



A PUBLICATION OF THE ADULT LOSS OF HEARING ASSOCIATION

# Hear & Now

April 2014  
Volume #10



## HAPPY 30TH Anniversary ALOHA!

Thank you to Sherri Collins, Executive Director of Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing for her letter of congratulations on ALOHA's thirty year milestone.

The ALOHA board of directors wants to plan a celebration, and is asking for members to serve on the committee to make a decision of the scope of such a celebration.

The **Let's Loop Tucson project** continues to flourish, with venues planning to install inductive looping in their facilities. One recent addition to the list is **TMC Senior Programs** meeting room on the El Dorado Campus, 1400 N. Wilmot. If you plan to attend one of their lectures, remember to turn on your telecoil in your hearing aid, or ask for a loop receiver if your aids lack telecoil.

Wherever you go, and cannot hear, **please** let them know what you need in order to participate in their event. When we tell them, they will **listen!** Refer them to ALOHA and we will give or send them information.



### Give a Listen !

ALOHA marks 30 years of service for hard of hearing people on March 17, 2014.

See observations on page 3 & 4 for article....past words of the founder of ALOHA, Gloria Baral

### 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 liability for the content of ads.

### Newsletter Publication

4 times a year.

### CLASSES, ETC.

**Beginning sign class and Speech Reading Class:**

\$50 Member

\$75 non-Member

**NEW: Evening Sign language class**

**Call in your request 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.

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

**Office Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tue, Wed & Thur**

### Changed your Email?

*Please let us know.*

# MEETINGS

## **DESERT COCHLEAR CONNECTIONS GROUP**

At ALOHA 4001 E. Fort Lowell, Tucson  
Meetings second Saturday of each month  
September thru May (takes summer break)  
Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**April 12** Focus on wireless assistive hearing devices—by Sue and Cynthia

**May 10** Social with potluck!

CART transcription & loop amplification are provided at the meetings.

Be automatically notified of Cochlear meetings, Call ALOHA 795-9887 or [info@alohaaz.org](mailto:info@alohaaz.org)

## **GROUP MEETINGS AT ALOHA:**

**Every Tuesday** at 1:00 to 2:00 pm, open discussion is held to answer your questions about hearing aids, assistive devices, and anything else related to hearing loss.

On **Third Tuesdays** of the month will have a special speaker (except July and August)

**April 15**— Stephanie Adamovich from UA— emotional costs of hearing loss.

**May 20**— Lisa Furr, Hamilton Relay

**June 17**— Treasure Peck—emotional costs of hearing loss.

**SURVEY PLEASE:** Do you need a support group meeting in the evening or weekend because of your schedule? We want to know, please tell us what will work for you. E-mail [info@alohaaz.org](mailto:info@alohaaz.org) or call 795-9887

**All meetings on this page are free and open to the public. The meetings are offered to keep you up to date on new technology and coping strategies. There is no better support than PEER support.**

## **GREEN VALLEY ALOHA SUPPORT GROUP:**

Contact Ebba Andersen 203-8059  
**Meetings — first Monday of the month at La Posada Recreation Room 10 am to Noon. (June through September is summer break)**

### Green Valley Meeting Dates.

**April 7th:** Can-Do Canines: Phyllis Allen, presenter. See how you can train your dog, to help you be alerted to sound or activity you cannot hear.

**May 5th:** Connie Short, channel manager AT&T and manager for Arizona Relay Service, will explain and demonstrate the Cap-Tel phone. It has captioning ability.

**ALSO NEW: GV ALOHA Support/ Discussion Group.** will be held at the Community Connect building, usually 4th Thursdays of the month at 1:00 pm  
Call Ebba. 203-8059.

