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November 2013

NOVEMBER Calendar

Tuesday, November 5th

11:00 am - Refreshments/Social Time

11:30 am – Announcements/Business Meeting

12 Noon – 1 pm – Program Speaker

7:00 pm - Refreshments/Social Time

7:30 pm – Announcements/Business Meeting

8:00 – 9 pm – Program Speaker

Sun., Nov. 3rd –GALA 30th anniversary, 2:00-5pm,

at the Inn on Broadway

Sun., Nov. 3rd - Daylight Savings Time Ends

Tues., Nov. 12th - Board of Directors

7:30 pm – Justin Vigdor Room, Al Sigl Center

<u>Wed., Nov. 27th</u> – Rear Window Captioned movie, AMC Webster – Between Noon & 3 pm. Email Ginger the weekend ahead for exact movie & time. <u>ggraham859@frontiernet.net</u>. See you there!

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES

Tues., Dec. 10th – BOD meeting, 7:30pm, JV room, Al Sigl Center

Wed., Dec. 18th – Rear Window Captioned movie.

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

Hospitality Duties for November:

Daytime Meeting –Andy Howard, Nancy Meyer Evening Meeting –dessert at Dryden Theatre Board of Directors –Barb Gates, Tim Whitcher

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

Welcome back, members, and, WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO HLAA!



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

(at St. Paul's Church, East Ave. & Westminster Rd.)

Tues., Nov. 5th - Daytime Meeting 11:00 am

ROC—YOUR GATEWAY TO THE WORLD -

Michael A. (Mike) Giardino, Director of aviation; and Jennifer Hanrahan, Marketing and public relations coordinator, Rochester International Airport.

Fly with Mike and Jennifer as they tell us how ROC (Rochester International Airport) serves as a model for other airports across the nation in providing services to people with hearing loss and Deaf passengers. Many HLAA members are avid patrons at ROC.

Did you know that ROC has visual paging, TTY phones, and interpretype (ITY) communication allowing text messaging between hearing individuals and those with hearing loss?

Mike and Jennifer's illustrated talk will cover: ROC at a glance, its economic impact, fast FAQ's about the airport, how they create the ROC experience, and airport accessibility.

What do HLAA travelers think of ROC? Complete a brief ROC needs assessment survey, available at the meeting, and let them know how ROC can better serve individuals with hearing loss.

Continued on next page)

Tuesday, Nov. 5th – Evening Meeting – 7:15 pm

DRYDEN THEATRE - FOR FREE!

Let's go to the cinema! The Dryden Theatre is equipped with a state-of-the-art hearing loop system, made possible by <u>funding from our HLAA chapter</u>. In return, Dryden has given us **free tickets to the Nov.** 5th **show** for HLAA-Rochester members! (see below)

A Chinese film, it's something you'll **never** see at your local MultiPlex. But "there will be a spoken translation of the Chinese intertitles," and it will be interesting to hear how all this performs on the loop.

Where: Dryden Theatre, 900 East Avenue, Rochester, in the George Eastman House (across the street from St. Paul's Church).

When: Box office opens at 7:15pm. We meet in the lobby to get our tickets. Performance starts at 8:00pm.

What: DAYBREAK (*Tian Ming*, Yu Sun, China, 1933, 116 min., 35mm). The Chinese film industry was as advanced as any by the late 1920s, and they made silents well into the 1930s. Director Yu Sun's DAYBREAK, made at a time when Chinese society as a whole was rapidly changing, is a tale of a fishing village girl (brilliantly played by Yu Sun's favorite actress Li-li Li) plunged from an honest life into the steamy underbelly of Shanghai's red-light district. Cynically using the society that has seized her, she works to raise herself in the world and become a leader for the oppressed. The powerful acting and brilliant photography make DAYBREAK an engrossing and moving experience. There will be a spoken translation of the Chinese intertitles and live piano accompaniment by Philip C. Carli.

There may be an ice cream social afterward.

Who: HLAA-Rochester members get free tickets. Anyone accompanying them will need to pay regular entrance fee, \$8 adults, \$6 Eastman House members.

Thanks to George Eastman House staff Lori Ann Donnelly and Pamela Sanchez for the film description and advance notice!

HLAA-Rochester chapter meetings are held in the Vestry Room at <u>St. Paul's Episcopal Church</u>, <u>East Ave. at Westminster Road</u>, across from the George Eastman House. All programs are audiolooped & **captioned**. A sign language interpreter is

available <u>for evening meetings only</u>. To request an interpreter for an evening meeting, contact Linda Siple at 585 475 6712, a week in advance. <u>(Please note, this phone is only for those needing an interpreter.)</u>

The Hearing Loss Association is a nationwide organization dedicated to advocacy, education and support for people with hearing loss. For more information visit our website: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org or telephone 585 266 7890.

