



## **HLAA-NJ NEWS, VIEWS & DATES MARCH 2017**

Compiled by Joel Strasser, APR, Fellow PRSA,

President, Hearing Loss Association of NJ (HLAA-NJ)

### **This Online Newsletter is Interested in Hearing From You!**

**“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](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.** If you have any questions or interesting

experiences, send that along too!

## **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.

## **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).

## **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.

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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 March**

### **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

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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 meet on Saturday, March 11, 2017, to meet and hear the local Fire Department Captain, and a Red Cross specialist, discussing fire prevention and protection for people who are hard of hearing. Come to the meeting to learn more. Coffee and Conversation at 10:00 AM; presentation from 10:30 to 12:30. Location is Summit Speech School, 705 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ. 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, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto:Latisha.Porter-Vaughn@hearingloss-nj.org)

### **HLAA-South Jersey Shore Chapter** will

meet Thursday, March 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](mailto:Carolyn.richards@hearingloss-nj.org)

### **HLAA-Paterson Chapter** will meet Saturday, March 4,

2017 from 2:30 to 4:30 PM, to learn about “The Over 21 Dilemma,” with Surrogate Judge Bernice Toledo, at the Paterson Main Branch **Library’s Assembly Room, 250 Broadway, Paterson, NJ**. The meeting will cover changes in the law that will affect eligibility for people with hearing loss and hard of hearing. Next meeting after March will be May 6, 2017. 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)

**HLAA-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**

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**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**

<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**

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

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

**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](http://www.mccarter.org/VisitorInfo/VisitorDefault.aspx?page_id=32)

Tickets are a discounted \$25 each

**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

<b>Scheduled Open Caption performances for the 2016/17 Season:</b>	
<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](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.**

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