



Telephone: (585) 266-7890
 Email: hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com
 Website: <http://www.hearinglossrochester.org>

Volume 33, Number 6 published monthly except July and August – Rochester NY Chapter Newsletter February 2020

FEBRUARY Calendar

Tuesday, February 4th

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., Feb. 11th – BOD meeting- 7-9pm – ASC

Thurs., Feb. 20th – Device Demo Center, Lifespan.
 (from 10am to 2pm, free to all.) also, see page 7

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

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

Thurs., March 19th -Device Demo Center, Lifespan

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 February:

Daytime Meeting – Fred Altrieth, Lori Gattie,
 Suzanne Johnston

Evening Meeting – Dan Brooks

Board of Directors –Jenn Hurlburt, Suzanne Johnston
 Bruce Nelson

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

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

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

Tues., Feb. 4th - 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 **James Feuerstein**, Ph.D., CCC-A, FAAA; Audiologist; Professor Emeritus, Nazareth College, filling in for Joe Kozelsky til April 7 meeting. All are welcome!

Tues., Feb. 4th -Daytime Meeting -11am-1pm

Speaker begins at Noon in the Parish Hall.

Ask the Audiologists - John McNamara, Au.D. and his associate.

Bring your questions and Dr. McNamara and his colleague will answer them! (At press time the associate’s identity is undecided.) HLAARochester’s hugely popular and informative audiologists’ program features two experienced clinicians ready to answer your questions about hearing loss and assistive technology.



(continued on page 2)

Tuesday, Feb. 4th – Daytime Meeting - continued

Completely impromptu and unrehearsed, “Ask the Audiologists” is your opportunity to clarify and discover what you’ve wanted to know about hearing loss in real-time.

As hearing aid dispensers, our presenters are ready to comment on current developments in technology, deafness, audiograms, hearing aids pro & con, etc.

Longtime HLAA friend and presenter John McNamara has owned Ontario Hearing Center since 1990. The firm has offices in Brighton, Gates, and Penn Yan and has dispensed hearing instruments since 1956. Dr. McNamara has worked with people with hearing loss for almost 40 years, having earned his Au.D. in 2006. He is a member of a number of professional organizations, as well as a nationwide group of audiologists, ENTHEOS. It is committed to educating the public about effects of hearing loss on quality of life and participating in outreach humanitarian projects in the US and abroad.

Tues., Feb. 4th – Evening Meeting–7:00-9:00 pm
Speaker begins at 8:00 pm

Relationships/Communication Between Those With and Without Hearing Loss - Lisa Brooks, RN, and Dan Brooks.

Immediate past Chapter president Dan Brooks and his “first lady” will lead an open mic session where all can share their experiences with relationships and communication. Discussing barriers to communication, they hope that people with hearing loss bring to this meeting their spouses, children, co-workers, friends and other loved ones. They say, “Together we can strive to make hearing loss OUR barrier and together learn ways to communicate better with one another.”

Lisa Brooks is a home care nurse for Home Care of Rochester. She oversees the agency’s services in Wayne and Ontario Counties. Her husband Dan Brooks has a severe to profound hearing loss. He is the president of HLAA New York State Association and co-chair of HL2 -Healthy Living with Hearing

Loss. You can also find him at the Device Demo Center the 3rd Thursday of most months.

All HLAA programs are free. 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.

LEADERS COLUMN

By Art Maurer, Vice-President

**Strategic Planning**

Last month Suzanne focused on the scope of our HLAA-Rochester Chapter activities and the Strategic Planning

on which we are embarking to keep our chapter current, effective and relevant. If you’ve completed and returned the Strategic Planning Survey we thank you. If not, please do so.

One question regarding the survey that has arisen is “What happens to the activities that rank as ‘Least Important’ – will they be discontinued?” The answer is--the survey alone will not determine the fate of any activity. It serves as our first scan of where members stand on what we do. The results will be used to give insight to our determination of where to focus our resources in the future.

