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Volume 27, Number 4

published monthly except July and August

December 2013

DECEMBER Calendar

Tuesday, December 3rd

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., Dec. 10th – Board of Directors

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

Wed., Dec. 25th – Rear Window Captioned movie,
CANCELED, due to the holiday today.

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., Jan. 14th – BOD meeting, 7:30pm, JV Room,
Al Sigt Center

Tues., Jan. 21st – PAC – 7:00 pm, JV Room, ASC

Wed., Jan. 22nd – Rear Window Captioned movie.
AMC Webster – Between Noon & 3 pm. Email Ginger
the weekend ahead for exact movie & time.
ggraham859@frontiernet.net. See you there!

**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 December:

Daytime Meeting –Cindy Kellner, Vern Thayer
Evening Meeting –M. Cochran, C. Lee, S. Miller
Board of Directors –Elise de Papp, Andy Howard

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

WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLAA!



DECEMBER PROGRAM

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

Tues., Dec. 3rd - Daytime Meeting 11:00 am

**NTID STUDENTS: THEIR
DEMOGRAPHICS AND
COMMUNICATION CHARACTERISTICS - -**
*Gerard J. Buckley, Ed D, President, National
Technical Institute for the Deaf*

NTID, established by act of Congress in 1967,
admitted its first students in 1968 with the purpose of
promoting “the employment of persons who are deaf
by providing technical and professional education for
the nation’s young people who are deaf.” The first
and largest technical college for deaf and hard of
hearing students presently enrolls about 1,400 as a
college on the RIT campus.

Technological advances in dealing with hearing loss
in 45 years have modified the college’s population.
Are students culturally Deaf, hard of hearing, or
both? What percentage of NTID undergraduates
benefits from cochlear implants, or are they frowned
on? What is the college’s mission in the 21st century
world, particularly in relation to people who are hard
of hearing? An example is the college’s program to
attract hearing-disabled young veterans.

Continued on next page)

Tues., December 3rd – Daytime meeting (continued)

Dr. Gerard Buckley, president of NTID and dean of the college, will familiarize us with this unique institution. Dr. Buckley has more than 30 years experience in higher education with twenty of them at NTID. He spent 10 years at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS leading Gallaudet University's Regional Center. He holds a BS in social work from RIT/NTID, MSW from University of Missouri, and an Ed D in special education from the University of Kansas.

Tuesday, Dec. 3rd – Evening Meeting – 7:00 pm**“SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS: GETTING TO KNOW YOU”** – Sue Miller, Tim Whitcher

There's more to us HLAA members than just being hard of hearing! Perhaps our people hold prestigious patents, volunteer in organizations, are artists or musicians, participate in hobbies—but they modestly refrain from discussing their lives while at meetings at St. Paul's.

“Spotlight on Members” was a surprise smashing success as a fill-in for a canceled daytime program last Spring. It was fun, and we learned so much about the people who sit next to us at meetings! We've decided to repeat it for the evening folks.

Here's how it works: Everyone will receive a list of amusing, simple, “getting to know you” questions. Members will be selected randomly to share highlights of their lives by answering some or all of the questions in a carefully timed maximum of 3 minutes. **Tim Whitcher** will be the timekeeper.

Our people have graduated from many universities, traveled the world, and served with a plethora of groups. Let's find out more about ourselves while spotlighting our members.

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 audiolooped & 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 or telephone 585 266 7890.

GLASSES FOR CAPTIONS AT PITTSFORD CINEMA

By Gary Wagner

(This is a follow-up investigation after the article in our November Newsletter).



I went to Pittsford yesterday. The glasses look nothing like the Google glasses in the article in a recent D&C newspaper. In fact, they are not made by Google (if Google even manufactures anything). The glasses they gave me to try out are Sony's. The glasses have the identical programming receiver as used by Regal. (I sense the glasses are a newer model.) They have a slightly newer look and feel a little lighter. Everything is so subtle that I'd really need to see them up close together to see the difference, if any.

I watched a brief portion of the movie, “Gravity” and found the captions to be brighter and crisper than the ones at the Regal theatres. Another reason I think they're a newer model of the Sony glasses.

