



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter

March 2024

March 9 Program:

Communication Strategies for People with Hearing Loss

Presented by Judy Oetting, M.S., Speech Pathologist

Judy is one of our chapter founders. She has taught lip reading and other communication skills for 40 years and is one of our favorite presenters. Judy has spoken on a variety of topics. This month's presentation uses the hard-of-hearing communication strategies developed by psychologist Dr. Sam Trychin, who has a hearing loss himself. This is one of our most effective and helpful programs, and is offered in response to member requests.

Judy has her B.S. degree from Northwestern University and her M.S. from Texas Christian University and serves our chapter as Librarian-Historian.

We will also mark our chapter's 34th anniversary at this month's meeting.

Chapter President Nominated for City Award



Chapter President Joyce Parlin was one of three finalists for the City of Fort Worth's Danny Scarth Trailblazer Award for her leadership in making Fort Worth more accessible for persons with disability. The award "recognizes a person who, in their everyday life, has raised awareness of living a life of value with a disability and made impactful changes in the Fort Worth community that improve life opportunities for persons disabilities.... Only volunteer activities are eligible for consideration."

The recognition was made during the Mayor's Community Engagement Workshops and Neighborhood Awards event on Saturday, March 2. The award is named for former city council member Danny Scarth (2006 - 2015) who used a wheelchair and was a strong advocate for students and adults with disabilities.

Pictured with Dan White (editor) and Kevin Medlin (vice-president)

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

Congratulations to HLAA - Fort Worth

This month marks the 34th anniversary of our chapter! It's a mark of the tenacity of two of the founding members, Dan White and Judy Oetting, who are still very actively involved.

The chapter has met continuously for those 34 years, minus the 18 months of COVID restrictions, and always on the second Saturday. That's 390 meetings! In 34 years, we have met in only three different meeting spaces; the host locations have been amazing.

It has taken dedication from many individuals to keep the chapter active and growing. We are grateful for all who have shared the chapter message of support, education, and advocacy on behalf of those with hearing loss and/or living with someone with HL.

How fitting it is that one of our founding members will be the presenter for the March meeting. We invite you to celebrate with us on Saturday, March 9th, the beginning of our 35th year.

See You Soon!

Joyce Parlin
Chapter President

2024 Chapter Board of Directors

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Heard In Fort Worth

This newsletter is published by the
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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.

Fort Worth HLAA - How It all Began

As we mark the 34th anniversary of our chapter, it seems fitting to offer a brief account of our origins.

The first meeting of the group that became the Fort Worth Chapter of HLAA was held on Saturday, March 10, 1990, at the Goodrich Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Eighteen people attended, and they agreed to continue with monthly meetings and to seek affiliation with the national organization, then known as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH).

Joan Lathrop, then executive director of the Goodrich Center, asked communications coordinator Dan White to start the group, since the Texas Rehabilitation Commission was urging the formation of SHHH chapters throughout the state. Dan partnered with Judy Oetting, who had earlier led hearing loss group sessions at the center, and with Marsha McClean, audiologist with Easter Seals. They combined their mailing lists and sent out invitations for the initial gathering.

In subsequent meetings, the group formed a steering committee to plan programs, conduct business, propose bylaws, and apply for a chapter charter from SHHH. The charter was received in March 1991, exactly one year after the first meeting. Clyde Black, Texas SHHH Coordinator and national board member, delivered the charter.

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People was founded by Howard E. (Rocky) Stone of Potomac, MD, in November 1979. In 2006 the national board voted to change the name to *Hearing Loss Association of America*. Our chapter has maintained membership since being chartered. We are now the only chapter in North Texas. Our vice-president, Kevin Medlin, has been charged with seeking to form new chapters in Texas.

February 10 Meeting Summary Area Agency on Aging Benefits Counseling Services

Presented by Diana Vazquez-Spangler,
Senior Benefits Counselor for the Tarrant County Area on Aging

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

The Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County (AAATC) is part of a network of 629 Area Agencies nationwide, one of 28 in the state of Texas, and the only one in Texas that is part of United Way. It exists to serve older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers. It connects people with the resources they need to thrive - independently, if possible.

All Area Agency on Aging services are provided at no cost to those who need them. Benefits counselors around the state give presentations about the Area Agency on Aging.