The challenge is the fact we have several activities spanning many objectives--leading to complexity in administration and operations. As we grow we’re encountering the problem startup businesses encounter as they taste success. They can’t grow by just adding on to the status-quo and there is no easy answer how best to proceed. Each successful endeavor generates more effort required to sustain the enterprise. So we are exploring what a larger, still vibrant, HLAA-Rochester can become.

(continued on page 3)

LEADERS COLUMN (continued)

On a project I managed years ago I learned a process used by Kodak. First, *Vision* the future we hope to attain. Next, develop the specific plans, called *Thrusts*--the actions to be taken to get there. Given finite resources, there are also some activities that need to be downplayed, perhaps even approaching obsolescence. Through our Strategic Planning we hope to determine our *Vision* for the future and develop the *Thrusts* necessary to get there.

On the bottom line though, we have to keep our focus on those we serve. I think of two categories: current members who know us well and new members who are in need of support and education. Add to that our Advocacy across our region and we have a very large pot to boil. But always we should focus on what makes individual lives better--the education and support we offer, the advice and socialization, individually and in groups.

And we must accomplish this in a world of ever newer technologies and opportunities.

We welcome your ideas and out-of-the-box thinking; also your questions. Please contact Suzanne Johnston, Chapter President at sejohnston1959@gmail.com, 585-314-1807; or Art Maurer, Vice President at amaurer40@frontier.com or 585-721-5943.

Reaching out to Veterans

Statistically, 1 in 3 veterans have hearing loss. We're exploring ways HLAA-Rochester may be able to help. Establishment of a new committee focusing specifically on defining the needs and frustrations of veterans is being considered. If you're interested in being involved on the ground-floor of this new venture, we're looking for ideas and volunteers. This is separate from the virtual Veterans Chapter formed by HLAA-National last year...but certainly will complement it.

DID YOU KNOW...

“In 1829, William Austin Burt received a patent for his ‘typographer,’ a forerunner of the typewriter.”
(from the D&C 7-21-19)



HOPE meets at 10:00 am in the Vestry Room at St. Paul's, first Tuesday of the month. (Hearing Other People's Experiences) February 4th. We hope you stay for our hugely popular Chapter Meeting on “Ask the Audiologists.”

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, February 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!

Following the show, please join us for a light meal at Root 31 Café. The cafe's back room is reserved for HLAA from 4 pm on. Root 31 Cafe is located at 3349 Monroe Ave in Pittsford Plaza between Trader Joe's and the movie theatre. Dinner cost is on your own. Reservations have closed, but please contact Barb Law for more info: blaw1@rochester.rr.com. Hope to see you there!



Sincere happy birthday greetings to members who will be 90 years or older! Congratulations to **Ginny Koenig** –Feb. 3rd; and, **Edith Lank** – Feb. 27th.

Have a happy day and a healthy year!

DID YOU KNOW.....

“In 1914, groundbreaking took place for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. (A year later on 2-12-15, the cornerstone was laid.) (D&C 2-11-17)

RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!

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

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

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., 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.

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 support needed for this service. Without their dedication in attending *all* meetings, this would not happen!

DID YOU KNOW...

In 1997, Woolworth Corp. announced it was closing its 400 remaining “five-and-dime Stores” across the country, ending 117 years in business.

(from D&C 7-14-19)

HELP WANTED!

Volunteer for 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 Your Donation to HLAA:



--Phyllis & J. Stuart MacDonald Estate
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--Mary Tuckley Estate

Donation Above Membership

Sandra E. Erikson, John Keevert, Joe Kozelsky,
Carmel Merrill, Douglas Smith

For Your Donation

Warren C. Crandall

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!**

RIT NEWS: NEW APP ENHANCES MUSEUM ACCESSIBILITY FOR VISITORS

A new app developed by researchers at NTID is providing a self-guided tour platform designed to enhance accessibility for all visitors in museums. Museum visitors can use the app, MUSEAI, by inputting a number that is placed next to the artwork, which will provide them with the information about a specific artwork, including descriptions, historical facts, media (video/audio) with captions, audio descriptions and more. The app is being used for the first time nationally at Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery in a current exhibit, “De’VIA: The Manifesto Comes of Age,” which runs through February 16, 2020.

FUN FACT...