They have a **total of 4 units for 7 theaters** (two of the theaters are not equipped), and have no plans to increase that number. They, also, will not broadcast that they have the technology. My sense is that they are satisfying the ADA (disabilities act) requirement, because the glasses also provide descriptive audio for the blind. Pittsford Cinema want people to call 383-6022 and reserve glasses for a future showing (day and time of movie) and will move their single transmitter to accommodate that person and any others (up to 4 total) who reserve for that show.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

On behalf of the Law Family, I would like to thank everyone in HLAA for their cards, flowers, and expressions of sympathy at calling hours and/or the funeral service for my dear husband David.

Your hugs, prayers and caring words helped us immensely in our time of grief. Thank you for your donations in Dave's memory. You are wonderful friends.

Love, Barb Law

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy goes out to **Vern Thayer**, for the loss of his sister, Bernadine Rosequist, who died September 28th. Vern is the last of 7 siblings.

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.



For your Donation to HLAA:

First Congregational United Church of Christ;
Lifespan (Ann Marie Cook); United Way;
Webster Hearing Center (Joe Kozelsky)

In Memory of Dr. Leon Miller:

Elizabeth Miller

In Memory of Bernadine Rosequist:

Sue Miller

In Memory of Dave Law: F. Altrith; A. Castle;

M. Coleman; F. Englund; J. Ewing;

M. Hargrave, Jr; H. Hood; J. Howard;

N. Huffman; P. Irr; J. McKenna; N. Stoneham;

C. Treat; V. Thayer

CAPTIONS AT “THE LITTLE” THEATRE

By Jessica Cayer

We have **Closed Caption** capabilities in Theatre Two. All five theaters are equipped with infrared (**IR**). Additionally, we often have films that are **subtitled**. As we don't book films until the week before, I can't give you upcoming titles for sure. I thought perhaps I could share some information with you regarding how to find out which films are Closed Captioned. And, to find information about our general accessibility features on our website.

On the front page of our website...if a film has Closed Captions available, the “CC” will be next to the films show times. Subtitled films are marked with “SUB.”

In addition, a brand new section of our website highlighting accessibility at The Little is dedicated to communicating accessibility info to the general public, under the “About” section. Go to:

www.thelittle.org/accessibility

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REMEMBER THE DATE.....



Our January Chapter Meetings will
be **Tuesday, January 7th**.

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 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.

LEADERS COLUMN

By Elise de Papp, M.D.

WHO WE ARE, WHAT IS OUR ID



How do we (HLAA) identify ourselves? We have hearing loss. Does that mean we are hearing impaired, hard of hearing, almost deaf, don't hear well? Do you express your hearing

needs when meeting someone for the first time, or are you afraid to, embarrassed, don't want to admit you might have a disability? Do you pretend to hear, and bluff? Is deaf different from having hearing loss – along the same spectrum, depends where you are in terms of dB loss; however, few of us consider ourselves deaf. Is deaf different from Deaf? (see article pg. 5 Nov. newsletter, by M. Gross – yes).

Hearing ability is a continuum on the audiologic scale from perfect hearing to total inability to perceive any sound. According to WHO, 2013, disabling hearing loss refers to hearing loss greater than 40 dB in the better hearing ear in adults. How many of us know the numbers on our audiograms? A more general definition of disability is inability to participate in mainstream American culture.

Imagine a world without language! But language doesn't need voice. Socially, people tend to group themselves as being part of the **hearing world** or the deaf/**Deaf** world, **depending on their means of communication**, their language. Discovering Deaf World identifies themselves as "signing deaf communities." There are approx. 70 million people worldwide who use sign language. There are at least 200 sign languages. ASL is not English transmitted with hand signals; it has its own syntax. Because English is in fact a second language to those who use ASL, they may not be able to read English as easily as those using spoken English. HLAA members are people who generally interact via oral communication and who benefit from hearing aids, CIs and many types of ALDs or ALS. There are always exceptions; there are HLAA members who sign but generally we use voice. Captions are the one assistive system that works for all. Optimal conditions for all of us would include captions, interpreters and ALDs.

According to WHO there are 360 million people worldwide with disabling hearing loss, over 5% of the world's population, including approx. 1/3rd of people over

65 years of age. Compared to sign languages, there are 6-7000 spoken languages, including dialects, throughout the world. Human language is open-ended and productive, limitless in terms of possible expressions. Speaking is the default modality for language in most cultures.

My random thoughts on living with HL.

RBTL LIVE THEATRE--- CAPTIONED!



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

December 15th – "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
February 16th – "Sister Act"
March 23rd – "Once"
April 20th – "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.

GEVA Theatre Offering Captioned Plays!



