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Volume 27, Number 5

published monthly except July and August

January 2014

### JANUARY Calendar

#### Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

11:00 am - Refreshments/Social Time  
11:30 am – Announcements/Business Meeting  
12 Noon – 1 pm – Program Speaker

7:00 pm – Refreshments/Social Time  
7:30 pm – Announcements/Business Meeting  
8:00 – 9 pm – Program Speaker

#### Tues., Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> – Board of Directors

7:30 pm – Justin Vigdor Room, Al Sigl Center

Wed., Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> – RWC/CaptiView movie,  
AMC Webster – Between Noon & 3 pm. Email Ginger  
the weekend ahead for exact movie & time.  
[ggraham859@frontiernet.net](mailto:ggraham859@frontiernet.net). See you there!

### SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – BOD meeting, 7:30pm, JV Room,  
Al Sigl Center

Wed., Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – RWC/CaptiView movie.  
AMC Webster – Between Noon & 3 pm.

Thurs., March 6<sup>th</sup> – “Kick-Off” for the WALK

**WEATHER – During the winter, the rule to follow for cancelations of meetings is: IF THE ROCHESTER DISTRICT SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED, OUR MEETING IS CANCELED. (No other notification will be made.)**

### **Hospitality Duties for January:**

Daytime Meeting –B. Law, J. McCarthy  
Evening Meeting –A. Howard, B. Law  
Board of Directors –L. Chaba, C. Coleman

*Please sign up to help when the “Refreshment Sheet” goes around!*

### **WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLA!**



### **JANUARY PROGRAM**

(at St. Paul’s Church, East Ave. & Westminster Rd.)

### **Tues., Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> - Daytime Meeting 11:00 am**

**FAQ: CALLERS ASK ABOUT HEARING LOSS**  
– Barbara Bushart MSW, M Div.

The chapters web site invites visitors to “contact us to ask a question, obtain info, or request help with a problem related to hearing loss.” **Michelle Gross** responds to email questioners at [hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com](mailto:hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com), and until recently **Ginger Graham** and also **Ginny Koenig** answered telephone questions. HLAA-Rochester is a wonderful resource for individuals with newly diagnosed hearing loss.

Addressing some of the questions coming to the phone line and web site is **Barbara Bushart**. She will share her thoughts about hearing loss and its effects on relationships and communication. She invites the audience to ask questions, too. Her presentation is planned to be a bit like a call-in talk show. “I think it can be fun,” Barbara says, “and also informative where some of the concerns that touch us all can be addressed.”

A faculty member at SUNY Empire State College and Associate Pastor of Community of the Savior in Rochester, Barbara also has served on our chapter Professional Advisory Committee and the

*Continued on next page)*

**Tues., January 7<sup>th</sup> – Daytime meeting** (continued)

Legislative Action Committee. Barbara has worked as a disability rights activist for the last 30 years, especially focused on hearing loss issues. Her own hearing began failing when she was 23, and she has worn a Cochlear Implant since 2005. She feels she has a passion to help individuals make a successful adjustment to hearing loss.

**Tuesday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> – Evening Meeting – 7:00 pm****HLAA SCHOLARS TELL THEIR COLLEGE STORIES** – Cindy Kellner

In 1996, **Phyllis and the late J. Stuart MacDonald** initiated the HLAA-Rochester scholarships, granted to high school seniors with hearing loss who are pursuing further education.

Chapter vice-president, **Cindy Kellner**, will moderate as scholarship winners relate their experiences as hard-of-hearing college students. Away from their protective parents, they must advocate for themselves within a larger student body. Frequently, scholars continue their education nearby. Besides RIT and Gallaudet, they have attended Clarkson, Alfred, SUNY Oswego, and Ithaca College among others. Come and listen to their stories.

With the 2013 awards, 86 scholars have received \$70,500. The first grants were \$500 each, but the amount has since doubled to \$1,000. Generous supporters, Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald are the parents of **Sue Miller**. Much of today's scholarship funding also is raised by the Walk4Hearing each year in May.

