



# Heard In Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

March - April, 2020

## 2020 Hearing

### *A FREE Public Hearing Wellness Exposition*

**Saturday, March 28, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.**

**Tarrant County Medical Society, 555 Hemphill St. at Pennsylvania St., Fort Worth 76104**

**This event will REPLACE both our regular March and April chapter meetings,**  
which are usually held on the second Saturday of each month at Southside Church of Christ

We have an outstanding lineup of speakers and presentations on various aspects of hearing loss, services, and resources. This is our third annual expo, sponsored by the Fort Worth Chapter of HLAA and by the Sertoma Club of Fort Worth. **It is free and non-commercial.** Vendors will be present for information, but no sales will be conducted.

This is an exciting time in the science of hearing loss, with new ideas on causes, prevention, diagnostics, and treatment options. With new technological solutions, you can improve your hearing and get more out of life. Attend this free Hearing Wellness Expo and find all the resources you need for yourself or someone you love.

**2020 Hearing** will feature various speakers, including audiologists, physicians, vendors, and educators to provide people with hearing loss and their families with information on:

- New technology solutions that can significantly improve hearing situations and maximize understanding.
- The brain/ear connection and how they work together for better hearing and understanding.
- New growing emphasis between physicians and audiologists collaborating together for better patient outcomes, especially with common diseases that are high risk factors for hearing loss.
- Modern treatments available to improve hearing at any age.
- Common ringing and buzzing known as Tinnitus – a frustrating problem many people deal with on a daily basis.
- State vocational rehabilitation services, devices, and resources for effective communication in the workplace.

For a complete schedule of speakers and topics, see page 3. Listening systems and live captioning provide accessibility.

Please share this information with others and invite them to attend. **Please go to our Facebook page and LIKE and SHARE** at <https://www.facebook.com/HLAAFortWorth/posts/1426272860842356>. *This will be a life-changing event!*

## **2020 Hearing Hearing Wellness Expo**

**Saturday, March 28**

**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Registration at 8:30**

**Tarrant County Medical Society auditorium**

**555 Hemphill Street at Pennsylvania Street**

**Fort Worth, Texas 76104**





# Cary's Corner

## A SPECIAL INVITATION

I would personally like to invite you to attend our “2020 Hearing” expo on March 28. Our HLAA - Fort Worth Chapter is again partnering with the Sertoma Club of Fort Worth to present our third annual free hearing wellness expo designed to bring valuable education and resources to those with hearing loss and their families. You’ll find all kinds of information and help on a wide variety of aspects related to hearing loss and hear from others about their journey. We are very proud to present “2020 Hearing” to our community and hope to see you on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Cary Terry, Chapter President



<https://www.facebook.com/HLAAFortWorth/posts/1426272860842356>

**LIKE and SHARE information about our Hearing Wellness Expo “2020 Hearing”**

## HLAA 2020 Convention in New Orleans!

June 18 -21, New Orleans Marriott

Info and Registration at <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention/>

### 2020 Chapter Board of Directors

President: Cary Terry (ct0768@yahoo.com)  
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### Heard In Fort Worth

This newsletter is published bimonthly by the  
**Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter**

**Mailing address:** Box 1310, Euless TX 76039  
Telephone 817-228-8041

<http://www.hearinglossfortworth.org>

<http://www.hearingloss.org>

**The Hearing Loss Association America (HLAA)**, founded in 1979 by Rocky Stone, opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy, and support. HLAA publishes the bimonthly *Hearing Life* magazine, holds annual conventions, produces *Walk4Hearing*® events, hosts online learning, and more. HLAA has an extensive network of chapters and state organizations. Further information can be found at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org). The national headquarters is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Telephone: 301-657-2248

# **2020 Hearing**

## ***A Public Hearing Wellness Exposition***

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

### **Registration**

9:00 - 9:10 a.m.

### **Welcome Address**

*Shirley Molenich, MD, President, Sertoma Club of Fort Worth*  
*Cary Terry, President, HLAA - Fort Worth Chapter*

9:10 - 9:40 a.m.

### **Educational Options for Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing**

*Anne Darr, Educational Consultant for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services,*  
*Education Service Center Region II*

Explore developments in educational services for children and youth with hearing difficulties.

9:45 - 10:15 a.m.

### **Hearing Health: Brain to Body**

*Terri Jo Edwards, Au.D., New Sound Solutions*

We hear with our brains as well as with our ears. Learn how this affects us and our physical and mental health and what we can do about it. Hearing loss can increase dementia and balance difficulties.

10:20 - 10:50 a.m.

