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December 2017

DECEMBER Calendar

Tuesday, December 5th

10:15 am – HOPE Session–Vestry Room, St. Paul’s

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 pm – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Tues., Dec. 12th - BOD – 7-9pm, ASC

Thurs., Dec. 21st -Device Demo Center, Lifespan,
from 10am to 2pm, free to all. (see page 8)

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., Jan. 9th – BOD – 7-9pm, ASC

Tues., Jan. 16th – PAC – 7-9pm, ASC

Thurs., Jan.18th - Device Demo Center, 10-2pm,
Lifespan (see page 8)

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

Hospitality Duties for December:

Daytime Meeting –Margaret Cochran, Barb Law,
Al Suffredini

Evening Meeting – Ginger Graham, Barb Law

Board of Directors –Carmen Coleman,
Elise de Papp, M.D.; Barb Gates

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

WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLAA!



DECEMBER PROGRAMS

At St. Paul’s Church, East Ave. & Westminster Rd. 14607
(Enter only through the Westminster Road door.)

Tues., Dec. 5th – 10:15am; Vestry room

HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) session –*Joe Kozelsky, MS, abd, CCC-A (retired)*

Retired audiologist and hearing aid user **Joe Kozelsky** moderates a question-and-answer session for people considering hearing aids and those using them. Join us and share your hearing loss journey and learn from others.

Tues.,Dec. 5th Daytime Meeting--11:00am - Program begins at noon

Service Dogs for Hearing Loss - with Linda and Jim Panko and Mogli

For millenia, dogs and humans have interacted in herding, guarding, hunting and searching, as well as beloved companions.

"Mogli" is a service "hearing dog," working with Penfielders Linda and Jim Panko. Linda will review her acquiring Mogli from International Hearing Dog Inc. in Colorado. Her canine friend will demonstrate his skills in alerting his owners to different sounds.

(continued on page 2)

Tues., Dec. 5th – Daytime Meeting - (continued)

We will learn how the training facility teaches the dogs. There are costs and eligibility criteria to consider as well. You too can forge a forever relationship with your own hearing dog.

Tuesday, Dec. 5th - Evening Meeting--7:00pm
Program begins at 8:00pm**COCHLEAR IMPLANTS: FAQ's –**
Mark Orlando, Ph.D.

When hearing aids no longer suffice, Cochlear Implants are an option for the profoundly deafened individual. With Cochlear Implants, infants to seniors can perceive sound and participate in the hearing world.

Dr. Mark Orlando, Director of Research and Education in Audiology, and Associate Professor in the UR Department of Otolaryngology, will explore Cochlear Implant candidacy, recent technological advances, benefits of assistive devices, and insurance reimbursement issues. Dr. Orlando serves with the Strong Hospital implant team. He has dealt with implants for over twenty years. He allows time for questions and answers!

All HLAA programs are free. Anyone interested in hearing loss is welcome. For more information, view the organizational web site at hlaa-rochester-ny.org or telephone 585 266 7890.

HLAA-Rochester Chapter meetings are held in the Parish Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Avenue at Westminster Road, across from the George Eastman House Museum. Those needing a sign language interpreter for an evening meeting should contact Linda Siple at 585 788 6744 a week in advance. (Please note, this phone is only for those needing an interpreter.)

The Rochester Chapter is a dynamic group of individuals working together as a team. HLAA has a support network of organizations: Bethesda, MD, state organizations, and local chapters.



See page 8

PRESIDENT'S/VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Sue Miller, Art Maurer

(contributing author Suzanne Johnston)



PAC: During October, our Professional Advisory Committee held its first meeting of this HLAA year. The Rochester PAC has a 34-year history with a roster of eight

members, each with a two-year term. We've been fortunate to have benefited since 1984 from the insight and advice of approximately 130 local professionals. They include experts from the medical profession, audiology, education including BOCES and NTID, legal and the courts, research, airport/transportation, business, social services, theatre and the arts.

PAC members act as an informational and professional resource to our chapter. They offer advice regarding HLAA-Rochester development of community interactions and relationships, suggest new programs and projects to benefit members and the community, and assist with events and projects.