HEARING LOSS SIMULATORS

(excerpt from Washington state NL, summer 2013; suggested by Ginny Koenig)

Have you ever tried to explain to someone what it's like to be hard of hearing? Have you ever wished someone could be hard of hearing just for one day so they know what you go through each day? While hearing loss simulators are not perfect and oversimplify hearing issues, they can help get the point across. Try them with your friends and family members. They'll probably be shocked to learn how hard we work at hearing and listening.

Here are a couple to try:

Better Hearing Institute: This set of 21 sound clips of various listening environments demonstrates normal hearing, mild hearing loss, and moderate hearing loss. http://tinyurl.com/3ry3tgb.

PHONAK: http://tinyurl.com/as5q49b.

Food for the Hard of Hearing Soul: Think positive. Life is good. Don't miss the silver lining because you're expecting pure gold. Positive thinking isn't about expecting the best to always happen, but accepting that whatever happens is the best for the moment. Keep smiling and stay true to your heart. One day, that negative voice inside you will have nothing left to say!

(excerpt from Wisconsin NL – winter 2013)

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy goes out to **Barb Law** on the loss of her husband, **Dave Law**, September 19th.

We Welcome All Donations

Please make your check payable to: <u>HLAA-Rochester</u> *HLAA is a 501*©(*3*) *organization*.

Mail to: Ms. Joanne Owens, 1630 Woodard Road,

Webster, NY 14580

Be sure to designate:

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

or, Birthday congratulations,

And who to send the Acknowledgment to. Thank you.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Tuesday, November 5th, is Election Day and St. Paul's Church is a voting site. **Parking on church grounds that day is limited to Handicapped persons only.**

Please plan to park on alternate side of the street, or in the lot across the street in the George Eastman House. Restrictions are for this day only. Thanks for your help!

EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?

By Ginger Graham

At the RHSC fundraiser dinner recently, during polite conversation and a great deal of noise, I asked the woman next to me what she did before she retired. What I heard her say was: "I was head of operations in a Body Shop."

My brain was trying to decide what she might actually have said, realizing that was probably wrong, so I decided to ask her to repeat her comment.

"I was head of alterations in a Bridal Shop!!" Your laugh for the day!

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Our Chapter website is: www.hlaa-rochester-ny.org.

Michelle Gross is our Web Master and is updating our website. (Barb Law continues as consultant.) The website for National is: www.hearingloss.org.



For Your Donation to HLAA:

Rochester Airport (M. Brooks); Webster Hearing Center (J. Kozelsky)

In Memory of Dave Law: Ginger Graham, Patricia McDonough, Sue Miller

For Your Donation Above Basic Membership:

J. Curtis, J. Eckhardt, B. Fox, N. Graver, D. Hartman,

K. Hubbard, C. Kellner, R. Koenig, J. Littwitz, S. Miller,

D. Palo, B. Perkins-Carpenter, C.Q. Rasmussen,

E. Siegfried, L. Siple, D. Smith, M. Sonnenfeld,

J. Termotto, D. M. Turner, C. VanNess

VENUES WITH ALS OR CAPTIONING

By Tim Whitcher

Have you seen a movie or a show that has an Assistive Listening System or Captioning system and would like to share your experience with your fellow members? Did your church or synagogue install or upgrade such a system, and you'd like to make that known?

Please contact Tim Whitcher at hlaa.rochester@yahoo.com with the info that you'd like to share. (Please mark your email to Tim's attention.) Likewise, if you have a question regarding such a venue, please contact Tim.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

(Will occur Sunday, November 3rd, this year)

- --First to suggest the idea: Benjamin Franklin in 1784
- --First North American region to adopt it: Newfoundland in 1917
- --First year in which the United States adopted it: 1918.

(from the Old Farmer's Almanac, 2012)

LEADERS COLUMN

By Elise de Papp, M.D.



HLAA National works on our behalf, to open the world of communication, primarily at the federal and state level. HLAA-Rochester is more involved locally. This month's column is about

some new programs underway in our chapter.

Our former President, **Don Bataille**, has been awarded an HLAA National grant to attend the 3rd International Hearing Looping Conference, in Eastbourne, England, October 5-7, 2013. The conference will work on improving all aspects of the loop inductive system--that form of ALS (assistive listening system, or D device) that many of us use and rely on.

