



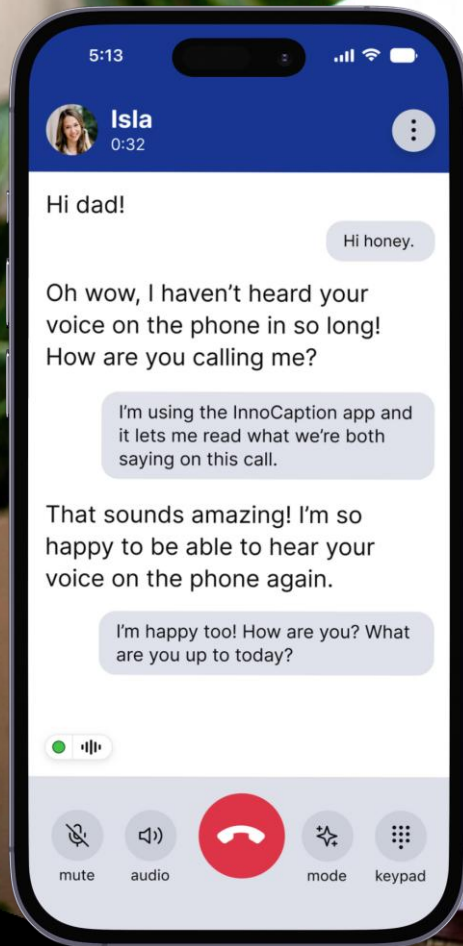
2026 SayWhatClub CONVENTION

Grand Hyatt San Francisco August 3-6

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Welcome to San Francisco!

It's the Summer of Love in our beautiful City on the Bay! This 49-square mile peninsula has so much to offer, in art and culture, science and nature, fun tourist activities, fabulous food of all kinds, and many interesting neighborhoods, including The Mission District, Chinatown, Japantown, North Beach Italian neighborhood, Haight-Ashbury, The Presidio, Sunset Dunes, and much more than we could list in the suggested activities page. We suggest you connect with some old and new friends and go exploring!

We're also excited by the varied and fascinating speakers we've lined up! We know you'll be educated, entertained, and enlightened by them.

This booklet includes information about the schedule, sponsors, presentations, suggested activities, and list of a handful of nearby restaurants of different kinds (out of the estimated 3,000 to 4,000 restaurants in the city).

We know you're going to love it here, and maybe leave a bit of your heart behind at the end of the four days.

Ruth and Gregg Gorrin

Local Hosts of the SWC 2026 Convention



We've lived in the Bay Area for almost 46 years, and wouldn't live anywhere else. Gregg is hearing, but Ruth lost her hearing as an adult, and is now bilaterally implanted, grateful for the excellent care at UCSF and for the support of the Say What Club. Our first convention was with a train ride to Sacramento in 2019. This is our 6th convention, and we're proud and delighted to have helped it happen.

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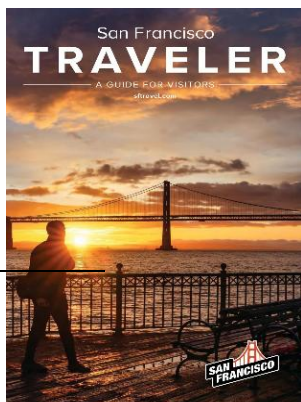
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Grab some friends and have fun exploring the City by the Bay.



Welcome to the 2026 SayWhatClub Convention and to vibrant San Francisco. Through participation on our lists and Facebook pages we have established friendships that resonate with our deep understanding of each other's hearing loss. Our conventions provide us with the chance to meet one another, to share good times, and to create lasting memories.

Last year, when I wrote my welcome message, I asked three things of each attendee. Those three requests are still pertinent, so I will include them again with some minor alterations.

