

# Hearing & Beyond

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People

Myrna Kain, Editor

mkain1@juno.com

Page 1

360.659.9438

EAC-SHHH.tripod.com

Everett Area Chapter

February 2003

## **Next Meeting**

February 8, 2003  
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Snohomish PUD Building  
Commission Room  
2320 California

## **Meeting Topic**

**Love/Hate relationship  
With Hearing Aids**

**Speaker**

by  
Beverly Ziarko

## **Raffle Item**

Donated by

Mary Harwood  
Clarity Amplified Phone

**Real Time Captioning by**  
*Else Meek*

Providing Realtime Services

We have an interesting story from our Speaker for February... Beverly Ziarko She is WASA Vice President/Database Manager.....

I lost my hearing at 21 due to otosclerosis and fought a raging battle against my new hearing aid/lifestyle. Fifteen years, hearing aids in both ears, some resignation and a family later, I moved to northern California. There was an article in the paper about SHHH sometime near 1984 and I went to my first meeting. I became active in several SHHH groups around the Diablo Valley chapter and learned more at those meetings about how to help myself than I had ever learned from an audiologist or dispenser. Through a co-SHHH'r, I discovered I qualified for the CA State Department of Rehabilitation. I credit these support systems with teaching me how to have confidence in the skills and aids I do have and helping me ease back into the workforce. Then 12 years ago I moved to Kent, Washington. To my delight, there was again an article in my local paper; this time about Gordon Nystedt and SHHH. I tootled right on down to the next South King County SHHH meeting which happened to be officer elections! For the next 4 years, I served as newsletter editor. I did take a break for a few years, but I'm back now and have lots to say about SHHH, support, and hearing aids!!

The Love/Hate Relationship with Hearing Aids. Sometimes we treasure them like diamonds, but then with little provocation, we want to throw them across the room!

Sometimes this happens...and people forget.....

We are missing a FM receiver, and would like to remind you to return it to Everett Area Chapter, It only works with our transmitter...THANKS

Next month meeting we will have **Jay Seitz** from Newport Audiology.....

He will be speaking about .....

Ototoxic Meds Outline

- Basic anatomy of the structures of the ear affected by ototoxic drugs
- Drugs that can cause hearing loss
- Signs of ototoxicity
- Monitoring of hearing during administration of ototoxic drugs

I like to thank the following people for renewing their Newsletter With Everett Area Chapter...

Phyllis Kimmons

James Spence

Shirley Lund

**Happy  
Birthday  
to**



Nellie Christofferson

February 14th.

Mary Harwood February 3rd.

# SHHH

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People

Become a SHHH Member and  
Get the "Hearing Loss"  
Journal

**Hearing  
Loss**

**From the PREZ.....**

**Wouldn't it be wonderful to see Washington State pass one like some of these?**

State Bill #	Name of sponsor Who is covered	Date introduced/ Frequency of replacement of HA's Provisions/ Date passed
CO	Rep. Larson	2002 session
HB 02-1220	Children	Not more than every 5 years
CT	Sen. Win Smith, Rep. James Amann	3/2002
SB 136	All	Not more than once every 3 years, except in cases of medical necessity
MD	Del. Hixon	2001,
HB 160	Children	Every 36 months
MA	Sen. Brewer	2001,
SB 735	State employees	Every 3 years
MA	Sen. Morrissey	2001,
SB 2087	Children	Every 3 years

Limitations: Services must be provided by an audiologist

Each individual health insurance policy provided in state shall provide at least 80% of the retail price of the hearing aid or aids up to \$2,000 for each impaired ear.

Limited to \$1400 per hearing aid for each hearing impaired ear. Must be provided by an audiologist. Insured my chose a higher priced HA and pay the difference.

Signed 5/01; Chapter 445

Two hearing aids; insurer may provide greater coverage;

Two hearing aids; insurer may provide greater coverage.

MN Rep Koskinen 1/18/01, HF 221, SF 186 All 80% of the cost of covered services in access of an annual deductible, which does not exceed \$150 per person, limited to \$3000 per person. Maximum lifetime benefit of not less than \$500,000. Prescribed by an audiologist or hearing aid specialist or, for an adult, any-one who is certified to dispense.

MO Rep Holt 2001 HB 341 All Not specified Shall provide hearing aid coverage that is not subject to any greater deductible or co-payment than other similar health care services provided by the plan.

NJ A.M. Imprevuto, Sen. Cafiero 1/8/02,

A569 S. 304 All N/A First-time purchase and fitting for each impaired ear; not to exceed \$6000 per person

NJ A.M. Cottrell 1/8/02, A741 All As needed, as determined by such providers as the insurer deems appropriate, including dispensers Covers medically necessary expenses incurred in the purchase of a HA.. Shall not contain a preexisting condition limitation

NJ A.M. Cottrell, Sen. Singer 5/9/02, A. 2276, S. 846 All At least every 48 months One analog or digital hearing aid for each ear when medially necessary and as prescribed or recommended by a licensed physician or audiologist; the insurer may limit the benefit to \$1,000 per hearing aid fore each hearing-impaired ear every 24 months.

NJ A.M. Coniglio 6/20/02, A. 2447 Children As medically necessary or appropriate Covers purchase of a hearing aid for each ear, as prescribed or recommended by the hearing aid provider as deemed appropriate by the medical provider, including hearing aid dispensers.

NY A.M. Morelle 5/23/01, A. 8896S. 5692A All Adults: every 4 years; children: every 2 years provided that their condition has severely deteriorated.

