



Telephone: (585) 266-7890
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Volume 32, Number 7 published monthly except July and August – Rochester NY Chapter Newsletter March 2019

MARCH Calendar

Tuesday, March 5th

10:00 am – HOPE Session–Vestry Room, St. Paul’s

Daytime Chapter meeting:

11:00 am - Refreshments/Social Time- Parish Hall

11:30 am – Announcements/Business Meeting

12 Noon – 1 pm – Program Speaker

Evening Chapter meeting:

7:00 pm – Refreshments/Social Time – Parish Hall

7:30 pm – Announcements/Business Meeting

8:00 pm – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Tues., March 12th – BOD – 7-9pm – Al Sigl Center

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

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., April 9th - BOD – 7-9pm – Al Sigl Center

Tues., April 16th – PAC MEETING, 7-9pm, ASC

Thurs., April 18th – Device Demo Center, Lifespan, from 10am to 2pm, free to all. (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.) Also, see page 11 - info from St. Paul’s Church.

Hospitality Duties for March:

Daytime Meeting –Anne Adamson, Ginger Graham, Kathy Vigna

Evening Meeting –Betsy McClain

Board of Directors –Michelle Gross, Barb Law

We need your support. Please consider joining our Chapter, or renewing your membership. (Please see form inside the back cover)



MARCH PROGRAMS

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

Tues., March 5th - 10:00am - Vestry room HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) session – Joe Kozelsky, MS, abd, CCC-A retired.

Prospective, new or long-time hearing aid users can share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys in an informal round table discussion facilitated by retired audiologist and current hearing aid user, Joe Kozelsky. All are welcome!

Tues., March 5th -Daytime Meeting -11:00 am-Speaker begins at Noon.

11:00am-1:00pm Parish Hall. Program begins at noon.

Aging happy and healthy while having fun
 With Katie Bauer, Episcopal Senior Life, Community Liaison

Have a positive attitude, enthuses Katie. Being happy and healthy is her passion. She’ll demonstrate a few exercises and give nutrition tips.

(continued on page 2)

Tuesday, March 5th – Daytime (continued)

“Vital to this contented attitude is socializing with one’s peers,” she says.

Katie runs the neighborhood programs at Episcopal Senior Life, leading classes in chair yoga, Zumba, and meditation. She’s a Weight Watchers coach who also does cooking demonstrations on television.

Tues., March 5th – Evening Meeting–7-9:00 pm
Speaker begins at 8:00 pm**Ask the audiologist—New hearing aid technology re tinnitus, hearing in noise, and rechargeability -**

Carolynne Pouliot Au.D., Hearing Aid Works
Audiology

Specializing in tinnitus and new hearing aid technology, Carolynne will cover updated treatment options for minimizing tinnitus while facilitating hearing in noise. She will explore which hearing instruments are rechargeable and streamable to phones and televisions.

Carolynne earned her AuD designation at the University at Buffalo in 2009.

All HLAA programs are free. Anyone interested in hearing loss is welcome. For more information, view the organization's web site at hearinglossrochester.org or telephone 585 266 7890.

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.

AMAZING SALE – ORIGINAL PAINTINGS

Are you interested in original wall paintings by an accomplished, professional artist, Bing Thayer. (Bing was Vern Thayer’s wife.)

The estate of Joan Ewing has 2 paintings for sale. (Joan was an active member of our chapter for many years.) For details, please contact Tom or Betty Jennings at tjennin2@rochester.rr.com.

**FROM OUR PRESIDENT, AND,
VICE-PRESIDENT**

By Dan Brooks and Suzanne Johnston



Seems like life these days means we are always playing ‘hurry up and wait’. Life is busy and everyone wants something done NOW, or even yesterday. Our

patience for others around us tends to be shorter. Those of us with hearing loss feel the urgency of communication when we have to ask for a message to be repeated more than once. It’s not a comfortable feeling, and many of us will not ask a second time. As a result, our hearing challenges often get ‘swept under the rug’ as we work to appear as ‘normal’ as possible. We may feel isolated and unsupported in the challenges we face daily.

