

# HLAA Twin Cities

Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter October 2006  
Formerly SHHH Minnesota Chapter #1



## AWARE FAIR 2006

By Monique Hammond (VP)

What an exciting day September 16<sup>th</sup> turned out to be! For a newcomer and first-time Fair attendee like myself, this was a most impressive event. From cosmetics to the newest designs in teaching, learning and communication devices for the deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing, it was all there. My mind is still processing all of the information. I do not have exact numbers, but thousands of visitors checked out the exhibits and continued to seek information even after the official closing time.

Our well equipped HLAA TC table attracted an endless stream of people. Thanks to the efforts of Bob Knoll, we got a "free" sign with our new logo. Great going Bob! Our bank account is in good hands.

President Merrilee and Treasurer Bob arrived early and had the table all set up. During the course of the day, our staff distributed a lot of informational material with great enthusiasm: one-page fliers, brochures and promotional membership applications. We answered flurries of interesting questions. Not only did we talk to people who are hard of hearing but also to an amazing number of teachers and ASL students.

**(Continued on Page 2)**

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**National Website**  
[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

**Minnesota Website:**  
[www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)

**MN Contact Information:**  
[info@hlaatc.org](mailto:info@hlaatc.org)



**Where do we meet?  
See Page 2**

(Aware Fair by Monique Hammond cont.)

Even shoppers without hearing disability stopped by. A lady mentioned to me that she was amazed at how many people have ear problems. She was appalled that there was so little public awareness on these issues!

Thanks to Merrilee's and Bob's great promotional idea, we hope to recruit some new members for our organization. Those who picked up new a membership registration at the Fair will get a \$5 discount on their first-year dues! We handed out over 90 applications. Even if only some of them are returned, we will be ahead.

We thank all of our members for stopping by to say hello and to lend their support. We thank our own Dora Weber for staffing the cochlear implant booth. You did us proud.

In the end, it was an intense but very rewarding day!

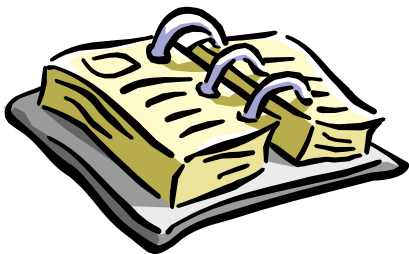
We will see you all at the meeting in October. For now though, let me find my Epsom Salts. These sore feet do need a relaxing soak indeed.

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**Remember**  
**It's time to**  
**pay your**  
**chapter**  
**fees**

**Remember**  
Membership in local or national does not mean membership in both.



**Calendar of Coming Events**

**October 21, 2006** – Larry Wigfield  
MN Operation Lifesaver

Trudy Suggs – Vote – It's that time again

**October 28, 2006** – Set clocks back one hour

**November 18, 2006** – Gloria Thompson  
Identity Theft

**December 16, 2006** – Holiday Party

**January 20, 2007** – Dr. Shallop

**February 17, 2007** – Dr. Kristen Swan from  
Region's Hospital

**April 11, 2007** – HLAA TC Steak Fry

**June 21 – June 24, 2007** – HLAA National  
Convention in Oklahoma City.

**Where do we meet?**  
  
**Courage Center**  
**3915 Golden Valley Road**  
**Golden Valley, MN 55422**  
  
**September through May**  
**9:30 AM – Noon**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month**  
**(Except June, July & August)**  
**See Page 12 for contacts**  
**and more information**



## Nuggets in the News



Legendary guitarist **Eric Clapton** has tinnitus he says due to his loud rock concerts in the 60's with the group called Cream. Also, **Roger Daltrey** from The Who revealed years of rocking stadiums around the world has taken its toll on his ears - and forced him to swap raucous riffs for classical music.

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**Mouse relief**...if you have trouble gripping and clicking your computer mouse, there is a temporary (Showcase Version) fix for your problem, if there is enough interest it will be developed and cost you.

