



Summer 2008

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Better hearing. Doesn't that sound good?

HEAR & NOW

Patriot Center for Hearing Loss Newsletter

This is the day *which* the Lord hath made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it!



Summer is here and made sure we had no doubt about it! The heat seems to hang in the air and everything slows down to a crawl. As one writer put it, it seems like the birds are swimming through the air. Perhaps the idea of slowing down is a good thing. Maybe we can learn something from the air molecules. They're moving around, bumping into each other and getting all crazy in all this heat. When they slow down, ahhh, the air cools down...chills out, doesn't sweat the small stuff. My dad once told me in one of those not so rare moments of rushing around that I needed to stop and smell the roses. I didn't listen. But now that I am older, I'm beginning to wonder 'What *is* my hurry?' I used to defend myself by telling my dad that while he was lingering so long over one rose, he was missing out on many others. But you know, I am learning that God will let us enjoy each and every rose we take the time to notice...and while one bloom fades, another unfolds at just the right time. Kind of amazing how that happens. So, I will *try* to stop tapping my foot at the microwave as I impatiently wait for those 10 seconds to pass by and I will *try* to not fuss at that annoying hourglass on the computer screen when it seems to take forever to process the information I feed it. I will *try*, dear Daddy, to stop and smell the roses, appreciating each sweet fragrant yet looking forward to all the blossoms still ahead.

With this new philosophy in mind, I want to take a moment to tell you, my patient, what a tremendous blessing you are to me. What wonderful stories you have to share if we but take the time to listen. Your hearing loss may be why we met but it is not who you are. You have such a wonderful history of achievements, dreams, disappointments, loves and losses. Your smiles in times of sorrow humble me. Your sincere encouragement strengthens me. Your life lessons motivate me. My time on this earth is short and I know I have a better place to go. That is no small thing. Not something to take for granted. But while I am here, I feel so blessed that our paths crossed. I pray God will use me to lift you up when you are down, to lessen your burden in some way, to make you smile when you thought you had forgotten how. *For you* are the roses in life's garden. May God bless you all.



We have come to know some wonderful people who have since passed on from this life, but remain forever in the hearts of those who loved them. Something new we are incorporating into the newsletter is a small tribute.

This year, we said good-bye to...



→ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ←

NEVER WORN HEARING AIDS?

BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT?

NOW is the time!

*Hearing aids offer you...



- New and improved hearing!
- No more having to strain to hear, guessing at what people are saying, being embarrassed or feeling left out!

- Hear those sweet or funny once-in-a-lifetime stories from your precocious grandkids!



- Gain confidence in knowing you are being pro-active, facing your hearing loss head-on and doing something about it!
- Improved understanding at work, at home and at play!

But WAIT...there's MORE! You'll also get professional, courteous and caring one-on-one guidance on this wonderful journey to better hearing with unsurpassed customer service! We don't just want to help you hear better, we want to help improve your quality of life!

What's the catch, you ask? What do you risk by acting now?

You risk losing...

- Stress, fatigue, depression
- Feeling isolated
- Frustration from family and friends
- Costly or embarrassing misunderstandings at work
- Not hearing important signals or warnings

DON'T WAIT! ACT NOW AND START HEARING BETTER TODAY!!!!!!

CALL 1-877-4U2-HEAR

*Please see following page for details regarding benefits and limitations of hearing aids.

Okay, that was a fun little attempt to get your attention. I hope it did. Realistically, we know hearing aids are not *perfect* and cannot restore hearing. Hearing aids are, however, the best known innovation to date to help the majority of people with hearing loss hear better. This means you may still struggle in less than ideal listening situations. Truth is, even those of us with “normal” hearing, have trouble hearing in noisy restaurants or understanding people from across the room. Our auditory systems have limitations and for those with damaged auditory systems, the limitations are often heightened. Hearing aids may not make you hear *well* in situations where even those with good hearing do not hear well, but they can help you hear *better*.

When you think about it, what hearing aids can do is really quite marvelous. No longer just amplifiers, they are capable of boosting sounds just where you need them, pitch by pitch. And they can understand the difference between a soft sound versus a loud sound. Some of the more intelligent ones can even tell if you are listening to music or trying to converse in a room full of people and will automatically adjust accordingly. The more advanced hearing aids are not just *like* computers, they *are* computers! This may sound complicated, but quite the opposite, the more advanced the hearing aid is, the more work it does for you and the less you have to do. Just put them on and wear them.

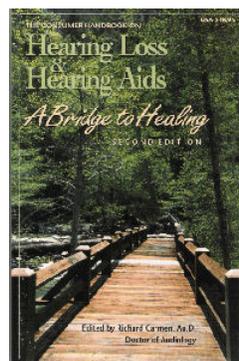
Together with proper counseling to set realistic expectations, improve communication strategies and strengthen listening skills, hearing aids are proven to be beneficial for the vast majority of people with hearing loss. Just give them a try and hear for yourself. You will probably be surprised at what you’ve been missing and will be asking “What took me so long!?”



Reading Recommendation

Consumer Handbook On Hearing Loss and Hearing Aids

Edited by Richard Carmen 2004



This book offers professional recommendations for people experiencing hearing loss. It examines the anger, frustration and denial faced by all people with hearing loss and provides counsel to help deal with those emotions. Readers will also get professional advice on the choices of hearing devices as well as point-by-point explanations on types and care of aids and tips for extending the life of the aid (please note, there have been many advances in hearing aids since 2004, with more choices of styles as well as more advanced technology in hearing aid capabilities; still, this book gives the reader a good overview of hearing aids in general and invaluable insight in other areas).

The Consumer Handbook On Hearing Loss and Hearing Aids, A Bridge to Healing, is an updated edition from the original 1998 version and contains two new chapters, How to Map Your Own Audiogram and How Hearing Aids Positively Impact Your Quality of Life.

Highly recommended for anyone with hearing loss as well as their friends and family members. If you are interested in ordering this book, it is available online through various websites. The lowest price I found it for was for \$18.95. We will be happy to order this for you. By ordering more than one, we can probably save on shipping costs. Just let us know if you are interested. Also, if you would like to check out an abridged version, we still have a few free copies left in our office.

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HAVE YOUR NAME REMOVED FROM OUR
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ON THE HOMEFRONT



We have two graduates to celebrate this spring. Our nephew, Nick Weber (who is the son of Tony's sister) graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Industrial Engineering. Congratulations Nick! Success is measured in many ways...setting a goal and reaching it is one but having the love and respect of family and friends is another. Either way you look at it, you have obtained success. We are very proud of your accomplishment!

Our nephew, Joey (my sister Denise's son) is also celebrating a recent graduation. He just received his first black belt as a 'Tiger' and has graduated to 'Dragon' at Red Dragon Martial Arts in Jefferson City. Joey has been learning the fine art of karate for more than 2 years now and we are very proud of his



commitment. Courtesy bow to the crowd Joey..."M'am, yes M'am!"
(Joey pictured with instructor, Susan Hendricks)



Happy Birthday to You All!

May 27	Denise Brooks
June 22	Tony Stepp
July 14	Gerri Moore

O give thanks unto the Lord; for *he* is good: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. (Psalms 118:29)