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

December 1st – "A Christmas Carol"
January 11th – "Last Gas"
February 15th – "Clybourne Park"
March 22nd – "Informed Consent"
April 26th – "The Odd Couple"

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

A NIGHT TO WATCH....

The annual Geminid meteor shower peaks after midnight Friday, Dec. 13th. You may see blue, green, red, white, or yellow shooting stars.

(Old Farmer's Almanac 2013)

CAPTIONING TERMINOLOGY

By Lise Hamlin, National HLAA

“**CAPTIONING**” – Verbatim (word for word) text of the audio portion of a video or film shown directly on the video or film, often on the bottom of the screen. This may include not only the words, but the sounds that are important to understand and the source of the sound, like a telephone ringing.

“OPEN CAPTIONS”

Captions that are “burned” into (with a laser) the video or movie; they cannot be turned off.

“CLOSED CAPTIONS”

Captions which are not visible unless they are decoded and turned on.

“CART” (Communication Access Real-time Translation)

Verbatim text of spoken presentations provided live. The text is provided on a computer screen or projected for display on a larger screen.

“REAR WINDOW CAPTIONING (RWC)”

Uses a small screen/device which you pick up at the box office. It has a goose neck attached. It fits into the cup holder at your seat. Only you can view the captions via this device that looks like a rear view mirror in your car. This is currently in use at AMC Loews Webster, and recently at the Little Theatre.

DTS-CSS (Digital Theatrical Systems—Cinema Subtitling Systems)

Uses a disk to record the audio and then puts the captions on the screens while the movies are being shown. This exists at several local theatres, including Culver-Ridge.

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. 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.

NEWS OF CHAPTER MEMBERS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to **Vern Thayer**, who is 97 years young December 4th. And, he still enjoys tennis! In addition, Vern is the oldest person in the country doing Apheresis blood donations. Congratulations, Vern!

Continued happy days to **Ms. Phyllis MacDonald** who turned 100 years of age on October 25th!

BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE FROM TROOP 31

By Laura Chaba

Boy Scout Troop 31 has been volunteering and offering their manpower to support our Walk4Hearing each year. They have been an invaluable help. Now it’s our turn to “pay it forward.” For many years, the troop has sold high quality trees, wreaths and boughs to support summer camp opportunities and programming for the boys. Won’t you consider buying your tree from them this year? They have sizes from table trees, apartment size, high ceiling, and several varieties as well.

Where: Corner of East Ave and Meigs St. (in the Third Presbyterian Church parking lot)

When: Everyday from November 29th til December 24th. Cash or checks only.

POINSETTIA POINTERS



- Remove the foil from around the pot.
- Place in a sunny window, but don’t let the 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)

IDENTIFY THE SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS

*(excerpt from Hearing Health magazine;
suggested by Fred Alrieth)*

Stuttering, a slow rate of speech, and mumbling.

Struggling to say sounds, pulling or scratching at the ears, and isolation. Did you know that all of these are signs of a hearing loss or a communication disorder?

With nearly 50 million Americans experiencing hearing loss and other communications disorders, we have partnered with the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) on their “Identify the Signs” campaign. When a communication disorder is left untreated, the effects can be debilitating. Early detection of speech, language and hearing issues is absolutely critical to treatment success, impacting academic, social, and career outcomes. Unfortunately, many parents, caregivers, spouses and other loved ones are unable to identify the early warning signs and dismiss them too readily.

GALA—30 YEARS OF HLAA-ROCHESTER CHAPTER

By Janet McKenna

Thirty years of organizational support, advocacy, and education for people with hearing loss in the Rochester area were commemorated on November 3, 2013 as HLAA-Rochester members and friends celebrated the chapter’s thirtieth anniversary.



The classic Inn on Broadway hosted a GALA reception reliving the November 1, 1983 founding of the Rochester Chapter of Self

Help for Hard of Hearing People, now called Hearing Loss Association of America. Attending the party were three Charter Members of the dynamic group: **Susan Miller, Mark Hargrave, Jr., and Vern Thayer**, all accompanied by family members who have supported their involvement for three decades. Eleven hard of hearing folks attended the first, tentative gathering initiated by **Sue Miller**. Thirty years later, our Rochester chapter now boasts 209 members.

A “welcome” sign greeted approximately 80 guests in the lobby of the Inn, once the University Club of Rochester, as they proceeded to the Grand ballroom on the 2nd floor.