For the time being go to.... <http://www.theclicklessweb.com>

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**Foxy Brown** who suddenly lost her hearing in both ears after 10 years as a professional artist, has had her cochlear implant and will release an album in late Dec. She previously recorded with Jay Z and the Neptunes. She announced she was suffering from a severe and sudden sensorineural hearing loss in both ears.

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**CSD** offers **FREE classes** given in **ASL only** in English, Math, Reading, Drivers Ed., Citizenship, Basic Computer Skills and Civics. For more info. contact Peggy Camp at (651) 487-8861 (TTY).

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**Magazines and other collections.** For the new people who do not know; the mag. exchange is held at each meeting, put your mags. no older than 3 months on the table, you can help yourself to any mags. of your choice no charge weather you brought mags or not. What is not taken by our members each month are distributed to the Vets Hospital, Maranatha, Broadway Village Apts., Waterford, Earl Brown, (nursing homes). etc. We also collect used hearing aids, glasses, milk carton tops, Campbell's soup can UPC codes and used holiday cards.

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**“Facing the Challenge – A Survivor’s Manual for Hard of Hearing People”** complete 72 page book on the web [http:// www.hearinglossor.org/survivor\\_manual.pdf](http://www.hearinglossor.org/survivor_manual.pdf)

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**Google** has been working very quietly to make captions work on their **Google Video service**. And they did it! - check it out: <http://www.video.google.com/>

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Have you ever wanted to **learn a few words in ASL?** Just enough to get by in an ASL event? Go to one of these web sites to learn some. <http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/> <http://asl.ms/>  
<http://www.aslpro.com/cgi-bin/aslpro/aslpro>

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**Storytime in ASL** is at the Merriam Park Library the 1st Sat. of the month from Oct. 7, 2006 - May 5, 2007 at 10:30 AM. This is interpreted for the hearing audience.

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**Fastsign** who makes our welcome sign as you enter Ed Rooms 1 & 2 kindly made the new sign with our new name HLAA TC at no charge. They are located in Brooklyn Center.

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**Operation Paperback (OP)** and a chiropractor in Plymouth (Jesse Ploessl) are helping American service men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan by sending new and used paperbacks. OP is a nationwide campaign to help soldiers pass the time. Since 1999 more than 300, 000 have been sent. If you would like to donate you can at: Lifetime Chiropractic and Wellness, 1115 Vicksburg Lane, Suite No. 11, Plymouth.



From : USA Today, August 9, 2006

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**He amplifies hearing aids**

By Steve Friess, Special for USA TODAY

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Bill Austin still has Ronald Reagan's ear

.  
It's sitting on his desk, a curvaceous plaster impression used to create the first presidential ear mold back in 1983 in Austin's Starkey Laboratories here in suburban Minneapolis.

"I really don't know what to do with it," he says with a laugh. Sell it on eBay? "I suppose I could, but I never would. Maybe someone would buy it, but why? I'd be worried about that person."

The Reagan ear is among the artifacts of Austin's career as one of the leading figures of American hearing health. The college dropout became a hearing-aid innovator and the largest U.S. maker of hearing aids. He's a multimillionaire with a clientele that has included five U.S. presidents (current President Bush wears Starkey hunter's plugs) and a list of celebrities such as Sting, Paul Newman, Dolly Parton and the late Mother Teresa.

Yet Austin, 64, is just as likely to notice a waiter having trouble hearing and fly him on a private jet to the lab to be fitted for free hearing aids. He has circled the globe to give free devices to more than 78,000 poor people through his Starkey Hearing Foundation. He was honored last spring as Humanitarian of the Year by Variety International, a major children's charity. Other recipients have included Danny Kaye and Audrey Hepburn.

"Bill's foundation has done a tremendous amount of work for children, and he himself goes on about 150 charitable missions a year personally at his own expense," says legendary game-show host Monty Hall, Variety International's chairman and a friend of Austin's who nominated him for this year's award.

