May 21, 2016

Tess Talk! WTIS 1110 AM

[www.TessTalk.com](http://www.TessTalk.com)

(Realtime captioning provided by Realtime Communication Services, Inc., [www.RealtimeCSI.com](http://www.RealtimeCSI.com))

I truly believe we are all angels put here on earth to love and serve each other.  I have met so many people who are doing good works in our community through creating non-profit charitable organizations and I have been very fortune to meet so many people with inspirational lives. Through sharing their stories and God's word, it is my hope to inspire others through these inspirational speakers to motivate and inspire you to reach your full potential in your personal and professional life.

Welcome to "Tess Talk!"

[Music]

And all the people said Amen! Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends. And all the people said Amen!

TESS: Good morning, Tampa Bay, USA, and the world.  This is Tess with WTIS, and you are listening to "Tess Talk," or reading the realtime captioning "Tess Talk."  Yes, we have realtime captioning for the deaf and hard of hearing community.  And this morning, our realtime captioning is provided by Alan Peacock.  And he is typing all of the way from Alabama.

     >> Wow!

     >> Hi, Alan.

     >> Good morning.

     >> Good morning.

     >> He can hear us all the way from over there?  Isn't that cool?

     >> Wow.

BEIMEI: I need to find somebody from China to do that job for you, and then we will hear all the way from China.

TESS: That would be so cool.  We have had other people from other countries.  Before we start, I will introduce everybody.  This morning we have Mary Twohey from the U.S. Navy, and thank you so much for your service. And Cynthia Moynihan, thank you for coming.  She is President of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida.  And we're going to talk all about a new hearing loss campaign today.

CYNTHIA:  Good to be here Tess, thank you.

TESS: And we have Mike.

MIKE:  Good morning.

TESS: And Mike brought his twin boys.

MIKE: Sebastian and William.  Say hi.

BOYS: Hi.

TESS:  And as always, we have Beimei.  She is my Ed McMahon.

BEIMEI:  Good morning, Tampa Bay.  And I'm loving the month of May.  Do you get it?  Tampa Bay and month of May?

TESS: And Kathy, thank you.

KATHY: Welcome back.

     >> Good morning, Kathy.

     >>   It's a beautiful morning, isn't it?

     >> It's kind of overcast, but I think this weekend is going to be absolutely beautiful.

     >> Yeah, yeah.  Thank goodness for AC!

     >> Time for boating.

TESS:  Yes.  Time for a boat ride.  Before we start with the show, as always we are going to begin with a prayer. Please bow your heads and join me in prayer.

Dear God, please help us all to behave on the radio show today.  Amen.

(Laughter.)

     >> Especially Tess.  Amen.

 (Laughter.)

     >> Amen.

     >> I usually say just me, but now I have new friends so you never know.

     >> Good point.

TESS: And Bill has already joined us in the chatroom for the realtime captioning.  Thank you so much, Bill, as always, for joining us.

     >> Good morning, Bill.

     >> Yay, Bill!

TESS: Thank you, Bill, for being such a loyal audience since day one for us.  Thank you.

     >> We need to text Ken from Arizona and tell him to get his butt awake this morning.

     >> Are you allowed to say that word?

     >> I think so.  My rules.

TESS: But this week, I just wanted to tell you, Saturday I had so much fun.  I went on a "pedal pub."

     >> What is that?

TESS:  It's a pedal pub -- a strange looking vehicle, actually like a moving bar is what it is.  And everybody sits around the bar.  This is downtown St. Pete.  We have one driver.  And the only way this vehicle moves is everybody has to pedal.

BEIMEI: Cool!

TESS: So it's work.

BEIMEI: Actually pedaling.

TESS: Like a bicycle pedal.

BEIMEI: On the sidewalk?

TESS: Actually on the road. We're all sitting around a bar.  It looks like a bar and we're all drinking too.

BEIMEI: Isn't that illegal?

TESS: That's what we were wondering, too.

BEIMEI: Crazy.  But what a great idea.  I want to get on that, now you just need sushi and you're set to go.

BEIMEI: Let's do it.