Tim Whitcher, a member of our Board of Directors, is working with National to improve the quality of captions on TV, phones, movies--anyplace they are used. We no doubt are all familiar with some of the oddities we see in captions.

Lisa Bailey, another local BOD member, is setting up a group to provide "hearing aid eldercare," especially geared for patients in nursing homes. She has already established contact with key figures in the industry.

Barb Gates, also a BOD member, is working with the Ad Council of Rochester in an effort to get our name out there and let people know about us. We know that there are many people who could benefit from becoming informed and knowledgeable about hearing aids, in addition to attending our monthly meetings and enjoying the company of people who understand what it's like to live with hearing loss.

Our chapter has given a grant to help fund the Educational Support Service Personnel program in Rome NY in early November. This conference is for individuals working with the deaf and those with hearing loss; one of our members, **Katy Kuczek**, head of the parent's group, may attend.

Our 30th anniversary Gala, run by BOD member **Meredith Low**, is November 3rd, almost immediately after this Newsletter is published.

HL2, Healthy Living with Hearing Loss, chaired by **Mary Chizuk** (BOD) and **Don Bataille**, has been working on a report primarily aimed at getting the

medical profession more attuned to our needs—from the moment you are called in the waiting room but don't hear it, when you don't hear every word your PCP (primary care provider) says, and so on.

Other members continue with updates of ongoing programs – Cindy Kellner chairing the Walk4Hearing; Ginger Graham publishing this Newsletter, which is ever growing; and our superb web master, Michelle Gross.

Apologies to any one I missed. Thankfully, we do have an active chapter!

RBTL LIVE THEATRE--- CAPTIONED!

All performances are Sunday, at 1:00 pm

November 10th – "War Horse"

December 15th – "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

February 16th – "Sister Act"

March 23rd – "Once"

April 20th – "Phantom of the Opera"

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 Offering Captioned Plays!



All performances are **Saturday**, at 2:00pm.

December 1st – "A Christmas Carol" January 11th – "Last Gas" February 15th – "Clybourne Park" March 22nd – "Informed Consent" April 26th – "The Odd Couple"

Call the Box Office at 232-4382. Ask for seat in the "open captions" viewing section.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Autumn...the year's last, loveliest smile."
(William Cullen Bryant, American Poet)

Deaf versus deaf

By Michelle Gross

According to Carol Padden and Tom Humphries in "Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture" (1988):

"We use the <u>lowercase "deaf"</u> when referring to the audiological condition of not hearing, and the <u>uppercase</u> "<u>Deaf"</u> when referring to a particular group of deaf people who share a language — American Sign Language (ASL) — and a culture.

The members of the Deaf group have inherited their sign language, use it as a primary means of communication among themselves, and hold a set of beliefs about themselves and their connection to the larger society. We distinguish them from, for example, those who find themselves losing their hearing because of illness, trauma or age; although these people share the condition of not hearing, they do not have access to the knowledge, beliefs, and practices that make up the culture of Deaf people.

Carol Padden is a linguist whose research focuses on the unique structure and evolution of sign languages—how they differ from spoken language and from each other.

Tom L. Humphries is an American academic, author, and lecturer on Deaf culture and communication. Humphries is a professor at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

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. It is impossible for the flu shot to give you the flu! It is grown in chicken eggs and killed off before it reaches your bloodstream.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"In youth, the absence of pleasure is pain; in old age, the absence of pain is pleasure."

Old Farmer's Almanac. 1892

THE VALUE OF SELF-HELP GROUPS

By Brenda Battat

In her article titled "Regaining Control of Your Life Through Self-Help Groups" Brenda discusses the importance of self-help groups in providing counseling and learning and sharing about hearing loss/solution issues. She ends with 12 reasons why self-help groups are good for you, which are repeated here.

12 Reasons Why Self-help Groups are Good for You

Self-help groups:

- Provide a community of people with hearing loss who understand and are empathetic to your unique problems
- Help you deal with the issues of hearing loss stigma
- Will help you understand your legal rights as a person with a hearing disability
- Will teach you coping and communication strategies
- Will help you to adjust and communicate your needs in a "hearing" workplace
- Will share technologies beyond your hearing aids that will enhance your ability to function in the world
- Will educate you on technologies and strategies for ensuring your safety
- Will show you how to stay tuned into family conversations
- Will suggest strategies for communicating in noisy situations
- Will show you how to accommodate your hearing loss while traveling
- Will empower you through exchange of knowledge, encouragement and the sharing of experiences
- Will alleviate the despair and isolation of hearing loss through their support

DID YOU KNOW...

