



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

June 2023

June 10 Meeting Program

Sharing: Questions, Answers, and Experiences

Esther Kelly, hearing loss resource and technology specialist, will lead an interactive presentation intended to involve all participants in the meeting. Audiences report that this is a favorite presentation.

Esther Kelly is one of the most effective hearing loss presenters in Texas. She served as Hard of Hearing Technology Specialist at the Deaf Action Center (DAC) in Dallas from 1996 to 2022. The program she developed there became the model for similar positions funded by the state of Texas statewide.

During her career, Esther helped over 7000 hard of hearing and deaf people of all ages to find technology to live with hearing loss. She gave presentations to over 700 various groups and taught classes at Richland Community College in their Emeritus program as an adjunct professor and wrote and produced two Videos that were placed in every library in Texas.

Esther has been an active member of SHHH/HLAA since 1985. She served two terms as president of the Dallas chapter (now defunct). Even in retirement Esther continues to speak and to assist individuals with hearing difficulties.

BE SURE TO ATTEND THIS PROGRAM. IT WILL BE BENEFICIAL.

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.



July 8 PROGRAM: *Loretta Barry will report on her experience and observations at the HLAA National Convention in New Orleans, June 29 - July 1. As a first-timer, her impressions will be fresh.*

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

Hi, Everyone,

I was very intrigued by an article that came from HLAA National: **Flying with Hearing Loss Can Be Challenging!** It caught my attention immediately because I will be flying internationally within the month. What do I need to learn? How can I improve my flying experience?

Learning that I have rights because of the **Air Carrier Access Act** will help me advocate for myself. I will, as the article suggests, self-identify as a passenger with a disability. Basically, I don't believe I will need to board early (it would be a nice perk), but will need to be notified if gates and/or times are changed. I'll be traveling with Ken, but I'm his "travel agent" and he just figures I'll know what's happening.

Airport announcement systems leave things to be desired - scratchy, accents, fast speech. What I'm most looking forward to is seeing how many things are looped and/or captioned at Heathrow International Airport, London (there for a 3-hour layover) and then at the airport in Stockholm and in Sweden for several weeks.

What has that country done for the hearing impaired? What's looped? Do they use the international symbol for looping? Do they caption announcements in public places - in English and Swedish? There are many things to learn and bring back to Texas to encourage more access for the deaf and hearing-impaired communities.

Have a blessed summer. I'll see you at the June and August meetings.

Joyce Parlin, Chapter President

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please see more on flying with hearing loss on page 5.

2023 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. A portion of your national dues is remitted to our chapter for local support.

Attend SIARC:

UTD's Summer Intensive Audiology Revitalization Conference

SIARC is a unique opportunity for adults with hearing impairment and their communication partners to strengthen their communication abilities and experience assistive listening technology in real-world scenarios. The conference held July 23 - July 27 (Sunday through Thursday) at the Callier Center for Communication Disorders in Richardson.

Participants try out the latest hearing aids and various assistive listening devices in restaurants and other venues. These devices work with hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Registration is \$350 per couple or \$175 per individual. After July 1, registration is \$400 per couple and \$200 per person. **Scholarships are available.** The fee includes all classes, assessments, activities, and meals.

Contact Dr. Linda Thibodeau, Professor, Au.D. Program. 972-898-3463; thib@utdallas.edu.

We may have a representative speak briefly about SIARC at our June 10 meeting.

Are You a Card-Carrying Member?

We have chapter business cards with our name and meeting information on the front and, on the back, places where you can print your name and contact information. These handy cards are for you to hand out to others you see who are wearing hearing aids or obviously have hearing difficulty. Pick up cards at our meetings.

We are also working on a brochure particularly for audiologists and other professionals to distribute to their clients or patients.

A New Reflection from 'My Silent Pew' by Kevin Medlin

Our chapter vice-president Kevin Medlin has published a new essay on his blog, 'My Silent Pew.' He writes:

"This is a special week! One of my favorite ministers, Dr. Alan Lobaugh, is stepping away from the pulpit after forty years. To make it even more special, another of my favorite ministers, Rev. Tiff Williams, has accepted the call to assume the pulpit upon Alan's retirement. Please take a moment to follow the link below to a reflection from My Silent Pew, written in honor of my friend, Alan Lobaugh, entitled 'Winter, Spring, Summer, or Fall....'"

To read it, go to: <https://mysilentpew.com/2023/05/23/winter-spring-summer-or-fall/>

Advocacy Works in Oregon and Washington State

Dean Olson, a former member of our chapter, has forwarded two hearing loss news items from the northwest.

One, Oregon passed a "Turn on the TV Captions" bill. This is a free accommodation that applies to TVs in public spaces, with only a few specific exceptions.

Go to: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB569/A-Engrossed>

Two, kids' hearing aid insurance will cover hearing aids now. An eight-year-old helped pass the juvenile hearing aid insurance law. Hearing aids are a must for kiddos with deafness/hearing-loss. Advocacy works! Go to: <https://www.hum.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/publications/Closed%20Captioning%20Guidance.pdf>.

May 13 Meeting Summary

Hearing Loss Panel Presentation

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



At the May 13 meeting, panel members shared their personal experiences in dealing with hearing loss from different backgrounds. Chapter secretary Ann Marie Flint is a hearing person who grew up with two hard of hearing aunts. Yasmine Oxley wears cochlear implants. Kris Dorasami is the spouse of his hearing-impaired wife, Linda. Leslie Kilton, chapter program chair, is a hearing loss resource specialist and sign language interpreter. Chapter president Joyce Parlin wears hearing aids. Serving as moderator and as a panelist, Joyce asked the panel six questions.