Murals depicting notable Rochester sites and attractions such as Highland Park, Cobble Hill, and the Genesee River enhance the dining room. The chandeliers added a touch of elegance.

Lisa Bailey, Ginger Graham, Cindy Kellner, along with **Gerald and Carol Loftus**, greeted partygoers. Guests were treated to an assortment of hors d’oeuvres and pastries and a dessert bar. There was much mingling and re-encountering old friends.

Four dancers from the RIT/NTID Dance Company clad in blue with silvery skirts performed selections based on “dance and astrophysics,” according to their director **Thomas Warfield**.

GALA chairperson **Meredith Low** introduced her committee members **Lisa Bailey, Carmen Coleman, Mary Ann Coleman, Cindy Kellner, Barbara Law, Carol Loftus, Sue Miller, and Trish Prosser**.

David Koon read County Executive Maggie Brooks’ proclamation naming November 3 “Hearing Loss Association of America, Rochester chapter” Day.

A large contingent of present and former members of the Board of Directors was recognized. Also praised was **Ginger Graham**, editor of our award-winning monthly Newsletter.

Enabling all to hear and understand were the hearing loop set up by **Donald Bataille**, captioning by **Bruce Nelson** and Caption Call, and ASL interpreting with **Linda A. Siple, Ph D.**, and several NTID students.

Claudia O’Hara of The Topiary in Pittsford created the autumn-themed table decorations of roses, lamps, and assorted gourds. **Art Maurer** photographed the party while **Richard McCollough** televised the proceedings. The souvenir program created by **Barbara Law** features timelines and factoids of the group’s first thirty years.



Favors of chocolate shells, with a “pearl” inside, from Encore (arranged by **Trish Prosser**) were given to each guest as they departed.

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HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Useful Gift Ideas

- 1 Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- 2 Fire extinguishers (appropriate to the area)
- 3 Foldable second-story ladders
- 4 Disaster kits for home, vehicle, and pets
- 5 Weather and disaster radios
- 6 Dry and Store Kits for hearing aids
- 7 ZBand Vibrating Wristband, \$60- silent alarm wristband that vibrates to wake you. (contact: www.zband.biz)
- 8 Max Virtual Cynaps Bluetooth Bone Conduction Hat \$80 – this headset discreetly installed into a cap allows sound from your phone or PC to be conducted directly into your inner ear by vibration. Listen to music or talk via phone or Skype. You can also adapt one of your own hats using a self-installation kit (\$70). (contact: www.maxvirtual.com)
- 9 Bellman & Symfon Visit Cell Phone Sensor \$40 – Know when you receive a call, email, message, or social media notification. Sensor is activated when your cell phone or tablet screen lights up, sending a signal to the Visit transmitter & receivers (each sold separately). (contact: www.harriscomm.com)

(#7,8,9 excerpt from *Hearing Health, Fall 2013*)

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 Witcher** 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.

See the articles on pages 3 & 10 about **The Little** theatre now being accessible!

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, 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.

MY STORY – A Personal History

By Barbara Law



I grew up on Elmgrove Road in Greece and graduated from Spencerport High School in 1960. I played clarinet in the high school band and

was active in sports and cheerleading. My hearing was fine throughout my high school and college years at Potsdam, NY, where I studied to become an elementary school teacher. I taught fifth grade in Spencerport after college and completed my masters degree at Brockport State College. I loved teaching, but after marrying **Dave Law** in 1969, I resigned my teaching job to raise a family.

During my years at home with our sons, Stephen and Bryan, I was a substitute teacher in the Fairport Central School District. It was during that time that I noticed a change in my hearing and could not hear the children's voices in the classroom as well as I should. My hearing was tested and I learned that I had a sensorineural hearing loss. At the age of 36, I bought my first hearing aid and a year later, I bought a second one. Meanwhile, permanent teaching jobs were hard to find, so I studied computer programming at RIT and starting working at the University of Rochester, first in the personnel department, and then in the Office of Information Services. I started as an information analyst and eventually became a lead analyst programmer during 26 years at the University. I am grateful to the people of U of R for supporting me with my hearing loss and allowing me opportunities to grow in my career.

During the mid 90's I joined SHHH. **Sue Miller** involved me right away as Special Events Coordinator and after I joined the Board of Directors, I served as Vice President, President, Past President, and Evening Program Coordinator. I became involved in the Walk4hearing Steering Committee in 2006 and am still active on that committee. For a few years, I maintained our chapter's website as well as the State HLAA

website. I served on the State Board of Directors of HLAA for ten years until 2008. I have met many wonderful friends in SHHH/HLAA.

