



**March 2020    Volume 21, Issue 3**



**Welcome to the Meetings! Please Join Us!**

**When:** Third Thursday, March 19

**Time:** 11:30 am until 1:00 pm.

**Location:** Will Rogers Gardens Exhibition Center, 3400 N.W. 36th St., Oklahoma City 73112

**Speaker:** Dr. Patricia Burke from the OK State department of Health will join us to discuss the OK newborn hearing screening process.

**Audiology Advisor:** To be determined

**Luncheon:** Our newest sponsor, **Johnnie Carino's of Yukon**, will be catering an Italian feast that you won't want to miss, which starts at 11:30. Please bring a dessert if you wish!



**Any personal news, articles, etc., to be included in the newsletter are due by the 15th of the month!**

Email the editor, Elaine: [elains@cox.net](mailto:elains@cox.net)

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## 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.

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*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 [vmadee1@cox.net](mailto:vmadee1@cox.net), (405) 537-4907. We welcome you to join us!**

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# 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!

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### HLA Board Members

Charles Chastain, [c-chastain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:c-chastain@sbcglobal.net)

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## *Looking Forward*

### **March Meeting**

**Third Thursday** - March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center, 3400 N.W. 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City

**Speaker:** Will Rogers Gardens Exhibition Center, 3400 N.W. 36<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Oklahoma City 73112

**Speaker:** Dr. Patricia Burke from the OK State department of Health will join us to discuss the OK newborn hearing screening process.

**Audiology Advisor:** To be determined

**Luncheon:** Our newest sponsor, **Johnnie Carino's of Yukon**, will be catering an Italian feast that you won't want to miss, which starts at 11:30. Please bring a dessert if you wish!

### **April Meeting**

**Third Thursday** - April 16<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center, 3400 N.W. 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City

**Speaker:** Dr. Kimball from Oklahoma State University will discuss tinnitus and noise exposure

**Audiology Advisor:** To be determined

A light lunch will be provided.

### **May Meeting**

**Third Thursday** - May 21

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center, 3400 N.W. 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City

**Speaker:** Alex Freedman from the OKC Dodgers will discuss baseball and hearing loss

**Audiology Advisor:** To be determined

A light lunch will be provided.



**BETHESDA, MD, December 31, 2019:**

HLAA, the nation's leading nonprofit organization representing people with hearing loss, is proud to partner with American Girl, the inspiring world of dolls and a subsidiary of Mattel. HLAA and American Girl are teaming up in honor of the company's \*2020 Girl of the Year, Joss Kendrick.

Hearing Loss Association of America partners with American Girl® to increase Education and Awareness of Hearing Loss. American Girl Donates \$25,000 to Support Hearing Loss Association of America in Honor of its 2020 Girl of the Year™, Joss Kendrick.

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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.**

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**March Birthdays**

Kent Billingsley  
Lucretia Camacho  
Linda Koch  
Richard Ross

**Happy Birthday!**

Please tell us your birthday month so we can celebrate in that month's newsletter.

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*Quote of the Month*

Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

Douglas MacArthur

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



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### **American Sign Language Classes**

@ Moore/Norman Vo-Tech 13301 S.Penn campus

Classes start March 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm to 8pm thru May 14<sup>th</sup> every Tues & Thurs night.

If you are a SENIOR LEARNER (over 65) you will only have to pay \$37.00 for the book & \$66 for the class (normally \$132.00).

The Class is called Basic American Sign Language.

You must call or register in person to get the discount. 405-364-5763

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### **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual INTEGRIS Hispanic Health Fair**

Saturday, April 18, 2020, 9am - Noon

Moore Norman Technology Center

13301 S. Pennsylvania Avenue

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## **Scholarship**

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

Is proud to announce our 2020 Scholarship:  
Two scholarships will be awarded of \$1,500 each.

#### **Applicant Requirements:**

- Documentation of hearing loss
- Submit an essay on how hearing loss has affected your life
- Resident of Oklahoma
- Must be attending higher education in Fall 2020
- \*See application for additional requirements

#### ***Application Deadline: April 6, 2020***

Download application from [WWW.OKCHearingLoss.org](http://WWW.OKCHearingLoss.org)

**or** pick up at the Faye Donalson Hearing Helper's Room  
5100 N Brookline, Ste. #100, OKC, OK 73123

**Central Oklahoma Chapter**

## **Our Scholarship Program: Encouraging Those with Hearing Loss to Continue Their Education**

Our Scholarship program has been a wonderful way for our Chapter to reach out into the community and help future generations of people with hearing loss. We have been able to award eight (8) scholarships over the four year period we have offered them. We recently contacted our recipients for an update on their education. Below is an update from Riley McElwain, who was one of our 2017 recipients.

