



HLAA-NJ NEWS, VIEWS & DATES FEBRUARY 2017

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

February 4th State Board Meeting to Weigh Budget Options, at East Brunswick Library

On Saturday, February 4, 2017, HLAA-NJ's **state board will meet to** discuss budget options for 2017, and to consider any new programs and events. Members of HLAA and from the general public are invited to join us. The meeting will start at 1 PM at the East Brunswick Public Library. (See calendar below for specifics). If you plan to attend, please contact Joel Strasser at joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org, or telephone [732-475-7399](tel:732-475-7399).

This Online Newsletter is Interested in Publicizing Your News

“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 occurrence, or about a facility that has provided a very positive and accommodating experience, 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, or to jjas888@aol.com, **and we'll do our best to spread the word.**

New Contract Staff Hired by DDHH

Bill Best, a specialist in assistive listening technologies, who has taken specialized training with HLAA and Gallaudet University, has been hired as contracted staff **by New Jersey's Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing**, it was announced in January. Please feel free to contact Bill at the DDHH telephone contact numbers

1-800-792-8339 toll free within New Jersey

1-609-588-2648

1-609-588-2528 fax

or email link on DDHH website

<http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/home/>

Chapter leadership opportunities:

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, or telephone [732-475-7399](tel:732-475-7399).

Looping Request Cards Available

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). Be sure to provide him **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.

Chapter News for February

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, or jjas888@aol.com for further information.

HLAA-Morris County Chapter will hold its February Social on Sunday, February 12, 2017, starting at 1 PM, at the Thirsty Turtle, 186 Columbia Turnpike, Florham Park, NJ. Come to meet, socialize and learn more. 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-Essex County Chapter will next meet on Saturday, April 1st, 2017, 11 AM to 12:30 PM, to discuss **“How Teens with Hearing Loss Can Get the Most Out of Their College Experience, and More.”** Guest speaker is Professor Alexs Birdsall-Griffiths, MS, CSW, CPRP, ASLTA, RID/NIC, EIPA, Coordinator of World Languages and Cultures from Bergen County

College. 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

HLAA-South Jersey Shore Chapter will

meet Thursday, February 16, 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

HLAA-Paterson Chapter will not meet in February, but please watch these listings for future meetings and events. New committee members are welcome. For further information about meetings or programs, please contact Sharrieff Bugg at [862-262-8862](tel:862-262-8862), or email 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

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, 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>

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:

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:	
<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>

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

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.

February – 2017

**Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey
Board of Trustees Meeting
Saturday, February 4th
1:00 PM to 5:00 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

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, and register for **features and publications that you'd like to receive.**
