

*From the President*

The holiday season is behind us now and we are enjoying a spectacular Michigan winter. Our first traveling board meeting was a big success as we held "A Chili Saturday with AG Bell Michigan" on Saturday, January 22, at the Macomb Intermediate School District offices. Kudos to our hostesses, Teresa Sundberg and Gail Sterling, for doing a great job orchestrating this meeting that was open to Macomb County staff and parents!

Here at Michigan AG Bell, your all-volunteer board has been hard at work exhibiting and planning for several future events. We exhibited at the "Friends of Different Learners" Camp and Resource Fair at Groves High School in Beverly Hills. We are preparing to exhibit at the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) conference in East Lansing and the Hearing Loss Assoc. of America (HLAA) Michigan Chapter Expo and Conference in Troy. Please stop by and say, "Hi" when you attend these conferences!

We have committed to partner with the HLA-A MI at their "Walk 4 Hearing" on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at Kensington Metro Park. **This is a fundraiser for us.** Our first group, "Team Macomb" is being organized and we are hoping other county teams will form and join us. Teachers and teacher consultants - PLEASE - help us get the word out to parents and professionals to help make this a successful fundraiser for MI AG Bell and HLA-A!! We need groups of walkers to get pledges and walk to raise money for these two great organizations! Flyers and more information will be available soon on our website and our Facebook page - *MI Chapter of AGBell Association*. We will also send the information and registration forms to you by e-mail. What better way to welcome spring to Michigan than to join us on May 21<sup>st</sup> and Walk4Hearing! Spring is just around the corner!

*Shon Halacka*

**!!! SAVE THE DATE !!!**

**July 9, 2011:**

The Michigan Chapter will be hosting a Picnic on July 9, 2011. It will be held at Kensington Metropark in Milford, MI. We have reserved the North Martindale picnic shelter - 150 yards from Martindale Beach and the Splash 'N' Blast Water Park. More details will follow - this promises to be an outstanding event! Please visit Kensington Metroparks website to learn more about this incredible area! [http://www.metroparks.com/parks/index\\_all.aspx?ID=6](http://www.metroparks.com/parks/index_all.aspx?ID=6)

**July 17 - July 29, 2011**

MI AG Bell Summer Camp for Campers ages 8 - 18 years old.

This is a mainstream camp experience with support from teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing, speech and language specialists and/or audiologists.

Scholarships are available! [reeve.mark@att.net](mailto:reeve.mark@att.net) for more information.

**Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Fall Conference Okemos Conference Center !!

**!! SAVE THE DATE !!**

# Michigan Chapter, Alexander Graham Bell Summer Camp 2011



As the snow begins to melt, the sun peeks out a little longer, and the spring fever begins to set in; we at A.G. Bell can't help but think

about "Summer Camp"!

The Michigan chapter of Alexander Graham Bell hosts a two-week, fully mainstreamed camp opportunity for auditory-oral children ages 8-18 with hearing loss at the YMCA Storer Camp in Jackson, MI.

The A.G. Bell provides professionals in the areas of HI education, Speech Pathology and/or Audiology on staff to support this mainstream program, amplification support, and a **1-hour daily language enrichment program** for children with hearing loss. The A.G. Bell staff offers **24-hour consultation support** to cabin counselors, activity leaders and camp staff to make the experience truly meaningful, and to educate staff members about how to best interact with students with hearing loss.

The Michigan chapter has a long-standing partnership with the **Michigan Elks Club** and several generous donors as well as participating in fundraisers all year to **provide partial to full scholarships for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals between the ages 8 and 18** who wish to attend this camp. The camp is generally two weeks long; however, a one-week option is also available. Dates for this year's summer camp: **July 17, 2011 – July 29, 2011**

**Auditory Oral Deaf and Hard of Hearing** campers who attend this camp are fully mainstreamed in cabins with same age peers. Younger campers (grades 3-7) stay in beautiful, spacious cabins with showers, running water and bathroom facilities. Older campers (grades 8-10) stay in a coed village focused on teamwork, and personal development. A Counselor in Training (CIT) program is offered for students entering grades 11 and 12.

Some of the wonderful camp activities provided through the YMCA Storer camp are a Climb and rappel wall, High and low ropes courses, Backpacking, Hiking, Rock Climbing tower, General Horseback Riding, English and Western riding, Individual and Team Sports, Archery, Riflery, General Water Sports, Recreational Swimming, Canoeing, Fishing, Rowing, Kayaking, Snorkeling, Sailing, Arts and Crafts, Trail Rides, Horse Lessons, Orienteering, Outdoor Living Skills, camp-outs, Team-building skills, Survival skills, etc.

**There are several partial and full "camperships" (scholarships) available to children ages 8-18.** Parents interested in applying for a campership for their child with hearing loss should visit the YMCA Storer camps website at [www.ymcastorer camps.org](http://www.ymcastorer camps.org) to download an application. Send your application to Mark Reeve 829 Park Lane, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Michigan AG Bell Summer Camp, checks payable to "Michigan A.G. Bell" should be sent to Mark Reeve at the preceding address.

Heather Van De Steene  
Summer Camp Director  
Fundraising and Camp Co-Chair





## I'm a Member Spotlight on: Yaju Chan Loomis



Lyla asked me "Why do babies change life?" when she saw the poster in the pediatrician's office. I told her that before, I could go anywhere I wanted, whenever I wanted. It changed after she was born. Even my shopping list changed after she arrived. But I didn't tell her that when she was born, she brought me into a whole different world where my education and my masters degree would not be applicable. Together we learned nursery rhymes, I learned to read books out loud and even mimic all kinds of different voices: animals, young babies, old men or old women, and also to act out stories with her. OH YES! She changed my life.

Lyla Yuenshu Loomis, my baby, will be six years old this March. She was born with severe to profound bilateral hearing loss, and she has been wearing hearing aids since she was four months old. She was always the youngest student, in the early intervention for DHH children, in preschool for DHH – oral program, and in kindergarten – DHH at the center program until now. Now she is in mainstream kindergarten and is the first student wearing hearing aids in the school.

Lyla loves to read, to draw, to sing and to play music. She also loves to swing, to go down slides, to play soccer, and to go snow sledding. OH YES! She is a perfectly normal child who happens to wear hearing aids to help her to hear, and she knows she is smart. She cannot wait to be in the first grade.

I'm often thankful. Because of Lyla, I am not just an ordinary woman who has a daughter. Instead, I am a mother who is growing up with her child in not just an ordinary world, but also in a very special, privilege world. I am a member and my name is Yaju Chan Loomis.

### ***In Appreciation***

We would like to thank the following for their contributions or donations:

Teresa Sundberg

Gail Sterling

Theresa Jay

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Thompson

Ashley Garber

Venture Investors, LLC

Anonymous

## **Donations**

Your tax-deductible donation will help support all of the programs and activities available through the Michigan Chapter of AG Bell. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check or money order payable to Michigan Chapter of AG Bell to the address below. Be sure to include your contact information, so that we can acknowledge your gift and send you a receipt with our tax-exempt information.

Michigan Chapter of the  
Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf  
P.O. Box 250137  
Franklin, MI 48025

*Did you receive your last print newsletter? If not your membership may not be up to date!  
Go to: [www.agbell.org](http://www.agbell.org) and re-new today!*

Questions or Comments? Contact us at: [shonHal@comcast.net](mailto:shonHal@comcast.net)