

Seen & Heard

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born November 10, 1957 in Breda, the Netherlands

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MY HEARING LOSS... At this time I am just starting to lose my high-pitch hearing at 6000 and 8000Hz—not enough for a hearing aid but enough to crave one with a telecoil in a looped venue. I did grow up with a father who was hard of hearing.

SAGE ADVICE FOR SOMEONE NEWLY-DIAGNOSED WITH HEARING LOSS...

Learn all there is to learn about your hearing loss, the pitches that are affected, the degree that it affects your ability to understand speech in quiet versus speech in noise and once you own hearing aids know what the limitations are of the hearing aids and what is due to your particular loss. Best advice: Never purchase hearing aids without telecoils.

MY FUNNY HEARING LOSS MOMENT... My sister telling my dad, after she discovered him watching a blaringly loud TV without wearing his hearing aids (which prevented him from hearing the doorbell) and being told that he didn't think his hearing aids were doing much for him: "Papa, they may not do much for you, but they do a heck of a lot for us!"

WHEN I GREW UP, I WANTED TO BE... an airline stewardess.

FIRST THING I BOUGHT WITH MY OWN MONEY... was a vacuum cleaner.
(Oh, the Dutch are so tidy...)

IN MY SPARE TIME, I... like to go tandem biking with my husband Max.

I MISS... Dutch oil balls, a traditional delicacy on New Year's Eve.
(They are terribly unhealthy that is why we only eat them once a year!)

HOBBIES? Watergardening—we have about 30 large koi, a small turtle and several bull frogs in the pond.

DO YOU SPEAK ANY LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH?

Dutch (of course) and I reasonably get by with my Dutch high school French and German.

WHO HAS HAD THE MOST INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIFE? David Myers, America's Hearing Loop Advocate extraordinaire. Without his support and tutelage I would not be undertaking a year of hearing loop advocacy

PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED THAT I... occasionally do talk about something else other than the looping of America!

MY LITTLE KNOWN TALENT IS... baking bread and making yoghurt.

I HAVE A WEAKNESS FOR... licorice (the Dutch, salty kind).

I WOULD LOVE TO MEET... Bill and Melinda Gates or Warren Buffet and find out if they, or a close friend has hearing loss. If they only knew how hearing loops could benefit users of hearing aids young and old alike they might just support this effort around the country.

I AM... dependable, hardworking and kind.

MY FRIENDS WOULD SAY I AM... Don't ask her about loops, you'll just encourage her!

MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME... to keep a clean and organized house. (Thanks mom!)

MY FATHER TAUGHT ME... to love the music of Jim Reeves.

THE BEST THING SINCE SLICED BREAD IS...
my amazing iPhone.

I HAVE THE UNCANNY ABILITY TO... cook a wonderful meal in a short time with foods I find in my fridge.

MY LONG-TERM GOAL IS... to make America more accessible for people with hearing loss.

MY BIGGEST PET PEEVE IS... audiologists who dismiss hearing loops.

I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED... as someone who helped thousands of her patients enjoy life because of the audiology services she provided.

I love Hearing Loss Magazine!

I would love to see a column dedicated to hearing loop progress in the country.

