

Hearing & Beyond

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People
Myrna Kain, Editor mkain1@juno.com

Page 1
360.659.9438

Web Site—EAC-SHHH.tripod.com

Everett Area Chapter
April 2003

Next Meeting

April 12th, 2003
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Snohomish County PUD
Commission Room
2320 California St, Everett

Speaker:

Mike Mallahan

Topic:

Dizziness and Balance Disorders

Raffle Item

Donated by:
SHHH, Everett Area Chapter
Attendees

**Easter Basket full
of Easter Items**

***Any one who wants to donate
an Easter Item for the Easter
Basket is welcome to do so!***

Real Time Captioning



*Else
Meek*

Providing Realtime Services

About Our Speaker

Mike Mallahan

We are excited to welcome Mike Mallahan back as this month's speaker. Mike will update us on information relating to Dizziness & Balance Disorders, and how they relate to hearing loss. Mike has a long history (21 years), of working with and advocating for people with these disorders.

Mike graduated from Western Washington Univ. in 1982; received his Certificate of clinical competence in 1983; and has received advanced training in Balance Disorders from ICS Medical workshops, the Rehabilitation Inst. Of Chicago and the American Inst. Of Balance. He is currently Director of the Hearing & Balance Lab.

Among his accomplishments, Mike has given expert testimony in numerous civil and state courts; worked as a case claims reviewer for the Attorney General's Office, helped establish and currently oversees the first in the state of Washington, county wide Newborn Screening program at local hospitals.

Mike has established himself as the expert in Snohomish County for helping physicians assess and diagnose dizziness and balance problems. He uses state of the art computer monitoring equipment to evaluate patients. The Balance Lab has test equipment not available anywhere else in the community. Persons are referred from Snohomish, Skagit, and Island Counties.

Please join us on April 12th in learning all we can from Mike Mallahan!

WHAT SHHH IS DOING FOR YOU

From the desk of Brenda Battat

SHHH Director of Public Policy and State Development

ANSI Upholds the Classroom Acoustics Standard

To all of you who wrote letters in support of the acoustics standard - Congratulations! You made a difference.....

"On Friday, April 28, 2003, the ANSI (American National Standards
See "SHHH" on page 3)



Self Help for Hard of Hearing People
7910 Woodmont Ave, Suite 1200
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
www.shhh.org



Washington State Association of
Self Help for Hard of Hearing People
PO Box 4025 Kent, WA 98032



FROM THE PREZ:

by Myrna Kain

We have our web-site updated and looking very nice. Check it out, it is at eac-shhh.tripod.com. I am very pleased with it. Thank You Don Varley for getting so much done on this.

We are very grateful to all of the volunteers who help to keep our Chapter going. This month we'd like to take a minute to thank Kathy Pearson. She has agreed to proof read our monthly newsletters, and often help to proof the various letters we send out. THANKS Kathy for a wonderful job!!!

It was great to meet Debbie Greer and Larry Stephenson from Newport Audiology. Larry gave a great speech about ototoxicity last month. I know I learned a lot. Debbie Greer has agreed to be the Professional Advisor to our Chapter. Thank you & Welcome Aboard Debbie.

I am looking forward to seeing Mike Mallahan, an excellent speaker, talk about dizziness and balance disorders this month

PENNY DRIVE:

Everett Area Chapter would like to THANK:

Phyllis Kimmons

For donating pennies to the chapter. Every penny helps!!

Veterans Affairs

OTOLOGIC REIMBURSEMENT MANAGEMENT

email: reimburse@cochlearimplant.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates a \$21 million per year program providing health care to approximately 3.8 million veterans through 163 VA hospitals and over 800 outpatient clinics.

The VA provides benefits for all FDA-approved cochlear implants and related services.

Payment for the cochlear implant device is significantly higher than under Medicare and most Medicaid programs, as the VA purchases the device directly from the manufacturer at a discounted invoice price (10 percent discount for every bulk order of 10 Nucleus devices.)

Coverage is provided for primarily under two Federal laws:

38 U.S.C. Sec. 1717(c) provides for Veteran's Administration benefits to furnish medical devices for "assisting in overcoming the handicap of deafness...to any veteran who is profoundly deaf and is entitled to compensation on account of hearing impairment." (See Veterans Page 3)



Correction

In March, I announced the WASA-SHHH quarterly meeting and tour of HSDC would be April 25th. It is **April 26th** instead. Please correct your calendar.



Happy Birthday to

Else Meek.....
April 3rd



The following people will be bringing refreshments for April's Meeting.

**Cibyl Kumagai and
Chauncey & Nellie
Christofferson**

We want to thank the following people for March Refreshments

**Dawnelle Bomer
Phyllis Kimmons**

We want to welcome the following people who came to our last meeting :

**George & Wendy Macdona
Bruce Rafford
Solly Rubin
Rita Durand**

We hope to see you again in April.

