

Echoes

THE CHILDREN'S HEARING INSTITUTE
www.childrens hearing.org



AUGUST, 2007

Teen Implanted by Dr. Ronald Hoffman Organizes Benefit for The Children's Hearing Institute

Molly Kestenbaum to Receive CHI "Hearing Hear-o Award"

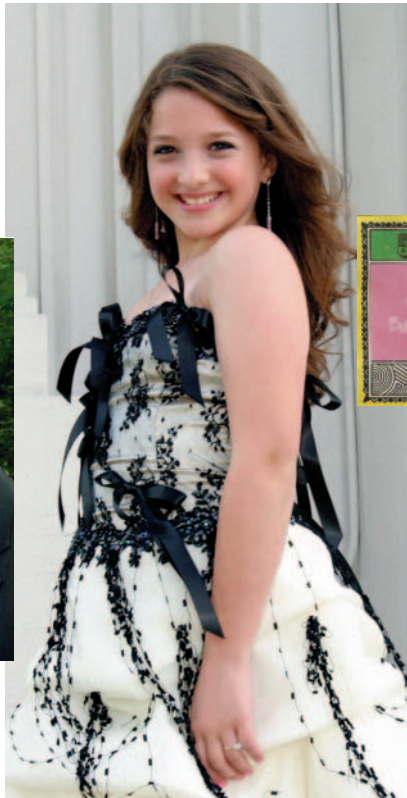
Last year, *Molly Kestenbaum* was implanted with a cochlear device by *Dr. Ronald Hoffman*. Grateful for the gift of hearing, when Molly started planning her June 16 bat mitzvah, she told her family that rather than receiving the usual gifts, she wanted this special event to be a fundraiser for charities, including The Children's Hearing Institute. Molly will be celebrated for her enterprising spirit at CHI's annual Benefit Gala November 5 when we will present her with our "Hearing Hear-0 Award." The day after the bat mitzvah *Journal News* reporter *Janie Rosman* wrote: "Generosity and gratitude abounded



Molly (center) with her sister Rebecca; father Alan Kestenbaum, MD; mother Elissa Held-Kestenbaum; and brother Sam.

yesterday as one Purchase girl became a bat mitzvah. *Molly Kestenbaum*, 12, decided to turn her special day into a fundraiser. 'My life

has been helped by people, and I wanted to use today to help make an impact on other people's lives,' said *Molly*. 'It's important to be happy in life and proud of your accomplishments,' she told friends, family and congregants at the Jewish Community Center of Harrison during the service. 'She's amazing,' said her mother, *Elissa Kestenbaum*, adding that *Molly* is mainstreamed in school. *Molly* recently received a cochlear implant. Now she can hear words and sounds, emotion and inflection and said she can't imagine what her life would be like without it. Painting and drawing are Molly's favorite hobbies, so one of the charities to receive proceeds from her bat mitzvah is RxArt, a New York City organization that



Molly Kestenbaum in front of Westchester County Center



believes exposure to art is therapeutic. The other is The Children's Hearing Institute which supports

research, treatment and educational programs for those with hearing loss and profound deafness. Last night, a party was held in her honor at the Westchester County Center. Her parents, *Elissa and Alan Kestenbaum*, punctuated their daughter's gesture by purchasing about \$100,000 worth of original artwork. Bat mitzvah guests received \$1,000 worth of 'Molly money' with the names of both charities for bidding to purchase items. Goody bags provided information about organizations Molly hopes her guests will support, and she will donate her monetary gifts to those groups."

\$100,000 Gift Names The Needlers Foundation Pediatric Playspace at the Ear Institute

Founded 43 years ago, the Needlers originally were a group of needle trade and garment center executives who wanted to help sick and underprivileged children. Today, the organization has grown to include bankers, lawyers, CPA's, doctors, and others who are dedicated to supporting children's causes. The group has donated millions of dollars to such organizations as St. Jude's, Beth Israel Medical Center's Institute for Neurology & Neurosurgery, Covenant House, Happiness is Camping, The Genie Foundation, National Multiple Sclerosis and Children's Aid Society. This marvelous group of philanthropic-minded individuals has been extremely generous to The Children's Hearing Institute, recently announcing a \$100,000 pledge to name The Needlers Foundation Pediatric Playspace at the new Ear Institute, opening January 2008. *Scott Fishman*, a principal of the foundation, is a distinguished member of CHI's board of trustees.

