



**Hearing Loss
Association
of America**
Central Oklahoma Chapter

April 2019 Volume 20, Issue 4

Welcome to the Meetings! Please Join Us!

Day Group

When: Third Thursday, April 18, Social period - 1:00pm, meeting - 1:30pm.

Where: Lakeside Methodist Church, 2925 NW 66th St., Oklahoma City.

Speaker: Marcia Moore, psychologist in private practice in Oklahoma City. **Topic:** the psychological effects of hearing loss on relationships, especially with family members.

Note: If you are a member and we don't have a name tag for you yet, when you come to the meeting let Sylvia Frank know so she can make one for you.

Night Group

When: Second Monday, April 8, Social period - 6:30pm, meeting - 7:00pm.

Where: Lakeside Methodist Church, 2925 NW 66th St., Oklahoma City.

Special guest Edgar Cruz, voted Best Guitarist and Entertainer in Oklahoma, will be our speaker. Doors open at 6:30pm - **Don't be late** and please bring a friend!

More about Edgar Cruz: Guitarist Extraordinaire

By Ana Covey

Edgar Cruz is Oklahoma's premiere solo guitarist, performing multiple styles but specializing in solo Spanish, Classical and Standards. He does not require backing tracks of any kind. He performs bass notes, melody lines and rhythm simultaneously, occasionally using his stomp pedal to enhance the back beat. He has performed for 43 years and has been recording for 30 years. His latest (19th) CD 'Yesterday Tripper' is the follow up to 'Cruzin the Beatles.' He has recently added vocals to his performances, and has performed many tours in the USA, and Europe, and has also been a headliner at the prestigious "Chet Atkins" Guitar Festival in Nashville every year since 1995.

He is equally comfortable performing for 2 people or 2000 people.

All information and performances can be found at www.edgarcruz.com.

Any personal news, articles, etc., to be included in the newsletter are due by the 3rd Thursday of the month!

Email the editor (Elaine) at tlains@sbcglobal.net

OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Oklahoma City Hearing Loss Association is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.



Volunteer: a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.

Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know they're always there.

Want to volunteer? **Contact Venice Meade at vmegade1@cox.net, (405) 537-4907.** We welcome you to join us!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has given me tips, advice, material and suggestions for the newsletter. The newsletter is very much a team project!

HLA Board Members

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Visit the **Faye Donalson Hearing Helper Demonstration Room (HHR)** at 5100 N. Brookline, Suite 100. Assistive listening devices, sonic boom alarm clocks, telephones (also for visually impaired), bed shakers, smoke alarms, and more are available for **demo and short-term loan.**

Hours are Mon-Fri 10am to 3pm.

Quote of the Month

No one can possibly know what is about to happen: it is happening, each time, for the first time, for the only time.

James Baldwin

Birthdays in April

Linda Bryant

Happy Birthday!

Share the newsletter! Someone with hearing loss, their family member or friend may find just the answer or encouragement they need.

Change of Address - Mail or Email

Please let us know, so you can continue to receive the newsletter and other publications from the HLA Central Oklahoma Chapter. See page 2 for people to contact.



Explaining Us to Them

March 26, 2019, Gael Hannan

People with hearing loss often moan that ‘hearing’ people just don’t get what it’s like to have hearing loss. They think we use sign language. They don’t realize we need other types of visual information. They call us from another room or start talking before we’ve tuned in. They sometimes yell at us, thinking that louder is always better. They contort their mouths as they over-enunciate. They don’t understand why we do well in some conversations, but not in others. They forget, every time we chat, everything we explained to them last time.

People with hearing loss spend a lot of time explaining our communication needs to others. Or we don’t – which means we then spend a lot of time bluffing our way through conversations. Every person with hearing loss – who uses the spoken language and technology to communicate – has gone through some version of the following conversation.

We’ll call the hearing person ‘Sarah’.

Sarah: Hi, I’m Sarah and yaddi yaddi yaddah....

Me: Hi Sarah – could you slow down a bit, please; I have hearing loss and I’m not quite following you.

Sarah: Oh sorry, no problem. I totally understand because my mom was deaf, too.

Me: I’m not deaf but I use a hearing aid and a cochlear implant.

Sarah: Cool. But if you don’t have them on – should I say on or in – can you hear anything?

Me: Hardly anything – maybe a door slamming.

Sarah: Doesn’t that mean you’re deaf?

Me: Audiologically yes, I’m deaf. But I don’t call myself deaf because with my technology I hear quite well.

Sarah: Cool – so how much do you actually hear?

Me: How much do *you* hear?

Sarah: Oh gosh, pretty well everything. I think.

Me: Are you sure?

Sarah: What do you mean?