The Operations Committee for HLAA-Rochester recently embarked upon a time of ‘**strategic planning**’ in an effort to ensure that the work we do is actually propelling the organization in a direction we are intending to go. In a volunteer organization, our personal agendas can easily take over, and periodically it is important to re-envision our direction as a group.

Strategic planning is a slow process, and one of careful and thoughtful review, reflection and re-grouping. We may feel that it takes too much time, that it might be easier to just ‘plough ahead’ and continue to do our work as we see fit. But strategic planning is a necessary process every so often to keep us on track.

Recently, the committee began to summarize all that we do as an organization, and compartmentalize those efforts under various aspects of our mission – activities which fulfill **ADVOCACY**, **EDUCATION** and **SUPPORT** for people with hearing loss. These important aspects of HLAA-Rochester’s mission are embodied not only by the organization as a whole, but are also reflected in the behavior and habits of those of us who serve the organization.

(continued on page 3)

PRESIDENTS COLUMN – (continued)

The third of these—**SUPPORT**--is underscored by so much that we do. The activities HLAA has built around *support* are many, as it is the first and most important contact for many of us with hearing loss. *Support* is what we (people with hearing loss and our significant others) first seek when we are faced with hearing loss. And so, there is an importance and an urgency to ensure that our organization accomplishes *support* in a big way.

Some of HLAA's activities which focus on *support* are those best known to our membership. The list of *support* activities that the Operations Committee came up with (not an exclusive list!) included our monthly **HOPE** (Hearing Other People's Experiences) sessions, directly ahead of our daytime chapter meetings. These meetings offer an opportunity to meet to discuss a variety of topics, including living with hearing loss and all the challenges it may present. Communication strategies, access technology, hearing aids, and emotional or cognitive strain posed by hearing loss are just a sampling of some of topics discussed during these round-table discussions. This venue is often the first time many of our future members meet us in an effort to deal with their hearing challenges. Since HOPE sessions began just a few years ago, the number of people around the table has increased two- or three-fold any given month. That is a testament to the importance of *support* for those with hearing loss and how much it is needed.

Our infamous **Assistive Listening Device Demo Center ('Demo Center')** in partnership with Lifespan has also proven to be a catalyst for *support* for persons with hearing loss. Another effort which has attracted increasing numbers of individuals on a monthly basis, the center offers an important service directed at providing education and samples of new (and some old!) technology which can be used to access auditory information and deal with sound in the world around us. The average person would not otherwise have an opportunity to learn about and sample some of this technology before purchasing these items--some of which can be a significant financial commitment. Lifespan itself is an

organization which understands the need of *support* for individuals in our community, and they have been a perfect partner in helping spread the word about the *support* services our chapter offers.

Another way HLAA-Rochester offers *support* to our community is in planning and executing community activities and outings specifically for people with hearing loss and their significant others. Last month many visited the JCC for a captioned performance of "The Hitmakers: The British Are Coming!" Artistic director, Ralph Meranto (who serves on our **Professional Advisory Committee**...yet another means of *support*), has ensured that these performances are accessible to people with hearing loss. By providing opportunities to enjoy activities together and to socialize in a comfortable environment, our Chapter offers *support* for ways to connect with others, dispel isolation, and stimulate the senses.

'Support' means caring for all aspects of the individual with hearing loss--physical, emotional, intellectual and social. Taking time out of our busy HLAA-Rochester schedules to reflect on/strategize how we best accomplish these is worth the investment of time and energy. Precious time worth spending in an otherwise busy world.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES Deadline April 5, 2019

HLAA-Rochester is once again pleased to announce the continuation of its Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program was started in 1996 initially with a \$500 grant. The initial program was made possible by a generous donation from J. Stuart and Phyllis MacDonald. In 2006 the award was increased to \$1,000 made possible in part by funds raised by our annual Walk4Hearing.

If you know a high-school senior with hearing loss, who is pursuing postsecondary education or vocational training, please tell them about our program! Financial need is not a requirement. The scholarship is a one-time award.

(continued on page 4)

SCHOLARSHIPS - (continued)

Applications for the scholarship are available at our website: www.hearinglossrochester.org. or by contacting Nancy or Doug Meyer at dnmeyer@frontiernet.net The application deadline is **APRIL 5, 2019**. Applications received after this will not be considered. Please help us spread the word.

RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!