1. What has been your toughest struggle with your hearing loss or that of a family member?

Kris, Linda's husband, said it was communicating with Linda before she got her hearing aids. As a child, Ann Marie's toughest challenge was learning to face her two hard of hearing aunts when speaking to them. Yasmine regretted and grieved how much of her life she missed before getting her implants. Joyce's biggest hurdle was learning at age forty-five that she now needed two hearing aids instead of one.

2. What has been your greatest success?

Leslie's greatest success was people with hearing loss coming into her office crying because they had finally found someone who understood and could give them resources. Growing up around an aunt who was hard of hearing, Ann Marie did not learn correct pronunciation. As a result, she had to go to speech therapy. Ann Marie believes the speech therapy may have contributed to her aptitude for foreign languages. Before her implants, Yasmine learned entirely by reading and writing. Now that she can engage more with people, learning is three dimensional. Working for an audiologist let Joyce learn more about her hearing loss and try out the latest technology.

3. What piece of information do you value the most? What have you learned that's been the most important thing in your hearing loss journey?

Leslie mentioned smart phones as assistive listening devices. Smart phones are helping people with all kinds of disabilities. For Yasmine - that everyone can communicate. Information is available to make an informed decision about cochlear implants, sign language, hearing aids, or all three. Learning about the connection between hearing loss and cognitive decline has impacted Joyce. The earlier hearing loss is treated the better. Joyce encouraged us to tell our primary care physician how important our hearing aids are to our communication. Let our PCP know we are happy with our hearing aids. Ask our PCP to encourage their patients over age fifty to get an annual hearing test. To audience member Nancy Heino, the most valuable pieces of information have been Bluetooth and Zoom Video Conferencing.

4. Who has been most encouraging to you?

Diane Blaising, Au.D., fitted Joyce with good hearing aids, helped her learn about her hearing, and helped Joyce realize she's had hearing loss longer than she thought. HLAA Fort Worth chapter members have been most encouraging to a couple of panelists. Ann Marie said her Aunt Patricia has been most encouraging. A couple of panelists credited Esther Kelly, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Technology Specialist, as being most encouraging.

5. What was your funniest experience? Have you ever misunderstood someone?

Audience member Nancy Heino said she embarrassed her children when she answered inappropriately at drive-throughs. Joyce misunderstood song lyrics. Driving home with friends one night, someone asked audience member Patricia Hindman a question. Patricia replied, "I can't hear you. It's dark." A couple of peoples' grandmothers turned off their hearing aids when they did not want to hear a conversation.

6. How did you find out about HLAA?

At the audiologist's office where Joyce worked, the CapTel (captioned phones) representative invited Joyce to an HLAA meeting. Leslie worked with Dan White who was involved with SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing), the precursor to HLAA. Ann Marie's hearing-impaired aunt Patricia asked Ann Marie to accompany her to an HLAA meeting. The DAC (Deaf Action Center) referred Yasmine to HLAA. Acoustic Neuroma Association facilitator Linda Dorasami found out about HLAA through her co-facilitator.

Following the panel discussion, several audience members shared their own experience related to some of the questions.

Flying with Hearing Loss?

“Plan ahead and know your rights”

By Dan White

Recently I assisted a deaf couple making arrangements to fly to another country. Both were from a middle-eastern country and had limited ability to read and write English. They use American Sign Language and needed assistance in negotiating through the airports as they traveled.



I printed large-type notices identifying them and their communication conditions, stating that they needed assistance. I also notified the airline in advance and requested assistance for them. When we arrived at the airport, I went with them to the assisted check-in counter to make sure they received the help they needed. An attendant was provided to guide them through security and to their flight gate. There, the counter personnel were alerted so they could receive special boarding. They also received assistance when they arrived at their destination.

Theirs was a special situation, but everyone with a disability, including hearing loss, is entitled to air travel accommodations, **according to an article on the HLAA website**. Here are some excerpts:

“Discrimination against travelers with disabilities is illegal.

“The Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) is a 1986 law—predating the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by four years—that makes it illegal for airlines to discriminate against passengers because of their disability. The *Department of Transportation is responsible for enforcing the ACAA, which applies to all flights to, from, or within the United States.*

“*One of its provisions is that anyone self-identifying as a passenger with a disability, who needs additional time or assistance, must be allowed to board the airplane before other passengers. Hearing loss is considered a disability under the ACAA, just as it is for the ADA*

“Plan ahead and know your rights

“HLAA encourages all travelers with hearing loss and other disabilities to learn what your rights are, prepare well in advance and self-advocate at every step. Be sure to take these actions when planning your next trip:

1. When ordering your ticket, identify yourself as someone with hearing loss.
2. If traveling with a service animal, complete and submit all paperwork in advance.
3. Review the online accessibility policies of the airports you're using—departure, destination, and any connection. Find out what accommodations are available and where.
4. At the airport, self-identify at every point of contact; in particular, ensure that gate agents are aware that you may not be able to hear announcements and require preboarding.
5. Familiarize yourself with **Aviation Consumer Protection** materials for travelers with disabilities from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the new **Airline Passengers Disability Bill of Rights**
6. **Report** any disability-related air travel issues to **U.S. DOT** and/or to the airline.”

For the full article, go to: <https://www.hearingloss.org/flying-with-hearing-loss-can-be-challenging/>

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The list is updated monthly.

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Husband of Dr. Shirley Molenich,**

Given by Stephen J. and Joan S. Boyle, Judith Fitzgerald, & Dan White

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Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

2023 CHAPTER DONATION FORM

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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

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