In 1988, yielding to student protests, the board of trustees of Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, a liberal arts college for people with hearing loss, chose I. King Jordan to become the school's first Deaf president.

(from D&C 3/10/13)



One and a half years ago the Regal Theatres introduced their Sony Captioning Glasses. We were thrilled when told that all movies at all times were going to be captioned. Then, we were disappointed to learn that some movies (from smaller studios) were not produced with the caption software. However, the Sony receivers are flexible in that they have a headphone/neck loop jack to provide enhanced volume to those wearing hearing aids with T-coils. So, even though certain movies may not be captioned, all Regal Theatres are equipped with WI-FI for viewing captions or enhanced listening.

I tested the sound quality recently when I discovered the movie was not captioned. The <u>manager gave me</u> a neck loop to plug into the receiver in place of the <u>glasses</u>. The sound quality was as good as the old FM system I had been using for several years.

Since the receiver has two jacks, one for the computer accessory which the glasses plug into and the other for the simple neck loop, I tried another test on my next visit. I brought my own neck loop and plugged it in along with the glasses. The sound did not turn on. To get the sound I had to unplug the glasses. I was told that the receiver can only activate the captioning **OR** the sound but not both at the same time. To enable that enhancement, they would be glad to provide a second receiver for my use.

Another enhancement which is coming soon is translated captioning. A user will be able to select the language of choice. This will benefit not only those with hearing loss but also foreign visitors and those for whom English is a second language. What a boon! Stay tuned!

THE GALA IS NEARLY HERE – AND YOU ARE INVITED!

By Meredith Low



The Gala Committee's members started working on the HLAA-Rochester Chapter's 30^{th} anniversary event last October – 11 months ago! We want to invite **YOU**

personally to the chapter's social event of the year!

We've worked hard (happily hard) to make the 30th Anniversary Gala Celebration *the place to be* on **Sunday**, **November 3rd from 2:00 – 5pm.**

Gala highlights include socializing with friends, making new ones, the food, and the Grand Ballroom of the Inn on Broadway. You'll enjoy a dance performed by the RIT/NTID Dancers, under the direction of chapter member **Thomas Warfield!**

Food Subcommittee members **Lisa Bailey** and **Barb Law** have selected a menu with something to appeal to everyone.

The Décor Subcommittee, **Trish Prosser** and **Mary Ann Coleman**, will be working with professional floral designer Claudia O'Hara, who is generously donating her time and expertise to help make the Gala a success!

Cindy Kellner is in charge of the Registration Subcommittee, which includes Lisa Bailey, Ginger Graham, and Carol Loftus.

Sue Miller is creating the Gala's name tags.

Don Bataille is looping the Grand Ballroom!

Virtually the entire 9-member Gala Committee has been giving a serious amount of their personal time to reading the chapter's award-winning Newsletters from the last 5 years, collecting information on chapter achievements, little-known facts, and history for the Gala's program booklet. **Barb Law** is hard at work on the booklet.

The Gala Committee thanks Amy Rau, the artist-owner of Green Girl Press, who designed the Invitation *pro bono*.

(Ed.Note: Directions--From St. Paul's church it is just 1 mile. Go west on East Ave. (toward down town), past the Little Theatre on the right; over the Inner Loop, then Left turn on Broadway. A fence is in front of the Inn on Broadway, and the driveway for the parking lot is immediately after the fence.)

INTERNET CLOSED CAPTIONING RULES TO GO INTO EFFECT

(excerpt from Washington state Newsletter, summer 2013; suggested by Ginny Koenig)

Washington, D.C. – Rules requiring closed captions on live and near-live programming, delivered via Internet protocol (IP), went into effect 3-30-13. Captions make video programming accessible to viewers who are deaf or hard

of hearing by visually displaying the audio portion. IP closed captioning is a requirement of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010.

These rules apply to IP-delivered video programming:

- --Programming that is "prerecorded" and <u>not</u> "edited for Internet distribution" must comply starting 9-30-12.
- --"Live" and "near live" programming must comply starting 3-30-13.
- --Programming that is "prerecorded" and "edited for Internet distribution" must comply starting 9-30-13.

Closed captioning requirements for video programming, including prerecorded programming that is edited for Internet distribution, and programming that is already in the IP distributor's or provider's inventory before it is shown on TV with captions (archival content) will be implemented at later dates.