PAC meetings are often focused on a single topic. Usually a short presentation by a PAC member with expertise in the field is first on the agenda. A lively Q and A discussion follows. The 90-minute meeting timeframe passes quickly as knowledge and experiences are shared.

We are fortunate to live in a community with such talent, and the willingness of so many to share their time and expertise. Several members of the HLAA Board of Directors attend PAC meetings to listen and learn; participate and contribute.

Membership Survey: The survey recently enclosed with our HLAA Membership letter is still open. If you haven't completed it and sent yours back, please do so as soon as you can. Our intent is to make our chapter be of more value to you.

(continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (continued)

Demo Device Center: Our opening of the Assistive Hearing Device Demo Center has been successful. Please come yourself and urge anyone in need of information to attend. It's on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10am til 2pm at Lifespan, at 1900 S. Clinton Avenue, Rochester (14618). (The next date is December 21st.) Participants can receive information and advice; can even try out specific assistive devices. The Center is another free service of HLAA-Rochester.

We do need more volunteers for the Center; if you're interested please contact Sue Miller, at SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com or call 585-924-8933.

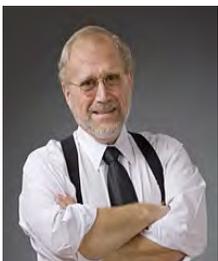
Flu Shots – The CDC recommends getting your flu shot now. Because flu is contagious 1-2 days before symptoms appear, it can be spread before we know we're infected. For more info, go to: www.cdc.gov/flu. And the CDC indicates this could be a particularly bad season for flu, possibly made worse by hurricanes and wildfires that have forced people into close contact at shelters. You cannot get the flu from the flu shot!

NEW PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

By Suzanne Johnston

The purpose of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) is to furnish professional advice and support in order to promote the development of a credible and effective HLAA organization in the Rochester area. Following is more information on one of our **new** PAC members:

JAMES J. DeCARO, Ph.D.



James J. DeCaro is professor and dean emeritus at NTID at RIT where he has been on the faculty since 1971. From 1 December 2009 to 1 January 2010 he served as interim president of NTID.

He was the founding director of NTID's Postsecondary Education Network-International (PEN-International), a multinational collaborative network of colleges and universities serving deaf students that is funded by more than \$15 million in grants from The Nippon Foundation of Japan. Professor DeCaro is also director of the NTID Center on Access Technology, which focuses upon the application of innovative technologies to facilitate access to educational settings for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Prior to holding these posts, he served as dean of NTID for 14 academic years (1985 – 1998), two of those years as interim director and CEO. In 2009, he was named Dean Emeritus by RIT President William Destler.

Jim DeCaro holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering and a Ph.D. in instructional technology. He was also awarded an honorary doctorate in 2003 by Bauman Moscow State Technical University (Russia) for his contributions to the postsecondary education of people who are deaf.

Professor DeCaro has been a Rotary International Scholar at University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (England) and a Fulbright Senior Scholar at Orebro University (Sweden). He holds an honorary professorship at Tianjin University of Technology (China). In 2008 he received the FESCO award of Japan for his service to humanity.

(new PAC members continued on page 5)

WINNER OF \$50 GIFT CARD

By Dan Brooks

The winner of the \$50 gift card as mentioned in our official Membership Letter in September was:
SOLANGE (SALLY) SKYER

CHRISTMAS FACTS:

“The name of the African-American holiday of KWANZAA comes from the Swahili phrase for ‘First Fruits’ (*matunda ya kwanza*). This celebration of family, community, and culture began in 1966.

(Old Farmer's Almanac)

RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!

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

Dec. 17th – A Christmas Story
 Feb. 11th – On Your Feet
 March 15th – An American in Paris
 May 6th – RENT

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 – CAPTIONED PLAYS !

SAT. shows 2pm; WED. 2pm & 7:30pm
unless otherwise indicated

Sun. Dec. 3 @ 12N; Wed. Dec. 20 @ 2pm & 7pm –
A Christmas Carol

Sat. Dec. 9 @ 2:30pm – **Marvelous Wonderettes**
 Sat. Jan. 13; Wed. Jan. 31 – **The Other Josh Cohen**
 Sat. Jan. 27 @ 2:30pm – **Erma Bombeck: At Wit’s End**
 Sat. Feb. 17; Wed. March 7 – **Diary of Anne Frank**
 Sat. March 17 @ 2:30pm – **Heartland**
 Sat. April 7; Wed. April 25 – **One House Over**
 Sat. May 12; Wed. May 30 – **Steel Magnolias**

Call the Box Office at 232-4382. Ask for seats in the “open captions” viewing section.