“In 1912, Oreo sandwich cookies were first introduced by the National Biscuit Co.” *(D&C 3/19)*

SUBJECTS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

By Janet McKenna, MLS

Tuesday, March 3rd

Daytime: Healthy Minds; Healthy Bodies -Katie Bauer leads exercise routine.

Evening: Technology trio of experts demonstrates assistive devices.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK !

By Jenn Hurlburt

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **392** friends and we want more. Find us at: **Hlaa Rochester Ny**

HLAA New York State Association (NYSA) - Update.

By Dan Brooks, President, NYSA



Hopefully by now things are starting to settle down from your holiday busyness and you're able to get back to business. We certainly have at

the **HLAA New York State Association (NYSA)!** Plans are already underway with the starting of the goals and missions of HLAA NYSA...to list a few:

Peggy Bell, leader of the Publicity and Website Committee, is working hard in developing a new website for HLAA NYSA so others can stay in touch with what is happening at the state level!

Kassey Granger, our Vice President, will be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce in Lake George, NY area in hope of preparation for a 2021 HLAA State Conference being held there!

Sue Miller, our Upstate New York Chapter Coordinator, and others are working with people in a couple of key areas of upstate New York to help start new HLAA chapters so they too can enjoy the benefits of a chapter near them!

Jerry Bergman, our leader for the Advocacy and Legislative Committee, has started the formation of subcommittees to help better focus on its goals. That is, pushing for a State Commissioner for Deaf

and Hard of Hearing people; mandating the option of open captions in all theaters throughout NYS being available; and last but not least, requiring a mandatory conversation by all audiologists in NYS on the topic of T-Coils with all clients as a part of the process of purchasing new hearing aid(s) or cochlear implant(s) (CI's).

We will also be having our next **HLAA NYSA Board of Directors** meeting remotely in February.

So being a member of HLAA and making sure your current email is listed in our database will help keep you "*in the loop*" of what is happening in your state association. Please remember that being a member of HLAA and residing in New York State automatically makes you a member of HLAA New York State Association!

We can use all the support we can get so please consider joining or renewing your membership. As always, if you have any questions or are thinking about joining our efforts, please feel free to reach out to me at: hlaa.newyorkstate@gmail.com or dbrooks.hlaa.roc@gmail.com

TCM MOVIES, CHANNEL 60 — BAD CAPTIONS !

By Ginger Graham

Some of us watch Turner Classic Movies on channel 60. We notice that for the past several months captions of the movies (not the introductory remarks) have been very fast, too quick to read. Sometimes captions appear, but are garbled. Have other viewers experienced this?

Thanks to **Lorin Gallistel** and **Michelle Gross** for researching this info.

To file a complaint with the FCC:
<https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov> – or –
1-888-225-5322.

I've started a list of recent TCM movies with unreadable captions, and there have been plenty! The more of us that complain, the more likely we are to have this fixed. ggraham859@gmail.com.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER

By *Charlie Johnstone*



The demo center sessions continue to be a success thanks to the enthusiastic efforts by our regular, long-term volunteers (**Dan Brooks, Lorin Gallistel, Stan and Michelle Gross, Eric Matson, Sue Miller and myself**).

The types of devices represented during the demo sessions include signaling-alerting devices, captioned and amplified telephones and personal assistive listening devices [with an emphasis on TV listening and coping with noisy environments]. Several new, lower cost devices and smart phone apps are being shown. In addition, an interactive, computer-based “Virtual Demo Center” is being pilot tested.

The Device Demo Center is open the 3rd Thursday of each month. The next demo session at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Ave. (Tops plaza) 14618 is Thursday, February 20th from 10am to 2pm. Free. All are welcome!

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

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HEARING LOSS & GENETICS & 23andMe

By *Elise de Papp, M.D.*

People might be interested to know that 23andMe is researching genetics of hearing loss. One of my Christmas presents is my genetic make-up by 23andMe.

Turns out the company is doing a research project on hearing loss. They do ask a few questions as to whether you think you have HL or not but they don't ask if you use hearing aids or have a CI.

