

**Hearing Loss Association of Greater Baltimore**  
**Newsletter for November 2006**

**Hearing Loss Association of Greater Baltimore evening meeting** will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the auditorium at HASA on **Thursday, November 16th**. Please note that our regular fourth Thursday evening meeting has been moved up by one week in order to avoid a conflict with the Thanksgiving Day holiday. Our November evening program will feature “**Assisted Travel**”, presented by Bridget Peirson, Tom Noto, and Nick McNemar of **Peirson Travel Agency**. Please come prepared to learn how Peirson can assist you with your travel needs, and also to ask relevant questions relating to travel accommodations. We will have a PowerPoint presentation for about 20 minutes, followed by plenty of time for questions and discussion. Peirson Travel, at [www.peirsontravel.com](http://www.peirsontravel.com), provides a full range of travel services and offers competitive travel deals with hearing loss accommodations in mind. Sign interpretation and refreshments will be provided.

**Hearing Loss Association of Greater Baltimore morning meeting** will take place from 10:30 AM to 12 Noon in the VRI Room at HASA on **Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**. Our November morning program will feature “**Meet the Aural Rehabilitationist**”, presented and led by Kelly Hume of GBMC. Our discussion will focus on how an aural rehabilitationist can help you to maximize your benefits from receiving new sound input, regardless of whether you use a hearing aid, a cochlear implant, a bone conduction device, or any combination of devices. We will have a small group format; therefore everyone will be able to participate fully. Sign interpretation will be provided.

Our hearing loss meetings at HASA are always free and open to all, and assistive listening devices are available upon request. After a holiday break in December, we will resume our regular meetings in January.

Kim Calabretta, CapTel Account Manager for Sprint, presented at our October evening meeting on October 26th who flew in from North Carolina to lead the meeting. Kim discussed how relay services are available regardless of which communication device or devices we may be using. We had a total of 22 persons present, including Kim, plus our sign interpreter and our captioner; active group discussions continued well past Kim’s actual presentation and the question-and-answer period which followed. Kim welcomes inquiries from all regarding CapTel, Sprint Relay Services, and Blackberry for relay services; she may be contacted via e-mail at [kim.m.calabretta@sprint.com](mailto:kim.m.calabretta@sprint.com) for details.

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Our upcoming Holiday Party is scheduled for **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** from 3-8 PM at the home of Alan Bricker and Mary Jo in the Towson area. Side dish, appetizer, and dessert contributions are appreciated. An informational flyer will be available at each of our November meetings, and the party information will be sent by e-mail. In addition, paper copies will also be mailed to all those on our Chapter’s postal mailing list.

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Ideas for a “**Youth Group for the Hearing Loss Association of Greater Baltimore**”, contributed by board member Shoshana Kafka:

“One of my goals while I am participating in the Hearing Loss Association is to try and reach out to the younger audience of those with hearing loss or who are interested in becoming involved with our Hearing Loss Association of Greater Baltimore chapter.

I plan to give presentations at the college I recently graduated from, Carroll Community College, with the objective of raising awareness on hearing loss and making valuable related information available to anyone.

The reason I wish to involve youth in the organization is that while I was growing up and during grade school there was no one for me to really talk to, other than my hearing family, about my hearing loss. That is how I learned to express myself, and I would like to create a forum where similarly situated young persons can express themselves and be understood, not through sympathy or empathy but instead through bona fide experience and understanding.

One way I would interest youth in the HLA would be to plan a Halloween Party for October of 2007. Since I understand that the Hearing and Speech Agency is closed on weekends, we would need to locate a school, church, community or recreation center, or similar place with liability coverage for on-site social functions. And since HASA is a nonprofit organization, there would be concerns regarding ensuring the safety of young persons unless adults assume full responsibility or unless special liability insurance arrangements are made in advance. As young adults, we assume full responsibility for our own personal safety, but concerns always exist that not all young persons will be as safety conscious as adults. As to how I would set up a youth group, I would create posters to be placed at sites where young persons with hearing loss might encounter them, such as colleges, local churches, community centers, and recreation centers.

I would also like to be able to create hand-designed T-shirts that incorporate some sort of interesting and youth-appealing logo pertaining to hearing loss. I have an artistically inclined friend who would be willing to help me with this project.

I have a few other ideas on the horizon, but I believe that for the time being setting up and implementing these above-mentioned ideas would keep me quite busy.

Please let me know at [shoshanakafka@hotmail.com](mailto:shoshanakafka@hotmail.com) if you are interested in helping me to set up and activate a HLA Youth Group.”

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**Sincerest thanks** are in order for our CART captioner, Darian Elliott, for her long service in providing communications access via CART to our chapter at its meetings. Darian got married last year and is leaving because her young family is now starting. We share in Darian's joy, and wish her and her family all the best in their future together.

Anyone who would like to make the suggested \$12 donation toward our Chapter's operating expenses may do so at any meeting or by contacting our treasurer, Bob Leepa, at: [rflepa@comcast.net](mailto:rflepa@comcast.net) .

Anyone who has any news or tidbits to be included in the newsletter, please send them to our Newsletter Editor, Alan Bricker, at: [numiscene@juno.com](mailto:numiscene@juno.com) .

Finally, to keep abreast of HLA news and developments please access our websites for further information at any time:

**Hearing Loss Association of Greater Baltimore:** <http://shhhgbc.home.comcast.net>

**Hearing Loss Association of America:** [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)