IF YOU MOVE, or are a “SNOWBIRD!”

Please don't forget to notify **Henry Adler, Ph.D.**, Univ. of Buffalo, 137-L Cary Hall, 3435 Main St., Buffalo NY 14214; or – hjadler@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.

HAIKU – for Winter!

By Carolyn Coit Dancy

the scent of wood smoke
 from a neighbor's chimney
 falling snow

JCC CenterStage – Captioned Plays!

Wed/Thurs @ 7pm; Sat/Sun @ 2pm



“First Date” – Broadway Musical
Comedy

Sun., Dec. 10; Thurs., Dec. 14; Sat., Dec. 16
“The Hit Makers: And the Beat Goes On”

Sun., Feb. 11; Thurs., Feb. 15; Sat., Feb. 17
“Buyer & Cellar”

Sun., March 18; Thurs., March 22
“Bridges of Madison County” – the musical
 Sun., May 13; Thurs., May 17; Sat., May 19

Tickets and information are available at www.jcccenterstage.org or (585) 461-2000. Please specify “Captioned Area.” Tickets are \$26-29 with discounts for JCC members, full time students and season subscribers.



For Your Donation to HLAA:

--Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate
 --Dr. Ruth P. Oakley Estate
 --Rochester Area Community Foundation
 --Mary Tuckley Estate

For Donation Above Membership:

Laura Arney; Dan Brooks; Jeanne Byrnes; Ann Cannarozzo; Laura Chaba; Mary Chizuk; Catherine Clark; Elise de Papp, M.D.; Michelle & Stan Gross; Barbara Hargrave; John Hoff; Patricia Irr; Alfred Johnson; Jeannette Kanter; Cindy Kellner; Joan Kohler; Art Maurer; Sue Miller; Patrick Mulich; Jong-Hoon Nam; Ann Owen; Pat Pogue; Ronald Proud; Thomas Sullivan; Ruth Tetlow; Julius Toenniessen; Charlie Treat

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership. If you haven't yet, please consider a donation when you renew your membership. Thanks so much!



In 1904, Longacre Square in Manhattan was renamed “Times Square” after the New York Times. (from D&C 4-2-17)

CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED !

Great news! Our Daytime and Evening monthly meetings will continue to be **captioned**.

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**. CaptionCall has been a blessing in providing true access for everyone in our chapter, since 2011, and we thank you!

We also owe a huge debt of thanks to **Dan Brooks, Charlie Johnstone, and Bruce Nelson** for overseeing the technical set-up needed for this service. Without their dedication in attending *all* meetings, this would not happen!

BIRTHDAYS – 90 YEARS AND OVER...

Everyone: please let me know if you're one of our special Chapter members who will reach the spectacular age of 90 years, or more. If you agree, we'd like to announce it in our Newsletter. It is important to let me know right away as our Newsletters are written two months ahead. Thanks, Ginger
ggraham859@gmail.com; or, (585) 671-2683



CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy is extended to **Mary Chizuk** on the loss of her uncle, Stanley Chizuk, October 20th.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Jenn Hurlburt

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **318** friends and we want more. Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

NEW PAC MEMBERS (continued from page 3)

RALPH MERANTO



Ralph Meranto is Artistic Director and Producer of CenterStage Theatre of the Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center. Ralph recently produced/directed Jason Odell Williams'

World Premiere play *Church & State* which also made its Off-Broadway debut at New World Stages.

He is known locally and nationally as an innovative theatre director and developer of new plays. As a producer he has successfully transitioned CenterStage from a community theatre to a local professional company.

Favorite directing credits include *Bad Jews, The Last Five Years, Parade, My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding, Fiddler on the Roof*, and the *Hit Factory/American Songbook* series which he also co-creates. He is also a private acting coach and appears in the occasional corporate video or television commercial.