AAATC, along with the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), assists with caregivers, utilities, housing, and transportation. Working with Texas Legal Services, AATC helps senior citizens for free with wills and related legal documents, including advance directives.

It can help navigate through the tough decisions people must make about health care options, answering questions about Medicare, Medicaid, prescription coverage, long-term care, and more.

As a Benefits Counselor with AAATC, Diana Vazquez-Spangler is certified by Medicare and by the State of Texas. Her work is to help people understand Medicare benefits with plan comparisons. She is paid by the State. Her personal mission is that people learn the information from the right source.

Medicare is medical insurance for individuals receiving Social Security benefits. If your card is lost, go to the local Social Security office, or call the national number for the Social Security Office, 1 (800) 772-1213. Medicare

only replaces a lost Medicare card three times. Don't laminate your card. Don't carry it with you. The doctor's office already has your information.

Medicare open enrollment is from October 15 through December 7. Consider Medicare drug coverage (Part D) when you are first eligible to avoid a late enrollment penalty.

Texas Medicare Savings Programs help people with limited incomes and resources pay for some or all of Medicare expenses and prescription drugs. Recipients must be entitled to Medicare (Part A). There are four Medicare Savings Programs:

- Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)
- Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)
- Qualifying Individual Program (QI)
- Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals Program

The maximum income and resources for each level varies.

Everyone should have and peruse their *Medicare and You 2024* booklet. Texas has sixty-six Medicare Advantage Plans listed in the booklet. When comparing original Medicare or Medicare Advantage plans, request the number of a local agent. A local agent will come to your home if you ever have trouble with an explanation of benefits (EOB) or services.

Medicaid provides health coverage for low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities. Medicaid is state specific. If a person moves to another state, they must re-apply. Because Medicare and Social Security are federal, they are transferrable from state to state.

Sixty billion dollars a year are lost by Medicare due to fraud. Check your Social Security and Medicare Evidence of Coverage statements for accuracy. AAATC can help with appeals. Senior Medicare Patrols assist Medicare beneficiaries to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse. Diana Vazquez-Spangler is the Tarrant County representative for the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). The SMP has a booklet called a tracker for recording doctor visits, date, and reason for the visit which the doctor signs.

Neither Medicare nor Social Security will ever phone people. Never give your Medicare or Social Security number over the phone. Know what HMO and PPO insurance benefits you already have so as not to be lured by a caller's promises. Imposters may try to keep you on the phone as long as possible while they sell your phone number to other scammers.

Contacts: The Area Agency on Aging Tarrant County is at 201 North Rupert Street, Fort Worth, TX 76107. www.UnitedWayTarrant.org/AAATC. 1-888-730-ADRC (2372); www.TarrantCountyADRC.org.

Contact Diana Vazquez-Spangler at 817-258-8000; diana.vazquez-spangler@unitedwaytarrant.org.

March 3 Was World Hearing Day

- Globally, more than 1 billion people (15% of the population) have some degree of hearing loss
- By 2050, this number is expected to double to 2.5 billion, according to the WHO
- One billion young adults are at risk of preventable hearing loss due to unsafe listening practices
- Hearing loss affects more than 50 million in the United States, or 1 in 7 Americans
- Many people with hearing loss are never tested or treated

Former Chapter President David Edmondson visited our February meeting from the Tampa - St. Petersburg, Florida area. It was good to see him. Regrettably, Sharon was not feeling well and could not attend.





Join Us for the HLAA 2024 Convention

Phoenix, AZ
June 26-29, 2024



Register today for the annual HLA Convention. This communication-accessible event is designed to support millions of people with hearing loss from all walks of life around the United States. It's the largest national gathering designed to empower individuals and families facing hearing loss. When you're not learning, discovering new technology or connecting with new and old friends, you can explore the rich indigenous culture of the Gila River Indian community, indulge yourself at the spa, play on two championship golf courses and dine on authentic Native American cuisine at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass. Complimentary shuttles to Phoenix's Premiere Outlets and the Wild Horse Pass Casino will be available.

