



HLAA-NJ NEWS, VIEWS & DATES, OCTOBER 2016

*Compiled by Joel Strasser, APR, Fellow PRSA,
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October is Here – Are You Ready?? This is Your Month to Walk4Hearing

New Jersey's Walk4Hearing starts on Sunday, October 16, 2016 at Mercer County Park, West Picnic Area, Hughes Drive, West Windsor, NJ, with Registration and Check-In at 10 AM, and a Walk start time of 11 AM. Walk4Hearing events are fundraising 5K (3.1 miles) walks held across the United States. Since its inception in 2006, more than 70,000 walkers have stepped up, raising more than \$10 million. Money raised from the Walk4Hearing is shared between the local Walk sites and the HLAA national organization. Dollars for programs and services for people with hearing loss, Walk4Hearing has grown into the largest awareness and fundraising event for the Hearing Loss Association of America® (HLAA). Collaborating with local HLAA chapters and state associations, Walk4Hearing educates the general public about hearing loss while easing the associated stigma. Striving to make hearing loss a public health issue, thousands of people of all ages, races, and backgrounds have come together to display their compassion for

the cause and to make hearing loss an issue of national concern. For further details about the HLAA-NJ Walk, contact Wayne Roorda at bigbearnj@gmail.com , or Ann Rancourt at ann.rancourt@hearingloss.org

The Walk is also a great place to meet other people with hearing loss, and the event includes refreshments, children's activities, technology exhibits and other attractions.

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. Calling 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 eitherjoel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org, or our webmaster, bigbearnj@gmail.com, at your early convenience.

Chapter News for October

HLAA-Morris County Chapter will meet on Sunday, October 16, 2016, at the Walk4Hearing, at Mercer County Park, West Windsor and Hamilton, 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 does not plan any meetings until November, 2016. Please see our next issue for date, time and place of HLAA-Paterson Chapter's next meeting. For further information about meetings or programs, please contact Sharrieff Bugg at 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, October 18th, 7:30pm 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.

HLAA-Essex County Chapter on Saturday, October 8th is holding a formal dinner for the Walk4hearing Fundraiser at the Galloping Inn, 1085 Galloping Hill Rd., Union, NJ, dinner and fashion show, (Dress to Impress), raffles, prizes, giveaways, seating is limited, advance tickets required, \$65 per person. 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, October 20, 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. Until there is more to report, the Chapter welcomes comment and participation from those interested in the local Bergen County 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 four 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 Producers - Sunday, October 23, 2016 at 7 PM

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

Bathing in Moonlight - Saturday, October 1, 2016 at 3 PM

Disgraced - Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 3 PM

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:

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

Saturday, October 1 at 3pm

The Lion in Winter

Saturday, December 3 at 3pm

Hurricane Diane

Saturday, February 11 at 3pm

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Saturday, March 25 at 3pm

The Women of Padilla

Saturday, April 29 at 3pm

The Ballad of Little Jo

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'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. 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 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.

October – 2016

New Jersey Walk4Hearing

Saturday, October 16, 2016

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Mercer County Park

Hughes Drive

West Windsor or Hamilton, NJ

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

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.