



HLAA-NJ NEWS, VIEWS & DATES NOVEMBER 2016

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

**Saturday, November 19th is our
Annual Meeting,**

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 19, where beginning at 1 PM, HLAA-NJ will stage its 2016 Annual Meeting, the New Jersey Hearing and Listening Exposition, and our 20th Anniversary Celebration. This annual event, which lasts until 4 PM, is a stellar opportunity for people with hearing loss, their friends and family members, to learn and experience more about coping with hearing loss, as well as current issues and progress made in addressing the needs of

people with hearing loss.

This year’s annual meeting is also an opportunity for facilities and business managers who have 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 installers who will speak, show and demonstrate their ADA-compliant systems and technologies. Refreshments, socializing, award presentations and a “mini-fair” of exhibitors and installers – an extraordinary public resource. Board elections will also be held.

Our special guest speaker for this event is Juliette Sterkens, AuD., HLAA National Hearing Loop Advocate, who serves as the nation’s leading expert on hearing loops and communications access, and who will speak on “All things hearing: Hearing Loss, Hearing aids and Hearing Loops.”

Here’s a partial listing of agencies and organizations that have been invited to staff tables and speak directly with attendees about the many resources and services they offer:

- 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
- ClearCaptions – captioned telephones, services
- “Ask the Audiologist” – available to answer questions
- 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 will be provided by the NJ Division of Deaf & Hard of Hearing, including CART Captioning, an assistive listening system, and sign language interpreters. Plan to attend; you won't miss a word.

Reelabilities Film Festival Featured at Montclair State University

On Thursday, November 3rd at 7:45 PM, Montclair State University will host the annual Reelabilities film festival, which features disability-based topical themes, at MSU's University Hall, Room 1070. Included will be a feature film focusing on hearing loss called "No Ordinary Hero: The SuperDeafy Movie."

In addition, there will be a performance of SILENT NO MORE, by the No Limits for Deaf Children group - including a Q&A with the performers. Following that, Kathy Buckley, a noted comedian with hearing loss, will perform as well. CART captioning, Assistive Listening Devices, and ASL interpreters will be provided.

This promises to be an awesome program! And it's FREE! BUT advanced registration is required. To get tickets, go [here](#) and you'll see the Nov 3rd event. Click on REGISTER to reserve your seat. For further information or assistance, please e-mail Fran Prezant at prezantf@montclair.edu.

Text-to-911 emergency system now available statewide

New Jersey has become one of seven U.S. states to implement a statewide text-to-911 system. The other states with text-to-911 capability are Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Indiana, Hawaii and North Dakota.

Being able to text 911 instead of placing a voice call can be a valuable alternative for victims of domestic violence or individuals facing situations such as home invasions as well as those with hearing loss. However, the Federal Communications Commission stresses that if you are able to make a voice call to 911, and if it is safe to do so, you should always make a voice call to 911 instead of texting.

Here are answers to some of the frequently asked questions about the text-to-911 system.

What is Text to 911?

Text to 911 is an emergency service that is provided to all mobile users in the State of New Jersey. It allows someone to use their activated cell phone to contact the 911

center via text message instead of calling 911.

Should we just use the texting because it's easier than calling?

No. Telephoning 911 is still a faster, more efficient way of relaying an emergency to the Police, Fire or Ambulance services. Calling 911 will also provide the 911 center with access to your location. Texting to 911 should only be done when you are unable to make a voice call.

When would someone use text to 911?

Some examples would be:

- If you are in a situation where it is not safe to place a voice call to 911.
- If you are experiencing a medical emergency that renders you incapable of speaking or hearing.
- If you are unable to call 911 due to being in a location with sporadic cellular voice service.
- If you are unable to speak or hear due to injury or physical restraint.

If I am able to text to 911, will the 911 center automatically know my location?

No. Per the FCC: Texting to 911 is different from making a voice call to 911 in this respect. When you make a voice call to 911, the call taker will typically receive your phone number and your approximate location automatically. This is called "Enhanced 911" or "E911." However, in most cases when you text 911 from a wireless phone, the call taker will not receive this automated information. For this reason, if you send a text message to 911, it is important to give the 911 call taker an accurate address or location as quickly as possible, if you can.