*“School has been keeping me busy. I’m currently a junior at Oklahoma State. I’m getting deep into my major/minor courses. I love my professors and my peers. They inspire me to do so many things in regard to my career. I’m super involved in my sorority Delta Delta Delta. I recently got an officer position that will help unite and encourage my chapter.*

*I’m incredibly thankful for this scholarship that I received my freshman year. It encourages me to do better each year in my academics to show to everyone that anyone can do it. It was a huge blessing and I hope all is going well.*

*Thank you*

*Riley McElwain”*

We are continuing the program for the Fall of 2020, offering three (3) scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each. If you know of someone with hearing loss wanting to advance their education, please refer them to our website, **[www.okchearingloss.org](http://www.okchearingloss.org)** to download an application and encourage them to apply. The deadline is April 6, 2020. If you would like to see this program continued, please consider a donation.

Sharon Hendricks

Scholarship Chairperson

From: <http://www.oudaily.com>, Feb 6, 2020

## **OU student receives scholarship from Hearing Loss Association of America**

Beth Wallis, news reporter

The Central Oklahoma Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to OU accounting student Peter Hardt (left) and UCO criminal justice student Haleigh Scott.

Peter Hardt is an accounting senior who was born with bilateral profound hearing loss. According to the release, Hardt was the first child in Oklahoma to have hearing loss detected by a newborn hearing screening.

"I think the most important (thing) for people to know about kids with hearing loss is that they are normal kids who want things normal kids want to do," Hardt said. "I'm proud to give a lot of people a face to put to hearing loss."

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must have documented hearing loss, be a resident of Oklahoma, plan to attend an institute of higher education and submit an essay about how hearing loss has affected their lives.

"Getting this scholarship was a great feeling because it feels like a confirmation of everything I've worked for," Hardt said.

Sharon Hendricks, chair of the scholarship committee, said Hardt got their attention because of his "outstanding" work ethic.

"In (Hardt's) case, he's just an unbelievable go-getter," Hendricks said.

University of Central Oklahoma criminal justice student Haleigh Scott received the organization's other scholarship, according to the release.

The chapter is taking applications for next year's \$1,500 scholarship award until April 6.

Interested students can visit the organization's website for more information:

**[www.okchearingloss.org](http://www.okchearingloss.org)** .

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## Letter from the President

Ana Covey

My daffodils have started to bloom, which means it is almost Spring in Oklahoma! Hello and thank you for supporting our chapter of the Hearing Loss Association. Your support and participation mean the world to us.

We hope that you were able to join us for our February monthly meeting. Shelley Gladden from Able Tech in Stillwater was able to fill us in on the programs they offer and the amazing work they do. As a grant coordinator, her primary role is the financial loan program for consumers to purchase assistive technology. Do you know anyone who could use a little help purchasing hearing aids or a micro-loan for smaller hearing technology? Shelley can help! Shelley can be reached at (405) 523-4810. You can also reach out to our very own Hearing Helpers Room (HHR) to try devices or receive information at 5100 N. Brookline, Suite 100. The HHR is located inside the tall building a block west of the corner of 50th and May.

Dr. Elizabeth Grim from Hearts for Hearing was also able to join us and shared her time with us as February's Audiology Adviser. Remember to save your questions during the month to ask our next Audiology Adviser in March!

The March 19th meeting will be one to remember! Our newest sponsor, Johnnie Carino's of Yukon, will be catering an Italian feast that you won't want to miss, which starts at 11:30. Dr. Patricia Burke from the OK State department of Health will join us to discuss the OK newborn hearing screening process.

I hope you can join us, and don't forget to bring a friend! Every time you come to a monthly meeting, you will receive another chance to win the grand prize of a free pair of hearing aids - yes FREE! The meetings are also a chance to visit with a community that understands the struggle of living with hearing loss. See you there!

Warmly,

Ana Covey, Chair

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*<https://www.news9.com/story/Oklahoma-Developed-Drug-Closer-To-Being-Approved-To-Repair-Hearing-Loss>*

Tuesday, February 11th 2020, 5:25 PM CST

By: Clayton Cummins

### **Hough Ear Institute Scientists Sell Hearing Loss Drug**

A new pill being developed in Oklahoma could help repair hearing loss, even eliminate the use of hearing aids all together.

Dr. Rick Kopke and his team at Oklahoma City's Hough Ear Institute have been developing the drug over half a decade now. It's a drug slowly proving to fix even ringing in the ear.