### **What's New in Assistive Technology for Persons with Hearing Loss**

*Gema De La O, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Technology Specialist,*  
*Deaf Action Center*

Besides hearing aids and implants, learn how other devices can improve performance and quality of life.

10:55 - 11:30 a.m.    **Break**    **Visit vendors' booths and learn what is available and new.**

11:30 am - 12 p.m.

### **Treating Hearing Loss in the Modern Age:**

***From Prevention to Treatment and Medicine to Surgery***

*Jed Grisel, MD, ENT Specialist*

Look at past, present, and an exciting future with Dr. Grisel, physician, surgeon, and researcher.

12:05 - 12:35 p.m.

### **"That Ringing Sound is Not the Telephone!"**

*Marylyn Koble, MS, CCC-A, Audiology Associates of Arlington*

Tinnitus affects millions of people with and without hearing loss. It is the number one disability among returning veterans. Learn about treatment options and their effectiveness.

12:40 - 1:00 p.m.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation Services for People with Hearing Loss**

*Kimberly Mitchell, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor,*  
*Texas Workforce Solutions*

The State provides services, devices, and resources to help people with hearing loss in getting or maintaining employment and functioning well at work. Learn how the State can assist you.

## May 9 Chapter Meeting to Celebrate Our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**WE WILL NOT HOLD REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS IN MARCH AND APRIL.** The Hearing Wellness Expo on March 28 will replace both of them.

**Our May meeting** will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our chapter's founding. Original members will be invited to come and share their stories of our beginnings and the challenges and triumphs we have experienced. We can also expect a renewed vision for the future of HLAA in Fort Worth.

Watch for details in our May – June issue of *Heard In Fort Worth*.

**We normally meet monthly on Second Saturday** at 10:00 a.m., with snacks and socializing at 9:30 a.m. Meetings are held at the Southside Church of Christ, 2101 Hemphill St., Fort Worth, TX 76110. Use the south parking lot entrance. We offer listening systems and live captioning for communication access.

## Fort Worth Offers New Emergency Alert System

The city of Fort Worth has replaced the Nixle emergency alert system with **Fort Worth Texas Alerts**.

Residents can register for free alerts, and in the event of community emergencies, an emergency alert will be sent by text or email. Or residents can sign up for optional weather warning alerts via text, email, or voice calls.

The city's Fire Department Office of Emergency Management manages the emergency alert system designed to be one of the tools used to alert residents of hazardous conditions.

You must register to be a part of this new system. Go to:  
<http://fortworthtexas.gov/news/2020/02/Emergency-Notifications/>

## Dallas Arboretum Adds New Technology for Visitors with Hearing Loss

By Courtney Collins, KERA, Mar 2, 2020

The Dallas Arboretum's spring festival "Dallas Blooms" is now open. This year, the garden hopes to make the event more accessible to visitors with hearing loss by debuting new technology.

The headset and the software that powers the new experience were invented in North Texas. It will be available on tram tours and in the children's garden as well as a few special event spaces.

Barry Epstein with HEAR US NOW created the device. Epstein worked with graduate students at the University of Texas at Dallas to test and develop the technology. That team was led by Dr. Linda Thibodeau.

Dallas Blooms started Feb. 29 and features cherry trees, azaleas and half-a-million spring blooming bulbs.

## DOJ Settles with Tufts Medical Center for Equal Access for Individuals with Disabilities

On Friday, February 28, the Justice Department and Tufts Medical Center entered into a settlement agreement to ensure equal access for individuals with disabilities at Tufts' facilities in Boston, Massachusetts. The agreement resolves a compliance review under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)....

"This case is a reminder that we still need the basic protections provided by the ADA," said U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling. "This is especially true for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, who often receive too little support when trying to navigate the healthcare system. I commend Tufts for working with us to improve services for patients with disabilities, and we hope this agreement encourages other healthcare providers to review their ADA compliance."

2020 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

# What Else Changes when Your Hearing Changes?

*Highlights of the February 8 meeting, edited and summarized by Darlene Liesner from the meeting transcript by Maribel Arredondo, CSR*

Presented by Judy Oetting, Speech Therapist, Lip Reading Teacher, HLAA Fort Worth Chapter Librarian/Historian, and a Chapter founder.

At the February meeting, Judy touched on the personal – the human side of hearing loss. Judy read excerpts from some books and told stories from her own experience working in hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. Judy welcomed audience questions and comments.

While your hearing loss journey never ends, it does change over time. The average time is seven years between the onset of hearing loss and when people get a hearing test. When someone starts to lose their hearing, they are not just in denial; they lack awareness. They do not know what they are missing.

