



# Heard in Fort Worth

Newsletter of the Hearing Loss Association of Fort Worth

December, 2011

## CHRISTMAS PARTY!

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Saturday, December 10

- **Gift Exchange**
- **Great Food**



The chapter will provide a meat and cheese tray and croissants. You bring your favorite holiday dish to go with it.

Also bring a wrapped gift worth \$10 or less if you want to participate in our gift exchange. Mark it M for Male, F for Female, or G for Generic.

*Heidi Irgens will again play Christmas holiday music on her viola.  
The rich, low tones of the viola make pleasant listening.*

Be sure to come, and bring others.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

Goodrich Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
2500 Lipscomb Street, Fort Worth, TX



# PAULETTE'S POSTS

Since the first week in October, I have been participating in the Citizens Police Academy (CPA) for three hours every Tuesday night. The Fort Worth Police Department (FWPD) is providing three modes of communication access for this special academy for the deaf and hard of hearing: two sign interpreters, live captioning (CART), and FM assistive devices. In his written welcome to the participants of the program, Community Services Officer and CPA Coordinator Monty Lambert stated that the goal of the CPA was to provide accurate information about the police department's role in the criminal justice system and a working knowledge of departmental policies and procedures.

The FWPD officers, supervisors, and civilians who give presentations are making great efforts to facilitate communication and help us understand what they do. We usually have a number of questions, and the speakers have shown extraordinary patience and graciousness to us. This special CPA is part of the effort FWPD is making to dispel some of the suspicions and misconceptions the deaf and hard of hearing might have about FWPD's role in the criminal justice system. We have learned a lot from each other. My only disappointment is that the hard of hearing are not very well represented in the classes.

I have enjoyed being part of this CPA class, experiencing the diversity of the hearing loss community, gaining a better understanding of what Fort Worth police officers do, and learning about some of the problems they face. We complete the CPA program with our graduation on December 20.

***I look forward to seeing you at our annual Christmas Party. We will elect officers for next year, share a meal and have our gift exchange. Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!***

*Paulette Rook (paulette.rook@gmail.com)*



## Heard in Fort Worth

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**Hearing Loss Association  
of Fort Worth**

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<http://www.hla-fw.net>  
<http://www.hearingloss.org>

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Only **Hearing Loss Association of America** provides a national advocacy presence, a website with reliable, organized, and archived answers to questions about hearing loss and assistive technology, the *Hearing Loss Magazine*, with credible, current information, over 200 local support chapters and 14 state organizations, discounts to annual national conventions and many regional conferences. For \$35 per year, less than 70 cents a week, we give you information and encouragement to be a vital person in our hearing world. We are here for you because you care enough to be a part of the national concern for hearing loss. We appreciate your membership. If you have not become a national member, information and instructions are available at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).

# Vehicle Safety Tips for Holiday Shopping

Source: Fort Worth Police Department [edited]



- Keep your car in good working order and the gas tank at least half full.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- When approaching your car, look all around the area. If you see anything suspicious, keep going and call the police.
- Have your car keys in your hand and notice under the car as you approach. Check the back seat area before getting in.
- Lock your car door immediately after entering the car.
- If you think you are being followed, drive to a public place or to an open police or fire station.
- If your car is being repaired, leave only your car keys with the repair shop.
- If your car breaks down, turn on your flashers, open the hood, and wait inside the car with your doors locked. If someone stops, stay in your car, roll down your window slightly, and ask them to call the police, a garage, or a tow service for you.

## Fort Worth Chapter Officer Candidates for 2012:



- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • President           | Paulette Rook       |
| • Vice President      | Sharon Crouch       |
| • Treasurer           | Arnita Smith Garner |
| • Newsletter Editor   | Dan White           |
| • Hospitality         | Emma Hill           |
| • Secretary           | -                   |
| • Librarian/Historian | -                   |

## Membership in the Fort Worth Chapter

**We need your annual payment in support of our local chapter.** Newsletter expenses have increased, and your local support helps to offset that additional cost. Your support also helps pay for equipment and other needs of the chapter. Please fill out the form below and bring it to a chapter meeting or mail it us at the address shown on the form. **Make checks payable to Hearing Loss Assoc. of Fort Worth.**

As a member, you are allowed to vote on officers and other business affairs of the chapter, to serve as an officer and board member, and to feel a sense of "ownership" in the chapter.

You can pay your national membership dues through the chapter or directly to HLAA. We will have membership forms at chapter meetings, or you can go online at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) and click on MEMBERSHIP.

