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Volume 33, Number 8 published monthly except July and August – Rochester NY Chapter Newsletter April 2020

APRIL Calendar

ALL MEETINGS CANCELLED DUE TO CONCERN OF 'CORONA VIRUS'

Tuesday, April 7th

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., April 14th – **BOD meeting** – 7-9pm – ASC

Thurs., April 16th – **Device Demo Center**, Lifespan.

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

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., May 5th – **BOD** – 7-9pm – ASC (Note date!)

Tues., May 12th – **FEATURED SPEAKER** (page 5)

Thurs., May 21st – **Device Demo Center**, Lifespan,

Tues., May 19th – **ANNUAL DINNER** – 6-9pm –

Hospitality Duties for April:

Daytime Meeting – Anne Adamson, Al Baker,
 – Joan Kohler

Evening Meeting – Al Baker, Don Batallie,
 – Margaret Cochran

Board of Directors – Barb Law, Stuart Loewenstein,
 – Eric Matson

PAC Meeting – Suzanne Johnston, Chas Johnstone,
 – Carol/Gerry Loftus

APRIL PROGRAMS

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

ALL MEETINGS CANCELLED DUE TO CONCERN OF 'CORONA VIRUS'

Tues., ?? - 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. All are welcome!

Tues., April 7 - Daytime Meeting 11am-1pm
Speaker begins at Noon in the Parish Hall.

WXXI PUBLIC MEDIA AND YOU—AN OVERVIEW OF STATIONS/SERVICES

Hope Scheda, Account manager, corporate support

Hope Scheda, a member of the HLAA Rochester Professional Advisory Committee, offers an overview of WXXI, Rochester’s public television and public radio broadcast station. Their stated mission is to provide “essential educational, local, and cultural programming, trusted in-depth news, and emergency and community-based services.” In addition to “Downton Abbey” and other BBC productions, they feature children’s programs—think of “Sesame Street”—music of all genres on the radio, “Antiques Road Show,” science, nature and countless other programs.

(continued on page 2)

Tuesday, April 7 Daytime Meeting—continued

~~Ms. Scheda reports on WXXI's relationship with the larger community, especially requesting input on improving service for people with hearing loss. As a staffer with WXXI for 5 years, she hopes everyone attending learns something new about WXXI.~~

COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP 1:30-2:30pm
in Parish Hall immediately after Daytime meeting.
Speaker: Alexanna Rodgers, tech rep from Med-El
(please see more information on page 7)

Tues., April 7 Evening Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm
Speaker begins at 8:00 pm

OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC) HEARING DEVICES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW—
Ramona Stein, Ph.D.; CCC-A; Owner—
Sounds of Life

~~Considerable publicity has accompanied the forthcoming advent of over-the-counter hearing aids. Dr. Stein reviews the purpose of the legislation enabling their availability, the different types of devices, and their pros and cons. They supposedly are targeted toward mild to moderate hearing loss and are a less expensive alternative to current hearing devices.~~

LEADERS COLUMN

By Suzanne Johnston, President; and,
Art Maurer, Vice-President



By now we have all heard/noticed on your respective radios, TVs, through the internet news, social media and friends around town and

across the globe, the Corona virus (aka Covid-19) is affecting all aspects of life here and around the world. As such, the virus was a primary topic of discussion at the HLAA BOD meeting in March. Our organization holds its member's well-being paramount, and recognizes that the majority of our membership is over 60 years of age – the age range that the CDC indicates is at highest risk for succumbing to this virus. We are proud to have an

active chapter that supports many events which are regularly enjoyed by many of our members. Despite our eager anticipation of these upcoming events, we realize that by holding them, we may be significantly increasing health risks to our members.

As such, the HLAA Board has voted to **cancel the Daytime and Evening Programs in April. This will include --H.O.P.E. and the C.I. Group.**

Also, planned events in May - the Featured Speaker Program (originally set for May 12 at the Academy of Medicine) and **Annual Dinner**, (originally planned for May 19 at Cobblestone Country Club) will be **postponed indefinitely**. Note that there was no daytime or evening chapter meeting scheduled for May.

These decisions are driven by our Chapter's concern to protect its members, and were not made lightly. In the coming months, our organization's volunteers will continue to be busy--thinking of ways that we can honor some of the traditions and activities we hold dear that are normally recognized at our May dinner and through our Featured Speaker Program and Chapter meetings. If you have ideas or concerns, please reach out to either of us at: sejohnston1959@gmail.com or Art Maurer at: amaurer40@frontier.com.