Ralph lives in Penfield, with his graphic artist wife, Kathy, and cat, Tibby. When not doing theatre he enjoys roller coasters, concerts and is a self-defined craft beer snob.

*This ends our information on **new** PAC members. (Other members were reviewed in earlier Newsletters.) Over the 34 years that our Chapter has been in existence, we have had more than 130 PAC members. Many of them continue their involvement with service on our Board of Directors. We welcome, and appreciate, ALL of our Professional Advisory Committee members.*

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

(submitted by Fred Alrieth)

"If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind; what, then, is an empty desk a sign of?"

(Albert Einstein)

This award-winning Newsletter of the Rochester Chapter of HLAA is published monthly except for July and August.

Editor and Publisher.....Ginger Graham
Computer Consultant,
Webmaster, and Writer.....Michelle Gross
News Releases, and Writer.....Janet McKenna
Photographers.....Art Maurer, Al Suffredini

HOPE SESSION – October 3rd

By Joe Kozelsky, MS, abd, CCC-A (ret.)



There were 12 people in attendance, with several of them being first-time guests who came as a result of an ad

for HLAA in the *55 Plus magazine*. The primary reason they came was to learn how to go about getting hearing aids; and some had already had some interesting experiences. One individual wondered about a large national chain. We responded that, while there are definitely some advantages, franchises typically use only one hearing aid manufacturer which then limits options for follow-up and service. Perhaps a reasonable alternative is to consider a free-standing audiology service since such facilities are not restricted to a particular manufacturer and usually such practices can service any non-proprietary (franchised) hearing aids.

The first rule of thumb is to realize that **the most important factor is the provider** rather than the particular hearing aid. It's knowing what to do with the technology that counts.

Attendees were cautioned that great ads always signify great advertising agencies but they may or may not signify great providers. As we have said before, perhaps the best way to find good providers is to ask around--ask users how they like their hearing aids and where they got them. As always, we indicated that there is no better place to ask around than HLAA members or at an HLAA meeting.

HOPE meets at 10:15 am in the Vestry Room at St. Paul's, first Tuesday of the month. We hope you stay for our routine Chapter Meeting:
Social Time-- 11:00 – 11:30am, Parish Hall.
Business meeting-- 11:30 – Noon.
Chapter Meeting speaker-- Noon to 1:00pm.

STUDENT BOARD OF ROCHESTER CHAPTER

By Suzanne Johnston



Years ago, deaf and hard-of-hearing students attended special academic programs specifically for students who had similar hearing and communication needs. With more recent advances in education and hearing technology, the majority of deaf/HOH students are often mainstreamed into regular educational programs.

While this has served to improve educational and vocational outcomes, as a result, many of these students are isolated from others who are deaf/HOH.

The Student Board of HLAA-Rochester works to serve as a means to unite and support students and youth who are deaf and/or hard-of-hearing, and their families. The Student Board welcomes high-school and college-age students who are deaf and/or HOH, serving those with hearing loss. If you know of any students who may be interested in joining this group, please contact **Suzanne Johnston**, HLAA-Rochester Student Board Liaison at (585) 314-1807 (v/txt) or suzannejohnston@aol.com

CHRISTMAS FACTS...

On Dec. 25, 1818, "Silent Night (Stille Nacht), written by Franz Gruber and Father Joseph Mohr, was publicly performed for the first time during the Christmas Midnight Mass at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria.

(Old Farmer's Almanac)

“MY STORY” –A Personal History

By Trish Prosser



Having grown up in the Midwest, Upstate New York's hot summers and icy cold winters were not much of a change when our family settled in Rochester in 1966.

My father's employment with PPG Industries took us to several states to live as I was growing up. My birthplace was in a small town near Battle Creek, Michigan. We lived in Indiana and Ohio, before making our home in Rochester.

My career path began at MCC in the field of Health Information Management, specifically, Long Term Care. With this background and upon receiving national accreditation, I was employed for 25 years in local nursing homes.

I met my husband, Rod, through mutual friends and we were married in 1974. Three years later, our son Andrew was born followed by the birth of our daughter, Erin in 1982.

