



Heard In Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

March 2023

WORLD HEARING DAY

March 3, 2023

March 11 Meeting Program

Pearls of Wisdom and World Hearing Day

Presented by Mary Catherine Hess, MA
Outreach Coordinator with CapTel's OEI division



Mary Catherine loves sharing the potpourri of unique educational resources CapTel Outreach offers. In the spirit of “sharing is caring” and to celebrate “World Hearing Day,” she will provide an opportunity for members to create a “What I Wish Someone Had Told Me” resource kit for their family and friends.

In addition, Pearl from “Pearl’s Hearing Health Wisdom” will highlight some entertaining online resources that can be shared on social media. Participants can look forward to a fun time, and each person will leave with a personalized gift for their family and friends.

Mary Catherine Hess has worked with the deaf and hard of hearing community for nearly 20 years. With an extensive background in EHDI (Early Hearing Detection & Intervention), Mary Catherine turned her efforts towards helping people of all ages when she joined OEI in 2017. She achieved her MA in Linguistics from Gallaudet University and holds a BS in Communication Disorders. Her professional interests include communication access issues in health care settings, assistive technology, and ASL / English interpreting. Mary Catherine is a yogi, pug lover, glamper, and fan of NPR and folk music.

HLAA Fort Worth meets on the second Saturday of each month

in the fellowship hall of Central Christian Church, 3205 Hamilton Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107.

Snacks and mingle at 9:30 a.m. and meeting at 10:00. Please join us, and bring a friend!

We offer realtime captioning and assistive listening systems for communication accessibility.

Captioning is provided courtesy of Cauthen & Associates Court Reporting and CART Services.

Photo Credit: *The photograph of The Fort Worth Herd on our Heard In Fort Worth banner is used by permission of The Fort Worth Herd and its sponsor, the City of Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department.*

Joyce's Jargon

Early in the month of February I wrote the following letter to the editor of the Star-Telegram on behalf of all who have a hearing loss and desire to be safe on the Trinity Trails along the river. It was published on Sunday, February 12th but only included my name and city. I had included the chapter and HLAA in my closing. I so wanted it to be from all of us who experience challenges with hearing. Hopefully some bicyclers will get the idea.

Dear Editor

On Sunday, February 5th my husband and I were enjoying our 45-minute walk on the Trinity Trail along the river east of Hulen. Many other walkers and bicyclists were out appreciating the first great day since the week of ice, rain, and cabin fever. I have a hearing loss and even with great hearing aids I can't hear bikes coming behind me. Only three bikers that day said, "On your left" and there were MANY bikes As a courtesy to walkers and especially walkers with hearing loss, please, say "ON YOUR LEFT" when passing walkers. It's common courtesy and it could prevent accidents!

Joyce Parlin, Fort Worth

I also had the privilege of attending the 2022 Fort Worth Neighborhood Awards luncheon on February 18th. Our own Dan White was nominated for the Danny Scarth Trailblazer Award. It is named for a former City Council-member, who died last November. But his legacy of public service, inclusion, and kindness continue. The award recognizes someone who, in their everyday life, raises awareness and makes real changes that improve opportunities for persons with disabilities. Dan sure is the epitome of someone who raises awareness of hearing loss and the challenges faced by all. It was an honor to be there and represent the chapter. The couple who won the award also are involved in serving those with deafness and hearing loss. The hearing loss community was well represented.

See you on Saturday, March 11th

Joyce Parlin, Chapter President

2023 Chapter Board of Directors

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Heard In Fort Worth

This newsletter is published by the
**Fort Worth Chapter of the
Hearing Loss Association of America**
www.hearinglossfortworth.com
Email: fortworthHLAA@gmail.com
Mailing address: Box 1310, Euless TX 76039
Telephone: 817-966-1947 or 817-228-8041

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979 by Howard E. "Rocky" Stone, is the nation's leading organization representing consumers with hearing loss. The mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support, and advocacy.



Hearing Loss Association of America
6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 320
Rockville, MD 20852. 301-657-2248.

Membership has its benefits. Please join or renew. Go to www.hearingloss.org and click on "Membership" to join. A portion of your national dues is remitted to our chapter for local support.

Mayor's awards recognized services to people with hearing loss and deafness



Joyce, Dan, and Kevin at Mayor's Award Luncheon



Winners Dorothy & A.B. Lampkin with Dan

Chapter newsletter editor Daniel White was a finalist for the 2022 Danny Scarth Trailblazer Award presented by the Fort Worth Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities at the Mayor's Neighborhood Awards luncheon on Saturday, February 18. Chapter Vice-President Kevin Medlin made the nomination. Kevin serves on the Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities.

