



The Southside Scene

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A Little of This, A Little of That....

Well spring has sprung in Western NY and at Southside Hearing Center. Unfortunately spring has not been the delight it often is for us. We have been having strange events here that have forced us to change appointments, cancel office hours, and rearrange our lives. Each one of us has had to deal with family illnesses, deaths, emergent mishaps and childcare particulars. We want to say THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all who have been affected and were flexible enough to work around our sudden changes and cancellations. We appreciate your understanding!

At the time of this writing, the word is that Kira is better. Some of you are aware that she was in the hospital for 5 days. We are currently going through blood testing on a regular basis. Hopefully we will continue to see good things in her blood work. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. In the meantime she is acting as your typical 14.5-month-old who has to copy everything her big sister does. She has recently discovered airplanes flying overhead, and bullfrogs in the garden. How fun! Marena has been the loving big sister who will go from hugging and kissing to grabbing and pulling things out of her sister's hands. Yes, we've moved from the terrible 2s, to the 3s...whatever they're called!

Speaking of the garden...the garden is in and looking quite nice. If you'll recall, last year's garden was a huge disappointment. This year's is looking much more promising and exciting! One thing that I am excited about is the Italian Roaster peppers. I remember as a child my grandfather grew them, dried them hanging on a string in the garage, and then ate them with olive oil and bread. I had not found any to plant prior to this year. I'm hoping they are as good as I remember! In the past we have had critter problems also. We have not had any signs of resident groundhogs yet this year. Let's keep our fingers crossed. I look forward to talking with you about your gardens—vegetable as well as flower. My perennials are very full this year, and when the garden blooms it will be quite colorful and attractive. ■

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In the Livingston
Health Services
Building

Quote of the Quarter

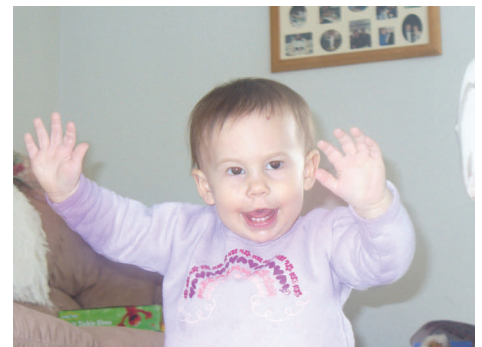
"Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead."

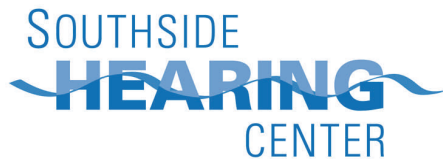
Louisa May Alcott
Author



At least the birthday celebrations this spring were enjoyable!

Marena's 3rd birthday (left) and Kira's 1st birthday (right)





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What's New in Audiology?

This question is not your typical run-of-the-mill question. Technology is always the answer, however. The manufacturers are always launching “new” hearing products. Interestingly, the manufacturers are responding to the economic times by launching scaled down versions of their top product lines to make the products more affordable. This was certainly the theme for every manufacturer at the convention in Dallas back in early April. One of the most exciting products, however, was not a hearing aid, but an accessory to the hearing aids. Oticon launched products that allow you to use certain Oticon hearing aids with a wireless connector to the TV, and even telephone. It's similar to the TV Ears you may have seen advertised, but used with your hearing aids instead. Of course the catch is that it only works with Oticon hearing aids that are capable of this system. It's exciting, but not universal to all hearing aids. I listened to the system and it is very nice. I hope to have a demo of it in the near future. Oticon is not the only manufacturer to have such a system...Siemens does as well, and I'm sure the others will soon if they don't already have them. ■

Janet's Two Cents—Summer Hearing Protection

Impulse noises are more hazardous than most people realize and they are also very common. Often I've heard from patients (with hearing loss) that they have fired weapons without using hearing protection. The blast from just one gunshot increases your risk of developing permanent hearing loss. Other summertime activities can be quite loud as well, such as lawnmowers, saws, trimmers, farm equipment and fireworks. Most people don't know about the risks of these loud noises, thinking if it's just for a short duration it won't harm their ears. Remember that there are plenty of excellent hearing protection options available. Just ask us! ■