"We've been working on a pill that can be taken shortly after a loud noise exposure or a blast injury to decrease the permanent hearing loss that might occur," said Kopke. "It looks like it can even regenerate the delicate nerve endings for hearing and restore some hearing."

It's only right the pill is being developed in the Sooner State. Home to many military bases, it could be revolutionary for service men and women.

"Our hope is that this will be valuable for the military, people in combat, especially that don't have time to put their ear plugs in," said Kopke. "They can take this pill and have less hearing damage from noise."

Countless donors have helped raise nearly \$20 million so far to help make the drug, temporarily named "NHPN-1010," a possibility.

"If all goes well, we're looking to have this on the market by 2025, so about five years down the road if everything goes well," said Kopke.

The public will be able to participate in clinical trials.

The Hough Ear Institute will make announcements on its website after the drug makes it out of phase two testing, in about a year.



### **If I Were a Hearing Person (2020)**

February 26, 2020      Gael Hannan

Several years ago, I wrote about the dream that many of us with chronic hearing loss have, although we would rather lick paint than admit it. In that dream, our hearing loss disappears and we can hear perfectly, unaided by technology or other people. We imagine how every part of our life would be different in a world where we understand, the first time, every time.

And hey, what's wrong with that? It's no different than wishing we were thinner or prettier, with different hair (such as more hair) or we were richer. The only danger in this thinking is the risk of considering ourselves as defective, or not perfect enough, as if such a thing is possible.

My hearing and my hearing accessibility have changed through the years, and so I update my dream, because dreaming is what people do.

*If I were a hearing person....*

I would wake in the morning, and immediately connect  
With the sounds of house-life around me  
Husband breathing, cats playing, cell phone vibrating  
There would be no noiseless pause as I reach for the jar  
Where my hearing aids have slept through the night  
And then, once they're in, even the silence has a sound.

*If I were a hearing person....*

I would not have to stand at the door of a party  
Stomach clenched as I prepare for conversations  
Saturated with the overwhelming din of the crowd  
Wondering if I will catch the names of strangers or the words of friends  
I wouldn't copy the smiles of others,  
Which sometimes are the only things I can understand in this noise.

*If I were a hearing person....*

I would dine in a gorgeous, dimly lit place

With one romantic candle lighting the face of my handsome husband.  
I would understand the server, and maybe order for both of us.  
My husband might lean over and whisper in my ear  
And I wouldn't need to read his lips.

*If I were a hearing person....*

Talking on the phone would never have caused  
A problem like the one on my very first job,  
I answered the phone in the hospital clinic  
And said, "Who is this, please – I'm sorry, it's who?  
Oh, I'm afraid Dr. Scott is not here, I'm sorry, he's not.  
What's that you say? Oh, YOU'RE Dr. Scott!?"

*If I were a hearing person....*

Perhaps I would have avoided the curse of Tinnitus. My head would not harbor this noisy beast,  
which is often the clearest sound I hear, competing with the sounds of nature and voices and  
music – and winning.

But I also would not have known the miracle of cochlear implants – which lets me hear the  
songs of small birds that triumph clearly over the sounds of the horrible-head-beast.

*If I were a hearing person....*

I would not have to fight for the right to access – so that I can see a movie, watch TV,  
understand a lecture, get an education, receive health care, sit on a jury, and do my job...just  
the same as all the hearing people.

Then I wake up and I know I will never again be a 'hearing' person—but was I ever? Perhaps  
not, but today I am something even more miraculous – I'm a person with hearing loss who can  
hear.

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## **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.

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### **CHECK IT OUT!**

Apps for your iPhone or Android

<http://www.captionfish.com/theaters/cinemark-tinseltown-usa-oklahoma-city>

◇ Cinemark Tinseltown—6001 N. MLK Blvd, OKC 73111

◇ Harkins at Bricktown

- ◇ Regal Spotlight Stadium 14 in Norman —Sony Glasses
  - ◇ Starplex West End Pointe 8 in Yukon
  - ◇ Warren Theater in Moore -Sony Glasses
  - ◇ AMC Northpark Mall
  - ◇ AMC Quail Springs Cinema 24 Theater—Quail Springs Mall
  - ◇ AMC Penn Square Mall
  - ◇ AMC Crossroads Mall
  - ◇ AMC Springs Mall West
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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.

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#### ***HLAA Local Website and Forum***

Visit **[www.okchearingloss.org](http://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](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***.

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### **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](http://www.hearingloss.org). The national headquarters is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814.

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**!! THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS !!**

**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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**Mail your support of an annual tax deductible donation to:  
*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**

**Bronze Level: \$50-\$99**

**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!**