**NANCY WILLIAMS**

**Founding Editor, Grand Piano Passion™**

**The online magazine Grand Piano Passion™ is for all pianists, lovers of classical piano music, musicians with hearing loss, and seekers of their passion. Our community embraces adult pianists aged 16 and up, from beginners to performers, from all over the world. Click** [**My First Walk4Hearing**](http://www.grandpianopassion.com/2013/10/23/my-first-walk4hearing-hlaa/) **for her impressions.**

**ELLEN SEMEL**

**Joan Kaplan, who has had hearing loss since childhood, is an enthusiastic**

**fundraiser for the City Slickers team.  Among other ways she fundraised, she**

**decided to ask her fellow Weight Watchers to contribute to the cause.**

**Timidly, she asked at her monthly meeting if each participant would like to**

**donate $1.  Each of them came up to her and dropped money in her shopping**

**bag; they didn't want to hand it to her because they didn't want to announce**

**how much they gave.  When Joan got home and counted the contributions, she**

**was so pleased and astonished to realize all her Weight Watcher buddies gave**

**much more than $1 each, what a gratifying feeling!**

**And special thanks to Hilda Blyn, also of the City Slickers team, who**

**despite her walking difficulties not only got herself to the Walk with her**

**walker and daughter via subway, taxi and lots of walking to reach the**

**information booth for a rest on one of the booth's chairs, but walked a**

**substantial distance of the 3.1 miles.  Thank you, Hilda.  It is members**

**like you who warm our hearts and encourage us to fight the fight to end the**

**stigma of hearing loss.  With canes, with walkers, with strollers/carriages,**

**bicycles, and our hearing aids and cochlear implants -- we show up to lend**

**our faces to the mass of walkers to show the world we are proud and there is**

**no stigma to having a hearing loss.**

**RUTH BERNSTEIN**

**The 2013 Walk for Hearing was special for me because I had the pleasure of hosting HLAA’s new Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall.  I was happy to hear some of the ideas  about HLAA Ms.Hall shared with me over breakfast.   I was also delighted to walk with Leslie, Bob and Leigh Beadle, the daughter, son-in- law and granddaughter of my dear friend Lois Beadle.  Lois, who passed away over a year ago, loved the Walk and shared her enthusiasm with family and friends.   The Beadles drove down from Saratoga, New York to participate in the Walk for the first time, honoring Lois’ memory in a way they knew she would have appreciated.   They were excited  by the number of participants and  the enthusiasm of the crowd and hope to join us again in the future.**

**LESLIE BEADLE**

**I was thrilled to participate in the 2013 Walk for Hearing for the first time.  It was a wonderful way to "walk in my mother's shoes" and continue my family's involvement in the HLAA organization which she was very supportive of.**

**I was happy to honor and remember my mother, Lois Beadle, in this way.  I was impressed by the participation and enthusiasm of all participants.  The event brought awareness to the prevalence of hearing loss and the attention it needs. I look forward to continuing my support of the "Walk for Hearing".**