! And everything is priced at \$5 or less!

[sports. media. crafts. party. candy. room. style. now.](#)

Our Event Will Be Held On:

Date: December 2nd to December 4th 2016

Time: Sunday 10am – 8pm & Monday – Saturday 10am – 9pm

Where: Five Below located at 386 Route 3 West, Clifton, NJ 07014
Phone # [1\(973\) 470-9920](tel:1(973)470-9920)

And 10% of the total dollars spent by our organization will be donated BACK to Hearing Loss Association Of America, Paterson Chapter

(Please don't forget to bring this flyer to the event so that we get credit for your purchase!)

At fiVe BEL^{OW}, Whatever You Got Will Buy A Lot!

Visit us at www.fivebelow.com

For further information about meetings or programs, please contact Sharrieff Bugg at [973-684-4608](tel:973-684-4608) or email Sharrieff.Bugg@hearingloss-nj.org

HLAA-Middlesex County Chapter has no further meetings planned, since the Chapter president has retired with the last meeting. We now seek new leadership for this chapter. If you, or a group of you, wish to provide group leadership to the Middlesex County chapter and to continue or re-start the chapter's activities, please contact HLAA-NJ president Joel Strasser at [732-475-7399](tel:732-475-7399), or write to Joel.Strasser@hearingloss-nj.org to either offer your services or suggestions. As per our lead item to this section, please understand that the State HLAA-NJ association is prepared to assist with limited financial assistance, program help, and publicity augmentation.

HLAA-Essex County Chapter will hold its next full meeting in February 2017. However, on Sunday, December 18th, the Chapter will meet to hold its Christmas holiday event, as follows: Breakfast with Santa Fundraiser, at Applebee's in Union, NJ.

Here are details:

Breakfast With Santa, Sunday, December 18, 2016, 8 AM to 10 AM

Tickets: www.hlaabreakfastwithsanta.eventbrite.com

Includes: Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Unlimited beverages, Photo with Santa plus A Goodie Bag

Applebee's, 965 Jefferson Avenue, Union, NJ 07083 (Route 22 East)

Tickets and information: [908-397-5531](tel:908-397-5531). Donation, \$10.00 per person.

For questions or info about this chapter or event, contact Latisha Porter-Vaughn at Latisha.Porter-Vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org

HLAA-South Jersey Shore Chapter extends sincere holiday wishes through the New Year! The South Jersey Shore Chapter will be having online support until the New Year. Our Facebook Group, HLAA-South Jersey Shore Chapter, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/227901634005730/> is accessible as well as reaching out via email sjhardofhearing@gmail.com - or phone [609-886-3678](tel:609-886-3678) & text [609-741-0867](tel:609-741-0867). Interested participants are encouraged to make further contact with Carolyn Richards at Carolyn.richards@hearingloss-nj.org

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

Unaffiliated Group Meeting

Ocean-Monmouth Hearing Loss Support Group will hold its final organizational meeting

Sunday, December 4th, beginning at 11:30 AM at a private room inside Charlie O's Restaurant on Route 70 West in Lakewood, NJ, with each participant covering his or her own check.

Members of this group and all others in the Ocean County and Monmouth County areas who are interested in forming an official HLAA Chapter serving these geographic areas are invited to communicate with HLAA-NJ president Joel Strasser at Joel.Strasser@hearingloss-nj.org, or to telephone [732-475-7399](tel:732-475-7399). Interested potential leaders, either one individual, or a small core group committee of volunteer leaders, can help form or re-start an HLAA-NJ Chapter. The State organization can assist potential chapter leaders with program acquisition and selection, media publicity for meeting announcements, and limited financial assistance to help in the launch of a new chapter organization.

