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Volume 33, Number 4 published monthly except July and August – Rochester NY Chapter Newsletter December 2019

DECEMBER Calendar

Tuesday, December 3rd

10:00 am – HOPE Session–Vestry Room, St. Paul’s
“Hearing Other People’s Experiences”

Daytime Chapter meeting:

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

Evening Chapter meeting:

7:00 pm – Refreshments/Social Time – Parish Hall
7:30 pm – Announcements
8:00 pm – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Tues., Dec. 10th – **BOD meeting**- 7-9pm – ASC

Thurs., Dec. 19th – **Device Demo Center**, Lifespan.
(from 10am to 2pm, free to all.) also, see page 7

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., Jan. 14th - BOD meeting – 7-9pm – ASC

Thurs., Jan. 16th -Device Demo Center, Lifespan

Tues., Jan. 21st - PAC meeting – 7-9pm - ASC

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 December:

Daytime Meeting – Dan Brooks, Barb Law,
Eric Matson

Evening Meeting – Dan Brooks

Board of Directors –Henry Adler, Margaret Cochran
Sue Miller

Please sign up when the Refreshment Sheet goes around. Thanks!



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

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

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

Tues., Dec. 3rd - 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 share their experiences, questions, and hearing loss journeys in an informal round table discussion facilitated by retired audiologist and hearing aid user, Joe Kozelsky. All are welcome!

Tues., Dec. 3rd -Daytime Meeting -11am-1pm Speaker begins at Noon in the Parish Hall.

“Beethoven Effect: A Musician’s Journey with Hearing Loss”. - *Gaelen McCormick*

Chapter member Gaelen McCormick, a member of the bass section of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra from 1995-2017, equates some of her own hearing loss journey with Beethoven’s sufferings before the invention of hearing aids and cochlear implants. It has been said that the soprano singing in the premier of “Ninth Symphony” turned the conductor/composer around to face the audience because he was unable to hear their tumultuous applause.

(continued on page 2)

Tuesday, Dec. 3rd – Daytime Meeting - continued

Gaelen describes the effect of his hearing loss on Beethoven, the adaptations he tried to overcome his deafness, and some theories about the causes of his anger and temperament in his later years. She explores her own transition through losing her hearing, composing, and her most recent incarnation in turning her career to arts management. She may even play for us!

Gaelen received performance degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Carnegie Mellon University and has taught double bass at Nazareth College, Roberts Wesleyan College, and the Eastman Community Music School. She presently teaches at the Arts Leadership Program at the Eastman School of Music's collegiate division.

Tues., Dec. 3rd – Evening Meeting–7:00-9:00 pm **Speaker begins at 8:00 pm**

“First Responders: Police and Hard-of-Hearing Citizens.” - *Michael Murphy, RPD*

Hard-of-hearing citizens can encounter police as victims of crimes, accidents, or disasters; as witnesses to any of them; or as perpetrators. How can you respond when you cannot understand speech under great stress? Rochester Policeman Michael Murphy advises on dealing with police as first responders.

All HLAA programs are free. Our meetings feature an inductive loop hearing system and open captions. For more information, view the organization 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.

STRANGE BUT TRUE FOR CHRISTMAS...

“If you received all of the gifts in the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” you’d have 364 presents. (Samantha Weaver, GVPS)

LEADERS COLUMN

By Art Maurer, Vice-President



The description of what we do at HLAA-Rochester can be distilled into three words: Support – Educate – Advocate. For

whom? Technically, our focus is on anyone experiencing *Moderate to Profound* hearing loss. By applying recent national data to our greater Rochester community, **Joe Kozelski**, audiologist, estimates at least 7,000 in that range. While we’re proud of our 250 paid members, we realize we reach only a small percentage of our potential market.

We continually ask: How can we make our broader community aware of what HLAA-Rochester has to offer? We now use print media on a limited basis, and have made initial attempts at TV and radio. Cost is a major issue. We are also embarking on expanded use of Facebook and Instagram. And many face-to-face presentations are made to small groups every year. We keep wondering: What are we overlooking? We welcome any ideas or insights you may have on how to refine what we are doing; also any new ‘out-of-the box-thinking’ ideas.