TESS: I met 12 new friends.  I was so good.  I was memorizing everybody's names, and I remembered all the way through.  Which is really cool.

     >> With alcohol, too?

TESS: I do remember most of them actually.

BEIMEI: Very impressive.

TESS: Talking about memory, I was at a VA Hospital, Bay Pines Hospital, about a week and a half ago.  And I walked in, chief of audiology, didn't know who I was and I saw the name Michelle, and I looked at her and I said, wow, I met you 20 years ago at a class at USF, a doctorate class, right before she became a doctor, and I was realtime captioning in her class for another student. And it's -- I couldn't believe that I would remember this, but I remembered who it was.  She looked at me, and I said I can't even remember yesterday, so I don't know how I remembered that!

BEIMEI: Must have been something she did that impressed you?  The way she dressed or --

TESS: Maybe.  I was so excited for her because I think that was her last class, and it was my first class doing realtime captioning at USF and I remembered Dr. Chisolm, the professor there.

BEIMEI: It was your first time and that's why you remember.  We all remember our first time.

TESS: And then, the association for late deafened adults had a meeting a week ago Tuesday and I forgot to say this last week but Pete O'Shea, the talk show host Monday through Friday, he was our guest speaker and he was awesome. He told his inspiring story.  He was my first guest on the first show, and I really appreciated him coming, because the week before that or the weekend before that, he got into this horrible accident.  And he was in a lot of pain. And he still is.  So anyway he talked right through it, came anyway, did the whole thing.

     >> Wow.  You cannot tell at all that day when he was sitting there, so relaxed and just basically put everybody at ease and really kicked off the show so well.  That was a great first show.

TESS: It was.  It was.

BEIMEI: I miss you.

TESS: And it helps that he is a comedian, too.

BEIMEI: Definitely helps.

TESS: That's always a lot of fun.  And I'm going to read the daily word. So I looked through the words of the week and I chose Friday.  Friday's word is guidance.  Let's begin. In my prayers today, I pray to God for guidance in every area of my life. God, thank you for your light that dispels all darkness and reveals the shining brightness of your wisdom. Your light illumines my thoughts, keeping them positive and focused on your will in my life. Thank you for guiding my words, giving them wings so that they soar with truth. May they continue to bless and encourage the lives of everyone who hears them. Guide me to a path that leads toward the goal of being an ambassador of peace. Every step I take moves me in the right direction because you are the guiding light that shines on me and blesses me with inspiration. The quote from the Bible:  "I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."  Palm 32:8.

And my kids are all grown now and all on their own, when I talk to them, even when they were younger I told them always, always pray for guidance.  Whenever you have a question and you're trying to make a decision and don't know what to do, just pray for guidance and God will show you.  God will appear, somehow, some way, it will all work out.

BEIMEI: I agree.

     >> Me, too.

     >> Absolutely.

     >> Very wise.

TESS: Beimei, you had a quick little story?

BEIMEI: I actually had a really, really good week, and this good week had a lot to do with my little angel "Sophie."  So at the beginning of the week, she finished a science project.  She finished early and did a fabulous job. She was so proud of it.  And the thing is, three weeks ago when she first got the assignment, she was stressed out, okay? She is only 9 and stressed out.  She was stressed out, but we talked about it.  And I kind of took the opportunity to teach her how to manage her stress, okay?  Right?

     >> Very important.

BEIMEI: It is.  We came up with a detailed plan. She followed through every day.  And she not only had so much fun doing the project, she did a fantastic job and she was so proud of that.  That was the number one thing, that we had so much fun doing together.  And then she was picked for school chorus for a recorder show, and lots of tears were shed.  She wasn't quite ready.  But, still, even after all of that, she practiced really hard.  She did not give up. She was at the show and did fabulous job.  So I was so proud of her that she didn't give up, right, and she did a really, really good job.  And she lost her tooth.  I'm going to read this really quickly because we only have a minute.

TESS: 30 seconds.