Thank you to the following people for paying their EAC Annual Contributions:

**Barbara Anderson
Dave and Kathy Pearson
Victor Nutley**

Future Meetings

- **April 5th... Ears, Hearing & Beyond**
Hub Auditorium- University of Washington Campus 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
- **April 26th "WASA-SHHH Quarterly Meeting"** - Tour the New facility at Hearing Speech and Deafness Center.
- **May 10th.....Firemen and Paramedics**—Help us with our hearing loss?
- **June 14th..... EAC Potluck**
- **August 9th Picnic**Dave & Kathy Pearson's home.

(from 'SHHH' page 1)

Institute) Board of Standards Review (BSR) upheld the classroom acoustics standard against ARI's appeal to withdraw the standard. (ARI = Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute) Those of you who wrote letters in support of the standard should take special pride in this news! Your support has helped to defeat ARI's action. This is another important step toward victory of the classroom acoustics movement!"

With gratitude and pride,

David Lubman and Lou Sutherland
Past Co-Chairs, ANSI S12 WG on Classroom Acoustics

See the text of the decision letter by ANSI S12 Chair Paul Schomer

("Veterans" Continued from page 2)

38 U.S.C. Sec. 1714 requires that the VA must pay for all fitting and training for the use of a covered prosthetic appliance, whether in a VA facility or other institution, or by outpatient treatment, and including travel and incidental expenses to and from the veteran's home to the facility where the service is furnished.

VA policy allows benefits for other devices to enhance the ability of CI users to communicate. These include hearing aids or FM amplification systems.

Payment for post-operative aural rehabilitation and speech processor programming is approximately \$218 (significantly higher than under Medicare (approximately \$91). These are the VA outpatient facility rates as of July 1, 2000.

Cochlear implant services are covered only when provided at one of the seven designated VA cochlear implant centers (CICs) listed below, and Medicare is prohibited from paying for any part of the services provided at these centers.

VA Medical Center
700 South 19th Street
Birmingham, AL 35233
(205)-933-8101

VA Medical Center
Audiology and Speech-
Language Pathology
West Spring Street
West Haven, CT 06516
(203)-932-5711 ext. 4539

VA Medical Center
Otolaryngology Section
Audiology 126
Iowa City, IA 52246
(319)-338-0581 ext. 6150

VA Medical Center
Department of Audiology
2215 Fuller Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(313)769-7100 ext. 5902

VA Medical Center
1430 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10021
(212)-535-2298

VA Medical Center
Audiology Section-126
1660 S Columbian Wy
Room 2D-189
Seattle, WA 98108
(206)-764-2109

VA Medical Center
ASP (126) JC
915 North Grand
St. Louis, MO 63106
(314)-289-6341

VA Medical Center
5901 East 7th Street
Long Beach, CA 90822
(310) 494-5414

VA Medical Center
2002 Holcombe Blvd
Houston, TX 77030
(713)-794-7112

**Travel Tips
for Ear Comfort & Ear
Pain while Flying**

presented by Hearing
Alliance of America, Inc.

- Do not fly with a cold or stuffy ears unless necessary.
- If you fly, you might be helped by using decongestants. Follow over-the-counter directions for at least four hours before flying or consult your physician for specific recommendations.
- Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- Do not drink alcohol, coffee or caffeine drinks - they constrict blood vessels.
- Chew gum to facilitate swallowing and relieve ear pressure.
- Clear your ears regularly upon taking off and landing by gently blowing, while pinching your nostrils with your mouth closed, to "pop" your ears. Do this regularly and often to keep the ears from "locking up"
- Try Earplanes. They are filtered earplugs, which slowly equalize pressure against the eardrum when the plane is taking off or landing. These may be purchased at drugstores, airport gift shops, or you local hearing health care provider.
- Children often have ear pain or discomfort while flying. This can be alleviated by encouraging the child to swallow using a pacifier or bottle. Older children may chew gum or candy.

**Alabama's new state
Quarter will symbolize
Helen Keller**

***I pray that peace will be with
us and our loved ones in Iraq.***

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, (Annual Contribution)
or

\$15.00 for a family (Annual Contribution)
and

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ TTY / VOICE (Please circle one)

E-mail Address _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____ .00.

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

Please make the check payable to: **SHHH, Everett Area Chapter** and mail it along with this form to:
Annette Johnson, Treasurer
8521 238th St. S.W. #B
Edmonds, WA 98026

SHHH-Everett Area Chapter
c/o Myrna Kain
1305 W Casino Rd #C1
Everett, WA 98204



Guests are always Welcome

Meeting: April 12th, 2003
Speakers: Mike Mallahan
Subject: Dizziness and Balance Disorders

In this issue...

About our speaker "Mike Mallahan".....Page 1
What is SHHH doing for youPage 1
From the *Prez*.....Page 2
Veterans Affairs—Cochlear Implants.....Page 2
Travel Tips.....Page 3

Address Correction Requested

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the person submitting the information and not necessarily those held by SHHH. Mention of goods and services does not mean endorsement, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.