The first is to take the time to thank all those who helped make this convention happen, in particular Convention Committee Chair, Mike Steele. It is said that being a convention chairperson is perhaps the most difficult job of all the SWC positions. Mike learned under the leadership of his predecessor, Marty Wilson, and has proven himself to be a capable organizer. Special thanks also go out to our local hosts, Ruth and Gregg Gorin. They have worked hard to provide us with activities that will enable us to experience San Francisco to the fullest. What you will enjoy here is the culmination of months of planning by multiple people. The process of planning a convention has many strands, starting with a vote for a host city. Then there are feelers sent out to different hotels in the quest to find just the right one. This is followed by visits to hotels and the review of the different proposals each one offers before the final decision can be made on a site. While this is going on, another set of people are working in the background to line up presenters and a keynote speaker, to acquire sponsors, to set up the webpage, to arrange group activities, and to plan the Welcome Party. The end result of all this hard work is what you experience when you attend the convention. So, please do take the time to seek out these helpers and give them a huge, heartfelt thank you.

The second request is to meet and make friends with someone new. Learn another's story and share your own story. While you are reconnecting with old friends, try to include new ones in your circle. For those who have attended multiple conventions, I ask that you reach out to first timers, to make them feel as welcome as someone made you feel at your first convention.

My third and final request is that you enjoy yourself to the fullest. We are here to extend the camaraderie that began with our online friendships and to celebrate these friendships as best we can. Let's make the most of our time together and create new memories that will enrich our lives.



Bet Whitcomb

Bet Whitcomb

President, SayWhatClub

BET'S BIO: I am a retired public high school math teacher who lives in Northfield, Massachusetts. I have three grown children and four rapidly growing grandchildren. I started to lose my hearing in my 20s due to otosclerosis, a condition I inherited from my mother. Luckily for me, hearing aid technology has kept pace with my worsening hearing loss. My loss is now severe to profound across all frequencies. I wear two powerful BTE hearing aids and have been told that I am on a path towards a CI, though it may be years before I get there.

I joined SWC in January of 2003. I remember the day very well. It was a day of in-service training for teachers and I was having an extremely rough time trying to hear anything that was said. On the verge of tears, I went to my principal and told him I couldn't do this anymore. He excused me from the training and suggested that I go online and see if I could find any resources that may help me. What I found was SWC. I joined immediately and was placed on Forum. By that summer I was a list rep on Forum, a position I held for 20 years, when I joined the BOD.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Monday, August 3, 2026

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	WELCOME PARTY , Bayview, 36th Floor
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Tuesday, August 4, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	FIRST-TIMERS BREAKFAST , OneUP Restaurant, Grand Hyatt
1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS , Ballroom East
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	VENDOR INTRODUCTIONS AND UPDATES
2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	BREAK - Visit Vendor Tables, Ballroom East
2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	NEIL BAUMAN – Musical Ear Syndrome and Audio Pareidolia: Unraveling the Mystery of the Phantom Voices, Music & Other Spooky Sounds Many Hard of Hearing People Secretly Experience , Ballroom East
3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	BREAK - Visit Vendor Tables, Ballroom East
4:00 p.m. – 4:05 p.m..	ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACTIVITIES REMINDER , Ballroom East
4:05 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.	SHERRY CHASE – Let's Remake the Audiology Experience , Ballroom East
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Blue & Gold Fleet Sunset Cruise , Fisherman's Wharf

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACTIVITIES REMINDER , Ballroom East
9:05 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	DR. GABRIEL LIBOIRON-COHEN, AuD., CH-TM – Performance Longevity: Fighting the Stigma of Wearing Aids Among Musicians , Ballroom East
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	BREAK - Visit Vendor Tables, Ballroom East
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	BROOKE BARRY – Music Perception , Ballroom East
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	ANTOINE HUNTER – Deaf-Led Space Reset Ritual: How Deaf and Hearing Communities Work Together , Ballroom East
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Preshow party , San Francisco Playhouse
7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	HAIRSPRAY MUSICAL Captioned Performance , San Francisco Playhouse

Thursday, August 6, 2026

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	TOWN HALL MEETING / 2027 CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT , Ballroom East
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	CLOSING BANQUET / COCKTAIL RECEPTION , Ballroom East
6:30 p.m. –7:00 p.m.	GROUP PICTURES
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	DINNER SERVED
8:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.	SPIRIT AWARD PRESENTATION
8:15 p.m. – 9:15p.m.	KEYNOTE ADDRESS / RACHEL ZEMACH , Inbetweeners
9:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	CLOSING REMARKS

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9:00 a.m.

