



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter
October 2024

October 12 Program: Ask the Audiologist

“Everything you ever wanted to ask an audiologist but were afraid to ask.”

Bring your questions and ask **Dr. Heather Dean**. She will give her best answer.

Heather Dean, Au.D., is the owner of Burleson Audiology Clinic. She is only board-certified, stand-alone audiologist in Burleson, Texas. Her practice services the full spectrum of hearing healthcare needs, from dizziness and wax removal to hearing loss, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), and cochlear implants. Dr. Dean is a native of Alabama and received her Au.D. degree from the University of South Alabama. She moved to Texas in 2014 to pursue a degree in missions from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She has been working in Texas for eight years, with 11 years total experience in audiology. Dr. Dean is now a Certificate Holder in Tinnitus Management (CH-TM).

The presentation on a new treatment for tinnitus, scheduled for October 12, has been postponed.

Thanks to Dr. Heather Dean for stepping up for this month’s program.

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.

Lisa Cauthen, owner of Cauthen & Associates, made a surprise appearance, with her husband Bob, at our September meeting. Each month, Lisa sends Carrie Gibson, her star court reporter and CART writer to provide live captions for our programs. When state funding for this service ended several years ago, Lisa continued to provide CART at no cost to our chapter. We are deeply grateful for her gift and commitment to the hearing loss community. *Thank you, Lisa!*



Future Programs

Nov. 9: Sarah Fray, Au.D., FW Veterans Clinic, on services for veterans with hearing disorders.

Dec. 14: Holiday party

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 fall, y'all.

It doesn't feel like fall, but the calendar says it is. As we move into the last couple of months of 2024, we begin to think about offices and board members for 2025. One position specifically needed is a person to put together programs for 2025. Some programs for the beginning of 2025 are set, but a person is needed to coordinate the remainder of the year programs. If you would like to discuss this with me, please, send me an email (fortworthhlaa@gmail.com), a text, or a call @ 817.966.1947.

You may also volunteer as a candidate for one of the other officer positions for 2025.

Three other needs come to mind. One is to keep the chapter Facebook page and website up to date. Number two would be helping with our email list. It is very lengthy and needs reformatting so we can use a list management service like Mail Chimp. The third one would be fund raising. We can find a place for you. Please, let us know how you would like to help the Fort Worth chapter of HLAA.

Joyfully,
Joyce Parlin
Chapter President

A note from the national office:

HLAA is working on a community campaign to identify what HLAA means to its membership. Please tell how the HLAA community makes a difference in your life. Share a 1-3 sentence response, along with your city, state and a photo. We may use it in our new membership campaign or in a Hearing Life magazine feature on community. Email responses to chapters@hearingloss.org

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

Apple's new AirPods are also hearing aids Can they really save you thousands of dollars?

By Samantha Delouya, CNN



During its glossy product announcement event on Tuesday [September 10], Apple unveiled a new role for its latest AirPods Pro model: medical device. The company said the wireless headphones will double as clinical-grade over-the-counter hearing aids for those who need them.

“We’re adding this groundbreaking capability to help more than one billion people living with mild to moderate hearing loss,” said Sumbul Ahmad Desai, Apple’s vice president of health.

Apple said its hearing aid feature will boost frequencies “so sounds are clearer and more vibrant to your ears.” The company also said the feature will use “machine learning to make real-time adjustments as you go about your day.”

On Thursday, the US Food and Drug Administration authorized Apple’s hearing aid feature. Apple said the feature would become available to AirPods Pro 2 owners this fall through a software update in over 100 countries, including the United States, Germany, and Japan.

Prescription hearing aids can cost thousands of dollars. At \$249, Apple’s AirPods Pro 2 may be significantly cheaper and more accessible for those who have suffered hearing loss – but they won’t work for everyone. Here’s what you need to know:

Apple’s announcement follows FDA changes

Close to 30 million US adults have some degree of hearing loss, but only about one-fifth of those people seek assistance for the issue, according to the FDA.

For people with untreated hearing loss, using hearing aids can reduce the rate of cognitive decline and may lower the risk of depression, according to the FDA. However, experts have said that the high cost of doctor visits and hearing aids kept some from seeking treatment.

Apple’s announcement comes two years after the FDA greenlit the sale of over-the-counter hearing aids. Since then, adults with mild to moderate hearing loss have been able to buy hearing aids directly from stores or manufacturers online without the help of a doctor.

To access the new hearing aid feature, AirPods Pro 2 users will have to take a test that will analyze their hearing loss by playing a series of tones.