Berle Ross, Program Manager for Assistive Communication Tech. & Sign Language Interpreter Management WAQ Department of Social and Health Services Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Videophone: 360 339 4559; www.dshs.wa.gov/hrsa/odhh.

CAPTIONING OF MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CONTINUED!

This past year, our chapter members have enjoyed the opportunity to have the Daytime and Evening monthly meetings **captioned**, thanks to <u>CaptionCall!</u> This has fulfilled a wish for our chapter for almost 30 years. We have just learned that <u>they are willing to provide this wonderful service again for the coming year!</u>

The captioning is done remotely by Alternative Communication Services—it is flawless, plus the people doing the captioning are from all over the country! It's amazing to see the words almost instantly on the screen as soon as they're spoken. The service cost is \$3,000 a year and it is being paid by CaptionCall...such an incredible gift to our chapter. CaptionCall has been a blessing in providing true access for everyone in our chapter...and we thank you!

We also owe a huge debt of thanks to **Candi and Bruce Nelson**, and **Tim Whitcher** for overseeing the technical set-up needed for this service.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

By Cindy Kellner

Are you on Facebook? If so, please be our friend. We currently have **165** friends and we want more.

Find us at: Hlaa Rochester Ny

DID YOU KNOW.....

When family and friends visit during the holiday season.....

The <u>Planetarium</u> has a Hearing Loop to accommodate people who wear a hearing aid or CI with a tele-coil (T-switch). It is advisable to mention at the box office that you will be using the Hearing Loop system---so they can turn it on!

Also, the **<u>Dryden Theatre</u>** at the George Eastman House is now looped for your movie viewing enjoyment.

IF YOU MOVE

Please don't forget to notify **Barb Gates**, at 28 Country Gables Circle, Rochester, NY 14606, or, via email at cdgblg28@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. Thanks.

BOOK REVIEW

By Janet McKenna

"Deaf Sentence" by Lodge, David (New York, Penguin, 2008)

After bluffing through a monologue by an attractive young woman at an art gallery reception, emeritus professor of linguistics Desmond Bates is appalled that he's agreed to mentor her in composing her graduate thesis at his former university. Desmond is "hard of hearing or hearing impaired or...deaf—not profoundly deaf, but, deaf enough to make communication imperfect in most social situations and impossible in some." Desmond is pursued by this strange woman whose topic is "suicide notes."

Lodge also is a hard of hearing emeritus professor and novelist. The book exactly portrays the agonies of hearing loss. *Deaf* and *Death* both feature in Lodge's narrative. Written as Desmond's journal, it reflects his relations with wife Fred (short for Winifred) and his Dad, an aged fellow with major health problems, only one of which is hearing loss. Fred is typically impatient with her hard of hearing spouse who forgets his hearing aids, turns them off in noisy places, or suffers dead batteries or feedback. Or makes disastrous mistakes because of misunderstanding. We who are hard of hearing understand immediately.

With a British ambience, the book's first part is rather a dark comedy. Desmond flusters, Fred is frustrated dealing with him, Dad is a curmudgeon and American Alex emails furiously about suicide. A friend introduces Desmond to a marvelously creative lip-reading class where he reluctantly admits he needn't "feel in the least foolish or worried or apologetic about being deaf." Hearing loops seem far more prevalent in the UK than here.

Then Death creeps in. Characters' true natures appear, some for the better and some worse. The dark comedy becomes a poignant life cycle.

"Deaf Sentence" was mentioned in Katherine Bouton's book, "Shouting Won't Help."

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore."

(Andre Gide, Nobel Prize-winning author)

COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP

By Jeannette Kanter



The Fall meeting of the Cochlear Implant Group held September 24th, had two guest speakers:

<u>Jeanne Fredrickson</u> of Med El and Megan Wightman of the University

of Rochester Medical Center.

Ms. Fredickson demonstrated the new Med El all-inclusive processor (the "Rondo") which fits neatly onto the magnet that is implanted during surgery. It was exciting to see what the future looks like and many people will benefit from the ability to easily wear such a processor.

Recently, the Albert and Mary Lasker Prize was awarded to a founder of Med El for his technology that has so far benefited more than 300,000 people worldwide.

Ms Wightman gave us an excellent view of the many questions that come with having a cochlear implant, such as: how long a cochlear implant lasts, how to choose the processor that will benefit you the most, and what are the actual benefits of a cochlear implant.

Besides the good turnout of some of our regular members, we had one man who is scheduled for surgery this week and wanted to find out more about a cochlear implant, and one person who had recently had a cochlear implant.