Since my retirement in December, 2008, I've dealt with cancer while continuing my volunteer work with HLAA. Dave and I joyfully cared for granddaughters, Madilyn and Isobel, one to two days a week. (My third granddaughter, Paxton, lives in Indiana.)

I became active in the Alzheimer's Association of Rochester after Dave was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in February, 2013. The Alzheimer's Association helped Dave and me immensely during the past few months. Sadly, Dave passed away of a heart attack on September 19, 2013. I am adjusting to my new life without Dave and am grateful to all my friends and family for their support. I look forward to continued involvement with HLAA, my church choir, attending classes at OSHER, and my various pursuits of "grand-loving," tennis, gardening, skiing, golf, and hiking.

STAR EXEMPTION – MUST RE-REGISTER

By Gerry Loftus, chapter treasurer

It's time to remind all members that they **MUST** re-register with the NYS Tax Department in order to receive the exemption in 2014.

All homeowners receiving a **Basic STAR property tax exemption** **MUST** re-register with the NY State Tax Department in order to receive the exemption in year 2014 and thereafter. The registration is not satisfied by your original application to your local assessor.

Senior Citizens receiving the Enhanced STAR property tax exemption are not affected by this new requirement and do not need to register.

To re-register, go to the Tax Department's Web site at www.tax.ny.gov. If you do not have internet access, you can register by calling (518) 457-2036.

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STAR EXEMPTION (continued from page 8)

To complete the registration process, you will need the following:

> The STAR code at the top of the letter you received from the NYS Dept. of Taxation & Finance in September;

> The social security numbers of ALL owners of the property (and their spouses);

> Whether the 2012 combined income of resident owners & their spouses was \$500,000 or less;

> Information about any residency-based exemptions in other states received by any of the resident owners.

The re-registration deadline is **December 31, 2013**. Homeowners who do not re-register will not receive the STAR exemption in 2014.

Subjects of Jan. 7th Chapter Meetings

Daytime – “Hearing Loss – Friends and Family”
– Barbara Bushart

Evening – “Meet the HLAA Scholarship winners” – past winners home from college

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

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

Newsletter Deadline

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
(for the January Newsletter)

Email: ggraham859@frontiernet.net

HEARING CONDITIONS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT

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

Meniere’s Disease: If you experience vertigo that doesn’t go away, it may be Meniere’s Disease, a chronic inner ear disorder that affects balance and hearing. This is thought to be caused by improper balance of fluid in the inner ear.

Diplacusis: Individuals with diplacusis have double hearing. They experience a shift in pitch perception, causing them to hear one sound as two. Although musicians typically notice this condition more than others, it occurs frequently in individuals who have normal hearing in one ear and sensorineural hearing loss in the other.

Otitis Media: If you’ve recently had a cold and can’t hear well, you may have otitis media – otherwise known as a good, old fashioned ear infection. While this condition is typically considered a childhood disease, it can strike people of any age.

Acoustic Neuroma: Although a rare condition, it’s the most common form of brain tumor and affects roughly two of every 100,000 people. This slow-growing benign tumor develops on the eighth cranial nerve that connects the ear to the brain. Symptoms can include loss of hearing in one ear, ringing (tinnitus), dizziness (vertigo) and balance problems.

Usher syndrome: Usher syndrome is responsible for three to six percent of all childhood deafness and 50 percent of deafness and blindness in adults. Usher syndrome is inherited.

Source: *Healthy Hearing* 02/19/13.

NOTE: These conditions are not remedied with hearing instruments, and generally require medical intervention.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”

(William Arthur Ward, author, pastor & preacher)

GLORIOUS ACCOLADES!

By Ginger Graham



For those of you who missed our Rochester Chapter's 30th Anniversary Gala, November 3rd, you missed a great party! **Meredith Low** is to be thanked for all her hard work for over a year to make this our best party yet! From details such as, real flowers in small pots on each table, to the delicious passed hors d'oeuvres, followed by the "favors"--a chocolate shell with a 'pearl' inside. (Pearls representing 30th anniversaries.) She thought of everything!

Meredith, take a bow, and now you can get some rest knowing you did an outstanding job!