I wonder if someone from 23andMe attended the June 2019 HLAA Convention? (Editor note: per Amanda Watson, at national, “no one did, but it might have been a good idea!”)

As I remember what I heard at the Convention here last June, there are numerous genes associated with hearing loss.



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, Feb. 26th) when Lent begins.



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.

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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



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.

Newsletter Deadline

Friday, January 31st
(for the March 2020 Newsletter)
Email: ggraham859@gmail.com



HOPE Session 12/3/2019
By Joe Kozelsky, *abd, MS,*
CCC-A (retired)

There were 5 new people and 12 current HLAA members. One of the new people was experiencing issues with his hearing aid and was in the last day of his 45-day trial, and he wondered how to proceed. He was informed that he might expect that he could ask for adjustments and an extension of the trial period to see how it works out.

Another topic that came up had to do with annoyance or discomfort from loud, sharp sounds including flush toilets and surprisingly, even newspapers. The point was made that nowadays, users should not be bothered by such sounds. Yet another complaint had to do with discomfort from the hearing aid or the ear piece. This is a difficulty that users should never have to put up with. If it happens to you, contact your provider. There was a comment about difficulty with understanding fast speech – it was recommended that if you want other people to talk slower, then you have to talk slower first, so as to set the pace.

Finally, there was a fair amount of discussion about hearing on the phone which concluded with a recommendation to visit the Device Demo Center.

I will be away for the next three sessions, back again in April. **Dr. Jim Feuerstein** will be facilitating the next three meetings. Happy Holidays to all.

ANNUAL CHAPTER DINNER, Tues., May 19th

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 information. Thanks for your consideration in helping to make our dinner a huge success.

GOOD IDEA...

To make a flashlight easier to find during a blackout, attach a strip of “glow-in-the-dark” tape to it now! (Old Farmer's Almanac 2019)

BRISTOL VALLEY THEATRE

(By Karin Bowerstock, BVT; submitted by Sue Miller)

Bristol Valley Theater is pleased to announce that for the fifth season, they will offer **open captioned performances** of each of the 6 plays and musicals in their summer line up. Since 2016, the theater has received support from the Theater Development Fund to assist with costs of providing captioned performances.

BVT has produced live theater in scenic Naples, for over 50 years, featuring professional performers from New York City and around the country.

Captioned performances will be held on the first Sunday matinee (2 p.m.) performance of each production. The 2020 OC dates will be:

Cool Britannia (June 14); ***Bad Dates** (June 28); **Popcorn Falls** (July 12);

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (July 26)

In this Tony-Award winning murderous musical comedy penniless charmer, Monty has just learned he's 8th in line to inherit a title and a fortune—and win back the affections of his lady love. Why wait? He can speed up the line of succession by bumping off the other relatives that stand in his way!

***It's a Small World (or The Robot Play)** (Aug. 9);

***Amy and the Orphans** (August 23)

(*plays marked with the asterisk include some adult language and situations.)

Individual tickets, which range from \$15 (children) - \$36 (general adult admission) go on sale in February. For information visit www.bvtnaples.org

Note: It is the **July 26th** OC performance that our Chapter is planning an excursion to see. Watch our Newsletters for further details.

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.



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.

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL HAS A HA !

The Mattel company has announced their “girl of the year” doll (“Joss”), and she sports a hearing aid! Joss’ hearing loss doesn’t define her or limit her dreams. Mattel specifically partnered with HLAA executive director **Barbara Kelley**, who believes that Joss will help children with hearing loss feel more confident. The 18-inch doll is \$98 at American Girl retail stores; or, americangirl.com.

(D&C 1-4-20)

HOUSE PASSES BILL FOR MEDICARE COVERAGE OF HEARING AIDS 12-10-19

In an historic achievement, the House of Representatives has voted to expand Medicare to cover hearing aids and related hearing health care services. By a vote of 230-192, the House approved HR 3 bill.

While the House action is a significant step forward, much work remains to be done before Medicare coverage of hearing aids becomes a reality. HR 3 now goes to the Senate where there is opposition to negotiating drug prices. Many Senators, as well as the Trump Administration, are exploring other ways to lower the cost of prescription drugs. Whether these alternatives will also include hearing aid coverage under Medicare remains to be seen.

