

## Technology News: The Future is NOW

Part of being an audiologist, especially in today's hearing aid world, is being good at and keeping up with ever changing technology. This fall, one of the main hearing aid manufacturers, GN Resound, introduced us to Auracast broadcast audio: a Bluetooth audio that will allow multiple users to connect to one audio source. So what makes Auracast such a big deal, especially for people who are hard of hearing and use hearing aids or cochlear implants? First, it will significantly improve streaming sound quality. Second, it will massively decrease battery drain from the hearing device. And last, but certainly not least, never before have you been able to share one audiocast with multiple people.



This will allow everyone to connect to a single audiosource at the same time. All that is needed is one transmitting device connected to the sound source. What does this all mean? Simply put, it turns your hearing aids into headphones with direct access to the sound system. If you are in a place of worship with an Auracast transmitter, you will be able to direct connect your hearing aids to the speaker, so it is just like you are right up front no matter where you are sitting. If you are in an airport, you can connect directly to those always difficult to understand announcements, or at a theater you can "plug in" wirelessly like you have your own headphones connected to the movie or play. This technology is expected to become more available in the next 5 years and, reportedly, by 2030, 2.5 million locations globally will offer Auracast. Other likely venues are conference centers, movie theaters, sporting centers, restaurants and gyms. The possibilities are vast and I am excited that this will provide much more access for those with hearing loss. Resound Nexia is the first hearing aid to have Auracast technology.

You can access it by using their new TV Streamer + which enables multiple connections direct to your TV. Contact us to find out more!



Resound Nexia Hearing Aids

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### Questions?

Give us a call at  
 781.218.2225.



## Gift of Hearing Donation Campaign

Thank you for the nominations for our holiday Gift of Hearing donation campaign in which we joined with hearing care professionals nationwide to donate a pair of hearing aids to a person whose life can be improved with better hearing. As audiologists we see first hand the importance of getting your hearing tested and using hearing aids. I feel lucky to hear multiple times a week how we have changed people's lives. Our practice wanted to extend that gift to someone who may not have been able to obtain hearing aids themselves. Our winner, Mrs. C, was nominated by her sister-in-law who explained her story to us and we knew we had to choose her to give the Gift of Hearing. She described "extraordinary kindness, compassion" who has herself to others without return. She is a divorced woman who needed to return to work as a school teacher to support her family.



While working full time and raising her children, she obtained a degree in higher education and received her Master's of Education degree. Her hearing loss was imposing a significant barrier to teaching her students and her ability to connect with her family and friends. We met and fit Mrs. C with her premium level hearing aids on February 23, 2024 and I can tell you her nomination form was not exaggerated, she was a very kind hearted soul. We cannot be happier to be able to provide this wonderful gift to her and are certain she will continue to be a pillar for her school and community and continue to pay it forward as teachers always do.

## Did you know...?



Did you know, cauliflower can grow one inch/day. This fast expansion means the florets of the plant's popcorn-like heads rub against each other making a sound called "cauliflower creak" -*American Academy of Audiology, July 24, 2023* – Check out our facebook page for more on this phenomenon.

<https://www.facebook.com/audiologyhearingsolutionsinc.net>

## The Loudest Sound Ever Known!

Volcanos have been in the news a lot, specifically the Fagradalsfjall Volcano that recently erupted in Southwestern Iceland. While many interesting questions come up about an eruption, (how hot is the lava, how fast does it flow, how far up does the eruption blow etc.), one thing I have never thought about was the sound, which seems odd as my life is focused on sound. My husband and I visited Iceland this past fall and even went to a “lava show “ and learned a lot about eruptions, but the sound or the volume that a volcano eruption makes, never came up. So I found it very interesting to learn recently that the loudest sound ever was produced by a volcano eruption. On May 20, 1883, Krakatoa volcano erupted on Rakata Island on Indonesia. The eruption was estimated to be 310 decibels (dB) and was heard up to 3000 miles away. Reportedly, some islands in the western Indian ocean heard the sound, equivalent to the volume of a gunshot, up to 4 hours AFTER the eruption, due to the speed of sound. For reference, a person breathing is 10 dB, regular conversation is 60 dB, a lawn mower is about 90 dB, and a shotgun blast is 140 dB. We know that sounds greater than 85 dB for more than 4 hours can damage our hearing. So can you imagine 310 dB. It reportedly produced the force equivalent to a 200 mega-ton bomb and the sound likely circled the earth four times before the sound fully dissipated. Unfortunately, for those living in Krakatoa at the time of the eruption, the sound was actually not a sound at all—at 194 dB sound turns into a shock wave of a sonic boom. About 70% of the island was destroyed during the eruption, which lasted 5 months ending on October 21, 1883.



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## Hearing Protection

While hearing protection would not have helped the people of Krakatoa, we have the choice to protect our hearing from loud noises such as lawn mowers, power tools, fireworks, gunshots etc. An easy way to know if it is too loud is if you have to raise your voice to be heard over the sound, it can be damaging over time. Simple foam ear plugs or muffs, can be easy to carry, easy to use and effective. We can also make custom earplugs for you. Treat hearing like an endangered species, protect it before it is gone.

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Dear Friends,

I hope everyone is staying healthy and enjoying the new year. 2023 was a year of growth, progression and returning to some level of post-pandemic normalcy. I attended my first in-person conference since 2020 and was excited to be learning in this type of in-person collaborative environment. While Zoom got us through the past few years, there is nothing like face to face, human interaction. A favorite quote of mine is "Communication is the essence of being human". As an audiologist, I whole-heartedly agree as I have seen first hand the negative impact that untreated hearing loss can have on people's ability to communicate and their relationships. This is also why I wanted to join in on the Gift of Hearing donation campaign, which enabled us to provide hearing aids to a deserving person. I am honored and humbled to be able to provide this gift. Read all about it inside this issue!

***Dr. Melonie Marple***