For the past several months, the Board of Directors have considered ways to strengthen our Chapter for future challenges and opportunities. Currently we operate over a dozen different activities and programs, like our monthly Program Meetings, the Assistive Listening Device Demo Center and so forth. A Strategic Plan Survey will be mailed to members over the next month or so; it is part of our effort to determine which three of the activities each member finds MOST important and the three LEAST important. It will be used by the Board to focus how best to invest our time, talent and resources to Support–Educate–Advocate. We urge each of you to give the list of activities on the survey thoughtful attention, complete it and return it.

(continued on page 3)

LEADERS COLUMN (continued)

Over our 35 years, HLAA-Rochester has welcomed folks experiencing *Mild* hearing loss with support and information. We often also suggest getting a hearing evaluation. But, ‘the times they are a changin.’ Next year we expect Over-The-Counter hearing aids (OTCs) will arrive in stores. The target market appears to be those with *Mild* hearing loss. In greater Rochester that population is many times larger than our current focus. Certainly not everyone with *Mild* loss will consider getting hearing aids, but for those who do want to take action, can we help them navigate a potentially confusing market? What should they consider? What should they avoid? And, importantly, how can they identify when they should be consulting an audiologist? With our knowledge of hearing loss, we should be able to provide meaningful information. Any thoughts or suggestions you have regarding this new opportunity are welcome and will be appreciated. Contact Art Maurer at amaurer@frontier.com or Suzanne Johnston at SEJohnston1959@gmail.com.

Save the date of February 9th for JCC Matinee Captioned Show!

By Barb Law, Special Events Chair



HLAA Theater Event at the Jewish Community Center, **Sunday, Feb. 9th at 2 pm,** 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester 14618

“The Hit Makers: Origins of Classic Rock”

A captioned performance of an all-new show at a discounted rate of \$28! And we are planning to go out for a light dinner after the performance, to Root 31 cafe in Pittsford Plaza, as we did last year. Contact Barb Law to hold your ticket – blaw1@rochester.rr.com

Details will follow at our December Chapter Meetings and in our January Newsletter.



HOPE meets at 10:00 am in the Vestry Room at St. Paul’s, first Tuesday of the month.

(Hearing Other People’s Experiences) Dec. 3rd. We hope you stay for our regular Chapter Meeting.

HOPE Session - October 1st

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

This was one of our smaller sessions. We had five attendees with only two “regulars” and three others who are still thinking about or in the process of getting or changing amplification. There were questions about readiness stage and some were not sure where they were in the process.

We made the point that a typical progression that people follow is: Awareness, then Annoyance, followed by Frustration and then finally when the frustrations become intense enough, Action. We also made the point that one of the very best indicators of need for help is when others suggest it. This is because hearing loss--especially in the earlier stages--can be compensated for by the others by repeating, restating and raising voice levels.

As such, individuals with early hearing loss often are not aware that their environment is changing to accommodate their needs. Instead, they will often say something to the effect of...“If only people spoke more clearly, then I wouldn’t have a problem.” Which is very true, but sometimes they fail to realize the effort involved that others go through to keep them hearing. Without a doubt, early hearing loss is one of the most elusive of difficulties for people to recognize.



Sincere happy birthday greetings to members who will be 90 years or older! Congratulations to **Ray Koenig – December 30th**

Have a happy day and a healthy year!

RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!

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

Jan. 26, 2020 – Anastasia
 Feb. 23 - Jesus Christ Superstar
 March 22 - Hello Dolly
 April 26 - Cats
 June 7 - Dear Evan Hansen

Anything we add will remain up to date at this link as needed to reference: <http://www.rbtl.org/accessibility-services/>
 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. 8 @ 12 Noon – **A Christmas Carol**
 new season 2020
 Sat., Jan. 18; Wed., Jan. 29 – **Slow Food**
 Sat., Feb. 22; Wed., March 18 – **ONCE**
 Sat., March 7 @ 2:30pm – **Cry It Out**
 Sat., April 4; Wed., April 22; **Looks Like Pretty**
 Sat., April 25 @ 2:30pm – **Where Did We Sit on Bus?**
 Sat., May 9; Wed., May 27 - **Vietgone**
 Call the Box Office at 232-4382. Ask for seats in the “open captions” viewing section.

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 or www.cinamarochester.com or www.captionfish.com
 The Cinema Theatre is located at 957 Clinton Ave. S. (14620); 271 1785; Free parking in Dollar Tree lot across the street. Handicap parking behind the Cinema Theatre.