Andrew had a sense of adventure and was accepted into the Masters program at the University of Geneva in Switzerland where he majored in International Studies. Andrew met a young Greek woman, Eirini, whose friendship ultimately led to their marriage. Both secured positions with the United Nations--Andy as an agent who travels globally in an attempt to educate countries of ways to prepare for terror attacks, whether chemical, biological or nuclear warfare. Eirini as an attorney employed by the International Labor Organization.

Our lives have changed dramatically over the years as we have combined the Greek and American cultures. Andrew resides in Geneva, Switzerland with his wife and two sons. International travel has been a part of this new life for our family. Besides traveling to Greece for the wedding and then twice for the grandsons's christenings, we have had the opportunity to visit Paris and Rome.

Erin earned her RN nursing degree at the University of Buffalo and then studied to become a Nurse Anesthetist. She currently resides in Orchard Park, NY with her husband and is employed by an Anesthesiology Group. Erin is providing our family with much excitement as she gave birth to a son on the 22nd of September. Finally, a grandchild who lives only an hour and a half away!!

During my early 40's, I experienced a profound, sudden onset, unilateral hearing loss. After seeing an ad in the newspaper about a hearing loss meeting sponsored by HLAA (SHHH at the time), I decided to attend, as I was feeling very alone with my situation. As I entered the meeting room, I was warmly greeted by **Sue Miller and Vern Thayer**. That meeting was the beginning of a new life for me. Finally, through HLAA, there were people like me, with a hearing loss, who understood the complexities of this disorder.

Before long, with Sue's gentle nudge, I became a committee member of the Health Care Committee and eventually the Chairperson. This group led me into involvement with local Health Fairs, in which I remain active today. I also sat on the Board of our local chapter for many years.

As needed, I help Rod out at his engineering firm, Lakeside Engineering which he formed back in 1993. For a number of years I provided Marketing for the company.

I've been truly fortunate to have maintained a group of my high school companions as dear friends some 40+ years later. There are six of us ladies who meet as often as we can; not to mention, these friends traveled to Greece 9 years ago to attend my son's wedding. “My Story” of that trip would never fit the amount of verbiage allowed in this article!!



Sincere happy birthday greetings to **Vern Thayer** who is 101 years young Dec. 4th and, **Ray Koenig** who

will be 91 on December 30th. We wish you both more healthy and happy years.

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 Rd.,
Webster, NY 14580

Be sure to designate:

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

With sincere thanks for donating to our Chapter!

DEADLINE IS NOW!

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 Veterans Outreach Center in Rochester.

What can you contribute?

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

Their current desperate need is for socks, underwear, neck ties, shirts—anything to make a professional appearance at a job interview. Also, shampoo, conditioner, hair spray, comb/brush, soap, deodorant, feminine sanitary items, mittens/gloves, scarves, toothpaste/toothbrush, shaving cream, body powder, single pack tissues, etc.

Please bring your donations no later than our December 5th chapter meetings.

No need to wrap your gift!

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

And enormous thanks to **Marlene Sutliff** who again has offered to make the large gift box to hold our donations, and to deliver it to Veterans Outreach!

HANUKKAH -- Lighting the Menorah

By Rabbi Nechemia Vogel - D&C 12/12/16



"The importance of religious freedom is worth fighting for and necessary, even if against the odds. You have to go for it, regardless of the dangers, like the Maccabees did, taking on the Greek super power.

Light will always be stronger than darkness."

HEARING DEVICE DEMO CENTER

By Charlie Johnstone



Once again, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts and due diligence of those involved, the Demo Center's second session on October 19th was a success! All played a key role, whether they were actually there or helped with the preparations.



N. Follette, C. Johnstone, D. Brooks, M. Gross, S. Gross, J. Curtis

Thanks to **Michelle Gross, Stan Gross, Dan Brooks and Charlie Johnstone** who were "trainers" for member volunteers—**John Curtis, Noah Follette, Lorin Gallistel, Barb Law, Art Maurer, Nancy Meyer, Sue Miller, Barbara Rice.**

About 14 people stopped by looking for answers on types of devices. The types of devices represented during the demo sessions include signaling-alerting devices, captioned telephones, personal assistive listening devices, hearing aid accessories, and more.