BEIMEI: She lost a tooth on Wednesday and got a note and the money and she wrote a thank-you note to the fairy, and she said, "Write me back!" And then she said, "Dear Tooth Fairy, thank you very much for the money and note.  I want to tell you that you are doing a great job putting smiles on all of the kids' faces.  Instead of thinking, ouch, it hurts, now they're thinking, "Great, the Tooth fairy is going to visit me."  You make people believe.  It's hard.  I and the world appreciate you.  PS, can you tell me your real name?  And it can't be Tooth fairy."

TESS: That is so funny.

BEIMEI: I was laughing so hard.  And I loved her for her basically telling the tooth fairy that she's doing a great job.

TESS: That is so nice.

BEIMEI: Before we go on break I want to say, at our home, whenever the kids lost a tooth, they put their note under the pillow with their tooth, it was so funny because sometimes the tooth fairy got so busy and had date night and so she wouldn't be able to make all of the rounds on her date nights, especially on the weekend, she had a lot of dates.

     >> I bet.

BEIMEI: I think that tooth fairy's name is Tess.

     >> Maybe?

TESS: I don't think so, Beimei.  But when we come back from the break we will speak to Mary Twohey, and wait until you hear her story!  Definitely inspiring.  So stay tuned.

[Music]

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Announcer: You're listening to inspiration AM 1110 WTIS.  Tampa.

[Music]

Can I get a halleluiah? Can I get an amen? Feels like the Holy Ghost running through you when I play the highway FM. I find my soul revival, singing every single verse. Yeah, I guess that’s my church!

TESS: Welcome back everybody.  This is Tess with WTIS, and you're listening to "Tess Talk" or you're reading "Tess Talk."  The realtime captioning, we have Tim in the chat room and Ron and Bill and, Beimei, would you give us the numbers to call or text in?

BEIMEI: It would be my pleasure.  During the show, you can call the WTIS hotline, which is 855-265-2929.  Or you can text us during the show at 727-379-1154.  But just remember to put your name and also where you are texting from on your text so we know.

TESS: That's right.  We have had people from all across the United States and other countries in the world.

BEIMEI: That's exciting!

 TESS:   Let us know where you're calling or texting in from. I just ended that in a preposition and I don't like doing that.  Let us know from where you are calling or texting. I'm sorry, I'm a stickler for grammar and that bothered me.  So I will try better next time.

So, Mary Twohey, welcome to the show!

MARY:  Thank you very much.

TESS: Thank you for your service in the U.S. Navy.

MARY:  I appreciate that.

TESS: Tell us about your experience in the Navy.

MARY:  Well, my family is a military family.  And the circumstances at the time when I was young,I was ready to leave where I was, and I joined when I was 16 years old on a delayed entry program.

TESS: Wow.

MARY:  And about five minutes after I graduated from high school I was on a bus to get to boot camp.

TESS: You graduated from high school at 16.

MARY: 17.  I joined when I was 16 and it was a delayed entry program.

TESS: Got it.

MARY: So after I graduated.

BEIMEI: Five minutes after you graduated?

MARY:  Pretty much.  Pretty much.  It was a great experience.  I had my 18th birthday right after I got out of boot camp.  I was very young.  It was a huge adventure: And I felt like I was doing my part.  I became a gunner’s mate which was in response to not wanting to have had a desk job, and so it was a terrific experience.

I was the fourth female gunner’s mate in the entire United States Navy, and they did not know what to do with a female gunner’s mate.  So let's send her to a missile system that is extinct.  Anyway, that’s how I got to learn all sorts of electronics, hydraulics, pneumatics and all exciting stuff; served on board ship after I served at missile school. And I was able to see parts of the western Pacific.  It was just an exciting time.  It really opened my eyes to the world and all of that.

BEIMEI: Mary, can you quickly explain to me, what is a gunner’s mate?

MARY:  There are three types of gunner’s mates. We're going back 30 years ago.  I was a gunner’s mate which means that I was trained with small arms and which is quite amusing because I'm not a very violent person and guns make me afraid, and I couldn't shoot very well.

TESS: Now you're scaring me.

MARY:  I can clean them very well and put them back together.  And that was my --

BEIMEI: I feel better now.  After shooting, we just hand the gun to you so you can clean it and put it back together.

MARY:  As long as it's .9-millimeter.

TESS: Beimei and I are joining a gun club that we're forming.  You can join us and do the cleaning, Mary.