The Cochlear Implant Group meets twice a year, and the **next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2014.** Please check our Newsletters or the website for the meeting time and place.

DID YOU KNOW?

"The Bill of Rights contains the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, and protects an individual's rights. These amendments were added to the Constitution on December 15, 1791.

(Old Farmer's Almanac)

NATIONAL'S HEARING LOSS FORUM

By Michelle Gross

Many people don't know that National HLAA has an online forum for people with hearing loss. The Forum is a place where adults write about issues surrounding hearing loss (there are forums for other age groups, as well).

The Forum requires registration

http://www.hear4life.org/forum/register.asp and is monitored to keep the site organized and running smoothly. There are a large number of topics such as issues surrounding hearing aids, tinnitus, work related issues, communication frustrations and work-arounds, to name a few.

Emails, Forums, and social media are popular with many, and especially popular and useful for those of us with hearing loss. When we read we don't have the pressure of fast conversation, noise, turned backs, glaring light in our eyes or road and motor noise preventing us from full communication. There is no pressure. Use the Forum when you want, be a reader, or share your experience. The site is especially good since it's tone is uplifting and educational. Try it, you'll like it!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Nov. 3rd from 2:00 – 5pm Our **Chapter's 30th anniversary Gala** at the Inn on Broadway.

Sunday, May 4th – Walk4Hearing, Perinton Park

June 2014 – HLAA Nat'l Convention, Austin, Texas.

<u>June 2016</u> – International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) and our National Convention in Washington, DC.

NEWS FROM NTID

By Greg Livadas

Hello...Here's a link to a short story about one of our students who had an internship on Capitol Hill to help bridge barriers for the disabled. Perhaps you will find it as inspiring as we do.

http://www.rit.edu/news/story.php?id=50279&source=enewsletter.

WEATHER WONDERS

"Ember days" in September fall on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after September 14. According to folklore, they indicate the weather for the next 3 months:

September 18 – weather on this day marks the trend expected in October.

September 20—indicates weather for November. September 21—predicts the weather for December. (Old Farmer's Almanac 2013)

Did you keep track? If not, this is what the weather will be, if we can believe these "ember days":

October—Sunshine and 72F November—Sunshine and 78F December—Rain and 68F Well, we'll see!!

Subjects of Dec. 3rd Chapter Meetings

<u>Daytime</u> –"Demographics & Communication Characteristics of NTID Students –

Dr. Gerald Buckley, NTID President

Evening – "**Spotlight on Members"** – Sue Miller and Charlie Treat

HLAA/Rochester's Holiday Good Deed



Both daytime **and** evening meetings

✓ will feature a Holiday gift box of personal care items destined for homeless people at the Open Door Mission in Rochester.

What can you contribute?

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

Shampoo, conditioner, hair spray, comb/brush, soap, deodorant, feminine sanitary items, mittens/gloves, scarves, socks, single pack tissues, toothpaste/toothbrush, shaving cream, talcum powder, etc. etc.

No need to wrap your gift! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

The Where's of Purchasing a Hearing Aid

By Michelle Gross

The process of purchasing a hearing aid is not for the feint of heart. If you're new to the experience of buying a hearing aid, I can't exactly say you're in for a treat. There are many factors to take into consideration when making your decision when taking the plunge. This article will discuss only one--namely, thinking about "where" to make your purchase.

You'd think this would be an easy question but it turns out to be quite complex. We start by knowing there is no "best" hearing aid. No matter what the technology used, no matter what fancy features it offers, no matter what the cost, the bottom line is, can you hear and are you comfortable with it. The "grass is always greener" applies here. Without experience, and sometimes even with experience, if someone tells you their hearing aid is wonderful that may be true for them, not necessarily for you. So rule one is--you are the best judge of how you hear. The second rule is--don't make cosmetics (size for example) your number one concern.

It used to be that once a person got over the shock, anger, frustration, depression, etc, of realizing they needed a hearing aid they would go to the audiologist, have a hearing test, and the audiologist would make the best effort at selecting a make and model for you. Sometimes the selection was a winner; sometimes not and another aid needed a trial.

There have been many advances in the technology and features of hearing aids. One constant, however, has been their high cost. Traditionally, audiologists bundle the price of a hearing aid with the services they provide (other than the hearing tests, which are often paid for by medical insurance). That is, you get the hearing aid with so many 'after-visits,' and perhaps other add ins. These days, there are other ways to obtain hearing aids along with the traditional.

