



A PUBLICATION OF THE ADULT LOSS OF HEARING ASSOCIATION

Hear & Now

March 2012

**First Tuesdays Seminars
(Free) at ALOHA**
See schedule inside.

**Desert Cochlear
Connections Meeting**
See schedule inside



**ALOHA Golf Event
May 1st**

Please read flyer inside.
This fundraiser will supply
the funds needed to continue
to operate ALOHA services.

**Cheer on the player of your
choice by pledging what you
think their effort is worth !**

Ads in Newsletter

Aloha accepts ads related
to hearing loss issues as a
means to inform, educate,
and publicize products and
services available to the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
community. ALOHA does
not endorse any product or
service advertised herein.
Advertisers assume full lia-
bility for the content of ads.

Happy Anniversary ALOHA !

ALOHA celebrates 28 years of providing
services to hard of hearing people in
Southern Arizona. We have seen an
increase in attendance at meetings and
phone and e-mail inquiries. Also, more
people drop by to see what we have to
offer them, and for demonstrations of
assistive devices. Local hearing care
professionals and other organizations
refer their clients to us and that helps to
spread the word.

A sad note is that the founder/director of
ALOHA, Gloria Baral, passed away in
January. She retired in 1996, but kept in
touch with ALOHA's doings, and she
was very impressed with the growth of
the organization. Read her story on
Page 3.

April is National Volunteer Month

We have many volunteers who sign up
for specific tasks. We would not be able
to operate successfully without them. A
potluck event was held in December and
it was wonderful to see the group all
together sharing good food they brought,
swapping stories and just getting to
know each other better.

*We so appreciate the work you do
for people with hearing loss.
Thank you Volunteers!*

CLASSES, ETC.

Beginning & Intermediate
Sign Language Classes and
Speech Reading Class:

\$50 Member
\$75 non-Member

**Taking Requests
795-9887**

**Assistive Device Demos:
by appointment
only.** Listening and
signaling devices
demonstrated. None for sale,
but a vendor list is available.
Also, loop demos.

Peer Support Meetings:
Weekly, on Tuesdays, 1 to 2
PM. Loop amplification.
Friendly discussions and info
shared about hearing aids,
assistive devices, inductive
looping, etc.

**NEW! Inductive Loop
Class.** Learn how to install in
your home. Free to members

**Office Hours: 10 a.m. to
5 p.m. Tue ,Wed & Thur**

**Changed your
Email?**

Please let us know.

MEETINGS

Desert Cochlear Connections Group

At ALOHA 4001 E. Fort Lowell

Meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month September thru May

Date: March 17, and April 21

Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

See enclosed flyer for details.

.IMPORTANT: To be automatically notified about these meetings. Call ALOHA 795-9887 or info@alohaaz.org (e-mail notification is best way)

If you know of a funder to pay for CART transcription, please let us know! Cost is \$150 per 2-hour session.

Visit our Tucson Support Group

We meet throughout the year. The meetings are open to the public **every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free!**

You will learn lots about hearing issues, including assistive devices, hearing aids, and coping strategies. And leave with a smile!

SIERRA VISTA ALOHA SUPPORT GROUP:

Karl Hallsten facilitates these meetings held monthly. To Contact Karl, e-mail him at SierraVistaALOHA@gmail.com, or contact ALOHA 795-9887 to get in touch with him for the date and place of the meeting.

Do you know someone who lives in the Sierra Vista area that is hard of hearing? Please tell them about these special meetings.

Get your Leaf Car Raffle Tickets !!
Last chance. We have 16 left.
\$25 each or 5 for \$100.

GREEN VALLEY ALOHA SUPPORT GROUP:

Contact Ben Cleveland 399-2219 if you need help with hearing issues in the Green Valley area. **All meetings are held first Monday of the month at the La Posada Recreation Room (except summer time) 10 am to Noon.**

Green Valley Meeting Dates.

April 2nd: Narrated by Ben Cleveland, and we will be sharing our hearing loss journeys. Also will discuss hearing aids, what kind, where bought. A free exchange of information with the idea that we can better appreciate each other and what we all have gone through. For those without hearing aids, there should be some good product feedback to help make that important decision. An audiologist will be present to answer questions.

May 7th: Lisa Furr, outreach coordinator, from Arizona Relay Service, Hamilton Cap-Tel, will explain the Cap-Tel telephone and the relay service. The phone allows folks to read what is being said on a digital display screen, at the same time you are listening, a great solution for increasing clarity and confidence over the telephone.

Hearing Aid Bank Needs

Donations:

Bring used hearing aids to ALOHA, or call John Masunas 730-7965 for pick-up. The hearing aids are refurbished and made available to low-income seniors in Pima County at nominal cost.

