



# Heard in Fort Worth

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Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter  
January 2024

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## JANUARY 13 PROGRAM: New Year, New Ears Embracing Hearing Solutions for a Fresh Start

Presented by

Jason Taylor, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist with Sorenson

Sheila G. Grady, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Access Specialist with Deaf Action Center

Jason Taylor: As an individual living with a lifelong hearing loss and possessing over a decade of professional experience in Vocational Rehabilitation Services, I've served in pivotal roles as a Rehabilitation Assistant and an Assistive Technology Specialist. Now, as a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Technology Specialist at Sorenson, I leverage state resources and an extensive referral network to spearhead cutting-edge solutions. My mission is to empower individuals by facilitating access to innovative technologies, bridging gaps, and fostering independence within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

Sheila Grady was born profoundly deaf and has experienced both worlds: hearing schools with no support services, after Clarke School for the Deaf, a strictly oral deaf school. She attended Rochester Institute of Technology from 1977-1981, majoring in Social Work with a minor in Communication Design. She has 30 years of experience as a case manager for deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers in Houston and Fort Worth. With Sheila's background and extensive experience in community service, she's using her learned knowledge to utilize the tools Deaf Action Center trained her with in advocacy and compliance with the ADA laws.

**February 10 Speaker: Diana Vasquez, Senior Benefits Counselor, Tarrant County Area Agency on Aging**

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### **WARNING!**

**The Fort Worth Stock Show Parade is this Saturday at 11:00.**

***Be sure to check the parade route to avoid any delay in getting to our meeting.***

***Streets will be blocked early.***

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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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**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 New Year!

I trust each of you had a blessed holiday season and your new year is off to a great start. The day of the December meeting, I received this email from one of our members asking me to share it, but I was busy that morning and totally missed it. So, with Anne's permission I'm sharing it now. The email is so encouraging.

*Good morning, I am sorry that I will not be able to join today's festivities. I know there will be lots of fun and an incredible amount of good food and holiday treats.*

*But I have good news. I am scheduled to receive my implant this coming Tuesday. My medical team has suggested that I forego any large gatherings to limit potential exposures this close to surgery.*

*I want to thank all of you at HLAA for your knowledge, wisdom, and willingness to share your experiences as I traveled the road to getting the implant. You are a resource beyond compare. Special shout out to Sharon for her boundless enthusiasm. Please keep me and my medical team in your prayers and good intentions.*

*Now, go have the best time ever. Happy Holidays and see you in January.*

Anne Feary

Anne plans to be with us on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. We will all be able to congratulate her and see how she is doing. I think she summed up the way many of us feel about the chapter and what we have learned by being a part of HLAA Fort Worth.

See you Saturday!

Joyce Parlin  
Chapter President

## 2024 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.*

# Holiday Brunch Photos



The Christmas Waltz

Wanna Dance??

## December 9 Meeting Summary

We broke our post-COVID attendance record, with 47 people at our Holiday Brunch Party on December 9. Ten members of the Gold Tone Senior Show Choir provided fun entertainment with seasonal songs and other bits. Our new chapter member Linda Hines is also a choir member and made the arrangements for us. Keyboard player Alfred Situmorang, a seminary student, provided the accompaniment and performed solo. Susan Hoffman directed the choir. They all stayed for the party.

As always, the food was outstanding, as members contributed their favorite holiday items. Door prizes were awarded to each attendee, thanks to Patricia Hindman and Ann Marie Flint. Visitors felt welcome and everyone enjoyed the program and social engagement.

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## Comments on the State of HLAA

Mike Meyer, Chair, HLAA Board of Directors

*Following are a few excerpts from a report to national HLAA members by board chair Mike Meyer. The full report included financial information, fund raising, a Walk4Hearing report, and other business matters. HLAA is financially sound, but it needs board member support for ongoing funding, Meyer said.*

“As the calendar turns to 2024, I’m taking this opportunity to let you know what the HLAA Board of Directors has been working on recently. I’m looking forward to making some appearances (via Zoom) at a few chapter meetings in 2024, and other board members are interested in doing the same.

“Keep in mind the board provides governance, sets strategic direction, and assumes fiduciary responsibilities. The HLAA staff, in contrast, makes the regulatory reforms happen, runs the programs, plans the annual convention, supports chapters, and more.

“The board of directors had its fall 2023 meeting last November. Board committees meet regularly throughout the year, of course, but the full board meets three times a year.

.....

“[A] new website will deliver value in content ..., with the goal of reaching a wider audience of people needing hearing help. The new website will have a portal specifically designed for chapters to make finding necessary resources to grow and support chapters much easier. Early designs of that website are promising, so we’re looking forward to that in 2024.

“Speaking of websites, our current website has seen a healthy uptick in traffic over the past year. When the law changed allowing hearing aids to be sold over the counter, a lot of journalists and people turned to us to make sense of the new world. Combine that website traffic with all of the interviews that Executive Director Barbara Kelley has been doing, I think it’s safe to say that HLAA has never had a higher profile.

“Why does that matter? We believe this is a positive sign that people truly see us as the leading voice of people with hearing loss. Our opinions are independent, informed, and unbiased. This reputation is what gets us invited to the table when regulations, legislation, and other policies are being shaped. It means we can achieve the goal of “nothing about us without us.” This is our reputation, and the board understands our obligation to protect it.

“The board decided that we should engage directly with chapters ourselves, as I mentioned at the top of this message. The first step toward progress is establishing open lines of communication, so that’s what we’re intending to do. As I previously mentioned, I and other board members are interested in meeting with chapters via Zoom in 2024.”

# 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, Ken Parlin

**Bronze:** Grace Cromwell

**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.

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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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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

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