The Future ---

We live in fast-changing times. The recent HLAA Strategic Planning Survey is intended to help focus our efforts over the coming few years. We're working to VISION - what we hope to accomplish; and to define THRUSTS - the activities necessary to bring our Visions to reality. Although the due date for Survey responses is past, please email any ideas to me amaurer40@frontier.com (Please include HLAA in the subject line.)

Over the Counter ---

One reality of rapid change currently upon us is the impending introduction of over-the-counter (OTC)

(continued on page 3)

LEADERS COLUMN (continued from page 2)

hearing aids. Although the Federal standards of OTCs will not be published at least until August, there are several new products currently being advertised that look just like hearing aids. Many consumers will think they actually are hearing aids. While they may be of assistance, they lack alignment with any Federal OTC standard...at least until such standards are agreed upon and published.

We all know the traditional means of acquiring hearing aids has been through audiologists including diagnosis, startup tuning, and a guaranteed return interval; along with availability of on-going maintenance and support. OTC equipment may lack many such benefits. So consumers must be cautious regarding the business practices of both manufacturers and vendors. When making a purchase of \$500 - \$1,000 dollars or more, focus naturally tends to be on the technology being purchased. But is the vendor concerned about customer satisfaction? Is there a Return Policy? How hard will it be to return the devices if they aren't effective for the user? Will the money be refunded? Or, is there a limitation to taking store credit. Also, what about user startup, and tuning if available; plus on-going maintenance and support?

While hearing aid prices are high, a realistic life-span is approximately 5 years. Will OTC equipment experience similar life spans? Should problems arise, where does the user turn for help? We're hoping the lower prices of OTC aids will attract more people to address their hearing loss. But until firm standards of OTC hearing aids are established, we raise the caution flag of BUYER BEWARE!

As more specifics become available we will continue to provide information to better inform consumers. In the meantime, if you're interested in hands-on introduction to Assistive Listening Devices currently available, our HLAA Device Demo Center at Lifespan is open on the 3rd Thursday of every month, September – June. We don't sell anything, just help guide you to understand what may be of help. The next session will be Thursday, ??.



Sincere happy birthday greetings to members who will be 90 years or older! Congratulations April 4 to **Pat Eisenberg**, and April 25 to **Bert Fooks!** Have a happy day and a healthy year!

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy is extended to **Carol and Gerry Loftus**, on the loss of his brother, Raymond, February 25. And to **Kathy Sclamo** on the loss of her mother, Barbara, February 27.

HLAA-ROC'S INVOLVEMENT WITH NYS UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND LOCAL COURTS

By Charles Johnstone

In the Fall of 2017, the New York State Unified Court System [NYS Courts] announced the formation of an "Advisory Committee on Access for People with Disabilities." The committee is charged with developing an action plan to improve access to NYS Courts courtrooms for persons with disabilities including [but not limited to] hearing, visual, communication, mobility, cognitive and other disabilities.

Charles [Chuck] Perreaud, Jury Commissioner for the NY State Courts in Monroe Co. & Court Interpreting Coordinator, 7th Judicial District - NY State Courts and a past member of HLAA-ROC PAC is a member of the advisory committee. Chuck reached out to HLAA-ROC asking for consultation on the aspect of possible technical accommodations for hard-of-hearing people.

In April 2018, eleven members of HLAA-ROC attended a demonstration hosted by Chuck at the Monroe County Hall of Justice. The goal of the demo was to assess the effectiveness of the continuum of choices available and gather comments and recommendations about the strengths and weaknesses of the various devices, determine how and when they can be most effectively utilized, recommend other devices and alternatives the participants might be familiar with.

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RBTL LIVE THEATRE—CAPTIONED!

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

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., 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.cinemarochester.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.

HANGAR THEATRE

801 Taughannock Blvd., Ithaca, NY
(submitted by Al Suffredini)

Accessible parking, seating, restrooms, and ALDs— with option of on-ear headphones, earbuds, and induction loops. Contact: Alexa Allmann, Audience Services Manager – alexa@hangartheatre.org. –or- www.hangartheatre.org.

JCC CenterStage – Captioned Plays!

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

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. (Open captions are visible to all, and now every film that has OC capabilities will be captioned on Tuesdays.) Also, we 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’ is in Theatres 1,2,4, and 5. For more info, go to: <https://thelittle.org/accessibility>.