Recycle Hearing Aid Batteries

At ALOHA!

See the green can on top of the sign-in lectern.

Free unused batteries available on table in conference room...all sizes.

Farewell to the Founder of ALOHA,

Gloria Baral

It is sad to report the passing of ALOHA's founder, Gloria, on January 15th, 2012. She had been ill for some time. Her husband, Jerry passed away a few years ago. Together, they gave us ALOHA, devoting ten years of their lives to the concept that Tucson and Southern Arizona needed comprehensive services for hard of hearing people.

Gloria herself became deafened in her 40's. At that time she was a teacher of home economics in the Los Angeles Unified School District. After losing her hearing she learned sign language and became re-certified to teach deaf children.

When she and her husband retired, they moved to Tucson.

Gloria lost her hearing primarily when she developed Meniere's disease. Two tries at cochlear implant failed. She described her journey during her 40's and 50's as very depressing. She thought of herself as shy, but her journey to help herself and to regain self-esteem catapulted her into the realm of advocacy for herself. When she founded the ALOHA organization, she then spoke for all of us, and became the assertive advocate we came to admire.

ALOHA began in 1984 with 12 people. The members met in borrowed meetings rooms, and then moved to rented office space that did not turn out well. Gloria decided ALOHA needed its own building. She applied for a block grant, and was interviewed by the Tucson Citizen newspaper where she emphasized the great need for services for the hard of hearing community. ALOHA was awarded the block grant for a down-payment on the current building on Fort Lowell Road in 1995.

She carefully chose the name for the organization, using the acronym ALOHA because in the Hawaiian language that word means "Welcome!", and that's how she wanted hard of hearing people to feel when they came for help.

People from other organizations in town got to know Gloria well, and quite often she spoke at club meetings, telling her story, and asking for funds to carry on the mission of ALOHA. She would sometimes remark that donors were more likely to contribute to organizations that serve children and dogs, and give less for services for adults with hearing loss. It is an invisible disability, and doesn't grab the attention of the more visible disabilities. She knew from her own journey that hearing loss can be devastating to one's well-being and to one's family and friends who don't quite know how to handle the situation.

She received many awards, some of which are on the walls at ALOHA. She served on the boards of Community Outreach Program for the Deaf in Tucson, and the Tucson Hearing Society, plus the Arizona Commission for the Deaf & the Hard of Hearing, and of course she presided over the ALOHA board.



Jerry, Gloria and John mug for camera

(Continued on the next page)

She and Jerry worked side-by-side to make things better for us. We who have benefitted from the services owe them a load of thanks for their dedication.

Gloria had moved back to the Los Angeles area a few years ago, to be near her grown children and grandchildren, and she resided in an assisted care place.

Some of us who had worked with her as volunteers knew her as a task master, but at the same time knew her as a kind, and understanding lady with a sense of humor. She would tell amusing stories, one of which is entitled "*The Thimble*". When teaching some junior high students a little sign language, she showed them the sign for a thimble. She noticed one girl's face turn very red, and Gloria realized that the extended middle finger sign had another meaning!

Her husband, Jerry, and another member, John Carpenter, did recycling to bring in funds to pay ALOHA's bills. Member Kathy Carpenter served as treasurer from the beginning, and ALOHA's current vice-president, Pam Wood has contributed years of volunteer service since 1985. The rest of the 12 people who initiated ALOHA in 1984 have moved on or passed on.

Following her retirement from ALOHA in 1996, she remarked in letters how surprised she was that the organization continued to operate. She was told when she started it that it probably would not last two years. They were wrong. ALOHA this month celebrates its 28th year.

Rest in Peace, Gloria. Your legacy continues....

Save ALOHA Newsletter from Extinction....by George Ghorpade, Board President

We all know how wonderful the newsletter "Hear & Now" is for ALOHA members and friends. About 400 copies of the newsletter are printed, and 365 of those are distributed via bulk mail, and the rest handed out to newcomers or at events such as health fairs. Additionally, the newsletter in color is posted as pdf file on the ALOHA website www.alohaaz.org, and emailed to 60 recipients who preferred to receive it by e-mail.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to continue producing print copies of the newsletter. The copier used at ALOHA is near its end of useful life. U.S. Mail is raising postage rates and moving its distribution center to Phoenix, making timely distribution at an economical cost impossible. We can only produce print newsletter in black/white due to prohibitive color printing costs.

ALOHA cannot afford to continue producing print copies of our newsletter in the future. But we can continue producing the newsletter and distribute it FREE to all members electronically. It will be in color and it will be timely. You can link to it in an e-mail quickly when it is published, and print parts you want to save.

