

## **HLAA-NJ NEWS, VIEWS & DATES – FEBRUARY 2016**

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

### **Gina and Gianna Thomas of Nutley Grace This Month's HLM Front Cover**

*By Marie Nordling*

Just received my Jan/Feb issue of Hearing Loss magazine. Congratulations to Gina Thomas and her daughter Gianna for being the Cover Girls of the issue in their walk4hearing tee shirts. Great article and family pictures on page 11. Gianna wears a cochlear implant. In her 5 short years she has been an inspiration for us in New Jersey and has been a major contributor to the New Jersey walk4hearing. Gina is a Board member of HLAA-NJ and has helped so much to all with her advocacy for hearing loss. So congratulations again to the Thomas family.

### **Health Fairs – How They Help HLAA-NJ, Hearing Loss Folks Throughout the State**

Health fairs are popular with New Jersey folks young and old because they are great places to pick up health-related literature, freebie gifts that exhibitors like to give out and also provide opportunities for early free screening tests for all kinds health issues from blood pressure checks to early hearing assessments. They are also places where HLAA chapters as well as the HLAA-NJ state association can provide membership literature for the organization, as well as provide their members with opportunities to interact with the general public to answer questions about hearing loss and the many technological solutions available to provide assistive listening help for people. For some, the hearing screening could provide a first indication of hearing loss.

We encourage participation at these health fairs at every opportunity, and generally recommend at least three ways HLAA can help. First, offer to staff a table where a chapter member can pass out helpful printed information about hearing loss, and also answer questions. Frequently, a casual conversation with a health fair attendee can result in attracting new members to your monthly meetings.

In offering to assist at health fairs, HLAA members can also suggest audiologists who may be interested in participating by either staffing another table to sign up people for free hearing screenings at their nearby office location, or perhaps be provided with another small room or quiet space where actual on-site screenings can be conducted.

Many health fair visitors who may have never seen caption telephones may also be interested in seeing CapTel or similar telephone devices demonstrated onsite, and CapTel is usually available to provide such demonstrations. CapTel is usually a sponsor of many HLAA events and activities, and as such can usually set up at any appropriate health fair in New Jersey. All they generally need would be one table, and access to a nearby electric outlet, to power their devices. The phone devices are usually provided without cost to applicants whose doctors can certify to their hearing loss.

For further help and information about participating in a community health fair, please write to [info@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:info@hearingloss-nj.org), or call 732-415-7556.

### **Chapter News for February**

**HLAA-Morris County Chapter** has planned a movie social get-together for **Saturday, February 13** at a captioned movie at the East Hanover Movie Theater. Details to follow as time and movies are available. It's a nice time to get to know each other better. Come and enjoy our fellowship.

For next month on **Saturday, March 12**, this chapter has scheduled its monthly meeting at Summit Speech School. Topic is all about cochlear implants from a researcher's point of view and from a specialist's point of view. Additional details will follow in next month's newsletter.

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@HLAA-NJ.Org](mailto:Pat.Dobbs@HLAA-NJ.Org).

**HLAA-Paterson Chapter** will hold its February chapter meeting and open house on **Saturday, February 20th, 2016** from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the Paterson Main Public Library, 250 Broadway, Paterson, NJ 07501. All subsequent meetings for 2016 will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, with sessions now set for March 19<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Hearing Loss Association of America is the nation's leading organization representing people with hearing loss. With 48 million (20 percent) of all Americans having some degree of hearing loss, making it the third major public health issue after heart disease and arthritis, attendance is encouraged by those with hearing loss or who have a family member with hearing loss, would like support from others in the hearing loss community or want questions answered about hearing loss. As President of the chapter, Sharieff Bugg says that "the journey to our upcoming Open House was filled with many bumps in the road, but we did it. We worked hard to plan, train, and develop the structure of our chapter, and look forward to introducing our wonderful leadership team to the community and sharing our platform for the 2016

calendar year. We also look forward to any suggestions, support and resources that can assist us in serving our local deaf and hard of hearing community.”

**HLAA-Middlesex County Chapter**, which meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, except for July and August, will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, February 16th** at 7:30 PM at First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, 201 Hamilton Blvd. South Plainfield, NJ. January’s meeting had to be cancelled because of inclement weather conditions. If you would like to attend please contact Marie Nordling by e-mail: [manord63@yahoo.com](mailto:manord63@yahoo.com) and check for the program update.

**HLAA-Essex County Chapter** will meet **Saturday, February 6, 2016**, 11 AM to 1:00 PM, at the South Orange Public Library, 65 Scotland Road, South Orange, NJ. Program: Janice S. Lintz, Hearing Access Consultant, Consumer Advocate, Journalist and Traveler, will speak on “Hearing Access & Innovations” and Motivating Teens That They Can. Light refreshments will be served.