Volunteer: a person who performs a service willingly and without pay. Good friends are like stars. You don’t always see them, but you know they’re always there. Want to volunteer? Contact Dan Brooks at dbrooks.HLAA.ROC@gmail.com

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!

SOCIAL ISOLATION AND HEARING LOSS

By Barbara Kelley; submitted by Sue Miller

from NASEM. We cover loneliness and social isolation in March/April issue of *Hearing Life*.

Social isolation and loneliness may also directly stem from chronic illness, **hearing or vision loss**, or mobility issues. In these cases, health care providers might be able to help prevent or reduce social isolation and loneliness by directly addressing the underlying health-related causes.

http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=25663&_ga=2.97613919.1759677635.1583022314.100546665.1553005090

MEETING CANCELLED. Please see p. 11

FEATURED SPEAKER PROGRAM —May 12th—
(replaces monthly Chapter Meetings)

Rochester Academy of Medicine (RAOM)
1441 East Ave (14610)

Doors open 5:30 pm; Lecture at 6:30 pm*

Anton Porsteinsson, M.D.

Konar Prof. Psychiatry, Neurology, Neuroscience
URMC; Director Psychiatry, Monroe Comm. Hospital
Hearing Loss + Dementia: Is there a Connection?

Light refreshments before lecture.

*room is looped and there will be captions.

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

J. Matt Dennee', Carl Ellis, John Hoff,
Genevieve Seyfried

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!**

MEETING CANCELLED – April 7 and May 5.



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

People's Experiences).

We hope you stay for our regular Chapter Meeting:
Social Time-- 11:00 – 11:30am, Parish Hall.
Announcements-- 11:30 – Noon.
Chapter Meeting speaker-- Noon to 1:00pm.

BALANCE RESTORATION THERAPY

*(excerpt from Hearing Health Foundation,
Feb. 2020 E-Newsletter; submitted by Fred Altrieth)*

Possible target for BRT... [Interventions preventing damage to the inner ear microvasculature \(micro vessels\)](#) may help stop the progression of damage to the vestibular system, restoring balance and preventing vertigo spells for Ménière's disease patients. [.hhf.org](#).

OUR CHAPTER 'HISTORIAN'

Many thanks to **Janet McKenna** for several years of diligent work as our Historian.
Welcome to **John Curtis** who will take on this interesting task.

HLAA NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION (NYSA) – UPDATE

By Dan Brooks, President



Hello again! Here is the latest, off the press news, coming from the HLA New York State Association (NYSA)! The Board of Directors met Feb. 8th via telephone conferencing. It was a very well-attended remote meeting and much was covered in the jammed packed two-hour call. Below are some exciting things going on!

Current plans for the NYS HLA Conference—Oct. 2-4, 2021, in the Lake George, NY area.

A new website for NYSA is still in development, however, it is live! You can visit us at www.nyhearingloss.org. Hopefully by mid-April the website will be nearly complete. We expect this website will keep our members informed of all the great things going on with HLA NYSA. We also hope this will create more awareness that we are here and anyone will be able to contact us with questions or concerns.

Also happy to announce a grant proposal has been submitted in anticipation of receiving funds so we can help facilitate the opening of (6) six new HLA Chapters throughout New York State. Fingers crossed! In the meantime, the Chapter Development Committee will be surveying all the existing chapters and gathering valuable information expecting to obtain tips on how to have a successful chapter. This will be shared with new and existing chapters!

Last but not least, the Advocacy & Legislative Committee has formed subcommittees to work on its individual goals and has started to form various partnerships with other organizations with common goals. They also proposed the production of flyers to remind all public places that, by law, all televisions in public areas must have captions turned on starting July 1st, 2020. Yes, you heard that right... When these flyers become available, please join us and spread the word!

Please consider helping us by joining or renewing your membership with HLA. By joining HLA and living in New York State you automatically become a member of the HLA New York State Association. If you are looking for other ways to become more involved please feel free to reach out to me at: hlaa.newyorkstate@gmail.com or dbrooks.hlaa.roc@gmail.com. Thank you.

DEVELOPED DRUG TO REPAIR HEARING LOSS IS CLOSER TO BEING APPROVED

By Clayton Cummins

(excerpt from Oklahoma Newsletter March 2020)

A new pill being developed in Oklahoma could help repair hearing loss; even eliminate the use of hearing aids all together.