Among the innovations credited to Austin is the invention of in-the-canal hearing aids in the early 1980s and the introduction in the 1970s of the now-standard 30-day trial period.

"I consider him one of the leaders in the field of amplification and auditory rehabilitation," says Maurice Miller, professor of audiology at New York University and an adviser to the Hearing Loss Association of America. He wears two Starkey hearing aids. "I cannot think of anybody in private practice or in academia who has done more for this field than Bill Austin."

#### Opportunity knocks

Not bad for a man who isn't an audiologist and whose career was accidental. Austin, the only child of a Georgia-Pacific lumber trader father and a factory-working mother in Garibaldi, Ore., left home at 19 in 1961 to enroll in the pre-med program at the University of Minnesota. To pay tuition, he took a job making ear molds for a hearing-aid dealer in Minneapolis.

Austin sensed his business opportunity as he watched customers grow frustrated by the crude, bulky hearing devices as well as inconsiderate treatment by the hearing-aid dealer for whom he worked.

(Continued on Page 6)

**Wendy Cheng** founder and president of **Association of Adult Musicians with Hearing Loss** is looking for a venue to host her first 3 or 4-day conference/retreat in summer 2007 or 2008. Location is open to suggestion.

Membership is comprised of hard of hearing and late-deafened professional and amateur musicians who love acoustic (not Deaf) music despite having hearing loss.

Aiming to:

- 1) create opportunities for adult musicians with hearing loss to discuss the challenges they face in making and listening to music
- 2) create opportunities for public performance either individually or in groups by adult musicians with hearing loss who might not otherwise have access to these opportunities
- 3) provide ongoing feedback to hearing health professionals, hearing researchers, manufacturers of hearing assistive technology, music educators and others to improve hearing device technology relative to music performance and enjoyment
- 4) provide educational opportunities to enable hard of hearing and deaf adults to appreciate and make music in ways not previously available.

Email Wendy if you are interested [ldwendy@gmail.com](mailto:ldwendy@gmail.com)



### STEAK FRY

The Steak Fry will be April 11, 2007 (Wednesday), from 5 – 7 PM at the Crystal Lions Club. Tickets will be available at the November meeting for distribution. More information to follow.

### **Feed My Starving Children Event**

We would like to get another group together like we did last April to get together at the Brooklyn Park facility. We pack a soup mixture to be sent to any country including the U.S. when people are starving. Use the sign in sheet when you come to the Oct. mtg., keep a date and time in mind.

**Bill Austin story continued from Page 4, Author Steve Friess, USA Today, August 9, 2006**

"After six months in Minnesota, I decided I wasn't going to do medicine. I was going to do hearing," he says.

He left school to start a hearing-aid repair company and read up on hearing-aid literature. He taught himself how the mechanisms work.

By 1970, he had bought a failing hearing-aid firm, Starkey, and in the next decade built it into the nation's largest. His efforts to shrink hearing aids and to offer better customer service led to commercial success. Nowadays, the hearing aids he most often sells are about the size of a wad of gum and loaded with complex digital circuitry he acknowledges he barely understands.

The scale of his philanthropic work is largely the result of an epiphany. He says he was lying in bed in 1977 when he had a moment of clarity: His calling was to help disadvantaged people hear. "It happened in the blink of an eye," he says.

The Starkey Hearing Foundation, which had been established in 1973 to help poor Americans with hearing disabilities, soon went international. Over the decades, Austin has sent teams of audiologists and hearing-aid technicians to more than 150 nations.

He goes, too, and says he's always moved by people he meets, such as a Salvadoran hearing-disabled woman who was barred from school and a Guatemalan woman who sold her only cow for the trip to his clinic so her children could get hearing aids.

"Those are not particularly unusual stories," says Austin, who always travels with his audiologist wife, Tani. "In Vietnam, there are signs outside the places where these children are warehoused that says 'The So-and-So Place for Defective Children.' The children aren't defective; they're perfect. They just need a little help."

The Reagan boost

In some countries, hearing loss is stigmatized. Here, he says, it's the hearing aids that are stigmatized.