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

March 10, 2019 – **Miss Saigon**

April 28, 2019 – **Hamilton**

June 9, 2019 - **Waitress**

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

Wed. March 13 – **The Humans**

Sat. March 16 @ 2:30pm – **Erma Bombeck**

Sat. March 30; Wed. April 17 - **Native Gardens**

Sat. April 13 @ 2:30pm - **The Royal**

Sat. May 4; Wed. May 29 – **Revival: The Resurrection of Son House**

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

***We need your support!
Rising costs are making the
mailing of Newsletters to
non-dues paying members
difficult. Please pay your dues! Thanks so much.***

**JCC CenterStage – Captioned Plays!**

Wed/Thurs @ 7pm; Sat/Sun @ 2pm
unless otherwise indicated

Sun. April 7; Thurs. April 11 –
“Indecent”

Sun. May 12; Wed. May 15 –
“Oklahoma”

Tickets and information are available at www.jcccenterstage.org or (585) 461-2000. *Please specify “Captioned Area.”* Tickets are \$25-33 with discounts for JCC members, full-time students and season subscribers.

NTID THEATRES

PANERA THEATRE - captioned

Thurs/Fri.-7:30pm; Sat.-2pm,
7:30pm; Sun.-2pm (unless otherwise indicated)

“FENCES”

April 11 & 12; April 13 @ 7:30pm only; April 14

MAGIC SPELL THEATRE – captioned.

“AL-POLLO”

April 19; April 20 @ 2pm & 8pm; April 25;
April 26; April 27 @ 8pm only; April 28

Panera Theater parking in Lot “L”

Magic Spell parking in Lots “E” & “F”

Cost: \$12 general public More Info:

https://www.rit.edu/cla/finearts/theatrearts/cla-ntid_18-19jointseason.

CAPTIONED MOVIES AT CINEMA THEATRE

By Gaelen McCormick

All Wednesday movies at the Cinema are **open caption.** They rotate movies every week and are a LOT less expensive than the AMC and Regal cinemas. Check local listings and www.cinamarochester.com or www.captionfish.com

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

“Perhaps they are not stars in the sky but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy.” *Charles Schulz (Peanuts)*

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

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**. It will be the 8th year Cameron Tingley has offered to underwrite the cost of this invaluable service. By June 2019, CaptionCall will have spent \$24,000 to have our meetings captioned...aren't we blessed! and we thank you!

We also owe a huge debt of thanks to **Dan Brooks, Lorin Gallistel, 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!

**NEWS FROM MEMBERS**

By Mary Chizuk

January 19th, **Dan Brooks, Dr. Bess Herbert and I** presented at the NYS Academy of Family Medicine Physicians Scientific Assembly Winter Meeting at the Hyatt Regency hotel on Main Street.

"Enhancing Communication between Providers and Patients with Hearing Loss."

Don Bataille set up a loop, provided microphones and some ALDs for demonstration.

Our program was well received and may be presented at other professional organization meetings in the near future.

(Footnote, thinking of upcoming June Convention: information about the Hyatt Regency Hotel--The Hyatt was very accessible and perhaps members might be persuaded to register if they had concerns about walking a long distance.)

For Your Donation to HLAA:

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

In Memory of Joan Ewing

Pat Irr

For Donation Above Membership:

Allan Baker, Tom Corteville, Pat Irr

Please consider a donation when you renew your membership.

Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, February 28th
(for the April Newsletter)

Email: ggraham859@gmail.com

We need your support! Rising costs are making the mailing of Newsletters to non-dues paying members difficult. Please pay your dues! Only \$10. Thanks so much. (Please see form inside back cover.)

**SUBJECTS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS**

April 2nd -

Daytime Meeting: "Cochlear Implants" – with Dr. John Wayman

Evening Meeting: "Genetics of Hearing Loss" – dry run ahead of Convention presentation - with Dr. Patricia White

NEW NYS REQUIRED COURSE FOR AUDIOLOGISTS AND HEARING AID DISPENSERS

By Kristen J. M. Nolan, MS, CCC-A

Starting January 1, 2019 Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers are required to take a one-hour Telecoil & Assistive Listening Devices Course. (This course is in addition to the already required one-hour Professional Conduct and one-hour Infection Control Courses.) Another new requirement is that all these courses can no longer be taken online. The courses must be taken in person and must be completed prior to the renewal of the New York State Hearing Aid Dispensing License. Audiologists have two New York State Licenses, one is for Audiology and the other is for the Hearing Aid Dispensing. The NYS Audiology License is renewed every three years and requires 30 continuing education credit hours to be completed. The NYS Hearing Aid Dispensing License is renewed every two years and requires four credit hours to be completed.