Covers cost of hearing aids of at least \$1,000 for costs related to the purchase of 2 hearing aids.

OH Rep. Miller HB 110, 2002-2002 session All Not specified Covers 50% of the total cost of the hearing aids; Has to be prescribed by a physician, dispensed by a physician, or licensed audiologist or hearing aid dealer or fitter; also, if approval for use of federal funds is granted under the Social Security Act, the medial assistance program shall include benefits for the total cost of hearing aids.

OH Rep. Miller 2002-2002 session, HB 136 State employees Not specified Benefits for hearing exams and hearing aids to be included as part of the health coverage benefits offered to state of Ohio employees.

OK Rep Easley, Rep Blackburn Sen. Cain 2002 session HB 2178, SB 1641 Children up to 16 years Not specified Provides for coverage for audiological services and hearing aids for children

OR Rep Walker 2001 Session, HB 3185 All Every 48 months Covers the cost of one hearing aid per hearing impaired ear up to \$1200 per hearing aid. Insured my chose a higher priced HA and pay the difference in cost.

PA Sen Schwartz 2/15/01, SB 517 Children Not specified Shall include coverage for hearing aids for children under 18 years of age.

*Here it is. It's free! Real-time captioning, FM, and amplification. Saturday, April 5, HUB Auditorium, University of Washington, Seattle Campus. Start publicizing. Notice the later start time...you might want to think about car-pooling.*

**Ears, Hearing, and Beyond** 9:30 An Overview: The Ear, Hearing and Auditory Disorders  
George A. Gates, MD, Director, Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center; Otologist & Professor, UW, Otolaryngology-HNS  
10:00 Advances in Hearing Evaluation  
Patrick Feeney, PhD, UW, Department of Otolaryngology-HNS  
10:30 Amplification for Hearing Loss  
Patrick Feeney, PhD, UW, Department of Otolaryngology-HNS  
11:00 Break  
11:30 Coping with Hearing Loss Amanda Beers, Miss Washington 2002  
12:00 Lunch & Exhibits  
1:30 Current Status of Hair Cell Regeneration  
Olivia Bermingham-McDonogh, Research Assistant Professor, UW, Otolaryngology-HNS  
2:00 Genetics of Hearing Loss  
Valerie Street, PhD, Acting Instructor, UW, Otolaryngology-HNS  
2:30 Meniett Device for Meniere's Disease  
George A. Gates, MD, Director, Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center; Otologist & Professor, UW, Otolaryngology-HNS  
3:00 Questions and Answers  
3:30 Exhibits  
4:30 Exhibits Close

We had 4 new visitors in January Meeting, and we hope to see them again, they were :  
Cibyl Kumagai  
Dorthy Hermans  
Ace Hermans  
Elizabeth Jensen

An elderly gentlemen had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor. The doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%  
The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor. The doctor said, "your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really please that you can hear again."  
Which the gentleman said "Oh, I haven't told my family yet, I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three

### Time

TAKE TIME TO WORK  
It is the price of success  
TAKE TIME TO PLAY  
It is the secret of perpetual youth  
TAKE TIME TO THINK  
It is the source of power  
TAKE TIME TO READ  
It is the foundation of wisdom  
TAKE TIME TO HELP AND ENJOY FRIENDS  
It is source of happiness  
TAKE TIME TO PRAY  
It is the greatest power on earth  
TAKE TIME TO LAUGH  
It is the music of the soul  
TAKE TIME O LISTEN  
It is the pathway to understanding  
TAKE TIME TO DREAM  
It is hitching your wagon to a star

TAKE TIME O LOVE AND BE LOVED

It is the gift of God.  
TAKE TIME TO PLAN  
It is the secret of being able to have time take time for the first ten things.

VA Sen. Byrne 1/8/2003, HB 2032 Children up to 18 years  
Every 36 months Coverage for HA's and related services; up to \$1400 per hearing aid; the insured may choose a higher priced HA and may pay the difference in cost; "related services" means earmolds, initial batteries, and other necessary equipment, maintenance and adaptation training; services to be provided by a professional licensed to provide such services; excludes Medicare.

WI Rep Lehman 2001-2002 session;  
A.130 All Not specified The cost of up to \$1,000 of hearing aids for an insured under the policy who is certified as hearing impaired by a licensed audiologist; the cost of hearing testing,

Check one or more boxes that apply to you.

SHHH, Everett Area Chapter meets monthly Sept. through June (with a picnic in August). The chapter sends out the "Hearing & Beyond" newsletter on the same schedule. We need your support to keep the SHHH, Everett Area Chapter functioning. You can help us continue to support and educate people who are hard of hearing. With an annual contribution from you of: Circle one\_\_\_\_  
New or Renewal

☐•\$13.00 for one person, (Newsletter)

or

☐•\$15.00 for a family (Newsletter)

☐•\$25.00 to become a member of SHHH. This include the "Hearing Loss" Journal plus other benefits.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ TTY / VOICE (Please circle one)

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing People)?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make the check to **SHHH, Everett Area Chapter** and mail it along with this form to:  
Annette Johnson, Treasurer

## SHHH-Everett Area Chapter

c/o Dave Pearson  
8521 45th Drive NE  
Marysville, WA 98270



Guests are always Welcome

Meeting: Feb 8th, 2003  
Speaker.....Beverly Ziarko

### In this issue...

Our Speaker.....Page 1

States that have passed Hearing Aid Insurance...Page 2

Time.....Page 3

*Address Correction Requested*