JCC CenterStage – Captioned Plays!

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

Sun., Dec. 15; Thurs., Dec. 19 – **“Raging Skillet: The True Life Adventures of a Punk Rock Caterer”**
 new season 2020
 Sun., Feb. 9; Wed., Feb. 12 – **“Hit Makers—Origins of Classic Rock”**
Feb. 9 @ 2pm—Chapter special event. (see page 3)
 Sun., April 12; Thurs, April 16 – **“Sweat”**
 Sun., May 10; Wed., May 13 – **“Mamma Mia, musical”**

Tickets and information are available at www.jcccenterstage.org or (585) 461-2000. *Please specify “Captioned Area.”* Tickets are \$26-33 with discounts for JCC members, full-time students and season subscribers.

NTID THEATRES

PANARA THEATRE - captioned

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

MAGIC SPELL THEATRE – captioned.

Panara 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.](https://www.rit.edu/cla/finearts/theatrearts/cla-ntid-18-19jointseason)

THE LITTLE THEATRE

By Scott Pukos, PR for The Little

We offer ‘open captions’ every Tuesday. Listed on our website (thelittle.org); info gets updated every Monday evening. Also, have ‘hearing amplification headphones’ and ‘personal captioning devices’ that are available for every film with closed captioning capabilities. These can be used in all theatres.

A ‘hearing loop’ (installed with the support of Hart Hearing Centers and the J. Stuart and Phyllis I. MacDonald Fund) is in Theatres 1,2,4, and 5; and soon to be in #3. For more info, go to: <https://thelittle.org/accessibility>.

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.

We are extremely pleased that **CaptionCall** has chosen to support our chapter by underwriting the captioning at our monthly meetings.

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!

YOUNG ADULT BOARD

(formerly, "Student Board")

Our chapter has a Young Adult Board and welcomes students with or without hearing loss to participate. Please go to our website for details. Contact: Jennifer Hurlburt at jennhurlburt@gmail.com.

HLAA Chapter meetings are communication accessible, featuring Real-time Captioning, and the room is equipped with a hearing loop! Please don't stay away because you think you won't be able to hear and understand well. What you find out could change your life!



For Your Donation to HLAA:



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

Donation Above Membership

Valera D'Esopo, Frances Englund, Michelle and Stanley Gross, Karen M. Hubbard, Suzanne E. Johnston, Linda Lakeman, Patricia Pogue, William Rae, Julius Toenniessen, Victor Vinkey

In Memory of Mary H. Greene

Suzanne E. Johnston

In Memory of Rita Jenkins

Fred Altrieth, Bert Foos, Sue Miller

For Donation of Hearing Aid Batteries

from her Mother to HLAA by Patricia Anthony

GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS!
Please consider a donation when you renew your membership.

**Not yet a member of HLAA? Come join our Chapter. See what you've been missing!
Please see inside back cover page. Welcome!**

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.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

(submitted by Sue Miller)

In a world full of people who couldn't care less, be someone who cares more. *(author unknown)*

SUBJECTS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

By Janet McKenna, MLS

Tuesday, January 7th

Daytime: “Stress and Hearing Loss/Listening Efforts” – Stress goes up; hearing ability goes down.

Evening: “Hearing Other People’s Experiences” – Evening edition of **HOPE**, round table discussion of other people’s hearing journeys.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Jenn Hurlburt

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **379** friends and we want more. Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

HLAA-Rochester’s Holiday Good Deed

By Jennifer Hurlburt

****LAST DAY – TUES., DEC. 3rd MEETINGS****



Both daytime and evening meetings will feature a Holiday gift box of personal care items destined for St. Joseph’s House.

This holiday season, our Chapter will be collecting items to support the St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality on South Avenue. St. Joe’s provides comprehensive physical and mental health services to uninsured and under-insured people in and around Rochester. Some of the people who visit are either homeless, living in temporary housing or have limited resources forcing them to make hard choices of what they buy. Because many of them walk to the facility, our chapter members are being asked to please bring **‘travel size’** toiletry items (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, lotion, combs, body powder, hair brushes, deodorant, etc.) to the December meetings. These items are a small way to help ease their burden.

No need to wrap your gift.

In addition, for the veterans, we will have a jar to collect monetary donations to put toward the **Honor Flights**. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

HLAA New York State Association (NYS) - Update.