Be proactive and provide ALOHA with your e-mail address and permission to receive this electronic edition FREE.

If you must have a print copy of the newsletter, we ask you to pay for the part of production and mailing costs of print copies. We will be instituting a \$5/year subscription to the print copies of the newsletter. Avoid this \$5 charge, save the newsletter, avoid paper clutter, help the environment by choosing electronic delivery of this newsletter in your e-mailbox. Thank you!



Adult Loss of Hearing Association Inc.

A Support and Advocacy Organization

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND FREE ALOHA OFFERING

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH SEMINAR

COME, PARTICIPATE, AND ENJOY THE FOLLOWING FREE EVENTS:

- PRESENTATION BY NOTED EXPERTS IN ALOHA'S LOOPED MEETING ROOM,
- CART PROVIDED FOR 100% ACCESSIBILITY,
- ASK QUESTIONS, FIND ANSWERS, LEARN THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY,
- MEET, GREET, AND NETWORK WITH EXPERTS, FRIENDS AND ENJOY GOOD CONVERSATION,
- ENJOY LIGHT REFRESHMENTS.

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

1. Tuesday April 3, 2012 @1:00 PM: Julie D. Kosies, H.I.S., Hearing Tech, Tucson, AZ. "Better Hearing Made Affordable". Julie is a Quality Hearing Instrument Specialist at Hearing Tech. She'll discuss various strategies for improving your hearing for modest costs. These include maintaining your hearing aids, getting them repaired, buy used hearing aids, obtain hearing aids from the Hearing Aid Bank, and HA manufacturer programs for top quality new hearing aids at affordable prices for low income HOH individuals.
2. Tuesday May 1, 2012 @1:00 PM: To be Announced. Suggest topics and speakers of interest to Loretta at info@alohaaz.org.

ADULT LOSS OF HEARING ASSOCIATION (ALOHA)

4001 E. FORT LOWELL ROAD (JUST EAST OF ALVERNON)

TUCSON, AZ 85712, PHONE 795-9887; INFO@ALOHAAZ.ORG



Adult Loss of Hearing Association Inc.

A Support and Advocacy Organization

You Are Cordially Invited To Attend Free ALOHA Offerings

Desert Cochlear Connections Meetings, March 17 and April 21, 2012

Come, participate, and enjoy the following Free Events:

- Presentation by Noted Experts in Hearing Loss Field,
- Presentation in ALOHA's Looped Meeting Room with CART for 100% Accessibility,
- Ask Questions, Find Answers, Learn the latest Technology,
- Meet, Greet, Mingle and Network while Enjoying Light Refreshments.

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- March 17, 2012, @ 11:00 AM: Liz Booth, HLAA Fountain Hills President. "Where Did the Birds Go? Found 'em! A Journey from Sound to Silence and Back Again". Liz is founder of HLAA Sun Lakes Chapter and a member of HLAA, ALDA, and ALOHA. She is also Advanced Bionics Advocate and currently lives in Chandler, AZ. She'll tell us about her hearing loss and recovery through her cochlear implant.
- April 21, 2012, @ 11:00 AM: Joe Pelatt, Cochlear Awareness Network Manager. "Comprehensive Overview of the Latest Cochlear Implant Technology (Nucleus System)". Joe is a 14 year cochlear implant recipient and will share his first hand perspective of hearing with a Cochlear implant.

Adult Loss of Hearing Association (ALOHA)
4001 E. Fort Lowell Road (Just east of Alvernon)
Tucson, AZ 85712, Phone 795-9887; info@alohaaz.org



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Special Program for working adults With hearing loss:

The University of Arizona Hearing Clinic will be offering a late afternoon program for adults with hearing loss and their frequent communication partners who work and cannot attend our ongoing program during the day.

Focus: Maximizing communication and minimizing the effects of hearing loss plus additional information on hearing loss, assistive technologies, and other special topics.

Details: Thursdays, beginning March 22, 2012 for 5-consecutive weeks; Time: 5:15-6:15pm; Fee: \$25 (communication partners attend at no charge);

Location: Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences building, Parking: provided.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Dr. Fran Harris at 520-626-9160.

JOIN— hear@tucson

A group of people ages 18-35 who are hard of hearing. This group organizes **free** social events throughout the year on the U of A campus and around Tucson. For more information about our group and events, check us out on our website hearattucson.com or you may email us at hearattucson@gmail.com



A few months ago we started a “**Bring a Book/Take a Book**” project at ALOHA. We have three bookcases that are about 2/3 full of books, both fiction and non-fiction. If you have not taken advantage of this free service, do take a look at what is available, located in the SE room at ALOHA. Please also donate books you no longer need at home and intended to give away. This is a fun way for dedicated readers to sample various writers and topics, and doesn't cost anything.



