



February Newsletter

People can be mean.

I am asked all the time "why are people so mean?" When this is asked in my office, my patients are referring to how other people in their lives react when they don't hear as well as they think they should. As we've addressed in previous newsletters, there are many factors that affect how well or how poorly a person hears when they wear hearing aids.

The issue I am addressing today, is how can we get other people to change their behavior? Unfortunately, hearing loss is an invisible disability unlike vision loss which is an obvious disability. When a person has vision loss, most people around them are very solicitous and go out of their way to provide accommodations. Very often the reaction of the people in our lives border on hostile when you, as the hearing impaired person, asks for them to repeat themselves or just doesn't answer because you didn't hear what was said. Why is that? Why the hostility? There are probably many reasons but I think the overall answer is that most people truly don't understand that hearing aids help a person to hear their surroundings but they do not restore normal hearing nor do they restore normal hearing function. Even with hearing aids, the brain still has a hearing loss. It is important for all people to understand that the person with the hearing loss is not misunderstanding on purpose; they are working really hard to hear and understand you but there will be times when they will not understand what was said.

We have cards here in the office that offer suggestions for better communication between people with hearing loss and people without hearing loss. The point of the cards is to highlight the concept that good communication is the responsibility of everyone. Some suggestions include:

- If the lighting is too low, ask for more lighting - our hearing is connected to our eyes and if it is too dark, visual cues are meaningless
- Choose a quieter restaurant; i can't think of any restaurant that has food so delicious that i would choose to go there and sit in miserable noise with no conversation
- Face each other: good communication involves being able to see one another

- DON'T speak to one another from another room. JUST DON'T DO IT!
- Turn the TV down so it's not overpowering what the other person is saying

We have some new posters in the office that have sparked some discussions in the waiting room:



February Events

Feb. 1: Office closed

Feb. 4: Health Fair; Valencia Palms of Delray

Feb. 5: King's Point Plaza; phone distribution; registration required

Feb. 7: Temple Shaarei Shalom; phone distribution; registration required

Feb. 11: Health Fair; The Grove of Boynton Beach

Feb. 12: Health Fair; Valencia Cove

Feb. 13: Health Fair; Century Village WPB

Feb. 20: Presentation Lake Worth Towers

Feb. 24: Nostalgic Magazine Winter Expo; Delray Civic Center

Feb. 25: Jupiter Community Center; phone distribution; registration required

Feb. 27: Patch Reef Park; phone distribution; registration required

Feb. 28: Health Fair; Weisman Delray Community Center

Please note that all days and times are subject to change so always call before you come to the office.

Remember we are closed most Mondays and open most Saturdays.

Looking ahead to the week of April 6 which is the week of Passover and leading up to Easter, we may have limited office hours. Fred is very active in Church for Easter and I celebrate Passover. Please plan ahead and have patience during that week.



50/50 Raffle

HEAR-YE, HEAR-YE.....It's time for another 50/50 raffle! Tickets are a donation of \$1.00 each. All you need to do is send a check or call us with a credit card and tell us how many tickets you would like. We will fill out the tickets for you. There will be one winner to take 50% of the total received. Last year the winner took home over \$1200!

Remember the more tickets we sell the more money the winner will get.

Feel free to invite your family and friends to get tickets.

The drawing will be Thursday April 2, 2020. Don't

worry if you've already gone up north. If you are the winner then we will get the money to you. We will announce the winner in the April newsletter.

Voter Registration

February 18 is the deadline to register to vote in the March primary here in Florida. We have the forms here in the office if you need to update your information. If you have moved or need to change your affiliation, you must do so before February 18.

Florida is a closed primary state so in order to cast a vote in the primary, you must be registered as a Democrat or Republican. Independents or 3rd party cannot vote for President in the primary.

You can check your registration online or update your registration by clicking here: [Register or update your information](#)

**your VOTE
is your VOICE**

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