*HLAA-Rochester chapter meetings are held in the Vestry Room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. at Westminster Road, across from the George Eastman House. All programs are audilooped & captioned. A sign language interpreter is available for evening meetings only. To request an interpreter for an evening meeting, contact Linda Siple at 585 475 6712, a week in advance. (Please note, this phone is only for those needing an interpreter.)*

*The Hearing Loss Association is a nationwide organization dedicated to advocacy, education and support for people with hearing loss. For more information visit our website: [www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org](http://www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org) or telephone 585 266 7890.*

*Hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome. You do not have to hide your hearing loss. You do not have to face hearing loss alone.*

**HLAA NATIONAL CONVENTION**

June 26 – 29, 2014 – Austin, Texas

**Early Bird Registration Deadline- January 31, 2014**

Keynote Speaker: Richard Einhorn, classical composer, “A Life in Music After Hearing Loss.”

Austin—mom-and-pop shops, wine bars, coffee houses, restaurants; some housed in historic homes dating back to the 1800s.

Hotel reservations at: [Renaissance Austin Hotel](http://Renaissance Austin Hotel), 9721 Arboretum Blvd., Austin, TX 78759-6316  
Call 800-228-9290, or, 512-343-2626; or, [www.Bit.ly/CONV2014](http://www.Bit.ly/CONV2014).

Single/Double - \$154 + tax

Double/Triple - \$169 + tax

Texas Swing at Historic Scholz Garten –June 27<sup>th</sup>;  
Texas BBQ and beer; Boot-scootin’ bands & more.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – Kick-off for the WALK

Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Walk4Hearing

Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Cochlear Implant group

Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> – Annual Dinner

Watch upcoming Newsletters for more details!

### **We Welcome All Donations**

Please make your check payable to: HLAA-Rochester  
HLAA is a 501©(3) organization.

Mail to: Ms. Joanne Owens, 1630 Woodard Road,  
 Webster, NY 14580

*Be sure to designate:*

This donation is: In Memory of; or, In Honor of,  
 or, Birthday congratulations.

And who to send the Acknowledgment to. Thank you.

### **VENUES WITH ALS OR CAPTIONING**

*By Tim Whitcher*

Have you seen a movie or a show that has an Assistive Listening System or Captioning system and would like to share your experience with your fellow members? Did your church or synagogue install or upgrade such a system, and you'd like to make that known?

Please contact Tim Whitcher at [hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com](mailto:hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com) with the info that you'd like to share. (Please mark your email to Tim's attention.) Likewise, if you have a question regarding such a venue, please contact Tim.

### **"ARCHIVIST" –A REMINDER!**

Good news! We have a Chapter Archivist! **Janet McKenna** (who comes "all the way from Grand Island" to support our Rochester Chapter!) has offered to take on this task.



Janet will clip, affix into scrap books, and caption articles about our Chapter appearing in area print media, as well as other materials such as programs, invitations, speeches, photos, etc. Janet will be looking for help from all Chapter members supplying info they've accumulated. This leading HLAA Chapter will now be on its way to retaining its 30-year history!

Contact Janet at: [deaphyduck@gmail.com](mailto:deaphyduck@gmail.com)



*For your Donation to HLAA:*

Ontario Hearing Instruments (J. McNamara);  
 United Way

*For Your Donation Above Basic Membership:*

J. Ewing; T. Hargrave, Jr.; H. Humphrey; C. Lee;  
 A. Metcalfe; J. Metcalfe; H. Mowl (Rochester  
 School for the Deaf)

**SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2014!**

**WALK4HEARING 5K**

PERINTON PARK ALONG THE ERIE CANAL  
 FAIRPORT RD at O'CONNOR RD, Route 31F

Come and join us for the HLAA-Rochester chapters only annual fundraiser. Walk4Hearing is now in its **9th year** raising and providing funds for scholarships for high school seniors going on to postsecondary education, captioning for theater performances at the Rochester Broadway Theater League, GEVA, and assisting national HLAA in its support, education and advocacy of millions of people with hearing loss, and lots more.

We need your support! How can you help? Become a team captain and gather a group to walk on Walk Day.

Become a walker and walk along the beautiful Erie Canal. You don't have to walk the entire 5K. Any distance you walk is fine. Don't care to walk? Show up and root for us! There will be lots of fun. Breakfast, clowns, face painting, music, a silent auction full of great gift cards and other goodies from local merchants.