### Hearing Loss Association – Fort Worth 2011 Annual Fees

(Make checks payable to: **Hearing Loss Association of Fort Worth**)

Name: _____	Individual	Couple/Family
Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
Email address: _____		
Annual Chapter Participant Fee - \$10 individual / \$15 couple or family		\$ _____
Newsletter subscriber <b>only</b> (not participating in meetings) - \$5		\$ _____
HLAA National Dues - \$35 individual / \$45 couple or family (If not already a member)		\$ _____
Donation – local chapter or National Office (circle one)		\$ _____
	<b>TOTAL \$</b>	_____

**Follow up on an article in last month's issue:**

# Hearing Loss Association of America Speaks Out on UnitedHealthcare® Hearing Aid Initiative

By Brenda Battat, Executive Director of HLAA, November 17, 2011

The UnitedHealthcare® *hi HealthInnovations* announcement of its direct hearing services to consumers has caused quite a stir. The audiology professional organizations and the hearing aid specialist organizations and some hearing aid companies have already staked out positions against it, reiterating that the only approach to effective hearing health care is through an audiologist or hearing aid specialist.

Certainly best practices set forth by the entire key hearing aid dispensing industry promote selection, fitting verification and validation via real ear measurement as the gold standard of care. HLAA likewise has always encouraged consumers to work closely with a hearing health care professional they trust as the best way to become a successful hearing aid user.



Photo from <https://www.hihealthinnovations.com/>

But let's take a step back and ask ourselves if this traditional approach is reaching most people who could benefit from hearing aids. We all know the answer is no. With 75 percent of people who could benefit from hearing aids not taking steps to treat their hearing loss, we are failing a large percentage of people who could improve their quality of life, remain independent into old age, and stay on the job without retiring early.

The *hi HealthInnovations* approach is new and untried. A lot hinges on the accuracy of the test they plan to use to triage the best candidates for open-fit amplification, how easily people adjust to using the devices, and whether or not first-time users can be successful hearing aid users without face-to-face care. Is it going to work? Only time will tell. But let's give it a chance and not sabotage it from the outset, so that consumers can be the ultimate judges.

What consumers need are more options – more ways to enter the system to treat their hearing loss that suits their style of managing their health and that will get them to do something about their hearing loss sooner. United's entry point is the self-administered hearing screening that triages those who can and cannot be fitted without face-to-face care. They further expand options by making the purchase feasible.

We know that consumers are already using self administered tests in the privacy of their homes to confirm what they suspect – that they have a hearing loss. But the next step to follow up with a more thorough hearing evaluation is often skipped or, if pursued, is stymied when they learn what a pair of hearing aids is going to cost them. Best intentions are shot down. The number one inquiry into the HLAA office is how to afford hearing aids. UnitedHealthcare is making it feasible for consumers to go all the way and actually get aids for free or at reasonable co-pays or cost.

HLAA's concern is consumer protection. If the market is to be opened up then it should be done in a responsible way. From what we know about UnitedHealthcare's plan, there are positive aspects: providing primary care physicians with hearing screening tools; their robust hearing health care network of ENTs, audiologists and hearing aid dispensers; the large pool of 10 million UnitedHealthcare subscribers that translate to many people with hearing loss who can be helped; their intent to collaborate with the hearing health care providers outside of their system to refer those who need face-to-face care; and the captioned support videos and materials to guide new hearing aid users during the 45-day trial period on their website.

The program has been designed as a responsible alternative that in no way replaces the existing system but has the potential to reach those who wouldn't otherwise do anything or could not afford to do anything to treat their hearing loss. I think we should give it a chance and applaud UnitedHealthcare for identifying a pressing health need among America's seniors and being bold enough to tackle it.

# One in Five Americans Age 12 and Older Experiences Hearing Loss Severe Enough to Hinder Communication

By Mikaela Conley, ABC NEWS, Nov. 15, 2011, posted on <http://www.hearingloss.org>, 11/16/2011

Nearly one in five Americans age 12 and older experience hearing loss severe enough to interfere with day-to-day communication.

The new research, published in the Archives of Internal Medicine, examined data from the National Health and Nutritional Examination Surveys, or NHNES, which has collected health information from thousands of Americans since 1971. The researchers looked specifically at people age 12 and older -- men and women of all races -- whose hearing had been tested during NHANES exams.