The Children's Hearing Institute Gains \$300,000 Grant from The Morris & Alma Schapiro Fund

The Children's Hearing Institute is very proud to announce a three-year grant of \$300,000 from The Morris & Alma Schapiro Fund to specifically support the Educational Liaison and Outreach Program of The Beth Israel/New York Eye and Ear Cochlear Implant Center, which has been vital to the educational success of children who are hearing-impaired. "Our goal," say *Dr. Jane Madell* and program director *Susan Cheffo*, "is to eliminate 'risk' and 'disability' factors by working with mainstream teachers to help children who are hearing-impaired to succeed in school; develop hearing, speech and language skills; and reach their full life potential." This past year, our in-school services have expanded to schools in six states and our Educator Conferences and Parents Workshops have expanded and continue to be sold out events. We are experiencing rapid growth as our reputation spreads and more families apply. Currently we are providing educational services to nearly 1,000 children: 650 have cochlear implants; approximately 350 have hearing aids. Since such services are not reimbursable through medical insurance, we deeply appreciate this very generous vote of confidence the Schapiro Fund has made in our ability to deliver these critical services to families facing the challenges of hearing loss.



Grateful Cochlear Implant Recipient Celebrates 20 Years of Hearing

Jeanette Bushman says: "For me to reach 20 years with my implant is something I never expected." She shares with us her "love and appreciation" of her surgeon *Dr. Simon Parisier*:

*In 20 years I have grown
A thousand ways in "SOUND" alone
A child upon a sensual journey
Upon a ship called "SOUND"*

*I looked above me, I saw the stars
I looked below me, I heard the waves pounding on the
shoreline*

*As my journey took me abroad
Into a world where "SOUND" became
Life and wonder*

*A thousands ways to hear the world
A thousand Thank You's
In 20 years I've stored
7,300 days I was reminded of you
7,300 days I've heard the wonder of the world
All that is dear to me
I have heard time and again*

*A life changed
A world opened up
No regrets
As I grew up into adulthood
I grew wings to fly
Into a world of "SOUND"*

Congratulations to Sam and Missy Silberman



The Children's Hearing Institute conveys our warmest regards and best wishes to our friend *Sam Silberman* and his wife *Missy*. They are the proud parents of their new baby daughter *Dylan*, who was born this May. *Sam* is a cochlear implant recipient who serves as Area Manager, Northeast Region for Cochlear Americas. He is a good friend of CHI.

Echoes Wins 2007 APEX Award for Publication Excellence



Carol Bohdan, Executive Director of The Children's Hearing Institute and editor of *Echoes*, is pleased to announce our newsletter has received the 2007 Apex Award for Publication Excellence. With close to 5,000 entries, this year's competition was especially intense. APEX presented 1,521 Awards of Excellence in 105 categories. We are proud of this recognition, especially since *Echoes* is inexpensively produced, with limited resources and small staff. Please continue to send us your essays, poems, photos, ideas for stories, and your "Hearing Hear-o Award" nominations.