Some companies or groups work by special association with participating audiologists and/or cover only certain makes and models of hearing aids. Their selection is often extensive enough to suit most people but their aids may not have all the "bells and whistles." Be sure to check with audiologists in your area to see if they participate with a low cost plan that includes hearing aids. Having a relationship with an audiologist, whenever possible is the way to go.

There are also hearing tests one can take <u>online</u>, the results interpreted and a low cost hearing aid mailed to the individual. There are also <u>mail-order companies</u> where you don't take a hearing test at all but answer a series of questions, and a hearing aid will be sent to you at low cost, after signing a waiver. Usually just an audiogram is used by online companies to select a hearing aid for you, which may or may not be appropriate.

There are pros and cons to each way of purchasing a hearing aid and many questions to ask yourself. When you purchase your aids through an audiologist you pay a lot, but you have personal service and a relationship with that audiologist. If something goes wrong an audiologist can provide a "loaner" while your aid is being repaired. You also can discuss the choice of hearing aid and its features in person. Going through an insurance company plan will save money and you'll usually have the option of having an audiologist, but your selection of aids and features may be more limited, and you would need to see an audiologist who participates in the plan. If you go the mail-order route, you will save money but you may not get the best aid for you, have adequate testing or have to take your own impressions if an ear mold is needed. If there's a problem, you will be without your hearing aid until yours is repaired and mailed back to you. If mail ordering hearing aids is your only option, it's still better than not hearing and you should not have to defend your position if cost precludes any other type of purchase.

One note of caution: Do not use the advertised "\$29.99 special" hearing amplifiers. They are not hearing aids and don't have the protective features to protect your hearing from sounds which may damage your hearing.

The number of hearing aid makes, models, styles, features and accessories is large. A person first dealing with a hearing loss and its effects has his/her hands, brain, and emotions full, and may or may not be inclined or able to learn the bafflegab and nuances of purchasing a hearing aid. With time you'll learn to cope with your hearing loss and at some point you'll find you're gathering information and experience that will go towards your first, then second, hearing aid purchases. If you have questions, you have a number of places to go to learn about hearing aids be it an audiologist, online reading, experienced users and ... oh yes, "us" at HLAA!

(Ed.Note: Also see Hearing Loss Magazine, Sept/Oct. 2013, page 26—"New Avenues Break the Cost Barrier")

DRINK UP FOR HEALTHIER EARS

By Hallie Levine Sklar (excerpt from Readers Digest, Sept. 2013)

Experts have known for years about the ability of resveratrol, a substance found in grapes and red wine to help fight heart disease, certain types of cancer, and diabetes. Now they may add hearing loss to that list. Rats exposed

to loud noise that were given a resveratrol supplement beforehand had much less hearing loss than those that weren't.

Oxidative stress—or the body's "rusting"—affects agerelated hearing loss, and resveratrol, a potent antioxidant, appears to help offset that damage, explains study author Michael Seidman, M.D., director at the Henry Ford Health System. But since there are many compounds in red wine that could have antioxidant effects, such as tannins or grape-seed extract, Dr. Seidman suggests getting the benefits through a daily 6 ounce glass of red vino instead of supplements. Teetotaler? An 8-ounce glass of grape juice will also do the trick.

NEW PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

By Tim Whitcher

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

KENDRA MARASCO

Kendra is the founder and current director of the Communication Center for Hearing and Speech (CCHS.) She earned BS and MA degrees in Speech Pathology with an Audiology minor from Northern Illinois University. She holds dual certification in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and considers herself an aural rehabilitationist as opposed to a pure speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

Kendra has spent most of her 43 year career working with deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) individuals from six weeks to 98 years of age. She established the aural habilitation/rehabilitation program at the former Hearing and Speech Center of Rochester, served as Chief of Services for Speech and Audiology at Monroe

Developmental Center (now DDSO of the Finger Lakes), and she was a visiting Instructor at NTID before opening the Communication Center for Hearing and Speech 24 years ago.

There she introduced Cued Speech to clients and established the first auditory-oral classroom for D/HH toddlers and preschoolers. The Center provides auditory (listening) training for D/HH including cochlear implant clients, as well as speech reading and speech therapy, occupational and physical therapy, special education services, preschool classrooms in Webster, Gates and Irondequoit and Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Teacher of the Deaf services.

REBECCA A. VAN HORN

Rebecca has worked for Monroe County since 1996, serving in the Human Resources Department since 2004. She holds a BS in Organizational Management from Roberts Wesleyan College.