Dr. Rick Kopke and his team at Oklahoma City's Hough Ear Institute have been developing the drug over half a decade now. It's a drug slowly proving to fix even ringing in the ear (tinnitus).

"We've been working on a pill that can be taken shortly after a loud noise exposure or a blast injury to decrease the permanent hearing loss that might occur," said Kopke. "It looks like it can even regenerate the delicate nerve endings for hearing and restore some hearing."

It's only right the pill is being developed in the Sooner State. Home to many military bases, it could be revolutionary for service men and women. "Our hope is that this will be valuable for the military, people in combat, especially that don't have time to put their ear plugs in," said Kopke. "They can take this pill and have less HL damage from noise."

Countless donors have helped raise nearly \$20 million so far to help make the drug, temporarily named "NHPN-1010," a possibility. "We're looking to have this on the market by 2025, if everything goes well," said Kopke.

The public will be able to participate in clinical trials. The Hough Ear Institute will make announcements on its website in about a year.

Hough Ear Institute Scientists Sell Hearing Loss Drug. <https://www.news9.com/story/Oklahoma>



SAVE THE DATE!
Tuesday, June 30th

PLANNING THE PROGRAMS FOR
YOUR CHAPTER MEETINGS

This is only April, and we're thinking about June already...but this is really important!

Do you have new ideas for speakers or programs for our monthly HLAA Chapter meetings...if so, we would love to hear about them! Please plan to attend either the Daytime Program Planning meeting held by Sue Miller, or, the Evening Planning meeting held by Barb Law, to give them your ideas for possible topics for the new season from September, 2020, to June, 2021.

Daytime meetings planning session:

Tues., June 30th, at 9:30am – coffee & conversation; then, discussion 10:00-Noon – Sue's home, 16 Buckthorn Run, Victor 14564.

Evening meetings planning session:

Tues., June 30th, at 6:00 – 9:00pm with Barb Law, in the 1st floor Conf. room, Al Sigl Center; light snacks. Note: Both meetings are on the same day.

RSVP: Please email (or, call) either Sue or Barb and let them know you're attending. We appreciate an RSVP for seating and food! Hope to see you at one or both of the meetings! We're eager for your suggestions!

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

MEETING CANCELLED. Please see p. 11.

COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP MEETING

By Janet McKenna, MLS

Tuesday, April 7th. 1:30-2:30pm, church Parish Hall – Cochlear Implants: Why “Expanded Candidate Criteria” Matter

With Alexanna Rodgers, CCC/A, SLP Med-El Northeast consumer engagement manager

Presenting will be Alexanna Rodgers representing Med-El, ~~one of the three cochlear implant manufacturers whose devices are implanted at UR Medical Center. Cochlear implant candidacy has dramatically expanded in recent years.~~

~~Ms. Rodgers says that Med-El has received FDA approval for a cochlear implant targeting patients with high frequency loss, where much residual hearing remains in low frequencies, as well as in cases of single sided hearing loss. She will demonstrate who may now benefit from an implant in these situations and explain why Med-El received FDA approval for them. Demonstration equipment and devices will be available for attendees to view and handle. Alexanna welcomes questions from possible patients and their significant others.~~

Contact her at: alexanna.rodgers@medel.com.

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

DEMO CENTER CLOSED APRIL -, see page 11
ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE DEMO CENTER

The next Device Demo session at Lifespan is Thursday, ??, 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 in the Tops Plaza (14618). All are welcome!

Newsletter Deadline

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

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.

RAFFLE FOR AMERICAN GIRL DOLL

By Mary Chizuk, RN



YOU CAN BE A WINNER AND SUPPORT NYSA OF HLAA AT THE SAME TIME! This is an opportunity for public awareness--to have children know that the American Girl Doll “Joss” has a

hearing aid and engages in challenging sports. Featuring this raffle is a way of showing the public about children and hearing loss. Help to get the conversation started.

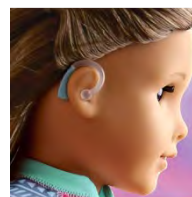
The proceeds will help fund our newly activated HLAA New York State Association—with our own Dan Brooks now the President. Among other things, funds will be used toward the NYSA Conference planned for the Lake George area, October 2021.

Raffle Tickets started selling Tues March 3 at 11 am at our Program Meeting, and continue on, with the Drawing Date set for June 2, at 8pm, at the Evening Program Meeting.

