

Organization is music to the ears of those in need

Kelly Hould

The Recorder

The Beaches communities came together last week at “Hear by the Sea” in hopes of lending an ear to those in need.

The event, held at Casa Marina in Jacksonville Beach, featured food, wine, entertainment and a silent auction, all to benefit Lend an Ear Outreach of Jacksonville Beach. The organization is the brainchild of founder Lisa Sheek, service coordinator for Pablo Tower senior housing facility in Jacksonville Beach. Lend an Ear partners with caring audiologists and volunteers to bring affordable hearing aids to those in need.

“Hear by the Sea” was Lend an Ear’s largest and most ambitious event to date.

“We sold all of our tickets—we didn’t know what to expect,” Sheek said at the event. “Right now the focus is on outreach for the community. We’re in our first year, so we’ve been touched by seeing so many people come out and provide so much support.”

Their audiologist assesses participants for free, Sheek said. The audiologist is then able to take hearing aids that have been donated by the community and recast them, a process that gives the hearing aid a custom fit for a new owner, for as low as \$100. This offers a savings that sometimes amounts to thousands of dollars.

“Supply is our biggest need,” Sheek said.

Kerry Brothers, program assistant



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Hear By the Sea featured a silent auctions with works from recognized local artists as well as prize packages from local businesses.

at the Players Community Senior Center, spoke at the event. Brothers gives a face to the issue of people under 50 who have experienced hearing loss, a group that is often not well recognized by the public, Sheek said. Brothers experienced hearing loss after college and was unable to afford the hearing aid that she desperately needed. Brothers learned to read lips in order to compensate for her hearing loss.

“I thought this organization was unreal,” said Brothers. “I went five years without hearing aids. I believe in what they’re doing. Hearing loss doesn’t discriminate.”

When Brothers heard about Lend an Ear, she wanted to be a part of the program to represent the young patients that can be helped as a result of the programs.

Brothers suffers from otosclerosis and Meniere’s disease. Otosclerosis is a hereditary middle ear disorder that affects only about 1 of 100 people who have it. Meniere’s is a disorder of the middle ear that affects balance and hearing. Combined, the diagnosis meant that Brothers suffered a 50 to 60 percent hearing loss in each ear.

“It’s not like glasses where you can try a pair on,” Brothers said. It’s difficult

Hearing Aid Drop Box Locations

Pablo Towers

115 Third St., Jacksonville Beach
(904) 249-3866

Pablo Hamlet

1600 Shetter Ave., Jacksonville Beach
(904) 241-5207

Ortho Home Health Care

422 Jacksonville Dr., Jacksonville Beach
(904) 899-5520

Jacksonville Spine Center

10475 Centurion Parkway North # 201,
Jacksonville
(904) 233-3321

Haven Hospice-Orange Park

1801 Wells Road, Orange Park
(800) 727-1889

Fleet Landing

1 Fleet Landing Blvd., Atlantic Beach
(877) 531-8137

Vicars Landing

1000 Vicars Landing Way, Ponte Vedra Beach

Quinn-Shalz

Ponte Vedra Boulevard & A1A, Jacksonville
Beach

Hardage Giddings

1701 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach

for someone who has never had a hearing aid before to understand the type of difference it will make in their life. Brothers described receiving a hearing aid as a very emotional time—for herself and for many who receive their first hearing aid.

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Pulitzer-winning historian to lecture on Lincoln at UNF

Carrie Resch

The Recorder

What can the past teach us about the future?

That is a subject that world-renowned historian and Pulitzer-Prize winning author, Doris Kearns Goodwin will be discussing during her lecture at the University of North Florida on Oct. 17.

She will discuss “Former U.S. Presidents and Their Mark on the World” as part of the UNF Distinguished Voices Lecture Series. The event is free and open to the public.

Goodwin said that since it feels as if we are currently in a time of crisis she is going to focus on two of the greatest leaders in times of crisis — Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt. She said the two leaders share certain traits in common. Lincoln, for example, saw the U.S. through the Civil War and Roosevelt was brought us through the Depression and WWII. She hopes the lecture will give today’s Americans a new perspective on current events.

Goodwin has a Ph.D in Government from Harvard University where she

taught government and a course on the American presidency. Goodwin also worked as an assistant to President Lyndon Johnson during the last year of his presidency, later assisting him with his memoirs.

She has written several award-winning and bestselling books including: Lyndon Johnson and The American Dream (1976), The Fitzgeralds and The Kennedys (1987), No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II (1995), Wait Till Next Year: A Memoir (1997), and Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln (2005).

Goodwin won the Pulitzer Prize for History for “No Ordinary Time.” “The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys” was made into a six-hour miniseries airing on ABC in 1990.

“Lincoln”, a major motion picture movie based on Goodwin’s book “Team of Rivals” is coming to theatres Nov. 9. The movie is directed by Steven Spielberg and stars Daniel Day-Lewis as Abraham Lincoln. Goodwin said she is very excited about the movie.

“I’ve been involved with it all the way through, both with Steven Spielberg and with Tony Kushner who wrote the script,” she said.

She had the chance to visit the set when they were filming in Richmond and she said that the White House set was just as she imagined it—that they really paid attention to detail to recreate the 1865 White House.

“I just felt like I’d walked back into this period of time,” she said. They recreated the rug, the wallpaper and even the first-edition books that Lincoln would have had on the bookshelves, she said.

A movie tie-in book that will feature Daniel Day-Lewis as Lincoln on the cover is due out Oct. 16. As for Daniel Day Lewis’ portrayal of Lincoln, “He looks magical,” she said. “You feel like you could be watching Lincoln. In fact, that’s what I felt when I watched the movie itself,” she said. “That’s how good he is.”

When choosing a subject to write about, Goodwin says that she must first figure out a particular angle to focus

on because many of the subjects that she has written about have had several books already written about them. In Team of Rivals, she decided to write about the fact that Lincoln put his rivals in his cabinet. In the case of her new book about Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, the focus is on the fact that these two men were friends before running against each other in 1912 and splitting the Republican ticket.

The new book is scheduled to come out next Fall. She gets her information for her books from documents, diaries, old newspaper clippings and letters — all things that Goodwin as a historian gets excited about reading. She loves delving into the past to get a first-hand account of their thoughts and feelings.

“It’s great fun,” she said.

Doris Kearns Goodwin is speaking at UNF Wednesday, Oct. 17 from 7:30-9 p.m. at the UNF Arena. The event is free and open to the public, but e-tickets are required to attend. For more information or to get e-tickets, visit www.unf.edu/lectures or call (904) 620-2117.