



# Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter  
August 2023

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## August 12 Meeting Program

### Resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Presenter: Jennifer Clark, Manager of the Dallas Hearing Foundation

The Dallas Hearing Foundation is a needs-based nonprofit that links people with hearing loss back to the world of sound. It works with children and adults who experience hearing loss in the greater Dallas area, across the U.S., and in nations across the globe. DHF services include surgeries, audiological services and therapies, hearing aids and accessories, and cochlear implants.



Jennifer's story: "When Dr. Robert Peters created the Dallas Hearing Foundation in 1997, he created something truly special. I LOVE connecting and helping create community. From teachers to counselors, to administrators, to audiologists, to captioners and families, this community is AMAZING and I feel blessed to be a part of it. My deaf child is now bilaterally implanted, 24 years old, in graduate school for forensic accounting. I love being able to reach out to other families that are navigating their hearing journey or their child's hearing journey. We are truly all in this together. I have been able to learn so much about the deaf community, meet some amazing families and offer support and solutions to families trying to figure out how to navigate their needs."

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## 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.*

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## September 9 Program

Carolyn MacMahon, Texas State HLAA Chapter Coordinator

and Vice President of the Houston Chapter

### Who Moved My Cheese? A Report on HLAA in Texas

Carolyn has had a lifelong hearing loss. She is a certified Network of Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology Trainer and has given hundreds of presentations on Hearing Assistive Technology as well as other topics related to hearing loss. She will speak on the past, present, and future of HLAA in Texas, post-COVID, and share her vision.

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**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

Happy Hot August to You All!

I guess this is what is commonly called the “Dog Days of Summer.” Hope you’ve been able to stay cool.

The HLAA has four opportunities to share our chapter story and educate the public about hearing loss.

In chronological order -

**Event #1 - 2023 8th Annual Alzheimer’s Education Seminar**, a Healthy Lives Matter Initiative, hosted by Tarrant County Commissioner Roy C. Brooks. This event is at Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus.

**Event #2 - Senior Synergy Expo** will be held on Thursday, August 31st from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Will Rogers - Amon G. Carter Jr. Exhibits Hall located at 3400 Burnett-Tandy Drive in Fort Worth, TX 76107. The event is hosted by Tarrant County Judge Tim O’Hare.

**Event #3 - Commissioner Gary Fickes’ Empowering Seniors Expo** is on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at the Hurst Conference Center.

**Event #4 - Aging Well Expo** presented by the City of Arlington will be held at the Esports Stadium Arlington at 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

We have been invited to have a vendor table at each of these events and will have our new brochure and information about hearing loss and its effects, our chapter, and the connection with HL and cognitive decline.

Each of these events is free to the public and provides a lunch with a registration. If you would like to volunteer at the HLAA table, please let a board member know. There will be more information and a volunteer sign-up available at the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It’s a delight to have this busy fall and the great opportunity to share our chapter.

See you Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>!

Joyce

## 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**  
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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](http://www.hearingloss.org) and click on “Membership” to join.*



## Barbie Fever & “Hearing Aid Barbie”

The new *Barbie* movie grossed \$155 million in its opening weekend. All the hype surrounding it reminded Meredith Resnick, HLAA’s Director of Strategic Communications, of the Mattel toy company’s announcement in May of last year:

“Mattel released a new Barbie doll with a bright pink hearing aid! This decades-long icon suddenly did what others couldn’t: she showed the world that she was proud to wear her behind-the-ear hearing device. It was like nirvana—a childhood icon and a PR tool!”

At the time of the new Barbie release, *MM+M*, a medical marketing magazine, reported, “The typical Barbie is no longer the generic thin, white blonde woman – but instead has expanded to include dolls of different skin tones, sizes and even disabilities. “Mattel is releasing a new series of dolls this June, which includes the first Barbie with behind-the-ear hearing aids, a Barbie with a prosthetic leg, as well as a Ken doll with vitiligo – a skin condition defined by the loss of pigment cells.”