MARY: I don't know if you want to have that type of gun.

TESS: After you were discharged, how long after you were discharged did you get into the accident?

MARY: After I got out, I started working full-time at a fast-food restaurant, and then started – at the same time I was working full-time in another restaurant. When I had saved up enough money, I was going to a business school, and this is back when they were teaching WordPerfect and word processing.

So after I finished business school, I got a terrific job at this pretty large accounting firm.  And I was there for a month and right after -- they had 30 days before your insurance kicked in. And about five minutes after the insurance kicked in, I had my spinal cord injury.  I had a dirt bike accident. So it was just an amazing sequence of events, and I have had, you know, kind of a guiding star looking out after me.

TESS: Thank God that insurance kicked in.

MARY:  Absolutely.

TESS: So you were riding a dirt bike?

MARY:  Yes, in the canyons and on a bike bigger than I should be on.  I was riding my boyfriend's bike.  So -- I don't know if you want to hear the specifics of the --

TESS: Sure, sure.

BEIMEI: Sure.

MARY:  So I dropped the bike when I was going up a hill and got back on the bike and started going backdown the canyon.  Everything was just fine.  All of a sudden the engine filled with gas, and it wouldn't slow down.  And so I --

BEIMEI: Hang on.  Engine?  So you're not talking about a bicycle dirt bike?

MIKE:  Like a motorcycle.

BEIMEI: I thought it was a bike, like a bicycle.

MIKE:  No, it goes on trails.

MARY:  It was a Yamaha 250 dirt bike.  And that was my boyfriend's bike.  I was used to a 125, a Yamaha 125.  So anyhow I thought, I will go up this hill and burn the gas off the engine, and that didn't work well because I didn't know the area, where I was going.  And what happened was I hit a split rail fence, and then a ditch and then landed on a building foundation.  And that's what broke my neck. In any case, somebody found me.  I have no idea how long I was there.  And we decided maybe it wouldn’t be a wise idea to pick me up.  Because my first reaction was, oh, let's get up and dust our bottom off and get going.  But we decided, thankfully, not to do that.

A helicopter was called, because we were very close to the boarder of Mexico and there wasn't a whole lot of access by roads.  And it was just like, cool, I get to ride in a helicopter.

BEIMEI: How old were you at the time?

MARY:  I had just turned 22.  It was a month after I had turned 22.

TESS: Wow.

BEIMEI: Wow.

MARY:   I learned I was going to be paralyzed and I was in the hospital a week.

BEIMEI: I cannot imagine.

     >> Being 22!

MARY:  It was really a change.  And I was so startled by the whole thing.  It was an immediate change in my life.  And the fortunate part was that I was in California when it happened at a very good -- I was at a very good rehab center.  At that point, insurance companies were taking care of their patients.

BEIMEI: Doing their job, you mean?

MARY:  Yes.  So I had great rehab and got out of that. Tell me if I need to abbreviate the story.

BEIMEI: Okay.  Kathy was just saying we have one more minute left.

MARY:  After I got out of rehab I started swimming first, started getting confidence about myself and my life and I started going to community college.  Then I thought, well, because I had never gone to college, I got my BA and then I moved to Florida to be closer to family. Well, it was all planned so --

BEIMEI: What a brave woman you are.

TESS: I love your attitude because you're always saying but the good part about it was this, the good part was this. When we come back it will be time for the Schluvitt show.  Stay tuned.

[Music]

All of the people said Amen!

Inspiration A.M. 1110 WTIS Lakeland, Tampa, this is inspiration radio.

(Break)

All of the details emerging about the smoke letters that went off are adding to the mystery and speculation surrounding the circumstances.

Federal agents found ammunition a car believed to have driven a car outside of the white house and refused to drop his weapon.  A uniformed Secret Service agent shot him in the stomach.  Jessie is recovering this morning. Tourists saw the shooting including this woman. All of a sudden we saw a gunshot.

Stocks ended up on Friday after a concern.  The Dow closed up 65 points.  I'm Christopher Crews.

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[Music]

Because I'm happy now. I'm happy now. Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth because I'm happy now. Clap along if you know what happiness is to you because I'm happy. Clap along if you feel like that's what you want to do.