PAST AND PRESENT OFFICERS



L to R: Cindy Kellner, Vern Thayer, Sue Miller, Joe Kozelsky, Andy Howard, Barb Law, David Koon, Barb Gates, Lisa Bailey, Laura Chaba, John Metcalfe, Pat Irr, Elise de Papp, M.D., Don Bataille, Carmen Coleman

(all Gala photos courtesy of Art Maurer)

HOLIDAY DESSERTS

Seize the moment.

Remember all those women on the *Titanic* who waved off the dessert cart!

(Erma Bombeck, humorist, 1927-1996)

OUR FOUNDING "FATHER"

By Ginger Graham



It all started at **Sue Miller's** kitchen table 30 years, with a small group of interested people with hearing loss. From that small beginning, Sue has

been instrumental in keeping the Rochester chapter as a vital and growing chapter. There are now 209 members. We hope Sue will be with another 30 years!

REAR WINDOW CAPTION VIEWERS COME TO THE LITTLE THEATRE

By Peter Wayner

As the Little Theatre upgraded its theatres to digital projection, it also took the opportunity to outfit theatres with portable rear window caption viewing equipment, available to patrons free of cost.

The equipment includes a high-contrast screen with a digital display of captions for any film with caption viewing accessibility, denoted on our website by a CC symbol next to the film. The screen is connected to a flexible mount that attaches to the seat. The units are discrete, easy to read and easy to use. Go to: <http://thelittle.org/about/accessibility>

The Little staff sees the new caption viewers as a milestone, allowing them to include hearing-impaired patrons in the full spectrum of cinematic excellence at the theatre. And in a city that, according to The New York Times, has the largest deaf population per capita in the country, this improvement will be especially poignant.

LONG EXCEPTIONAL WORDS

--Squirrelled: 11 letters; the longest monosyllabic English word.

--Abstentious: 11 letters; the longest word to use all 5 vowels in order, exactly once.

--Rotavator: 9 letters, the longest non-coined palindrome (reads the same backward and forward)

(From *Mental Floss: Readers Digest* September 2013)

HLAA LOOP ADVOCATE HONORED

By Janet McKenna; suggested by Don Bataille

In recognition of her advocacy and support for hearing loops, HLAA Hearing Loop Advocate Juliette Sterkens, AuD, recently was honored with the prestigious Leo Doerfler Award by the Academy of Doctors of Audiology.

The Leo Doerfler Award recognizes an audiologist who has demonstrated outstanding clinical services in the community throughout his/her career. The presentation was made November 8 at the Academy's convention in Bonita Springs, FL.

Dr. Sterkens is on sabbatical from the Fox Valley Hearing Center in Oshkosh, WI, which she co-owned. Her husband, LeRoy Maxfield, an engineer, and she teamed together as "Fox Valley Hearing Loops" to install loops throughout the Midwest. Her successful hearing loop initiative in her community resulted in nearly two hundred hearing loop installations.

Presently Dr. Sterkens serves as the HLAA hearing loop advocate in a grant-supported position. Her mission is traveling across the country raising awareness of hearing loss and the need for loops in places of assembly.

HLAA-Rochester's Holiday Good Deed



Both daytime and evening meetings will feature a Holiday gift box of personal care items destined for homeless people at the Open Door Mission in Rochester.

What can you contribute?

Any of the following (and things we haven't thought of) would be appreciated:

Shampoo, conditioner, hair spray, comb/brush, soap, deodorant, feminine sanitary items, mittens/gloves, scarves, socks, single pack tissues, shaving cream, toothpaste/toothbrush, talcum powder, etc. etc.

No need to wrap your gift!

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

NTID Opens a New Building, Hosts a Reunion and Job Fair, and more...

By Greg Livadas

October was a busy month at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Not only did more than 500 alumni and family members attend [NTID's 45th Anniversary Reunion](#), a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to official open [Sebastian and Lenore Rosica Hall](#), a two-story center dedicated to innovation and research for NTID students, faculty, staff and their RIT peers.

The building is named after Sebastian and Lenore Rosica, lifelong residents of the Buffalo area, where Sebastian worked as an audiologist at St. Mary's School for the Deaf, and his wife worked as a speech pathologist. Lenore's brother, William McGowan, was CEO of MCI Communications Corp. and was a trustee of the McGowan Charitable Fund, which donated \$1.75 million towards the new building. Two of the Rosica's six children work at RIT.

October also saw dozens of companies come to NTID for the 13th annual Job Fair. Some companies such as Dow Chemical Co., Bank NY Mellon, Sprint and ZVRS Relay sent former RIT/NTID students who now work for them full-time.