In the new Telecoil and Assistive Listening Devices course, we discuss the importance of a telecoil as well as where and how they can be used. We also review many Assistive Listening Devices such as amplified telephones--both corded and cordless, amplified telephone signalers, amplified alarm clocks, alerting devices (such as smoke detectors) and Bluetooth technologies.

These three courses need to be taken by an approved New York State course instructor and the courses themselves need to be approved by New York State. To find a course near you, please go to https://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/hearingaid/hearingaid_coned.html then call one of the approved locations listed to find out when the next course will be available. **Sounds for Life of Pittsford will be offering all three courses on May 31, 2019.** For more information: (585) 248-5212, or, www.SFLHearing.com.

DID YOU KNOW...

“In 1817, America’s first public gas street lamp was lighted in Baltimore, MD.” (D&C 2-4-18)

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Jenn Hurlburt

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **346** friends and we want more. Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

HLAA CONVENTION 2019– PLAN TO COME!

By Sue Miller

Can you all believe the national HLaA Convention is returning to Rochester?! In 1988, the Rochester Chapter hosted the third national convention and we assumed we would never have another opportunity. June 20 – 23, 2019 will provide that incredible chance again...so sign up and plan to attend!

The **Exhibit Hall** with every hearing and listening device you could ever imagine will be available to you...the **workshops** provide information and education that you’ll love. The **Gala dinner** and entertainment will be terrific, especially since national is celebrating its 40th anniversary. (And remember, our chapter is celebrating its 36th anniversary this year...so it’s a double celebration!) Come to support two members from Rochester who have won national awards—Ann Marie Cook, Lifespan; and Barb Law, from our Chapter.

You’ll have the opportunity to meet new people from all across the country as well as see your chapter friends. When a Convention is held on the East Coast, the turnout is always fantastic and provides an extra spark of enthusiasm, which you won’t want to miss.

Take advantage of the Early Bird Registration by March 1st. So far, more than 60 people from our Chapter have signed up to attend the convention...it will be like ‘old home week’and you’ll love every minute of it!

For more info and also to register, Go to: <http://www.hearinglossrochester.org/hlaa-events>, or <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention>

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our award-winning Chapter website is: <http://www.hearinglossrochester.org>, and **Michelle Gross** is our Web Master. HLAA National website is www.hearingloss.org.

IF YOU MOVE, or are a "SNOWBIRD!"

Please don't forget to notify **Henry J. 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.



COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP

By Ginger Graham

Our meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 2nd, from 1:30 – 2:30pm** in the Parish Hall of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. across from the George Eastman House Museum. The room is looped and there will be captioning.

We're planning a "round-table discussion" following the routine Chapter Meeting that day from 12 Noon-1:00pm, with Dr. John Wayman, an implant surgeon at Strong. I'm sure he will have current information to present that we can discuss at our 1:30pm session.

And our next "CI Group" meeting is not until the Fall--October 1st. So don't miss out on this April 2nd meeting. Janet and I look forward to seeing you.

DID YOU KNOW...

"Only 47% of Americans know **STROKE** warning signs is the F.A.S.T. acronym—Face drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty, Time to call 911."
(from D&C 5-15-18)

HEARING OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCES

By Jim Feuerstein



The January 8th HOPE session was attended by 14 people. There was a mix of experienced, new and prospective hearing aid users.