"Hearing loss is inevitable in many ways, and a lot of people view it as inconsequential, which is where there is a big mistake," said Dr. Frank Lin, assistant professor in the department of otolaryngology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and lead author of the study. "Hearing loss has a great impact on cognitive abilities and can progressively lead to social isolation and loneliness," he told ABCNews.com.

"When people can't communicate effectively, the brain actually has to reallocate resources to help with hearing, and that may affect dementia and other cognitive impairment," said Lin.

And with an older population that's living longer, hearing loss could become a serious impediment to social intercourse.

MORE AT: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/americans-hearing-loss/story?id=14949805#.TsPv1sO5PZA>

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## HLAA Convention 2012: June 21 - 24

### *Come Sail with Us to New England*

The Hearing Loss Association of America is excited to announce Providence, Rhode Island as the host city for Convention 2012.

All workshops, plenary sessions, exhibit hall, and social events will take place at the Rhode Island Convention Center, which is connected by sky bridge to The Westin Providence.

Located in the heart of downtown Providence, you'll find plenty of restaurants, shopping, and points of interest. It's not too early to start planning your trip to New England. Start by reading about Providence.

We invite you to the largest educational convention and trade show for consumers with hearing loss at:

**The Westin Providence**  
One West Exchange Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**Rhode Island Convention Center**  
One Sabin Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

MORE CONVENTION INFORMATION AT: <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention>

## THANK YOU, TCU STUDENTS AT MILLER SPEECH AND HEARING CLINIC...

for hosting our November HLAA chapter meeting. The presentations were well organized and managed. The students demonstrated an excellent grasp of the issues and of information and techniques for handling them. The interest and the benefits of the meeting were evident from the high level of participation of our members. Congratulations to you all. Thank you also, Dr. Helen Morrison, for your long-standing commitment to hard of hearing community services.

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### Remembering Dean McMullen

Another pioneer member of our chapter has died. Ima "Dean" McMullen, a loving mother, grandmother and sister, died peacefully Nov. 17, 2011. Dean was a longtime member of our chapter, serving as treasurer for a few years. She had been ill for some time. Her daughter Jan is also a former member of the chapter.

Dean's service is scheduled at 10:00 AM, Saturday, Dec. 10, at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania St., Fort Worth. (This is the same time as our chapter meeting, unfortunately.)

In lieu of flowers, her family suggests consideration of contributions, in her memory, to the Hearing Loss Association of Fort Worth or to a charity of one's choice.

### NAD Sues Chase Bank for Refusing Relay Calls

The National Association of the Deaf ("NAD") has filed a lawsuit against JPMorgan Chase & Company ("Chase") on behalf of the Ohio Association of the Deaf and Lisa Toppin, a deaf Ohio resident. The NAD alleges that Chase's policy of refusing relay calls is a violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Read More...

<http://www.nad.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=18284&qid=1274609>

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Ricardo Cristobal, MD, PhD



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## Fonner Hearing Aid Center

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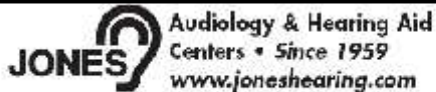
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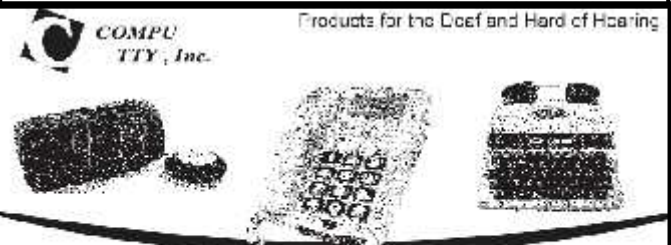
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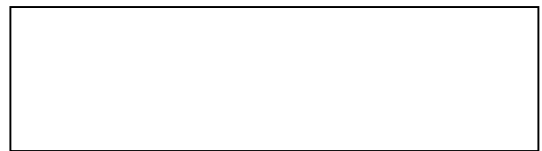


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## Heard in Fort Worth HEARING LOSS NEWSLETTER

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**Saturday, December 10:**

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**10:00 AM - 12:30 PM**  
***Gift Exchange, Food, Fun***

The chapter will provide a meat and cheese tray and croissants.  
Bring your favorite holiday dish.

Also bring a wrapped gift worth \$10 or less if you want to participate in our gift exchange.

*We use listening devices and live captioning for communication accessibility at our meetings.*

*2500 Lipscomb Street Fort Worth, TX 76110*



### **Fort Worth Chapter**

meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Goodrich Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

2500 Lipscomb Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76110

Telephone 817-926-5305  
for further information.