



Newsletter

August 2022

SAVE THE DATES-

HLAA Boston Chapter will resume meetings starting in October as follows:

Sunday, October 2nd, 1PM - 2PM
(after the Annual Walk4Hearing)
Artesani Park at 1234
Soldiers Field Rd.,
Brighton

Saturday, November 5th 4-6 PM
Virtual/ via ZOOM
Topic To Be Determined

Saturday, December 10th 4-6 PM
HOLIDAY PARTY
Cornerstone at 175 Harvey
St, Cambridge

January through April 2023-
monthly on the 4th Saturday/ 4-
6PM

In-person or on ZOOM,
pending on location
availability and safety
(pandemic)

OTC Hearing Aids

President Biden encouraged the FDA to approve the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act to allow hearing aids to be available over-the-counter, now tentatively available to people in October 2022.

There are many opinions about this, including who can benefit (i.e. which levels of hearing loss are met by such products), safety issues (i.e. audiologist appointment not required, nor a prescription for a device), and accessibility (i.e. decreasing stigma, lowering costs, and increasing availability).

Please see the Tip Sheet by HLAA National for important considerations:

<https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/technology/otc-hearing-devices/otc-hearing-aids/>

A few more links, and statements from HLAA National can be found at HLAA National's website at

<https://www.hearingloss.org/news-media/hlaa-in-the-news/>

AND at

<https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/technology/otc-hearing-devices/>

* Please note that the HLAA Boston Chapter does not endorse any product, brand, or opinion regarding the topics below. This publication is meant to help educate and share information so that each person can take responsibility of his or her needs individually and as desired.

Here is a short list to the many articles available to read about the recent legislation.

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OTC Hearing Aids *continued*

- Washington Post
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/08/16/fda-hearing-aids-biden/>
- USA Today
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2022/08/17/fda-over-the-counter-otc-hearing-aids-explained/10346853002/>
- NY Times
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/16/well/hearing-aids-over-the-counter.html>
- NPR
<https://www.npr.org/2022/08/16/1117741695/over-the-counter-hearing-aids>

Writing Opportunity

Inspired by article Silence, by Sara Novic in the NYTimes: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/19/magazine/silence-deafness.html>

(and perhaps Simon and Garfunkel's *Sound of Silence* as well), I thought we could all reflect a bit about this topic...

Write a (short) story about your own hearing loss incorporating the theme of SILENCE and submit to Liz087@aol.com with subject line HLAA Silence. Stories, or blurbs of (depending on length) will be posted in the next newsletter with author's permission.

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