That's why Reagan's decision in 1983 to go public with his hearing aids was a boon to audiology, and to Austin's company in particular. Sales of Starkeys quadrupled in the month after that news. Today, Starkey sells about 1 million hearing aids a year through 30 factories worldwide.

Austin's office walls are lined with dozens of photos of celebrities, many with inscriptions thanking him for his hearing aids and his service.

But persuading people to wear hearing aids remains a challenge. At Delores Hope's request, he tried to test Bob Hope's hearing in the 1990s. The entertainer locked himself in a bedroom until Austin left.

"He said, 'I can hear the applause, and that's all I need to hear.' But he had terrible hearing and he missed so much," Austin says. "It isolated him. That's what hearing disability does. And that's what I try to fix. To help people hear is to connect people."

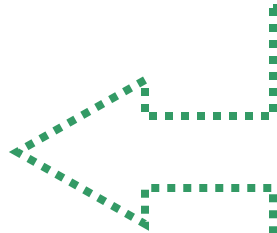
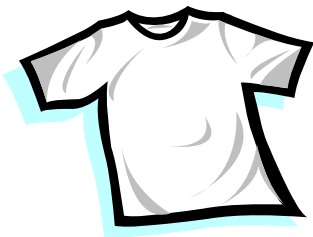




Monique and Dr. Levine

**YOUR UNITED WAY  
CONTRIBUTION CAN BE DIRECTED  
TO HLAA TC**

Even though HLAA TC is not a United Way agency, you may designate HLAA TC as your "donor choice" for your United Way fund drive. The form should have a space to "designate" United Way funds to another charity. If not, you can write HLAA TC's information (PO Box 8037, Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037) anywhere on the form and notify your Financial Coordinator.



The idea has come up again of doing **shirts** ( t's, polo, sweats) with our new name and maybe something on the backside. Let us know what you think of this idea.

## 25 and Counting: An Accommodations Odyssey

by Vicki Martin

Twenty-five, I confess, refers to my service credit years, not my age. OK, you knew that. In any case, at -- um, more than 25 -- years of age, I ought to know enough to figure out what I need and ask for it. After all, that's what we try to teach our children.

The service anniversary celebration was a gala affair, more extravagant than I had imagined. A thousand people, dazzling in their splendid apparel, acknowledged one another over drinks, anticipating the elegant dinner, polished presentations and entertainment that was to follow.

Seeing so many beautiful women in cocktail dresses reminded me that I too could have pulled out all the stops and gone for the glitz, or whatever approximation of glitz I can still muster. I may not be up to sequined decollette any more, but I could have dressed with a little more panache than my brown pants, brown jacket, and brown blouse conveyed.

But never mind, because we never made it to the cocktail party anyway. That is because, having bantered back and forth for two months on the question of whether an ALD could be provided, one finally came to light. So instead of having drinks with the company glitterati, we stood alone in a vast, empty room waiting to pick it up. After nearly an hour of such waiting, the reception was over and people began coming into the hall for dinner. But I did finally get my hands on the prize: an ALD, which actually worked -- sort of.

I had asked for an ALD, not because I really thought it would enable me, but primarily to see if they would provide one. I brought my own neckloop. Yes, I know -- I should have asked for that too. But let's take one thing at a time, here, OK? I shot for the ALD, I wasn't about to try for the loop too. But in fact, as I found out, it would be best for the provider to furnish the loop as well, because not all brands make contact in exactly the same way. I was able to make it "work", but it wasn't a perfect fit.

The most sophisticated media technology brought speakers, singers, and interpreters within everyone's view. When I saw these big screens, I actually had some hope that I might be able to understand the speakers. Great sound along with a great view is sometimes enough. But -- million-dollar media equipment notwithstanding -- the industry has a way to go before speechreading by projection can be useful. With the sound and the screen image slightly out of sync, it read like a badly dubbed foreign movie. It might be possible for a talented, alert speechreader to make it work, but it was a bit beyond my grasp. And after that second glass of wine, all bets were off.