+ Chapter Leader Workshop—Wednesday, June 26
Topics include: Fundraising, Social Media and Marketing, ICAAT and Leadership Development

+ Opening Session—Thursday, June 27
Keynote Speaker—**Shanna Adamic**
Shanna Adamic is an inspirational keynote speaker and author empowering organizations with the competitive advantage of an audacious optimism mindset. In 2011, Shanna was diagnosed with a tumor compressing her brain stem. Given only a 4% chance of regaining basic functions, Shanna tapped into her optimism to defy the prognosis. After surgery left her deaf in one ear, she focused on gratitude for surviving. Shanna steadily relearned how to walk, talk, and ultimately thrive. Today, Shanna shares her message of audacious optimism and practical strategies for empowered thinking through her speaking.



+ Research Symposium—Friday, June 28
HLAA's 30th annual Research Symposium will focus on The Emotional Side of Hearing Loss. Often, hearing loss can lead to even more loss—most significantly, our easy connectedness with other people. This year's symposium features **Barbara Weinstein, Ph.D., Kathy Pichora-Fuller, Ph.D., Peter Dixon, M.D., Gael Hannan** and moderator **Ivette Cejas, Ph.D.**, discussing the powerful emotions of hearing loss, how they impact our behaviors and how we can harness them for a more successful hearing loss journey. **Research Symposium only access is \$20.**

+ Workshops—Thursday, June 27—Saturday June 29
27 education workshops on a variety of topics including:
+ Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants Can Improve Your Quality of Life
+ Why Is It So Hard to Treat Sensorineural Hearing Loss?
+ Cybersecurity and Hearing Loss
+ Growing Up with Hearing Loss and Raising Kids with Hearing Loss
+ Finding Your Hearing Loss Community on Instagram

All workshops are fully accessible with hearing loops and CART.

+ Hotel—Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass
A Resort-Style Adventure on Native Land—This year, we've traded the usual big-city experience for a beautiful southwest oasis. There's something for every member of the family to enjoy. Splash around in one of the four pools with waterfalls and a 111-foot waterslide. Discover horseback riding at the Koli Equestrian Center with lessons, trail rides, and outdoor events. For the younger guests, the Sheraton Adventure Club offers daily activities including exclusive Native American cultural programming. Or adventure by water and rent paddleboards, kayaks, and river boats to navigate the sprawling re-creation of the Gila River and view the gorgeous surrounding desert scenery. **Special rate of \$165/night plus tax for HLA Convention attendees. Parking is free at the resort.**

+ Exhibit Hall and Product Demonstration Room
Come check out the latest technology and resources for people with hearing loss. **The Exhibit Hall is Free and Open to the Public!**

+ FUN!
It's not "all work and no play" at this convention with special events including the Welcome Back Bash and Celebrate! Awards Gala recognizing our Hearing Heroes.

+ Parents of Children with Hearing Loss Resources
Friday afternoon workshops designed specifically for parents of children with hearing loss including panel discussion with HLA parents and pediatric audiologist **Dr. Michelle Hu** and Growing up with Hearing Loss and Raising Kids with Hearing Loss led by **Janna Rovniak Cowper**.

+ Veteran's Luncheon—Saturday, June 29
This luncheon celebrates our veterans and highlights resources available for veterans with hearing loss including the Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter (VAVC). **First-time convention attendees who are veterans can attend the HLA 2024 Convention for free. Email convention@hearingloss.org for details.**



**SCAN HERE
& REGISTER**

or visit
hearingloss.org/convention

Support your Fort Worth chapter

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

The list is updated monthly.

2024 Gifts:

Platinum = \$400+; Gold = \$200 to \$399; Silver = \$100 to \$199;
Bronze = \$50 to \$99; Friends = Up to \$49

Platinum: *Cauthen & Associates Court Reporting and CART Services (in kind)*

Silver: Patricia Hindman, Leslie Kilton, Ken Parlin

Bronze: Grace Cromwell, Mariam Gore

Friends: Fred & Laneta Teryn

**GIFTS IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM HETREED,
Husband of Dr. Shirley Molenich,
Given by Dr. Marie Kelly**

The Fort Worth Chapter is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax-deductible.

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

2024 CHAPTER DONATION FORM

Make checks payable to: HLAA - Fort Worth Chapter

Bring to the monthly meeting or mail to: HLAA - Fort Worth, PO Box 1310, Euless TX 76039.

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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

Kevin Brown

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Southern Star Technology provides the assistive listening systems for our HLAA chapter meetings.



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