By Dan Brooks, President, NYSA



A lot has been accomplished since last month’s announcements that the Association is being revived. We currently have four (4)

active committees that are working hard on their goals and coming up with plans of action to help improve life in general for those living in New York State with hearing loss. As you can imagine, much is needed to be changed and improved.

I am also proud to say we have a full slate of board officers and a few board members for the new HLAA NYSA Board of Directors! If you are a member of HLAA you would have already heard the news from Barbara Kelley. If not, you may want to consider joining HLAA so you can stay in touch with what is going on at both the New York State Association and nationally. HLAA and the HLAA NYSA can use all the support we can get! If you are interested in helping and/or have questions, please feel free to reach out to me at:

dbrooks.hlaa.roc@gmail.com

I’d like to briefly introduce the names of our new HLAA NYSA officers & board members. We have me, **Dan Brooks**, as the President; **Kassey Granger** as our Vice President; **Mary Kate Owens** as our Secretary; **Tom Corteville** is the Treasurer; and **Jerry Bergman** is our Immediate Past President. We also have **Peggy Bell; Florence Butler; Mary Chizuk, RN; Eric Matson; Sue Miller;** and **Steve Wolfert** as our board members. We have room for only ten more people but we have at least one representative from each of the active chapters throughout New York State. I am hopeful we will have a full board in the near future.

Our first official HLAA NYSA BOD meeting will take place in Albany on Saturday, November 16th. We’ll have results of that meeting in the January Newsletter. Thank you for your continued interest and support!



GCVM YULE TIDE PERFORMANCES

By Bob Slocum

Genesee Country Village Museum will be offering sign interpretation for its Yule Tide presentations on Sunday, December 8th at the 2:30 p.m. performance and again on Saturday, December 14th at 2:30 p.m. Reservations are required and are made by telephoning the museum at (585) 538-6822, informing them that sign interpretation is requested.

The museum also, upon prior request will provide the hearing impaired with a copy of the script, however, since there is no electricity, this option only works for day time performances as the use of flashlights is strongly discouraged.

Be aware....even though the administration advises that hearing impaired using script may use flashlights to follow along, not all tour guides are as accommodating as they should be (personal experience). For more information, contact: rslocum678@aol.com.

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, Birthday congratulations. And who to send the
Acknowledgment to.

With sincere thanks for donating to our Chapter!

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.

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

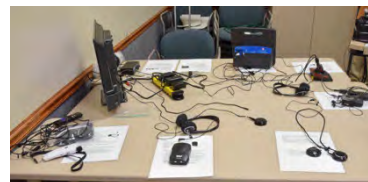
We need your support! Rising costs are making the mailing of Newsletters to non-dues paying members difficult. Please pay your dues! Only \$10. (Please see form inside back cover.)



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.

CDC reports some people can be contagious up to a full day before they become symptomatic and up to a full week afterward.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER *By Charlie Johnstone*



Our opening of the Assistive Hearing Device Demo Center Fall of 2017 has been very 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 the Tops Plaza at 1900 S. Clinton Avenue (14618). (The next date is December 19th.)

Participants can receive information and advice; can even try out specific assistive devices. The Center is another free service of our Rochester chapter.



Happy Holidays!

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.

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.)



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 a month ahead. Thanks, Ginger

ggraham859@gmail.com; or, (585) 671-2683

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*)

"It's hard to imagine composing music with a lack of hearing, but Ludwig van Beethoven did just that. The German composer struggled for years with his loss until admitting in 1801 to a friend in a letter that he was deaf. The loss of hearing was devastating to the composer who retreated from social events and struggled with depression."

HLAA-Rochester Chapter will make sure this doesn't happen to you.



In Memoriam DR. JAMES DE CARO

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Dr. James DeCaro**, who passed October 23rd.

In 1971, he began his career at NTID, and in 47 years he established the civil engineering department and was Dean of NTID for 13 years, among other accomplishments—too many to mention. He worked tirelessly for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing people. Dr. DeCaro established PEN-international, a first-of-its-kind, worldwide post-secondary education network for Deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Dr. DeCaro served as a member of our chapter's Professional Advisory Committee, and also was on the National Board of Trustees as Vice President.