FIRST TIMERS BREAKFAST, OneUP Restaurant, Grand Hyatt

1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, Ballroom East

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

VENDOR INTRODUCTIONS & UPDATES

Our vendors and exhibitors will each give a short introduction and update for their respective organization. Please stop by the vendor tables if you have questions and would like more details, as the vendors will be happy to talk to you one-on-one.

Vendors and Exhibitors:

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2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. NEIL BAUMAN: Musical Ear Syndrome and Audio Preidolia: Unraveling the Mystery of the Phantom Voices, Music & Other Spooky Sounds

If you hear voices that are not there; or if phantom music is keeping you awake at night; or if you are you worried that you are going crazy or that you have a dreadful brain disorder because you hear spooky sounds that no one else hears, you are not alone. Although seldom talked about, you may be surprised to learn that untold thousands of hard-of-hearing people "hear" such phantom sounds. The good news is that you are not nuts. You are likely just experiencing either Musical Ear Syndrome or Audio Pareidolia. In this presentation Neil Bauman, author of the book "Phantom Voices, Ethereal Music & Other Spooky Sounds" will reveal what these sounds really are and suggest what you can do to calm your fears and help bring your phantom sounds under control.



Neil Bauman (Dr. Neil as he is often called) is the founder and director of the Center for Hearing Loss Help, located in Lynden, WA. He is a hearing loss coping skills specialist, researcher, author and speaker. His expertise includes such topics as hearing loss, coping strategies, ototoxic drugs, tinnitus, hyperacusis, Meniere's disease and Musical Ear Syndrome. No stranger to hearing loss, he has lived with a life-long severe hereditary hearing loss as well as life-long tinnitus. For more than 30 years Dr. Neil has provided education, support and counsel to hard of hearing people through his books, articles, presentations and personal contact. People all over the world daily seek his advice and wisdom on matters relating to hearing loss and associated ear conditions. Neil is a prolific writer and is the author of eleven books (now in several editions) and more than 1,000 articles related to ears and hearing.

4:05 p.m. - 5:05 p.m. SHERRY CHASE – Let's Remake the Audiologist Experience

The audiologist is the gatekeeper to our experience of hearing loss. Too often, they perform their job without a complete understanding of what we need. "Let's Remake the Audiologist Experience" is a workshop that identifies six areas of disconnect between audiologist and client and simple ways to advocate to make the experience more patient-centered and responsive. The workshop is for both people new to hearing loss and audiology as well as those who have been going to audiologists for years. Participation by attendees is encouraged.



Sherry Chase is a retired criminal defense attorney with 30 years of experience with bilateral, progressive hearing loss. She holds a BA, with Honors, in psychology from the University of Chicago and a JD from Northeastern University School of Law. She presents workshops to local groups across the country and to national organizations on topics related to hearing loss. She is currently writing a book based on her own experience and interviews she conducted with over 70 people with hearing loss and their partners. The purpose of the book is to create connection between people with hearing loss and their healthy hearing dear ones through understanding and communication strategies. Her article, "The Audiology Visit: From the Patient's Perspective" was published in the Nov/Dec issue of Audiology Today, a professional periodical.

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9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. DR. GABRIEL LIBOIRON-COHEN, AuD., CH-TM – Performance Longevity: Fighting the Stigma of Wearing Aids Among Musicians

“Stigma of hearing aids in the pit” discusses the concerns of my aging musician, hearing aid patients being seen as less able to perform as high-level performing artists. It draws comparisons between music stands vs. hearing aid technologies. Both are aids. Yet, perception of the user is different, or is it? Generational differences in standards and Ethos play an important role in an ever changing landscape of the global technology boom.



Dr. Gabriel Liboiron-Cohen is a dedicated audiologist passionate about helping patients understand their hearing and available treatments, ultimately improving their quality of life. He holds a doctorate of audiology from the University of the Pacific and a Bachelor of Arts from California State University, East Bay. Dr. Cohen specializes in providing exceptional hearing healthcare, particularly for musicians, and is certified in both tinnitus and hyperacusis management. Using his musical background and education, the field of audiology has been a beautiful and eye-opening experience for him, one that paralleled his musical training in more ways than he could have ever imagined. Whether working with professional musicians, audiophiles, or a patient who is missing the sound of their grandchild's voice, Gabriel shares his expertise with patients as they navigate through a world that not only marries technology and sound, but also changes the way they relate to that world.