[Music]

TESS: Welcome back.  This is Tess with WTIS. You're listening to Tess talk, or you are reading "TessTalk" with the realtime captioning by Alan Peacock from Alabama.

     >> Thank you, Alan.  You're doing a great job.

     >> Thank you.

TESS: And thank you for including the news and all of the commercials.  Believe it or not, I know that the hearing people, sometimes they like to just skip through the commercials.  But the deaf and hard of hearing, when I heard from them, they said it was nice to be included and look at all the commercials and read about them because they're left out quite a bit with the realtime captioning.

     >> That's true.  That's what I noticed last time as I was reading the commercials and I was like, oh, I'm actually interested in that because I'm not hearing what is being said, since I'm reading the captioning, yes.

TESS: And I wanted to mention before we go again, we have Mary Twohey in the room, Cynthia Moynihan, Mike, Beimei.

BEIMEI:  And you can call the hotline at 855-265-2929.  Or you can text us during the show at 727-379-1154. And also, please remember, if the show puts a smile on your face, please show us your support and sponsorship because we need the sponsorship to keep this going.

TESS: We do.  If you're interested in sponsoring, you can e-mail me at tesstalk@WTIS1110.com.  And thanks to the sponsors that we have right now.  We really appreciate them. Before we get to the Schluvittt show, I took a picture of this note that I found from Billy -- my oldest son who is 27 years old now -- when he lost his tooth.  I found this.  I took a picture and sent it to him not too long ago.  And it says -- I'll show you later, but it's all scratched up and everything and it says, Dear tooth fairy.  I lost a tooth that came out three months ago at school.  He lost it actually.  I also have the tooth that came out on Tuesday.  May I please have a credit for two teeth?

     >> Credit?

     [Laughter]

TESS: Then he said I forgot, I've been good.  From Billy.  P.S.:  Can I have my tooth back?  I will not use it again.  It's not a joke.

[Laughter]

TESS: He was using it for a science fair project.

MARY: How sweet.

BEIMEI: Is he good with money?

 TESS: He is a good businessman now.  He is good.

     >> What is his profession?

TESS: He is in sales, and he is a recruiter.

BEIMEI: I'm not surprised.  That's awesome.

TESS: A really smart kid.  He is on the ball.  Now, I'm going to explain what the Schluvittt show is. SCHLUVITTT is an acronym that I came up with for my motivational presentation called "How to Be Happy." And there are 10 elements so I was trying to come up with a way for people to remember the different elements in how to be happy.  Each letter stands for an element.  Each week we're taking one letter from Schluvittt and discussing how to be happy.  We are on the first "T" in "Schluvittt."  This is your new vocabulary word so you're going to repeat after me in unison.  Ready? Schluvittt.

ALL: Schluvittt.

TESS: Go Schluvittt.

ALL: Go Schluvittt.

TESS: Just Schluvittt.

ALL: Just go Schluvittt.  Yay.

[Applause]

     >>   So when someone is being a "negative Nancy" at home or work tell them to just go Schluvittt.

     >> I love it.

[Laughter]

TESS: So we are on the letter "T," the first letter T in Schluvittt.  The first is T for "Train" your brain. You can train your neurotransmitters to go to the positive side of your break, which is the left side by the way.  If your thoughts are negative, they go to the right.  If they're positive they go to the left.  You can train them. And your neurotransmitters are like muscles, and the more you practice, it's like muscle memory.  So pretty soon, your thoughts will automatically start thinking positively which is pretty cool. So I'm going to tell a little story about my middle son, Johnny, now.  My kids love when I tell stories.

     >> I bet they do.