**HLAA-South Jersey Shore Chapter** puts meetings on hold during the winter months, and will pick up in the Spring. They continue doing advocacy and online support and personal meetups. Interested participants are encouraged to make further contact with Carolyn Richards at [Carolyn.richards@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:Carolyn.richards@hearingloss-nj.org)

**HLAA-Bergen County Chapter** plans no regular general membership meetings for the immediate future while the Chapter works to install a major looping system in its traditional meeting place, the Ethical Culture Society building in Teaneck, NJ. Until the looping project is complete, the Chapter welcomes participation from those interested in the local Bergen County looping 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)

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

*By Arlene Romoff*

Below is a listing of the Open Captioned performances at the five theaters in NJ that provide one open captioned performance per production, for the balance of this 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**

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

A Bronx Tale - Sunday, March 6 at 7 PM

Pump Boys and Dinettes - Sunday, May 1 at 7 PM

West Side Story - Sunday, June 26 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:

*Sex With Strangers*: March 26; 2 PM

*My Name is Asher Lev*: April 30; 2 PM

**McCarter Theater - Princeton, NJ—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

The Mousetrap - Saturday, March 19 at 3 PM

All the Days - Saturday, May 21 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

<i>Lives of Reason</i>	Saturday, February 6 at 3pm
<i>Ropes</i>	Saturday, March 19 at 3pm
<i>Pericles</i>	Saturday, May 7 at 3pm
<i>I Remember Mama</i>	Saturday, June 25 at 3pm

**State Street Theater – New Brunswick, NJ – 732-246-7469**

Write to: [Jackie.neill@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:Jackie.neill@co.middlesex.nj.us)

Reserved seat tickets are \$7.00 each

**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>

**IMPORTANT DATES ON THE 2016  
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 – 2016**

Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Saturday, February 20, 2016  
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
East Brunswick Public Library  
2 Jean Walling Civic Center  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3529

### **May – 2016**

Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Saturday, May 7, 2016  
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
East Brunswick Public Library  
2 Jean Walling Civic Center  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3529

### **June – 2016**

[Hearing Loss Association of America](#)  
Annual Convention  
Thursday, June 23 to Sunday, June 26, 2016  
Washington Hilton  
1919 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20009 US

### **August – 2016**

Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Saturday, August 6, 2016

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
East Brunswick Public Library  
2 Jean Walling Civic Center  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3529

**October – 2016**

New Jersey Walk4Hearing  
Saturday, October 16, 2016  
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Mercer County Park  
Hughes Drive  
West Windsor, NJ

**November – 2016**

Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Annual Meeting  
Saturday, November 19, 2016  
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 will be sent separately to all members of this distribution list as they are issued by our national office.

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Once the NPRM is published in the Federal Register, stakeholders (e.g., the public, mobile phone manufacturers and service providers, organizations representing the interests of people with disabilities, academics, emergency managers, etc.) will have 30 days to submit comments and 60 days to submit reply comments. HLAA will be responding.

### **HLAA Passes 9,000 Facebook Likes This Week**

Facebook and Twitter are two excellent ways to increase the visibility of HLAA, Walk4Hearing and our Chapters! Please encourage your friends and colleagues to "like" the HLAA and Walk4Hearing pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/HearingLossAssociation>

[Twitter.com/hlaa](https://twitter.com/hlaa)

### **HLAA to Exhibit at NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo**

Come visit us at **Booth 1640** at the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo, January 9 and 10 at the Washington Convention Center. See more at the official website.

## **ADVOCACY**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has announced that it is exploring the feasibility of conducting a negotiated rulemaking that would ensure captioning of in-flight entertainment and videos, better-defined service animals, as well as carrier reporting of disability service requests, among other issues. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not apply to airplanes in flight, which are governed by the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA). While there is some split of authority, the prevailing rule is that private individuals may not bring suit under the ACAA, so the disability access issues can only be brought to the attention of the DOT. To learn more and submit your comments no later than January 6, 2016, check the HLAA National website.

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

### **Survey on Banking for People with Hearing Loss**

The World Institute on Disability (WID) and the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) are conducting a brief 10- to 15-minute survey about access to and use of banking and financial institutions for people with hearing loss.

Results from this survey will be used to inform the financial and banking industry as to best practices to make information and services more accessible to people with hearing loss. No individual identifying data or characteristics will be provided to any outside agency, organization or business. All responses will be combined and no individual responses will be made available. After the completion of the study, all contact information will be destroyed. Check the HLAA National website for further details.

## WEBINARS

December 16, 8 p.m.-9 p.m., Christine Cassel, M.D., president and CEO of National Quality Forum, will present *Aging America and Hearing Loss: The PCAST Report Explained*. See the Schedule page for more information. Webinar times are Eastern Standard Time. All webinars are free, captioned, and recorded. The recordings are posted on the Webinar Replay page of the National HLAA website.

## CONVENTION 2016/IFHOH CONGRESS

### **ATTENTION STATE AND CHAPTER LEADERS**

HLAA State and Chapter Leaders, please plan to attend special sessions in the afternoon on Wednesday, June 22. Additional information about the Convention and leader workshops will be posted on our website at [hearingloss.org/content/chapter-news](http://hearingloss.org/content/chapter-news). The leader registration guidelines and form are also posted on that page.

Also of note, the HLAA Board of Trustees meeting has been moved to Wednesday evening to make way for two plenary sessions on Thursday morning

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