We also need **event sponsors**. If you know of any business you think would be willing to sponsor us please let us know. Email Cindy Kellner at [CKelle1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:CKelle1@rochester.rr.com).

Watch our Newsletters for more details.

## LEADERS COLUMN

By Elise de Papp, M.D.



### The A's – Advocacy, Accessibility, ALD's – and HLAA-Rochester

One of the goals of HLAA is to promote and support **advocacy**, including self-advocacy, for people with hearing loss. An advocacy group can make an impact by creating and finding easily accessible tools to help people better understand their options and connect them with the latest information. Some examples: captions in movie theaters, and, voice-to-text on smart phones.

**Accessibility:** We can make things accessible to our needs. But people need to be accessible, reasonably easy to communicate with. Are we, those with hearing loss, accessible, open to new ideas, easy to communicate with? I think the answer to that is yes, especially by others with hearing loss, but maybe not by the general public, who don't understand that we don't hear as they do. How can we make ourselves more accessible, and avail ourselves of accessibility technology to open up the world? (Maybe visible, instead of invisible, hearing aids would help!)

**ALDs** (assistive listening devices) Primary: Hearing aids and Cochlear Implants. Secondary: Hearing loops, FM and IR systems, pocket talkers and other types of personal microphones, TV and smart phone streamers, amplified and captioned telephones, etc. It's interesting that we, whose preferential communication modality is voice, seem to do most of our communication by e-mail rather than by phone, although Skype is here.

I am sometimes surprised as to how little we advocate for ourselves, especially our own committee members. We have the hearing loop AND captions for our monthly membership meetings. But, what do we do for all the committee meetings that go on continuously in HLAA-R? Walk4Hearing, Finance, Technology, Education & Outreach, Bylaws, Legislative, Gala, Operations Committee meetings (until recently). It's one thing to listen in to a presentation and get what you can out of it; it's another thing to participate in a decision-

making discussion where it's imperative to hear and understand everything that's being said. The Board of Directors meetings use a hearing loop, and soon will have captions (C-print); OC has been using a portable loop recently, and "shouting" less.

Quote from Gael Hannan's "If I Were a Hearing Person" about to enter a noisy room at a party: "I wouldn't have to copy the smiles of others, which are the only thing I can understand in (this) noise."

### RBTL LIVE THEATRE--- CAPTIONED!



All performances are **Sunday, at 1:00 pm**

February 16<sup>th</sup> – "Sister Act"

March 23<sup>rd</sup> – "Once"

April 20<sup>th</sup> – "Phantom of the Opera"

Tickets become available 6 weeks in advance of each show. Request seats in "open captions" viewing section. Call 222-5000; email, [info@rbtl.org](mailto:info@rbtl.org).

### GEVA Theatre Offering Captioned Plays!



All performances are **Saturday, at 2:00pm.**

January 11<sup>th</sup> – "Last Gas"

February 15<sup>th</sup> – "Clybourne Park"

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – "Informed Consent"

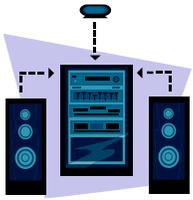
April 26<sup>th</sup> – "The Odd Couple"

Call the Box Office at 232-4382. Ask for seat in the "open captions" viewing section.

### **GROUND HOG DAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**"If 'Candlemas Day' be stormy and black,  
It carries the winter away on its back."**

*(from Old Farmer's Almanac)*



## THE KEY TO CLEARER DIALOG

(submitted by Elise de Papp, M.D.)

Ever find yourself straining to hear the dialog in a film or TV show, no matter how high you crank up the volume? Don't worry—you're not losing your hearing. **It might be your audio setup.**

With a traditional two-speaker system, dialog and background sounds get funneled through the same speakers, resulting in a layering effect that can make speech difficult to understand.

A simple fix: Upgrade to a sound system with a dedicated center channel, like a **soundbar**, or, even better, a five-channel surround system. (If wiring five speakers is too much effort, just use the front three channels.) This trick works because most movie and TV soundtracks devote the center channel exclusively to dialog. Adding that center channel will result in an instant boost in clarity—and a lot less asking, “What did he just say?”