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 2016-2017 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>

The Bodyguard - Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 7 PM

A Comedy of Tenors - Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 7 PM

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

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

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

Daddy Long Legs - December 12, 2016 at 2 PM

American Son - February 25, 2017 at 2 PM

Bad Jews - April 8, 2017 at 2 PM

TBA - May 20, 2017 at 2 PM

McCarter Theater - Princeton, NJ—609-258-2787

http://www.mccarter.org/VisitorInfo/VisitorDefault.aspx?page_id=32

Tickets are a discounted \$25 each

Bedlam: Hamlet/Saint Joan - Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 3 PM

Murder on the Orient Express - Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 3 PM

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

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

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

Tickets are a discounted \$25 each

Scheduled Open Caption performances for the 2016/17 Season:

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| <i>The Lion in Winter</i> | Saturday, December 3 at 3pm |
| <i>Hurricane Diane</i> | Saturday, February 11 at 3pm |
| <i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> | Saturday, March 25 at 3pm |
| <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 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>

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HLAA-NJ's Looping Action Center Is Live on the Web,

Just Click on www.hearingloss-nj.org, **Follow the Steps**

Have you had the experience of sitting in a meeting room or an auditorium and found that you could not understand what the speakers or entertainers were saying? Or, listening to a comedian and not understanding the joke or the punch line? Or, dealing with a store clerk, bank teller or information booth attendant and found that you could not understand their response to your question? It could be that the room, or information booth, or customer service desk needs to be looped. Perhaps you didn't realize that that's illegal, and if you don't do something about it, it will happen again, and again, and again. And, if you don't complain, it will never get fixed. If it's happened to you, it's time to join our statewide campaign to Loop New Jersey. What's a loop? Read on.

An induction hearing loop is single piece of wire installed inside a meeting room that, when activated, allows meeting attendees and audience members to switch on the T-coils located inside their hearing aids and/or cochlear implants. With T-coils switched on, the audio content of the content or program of the meeting or assemblage can be clearly heard and understood by those with either hearing aids or cochlear implants. If your meeting room or facility is not looped, or does not provide any method for meeting attendees to access the meeting's business or content, then they are not compliant with either Federal (Americans with Disabilities Act -- ADA) or State laws and regulations requiring accessibility, as constitutionally guaranteed to all.

Like anything else in life, if you want something, you must ask for it. As a hearing-challenged person, if you need to hear it, you've got to understand it. You've got to insist. And, when insisting takes longer or doesn't work, you've got to persist. Some people will object, or just ignore you. Why? It's not their problem. Or, to them, maybe they see it as a distraction. Or, perhaps it's a cost factor. Whatever – if you need it, it's your constitutional right to have it, so you can understand -- just like everybody else. Don't be timid. It's the law.

Recently, our Looping New Jersey website went live and HLAA-NJ has now added a powerful collection of tools to our website designed to help New Jersey hearing loss advocates marshal resources to strongly increase looping and other forms of improved communications accessibility throughout the state. It will be up to our readers and others throughout the state to put these tools to active use.

Here are features you'll find when you log onto the site:

* [So You Can Hear Better; How to Use This Site](#)

- * Best Practices in Hearing Loop Procurement; Looping explained, what and how?
- * Useful websites
- * New Jersey Looping Installers
- * Public Venues That Should Have Assistive Listening Systems
- * List of target facilities where complaints have been filed
- * Sample/Template Complaint Letters, for others to follow or emulate
- * Names of committee members / activists
- * Sample compliance certifications and graphic symbols
- * NJ Accessibility Directory
- * Documents to Explain and Clarify State and Federal Accessibility Laws
 - * New Jersey Law Summaries
 - * A Summary of Federal Disabilities Rights Laws
- * Looping America Directory
- * Looped NYC Venues for Visiting New Jerseyans
- * Looped Theaters Across the USA

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, 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 2016-17 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.

February - 2017

Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey

Board of Trustees Meeting

Saturday, February 4th,

2017

12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM

East Brunswick Public Library

2 Jean Walling Civic Center

East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3529

May – 2017

Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey

Board of Trustees Meeting

Saturday, May 6th, 2017

12:00 Noon to 4:00 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

12:00 Noon to 4:00 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

11:00 AM 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 will 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, and register for features and publications that you'd like to receive.