The award recognizes Dan's 33 years with the Fort Worth Chapter of HLAA as chapter co-founder, newsletter editor, and webmaster, "keeping members aware of legal issues and advances in technology for the hard-of-hearing community," the citation said.

The award winners were Dorothy and A. B. Lampkin, honored for their 50+ years of service in the deaf and hard of hearing communities.

February 11 Meeting Summary

Understanding the Ear-to-Brain Connection: The Audiologist's Role in Cognitive Health

Presenter: Stefan Marchant, Au.D.

*Program summary edited by Darlene Liesner from a transcript by caption writer
Carrie Gibson, of Cauthen & Associates, Court Reporting & CART Service*

Dr. Stefan Marchant received his Doctorate of Audiology from Texas Tech University. He has been an audiologist since 2017. Formerly, he worked as an audiologist for the Veteran's Administration. Currently, he is a clinical account manager for Cognivue, providing training to healthcare providers.

At the February 11 chapter meeting, Dr. Marchant discussed dementia and Alzheimer's, hearing loss and cognitive decline, and cognitive screening. He answered audience questions throughout his presentation.

Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) is another name for pre-dementia. A person with MCI may be more forgetful and struggle with decision making. They can still function and perform daily activities. Mild Cognitive Impairment is midway between normal cognition and dementia. Diagnosis and treatment at this stage may prevent or postpone dementia.

A person with dementia no longer functions as they should. Dementia interferes with daily activities. Alzheimer's is one of over 200 types of dementia. One of three elderly people dies of Alzheimer's. It is a fatal diagnosis. 6.5 million Americans have dementia. After losing their minds, people may live another ten years. There is no widely accepted treatment for Alzheimer's.

Hearing is detecting sound. **Listening** is the ability to comprehend and/or apply meaning to sound. “*We hear with our ears but listen with our brains.*” 60% of Alzheimer’s and dementia is genetic. 40% is caused by other risk factors. When identified and addressed in mid-life, hearing loss is the number one modifiable risk factor for dementia.



Cognitive load is how hard the brain is working. Hearing loss causes the brain to pull from its memory and executive function domains. Pulling from those areas leads to forgetfulness, trouble making decisions, and cognitive decline. The overworked brain, in conjunction with social isolation, may lead to dementia. Untreated hearing loss does not necessarily lead to dementia. There is a correlation between the two. The prevalence of people with hearing loss developing dementia is higher than in the average population.

The chances of developing dementia are greater if hearing loss is sudden or occurs later in life than if a person is born with it. The average person waits five to ten years from the time they notice hearing difficulty to the time they seek help. The earlier the intervention with hearing loss and brain care the better. The risk of dementia increases 130% per 10 dB of hearing loss.

Cognivue Thrive is an FDA approved computerized cognitive screening device. Self-administered, the screening takes five to ten minutes. The device is more objective than traditional pen and paper cognitive screening tests. Cognivue Thrive is individualized. Calibrated for motor skills and vision, the device allows a person additional time to complete the screening if needed.

Cognivue Thrive evaluates three cognitive domains: memory, visuospatial (ability to make sense of visual information in the environment), and executive function. It also measures reaction time and processing speed. An audiologist reviews the results and discusses intervention and next steps with the patient. An audiologist’s value is not in their devices, but in their expertise. **A green score** indicates good cognitive performance - how hard the brain is working. In the case of a **yellow score**, Cognivue continues to monitor. If cognition worsens, Cognivue advises the patient to return to their doctor to discuss a plan of action. With a **red score**, Cognivue recommends seeing one’s doctor immediately to determine if further cognitive testing is needed. A red score does not necessarily indicate dementia. It simply means that someone did not pass the screening.

Cognivue Thrive is not a test for dementia. Rather, it is a screening to see if an individual needs a full evaluation for it. The better one can screen their cognition, or the earlier one can scan, the better.

The website <https://cognivue.com> has information for patients and healthcare providers. Cognivue participants have access to a registered nurse and a wellness coach. Cognivue works with audiologists, ENTs, neurologists, MDs, optometrists, pharmacists, and law enforcement.

Currently Cognivue is partnered with Cochlear Limited, the implant company, in a study of one-sided deafness. Having just finished a study with Davos Alzheimer’s Collaborative, they are partnered with the University of Southern California, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Miami. They are working with a large California group which focuses on Alzheimer’s research.

Theater Captions:

How North Texas Theaters Can Make Performances More Accessible to the Deaf

Two specialists from Dallas' Deaf Action Center share what theaters can do to be more inclusive of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

By Elizabeth Myong, KERA February 20, 2023 9:39 am Arts & Culture, KERA, Tech & Innovation, Texas Newsroom, as published in The Texas Standard, 2/20/2023, edited and abridged by Daniel White



When audience member Samantha Coleman sat down to enjoy a Broadway production of “Hadestown” in New York in October, she was repeatedly called out by an actor on stage for using what was assumed to be a recording device. In actuality, Coleman - who is hard of hearing - was using a captioning device provided by the theater.