As typically happens with prospective new users, some discussion centered on things to think about when buying hearing aids for the first time--being sure you have a complete evaluation of your hearing by an Audiologist prior to making any decisions, (even if one is contemplating buying hearing aids from someplace staffed only by a hearing aid dispenser); finding a place near (but not necessarily the closest) to home; finding a professional you trust and are able to work with; and taking full advantage of the 45-day trial period as well as being sure to go to ALL follow-up visits for fine-tuning and learning about the aids--were all suggested by members of the group. The idea that everyone should have a telecoil was brought up; and, for the new people, room loops and other T-coil benefits were shared. A list of helpful hints developed by Joe Kozelsky was shared with all. Some discussion went to internet hearing aids and the (yet to be approved in NY) idea of "over-the-counter" (OTC) hearing aids. It came out that OTCs often have NO volume control, and NO telecoil.

For experienced users who still have difficulty in some situations, part of the discussion went to the idea of not trying to hide your hearing loss. Let people know you have a hearing difficulty right at the outset. Tell the wait staff at the restaurant, the receptionist at the doctor's office, or the clerk at the store that you have a hearing loss and wear hearing aids. Ask them to simply speak slowly and clearly and to face you. In most situations, they should not have to speak louder--that's the job of the hearing aids. It was pointed out that when people speak slower, they naturally speak more clearly and, if facing you, they will be easier to speech-read because slowing down also improves the visual cues you will see.

(continued on page 8)

HOPE SESSION – (continued)

There was also some discussion about assistive technologies, and people were invited to our Chapter's ALD Demo Center at Lifespan the third Thursday of the month. (See below.)

All-in-all attendees seemed to feel it was a useful and productive session.



NEW SMART HEARING AID COMING

(excerpt from Readers Digest, submitted by Bob Quatro –Central Oklahoma chapter, Nov.2018)

Researchers at NY Columbia University Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science are developing a high-tech hearing aid that can help people focus on a single voice in a noisy restaurant or any other setting that's packed with competing and overlapping sounds.

The hearing aid works by monitoring the brain activity of the user to determine whether he or she is conversing with a specific speaker; it then automatically picks that person's voice out of a mixed audio feed and amplifies it. In a recent trial, almost all the subjects found the device helpful and wanted to continue using it beyond the test.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER

By Charlie Johnstone

Once again, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of those involved, February 21st was a great success!



Visitors were very appreciative of the attention and help they received. There are few places

where people with a hearing loss can go to get instant help and quality information for free! Lifespan's generosity in so many ways, combined with the hard work and contribution of so many volunteers, really make a difference!

The types of devices represented during the demo sessions include signaling-alerting devices, captioned telephones and personal assistive listening devices [with an emphasis on TV listening and coping with noisy environments].

A new "virtual device demo center" app for smart phones and tablets will continue to be tested during upcoming demo sessions. A few new representative devices made a debut at the September demo session as part of the effort to showcase the most up-to-date technologies.

The next demo session at Lifespan is Thursday, March 21st, 10am to 2pm. The device center is open the 3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August, or when Lifespan is closed). Lifespan is located at 1900 S. Clinton Ave. (Tops Plaza) 14618.

However, there will not be a demo session this coming **June** because the **HLAA National Convention** will be here in Rochester June 20-23!! We encourage you to register and attend. Among many featured events, manufacturers and distributors of assistive devices will be showing their products in the Exhibit Hall. Admittance to the exhibits is open to the public at no charge. There are registration fees to attend other aspects of the Convention. A link to info about the convention and registration is below. "Early bird" registration ends on **March 1st, 2019.** After that, the cost increases.

<https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention/>

We Welcome All Donations

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

Mail to: Ms. Joan Kohler, 15 Pickett Lane,
Hilton, NY 14468

Be sure to designate:

This donation is: In Memory of; or, In Honor of;
or, Birthdays congratulations. And who to send the Acknowledgment to.

With sincere thanks for donating to our Chapter!

"In March much snow,
to plants and trees much woe."
(German proverb; Old Farmer's Almanac)

OTC HEARING AIDS AND DEGREE OF HEARING LOSS

By Joe Kozelsky, MS, abd, CCC-A (retired)

January 12, 2019

Hello Dr. Xxxx,

I believe you are associated with the original OTC hearing aid recommendation in some manner and because of this I write with a question.

Can you tell me what is meant by "mild to moderate"? Is it the intention of this term to cover only mild hearing losses? Or, is it meant to include both mild and moderate hearing losses. Also, would you know where I might find this term defined? Thanks.