Rebecca began her career as a Staff Assistant in the Civil Services Unit, assisting with Civil Service examinations. She became a Personnel Technician Trainee in 2007, managing multiple Agency accounts, explaining and enforcing Civil Service law and Civil Service Commission rules. She then was named Human Resources Manager of Monroe Community Hospital (MCH), serving there from 2007-2010. Her responsibilities included recruitment, training, discipline, labor relations and other projects.

In 2011 Rebecca assumed the role of Personnel Technician part time, still managing multiple agency accounts and providing training to agency and county staff. As ADA Compliance Officer for Monroe County since 2012, she has expanded her role with training, community and staff relations and enforcing ADA law.

The other new members were discussed in our October Newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW?

"In 1789, Nov. 26th was a day of thanksgiving set aside by President George Washington to observe the adoption of the Constitution of the United States."

(from D&C 11/25/12)

PITTSFORD CINEMA NOW ACCESSIBLE

By Bob Menchel

The Pittsford Cinema in Pittsford Plaza is now accessible to deaf and hard of hearing people. They have installed what they call **Access Glasses**System.

These glasses are perhaps similar to what is being used in the Regal Theaters. However, because they have a limited number of glasses they are suggesting that **you call a day ahead to reserve the glasses.**The number is 585 383 6022 and let them know the movie and show time that you want to attend. I feel sure that as time goes by they will improve on this.

NEW CATALOG FROM HARRIS COMM.

(from Fred Altrieth)

There is a new catalog that Harris Communication has available. The catalog is called ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GUIDE and telecoils are explained plus many assistive devices are shown and somewhat explained. There are no prices indicated, so if someone wants to order, they should request the Harris full-line catalog with prices. To order call 800 825 6758

MORE ABOUT "CART"

By Margo Lucas, CPR, CCP, CBC (excerpt from Fox Valley News, Sept. 2013)

There is often confusion and misuse of the terms: "realtime," "CART," and "captioning." Here are some basic definitions.

Realtime is the instantaneous translation of the spoken word into the written word. Realtime reporting is used in the legal arena, in providing captions for live television, and a wide variety of events ranging from the classroom to conferences and meetings.

In all cases, a steno machine is used to provide instant speech to text translation on visual display units, television screens, or computer monitors as the proceeding occurs.

What's the difference between CART and captioning?

The simplest way to distinguish Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) and captioning is if you are seeing text only on the screen or monitor--that is CART. Captioning involves a piece of equipment called an encoder that allows the text to be displayed on the same screen or monitor as the video or speaker, such as your television set.

How do you find a qualified CART provider or captioner and who pays for the service?

The Department of Human services is a fantastic resource. www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/sensory. They have a "guideline" for securing and hiring a CART provider or captioner and a "listing" available of credentialed providers. There is also a "service fund" that provides financial assistance for communication access services in situations not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Examples of situations that the Service Fund may cover, but not limited to, are medical situations, support groups, job-related services, and funeral and memorial services.

"ARCHIVIST" -A REMINDER!

Good news! We have a Chapter Archivist!

Janet McKenna (who comes "all the way from Grand Island" to support our Rochester Chapter!) has offered to take on this task.



Janet will clip, affix into scrap books, and caption articles about our Chapter appearing in area print media, as well as other materials such as programs, invitations, speeches, photos, etc.

Janet will be looking for help from all

Chapter members supplying info they've accumulated. This leading HLAA Chapter will now be on its way to retaining its 30-year history! Contact Janet at: deaphyduck@gmail.com

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



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HLAA Membership Information

Hearing Loss Association (HLAA) Rochester Chapter, 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 September through June at St.Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave. While our primary focus is directed toward hard of hearing, we welcome everyone to our chapter meetings whatever their hearing ability. For more information, Call

585-266-7890

Professional Advisors

2012 – 2014

Scott Cristman Susan Friedman, M.D. Bryan Hensel Suzanne Johnston

2013 - 2015

Doug Klem Catherine D. Lee Kendra Marasco Rebecca Van Horn

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

Newsletter

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

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If You're New, This is for You.

More than 36 million people in the US have a hearing loss, which can hinder daily communication—one in five people! 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 advocacy, information, education, and support.

HLAA is the largest international consumer organization dedicated to the well-being of people who do not hear well. HLAA publishes the bimonthly <u>Hearing Loss Magazine</u>, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: www.hearingloss.org/.

To join, please see inside back page. HLAA has more than 200 chapters and 14 state organizations. Welcome!

Meetings are hearing accessible

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

All meetings are audio looped and captioned. Interpreters are available on request *for evening meetings only--* contact Linda Siple, 585-475-6712, 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 <u>rear door</u> next to the fence.

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