

The Roslyn News

Hearing Aid Success Story

About 10 years ago, Dominick Zollo, 87, a Bayside resident, realized that he was having difficulty hearing. Recently, the problem worsened and he continued to turn up the TV volume to the point that his wife had trouble sleeping. As a former science and math teacher at P.S. 40 in Jamaica, Dominick recognized the importance of communication and dialogue with others and became frustrated with his hearing loss.

Last year, he decided to get his hearing checked by Dr. Alison Hoffmann, audiologist and co-owner of Advanced Hearing Center, with offices in Albertson and Floral Park. Suffering from a moderate sensorineural hearing loss, Dominick started to wear digital Widex Inteo hearing aids.

"At first, it was somewhat uncomfortable and I had to get acclimated to wearing the device," said Zollo. By seeing Dr. Hoffmann twice a month for coaching and fine tuning of the aids for the first few months, he learned how to insert them properly and understand that he had to wear the aids at least eight hours a day.

"Now that I'm wearing them most of the day, my life is changed and I have returned to participating in life activities I enjoy," said Zollo. "I can watch Keith Olberman and Rachel Maddow on CNBC without disturbing my wife. I am even considering going back to school for a PhD in languages."

To improve his hearing, Zollo also attended the hearing aid optimization and aural rehab workshops sponsored by Advanced Hearing Center, in their Albertson facility, which contributed to his ability to



Dominick Zollo

take the hearing aids out of the box and get the most from them. These free workshops are available for anyone who wears hearing aids along with their loved ones or friends and provides valuable tools to ensure success with the latest high tech devices.

During the workshops, Drs. Sapodin and Hoffman discuss many topics including:

- Early intervention - "if you don't use it, you lost it." Stimulate the nerves in the ear and exercise them by wearing the hearing aids for a minimum of eight hours each day. This is critical to your success.

- Build up to more difficult environments gradually. Because you will be hy-

persensitive to most sounds at the beginning, it's important to gradually move into noisier situations.

- Program the hearing aids based on individual needs to utilize more of the technology options.

- Learn facilitative communication strategies.

- Counsel family and friends on hearing loss and use effective communication skills to optimize hearing. The hearing aid user can influence the speaker by being their own advocate. Use signals to encourage someone to: articulate better by asking them to face you, speak slower, avoid covering their mouth.

- Learn repair strategies, care and main-

tenance of hearing aids.

- Tailor messages so they are easily recognized and learn how to repair communication breakdowns.

- Hearing aids that accept Bluetooth signals from other devices like a cell phone or TV.

Advanced Hearing will continue to conduct free hearing aid optimization workshops at their facility, 1163 Willis Avenue, Albertson. The hour-long sessions are scheduled for the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Oct. 20, 10 to 11 a.m.

Nov. 3, 6 to 7 p.m.

Nov. 17, 10 to 11 a.m.

Call 484-0811 to make a reservation.