– Michael Hsu – *Wall Street Journal* 10/26-27/13

## “REAR WINDOW CAPTIONING,” now, “CAPTI VIEW”

By Ginger Graham

Kevin Deutsch, Manager, explains the new name for a similar system. The new system in place at AMC Webster theatres is a WiFi enabled system called **CaptiView**, (or, closed captioning by CaptiView).

It is a digital system in a device that looks like a rear view mirror in your car, and it uses a gooseneck holder placed in the cup holder at your seat. If you've used the old Rear Window Captioning device, the new CaptiView will not be new to you. The digital is easier to read.

**Flu Shots** – The CDC recommends getting your flu shot now. Because flu is contagious 1-2 days before symptoms appear, it can be spread before we know we're infected. For more info, go to: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu). It is impossible for the flu shot to give you the flu! It is grown in chicken eggs and killed off before it reaches your bloodstream.

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

To check CC listings at movie theatres, go to: [www.Fandango.com](http://www.Fandango.com).

(submitted by Al Suffredini)

Hearing Loss Signals Need for Diagnosis: Hearing aids and personal amplification devices are not interchangeable. Consumers who suspect HL should visit a health care specialist to avoid serious risks.

Go to: [fda@service.govdelivery.com](mailto:fda@service.govdelivery.com)

**Stem cells** help deaf gerbils hear: A team of researchers reports in the journal *Nature* that they have used embryonic stem cells to restore some hearing in impaired gerbils. But more investigation is needed before the technology can move to humans. Go to: [http://thechart.blogs.cnn.com/2012/09/12/stem-cells-help-deaf-gerbils-hear/?hpt=hp\\_bn12](http://thechart.blogs.cnn.com/2012/09/12/stem-cells-help-deaf-gerbils-hear/?hpt=hp_bn12)

From *Better Nutrition* magazine, “Quiet Please,” and it describes natural ways to silence the ringing, roaring, and hissing of **tinnitus**. Go to: [www.betternutrition.com/natural-remedies-tinnitus/supplements/secondopinion/1350](http://www.betternutrition.com/natural-remedies-tinnitus/supplements/secondopinion/1350)

(submitted by Janet McKenna)

Review of the book “Shouting Won't Help.” Go to: [www.urmc.rochester.edu/ncdhr/#CurrentNews](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/ncdhr/#CurrentNews).

(submitted by Tim Whitcher)

FCC Accessibility Clearing House Releases Software Development Kit, with info on:  
 --accessibility features of mobile phones;  
 --accessibility contacts at telecommunications and advanced communications services companies;  
 --free assistive apps for various computing platforms, and,  
 --organizations implementing the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution program  
 Related links:

[www.fcc.gov/accessibilityclearinghouse](http://www.fcc.gov/accessibilityclearinghouse).

<http://apps.fcc.gov/accessibilityclearinghouse>.

## WHAT DOES HLAA-ROCHESTER CHAPTER OFFER ME?

*By Meredith Low*

The Rochester Chapter is one of the largest and most active of all HLAA's 176 chapters nationwide.

What makes this chapter so special? It has so much to offer! Members can join one, two or three or more of its 20 committees. There's a wide variety of events throughout the year, including the two monthly program chapter meetings (daytime and evening) offering programs on so many topics!

Looking ahead, Dr. John W. Wayman, a Rochester-based otolaryngologist, will present the program for the March 4<sup>th</sup> evening meeting titled, "Ask the Doctor." He'll discuss tinnitus, Meniere's disease, and other medical causes of hearing loss. Last year, when a presenter was unable to appear at a daytime meeting, last-minute creativity bore a brand-new hit – "Spotlight on Members," which was repeated for the December evening meeting in 2013.

Look deep into the chapter's 30-year history, and you'll find many spectacular achievements thanks to long-term chapter members. **Joan Ewing** and **Pat Irr** are two of those. Together, they created a booklet they called One Voice, which explored making houses of worship and public spaces accessible to people with hearing loss. This publication went through three printings over close to a decade!

Another sterling chapter achievement from the more recent past was the Featured Speakers program, which brought out-of-state specialists in hearing loss to Rochester. October, 2012's program featured Canadian Gael Hannan, who presented on "The Masks of Hearing Loss: A Workshop on Bluffing." Ms. Hannan is one of the rare presenters who has been able to make us laugh about an often painful experience--pretending to understand what we can't hear.