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. BROOKE BARRY – Music Perception and Enjoyment in Cochlear Implants

Speech perception in cochlear implants has improved dramatically since the invention of the device; however, music perception and enjoyment remain challenges for some cochlear implant users. UCSF researcher Brooke Barry will discuss current research on music perception in cochlear implants, factors that influence music enjoyment, and emerging strategies aimed at improving musical experiences for cochlear implant listeners.



Brooke Barry is a researcher in the UCSF Jiam Lab, where she studies music perception in cochlear implants and other hearing assistive devices. She received a Bachelor of Science in Physiological Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). As both a musician and researcher, she brings a unique perspective to her work that combines both biological and musical insight. Her research interests focus on improving music enjoyment for cochlear implant users and understanding the relationship between mental health, and hearing loss/cochlear implantation. Outside of research, she enjoys listening to music (she almost always has her AirPods in), dancing, and volunteering both at a San Francisco homeless shelter and with individuals with developmental disabilities.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ANTOINE HUNTER – Deaf-Led Space Reset Ritual – How Deaf and Hearing Communities Work Together

This interactive, embodied exercise demonstrates how Deaf and hearing individuals can share space in ways that are equitable, intentional, and culturally aware by temporarily shifting communication norms to center ASL, visual attention, and shared responsibility. Through guided facilitation and storytelling from Antoine Hunter about navigating and surviving predominantly hearing environments as a Deaf artist and leader, participants experience what changes when Deaf leadership sets the pace of communication.



Antoine Hunter, Purple Fire Crow, is the Founder and Director of Urban Jazz Dance Company and the Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival. A Deaf and Disabled artist based in the San Francisco Bay Area, he has led Urban Jazz Dance Company for over 20 years, developing Deaf-centered dance works that integrate movement, rhythm, and visual storytelling. His work has been presented nationally and internationally, and he is recognized for advancing Deaf leadership within the performing arts. He is the host of Bay Area Deaf Arts and BIPOC Deaf Art programming, including gallery-centered exhibitions and cultural events that create platforms for Deaf and Disabled artists to exhibit and perform. He is also the founder and host of the World Deaf and Disabled Dance Film Festival, a platform dedicated to elevating Deaf and Disabled dance artists and filmmakers globally. Through Urban Jazz Dance Company, Antoine produces touring performances, educational workshops, and national partnerships with Deaf schools, hearing schools, and cultural institutions.



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9:00 a.m.

TOWN HALL MEETING, Ballroom East

- Introduction of Board Members
- Introduction of committees
- Volunteering
- Importance of posting on lists
- Accomplishments for past year
- Goals for next year
- Financial Report
- Questions and Answers
- Future Conventions

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION, Ballroom East

6:30 p.m.

GROUP PICTURES

7:00 p.m.

DINNER SERVED

8:00 p.m.

SPIRIT AWARD PRESENTATION

8:15 p.m.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: RACHEL ZEMACH, Inbetweeners

9:15 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS**BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER****Rachel Zemach****Thursday, August 6th @8:15 PM**

Rachel Zemach is a former teacher of the Deaf in both public schools and the Deaf school in Fremont, California, and she wrote a book about her experiences teaching in both. She is working on her second book, an anthology about "Inbetweeners."

While the number of people who identify as Deaf and use ASL daily is comparatively small, the vast majority of us are what she calls Inbetweeners. Whether due to growing up oral, being mainstreamed, using hearing devices, or becoming Deaf/hard of hearing later in life, many of us have experienced not 100% fitting into either Deaf or hearing environments easily. Rachel wants to examine, elevate and try to understand that unique and very challenging experience. The anthology will have many individuals' stories and offer both practical advice and sense of compassion, support, and a broader view of what's possible in terms of life paths.