“After you take a hearing test, your AirPods Pro are transformed into a personalized hearing aid, boosting specific sounds you need in real-time, like parts of speech or elements within your environment,” said Desai.

But over-the-counter hearing aids like these aren’t always the solution for hearing loss. The FDA still requires people under 18 years old to purchase hearing aids by prescription. Over-the-counter hearing aids, such as Apple’s offering, also are not a treatment for “severe or profound” hearing loss, according to the FDA. Those with significant hearing loss should still consult a health care professional.

Source and additional information: HAAA website at <https://www.hearingloss.org/news-media/hlaa-in-the-news/> with a link to CNN at <https://www.cnn.com/2024/09/10/tech/apple-airpods-pro-hearing-aids/index.html>

Photo courtesy of Apple, also from the CNN website and HAAA

September 14 Program:

A Family's Journey with a Son's Deafness

Presented by Jessica Roberts, mother of an 8-year-old son.

Summarized by Darlene Liesner from the meeting transcript by Carrie Gibson, CSR, of Cauthen & Associates, Court Reporting & CART Service



At the August 14, 2024, meeting, Jessica (Jessie) Roberts recounted her son Scotland's hearing journey. Jessica's husband, Kenneth, was in the audience.

Scotland, age eight, is a third grader. Deaf since birth, Scotland was diagnosed with a hypoplastic cochlear nerve. That means his cochlear nerve is smaller than normal. At thirteen months old, he received cochlear implants one side at a time and goes in for bi-annual hearing checks. He can hear speech like a normal person but has intentional hearing. That is, the speaker must get his attention first.

Scotland also has hypotonia - low muscle tone - and attends speech and physical therapy weekly. With cochlear implants, the other senses are heightened. To develop his listening skills so he doesn't rely solely on lipreading, his parents cover their mouths when speaking to him.

Scotland has attended Crowley ISD since prekindergarten at age 3. Most ISDs have deaf/hard of hearing (HOH) programs. The Robertses chose not to send Scotland to the Texas State School for the Deaf in Austin. Children from surrounding areas are bused into the Crowley Regional Day School Program for the Deaf. The Robertses wanted Scotland to be fully immersed - able to speak and to also use American Sign Language (ASL).

Starting out in a deaf education classroom, Scotland has gradually been mainstreamed. He has an ASL interpreter in every class. His teacher wears a microphone which sends Bluetooth messaging into Scotland's processors. The Robertses have considered home schooling. Drawbacks include missing out on the benefits of interacting with other deaf/HOH children and Scotland's fluency in ASL due to his schooling.

Jessica encouraged anyone with hearing loss to learn ASL. Once implanted, a cochlear recipient loses all residual hearing. There are plenty of free ASL classes in the DFW metroplex. The Oklahoma School for the Deaf offers free ASL courses online. The school website is <https://www.osd.k12.ok.us/>.

Candi Mullens, a former deaf education teacher, heads the deaf/HOH program at the Robertses' church. All their worship services and children's services are signed. All worship services are streamed with an interpreter in the corner of the screen. At their children's Deaf Bible Camp, an interpreter is in every classroom. The children learn the worship songs in sign language and perform at week's end.

The Robertses are enrolled in the Cook Children's Health Care System. When he was born, Scotland was not expected to live. At six months old, he had open heart surgery. The Cook Children's Health Care System has a program for people with insurance but who earn less than \$125,000 per year. Cook pays whatever the personal insurance does not.

Family members may stay at the Ronald McDonald House near the Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth while their child is hospitalized. Since Scotland is in the Cook system, the Robertses' other children are also included. The Cook Children's Health Care System helps with doctors' appointments, annual check-ups, sick check-ups, therapy, and other services.

Every state has a chapter of Hands and Voices. Parent led, Texas Hands and Voices provides resources, peer support, and advocacy for families with deaf/HOH children. The chapter is on social media and has a website. Moms Matter is a support group for mothers of deaf/HOH children in the D/FW area.

Jessie answered audience questions throughout. Text Jessie at 817-966-6038 for more information.

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),
Gerald Tye*

Gold: Sharon Huber, Richard Neely

Silver: Erlinda Gibbons, Patricia Hindman, Leslie Kilton, Jill DeMoss, Ken Parlin, Andy Ybarra

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**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 donations to the monthly meeting or mail to:

HLAA - Fort Worth, PO Box 1310, Euless TX 76039.

Please take special notice of our mailing address.

DO NOT SEND MAIL TO OUR MEETING LOCATION.

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Lisa Cauthen



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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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