TICKET PRICES--1 for \$2, 2 for \$3, 5 for \$5

HLAA and the American Girl Doll Connection:

American Girl Dolls focus on “inspirational characters who impart meaningful life lessons to help girls learn and grow with confidence.”



“American Girl is donating \$25,000 to support HLAA’s educational programs. American Girl is also supporting our 2020 Walk4Hearing with a donation of “Joss” dolls. And, from January 1, 2020, through the end of the year, the company will collect donations for HLAA at americangirl.com and at American Girl stores nationwide.” Find out more about the doll at HLAA national’s website. Go to: www.hearingloss.org.

NEXT CHAPTER MEETINGS –

Hopefully June 2nd. Watch our May Newsletter for details.

OUR UNITED WAY NUMBER IS....2425.

We're not a direct UW agency and receive no funding from them. To donate to HLAA, please donate thru "Designated Option" on your gift card.

Your past support is deeply appreciated. As with other gifts, your donation enables our Chapter to continue to provide education and help for people with hearing loss. 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 for your donation!

HLAA CONVENTION – June 17-21
New Orleans, Louisiana

For details, go to: www.hearingloss.org.

One Way to Register

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

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES
(Due Date April 3rd)

By Nancy Meyer

HLAA-Rochester is pleased to announce the continuation of its Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program was begun in 1996 with a \$500 grant, made possible by the generous donation from J. Stuart and Phyllis MacDonald. In 2006 the award was increased to \$1000.

If you know of an eligible student, please advise him/her to see their Guidance Counselor. Financial need is not a requirement. The scholarship is a one-time award. Applications for the scholarship are available at our web site: www.hearinglossrochester.org. or by contacting Doug or Nancy Meyer at dnmeyer@frontiernet.net. The application deadline is **APRIL 3, 2020**. Please help us spread the word.

UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM *(continued)*

After soliciting input from all attendees, a report of recommendations on possible assistive listening system options and associated factors was submitted to the advisory committee. In the report, Chuck wrote, "Continuing our partnership with [HLAA-ROC] will be essential to ensuring success."

In July 2018, **Charlie Johnstone** was engaged as a consultant to the NYS Courts Office of Court Administration, Division of Technology [OCA-DOT] to advise on access technology for hard-of-hearing, deaf or deaf-blind people and how it could integrate with other courtroom remediation technologies. In Nov. 2018 and July 2019, Charlie visited two [of three] demonstration courtrooms in the New York City area to evaluate the installation and effectiveness of the infrared assistive listening systems [ALS] and met with the OCA-DOT team and the Chief Architect to advise on possible future directions. During the Nov. 2018 visit, seven members of the HLAA-NYC Chapter also participated in the evaluation.

From Sept. 2018 through Sept. 2019, Charlie was authorized by OCA-DOT to visit all of the [43] Monroe County [and Supreme], Family, Rochester City courtrooms and the Central Jury room and perform troubleshooting of the resident public address (PA) and ALS and make recommendations of what needed to be replaced or repaired to bring the courtrooms back into proper operation. Charlie found, despite the equipment is 15 to 20 years old, that a majority of the courtroom components needed only minor, quick repairs.

Although authorized to do only troubleshooting and reporting of the status of each courtroom, Charlie performed all of the quick, minor repairs needed. The outcome is that only a very few courtrooms have issues that require replacement of components to become operational again. Within those few courtrooms, the Staff in the Hall of Justice and the Public Safety Building have initiated temporary alternative options for ALS access. The list for what is recommended to bring those few courtrooms back into permanent operation and, a request to remediate

(continued on page 10)

UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM *(continued)*

technology has been submitted to the Program Manager of Courtroom Modernization Initiative (CMI) for consideration.

The goal of the CMI project is to modernize 1,540 courtrooms and hearing rooms throughout the NYS Courts system by providing high-speed Wi-Fi internet connection, state-of-the-art sound reinforcement systems, electrical outlets and charging stations for the council tables, mobile evidence presentation systems, video conferencing capability and the infrastructure to quickly connect a shared assistive listening system [ALS] transmitter when requested. Over time, two ALS transmitters, one Infrared-based, the other Bluetooth-based, will be permanently installed in every courtroom in New York State when resources become available. Once operational, ALS receivers, headphones and neck loops will also be available by request.

As of the date of this article, the first phase of the project is well underway with the ordering and installation of the sound and ALS systems; targeting those courtrooms that currently have no technology. In addition, the current focus is to train the courts' Technicians how to integrate the ALS transmitters with the audio system processor. Regional training sessions for ADA coordinators is planned in the near future. The CMI project is a work in progress that will span several years.