TESS: When they were little, I took them to this church carnival and we had so much fun.  They went on rides and had treats and pizza and popcorn and ice cream and cupcakes.  And, you know, all of the good stuff.  So then when we were coming home, I said, so did everybody have a great time?  And Billy and Calen were going, yeah, we had a great time.  And Johnny said, "But there was no cotton candy." I said "I know, Johnny, I'm sorry, but look at all the other things that we have."  He said, "yeah, but there was no cotton candy." I said, Johnny, you can find something positive in about any situation.  You just need to think about the positive side.  And he was like maybe 4 years old.  He was a really smart little kid by the way.  And big kid.  Even when he was young, he was very intelligent. But he was saying "but, mom, what if we got into a car accident." And I said, well, I would be so thankful that I have car insurance and nobody got hurt. He said, "what if we got into a car accident and we were all hurt and in the hospital"? I said:  I would be so thankful that we have hospitals and doctors and nurses to take care of us and medical insurance.  I would be so grateful for that. And that's the positive side. He goes -- he is getting angry and said what if we get in an accident and we all die!  And I said, oh, my God, that would be so wonderful because we would all be in heaven together and no more pain or suffering! We would be so happy forever, for eternity. And he is going "AHHHH!" But he has been working on the positive side.  He has a lot of tattoos, but the latest is P.M.A., Positive Mental Attitude.

     >> Cool!

BEIMEI: I like that.

TESS: So he has made a complete turn around there.

BEIMEI: You're a good Mom to make him understand the value of that.  I do not want to argue with her.

[Laughter]

TESS: So when I was doing this research, I was looking for a fork in the road, a picture of a fork in the road for a PowerPoint presentation.  Then I found a literal fork sticking in the road at the fork in the road.  So sometimes when I tell them -- different personalities think different things.  I'm orange, and you're orange, Beimei.  When did I this for another group and they were looking at me like what is orange? Yes, I'm a certified True Colors Facilitator. It's team-building and leadership training, and the True Colors is a personality assessment.  And the "orange" people are like, lots of fun, and they really enjoy life and they're pretty much happy go lucky.  And there are gold people who are more serious and they like to follow the rules and they're very routine and dedicated and they don't laugh as much as we do sometimes.

BEIMEI: Life changes.

TESS: Right.  The audience was very gold.  I showed them this picture and said yeah I was looking for a picture of a fork in the road.  And not too many people laughed.  I thought oh, yeah, they're gold. But in the presentation, have -- okay, I have a picture of road rage here.  This is how you train your brain to think differently.  I'm going to start with -- I was working with this attorney about deaf and hard of hearing issues in the hospital setting.  I was sent a book from England and their sign language is completely different from our sign language.  So their sign for "toilet", well our sign for toilet is the letter "T" and you shake it back and forth. And if you have to go ready bad, you really shake it when you cross your legs and hold it in.  But in England it's the middle finger that they wave in front of their lower torso.  It really is.  That's the middle finger.  And I was like, wow, that is really something.

So soon after I learned that I was in Austin, Texas, heading back from an HLAA, Hearing Loss Association of America, conference, and I was in a cab.  I don't know if you were with me, Cynthia, but I had a few other people in there, and somebody was driving by, beeping the horn, and they were beeping the horn and then of course he decided to flip the finger.  And I just started laughing and I said, well, maybe he just has to pee.

BEIMEI: And he has to announce that.  I'm in a hurry, I have to pee.

 [Laughter]

TESS: Now, if I see somebody pull the finger or they're angry, I just -- I don't get upset anymore.

BEIMEI: You lower your window and say, yeah, I understand.  I have to pee, too.

[Laughter]

Oh, my goodness, I like that.

 CYNTHIA: I like that you're talking about that.  I was doing the same thing with my older son.  And we were talking about that positive outlook and he was saying, well, everybody has different perspective, mom.  I said, absolutely right.  But the bottom line is that it's a choice.  It's always a choice.  And sometimes that is hard for people to understand.

     >> It's a choice, and it's a decision.

     >> It's a choice and a decision.

BEIMEI: And I totally agree with you, Tess, that it's something that you can train, you know.  A habit can be trained in, what, 21 days or something, they were saying?  So it's not just a habit of doing something but it's a habit of what you think. So a lot of times our instinct is to react to an immediate thing that happened to you, so you're angry, you know, you have all of these not so positive thinking.  But instinct can be short-sighted.  Instinct can be uneducated. So when you make a decision and say that was instinct, but now since I am smarter, what should I do?  And you can start training your brain and thoughts in a different direction.