During the fair, three employers - Dow, ZVRS and the University of Michigan's Kresge Hearing Research Institute - were given the Outstanding Employer Partner award for historically hiring RIT/NTID students.

The Job Fair is one reason NTID students have a high employment rate. More than 93 percent of students who seek employment found a job within a year upon graduation last year. Data from the Social Security Administration proves that NTID graduates with a BA earn almost three times as much as deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates from other colleges typically earn by the time they are 50.

Also, please be aware of this inspiring story that ran in USA Today Sports about RIT/NTID student Joe Vicario. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/college/2013/10/21/rit-hockey-manager-joe-vicario/3147323>.

RESEARCH ON DEAFNESS

New Test Identifies Cause of Childhood Deafness

(excerpt from Wisconsin Newsletter, winter 2013)
(suggested by Ginny Koenig)

A new genetic test has been piloted by scientists at the University of Antwerp that will ultimately make it possible to rapidly screen all known deafness genes to give a far more accurate diagnosis of the cause of a hearing loss.

The new test will help parents of a deaf child understand the chances of future siblings also being born deaf. Knowing the cause of a child's deafness can make it easier to predict how their hearing loss may change over time, and help parents choose the most appropriate treatment or method of communication.

The findings, published in the American Journal of Medical Genetics, show that by screening just 34 known deafness genes, an accurate diagnosis could be given in roughly half the cases. Ultimately, all known deafness genes could be screened for the same cost as it takes to test one or two genes today.

Source: *Action on Hearing Loss*

Study Links Cognitive Deficits and Hearing Loss

A new study by researchers at Johns Hopkins Medicine suggests that **elderly people with compromised hearing are at risk of developing cognitive deficits — problems with memory and thinking — sooner than those whose hearing is intact.** The study in JAMA Internal Medicine was led by Dr. Frank Lin, a hearing specialist and epidemiologist who over the past several years has documented the extent of hearing problems in older people and their association with falls and the onset of dementia.

For caregivers and older adults, the bottom line is “pay attention to hearing loss,” said Kathleen Pichora-Fuller, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto who was not involved in the study. Most people seek medical attention for

hearing difficulties 10 to 20 years after they first notice a problem, she said, because “there’s a stigma about hearing loss and people really don’t want to wear a hearing aid.” That means years of struggling with the consequences of impairment, without interventions that can make a difference.

One consequence that may help explain Dr. Lin’s findings is social isolation. When people have a hard time distinguishing what someone is saying to them, as is common in older age, they often stop accepting invitations to dinners or parties, attending concerts or classes, or going to family events. Over time, this social withdrawal can become a self-fulfilling prophecy, leading to the loss of meaningful relationships and activities that keep older people feeling engaged with others.

The full article, published in the New York Times is available at the link below.

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/11/straining-to-hear-and-fend-off-dementia/>



We wish everyone a happy holiday season, with peace, love, happiness, and good health in the new year.

Sincerely, *Ginger, Janet, Joan, and Michelle*

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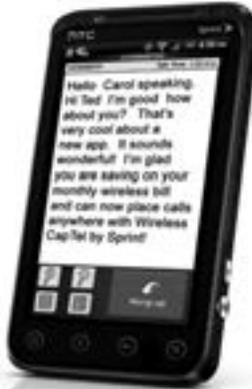


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From left to right: Peggy, Joe, Joan

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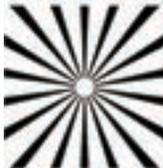
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HLAA Membership Information

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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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – ROCHESTER CHAPTER

Yes, I want to join/renew -- Support entitles me to receive the award winning Newsletter in order to be alerted to interesting and informative articles plus Daytime & Evening Chapter Meetings and Cochlear Implant meetings.

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Founded in 1979, the mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through advocacy, information, education, and support.

HLAA is the largest international consumer organization dedicated to the well-being of people who do not hear well. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: www.hearingloss.org/.

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

Meetings are hearing accessible

We meet in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. and Westminster Rd., across from the George Eastman House. Parking is available at the George Eastman House, if needed.

All meetings are audio looped and captioned. Interpreters are available on request *for evening meetings only*-- contact Linda Siple, 585-475-6712, or at lasnss@rit.edu, at least a week in advance.

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Entrance to the meeting room is via the rear door next to the fence.

Everyone, with or without a hearing loss, is welcome!