

Inside Georgia Relay

A PUBLICATION FOR GEORGIA RELAY USERS, SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS.

Fall 2019

Georgia Relay Hosts Bingo Bash Hearing Loss Lunch & Learn

On August 23, Georgia Relay hosted the Bingo Bash Hearing Loss Lunch & Learn at the P.B. Edward Jr. Gymnasium in Port Wentworth. More than 65 people turned up for an afternoon of good food, friendly competition, and lots of valuable information from organizations who support Georgia residents living with hearing loss.

Outreach coordinator Brendan Underwood presented information about CapTel® and other telecommunications relay services Georgia Relay provides for people who have difficulty hearing or speaking over the telephone. Representatives from the Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GCDHH) spoke to attendees about applying for free specialized equipment through the Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program. And many guests took advantage of the opportunity to receive a free hearing screening provided by students from the RiteCare for Communication Disorders at Georgia Southern University (GSU).

It was a fun afternoon for all involved, and we owe our appreciation to our friends at GCDHH, GSU, and the Port Wentworth Senior Center, as well as our many volunteers who helped make the event a success! 🍷

CapTel is a registered trademark of Ultratec, Inc.



About the PSC & Georgia Relay

The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) is responsible for the establishment, implementation, administration and promotion of Georgia Relay. Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, Georgia Relay allows people who have difficulty hearing or speaking to communicate with any standard phone user. To make a Georgia Relay call, dial 7-1-1.

Jimmy Peterson Selected for Hamilton Relay® 2019 Deaf Community Leader Award

Congratulations to Jimmy Peterson of Decatur for being selected as Georgia's recipient of the Hamilton Relay 2019 Deaf Community Leader Award. Jimmy is currently director of the Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GCDHH), where he makes it a priority to educate individuals throughout Georgia about the Deaf community. His leadership has allowed GCDHH to offer new programs, including interpreter services and programs to help individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing file taxes and create resumes.

In addition to his work at GCDHH, Jimmy is director of Camp Julienna, a camp for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. He is also a member of the National Association of the Deaf and was appointed by the governor to represent the American Sign Language community on the Georgia Commission for Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

We commend Jimmy for his leadership, dedication and advocacy and are proud to present him with the 2019 Deaf Community Leader Award! 🍷



Brendan Underwood (right), Georgia Relay outreach coordinator, presented the Deaf Community Leader Award to Jimmy Peterson (left) at GCDHH's Halloween potluck.

Stay Connected this Holiday Season with Georgia CapTel®



As the holidays approach, many of us will be reconnecting with family and friends we may not have seen or spoken to in a while. During this time, if you happen to notice that you or someone you love is struggling to understand conversations over the telephone, CapTel may be the perfect gift idea.

Developed by Ultratec and available through Georgia Relay, a CapTel phone works just like any other phone—with one important difference. The words your caller says are displayed on the phone's built-in display screen. You speak directly to the other person, and then listen while reading their response. During your conversation, a specially trained Captioning Assistant (CA) uses the latest in voice recognition software to convert everything the other person says into captions that appear just moments after they speak.

CapTel is ideal for people who are able to speak but have difficulty hearing, including those who are hard of hearing, late-deafened, deaf with understandable speech, or who use a cochlear implant or amplified phone. CapTel phones are available in both analog models requiring only a standard telephone line and electrical power, and internet-based models that also require high-speed internet access. Web CapTel is also available for those who prefer to access captions through their computer or internet-enabled device.

If you are considering a CapTel phone for your home, or as a gift for another, all models can be purchased in Georgia for the discounted price of just \$75. CapTel phones are also offered at no cost through the Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program for those who qualify medically and financially.

The holidays are a time to cherish every moment spent with those who matter most. And with CapTel, you won't miss a single word. To order or apply for a CapTel phone, or to learn more, please visit georgiarelay.org. 🍷

Third-party charges may apply; the Hamilton CapTel phone requires telephone service and high-speed internet access. Wi-Fi capable. FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS ANYONE BUT REGISTERED USERS WITH HEARING LOSS FROM USING INTERNET PROTOCOL (IP) CAPTIONED TELEPHONES WITH THE CAPTIONS TURNED ON. IP Captioned Telephone Service may use a live operator. The operator generates captions of what the other party to the call says. These captions are then sent to your phone. There is a cost for each minute of captions generated, paid from a federally administered fund. To learn more, visit fcc.gov. Hamilton CapTel may be used to make 911 calls, but may not function the same as traditional 911 services. For more information about the benefits and limitations of Hamilton CapTel and Emergency 911 calling, visit HamiltonCapTel.com/911. Voice and data plans may be required when using Hamilton CapTel on a smartphone or tablet.

Georgia Relay Supports Aging in Atlanta Fall Speaker Series

Georgia Relay is proud to support Aging in Atlanta, an ongoing print, digital and live event series dedicated to serving the 55+ community in the metro Atlanta area. Presented by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Aging in Atlanta hosted four well-attended lunch and learn events across Atlanta this fall, featuring experts on topics including prescription safety, health and fitness, Medicare/Medicaid, in-home care, assisted living placement and more.

Our outreach coordinator, Brendan Underwood, participated in three of the panel discussions, sharing information about the telecommunications services and equipment Georgia Relay and the Georgia Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program provide for individuals who have difficulty hearing or speaking over the telephone. Thanks to everyone who joined us this fall, and we look forward to participating in more Aging in Atlanta events in the future!

To learn more, visit ajc.com/aging-in-atlanta 🍷



New! Georgia Relay Webinars Now Available!

Georgia Relay has a new way to deliver training for businesses and organizations interested in learning about our services. Our outreach coordinator is now presenting live, online webinars to conveniently connect with anyone, anywhere—especially businesses with employees who work remotely. Webinar presentation topics include:

- Georgia Relay Services (for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking)
- Hamilton CapTel Services (captioned telephone for home, web and on-the-go)
- Relay Partner Training (to prepare employees for relay calls)

To schedule a webinar or an in-person presentation, contact **Brendan Underwood**, Georgia Relay outreach coordinator at brendan.underwood@hamiltonrelay.com. 🍷

Apply for the 2020 Hamilton Relay High School Scholarship

Our service provider, Hamilton Relay, is now accepting applications for its 2020 High School Scholarship program. This award supports students who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or have difficulty speaking in their post-secondary education. One eligible high school senior who resides in Georgia will be chosen to receive a \$500 scholarship.

To apply, please visit HamiltonRelay.com. The deadline to submit all materials is January 31, 2020.

Questions? Contact brendan.underwood@hamiltonrelay.com. 🍷



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 Visit us on Facebook at
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The Cook's Corner

German Chocolate Cookies

Looking for a sweet treat to take to your holiday party? Try these German chocolate cookies!

Ingredients

Chocolate Cookies:

- 1 cup salted butter softened
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs beaten
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- pinch salt

Chocolate Cookies:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a stand mixer or large bowl using a hand mixer, blend the butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar, vanilla and eggs. In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Gradually add the flour mixture into the butter mixture and blend until combined.
3. Drop the dough by tablespoonful onto the prepared baking sheets, 12 cookies per sheet, and bake 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on a baking rack.

Coconut Pecan Frosting:

1. Add evaporated milk, sugar, egg yolks, butter and vanilla to a large pan and place over medium heat.
2. Stir so that it becomes well combined. Continue stirring until thickened, this takes approximately 11-12 minutes.
3. Once thickened remove from heat and add coconut and pecans. Beat until thick enough to spread.
4. Spread frosting over the tops of cooled cookies.