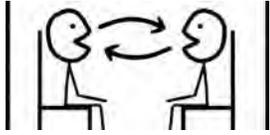
The device center is open the 3rd Thursday of each month [except July and August]. Next date: **December 21st** from 10:00 – 2pm at Lifespan.

Photos courtesy of Art Maurer

RESEARCH STUDY WANTS VOLUNTEERS!

By Jennifer Forquer, Research Program Coordinator

Mechanisms of Health Literacy and Information Accessibility in the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Study



Mission: To understand differences in attitudes, knowledge, and skills as they relate to health information,

knowledge and access among deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing individuals with the goal of improving access to health info for all. Goals:

- Expand the evidence base on visual learning and its relevance to health information
- Eliminate existing disparities in health information access and knowledge
- Empower deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing people regardless of their health literacy, to access reliable health information

We need you! Our study is currently collecting data from interviews with deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing participants. The interviews take approximately 2 hours on RIT campus (Rosica Hallroom 2160). We will provide directions and a parking pass.

Please contact through FB messenger or go to the website below and sign up. You will be paid \$40.00 for up to 2 hours of your time! Go to: <http://www.healthinfolab.com/> or, jlfcl@rit.edu

*Nothing is
Impossible
the word itself says
I'm possible*
-Audrey Hepburn

Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, Nov. 30th
(for the January Newsletter)
Email: ggraham859@gmail.com

WALK4HEARING – IN BUFFALO

By Carol Loftus



On Sunday, October 8th, about ten Rochester folks were off to the Buffalo Walk4Hearing at Delaware Park.

The morning started with cool, windy weather that did not deter a great turnout. We were greeted by many friendly volunteers and acquaintances from previous Rochester Walks.

We just couldn't pass up the delicious pastries, scones, breakfast items, fruits and varied drinks before and after the Walk.

The Children's Activities drew an ongoing flow of eager kids for face painting and activities. However, the bounce house quickly became the biggest treat for youngsters.

Ann Rancourt, Chair for the Walk, made a surprise announcement for gift cards awarded to Ken Mersimovski and Bill Hildebrant on the Buffalo Hearing and Speech team, and **Janet McKenna** and **Carol Loftus**, Hear4Tomorrow Rochester team.

The Buffalo Walk4Hearing's first successful Walk raised \$37,234; with a few stray donations continuing to be received.

In closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to those who donated to my team, Hear4Tomorrow; to the other three Rochester teams; and to those who attended the Walk in Buffalo. We helped make a difference.

A fun morning was had by ALL!
Planning has started for Buffalo's Walk for next year. No date as yet.

Photo of: Janet McKenna, Barb Law, Carol Loftus; courtesy of Barb Law

CAPTIONING ON PUBLIC TV's

By Dr. Robert Menchel, Ed.D.

Recently the city of Rochester passed an ordinance that all TV's in public places are required to show closed captions. (See last month's November Newsletter.) While the intention was good, it was not thought through. Being an advocate for captioning in any form, it may puzzle you why I disagree with this ordinance.

In my opinion, both the HLAA and the D&C are wrong in assuming that captions are displayed across the bottom of the screen. There is no way of knowing where the captions will be displayed.

Now to make my points as to why this ordinance was not thought through:

1. Bars and restaurants already provide closed captions or when asked, they will turn them on. My experience has been that the same goes for any public place that has TV's.
2. Bars and restaurants have TV's located around the room more than 20 to 30 feet away from customers. The font size is too small to read at a distance beyond 6 to 10 feet.
3. The captions interfere with what is being displayed on the screen, especially for sporting events. The customers in the bar or restaurant want to see the scores, number of outs, etc.. Captions interfere with this by overlapping that information .
4. You never know where the captions are going to be displayed. There is already a lot of print information shown on the screen. A crawl along the bottom of the screen, then a banner with info about what is being reported, and so on. During a football game or baseball game, the scores, and time remaining, is in a banner on the bottom, and captions cover this info. This is bothersome to both deaf and hearing viewers.
5. When I'm in a restaurant or bar with my friends or my wife, I don't want to watch TV. When a big game is on and you are with a group of friends, more often than not you are watching the game and the captions add nothing to understanding the game.
6. The same confusion goes for Captioned News. A banner is at the bottom of the screen, a crawl across the bottom as well and the captions fall on top of these covering up info that the viewer wants to see.
7. Captions are very poor, there are spelling mistakes, delays between sentences, captions disappearing in the middle of a story and other problems. Why should anyone want to put such poor quality on display for the general public?