“MY STORY”—A Personal History of Hearing Loss

By Judy Markowski



I was born into the Clan MacDonald of Cape Briton Island, Nova Scotia in Portsmouth, NH where I spent my first 23 years. I am the oldest of five and had a typical upbringing of the 40's

and 50's. I was familiar with the hearing loss of my mother who had mastoid operations as a child because of ear infections and the fact that there was no penicillin when she was a child.

After graduating from the University of New Hampshire, I began a career in education. I soon married and moved to upstate NY. I have two children. My son lives in Austin TX and is in the IT business. My daughter is a manufacturing engineer and lives in the Dartmouth area in NH.

After divorce in the late seventies I received an MS degree in Education from Nazareth College and began my search for a teaching job. It was one of those times when there was an over abundance of teachers so I was unable to find a job in the public schools. I found a job in the nonprofit area as a Head Start teacher. I was desperate for a job and health insurance, so I took the job (not ever having been in a preschool classroom before in my life), but being the oldest of five and mother of two gave me enough skills to be able to succeed. This job led to eventually being the Head Start Director for the Wayne County Head Start Program. My career there lasted 28 years with lots of grant writing to expanding the program to all areas of Wayne County and increasing numbers of families served and jobs for staff.

I enjoy being part of my community in Walworth. I have served a term on town council and have been a member of my town library board. I am currently on the Board of the Walworth Historical Society.

As for my hearing, it was fine for most of my life. I have a type of asthma and allergy that is particularly difficult and my ears eventually suffered. I had tubes in both my ears many times, and I have taken medicine that has not been good for my ears resulting in hearing loss. I have had hearing aids for about 16 years. They helped me so much when I was working and allowed me to keep working more than I would have been able to otherwise.

I have been a member of HLAA-Rochester for many years. I received the Newsletter before I retired and started coming to meetings. What a great group this is, so helpful to those with hearing loss. I have learned so much over the years.

Happy Easter

SAVE THE DATE!

Tony Award Winner Best Musical!
Bristol Valley Theatre
HLAA Rochester Chapter outing
on Sunday, July 26th

2:00 p.m. - Captioned Performance
"A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"
Cost \$23.40

Penniless charmer Monty Navarro has just learned that he's eighth in line to be the next Earl of Highhurst! As Earl he can certainly win back the dwindling affections of the beautiful Sibella, so he sets out to speed up the line of succession by bumping off the other relatives that stand in his way. A murderous musical romp filled with non-stop laughs. After the play, let's all join together for dinner at an area restaurant (cost on your own). Contact Sue Miller @ susanleemiller39@cs.com, or, (585) 924-8933 Watch our Newsletters for details.

MEETINGS CANCELLED

*All **April and May** HLAA-Rochester Chapter meetings and events are cancelled due to concern of the Coronavirus. Please check our website for up-to-date information. www.hearinglossrochester.org. and watch our May Newsletter. We hope to see all of you in June. In the meantime, please take good care of yourself.*

APRIL 7th
Daytime and Evening program meetings
HOPE meeting
CI Group session

APRIL 14 – BOD Meeting.
APRIL 16 – Device Demo Center
APRIL 21 – PAC Meeting
Above meetings are cancelled.

POSTPONED INDEFINITELY, but stay tuned!

MAY 12 – Featured Speaker Program
MAY 19 – Annual Dinner

MEETING THAT MIGHT BE HELD.
ATTENDEES WILL BE NOTIFIED BY EMAIL.

MAY 12 – BOD Meeting

ANNUAL AWARDS

It is anticipated that the annual awards and scholarships will be presented at our annual picnic planned for Dolomite Park, Sunday, August 9th. However, this is yet to be confirmed.

This would acknowledge all of the deserving people that ordinarily would be recognized at our Annual Dinner. And would include our chapter awards, winners of Scholarships, and recognition of our exiting Professional Advisory Committee members. Please watch our Newsletters, Website and Face Book for 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.*



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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
 Marianne Sernoffsky*

Consultants

*Medical - Paul Dutcher, M.D.
 Technical - Charles Johnstone
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^^
Newsletter
*Newsletter deadline: first day of the month preceding the issue month.
 Send articles to:
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 Webster, NY 14580*

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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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 magazine, *Hearing Life* 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.

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