A deeply humble and kind husband to Pat for 47 years, he loved Native American culture, and travel, and they opened their home to visitors from around the world.

Memorials may be directed to the Sasakawa-DeCaro Scholarship Fund, c/o NTID Office of the President, 52 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY, 14623.

(excerpt from Dr. Gerard Buckley email of Oct. 24)

The more I learn about Jim the more I realize he was a legend. I am grateful for this man to have walked this earth because of all that he has done for people like us with hearing loss. This is a huge loss in our community and world, but his legacy will never be forgotten. *Dan Brooks, past President of HLAA-Rochester Chapter.*



Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, November 30th
(for the January 2020 Newsletter)
Email: ggraham859@gmail.com

WHAT'S UP? ... ABOUT T-COIL ORIENTATION

As hearing loop systems become more common, we sometimes hear mysterious complaints about their performance. "I can only hear if I sit in a certain area." "I have to turn my head a certain way to hear clearly." "My friend says she can hear very well, but I can barely hear at all."

There is often a simple explanation for these effects. The telecoil (T-coil) is a cylindrical coil of wire, typically less than a quarter of an inch long. The orientation of this cylinder is of major importance. There ought to be agreement among hearing aid (HA) and cochlear implant (CI) manufacturers about this orientation, but regrettably there is not. In many HAs, the T-coil is more or less vertical, but in one widely used CI processor, the coil is horizontal. In an earlier version of that same processor, the coil was essentially vertical. And it can be almost impossible to get information from the manufacturers about this orientation. (It's called a T-coil because the original intent was to use it with the telephone, whose receiver generates a strong magnetic signal, and it's usually not hard to orient the receiver in a way to get a good T-coil signal.)

The other part of the story is more difficult to describe and pertains to the loop system itself. The signal in a hearing loop system is known as a "vector" quantity. This means that what matters is not only the strength, or "amplitude," of the signal at any point but also the direction of that vector signal.

Simply stated, the T-coil should be oriented in the same direction as the loop signal, for best performance. In fact, if the T-coil is absolutely perpendicular to the loop signal, you will get no sound whatsoever!

A typical loop system might have the loop wire on the floor, encircling the listening area. In the middle of that area, the signal will be more or less vertical, so any CI or HA with a horizontal T-coil probably won't work well. A user may resort to tilting the head (and the T-coil) to improve the result. One

manufacturer provides a plug-in T-coil accessory that can be oriented for better results, a clear admission that the built-in T-coil orientation is not satisfactory.

But if you are not in the middle of the loop area, or anywhere in the vicinity of the loop wire itself, the signal will not be vertical, and in fact if you are over that wire, the signal will be almost horizontal. This explains why users may hear better near the edge of the room; the T-coil signal may be better oriented and the signal amplitude will be somewhat higher.

There is an internationally recognized standard for hearing loop performance, IEC 60118-4, which goes into considerable, if often somewhat vague, detail. It specifies that testing of loop systems is to be done with a T-coil in a vertical orientation. The standard discusses the direction of the loop signal, and recognizes that the HA or CI T-coil may not be vertical, but in any event the measurements are to be made with a vertical T-coil.

In other types of loops, e.g. neckloops and loops at ticket counters, etc., the direction of the signal can be very difficult to predict.

None of this is meant to disparage loops and T-coils. As attractive as the newer streaming systems are, they are essentially one-to-one systems, and there is nothing on the horizon that can match the T-coil for simplicity, reliability, and discreet character for providing hearing assistance to a large number of listeners. It may be that in a decade or so there will be a practical streaming system for multiple listeners, but at present, the T-coil has no competition.

You might think that simply putting both horizontal and vertical coils in the HA and adding their outputs would solve the orientation problem. But that would simply act like a single coil on the diagonal, because of the vector nature of the fields. A sophisticated HA might switch between the two for best results, but that arrangement is probably more complex than any HA manufacturer would consider.

continued on page 10

T-Coils *(continued from page 9)*

I have built a test device known as a Helmholtz coil to investigate T-coil orientation in HAs and CIs. The Helmholtz coil produces a loop signal of constant amplitude and direction over its volume, and makes it possible to get a very clear indication of T-coil orientation.