January 13, 2019

Hi Joe. The use of mild-moderate is a bit misleading. Most of the better OTCs can only provide enough audibility for mild (i.e., audiogram measured) hearing losses. That doesn't mean a moderately impaired user would not get SOME benefit. As for "defined," mild to moderate is typically defined in Audiology texts as a loss of 20-55 dB, but that can vary across ears and across frequency. Does this help at all?? Dr. Xxxx

January 13, 2019

Hi Xxxx,

Thank you for your prompt reply. I have a few more questions which I am trying to put together as I hope to write something on this for our local HLAA Chapter in Rochester, NY. I hope you won't mind, I don't wish to impose on you. Thanks, J.

January 18, 2019

Hi Xxxx. Thanks for getting back, sorry for the delay. We are in Florida for the month and travelling quite a bit, making it a bit hard to focus. Am I "misremembering" that you were involved in one of the advisory groups leading to the recommendations for OTC HAs?

In any event, keeping in mind the results from Larry Hume's report on outcomes for OTC fittings--which indicated that ~50% of OTC HA purchasers returned their hearing aids--leads to the question of how do consumers evaluate their OTC HA fitting, and what resources should be available for them to do this properly? I have commented previously in one of my Rochester Chapter HLAA Newsletter articles that it would seem that there should be very liberal return policies involved for any OTC HA purchase. Especially since, if I recall correctly, that most/many of the "problems" in the Hume's study were due to simple

mismanagement issues rather than actual HA defects or even user-selected acoustic fitting issues.

Further, intuitively, one might think the issue of satisfaction with OTC HAs might have a potential for some unhappy outcomes because of the designation of OTC HAs as being suitable for "mild to moderate" hearing losses, yet with "designed gain" to satisfy mostly mild hearing losses. I'm sure I'm missing something important, and I would imagine there was discussion on this terminology.

FYI, I hope to include a section on the evaluation of personal hearing aid fitting for both third party (audiology or dispenser based) and OTC purchasers in a book I fantasize writing on hearing and hearing aid matters. Kind of a tough chapter for *me* to write.

January 29, 2019

Note to reader. As of January 29, I have not yet heard back from my contact. And, I should also say, that so far, I have "fantasized" approximately 60,000 words, and this is indeed a tough chapter.

What bothers me, and I would suspect most audiologists, is that there is a huge difference between mild hearing losses and the more advanced stages of moderate hearing losses.



Sincere birthday greetings to this member who will be 90 years or older! Congratulations and many more healthy and happy years!

--March 30th – Marge Stasiuk

DID YOU KNOW....

"In the 6th Century, Pope Gregory I designated Ash Wednesday as the first day of Lent--a 40-day period of abstinence. Ashes, which at one time were showered over notorious sinners who came to church in sackcloth, became symbols of penance.

TODAY, Christians display ashes on their foreheads as a reminder of their mortality."

(March 6th is Ash Wednesday this year.)

(from Farmer's Almanac)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME -- MARCH 10th

Clocks spring ahead 1 hour the 2nd Sunday in March; and, fall back the 1st Sunday in November..as passed by Congress in 2006.

**MARDI GRAS....**

(submitted by Esther Brill)

Are Carnival and Mardi Gras the same thing?

Don't confuse Carnival and Mardi Gras! Carnival refers to the period of feasting and fun which always begins on January 6th, The Feast of the Epiphany. Mardi Gras refers to Fat Tuesday, the final day of revelry before Ash Wednesday (this year, March 6th) when Lent begins.

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER, Tues., May 21st

We need your help in organizing our dinner. Please contact Barb Law at blaw1@rochester.rr.com; or, Sue Miller at SusanLeeMiller39@cs.com for more info. Thanks for your consideration in helping to make our dinner a huge success.

ROGER PEN --AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO USE

By Nancy Meyer

Our chapter owns a Roger Pen/MyLink assistive listening device which we received, free of charge, at the 2015 National HLAA Convention. Phonak held a demo session and distributed a Roger Pen/MyLink to each of the 60 chapters represented. Since its value is estimated at \$1500, this was a considerable investment for Phonak.

Doug and Nancy Meyer attended the session and became 'caretakers' of our unit. After use, you need to fill out a very short online survey. There is no obligation nor expectation to purchase. The Roger pen and MyLink receiver work with any brand of hearing aid equipped with a t-coil, so it is not limited to Phonak owners.