This chapter reaches out not just to those of us with a hearing loss, but to our family members and friends, too. One of the chapter's longtime, ongoing services is its hotline (585-266-7890), which offers anyone in

the community a chance to ask questions related to hearing loss. (Chapter volunteers will do their very best to answer your questions!)

It would be impossible to tell you about all that the Rochester chapter offers in such a small space, but we can't close without mentioning its one and only annual fundraiser, the **Walk4Hearing**. Come to Perinton Park on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and join us! Want more details about the chapter's events, and activities? Go to our Website: <http://www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org/>.

## POINSETTIA POINTERS



**--Remove foil from around pot.**  
**--Place in a sunny window, but don't let leaves touch the glass.**  
**--Allow the soil to dry between watering.**

**--Keep the room temperature cool to prolong the period of blooming.**

**--Don't fertilize while plant is in flower.**

*(Old Farmer's Almanac 2013)*

## CLEANING FOR A REASON

*(from Parkminster; submitted by Sue Miller)*

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, get word to her there is a service that provides **FREE housecleaning-----once per month, for 4 months, while she is in treatment.** All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. "Cleaning for a Reason" will have a participating maid service in her Zip Code area arrange for the service.

This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. For more info, go to: [www.cleaningforareason.org/](http://www.cleaningforareason.org/).

## GUESS WHO?

During the War of 1812, Samuel Wilson supplied meat to the U.S. Army in barrels marked "U.S."

One soldier joked that "U.S." stood for "Uncle Sam" Wilson. The rest is history.

*Old Farmer's Almanac 2013*



**“Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson.** Houghton Mifflin, 2002. 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This classic is frequently credited with spawning the modern environmental movement in the US. In it, Ms. Carson exposed the hitherto little-known ecological and health consequences of the indiscriminate use of DDT and other pesticides.

The Nixon administration announced a halt to residential use of the pesticide DDT as part of a total phase out. (D&C 11-17-13)

Come to our **February 4<sup>th</sup> Evening** chapter meeting and hear Carolyn Coit Dancy portray Rachel.

#### **CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !**

This past year, our chapter members have enjoyed the opportunity to have the Daytime and Evening monthly meetings **captioned**, thanks to CaptionCall! This has fulfilled a wish for our chapter for almost 30 years. We have just learned that they are willing to provide this wonderful service again for the coming year!

The captioning is done remotely by Alternative Communication Services—it is flawless, plus the people doing the captioning are from all over the country! It's amazing to see the words almost instantly on the screen as soon as they're spoken. The service cost is \$3,000 a year and it is being paid by CaptionCall...such an incredible gift to our chapter. CaptionCall has been a blessing in providing true access for everyone in our chapter...and we thank you!

We also owe a huge debt of thanks to **Candi and Bruce Nelson**, and **Tim Whitcher** for overseeing the technical set-up needed for this service.

#### **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !**

*By Cindy Kellner*

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **165** friends and we want more.

Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

#### **DID YOU KNOW.....**

When family and friends visit during the holiday season.....

The **Planetarium** has a Hearing Loop to accommodate people who wear a hearing aid or CI with a tele-coil (T-switch). It is advisable to mention at the box office that you will be using the Hearing Loop system---so they can turn it on!



Also, the **Dryden Theatre** at the George Eastman House is now looped for your movie viewing enjoyment.

**The Little** theatre now has captioning in Theatre Two. All five theatres are equipped with IR.

#### **IF YOU MOVE**

Please don't forget to notify **Barb Gates**, at 28 Country Gables Circle, Rochester, NY 14606, or, via email at [cdgblg28@aol.com](mailto:cdgblg28@aol.com), even if your change of address is a temporary one.

HLAA is charged for each piece of returned mail, which the Post Office will not forward. When you return, we will resume sending to your local address. Thanks.

#### **TAX DEDUCTION FOR DONATION**



You can take a tax deduction, if you itemize your taxes, for donating used hearing aids to the Finger Lakes Regional Lions Hearing Foundation.

Contact Arthur Elliott, 7134 Valentown Road, Victor, NY 14564; phone: (585) 924-2875, and don't forget to request a receipt.