While producers of Broadway’s “Hadestown” and Jujamcyn Theaters have publicly apologized to Coleman, the incident gets at an underlying issue: theaters have historically struggled to be inclusive spaces for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Deaf or hard of hearing audience members at Broadway Dallas' production of "Pretty Woman: The Musical" could read captions in Spanish or English on their smartphones by downloading an app.

To change that, Laura Tovar, development director at the Deaf Action Center_(DAC) in Dallas, said theaters need to go beyond quick fixes.

“Accommodation and disability and accessibility and inclusivity require more than just checking the box,” she said. “It’s intentionality. It’s a conversation. It’s education.”

Bianca Walker, a deaf and hard of hearing access specialist with the DAC, said it’s clear there was miscommunication and a lack of education in the “Hadestown” incident since Coleman was using a device provided by the theater

“You see here in this situation where actors are saying you can’t use your cellular device during the play,” Walker said. “But if they had that prior knowledge that a captioning device looks similar to a cell phone or a mobile device that could have been avoided.”

Walker said she thinks it’s realistic for theaters to create a policy where all staff are required to have basic knowledge of the types of accommodations offered.

There are a number of options for those who are deaf or hard of hearing based on their needs, including closed captioning devices, smart glasses with captions, American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and the GalaPro app with read-in-the-dark captions which is now being offered by Broadway Dallas.

“I think it’s respect for the actors and the people that worked hard to put on the show too,” Tovar said. “I know that an actor doesn’t want people in the seats that don’t understand what’s happening in the show and doesn’t understand all their hard work and the beauty and the art that they’re trying to convey.”

Tovar said theaters can be more inclusive of patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing is by making statements about accommodations more prevalent and obvious because they “should never be hidden.”

That can include making language about accommodations in theater brochures larger, displaying posters in the lobby, repeating announcements about the use of closed captioning or other devices and training ushers to offer accommodations while leading patrons to their seats.

Read the full article at <https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/north-texas-theaters-deaf-hard-of-hearing-accessibility/>

EDITOR’S NOTE: Ask customer service at movie theaters for a closed caption device. Hold it in front below eye level.



Help Us Celebrate World Hearing Day March 3, 2023

Make Hearing Care a Priority!

✓ PROTECT ✓ CHECK ✓ TREAT

#WorldHearingDay2023 #HLAA #ASHAWEB

On March 3, World Hearing Day appears on the world's stage. According to the World Health Organization's World Hearing Forum, World Hearing Day started in 2007 known as International Ear Day. In 2016 it was renamed to its current name of World Hearing Day, where people across the globe take note to pay attention to hearing health. Each year, March 3 is set aside to raise awareness on how to prevent hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.



Early Bird Registration Is Now Open.

Go to <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/hlaa-2023-convention/> for details and registration. The early bird registration discount ends on March 31, 2023.

Join us in New Orleans June 29 - July 1. This three-day event includes the general session with keynote speaker Dr. K. Renee Horton, the Research Symposium, Joy of Music/Loving Your Ears, and a variety of educational workshops.

The Exhibit Hall will allow participants to talk one-on-one with industry representatives about the latest in assistive technologies and our demo room will allow participants to see technology in action.

If you have hearing loss, know someone who does, are a hearing health care professional, or are part of the HLAA network of advocates and volunteers, this is an event you will not want to miss.

Questions? Email convention@hearingloss.org.

Support your Fort Worth chapter

We will acknowledge your donations in each issue of the newsletter.

The list is updated monthly. We started over for 2023.

Platinum = \$400+; Gold = \$200 to \$399; Silver = \$100 to \$199;
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GIFT IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM HETREED,
husband of Dr. Shirley Molenich
Given by Stephen J. and Joan S. Boyle

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Cauthen & Associates, Inc.
Court Reporting and CART Services
www.cauthenin.com

Cell: 817.319.1739
lgccauthen@yahoo.com

Telephone: 817.735.4442
Fax: 817.615.9100

Cauthen & Associates, Inc. is a woman-owned business, founded by Lisa Cauthen in 1998, and incorporated in 1999. Cauthen & Associates has provided the DFW Metroplex with **captioning, communication access real-time translation (CART), and court reporting services** for over 20 years. It provides CART services for our meetings

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Heather Dean, Au.D., FAAA, CCC-A
Doctor of Audiology
Board Certified in Audiology

121 NW Ellison St. Ste. 101
Burleson, TX 76028
PH: 817.764.3077
FAX: 817.754.1923



Heather.Dean@BurlasonAudiology.com
www.BurlasonAudiology.com