What do I do to text if I have to?

You simply send a text to the number 911 like you would any other text. Keep in mind, text messaging was never meant to provide emergency services, so your text may take longer to reach help, and the 911 Center will not automatically know your location so you'll have to be specific in providing that.

What do I say in a text?

You will need to provide your location and the type of emergency you have (Police, Fire, or Ambulance) and address if you know it, including floor or room number if you are in a building. Send brief messages, but please don't use abbreviations. Also remember to use plain English language. The 911 Center Dispatcher will then respond with text questions pertaining to your situation.

Can I send a picture or video of a bad accident I just saw?

No, unfortunately Text to 911 only can support ordinary SMS (Short Messaging Services), which is a plain text message limited to 160 characters per text. Pictures and videos currently can't be sent to us. Emoji won't work either.

Does my phone number have to be a New Jersey phone number to use this?

No. The service will work as long as you send a text to 911 and have an active (US) cell phone. For example, if you are from Pennsylvania and visiting New Jersey, your text message will reach a local 911 Center in New Jersey.

What about a cell phone that has no service? I know those phones can still call 911; can they text to 911 too?

Sorry, no they can't. It has to be a text enabled phone with a current text plan to work.

Wanted: Computer Guru Volunteers **HLAA-NJ Needs Your Website, Graphics Help**

HLAA needs your help, if you are either a graphics or website guru, to help our webmaster with our expanding computer needs for making improvements on both our website and our monthly newsletter. Or, if you can't volunteer long term, we are looking for one or a few good people who can assist us either on a one-time, consulting basis, or have the appropriate graphics software packages to help us finalize such elements as our looping logo, and occasional other individual online or individual offline projects. If you can assist, please contact either joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org, or our webmaster, bigbearnj@gmail.com, at your early convenience.

Chapter News for November

Chapter leadership opportunities: If you are located in or near Middlesex, Bergen, Ocean or Monmouth Counties, HLAA-NJ has leadership opportunities available for 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 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 INFO@HEARINGLOSS-NJ.ORG, or write or call directly to joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org, or telephone [732-475-7399](tel:732-475-7399).

HLAA-Morris County Chapter will meet on **Saturday, November 12, 2016**, on "Understanding Your Audiogram," "Do you know how to read your audiogram? Do you know what kind of hearing loss you have? Come to the meeting to learn more about your own hearing loss. 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. 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 meet **Saturday, November 5, 2016**, at 2:30 PM, at the Paterson Main Branch Library, 250 Broadway, Paterson, NJ 07501. 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, which meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, except for July and August, is on **Tuesday, November 15th**, 7:30 pm at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, 201 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ. For

program details or if you would like to attend please contact Marie Nordling by e-mail: right54@optonline.net or telephone [732-721-4183](tel:732-721-4183).

HLAA-Essex County Chapter on **Saturday, November 12th** will meet to present Ciana Jourdan Joseph, freshman student at Governor Livingston High School, who will discuss her experiences learning with teens who are deaf or hard of hearing, and how she was influenced to participate in her high school's American Sign Language Program. Confidence is needed to function well in the mainstream setting, especially for children and teens who are hard of hearing or deaf. Also speaking: Terry R. Hurley, New Jersey Territory Manager of ClearCaptions, will share details on how to order the Free ClearCaption telephone. 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 will meet **Thursday, November 18, 2016**. 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-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

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
<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:

Mama's Boy - Saturday, November 11, 2016 at 2 PM
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:

<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

The State Theatre in New Brunswick is offering an OPEN CAPTIONED performance of **JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** on Saturday, December 30th at 2 PM

Tickets are \$7 each and can be purchased after November 9th from The State Theatre Ticket Office at [732-246-7469](tel:732-246-7469)

If you have any questions, email Jackie Neill at jackie.neill@co.middlesex.nj.us

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'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.

November – 2016

**Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey
Board of Trustees Meeting & Special Looping Presentations
Annual Meeting & 20th Anniversary Celebration**

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

February – 2017

**Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Saturday, February 9th, 2017
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 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.