The screens, however, would have been the perfect vehicle for CART. I know, I should have asked for it. But I didn't. I did not imagine that there would be a way to use CART at a large banquet with multiple speakers and entertainers. How would it be possible? Would they seat a captioner by me at the table (should I offer her some salad?). Would they plant a portable screen nearby to project the captions (and block the view?).

Now, this is no doubt one of my failings as a human being, but if I can't think of a way to do something, I assume that no one can. And so, with no idea how it could be done, I did not ask for CART.

Finally, I must add that we had a wonderful evening anyway. The meal was superb, the company congenial, and the music was good.

I don't know if I will still be around for the next milestone anniversary celebration. But if I am, I will know just what to do: I will ask for CART.

And dress with a little more glitz.





## Closed Captioning More Exemptions

By Merrilee Knoll

In case you hadn't heard there were three exemptions recently granted (Sept. 13, 2006) in effect making it possible for this group to eliminate closed captions (cc) on TV. It appears the FCC has created another category of TV programs that can be excused. It might seem strange that such a group would want to ban the Deaf and HOH from their pews. After all aren't churches in the field of saving souls of everyone regardless of who they are, their sex, color, handicap etc.?

Does this not lead to others asking for exemption? I think it does. This was done without notice to the public allowing them to voice their concerns. Maybe FCC was afraid to ask us, knowing full well that we would stomp our feet with a hard "no, no, no."

If you feel that the FCC has acted in haste and made a decision without our input send an email, letter or call or do all three.

### Your concern could run something like this:

In Re DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

Dear FCC Chairman,

Due to your recent order on exemption of closed captioning issued by CGB, I find this to be very troubling. Because of the large number of people who suffer from hearing loss of all degrees, you are cutting the arms of education to us. We believe that the FCC thus allows anyone to file an exemption saying, "it cost too much" or "it may shut us down."

Your name  
Your address

**There is still time to write**

Visit Terry Portis' web site and see what he has to say about the captioning exemptions.  
<http://www.lightkeepers.net/tpo rtis/>

Customize it in your own words. If you only send to one place let it be [fccinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:fccinfo@fcc.gov) they will direct where it should go.

### Also call, email, or write to the FCC Bureau that issued the Order:

Head of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau:

CGB Chief Monica DeSai at (202) 418-1400 (V)

Email: [Monica.DeSai@fcc.gov](mailto:Monica.DeSai@fcc.gov)

FCC address: FCC, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20054

Attn: Chairman Martin. Fax (202) 418-0232 Phone: (202) 418-1000 (V)

### These are all the same transcript about the Order, but in different formats:

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-06-1802A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-06-1802A1.doc)

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-06-1802A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-06-1802A1.pdf)

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-06-1802A1.txt](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-06-1802A1.txt)



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**Please note**

**Opinions expressed in  
this newsletter are those  
of the person  
submitting the  
information and not  
necessarily those of  
SHHH MN Chapter #1.  
Mention of goods or  
services does not mean  
endorsement nor should  
exclusion suggest  
disapproval.**

**You might not be able to do  
everything at once, you can  
however do it all in one place.**

Let us help you with that.

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- President** – Merrilee Knoll, (763) 537-7558) TTY, V  
[president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)
- Vice President** – Monique Hammond,  
[vicepresident@hlaatc.org](mailto:vicepresident@hlaatc.org)
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- Aloha Event Coordinator** –  
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Linda Senechal, [cilinda97@yahoo.com](mailto:cilinda97@yahoo.com)  
Merrilee Knoll, [Rknoll5200@aol.com](mailto:Rknoll5200@aol.com)

This month's editor is Merrilee Knoll



**Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month September through May at the Courage Center in Golden Valley, MN. We gather at 9:30 to socialize and the meeting starts at 10 AM. All meetings are real time captioned by Lisa Richardson and her staff of *Paradigm Captioning*. Please visit the chapter's web-site at [www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)**