#### **ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER, Tues., June 17<sup>th</sup>**

**We need your help in organizing our dinner. Please contact Barb Law at [blaw1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:blaw1@rochester.rr.com); or, Sue Miller at [SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com](mailto:SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com) for more info. Thanks for your consideration!**

#### **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT....**

*By Max Frisch; submitted by Elise dePapp, M.D.*

**“Technology is the knack of so arranging the world that you don't have to experience it.”**

## TOURS OF GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE AND CASA LARGA

*By Bob Menchel*

I am providing tours of the Eastman House every month. The tours are for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. To see the schedule, check the Event Newsletter of the George Eastman House, or contact Heather Gray at [hgray@geh.org](mailto:hgray@geh.org).

## CASA LARGA TOURS

I'm also providing Tours and Tastings at the Casa Larga Vinyard and Winery. To schedule a tour, please contact me at [rondaxdocbob@aol.com](mailto:rondaxdocbob@aol.com) or call, 585 270 7013.

## CAPTIONING PROBLEMS; NEED YOUR HELP

*By Bob Menchel*

I have been a strong advocate for captioning in this area; and have written and called local stations many times to discuss the poor quality of captions. (I've also given them credit for good work in providing captions.) For example, when contacting Scot Hetsko, at WROC, about improving the weather captions so they are more understandable, he was cooperative and now we get much more information than we did before.

On the other hand, our local news captions could be much better. I've traveled to many cities where the population of people with hearing loss is much smaller than what we have in Monroe County, yet the captions are far better than what we have to put up with in this area.

Another example and one that is badly in need of improvement is to provide our community with captioned information when an **emergency or bad weather** is in the area. On November 17, 2013, there were very high winds and emergency warnings; however, there were no captions to provide the deaf and hard-of-hearing community with the same info that our hearing neighbors were receiving.

Therefore, I'd like you to provide me with your opinion of

- the local news captions,
- what you feel needs to be done,
- what areas of captioning both local and national need improvement,
- what problems you're having with captions.

To prove there are problems, I'll need specific info on the date, program, time, what station, and exactly what the problem was. These details are needed to approach the directors of the local stations to see how captions can be improved. I strongly believe that we deserve better captions than are currently being provided, but I need your help in this matter.

If you'd like to work with me on this problem, I would welcome your support. Contact me at [rondaxdocbob@aol.com](mailto:rondaxdocbob@aol.com), or write:

Dr. Robert Menchel  
7 Miyah Drive  
Webster, NY 14580

### Subjects of Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meetings

Daytime --"Monroe Country Complying with ADA" -- Rebecca VanHorn

Evening -- "A Reverence for Life" portrayal of Rachel Carson by Carolyn Coit Dancy



### UNSUNG HERO

Each of you brought a gift and placed it in the huge wrapped holiday box. Many thanks!

That box is carefully and beautifully wrapped by **Marlene Sutliff**. The next step, however, is not easy, but each year Marlene loads the box into her car, drives to the Open Door Mission, and unloads the heavy box as HLAA-Rochester's donation.

Many thanks, Marlene, for your care and concern every year at this holiday time.



### KICK-OFF FOR WALK !

**Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Dyer Art Center at NTID.**  
(details in February Newsletter)

### Newsletter Deadline

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>**  
(for the February Newsletter)

Email: [ggraham859@frontiernet.net](mailto:ggraham859@frontiernet.net)

## COMMITTEES LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

### Education & Outreach – By Barb Gates

We have several subcommittees that are interesting: Captioning of TV and Movies; Presentations, where members speak to groups who request a presentation on hearing loss; Courts – access for people with hearing loss; Libraries – working with local libraries to ensure they are meeting the needs of the HOH and deaf communities including arranging for them to receive the Hearing Loss Magazine, etc; Distributing HLAA brochures in standup holders to specific locations, working with the Health Care committee, and, creating Hospital Kits for members.

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, at 11:30am, Justin Vigdor Room, Al Sigl Center, Elmwood Ave, and we would love to have you join us. Contact me at [cdgblg28@aol.com](mailto:cdgblg28@aol.com).