Rachel became deaf suddenly at age ten. She lives in North California now and is passionate about Deaf education, and has one foot squarely in each "world," the Deaf and the hearing. She is a strong advocate for ASL and the idiosyncratic beauty of Deaf culture, but she also is strongly and personally affiliated with hard of hearing people and their life dilemmas.

Her presentation will address these issues and how her teaching position in a hearing, public school led to her ironically becoming more Deaf, culturally. She will also share her experience writing and publishing a book, both about Deaf Education and about Inbetweeners; both the obstacles she has confronted in the process and the joys and power of writing.

SAYWHATCLUB SPIRIT AWARD

The SWC Spirit Award was inaugurated in 2008 and is presented at our SWC Convention to someone who has gone beyond their call of duty and service to the SWC. Here are previous winners:

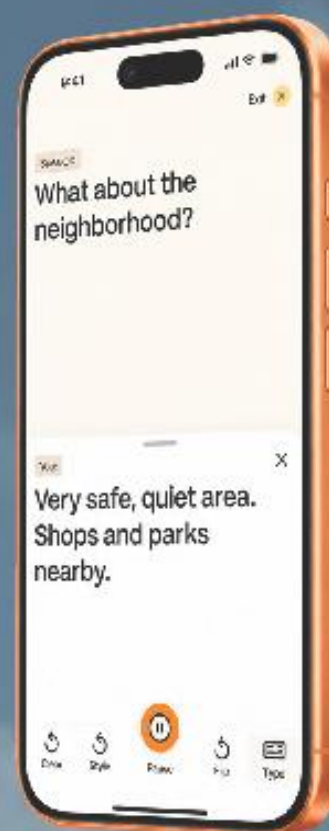
2008 – Maurice Wilson
 2011 – Donna Penman
 2012 – Pearl Feder
 2013 – Susan Dohne
 2014 – Alan Sprague
 2015 – Emily (Jazzy) Wingert

2016 – Debbie Gilmer
 2017 – Lorne Smith
 2018 – Martha Wilson
 2019 – Bet Whitcomb
 2021 – Pat Kovac

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 Don Dippner
 2023 – Linda Binns
 2024 – Michele Linder
 2025 – Donna McNary

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**SWC 2000 convention
in San Diego:**

**LEFT: Cathy Hilden,
Christine Seymour,
Kate Johnston,
Dale Oftebro.**

**RIGHT: Don Lampert,
Martha Wilson,
Marianne Lock.**

**(Martha Wilson
photos)**



A History of the SayWhatClub

By SWC Co-founder, Alan Sprague

The 2026 San Francisco convention is the SayWhatClub's third in California, after successful events in San Diego in 2000 and Sacramento in 2019. An earlier, unofficial California gathering was held in Monterey in 1997, the year the club was officially incorporated in the state of Washington as the first internet-based nonprofit organization. SWC was recognized by the Internal Revenue Service in 1998 as a tax-exempt organization.

The origins of the SayWhatClub can be traced back to the early 1990s, when a group of people wandered into an AOL bulletin board for deaf and hard of hearing. They connected—relieved to find others in the same boat—began chatting and became friends.

In 1995, the group moved to an early listserv. Forum was the first list, and as they grew, a second list, Connect, was added a year later. Many of the club's founders met face to face for the first time in 1996 in Dorsett, Ontario, to get to know each other better and to visit and learn about an existing nonprofit organization run by Gini Anderson, also an SWC organizer. They forged bonds that carried them through the next steps of organizing the club.

Since its earliest days, the SayWhatClub has had active subscribers and volunteers around the world and has been led by board members from many nations, including the United States, Canada, the Netherlands and New Zealand. In addition to international board members, SWCers from Mexico, Greece, India and Australia have been among convention attendees over the years.

Annual SayWhatClub conventions grew out of a gathering of about thirty SWCers in Estes Park, Colorado in 1998. The first official SWC convention was held in 1999 in Cape May, New Jersey, and the list has included international events in the Netherlands in 2002 and Canada in 2023.