Your hearing loss journey is also the journey of the people that you communicate with. It involves your entire life, your feelings and the feelings of those around you. While others take the journey with you and support you, they also make adjustments themselves as they accompany you. Hearing loss affects marriages and close relationships. A person with hearing loss likely cannot hear “sweet nothings” whispered in their ear. Since relationships are the most important part of our lives, they are super important in our hearing loss journey.

You may feel less competent. Your self esteem may go down. You may feel left out in social situations. Tremendous isolation accompanies hearing loss. You may become resentful and ask, “Why has this happened to me? What did I do to deserve this?” You may become angry and depressed. You may blame everybody else.

Hearing loss can make everyday living difficult. Music, theater, playing cards, coffee shops, restaurants, and church can be difficult. Holidays, family gatherings, and anywhere many people are talking can be a struggle. A hard of hearing person can be vulnerable in an emergency situation if they cannot hear the EMTs. A hard of hearing patient in the hospital may not understand medical personnel. A person with hearing loss may not be able to hear someone entering their house or coming up behind them. They may not be able to distinguish if their dog’s bark is happy or warning them that something is wrong.

Hearing loss does not change who you are. You are still that same, essential, fun person. Your basic strength and spiritual beliefs remain the same. You still have your roles – parent, grandparent, spouse, aunt or uncle, friend. You can still enjoy a sunset or sunrise, reading, taking a walk, smelling the bluebonnets. Because of your hearing loss, you may be an example of someone who has lived with a difficult situation, made the best of it, overcome it, and gone on with life. Getting your life back – not the same as it was, but the life that you’re going to have now – may make you feel stronger. You may think, “If I can take this, I can handle anything that life hands me.” You may become more compassionate, understanding, and kind.

Listening is now taught as a communication art – a skill that can be learned. Hearing impaired people learn to listen in many ways. Listening is not always only auditory. Looking at a person’s facial expressions is listening with your eyes. Listening becomes visual, tactile, and intuitive. Standing in a rain puddle, you listen with your eyes. Your skin feels the cool, wet rain. The world can still be an adventure even if you cannot hear the rain.

The books Judy referenced were:

Bathurst, Bella. [Sound: a Memoir of Hearing Lost and Found.](#)

Merker, Hannah. [Listening: Ways of Hearing in a Silent World](#) and [Time Being Made of Moments.](#)

Wallace, Robin. [Hearing Beethoven: a Story of Musical Loss and Dscovery.](#)

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## HearVu: A New Tool for Audiologists, Patients, & Families

*Highlights of the January 11 meeting, edited and summarized by Darlene Liesner from the meeting transcript by Maribel Arredondo, CSR*

**Robin Carson, Au.D., CCC-A, owns Carson Hearing Care in Fort Worth. She is hard of hearing herself and has been an audiologist for 25 years.**

Realizing that people do not understand their audiogram, Robin developed HearVu, an app for the iPad. HearVu brings the paper audiogram to life, communicating to patients what exactly is going on with their hearing. Robin uses HearVu in her practice. At the January 11 meeting, Robin showed a demonstration video, explained the benefits of HearVu, and answered audience questions.

With HearVu, the provider plots the patient's audiogram on the iPad. The software filters music, speech, and other sounds through the patient's audiogram. A spouse or loved one accompanying the patient can see and hear just what the patient hears without hearing aids.

HearVu educates the patient so they can make a better decision about hearing healthcare. A video animation shows the workings of the ear. The interactive audiogram shows aided and unaided sound scores in percentages as well as plotted points. An educational diagram shows the implication of untreated hearing loss.

One of Robin's goals is to help the hearing healthcare industry. HearVu is for all hearing healthcare providers and is excellent for training audiology students to teach the audiogram. A.M. Marketing in Dallas collaborated with Robin in designing the app. She is working on Apple for distributing the iPad with the software loaded to the end user. She is looking ahead at future distribution methods.

According to Robin, finding a hearing healthcare provider is equally, if not more important, than finding a hearing aid. She recommends choosing a provider who uses a variety of manufacturers. Patients need to be able to like and trust their providers. Google "hearing aids Fort Worth" or "audiology Fort Worth" and read reviews from audiologists' websites.

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## Support your Fort Worth chapter

*We'll acknowledge your donations in each issue of the newsletter. These are the 2020 gifts to date.*

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

**Gold:** Johnnie Carter

**Bronze:** Joyce Parlin

**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 **2020 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Fort Worth Chapter \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**HLAA MEMBERSHIP** is through the national Hearing Loss Association office. Go to [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) and click on "Membership" to join. A portion of your national dues is remitted to the chapter. Membership is required to vote and hold positions in the local chapter.