Need money to start your own business from home? S.E.E.D. Loans may be able to assist with a low interest loan for the equipment you need.

For more information contact:

Pamela Self
(602) 776-4670 – voice
(800) 477-9921 – toll-free
(602) 728-9536 TTY
Or visit our website at www.azlat.net



This alternative financing program is designed to assist individuals with disabilities and their families to borrow money at low interest rates for the purchase of assistive technology. Qualified applicants may be able to borrow funds in the amount of \$500 – 10,000. Low interest rates and flexible repayment terms are features of this unique program.

To be eligible for the AzLAT loan, applicants must:

- (1) be a current Arizona resident,
- (2) use the loan to purchase assistive technology,
- (3) demonstrate the ability to repay the loan,
- (4) have a valid checking account for direct debit.

Visit our website at www.azlat.net or call Pamela Self at (602) 776-4670 or (800) 477-9921 for more information.





ALOHA Classic 100

We have made a commitment and need your help!

The leadership team and friends of ALOHA are conducting a campaign to raise the necessary funds to support ALOHA's ongoing services for many of the 70,000 hard of hearing people in Pima County. The ALOHA organization knows how important it is for people to get the care and attention they need to cope with their hearing loss issues. This campaign is for you and the other 69,999 people.

On May 1 the ALOHA team of players and their friends will chip and hack at golf balls for up to 100 holes. We are looking for your support in this campaign because we want to make a difference in the lives of people with hearing loss. Each player has already sponsored themselves for a minimum of \$1.00 per hole and we are asking you to support us by also being a sponsor for \$3, \$2, \$1 per hole, or as little as 25 cents per hole, or whatever your budget will allow. Or if you don't want to be a per-hole sponsor, you can pledge a nominal flat amount. You may pay by check, payable to ALOHA or by credit card by using PayPal. If you have questions, contact us by phone or email.

ALOHA is a 501c3 organization and your donation is 100% tax deductible and you will receive a receipt for your contribution. Your generosity will go a long way in our efforts to continue ALOHA's objectives.

Don Poore
Campaign Captain



Adult Loss Of Hearing Association - 4001 E Fort Lowell Road - Tucson, AZ 85712
Phone: (520) 795-9887 Email: info@alohaaz.org



Adult Loss Of Hearing Association (ALOHA) Application Form

*CATEGORIES	COST	LENGTH OF TIME
Individual Member	\$25.00	1 Year Membership (See below)
Family Membership	\$30.00	1 Year Membership (See below)
Business / Organization Member	\$50.00	1 Year Membership (See below)
Bronze Donor (Less than \$250.00)	\$	100% Tax Deductible
Silver Donor (\$251.00 - \$500.00)	\$	100% Tax Deductible
Gold Donor (\$501.00 - \$1,000.00)	\$	100% Tax Deductible
Platinum Donor (More than \$1,000.00)	\$	100% Tax Deductible
Total Enclosed:	\$	Make Check Payable to ALOHA (See address below)

***Members are encouraged to select a Donor Category to help YOUR Association sustain its service and be pro-active in meeting YOUR needs and desires.**

Note: ALOHA is a non-profit organization in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Please consult your tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service regarding deductibility.

NAME (First, MI, Last):	
Significant Other:	
Street Address:	
City, State, ZIP Code:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
FAX Number:	
Email Address:	

Emergency Contact Information (Optional, But Recommended):	
Name:	
Phone:	
Relationship:	

(All members receive the "Hear & Now Newsletter", and Discounts on classes.)

How do you want to receive your newsletter? On-line Regular mail

If a new member, how did you hear about ALOHA?:

(Signature)

(Date)

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- Pamela Wood, Vice President
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- Dede Wilpizeski
- Dale Henson
- Kathryn (Kasey) Hope
- Sally Hart
- Joy Newman
- Cynthia Amerman
- Emily Pollock
- Karl Hallsten

Office Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM, Tues thru Thurs.

**Please call in advance to confirm hours.
Thanks!**

Combined Fed. Campaign #68532

You can reach us at:

Telephone: (520) 795-9887

FAX: (520) 795-9585

E-Mail: info@alohaaz.org

ALOHA's Internet Site: <http://www.alohaaz.org>

Non-profit Tax ID# 86-0554154

ALOHA's Office Location:

4001 E. Fort Lowell Road (East of Alvernon)

Tucson, AZ 85712-1011



Let's Loop Tucson