## **SIERRA VISTA ALOHA SUPPORT GROUP:**

Karl Hallsten facilitates these meetings held monthly., first Monday of the month. To Contact Karl, e-mail him at [SierraVistaALOHA@gmail.com](mailto:SierraVistaALOHA@gmail.com)

## **ORO VALLEY ALOHA SUPPORT GROUP**

**1st Thursdays of the month. Come and learn! Usually a presenter, and then open discussion.**

Santa Catalina Catholic Church, Cholla & Ocotillo room, 14380 N. Oracle Rd.  
Facilitator Joan Eddy 825-8630

## **. FAR EAST GROUP**

to meet at 7570 E. Speedway.

**3rd Fridays of the month, 2:00 to 3:00 pm** in the Card Room, Main Clubhouse. Bring your questions, get answers! Make friends!

Contact: Patty Harvey, facilitator, 471-8049



It is fitting that we include a story about the founder of ALOHA, Gloria Baral, in this year that marks ALOHA's 30 years of operation. She and her husband Jerry passed away a few years ago, but their legacy lives on. Here are excerpts from an interview Gloria did with reporter John Jennings of The Tucson Citizen in 1993. After renting space for a couple of years, ALOHA needed a permanent home. Gloria had applied for a city block grant for down-payment for an office center.

**The Article: March 17, 1993**

Gloria Baral is devoting her life to people who have trouble hearing. But her biggest problem is with officials who don't want to listen.

As founder and director of ALOHA—the Adult Loss of Hearing Association—Baral represents more than 60,000 residents of Pima County who suffer from hearing problems as adults. Many are senior citizens, but there are any number of reasons hearing loss can occur at any age, Baral pointed out.

“In most cases what we find is a diminished ability to hear,” she said. “These are not deaf people; rather, they are people who can be helped if they get the right equipment and learn what services are available.”

Almost all of the funding goes for the 1,200 deaf people in the county, yet there are 50 times that number who are hearing impaired and could benefit from hearing aids and a wide variety of other assistive listening devices, said the 68-year-old Baral, who began losing her own hearing when she was in her 40s.

“I'll go ask an elected official to help us get funding, and they'll tell me they already give money for that. They don't listen when I try to explain that their money is going for the deaf, but not for the many thousands of hearing impaired. If only they would listen!”

Baral had been teaching school for four years in Los Angeles when Meniere's disease began to severely damage her hearing. “I had to quit teaching, and stayed home, isolated and depressed for a year,” she said. “Then my principal came to me and told me I should go back to school and get the credentials I needed to teach hearing-impaired students. I am one of the few people with adult onset hearing loss who can use sign language. Most people after the age of 35 will never learn to sign. It was a matter of survival for me.”

Baral has become convinced that every person whose hearing is deteriorating should seek counseling, and so should their families. “My husband, Jerry, and I separated for two years, and there were problems with the children,” she said. “I was being treated as a patient, but I wasn't sick. The inability to communicate is a very serious problem.. I lost friends, couldn't use the telephone and was not working. I had fluctuations in my ability to hear, but our teen-aged kids would get frustrated and shout, “well, you heard me yesterday!”

### ***HerStory continued....***

“That’s when I came to Tucson. I thought ‘Here I am. What am I going to do with myself, be isolated and withdrawn the rest of my life? My husband and I still loved each other, but we just didn’t cope with the problem of my hearing loss. Eventually, it all worked out and we got back Together”.

After Jerry retired from his dentist practice and joined her in Tucson, Gloria became more outgoing. She got in touch with the Agency for the Deaf, joined its advisory board and developed friendships and contacts. In 1986 she founded ALOHA..

“People who have grown up deaf and people who become deaf later on are very different,” Baral said. “From our first meeting when 12 people showed up, we began to set up support groups, formulated classes in lip reading and sign language, started a newsletter, collected information on new assistive listening devices and arranged demonstrations.

“Now we offer counseling, workshops and advocacy programs and are involved with the hearing dog program (dogs that are trained to alert a hearing-impaired or deaf person when the phone rings) and the TDD and Arizona relay Service. “I remember the first day I used the combination of a hearing dog and the TDD device, I got a call and I sat down afterward and cried. I wasn’t cut off from the world anymore!” Captioning of TV programs, devices for the hearing impaired at some movie theaters and captioning at some plays and operas is just the hint of what is coming, Baral said.