CHI Young Professionals Raise Funds for New Ear Institute



Adam Miller, Jessica Liddell,
Jon Stimmel



Lisa Weinberg, Kathy Weinberg,
Joshua Smith



Jon Ross, Stacey Ross, Bill Stempel,
Jonathan Yormak



Jonathan and Stephanie Cuba,
Bill Bassin, Jason Boxer



Allison Kunis and
her mother Janice



Ronnie Rothstein, Dr. Simon and Elaine Parisier,
Leonard Boxer, Penny Glazier



Jennifer Apfelbaum, Laura
Schwartz, Lisa Birnbaum



theglaziergroup



Michael Boxer and Dina Keidan

On June 21, The Children's Hearing Institute Young Professionals sponsored A Martini Night Under the Stars, on the 51st Floor Roof Terrace of the Time Warner Center. Energetically led by co-chairs *Lisa Weinberg*, *Jason Boxer*, and *Allison Kunis*, this fundraiser was attended by more than 225 young adults representing the fields of business, finance, fashion, food and wine, the arts and philanthropy. The event raised nearly \$52,000 to fund advanced equipment for a new Audiology Research Testing Booth, an important aspect of research technology for the new Ear Institute and Cochlear Implant Center at The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary. CHI salutes this wonderful group who have lent their efforts to support us since 1991.

We extend grateful acknowledgements to *Andrew Weinberg* and event sponsor ZYR Russian Vodka; *Penny*, *Peter* and *Mathew Glazier*, of The Glazier Group for donating food and catering services; and *John Magliocco* of Empire Merchants for donating wine and spirits. We also thank *Douglas Boxer* of Rare Bar & Grill for underwriting CHI caps and Weinberg Properties for sponsoring CHI tee shirts. We also deeply appreciate event sponsorships extended by *Ronald Rothstein* and *Mara Urshel* of Kleinfeld; *Adam Miller*; *Jonathan Yormak*; *Scott Fishman* and The Needlers Foundation; *Melissa and Michael Boxer*, *Mr. and Mrs. Matt Kornreich*, *William Kornreich*, *Adam Gottbetter*, and *Michael Bebon*.



Alice and Ronald Hoffman at
CHI's 2006 Benefit Gala

Dr. Ronald Hoffman and Otosclerosis in the News

On June 8, *Dr. Ronald A. Hoffman, Director of The Ear Institute*, was featured on WABC-TV in a story on otosclerosis, a multifactorial disease affecting approximately 1 in 250 people, often young adults. Caused by an interaction of genetic and environmental factors, a progressive hearing loss develops as the growing bone (stapes) in the middle ear interrupts the sound waves passing to the inner ear. The story featured 44-year old *Teal Usher*, who said it is an “amazing gift” to be able to hear music following surgery, which *Dr. Hoffman* says alleviates the condition in 95% of patients. Also on the topic of otosclerosis, *Melissa Thys*, of the Department of Medical Genetics, University of Antwerp, Belgium, recently announced identification of gene responsible for the condition, offering a potential step towards new treatments.

Dr. Jane Madell and CHI Expand Educational Outreach Program

The Children’s Hearing Institute recently gained approval from the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to perform as a stand-alone provider of continuing education activities for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language and hearing scientists, empowering us to expand our Educational Outreach Program. Under the direction of Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center Co-Director *Jane Madell, PhD, CCC-A/SLP, Cert. AVP*, our educational calendar is expanding to include these events. For information or to register, please contact: *Melissa Willis, Director of Educational Programming*, (212) 979-4523, or visit our award-winning website: www.childrens hearing.org.



Functionalizing “Listening to Learn”: July 30th–August 1. Beginning Auditory-Verbal Principles Across the Age Ranges, Beth Israel Medical Center

Introduction to Auditory Verbal Therapy: September 30 - October 1. Four Point Sheraton, Plainview Long Island. Course focusing on the basic principles of Auditory-Verbal therapy introducing strategies to enhance auditory function in children with hearing aids and cochlear implants. Speaker: *Pam Talbot*.

Audiology 101: October 23, Beth Israel Medical Center. Workshop to provide clinicians working with children experiencing hearing loss with the basic audiological information they need to perform their jobs. Speaker: *Dr. Jane Madell*.

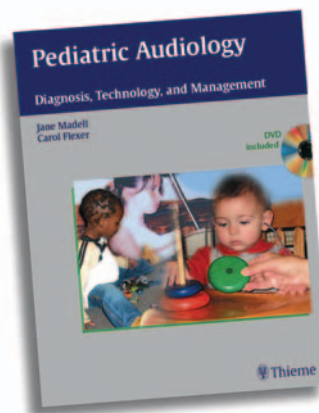
Sounds and Motion: October 29, Beth Israel Medical Center. Designed to improve listening and articulation skills, this program has evolved into a phonemic awareness and early literacy tool by using body movements from the Verbotonal System to train perception and production of speech sounds. Speaker: *Fran Santore*, Horace Mann School.

