



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

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

**HLAA-NJ 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**

We welcome you to attend!

**Scholarships for High School Seniors with
Hearing Loss to be Presented Sunday, June 4th**

As many as four scholarships of \$1,500 each will be presented at a special ceremony on Sunday, June 4th, between 11 AM and 1 PM, at the East Brunswick Public Library, to high school seniors with hearing loss who filed applications by Monday, May 1st, thanks to funds raised at the annual HLAA Walk4Hearing this past October.

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 3rd to participate to 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 rcarr@njtheatrealliance.org

Wayne Roorda Joins DDHH Staff **As Hard of Hearing Specialist**

Wayne Roorda has joined the DDHH staff as New Jersey's Hard-of-Hearing Specialist, effective April 10, 2017, it has been announced. Many know Wayne as HLAA-NJ's co-founder and currently Recording Secretary, as well as his involvement with HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America), both at the local and national levels.

Wayne has had long-term hearing loss which was first identified in the fourth grade. By the time he entered his senior year in high school, the loss had progressed to the point that he needed hearing aids. By 1997, when his hearing aids were no longer providing any useful benefit, he received his first cochlear implant at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center.

Wayne has closely followed developments in assistive technology for people who are hard-of-hearing or deaf and he is familiar with the

growing array of options available to individuals, organizations, and businesses interacting with clients with hearing loss. He can be reached at [\(609\)588-2648](tel:6095882648).

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 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, or to 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, 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 15th.

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/>

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). 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.

Chapter News for May

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.

HCAA-Morris County Chapter will meet Saturday, May 20, at Summit Speech School, 705 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ, to hear Craig Barth, MA, CCC-A, FAAA, discuss "Tinnitus, Stop the Ringing!," a sensation of noise in the ears that is generally difficult to treat. Coffee and conversation 10 AM, Presentation 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Captioning and refreshments will be provided. Any questions, please contact Pat Dobbs at pat.dobbs@hearingloss-nj.org

In addition, HCAA-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

Baseball game – **open to all**. Sunday, June 18, 1:05 PM, TD Bank Ballpark, 1 Patriots Park, Bridgewater, NJ. Group tickets: \$8.50 per person. There will be captioning and ASL interpreters and seating for the physically handicapped. RSVP to Jennifer, at jenniferpercival@hotmail.com. Event created by HCAA-Morris County.

HCAA-Essex County Chapter will next meet for **Pre-Mother's Day Coffee & Conversation** 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. Light refreshments will be served. 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, May 18, 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 meet **Saturday, May 6, 2017** from 2:30 to 4:30 PM, to hear Linda Miller, discuss "Diversity in Sign Language," at Paterson Main Branch Library, Assembly Room, 250 Broadway, Paterson. First 50 guests will receive free tickets to movie, "Closed Caption Only," performance on May 25, at 6:30 PM, at Fabian-8 Theater, Paterson. 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, 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

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, 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>

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

Tickets are a discounted \$25 each

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

Two River Theater - Red Bank, NJ—[732-345-1400](tel: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>The Ballad of Little Jo</i>	Saturday, June 24 at 3pm
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Plays in the Park - Edison, NJ - [732-548-2884](tel:732-548-2884)

<http://www.playsinthepark.com/>

Legally Blonde - The Musical - Monday, June 26, 2017

West Side Story - TBA

Mary Poppins - TBA

For open captioned performances in NYC, one must register with TDF at their website - www.tdf.org and click on Accessibility Programs and follow the 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.

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.