TESS: And call me at any time if you would like me to do a presentation for your organization, and I can teach you how to be happy.

     >> Great.

BEIMEI: You are hired.

TESS: Thank you. When we come back we will speak with Cynthia Moynihan from the Hearing Loss Association of America Florida chapter.  Don't go away.

[Music]

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[Music]

 Can I get a halleluiah?  Can I get an Amen? Feels like the Holy Ghost running through you when I play the highway FM.

 I find my soul revival singing every single verse. Yeah, I guess that’s my church!

TESS: Welcome back. This is Tess with WTIS, and you're listening to "Tess Talk," or you're reading the realtime captioning. Thank you so much, Alan.  You're doing an awesome job, and Cynthia is actually reading all of this. Before we continue with Cynthia, Beimei?

BEIMEI: Call us at this number, 855-265-2929, or you can --

MIKE:  Text us at 727-379-1154.

TESS: Great radio voice, Mike!

MIKE:  Thank you.

TESS: You're hired.

     >>   I did want to mention we have quite a large party coming to "Aki Sushi" after the show today.  We will be there close to 12:30.

     >> We have the table ready for all of you.  Your address and phone number?

BEIMEI: The address of my address is 3970 Tampa Road.  Aki Sushi.

     >> And the address again is 3970 Tampa Road.

     >>   Yeah.  See you all there.

TESS:  When we read addresses and numbers we need to read a little slower for the captioner.

BEIMEI:  I'm so sorry, Tess.  I'm usually pretty good with that.

TESS: I'm a realtime captioner so I'm sensitive to that, even though, I'm sorry, I was speaking fast today.  So Cynthia, welcome to the show.   We have a really great campaign going on this month for hearing loss.  Tell us about the campaign.

CYNTHIA:  Thank you, Tess.  I'm so glad to be here. With Hearing Loss Association of America, Florida State Association, we are now working on a let's make hearing loss visible campaign.  It kicked off this month, and it's going to carry through for the following year, and each month, we will focus on a different aspect of hearing loss.  So the goal is, it all started really because of my hearing dog Larue.  After I got Larue, when I was out in public, a lot of times people were coming up and they were asking me, "oh, your dog is in training?" And I would say, yes, she's in training.  I'm teaching her to lip read.  They would look at me with that strange look and say wait a minute.  Is she a hearing dog?  And I would say yes.  That would lead to talking about hearing loss.

And then the second part would be the confusion as to why I would need a dog for help.  Because if you have a hearing loss what does that really mean?  So it made it very obvious that hearing loss is not visible. I have heard that all of my life but now it was all of a sudden it’s in the forefront and I'm watching while interacting with those people, and they're saying wait a minute, I don't understand what hearing loss is.  And then it would lead to stories that they knew about someone who had a hearing loss and you could see the light go on like, "I need to go home and pay more attention to this."  If I'm a hearing person and I interact with someone who has a hearing loss, what do I want to do so they can understand me, so they can interact and be a part of my world?  What do I do if I know someone who has a hearing loss but isn't acknowledging it? And then what do I do if I'm the one that has a hearing loss?

So in this "let's make hearing loss visible" campaign, that's the whole idea, to make them aware of the fact that, hey, when you have a hearing loss, you want to stand up and take pride in that, you want to be proud of that, because I really commend all of the audiologists and the hearing aid dispensers around the state of Florida, because I don't know of anyone that walks into their office and says, I am so glad to be here.  They are not going to walk in and say, please tell me I have a hearing loss.  They're going to say, I have held off coming to see you for as long as possible until a family member or a friend or someone else said you need to go and get help.  The difference also is that it's not like glasses.  Because I happen to have glasses and the hearing aids.  So I have that double hitter.  But if I'm not wearing my glasses that means I cannot see the street signs, I cannot see faces.  So it makes it very obvious.  It's very apparent that there is something that I need to do to fix the situation.

With a hearing loss, it's just like we were in this room today, and we had a little background noise and the hearing people in the room immediately turned toward that background noise while I'm sitting there with a smile on face and going, yes, what?  I'm sorry?  Is there something I missed here?  So it's raising that level of awareness.