On a related note, it is not widely known that you can do a simple test of your T-coil with a watch. A battery-powered watch with a second hand will generate a sound in a T-coil when held close to the HA or CI. Every second, the tiny motor in the watch advances the second hand, and this will produce a pop pop pop sound every second, if your T-coil is working. -Don Groff

(from HearSay The official Newsletter of HLAA-PA - Volume 17 Issue 3 Fall 2018)

(Editor's note: for local contact, go to:

don@hloops.com; or,
www.hearingloopsunlimited.com
or, 585 727 0408)

HANUKKAH

By Keith W. Kohn, USA TODAY



The holiday dates to 164 B.C. and marks the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, of which one section is now known as the Wailing Wall, or Western Wall, where written prayers are left,

folded, in crevices.

During the many battles, there was only enough olive oil to keep the temple's Eternal Flame—which illuminates the most holy portions of the temple—ablaze for one day. The messenger sent for more oil took 8 days to return. In that time the single day's worth of oil enabled the flame to glow the entire time—seen as a miracle in its time.

Eight candles on the menorah represent the 8 days of oil burning in the temple. The ninth candle in the center is used to light the others.

Hanukkah 2019 begins evening of Sunday, Dec. 22nd and ends the evening of Monday, Dec. 30th.

“HAVE A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS! IT'S THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR....”



At least that's what the song says.

However, some of us will struggle with not being a part of the conversation due to hearing loss. Some might feel it is easier to stay away from the hustle and bustle because, well, maybe they think/feel they are a burden since they can't hear. But if we are proactive, everyone can have the most wonderful time of the year with our friends and families. Furthermore, if you see or know of someone “hiding out,” encourage them to be a part of your family for the evening. But remember these tips:

1. Stick close to well lit areas so you can see who's talking
2. Talk to your host/hostess before company arrives. Believe it or not, people like to be accommodating! Suggest the background Christmas music be turned down so that it really IS just background music.
3. Suggest captions on the television so everyone can enjoy the favored holiday movie (it also helps those of the younger generation get some school work in over the holidays by reading).
4. Make certain you have a family member close by who loves to keep you in the loop when conversations are flying around the dinner table.
5. Sit in the center seats around the dinner table. This way you're not only in the middle of the conversation, but also closest to your favorite dishes. **AND RELAX AND HAVE FUN!**

(submitted by ReBecca Bennett, deafhohnews@gmail.com)

**WANTED: Volunteer HLAA Rochester Chapter
“Historian”**



Job description:
Obtains scrap book.

Follows In Good Health, Post,
Pennysaver, any other media for stories concerning
our Rochester Chapter and/or its members.

Clips stories, affixes them in scrap book.

Please contact

Suzanne Johnston, Chapter President, to volunteer.
hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com or, phone 585-266-7890



FOR THE HOLIDAYS, AND ALL
YEAR....

“Each of us is an angel,
with only one wing,
And we can fly only by
embracing each other.”
(author unknown)

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL...

Our January Chapter Meetings will be Tuesday,
January 7th. We hope to see everyone then!

DID YOU KNOW...

On 12-30-1942, a near riot of bobby-soxers greeted
Frank Sinatra’s singing engagement at the
Paramount Theater in Times Square.
(D&C 12/20/18)



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3. *The wind chill is at or below -20 degrees.*



HOLIDAY 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)*

We wish everyone a happy holiday season, filled
with peace, love, happiness, and good health now
and in the new year of 2020.

Sincerely, *Ginger, Janet, and Michelle*





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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 people with hearing loss, we welcome everyone to our chapter meetings whatever their hearing ability.
 For more information, Call
585 266 7890

Professional Advisors

2018 – 2020

*Kathy Foster
 Emily Krohn
 Ralph Meranto
 Nicholas Sprague*

2019 – 2021

*Nathan Herring
 Carolynne Pouliot
 Hope Scheda
 Nicholas Stefanovic*

Consultants

*Medical - Paul Dutcher, M.D.
 Technical - Charles Johnstone
 Legal - 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 FORM – HLAA-ROCHESTER CHAPTER

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

I want to join as a first-time member I want to renew

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More than 48 million people in the US have a hearing loss, which can hinder daily communication. By age 65, one in three Americans has a hearing loss. This invisible condition affects the quality of life of the individuals with hearing loss as well as family, friends, co-workers and everyone with whom they interact. HLAA believes people with hearing loss can participate successfully in today's world.

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. **(This phone number is only to request an Interpreter.)**

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!