While I would normally be in support of such a requirement, in this case, I feel the matter was not thought through. People rushed this through thinking they were doing a good thing without feedback from both sides in the deaf community.

Subjects of Jan. 2nd Chapter Meetings:

Daytime –“Discovering Deaf Worlds” – David Justice and Davin Searles. They explain DDW, a nonprofit dedicated to the self-determination of signing Deaf communities in developing countries.

Evening – "Your Significant Other has Hearing Loss: What's Next?" Chapter members informally discuss the complications of living and dealing with an individual with hearing loss.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Hot Jobs: Openings for audiologists projected to jump 14 percent *(from the D&C); from Al Suffredini*

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/money/business/2017/09/04/hot-jobs-openings-audiologists-projected-jump-14-percent/629997001/>

WHO KNOWS?

By Janet McKenna, MLS



The good thing about Tom's auto crash was that his Cochlear Implant had remained on his head when the EMT's carried him into the emergency room. Head and spine injuries were the bad parts.

Tom's wife, Ruth, had never manipulated his Cochlear Implant (CI for short). It had been his job to deal with. Hospital staff had never seen such a device before and were even more clueless about it.

Ruth had to search their house for the CI instruction booklet for a quick self-tutoring so she could even explain basics to the nurses and technicians. Of course, without his CI, Tom was functionally deaf. He couldn't follow directions or respond to questions.

Once everyone figured out how the implant worked, Ruth still had to monitor dead batteries, volume levels, and not losing the CI.

What about **your** hearing aid/Cochlear Implant? Should you suddenly be incapacitated by broken bones, burns, bee stings--could your significant other explain your hearing device to medical staff? Where do you keep spare parts? Batteries? Recharging stations? Instruction booklets? Who is your audiologist? Could your significant other/caretaker/close friend correctly place the device on your head and demonstrate this to others? Can you sleep with it? How are dead batteries indicated, and how are they changed? What kind of batteries power your implant/hearing aid?

Think about it. Who besides you knows your Cochlear Implant or hearing aid?

This scenario is adapted from a true story.

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Our January Chapter Meetings will be Tuesday, January 2nd. We hope to see everyone then!



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

Sincerely, *Ginger, Janet, and Michelle*

CHRISTMAS FACTS

In 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors" (the first opera written specifically for television) was first broadcast by NBC-TV.

In 1823, the poem "Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" was published anonymously in the *Troy NY Sentinel*; the verse, more popularly known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas," was later attributed to Clement C. Moore.

(Old Farmer's Almanac)

Disclaimer—HLAA does not endorse products or services. Mention of such is intended to provide readers with information on products or services that might be of interest; it is not a recommendation or endorsement.



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HLAA Membership Information

Hearing Loss Association (HLAA) Rochester Chapter, Inc., 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 October through June at St.Paul’s Episcopal Church, East Ave. (September is 2nd Tuesday.) 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**

Professional Advisors

2016 - 2018

*Julie Hanson
 Ralph Meranto
 Kristen Nolan
 Charles G. Perreaud*

2017 – 2019

*Tamala David, Ph.D.
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 Peter Reeb*

**Consultants: Paul Dutcher, M.D.
 Charles Johnstone, James Vazzana, Esq.**
 ^^^

Newsletter

*Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.
 Send articles to:
 Ginger Graham
 859 Meadow Ridge Lane
 Webster, NY 14580
 ggraham859@gmail.com*

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – HLAA-ROCHESTER CHAPTER
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HLAA is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: www.hearingloss.org/.

The Rochester Chapter, started in 1983, is a dynamic group of individuals working together as a team. To join, please see inside back page. HLAA has a support network of organizations—Bethesda, MD; State organizations; and, local Chapters. Welcome!

Meetings are hearing accessible

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

All meetings are audio looped and captioned. Interpreters are available on request *for evening meetings only*-- contact Linda Siple, 585 288 6744, or at lasnss@rit.edu, at least a week in advance. **(This phone number is only to request an Interpreter.)**

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