Here is a full list: **2000** San Diego, California **2001** Chicago, Illinois **2002** Amsterdam, The Netherlands **2002** Alexandria, Virginia **2003** Seattle, Washington **2004** Bloomington, Minnesota **2005** Clearwater Beach, Florida **2006** St. Louis, Missouri **2007** Las Vegas, Nevada **2008** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania **2010** Denver, Colorado **2011** Baltimore, Maryland **2012** Salt Lake City, Utah **2013** Williamsburg, Virginia **2014** Madison, Wisconsin **2015** San Antonio, Texas **2016** Boise, Idaho **2017** Savannah, Georgia **2018** Saint Paul, Minnesota **2019** Sacramento, California **2021** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania **2022** Nashville, Tennessee **2023** Vancouver, British Columbia **2024** Springfield, Massachusetts **2025** Galveston, Texas **2026** San Francisco, California.

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Vivie Moraiti
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CI: Judy Heimbach, Linda Binns
Explore: Martha Wilson
Forum: Carol Hansing, Norma Ortiz, Bet Whitcomb
Vistas: Scott Oberg, Linda Binns
World: Lorne Smith, Nancy Fenstermaker, Pat Dobbs

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VICE PRESIDENT, Dawn Linder

I was born prematurely, which resulted in my having a hearing loss but it was only recognized when I was 4. In those days deaf children weren't allowed to learn sign language. Instead, I went to an oral training program to learn to speak and read lips. For school, I was mainstreamed; I always sat in the front row so I could read the teacher's lips. Yes – it was challenging.

I'm remarried, and my husband and I have a total of 6 children and 10 grandchildren. Most of the children are married except for two who are still single.

I've had several jobs throughout the years, and I loved working for a nonprofit organization that worked with individuals with developmental disabilities. Another job I loved was working for the state of Illinois, where I assessed housing discrimination for people with hearing loss. I've also done volunteer work for the ALDA Chicago chapter and now currently volunteering for ALDA Inc. Currently, I reside in Indiana and started a new hearing loss support group called ALDA Northern Indiana whom we meet monthly and they are mostly socials.

I will say though, that my most rewarding job is watching my grandchildren. My husband and I enjoy traveling and also enjoy going to our conventions, where we've made so many wonderful friends whom we see once or twice a year.



TREASURER, Ilene Morales

My hearing loss and tinnitus began when I had high fevers with measles at age 8. I was not tested until I was in college and got my first hearing aid then as well. I have a ski slope loss in both ears that goes to profound in the high tones.

I managed for a long time, adding a second aid years later, but as I got older it was more difficult to follow conversations. Audiologists suggested a cochlear implant, but I knew no one who had one and it seemed like a very drastic action. I attended the 2016 HLAA convention in Washington DC, in an effort to learn more about cochlear implants. I asked someone I met there for ways to meet others with hearing loss. She told me about the SayWhatClub, and I signed up right away. The support I received was instrumental in my decision to go ahead with an implant in January 2020. I did so well with the first side that I did my other ear in December 2020. I love my brand, Advanced Bionics and am a mentor for them. I speak to potential candidates regularly to assist on their journeys.

For the past 46 years, I have worked at a non-profit community-based organization, in a variety of roles. I am currently a financial compliance coordinator. I am a lifelong New Yorker, love to read and travel.



SECRETARY, Ann Marie Picardo

I have a progressive hearing loss that began in my late 30s. By the time I was 61, I reached the point where hearing aids were no longer giving me much speech comprehension so I moved forward with getting a CI in my left ear.

Getting a CI has been a blessing for me. I'm so grateful for this amazing technology. I joined SWC in 2016 and prior to joining the BOD was a CI List Rep. I've attended several conventions and have enjoyed them.

I'm also a member of the Hearing Loss Association of America and am currently the President of HLAA Morris County Chapter. I have also served on the board of the Hearing Loss Association of America – New Jersey State Association. While living with hearing loss is challenging it also has a positive side. It's allowed me to meet some wonderful people that have become friends.

I'm retired from a long career in the music business and am a life-long resident of New Jersey.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTOR, Mary-Ann Livesey

My hearing loss likely began when I was eighteen months old and fell on cement stairs and hit my head. My balance was off for a few days. Hearing loss was diagnosed later with severe to profound in one ear and mild to moderate cookie bite loss in the other ear. My hearing was stable until I was hit in the forehead with a softball line drive in my mid-thirties. Six months later I was diagnosed with bilateral enlarged vestibular aqueduct syndrome, the cause of both my hearing loss and poor balance. During my forties my hearing started slowly dropping in both ears and I am now bimodal with one cochlear implant and one hearing aid.