### Technology Committee - By Al Suffredini



I sometimes get the impression from members that they think you need to be knowledgeable about technology to be on the

Committee. Yes, that would help. But, if you are willing to join us and help us, we'll familiarize you with all of this, especially if you have an interest. Some of us are knowledgeable about "this" but not "that." So don't feel bad. And we may find the area where you will feel comfortable within our Technology Committee. That is the key. It's not hard, but it just might be what you really would like to do to help others, and bring your input and ideas to us as well. We can always use new ideas!

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, at 1:30pm, in the Justin Vigdor Room, Al Sigl Center, Elmwood Ave. Come join us. Contact me at: [ajs36csf@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ajs36csf@rochester.rr.com). Let's talk!

## ESSP CONFERENCE—CHILDREN WITH HL

By Katy Kuczek

Thanks to the support of HLAA-Rochester chapter, I attended the annual conference for Educational Support Service Personnel (ESSP) Nov. 1-2 in Rome, NY. The theme of the conference was "All Roads Lead to Rome: Working Together to Support Successful Students in the Common Core Classroom." The keynote speaker, Dr. Karen Anderson, focused on the social aspects of hearing loss in children in her opening address.



As a parent of a 14-year-old daughter with hearing loss (who has chosen not to wear her hearing aids), the address was particularly enlightening. We have been fortunate enough to live in a town where the school system has shown unfailing support for my daughter's educational needs. But for kids with hearing loss, social development is just as important for their well-being and overall success and is often overlooked in the array of services.

Research shows that language and social interaction/cooperation are key factors in cognitive development and learning. According to studies, complex language is delayed by several years in kids with hearing loss, as compared to their hearing peers in preschool and elementary school. One statistic astounded me, that 80%-90% of language is learned indirectly. In order to give our children access to inferential learning, we have to give them more opportunities for social interaction and communication with their peers.

In attendance at the conference were administrators, TODs (Teachers of the Deaf), speech pathologists, translators and interpreters from across the state--Long Island to the North Country, Albany to Buffalo. There were many familiar faces of those who have worked with my daughter over the years, and I made several new contacts. What struck me was a singular passion among all these educators for helping children with hearing loss.

It is my hope that, next year, more parents have access to attend this informative conference and the opportunity to connect with so many wonderful people whose priorities are the same as ours, to help children with hearing loss succeed. Thank you HLAA-Rochester chapter, for your continued support.



## HISTORY OF HLAA-ROCHESTER

*By Meredith Low*

Rochester Chapter of SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing people) was founded November 1, 1983. With only 12 members in 1984, the Rochester Chapter has grown to over 209 members today. The Rochester Chapter mailing list now contains 595 entries.

The chapter started publishing a monthly chapter Newsletter in 1983 with **Harriet Thayer Adams** as the first editor. Since that time, **Joan Ewing, Gwen Cheney, Debby Taylor and Ginger Graham** have performed this important position. The Rochester Newsletter received National Outstanding Newsletter awards in 1994 and again in 2011 at the National SHHH/HLAA conventions.

In the late 1980s, **Dr. Paul Dutcher** presented a program on tinnitus to a record-breaking attendance of 102. Daytime programs were added to the already existing evening programs.

During the 1990s, SHHH had an active parent support group organized by **Noreen Conte**. In more recent years, **Katy Kuczek** has contributed monthly parent columns to the Newsletter.

In 1997, Library Liftoff program led by Harriet Adams began as a nationally sponsored project. Its purpose was to improve library resources relevant to the needs of people with hearing loss and to enhance communication for our many members who use the library. By the following year, there were 20 volunteers from Rochester Chapter.

In 1998-1999, the Technology Committee started "Tech Talks" at meetings to inform members of technology and devices to assist us with our hearing loss.

In 2002-2003, assistive listening devices become available in Ontario and Yates County courthouses, as well as federal courthouses in Buffalo and Rochester under guidance from chapter member **Judge Arthur Curran**.

In 2005, SHHH changed its name to HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America.)

In 2006, Rochester was one of six chapters to hold the first Walk4Hearing. Over eight years, Rochester Walk4Hearing has earned a gross of \$370,850.62.

In 2007, Rear Window Captioning at AMC Loews Theater began in Webster and C-Print had its debut at evening HLAA program meetings.

In September, 2011, Sorensen Communication began providing live captioning at day and evening HLAA chapter meetings and still does so today.