Mattel’s own 2022 news announcement declared, “With the all-new wave of #Barbie Fashion Dolls, we are proud to introduce the first Barbie with behind-the-ear hearing aids, giving kids the chance to imagine even more amazing possibilities with dolls that reflect themselves and the world around them.”

HLAA’s Executive Director Barbara Kelley added, ““When you have a popular doll like Barbie, who’s an icon as far as dolls go, wearing bright pink hearing aids – it not only gives children the opportunity to see somebody just like them, but it also gives adults that affirmation.”

Meredith Resnick concluded her new post by saying, “Although we don’t see it in the film, we know there *is* a Barbie who revels in acknowledging and treating her hearing loss, and kids now have more opportunity to see a range of disabilities reflected in the dolls they use to imagine their futures.”

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## Interested in a music enjoyment study?

**If you are 18 or older and speak English, you may be eligible to participate in a research study.**

**Help improve our understanding of how hearing loss and hearing aid use may impact music enjoyment.**

We’re interested in the impact of hearing loss on music enjoyment. We’re recruiting individuals with hearing loss and individuals with normal hearing. The study involves answering some questions about your background and hearing device use (if you use them), as well as listening to music samples and answering some questions about them.

My name is Isaac Alter; I am a medical student in the department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery (ear, nose, and throat surgery) at New York-Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia and Weill Cornell). I am also a former professional Broadway musician, with a lifelong passion for music and the effects that it can have on people.

I am conducting a study with Dr. Anil Lalwani and Dr. Alex Chern (who is a hearing aid user and HLAA member himself) examining the effect of hearing loss on music enjoyment. We are actively recruiting a) **individuals with bilateral hearing aids** (a hearing aid in each ear) and b) **individuals with at least one cochlear implant** to complete a **20-30 min online study**; if you have two hearing aids OR a cochlear implant, we would love to have you participate. The study involves listening to musical clips on your computer and answering questions about them. No headphones or other special equipment is required.

Please contact me, Isaac Alter, directly at [ila2111@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:ila2111@cumc.columbia.edu) if you are interested.

# HLAA Has Changed its Dues Policy

## How Does It Affect Us?

As of June 30, HLAA has ended its dues policy known as the **United Membership Program**. No longer will HLAA remit to local chapters a portion of dues members pay to the national office. A letter from HLAA, dated May 26, 2023, explains that the UMP was begun in 2014 as a pilot project to try to build national and local membership. Recent analysis, however, shows that the effort has been ineffective.

The letter to the chapters by Executive Director Barbara Kelley reminds us, “We are all one HLAA, and your commitment to carry out the HLAA mission in your communities is critical to creating awareness and helping people live well with hearing loss. We hope you continue to build your ranks, engage your community, and promote membership and connection with the national organization. Your dedication as volunteers is key to the HLAA mission, and I’m grateful to you.”

Then she asks, “What’s to Come?” and continues: “HLAA’s strategic plan is to serve and empower the growing number of people with hearing loss, invigorate chapters, and find new ways to engage people locally. Strengthening our grassroots is key to our mission.

“To work toward that goal, we’ve added another person focused on HLAA Chapters....”

The change in dues policy confronts us with a few options. Of course we want to maintain our affiliation with HLAA national. It remains “the nation’s leading organization representing consumers with hearing loss.” It is our voice for advocacy, information, education, and support. The website, *Hearing Life* magazine, chapter resources, and the annual convention are our lifeline.

We continue to urge our attendees to join HLAA through national membership. Indeed, our chapter bylaws require it for anyone who holds a chapter office or claims official membership.

Among the choices for us are whether to charge a local membership fee, as we did before the United Membership Program, or just to continually remind people of the benefits of our chapter and to request donations. Our chapter board will decide, but you can make your opinions known.

Let wisdom and good sense prevail!

*Daniel White, editor*



## Chapter Name Badges Available Now!

Officers of the Fort Worth Chapter received name badges at our July meeting. Other members may order one for \$10. These are sturdy plastic badges with a brass-like finish and measuring approximately 1.5 by 3 inches. Magnets hold them in place on wearers’ clothes. Order from Chapter Treasurer Patricia Hindman and wear them proudly at our events!