I live in Vancouver, Canada and work as a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I am involved in various groups advocating for accessibility and inclusion for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. I have also been studying ASL for the last five years.

I found the SayWhatClub in 2021 and attended the 2023 convention in Vancouver. In 2024, I travelled to New England to attend the convention in Springfield. I enjoy meeting and connecting with other people who understand the struggles of hearing loss, in particular those with low hearing.

I love to travel and participate in water sports. My husband and children are all hearing.

DIRECTOR, Donna McNary

I live in the Madison, Wisconsin area; but was born and raised in southwestern MN. I'm married and we have 4 married daughters and 3 granddaughters.

My hearing loss was first detected in my 20s when I was taking an audiology course for my Bachelor's Degree in Communicative Disorders. In this course we practiced giving hearing tests to each other. My hearing loss at that time was a mild bilateral sensory hearing loss in the very high frequencies. From there my hearing loss continued to deteriorate. I began wearing hearing aids in my late 30s and received cochlear implants in 2013 and 2017. Many have said that after being implanted they 'got their life back'; and it was true for me too. I feel blessed!

I found SayWhatClub around 2009 when I was looking for hearing support and for anyone that understood what I was going through. I went to my first SWC Convention in Salt Lake City in 2012. I am so thankful that I found SWC because I not only found support and understanding; but I found life long friendships and family.

I have volunteered with SayWhatClub in the following capacities: List representative for the World and CI lists, volunteer and leader with the Silent Auction, and am currently a convention co-treasurer and BOD member.



DIRECTOR, Deanne Pedroni

In 2015, after noticing a problem with my hearing and balance, I went to my local ENT. An MRI was ordered and showed that I have bilateral acoustic neuromas. I was referred to Stanford and started 'watch and wait' to see what changes would occur. The neuromas grew and cyberknife (radiation) was needed. After the treatments, my hearing degraded further – first hearing in my left ear was gone, then my right ear. Hearing aids became part of my life with a CROS to adjust for that loss. I got my first cochlear in 2024, my second in 2026 and am thrilled with the results.



Early on I knew I needed help. My isolation was increasing, and my family life suffered. I started searching for alternatives. I found speech reading classes which led to finding the SayWhatClub and HLAA. I feel much more able to handle my day-to-day life with hearing loss. I am thankful to have found groups that are supportive and helpful in my journey.

I spent the last 40+ years in technology. I have worked in the telco, financial and security industries making sure their systems work and work well. I am retired and enjoying life with my husband, children and grandchildren. I am an avid crafter, ask me about it.

I joined the SWC Board in 2025 and have been part of the team putting together the Newsletter.

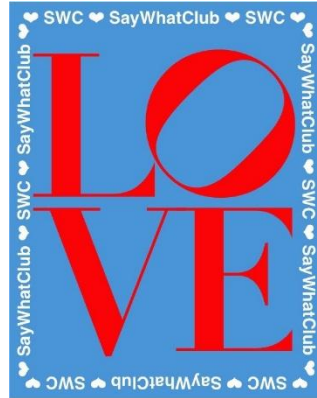
Loving the idea of becoming a real part of this community. Too busy with interviews last time. Can't wait to meet you all again! Sherry

I am so grateful for the SayWhatClub and the many friends I've made here over the years. Thanks so much for all your support. Kim

I'm missing being with you all as you're all pure LOVE. Sending a big hug. Pat

**I'm grateful for SayWhatClub!! ❤️
Donna McNary**

Blessed and proud to be your husband. Rock on Sheiladawn.



Spending time with SWC friends at our annual conventions is always a highlight of my year. Lorne

Thank you SWC for the support, advice, and most of all the friendship you have provided me for over 20 years. Bet

My love to SWC and all those

who volunteer to make these cons! Chelle

The SWC gets exciting when security or the police show up cause you know MEMORIES will be made..... SECURITY!!!!. Love, Kristen

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