While prospects for final action on HR 3 remain uncertain, the House vote is a milestone achievement on an issue that has been an HLAA top priority for many years. HLAA was among the earliest and most vocal supporters of Medicare coverage for hearing aids, and worked closely with key members of Congress this year to include the language in the prescription drug negotiation bill. As the issue moves forward, HLAA staff will continue working with Congress, Medicare experts, and other hearing health care organizations.

When Congress created Medicare in 1965, it expressly excluded hearing aids. More than 50 years later, HLAA is setting the stage to correct that oversight. *(from HLAA national email)*

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

By Jennifer Hurlburt



Do you have hearing loss? Are you between the ages of 18-40? Looking to connect with others that also have hearing loss? We have just the community for you to be a part of! Welcome to the

“Young Adults Group”! This is part of the Rochester Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association

of America. With the goal in mind to bring the next generation together to share information, support one another and socialize together! From discussing topics like navigating higher education and work with hearing loss to simply gathering for a cup of coffee (plus, everything in between!) We want to get everyone together! Give us a shout! We are currently looking to put together a social “meet and greet” at a local coffee shop.

Find us on Facebook (HLAA ROC Chapter) or Insta (HLAA ROC). Send us a DM, or email the local chapter at hlaarocheester@rochester.rr.com! We are excited to hear from you and connect with a whole new generation!

AURAL REHAB PROGRAM AT NAZARETH

By Ginger Graham; submitted by Suzanne Johnston

We just received word from the faculty member in charge of Audiology at Nazareth College (Carly Alicea) that in the Spring they are beginning a new, 10-week aural rehab program at their clinic. Here is an excerpt from her email:

"This group will be for adults who are hearing aid or cochlear implant users and will be co-facilitated by graduate students in Nazareth's Masters of Speech-Language Pathology program and me. The group will meet weekly beginning in February, and topics of discussion may include the psychosocial effects of hearing loss, communication challenges that can arise from hearing loss, communication and clarification strategies, hearing assistive technologies beyond hearing aids and cochlear implants, self-advocacy, etc. There is no cost to participate in this group (donations are accepted)."

At Nazareth's York Wellness Rehab Institute
4245 East Ave (14618)

Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 pm

February 5 to April 8

For more information or to sign up, contact
slhclinic@naz.edu -or- 585-389-2772



SAVE THESE DATES:

- May 12, for FEATURED SPEAKER PROGRAM
- May 19, for our Chapter's Annual Dinner
- August 9, for Picnic at Dolomite Park

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!

HLAA CONVENTION – June 17-21 New Orleans, Louisiana

Early bird registration is now open, and available until March 2nd. Reduced rates. For details, go to: www.hearingloss.org.

Ways to Register

Online: Registration is quicker and easier through our new online registration platform, Cvent.

Offline: Complete the early bird registration form and mail, fax or email the form to us. We will process it and mail you a confirmation letter.

EARLY BIRD ENDS---- MARCH 2.

HLAA State/Chapter Leaders Form: For your discounted rate, please use the State/Chapter Registration form. Online is NOT yet available.

Volunteer Form: Do you want to volunteer? We offer a discounted rate to those who would like to volunteer before and/or during convention.

Questions? email Amanda Watson, Meeting Planner, at awatson@hearingloss.org

*Rochester members planning to attend, please go to our website: www.hearinglossrochester.org (after the first of February) for the form to fill out to receive "Reimbursement for Convention." **Deadline May 1st**. Questions, contact Tom Corteville at tdcorteville@gmail.com.*

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.*

ASH WEDNESDAY February 26, 2020

"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."

(from Old Farmer's Almanac)

HOLIDAY GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED

Jennifer Hurlburt took our donations of travel size toiletries to St. Joseph's center, and they were very grateful. "The St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center thanks everyone for their very generous donations! They will go to those in need that are homeless or experiencing hard times."

Our donation of \$150 to Honor Flight has been acknowledged with grateful thanks for the generosity of our HLAA Chapter.

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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*

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!