July, 2012, our chapter made a generous donation to GEVA Theatre for the purchase of ALDs.

In December, 2012, HLAA-Rochester established a presence on Facebook.

In March, 2013, we provided funds and labor to help install a hearing loop in the Dryden Theatre at GEH.

In September, 2013, new HLAA Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall visited Rochester Chapter.

*(Editor's Note: THIS IS A KEEPER! Meredith has put a lot of time and effort into searching out this info. Best to file it where you can find it again later!)*

## HEARING AID USER'S TIPS

*By Joe Kozelsky*

"Remember that hearing aids or Cochlear Implants will not solve all hearing needs. Family members will still have to do their part to help."

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our Chapter website is: [www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org](http://www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org). **Michelle Gross** is updating our website. (**Barb Law** continues as consultant.) The website for HLAA National is: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).

**FOR SALE**

**Phonak lapel microphone.** I bought this auxiliary mic to work with my Phonak SmartLink FM system to enhance sound pick-up above what the standard antenna was able to do. (The plug will probably fit other Phonak FM receivers.) Cost \$150; asking \$75 or best offer. I will be in Rochester at the end of January, so if you are interested in trying this before buying, I can bring it with me. I can also e-mail a photo. Please contact: [annowen@gmavt.net](mailto:annowen@gmavt.net); or, Ann Owen  
38 Cannon Point Rd, Charlotte, VT 05445;  
Phone: 802-425-4632.

**“PARAPROSDOKIANS”**

*(Submitted by Rene Lewis and Ginny Koenig)*

Winston Churchill loved these....”Paraproisdokians” are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected—often humorous!

--Where there’s a will....I want to be in it.

--The last thing I want to do is hurt you....but it’s still on my list.

--If I agreed with you....we’d both be wrong.

--Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit....wisdom is not putting it into a fruit salad.

--I didn’t say it was your fault...I said I was blaming you.

--I’m supposed to respect my elders....but it’s getting harder and harder for me to find one.

**HEARING AID USER’S TIP**

*By Joe Kozelsky*

“When riding in the car, sometimes it is helpful to turn off the hearing aid on the side of the road noise. You seem to hear better without the competing noise.”

**Special Apps for Children with Hearing Loss**

*(excerpt from Wisconsin NL, winter 2013;  
suggested by Ginny Koenig)*

Hearing aids aren’t the only electronic devices helping children with hearing loss communicate more effectively these days. Regardless whether you want to learn or play, if you have a smart phone, iPad or tablet, chances are good there’s a low-cost application (or two) you can download.

Baby Sign and Learn (iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Android) \$2.99. My Smart Hands Baby Sign Language Dictionary (iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Android) \$4.99. A trial version is available for free download. iSpeech Toddler Sign Language by Tate (iPad, iPhone) \$1.99. Danny the Dragon Meets Jimmy by iStorytime (iPad) \$2.99. Children with hearing loss will enjoy this multi award-winning children’s book about a lovable dragon named Danny with the help of an animated sign-language interpreter. The story has won praise for its pro-family themes along with numerous awards, and is the first app of its kind for children with hearing loss.

AutismXpress by StudioEmotion (iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, Android) \$1.99. Even though this app was developed for autistic children, children with hearing loss will enjoy using it, too. And, another one: Look in My Eyes Dinosaur by Fizzbrain (iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch) \$2.99. This fun game teaches children to focus on the eyes in a series of faces to earn rewards (toys) they can store in a virtual toy box and play with later. Recommended for ages 3-6.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Mention of goods or services in articles or advertisements does not mean HLAA endorsement, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

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From left to right: Peggy, Joe, Joan

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Hearing Loss Association (HLAA) Rochester Chapter, a tax exempt and volunteer group, is a chapter of a national, nonprofit, nonsectarian, educational organization devoted to the welfare and interests of those who cannot hear well. We meet the first Tuesday of the month from September through June at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. While our primary focus is directed toward hard of hearing, we welcome everyone to our chapter meetings whatever their hearing ability. For more information, Call **585-266-7890**

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*Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.*

*Send articles to:*

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To join, please see inside back page. HLAA has more than 200 chapters and 14 state organizations. Welcome!

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