“The Americans With Disabilities Act is going to mean we’ll have auditoriums and hearing rooms with electronic looping devices so people with hearing aids will be able to hear clearly and participate in government.”

“We desperately need a permanent home—at least 1,200 square feet,” she said. “We would need carpeting, since the scraping of chairs on concrete is a horrible sound when amplified by a hearing aid. And, most of all, we would like to have an assistive device demonstration center, where people could come and see what devices and services are available. That’s our dream.”

***ALOHA Editor’s note:*** Shortly after this article ran, Gloria’s dream came true with a \$30,000 block grant for down-payment on the current building. Evidently, THEY listened. That was followed by an additional block grant to add the conference room and some office renovation. Now, ALOHA finds it has to dream even bigger as more people use its services. For meetings there often is not enough room to seat everyone comfortably, and not enough parking spaces.

Here we want to thank some people who helped over the years, that are still with us, and still members of ALOHA: Kathy Carpenter, Pam Wood, Ann Alden, Bruce Stewart, Michele Tavernaro Bailey, Sam Alimena...and we also thank the many volunteers that currently keep the services flowing.



Picture yourself behind the wheel of a brand new Jeep Cherokee, and then purchase a raffle ticket from ALOHA! Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100.. Send check made out to ALOHA and designate “raffle” and we will enter you in the raffle and send you your stub(s). Thank you for helping ALOHA!

## Welcome New Members!

Linda Koester  
Dennis Simpson  
Janet Spadora  
Charles & Kathryn Miller  
Fritz C Perlwitz  
Madeline Zimmerman  
Thomas Weiss  
Leonard & Barbara Herzmark  
Don & Debbie Grafmiller

Robert Prince  
Ruth Reiniche  
Marie Bender  
Judith Dinniman  
Peter Kaiser  
Helen Anderson  
Allen & Janis Williams  
Larry & Donna Tagg  
Barry & Linda Moore

Evelyn Carroll  
Anne Merritt  
Bruce & Wanda Miller  
Dennis Rautenkranz  
Don & Jean Wallace  
Robert & Kathryn Kaczar  
Norma Strait  
Kent & Emmery Simpson

## Donations since January, 2014 *Thank You!*

Rosalie Ballard  
Ronald Kelly  
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Raytheon Charitable Giving  
Kenneth Lange  
Midtown Sertoma

Erika Gorgas  
Lew Harris  
Angel & Laura Sepulveda  
City of Tucson (ECAP)  
Joyce Havens  
Sandra Nielsen

Cheryl McGill  
Mary Neff  
Lois Miller  
Mike Byers  
Nancy Mahoney  
DeLoss & Myrna Main

## *Hear With Your Heart*

*Please don't laugh if I miss your name; God didn't create us all the same.  
I ask for your patience, as I miss a thing or two; wishing only to communicate with you.  
Can you open your heart to listen? Helping others is my mission.  
May we all recognize our individual differences as a way to share enlightenment, and help promote  
courage in self and others.  
And gather together in groups to rebuild hope, as we share knowledge and affirm new visions for  
our future.*

—by Fran Seslow (ALOHA Member)



**Gwynda Downing:** A 14-year past volunteer of ALOHA, Gwynda passed away in March. She also contributed many donations and smiles. Truly missed!

**John Masunas:** Condolences to his wife Betty and family. John was a member of ALOHA and volunteered with Sertoma Arizona Hearing Aid Bank. A gracious gentleman!

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PUN1531 03/12 FEB12

*Hear now. And always.*



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**Office Hours: 10 AM to 4 PM, Tues thru Thurs.**

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

*Combined Fed. Campaign #68532*

#### **You can reach us at:**

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FAX: (520) 795-9585

E-Mail: [info@alohaaz.org](mailto:info@alohaaz.org)

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

**Non-profit Tax ID# 86-0554154**

ALOHA's Office Location:

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