Temporal Bone Course: November 29 - December 1, New York Eye & Ear Infirmary – Microsurgery Lab. A three-day CME course in middle ear/mastoid surgery, implantable devices and inner ear surgery. Speakers: *Drs. S. Parisier, R. Hoffman, C. Linstrom, A. Kim, G. Alexiades*.

Dr. Ronald Hoffman Achieves Another Advanced Degree

Ronald A. Hoffman, MD, who recently was named Clinical Director and Practice Manager of the new Ear Institute, has received a Master’s Degree in Science and Healthcare Management from Harvard School of Business. *Dr. Hoffman is Director of Otology at Beth Israel Medical Center and Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Hoffman is the recipient of the Mosher Award for Excellence in Clinical Research of the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otolological Society, and has published and lectured extensively on diseases of the ear and in particular, on cochlear implants. He has been recognized by New York magazine in its “Best Doctors” issue. In 2000, when Dr. Hoffman implanted a 46-year-old deaf and blind computer programmer with a second, bilateral cochlear implant, the patient became one of the first persons in the U.S. to receive the assistance of binaural technology in localizing sound and hearing.*

Dr. Jane Madell Publishes New Book



Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center Co-Director *Jane Madell, PhD, CCC-A/SLP, Cert. AVP* has completed her new book: **PEDIATRIC AUDIOLOGY: Diagnosis, Technology and Management**. Co-authored by *Carol Flexer*, the book is being published by **Thieme** and is available through **Thieme** and through **Amazon.com**.

Hear the World

Hear the World is a global initiative by Phonak created to raise awareness about the importance of hearing, and call attention to the consequences of hearing loss, a problem that affects more than 10% of the world’s population. Phonak is promoting this campaign by using its “ambassadors” in print ads, including *Placido Domingo, Bryan Adams* and the Vienna Philharmonic. For more information, visit www.hear-the-world.com, or call 1-866-913-6460.

Maurice DuBois Will Be Master of Ceremonies at Upcoming CHI Benefit Gala



Maurice DuBois, award-winning co-anchor of “CBS 2 News This Morning,” will be the Master of Ceremonies at CHI’s 24th annual Benefit Gala November 5. A Long Island native, *DuBois* has anchored live breaking news events and hosted specials on topics ranging from kids and violence, to parades and telethons. Previously at NBC News, he substituted as news anchor for “Today;” reported for “Dateline NBC;”

hosted “Four Stories,” a magazine featuring community heroes; and hosted special programming for Court-TV called “Mind over Media,” for students to understand media images. *DuBois* has won several journalism and community awards, including four Emmys, and has been recognized by The Associated Press, and the Chicago and New York Associations of Black Journalists with a Trailblazer Award. He is involved in a wide range of community organizations, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Northside Center for Child Development. *DuBois* earned his BS in Journalism from Northwestern University and is the recipient of Honorary PhDs from Seton Hall University and Medgar Evers College. **For information about Benefit Gala ticket purchase, please call CHI at: 212-614-8380.**

Hearing Impaired Student Captures International Performance Award

Yew Choong Cheong, a West Virginia University student who plays and studies classical piano despite a loss of hearing, recently won the 2007 International Young Soloists Award given by VSA Arts, an organization founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith to encourage people with disabilities to learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. As one of four award recipients from around the world to receive this honor, *Cheong* performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. on March 21, and received a \$5,000 scholarship. Born in Malaysia, *Cheong* started playing piano at the age of six. He has worn hearing aids since the age of eight, when a viral infection damaged one ear, leaving him with a form of nerve deafness. He can read lips and carry on a spirited conversation, but cannot use a telephone. Understanding speech is more difficult for him than listening to instrumental music because of different intonations among people. He uses computer software to assist him in tuning pianos. Beethoven, who also suffered from hearing loss, is *Cheong*’s favorite composer. “I feel a sense of kinship with Beethoven,” he says. “His music is not always about struggle, but it often speaks about a strong will to overcome any circumstance. Yet there is an inexplicable calmness and depth in his music. I always feel Beethoven telling me himself, ‘Accept your flaw. Know who you are.’ ”