Me: I’m just kidding you. With my technology, I hear a lot, a LOT. But we usually don’t know what we don’t hear. Like right now, I don’t hear the birds singing but I don’t wonder whether they are because I’d go nuts if I walked around wondering what I was not hearing.

Sarah: Just so you know, the birds are singing.

Me: I'll take your word for it.

Sarah: So, do you do the signing thing?

Me: Just a bit – like the signs for 'thank you' and 'I need to go to the bathroom'.

Sarah: But if you're deaf, which you are but you don't say it, wouldn't you sign?

Me: That's why I don't say I'm deaf because people would expect me to sign and I don't. Most of us with hearing loss don't. We use the spoken language to communicate – like you talk and I hear and vice versa. My technology helps me do this. I speechread and use all sorts of other strategies, like telling you what I need. So, I say that I have 'hearing loss' or that I'm 'hard of hearing'.

Sarah: Oh wow, you read lips? (Mouthing) WHAT AM I SAYING?

Me: Hmm, I think you just said what am I saying?

Sarah: Wow, you're good!

Me: Yes, I am. But 'what am I saying' is what everyone tests us with. Nobody tests us with something like 'climate change is not a hoax.' THAT would be difficult to speechread.

Sarah: If technology is so good, why do people with hearing aids still say pardon a lot? Like my friend's deaf aunt who uses hearing aids, and still

Me: Pardon?

Sarah: What?

Me: You turned your head away, and I didn't catch the last thing you said.

Sarah: Oh it was nothing, just about my aunt.

Me: Don't say that it was nothing. Maybe what you said about your aunt was interesting or boring, but I should be the judge of that.

Sarah: Sorry. Will your hearing ever get better?

Me: No, but my technology gets better all the time and that works for me.

Sarah: This is so interesting! Especially because you're so young to have, you know, the hearing loss. You are so inspiring.

Me: Because I read lips and say pardon a lot?

Sarah: No, because you seem so cool with it all.

Me: Thanks, but I don't have a choice. This is my life and how I hear.

Sarah: Still. Anyway, it's nice to meet you. Did you notice how I completely faced you when I said that?

Me: You're awesome.

This imaginary conversation is partly real because it happens all the time in various forms. It's part of the hearing loss life and it's how we hear. #



Scholarship

**Central Oklahoma Chapter of the
Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)**

Is proud to announce our 2019 Scholarship:
Two scholarships will be awarded of \$1,000 each.

Applicant Requirements:

Documentation of hearing loss
Submit an essay of how hearing loss has affected your life
Resident of Oklahoma
Must be attending higher education in Fall 2019
*See application for additional requirements

Application Deadline: April 8, 2019

Download application from WWW.OKCHearingLoss.org
or pick up at the Faye Donalson Hearing Helper's Room
5100 N Brookline, Ste. #100, OKC, OK 73123

The **Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter (HLAA-COC)** newsletter is published monthly by the Central Oklahoma Chapter. The views and ideas expressed herein are those of the editor and staff of the Hearing Loss Association of Central Oklahoma and may not always reflect those of Hearing Loss Association of America. For further information: Write to our chapter address: PO Box 42801, OKC, OK 73123.



HLAA Local Website and Forum

Visit www.okchearingloss.org to view maps and schedules for our local chapter meetings and special events. Read about the services offered by the *Faye Donalson Hearing Helpers Room*. Visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OKC_HLAA for the OKC-HLAA forum. Sharon Hendricks is our webmaster. We welcome your feedback and comments on our websites. For the Facebook page, search in the Facebook search box for ***Hearing Loss Association of Central Oklahoma***.

Hearing Loss Association of America

If you are not yet a member of National HLAA, you are encouraged to join and take advantage of their services. The bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine is full of treasures for anyone with hearing loss or the family and friends of such.

Founded in 1979, the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), is the nation's foremost advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. It opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support.

Information can be found at www.hearingloss.org. The national headquarters is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814.

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Our thanks to these sponsors for supporting the Hearing Loss Association - Central Oklahoma Chapter. Your support of our organization and its programs is greatly treasured.

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*Hearing Loss Association of Central Oklahoma, Chapter Treasurer, PO Box 42801,
Oklahoma City, OK 73123.***

Platinum Level: \$500

Gold Level: \$250-\$499

Silver Level: \$100-\$249

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New Membership or Renewal: Bring to a chapter meeting or mail to:
Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter
PO Box 42801, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Please Print Clearly:

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthday Month _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

New to Hearing Loss Association – Central Oklahoma Chapter

Preference for your newsletter delivery:

email Postal Mail

Are you a member of HLAA – National? Yes No

Annual chapter dues: \$10.00 per individual or \$15.00 per family.

Contributions are tax deductible. Amount of donation \$ _____

Membership is based on the calendar year: January through December.

JOIN TODAY!