And the other thing we wanted to do was, we have the Hearing Loss Association of America, and we have ALDA, and NAD and FAD.  There are a wide array of organizations that all work with hearing loss people, and what we want to do is be able to work with them in terms of whenever we need a big voice to make a difference.

TESS: Cynthia I wanted to explain the acronyms for people not familiar with the acronym.  So ALDA is the association of late deafened adults.  And NAD is the National Association of The deaf.  And FAD is the Florida Association of the Deaf. We also have FCCDHH which is the Florida Coordinating counsel for the deaf and hard of hearing.

     >> Wow.  Yes.

     >> So there's a wide variety of help out there and ironically the FLAA, Florida audiology, that is a Florida statewide organization of audiologists that participate, and they are also getting very proactive in working with the non-profit hearing loss groups around Florida, and reaching out and trying to help people with hearing loss, especially in Florida, because you have an average of, they're saying between 200 and 400,000 people thousand people with hearing loss in Florida.

TESS: Actually just in the Tampa Bay Area.  I have heard estimates of 350,000 in the Tampa Bay Area.  I don't know in the state, but in the United States, right now, some of the organizations have 48 million as the latest.

MIKE:  That's a huge number.

TESS: It is… It is.

CYNTHIA:  An average of 20%.  For children, it's an average, in the classroom or in a school, an average of 30 children out of every thousand is dealing with a hearing loss. And it's growing exponentially.  We decided to get the message out, "protect your ears so you can hear."

TESS: With the ear buds and that are put directly in your ear so you can hear --

CYNTHIA: The average age the person going into the audiology office is becoming very young today.  Because the noise impact. Even for adults, it's interesting, because they did a study recently with restaurants.  Restaurants have discovered that noise equates with profit.  So they will increase their noise level and then that brings in more profit.  They went in and did a study on the noise level of the average restaurant, and it's actually at damaging levels. It's at hearing loss damaging level for the average person going into some of the places where they go to eat.

So there's so much that is out there now, and that's what we wanted to do is just start making make aware.  There are so many variables and so many factors, and you could go on and on and on. And what we want to do is incrementally focus on different ones for each month.  And again this month is "protect your ears so you can hear."

TESS: I have asked restaurants to turn down the music because it's too loud for me.  And I appreciate everyone that signs.  I am fluent in sign, and I wish everyone would sign.  And sometimes I just sign, and we don't have to worry about it.

     >> It's easier.  It's easier.

CYNTHIA: And then those questions that you were asking about, well, asking about how to communicate with someone that is deaf or hard of hearing?  I remember so many times people that I have met, and once you -- once somebody admits that they're deaf or hard of hearing or shares that information then a lot of times the other person doesn't know what to do and they feel very awkward, and they don't know what to do.

TESS: So it's important to share that.  And first of all it's important to share that you have a hearing loss, because if you don't, some people just think you're ignoring them, and they think you're not a nice person.  The other thing about making hearing loss visible is to ask for realtime captioning.  Whenever I go into, you know, a sports bar or restaurant where they have the – it sounds like I go to bars all the time.

(Laughter)

BEIMEI: You do!

MIKE: I'm glad YOU said that!

TESS: I decided to say it before you said it.

     >> Do they have captioning on the pedal bars?

TESS: Music, but no captioning.  I should sign you can hire us to sign all of the music.  That would be so cool.

One time I was sitting there and doing the captioning for the meeting and some of the people were very hard of hearing and some were just signing, and I looked over -- and it was difficult to understand.  I thought let me just look up at the realtime captioning, and I thought, oh, crap, that's me typing!

     >> I was wondering --

     [Laughter]

TESS:  I cracked up laughing.  And we have just 30 seconds left, and I want to say please come and join us at Communication Access, Inc.  We support people with hearing loss.  And there's a charity golf tournament on Monday, May 23 at 1 o'clock. Visit communication access.org or DivotsForTheDeaf.com. And come on out and join us.  And I want everybody to have a wonderful weekend. We will see you all next weekend.  Thank you Mary, Cynthia, Mike, Beimei, William, and Sebastian and Kathy, thank you very much for always being here for me.  I appreciate it.  See you next week!

     [Music]