19 Million Adult Relationships Are Negatively Impacted By Hearing Loss, Survey Finds

Hearing loss is much more common than most realize and significantly impacts personal relationships, according to a survey recently commissioned by Cochlear Americas, a global leader in hearing technologies. Nearly one in four adults who know someone with hearing loss say they have either a spouse or significant other with hearing loss. Of the 27 million U.S. adults with hearing loss, the number one cited relationship that suffered was the one with their romantic partner (35%), followed by friends, family members and coworkers. Fifty-four percent of adults who have communicated with someone who appeared not to be listening due to hearing loss admit they find others’ hearing loss frustrating. Others feel ignored (18%) or experience feelings of sadness (23%). “It is very important for people in relationships to connect with each other, verbally and emotionally. Those who don’t feel heard, figuratively or literally, can feel isolated or depressed,” said *Dr. John Gray*, best-selling relationship author, *Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus*. “The good news is that hearing loss can be helped and relationships don’t have to be put at risk. It’s a tragedy that people don’t take action for their hearing health when so many treatment options are available,” said *Dr. Pat Chute*, audiologist, professor and chair, Division of Health Professions, Mercy College.



CHI Events Calendar

For further information about these events, please call CHI at: 212-614-8380.

November 5

CHI 24th Annual Benefit Gala:

“We Can Hear You Now”

Frederick P. Rose Hall

Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center

Sponsorships

October 8

2nd Annual No Limits Walkathon

October 28

Why walk, when you can skate, a fundraising event to benefit oral deaf children

Trump’s Wollman’s Ice Skating Rink, Central Park.

For information call: 800-948-7712



The Children's Hearing Institute
310 East 14th Street
New York, NY 10003

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID



Contact Us
If you have questions or would like to share a personal story with us, contact:
Carol L. Bohdan, Executive Director, The Children's Hearing Institute
212-614-8261, cbohdan@nyee.edu
Visit our educational website: www.childrenshearing.org



The Beth Israel/New York Eye and Ear Cochlear Implant Center and Hearing & Learning Center

- Beth Israel Center Coordinator:
- New York Eye & Ear Center Coordinator:

Surgeons

Director: Ronald A. Hoffman, MD

212-844-8778

Director: Simon C. Parisier, MD,

212-979-4542

George Alexiades, MD

Paul Hammerschlag, MD

Darius Kohan, MD

Christopher Linstrom, MD

Neil Sperling, MD

**Educators/
Educational Audiology**

212-844-6351

Coordinator: Susan Chetto, MS

Meredith Berger, MS

Lois Heymann, MA, CCC-SLP

Rebecca Kooper, Aud

Social Work

Stacy Purro, MSW

Audiology

Director: Jane R. Madell, PhD, CCC-A/SLP, Cert. AVT,

212-844-8792

Supervisor: Sandra Delapenha, MA, CCC-A

Supervisor Cochlear Implants: Nicole Sillian, MA, CCC-A

Supervisor Hearing Aid Center: Michele DiStefano, MS, CCC-A

Sabrina Vitolano, MS, CCC-A

Ariela Bindel, MA, CCC/A

Miriam De La Asuncion, Aud

Nancy Gilston, MA, CCC-A

Megan Kuhlmei, MS, CCC-A

Lori Markoff, MS, CCC-A

Shelly Ozdamar, MS, CCC-A

Lisa Rosenberg, MS, CCC-A

212-844-6351

Speech-Language-Auditory Therapy

Michele Bogaty-Blend, MA, CCC-SLP

Maranna Davila, MS, CCC-SLP

Karen Slotnick, MA, CCC-SLP

Elizabeth Ying, MA, CCC-SLP

Research

Richard Schwartz, PhD