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## Help Us Distribute Chapter Information Brochure Cards

We have designed and printed new brochure-style information cards about our chapter. These are to be distributed at upcoming chapter events and at audiologists’ and hearing aid dispensers’ offices. These cards say “Get More Hearing Loss Help” and list chapter benefits, meeting location, dates, and times, contact information, and our affiliation with the national HLAA organization.

They are printed in color on both sides, with a flip-up front revealing more information inside.

## July 8 Meeting Summary

### 2023 HCAA National Convention Report

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



At the July 8 meeting, chapter member Loretta Barry gave a rousing recount of her visit to the Hearing Loss Association of America Convention held in New Orleans, June 29 - July 1.

Loretta applied for and received a \$500.00 scholarship to the convention from the national HCAA office. The HCAA Fort Worth Chapter added \$200.00 to her as a first time Convention attendee.

All the meeting rooms at the Convention had Hearing Loops, in-person sign language interpreters, and CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation). Loretta attended the Newcomers Orientation, the Welcome Back Bash, and the Awards Ceremony and Reception. She really enjoyed the Taste of New Orleans Creole food.

In the Exhibit Hall, Starkey raffled off two free pairs of hearing aids and a free hearing exam. Loretta met *Hear and Beyond* authors Shari Eberts and Gael Hannan and *Can She Hear the Cat Meow?* author Julia Olson.

The keynote speaker was K. Renee Horton, Ph.D., an African American NASA space launch engineer, AstroAccess disability ambassador, and children's book author with a severe hearing loss herself.

The Research Symposium on music and hearing loss featured four prominent speakers on audiology, science, and music performances.

Loretta attended several educational workshops:

- "How to Make Yourself Heard" offered helpful tips for the hard of hearing in restaurants. Smartphone apps can measure background noise.
- "Discover Powerful New Tools for Hearing Loop Advocacy" dealt with hearing loops. Loretta encouraged the Fort Worth Chapter to find a venue and get involved in having it looped.
- "Common to Uncommon Hearing Aid Problems: Is This You?" At follow-up visits to your hearing professional, ask questions. Tell them what's going on with your hearing aids so they can adjust your devices.

Loretta met Carolyn McMahon, State Chapter Coordinator HCAA Texas State Office and wants the Board to invite her to speak at a Fort Worth Chapter meeting.

Loretta brought several booklets and information sheets about Hearing Loops for people to take.

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### New Study Shows Benefits of Hearing Aids for Adults at Risk for Cognitive Decline

(Amsterdam, July 18, 2023) The Alzheimer's Association International Conference meeting in Amsterdam, Netherlands, released findings from a new study on the link between hearing loss and dementia. The study, conducted by Aging and Cognitive Health Evaluation in Elders (ACHIEVE), is "the largest randomized, controlled clinical trial of hearing aids for reducing long-term cognitive decline in older adults."

A three-year intervention included using hearing aids, with instruction and counseling with an audiologist.

"Findings from the ACHIEVE study suggest that older adults at increased risk for cognitive decline and dementia who also have hearing loss may benefit the most from this intervention within three years. According to the ACHIEVE researchers, the hearing intervention may slow down decline in thinking and memory by making listening easier for the brain or by helping people remain more socially and physically active."

The news release says, "The ACHIEVE study is a randomized trial of older adults aged 70-84 with untreated hearing loss who were free from substantial cognitive impairment, conducted at four U.S. sites."

*CREDIT: The news release was provided to the editor of Heard In Fort Worth by Robin Carson, Au.D., of Carson Hearing Care.*

# Support your Fort Worth chapter

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

*The list is updated monthly.*

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

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*Husband of Dr. Shirley Molenich,*

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

The Fort Worth Chapter is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.

All contributions are tax-deductible.



Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

## 2023 CHAPTER DONATION FORM

Make checks payable to: HLAA - Fort Worth Chapter

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### Kevin Brown

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



**Heather Dean, Au.D., FAAA, CCC-A**  
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