Please see us and sign up at a chapter meeting or call Doug or Nancy at 585-243-2079 to arrange for you to receive and return it. We will show you how

to use it. Please plan to reserve it for a time (usually a month) that will allow you to get maximum use from the device.

*Disclaimer: We are not salespersons and receive no compensation from Phonak. We simply are the conduit between Phonak and you, the user.

NATIONAL CONVENTION, JUNE 20-23, 2019

Register now....our HLAA National Convention is coming here, to us, in Rochester!

Join us for a

Convention to remember where you will meet other people with hearing loss, learn in the most communication accessible environment and enjoy the sights of Rochester: a world of art, theater, music, photography, history, nature and play! **Reduced rates before March 1st**. Watch our Newsletters and Website for further information. Go to: <http://www.hearinglossrochester.org/hlaa-events>, or <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention>

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

We need your support! Rising costs are making the mailing of Newsletters to non-dues paying members difficult. Please pay your dues! Thanks so much. (Please see form inside back cover.)

**DID YOU KNOW....**

"In 1762, New York held its first St. Patrick's Day parade.: *(from D&C 3-11-18)*

HELP HLAA VIA THE UNITED WAY

We continue to be a United Way “Donor Designated Option” choice. We are not a direct United Way agency and do not receive any funding from their general campaign. Therefore, to donate to HLAA through the United Way, we ask you to consider donating to us through the “Designated Option” on your gift card.

Our United Way number is 2425.



Your past support is deeply appreciated. As with other gifts, your donation enables our

chapter to continue to provide education, help, and advocacy for people with hearing loss, their family and their friends. Alas, even though the local chapter is a totally volunteer organization, there are still costs such as printing, postage, phones, and technical items. Many thanks!

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

BAD WEATHER--ST. PAUL’S CLOSED

St. Paul’s Church will cancel or postpone parish programming or services should any of the following conditions be met:

1. *Monroe County issues a ban on unnecessary travel; and/or,*
2. *The Rochester City School District closes and/or cancels afternoon activities; and/or,*
3. *The wind chill is at or below -20 degrees.*

ST. PATRICK’S DAY – March 17th

(submitted by Janet McKenna, MSL)



Saint Patrick (389?-461) is the patron saint of Ireland. Although not the first Christian missionary to Ireland, Patrick was chiefly

responsible for converting the Irish to Christianity. He was born in Britain. When he was 16, pirates kidnapped him during a raid and sold him as a slave in Ireland. He served as a shepherd for an Irish chieftain. During his captivity Patrick took great interest in religion and dedicated himself to prayer. After six years of slavery, he escaped and returned to Britain.

Pope Celestine I sent him to Ireland, and he is considered to have established more than 300 churches and baptized more than 120,000 people.

He is alleged to have driven the snakes out of Ireland, which is interpreted to mean he expelled false teachings and evils there. Legend has it that he used the shamrock to illustrate the Trinity: one God with three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The shamrock came to be the traditional symbol of Ireland. Saint Patrick died on March 17, 461AD, and his feast day is March 17.

---Roy, Neil J. "Patrick, Saint." World Book Student, World Book 2018.

ANDROID APPS TO HELP HEARING LOSS

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

According to a February 4th Fortune report, Google is rolling out **two new Android apps to help people with hearing loss**. The first, Live Transcribe, gives persons with hearing loss text-to-speech capabilities, thus providing real-time captions for conversations that scroll on the Android users’ phones. *(by Brian Taylor)*



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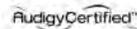
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HLAA Membership Information

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

2017 – 2019

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James DeCaro, Ph.D.
Christine Olivier
Peter Reeb

2018 – 2020

Kathy Foster
Emily Krohn
Ralph Meranto
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Newsletter

Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.
 Send articles to:
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – HLAA-ROCHESTER CHAPTER
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Founded in 1979, the mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

HLAA is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA publishes the bimonthly Hearing Life Magazine, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: <http://www.hearinglossrochester.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 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.

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Entrance to the meeting room is via the Westminster Rd. door, down the corridor to the end, into the large Parish Hall room.

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